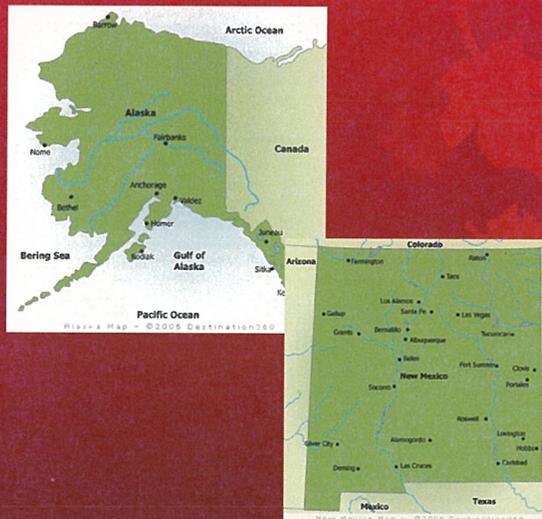


ALASKA DENTAL THERAPIST (DHAT) PROGRAM

Stephanie Woods, DHAT
NM Legislative Economic & Rural Development Committee
Santa Clara Pueblo, NM
October 10, 2013

New Mexico and Alaska: Shared Dental Access Issues

- People in rural **Alaska** cannot access the dental care they need.
- People in **New Mexico** cannot access the dental care they need.



First Group of Alaska Students to Graduate from New Zealand



**Otago University
Class of 2004**

- From Left to Right:
- Lillian McGilton
 - Robert Curtis
 - Conan Murat
 - Stephanie Woods

DHAT Educational Program Students 2 Years, Post High School Model





How we travel between villages in the winter

DHAT Scope of Practice

Diagnosis and Treatment
Planning, Prevention,
Basic Hygiene,
Radiographs,
Infection Control,
Restorative,
Pediatric,
Urgent Care,
Extractions,
Community Projects,
Clinic Management,
Equipment Repair and
Maintenance,
Referral Process

- **All ages**
- **Supervised provider**
- **Part of a team of dental and medical providers**



Routine Prevention

- Sealants
- Prophys, cleanings
- Fluoride varnish treatments
- OHI and dietary recommendations

Prevention- it is never too early to start

Fluoride varnish &
Povidone Iodine



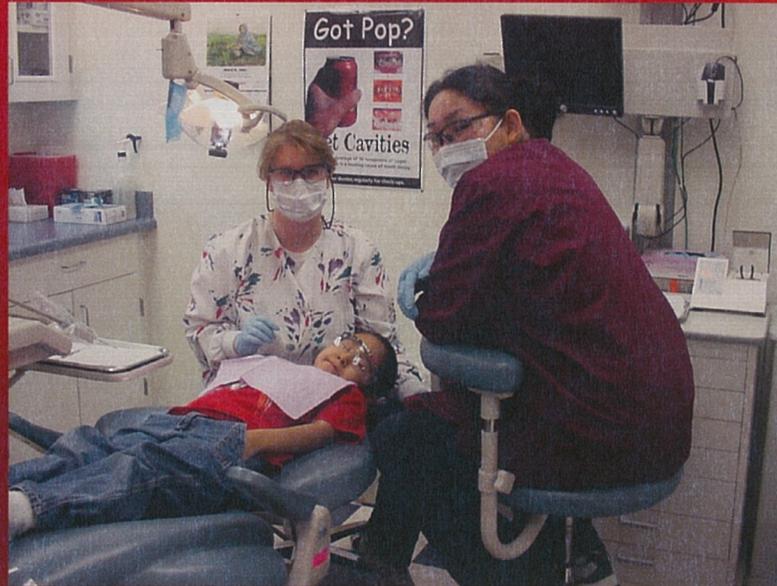
DHAT student, Bonnie Johnson with young patient



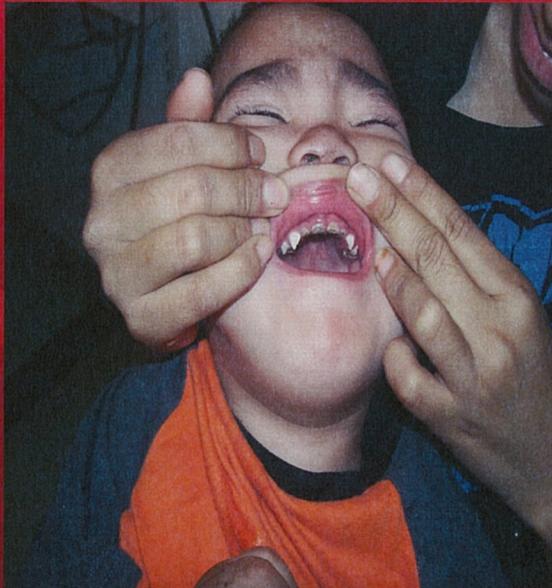
Routine Treatment

- Amalgam and composite restorations
- Extraction of primary and permanent teeth
- Primary teeth pulpotomies and ss crowns
- Sedative and temporary fillings
- ART

Patient receiving routine care



Early Childhood Caries- 18 month old



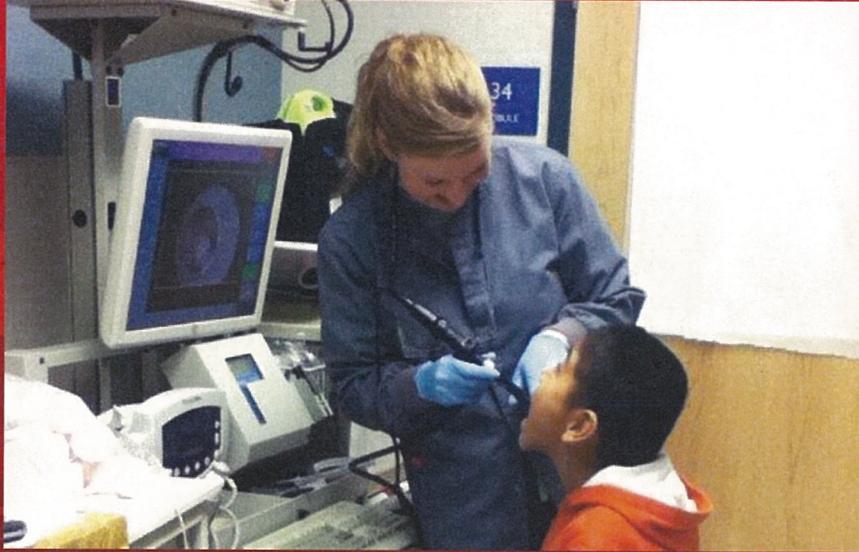
TREATMENT:

- OR referral- Dentist
- Follow-up with DHAT to maintain health after treatment for ECC
- Work with caregiver to make sure other kids in family avoid this outcome

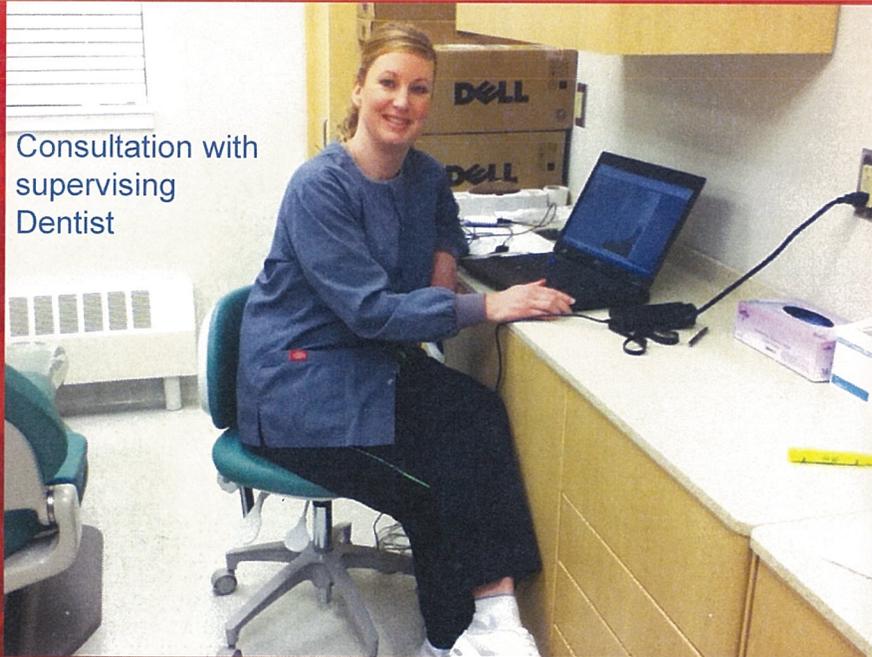
DHAT VISION:

- OR treatment no longer seen as norm
- Caries free children

Telemedicine



Consultation with
supervising
Dentist



It wasn't enough!
Kids would tell me every
day that they forgot to
brush!

I decided to start making
daily trips to the school.



Daily visits at school

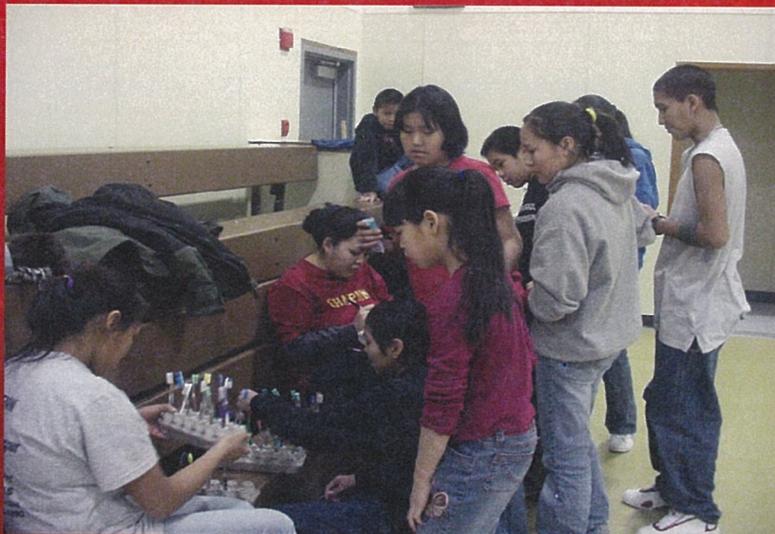
School Based Services:

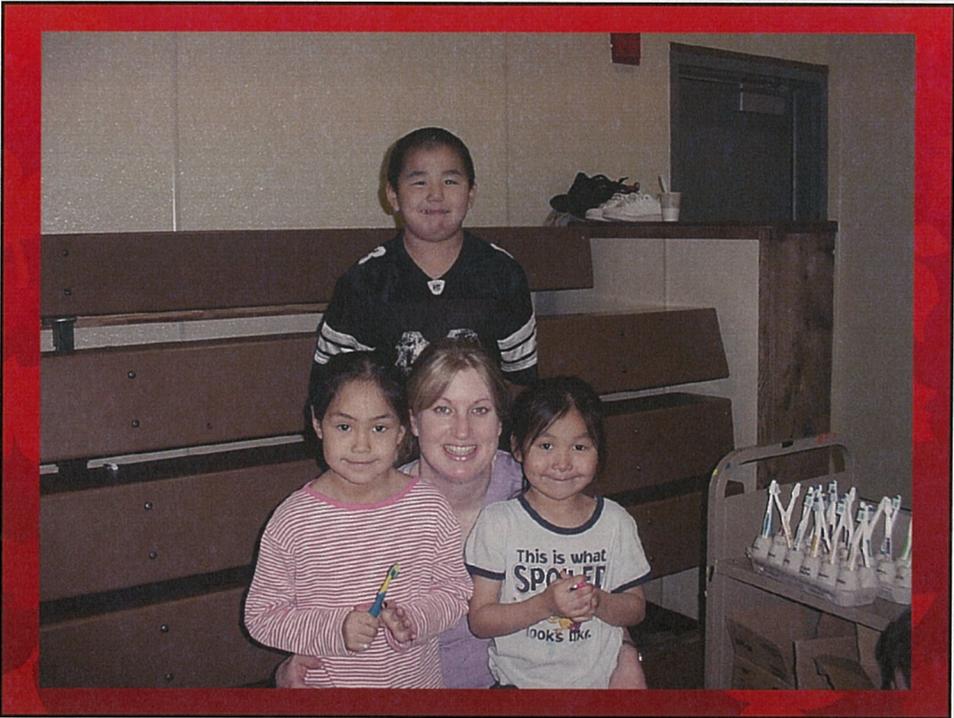
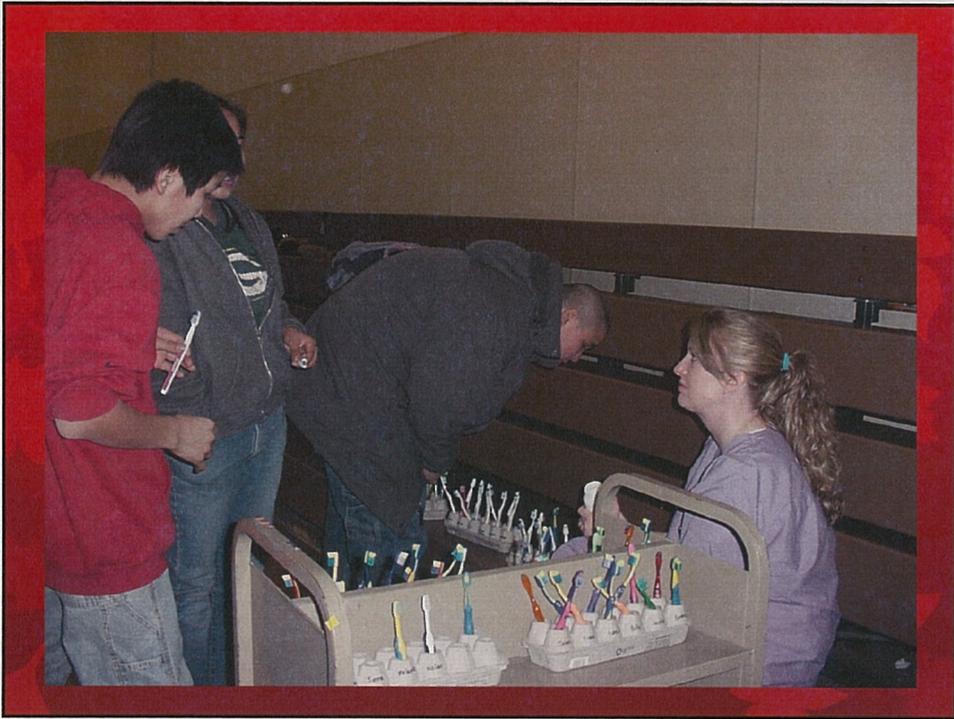
- ❖ Brushing and OH instruction
- ❖ Fluoride lozenges

Building rapport, promoting OH awareness:

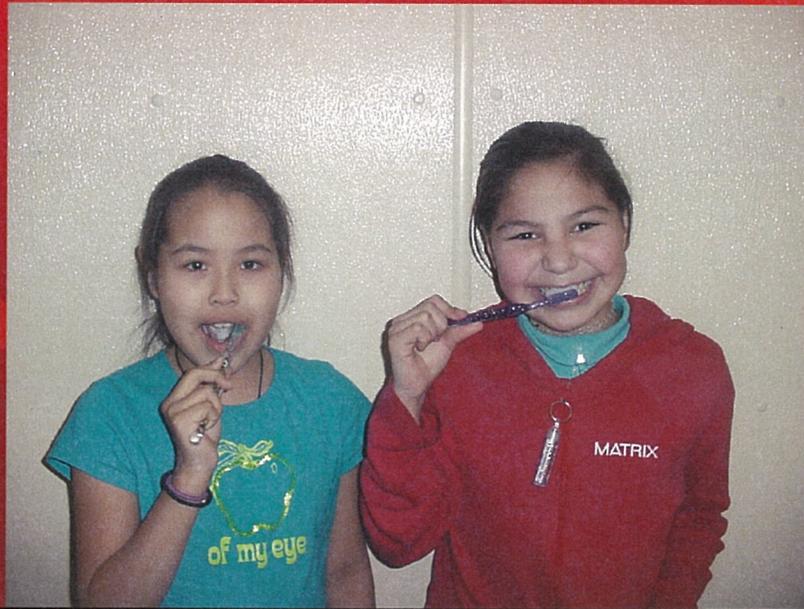
- ❖ Eat lunch with the kids
- ❖ Play games in the gym
- ❖ OHI in classrooms
- ❖ Attend awards ceremonies
 - ❖ "No Cavity Club" awards
- ❖ Principal is very supportive
 - ❖ considers us part of the school staff

Kids getting their toothbrushes at the school

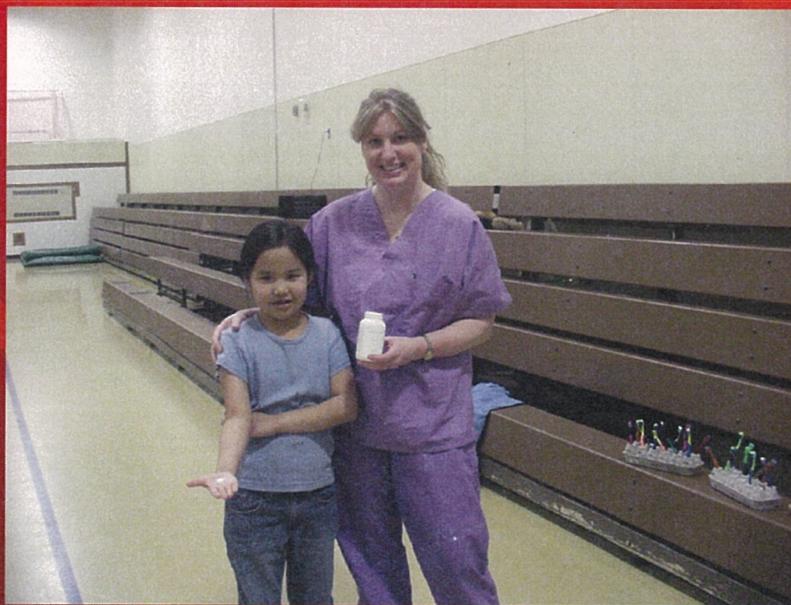




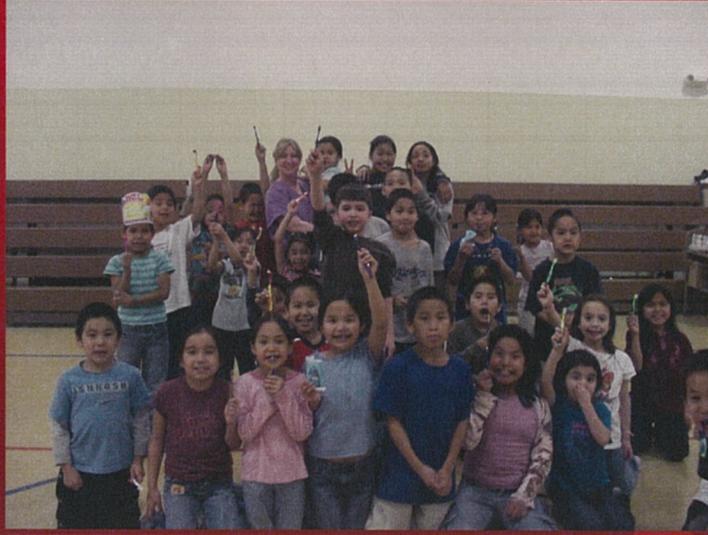
Middle School girls brushing



Giving out Fluoride



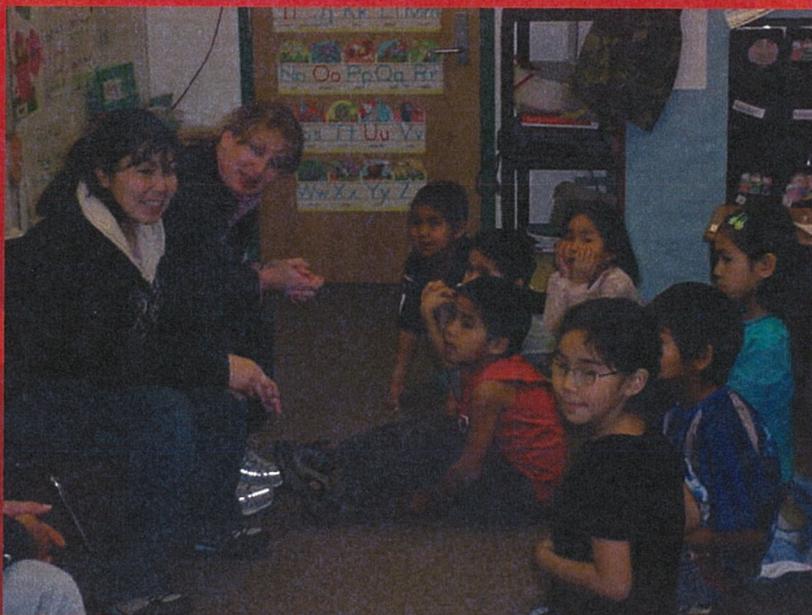
KUUVANMIUT Prevention Program



No Cavities Club



Classroom time in Kobuk



Community member with no cavities and no restorations



No Cavities Club Parenting Group

Parents-to-be, Parents
and Grandparents

Learn how to raise a
cavity free child

VHF Radio Communication from DHAT's Home

- Announce my location to all three villages
- Announce meetings
- Remind kids to brush their teeth at night



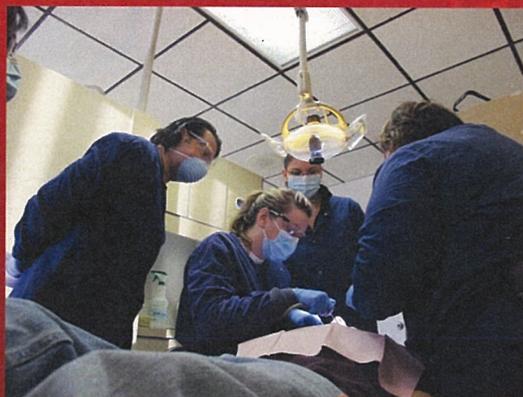
2010 CDC Report - Alaska

CARIES EXPERIENCE:

- ❖ 77% of 2-4 y.o.
- ❖ 95% of 6-8 y.o.
- ❖ 83% of 15 y.o.

UNTREATED CARIES

- ❖ 60% of 2-4 y.o.
- ❖ 66% of 6-8 y.o.
- ❖ 67% of 15 y.o.



DHAT Students providing restorative care with instructor supervising

More DHATs to come!

Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapists Students
Class of 2014

 <p>Lauren Reed, Noatak Sponsor: Maniilaq Association</p>	 <p>Samantha Brown, Kotzebue Sponsor: Maniilaq Association</p>	 <p>Shawn Martin, Bethel Sponsor: Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation</p>
 <p>Renee Cheemuk, Kotlik Sponsor: Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation</p>		 <p>Angelica Afcan, Emmonak Sponsor: Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation</p>

AA DT Meeting 2012
*Practicing Dental Therapists
Alaska & Minnesota*



Questions?

Contact information:

Stephanie Woods, Lead DHAT
Maniilaq Health Association
Kotzebue, Alaska

Work: 907.442.7324
stephanie.woods@maniilaq.org

