

REAL DENTAL COSTS · DATA & RESEARCH TEAM

North Carolina

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

[Open data](#) · [CC BY 4.0](#) · [Permanent DOIs](#)

Published by the Real Dental Costs Data & Research Team · realdentalcosts.com

Concept DOI (implant index): [10.5281/zenodo.20531728](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20531728) · Atlas DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.21707529](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21707529)

Data edition 2026.1 · HRSA snapshot 2026-07-30

North Carolina at a glance

\$4,242

SINGLE IMPLANT, AVG.

19/51

RESTORATIVE COST RANK

31.0%

DENTISTS TAKING MEDICAID

0

DENTAL-DESERT COUNTIES

- A complete single dental implant averages **\$4,242** in North Carolina, \$265 below the \$4,507 national mean of our 51 markets — ranking North Carolina **19 of 51** on the restorative cost index (1 = least expensive).
- **31.0%** of North Carolina dentists accept Medicaid patients (rank 38 of 51), and the state provides **extensive** adult dental coverage.
- **No North Carolina county meets the dental-desert definition**, which requires above-median prices; North Carolina sits below that line. Access pressure is nonetheless broad: **96 of North Carolina's 100 counties** (96%) 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: North Carolina 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	North Carolina range	North Carolina avg.	U.S. mean (51 markets)	Basis
Exam, cleaning & X-rays	\$45–\$330	\$190	\$203	ESTIMATED
Composite filling (1 tooth)	\$85–\$425	\$210	\$226	ESTIMATED
Deep cleaning (SRP, per quadrant)	\$160–\$330	\$225	\$242	ESTIMATED
Tooth extraction	\$70–\$750	\$280	\$300	ESTIMATED
Root canal	\$470–\$1,410	\$1,035	\$1,100	ESTIMATED
All-on-4 (per arch)	\$10,940–\$25,850	\$14,265	\$15,179	ESTIMATED
Professional teeth whitening	\$300–\$1,000	\$650	\$650	NATIONAL
Dental crown	\$915–\$2,035	\$1,195	\$1,369	OBSERVED
Porcelain veneer (per tooth)	\$405–\$2,355	\$1,435	\$1,759	OBSERVED
Braces (traditional, full case)	\$2,645–\$10,590	\$6,716	\$6,352	OBSERVED
Single dental implant (complete)	\$3,540–\$5,395	\$4,242	\$4,507	OBSERVED
Full set of dentures (both arches)	\$1,405–\$3,375	\$1,820	\$1,953	OBSERVED

What insurance actually pays in North Carolina

Applied to North Carolina 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	North Carolina avg.	Tier	Plan pays	You still pay
Composite filling (1 tooth)	\$210	basic	\$168	\$42
Root canal	\$1,035	major	\$518	\$517
Dental crown	\$1,195	major	\$598	\$597
Full set of dentures (both arches)	\$1,820	major	\$910	\$910
Braces (traditional, full case)	\$6,716	ortho	\$1,500 (cap)	\$5,216
Single dental implant (complete)	\$4,242	excluded	nothing	\$4,242

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.

Cite this fact sheet

Real Dental Costs Data & Research Team. (2026). North Carolina dental costs & access fact sheet 2026 [Data set]. Real Dental Costs. <https://realdentalcosts.com/en/full-coverage-dental-insurance/north-carolina/>

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

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

© 2026 Real Dental Costs · realdentalcosts.com · Generated by scripts/gen_state_factsheet_pdf.mjs from audit/_factsheet-data/north-carolina.json, data edition 2026.1. Reuse permitted under CC BY 4.0 with attribution.