

Building Bridges: The Role of an Oral Health Coordinator



About Us

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Community Health Director
Oral Health Coordinator



District Health Department No. 2
www.dhd2.org

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Oral Health Coordinator

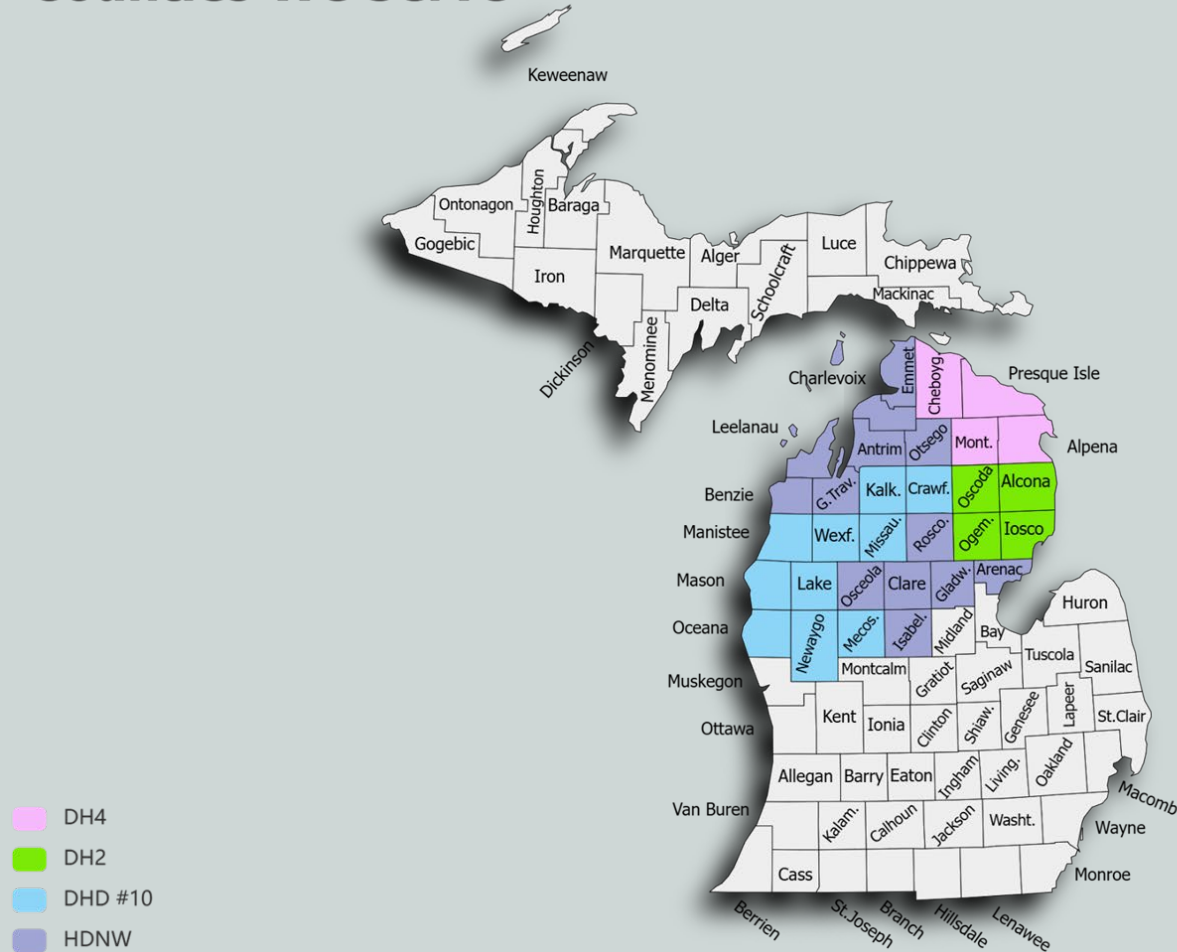


DawnMarie Strehl RDH, CDIPC

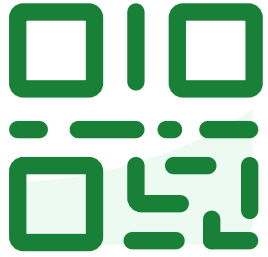
Regional Oral Health Supervisor
Respiratory Protection Supervisor
Oral Systemic Educator



Counties We Serve



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design



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The 2nd most common childhood disease is dental cavities (tooth decay).



**Do you have an oral
health coordinator
employed by your health
department?**



True or False: George Washington wore wooden dentures.



**Would an oral health
program within your
health department
increase access to care in
your community?**



Approximately 1 in 5 children between the ages of 5 and 11 years old have at least one untreated cavity.



Dental decay is contagious.



**Which of the following is
a public health strategy
to improve oral health?**



Which of the following is an example of an assessment that would be performed by a dental hygienist working for a health department?



**True or False: Actress
Demi Moore lost her 2
front teeth due to stress.**



A PA-161 Program

Key Objectives

History

Best Practices of an OHC

Programs, Certifications & Credentialing

Interjurisdictional Collaboration

Sustainability



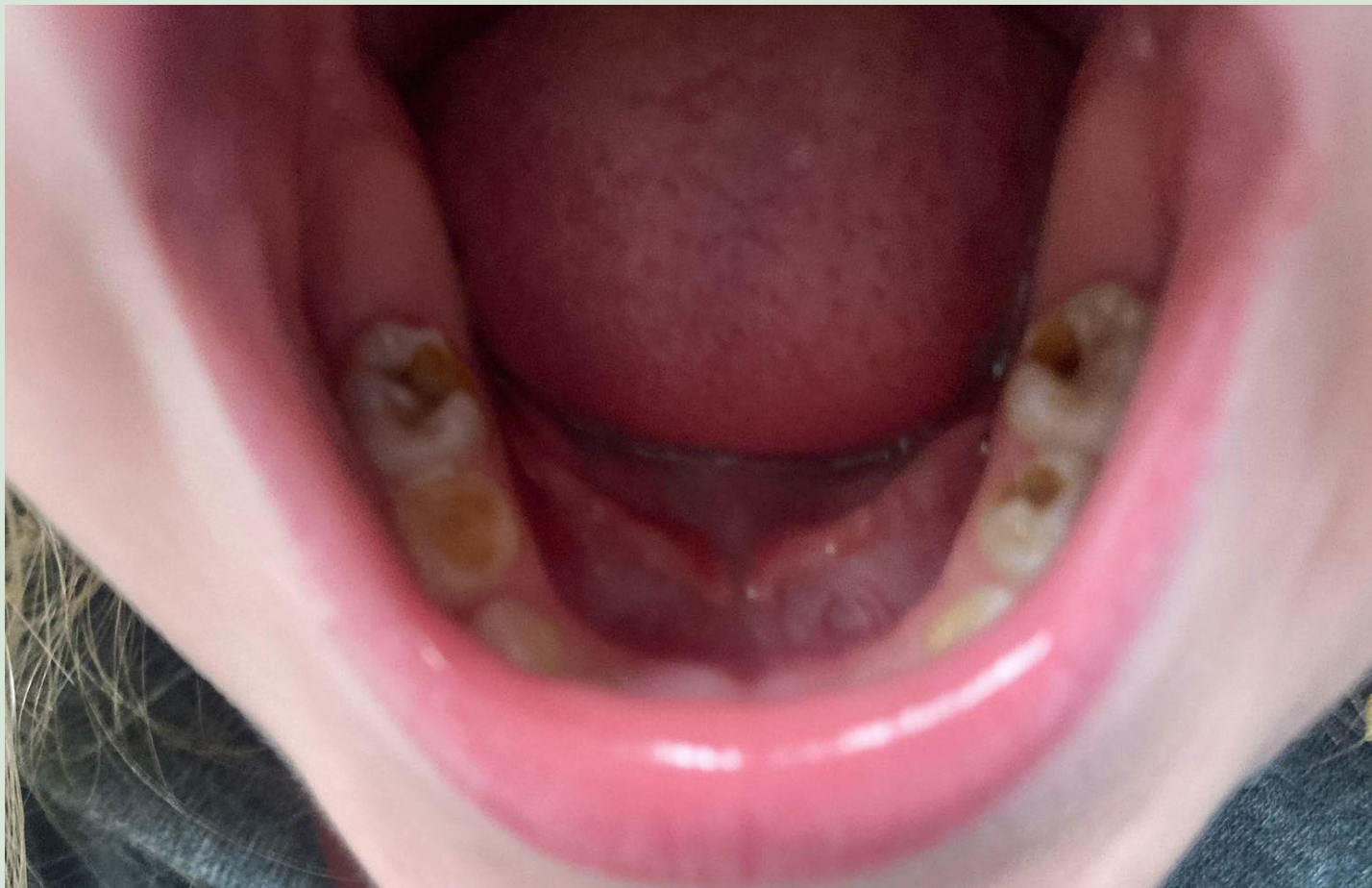




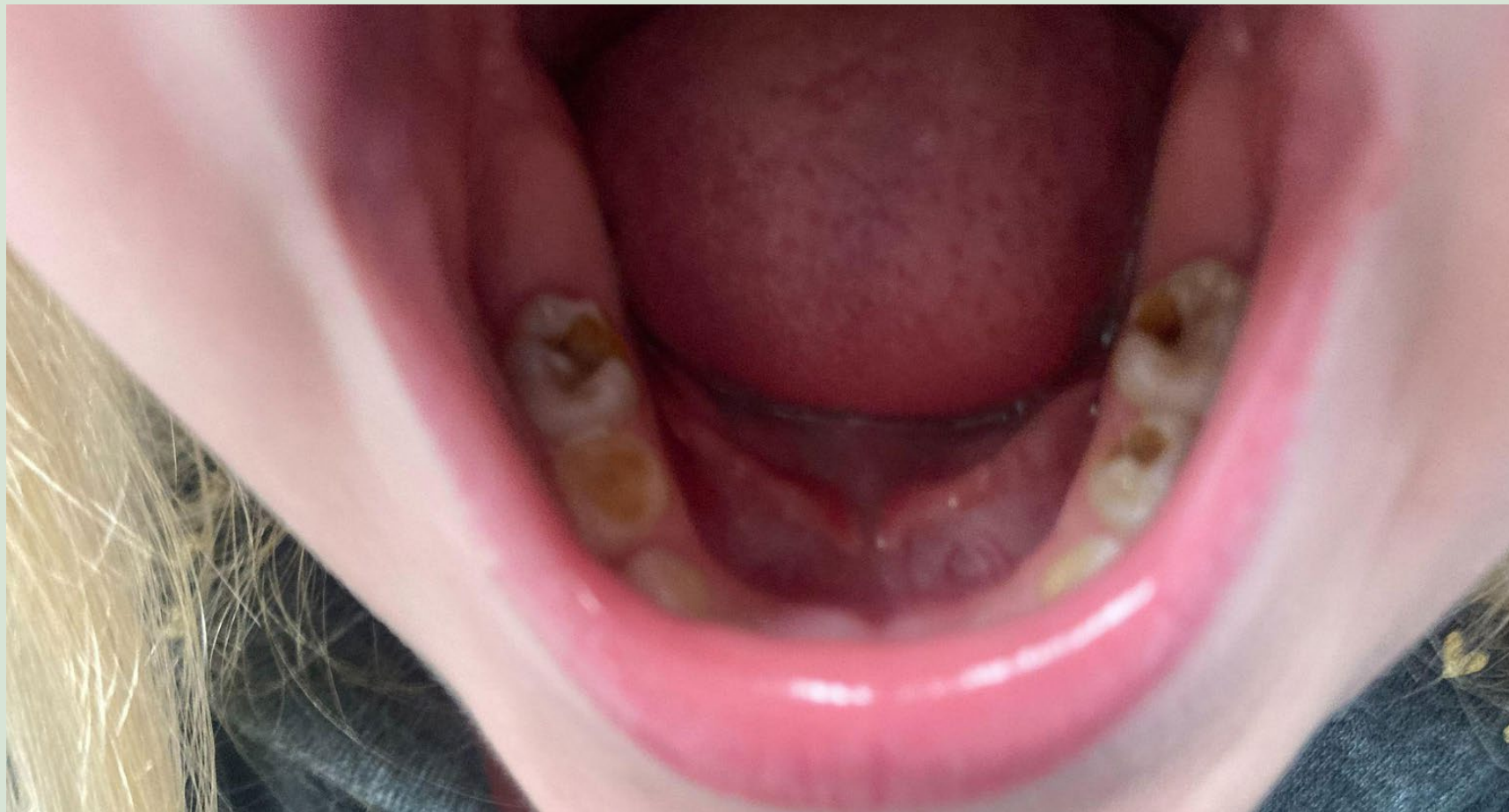


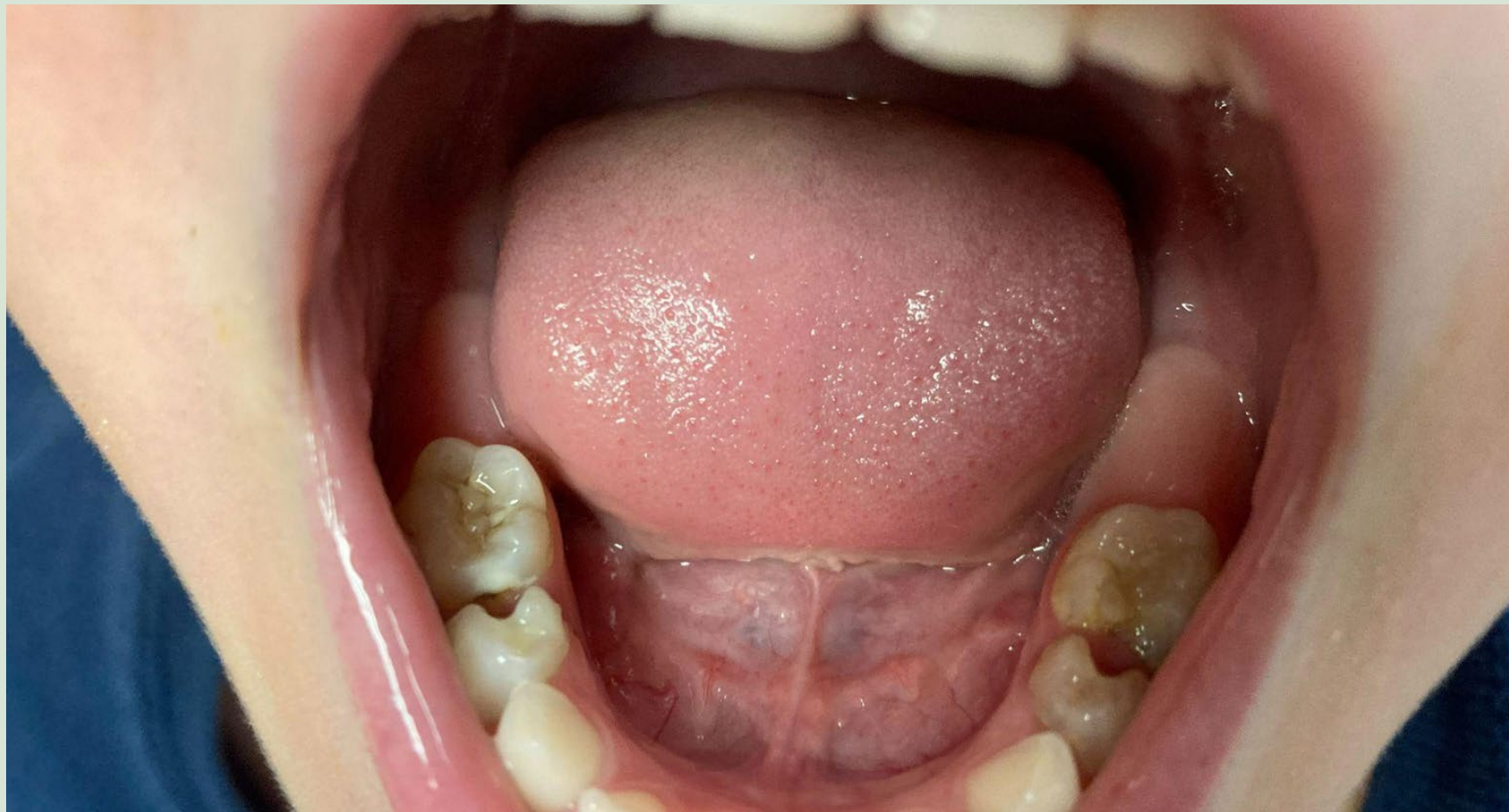




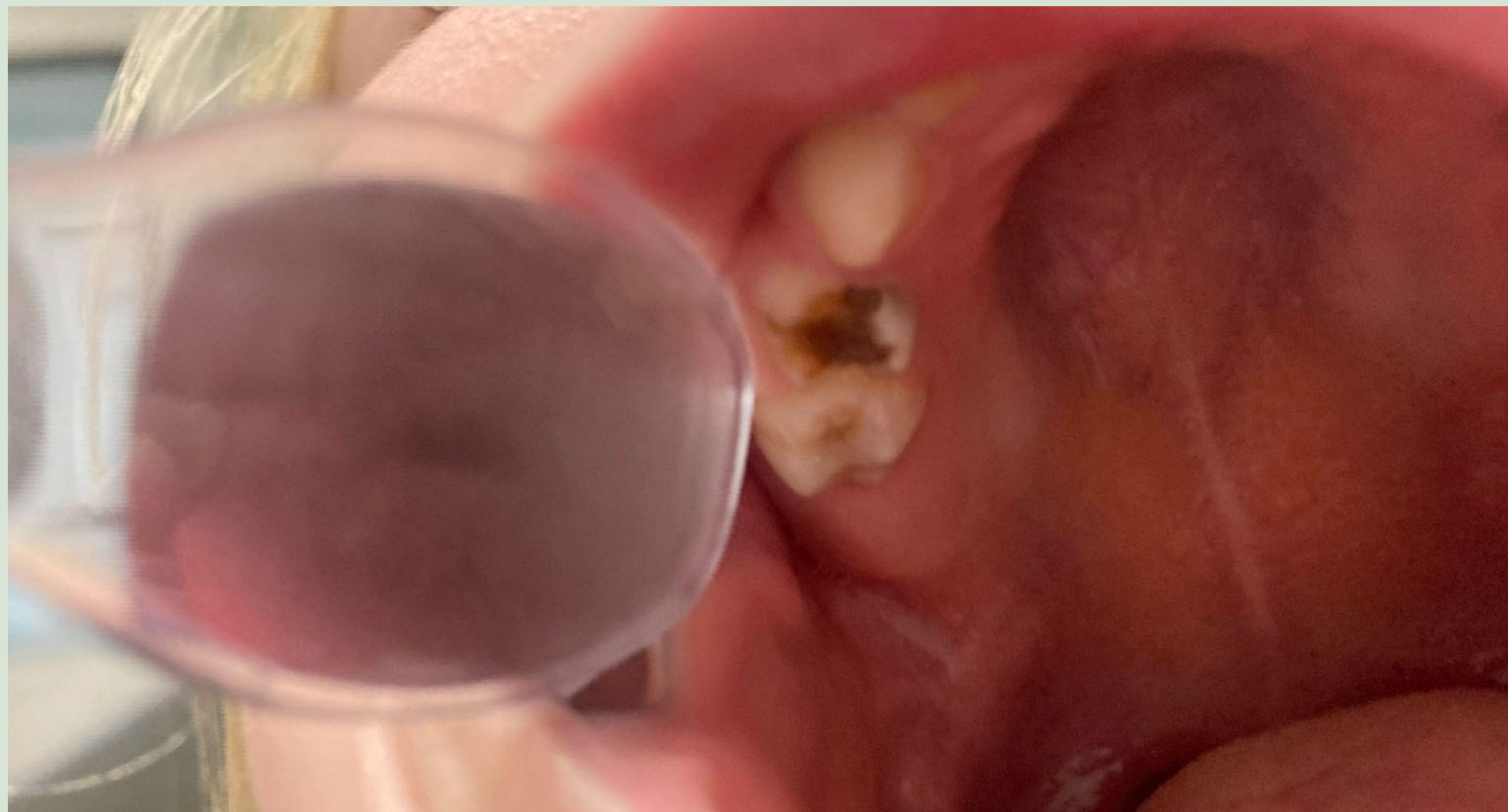


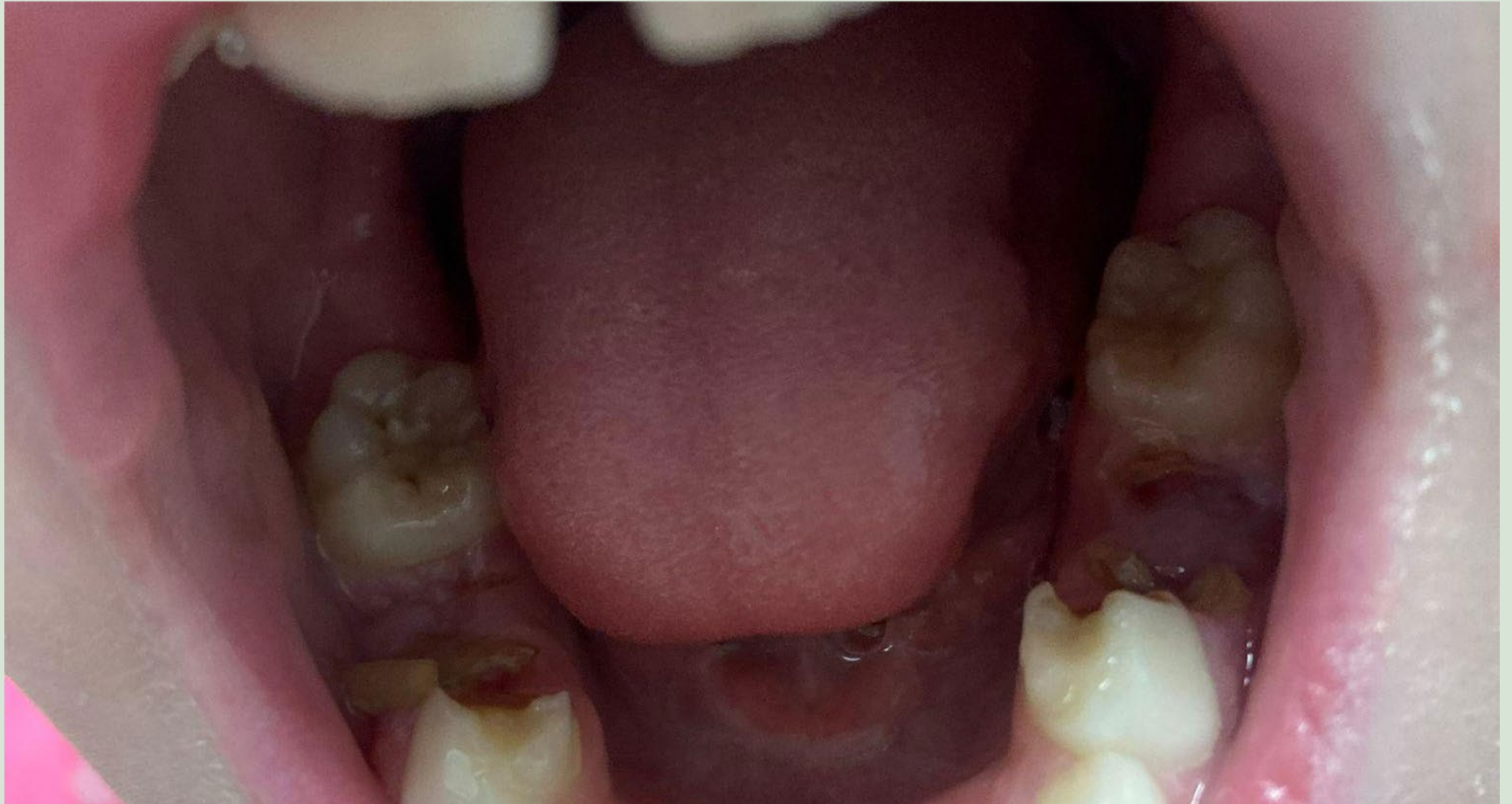














Access to Care

Difficulty navigating dental insurance coverage

- *Medicaid vs. Private Insurance*

Financial Barriers

- *Paying copays*
- *Time off work*

Lack of Education on Importance of Oral Health

Geographic Barriers

- *Transportation*

Workforce Shortages

- *A dentist listed as a provider doesn't necessarily mean they practice in that area*

Prevention Gaps

- *Providers not seeing kids at Age One*
- *Very few Pediatric Dental Providers*



This IS Public Health



How an OHC Improves the Local Health Department



Use clinical expertise to
guide evidence-based
practices



Implement preventive
& educational
programs



Increase program
collaboration within
the health department

Oral Health Integration/Collaboration within Local Health Department Programs

WIC Clinics

MIHP

Community Health Workers

Adolescent Health Centers

Oral health education

Age One Dental

Caries risk assessment

Fluoride varnish
application

Referral to local dental
home

Refer moms for dental
care during pregnancy

Oral health education for
mom and baby

Caries risk assessment

Fluoride varnish
application

Pregnant Woman Dental
Benefit education

Age One Dental

Insurance referrals

Pregnant Woman Dental
Benefit assistance

Referrals to CHW to
address other barriers

Refer to OHC for
assistance with
connection to a local
dental home

Oral health education for
students

Referrals to OHC urgent
dental needs

Referral to a local dental
home

Community Engagement & Partnerships



MDHHS



Schools and
Preschools



Dental Providers



Oral Health
Coalitions,
Foundations and
State Board of
Dentistry

Public Health Oral Health Coordinator

Required

- Licensed Dental Professional
- PA 161 (Public Dental Prevention Program)
- Mobile Dental Permit

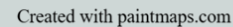
Recommended

- Oral-Systemic Educator Certification
- CDIPC Certification (Dental Prevention & Infection Control Certification)

Strength in Numbers - Interjurisdictional Collaboration

Creating best practices with neighbor local health departments crossing jurisdictional lines.

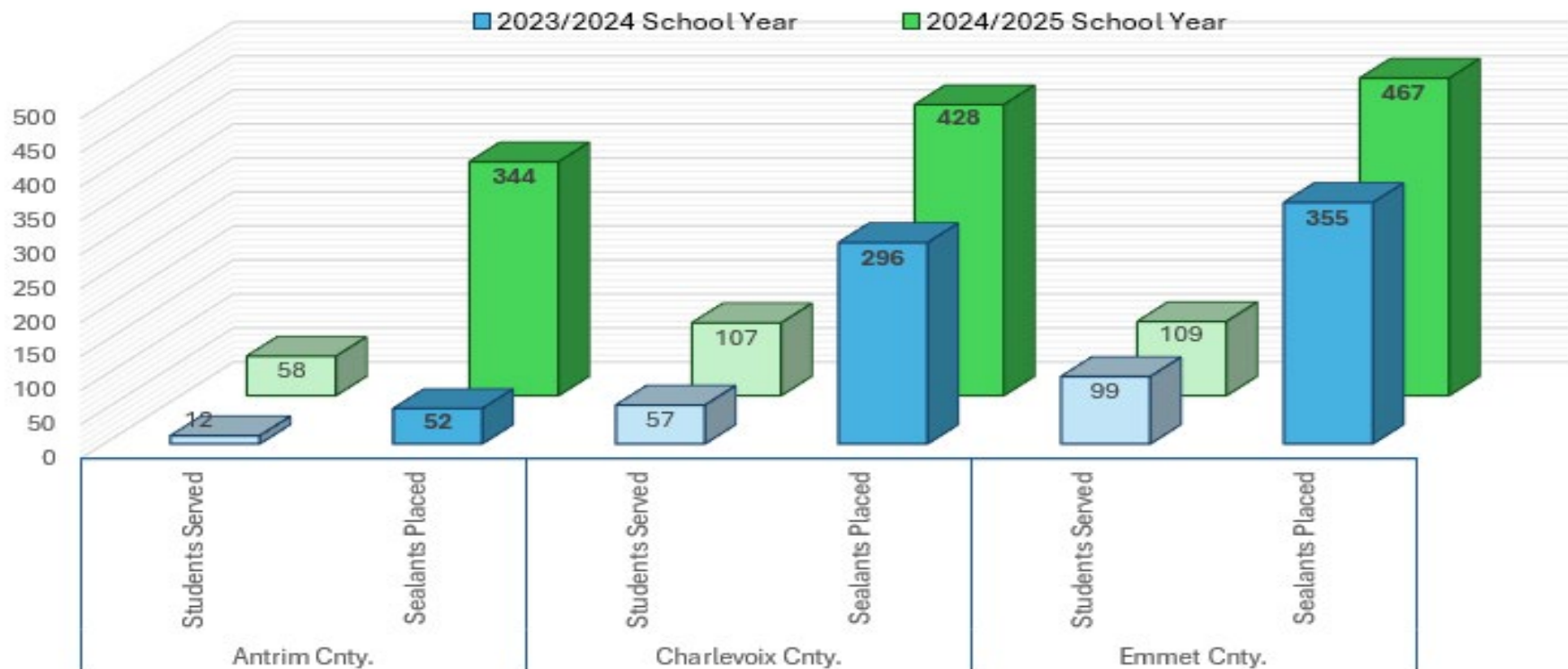




Funding, Sustainability, Data

- Identify and Apply
- Advocate
- Collect and Analyze

Health Department of Northwest Michigan Dental Sealant and Student Growth 2023-2025



District Health Department No. 2

FY25 October 1 - September 30

- Total # of oral health assessments: 344
- Referral for dental treatment: 69
- Referral for urgent care: 18

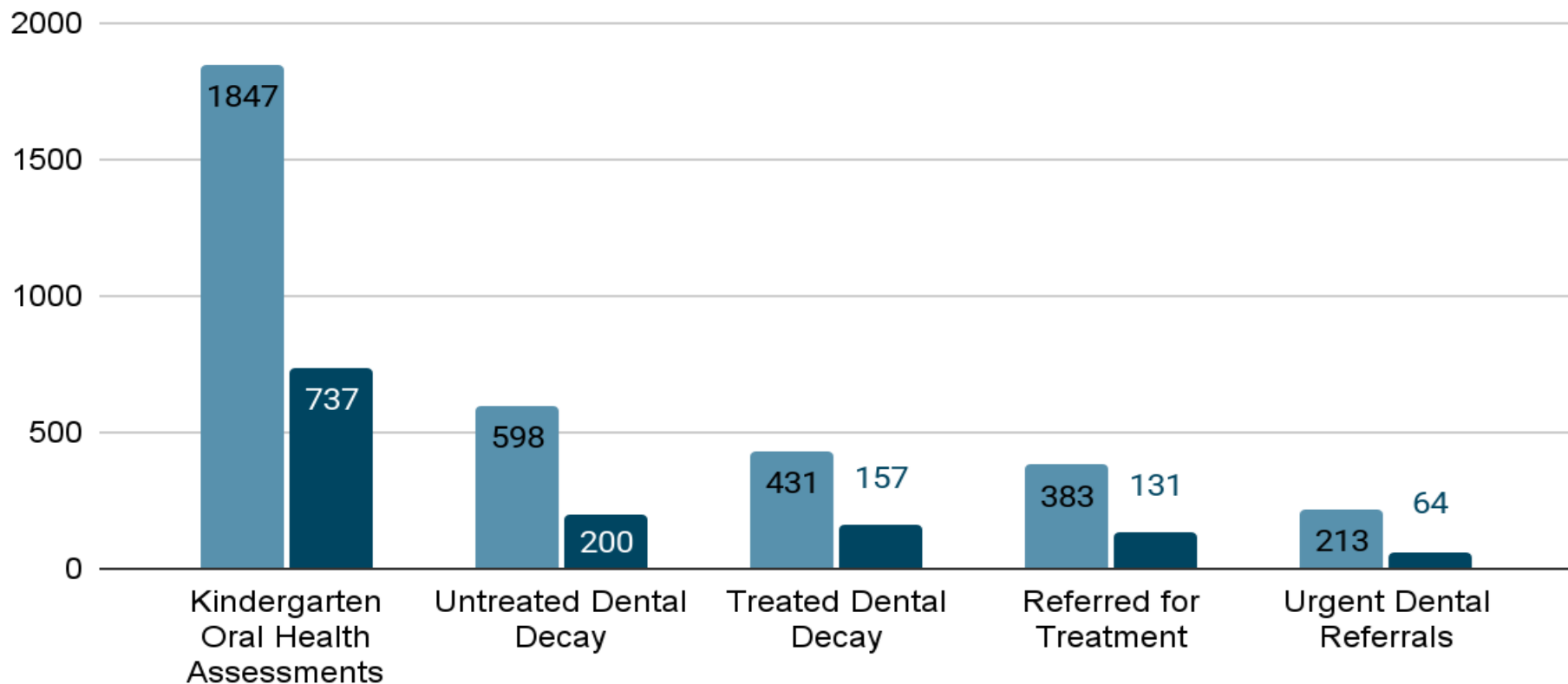
District Health Department No. 4

FY 25 October 1 - September 30

- Total # of oral health assessments: 312
- Referral for dental treatment: 42
- Referral for urgent care: 6

DHD #10 KOHA Program

March 24- December 24 March 25 - October 25



Bringing it All Together



Integration Works



Sustainability and Impact



Community Connections



Measurable Outcomes



Next Steps

Discussion



**Please scan
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complete the
survey.**

Thank You!

**Building Bridges: Enhancing Local
Health Departments with Oral
Health Coordinators**

