



Learn more about ADHD with a **F** DVD or CD-Rom (your choice) - [click](#)

News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Living | Shopping | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Homes



- ?Place an Ad
- ?Subscribe
- ?Newspaper Ads Online
- ?Contact Us
- ?Archives

Search Articles-last 7 days for

Go

[Back to Home](#) > [News](#) >

Thursday, Dec 11, 2003

eEdition



Subscribe to of the Herald

[H-L eEid](#)

State

Posted on Wed, Dec. 10, 2003

STUDY CITES LOW MEDICAID PAYMENTS, FEW CLINICS IN STATE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE - Most children eligible for dental treatment under government health plans aren't taking advantage of it, health advocates say.

About two-thirds of the 366,000 children eligible for dental treatment under Medicaid and the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program didn't see a dentist last year, according to a new study by the non-profit Kentucky Youth Advocates. Most were in rural counties.

About 43 percent of children ages 2 to 4 had untreated tooth decay, and nearly 10 percent had emergency-room treatment for severe infection or decay, according to a 2001 survey by the University of Kentucky.

More than half of licensed dentists don't see Medicaid patients, according to the study. Of the 2,169 state-licensed dentists, 871 billed the state for treating Medicaid patients in 2002.

Many dentists complain that reimbursement rates are too low. Payments to health providers, including dentists, have been frozen in recent years because of the state's Medicaid budget problems. The study by the advocates reports that Medicaid covers about half the cost of dental procedures for children.

Kentucky has among the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rates, according to Dr. James Cecil, administrator of oral health for the Health Services Cabinet.

"In parts of Kentucky, there are no Medicaid providers who will see new patients," said Cecil, who is also a dental professor at the university.

Dr. J. David Hardison, a dentistry professor at the University of

Shopping

Find a **Jo** an **Ap**art a **Home**,



BREAK

Updated 11, 2003

[U.S., El](#) [Passen](#) PM EST

[Missile](#) [Target](#) 05:04 P

[Will 20](#) [Linger](#) 05:04 P

[Trafalg](#) [Room f](#) 05:01 P

[CDC: FI](#) [Hard in](#) 04:58 P

News

- [Breaking News](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Local](#)
- [Nation](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Weird News](#)
- [World](#)
- [War with Iraq](#)

Business

Sports

Entertainment

Living

Classifieds

Archives

Contact Us

Shopping



Our Site Tools

Weather

Lexington ↑39 ↓20

Jackson ↑41 ↓24

Louisville ↑40 ↓22

Local Events

Yellow Pages

Discussion Boards

Maps & Directions

Subscribe to The Lexington Herald-Leader

Have The Lexington Herald-Leader delivered to

your home everyday
➤ [Subscribe today](#)

Newspaper In Education

Going on vacation? Donate your newspapers to K.I.D.S. 800-999-8881 (Knowledge and Information Delivered to Students)

➤ [Newspaper In Education](#)

Kentucky who assisted in the study and led the university survey in 2001, said dentists who accept government health plans aren't widely available. He said a lack of transportation in rural areas and lack of understanding of the importance of treating dental disease contribute to poor dental care.

Hardison said the problem has worsened since the late 1980s, the last time a survey was done.

"It bothers me on a personal level that we have children in our state that have world-class dental problems," he said. "That's not acceptable to me."

Hardison said 40 percent of preschool children have never been to dentists. About 28 percent of grade-school children had untreated dental decay.

Cecil said the state spends about \$2 million a year on oral health. Surrounding states, he said, do more and spend more to provide community clinics for people who can't afford care.

He said Tennessee spends about \$14 million a year to run the clinics. But the only such clinics in Kentucky are a community health center and the dental schools at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.

 [email this](#) |  [print this](#)

Spons

[Result](#)
Your in United power 1 results.
www.unit

[Multipl Assoc.](#)
Eases for Pec Give yc today!
msaa.cor

[Gorilla](#)
World \ Picture more.
www.wor

[Just Fi](#)
You do feel left
www.mar

Stocks

Enter symbc



© 2003 Media Income
All rights reserved
Real Cities Inc.

[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Home](#)
[About Kentucky.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Copyright](#)