

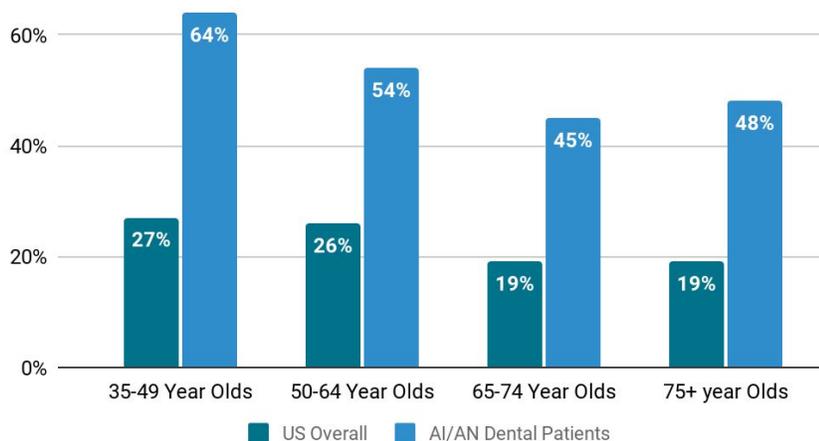
Recognizing the importance of oral health care, Governor Ducey, in partnership with the Arizona legislature, restored the Medicaid adult dental benefits that were eliminated during the Great Recession.

- In **2016**, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) implemented a dental benefit of \$1,000 per member per contract year for adults enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) program.
- In **2017**, AHCCCS implemented an emergency dental benefit of \$1,000 per member per contract year for adult AHCCCS members.
- In **2020**, HB 2244, authorized AHCCCS to seek approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to reimburse Indian Health Service and Tribal 638 facilities to cover the cost of adult dental services that are eligible for 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), that are in excess of the \$1,000 limit.

The tribal dental benefit waiver request strives to improve oral health among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) members and provide the IHS and Tribal 638 facilities with needed financial resources to attract dentists to practice on tribal reservations and rural areas.

AI/AN adults suffer from untreated tooth decay at twice the rate of the general U.S. population. For example, among 35-49 year olds, 27% of the general U.S. population has untreated cavities compared to 64% of AI/AN dental patients.

Untreated Dental Cavities for Overall US Population Compared to AI/AN Population¹



Vacancies in Dental Provider Positions²

14% in Phoenix IHS area

37% in Navajo IHS area



FACTORS

- geographic isolation
- unable to attract dentist to rural/frontier areas

¹ The 2015 IHS Oral Health Survey. https://www.ihs.gov/DOH/documents/IHS_Data_Brief_March_2016_Oral_Health%20Survey_35_plus.pdf

² United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). (2018). Indian Health Service Agency Faces Ongoing Challenges Filling Provider Vacancies. www.gao.gov/assets/700/693940.pdf