

NH Oral Health Data 2015

(The Burden Report)

New Hampshire Oral Health Data 2015

State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health Services

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II. Executive Summary

New Hampshire continues to show progress when it comes to the oral health of our residents. Overall, the State has achieved or surpassed many of the targets set by Healthy People 2020 oral health objectives, and since the last report in 2010, the State shows improvement in several of the included measures. In particular, those measures related to the oral health of children. The capacity of the State's Oral Health Program (OHP) has expanded with the addition of new staff, supported by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and continued collaborative efforts with stakeholders from across the State demonstrate the depth of professionals with a shared commitment to improve the oral health of New Hampshire residents. There have been many achievements in recent years, but there are still areas in which the State can improve; some key examples based on statewide data are included below.

Achievements:

- Between the school years ending in 2001 and 2014, the proportion of New Hampshire's third grade students with sealants increased by 33% during that same period, the rate of caries experience among New Hampshire third graders decreased by 62%, and the rate of untreated caries decreased by 62%.
- Between 2012 and 2014, the rate of complete dentulism among New Hampshire's older adults, ages 65 and up, has decreased by 8%.

Areas for Improvement:

- Between 2012 and 2014, the proportion of New Hampshire adults who reported that they had visited a dentist within the past year decreased by 5%.
- Nationwide, 75% of people served by community water systems receive fluoridated water; in New Hampshire the rate is 40%.

While the State as a whole appears to be performing well compared with prior performance, national averages, and Healthy People 2020 targets, a closer look at the data shows that geographic and socioeconomic disparities exist. Geographically, data indicate that those residing in the rural northern part of the State receive preventive services such as sealants at a lower rate as compared with the overall State, experience higher rates of childhood caries, and higher rates of edentulism among older adults. In addition, the northern part of the State has a shortage of dental health professionals, limiting access to care for residents. In terms of socioeconomic disparities, data indicate that those with lower income and/or lower educational attainment are less likely to access dental care and more likely to experience adverse outcomes such as tooth loss.

These disparities are a call to action to continue to work toward ensuring that all New Hampshire residents have access to preventive care and toward improving the oral health status of all New Hampshire residents.

Accessing Data:

NH Oral Health Program Data:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/oral/index.htm>

NH Health WISDOM:

<https://wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov/wisdom/>

Social Vulnerability Index:

<http://nhdphs.maps.arcgis.com/home/>

For data requests or assistance in interpreting data, contact:

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Why Is Data Important?

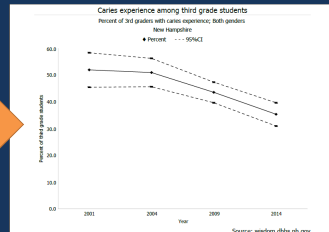
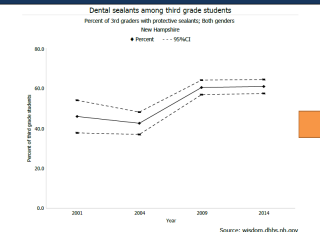
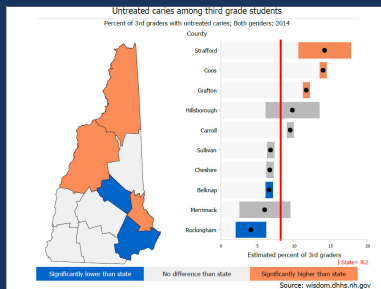
The Oral Health data that is available for the State of New Hampshire through WISDOM and through the Oral Health Data Report allows us to understand the oral health status and needs of our residents, the efforts being made to impact oral health, and the capacity of the State to address oral health needs.

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!

NH Health WISDOM

Web-based Interactive System for Direction & Outcome Measures



Increase in Dental Sealants → Decrease in Tooth Decay

Social Vulnerability Index

