The Faces of Oral Health in New Hampshire
February 13, 2015

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The Faces of Oral Health

• Oral health is essential to total health-
• “You can’t be healthy without good oral health”
  NH’s Surgeon General - C. Everett Koop

Oral disease
• Highly prevalent- “across the lifespan”
• Ranging from cavities to cancer
• Painful, costly and preventable
NH’s Oral Health Program

- Established in 1998
- Funded annually 44% from CDC Preventive Health Block Grant and 55% from state funds
- $520,000 to deliver care through 15 community & school-based oral health contracts with DPHS
- Since 2012 OHP has secured federal grants
  - CDC Cooperative Agreement to improve OHP capacity
  - HRSA Oral Health Workforce Grant – support construction of 2 new rural dental centers
OHP writes grants to fund all other projects

- Head Start Oral Health Survey
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) *Pay for Prevention* Project
- 2014 Third Grade OH/BM I Survey
- Refugee Oral Health Care Days
  - Manchester refugees Greater Nashua Dental Connection
  - Concord Refugees at NHTI Dental Center

- 2014 Senior Oral Health Survey
Mid-State Health Center, Bristol Office

Rural underserved area
5 dental chairs for a dentist, hygienist & assistants
Oral health integrated with primary care
Across the Lifespan - The School Years
Preventive Treatment Option

School-based
Early Childhood Caries - ECC
Reparative Treatment Option

Hospital-based
Preventive Treatment Option
Evidence-Based Dental Disease Prevention

✓ Dental Sealants

✓ Community Water Fluoridation
DENTAL SEALANTS
Community Water Fluoridation
New Hampshire Towns Covered by a Community or Hospital Based Oral Health Program

Oral Health Region
- Not Covered
- Community Dental Center, Claremont
- Dental Health Works
- Families First Seacoast CHC
- Greater Nashua
- Molar Express
- Tamworth Dental Center
- Wentworth Douglas
- White Mt Community Health Center
- Easter Seals/Poison Dental Centers
- Concord Hospital Dental Center
- Core Pediatric and General Dentistry
- Goodwin Community Health Center
- Dental Resource Center
- Weoka Medical Center/Mountain View Dental

*There are many oral health programs in New Hampshire, each with its own eligibility requirements.

- Dental Center
- Statewide Dental Center
2014 NH Healthy Smiles-Healthy Growth
Third Grade OH/BMI Survey Results

Decay experience
Untreated decay
Treated decay
Dental sealants
Need treatment
Need urgent treatment
Untreated Decay by Free & Reduced Lunch Participation in Schools
Untreated Decay by County, State & City of Nashua

- Belknap
- Carroll
- Cheshire
- Coos
- Grafton
- Hillsborough
- Merrimack
- Rockingham
- Strafford
- Sullivan
- Nashua
- NH

Percentage of untreated decay across different counties and the state.
WIC Pay for Prevention Project
Improvements in Children’s Oral Health in NH 2009 to 2014

- 54.4% decrease in untreated decay in Coos County
- 31.7% decrease in untreated tooth decay statewide
- 32.5% decrease in children with urgent dental needs (required immediate attention)
- 20.4% increase in dental sealants in schools with more than 50% of students that qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch
Reasons for Success

- Early prevention intervention - fluoride varnish & dental sealants
- OH education for families
Oral Health Program Partners

NH Medicaid
CAP Agencies
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
NH Oral Health Coalition
WIC
Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services (BEAS)
Public Health Dental Providers
Foundations
  HNH Foundation
  Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund
  Foundation for Healthy Communities
  Northeast Delta Dental Foundation
  NH Dental Society Foundation
Private dental offices
ACROSS the LIFESPAN
NH Medicaid provides a limited adult dental benefit that covers tooth extraction and relief of pain and infection.

Medicare does not include a dental benefit.

Veterans do not have a dental benefit.

Oral health problems such as inflammatory periodontal disease and tooth decay are linked to:

• cardiovascular disease,
• type 2 diabetes,
• respiratory disease, and
• cancer.
2014 NH Senior Oral Health Survey
Results from 2014 NH Senior Oral Health Survey

- 610 older adults 60 + years surveyed
- 26 senior centers statewide
- 38 seniors with urgent need received restorative treatment

FINDINGS

- 18.4 % of older adults have dental insurance that pays for regular care
- 15.9 % have lost all their natural teeth which impacts their quality of life
- 25.4 % have untreated decay or sharp root fragments

Older adults living in rural NH & those with low incomes have significantly greater need for care
OHP Collaboration with the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services

- 38 older adults identified with urgent/early care dental needs received dental treatment
- 5 health centers provided care through oral health contracts with BEAS
- BEAS provided payment for treatment using BEAS Title III federal funding
Dental Visits to Hospital Emergency Departments

- Only asthma outpaces dental visits to NH hospital EDs
- EDs provide convenient treatment for episodic care
- More appropriate treatment delivered in primary dental office
- Dental patients don’t receive definitive care in ED
Dental Visits to Hospital Emergency Departments

• Most frequent users - self paying adults 25-44 years

• 2001-2007 47% increase in dental visits in NH EDs

• 2001-2007 NH costs increased from $1.8 to $5.9 million (total $26.9 million over 7 years)

• Misuse of limited resources
Challenges to Accessing Oral Health Care in NH

• No Medicaid dental coverage for NH adults over 21 years
• No dental coverage for older adults 65 + on Medicare
• Oral health workforce is located mostly in Southern NH
• Limited public transportation for travel to dental appointments, especially in rural NH
• Few dentists to treat people with disabilities
• Few dentists to treat non-English speaking people, interpretive services are costly
For More Information

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