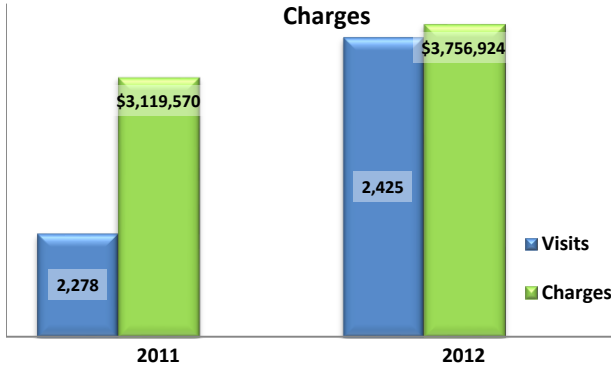


Emergency Department Dental Visits & Charges



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.

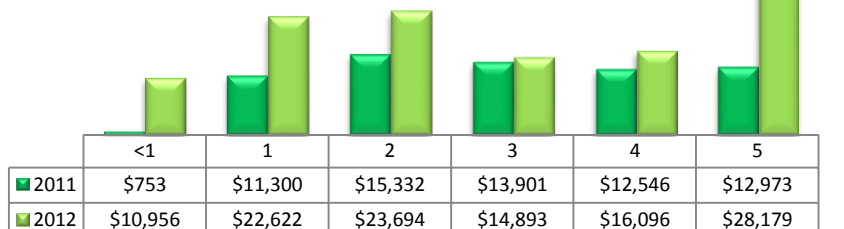
Floridians absorb the cost of Medicaid and uninsured ER dental visits in several ways including higher health insurance premiums and healthcare costs, increased tax dollars needed to fund the state Medicaid program, increased local tax dollars to support local public hospitals, and lost productivity.

Visits by Payor & Age	Age					Charges by Payor & Age	Age				
	0-19	19-34	35-49	50-64	65+		0-19	20-34	35-49	50-64	65+
2011	212	1,234	579	223	30	2011	256,761	1,620,916	796,582	357,995	87,316
Medicaid/Managed	135	479	170	54	0	Medicaid/Managed	161,448	623,944	217,126	102,967	-
Commercial	16	75	61	26	0	Commercial	17,486	89,603	75,463	56,825	-
Self-Pay/Uninsured	47	612	263	74	1	Self-Pay/Uninsured	61,524	796,960	402,418	101,072	1,019
Kidcare	1	0	0	0	0	Kidcare	788	-	-	-	-
Medicare/Managed	0	33	66	52	29	Medicare/Managed	-	72,378	76,138	77,497	86,297
All Other	13	35	19	17	0	All Other	15,515	38,031	25,437	19,634	-
2012	240	1,272	621	248	44	2012	357,000	1,821,652	967,714	506,850	103,708
Medicaid/Managed	149	516	198	63	0	Medicaid/Managed	233,286	718,838	286,529	132,114	-
Commercial	23	96	46	41	4	Commercial	40,132	128,286	63,824	110,244	7,238
Self-Pay/Uninsured	46	604	312	69	0	Self-Pay/Uninsured	57,944	890,220	522,347	116,826	-
Kidcare	2	0	0	0	0	Kidcare	2,630	-	-	-	-
Medicare/Managed	0	13	54	60	40	Medicare/Managed	-	15,415	84,754	119,717	96,470
All Other	20	43	11	15	0	All Other	23,008	68,893	10,260	27,949	-

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
32547	609	844,618	646	1,102,777
32548	350	520,298	341	567,749
32539	307	358,788	311	450,322
32578	249	367,927	296	433,181
32536	247	380,288	228	324,525
32541	137	150,149	163	195,816
32569	102	145,239	135	214,294
32579	101	127,871	115	213,252
32531	53	82,236	53	67,726

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.

¹ Source: Emergency Room Database, Florida Agency on Health Care Administration

² 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.