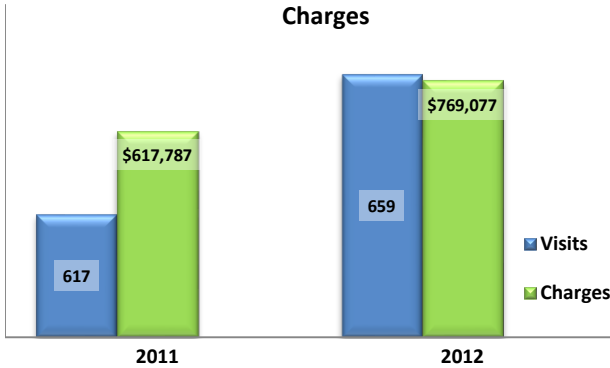


**Emergency Department Dental Visits & Charges**

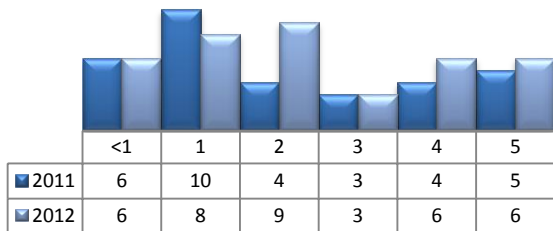


Ambulatory Care Sensitive oral health conditions (ACS) are those considered largely avoidable with adequate prevention and primary care. The use of hospital emergency departments – among the most expensive form of medical care – for the treatment of ACS conditions may indicate lack of access to primary 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.

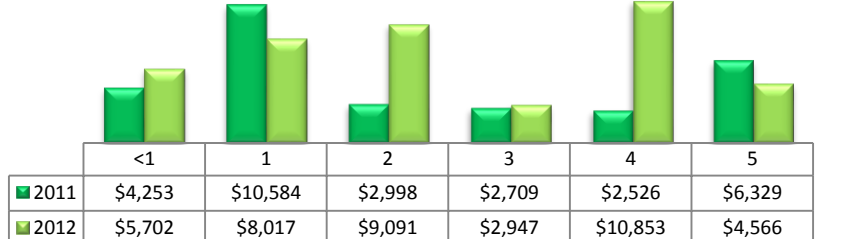
Floridians absorb the cost of Medicaid and uninsured ER dental visits in several ways including higher health insurance premiums and healthcare costs, increased tax dollars needed to fund the state Medicaid program, increased local tax dollars to support local public hospitals, and lost productivity.

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>78</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>79,292</b>	<b>280,855</b>	<b>129,100</b>	<b>107,034</b>	<b>21,506</b>
Medicaid/Managed	53	110	48	5	0	Medicaid/Managed	48,143	102,713	41,604	3,287	-
Commercial	7	30	17	18	2	Commercial	5,348	29,337	17,776	21,988	2,139
Self-Pay/Uninsured	17	142	66	40	0	Self-Pay/Uninsured	25,150	136,894	55,179	57,325	-
Medicare/Managed	0	4	10	14	15	Medicare/Managed	-	5,023	9,566	16,918	19,367
All Other	1	9	7	2	0	All Other	651	6,888	4,975	7,516	-
<b>2012</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>104,277</b>	<b>302,484</b>	<b>157,432</b>	<b>132,029</b>	<b>72,855</b>
Medicaid/Managed	75	115	28	15	0	Medicaid/Managed	69,926	123,432	26,408	21,908	-
Commercial	12	16	8	11	2	Commercial	21,098	21,665	8,841	14,696	9,176
Self-Pay/Uninsured	11	147	95	50	1	Self-Pay/Uninsured	9,288	145,568	97,692	57,299	1,137
Kidcare	1	0	0	0	0	Kidcare	3,200	-	-	-	-
Medicare/Managed	0	7	6	17	32	Medicare/Managed	-	7,085	21,881	23,390	62,542
All Other	1	4	2	3	0	All Other	765	4,734	2,610	14,736	-

**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
34997	238	237,843	287	290,835
34957	102	102,613	94	136,388
34994	88	99,025	98	133,297
34990	57	49,128	50	61,507
33455	50	45,267	56	75,915
34956	36	37,798	41	39,961
34996	35	37,127	14	15,511
34995	5	3,358	7	6,188
34958	1	695	5	3,912
34991	1	875	4	2,893

**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)).