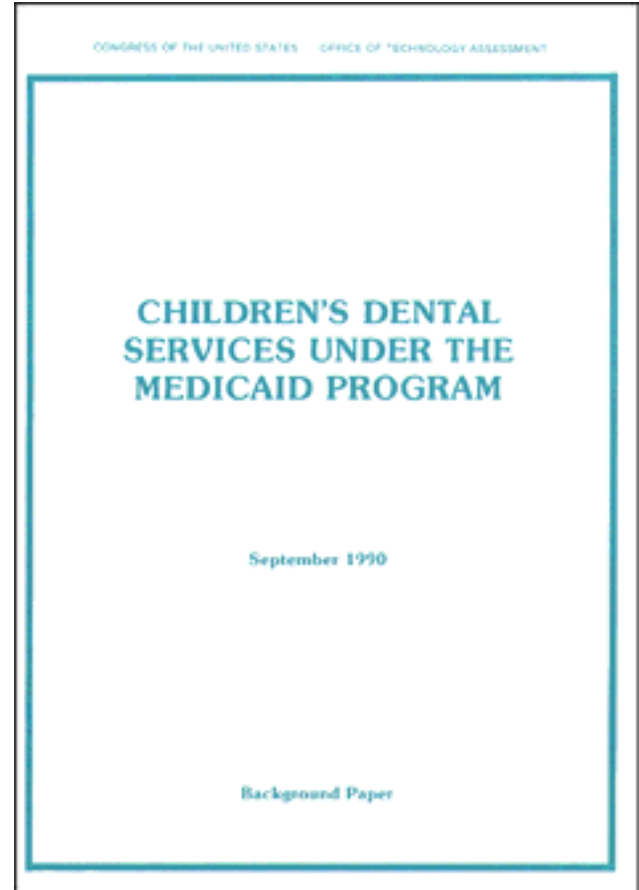


*Children's Dental Services Under the
Medicaid Program*

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Foreword

A comprehensive set of dental services-encompassing certain preventive, restorative, periodontal, endodontal, and sometimes orthodontic procedures-is especially important to the future oral health of the Nation's young people. Yet those children most at risk, e.g., children from low-income families, do not always receive the services they need, despite the existence of a Medicaid program (particularly, the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program—EPSDT) whose mission includes diagnosing and treating the oral health problems of these children.

Concerned about the oral health of children eligible for Medicaid, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Health and the Environment requested OTA to determine whether children eligible for Medicaid are provided at least a minimum level of dental care. This study compares the dental manuals of seven State Medicaid programs with a set of “basic” dental services (which comprise shared components of various well-accepted dental guidelines) to see if States allow these particular services. In addition, OTA surveyed practicing dentists in each of these seven States to see if dentists provide these “basic” services to children under the Medicaid program in their State and, if not, what problems they encountered in trying to provide them.



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