

Cover Costs, Increase Access



Oral healthcare affects the overall health of Iowans. Regular cleanings and dental examinations are not only vital to early diagnosis and treatment of oral health issues, but also in decreasing costs associated with treatment. Ignoring minor dental issues could lead to tooth extractions, root canals, crowns, fillings, and other invasive procedures that are costly and often preventable. If left untreated, these issues can lead to expensive emergency room visits that place a larger burden on local health systems. Studies have found poor oral health can be associated with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease. All Iowans should receive a dental examination annually and cleanings every six months; especially our most vulnerable populations, including children and low-income families.

DWP & Medicaid

The Dental Wellness Plan (DWP) and the Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) programs provide dental coverage to adult and children members of Iowa Medicaid, respectively. These programs target the most vulnerable Iowans. At current reimbursement rates, dentists are subsidizing dental procedures through these programs out of pocket. The Iowa Dental Association (IDA) urges legislators to **increase reimbursement rates for DWP and FFS to more closely align with the Hawki rates.**

One third of the dentists enrolled in Medicaid in 2017 left the program by 2019.¹

91% of DWP participating dentists viewed the reimbursement rates as a major problem with the program.¹

Iowa's reimbursement rates for Medicaid children rank 40th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia.²

Hawki

Hawki provides children of low- and moderate-income working families with dental benefits under Iowa's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The high levels of participation from both dentists and Hawki members prove the success of this program. The IDA asks to **maintain current levels of Hawki funding and benefits.**



75% of Iowa dentists are currently enrolled in Hawki.³

Hawki's reimbursement rates provide a more sustainable program; 89% of Hawki providers saw at least one Hawki member in 2018.⁴

99.99% of members had access to a Hawki provider within 30 minutes of their residence.⁵

1. Public Policy Center University of Iowa. (May 1, 2020). Iowa Wellness Plan Summative Evaluation Report for the Period Ending 12/31/19. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Retrieved from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/downloads/ia-wellness-plan-summative-eval-rpt-05132020.pdf>

2. Gupta, N., Yarbrough, C., Vujicic, M., Blatz, A., & Harrison, B. (April 2017). Medicaid Fee-for-Service Reimbursement Rates for Child and Adult Dental Care Services for All States, 2016. American Dental Association Health Policy Institute. Retrieved from http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Science%20and%20Research/HPI/Files/HPIBrief_0417_1.pdf

3. Delta Dental of Iowa, June 2020 data for Hawki and DWP members and providers, generated at the request of the Iowa Dental Association on 11/16/2020.

4. Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, June 2020 data for Hawki, DWP, and FFS members and providers, generated at the request of the Iowa Dental Association on 11/16/2020.

5. Network Access Analysis Hawki Delta Dental of Iowa. (July 17, 2020). Iowa Department of Human Services. Retrieved from https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Hawki_Network_Access_Analysis_SF20_Q4.pdf?121520202221

By the Numbers

	Hawki ^{1,2}	Children FFS ²	Dental Wellness Plan ^{1,2}
Covered Population	Children	Children	Adults
Income Guidelines	168-302% of FPL	0-167% of FPL	0-133% of FPL
Members	64,000 SFY21	298,000 SFY21	DDIA: 238,000 MCNA: 130,000 (CMS quarterly report) SFY21
Access Rates	62% SFY19	54% SFY20	DDIA 39% SFY19
Enrolled Providers Who Have Provided Services Within the Last 12 Months	1,054 SFY21	1,026 SFY21	DDIA: 829 MCNA: 390 SFY21
Monthly Premium	Dental only: maximum \$20 based on income and family size	\$0	If member does not complete annual healthy behaviors, member must pay monthly premium of \$3 or declare a hardship
Annual Benefit Maximum	\$1,000 (Emergent services covered over ABM)	Unlimited	\$1,000 (Excludes: emergent services, dentures, sedation with oral surgery, preventive services)
Reimbursement Rate (% of Usual and Customary Charges)	80%	40%	40%

About IDA

Representing over 1,800 dentists, the IDA is the largest oral health association in Iowa. More than 80 percent of Iowa's practicing dentists are members of the IDA. The IDA's broad membership throughout the state and across all specialties reflects a unique commitment by dentists to work together to enhance their profession on behalf of their patients and all Iowans. Each member of the IDA is also a member of one of Iowa's 10 district dental societies and the American Dental Association.

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1. Delta Dental of Iowa, June 2020 data for Hawki and DWP members and providers, generated at the request of the Iowa Dental Association on 11/16/2020.

2. Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, June 2020 data for Hawki, DWP, and FFS members and providers, generated at the request of the Iowa Dental Association on 11/16/20.

