



**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

**OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH — UPDATES**  
**Fiscal Year 2023**

**Matthew Horan, DMD, MPH**  
**Dental Director**

# Office of Oral Health

## **Vision:**

Oral health equity for all Massachusetts residents.

## **Mission:**

To ensure equitable access to oral health care for all Massachusetts residents while coordinating evidence-based prevention efforts, strengthening and diversifying the oral health workforce, integrating oral health into overall health, and continuously monitoring and assessing oral health needs and trends.

# Office of Oral Health

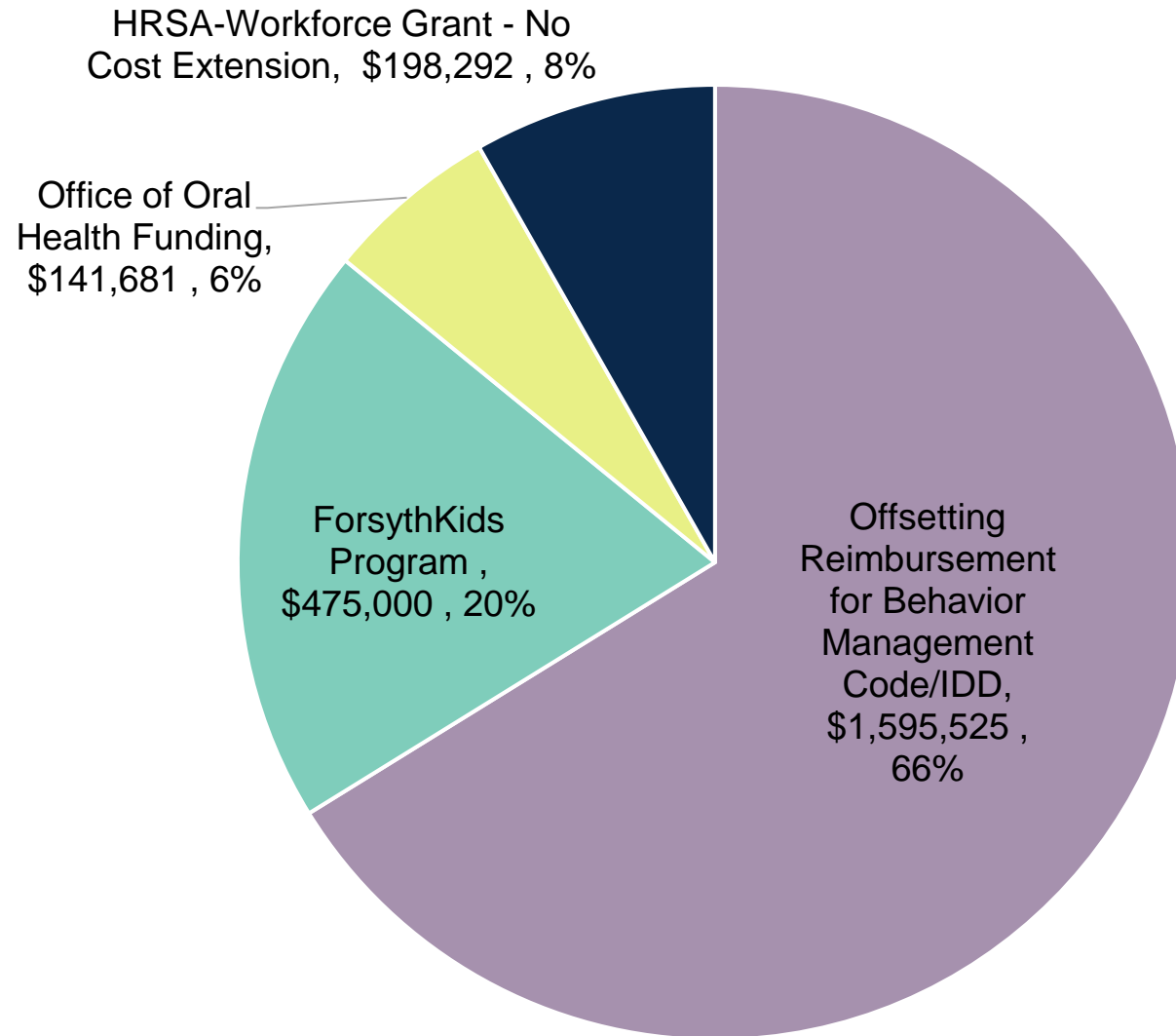
## Values:

- Applying a health equity and racial justice focus to our work.
- Innovation and using health care quality improvement strategies to foster change.
- Making evidence-based and data-driven systematic improvements.
- Efficiency and transparency within our operations and collaborations with all partners.
- Respecting and mobilizing our communities and stakeholders.

# Office of Oral Health — Staffing:

- Dental Director
- Program Lead
- Epidemiologist — shared within Workforce Innovation Center

# Office of Oral Health - Fiscal Year 2023 Budget



Office of Oral  
Health  
**Goals:**



#1 Establish and utilize a statewide oral health **surveillance** system and strategic partnerships to facilitate monitoring and communicating health changes over time.



#2 Implement and promote evidence-based **prevention** practices to improve health.



#3 Expand coverage, services, and timeliness of **access** to oral health treatment and care from a more robust, capable, qualified, and culturally competent oral health **workforce**.



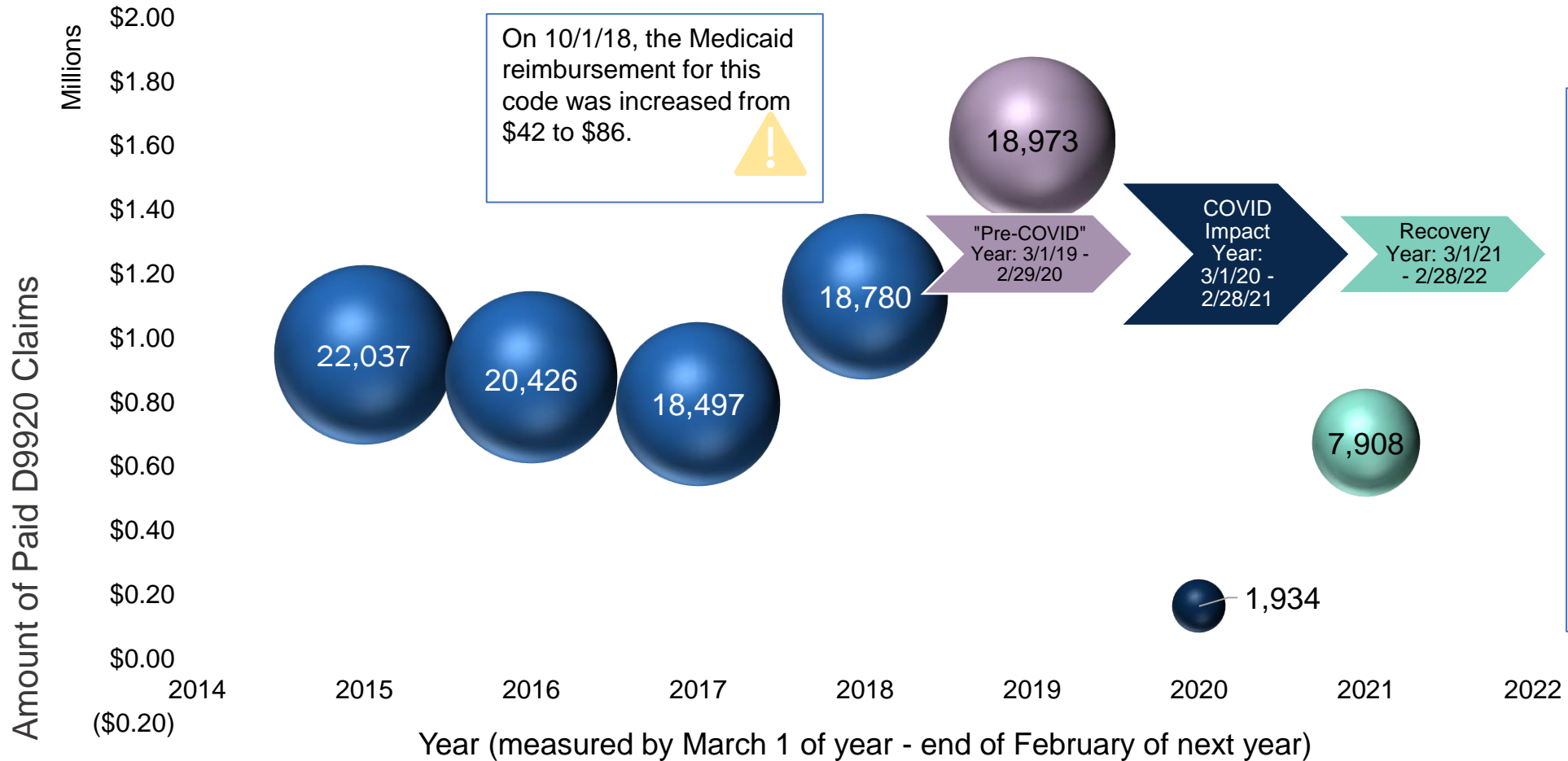
#4 **Integrate** oral health across the health care system and in all care settings.

# GOAL 1 — Surveillance Highlights:

- Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD)
- Massachusetts Oral Health Series (MOHS)
- Office of Oral Health Advisory Committee (OOHAC)
- Public Health Dental Hygienists' data reporting (PHDH)
- Initial Medicaid claims-based data projects
- Future potential projects/areas of interest:
  - Tableau-supported dashboard development
  - Expanded claims-based evaluations — include all payers claims
  - Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) collaboration

# Utilizing Claims Data as One Indicator for a Historically Disadvantaged Priority Population's Access

The Frequency (bubble width) and Cost of the Behavioral Management Code for Dental Medicaid Members with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



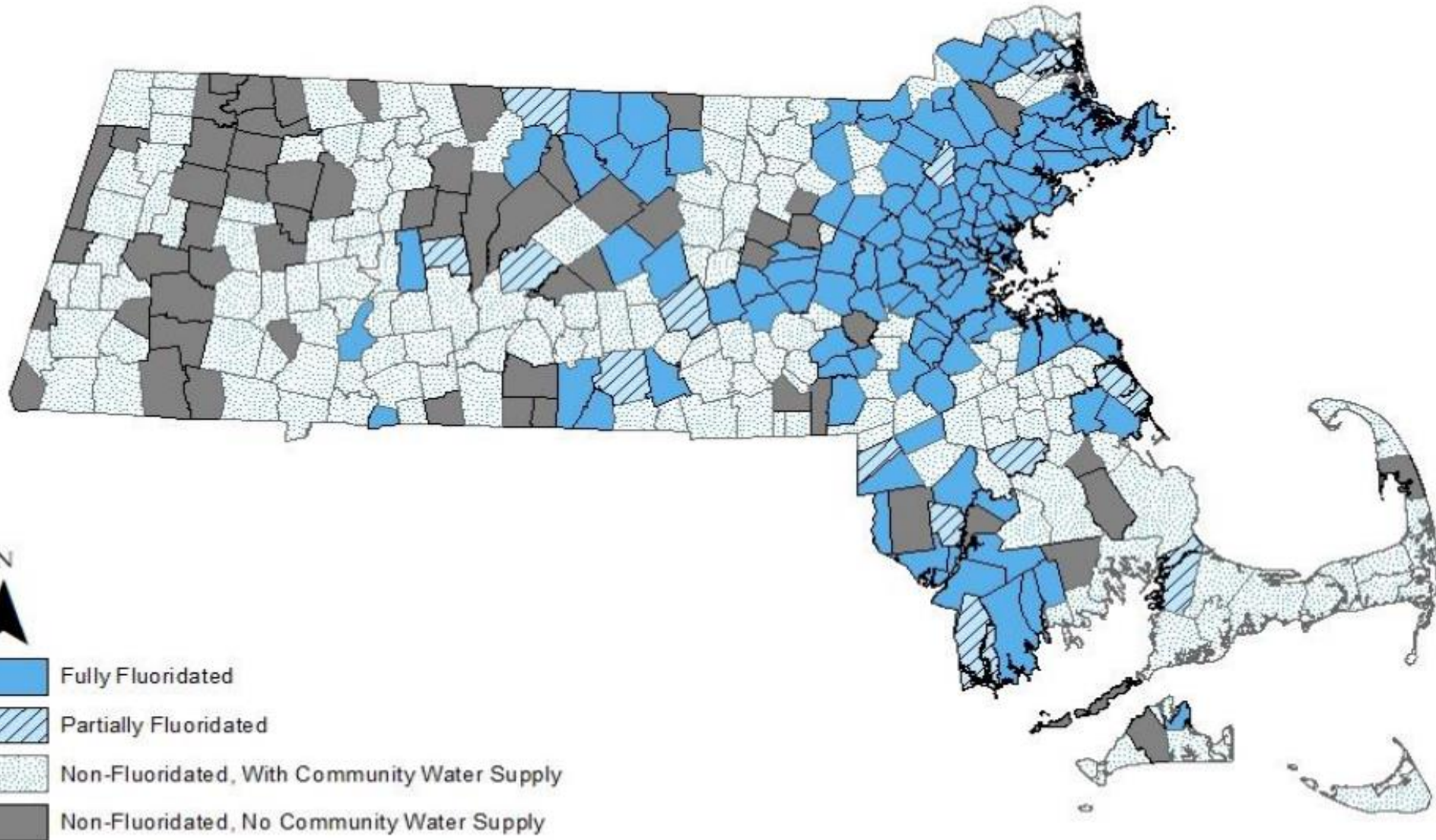
In 2022, the dental Medicaid program announced changes to reduce the administrative burdens for obtaining pre-authorizations for this code.



# GOAL 2 — Prevention Highlights:

- Community Water Fluoridation
- Dental health care personnel as vaccinators
- Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program
- Future potential projects/areas of interest:
  - Antibiotic stewardship activities
  - Provider burnout prevention — workplace safety initiatives
  - School-based prevention activities (and pre-K, Head Start)
  - Reducing oral cancers
  - Oral injury prevention
  - Nutritional focus and collaborations
  - Priority and/or historically disadvantaged populations

# 2021 Community Water Fluoridation Status



- N
- Fully Fluoridated
  - Partially Fluoridated
  - Non-Fluoridated, With Community Water Supply
  - Non-Fluoridated, No Community Water Supply

Please note: Some communities in Massachusetts, and in other states, are being impacted by shortages in fluoride product supply, starting as early as late 2021, therefore the current status of some fluoridated communities may be different than what is listed due to a temporary suspension of fluoridation.

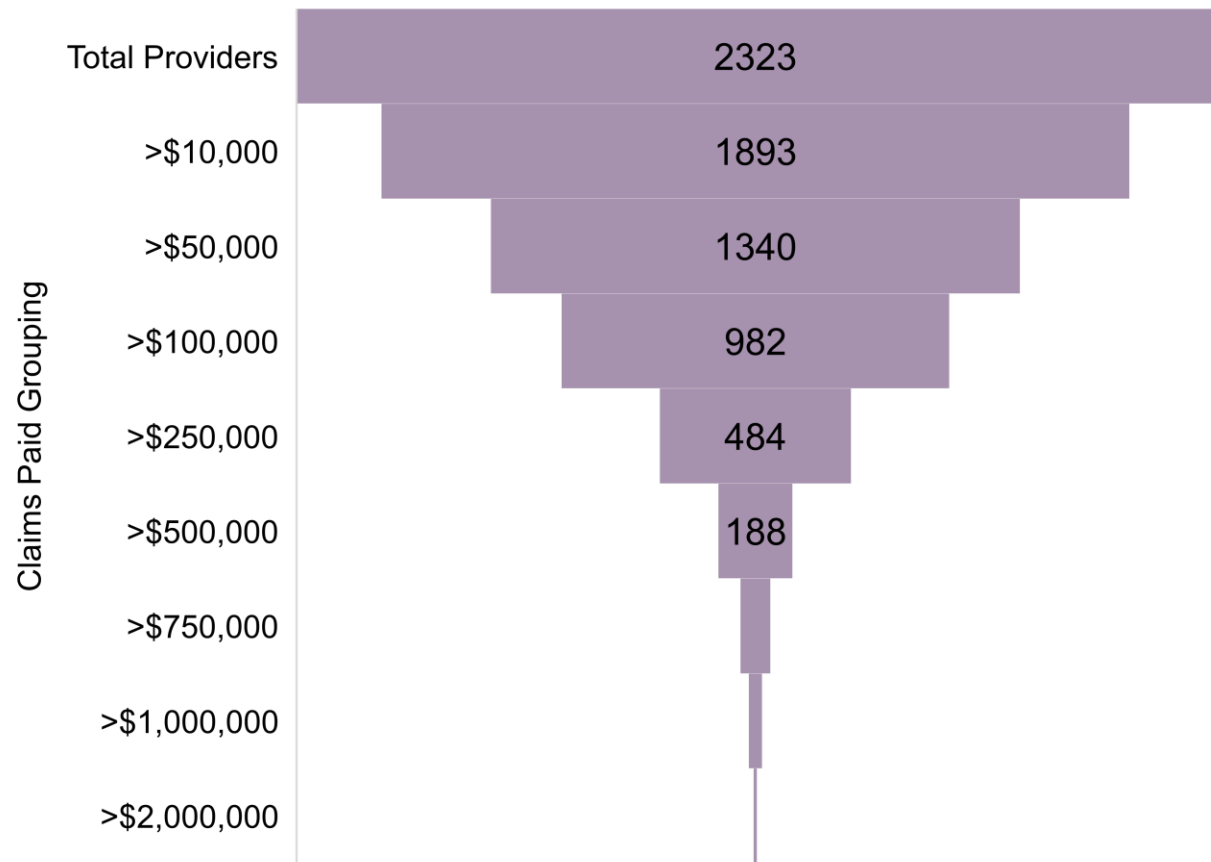
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# GOAL 3 — Access and Workforce Highlights:

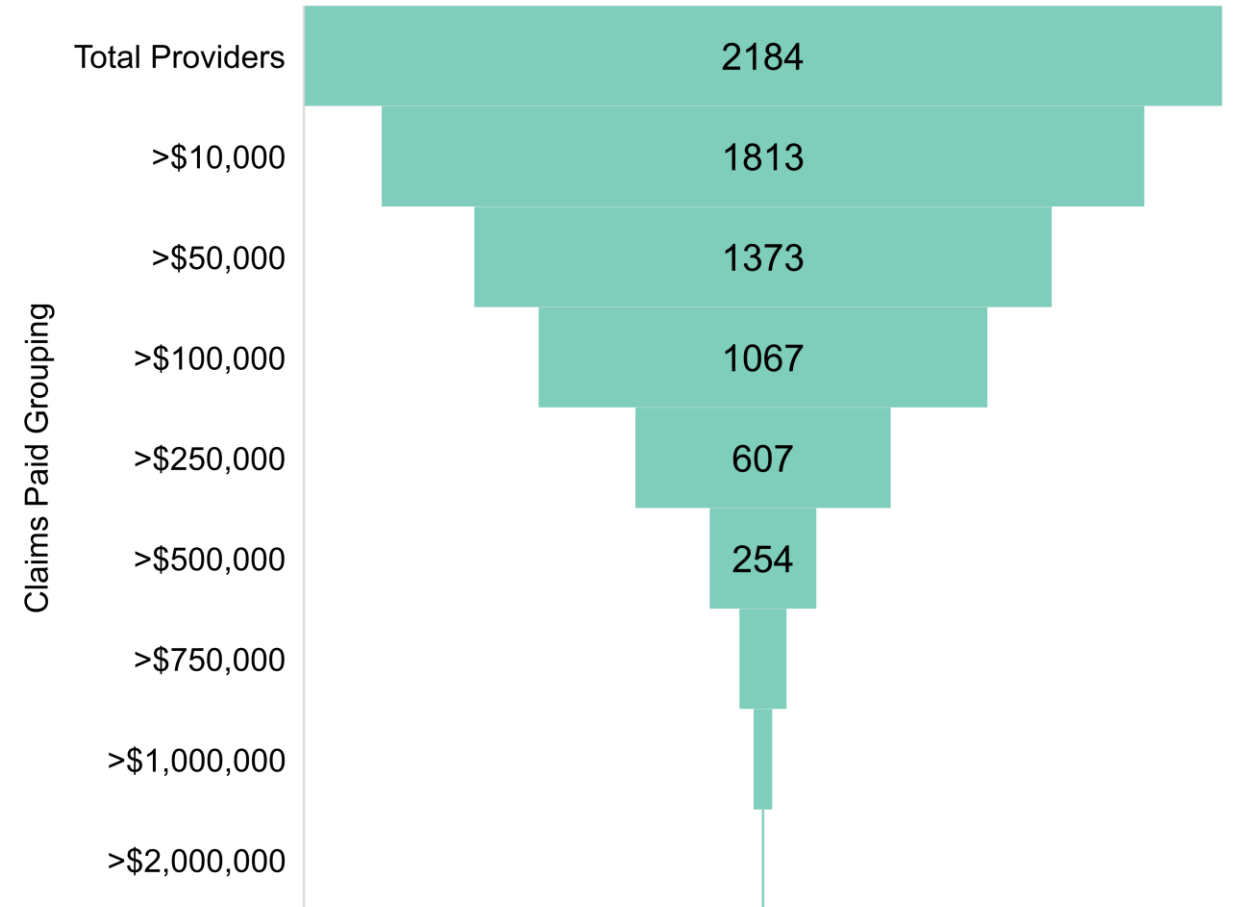
- Dental Assistant On-the-Job Training Resource Guide
- Community Health Workers and Fluoride Varnish
- Vaccination Training Activities
- Future potential projects/areas of interest:
  - Defining oral health access
  - Dental care coordination support
  - Portable programs and teledentistry support
  - An update of workforce survey tools
  - Reporting on an overview of public health dental hygienists
  - Pediatric operating room case access monitoring
  - Enhanced public health exposure within training for dental health care personnel
  - Loan repayment improvements

# COVID Impact on Access to Dental Care within Medicaid

Dental Medicaid Participating Providers by Claims Paid  
**"Pre-COVID"** (March 01, 2019-February 29, 2020 )



Dental Medicaid Participating Providers by Claims Paid  
**"Recovery Year 1"** (March 01, 2021-February 28, 2022)

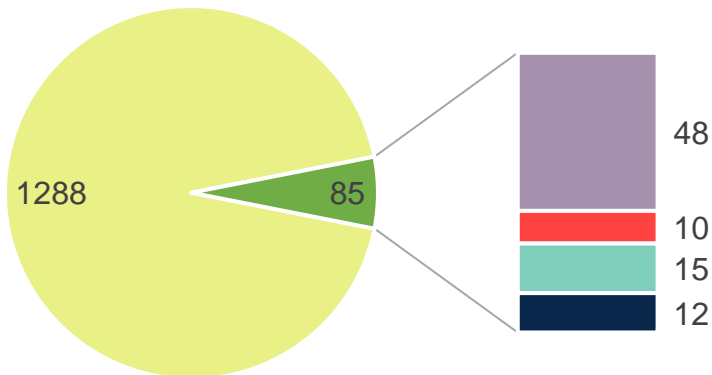


The Medicaid dental provider network is stable with some lost providers in overall count, but important growth within the most active providers.

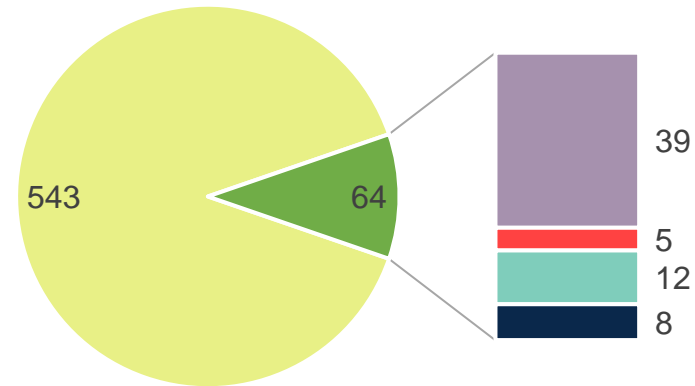
# Dental Medicaid Provider Types by Paid Claims Amount March 1, 2021–February 28, 2022

Composition of providers reimbursed >\$50,000, by count

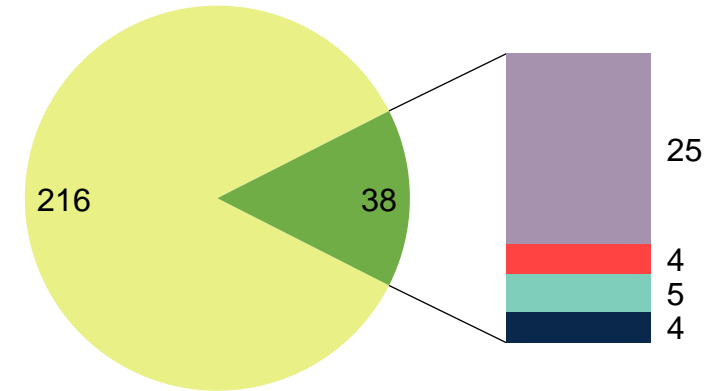
- Dentists
- CHCS (including hospital licensed clinics)
- Hospital and physicians
- Schools and other clinics
- Group Practice Organizations



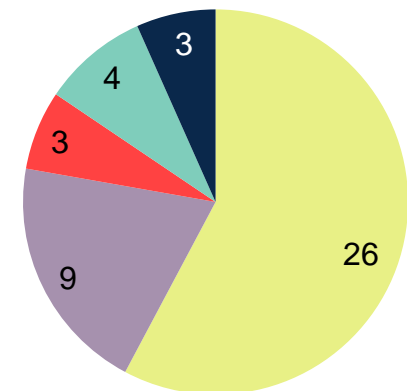
Composition of providers reimbursed >\$250,000, by count



Composition of providers reimbursed >\$500,000, by count



Composition of providers reimbursed >\$1,000,000, by count



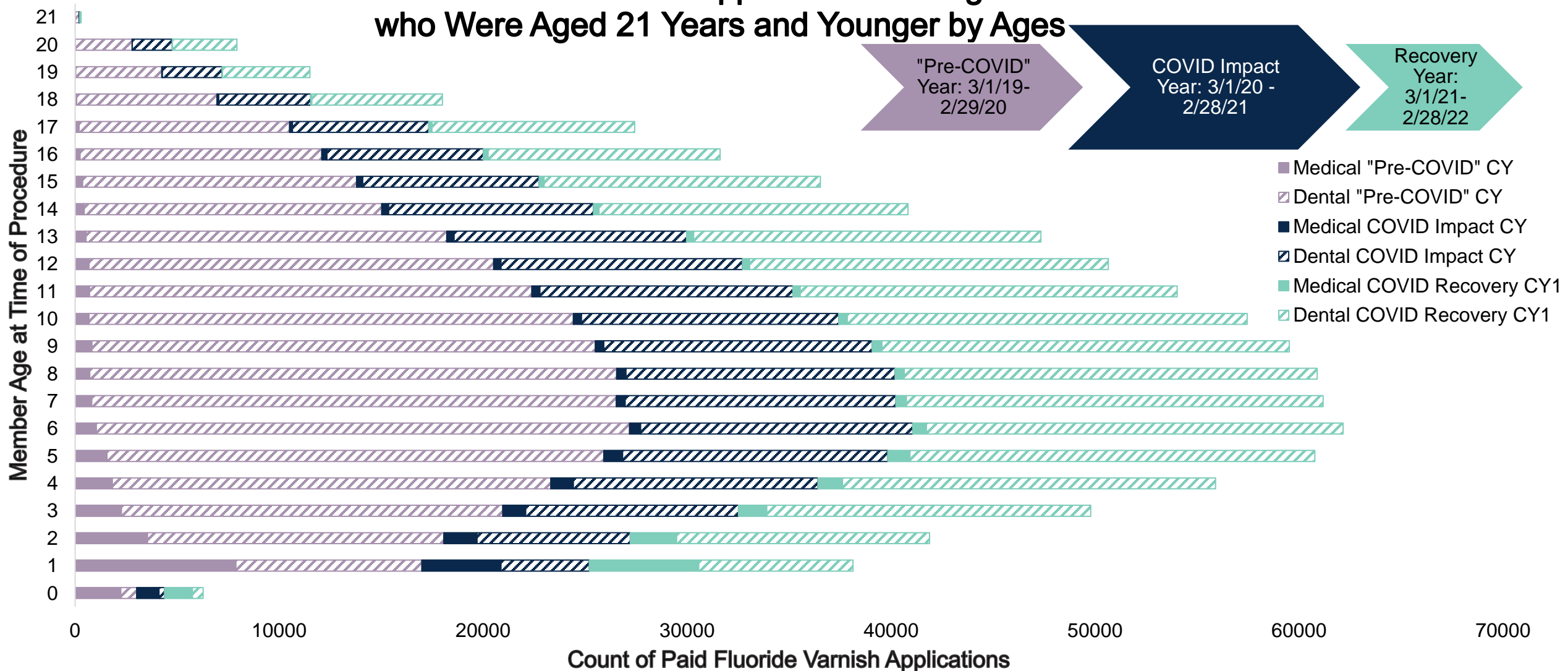
As provider participation intensity increases, measured by total paid claims, non-individual dentists play an increasingly significant role toward overall access to care for dental Medicaid members.

# GOAL 4 — Integration Highlights:

- Substance use disorder and trauma-informed care trainings
- Fluoride varnish
- Vaccines
- Future potential projects/areas of interest:
  - Expansion of vaccine efforts
  - Diagnostic coding
  - Point-of-care testing — HIV rapid testing, Hemoglobin A1c testing
  - A dental nurse role
  - Emergency department diversion

# COVID Impacts on Preventive Dental Care

**Table 1: The Count of Fluoride Varnish Applications among MassHealth Members who Were Aged 21 Years and Younger by Ages**



# Office of Oral Health

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- [mass.gov/orgs/office-of-oral-health](https://mass.gov/orgs/office-of-oral-health)

For general inquiries, contact us at:

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