



# Improvements in the Oral Health Status of New Hampshire's Children



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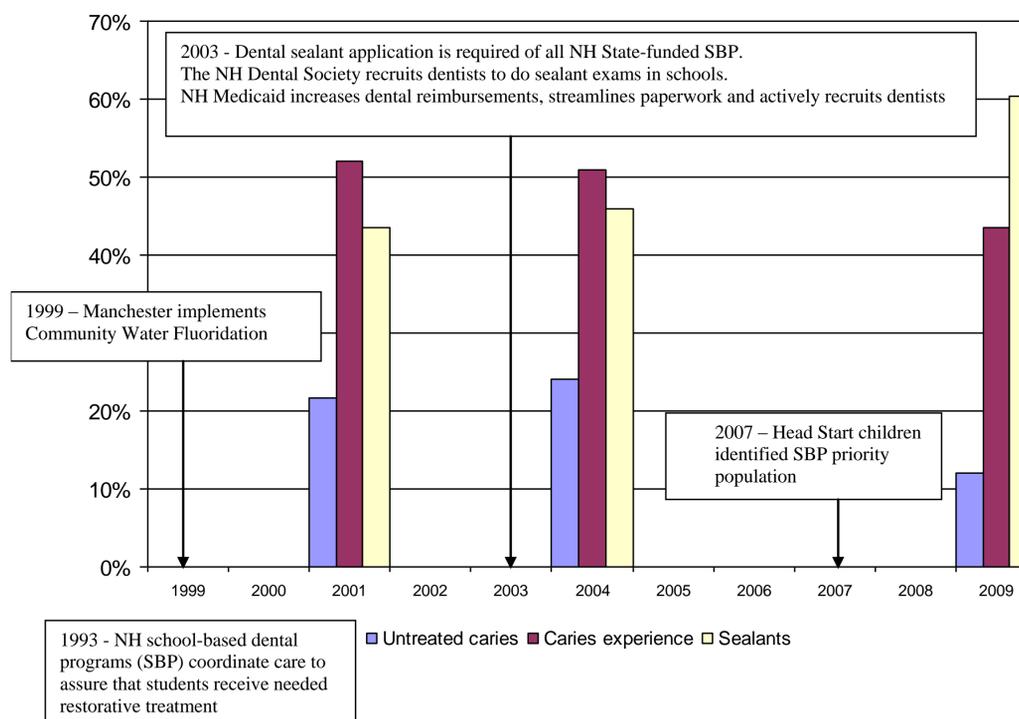
## Introduction

We report on improvements in oral health among students attending public schools in New Hampshire (NH) and describe several oral health initiatives that may have contributed to this improvement. Baseline data were gathered through the third grade oral health survey in 2001, followed by similar surveys in 2004 and 2009.

## Methods

Since 1993, NH school-based dental programs (SBP) have coordinated care to assure students receive needed restorative dental care. In 2003, application of dental sealants became a requirement for State-funded SBP. The NH Dental Society recruited dentists to examine students prior to sealant application in schools. Most recently, Head Start children were included as a priority population for SBP. Concurrently, the NH Medicaid dental program increased reimbursements and streamlined paperwork and NH's largest city began to fluoridate its water supply. The changes in children's oral health status were measured by statewide surveys in 2001 and 2004; additional regional-level data became available in 2009.

## Results



## Conclusion

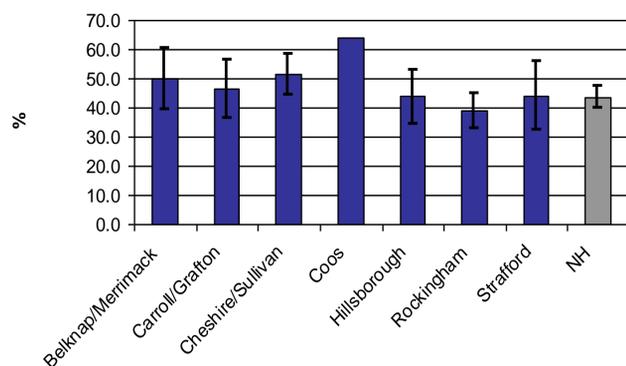
In comparison with the previous surveys, the overall oral health status of NH third graders improved; however, significant differences exist among regions and targeted interventions are warranted to address these disparities.

## Acknowledgments

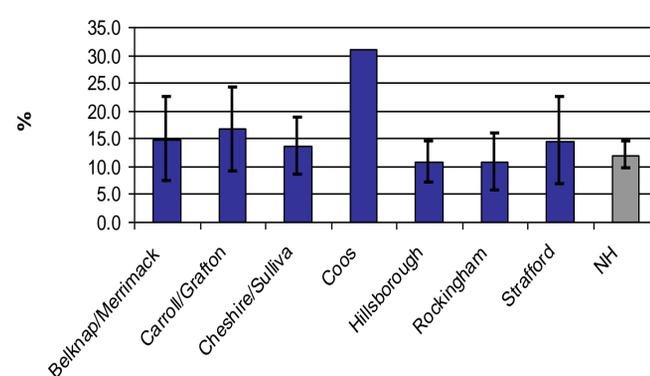
NH Public Elementary Schools, School Based Dentists and Hygienists, Sherry Burrer, Regina Flynn, Marisa Lara, HNHfoundation, Northeast Delta Dental Foundation, NH DHHS Rural Health and Primary Care Section, NH Head Start, Manchester Health Department, NH of Office of Medicaid Business

	Caries Experience	Untreated Caries	Sealants
2001	52.0% (45.5-58.8)	21.7% (14.3-29.1)	45.9% (37.7-54.0)
2004	51.0% (45.7-56.3)	24.1% (18.0-30.2)	42.5% (36.9-48.1)
2009	43.6% (39.7-47.4)	12.0% (9.6-14.3)	60.4% (56.8-64.1)

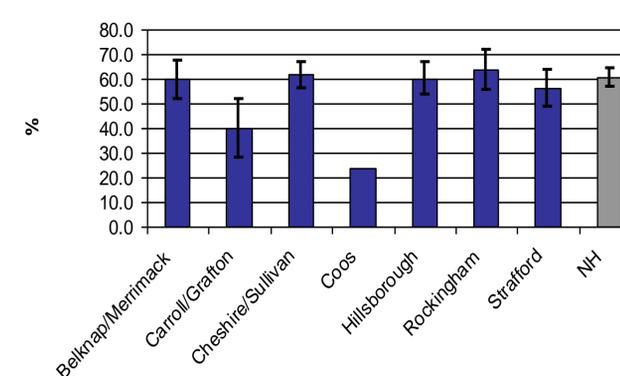
Percent of New Hampshire Third Grade Students with Decay Experience, by Region, 2009



Percent of New Hampshire Third Grade Students That Need Treatment, by Region, 2009



Percent of New Hampshire Third Grade Students with Dental Sealants, by Region, 2009



Percent of New Hampshire Third Grade Students with Untreated Decay, by Region, 2009

