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## **National Enrollment in Dental Benefits Increase 1.3 Percent in 2008 with Dental PPO Topping 100 Million**

DALLAS -- The dental benefits market grew 1.3 percent from 2007 to 2008 according to the *2009 NADP/DDPA Joint Dental Benefits Report: Enrollment*, published this summer by the National Association of Dental Plans (NADP) and Delta Dental Plan Association (DDPA).

Approximately 176 million Americans, 57 percent of the population, have some form of dental coverage through employer-sponsored group, individual or government sponsored plans. In general, enrollees pay at least a portion of their dental benefit premiums. Seventy-three percent of DPPO enrollees pay at least a portion of their dental premiums compared to 81 percent of DHMO and 94 percent of dental Indemnity enrollees.

For the first time ever, enrollment in Dental Preferred Provider Organization (DPPO) plans topped 100 million. DPPO plans continue to increase among commercial carriers, representing 66 percent of that market. However, the DPPO milestone comes at the expense of Dental Health Maintenance Organizations (DHMO) and traditional Dental Indemnity plans as enrollment in both plan types declined in 2008. DHMO enrollment had been flat in prior years.

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To provide current information about the prevalence of dental benefits in the U.S. population, NADP and DDPA analyzed data from 117 companies to conduct this annual survey. The NADP has been collecting enrollment information since 1994, and the findings in this report draw on this history. This report contains specific information on Dental HMO, Dental PPO, Dental Indemnity, and Discount Dental enrollment at the national and state levels. The report is available for \$995 via the “Mall” section of the NADP Web site, [www.nadp.org](http://www.nadp.org). NADP Member plans receive the report as part of their membership.

#### **About NADP**

*The National Association of Dental Plans ([www.nadp.org](http://www.nadp.org)) is a non-profit trade association representing the entire dental benefits industry, including dental HMOs, dental PPOs, discount dental plans and dental indemnity products. NADP’s member dental plans provide dental benefits to more than 80 percent of the 176 million Americans with dental benefits. NADP’s members include major commercial carriers, regional and single-state companies.*

#### **About DDPA**

The not-for-profit Delta Dental Plans Association ([www.deltadental.com](http://www.deltadental.com)) based in Oak Brook, Ill., is the leading national network of independent dental service corporations specializing in providing dental benefits programs to more than 54 million Americans in more than 89,000 employee groups throughout the country.

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