Oral Health in St. Johnsbury Office of Local Health and Vermont:
Preventive and Access to Care, Risk Factors, and Outcomes
Unless stated otherwise, all data are calculated for residents living within the area served by St. Johnsbury Office of Local Health, including:

- Barnet, Burke, Concord, Danville, East Haven, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Lyndon, Maidstone, Newbury (including Wells River), Newark, Peacham, Ryegate, St. Johnsbury, Sheffield, Sutton, Topsham, Victory, Walden, Waterford, Wheelock.
Preventive and Access to Care: How many St. Johnsbury area residents are accessing oral health care? Receiving preventive services? How many dentists are in the area? What percentage of the population on public water systems have fluoridated water?

Risk Factors: How many St. Johnsbury area high school students have an increased risk of oral health problems due to risky behaviors?

Oral Health Outcomes: How are St. Johnsbury area residents doing in terms of oral health outcomes?
Preventive and Access to Care

Indicators
- Dental insurance
- Dental visits
- Preventive dental services
- Number of dental providers
- Community water fluoridation
- Water consumption

Data Sources
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)
- Medicaid claims
- Dentist Census
- Water Fluoridation Reporting System
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)

- Telephone survey of adults
- Typically between 6,000 and 7,000 Vermont adults (18 or older) are interviewed as part of the Vermont BRFSS each year
- Self-reported data
- Conducted by the Vermont Department of Health in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Additional information can be found on the VDH and CDC websites:
  - http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/
In 2014 and 2016, 65% of St. Johnsbury area adults saw their dentist for any reason during the previous year. St. Johnsbury is significantly worse than Vermont.

The Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal is 85%.

Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
*Significantly different from the state of Vermont.
Age-adjusted based on the proportional age breakdowns of the U.S. population in 2000.
44% of Vermont adults reported they did not have dental insurance in 2012 (BRFSS).

Some variation exists by Office of Local Health, but there are not large differences.
Medicaid Claims Data

- These data are not representative of all St. Johnsbury area residents.
  - These data only include those who sought care, and does not include those who needed care but did not seek care.
  - These data do not include those who have commercial insurance or do not have dental insurance.
Access to Care: Dental Services Among Medicaid-Enrolled Children by Their 2nd Birthday

51% of St. Johnsbury-area Medicaid-enrolled children born in 2015 received any dental services by their second birthday.

By type of provider, percent of Medicaid-enrolled children born in 2015 who received any dental services by their second birthday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>St. Johnsbury</th>
<th>Vermont</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By a Dental Provider Only</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By a Medical Provider Only</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By a Dental and Medical Provider</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data
NR = Not reported due to a small number seen by one or more types of providers.
* Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.

Percentages by provider type are rounded to the whole number, but the overall total takes into account the full percentages.
31% of St. Johnsbury-area Medicaid-enrolled children born in 2015 received an Oral Evaluation and Counseling by their second birthday.

By type of provider, percent of Medicaid-enrolled children born in 2015 who received an Oral Evaluation and Counseling by their second birthday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>St. Johnsbury</th>
<th>Vermont</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By a Dental Provider Only</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By a Medical Provider Only</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By a Dental and Medical Provider</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data

NR = Not reported due to a small number seen by one or more types of providers.

* Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.

Percentages by provider type are rounded to the whole number, but the overall total takes into account the full percentages.
46% of St. Johnsbury-area Medicaid-enrolled children born in 2015 received a fluoride application by their second birthday, which is significantly higher than the rest of Vermont.

By type of provider, percent of Medicaid-enrolled children born in 2015 who received a fluoride application by their second birthday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>St. Johnsbury</th>
<th>Vermont</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By a Dental Provider Only</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By a Medical Provider Only</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By a Dental and Medical Provider</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data
NR = Not reported due to a small number seen by one or more types of providers.
* Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.
Percentages by provider type are rounded to the whole number, but the overall total takes into account the full percentages.
62% of St. Johnsbury Medicaid-enrolled children aged 2-5 received any dental services by a dental provider in 2017. This is significantly higher than the rest of Vermont.

**Percent of Medicaid-Enrolled Vermonters Aged 2-5 Receiving Preventive Dental Services and Any Dental Services in 2017**

- **Preventive Services by a Dental Provider**
  - St. Johnsbury: 60%*
  - Vermont: 53%

- **Any Dental Services by a Dental Provider**
  - St. Johnsbury: 62%*
  - Vermont: 56%

*Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.

**Data Source:** Medicaid Claims Data

Updated June 2019
66% of St. Johnsbury Medicaid-enrolled Vermonters aged 6-20 received any dental services by a dental provider in 2017. This is significantly higher than the rest of Vermont.

The Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal for the percent of people in grades K-12 who use the dental care system each year is 85%.

Percent of Medicaid-Enrolled Vermonters Aged 6-20 Receiving Preventive Dental Services and Any Dental Services in 2017

Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data
*Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.
Preventive Services: Dental Sealants Among Medicaid-Enrolled Children

Of Medicaid-enrolled children in St. Johnsbury:
- 71% of 9-year-olds received at least one permanent sealant in the last 3 years.
- 50% of 14-year-olds received at least one permanent sealant in the last 3 years.

These percentages are significantly better than the rest of the state.

Percent of Medicaid-Enrolled Children who Received a Permanent Sealant in the Last 3 years

9-year-olds in 2017 who Received a Permanent Sealant Between their 6th and 9th Birthday
- St. Johnsbury: 71%
- Vermont: 59%

14-year-olds in 2017 who Received a Permanent Sealant Between their 11th and 14th Birthday
- St. Johnsbury: 50%
- Vermont: 42%

*Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.

Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data

These data only include children who were Medicaid-enrolled for at least 95% of the time in the three years. About 46% of St. Johnsbury 9-year-olds and 41% of St. Johnsbury 14-year-olds are represented in these data.
32% of St. Johnsbury Medicaid-enrolled adults aged 21-64 received any dental services by a dental provider in 2017. This is significantly higher than the rest of Vermont.

The Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal for the percent of people age 18+ who use the dental care system each year is 85%.
22% of St. Johnsbury Medicaid-enrolled adults aged 65+ received any dental services by a dental provider in 2017.

The Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal for the percent of people age 18+ who use the dental care system each year is 85%.
2017 Dentist Census

- Completed with license renewal August-September 2017.
- Self-reported data.
- The final response rate was 100%.
- Included in this report are dentists who provide patient care in Vermont.
- 14 dentists who reported fewer than 2 patient care hours per week on the average were excluded.
Access to Care – Oral Health Care Providers

In 2017 in St. Johnsbury, there were 9.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) primary care dentists and 0.1 full-time equivalent specialist.

- Primary care dentists include general practice and pediatric dentistry.
- Specialist dentists in St. Johnsbury include:
  - orthodontics (0.1 FTE).

Over half of St. Johnsbury’s FTE dentists are 60 and older.

Full-Time Equivalent Dentists by Specialty and Age in St. Johnsbury (2017)

Data Source: 2017 Dentist Census
Percentages by specialty and age are rounded, but the overall total takes into account the full percentages.
In 2017, St. Johnsbury had a lower ratio of:

- primary care dentists per residents (27.4) compared to the state (38.9).
- specialist dentists per residents (0.4) compared to the state (7.5).

**Primary Care Dentists and Specialists Full-Time Equivalency per 100,000 Residents by Age of Dentists (2017)**

Data Source: 2017 Dentist Census
Ratios by specialty and age are rounded, but the overall total takes into account the full ratios.
Access to Care – Primary Care Dentists Accepting New Patients

- In 2017, 85% of primary care dentists in St. Johnsbury were accepting new non-Medicaid patients and 69% were accepting new Medicaid patients.

- In 2017, 69% of primary care dentists in St. Johnsbury were accepting 5 or more new non-Medicaid patients a month and 46% were accepting 5 or more new Medicaid patients a month.

- Compared to the state’s percentages, the percentages for accepting new non-Medicaid patients is lower, but the percentages for accepting new Medicaid patients are higher.

Data Source: 2017 Dentist Survey

Updated June 2019
Access to Care – Specialist Dentists Accepting New Patients

- In 2017, 100% of specialist dentists in St. Johnsbury were accepting new non-Medicaid patients and new Medicaid patients.
  - However, there is only 0.1 FTE specialist dentist in St. Johnsbury.

- In 2017, 100% of specialist dentists in St. Johnsbury were accepting 5 or more new non-Medicaid patients a month, but 0% were accepting 5 or more new Medicaid patients a month.
  - However, there is only 0.1 FTE specialist dentist in St. Johnsbury.

**Percent of Specialist Dentists Accepting New Patients in 2017**

- **Non-Medicaid**
  - Accepts any new Patients: 100%
  - Accepts 5+ New Patients/Month: 99%

- **Medicaid**
  - Accepts any new Patients: 100%
  - Accepts 5+ New Patients/Month: 67%

- **Non-Medicaid**
  - Accepts any new Patients: 100%
  - Accepts 5+ New Patients/Month: 89%

- **Medicaid**
  - Accepts any new Patients: 45%
  - Accepts 5+ New Patients/Month: 0%

*Data Source: 2017 Dentist Census*
Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS)

- An online tool that helps states manage the quality of their water fluoridation programs.
- Helps describe the percentage of the U.S. population on community water systems who receive 0.70 ppm optimally fluoridated drinking water.
  - A community water system is a public water system that supplies water to the same population year-round.
- WFRS monitors the number and quality of water fluoridation systems, as well as the state population on public water supply systems.
- This system was developed by CDC in partnership with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD).
37% of Caledonia County’s, 0% of Essex Isle County’s, and 43% of Orange County’s population served by community public water systems have optimally fluoridated water. All percentages are lower than Vermont and the Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal of 65%.
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

- A paper survey administered in Vermont middle and high schools every two years since 1993.
- The YRBS measures the prevalence of behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disease, and injury among youth.
- Vermont surveys over 30,000 students at each administration.
- Weighted data is compiled to generate a representative state sample.
51% of St. Johnsbury area students in grades 9-12 reported drinking three or more bottles or glasses of water per day during the previous week.

Percent of Students in Grades 9-12 who Drank Three or More Bottles or Glasses of Water Per Day in the Past Week (2017)

Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
Risk Factors

Indicators

- Sugar-sweetened beverages
- Use of snuff/dip

Data Sources

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
10% of St. Johnsbury area students in grades 9-12 drank at least one soda daily.

13% of St. Johnsbury area students in grades 9-12 drank at least one sugar-sweetened beverage daily (not including soda).

Percent of Students in Grades 9-12 who Drank a Can, Bottle or Glass of a Sugar-sweetened Beverage (Not including Soda) Every Day in the past 7 Days (2017)

Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
NOTE: The question instructed students not to include soda or pop, diet drinks, or 100% fruit juice.
6% of St. Johnsbury area students in grades 9-12 reported using smokeless tobacco products during the past 30 days. Smokeless tobacco products include chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products.

**Percent of Students in Grades 9-12 who Used Smokeless Tobacco Products During the Past 30 days (2017)**

- **St. Johnsbury**: 6%
- **Vermont**: 5%

_Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)_[Vermont Department of Health Updated June 2019]
Oral Health Outcomes

Indicators

- Tooth loss
- Treated for extractions, endodontics or restorations
- Emergency Department visits

Data Sources

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)
- Medicaid claims
- Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set (VUHDDS)
Oral Health Outcomes: No Teeth Lost Among Adults Aged 18-64 (BRFSS)

61% of St. Johnsbury area adults aged 18-64 did not have any tooth loss due to tooth decay or gum disease, in 2014 and 2016.

Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
Healthy Vermonters 2020 Goal: Tooth Loss Among Adults Aged 45-64 (BRFSS)

- 57% of St. Johnsbury area adults aged 45-64 have had a tooth extracted due to tooth decay or gum disease, in 2014 and 2016.

- The Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal for the percent of adults age 45-64 who have ever had a tooth extracted because of dental caries or periodontal disease is 45%.

Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
Oral Health Outcomes: Six or More Teeth Lost Among Adults Aged 65+ years (BRFSS)

46% of St. Johnsbury area adults 65 and older have lost six or more teeth due to tooth decay or gum disease.

Adults 65 and Older who Have Lost Six or More Teeth

Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
For St. Johnsbury area children, in 2017, 87 (7%) Medicaid-enrolled children aged 1-5 years were treated for extractions, endodontics or restorations. Of those children, 16% were treated in a hospital setting. The percentage of children treated in a hospital is significantly lower than the rest of Vermont.

**Percent of Medicaid-Enrolled Vermonters Aged 1-5 Treated for Extractions, Endodontics or Restorations by Setting in 2017**

- **Office**: 6% (St. Johnsbury), 6% (Vermont)
- **Hospital**: 1% (St. Johnsbury), 2% (Vermont)
- **Any Setting**: 7% (St. Johnsbury), 8% (Vermont)

Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data
*Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.
In 2017, 27% of St. Johnsbury Medicaid-enrolled Vermonters aged 6-20 years were treated for extractions, endodontics or restorations. This is significantly higher than the rest of Vermont.

Percent of Medicaid-Enrolled Vermonters Aged 6-20 Treated for Extractions, Endodontics or Restorations in 2017

Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data
* Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.
For St. Johnsbury area Vermonters, in 2017, 19% of Medicaid-enrolled adults aged 21-64 years were treated for extractions, endodontics or restorations. This is significantly higher than the rest of Vermont.

Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data
* Significantly different from the rest of Vermont.
For St. Johnsbury area Vermonters, in 2017, 10% of Medicaid-enrolled adults aged 65+ years were treated for extractions, endodontics or restorations.

**Percent of Medicaid-Enrolled Vermonters Aged 65+ Treated for Extractions, Endodontics or Restorations in 2017**

- **St. Johnsbury**: 10%
- **Vermont**: 10%

*Data Source: Medicaid Claims Data*
VUHDDS includes hospital discharge data from hospitals in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York. However, New Hampshire data for 2010-2013 were not available at the time of this report.

- Historically, the percent of CCS 136 Emergency Department visits that occurred in New Hampshire hospitals was 10% for all Vermonters and 50% for St. Johnsbury area residents (based on the average percentage from 2005-2009).

- VUHDDS data are based on visits and not people. A person who is seen in the emergency department for disorders of teeth and jaw more than once in a year will be counted each time as a separate visit.

- These data only include those who sought care, and does not include those who needed care but did not seek care.
Oral Health Outcomes: Emergency Department Visits

For Emergency Department Visits for Disorders of Teeth and Jaw:

- The rate of visits has remained fairly steady for all Vermonters, but an increase has occurred in St. Johnsbury between 2005 and 2013 (even though NH data is missing in 2013).

- St. Johnsbury had a rate (9 visits per 1,000 residents) similar to Vermont (10 visits per 1,000 residents) in 2013, but it may be higher with NH data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Visits</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Johnsbury</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>5,903</td>
<td>6,944</td>
<td>6,155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Disorders of Teeth and Jaw per 1,000 Residents (2005, 2009, 2013)*

Data Source: Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set

* New Hampshire data for 2010-2013 are not available at the time of this report. Historically, the percent of CCS 136 Emergency Department visits that occurred in New Hampshire hospitals was 10% for all Vermonters and 50% for St. Johnsbury area residents (based on the average percentage from 2005-2009).
Emergency Department Visits for Disorders of Teeth and Jaw per 1,000 Residents by Age Group (2013)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>St. Johnsbury</th>
<th>Vermont</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-17 or 50+</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set

* New Hampshire data for 2010-2013 are not available at the time of this report. Historically, the percent of CCS 136 Emergency Department visits that occurred in New Hampshire hospitals was 10% for all Vermonters and 50% for St. Johnsbury area residents (based on the average percentage from 2005-2009).
Visits by 25-34 year-olds comprised 39% of all ED visits for disorders of Teeth and Jaw for St. Johnsbury area residents, but this age group represents only 10% of St. Johnsbury’s population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th># of Emergency Department Visits for Disorders of Teeth and Jaw for St. Johnsbury Area Residents</th>
<th>% of Total Emergency Department Visits for Disorders of Teeth and Jaw for St. Johnsbury Area Residents</th>
<th>% of St. Johnsbury area population in this age group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-17 or 50+</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set

* New Hampshire data for 2010-2013 are not available at the time of this report. Historically, the percent of CCS 136 Emergency Department visits that occurred in New Hampshire hospitals was 10% for all Vermonters and 50% for St. Johnsbury area residents (based on the average percentage from 2005-2009).
From 2005 to 2013, the rate of Emergency Department visits for Disorders of Teeth and Jaw per 1,000 St. Johnsbury area residents increased for all age groups.

### Data Source: Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set

* New Hampshire data for 2010-2013 are not available at the time of this report. Historically, the percent of CCS 136 Emergency Department visits that occurred in New Hampshire hospitals was 10% for all Vermonters and 50% for St. Johnsbury area residents (based on the average percentage from 2005-2009).
Oral Health Outcomes: Emergency Department Visits

For Emergency Department Visits for Disorders of Teeth and Jaw, the percent of visits where Medicaid was listed as their primary payer has increased from 2005 to 2013 in both St. Johnsbury and Vermont.

Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Disorders of Teeth and Jaw with Primary Payer listed as Medicaid (2005, 2009, 2013)*

- **St. Johnsbury**
  - 2005: 40%
  - 2009: 52%
  - 2013: 53%

- **Vermont**
  - 2005: 48%
  - 2009: 52%
  - 2013: 58%

Data Source: Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set

* New Hampshire data for 2010-2013 are not available at the time of this report. Historically, the percent of CCS 136 Emergency Department visits that occurred in New Hampshire hospitals was 10% for all Vermonters and 50% for St. Johnsbury area residents (based on the average percentage from 2005-2009).
Preventive and Access to Care

- Compared to the rest of Medicaid-enrolled Vermonters:
  - a similar percentage of Medicaid-enrolled St. Johnsbury area residents received dental care by their second birthday.
  - a higher percentage of Medicaid-enrolled St. Johnsbury area residents aged 2-64 received dental care.
  - a similar percentage of Medicaid-enrolled St. Johnsbury area residents aged 65+ received dental care.

- Less than a third of Medicaid-enrolled St. Johnsbury area adults 21+ received dental care.

- A higher percentage of Medicaid-enrolled St. Johnsbury area residents received dental sealants by their 9th and 14th birthdays, compared to the rest of Medicaid-enrolled Vermonters.
Preventive and Access to Care

- In 2017, St. Johnsbury area had a lower ratio of primary care dentists and specialists per residents, compared to the state ratio.

- A higher percentage of St. Johnsbury area primary care dentists were accepting new non-Medicaid than Medicaid patients, following a similar pattern as the state’s percentages. The same pattern exists for those accepting 5 or more new patients a month.

- While 100% of specialist dentists in St. Johnsbury were accepting new non-Medicaid patients and new Medicaid patients, there was only 0.1 FTE specialist dentist in St. Johnsbury.
The percentages of Essex County’s, Caledonia County’s, and Orange County’s population served by community public water systems who have optimally fluoridated water are lower than the Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal.
Risk Factors

- St. Johnsbury area high school students are consuming sugar-sweetened beverages and using snuff/dip at a rate similar to that of all Vermont high school students.
Oral Health Outcomes

- Medicaid-enrolled St. Johnsbury area residents are receiving treatment for extractions, endodontics, or restorations, including:
  - 7% of children aged 1-5 (16% of these in the hospital).
  - 27% of Vermonters aged 6-20.
  - 19% of adults aged 21-64.
  - 10% of adults aged 65+.

- In State Fiscal Year 2018, 95 St. Johnsbury area residents utilized General Assistance Vouchers for dental services, for a total of $92,408.
The percent of St. Johnsbury area adults who have lost teeth is similar to the percent of all Vermonters.

The rate of Emergency Department visits for disorders of teeth and jaw per 1,000 residents was the similar for St. Johnsbury and Vermont. However, NH data was missing in 2013 so the rate may actually be higher.

Over half of these visits are by those aged 18-34.
Questions?

- For more information about the Oral Health Program at the Vermont Department of Health,
  - please go to: [http://healthvermont.gov/family/dental/services.aspx](http://healthvermont.gov/family/dental/services.aspx),
  - or contact Robin Miller, RDH, MPH at Robin.N.Miller@vermont.gov.

- For more information about Oral Health data in Vermont, please contact:
  - Denise Kall, PhD at Denise.Kall@vermont.gov.
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Survey Questions used in the above analyses included:

- "How long has it been since you last visited a dentist or a dental clinic for any reason? Include visits to dental specialists, such as orthodontics. [Responses: Within the past year (anytime less than 12 months), Within the past 2 years (1 year but less than 2 years), Within the past 5 years (2 years but less than 5 years ago), 5 or more years ago, and Never]"

- "How many of your teeth have been removed because of tooth decay or gum disease? Include teeth lost to infection, but do not include teeth lost for other reasons, such as injury or orthodontics. [Responses: 1 to 5, 6 or more but not all, All, and None]"

Percentages that are significantly different are noted. If a difference is not noted, it is not significantly different.

The 2014 and 2016 combined data for Offices of Local Health are compared to the 2016 state data.

Confidence Intervals were used for statistical comparisons between the state and the various sub-geographies. A confidence interval represents the range in which a parameter estimate would fall, which is calculated based on the observed data. For this analysis, we used a 95% confidence interval, meaning that we are 95% confident that the true value of the parameter being examined falls within the specified confidence interval. Statistical significance is assessed by comparing the confidence intervals of different groups. If the confidence intervals from two groups, such as that for the state and a specific county, do not overlap we consider the estimates to be significantly different from one another.
In U.S. data, age adjustment is used for comparison of regions with varying age breakdowns. In order to remain consistent with the methods of comparison at a national level, statistics in Vermont were age adjusted. The estimates were adjusted based on the proportional age breakdowns of the standard U.S. population in 2000. For more detailed information on age adjustment visit http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/statnt/statnt20.pdf.

Note that beginning in 2011 the CDC implemented changes to the BRFSS weighting methodology in order to more accurately represent the adult population. In 2011 and later, weights are calculated using an iterative proportional fitting (or "raking") methodology. This allows the weights to be calculated using a smaller sample size, adjusts for more demographic variables, and incorporates cell phone interview data into estimates. While these adjustments make the calculations more representative of the population, the changes in methodology also limit the ability to compare results from 2011 forward with those from previous years. The Vermont Department of Health recommends that comparisons between BRFSS data from 2011 forward and earlier years be made with caution. Statistical differences may be due to methodological changes, rather than changes in opinion or behavior.
This analysis was conducted using Vermont’s Medicaid Claims data.

The Office of Local Health is based on the recipient’s most recent residence while Medicaid-enrolled, approximated based on zip codes.

Significant differences between Offices of Local Health and the rest of Vermont are considered significant at the .05 level using a Chi-Square test.

For the analyses that include more than one year of data (sealants and dental services by age 2):

- These include only Vermonters who were Medicaid-enrolled (including Medicaid Managed Care and Traditional Medicaid aid categories) for 95% of the analysis timeframe.
- Age was calculated as of the time of their birthday in 2017.

For all other analyses using Medicaid Claims Data (except for GA vouchers):

- Vermonters who were Medicaid-enrolled (including Medicaid Managed Care and Traditional Medicaid aid categories) and have been continuously enrolled in Medicaid for three consecutive months were included in the analysis.
- Age was calculated as of December 31, 2017.

GA vouchers included any Vermonters who had paid claims within the FY.
## Data Notes – Medicaid Claims Data

**Vermonters can appear in more than one of these numbers.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of Medicaid-enrolled Vermonters who had a preventive visit</td>
<td>This includes Vermonters who had paid claims for any one of the following preventive procedure codes (CPT D0145, between D1000 and D1999, and 99188). If a Vermonter received one of these procedures more than once in this timeframe, he/she only appears in the number once.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Medicaid-enrolled Vermonters who received any dental services by a dental provider</td>
<td>This includes Vermonters who had paid dental claims for any one of the following dental procedure codes (CPT between D0120 and D9999) filed on a dental claim form (claim type L). If a Vermonter received one of these procedures more than once in this timeframe, he/she only appears in the number once.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Medicaid-Enrolled Children who Received a Permanent Sealant in the Last 3 years</td>
<td>This includes Vermonters who had a claim for a sealant on a permanent molar tooth in the last 3 years before their 9th or 14th birthday. Permanent molars are teeth numbered 2, 3, 14, 15, 18, 19, 30, 31, 1, 16, 17, 32. If a Vermonter received one of these procedures more than once in this timeframe, he/she only appears in the number once.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Medicaid-enrolled Vermonters treated for extractions, Endodontics or Restorations</td>
<td>This includes Vermonters who had paid claims for any one of the following procedures: dental restorations (CPT between D2000 and D2999), endodontic procedures (CPT between D3000 and D3999), or dental extractions (CPT between D7111 and D7250). Preventative visits are not included. If a Vermonter received one of these procedures more than once in this timeframe, he/she only appears in the number once. A Vermonter can appear in both the office percentage and the hospital percentage for dental treatment. Each visit is counted as hospital or office visit, but never both for the same date of service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Individuals who Utilized General Assistance (GA) Vouchers for Dental Services</td>
<td>This includes Vermonters who had paid claims within the FY for a State Category of Service Code for Dental between ‘0801’ and ‘0899’ and a funding source code C (General Assistance (GA) OVHA).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Vermont Department of Health**

**Updated June 2019**
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) questions used in the above analyses included:

- "During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink a bottle or glass of plain water? (Count tap, bottled, and unflavored sparkling water.) [Responses: I did not drink water during the past 7 days; 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days; 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days; 1 time per day; E. 2 times per day; 3 times per day; 4 or more times per day]"

- “During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink a can, bottle, or glass of soda or pop, such as Coke, Pepsi, or Sprite? (Do not count diet soda or diet pop.) [Responses: I did not drink soda or pop during the past 7 days; 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days; 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days; 1 time per day; 2 times per day; 3 times per day; 4 or more times per day]”

- “During the past 7 days, how many times did you drink a can, bottle, or glass of a sugar-sweetened beverage such as sports drinks (for example, Gatorade or PowerAde), energy drinks (for example, Red Bull or Jolt), lemonade, sweetened tea or coffee drinks, flavored milk, Snapple, or Sunny Delight? (Do not count soda or pop or 100% fruit juice.) [Responses: I did not drink these sugars-sweetened beverages during the past 7 days; B. 1 to 3 times during the past 7 days; 4 to 6 times during the past 7 days; 1 time per day; 2 times per day; 3 times per day; 4 or more times per day]”
Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Questions used in the above analyses included (continued):

“During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, Copenhagen, Camel Snus, Marlboro Snus, General Snus, Ariva, Stonewall, or Camel Orbs? (Do not count any electronic vapor products.) [Responses: 0 days; 1 or 2 days; 3 to 5 days; 6 to 9 days; 10 to 19 days; 20 to 29 days; All 30 days]”

■ NOTE: In 2017, the number of smokeless tobacco products and examples used in the question were revised to include dissolvable tobacco products and included products such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, Copenhagen, Camel Snus, Marlboro Snus, General Snus, Ariva, Stonewall, or Camel Orbs. This change interrupts the smokeless tobacco use trend line. Caution should be used when comparing data from previous years.
Confidence Intervals were used for statistical comparisons between the state and the various sub-geographies. A confidence interval represents the range in which a parameter estimate would fall, which is calculated based on the observed data. For this analysis, we used a 95% confidence interval, meaning that we are 95% confident that the true value of the parameter being examined falls within the specified confidence interval. Statistical significance is assessed by comparing the confidence intervals of different groups. If the confidence intervals from two groups, such as that for the state and a specific county, do not overlap we consider the estimates to be significantly different from one another.

For more information on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) please see, [www.healthvermont.gov/yrbs](http://www.healthvermont.gov/yrbs)
100% of Vermont dentists responded to this survey. Statistical tests for significant differences were not conducted. All differences are actual differences at the time of this survey. Differences that are plus or minus 10% of the Vermont percentage are noted in the text.

For more information on the Dentist Census, see:
http://healthvermont.gov/research/HlthCarePrvSrveys/HealthCareProviderSurveys.aspx
The Primary Diagnosis Clinical Classification Software (CCS) Category 136, Disorders of Teeth and Jaw, includes the following diagnoses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Diagnosis</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2013*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>520: Diseases of tooth development and eruption</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>521: Diseases of hard tissue of teeth</td>
<td>1,074</td>
<td>1,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>522: Diseases of pulp and periapical tissues</td>
<td>1,616</td>
<td>2,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>523: Gingival and periodontal diseases</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>524: Dentofacial anomalies, including malocclusion</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>525: Other diseases and conditions of the teeth and supporting structures</td>
<td>3,613</td>
<td>2,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>526: Diseases of the jaw</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78492: Jaw pain</td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6,944</td>
<td>6,156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New Hampshire data for 2010-2013 are not available at the time of this report. Historically, the percent of CCS 136 Emergency Department visits that occurred in New Hampshire hospitals was 10% for all Vermonters (based on the average percentage from 2005-2009), but varied by District Office.*
Data Notes - Additional Information

- For more information on the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set, see: http://healthvermont.gov/research/hospital-utilization/