



Increasing Dental Access in Missouri

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MHD Education & Training
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Presentation Overview

Collaboration & Progress

Provider Data

Participant Data

Ambulatory Surgical Center &
Outpatient Hospital Access

Moving Forward

Collaboration & Progress

The beginning of the collaboration between the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health (MCOH), MO HealthNet Division (MHD), and the Missouri Dental Association (MDA).

June 2022



MCOH established the Dental Medicaid Facilitator to concentrate on attracting new providers, assist with MHD enrollment, troubleshoot processes and barriers associated with working with MHD, and decrease provider abrasion.

November 2022



July 2022



MHD implemented a significant rate increase aligning our dental rates with those of many commercial payers which created an opportunity for MO HealthNet to attract new dental providers.



April 2023

MCOH launched a Media Campaign that addressed myths, provided resources, and created opportunities for providers to communicate their needs to the MCOH and MHD.



July 2024

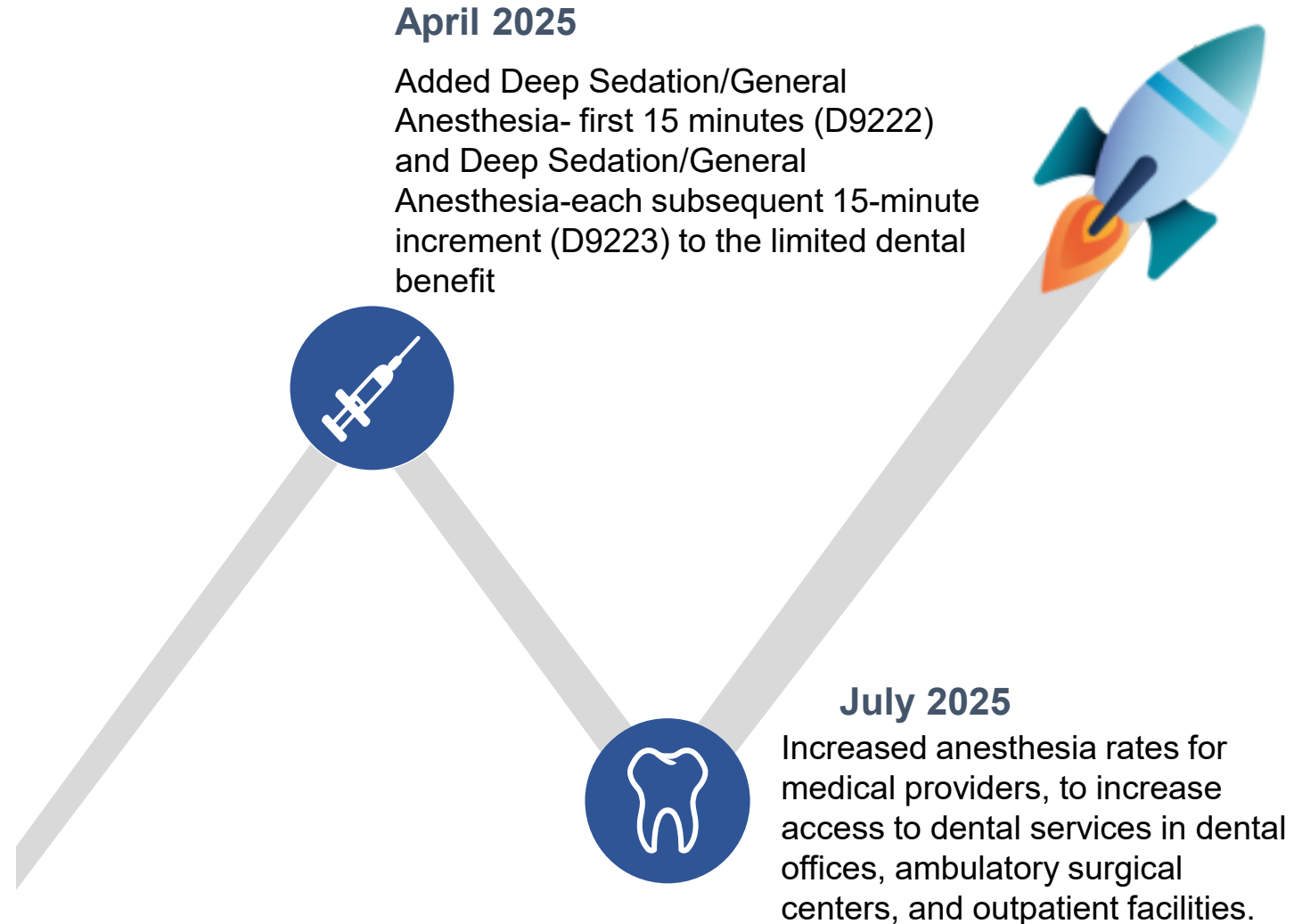
MHD increased rates for extractions and dental anesthesia, added periodic exams to the limited benefit, and increased access to SDF.



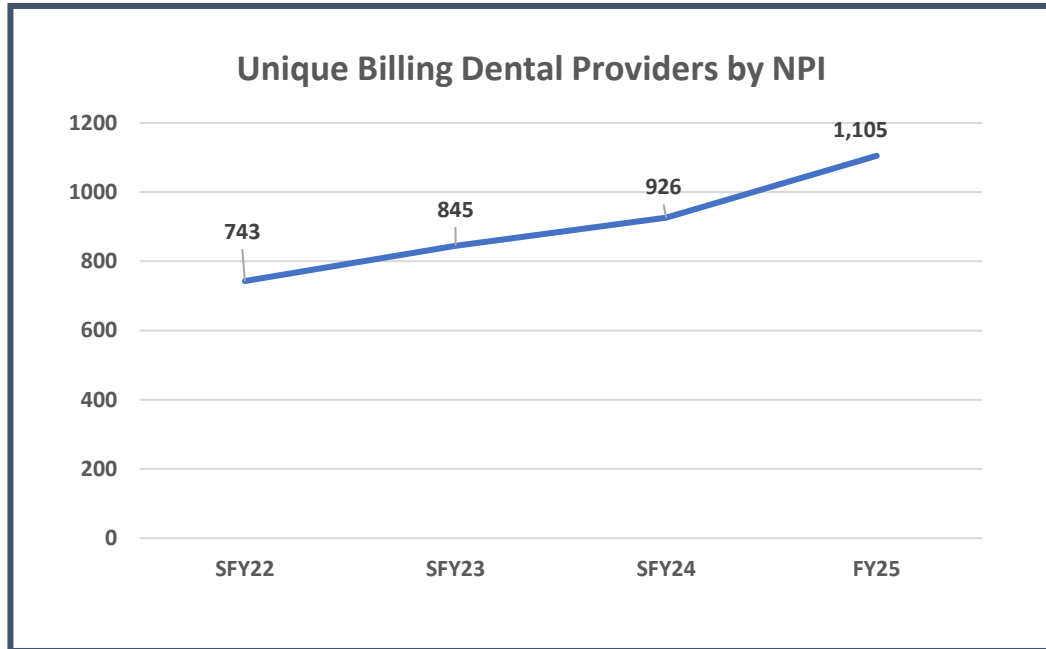
Collaboration & Progress

MCOH shared its model and results at multiple conferences to support other states in strengthening dental Medicaid participation and access.

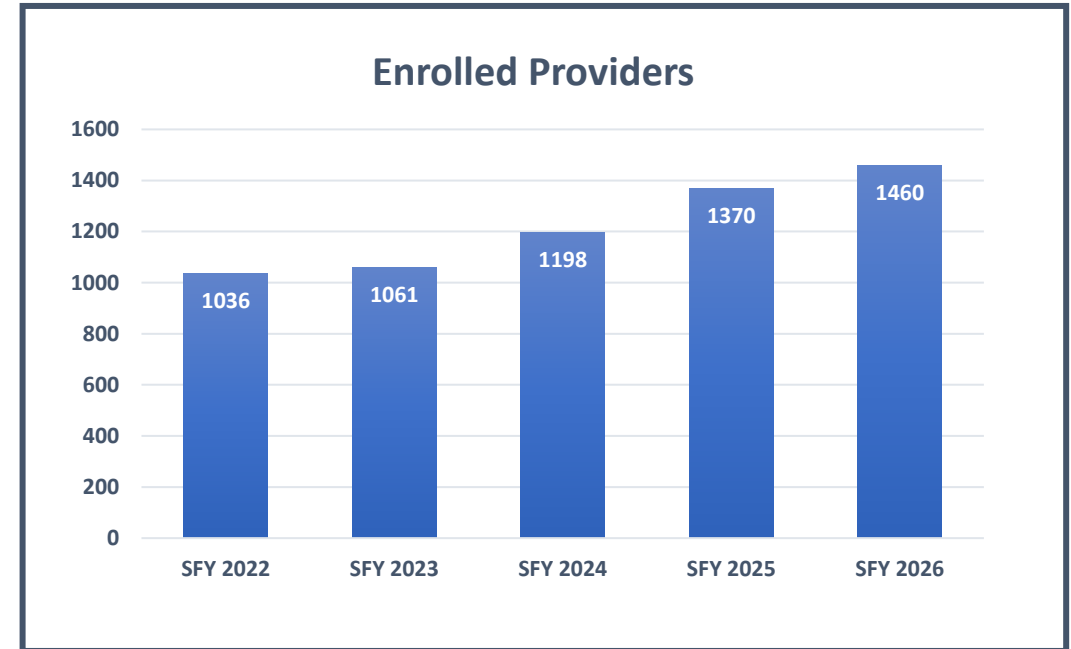
The collaboration continues, with a focus on increasing access for vulnerable groups, such as Veterans and participants with special needs.



Provider Data



The number of performing providers increased by 362 providers between SFY 2022 and SFY 2025.

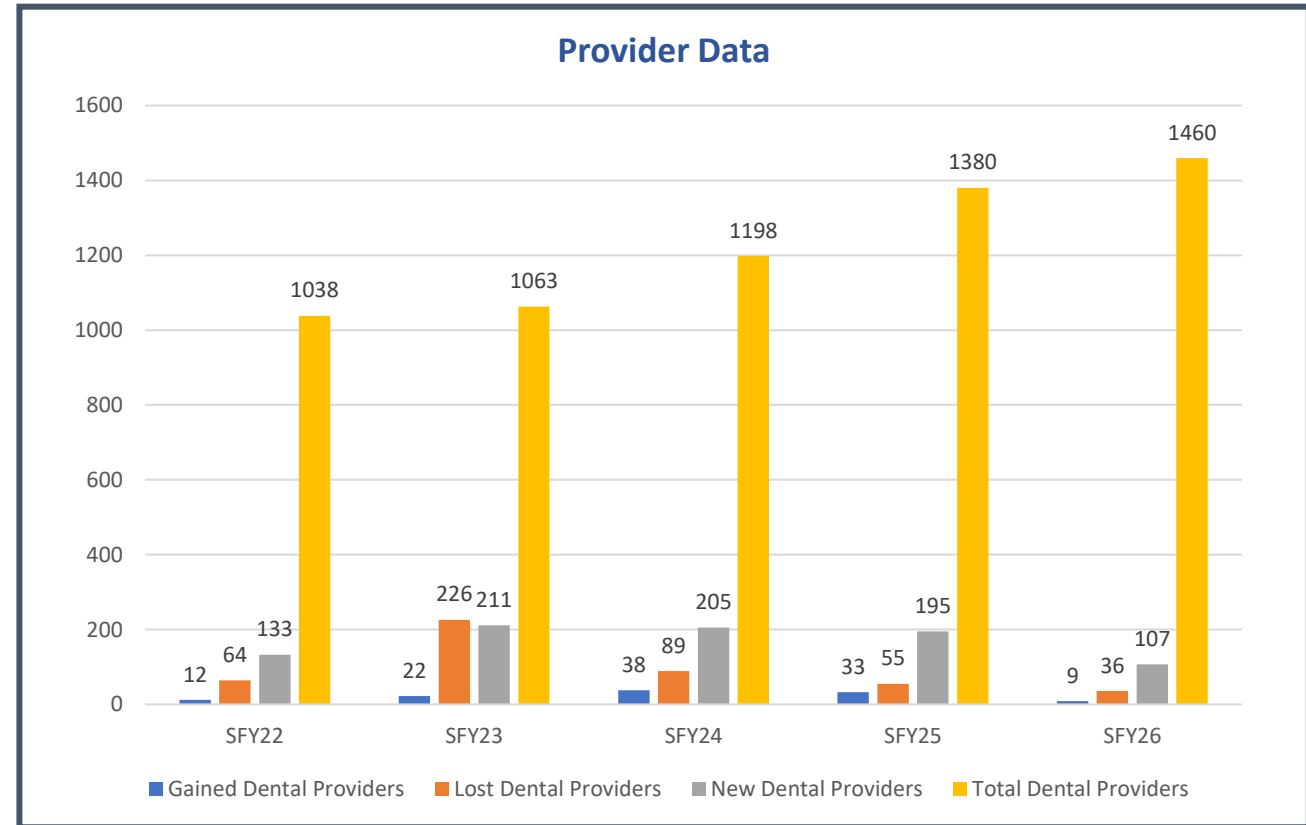


There was a net increase of 424 enrolled dental providers as of February 24, 2026.

Provider Data

The number of enrolled providers doesn't tell the whole story.

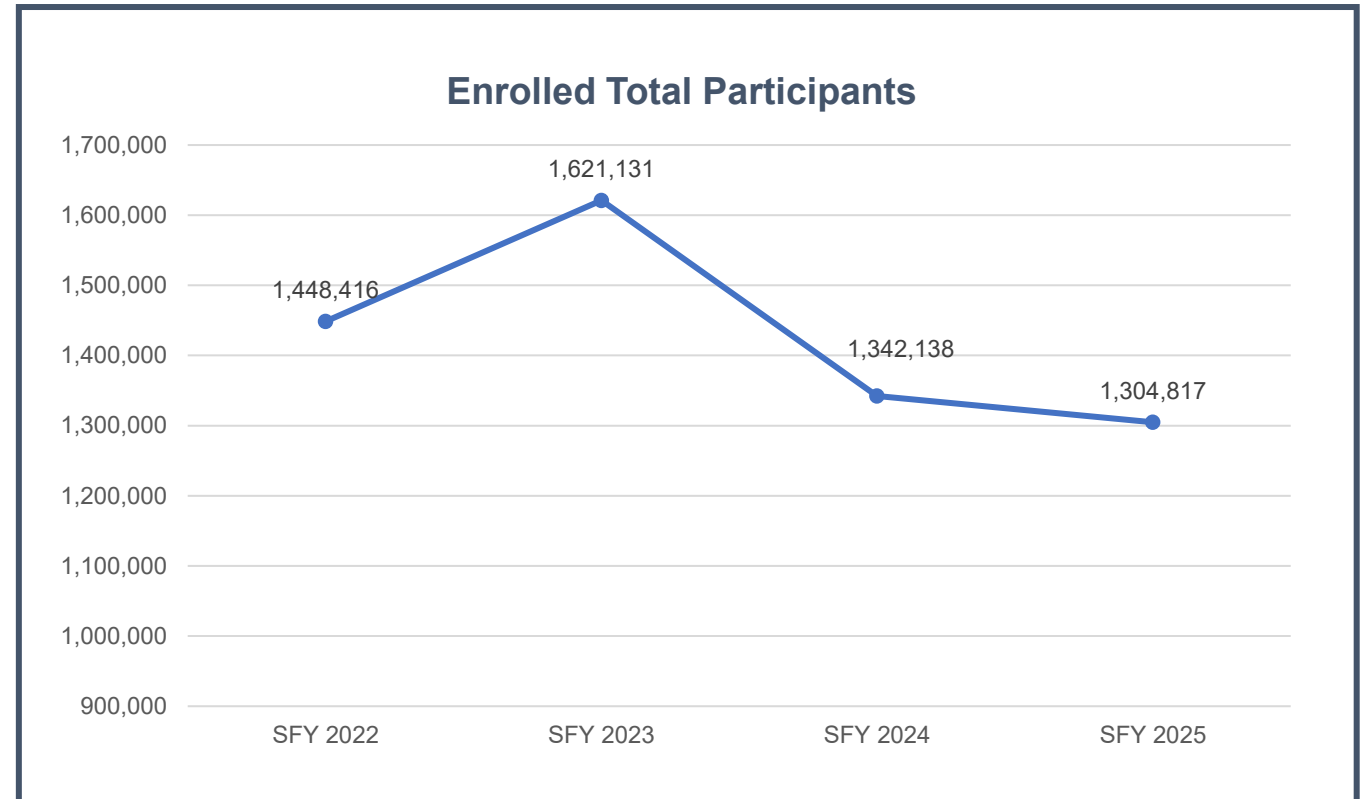
- **Gained Dental Provider-** Previously enrolled providers reenrolling
- **Lost Dental Provider-** Providers who are no longer enrolled
- **New Dental Provider-** Providers that have never been enrolled with MO HealthNet (overall count new providers 851)
- **Total Dental Providers-** Net Dental Providers



SFY26 dental statistics are as of February 24, 2026

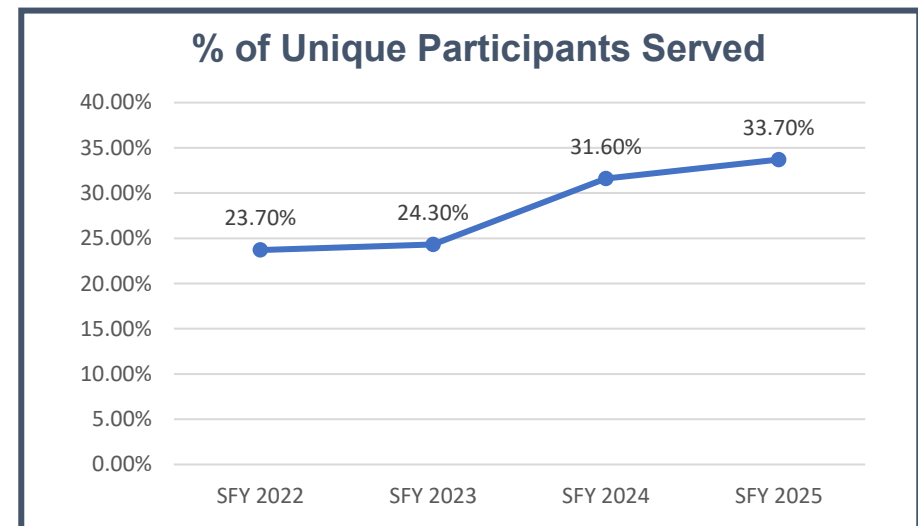
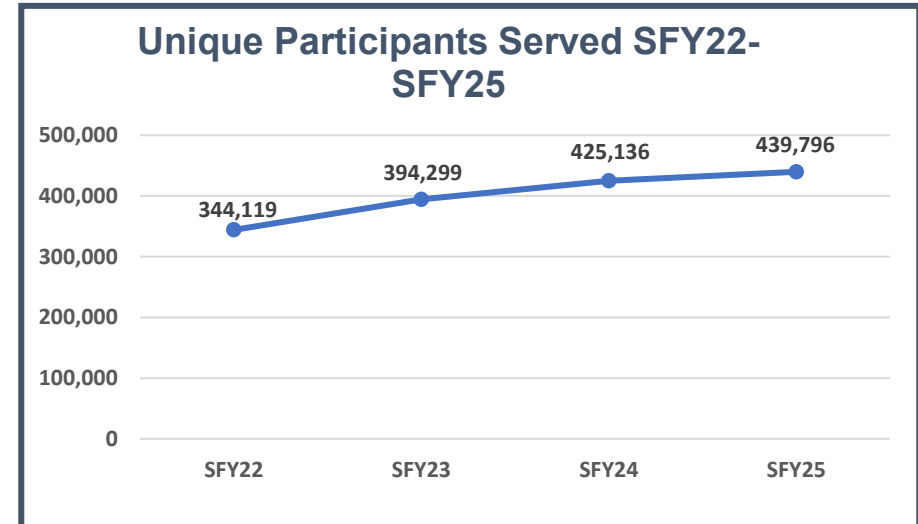
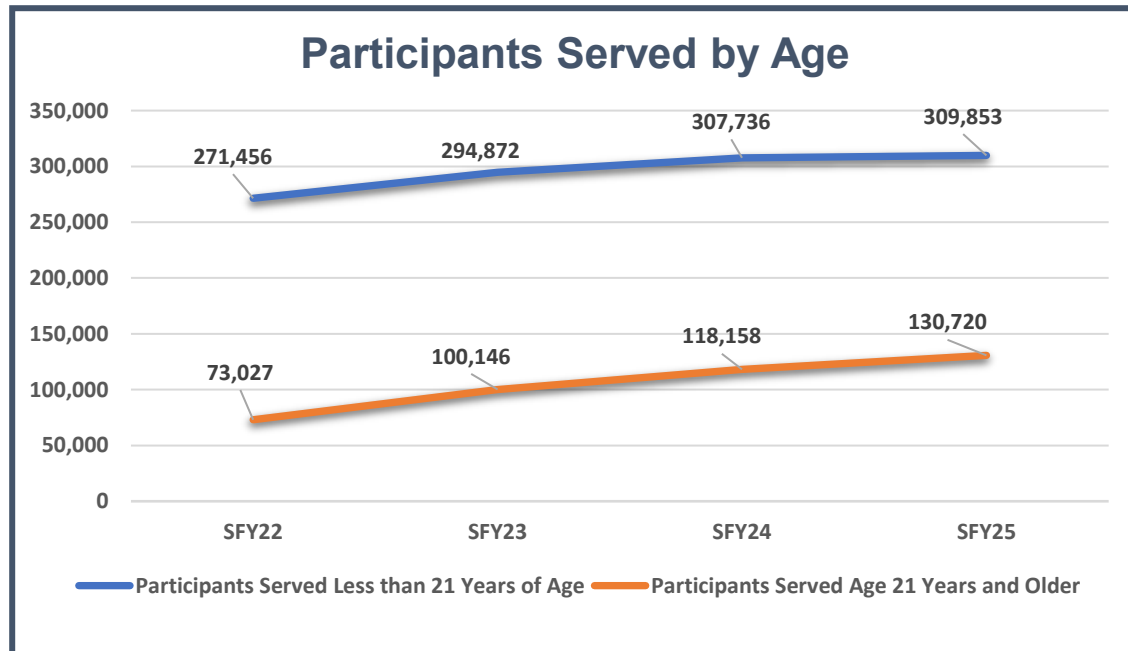
Participant Data

The Public Health Emergency unwinding occurred during SFY 2024 which reduced the overall number of MO HealthNet participants.



Participant Data

The unique number of participants receiving dental care increased by 95,677 from SFY 2022 to SFY 2025.



Ambulatory Surgical Centers & Outpatient Hospital Access

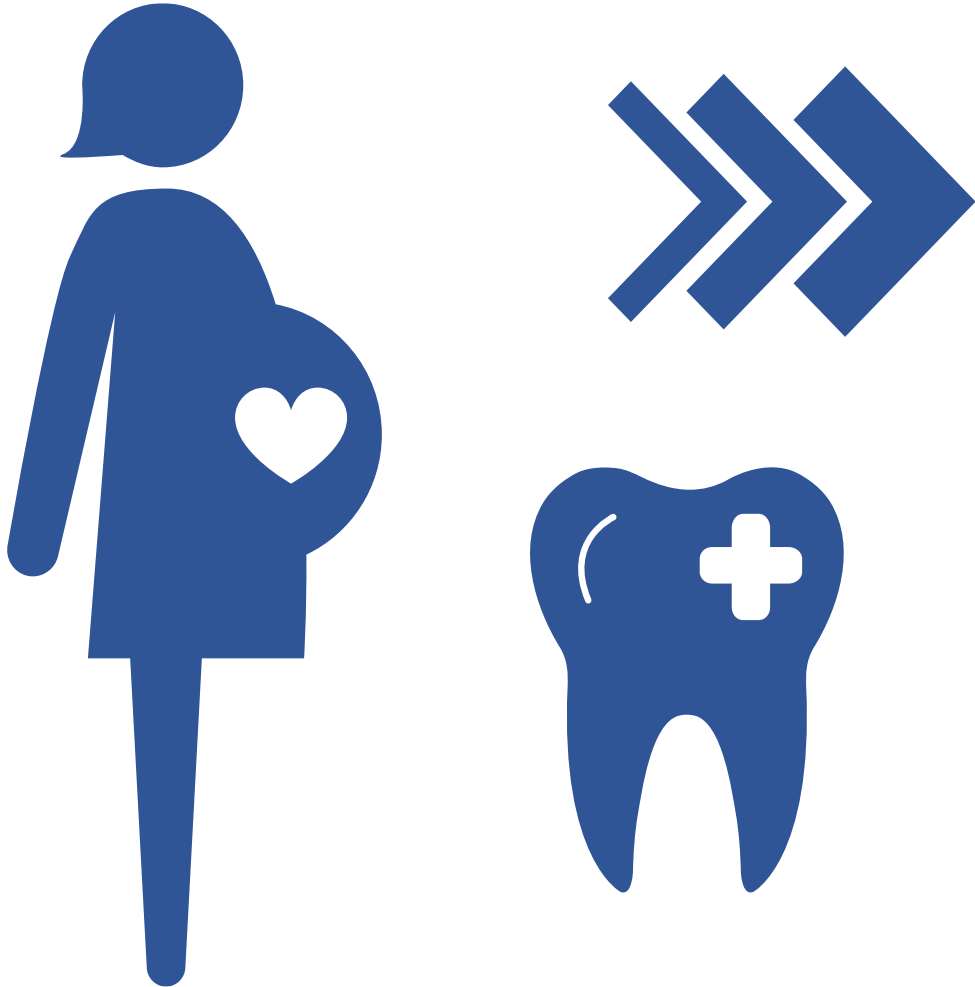
Dental providers expressed concerns about limited access to Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC) and Outpatient Hospital facilities needed to perform procedures requiring sedation. ASCs and Outpatient facilities were citing low reimbursement.

MHD reviewed claims data and determined that most ASCs and Outpatient hospital facilities were not billing for these services correctly. MHD provided special webinar trainings on how to bill for dental services provided in an ASC and Outpatient Hospital setting. The webinars explained the unique payment methodology that connects facility fees to dental services and anesthesia performed in the facility.

Resources:

- [Billing for Dental Procedures Provided in an Ambulatory Surgical Center](#)
- [Hospital Billing for Dental in Outpatient Setting](#)

Moving Forward



MHD will continue to look for opportunities to increase access to care and remove barriers for our providers, participants, and partners.

Dental will remain a key focus in our maternal and infant health initiatives.

Help Us Improve



Please complete an evaluation so we can keep improving our training and resources.

Thank you!

If you have additional questions, contact
MHD.EDUCATION@dss.mo.gov or call
(573)751-6683