## Who are Public Health Dental Hygienists and what can they do for NH?

Hope Saltmarsh, RDH, M.Ed. Executive Director Children's Dental Network August 1, 2013

### **Public Health Supervision**

Dentist authorizes procedures which are carried out by a dental hygienist practicing in a school, hospital, or other institution, or for the homebound without the dentist having to be present provided the dentist reviews the records once in a 12-month period.

Requires annual program summary to BODE

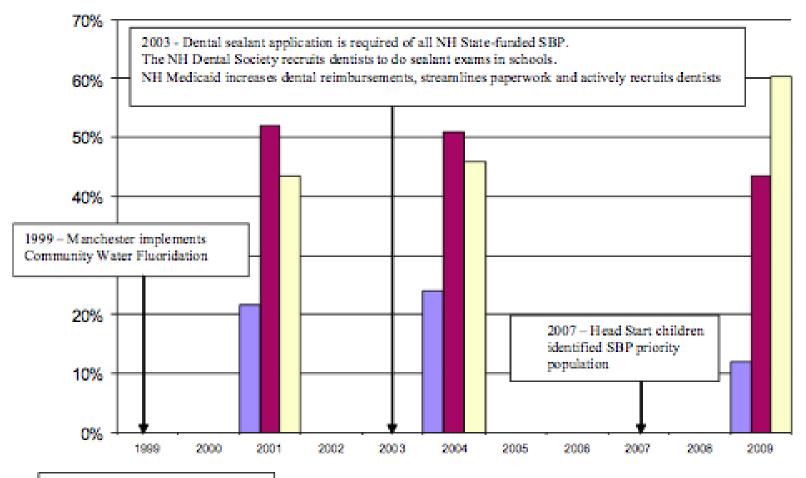
## What can PHDHs do?

- \* Hygienists are prevention specialists
- \* With PH supervision:
  - \* Assess med/dent histories, inspect mouth
  - Prophylaxis (cleaning)
  - \* Fluoride
  - Oral hygiene instruction
  - Place sealants
  - \* Make/deliver mouthguards

## Where do PHDHs work now?

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

## 3rd grade survey



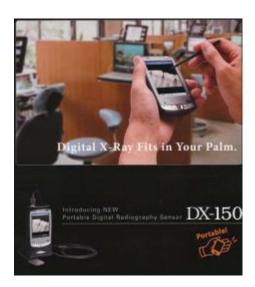
1993 - NH school-based dental programs (SBP) coordinate care to assure that students receive needed restorative treatment

#### Untreated carles Carles experience Sealants

# **Certified PHDH coming**



 Portable X-rays enable teledentistry used along with digital photos





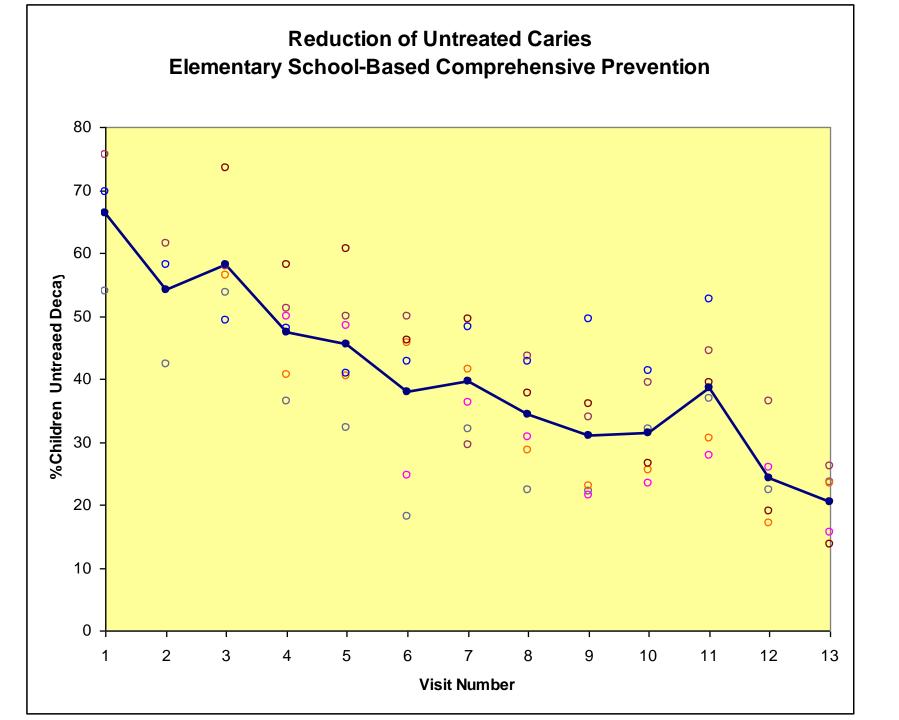
#### **Caries Stabilization**



Before

After

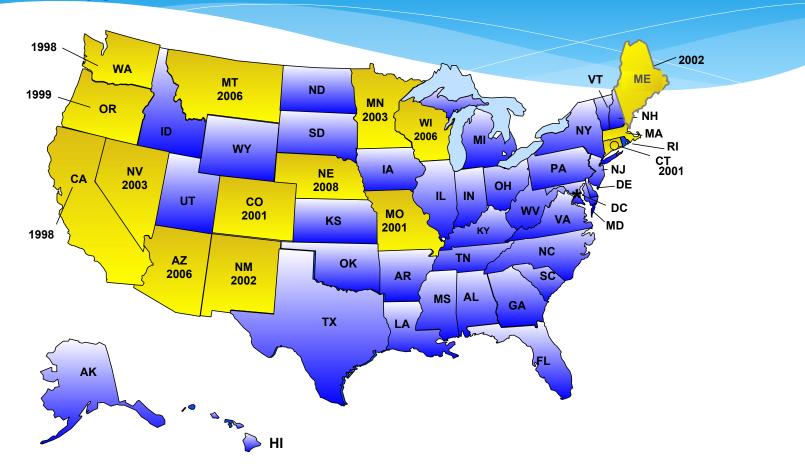
Prevents, stops or slows cavities with sealants, temporary fillings, and fluoride

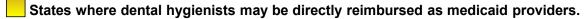


## Current deployment system

- \* PHDH are employed by individual, 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**







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## 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 selfpay.

## 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?

