



February 28, 2023

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Dental Association (MDA), I write in support of HF1541, introduced by Representative Liz Reyer. This bill addresses the rebasing of dental payment rates under Medical Assistance (Medicaid) and MinnesotaCare.

Prior to the 2021 legislative session, Minnesota nationally ranked toward the bottom in reimbursement rates. A 2021 study by the American Dental Association ranked Minnesota at 47th out of 50 states for adult dental reimbursement, and 49th for pediatric dental reimbursement.¹ Worse, the dental provider reimbursement rates were based on average submitted charges from 1989, over thirty years ago.

In 2021, significant progress was made to increase medical assistance reimbursement rates for dental care. The 2021 Health and Human Services Finance omnibus bill appropriated approximately \$61 million to increase reimbursement rates, resulting in an approximate increase of 98% for many dental providers. The MDA thanks Chair Liebling for her hard work and support in increasing Minnesota's dental reimbursement rates.

HF1541 ensures that Minnesota maintains fair and updated rates by requiring the Department of Human Services to rebase payment rates every three years after January 1, 2024. This provision ensures that Minnesota does not fall behind again and maintains its place as a nationwide leader in dental care.

The MDA supports payment rate rebasing and strongly urges members to vote in favor of HF1541.

Should you have any questions, please contact the MDA's Government Affairs Manager Dan Murphy at dmurphy@mndental.org or 612-767-4255.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carmelo Cinqueonce".

Carmelo Cinqueonce, MBA
Executive Director

The Minnesota Dental Association is a statewide professional membership organization representing Minnesota-licensed dentists and dental students, with a membership of over 3,000 dentists.

¹ See attached infographic.

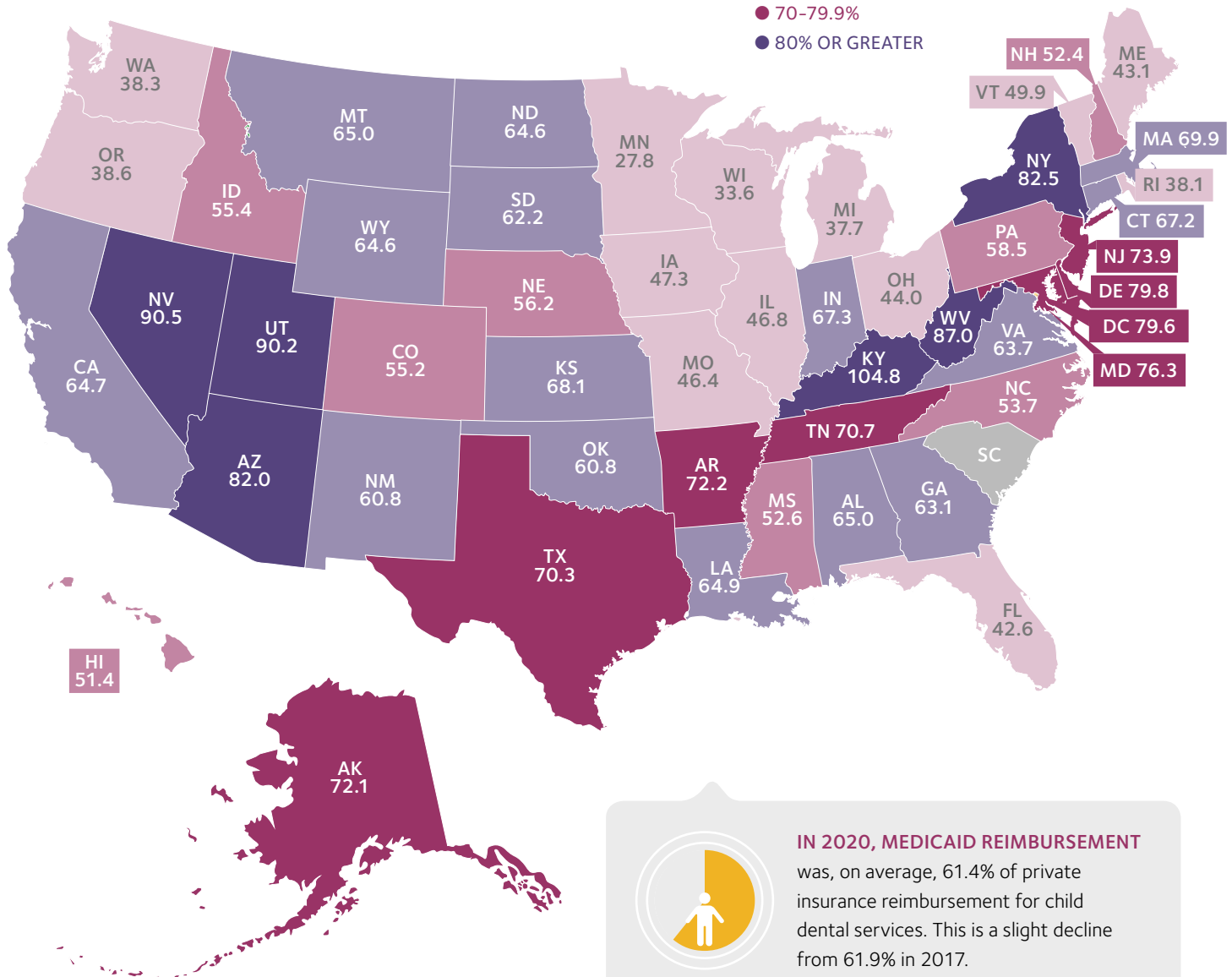
Reimbursement Rates for Child and Adult Dental Services in Medicaid by State

10/2021



MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PRIVATE INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT FOR CHILD DENTAL SERVICES, 2020

- BELOW 50%
- 50%–59.9%
- 60%–69.9%
- 70–79.9%
- 80% OR GREATER
- NO DATA AVAILABLE



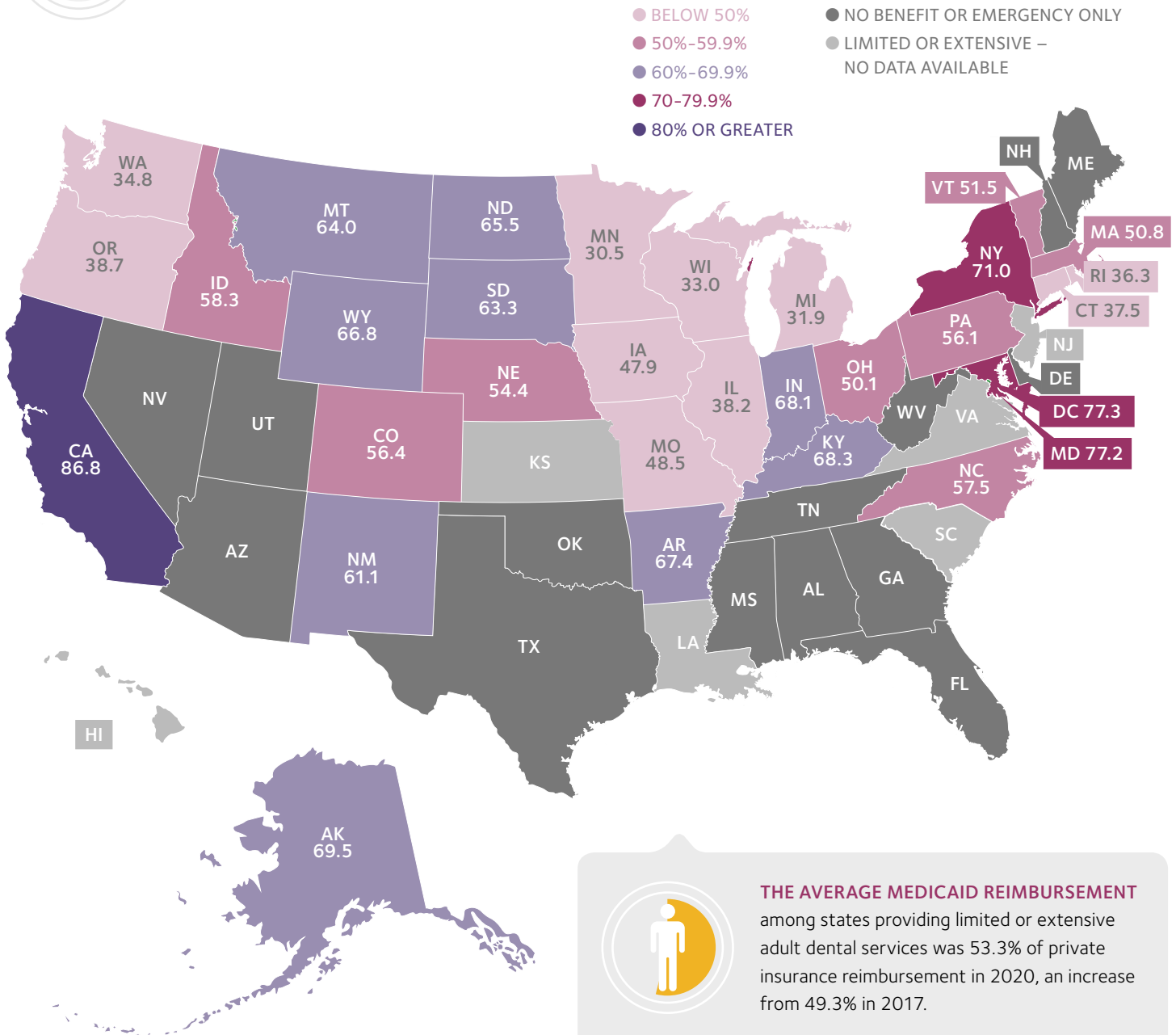
IN 2020, MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

was, on average, 61.4% of private insurance reimbursement for child dental services. This is a slight decline from 61.9% in 2017.

Ratios ranged widely by state, from 27.8% in Minnesota to 104.8% in Kentucky in 2020.



MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PRIVATE INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADULT DENTAL SERVICES, 2020



FOR DATA AND METHODS, and to view the reimbursement ratios for all states for 2017 and 2020, see this [Data Table](#).



THE AVERAGE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT among states providing limited or extensive adult dental services was 53.3% of private insurance reimbursement in 2020, an increase from 49.3% in 2017.

Medicaid reimbursement as a percentage of private insurance reimbursement for adult dental services varied between 30.5% in Minnesota to 86.8% in California.