

Dental Services-Survey and Regional Needs Assessment Report

HB 1146 (Ch. 219 of the Acts of 2023)

Maryland Department of Health

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HB 1146 Report: Dental Services–Survey and Regional Needs Assessment

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HB 1146 Report: Dental Services–Survey and Regional Needs Assessment

Introduction

During the 2023 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill (HB) 1146—*Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Health Care Commission-Dental Services-Survey and Regional Needs Assessment*.¹ The bill was passed in response to stakeholder concern that there are insufficient resources available to dentists to care for patients in the operating room (OR) setting. The bill had three components. First, it required the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), to conduct a survey of hospitals to identify the availability of OR resources for dentist use, including:

- The number of dentists credentialed at each hospital
- The average time each hospital takes to credential a dentist
- The number of OR minutes made available to credentialed dentists at each hospital
- The percentage of available OR minutes used by credentialed dentists over the immediately preceding 12-month period
- Any stipends paid for anesthesiology services related to the use of ORs by credentialed dentists

Second, the bill required MDH and the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), in consultation with MHA and the Maryland Ambulatory Surgery Association (MASA), to conduct a regional needs assessment for dental procedures that require anesthesia or moderate sedation that shall consider:

- The survey on capacity conducted by MHA
- Available information that can be used to assess capacity for dental procedures in ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs)
- Estimated startup and operating expenses for configuring and operating an OR for dental procedures
- The ability of ASCs to pay stipends to anesthesiologists related to dental procedures

Finally, the bill required MDH and MHCC, in consultation with MHA, to develop regional plans to ensure the availability of appropriate OR space for the performance of dental procedures for Maryland Medical Assistance Program participants.

MDH submitted an interim report in March 2024 that presented the results of the required surveys of hospitals, dentists, and ASCs described above. In this report, MDH further analyzed Medicaid claims data to review the volume of dental surgeries for Medicaid participants and the distances participants are driving to access these services. The interim report showed that 11 hospitals do not have any credentialed dentists, and 21 hospitals had no credentialed pediatric dentists. Only three ASCs statewide reported offering dental surgery services, and dentists reported barriers to hospital credentialing and long wait times for OR space. Medicaid claims data showed longer travel times to dental OR services in the eastern and western parts of the

¹ 2023 MD Laws Ch. 219.

state, that participants are not necessarily accessing services at the nearest OR, and that dental OR access is clustered in the central part of the state. Driving times for non-dental OR services are shorter than for dental OR services for Medicaid participants.

This document serves as the final report and contains data from a follow-up hospital survey, additional Medicaid claims data analysis, updates from the Medicaid dental administrative service organization (ASO), and recommendations to ensure the availability of appropriate OR space for the performance of dental procedures for Maryland Medical Assistance Program participants.

Supplemental Survey

MHCC conducted a supplemental follow-up survey of the hospitals in the summer of 2024, requesting updated information about the availability of hospital OR resources for use by dentists. Twenty-seven hospitals responded to the survey. Table 1 shows the number of dentists credentialed at each hospital as of April 2024. Five hospitals (UM Harford Memorial Medical Center, St. Agnes Hospital, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center, Carroll Hospital, and UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center) reported having zero or only 1 dental provider.

Table 1. Dental Providers Reported as of April 2024, by Hospital and Specialty

Hospital	General Dentists	Pediatric Dentists	Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons	Other Providers	Orthodontists	Total Dental Providers
University of Maryland Medical Center	1	7	5			13
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring		2	8			10
Frederick Health	1	4	6			11
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Medical Center		0	0			0
Mercy Medical Center	2	2	1			5
Johns Hopkins Hospital	2	2	2	4	1	11
St. Agnes Hospital		1				1
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore	30	18	11			59
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center		0				0
Suburban Hospital			9			9

Hospital	General Dentists	Pediatric Dentists	Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons	Other Providers	Orthodontists	Total Dental Providers
Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center		9	13			22
UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Center	2	3	3			8
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital		5				5
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown	2	3				5
Carroll Hospital			1			1
Medstar Harbor Hospital		8				8
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center		2				2
University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus	1	7	5			13
CalvertHealth			3			3
University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center			1			1
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	10		22			32
Howard County General Hospital	5	4				9
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center		2	14			16
Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center		37	21			58
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and	6	33				39

Hospital	General Dentists	Pediatric Dentists	Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons	Other Providers	Orthodontists	Total Dental Providers
Orthopaedic Institute						
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center		15	2			17
Holy Cross Germantown Hospital	3	15	3			21
Statewide Total	65	179	130	4	1	379

Table 2 compares the total number of credentialed dental hospitals reported in April 2023 with the number reported in April 2024. The total number of dental providers increased from 375 in 2023 to 379 in 2024. MedStar Harbor's total provider count increased from 0 in 2023 to 8 in 2024, while the University of Maryland Harford Memorial's and Franklin Square's counts of total dental providers decreased from 16 and 6, respectively, in 2023 to 0 in 2024.²

Table 2. Total Dental Providers Reported as of April 2023 and April 2024

Hospital	Total Dental Providers Reported	
	2023	2024
University of Maryland Medical Center	13	13
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring	10	10
Frederick Health	10	11
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Medical Center	16	0
Mercy Medical Center	5	5
Johns Hopkins Hospital	11	11
St. Agnes Hospital	1	1
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore	59	59
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center	6	0
Suburban Hospital	9	9
Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center	19	22
UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Center	8	8
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital	5	5
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown	4	5

² UM Harford Memorial closed permanently in February 2024.

Hospital	Total Dental Providers Reported	
	2023	2024
Carroll Hospital	1	1
Medstar Harbor Hospital	0	8
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center	2	2
University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus	13	13
CalvertHealth	2	3
University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center	1	1
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	23	32
Howard County General Hospital	9	9
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center	16	16
Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center	58	58
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute	39	39
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center	15	17
Holy Cross Germantown Hospital	20	21
Statewide Total	375	379

Table 3 shows the number of dentists each hospital reported had permission to use OR block time for dental surgeries, as well as descriptions of the dental surgery OR block time arrangements. Overall, 10 of the 27 respondent hospitals reported having no dentists permitted to access OR block time, though 2 of these hospitals (Greater Baltimore Medical Center and Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center) indicated that OR time was available for dental procedures upon request. Of the 24 responding hospitals shown here that also responded to a similar question in the MHA survey administered in early 2023, four of the hospitals (Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center, Suburban Hospital, and UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center) that reported having no arrangements with any dentists to use OR block time did previously report offering block time in the MHA survey. Conversely, Frederick Health Hospital and Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center reported in the previous MHA survey that no OR time was available for dental procedures but did report availability on the current MHCC survey.

Table 3. Number of Dentists Permitted to Access OR Block Time to Perform Dental Procedures and Comments Regarding the Arrangements by Respondent Hospitals

Hospital	# Dentists Permitted to Access OR Block Time	Arrangement Comments
University of Maryland Medical Center	7	One to two 7.5 blocks every week
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring	0	N/A
Frederick Health	1	3.5 hours block every 2 nd and 4 th week of the month for one dentist who does pediatrics and special needs
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Medical Center	0	N/A
Mercy Medical Center	2	OR block for dentistry is one OR every Friday from 7:30-3:40
Johns Hopkins Hospital	2	They book into open Oto and Plastics blocks. Two pediatric dentists have privileges and perform cases at JHH, but are not on staff at JHH. We defined pediatric as age 12 and under. Adolescents are categorized as 13-17. Adults are 18 and above.
St. Agnes Hospital	1	14 hours every week (every Thursday & Friday)
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore	18	The main OR has a block for dentists 4.5 hours once a week. There is a separate block schedule for pediatric cases, and blocks are available Monday through Thursday for 4 to 6.5 hours (varies by day).
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center	0	N/A
Suburban Hospital	0	N/A
Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center	9	9.5-hour block 1 day per week
UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Center	3	Two 6.5 hour blocks per week. Monday 6.5 hours, Thursday 6.5 hours
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital	4	Two/Eight Hour Blocks per Month
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown	3	2 of the dentists share a block as they are partners in their practice and take turns coming here. For these 2 dentists, their block is a full 8-hour day 3 days a month. The other dentist does not have designated block time and utilizes open blocks 3-4 days a month based on availability and utilizes a full 8-hour block.
Carroll Hospital	0	N/A
Medstar Harbor Hospital	8	Three 8hr blocks per week

Hospital	# Dentists Permitted to Access OR Block Time	Arrangement Comments
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center	2	First dentist gets 8 hour block one day per week & second gets an 8 hour block once per month- this was at their request.
University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus	0	N/A
CalvertHealth	0	N/A
University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center	0	N/A
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	0	Currently, the number of dental cases being performed at GBMC by the credentialed providers does not warrant regular block time to be assigned. GBMC does have substantial "open time" available on the OR schedule for credentialed providers to schedule cases into.
Howard County General Hospital	4	22 4-hour blocks per week
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center	2	Half day every week
Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center	0	As of January 2024, 5 dentistry blocks 3-4 days per week, but they are not blocked to a particular provider or practice. They are blocked to dentistry.
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute	22	Dentists with the consistent number of cases have dedicated weekly block time in the OR. All other dentists use open blocks dedicated to dental service on a first come first serve basis.
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center	6	12 days every 5 weeks
Holy Cross Germantown Hospital	11	On Tuesdays, Thursday, Fridays from 7:30am-3:30 pm there is block time for dental procedures. The allocation of block time varies by provider/practice group.

Table 4 presents the number of OR minutes allocated in 2023 to all dental providers and to all pediatric dental providers. Additional columns have been added showing the number of OR minutes each hospital reported allocating to dental providers in the previous MHA survey, as well as the difference between this previously reported value and the number of minutes reported on the current MHCC survey.³ On average, respondent hospitals reported allocating

³ In the previous MHA survey, hospitals did not report these values directly. Rather, they reported the average OR block length for dentists, which was multiplied by the reported number of dentists permitted to use the time.

39,075 OR minutes to all dental providers (range: 0 to 176,000), compared to an average of 38,327 minutes reported by these hospitals in the previous MHA survey (range: 0 to 144,600). The average hospital reported 732 more OR minutes in the previous survey, though the range in the differences for individual hospitals was wide. At one end of the spectrum, the University of Maryland Medical Center reported 121,917 more minutes on the MHCC survey than on the MHA survey, and on the other, Holy Cross Hospital reported 35,735 fewer minutes on the MHCC survey than on the MHA survey.

Table 4. Minutes of OR Block Time Allocated to All Dental Providers and Pediatric Dental Providers Reported by Respondent Hospitals on the MHCC and MHA Surveys, and the Difference in Minutes between Responses Given on Each Survey, 2023

Hospital	OR Mins to All Dental Providers, MHCC Survey	OR Mins to Pediatric Providers, MHCC Survey	OR Mins to All Dental Providers, Previous MHA Survey	Difference in OR Minutes to All Dental Providers*
University of Maryland Medical Center	165,117	19,583	43,200	121,917
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring**	265	0	36,000	-35,735
Frederick Health	3,430	527	N/A	--
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Medical Center****	9,803	9,803	2,500	7,303
Mercy Medical Center	14,046	12,969	24,960	-10,914
Johns Hopkins Hospital	22,284	15,048	17,280	5,004
St. Agnes Hospital	17,195	17,195	15,283	1,912
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore	43,666	34,116	74,820	-31,154
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center	72,000	72,000	68,520	3,480
Suburban Hospital	16,462	0	N/A	--
Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center	148,200	29,640	56,160	92,040
UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Center	20,280	20,280	21,840	-1,560
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital	21,308	21,308	48,600	-27,292
University of Maryland Shore	4,608	4,608	18,000	-13,392

Hospital	OR Mins to All Dental Providers, MHCC Survey	OR Mins to Pediatric Providers, MHCC Survey	OR Mins to All Dental Providers, Previous MHA Survey	Difference in OR Minutes to All Dental Providers*
Medical Center at Chestertown				
Carroll Hospital	84	0	N/A	--
Medstar Harbor Hospital	0	0	N/A	--
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center	13,875	13,875	14,600	-725
University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus	32,309	0	NR***	--
CalvertHealth	1,943	0	N/A	--
University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center	5,382	0	5,040	342
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	4,718	0	0	4,718
Howard County General Hospital	38,654	20,052	73,980	-35,326
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center****	2,922	2,839	2,500	422
Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center	176,000	176,000	NR***	--
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute	102,305	98,679	144,600	-42,295
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center	38,143	38,143	96,480	-58,337
Holy Cross Germantown Hospital**	40,956	40,956	36,000	4,956
AVERAGE*****	39,075	34,085	38,327	-732

*: Calculated as (Minutes reported in current MHCC survey - Minutes reported in previous MHA survey). Negative values indicate more time was reported on previous MHA survey.

** : Previous MHA survey results did not differentiate between Holy Cross hospitals, so the previously reported total of 72,000 minutes has been halved and each facility given 36,000 here.

*** : Not reported. These hospitals either did not provide a response for this question or did not respond to the survey at all.

**** : Responses for UM Harford Memorial Hospital and UM Shore Upper Chesapeake Medical Center were combined in the previous MHA survey.

***** : Among nonzero responses.

The second and third columns of Table 5 below show the same information as the corresponding columns of Table 4, but Table 5 also includes two additional columns showing OR minutes allocated to all dentists and pediatric dentists as percentages of OR minutes allocated to all surgeons by each hospital (the total OR minutes for all surgeons are in the fourth column). Hospitals that reported allocating any OR time to dentists of each respective type allocated an average of 5.7% of all OR time to all dentists and an average of 6.3% to pediatric dentists. Nine of the hospitals that reported offering OR minutes to dental providers reported allocating less than 1% of their total OR minutes for surgical providers to dental providers. Five hospitals (Holy Cross Germantown, UM Shore Medical Center at Chestertown, UM Harford Memorial Hospital, Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center, and UM Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute) reported allocating at least 10% of all OR time for dentists, with Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center and UM Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute each allocating more than 20%.

Table 5. Minutes of OR Block Time Allocated to All Dental Providers, Pediatric Dental Providers, and All Surgical Providers, and Dental Provider OR Block Time Allocations as a Percentage of OR Block Time for All Surgical Providers, 2023

Hospital	OR Mins to All Dental Providers	OR Mins to Pediatric Providers	OR Mins to All Surgical Providers	OR Mins to All Dental Providers as % of OR Mins to All Surgical Providers	OR Mins to Pediatric Dental Providers as % of OR Mins to All Surgical Providers
University of Maryland Medical Center	165,117	19,583	4,029,752	4.1%	0.5%
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring	265	0	1,412,455	0.0%	0.0%
Frederick Health	3,430	527	687,039	0.5%	0.1%
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Medical Center	9,803	9,803	50,292	19.5%	19.5%
Mercy Medical Center	14,046	12,969	2,604,159	0.5%	0.5%
Johns Hopkins Hospital	22,284	15,048	6,133,653	0.4%	0.2%
St. Agnes Hospital	17,195	17,195	1,008,200	1.7%	1.7%

Hospital	OR Mins to All Dental Providers	OR Mins to Pediatric Providers	OR Mins to All Surgical Providers	OR Mins to All Dental Providers as % of OR Mins to All Surgical Providers	OR Mins to Pediatric Dental Providers as % of OR Mins to All Surgical Providers
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore	43,666	34,116	1,388,109	3.1%	2.5%
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center	72,000	72,000	1,560,000	4.6%	4.6%
Suburban Hospital	16,462	0	1,102,703	1.5%	0.0%
Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center	148,200	29,640	2,761,650	5.4%	1.1%
UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Center	20,280	20,280	889,200	2.3%	2.3%
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital	21,308	21,308	378,951	5.6%	5.6%
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown	4,608	4,608	38,550	12.0%	12.0%
Carroll Hospital	84	0	460,627	0.0%	0.0%
Medstar Harbor Hospital	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center	13,875	13,875	282,350	4.9%	4.9%
University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus	32,309	0	969,129	3.3%	0.0%
CalvertHealth	1,943	0	387,351	0.5%	0.0%
University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center	5,382	0	963,489	0.6%	0.0%
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	4,718	0	1,802,164	0.3%	0.0%
Howard County General Hospital	38,654	20,052	785,436	4.9%	2.6%
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center	2,922	2,839	735,209	0.4%	0.4%

Hospital	OR Mins to All Dental Providers	OR Mins to Pediatric Providers	OR Mins to All Surgical Providers	OR Mins to All Dental Providers as % of OR Mins to All Surgical Providers	OR Mins to Pediatric Dental Providers as % of OR Mins to All Surgical Providers
Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center	176,000	176,000	823,885	21.4%	21.4%
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute	102,305	98,679	444,752	23.0%	22.2%
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center	38,143	38,143	595,367	6.4%	6.4%
Holy Cross Germantown Hospital	40,956	40,956	390,324	10.5%	10.5%
AVERAGE*	39,075	34,085	1,257,108	5.7%	6.3%

*: Among nonzero responses.

Table 6 shows the numbers of pediatric, adolescent, and adult patients that each hospital reported having sedation and general anesthesia prior to a dental procedure in 2023. Overall, hospitals reported that substantially more pediatric patients were sedated (122) or received general anesthesia (4,203) for dental procedures than adult and adolescent patients (16 sedated, 1,307 general anesthesia). Of the 11 hospitals that reported at least one adult and adolescent patient who received general anesthesia and at least one pediatric patient who received general anesthesia, only 2 (University of Maryland Medical Center and Frederick Health Hospital) reported administering general anesthesia to more adult and adolescent patients, with 8 of these hospitals reporting the reverse. Notably, Mercy Medical Center accounted for almost all pediatric patients who underwent sedation.

Table 6. Counts of Adult and Adolescent Patients and Pediatric Patients who Underwent Sedation and General Anesthesia Prior to a Dental Procedure, FY 2023*

Hospital	Adult and Adolescent Patients, Sedation Procedures	Adult and Adolescent Patients, General Anesthesia Procedures	Pediatric Patients, Sedation Procedures	Pediatric Patients, General Anesthesia Procedures
University of Maryland Medical Center	*	645		100
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring		*		
Frederick Health		18		*

Hospital	Adult and Adolescent Patients, Sedation Procedures	Adult and Adolescent Patients, General Anesthesia Procedures	Pediatric Patients, Sedation Procedures	Pediatric Patients, General Anesthesia Procedures
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Medical Center				84
Mercy Medical Center	*	*	120	126
Johns Hopkins Hospital		69		69
St. Agnes Hospital				148
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore		76		498
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center				472
Suburban Hospital		125		
Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center	*	93		208
UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Center		11		234
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital				214
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown				49
Carroll Hospital		*		
Medstar Harbor Hospital				
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center				166
University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus		179		
CalvertHealth		17	*	*
University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center				

Hospital	Adult and Adolescent Patients, Sedation Procedures	Adult and Adolescent Patients, General Anesthesia Procedures	Pediatric Patients, Sedation Procedures	Pediatric Patients, General Anesthesia Procedures
Greater Baltimore Medical Center		26		
Howard County General Hospital				
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center		*		46
Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center		19		229
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute		21		917
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center				281
Holy Cross Germantown Hospital			*	342
TOTAL	16	1307	122	4203

*: Cells with count of 10 or fewer have been suppressed.

Table 7 shows the numbers of anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) employed by and contracted with each respondent hospital as of April 2024. More anesthesiologists were contracted than employed, and the same was true for CRNAs. The total numbers of employed anesthesiologists (167) and employed CRNAs (164) were similar, as were the numbers of contracted anesthesiologists (384) and contracted CRNAs (344). Holy Cross Hospital and Holy Cross Germantown Hospital had by far the highest numbers of anesthesiologists and CRNAs, all of whom were contracted.

Table 7. Counts of Anesthesiologists and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Employed by and Contracted with Respondent Hospitals as of April 1, 2024

Hospital	Employed Anesthesiologists	Contracted Anesthesiologists	Employed CRNAs	Contracted CRNAs
University of Maryland Medical Center	8			
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring		118		81
Frederick Health		34		32

Hospital	Employed Anesthesiologists	Contracted Anesthesiologists	Employed CRNAs	Contracted CRNAs
University of Maryland Harford Memorial Medical Center				
Mercy Medical Center	31		33	
Johns Hopkins Hospital	27		13	
St. Agnes Hospital	13	4	28	
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore	25		47	
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center	17		9	25
Suburban Hospital		15		16
Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center		9		
UPMC Western Maryland Regional Medical Center		6		14
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital	4		4	2
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown		11		
Carroll Hospital		8		8
Medstar Harbor Hospital				
University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center		5		6
University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus				
CalvertHealth		7		13
University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center		2		
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	9		6	
Howard County General Hospital		13		16
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center		12		18
Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center		18		12

Hospital	Employed Anesthesiologists	Contracted Anesthesiologists	Employed CRNAs	Contracted CRNAs
University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute		6	4	5
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center	33	15	20	28
Holy Cross Germantown Hospital		101		68
TOTAL	167	384	164	344

Medicaid Data Analysis

MDH examined Medicaid dental service utilization among ORs in calendar year (CY) 2022. Table 8 below shows descriptive statistics for driving times between the approximate location of each Medicaid participant who underwent a dental procedure at an OR, and the OR where they underwent the procedure. Driving times were calculated by first geocoding each participant's address to find their exact location,⁴ which was then used to find the census block in which each participant was located. The central point of the census block, or the centroid, was used as an approximation of each participant's location, and the driving time between the centroid and the OR where they underwent the dental procedure was calculated.⁵ These driving time calculations were done for all participants statewide and separately for Eastern Shore and Western Maryland residents.

On average, Medicaid participants statewide (N = 3,990) drove 29.32 minutes (SD = 21.32) to the OR where they underwent dental surgery. However, Eastern Shore residents (n = 251) on average drove more than one hour (mean = 65.43 minutes, SD = 33.90), while Western Maryland residents (n = 436) drove an average of 48.50 minutes (SD = 31.48).

Table 8. Descriptive Statistics for Driving Times in Minutes to the OR Where Medicaid Participants Underwent Dental Surgery, CY 2022

Statistic	Statewide	Eastern Shore Only*	Western MD Only**
Mean	29.32	65.43	48.50
Median	23.96	63.83	39.40
SD	21.32	33.90	31.48
Minimum	0.75	2.90	0.95
Maximum	157.37	157.37	156.28
# Geocoded Participants (% of Total)	3,990 (100%)	251 (6.3%)	436 (10.9%)

⁴ 4,094 Medicaid participants had dental surgery at an OR in CY 2022, but the addresses of 104 (3%) of them could not be geocoded. These participants were excluded from these analyses.

⁵ These analyses assume that participants drove by car to the OR, but it is possible they used an alternative form of transportation like public transport.

*Eastern Shore counties include Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester.

**Western MD counties include Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington.

Table 9 shows percentiles of the driving times in minutes for all participants who underwent dental surgery at an OR and for Eastern Shore and Western Maryland residents only. The statewide 90th percentile value of 53.13 minutes indicates that 90% of all Medicaid participants who underwent dental surgery at an OR were estimated to have traveled 53.13 minutes or less to the OR for the procedure, which also means that more than 90% of all Medicaid participants drove less than one hour. For Eastern Shore residents, the 50th percentile value of 63.83 minutes indicates that more than half drove at least an hour, while the 20th percentile value of 36.43 minutes indicates that fewer than 20% drove less than half an hour.

Table 9. Select Percentile Cutoffs of Driving Times in Minutes to the OR Where Participants Underwent Dental Surgery, CY 2022

Percentile	Statewide	Eastern Shore Only*	Western MD Only**
20 th	14.97	36.43	27.22
40 th	21.43	55.48	33.28
50 th	23.96	63.83	39.40
60 th	26.68	69.45	47.30
80 th	37.97	93.77	62.55
90 th	53.13	121.00	111.77
Max	157.37	157.37	156.28

*: Eastern Shore counties include Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester.

**.: Western MD counties include Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington.

Table 10 shows the number of Medicaid participants who had dental surgery at an OR by driving times and region. As seen in the other tables, larger proportions of participants in Eastern Shore and Western Maryland counties consistently drove longer than participants statewide. For example, 84% of Eastern Shore participants and 76% of Western Maryland participants drove at least 30 minutes for surgery, compared to 32% of participants statewide. Additionally, only about 1% of participants statewide drive more than two hours, compared with 10% of Eastern Shore participants and 5% of Western Maryland participants.

Table 10. Distribution of Driving Times in Minutes to the OR where Participants Underwent Dental Surgery by 15 Minute Intervals, Statewide and by Region, CY 2022

Drive Time, Minutes	Statewide	Eastern Shore Only*	Western MD Only**
15 mins or less	808	*	35
15 to 30 minutes	1912	24	69
30 to 45 minutes	679	30	146
45 to 60 minutes	310	46	87
60 to 75 minutes	120	55	39

75 to 90 minutes	46	18	11
90 to 105 minutes	34	33	0
105 to 120 minutes	34	*	29
More than 120 mins	47	26	20
Total Geocoded Participants	3,990	251	436

*: Eastern Shore counties include Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester.

**: Western MD counties include Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington.

***: Non-zero counts less than or equal to 10 are suppressed.

Table 11 shows the number of participants who had dental surgery at each of the two hospital ORs in the Eastern Shore region and the three hospital ORs in the Western Maryland region. The middle column contains counts of all participants who used each of the hospitals regardless of the county they resided in, while the far-right column shows the counts of participants who used the hospitals in each region *and* who resided in the same region as the hospital. Nearly all participants who had dental surgeries in these five hospitals lived in the same region as their respective hospitals. However, the total number of participants who were seen at these hospitals was much lower than the total number of participants who resided in the respective regions where each hospital was located. It should be noted that these analyses do not explain why participants chose these hospitals. It is possible that they chose to travel outside of their region due to some provider or facility preference, or it could indicate that access issues forced them to seek care further away. Additional analyses could be performed, possibly by the hospitals in these areas, to determine if there are opportunities to expand the availability of services in these regions.

Table 11. Number of Medicaid Participants who Underwent Dental Surgery in Hospitals in Eastern Shore and Western Maryland in Total and Who Reside in the Region, CY 2022

Hospital Name	Participants Seen for Dental Surgery, Total	Participants Seen for Dental Surgery Who Reside in the Region
Eastern Shore		
UM Shore Medical Center at Chestertown	38	37
TidalHealth Peninsula Regional Medical Center	35	31
Total Participants	73	68
Western MD		
Frederick Memorial Hospital	*	*
UPMC Western Maryland	103	92
Meritus Medical Center	*	*
Total Participants	115	102

*Cells with count of 10 or fewer have been suppressed.

Authorizations for Medicaid Services

The Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program (MHSDP) provides dental care to eligible Medicaid participants and covers a wide range of dental services. These services are carved out of the MCO benefit package and are administered by an ASO, currently Skygen.⁶ To address concerns and improve delays between authorizations for service and actual delivery of service, MDH issued additional guidance to dental providers effective August 1, 2024. This guidance clarified the forms and information that providers must submit prior to providing services in an ASC or outpatient hospital. This change in guidance should improve authorization times.

Conclusion and Recommendations

While the data in this report show an overall increase in the number of credentialed dentists in 2024, access barriers remain. Five hospitals reported having a single dental provider in total or none at all as of April 2024; ten hospitals reported having no regularly scheduled OR block time for dental patients; and nine of the hospitals who reported offering OR minutes to dental providers allocated less than 1% of their total OR minutes for surgical providers to dental providers. Additionally, Medicaid patients on the Eastern Shore and in Western Maryland have significantly longer travel times to access services. More than half of patients from Eastern Shore counties had to travel more than one hour to undergo surgery in CY 2022, a larger proportion than Western Maryland patients (23%) and a much larger one than all patients statewide (7%), and about 10% drove more than two hours. However, even among those traveling significant amounts of time to undergo surgery, the majority of participants in the Eastern Shore and Western Maryland regions who underwent dental surgeries did so at hospitals in their home regions, which could indicate an access issue within these regions. However, the results presented here do not explain why travel times were so high for these patients, whether by choice or necessity, so additional analyses may be warranted to clarify.

Based on the data in the interim and final reports, MDH and MHCC recommend:

- Access Standard: Development of an access standard, such as a driving time, or development of access plans specifically with the hospitals in the Eastern Shore and Western Maryland counties.
- Data Monitoring: MDH continues to monitor dental OR and ASC utilization, corresponding driving times and distances, and the number of pre-authorizations submitted. This will allow for continued understanding of patient demand and access to care.
- New Opportunity with the University of Maryland School of Dentistry: The University of Maryland School of Dentistry is currently working on opening a new ASC with a goal of completing construction by the end of 2025. This new ASC is expected to greatly enhance access for economically disadvantaged and minority communities. MDH is working with the School on an arrangement to receive enhanced federal matching funds

⁶ More information about the MHSDP is available [here](#).

for Medicaid reimbursement. This arrangement, if approved, would help ensure sustainability for this new ASC.

In addition to the above recommendations, listed below are some of the options to help facilitate better access throughout the state:

- Optimize scheduling and prioritization: Implement a comprehensive scheduling system to efficiently allocate OR time for dental patients. Each facility can provide a policy for allocation.
- Expand practice offerings: Consider offering a wider range of pediatric dental services that can be performed in a dental office rather than an OR, thus reducing the need for OR time.
- Continuous team training: Provide ongoing training to dental staff in sedation techniques, patient management, and behavior management to increase efficiency in determining care that can be provided outside of the OR or ASC.
- Patient education and compliance: Develop plain language educational materials and counseling sessions for parents and guardians to improve patient understanding of dental treatment needs and increase compliance to decrease the number of children requiring care in the OR.
- Collaboration with anesthesiologists: Establish strong working relationships with anesthesiologists to ensure timely availability and efficient use of anesthesia services in the OR.
- Patient recall systems: Implement an effective patient recall system to ensure that patients return for follow-up appointments and preventive care.