

Tennessee Medicaid Policy Change Reduces Opioid Prescribing for Dental Patients



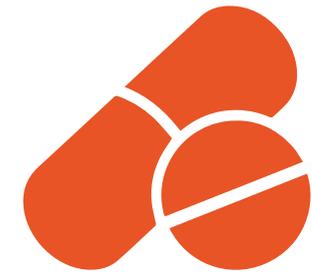
Study Design

- Compared 2019 dental claims to 2017 and 2018 for TennCare children and adolescents
- Determined the number and strength of opioids prescribed by dentists



Results

- 45% fewer opioids were prescribed in 2018-2019
- Dental patients prescribed > 60 MMEs* of opioids:
 - 9% in 2017
 - 2% in 2018
 - 1.5% in 2019
- Opioids prescribed for non-surgical dental care:
 - 21% in 2017
 - 12% in 2018
 - 9% in 2019



Impact

- The number and strength of dentally prescribed opioids in 2019 were very similar to 2018 and far below 2017 levels before TennCare changed its opioid-related reimbursement policy