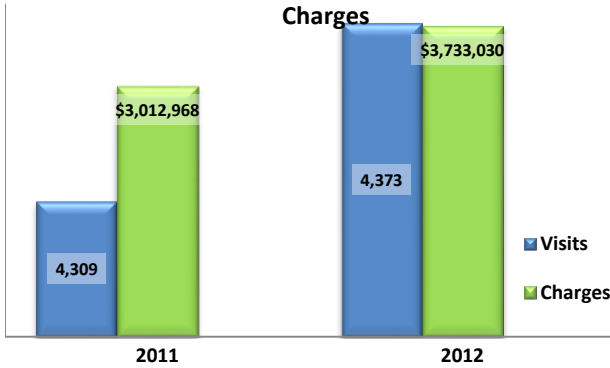


**Emergency Department Dental Visits & Charges**



Ambulatory Care Sensitive oral health conditions (ACS) are those considered largely avoidable with adequate prevention and primary care. The use of hospital emergency departments – among the most expensive form of medical care – for the treatment of ACS conditions may indicate lack of access to primary dental care. Among the reasons Floridians do not receive regular preventive care include lack of dental coverage for adult Medicaid patients, lack of private-practice dentists willing to accept Medicaid's low payment rates, lack of county health department resources, lack of affordable dental insurance or inability to meet high co-pays, and lack of awareness of the importance of dental health to overall health.

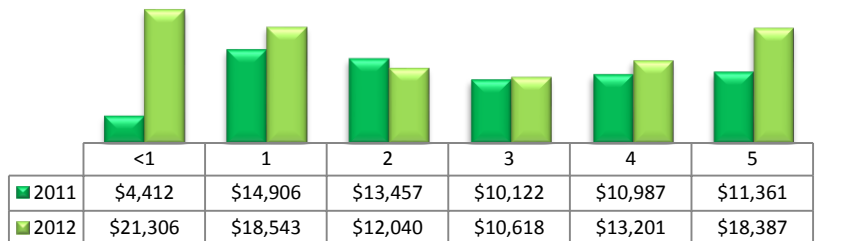
Floridians absorb the cost of Medicaid and uninsured ER dental visits in several ways including higher health insurance premiums and healthcare costs, increased tax dollars needed to fund the state Medicaid program, increased local tax dollars to support local public hospitals, and lost productivity.

Visits by Payor & Age						Charges by Payor & Age					
	0-19	19-34	35-49	50-64	65+		0-19	20-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>2011</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>318,056</b>	<b>1,580,353</b>	<b>728,856</b>	<b>309,373</b>	<b>76,330</b>
Medicaid/Managed	381	991	288	87	1	Medicaid/Managed	215,430	682,922	212,112	71,221	757
Commercial	42	140	95	63	7	Commercial	41,731	132,934	83,739	71,525	6,026
Self-Pay/Uninsured	99	1,159	495	118	1	Self-Pay/Uninsured	53,254	708,866	339,293	95,084	557
Medicare/Managed	0	60	87	72	42	Medicare/Managed	-	34,015	84,431	63,075	68,990
All Other	13	39	16	13	0	All Other	7,641	21,616	9,281	8,468	-
<b>2012</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>340,255</b>	<b>1,954,032</b>	<b>939,105</b>	<b>421,837</b>	<b>77,801</b>
Medicaid/Managed	378	1,033	315	93	0	Medicaid/Managed	237,445	778,194	300,103	111,475	-
Commercial	46	145	96	51	12	Commercial	37,237	123,289	120,976	89,061	23,253
Self-Pay/Uninsured	79	1,207	473	128	1	Self-Pay/Uninsured	61,175	982,558	418,387	122,509	266
Medicare/Managed	0	61	81	66	36	Medicare/Managed	-	38,994	77,636	70,736	52,616
All Other	7	26	18	20	1	All Other	4,398	30,997	22,003	28,056	1,666

**Visits for Young Children for Preventable Conditions**



**Charges for Young Children for Preventable Conditions**



**Highest ED Dental ACS Visits by Zip Code**

Zip Code	2011		2012	
	Visits	Charges	Visits	Charges
32505	943	614,444	970	851,559
32506	512	347,082	547	488,661
32507	476	335,285	455	387,948
32514	411	311,720	456	321,953
32503	396	249,275	384	300,707
32526	368	259,149	437	371,490
32501	299	208,964	320	251,148
32504	227	146,354	215	199,554
32533	189	153,746	148	147,738

**Policy Indicators**

Indicators to consider in shaping policies to increase the overall health of Floridians while decreasing costs to the state's healthcare system:

- High numbers of Medicaid patients visiting the ER for ACS dental problems suggest a lack of access to dentists or oral healthcare clinics accepting Medicaid for both preventative care and for treatment.
- ER visits during the regular work day and traditional business hours, combined with ACS diagnoses, suggest visits being made to the ER in lieu of a clinic or dental office.
- Rates of adult tooth decay are higher in older adults yet patients aged 20 to 34 years comprise the largest segment of ER visits, suggesting that lack of dental insurance or an inability to meet high co-pays is driving such visits.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Emergency Room Database, Florida Agency on Health Care Administration

<sup>2</sup> Ambulatory care sensitive dental conditions, i.e. "preventable condition," are based on the ICD-9 (International Classification of Diseases, 9th Edition) codes from the published work of Dr. John Billings [http://wagner.nyu.edu/files/admissions/acs\\_codes.pdf](http://wagner.nyu.edu/files/admissions/acs_codes.pdf).