

1

Would you support a comprehensive adult Medicaid dental benefit that includes access to routine / preventive oral health care?

Yes

2

Please explain your answer.

Currently, I receive all my medical care from the VA, but they do not give dental care unless you are 100% disabled.. I drive to Mexico for my dental needs and still pay a fraction of the cost to what private insurance would cover. Dental care, is a necessity. Everyone should have access to quality, routine, preventative care.

3

Recognize and regulate non-dentist oral health providers (for example, support the integration of dental therapists according to HB2235)?

Yes

4

Integration of and provision of oral health services in non-traditional settings (for example, pediatric offices, schools, mobile clinics, etc.).

Yes

5

Empower AHCCCS to better enforce standards regarding access to oral health care.

Yes

6

Please explain your answers.

If I understood the initial, opening statement, reports are showing that there is a lack of dental hygiene services being utilized, and that geographic locations play a part in this. If we are able to provide services to families and individuals in the areas they frequent, school, work, church, home etc.. we might see an increase in services used.

7

Oral health is an important part of overall health for both mother and child. Hormonal changes during pregnancy put pregnant women at higher risk for oral health issues. This disparity is exacerbated in low-income women, who may lack access to other key health supports. Research strongly suggests a link between gum disease and poor birth outcomes such as maternal high blood pressure, preterm delivery, and lower birth weight, which in turn increase overall health care costs. At present, low-income women who participate in Arizona's Medicaid program do not have access to comprehensive and affordable oral health care, despite several broadly-supported efforts by the legislature to provide this benefit. Would you support a comprehensive oral health benefit for pregnant women who participate in Medicaid?

Yes

8

Please explain your answer.

I believe its also important to educate our families and young mothers how oral hygiene can be directly related to their health and the health of their baby while in utero

9

How would you ensure oral health access is a priority in future state budgets?

Closing gaps in wasted revenue losses, closing gaps in our state's insurance policies, and ensuring that oral health is considered prevention and early intervention in family health and human services.

10

What other actions would you take to promote oral health equity in Arizona?

No response

11

Thank you for participating in the survey. To receive a record of your responses please provide your email.

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