

Pew Report Gives Maine a Grade of “B” in Caring for Kids’ Teeth

The Pew Children’s Dental Campaign, a function of the national Pew Charitable Trusts, recently released a report, *“The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children,”* which graded every state and the District of Columbia on how well they were meeting the dental needs of low-income children, based on eight “policy benchmarks” that they identified. The benchmarks included the percentage of the population on fluoridated water systems, the percentage of Medicaid-eligible children who actually receive dental services, the level of Medicaid reimbursement paid to providers, whether the state Medicaid program reimburses medical providers for preventive services like fluoride varnish, and whether the state has authorized a new primary care dental provider. Maine, along with eight other states, earned a “B” based on their criteria, meeting five of their eight benchmarks. Only six states earned an “A” and New Jersey got the lowest grade, meeting only one benchmark.

A full copy of the report can be accessed at the Pew website. A link is also available from the MDA website. http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/Cost_of_Delay_web.pdf