

# National Health Policy Forum

## Oral Health Update: Ten Years After the Surgeon General's Report

A State Perspective: South Carolina

Presented by: Christine Veschusio



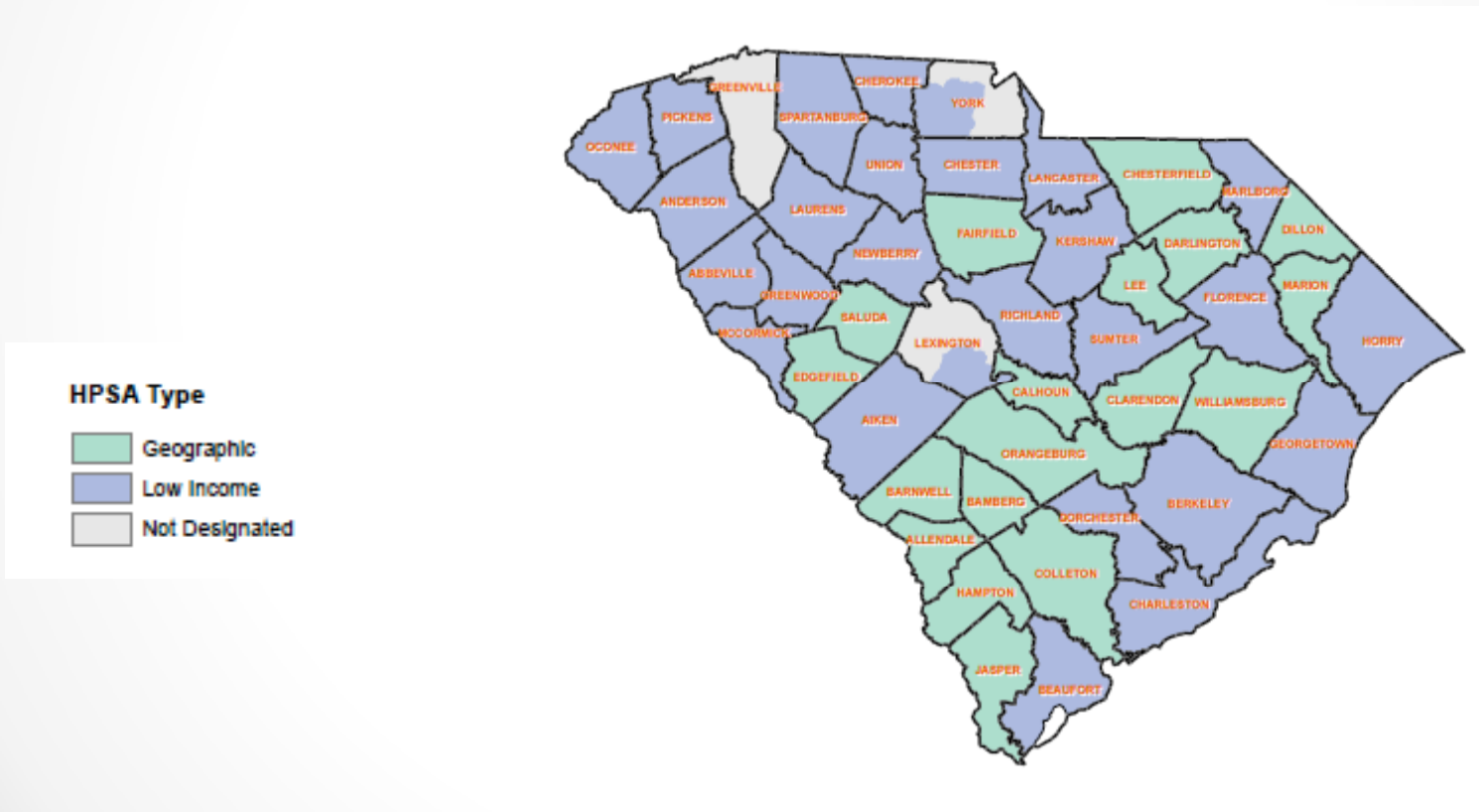
South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control

# About South Carolina

- Largely rural state
- High rates of poverty
- High rates of Medicaid enrollment
- High unemployment rate
- Large state budget deficit
- Policy – generally a lever of last resort and not necessarily legislatively routed
- Greatest strength – caring, compassionate people who are dedicated to improving the health of the state's residents!



# Understanding Dental Workforce: SC Dental HPSA by Type



Data Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services  
Map Source: Division of Public Health  
Informatics, PHSIS, SC DHEC 08/23/2010 {J.A.}

# Creating the perfect storm



**1999**

CDC funding - Dept of Ed  
Children's Coalition

**2000**

SCDA lead effort to increase Dental Medicaid Rates  
DHEC establishes Dental Director position  
Dental included in School Health Profile  
NGA OH Policy Academy  
First OH Summit

**2001-2002**

DHEC receives funding from CDC for SOHP  
DHEC receives funding from HRSA and RWJF  
Conduct 1<sup>st</sup> School Nurse Training  
1<sup>st</sup> OH Needs Assessment – K-5/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**2003**

OH Advisory Council  
State OH Plan v1  
Children's Coalition to address lifespan  
Medical and Dental OH training-Early Childhood  
**2003 to present:**  
Head Start OH Child Care Training  
Dental Practice Act – General Supervision of DH in PH setting – Public Schools  
Established the DHEC School Dental Program

**2006 - present**

State OH Plan v2

**2007-**Fluoride Varnish for medical providers

**2009** Clinical Practice Guidelines for Women who are Pregnant and Early Childhood

**2008** OH Needs Assessment

**2008-**CDC funding-SOHP

**2009** SCDA Fluoridation 'Strike Force'

**2009** – Pew Children's OH Report – SC Gets an "A"

**2010-**Funding from AAPD-Dental Home Initiative

**2009-2010-**DHEC SDP 20,000 kids

**2010-**Dental Screening Law/COHC

# Community Water Fluoridation

- HP 2010 Goal: 75%
- SC: 91% of public water systems are fluoridated
  - Present CDC/ADA Water Quality Awards annually at the Annual Surface Water Meeting
  - Provide water operator training
  - Conduct a mini-grant program to replace or repair fluoridation equipment
  - Provide WF Education and Advocacy Training with SC Dental Association



# Early Childhood

What the data tells us:

Dental Home: Age 24 months & under

•16.3 %

Fluoride Varnish: Age 3 and under

•23.3%

- Reimbursement for physicians is linked to EPSDT visit
- Only 1/3 receiving an EPSDT visit



Data: Amy B. Martin, DrPH, USC, ASPH

# School Age Kids: Sealants

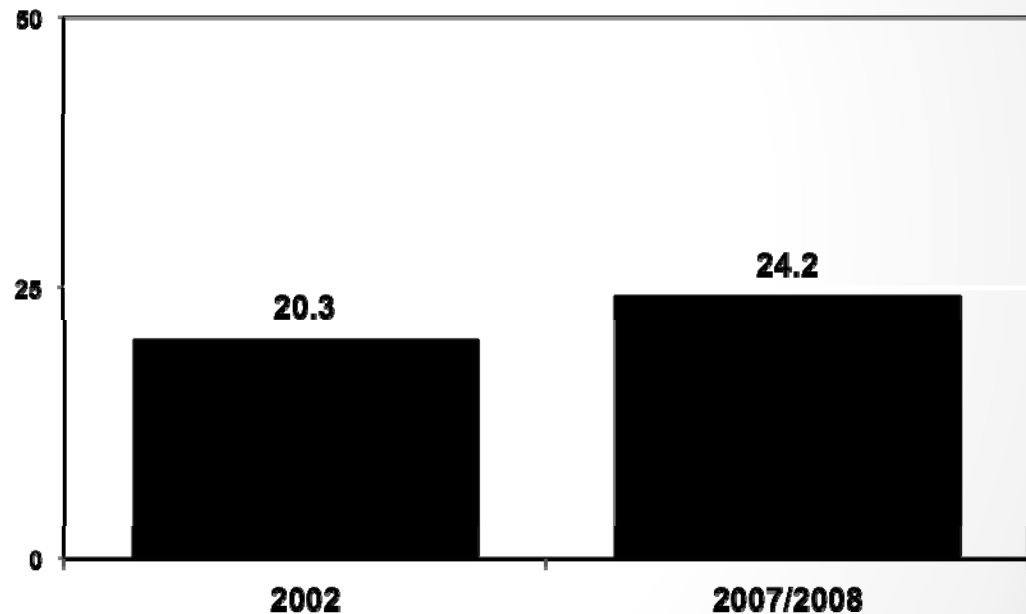
•No differences detected for:

- *Race*
- *Age*
- *Gender*
- *Free & Reduced Lunch Participation*
- *Rural-Urban location of school*

•***Medicaid Enrollment***

Children enrolled in Medicaid more likely to have sealants than other children.

**Percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Children with Dental Sealants from OHNA**  
**HP 2010 Goal: 50%**



# Caries Experience

*Race\** Black children more likely to have caries than White.

*Grade\** 3rd graders more likely to have caries than children in K-5

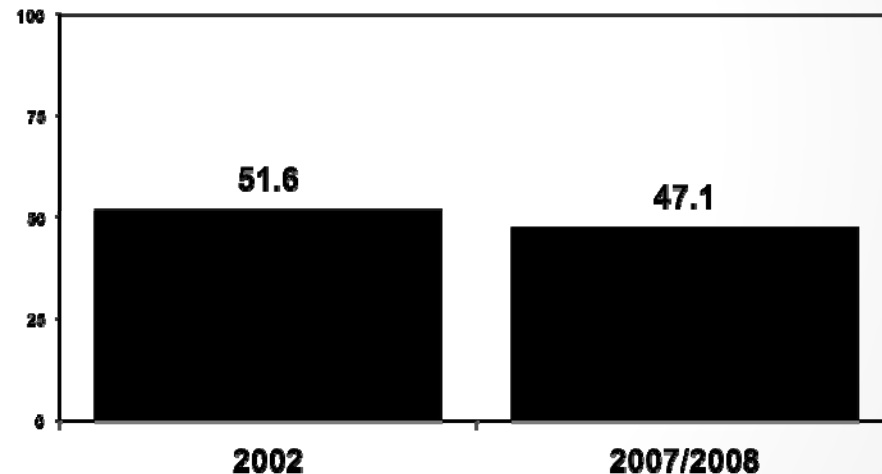
*Gender* No differences

*Medicaid\** Medicaid kids more likely to have caries than others

*F&RL\** F&RL participants more likely to have had caries than non-participants

*Rural-Urban Status\** Rural more likely to have caries than urban

**Percent of Children with Caries Experience  
from OHNA  
HP2010: 42%**





# Untreated Caries

*Race\** Black children more likely than White to have untx caries

*Grade\** 3rd graders more likely to have untx tooth decay than children in K-5

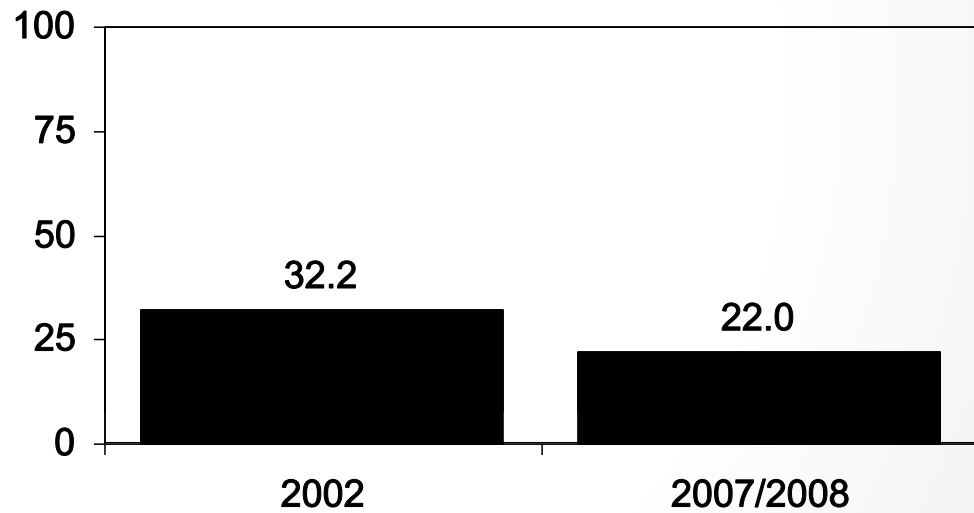
*Gender* No differences

*Medicaid* No differences

*F&RL\** F&RL kids more likely to have untx tooth decay than non-participants

*Rural-Urban Status\** Rural more likely to have untx tooth decay than urban

**Percent of 3rd Grade Children with Untreated Tooth Decay from OHNA HP2010 Goal: 21%**



# School Nurse Survey

- OHNA 2008 yielded lots of “whys.”
- School Nurse Survey (87% response rate) (ADA/SCDA)
  - Dental partnerships
    - Most have public health or private dentist partners
  - Types of services provided
    - Lots of cleaning and preventive care
  - Barriers to referral completion
    - Parents & Payment!
  - Policy/practice implications:
    - Education for parents
    - Enabling services for children
    - Partnership development for school nurses



# School Age Children

- Sealant use isn't great
- Caries experience, untreated caries, and treatment urgency are on the decline, \*\*with some exceptions.\*\*
- School nurses are critical links in the oral health system
- How do we empower the system?



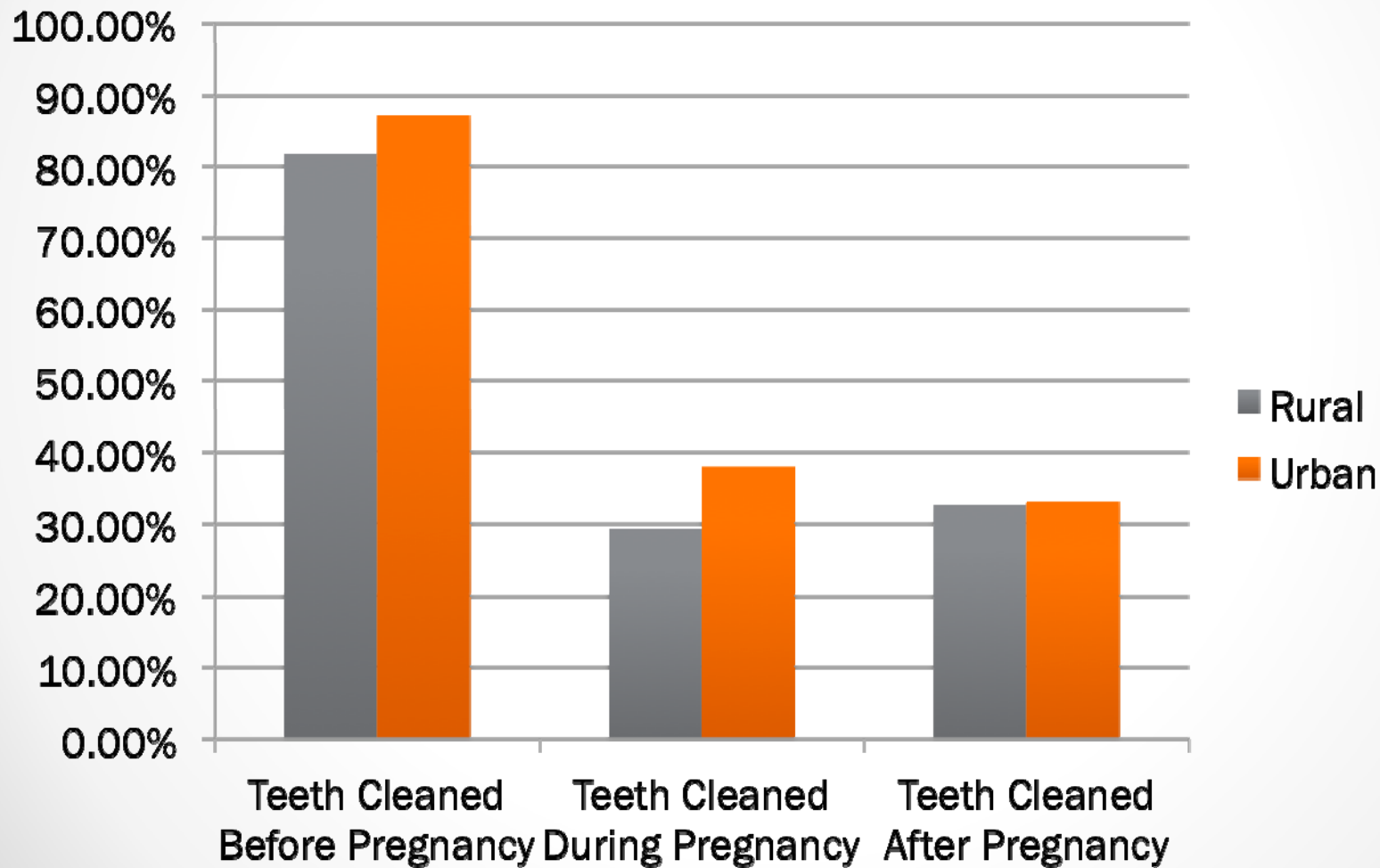
# Women who are pregnant

- South Carolina perspective:
  - 42.2% of births are to single mothers
  - 23% of births to mother with less than a high school education
  - 10.1% of births are low birth weight
  - 15.5% preterm births
  - Approximately, 57% of births paid by Medicaid

Adult Dental Medicaid Program – Emergency Dental Care Only:  
Ceased as of 2/2011.



# Pregnancy Risk Assessment & Monitoring System: 2005 - 2007



# Adults: ages 18 through 64

## Key Issues:

- 1/3 of SC's working adults are uninsured
- Emergency Rooms—ambulatory care sensitive conditions
- Dental is #1 in all rural counties but one
  - Dental is #2 statewide
  - ER Charges for dental related visits: \$9.1 million
- Adult Dental Medicaid Program –
  - Emergency Dental Care Only: **Ceased as of 2/2011**
- No policy mechanism in place
- What we do have:
  - FQHCs- sliding scale fees
  - SC Dental Association—**Dental Access Days**
    - 2009: 1,500 individuals served; nearly \$600,000 free dental care
    - 2010: 2,000 individuals served; \$740,000 free dental care

# Older Adults

## Key Issues:

- Adult Dental Medicaid Program –
  - Emergency Dental Care Only: **Ceased as of 2/2011**
- No policy mechanism in place
- What we do have:
  - FQHCs- sliding scale fees
  - SC Dental Association—Dental Access Days



# Thank You!

For additional information:

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