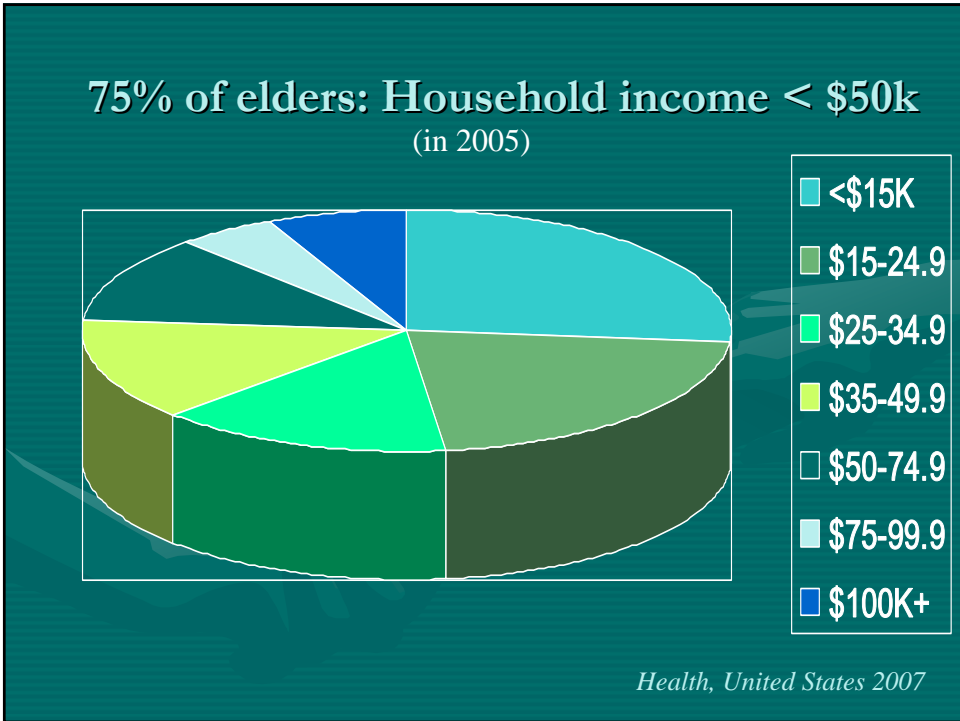



Elders in Public Housing: An opportunity for prevention

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Oral Health Equity Project

- “Serving Boston’s Elders” at the request of Boston City Councilman Michael Ross
- 1.2 Million households in public housing*
- Multiyear partnership 2002-2007
- Focused on surveillance, access to care, education and prevention
- Free oral screenings, fluoride varnish, denture labeling, education and referral for elders
 - 81 sites; 1443 elders ages 60+ screened

*HUD, 2008; <http://www.bphc.org/programs/initiative.asp?i=278&p=87&b=2&d=>

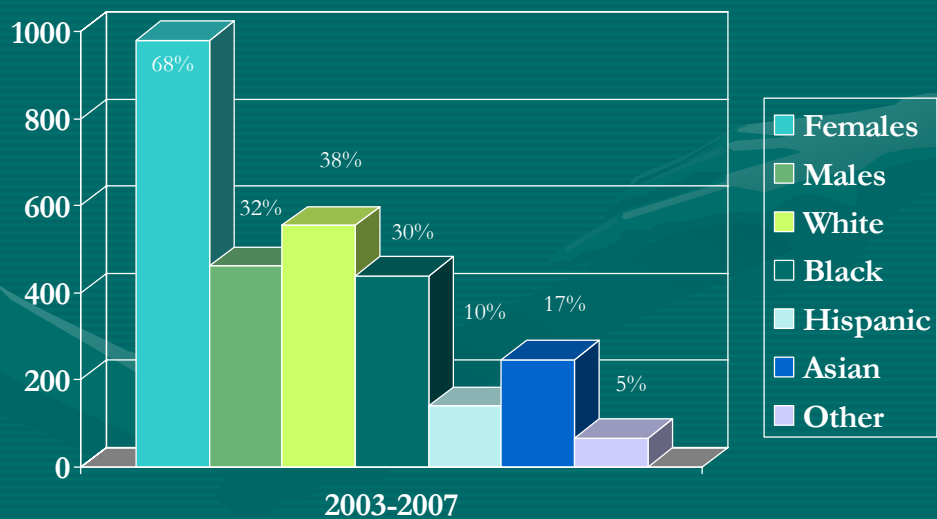
OHEP Community Partners

- Councilman Michael Ross and his office
- Boston Housing Authority
- Commission on the Affairs of the Elderly
- Mayor’s Health Line at BPHC
- Mayor’s Health Van of BPHC

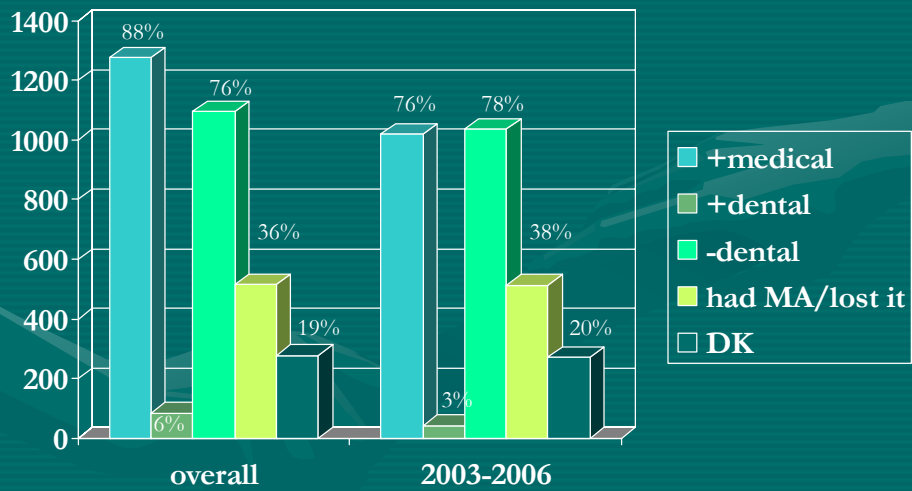
Oral Health Equity Project (OHEP) Partnership

- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine
- Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Harvard School of Dental Medicine
- Tufts School of Dental Medicine
- Funded by the Oral Health Foundation

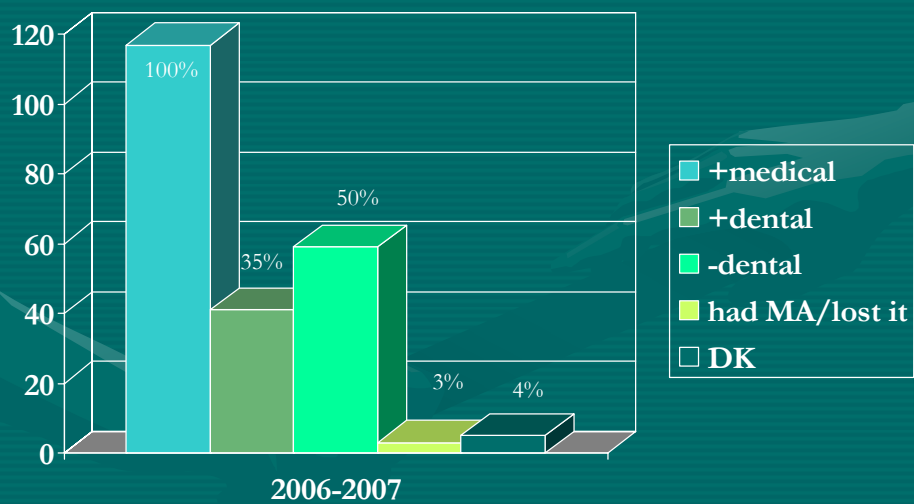
OHEP: Demographics



OHEP: Insurance

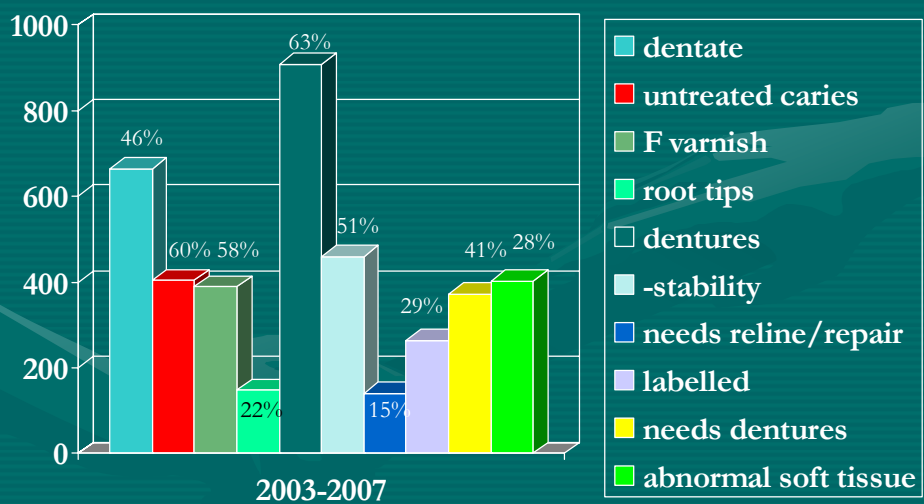


OHEP: Insurance

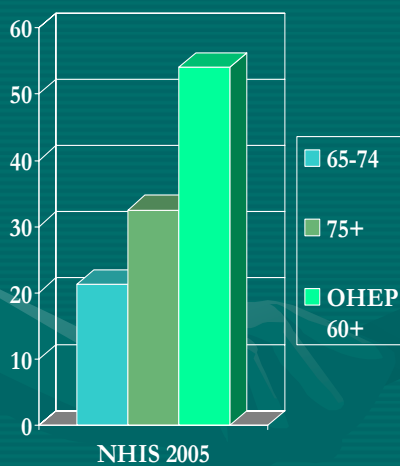


After Medicaid was reinstated for adults in MA

OHEP: Oral Health Status

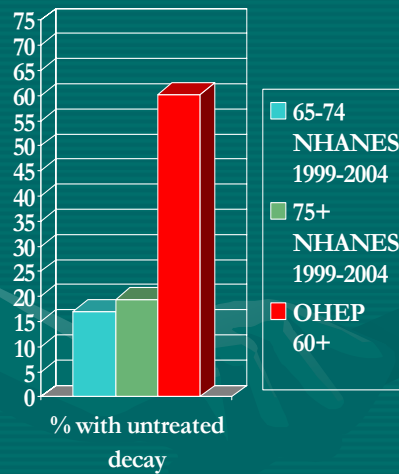


More OHEP elders were edentulous



- NHIS data from 2005 show that 21% of 65-74 year olds and 32% of 75+ are edentulous
- Elders from public housing are more likely to have lost all their teeth: 54% of 60+ year olds have lost all their teeth

OHEP: Untreated caries 3* greater than national studies



- NHANES 1999-2004 showed that 17.1% of 65-74 year olds and 19.5% of 75+ year olds had untreated caries
- 60% of 60+ year olds in Boston's elders housing had untreated decay
- Source: Dye, Tan et al., NCHS Series 11, #248, 2007

Summary of OHEP Needs

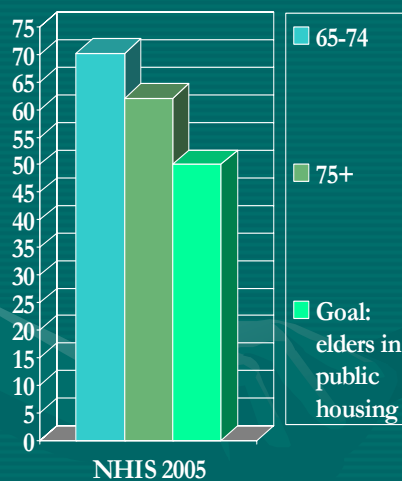
- Access: half-no insurance
- Prevention: 60%
- Restoration: 60%
- Dentures: 56%
- Diagnosis: 28%

Barriers

- Insurance
- Location: 1443 elders in 81 sites
- Multiple cultures and languages
- Similar to schools: identify those at high risk and provide preventive services
- Legal issues: who can and cannot provide care
- ↑ needs for diagnostic, restorative and denture care
- Must have these services at least by referral

OUR GOAL:

Most elders use dental care in ≤ 2 yrs



- 65-74 year olds: 60% use care every year and another 10% every 2 years
- 75+ year olds: 55 use care every year and 7.5% every other year
- Goal: At least half of elders in public housing will use care within 2 years

Advocacy

- Keep oral health care in Medicaid
- Include oral health care for elders in publicly financed plans
- Advocate for elder coverage among private primary insurance carriers and Medicare
 - At least for basic services-primary care, tx of pain and infection and prevention
- Partner with Elders' organizations to keep oral health care a part of health care

CDC's Advisory Committee to Director suggests:

- ✓ “Require new efforts to address the special needs of older adults...
- ✓ Deliver programs in communities in which older adults work, reside, and congregate...
- ✓ Existing public health programs required to examine whether they meet the needs of an aging population.”

MMWR 2/14/03

It takes a village to improve oral health for our elders



Diego Rivera, Detroit Institute of Arts