



HB19-1038
PLEASE SUPPORT A DENTAL BENEFIT
FOR PREGNANT WOMEN COVERED BY CHP+
Sponsors: Reps. Duran and Lontine and Sens. Ginal and Story

Nearly 900 pregnant women with health insurance through the Child Health Plan (CHP+) do not have coverage for dental care. For a small cost, Colorado can add dental benefits for these women, improving their health, their pregnancy outcomes, and the health of the new baby.

- The Medicaid program provides dental benefits for all enrollees, including pregnant women. The CHP+ program provides dental benefits for children only. Pregnant women on CHP+ are the last remaining group in Medicaid or CHP+ without dental benefits.
- During pregnancy, changes to a woman's diet and hormone levels increase her risk for a number of oral health conditions, including dental caries (the disease that causes tooth decay and cavities), gingivitis and periodontal disease.ⁱ
- Periodontal disease in pregnant mothers has been linked to adverse birth outcomes such as preterm birth and low newborn birth weights.^{ii,iii}
- Approximately 25% of all pregnant women in Colorado lacked dental insurance in 2016, and about 18% of expecting mothers reported not going to the dentist because they could not afford to go.^{iv}
- Oral health care for pregnant women has an impact on the oral health of their children:
 - A mother's prenatal oral health has lifelong effects on her child's oral health. The bacteria associated with poor oral health can pass from mother to baby with the potential to cause dental caries in infancy and early childhood.^v
 - Tooth decay remains the most common chronic condition in childhood and adolescence.^{vi}
 - Poor oral health among children has been linked to poor performance in school and increased absences.^{vii,viii}

Funding Request:

For FY 2019-20, the bill requires a total appropriation of \$439,425 to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. However, due to the federal match rate of 88% for CHP+, \$372,470 will come from federal funds and the remaining \$66,955 is covered by cash funds, primarily the CHP+ Trust Fund. This trust fund consists primarily of tobacco settlement funds. See the Fiscal Note for more details.

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Supporters

(as of 01/10/2019)

All Kids Covered Coalition
American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter
Center for Health Progress
Children's Hospital of Colorado
Colorado Association of School Nurses (CASN)
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program (CCHAP)
Colorado Community Health Network
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI)
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Colorado Dental Association (CDA)
Colorado Dental Hygienists' Association (CODHA)
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Delta Dental of Colorado
Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation
Oral Health Colorado
Parent Possible
Raise Colorado (formerly the Prenatal, Infant, Toddler Coalition)
Tri-County Health Network

ⁱ Kloetzel, M. K., Huebner, C. E., & Milgrom, P. (2011). Referrals for dental care during pregnancy. *Journal of midwifery & women's health*, 56(2), 110-7.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/leading-health-indicators/2020-lhi-topics/Oral-Health>

ⁱⁱⁱ American Academy of Periodontology. (2013) Expectant Mothers' Periodontal Health Vital to Health of Her Baby. https://www.perio.org/consumer/AAP_EFP_Pregnancy

^{iv} *Ibid.*

^v Chaffee, B. W., Gansky, S. A., Weintraub, J. A., Featherstone, J. D., & Ramos-Gomez, F. J. (2014). Maternal oral bacterial levels predict early childhood caries development. *Journal of dental research*, 93(3), 238-44.

^{vi} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016, September 22). "Hygiene- related Diseases: Dental Caries (Tooth Decay)," Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/disease/dental_caries.html

^{vii} Seirawan, H., Faust, S., & Mulligan, R. (2012). The impact of oral health on the academic performance of disadvantaged children. *American journal of public health*, 102(9), 1729-34.

^{viii} Blumenshine, S.L., Vann W.F. Jr., Gizlice, Z., & Lee, J.Y. (2008). Children's school performance: impact of general and oral health. *Journal of public health dentistry*. 68(2): 82-7.