Why Is Data Important?

The Oral Health data that is available for the State of New Hampshire through WISDOM and through the Oral Health Data Report allows us to understand the oral health status and needs of our residents, the efforts being made to impact oral health, and the capacity of the State to address oral health needs.

Public Health data available through the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) provides context which helps us to understand community needs or vulnerability as related to socioeconomic, demographic, and housing and transportation measures.

We can overlay the maps from the SVI with health outcome data from WISDOM, and the message is clear. Factors such as poverty status, housing, and education are determinants of health. We can look at trend data on WISDOM and through review of the Oral Health Data report to understand what progress has been made, and where more work is needed. In summary, data tells a story!