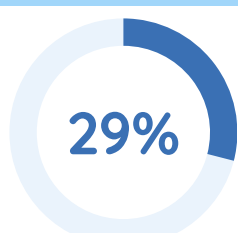


# THE IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL HEALTH AMONG CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AND ALL CHILDREN WITH MAINECARE

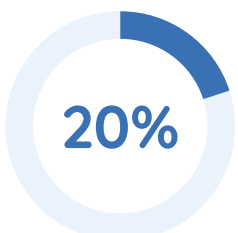
Data shows that children in foster care are accessing services at higher rates than other children with MaineCare, however, there is still much work to be done!



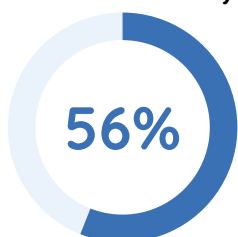
Comparing dental care utilization in the 2022 Maine All-Payer Claims Dataset across groups of children with MaineCare based on foster care status.



of children in foster care,



of children with MaineCare not in foster care, and



of children with commercial dental insurance had an active dental home, based on claims showing they had a periodic or comprehensive exam and at least one cleaning in 2022.

55%

of children in foster care utilized any preventative dental services compared to



40%

of children not in foster care, and



56%

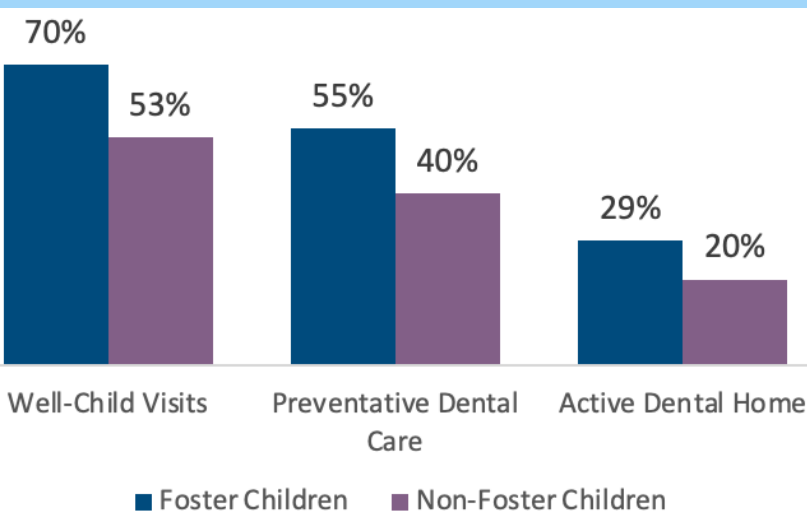
of children with commercial dental insurance.



Systemic barriers are making access to care challenging for ALL children with MaineCare, not just children in foster care.



care.



How you can advocate to ensure all children can access dental care:

- Strengthen MaineCare policy to make care more accessible for all children
- Expand mobile and school-based dental programs
- Fund rural oral health initiatives
- Integrate oral health into primary care, including physical exams for children entering the foster care system.



Join forces with local health and dental organizations, educational institutions, and the Children's Oral Health Network of Maine at [www.maineohn.org](http://www.maineohn.org)!