

Public Health Dental Hygiene Practice in New Hampshire

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NH dental hygiene practice is
authorized under RSA 317-A
The Dental Practice Act



In NH, dental hygiene
practice is regulated by
the Board of Dental
Examiners (BODE)

www.nh.gov/dental

Laws and Regulations

New Hampshire
Dental Practice Act

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graph TD; A[New Hampshire Dental Practice Act] --> B[RDH practice in-office]; A --> C[RDH practice under public health supervision (PHDH)]; A --> D[RDH practice as a certified public health hygienist (CPHDH)];
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RDH practice
in-office

RDH practice under
public health
supervision (PHDH)

RDH practice as a
certified public health
hygienist (CPHDH)

Dental hygiene practice is evolving
to get services out to the patient

NH Law provides for off-site dental hygiene
prevention services

- Public health supervision

- Certified Public Health Dental Hygienist

Public Health Supervision (General Supervision) under Den 101.11 (Rules)

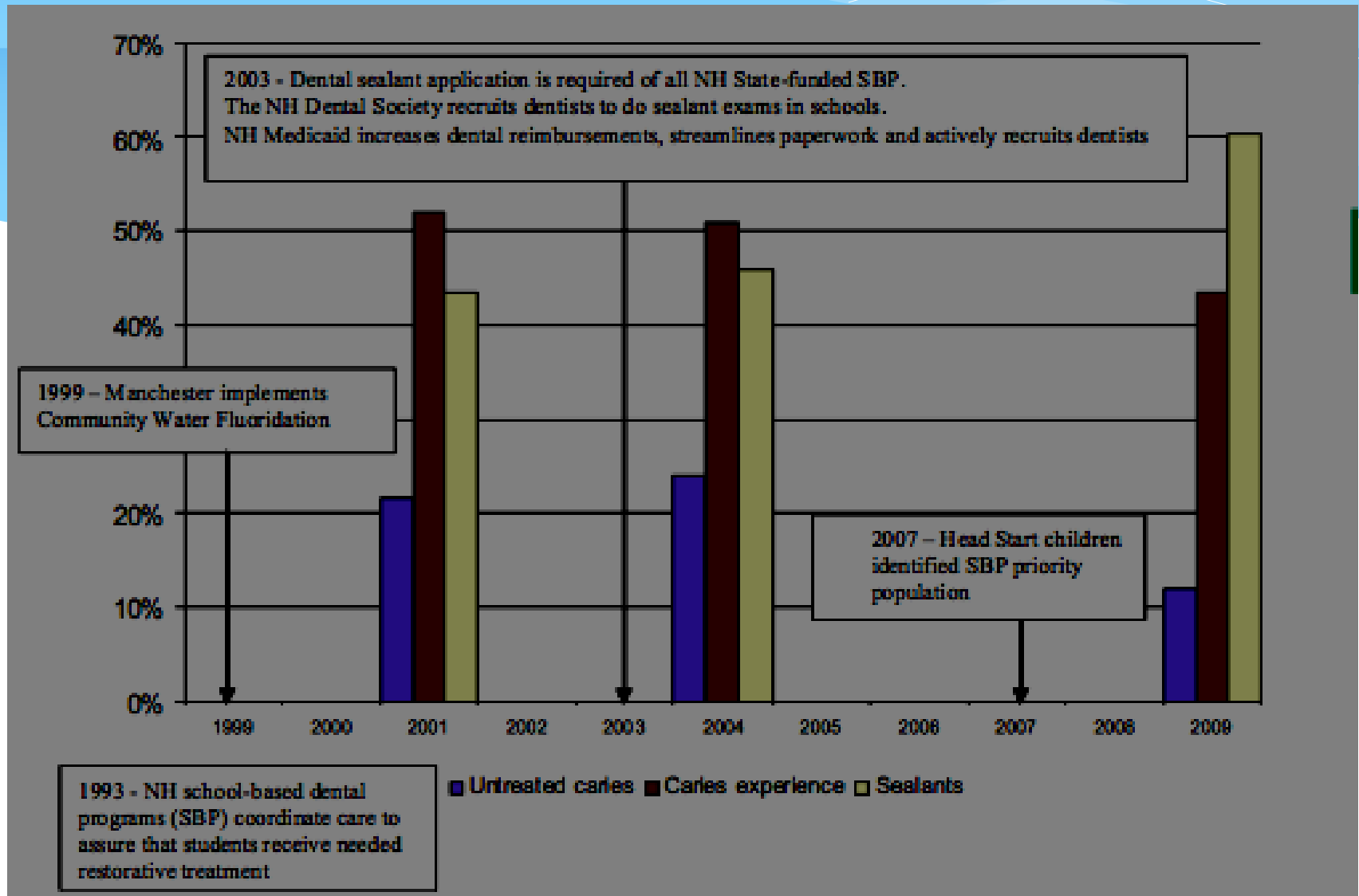
Statute allows for

- Dentist to authorize hygiene services with remote supervision through collaborative agreement
- Hygienist can practice in the school, hospital, other institution, or the patients home
- Dentist reviews the records once in a 12-month period.
- An Annual Summary is submitted to the Board of Dental Examiners (BODE)

Where do PHDHs currently practice

- Primarily schools
- Few nursing homes
- Health/dental centers
- WIC
- Head Start

3rd grade survey



Certified PHDH coming

RSA 317-A:21-e

New tasks

- X-rays in the field
- Caries stabilization through temporary fillings
- Nutritional counseling r/t dental needs

Additional tasks for the C-PHDH X-Rays

Portable X-rays enable
teledentistry used along with
digital photos



Caries Stabilization



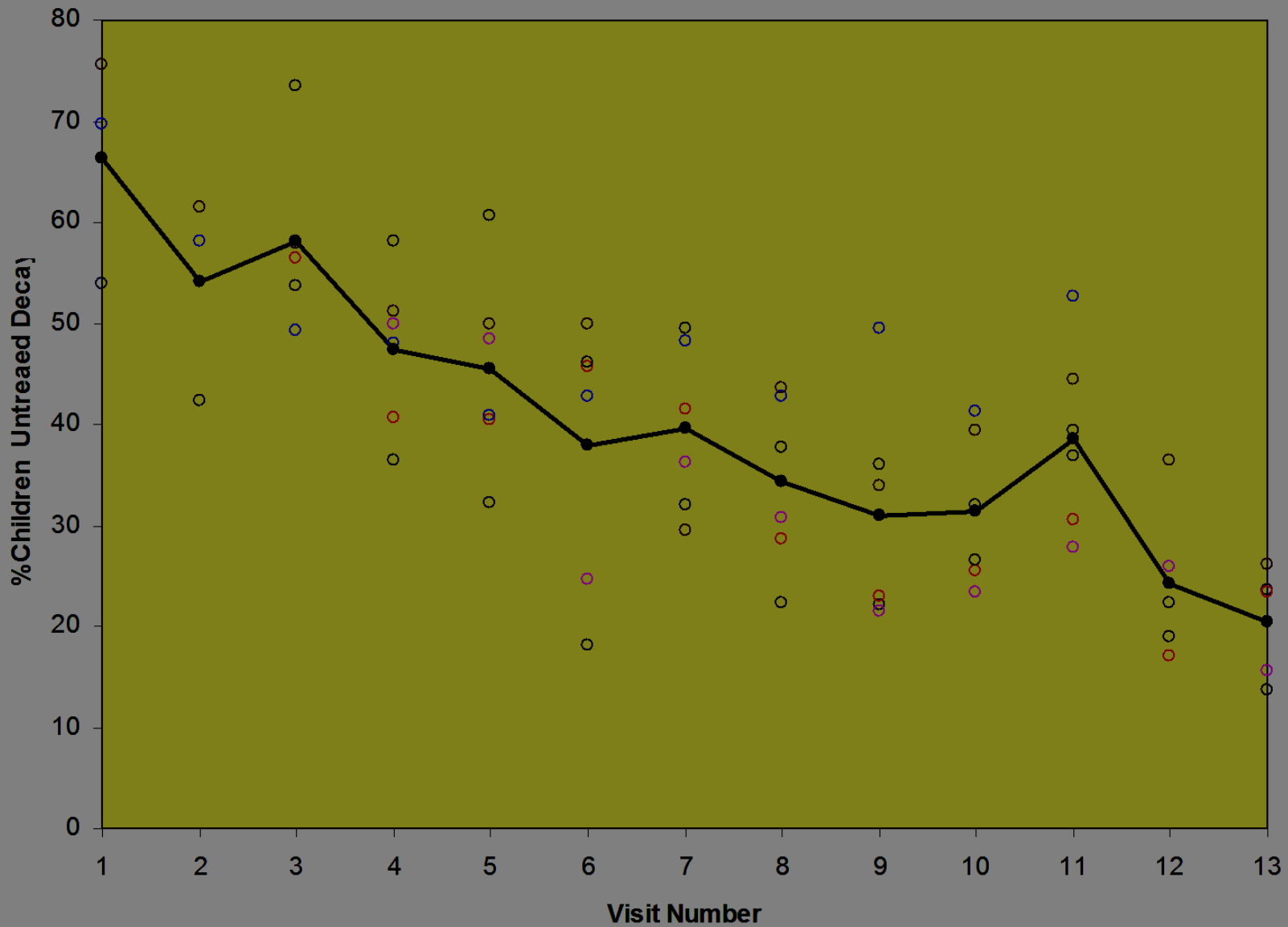
Before



After

Prevents, stops or slows cavities with sealants, temporary fillings, and fluoride

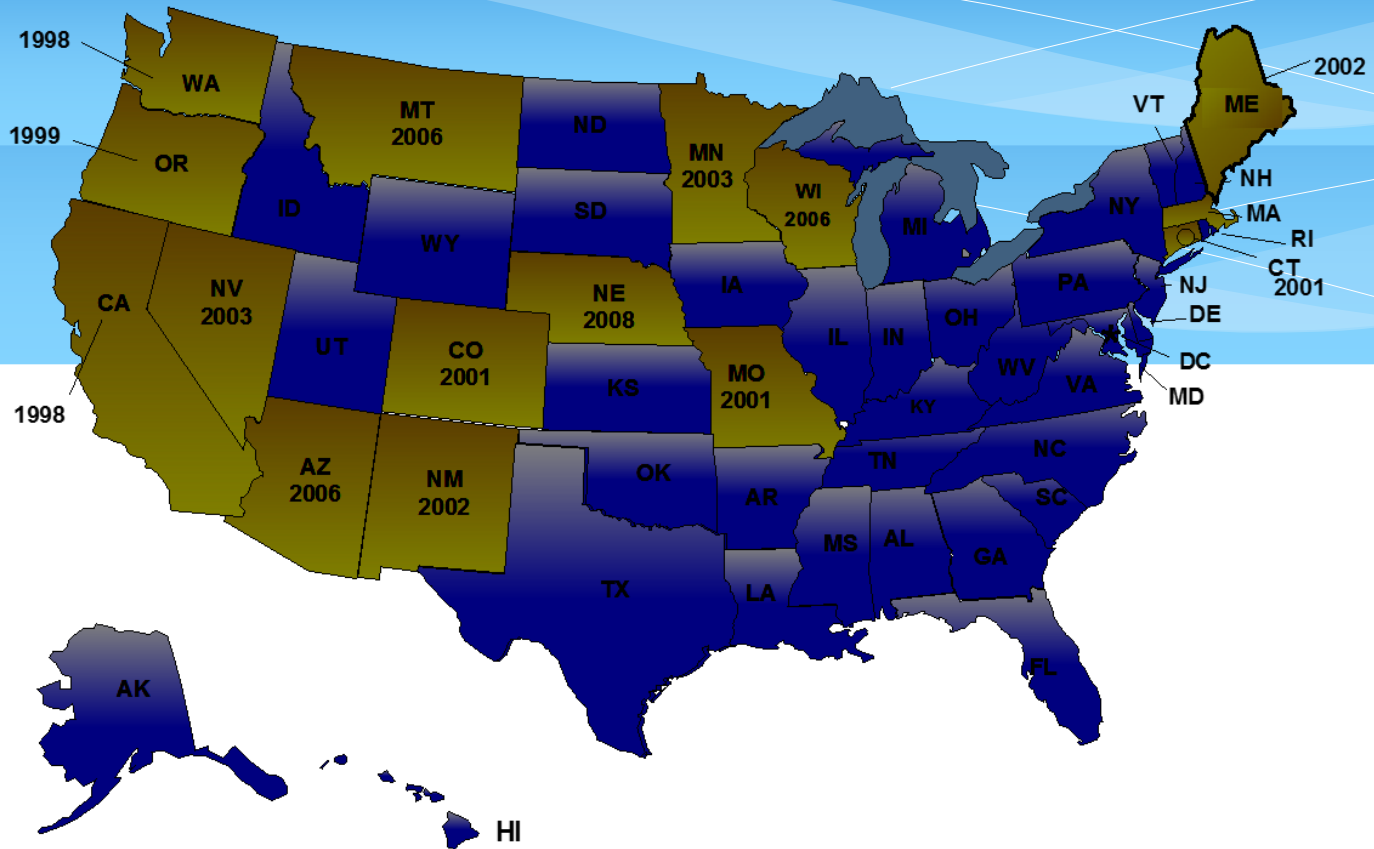
Reduction of Untreated Caries Elementary School-Based Comprehensive Prevention




Current deployment system

- PHDH are employed by individuals, local programs and dental centers.
- Most are heavily dependent upon grant funds.
- Most school programs can bill Medicaid to help support their programs. CHAP programs can bill for limited services: fluoride, sealants, and cleanings.
- NH PHDHs cannot bill Medicaid directly.

Dental Hygienists as Direct Reimbursement Medicaid Providers



 States where dental hygienists may be directly reimbursed as medicaid providers.

Many models to learn from

- In So. Carolina, Health Promotion Specialists is a large, statewide school-based dental program operated by PHDHs serving about 20,000 children/year. The program bills Medicaid, private insurance, and self-pay.



Virtual Dental or Health Homes

- CPHDHs, PHDHs, dental assistants, social service/medical staff work together to provide services, screenings, education in community settings or medical offices
- Connected to dentists electronically for consultations and streamlined referrals for more complex treatments
- Develop workable collaborative systems



*Can we find a
way to unleash
the potential of
public health
dental
hygienists in
NH?*