

## Advocacy

- The **2025 MO Oral Health Policy Conference – Igniting Innovation** brought 135 attendees together to learn more about Missouri Oral Health Policy and the work being done.
- **2025 Legislative Awareness Event** was held at the Missouri State Capitol in March.
- Gained momentum for improvement of oral health policy in Missouri with bi-partisan support.
- Governor Parson signed the state budget **with inclusion of MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid) adult dental benefits.**
- The **Medicaid Work Group** brought forward suggested enhancements to MO HealthNet dental coverage. In 2025, dental extraction and sedation rates increased to 80% UCR. The SFY 2026 budget included an increase of the Medical Provider General Anesthesia rates to 63% UCR effective July 1, 2025.
- The **Missouri Veteran Oral Health Work Group** explored and formed a policy position that was presented to and approved by the MCOH Policy Committee and MCOH Board of Directors. New MCOH Policy Goal: Expanding access to comprehensive dental care for all Missouri veterans.
- Created **greater engagement and long-term capacity** in and for oral health advocacy and **broadened the statewide network of stakeholders** engaged in collectively improving Missouri oral health.

## MO Medicaid Matters

- In July 2022, **MO HealthNet dental rates increased to 80% UCR**, putting most Medicaid dental rates on par with commercial rates. After successfully advocating for this rate increase, MCOH partnered with the Missouri Dental Association and MO HealthNet to increase access to care for all MO HealthNet participants through increased Dental Provider enrollment. The **MCOH Dental Medicaid Facilitator** began working with providers directly to assist with enrollment and answer questions about MO Medicaid. A media campaign was launched to inform dental providers of the rate increase, address common concerns, and encourage participation in MO Medicaid. (MCOH gratefully acknowledges grant support from Missouri Foundation for Health, Health Forward Foundation, and Delta Dental of Missouri)
- The targeted media campaign – **MO Medicaid Matters** – has played a significant role in reaching providers throughout Missouri. The campaign has successfully reached thousands of providers. The MCOH website was accessed by almost **36,666 unique users** and MO Medicaid Matters ads on Facebook were played **2 million times**.
- In State Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), **195 new dental providers enrolled in MO Medicaid**, bringing the total of MO HealthNet Dental providers up to 1,372.
- Since this work began in 2022, **an additional 81,017 MO HealthNet participants received dental care.**
- **Participants in all rural counties** have been able to access essential dental services.



## Increasing Access to Care – Innovation in Action

- Conducted **intensive community engagement** and formed **new community partnerships** for projects in the following counties: Adair, Benton, Boone, Buchanan, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Cass, Clay, Cooper, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Pettis, Platte, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Peters, St. Louis, and St. Louis City Counties. These projects have a goal of increasing access to care and improving health equity for marginalized populations.
- In partnership with Enable Dental, Elks Mobile Dental, and SEMO Health Network, MCOH is designing and testing a dental alternative payment model (APM) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) by testing incentivized payments for dental providers. In 2025, 886 **underserved individuals with I/DD** received dental services through **teledentistry or mobile dentistry** in 33 counties throughout the state. (MCOH gratefully acknowledges Funding for Dental Telehealth provided in part by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, grant 2101MOSCDD-01, as authorized by Public Law 106-402-Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health)

## Public Awareness

- MCOH has made numerous media contacts and was featured in a news article about increased MO HealthNet rates- “More Medicaid patients see dentist in Missouri, but problems persist” by the St. Louis Post Dispatch