

# Oral Health of New Brunswick's Children

## Data from the Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey

The New Brunswick Health Task Force  
& Community Health Advisory Group Meeting  
Thursday September 14, 2006

Presentation by:  
Carl Schneider, M.A.



**Rutgers** Center for  
State Health Policy



# **An Initiative of the Healthier New Brunswick 2010 Campaign**

Rutgers Center for State Health Policy  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

in collaboration with

New Brunswick's Community Health Leadership

Funded by Johnson & Johnson through New Brunswick Tomorrow  
Additional contributions by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

# Oral Health of Children

---

## Recommended visits to the dentist

- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends regular visits to a dentist beginning after age 3.
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends two visits to a dentist each year, beginning at the age of one.

## Literature support

- Previous research has shown that black, uninsured, and low income children are more likely to not receive the recommended number of dental visits (Stella, et al., 2002).

## Specific to New Brunswick

- Focus group interviews with members of the New Brunswick community revealed the most frequently mentioned health problem among children (school-aged) was oral health, and “school nurses...noted the severe dental health problems of school age children” (Guarnaccia, Martinez, Silberberg, Cantor, & Davis, 2004).

# Measuring Oral Health of Children

---

## Data Sources

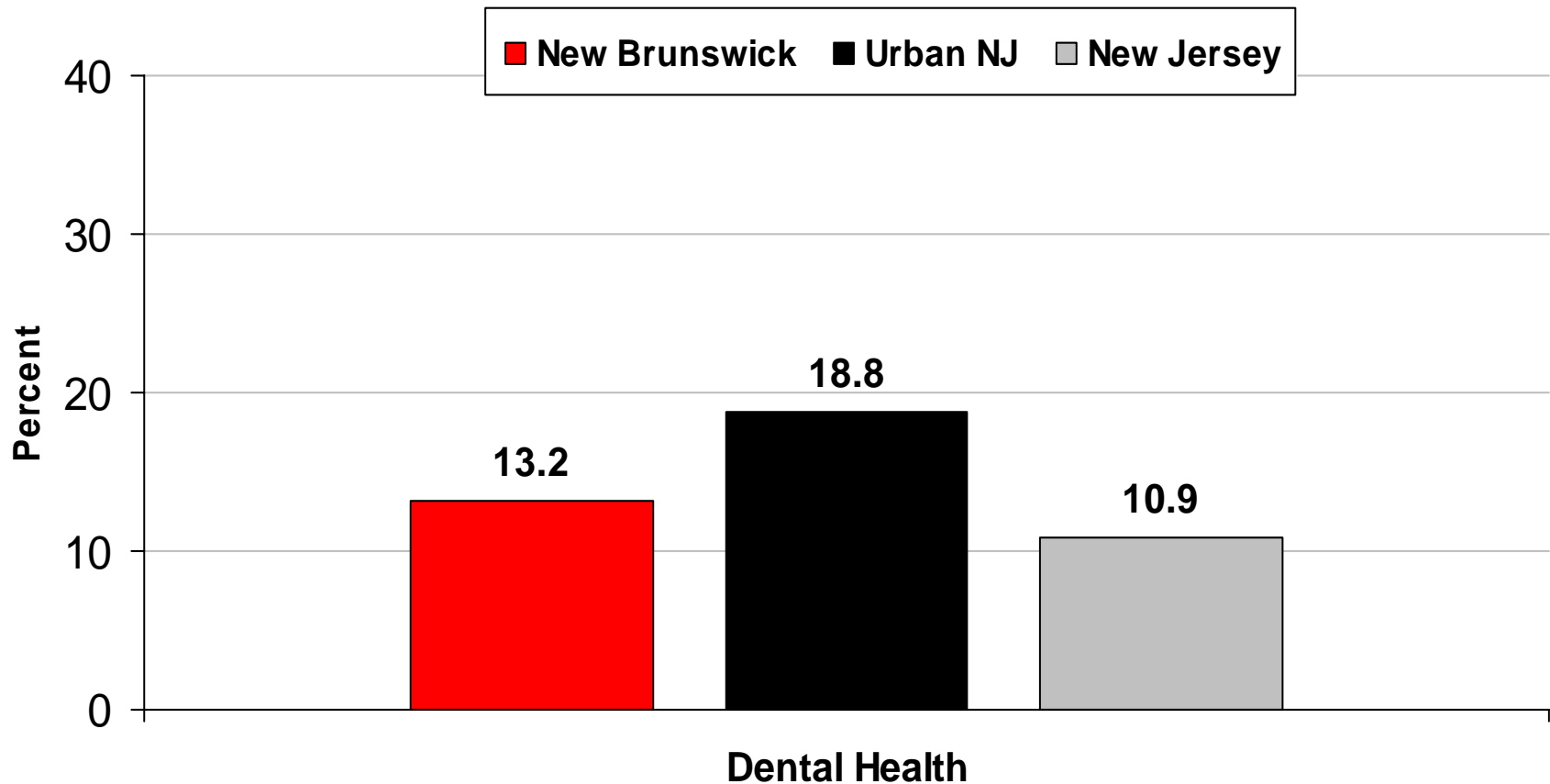
- Data from the 2004 Healthier New Brunswick Survey
- Comparison data from the 2001 New Jersey Family Health Survey (Total NJ and Urban NJ)

## Oral health of children determined by:

- General dental health status
- Visit to the dentist in the past 12 months

*Following the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation that regular visits to the dentist begin after age 3, children ages 3 to 18 are included for this study*

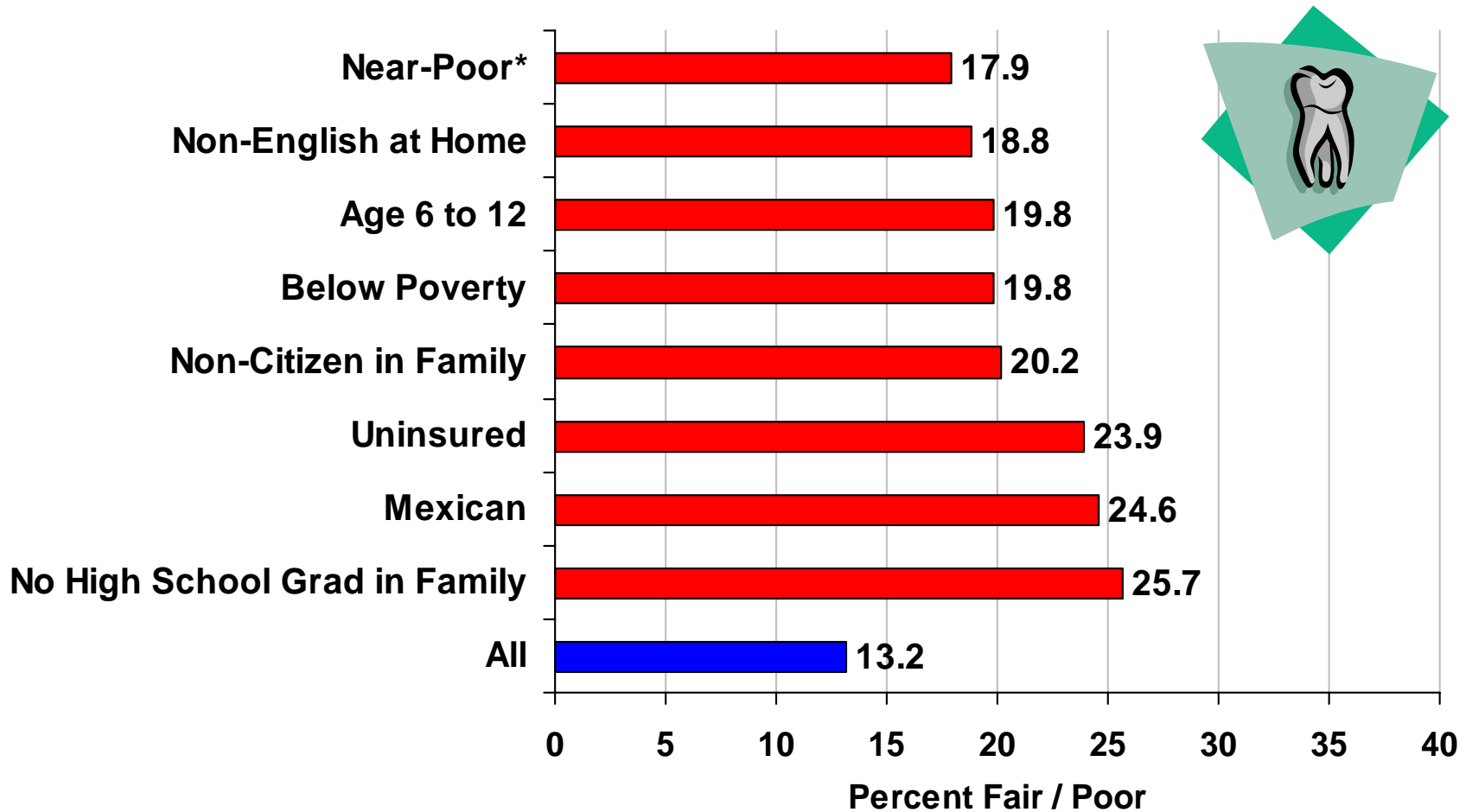
# Percent of *Children* Reported with “Fair or Poor”\* Dental Health Lower in New Brunswick than Urban NJ



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

\*Based on scale: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor

# Children in Fair or Poor Dental Health

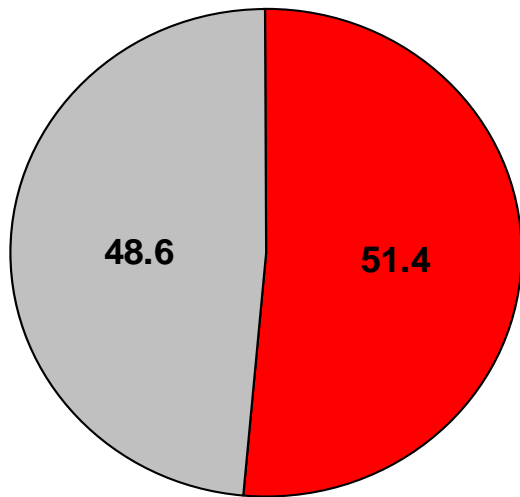


Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

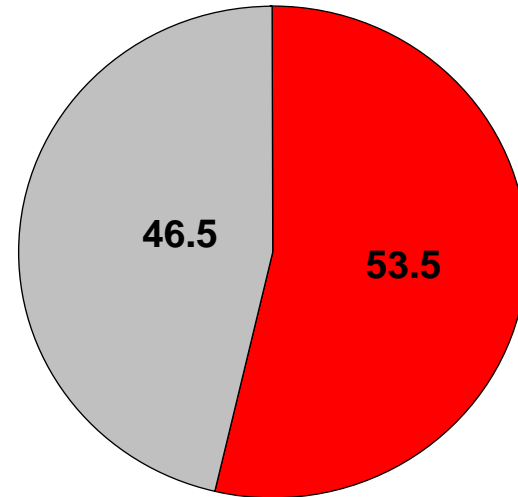
\*101% and 200% of the federal poverty level

# Visits to the Dentist

- About half of New Brunswick's children did not have any visit to the dentist or a visit for a dental check-up in the past 12 months

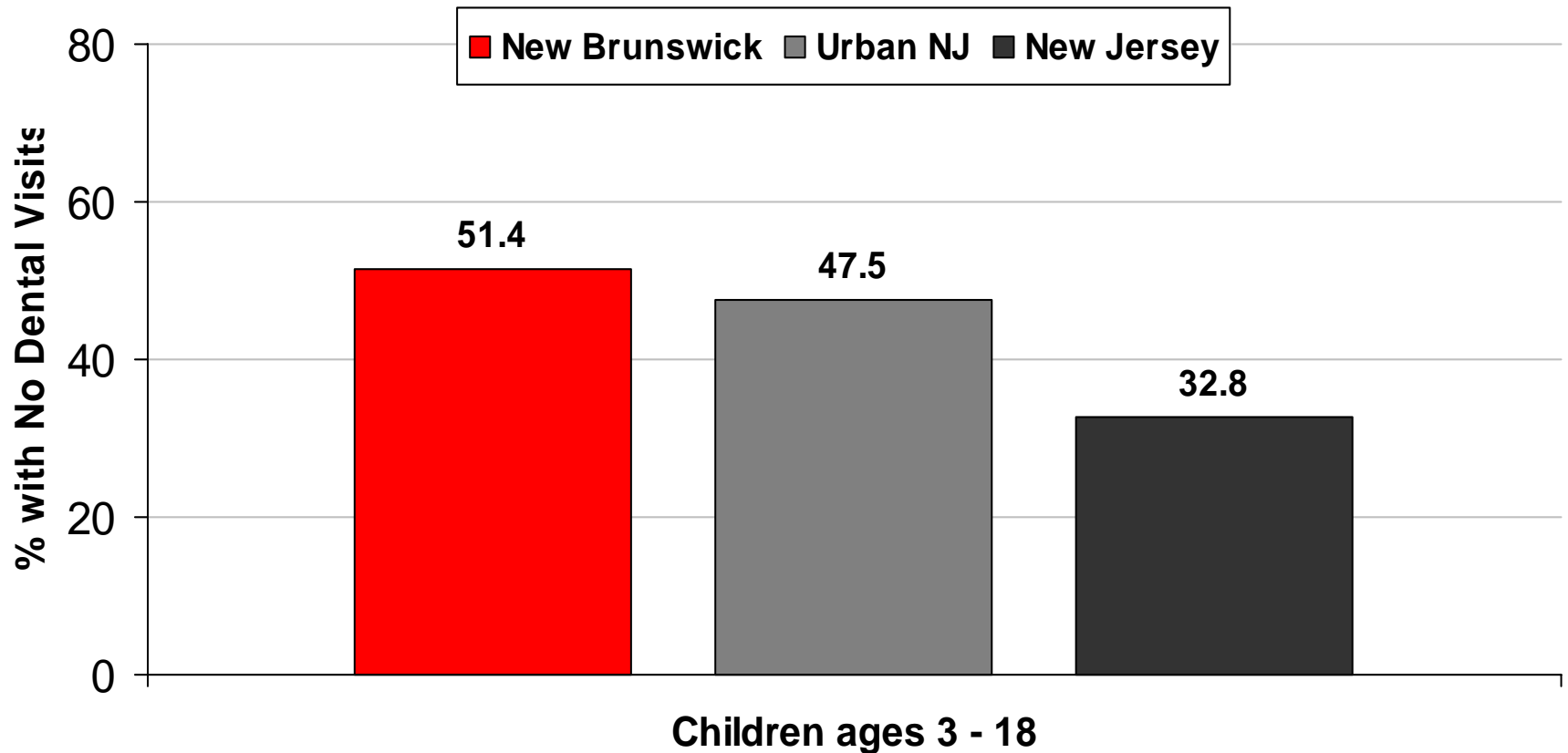


— One or more visits  
— No dental visits



— Had dental check-up  
— No dental check-up

# Proportion of children in New Brunswick not having a visit to the dentist highest compared to Urban and Total New Jersey



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001



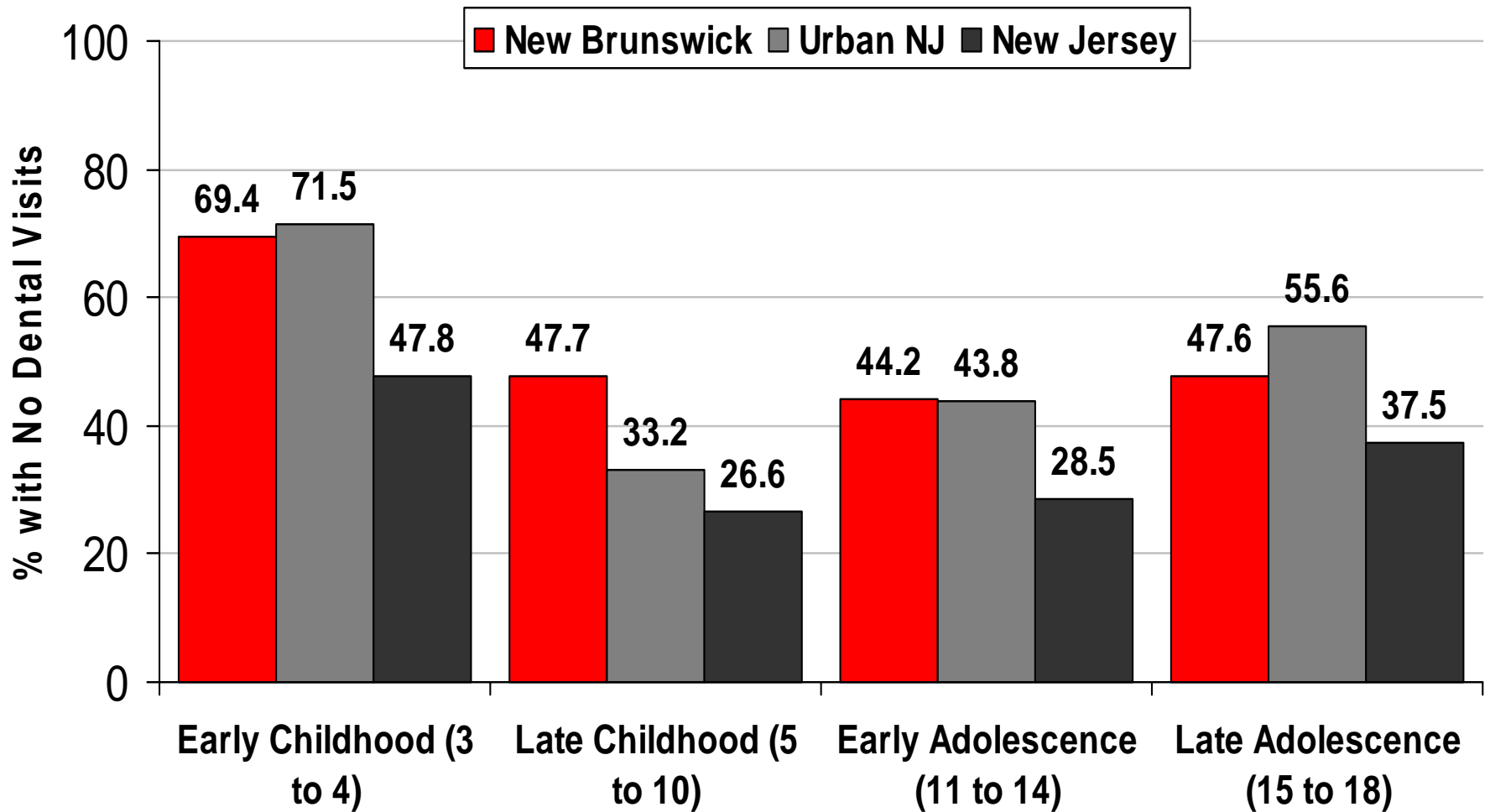
# Percent of children who do not visit the dentist

---

*New Brunswick compared to Urban NJ and Total NJ*

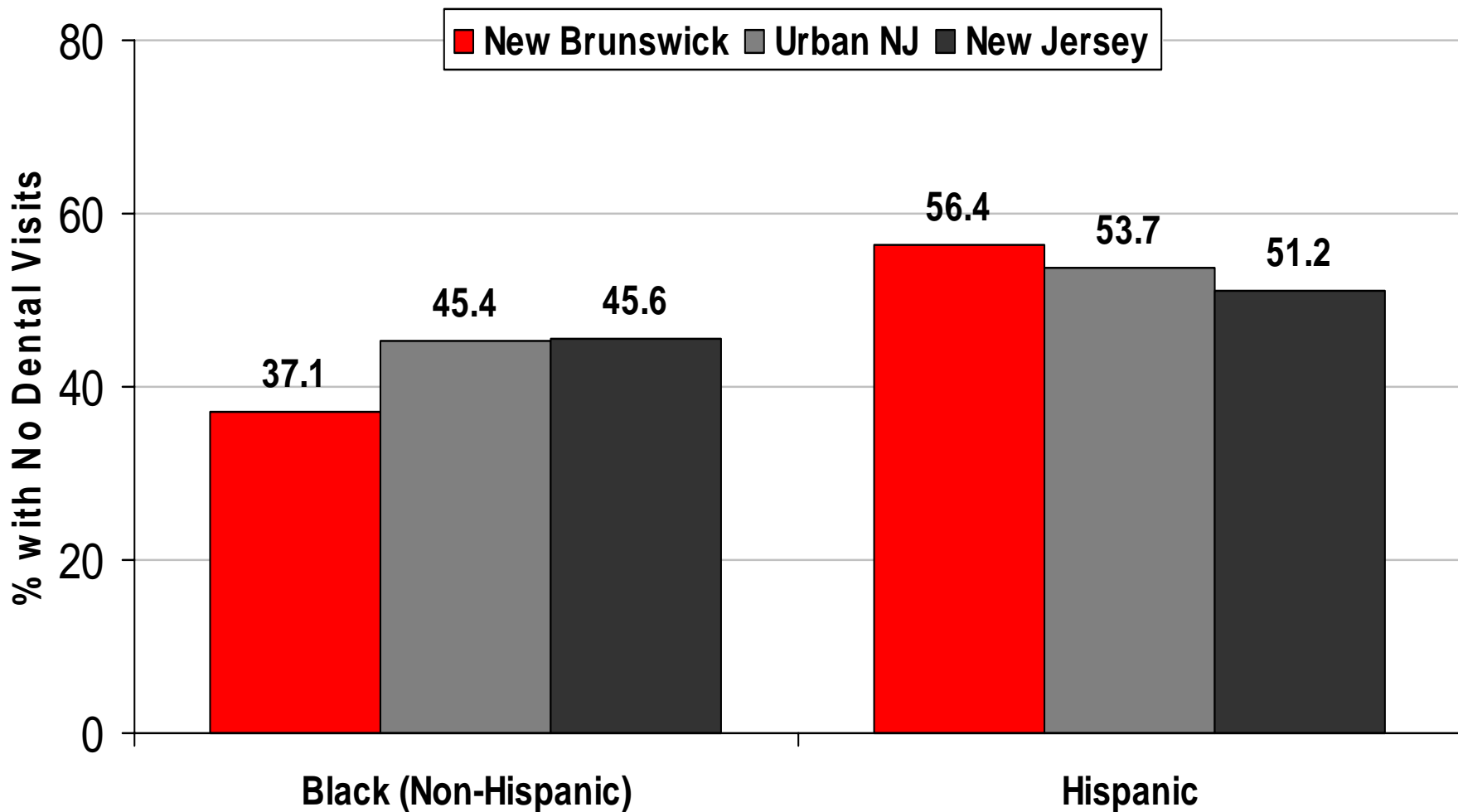
- Sociodemographics
- Health Status
- Access to Care

# New Brunswick children in late childhood may be at the most risk



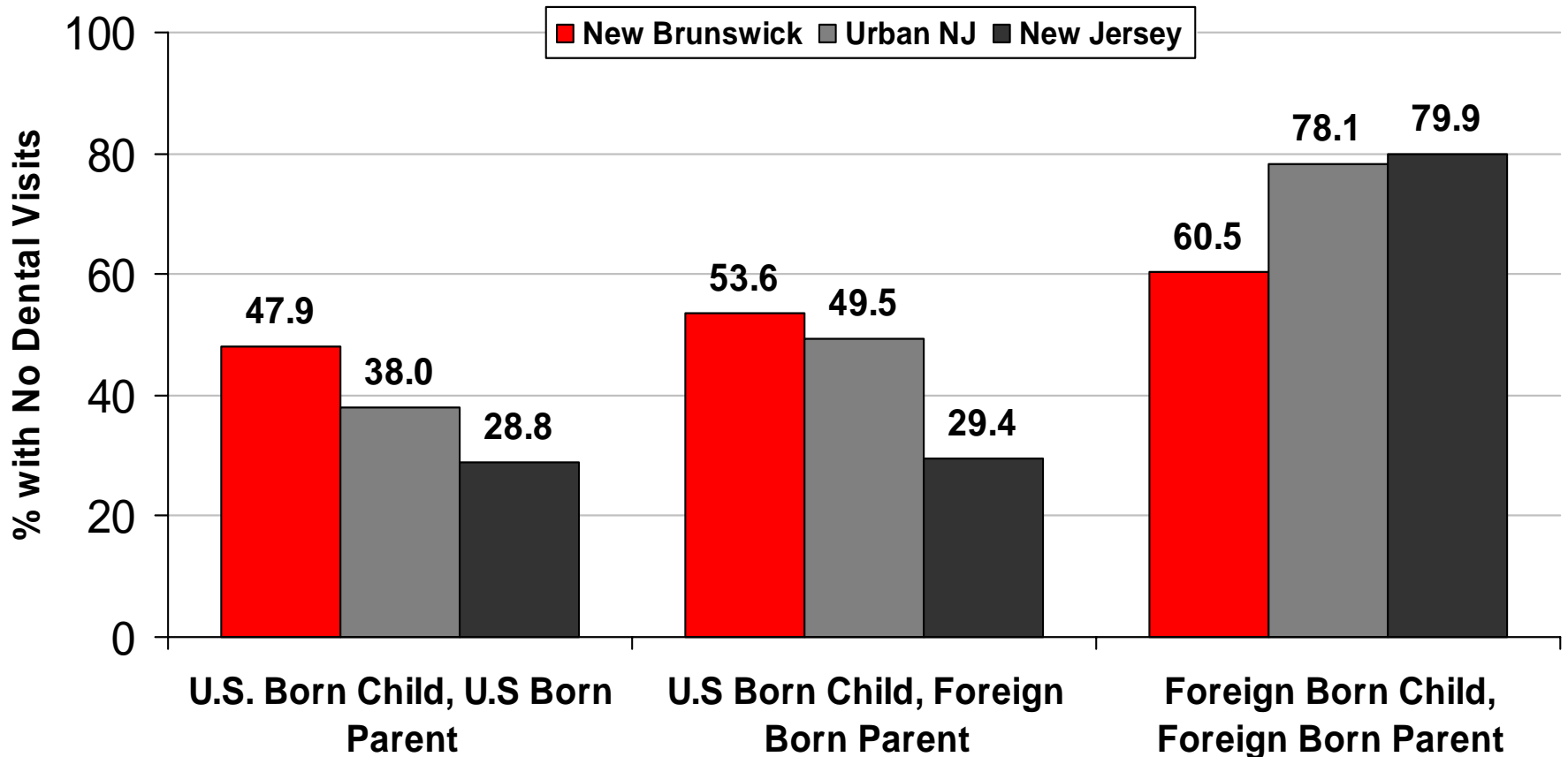
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Compared to Urban & Total NJ, the proportion of black children who did not have a dental visit lower, while proportion of Hispanic children similar. However, 64% of Mexican children in New Brunswick did not visit the dentist



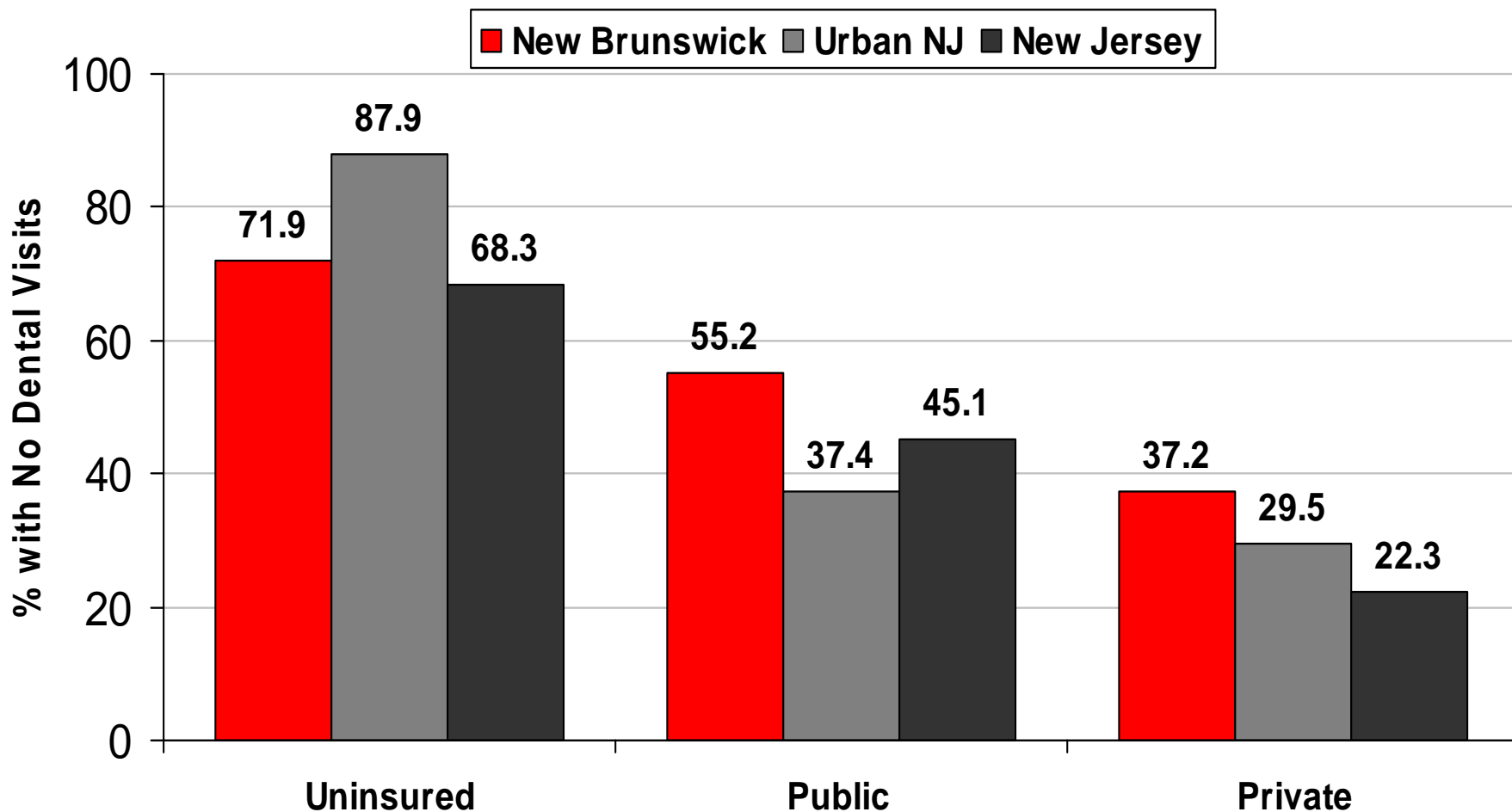
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

# Percent of foreign born children in New Brunswick who do not visit the dentist lower than Urban and Total New Jersey



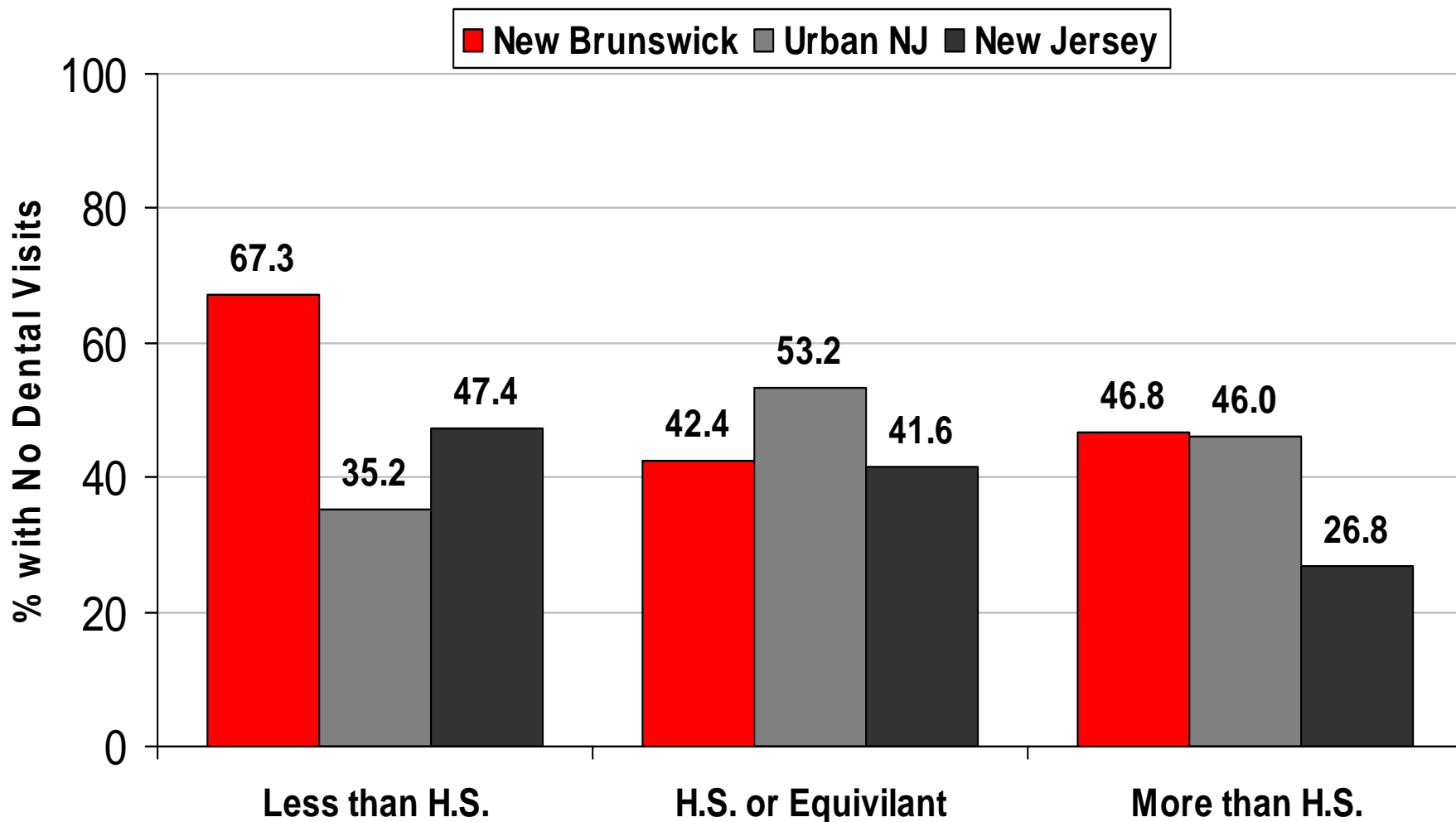
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Uninsured least likely to visit the dentist. However, for New Brunswick children, more than half with public insurance and more than 1/3 with private insurance had no dental visit



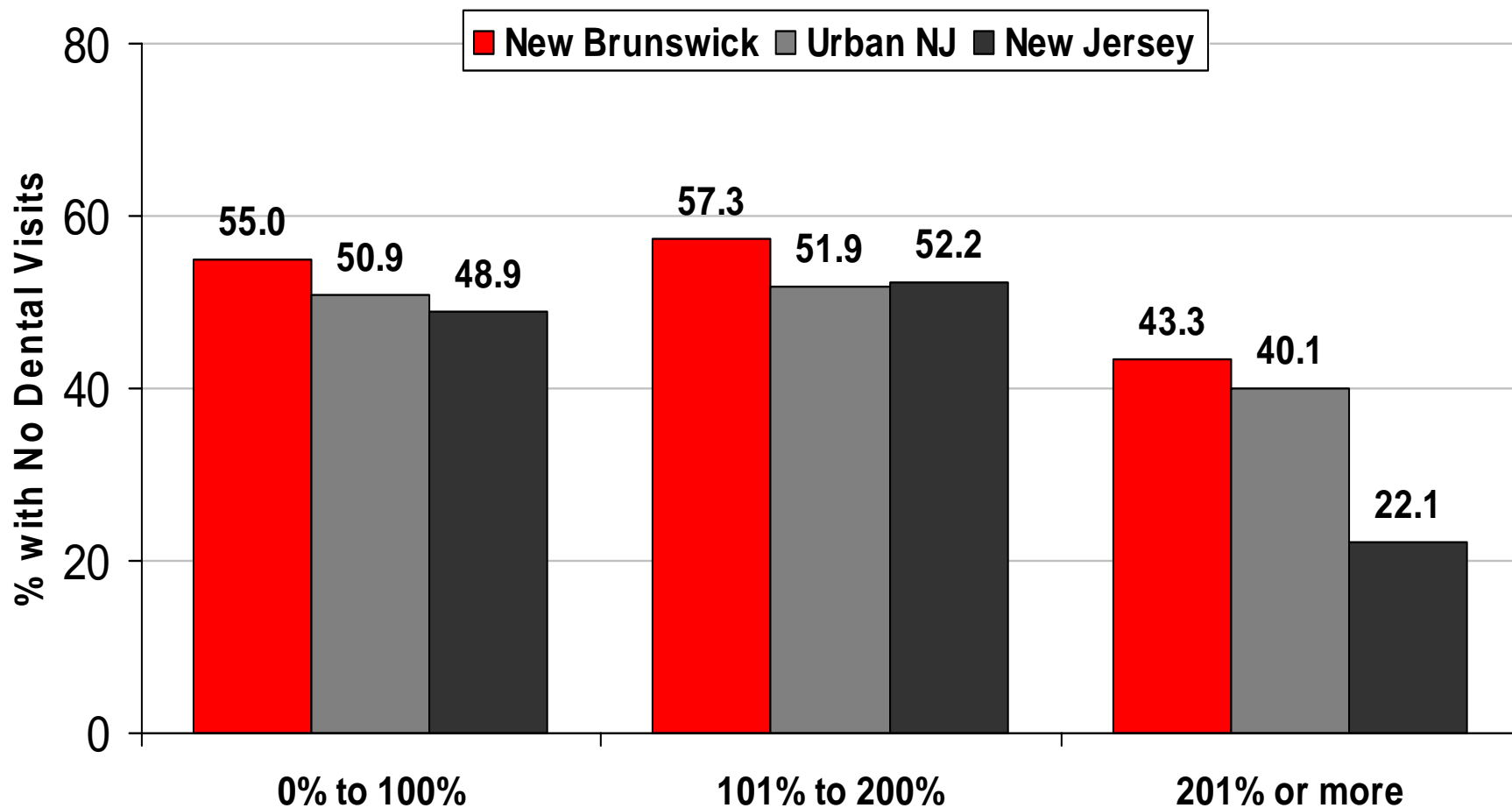
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

# Nearly 2/3 of children in New Brunswick living in households with low educational attainment had no visit to the dentist



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

More than half of New Brunswick's children living in families 200% and below FPL had no visit to the dentist, and a higher proportion than Urban NJ



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

# Sociodemographics

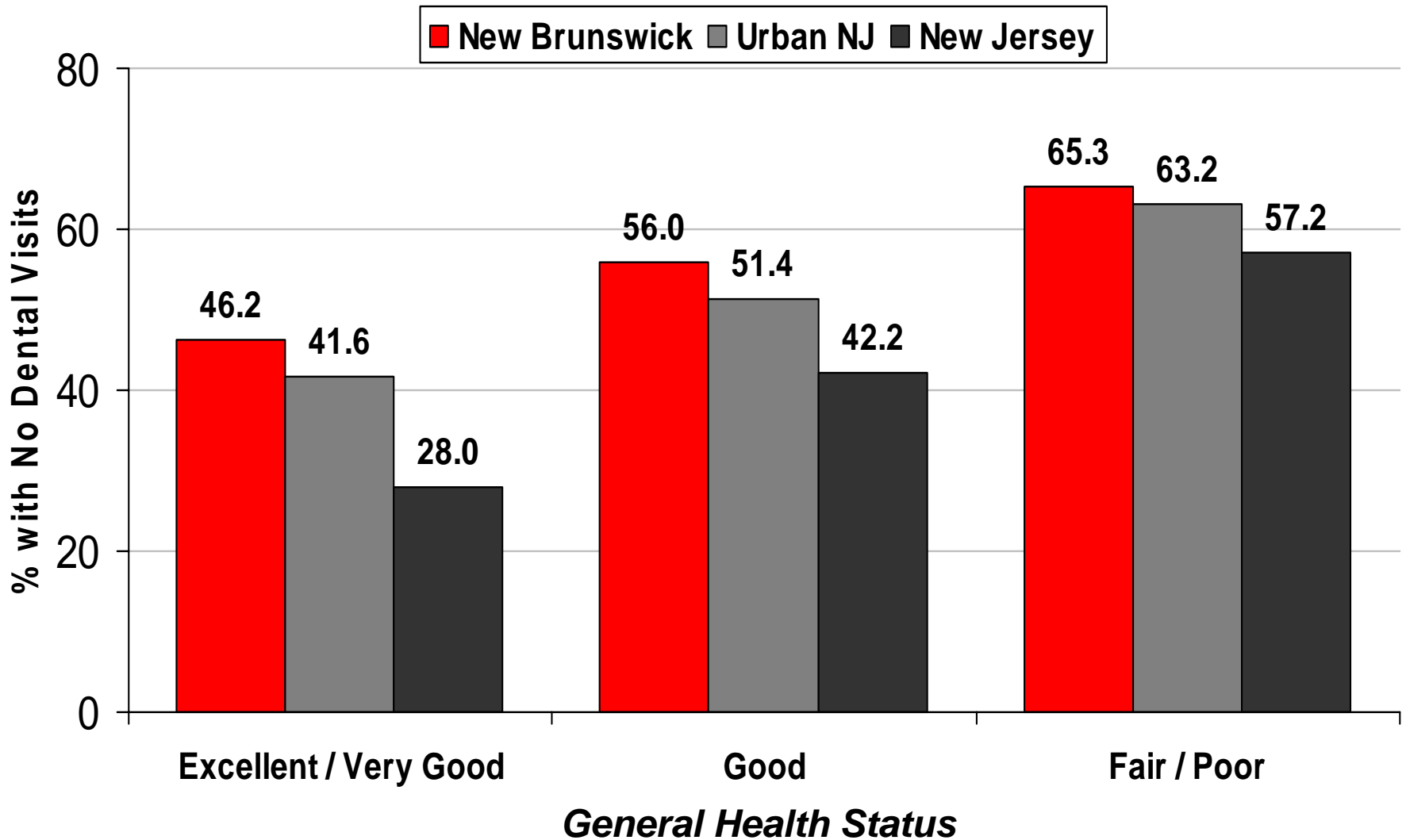
---

## Key findings for New Brunswick

- Children between the ages of 5 to 10 may be at the most risk
- African American children fair better
- Mexican children at high risk: 2 out of 3 did not visit the dentist
- Immigration status of the child and parent(s) has some effect on whether the child visits the dentist
- Children with public insurance may still have difficulties visiting the dentist
- Poorer children are less likely to visit the dentist

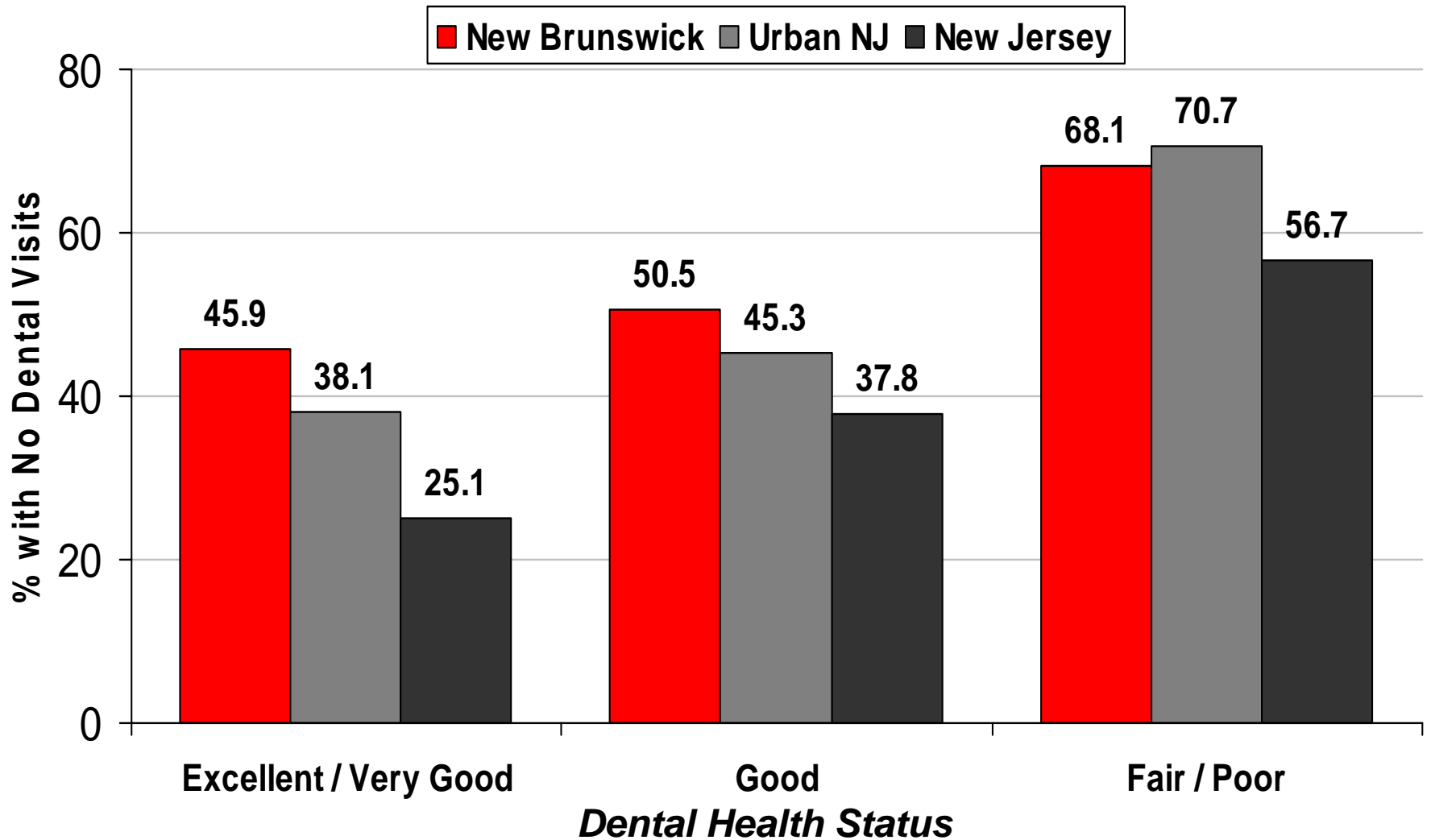


# Proportion of children not visiting the dentist still high for those in better health for both New Brunswick and Urban NJ



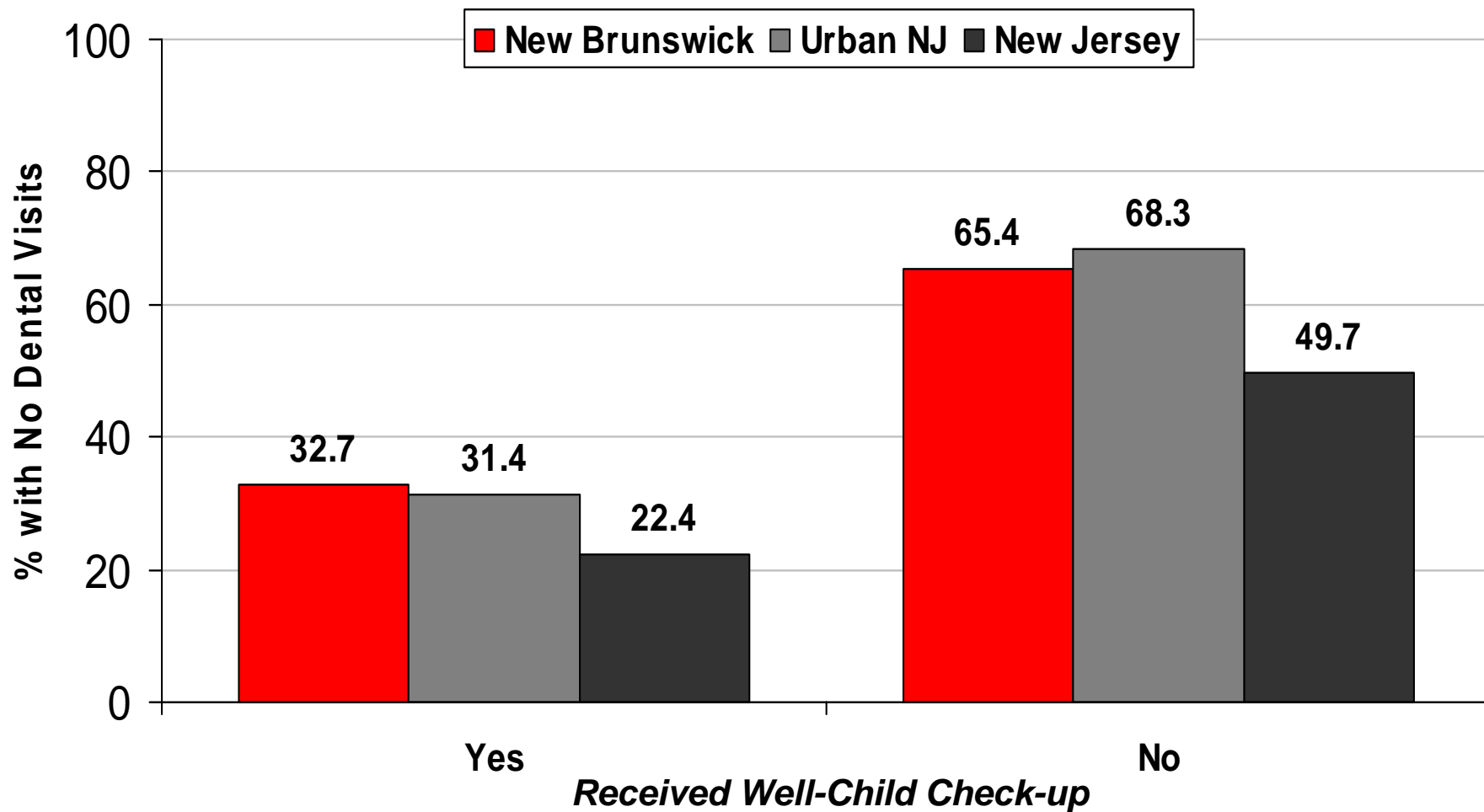
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Approximately 7 out of 10 children in New Brunswick with fair/poor dental health had no visit to the dentist



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Children who do not visit the doctor are also more likely to not visit the dentist. 2 out of 3 children in New Brunswick who did not have a check-up, also did not visit the dentist.



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

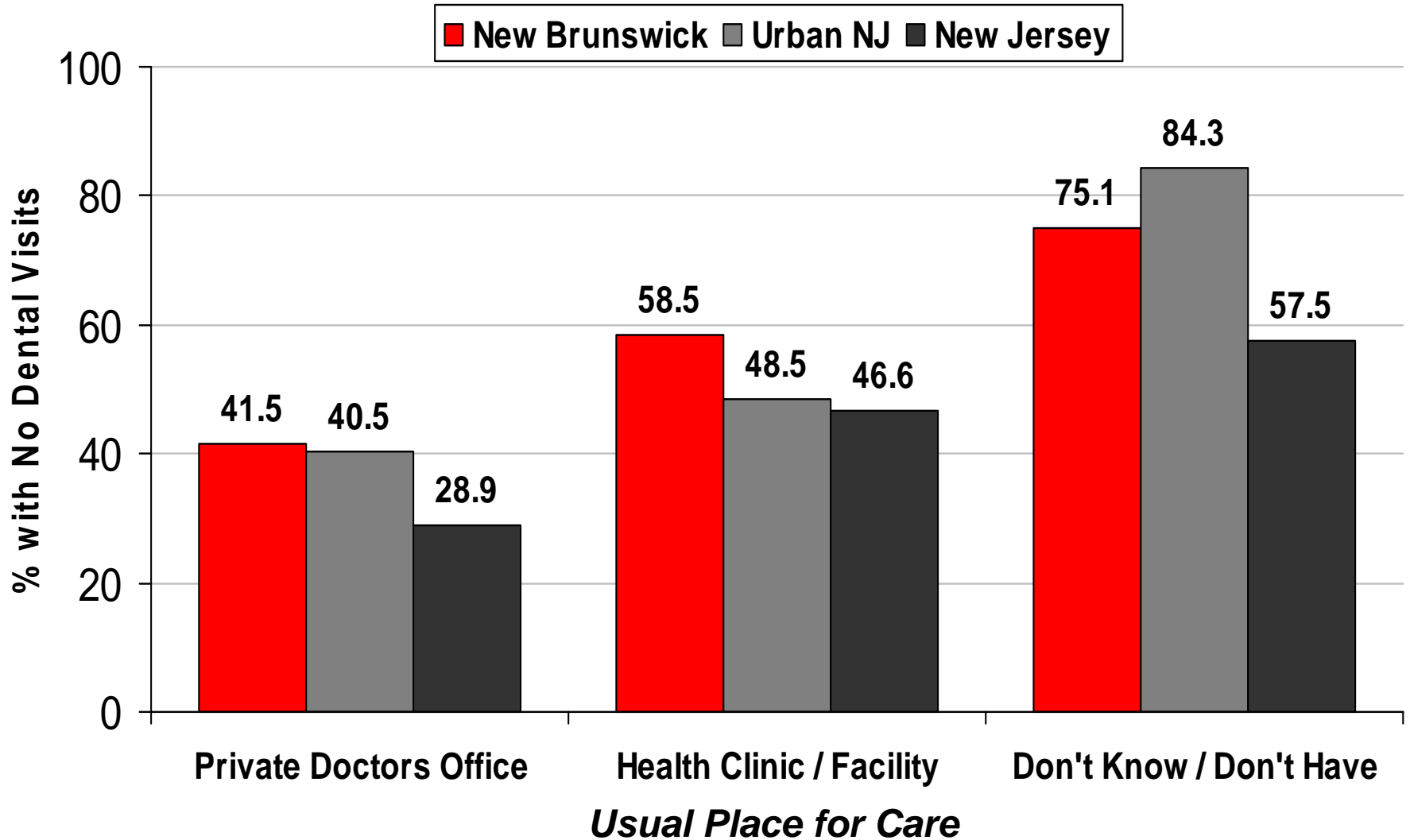
# Health Status

---

## Key findings for New Brunswick

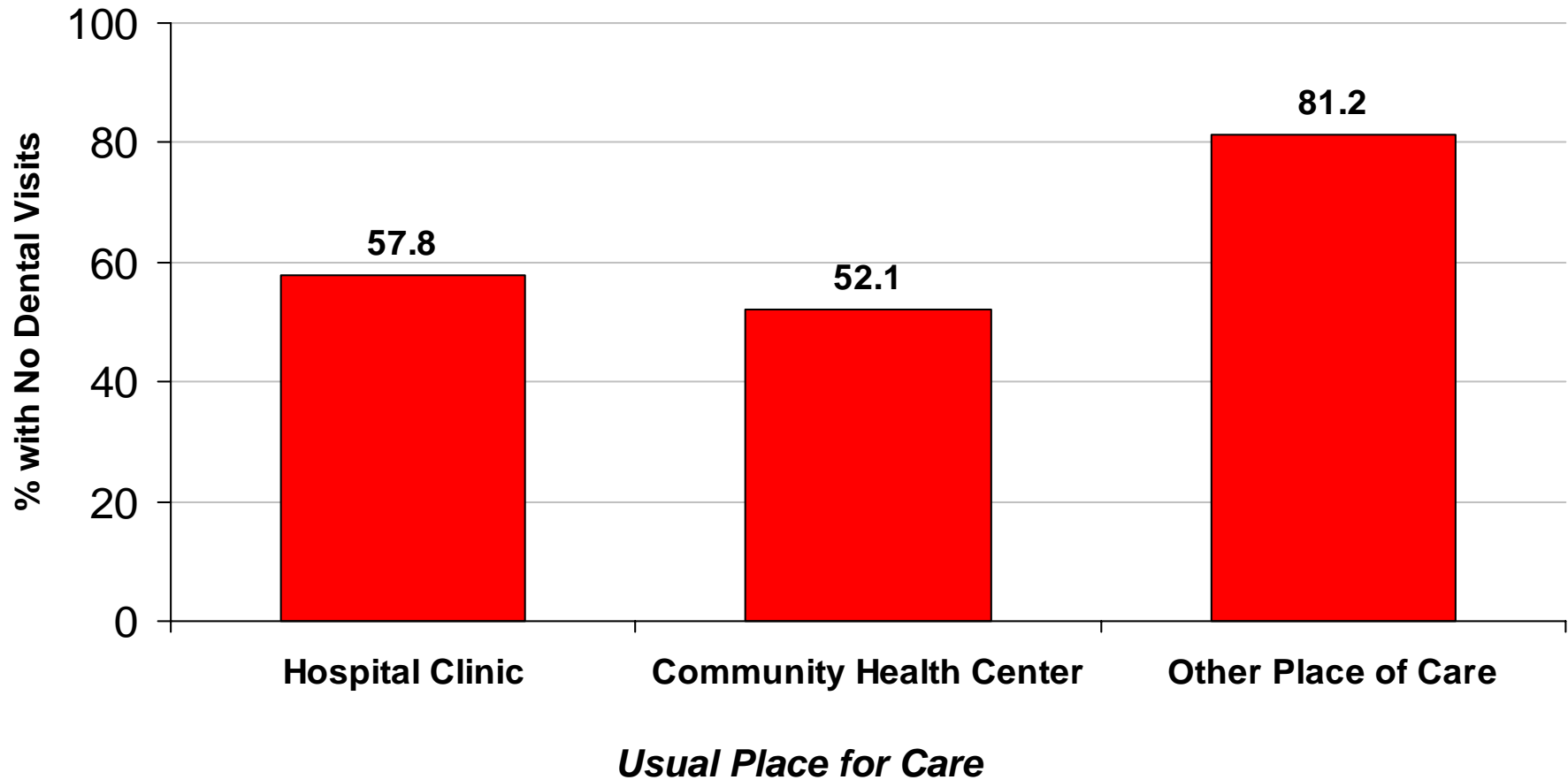
- Percent of children in both fair/poor general and dental health not visiting the dentist is high.
- Even New Brunswick's children who are reported as having excellent/very good dental health are not visiting the dentist. Almost 1 in 2 have not had a dental visit in the past year
- Percent of children not visiting a dentist much lower for those children who visit a doctor for a check-up. Still 1 in 3 of New Brunswick's children compared to 1 in 4 statewide.

Nearly 6 out of 10 children in New Brunswick who have a health clinic / facility as their usual place for care reported not having a dental visit.



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

# Specific Health Care Facility New Brunswick Only



# Children who have not had a dental visit are more likely to be in households where access to healthcare is more of a problem

*Percent that report a problem*

	<b>Dental Visit</b>		<b>No Dental Visit</b>	
	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>Problems</b>				
Transportation	757	19.0	1,586	38.6
Language	998	25.4	1,665	40.1
Daycare	463	15.1	896	27.7
Finding parking	1,208	31.1	1,574	39.1
Hours available	1,470	37.4	1,385	33.7
Wait for appointment	2,045	52.1	2,573	62.1

---

Number of children (ages 3 to 18) in a household where access problem was reported.  
Comparison between children who had a dental visit in past 12 months vs. those that did not.

# Access to Care

---

## Key findings for New Brunswick

- 75% of children who don't have a usual place of care or don't know if they have one have not had a visit to the dentist in the past year
- Over half of children who use a health clinic/facility as their usual source of care have not had a dental visit
- Visits to the dentist are potentially affected by problems with access to healthcare as reported by the household in which a child lives



# Summary of Findings

---

***Children in New Brunswick who most likely are not getting the recommended number of dental visits per year are:***

- Elementary school aged children (ages 5 to 10)
- Hispanic, mostly Mexican
- Poor to near-poor
- Uninsured or have public insurance
- Come from poorly educated households
- In fair/poor health
- Do not visit the doctor
- Have no usual place for care

# Oral Health of New Brunswick's Children

Data from the Healthier New Brunswick  
Community Survey



**Rutgers** Center for  
State Health Policy

