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**Fee Increase Impact on Dental Participation in Indiana Medicaid Program. Ryan J. Hughes\*, P. Damiano, M. Kanellis, R. Slayton, R. Kuthy. University of Iowa.**

Objectives: Provider participation is an important part of access to dental care for children enrolled in public insurance programs. In May of 1998, Indiana's Dental Medicaid program increased reimbursement rates to 100% of the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of rates as reported for that region of the country. The purpose of this study was to evaluate dentists' participation in the Medicaid program prior to and after the fee increase. Methods: Data was obtained from Indiana's Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning. Descriptive comparisons were made of the number of dentists enrolled in the Medicaid program, the number of dentists with a submitted Medicaid claim, and the percentage of dentists participating in the Medicaid program. These comparisons were made for the years prior to the fee increase (1997-98) and the years after the increase (1999-00). Results: Prior to the fee increase, 36.8% of dentists were enrolled as Medicaid providers. After the increase 47.2% of dentists were enrolled. Prior to the fee increase 767 dentists per year submitted claims. After the fee increase 1094 dentists per year submitted claims. Prior to the fee increase 21.3% of Indiana dentists had submitted a claim (50.7% of Medicaid providers submitted claims) and after the increase, 30.6% of Indiana dentists submitted claims (64.8% of Medicaid providers submitted claims). Future analysis will evaluate the role of specialists, the impact of the Children's Health Insurance Program on Medicaid participation, and treatment variations among age groups.