

Dental Health of New Brunswick's Children

A Chartbook

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Jose Nova

November 2006



*Healthier*New Brunswick 2010
Working Together, Living Healthier



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Dental Health of New Brunswick's Children

Executive Summary

Prepared by Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

The Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey provided information on the oral health of a representative sample of children in the city of New Brunswick. Specifically, children's oral health was measured by general dental health status and whether or not the child had a visit to a dentist in the past twelve months. Findings from the survey indicate that dental care is a significant health concern for New Brunswick's children.

Approximately 13% of children (ages 0 to 18) in New Brunswick are reported as having fair or poor dental health. Although this percentage is higher than the overall statewide figure of 11% of children in fair or poor dental health, children in New Brunswick fare better than the 19% of children in urban New Jersey who are reported as having fair or poor dental health. Children in New Brunswick who are in worse dental health are more likely to be Mexican, uninsured, poor to near-poor, and in the age range of 6 to 12.

Findings from this study also indicate that, based on the guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics that *regular* visits to a dentist begin at age 3, children in New Brunswick are not visiting the dentist as frequently as recommended. Approximately half of children in New Brunswick ages 3 to 18 did not have any dental visit during a 12 month period. This proportion of children having no dental visits in that period is greater than children in urban New Jersey not visiting the dentist (~48%), as well as the statewide proportion of children (~33%).

The three domains of sociodemographics, health status, and access to healthcare, were examined in an effort to increase the understanding of the characteristics of these children who did not regularly see a dentist. The following summarizes key findings specific to children in New Brunswick:

Sociodemographics

- Children between the ages of 5 to 10 may be at the most risk.
- African American children fare better.
- Mexican children are 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.

Health Status

- A high percentage of children reporting both fair/poor general as well as dental health are not visiting the dentist.
- Even New Brunswick's children who are reported as having excellent/very good dental health are not visiting the dentist. Nearly 1 in 2 have not had a dental visit in the past year.
- Percent of children not visiting a dentist is much lower for those children who visit a doctor for a routine check-up; still, 1 in 3 children in New Brunswick had no dental visit despite a visit for a routine check-up versus 1 in 4 children statewide.

Access to Care

- 75% of children who do not have a usual place of care, or do not know if they have one, have not had a visit to the dentist in the past year.
- Over half the 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.

Oral health is a significant health concern for the children in New Brunswick. Findings from this study indicate the children who are likely to not get 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

About the Survey

The Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey was conducted under the auspices of Rutgers Center for State Health Policy in late 2004 using tested and validated questions and professional, trained interviewers. The interviews were conducted by telephone, and cell phones were provided to families without landlines (4% of the interviews were completed via cell phones). The interview was conducted with the family member aged 18 or over who was most knowledgeable about the health and health care needs of the family. The interviews averaged 40 minutes in length, and were conducted in either English or Spanish. The response rate was 52.3% of all families sampled and the cooperation rate was 96% (i.e., only 4% of families contacted refused to participate). These are high rates for this type of survey. Sampling was conducted by random-digit-dialing, a common method for generating representative samples. This method was supplemented through area-probability sampling of households without landlines in the 4 New Brunswick census tracts that have the lowest telephone coverage according to Census data. Those living in New Brunswick primarily to attend college were excluded. A token of \$10 was provided to respondents (\$20 for cell phone cases). The final sample consisted of 595 New Brunswick and bordering Somerset families covering 1,572 individuals. In addition, the New Brunswick data was compared to New Jersey overall and to other NJ urban areas (i.e., municipalities with at least 25,000 people and population density of at least 9,000 per square mile) using data from the 2001 New Jersey Family Health Survey. The New Jersey Family Health Survey was conducted by Rutgers Center for State Health Policy with funding by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

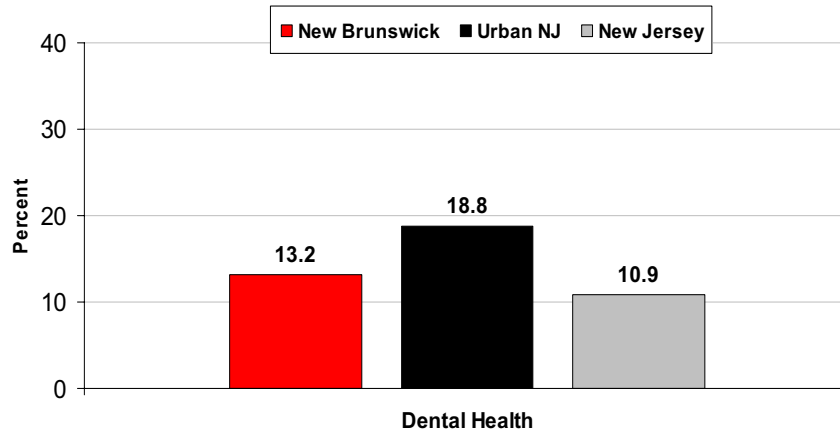
Additional copies of this report can be downloaded from the CSHP website at:

<http://www.cshp.rutgers.edu>

Charts

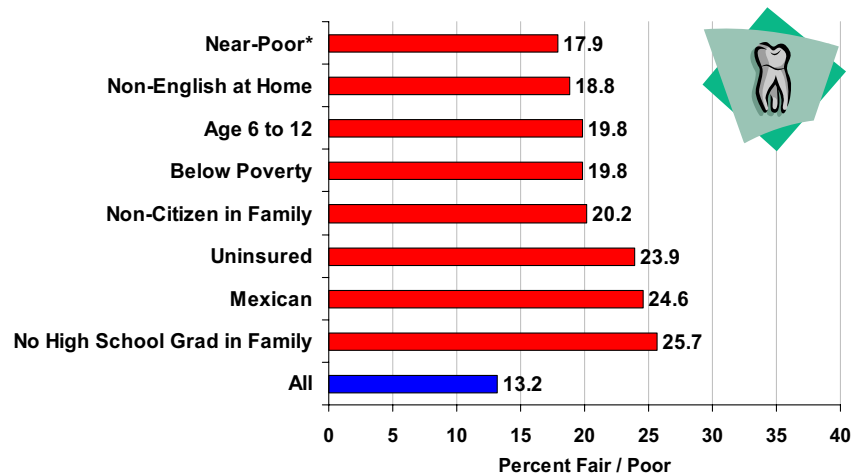
General Oral Health

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

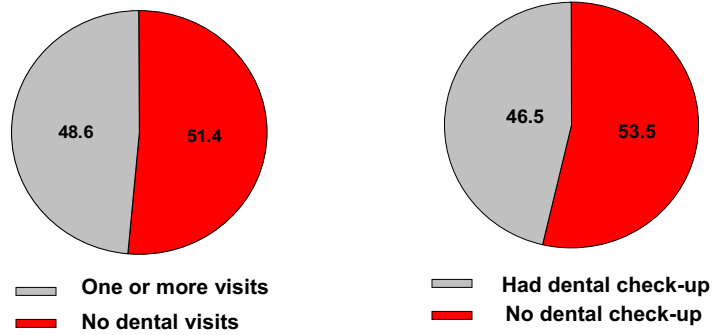
Children in fair or poor dental health.



Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004
 *101% and 200% of the federal poverty level

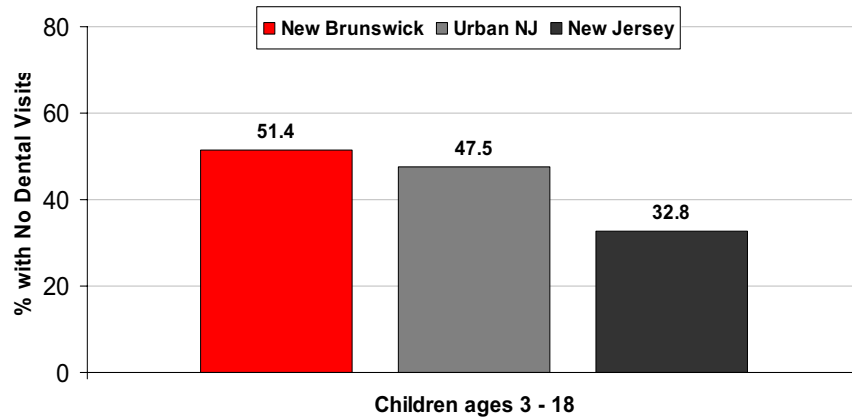
Dental Visits

Approximately 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.



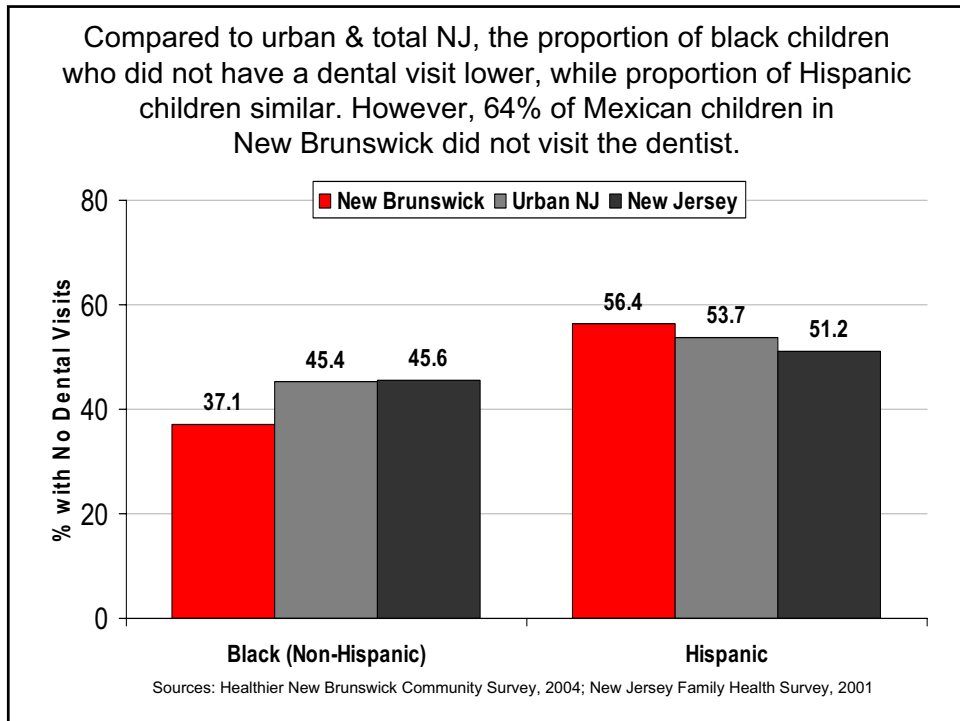
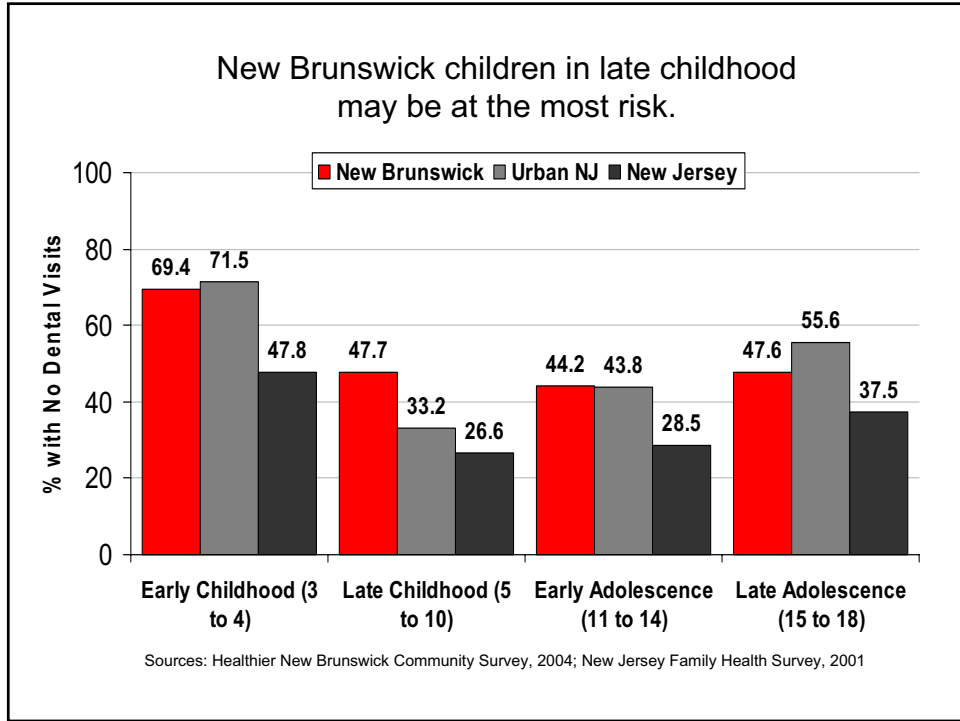
Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

Proportion of children in New Brunswick not having a visit to the dentist highest compared to urban and total NJ.

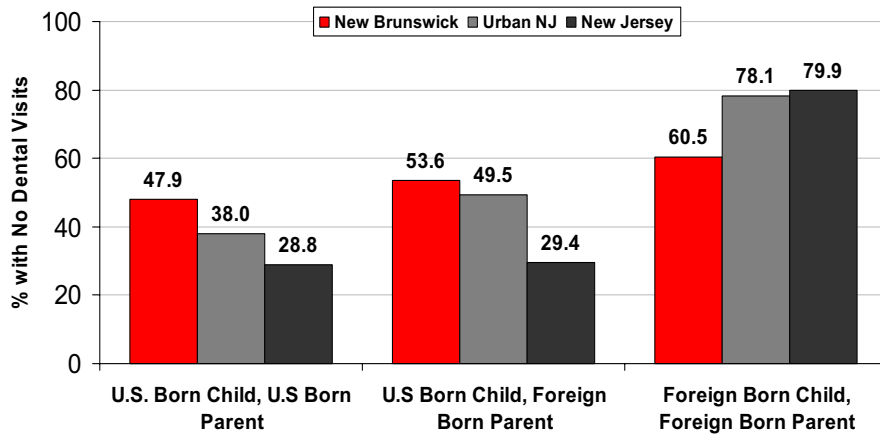


Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Sociodemographics

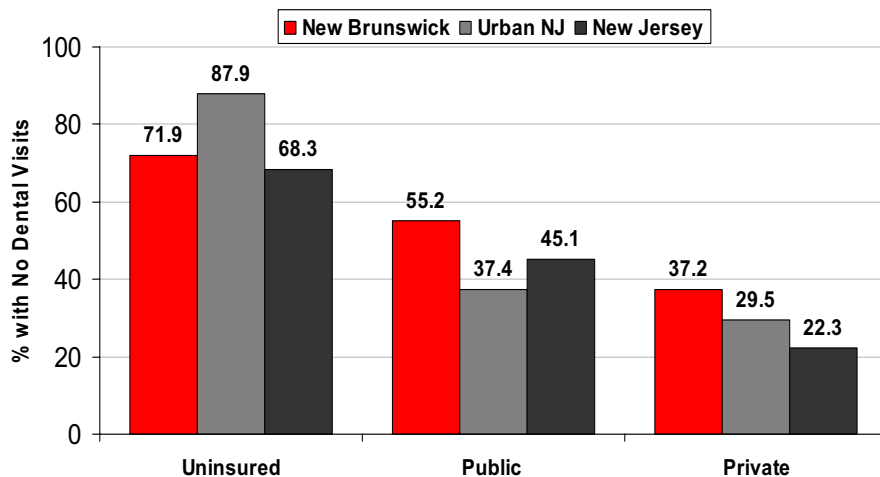


More foreign-born New Brunswick children visit the dentist than their NJ and urban NJ counterparts.



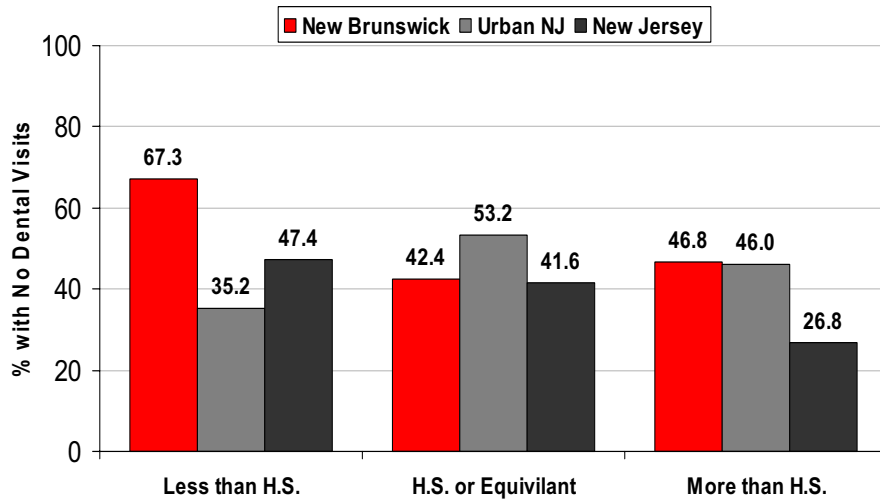
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

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.



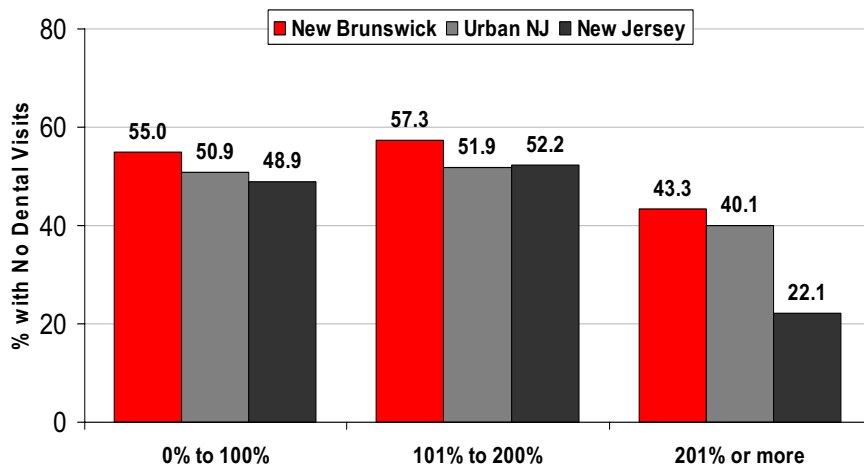
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

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



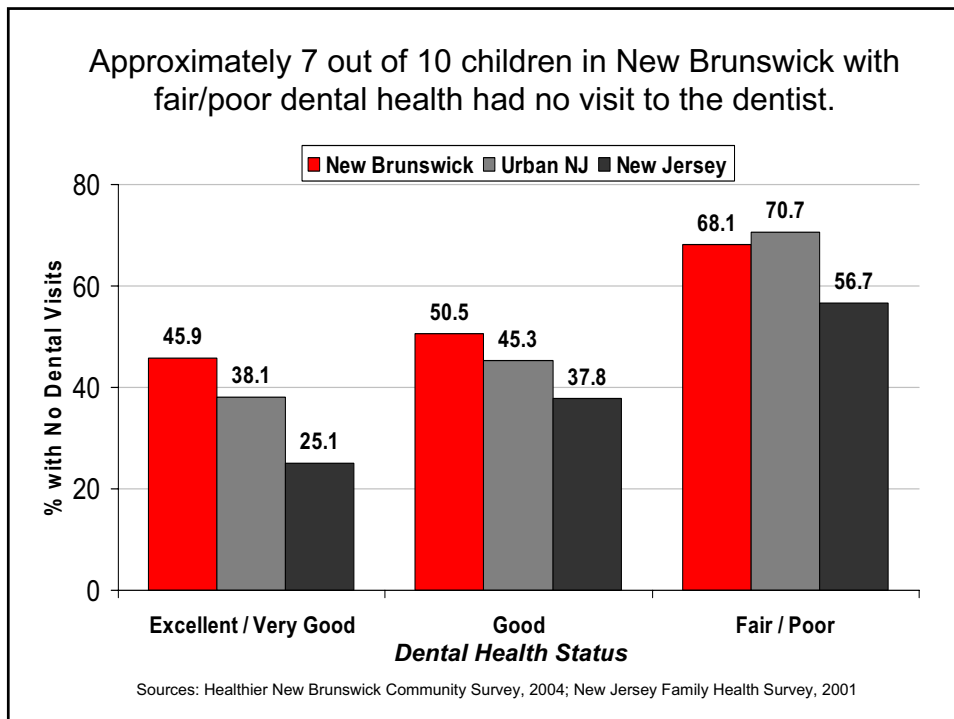
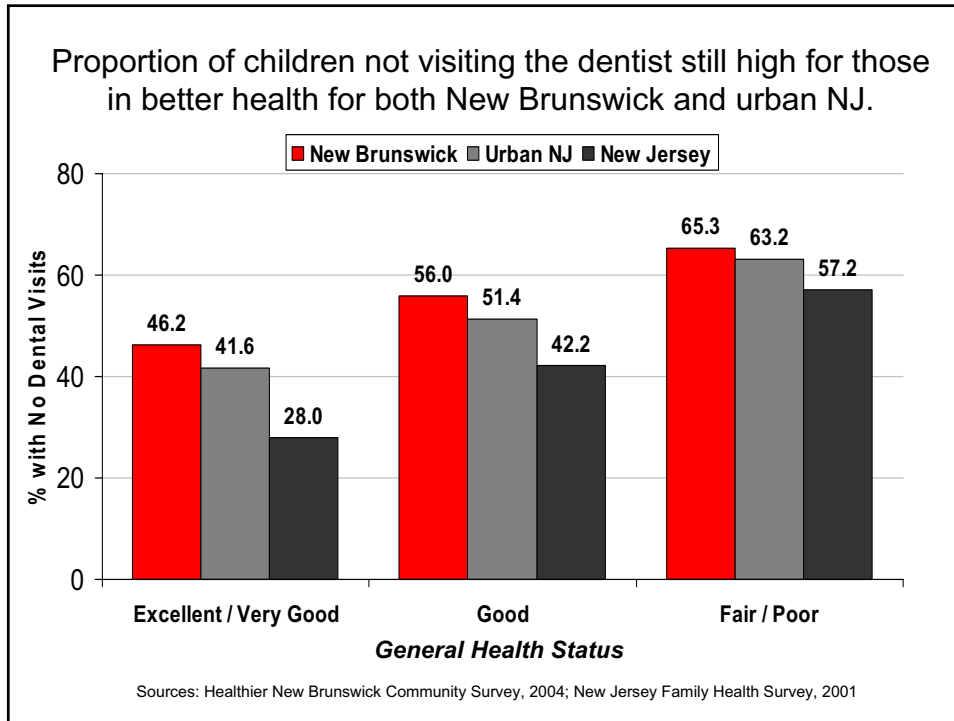
Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

More than half of New Brunswick's children living in families with income of 200% FPL and below had no visit to the dentist.

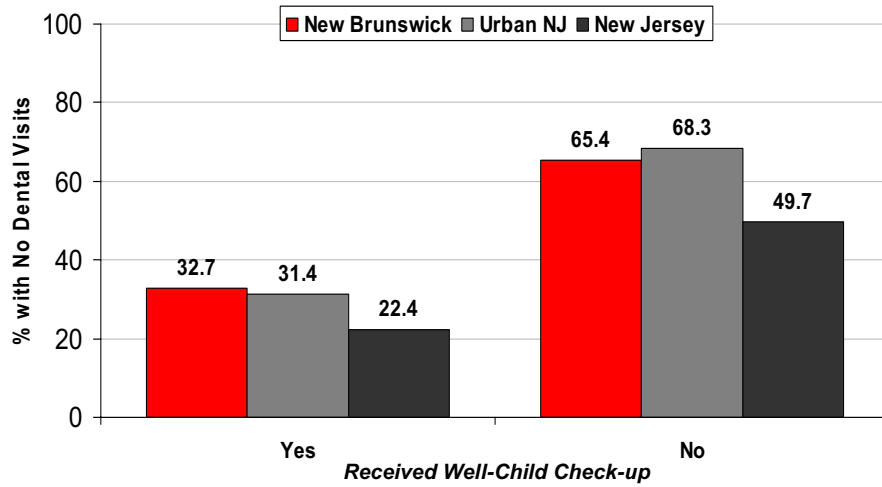


Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004; New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

Health Status



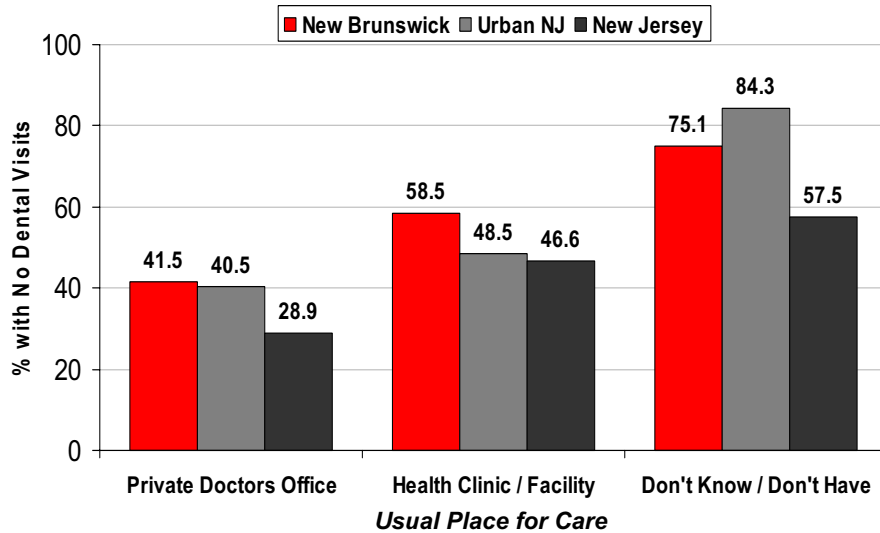
Children who do not visit the doctor are also more likely to not visit the dentist. 2 out of 3 children in New Brunswick who did not have a check-up, also did not visit the dentist.



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

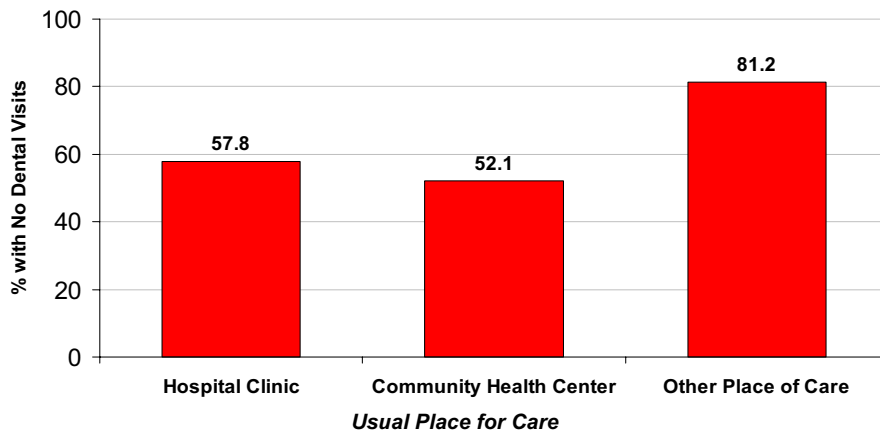
Access to Care

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

Over 50% of children whose usual source of care is a specific health care facility did not have a visit to the dentist.



Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

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

	Dental Visit		No Dental Visit	
	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Problems				
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

Sources: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004

Tables

Table 1: Demographics of Children Who Did Not Have a Dental Visit in Past 12 Months

<i>Individual Characteristics</i>	New Brunswick [†]		Urban New Jersey*		Total New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
All Kids (Ages 3 to 18)	4,157	51.4	136,031	47.5	394,062	32.8
Age						
Early Childhood (3 to 4)	1,165	69.4	30,723	71.5	73,418	47.8
Late Childhood (5 to 10)	1,194	47.7	29,035	33.2	107,501	26.6
Early Adolescence (11 to 14)	773	44.2	38,850	43.8	90,807	28.5
Late Adolescence (15 to 18)	1,024	47.6	37,423	55.6	122,336	37.5
Gender						
Female	1,927	50.9	71,915	48.9	174,369	31.2
Male	2,230	51.9	64,117	46.0	219,693	34.2
Race/Ethnicity						
White (non-Hispanic)	334	71.2	12,269	36.2	153,660	22.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	786	37.1	46,486	45.4	90,653	45.6
Hispanic	2,814	56.4	75,825	53.7	121,083	51.2
Mexican/Mexican American	1,510	64.0	---	---	---	---
Other Hispanic	1,304	49.5	---	---	---	---
Other non-Hispanic	222	44.1	1,451	16.2	28,666	39.0
Citizenship Status						
US Citizen	3,620	50.0	116,063	44.3	358,892	31.0
Non-US Citizen	536	68.7	19,968	82.7	34,802	82.4
Insurance Status						
Uninsured	1,013	71.9	64,185	87.9	106,845	68.3
Public	1,806	55.2	36,785	37.4	93,909	45.1
Private	1,199	37.2	32,668	29.5	183,820	22.3
Lives With						
Both Parents	1,819	55.1	51,901	47.0	188,955	26.1
Other	2,338	48.9	84,131	47.8	205,108	43.0

Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004 and the New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

[†] Includes two Somerset Census tracts bordering New Brunswick

* Urban is defined as areas with populations > 25,000 and density > 9,000 people per square mile

N is the weighted number of children

Table 2: Parent Characteristics of Children Who Did Not Have a Dental Visit in Past 12 Months

<i>Parent Characteristics</i>	New Brunswick [†]		Urban New Jersey*		Total New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Parent's Citizenship Status						
<i>Two Parents</i>						
Both US Citizens	977	49.5	36,187	42.6	149,351	23.4
One non-US Citizen	232	44.0	5,748	55.9	17,599	37.9
Neither US Citizens	610	76.6	9,001	68.5	21,077	56.2
<i>Single Parent</i>						
US Citizen	1,250	46.0	49,232	41.9	147,563	38.9
Not US Citizen	886	55.6	8,844	51.9	16,199	53.4
Parent's Education						
<i>Two Parents (Highest Education)</i>						
Less than HS	800	72.5	3,016	57.8	12,414	61.0
HS or equiv.	324	42.1	26,635	49.4	72,423	37.5
More than HS	695	52.2	21,284	44.3	100,328	20.3
<i>Single Parent</i>						
Less than HS	1,225	64.0	15,614	29.7	24,453	36.0
HS or equiv.	737	45.7	30,803	66.3	72,216	42.9
More than HS	264	32.2	11,251	31.2	63,639	35.7

Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004 and the New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

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Table 3: Household Characteristics of Children Who Did Not Have a Dental Visit in Past 12 Months

	New Brunswick [†]		Urban New Jersey*		Total New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<i>Household Characteristics</i>						
Number of Children in Household						
Two or fewer	2,047	47.5	95,014	49.9	279,628	32.6
Three or more	2,110	55.9	41,018	42.8	114,434	33.3
Number of Adults in Household						
One	971	41.5	34,290	44.0	98,897	40.1
Two	2,184	55.7	62,776	41.1	204,451	29.6
Three +	1,002	54.9	38,965	69.8	90,714	34.2
Highest Education in Household						
Less than HS	1,800	67.3	17,171	35.2	38,962	47.4
HS or equivalent	1,207	42.4	70,847	53.2	148,429	41.6
More than HS	1,119	46.8	48,013	46.0	202,384	26.8
Language spoken at home						
English	1,462	41.3	85,068	42.6	290,874	28.5
non-English	2,680	60.0	50,963	58.6	103,188	56.5
Poverty						
0% to 100%	1,240	55.0	38,491	50.9	72,550	48.9
101% to 200%	1,691	57.3	57,060	51.9	153,366	52.2
greater than 200%	1,226	43.3	40,480	40.1	166,922	22.1

Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004 and the New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

[†] Includes two Somerset Census tracts bordering New Brunswick

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Table 4: Health Status of Children Who Did Not Have a Dental Visit in Past 12 Months

<i>Health Characteristics</i>	New Brunswick [†]		Urban New Jersey*		Total New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
General health status						
Excellent/Very Good	2,076	46.2	68,857	41.6	245,722	28.0
Good	1,665	56.0	42,223	51.4	105,474	42.2
Fair/Poor	381	65.3	23,798	63.2	41,039	57.2
Dental health status						
Excellent/Very Good	1,636	45.9	54,574	38.1	185,708	25.1
Good	1,646	50.5	37,163	45.3	116,224	37.8
Fair/Poor	824	68.1	40,788	70.7	83,273	56.7
Any Chronic condition						
At least one	407	40.6	23,350	34.8	70,789	34.8
None	3,750	53.0	112,682	51.4	323,274	32.4
Received well-child check-up						
Yes	1,128	32.7	50,595	31.4	167,227	22.4
No	3,028	65.4	85,436	68.3	226,835	49.7

Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004 and the New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

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N is the weighted number of children

Table 5: Access to Care for Children Who Did Not Have a Dental Visit in Past 12 Months

<i>Access to Care Characteristics</i>	New Brunswick [†]		Urban New Jersey*		Total New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Type of usual care place						
Private Doctors Office	1,678	41.5	85,514	40.5	289,767	28.9
Facility	1,971	58.5	17,288	48.5	47,050	46.6
Hospital Clinic	750	57.8	----	----	----	----
Community Health Center	825	52.1	----	----	----	----
Other Place of Care	396	81.2	----	----	----	----
Don't Know / Don't Have	508	75.1	33,230	84.3	57,245	57.5
Difficulty getting dental care						
Yes	245	56.8	21,696	72.2	51,086	48.2
No	3,912	51.1	114,335	44.6	342,976	31.2

Source: Healthier New Brunswick Community Survey, 2004 and the New Jersey Family Health Survey, 2001

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Table 6: Household Access Barriers Impact on Dental Visits

Problems	Dental Visit		No Dental Visit	
	N	%	N	%
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
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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