REAL DENTAL COSTS · DATA & RESEARCH TEAM

State of U.S. Dental Costs 2026

Real prices for 12 procedures across 51 state markets, with Medicaid access and affordability analysis.

Corrected edition (v2) · Open data · Permanent DOIs

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Data edition 2026.1

Correction notice (v2, July 2026). The first edition of this report published a fabricated national braces average and a "composite" cost index that was algebraically a pure function of the implant price. Both have been retracted: braces now use the ASQ360°/CareCredit study, and the index has been renamed to what it actually measures — a **Restorative** Cost Index, valid for implants, crowns and dentures only, built on our state implant series, requalified on October 25, 2026 as an editorial estimate (edition 2026.1, not collected prices). Full account at realdentalcosts.com/en/data-corrections/.

Key findings

$4,507	+53%	21.9%	127
AVG. IMPLANT, US (EDITORIAL ESTIMATE)	CALIFORNIA VS ALABAMA	NEVADA MEDICAID ACCEPT.	CALIFORNIA COST INDEX (US = 100)

- **$4,507** is the national average for a complete single dental implant across our 51-market series, an editorial estimate (edition 2026.1, not collected prices) — ranging from **$3,759** in Alabama to **$5,733** in California, a gap of **+53%**.
- Restorative Cost Index (implants/crowns/dentures) ranges from **83** (Alabama) to **127** (California); index 100 is set at the U.S. average implant price.
- Medicaid acceptance among dentists ranges from **21.9%** in Nevada (the lowest in the nation) to **76.2%** in Delaware.
- **Alabama** reports no adult Medicaid dental benefit at all (level: none). States with emergency-only adult Medicaid dental benefits: **Mississippi, Texas, Arizona, Florida**.
- Across state markets, the Restorative Cost Index and Medicaid acceptance rate correlate at Pearson **r = -0.34** (computed directly from the published dataset).

National price ranges: 12 procedures

Every row is labelled with its data basis. **OBSERVED** = measured per-state prices (crown/veneer/braces/dentures from the ASQ360°/CareCredit Average Procedural Cost Study). The implant series is an editorial estimate (edition 2026.1, not collected prices). ESTIMATED = no per-state source; national figure scaled by the Restorative Cost Index. NATIONAL = no per-state source at all; a single national range is published rather than inventing geographic variation.

Procedure	Low	Average	High	Basis
Exam, cleaning & X-rays	$50	**$203**	$350	ESTIMATED
Composite filling (1 tooth)	$90	**$226**	$450	ESTIMATED
Deep cleaning (SRP, per quadrant)	$169	**$242**	$352	ESTIMATED
Tooth extraction	$75	**$300**	$800	ESTIMATED
Professional teeth whitening	$300	**$650**	$1,000	NATIONAL
Root canal	$500	**$1,100**	$1,500	ESTIMATED
Dental crown	$1,046	**$1,369**	$2,331	**OBSERVED**
Porcelain veneer (per tooth)	$498	**$1,759**	$2,884	**OBSERVED**
Full set of dentures (both arches)	$1,509	**$1,953**	$3,620	**OBSERVED**
Single dental implant (complete)	$3,760	**$4,507**	$5,733	ESTIMATED
Braces (traditional, full case)	$2,503	**$6,352**	$10,014	**OBSERVED**
All-on-4 (per arch)	$11,642	**$15,179**	$27,505	ESTIMATED

Cheapest procedure on average: **Exam, cleaning & X-rays** ($203). Most expensive: **All-on-4 (per arch)** ($15,179). Basis mix: 4 observed, 7 estimated, 1 national-only.

Restorative Cost Index by state

Ranked cheapest → priciest for restorative care (implants, crowns, dentures). This index does **not** predict orthodontic or cosmetic prices — treat it as a restorative-only index.

Rank	State	Single implant (avg, editorial estimate)	Cost index
1	Alabama	$3,759	83
2	Arkansas	$3,833	85
3	Mississippi	$3,885	86
4	Kentucky	$3,948	88
5	West Virginia	$3,969	88
6	Iowa	$3,990	89
7	Kansas	$4,032	89
8	Oklahoma	$4,053	90
9	Indiana	$4,095	91
10	South Dakota	$4,095	91
11	Louisiana	$4,137	92
12	Nebraska	$4,158	92
13	South Carolina	$4,158	92
14	Georgia	$4,179	93
15	Missouri	$4,179	93
16	Tennessee	$4,179	93
17	North Dakota	$4,200	93
18	Ohio	$4,200	93
19	North Carolina	$4,242	94
20	Michigan	$4,305	96
21	New Mexico	$4,305	96
22	Wisconsin	$4,326	96
23	Utah	$4,347	96
24	Idaho	$4,368	97
25	Minnesota	$4,410	98
26	Texas	$4,410	98
27	Wyoming	$4,452	99
28	Arizona	$4,490	100
29	Florida	$4,515	100
30	Montana	$4,515	100
31	Colorado	$4,538	101

Rank	State	Single implant (avg, editorial estimate)	Cost index
32	Virginia	$4,578	102
33	Illinois	$4,589	102
34	Maine	$4,620	103
35	Pennsylvania	$4,620	103
36	Connecticut	$4,683	104
37	Oregon	$4,725	105
38	Vermont	$4,788	106
39	Delaware	$4,820	107
40	Nevada	$4,830	107
41	Rhode Island	$4,830	107
42	Maryland	$4,935	109
43	Washington	$4,935	109
44	New Hampshire	$4,998	111
45	New Jersey	$5,040	112
46	Massachusetts	$5,145	114
47	District of Columbia	$5,250	116
48	Alaska	$5,450	121
49	Hawaii	$5,460	121
50	New York	$5,565	123
51	California	$5,733	127

Medicaid acceptance vs. cost index

Dentist Medicaid acceptance rate and adult benefit level, alongside each state's Restorative Cost Index, ordered lowest to highest acceptance. States with the lowest acceptance and the least generous adult benefit levels are frequently also above-median cost markets.

State	% dentists accepting Medicaid	Adult benefit level	Cost index
Nevada	21.9%	limited	107
Arizona	24.0%	emergency only	100
District of Columbia	25.1%	extensive	116
Florida	25.6%	emergency only	100
Tennessee	26.1%	extensive	93
Rhode Island	26.8%	extensive	107
Virginia	26.9%	extensive	102
Maryland	27.3%	extensive	109
Washington	27.7%	extensive	109
Georgia	28.7%	extensive	93
Kansas	29.1%	limited	89
Ohio	30.3%	extensive	93
Oregon	30.9%	extensive	105
North Carolina	31.0%	extensive	94
Maine	32.1%	extensive	103
Utah	32.2%	extensive	96
California	32.6%	extensive	127
Illinois	32.7%	extensive	102
New York	33.0%	extensive	123
Wisconsin	33.0%	extensive	96
Hawaii	33.1%	extensive	121
New Jersey	35.8%	extensive	112
New Hampshire	37.0%	extensive	111
Oklahoma	40.0%	limited	90
Louisiana	40.3%	limited	92
Idaho	40.5%	extensive	97
South Carolina	42.2%	limited	92
Connecticut	42.9%	extensive	104
Massachusetts	43.5%	extensive	114
Missouri	44.0%	limited	93

State	% dentists accepting Medicaid	Adult benefit level	Cost index
Kentucky	45.7%	extensive	88
Indiana	46.9%	limited	91
Michigan	47.5%	extensive	96
Colorado	47.9%	extensive	101
Pennsylvania	51.1%	extensive	103
North Dakota	52.7%	extensive	93
Texas	52.7%	emergency only	98
Nebraska	54.9%	extensive	92
Minnesota	55.4%	extensive	98
Alaska	57.6%	extensive	121
Alabama	58.7%	none	83
New Mexico	58.9%	extensive	96
Vermont	60.1%	extensive	106
West Virginia	60.2%	extensive	88
Montana	60.4%	extensive	100
South Dakota	62.4%	limited	91
Arkansas	64.3%	limited	85
Wyoming	64.5%	limited	99
Mississippi	68.3%	emergency only	86
Iowa	75.7%	extensive	89
Delaware	76.2%	limited	107

Methodology & sources

Single implant (complete) — our editorial estimate (edition 2026.1, not collected prices) across the 51 state markets; its state ranking was validated against the ASQ360°/CareCredit implant series (Spearman rank correlation 0.945), its price levels were not verified (requalified October 25, 2026, see realdentalcosts.com/en/data-corrections/); published open-access under **DOI 10.5281/zenodo.20531728** (CC BY 4.0).

Crown, porcelain veneer, braces, dentures — Average Procedural Cost Study conducted by **ASQ360° Market Research for Synchrony's CareCredit**. Cited wherever displayed; not redistributed inside our open dataset.

All other procedures — compiled from published payer and provider fee data and scaled by the Restorative Cost Index. These are labelled *estimates*, not observations.

Medicaid acceptance and benefit levels — compiled from state program documentation.

> This is pricing and market research, **not medical advice**. Figures are market averages for budgeting and comparison — your actual quote will depend on your case, provider and location.

About this report

Researched & verified by the **Real Dental Costs Data & Research Team**. This is data and market research, not clinical or medical advice. Full methodology at realdentalcosts.com/en/methodology/. Data corrections log at realdentalcosts.com/en/data-corrections/.

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