



OREGON  
**HEALTH**  
AUTHORITY

3/11/25

# OHP Dental Program

Ahmed Farag, DDS, MBA, DHSc, FACHE  
Oral Health & Dental Director

William Clark-Shim, FSA, MAAA  
Chief Actuary

# Oral Health Importance

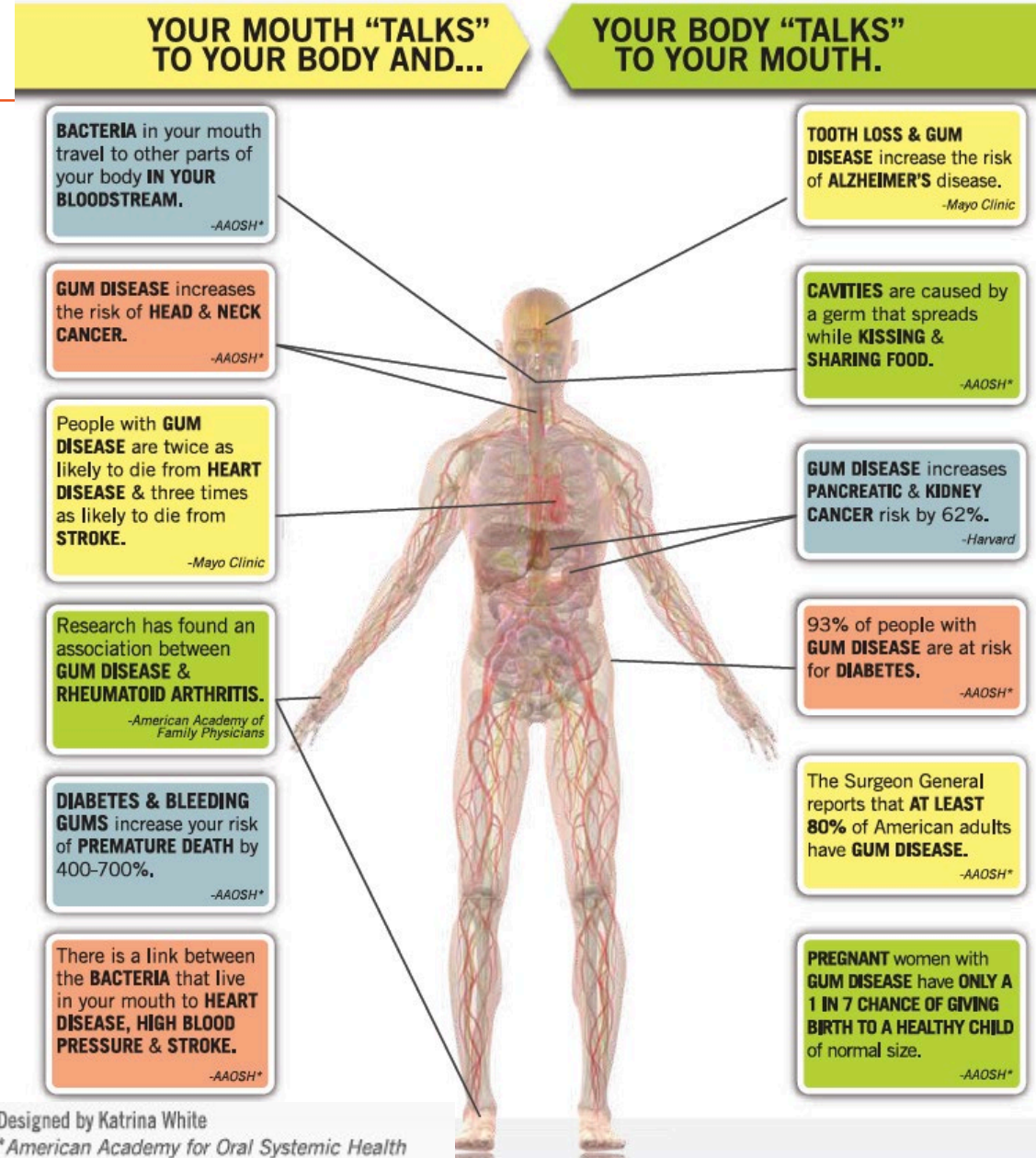
Oral health is not separate from overall health, it's **fundamental** to it.

Poor oral health is linked to:

- Poor diabetes and hypertension
- Heart disease
- Brain infections
- Vision loss risks

Many hospitalized patients had dental coverage but lacked timely dental care.

## THE FACTS ARE...



# The Human Impact

---

**Patients suffer in silence:** Pain, difficulty eating, social stigma.

- **Children:** School absences, inability to concentrate due to dental pain.
- **Adults:** Preventable tooth loss, job insecurity, lower quality of life.
- **Elders:** Dentures causing discomfort, malnutrition risks, worsening chronic disease.

# Trends & System Challenges

---

- Low utilization rates despite Medicaid coverage.
- Limited scope of services in OHP plan
- Administrative burdens for providers (variable documentation & reporting).
- Workforce shortage – not enough dentists, hygienists, and assistants.

*Complex, multifaceted challenges require thoughtful solutions.*

# The Path Forward

---

No single solution, but collaboration is key.

- Rethink benefits to encourage preserving teeth.
- Reduce administrative complexity for providers.
- Standardization where it makes sense to improve efficiency.
- Monitoring and ensuring access to care.
- Increase public awareness of the importance of oral health & OHP benefits.
- Legislative support is critical

# Medicaid Limited Scope of Services

---

**History:** In 2012, Oregon's legislature reduced the OHP dental benefit scope for non-pregnant adults. Currently, OHP dental providers are faced with challenges like:

- Confusing treatment options due to the benefits differing for children, pregnant adults, and non-pregnant adults.
- Extracting teeth that can otherwise be restored by root canals and crowns.
- Using less durable and less effective materials. (SS crowns)
- Not able to provide timely interventions when adult prevention care is limited to once per 12 months (vs per 6 months).

Let's make Oregon a leader in equitable oral health outcomes.

---



# OHP Dental Payment Rates

---

## Fee for Service (FFS) Payment Rates

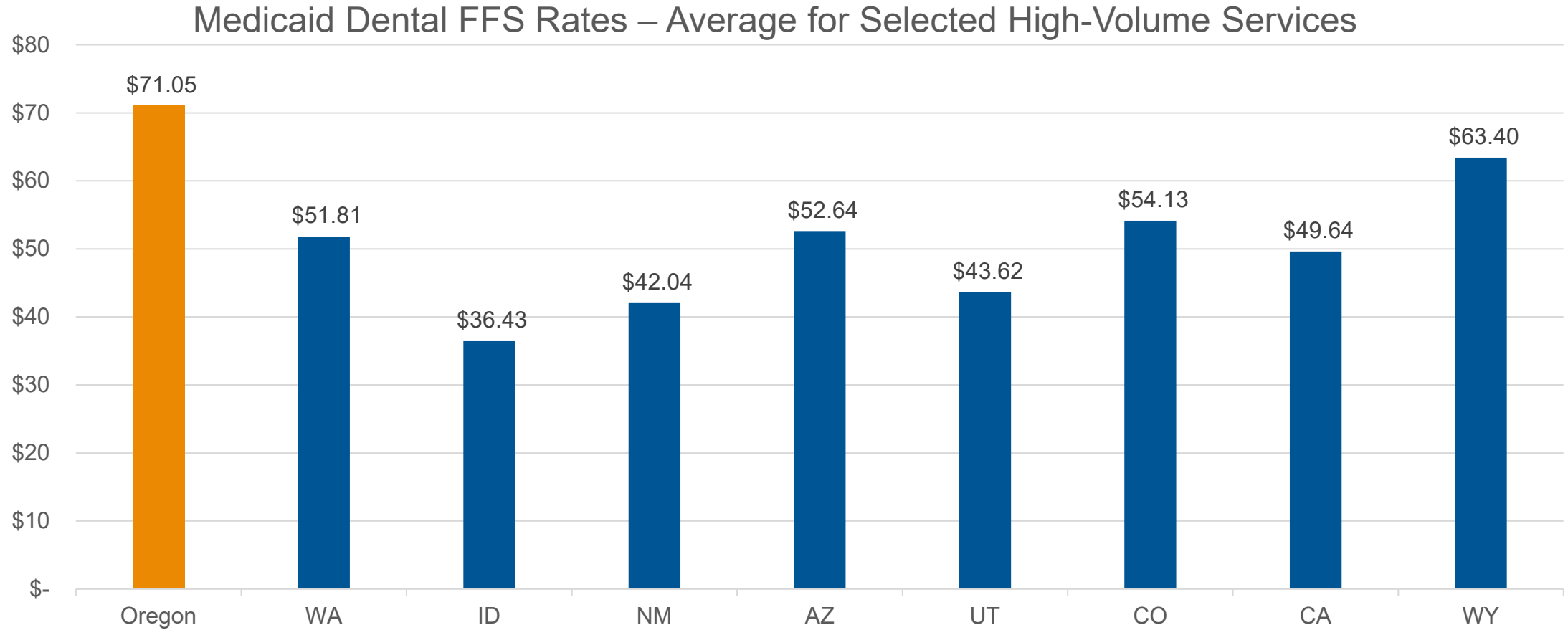
- Paid by OHA to providers
- One payment per service delivered  
E.g. \$43 for an oral examination

## CCO Capitation Rates

- Paid by OHA to CCOs
- Part of a “global budget” including medical services and CCO administrative costs
- Per-member per-month payment  
E.g. \$30 per child per month
- CCOs may pay dental portion of capitation rate to subcontractors



# Rates: Oregon FFS Schedule vs Peers



# Dental Component of Capitation Rates

---

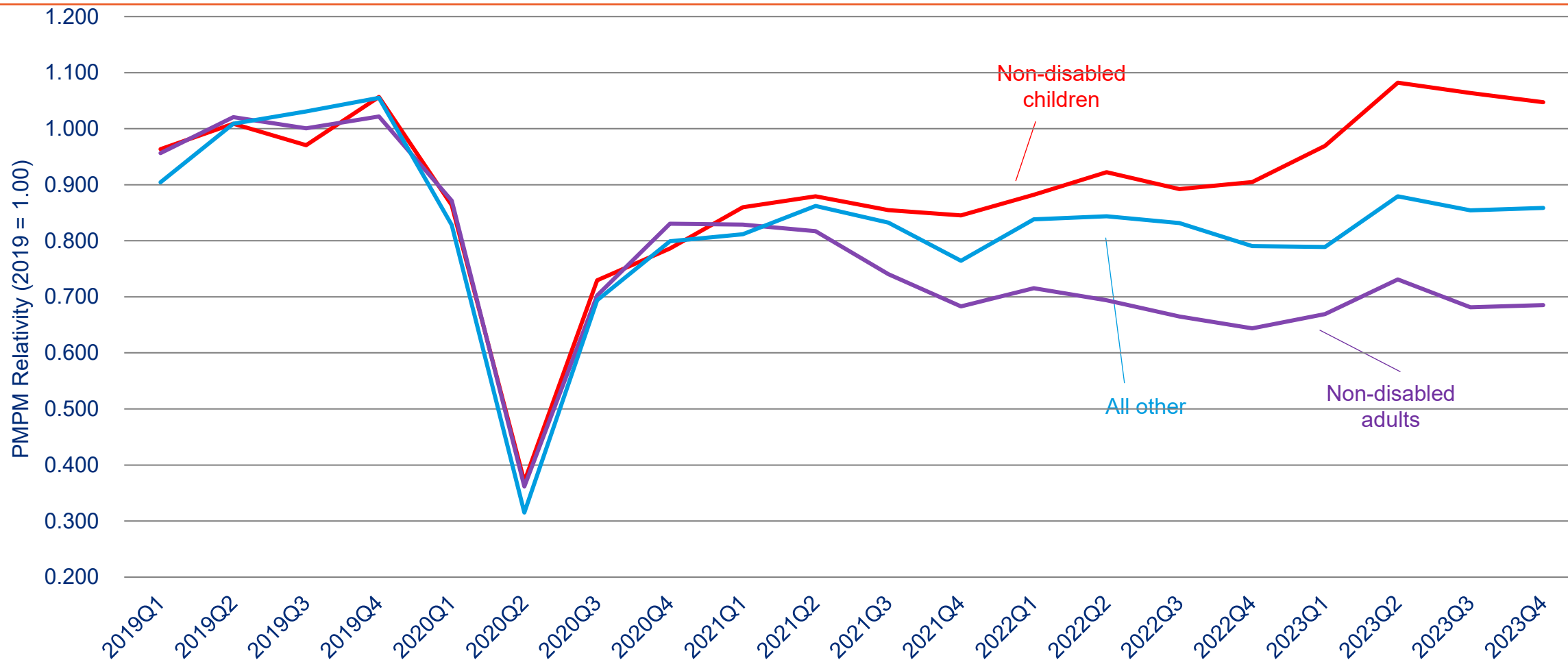
## Rate Considerations

- Payment per service (“unit cost”)
- Historical services delivered per member (“utilization”)
- Projected future changes (“utilization trend”)
- Non-medical load

## Recent Experience

- Higher than FFS rates; OHA increased each year
- Decreased in 2020; has since recovered for children but not adults
- OHA assumed rebound for 2023 which did not materialize
- Part of overall CCO capitation rates

# Recent CCO Member Dental Utilization



- Utilization by CDT is repriced to the fee rate and normalized to 2019 based on most recent enrollment
- Comparable review to be performed on emerging 2024 data as part of 2026 rate development

# CY25 Dental Directed Payment Program

---

- Instead of passing through reduced per-member utilization of dental services in CY25 CCO rates, OHA created a Directed Payment Program that incentivizes preventative services and increased access for OHP membership
  1. Additional payment for preventative bundles of services
  2. Incentive for New Providers to serve Medicaid
  3. Incentive for Existing Providers to retain and increase service

# Thank you

---

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact Matthew Green at [matthew.green@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:matthew.green@oha.oregon.gov) or 503-983-8257. We accept all relay calls.

## Medicaid Division

- Emma Sandoe, Director
- Vivian Levy, Deputy Director
- Shawna McDermott, Deputy Director

