



Children's
Oral Health
Network
of Maine

2024 DENTAL CLAIMS DATA ADDENDUM

Assessing Maine Children's Access to a Dental Home: Dental Insurance Does Not Guarantee Receipt of Dental Care

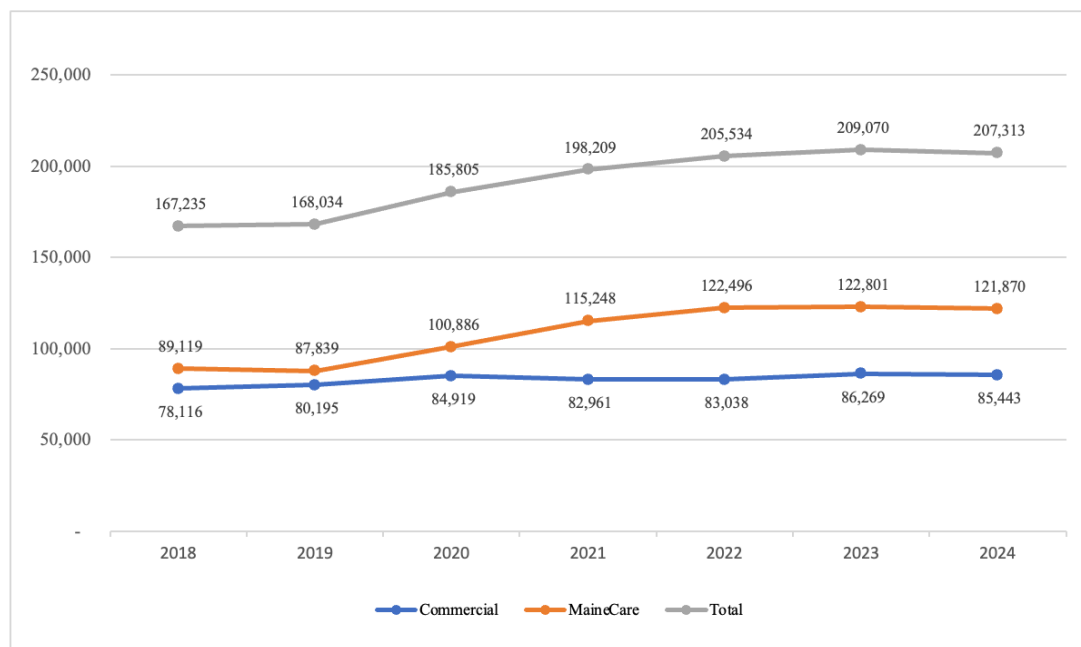
This addendum provides 2024 claims data to update the graphs and tables in the following white paper: Fox, K. S., Kumarage, A., McGuire, C., & Stultz, E. (2024). *Assessing Maine children's access to a dental home: Dental insurance does not guarantee receipt of dental care.* University of Southern Maine, Muskie School of Public Service Catherine E. Cutler Institute, Population Health & Health Policy

The following charts have been prepared as an addendum to *Assessing Maine children’s access to a dental home: Dental insurance does not guarantee receipt of dental care*, a white paper first published in July 2024. The original paper used insurance claims data for the coverage years 2018 through 2022 obtained through the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) All Payer Claim Database (APCD) per the data release requirements defined in 90-590 Chapter 120, Release of Data to the Public under MHDO’s authorized data release # 2023062101. This addendum uses insurance claims data obtained from the same source through 2024, and analyzed by the same data analysts at USM, using the same methods. The updated charts appear under the same section headings and with similar contextual language as in the original paper.

Study population

This analysis looks at dental home access for all enrolled children and youth aged 20 or younger with consistent MaineCare or commercial dental coverage, which is defined as being enrolled for dental benefits for 11 or more months (Figure 1). The analysis is limited to children with consistent dental coverage throughout the year. Since the sample is limited to consistently insured children, the following results do not reflect all individuals with dental insurance who received services from 2018 through **2024**.

Figure 1. Number of children enrolled in dental benefits with consistent coverage (11 or more months) in MHDO APCD, statewide and by payer (2018-2024)



Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026

Dental home utilization rates

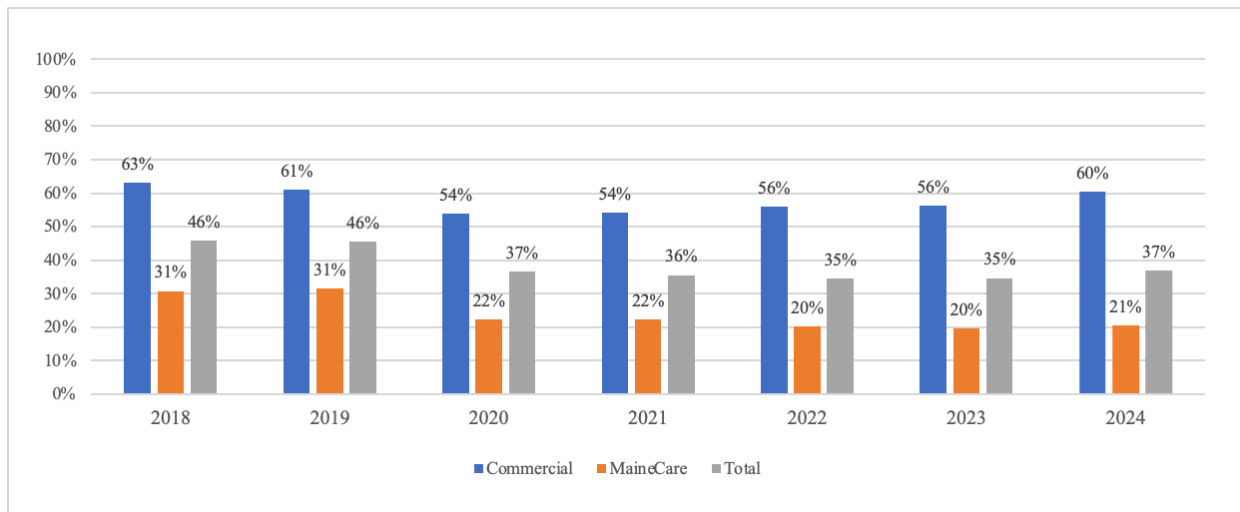
The following table and figure present the number and percentage of Maine children who are enrolled in dental insurance and who have an active dental home for each year from 2018 through **2024** (Table 1 & Figure 2):

Table 1. Number of consistently insured children with a dental home, statewide and by payer (2018-2024)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Commercial							
# of children consistently insured	78,116	80,195	84,919	82,961	83,038	86,269	85,443
# with a dental home	49,244	48,996	45,746	44,867	46,376	48,458	51,566
% with a dental home	63%	61%	54%	54%	56%	56%	60%
MaineCare							
# of children consistently insured	89,119	87,839	100,886	115,248	122,496	122,801	121,870
# with a dental home	27,442	27,637	22,364	25,633	24,609	23,960	25,094
% with a dental home	31%	31%	22%	22%	20%	20%	21%
Total							
# of children consistently insured	167,235	168,034	185,805	198,209	205,534	209,070	207,313
# with a dental home	76,686	76,633	68,110	70,500	70,985	72,418	76,660
% with a dental home	46%	46%	37%	36%	35%	35%	37%

Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026

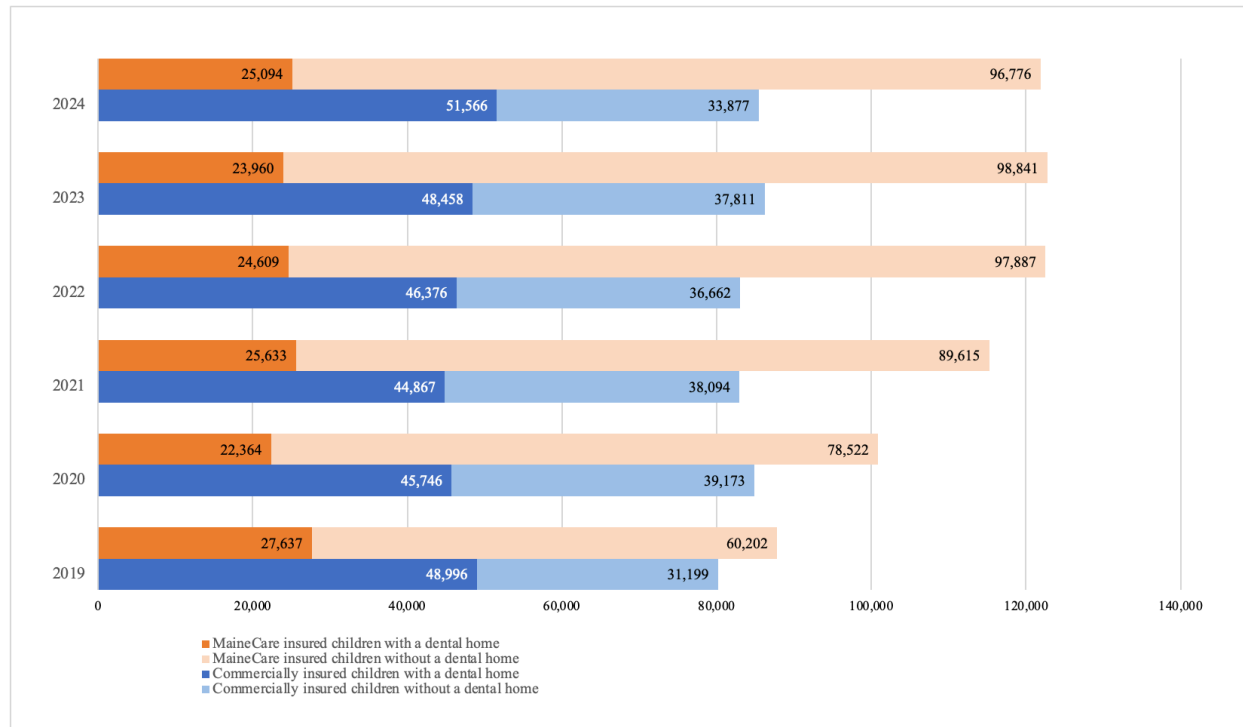
Figure 2. Percent of consistently insured children with a dental home, statewide and by payer (2018-2024)



Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026

This figure examines the number of consistently insured children without an active dental home and highlights the magnitude of the unmet need, particularly for children on MaineCare (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Unmet Need for Dental Homes: Number of consistently insured children with and without a dental home (2019-2024)



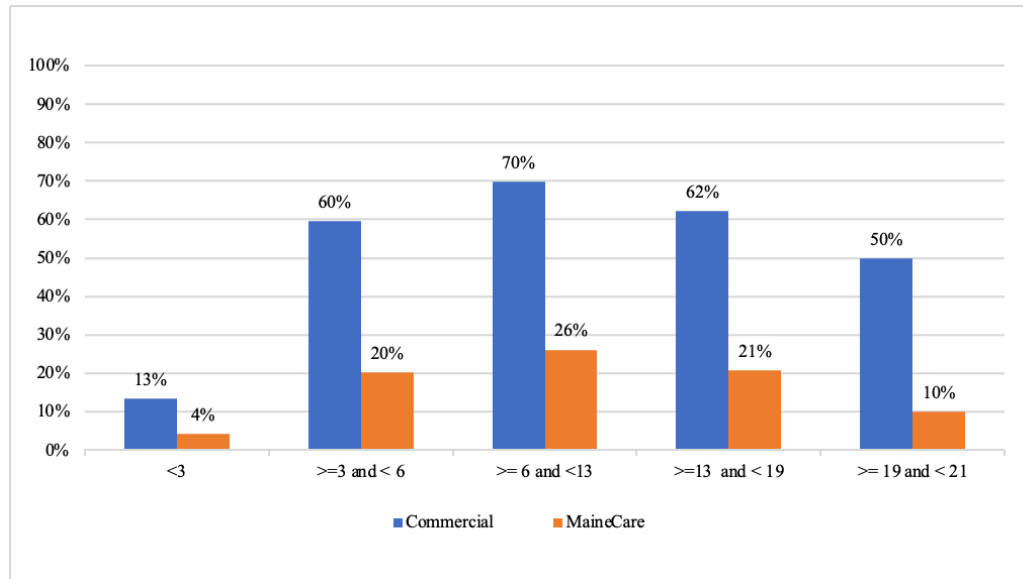
Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2019-2024, run date February 2, 2026

Note: Numbers in this graph include only children with consistent insurance (11 or more months). There are additional children who do not have dental coverage or have had coverage for part of the year.

Dental Home Utilization by Age Group

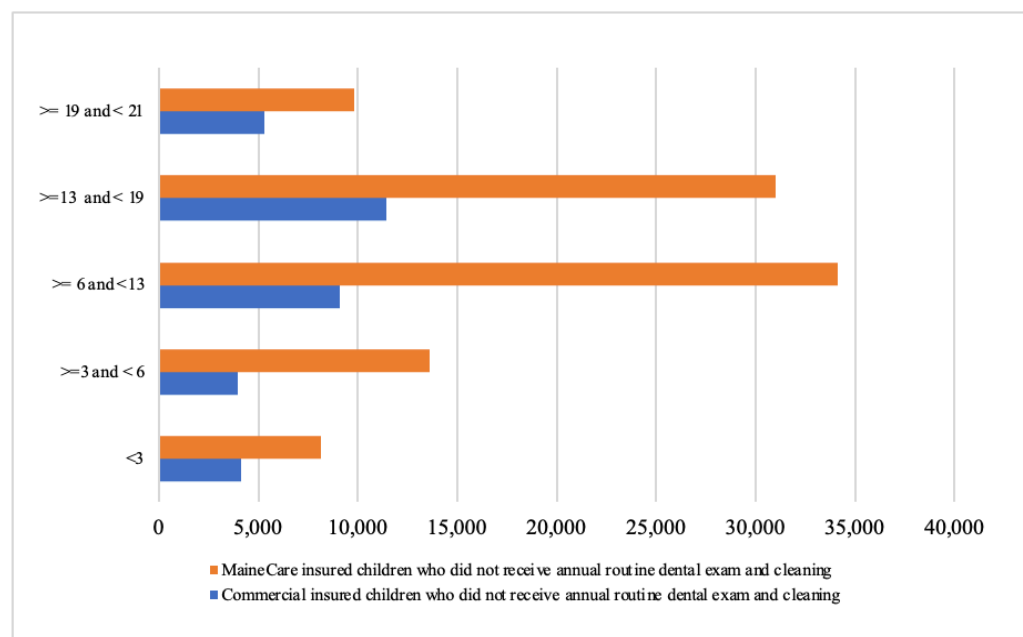
The rates of dental home utilization for children with dental coverage vary by age group, as shown in Figures 4 and 5.

Figure 4. Percent of consistently insured children who had a dental home, by age and payer (2024)



Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026

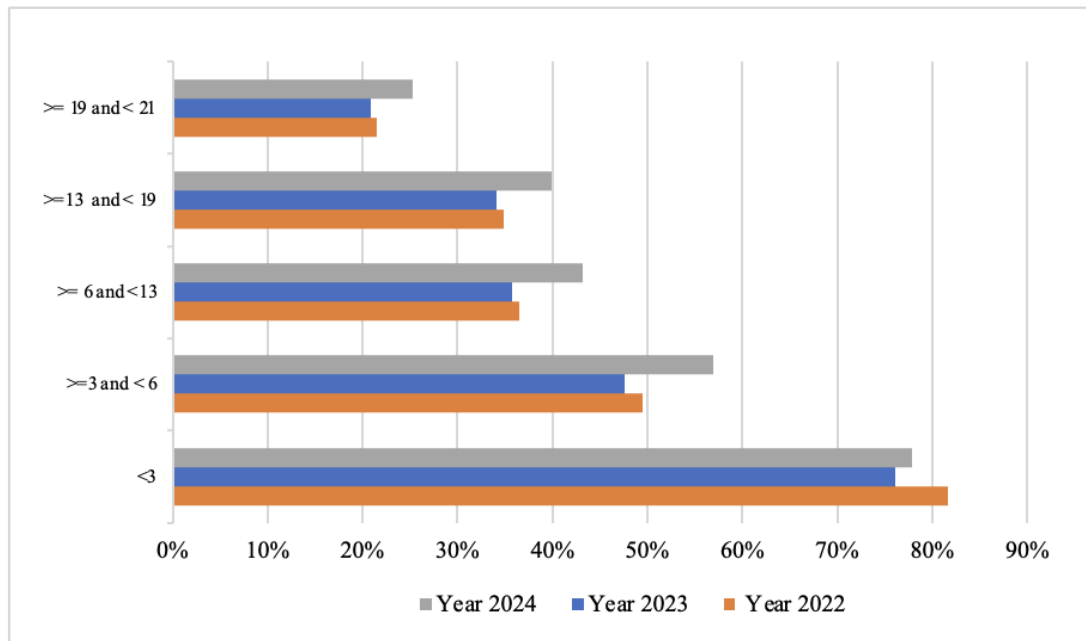
Figure 5. Unmet Need for Dental Homes: Number of consistently insured children who did not have a dental home, by age and payer (2024)



Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026

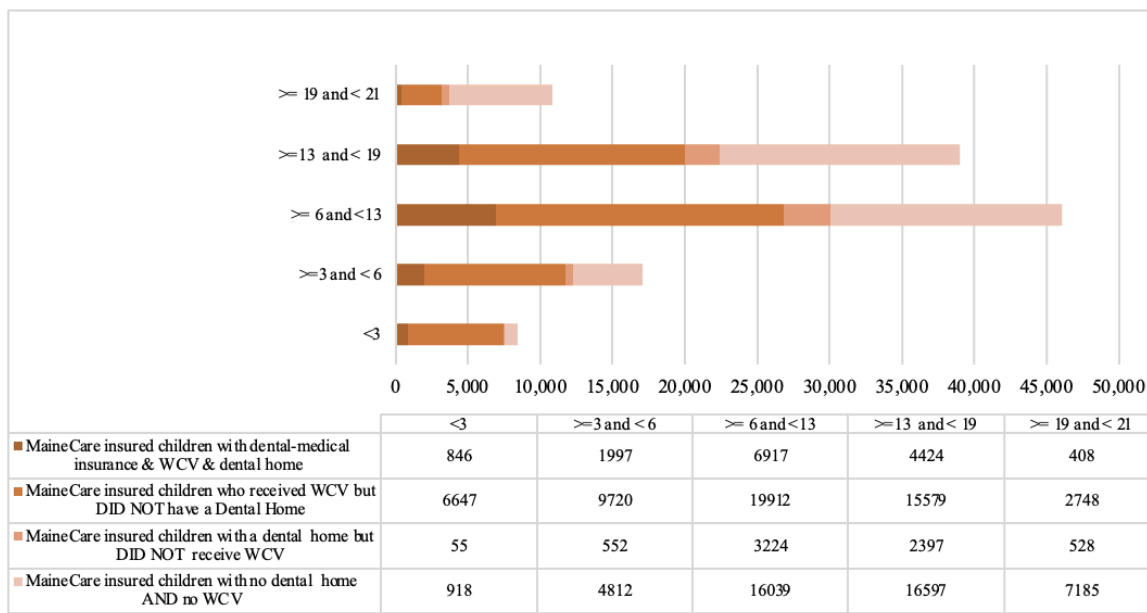
As shown in Figures 6 and 7, a separate analysis of MaineCare medical and dental claims revealed that younger children with MaineCare are far more likely to have well-child visits but not have a dental home in Maine.

Figure 6. Percent of MaineCare children with consistent medical and dental benefits with a well-child visit and no dental home, by age group (2022-2024)



Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026

Figure 7. Unmet Need for Dental Homes: Well-child visits and dental home patterns, dental and wellness care patterns among MaineCare insured children, by age group (2024)

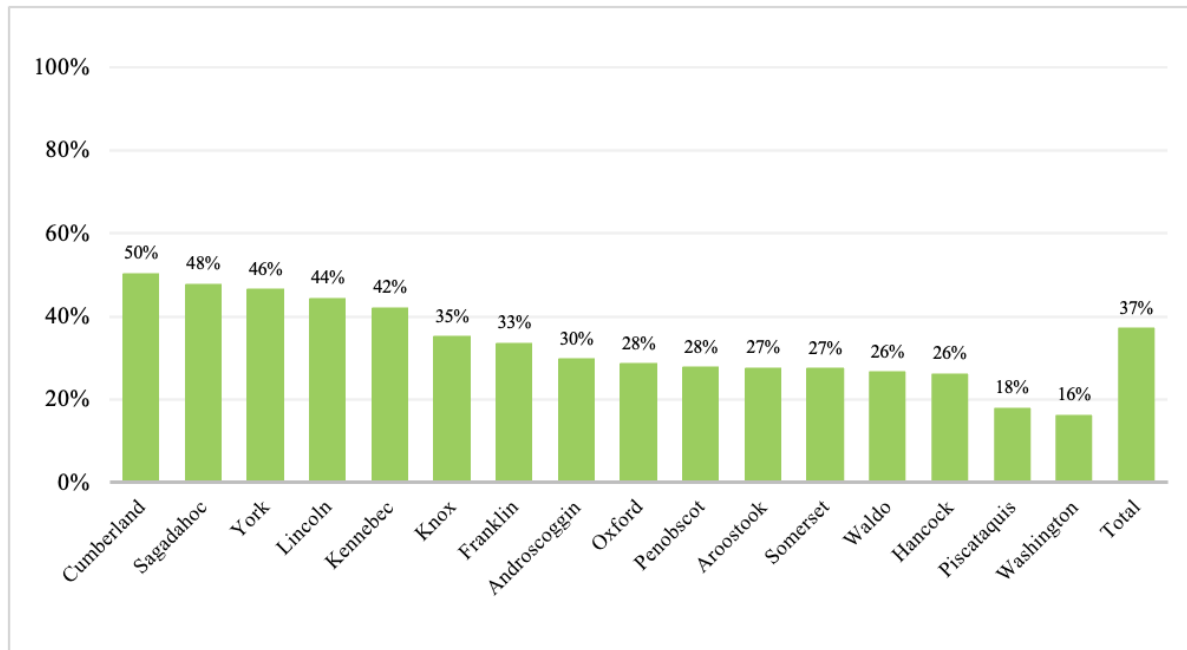


Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date Feb 2, 2026

Dental Home Utilization by County

This figure shows the percentage of consistently insured Maine children who had an active dental home in each county, as well as the statewide total (Figure 8).

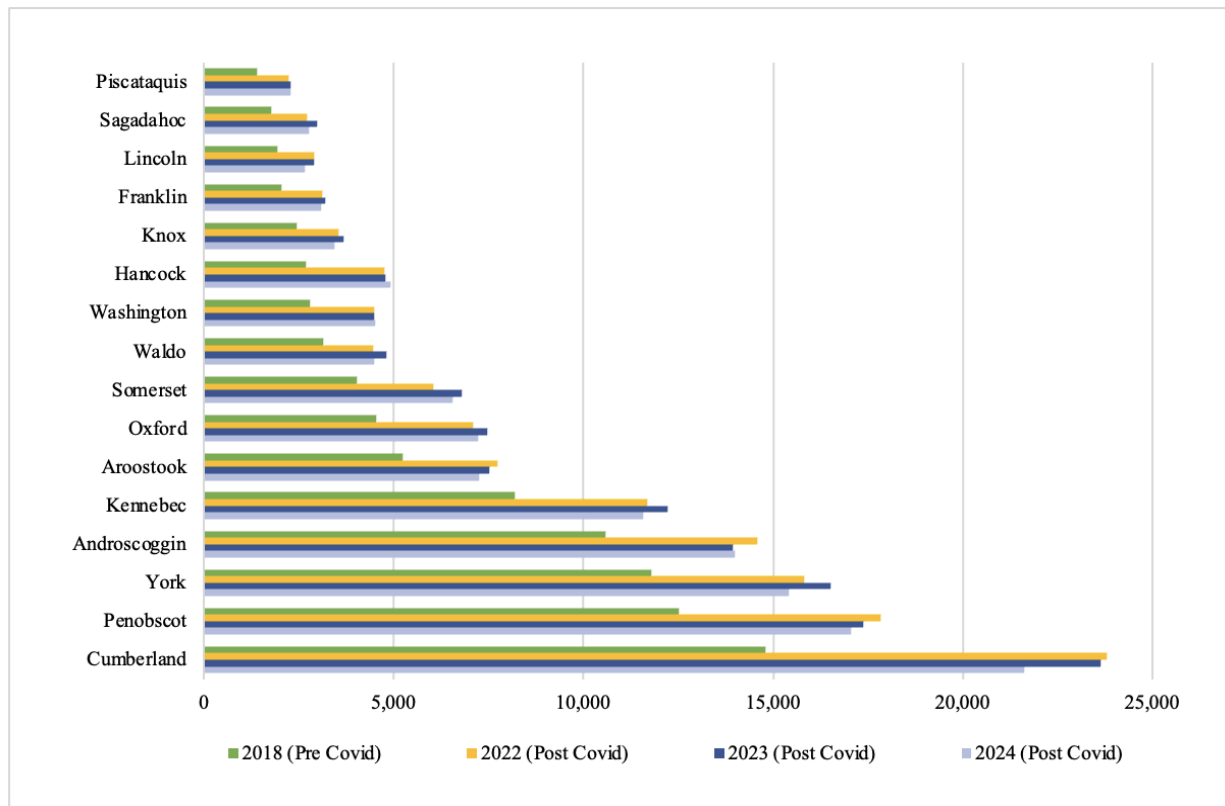
Figure 8. Percent of consistently insured children who had a dental home by county, sorted by total rate (2024)



Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026

The following figure shows how the number of consistently insured Maine children without a dental home has changed significantly in all counties since the pandemic (Figure 9).

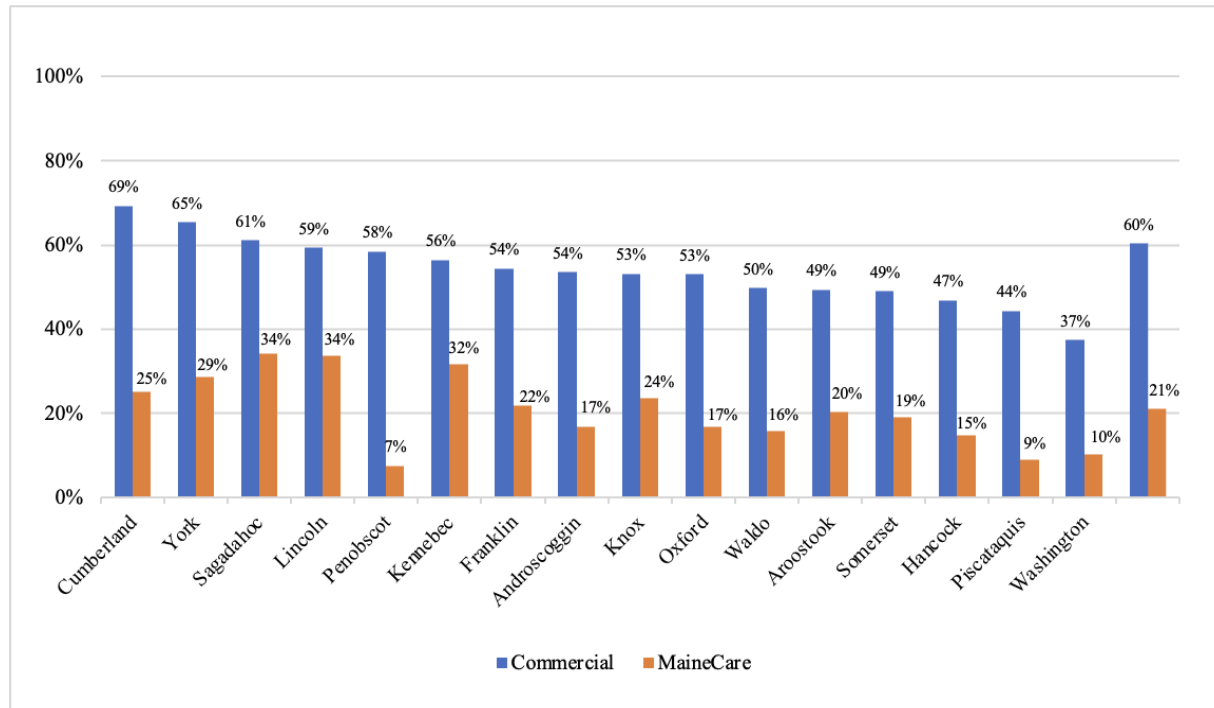
Figure 9. Number of consistently insured children without a dental home pre- and post - COVID (2018, 2022, 2023, 2024)



Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026

The following figure shows the disparities in dental home utilization between children who are commercially insured and children who have MaineCare coverage, both in rural counties and in more populated counties with more dental providers available.

Figure 10. Percent of consistently insured children who had a dental home, by county and payer, sorted by commercial rate (2024)



Source: MHDO APCD Claims and Eligibility 2018-2024, run date February 2, 2026