

Introduction

- ❖ 1 in 4 Americans suffer from untreated dental caries of their permanent dentitions.
- ❖ Untreated dental caries affects quality of life which creates an economic burden and affect societal costs of health care.
- ❖ Untreated dental caries can lead to pain, inflammation, and spread of infection to bone and soft tissue.
- ❖ Untreated dental caries eventually result in urgent and costly visits to the dentist or hospital emergency department.
- ❖ The cost of an emergency room visit can be nearly 3 times or more than a routine dental visit.

Objectives

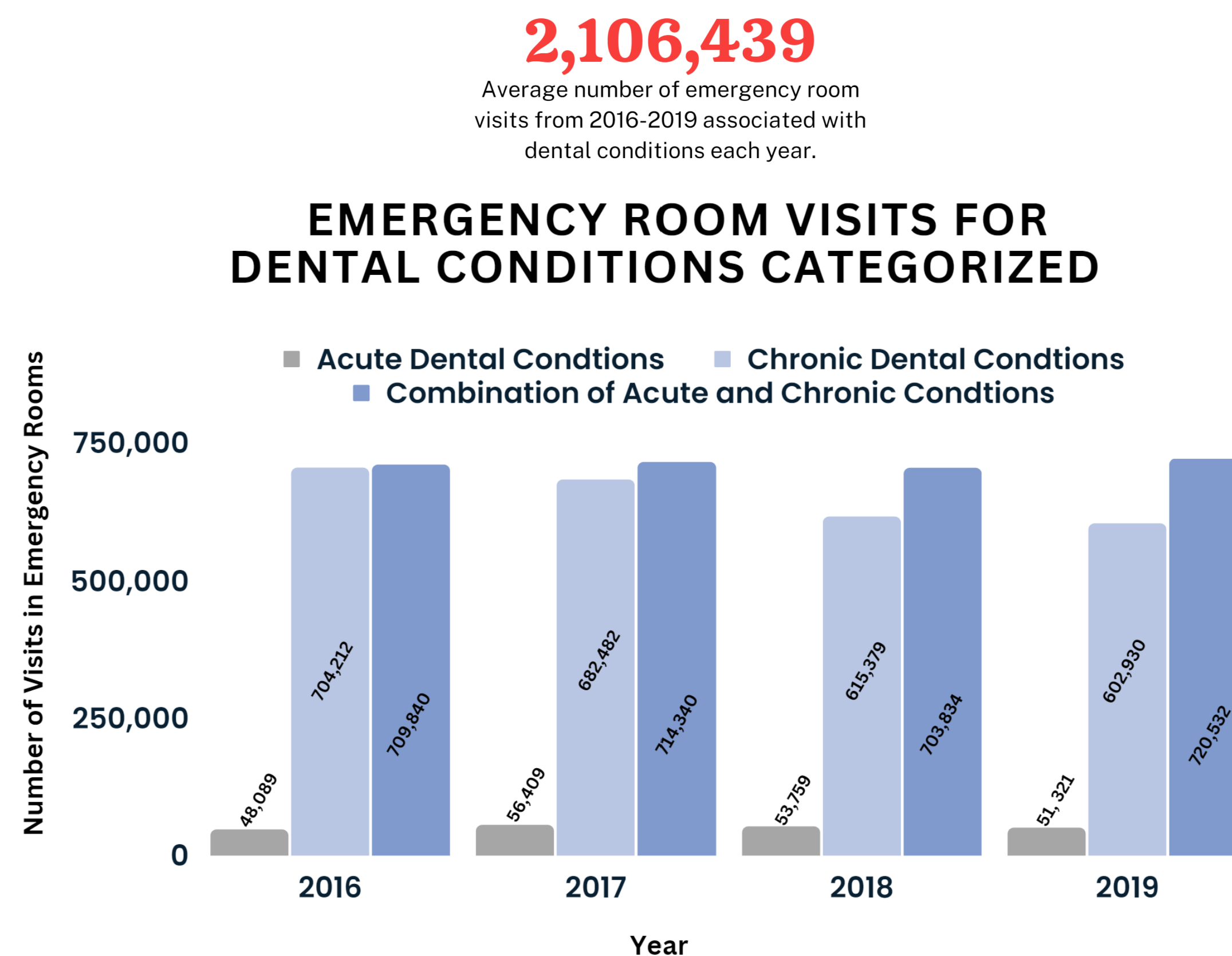
- ❖ To determine the distribution of emergency room visits for dental conditions from 2016-2019.
- ❖ To assess insurance utilization for dental conditions treated in emergency rooms across the U.S.

Materials and Methods

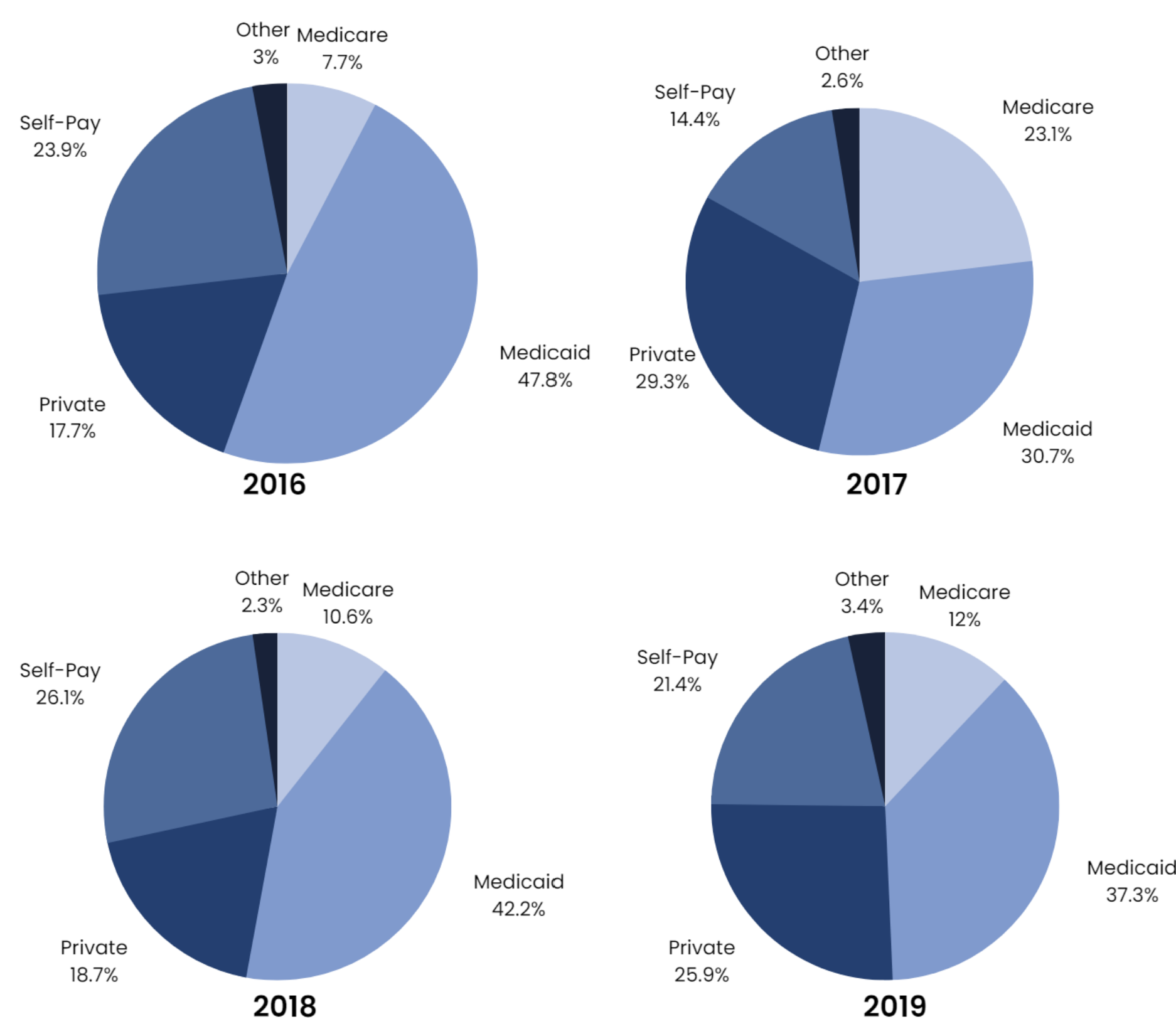
- ❖ Exploration of Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS) from 2016 to 2019 weighted frequencies of Emergency Room Visits for Dental Conditions as the Primary Diagnosis.
- ❖ Categorization of dental conditions as acute, chronic or combination based on off ICD-10 CM Diagnostic Codes.
- ❖ Compare utilization of Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, no insurance and other insurances based on expected payer frequencies for dental conditions from 2016 to 2019 NEDS data.

Results

AVERAGE COST OF ER DENTAL VISIT FOR DENTAL CONDITIONS



INSURANCE UTILIZATION OF EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS FOR DENTAL CONDITIONS



Conclusion

- ❖ No increasing or decreasing trends in the number of emergency room visits for dental conditions, many of those conditions are associated with chronic dental conditions could have likely been prevented if they were treated as a routine dental visit.
- ❖ Lack of dental insurance is often a barrier to comprehensive dental care however the cost of care provided in emergency rooms can be more of a financial burden and appears to increase every year.
- ❖ Medicare and Medicaid payment represent a large portion of dental conditions treated in the emergency room.

Future Directions

- ❖ Multivariable analysis of insurance “Distribution and Stratification” based insurance type, dental conditions, age, income, race and cost.
- ❖ Incorporate 2020 data to assess the potential affect of COVID-19 Pandemic on emergency visits.
- ❖ Explore the utilization of emergency rooms for dental conditions by residents of nursing homes.

References

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