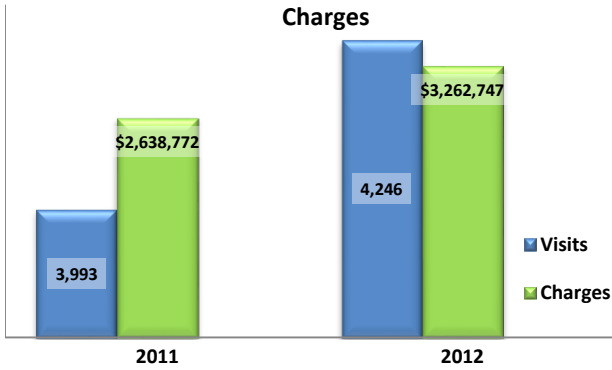


**Emergency Department Dental Visits & Charges**



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.

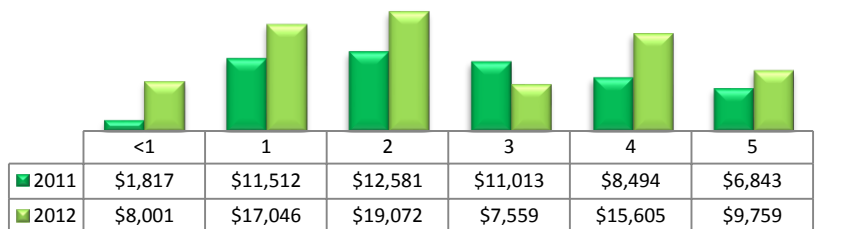
Floridians absorb the cost of Medicaid and uninsured ER dental visits in several ways including higher health insurance premiums and healthcare costs, increased tax dollars needed to fund the state Medicaid program, increased local tax dollars to support local public hospitals, and lost productivity.

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>438</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>260,007</b>	<b>1,432,842</b>	<b>677,739</b>	<b>201,677</b>	<b>66,507</b>
Medicaid/Managed	319	1,039	319	58	3	Medicaid/Managed	189,920	646,307	209,233	49,861	7,086
Commercial	31	138	102	45	9	Commercial	20,394	96,501	79,349	34,050	3,300
Self-Pay/Uninsured	69	981	437	98	2	Self-Pay/Uninsured	37,147	628,223	310,154	67,640	890
Kidcare	12	1	0	0	0	Kidcare	9,337	810	-	-	-
Medicare/Managed	0	55	78	55	63	Medicare/Managed	-	43,692	64,688	44,415	53,357
All Other	7	37	22	12	1	All Other	3,209	17,309	14,315	5,711	1,874
<b>2012</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>310,454</b>	<b>1,605,018</b>	<b>867,359</b>	<b>341,604</b>	<b>138,312</b>
Medicaid/Managed	366	1,091	376	69	6	Medicaid/Managed	230,150	770,136	317,566	70,296	6,934
Commercial	31	127	83	64	7	Commercial	16,977	96,883	71,864	75,640	9,429
Self-Pay/Uninsured	88	980	433	122	7	Self-Pay/Uninsured	51,691	679,210	353,124	110,037	6,089
Kidcare	12	0	0	0	0	Kidcare	6,672	-	-	-	-
Medicare/Managed	0	52	96	66	83	Medicare/Managed	-	39,853	97,657	54,660	115,131
All Other	10	35	25	16	1	All Other	4,964	18,936	27,148	30,971	729

**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
34475	383	248,992	397	324,603
34470	301	221,527	322	279,519
34472	296	205,413	351	266,512
34471	282	168,775	313	269,193
34473	242	143,473	230	153,350
34482	230	166,044	278	241,331
34480	224	162,572	210	158,083
34474	220	141,960	229	173,028
34479	217	142,025	187	150,302
34491	202	129,950	207	185,197

**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)).