

REAL DENTAL COSTS · DATA & RESEARCH TEAM

District of Columbia

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

District of Columbia at a glance

\$5,250

SINGLE IMPLANT, AVG.

47/51

RESTORATIVE COST RANK

25.1%

DENTISTS TAKING MEDICAID

0

DENTAL-DESERT COUNTIES

- A complete single dental implant averages **\$5,250** in District of Columbia, \$743 above the \$4,507 national mean of our 51 markets — ranking District of Columbia **47 of 51** on the restorative cost index (1 = least expensive).
- **25.1%** of District of Columbia dentists accept Medicaid patients (rank 49 of 51), and the state provides **extensive** adult dental coverage.
- **No District of Columbia county meets the dental-desert definition**, which requires above-median prices; District of Columbia sits below that line. Access pressure is nonetheless broad: **1 of District of Columbia's 1 counties** (100%) 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: District of Columbia 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	District of Columbia range	District of Columbia avg.	U.S. mean (51 markets)	Basis
Exam, cleaning & X-rays	\$60–\$405	\$235	\$203	ESTIMATED
Composite filling (1 tooth)	\$105–\$520	\$260	\$226	ESTIMATED
Deep cleaning (SRP, per quadrant)	\$195–\$410	\$280	\$242	ESTIMATED
Tooth extraction	\$85–\$930	\$350	\$300	ESTIMATED
Root canal	\$580–\$1,740	\$1,275	\$1,100	ESTIMATED
All-on-4 (per arch)	\$13,500–\$31,900	\$17,605	\$15,179	ESTIMATED
Professional teeth whitening	\$300–\$1,000	\$650	\$650	NATIONAL
Dental crown	\$1,465–\$3,270	\$1,921	\$1,369	OBSERVED
Porcelain veneer (per tooth)	\$615–\$3,560	\$2,170	\$1,759	OBSERVED
Braces (traditional, full case)	\$2,250–\$9,005	\$5,712	\$6,352	OBSERVED
Single dental implant (complete)	\$4,380–\$6,680	\$5,250	\$4,507	OBSERVED
Full set of dentures (both arches)	\$1,815–\$4,355	\$2,350	\$1,953	OBSERVED

What insurance actually pays in District of Columbia

Applied to District of Columbia 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	District of Columbia avg.	Tier	Plan pays	You still pay
Composite filling (1 tooth)	\$260	basic	\$208	\$52
Root canal	\$1,275	major	\$638	\$637
Dental crown	\$1,921	major	\$961	\$960
Full set of dentures (both arches)	\$2,350	major	\$1,175	\$1,175
Braces (traditional, full case)	\$5,712	ortho	\$1,500 (cap)	\$4,212
Single dental implant (complete)	\$5,250	excluded	nothing	\$5,250

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/dc.json>**

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

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