

REAL DENTAL COSTS · DATA & RESEARCH TEAM

Colorado

Dental Costs & Access Fact Sheet 2026 — procedure prices, insurance gaps, Medicaid acceptance and dentist shortages.

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Data edition 2026.1 · HRSA snapshot 2026-07-30

Colorado at a glance

\$4,538

SINGLE IMPLANT, AVG.

31/51

RESTORATIVE COST RANK

47.9%

DENTISTS TAKING MEDICAID

25

DENTAL-DESERT COUNTIES

- A complete single dental implant averages **\$4,538** in Colorado, \$31 above the \$4,507 national mean of our 51 markets — ranking Colorado **31 of 51** on the restorative cost index (1 = least expensive).
- **47.9%** of Colorado dentists accept Medicaid patients (rank 18 of 51), and the state provides **extensive** adult dental coverage.
- **25 of Colorado's 64 counties** (39%) meet the dental-desert definition — an active shortage designation, below-median county income and above-median prices at once. 56 counties carry at least one active Dental HPSA designation.
- Nationally, 288 of 3,144 counties qualify as dental deserts, and 2,601 carry at least one active Dental HPSA designation.

Procedure prices: Colorado vs the national mean

Every row is labelled with its data basis. **OBSERVED** = measured per-state prices. **ESTIMATED** = no per-state source; the national figure scaled by the restorative cost index. **NATIONAL** = no per-state source at all, so no geographic variation is invented.

Procedure	Colorado range	Colorado avg.	U.S. mean (51 markets)	Basis
Exam, cleaning & X-rays	\$50–\$355	\$205	\$203	ESTIMATED
Composite filling (1 tooth)	\$90–\$455	\$230	\$226	ESTIMATED
Deep cleaning (SRP, per quadrant)	\$170–\$355	\$245	\$242	ESTIMATED
Tooth extraction	\$75–\$810	\$305	\$300	ESTIMATED
Root canal	\$505–\$1,515	\$1,110	\$1,100	ESTIMATED
All-on-4 (per arch)	\$11,755–\$27,775	\$15,330	\$15,179	ESTIMATED
Professional teeth whitening	\$300–\$1,000	\$650	\$650	NATIONAL
Dental crown	\$1,070–\$2,390	\$1,404	\$1,369	OBSERVED
Porcelain veneer (per tooth)	\$465–\$2,705	\$1,648	\$1,759	OBSERVED
Braces (traditional, full case)	\$2,715–\$10,865	\$6,892	\$6,352	OBSERVED
Single dental implant (complete)	\$3,785–\$5,770	\$4,538	\$4,507	OBSERVED
Full set of dentures (both arches)	\$1,530–\$3,675	\$1,982	\$1,953	OBSERVED

What insurance actually pays in Colorado

Applied to Colorado averages: a typical full coverage plan structure (preventive ~100%, basic ~80%, major ~50%) against a \$1,500 annual maximum. This is an illustration of a common plan design, not a quote, and it is the subtraction carrier pages do not publish.

Procedure	Colorado avg.	Tier	Plan pays	You still pay
Composite filling (1 tooth)	\$230	basic	\$184	\$46
Root canal	\$1,110	major	\$555	\$555
Dental crown	\$1,404	major	\$702	\$702
Full set of dentures (both arches)	\$1,982	major	\$991	\$991
Braces (traditional, full case)	\$6,892	ortho	\$1,500 (cap)	\$5,392
Single dental implant (complete)	\$4,538	excluded	nothing	\$4,538

The annual maximum is consumed by the whole plan year, not reset per procedure. Orthodontics and implants are the two lines where the gap is widest: the first exhausts the cap on its own, the second is usually excluded outright.

Methodology & sources

Single implant (complete) — our own observed 51-market series, DOI 10.5281/zenodo.20531728 (CC BY 4.0).

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

All other procedures — national figures scaled by the restorative cost index, labelled *estimated*. Cosmetic rows carry no state variation.

Medicaid acceptance and adult benefit level — DOI 10.5281/zenodo.20666358.

Shortage and dental-desert counts — HRSA Dental HPSA snapshot 2026-07-30, crossed with county median income and state price level; DOI 10.5281/zenodo.21707529.

This is pricing and market research, **not medical advice** and not an insurance quote. Figures are market averages for budgeting and comparison — your quote depends on your case, provider and plan document.

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Machine-readable data: **<https://realdentalcosts.com/api/v1/state/co.json>**

Web version: **<https://realdentalcosts.com/en/full-coverage-dental-insurance/colorado/>**

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