Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

A tutorial

June 2025

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health®

Overview of Tools

Rubric for Assessing Extensiveness of State Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits (Rubric)

A survey tool that defines an extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit *and* assesses the extensiveness of existing coverage within each state.

Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker (Coverage Checker)

An interactive tool that displays state-by-state results of the Rubric.

The results represent a snapshot in time and are reflective of coverage offered by each state.

The Coverage Checker displays information from 2020, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Rubric.

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These tools were developed in partnership with the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute (ADA HPI), Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), CareQuest Institute, and an advisory committee of experts in oral health care and state policy.

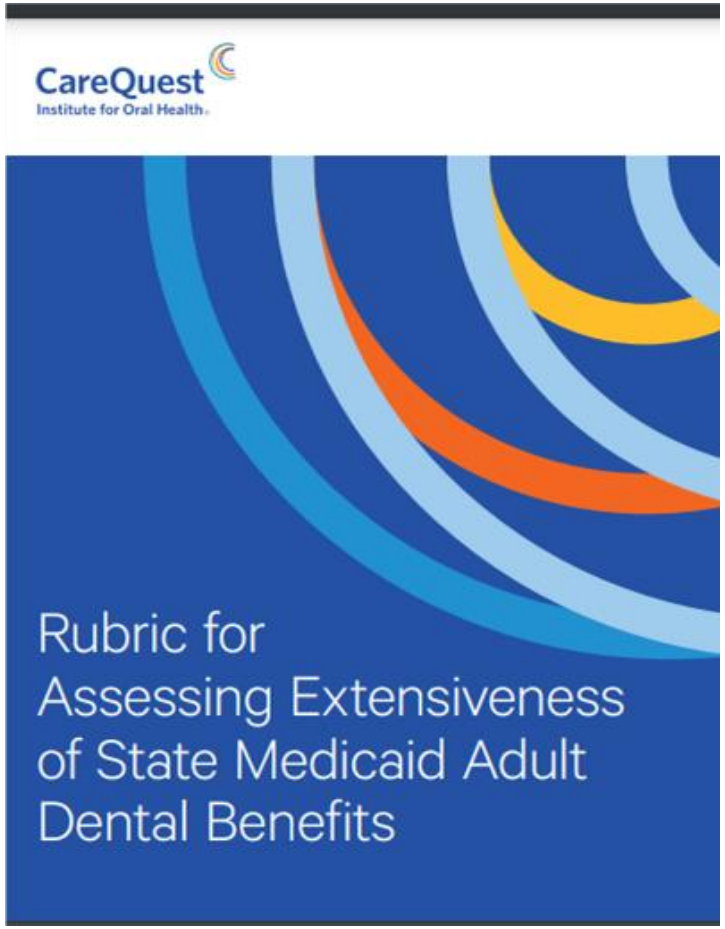
The Rubric

What it is:

- A survey to be completed by state Medicaid dental directors and/or staff.

What it does:

- Defines an extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit.
- Assesses the extensiveness of existing coverage within each state's Medicaid program.



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Definition of an Extensive Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit

An extensive dental benefit is one that provides coverage for a range of dental procedures considered adequate for the prevention of disease and promotion of oral health; the restoration of oral structures to health and function; and the treatment of emergency/urgent conditions for the largest group of Categorically Needy Medicaid adult beneficiaries ages 21-64 covered by a state's Medicaid program.

To meet this definition, states must:

- cover specific procedures and services, including allowed frequency, in eight specific service categories; and
- have an annual benefit maximum greater than or equal to $1,000.

Service Categories:

Annual benefit maximum
Diagnostic services
Preventive services
Restorative services
Endodontic services
Periodontal services
Prosthodontic services
Extraction services

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The Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

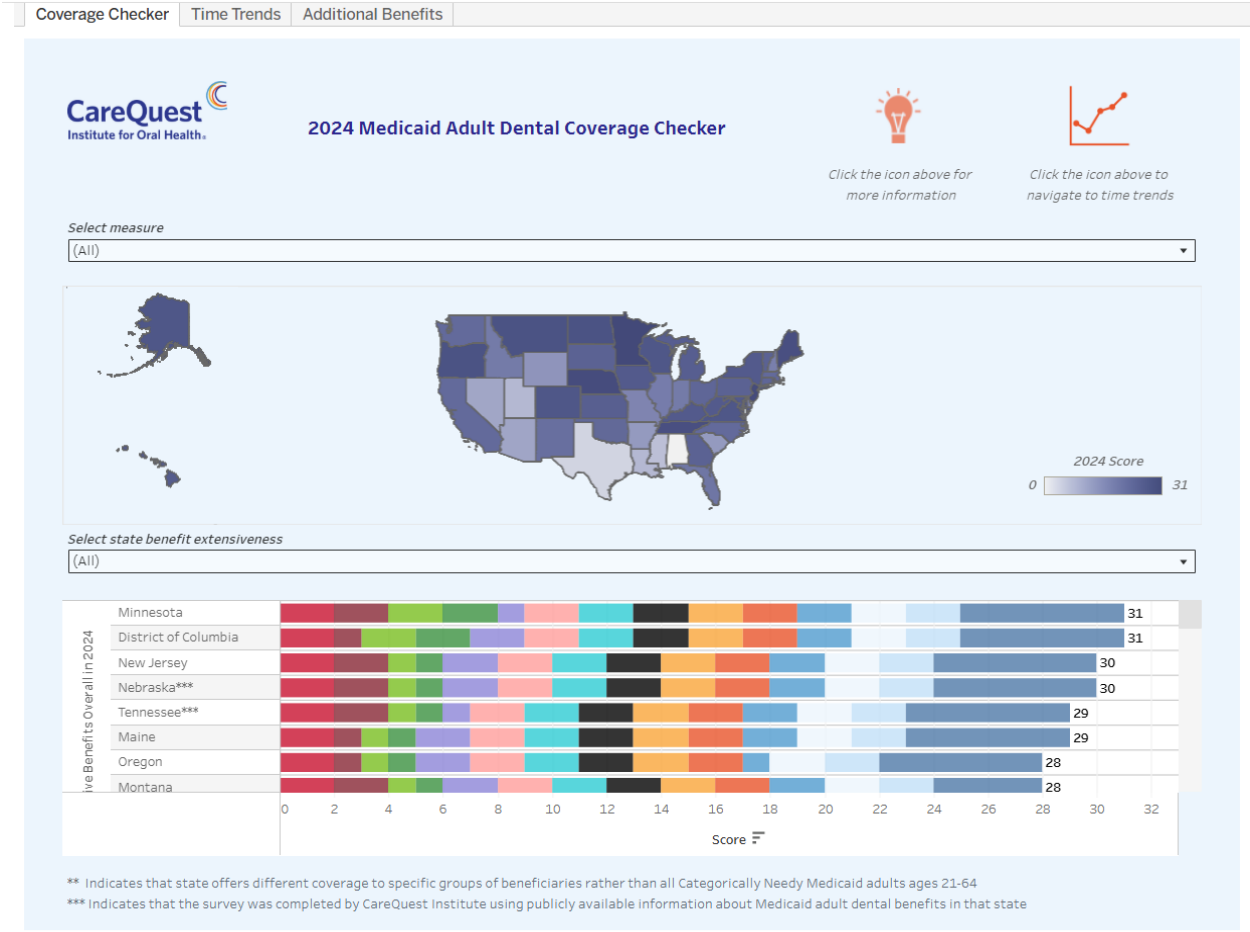
What it is:

An interactive tool that displays state-by-state results of the Rubric.

The results represent a snapshot in time and are reflective of coverage offered by each state at the time of completion.

The results display benefits on a continuum from no benefits to extensive.

*Visit the **2024 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker***
Be sure to explore the entire page for even more resources!



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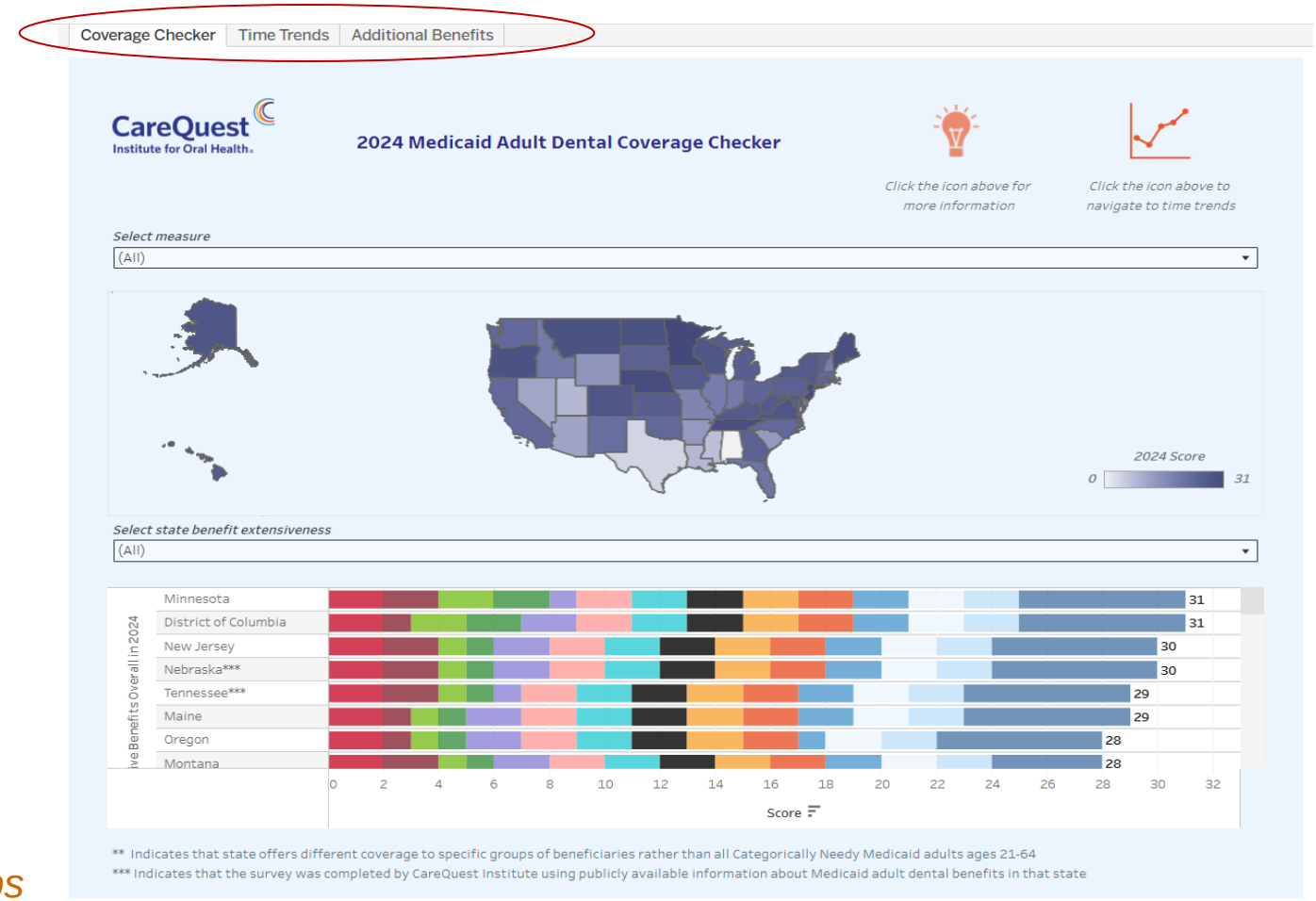
The Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

The Coverage Checker contains three main sections:

- Map with responses by survey question/measure *and* benefits continuum with points received by survey question/measure by state
- Time trends (2020, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- Additional 2024 Benefit/Program Information



Each section can be accessed by the tabs located at the top of the page

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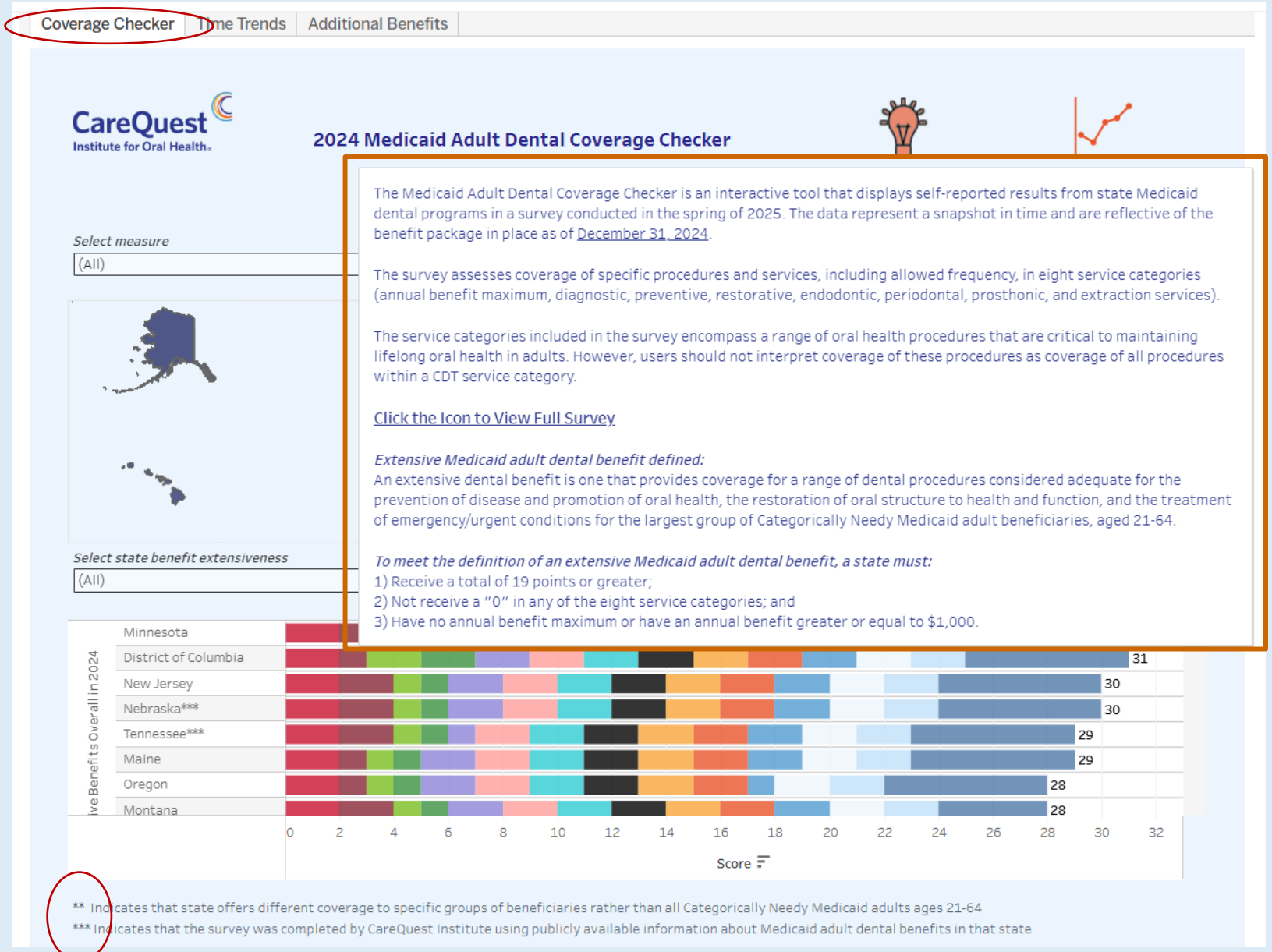
Tutorial on using the Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker



Hover over the Lightbulb icon and the following informational 'Tool Tip' will pop up.

Click on the Lightbulb icon and the 2024 Rubric survey and user guide will open.

Click on the Time Trends icon and you will be taken to a new screen with data from 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

**

Indicates that state offers different coverage to specific groups of beneficiaries rather than all Categorically Needy Medicaid adults ages 21-64.

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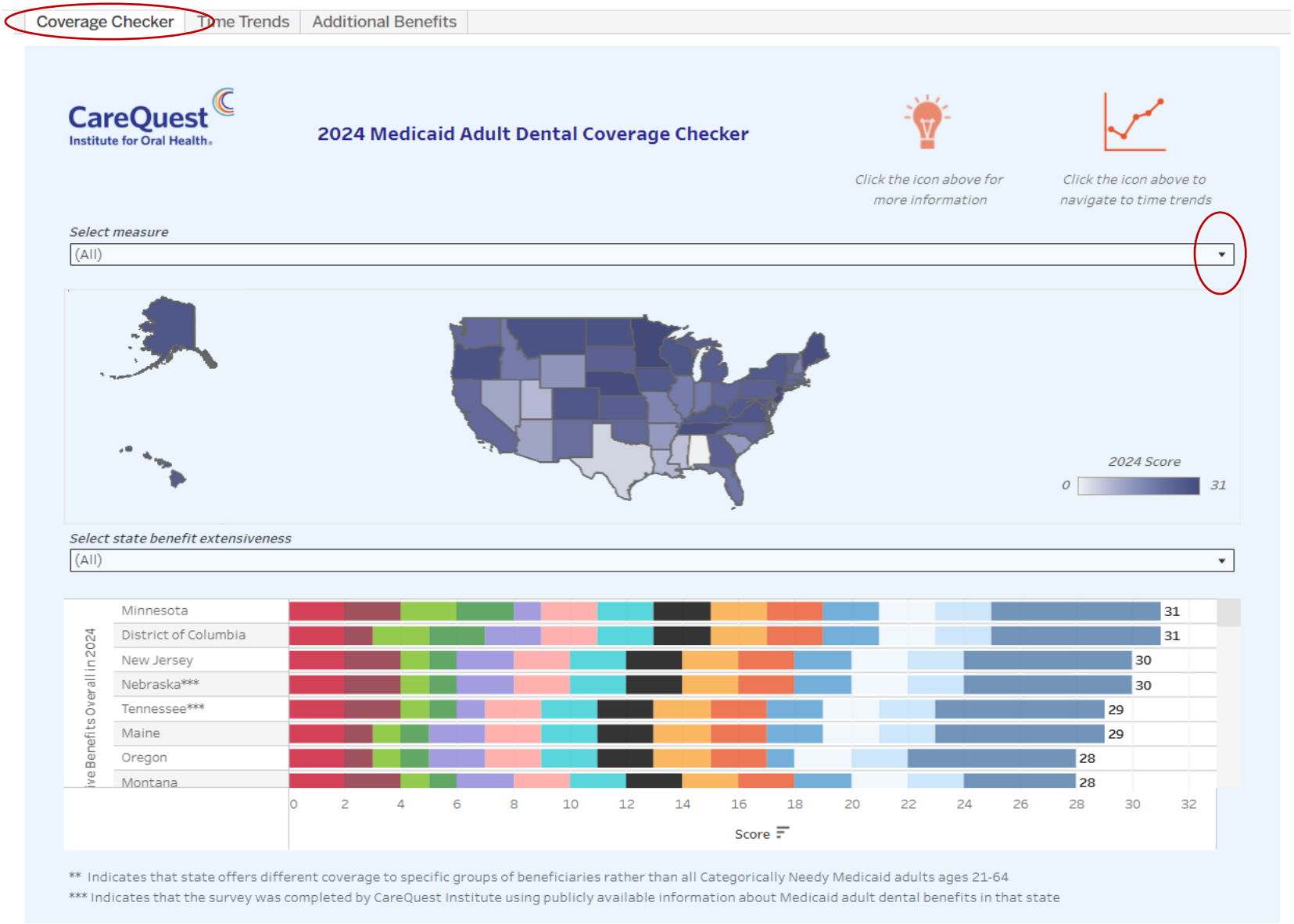
Indicates that survey was completed by CareQuest Institute using publicly available information.

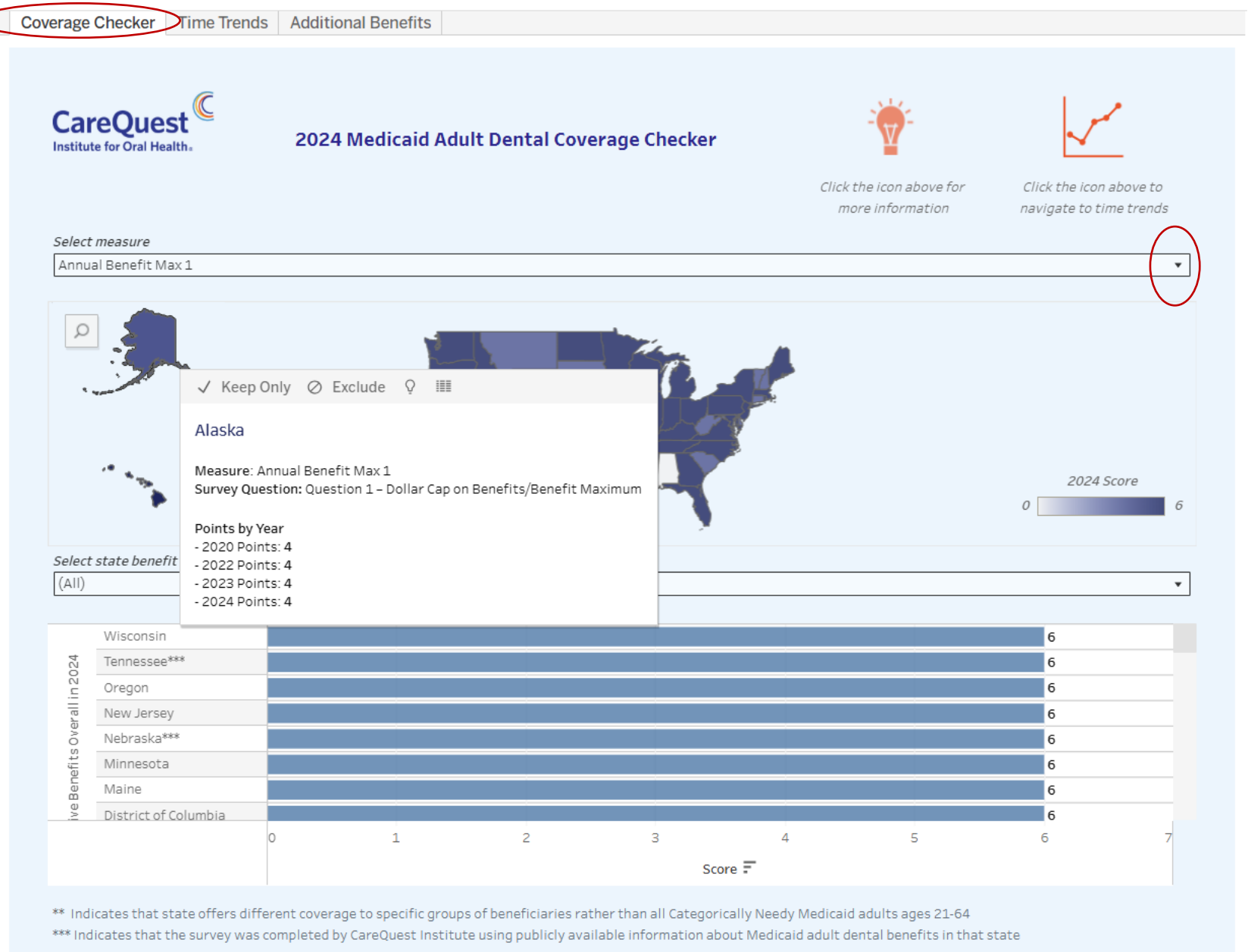


Section One:

Map with responses by survey question/measure

- **This is the initial screen you will see when you visit the Coverage Checker.**
- Use the drop-down menu on the top right side of the screen to click on a specific survey question/measure.
- The map and the continuum below will change to reflect that specific question/measure.

Please note: A state's Medicaid adult dental benefits program is considered 'Extensive' if it receives a total of 19 points or greater, does not receive a '0' in any question/measure, and receives a '4' or '6' in Question 1 (Annual Benefit Max).



Section One:

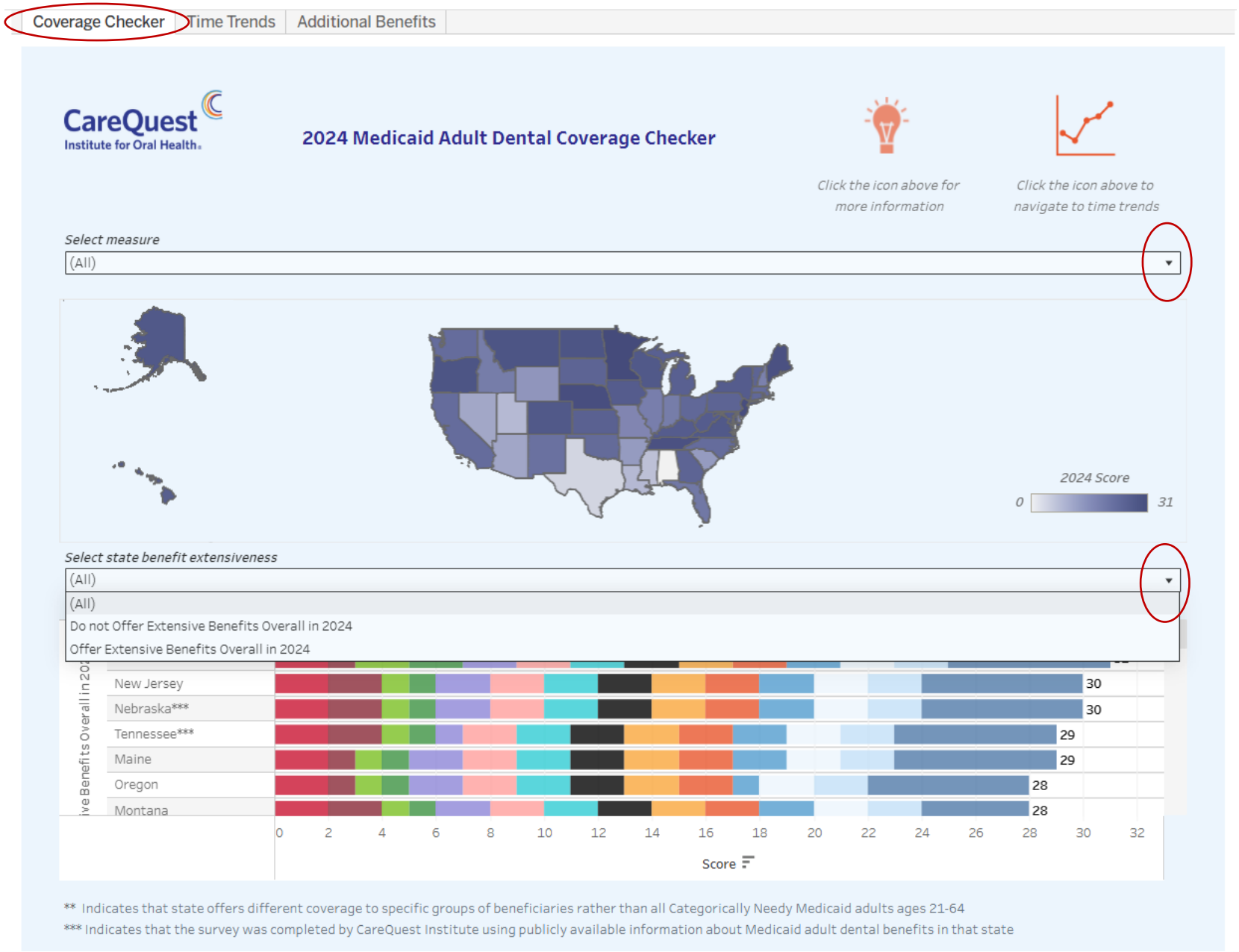
Map with responses by measure/survey question *(cont'd)*

- Use the drop-down menu on the top right side of the screen to click on a specific survey question/measure. Then hover over a state to view survey responses to that question/measure.
- The map will change to reflect the specific question/measure selected.

This is an example of Alaska's response to the Annual Benefit Maximum question/measure.

When you hover over Alaska, you will see the survey responses to this question/ measure for 2020, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

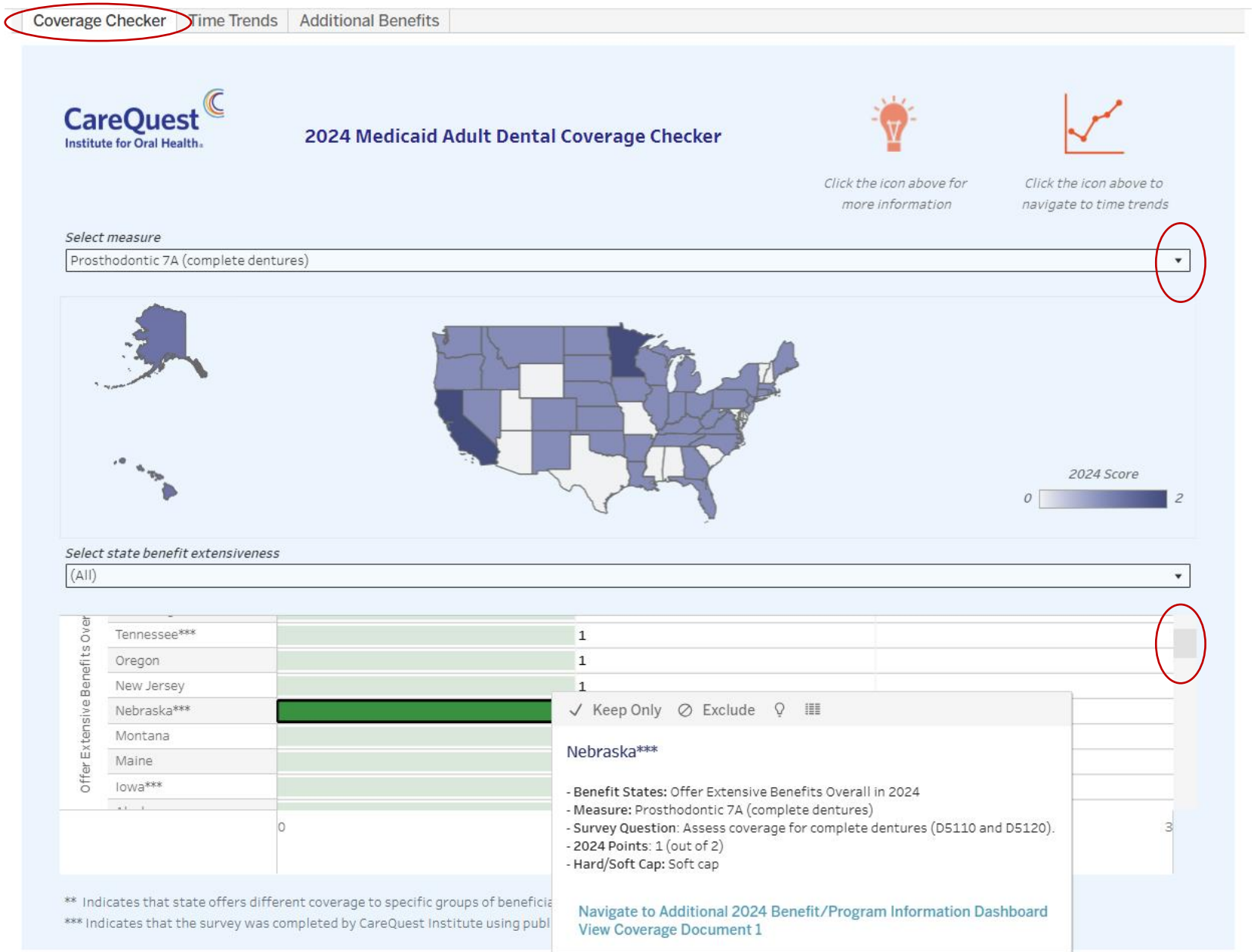
The continuum below will change so that you can see each state's response to the Annual Benefit Maximum question/ measure in 2024.



Section One:

Benefits continuum with points received by survey question/ measure by state

- Use the drop-down menu on the top right side of the screen to click on a specific survey question/measure.
- Use the drop-down menu on the middle right side of the screen to select:
  - *'All'* states;
  - States that *'Do not offer extensive benefits overall in 2024;'* or
  - States that *'Offer extensive benefits overall in 2024.'*



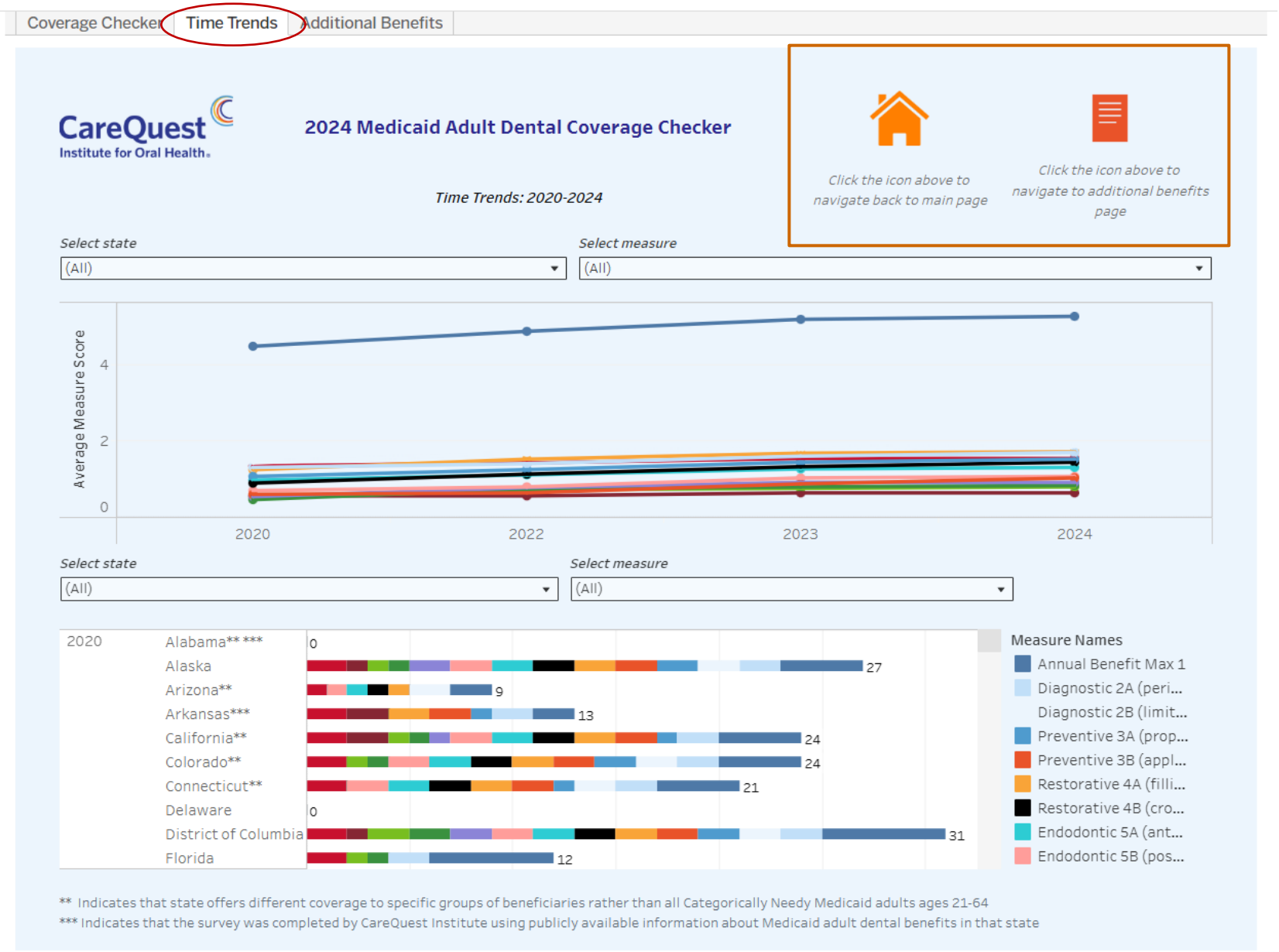
Section One:

Benefits continuum with points received by survey question/ measure by state *(cont'd)*

- Use the drop-down menu on the top right side of the screen to click on a specific survey question/measure.
- Use the scroll bar within the continuum to select your state.
- Click on the color bar to see additional information about the survey question/ measure.
- Click on *'Navigate to Additional 2024 Benefit/Program Information Dashboard'* or *'View Coverage Document'* for more information about the state.

This is an example of Nebraska's response to the Complete Dentures question/measure.

Clicking on the green bar, you will see that Nebraska responded to this question/measure with a '1' indicating that they cover complete dentures once per five years or less frequently.

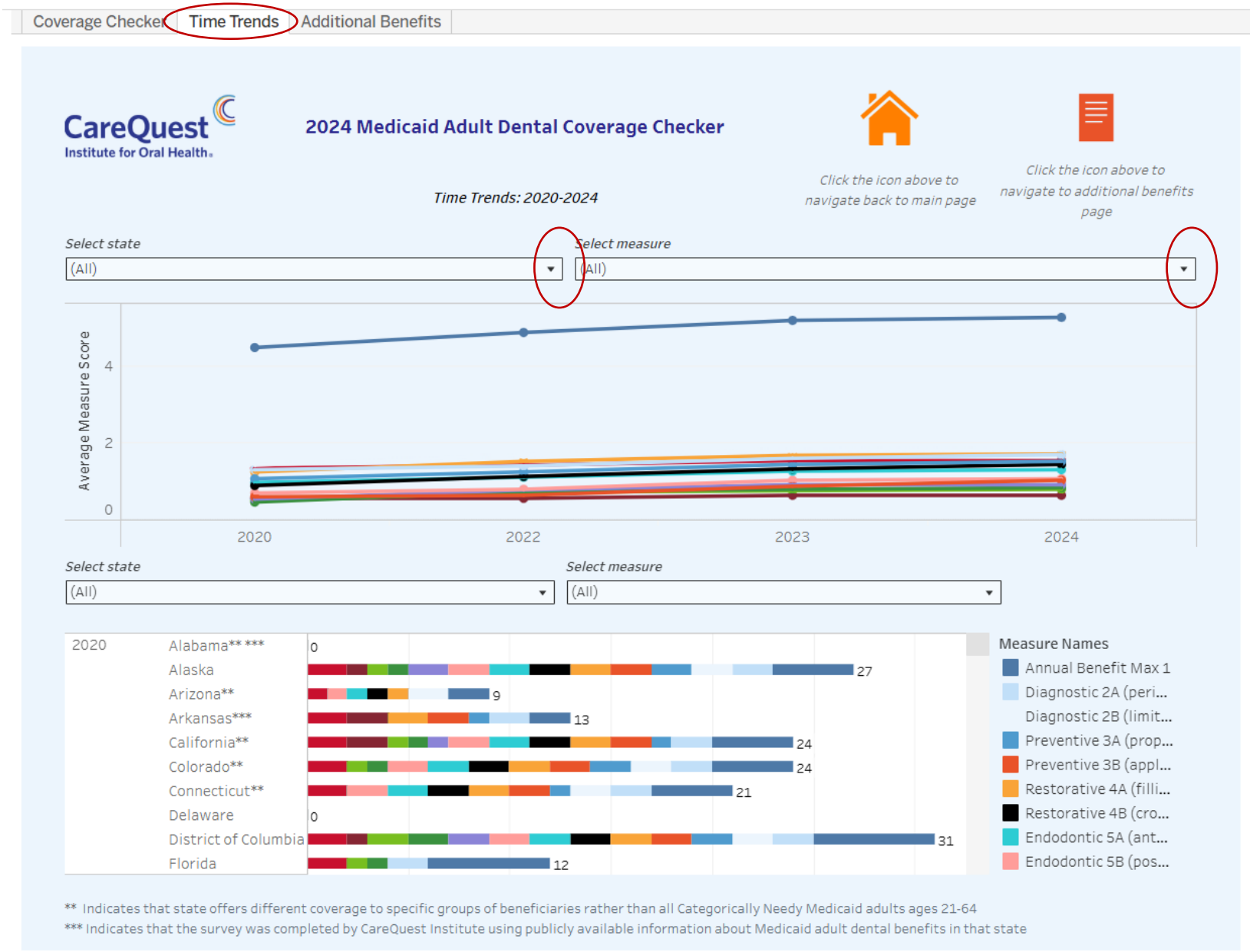


Section Two:

Time Trends – line graph

Click on the Home icon and you will be redirected to the main page (Section One) of the 2024 Coverage Checker.

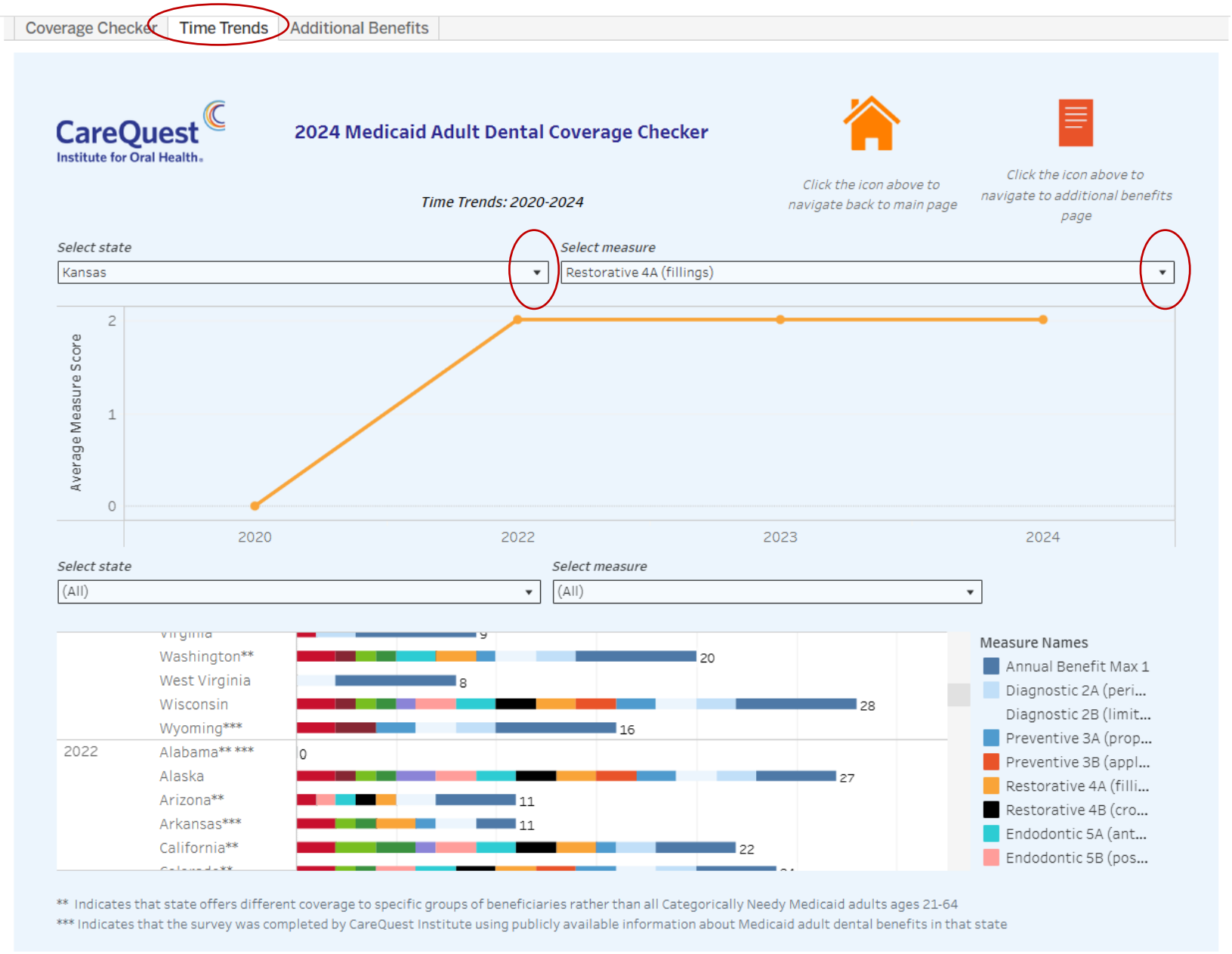
Click on the Notebook icon and you will be taken to a new tab with Additional Benefit/Program Information (Section Three).



Section Two:

Time Trends – line graph

- Allows you to view changes for all or specific states for 2020, 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- Allows you to view changes for all or specific questions/measures for 2020, 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- Use the drop-down box in the '*Select state*' feature to choose 'All' or a specific state.
- Use the drop-down box in the '*Select measure*' feature to choose 'All' or a specific question/ measure, respectively.



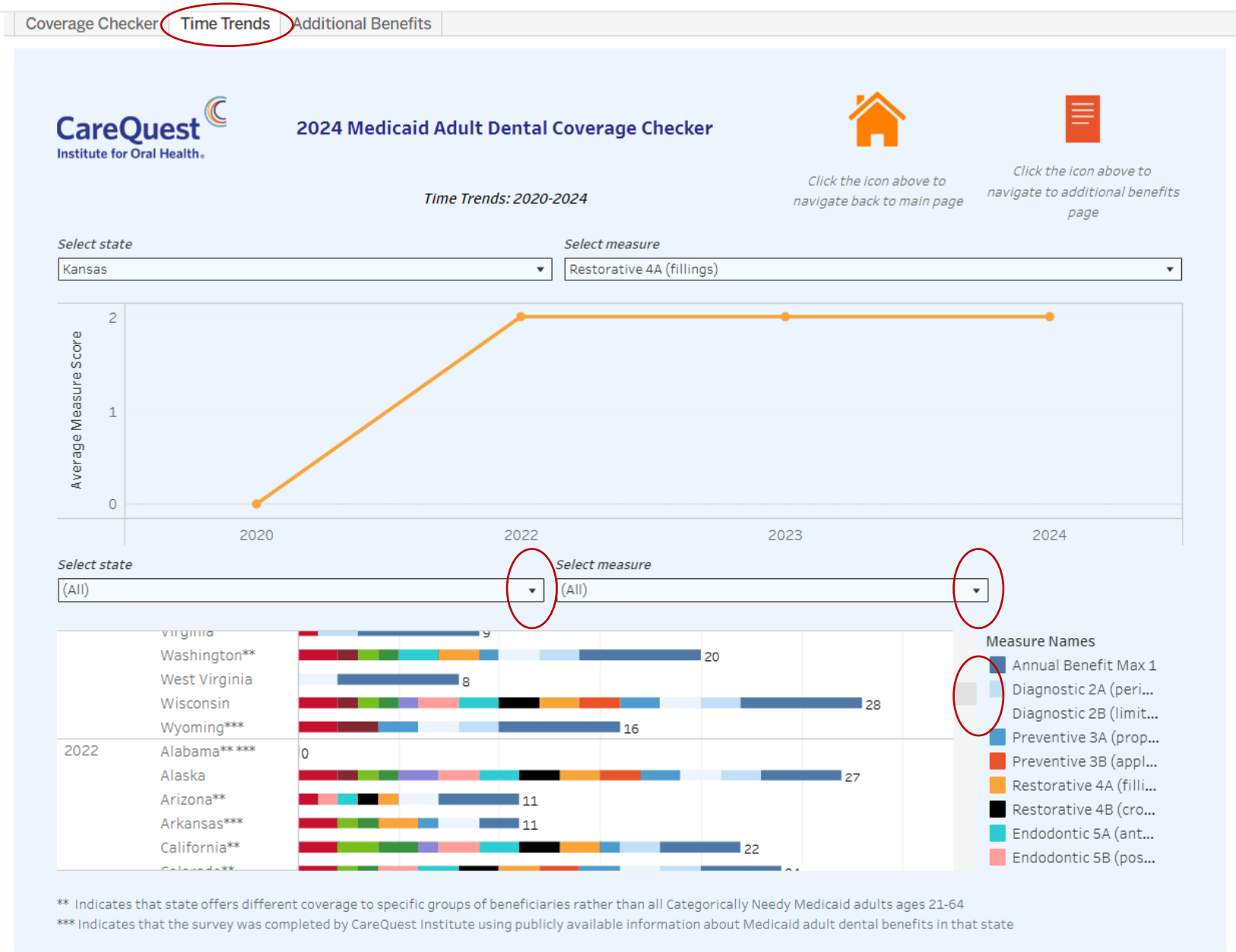
Section Two:

Time Trends – line graph *(cont'd)*

This is an example of how coverage of fillings has changed over time in Kansas.

In 2020, Kansas did not cover fillings. They responded to the survey with a '0' in this question/ measure to indicate as such.

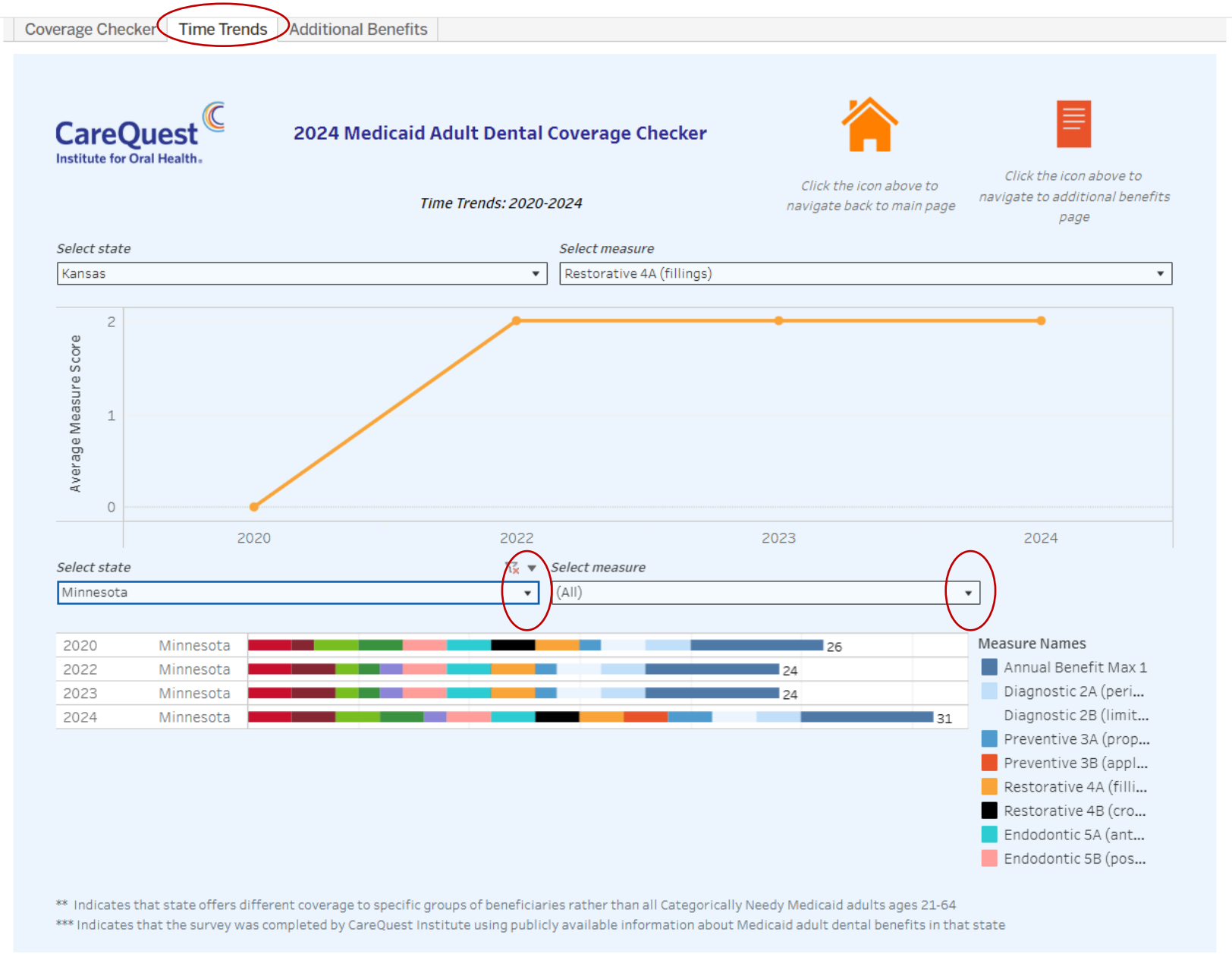
In 2022, Kansas provided coverage of fillings. They responded to the survey with a '2' in this question/ measure to indicate as such. This level of coverage continued in 2023 and 2024.



Section Two:

Time Trends – continuum

- Allows you to view changes for all or specific states for 2020, 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- Allows you to view changes for all or specific questions/measures for 2020, 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- Use the drop-down box in the '*Select state'* feature to choose 'All' or a specific state.
- Use the drop-down box in the '*Select measure'* feature to choose 'All' or a specific question/ measure.
- Use the scroll bar to move to listings by year – 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024.



Section Two:

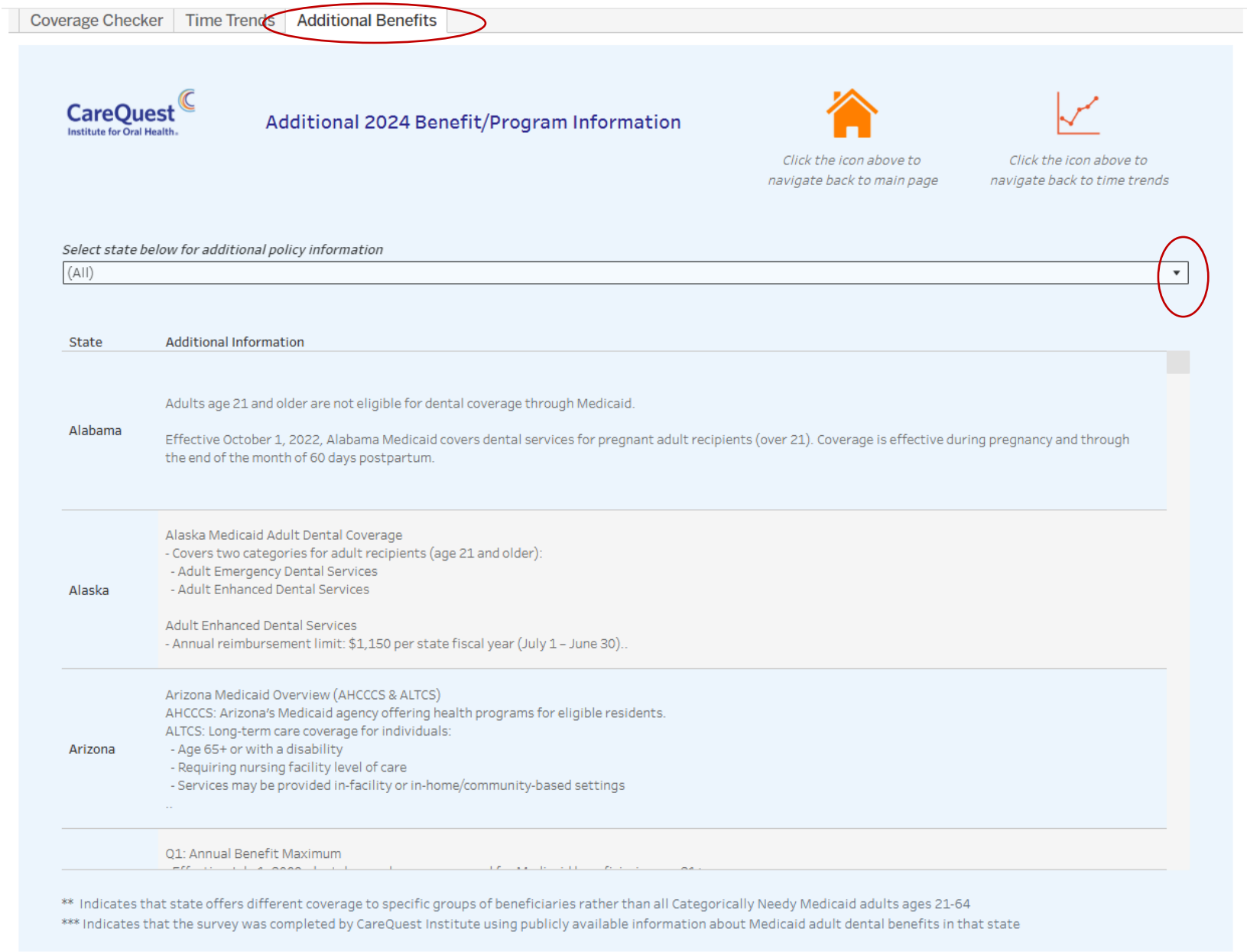
Time Trends – continuum *(cont'd)*

This is an example of how overall coverage in Minnesota has changed over time.

In 2020, Minnesota received a total of 26 points based on their responses to the survey. At that time, they did not offer coverage in each of the 14 survey questions/measures.

In 2024, Minnesota received a total of 31 points based on their responses to the survey. As of December 31, 2024, they offer coverage in each of the 14 survey questions/measures.

>To see how coverage of specific questions/measure have changed over time in Minnesota (or other states), use the 'Select Measure' drop-down box.



Section Three:

Additional 2024 Benefit/Program Information

In each year of the survey, states were given space to provide additional information about their program and/or benefits. This chart captures the information shared in the 2024 survey.

By using the drop-down box, you can select a state to view the information shared (if any).

This information can be accessed via the *'Additional Benefits'* tab or by clicking on the Notebook icon when you are in the Time Trends tab (Section Two) of the 2024 Coverage Checker.

Additional Resources

Blogpost: Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Are On the Move in 2024

Resource: Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Offered to Specific Beneficiary Groups

Webinar: Stronger Together: Advocates, administrators, and providers working to improve Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits *(recording and slides)*

Blogpost: A New Look for Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits: A Q&A on the origins and goals of the Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

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For questions or more information, please contact:

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