

# An Increasing Burden of Oral Disease:

## Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions Among Adults in Maryland



### Study Design

- Analyzed data from the Health Services Cost Review Commission for FY2013 – FY2019.
- Examined the scope of hospital utilization for emergency (ED) department visits for non-traumatic dental conditions (NTDC).



### Results

- Maryland (MD) has rates of ED visits for NTDC that exceed the national average.
- Adults age 25-34 have the highest rates of ED visits for NTDCs: 152 visits per 10,000 adults.
- Average charges for ED visits for dental conditions have increased over time, from \$486 in FY 2013 to \$728 in FY 2019, an increase of nearly 50%.
- The payers for ED visits for NTDCs in FY 2019 were:
  - Medicaid (54%)
  - Medicare (13%)
  - Other sources (1%)
  - Commercial insurers (19%)
  - Uninsured/self-pay (13%)



### Impact

- Expand dental benefits to Medicaid participants.
- Implement broader improvements in adult dental coverage to close this gap.