

REAL DENTAL COSTS · DATA & RESEARCH TEAM

Tennessee

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

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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

Tennessee at a glance

\$4,179 SINGLE IMPLANT, AVG.	16/51 RESTORATIVE COST RANK	26.1% DENTISTS TAKING MEDICAID	0 DENTAL-DESERT COUNTIES
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- A complete single dental implant averages **\$4,179** in Tennessee, \$328 below the \$4,507 national mean of our 51 markets — ranking Tennessee **16 of 51** on the restorative cost index (1 = least expensive).
- **26.1%** of Tennessee dentists accept Medicaid patients (rank 47 of 51), and the state provides **extensive** adult dental coverage.
- **No Tennessee county meets the dental-desert definition**, which requires above-median prices; Tennessee sits below that line. Access pressure is nonetheless broad: **84 of Tennessee's 95 counties** (88%) 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: Tennessee 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	Tennessee range	Tennessee avg.	U.S. mean (51 markets)	Basis
Exam, cleaning & X-rays	\$45–\$325	\$190	\$203	ESTIMATED
Composite filling (1 tooth)	\$85–\$420	\$210	\$226	ESTIMATED
Deep cleaning (SRP, per quadrant)	\$155–\$325	\$225	\$242	ESTIMATED
Tooth extraction	\$70–\$745	\$280	\$300	ESTIMATED
Root canal	\$465–\$1,395	\$1,025	\$1,100	ESTIMATED
All-on-4 (per arch)	\$10,825–\$25,575	\$14,115	\$15,179	ESTIMATED
Professional teeth whitening	\$300–\$1,000	\$650	\$650	NATIONAL
Dental crown	\$925–\$2,065	\$1,213	\$1,369	OBSERVED
Porcelain veneer (per tooth)	\$485–\$2,820	\$1,719	\$1,759	OBSERVED
Braces (traditional, full case)	\$2,325–\$9,305	\$5,901	\$6,352	OBSERVED
Single dental implant (complete)	\$3,485–\$5,315	\$4,179	\$4,507	OBSERVED
Full set of dentures (both arches)	\$1,355–\$3,250	\$1,752	\$1,953	OBSERVED

What insurance actually pays in Tennessee

Applied to Tennessee 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	Tennessee avg.	Tier	Plan pays	You still pay
Composite filling (1 tooth)	\$210	basic	\$168	\$42
Root canal	\$1,025	major	\$513	\$512
Dental crown	\$1,213	major	\$607	\$606
Full set of dentures (both arches)	\$1,752	major	\$876	\$876
Braces (traditional, full case)	\$5,901	ortho	\$1,500 (cap)	\$4,401
Single dental implant (complete)	\$4,179	excluded	nothing	\$4,179

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). Tennessee dental costs & access fact sheet 2026 [Data set]. Real Dental Costs. <https://realdentalcosts.com/en/full-coverage-dental-insurance/tennessee/>

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

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

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