



# VCU

Virginia Commonwealth University  
VCU Scholars Compass

---

Undergraduate Research Posters

Undergraduate Research Opportunities  
Program

---

2020

## Characteristics of Medicaid Dental Providers Who Provide Oral Health Services to Pregnant Women in Virginia

Hasib Zaman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/uresposters>

© The Author(s)

---

### Downloaded from

Zaman, Hasib, "Characteristics of Medicaid Dental Providers Who Provide Oral Health Services to Pregnant Women in Virginia" (2020). *Undergraduate Research Posters*. Poster 315.  
<https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/uresposters/315>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program at VCU Scholars Compass. It has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Research Posters by an authorized administrator of VCU Scholars Compass. For more information, please contact [libcompass@vcu.edu](mailto:libcompass@vcu.edu).

# Characteristics of Medicaid Dental Providers Who Provide Oral Health Services to Pregnant Women in Virginia

Hasib K. Zaman<sup>1,2</sup> & Shillpa Naavaal, BDS, MS, MPH<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute for Inclusion, Inquiry, and Innovation (iCubed), VCU; <sup>2</sup> life Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA; <sup>3</sup>Department of Dental Public Health and Policy, School of Dentistry, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA

## Background

- Medicaid is a federal program that provides health insurance for low-income adults, children, pregnant women, and elderly adults in the United States.
- To improve oral health of pregnant women, Virginia added pregnancy dental benefits in March 2015.
- Prior to March 2015, there were no dental coverage for pregnant women included in Medicaid.
- Under this new program, pregnant women can get comprehensive dental services during the pregnancy and 60 days postpartum.

## Objective

The aim of this study was to explore the characteristics of providers who participated in Medicaid and provided oral health services to pregnant women in Virginia. Findings can inform policy focused on improving Medicaid participation among dental providers.

## Methods

- For purpose of the study, providers who participated in Medicaid and provided dental care to pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid were considered as Medicaid dental provider.
- The 2015-2018 Medicaid provider data was obtained through the State Department of Medical Assistance Services.
- The license numbers of each provider were collected using a public License Lookup tool available through the Virginia Department of Health Professions (VDHP).
- Additional provider characteristics (i.e., gender, age, years in practice, location) were requested from the VDHP.
- Once all the data was collected, a descriptive analysis was conducted to explore the characteristics of Medicaid providers in effort to map their distribution in the state of Virginia.

## Results

A total of 1210 Medicaid providers who provided dental care to pregnant women were included in the study. A data match was done on 1038 providers. Of these 1038 providers, seven providers were recorded as inactive in 2019; however, they were included in the overall descriptive analysis. Analysis included sociodemographic variables such as age, gender, geographic variables including concentrations of providers within Virginia, the location of where the providers finished their residency, practice related variables such as establishment type workforce sector, and their work satisfaction. The average provider age was in the range of 30-47 years. The age distribution varied by gender. The average amount of years in practice for these providers was around 17 years with standard deviation of 11.8 showing wide variation. Nearly 59% Providers reported working in the for-profit sector and 43.6% were in solo practice. Additionally, the highest concentration of providers tends to be in Northern Virginia, a prominent region with over 28% of total providers. Lastly, half of the providers who answered the survey were satisfied with their work.

Table 1. Characteristics of Medicaid Providers in VA – 2015-2018

Characteristics	Study sample (N) %	
Years in Practice	Mean:	16.7
	Standard Dev:	11.8
Gender	Male	460 (44.3%)
	Female	326 (31.4%)
	N/A**	252 (24.3%)
Age	Less than 30:	103 (9.9%)
	30-47:	628 (60.5%)
	Older than 48:	307 (29.6%)
Primary Sector Of Work	For-Profit	616 (59.3%)
	Non-Profit	47 (4.5%)
	State/Local	19 (1.8%)
	Government	4 (0.4%)
	U.S Military	10 (1.0%)
	Other Federal	342 (32.9%)
	Government	N/A**
Primary Establishment Type	Solo	453 (43.6%)
	Group	108 (10.4%)
	Education	113 (10.9%)
	N/A**	364 (35.1%)
Location of Recent Residency/fellowship	VA	64 (6.2%)
	Non-VA	974 (93.8%)
Primary Work Location	Central	137 (13.2%)
	Eastern	13 (1.3%)
	Hampton	91 (8.8%)
	Northern	293 (28.2%)
	Southside	34 (3.3%)
	Southwest	24 (2.3%)
	Valley	46 (4.4%)
	West Central	49 (4.7%)
	VA Border	49 (4.7%)
	Outside	302 (29.1%)
	US	
N/A**		
Job Satisfaction	Very Satisfied	521 (50.2%)
	Somewhat Satisfied	192 (18.5%)
	Somewhat Dissatisfied	19 (1.8%)
	Dissatisfied	8 (0.8%)
	Very Dissatisfied	298 (28.7%)
	N/A**	

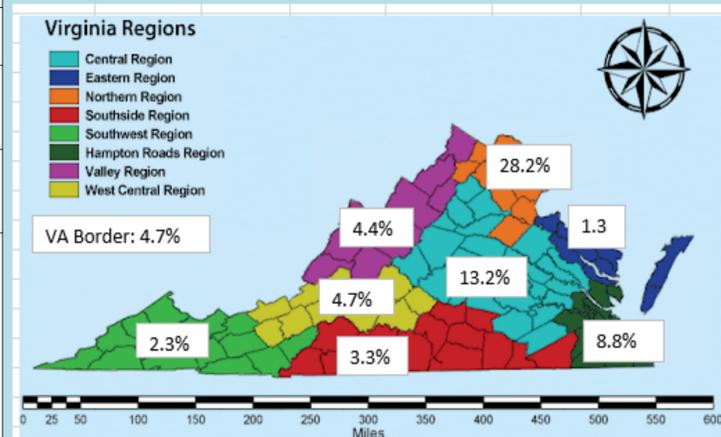


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of Medicaid Providers in VA – 2015-2018

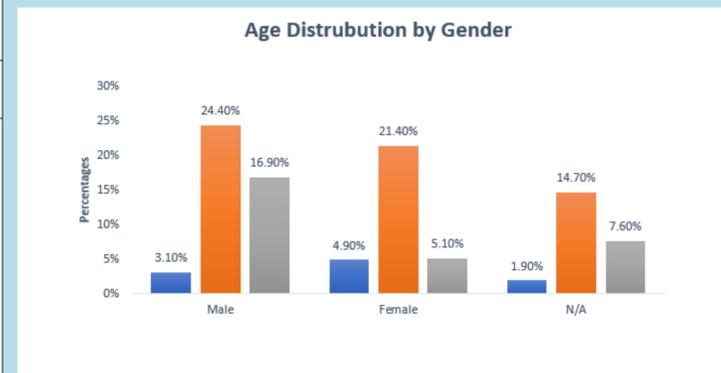


Figure 2. Provider age distribution by gender– 2015-2018

\*\* = the provider did not answer this specific question.

## Discussion

Findings provide an overview of the distribution of Medicaid, oral health providers throughout Virginia. The study results suggest the majority of Medicaid dental providers work in the solo practice and nearly 5% are from nonprofit industry. The geographic distribution of Medicaid providers show differences in practice location. A large proportion of Medicaid dental providers practice in Northern Virginia. This region is one of the most diverse and densely populated regions in Virginia. However, the rural regions of Virginia show much lower percentage of dental providers who are seeing Medicaid pregnant women. There is a need for further investigation in the regions to better understand provider participation in Medicaid. Poor oral health during pregnancy can lead to increased tooth decay or gum disease that has been found associated with poor maternal and infant health outcomes. Therefore, there is a high need to improve dental providers' participation in Medicaid to improve oral health services use among pregnant women. These results have implications for workforce growth and development.

Future research should:

- Focus on implementing policies in order to mitigate the lack of providers in specific regions of Virginia.

## References

- DentaQuest LLC. (2015). Smiles for Children: A Guide to Dental Coverage for Pregnant Members. Retrieved from <http://www.smartbeginningsvt.org/media/1164/pregnant-women-dental-resources.pdf>
- Pregnancy and Oral Health Feature. (2019, February 19). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/features/pregnancy-and-oral-health.html>
- Department of Medical Assistance Services. Retrieved from <https://www.virginia.gov/agencies/department-of-medical-assistance-services/>
- Medicaid Programs. (2019, January 1). Retrieved February 2, 2020, from <https://www.coverva.org/medicaid/>
- 2020 Medicaid At A Glance. (2019). Retrieved from [https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/files/links/221/2019 MAG Draft \(01.07.2019\).pdf](https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/files/links/221/2019%20MAG%20Draft%20(01.07.2019).pdf)