

# Aboriginal Oral Health Research

Academic-Community Partnerships

Guest Speaker Presentation - Dr. Mary McNally and  
Amanda Demsey

Introduction to Aboriginal Peoples' Health and  
Healing (IHPE 2201) Course, Dalhousie University  
December 3, 2012, 2:30 pm, McCain 2162

# Purpose

Research that brings together two kinds of knowledge:

- “Indigenous” knowledge
- “Biomedical” knowledge

Research that makes a unique contribution to our understanding of the oral health of the Aboriginal population.

# Research Involving First Nations, Inuit and Metis People of Canada

- Requirement of Community Engagement
- Respect for Governing Authorities
- Complex Authority Structures
- Respect for Community Customs and Codes of Practice
- Requirement of Research Ethics Review
- Research Agreements
- Mutual Benefits in Research
- Strengthening Research Capacity
- Recognition of the Role of Elders and Other Knowledge Holders
- Interpretation and Dissemination of Research Results

# Academic-Community Partnerships

- Three Types of Partnerships with Inuit Communities:
  - Representative of Health Canada's Office of the Chief Dental Officer (OCDO)
  - University partner with the Nunatsiavut Government and Health Canada's Atlantic Region of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
  - University partner with NunatuKavut
    - Community Advisory Committee



# Representative of Health Canada

- Health Canada worked in partnership with First Nations and Inuit peoples to address the gap in Canadian Aboriginal oral health information. (2008-2010)
- Health Canada launched Inuit Oral Health Survey and First Nations Oral Health Survey (2008-2010).
  - Measured oral health of individuals (aged 3 to 79)
  - Surveys conducted in 6 Inuit and 6 First Nations communities (selected randomly)
  - Surveys modeled after the Oral Health Module of Statistics Canada's Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS)
  - Dr. Mary McNally conducted surveys in Nain (2008) and Iqaluit (2009)

# University Partner - Nunatsiavut

- Labrador Aboriginal Children's Oral Health Survey, 2011-12
- Inuit children and adolescents living in two Nunatsiavut communities - Makkovik and Hopedale - situated on the east coast of Labrador.
- Survey conducted by investigators from Dalhousie University's Faculty of Dentistry in collaboration with the Nunatsiavut Government's Department of Health and Social Development and Health Canada

# Labrador Aboriginal Children's Oral Health Survey

- Purpose:
  - Collect baseline oral health information to provide community leaders, health care providers, and health service providers in Nunatsiavut with relevant data to inform health care planning and service delivery

# Labrador Aboriginal Children's Oral Health Survey

- Methods:
  - Used standardized instruments previously developed and validated for the Oral Health Module of the Canadian Oral Health Measures Survey (OHM-CHMS) and the Inuit Oral Health Survey (IOHS).
  - Structured interview - participants' perceptions of their general oral health as well as oral health care habits, utilization and cost of health care services.
  - Clinical dental examination - gather information on individual oral health status.

# Labrador Aboriginal Children's Oral Health Survey

- Survey Response Rates:
  - Over 50% of the total population of children and adolescents (aged 3 to 19) participated in the structured interview and clinical dental examination.

# University Partner - NunatuKavut

- Kungatsiajuk: Supporting the Healthy Smiles of NunatuKavut Children
- A three-year research study on the oral health of children living in Southeastern Labrador.
- Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health
- \$387,575 over 3 years.

# This project has six objectives.

- Identify community perspectives regarding issues related to oral health promotion and oral health care service delivery in NunatuKavut.
- Collect baseline oral health data from children from birth to age 17.
- Design and implement community-level interventions for children, tailored to the oral health needs, resources and preferences of the community.
- Establish and examine the role and utilization of oral health navigation services provided by the Healthy Smiles Coordinator.
- Monitor and evaluate the participatory processes, and our ability to generate community-driven policy recommendations related to oral health promotion and oral health service delivery.
- Provide policy recommendations that will inform culturally-appropriate oral health promotion activities and oral health service delivery.

# Methods

1. Creation of Community Advisory Committee
2. 12 - 15 key informant interviews
3. 18 focus groups/storytelling sessions with caregivers, children, and adolescents.
4. Collection of baseline oral health data .
5. Introduction of two oral health interventions:
  - i. Creation of an Oral Health Navigator position
  - ii. Workshops will be held with community members to create policy recommendations about oral health service delivery and health promotion activities.
6. Evaluation of our processes and outcomes.

# Who:

- Led by Dalhousie University researchers:  
Drs. Debbie Martin, Mary McNally, Heather Castleden.
- Along with NunatuKavut Health and Social Sector,  
Darlene Wall
- A Community Advisory Committee
- Research Coordinator - Iona Worden-Driscoll
- Healthy Smiles Coordinator, Michelle Clarke

# Community Advisory Committee

- Judy Pardy - Cartwright
- Megan Hudson - Labrador Grenfell Health
- Laverne Campbell - Charlottetown
- Margaret Rumbolt - Mary's Harbour
- Joan Jenkins - St. Lewis
- Brittany Morris (Youth)

# Why:



- This study will allow us to gather information that may help improve the oral health for children and youth in southeastern Labrador.

# Timeline:

- Received Ethics approval in early April 2012.
- May 1, 2012 - Debbie Martin & Mary McNally met with the Community Advisory Committee, Darlene Wall & the Healthy Smiles Coordinator in Port Hope Simpson, as well as Project Collaborators -John Graham and Dr. Annie Hornett via Teleconference. .

Thus, beginning “Kungatsiajuk” Healthy Smiles’ first visit to the communities.

- May 1 - 19, 2012, Debbie, Mary, Michelle and Barbara Campbell (hired as dental recorder for this visit) visited the five communities.

# Timeline continued:

- July -Aug. 2012 - Hired a Summer Student

Amanda Demsey a Dentistry Student at Dalhousie

- Compiled data from first trip.
- Completed Structured Interviews from first trip.
- Completed transcripts of Story-telling sessions.

# Completed to Date:

- Visits to five communities:

- Port Hope Simpson
- St. Lewis
- Mary's Harbour - Lodge Bay
- Charlottetown - Pinsent's Arm
- Cartwright

\* \* \* Black Tickle & Norman Bay to be completed at later date



# Completed to Date:

## Baseline Oral Health Data:

- Collected information on the dental health from over 250 children (birth to 17 years).
- (Black Tickle and Norman Bay not completed yet)

## Storytelling Sessions:

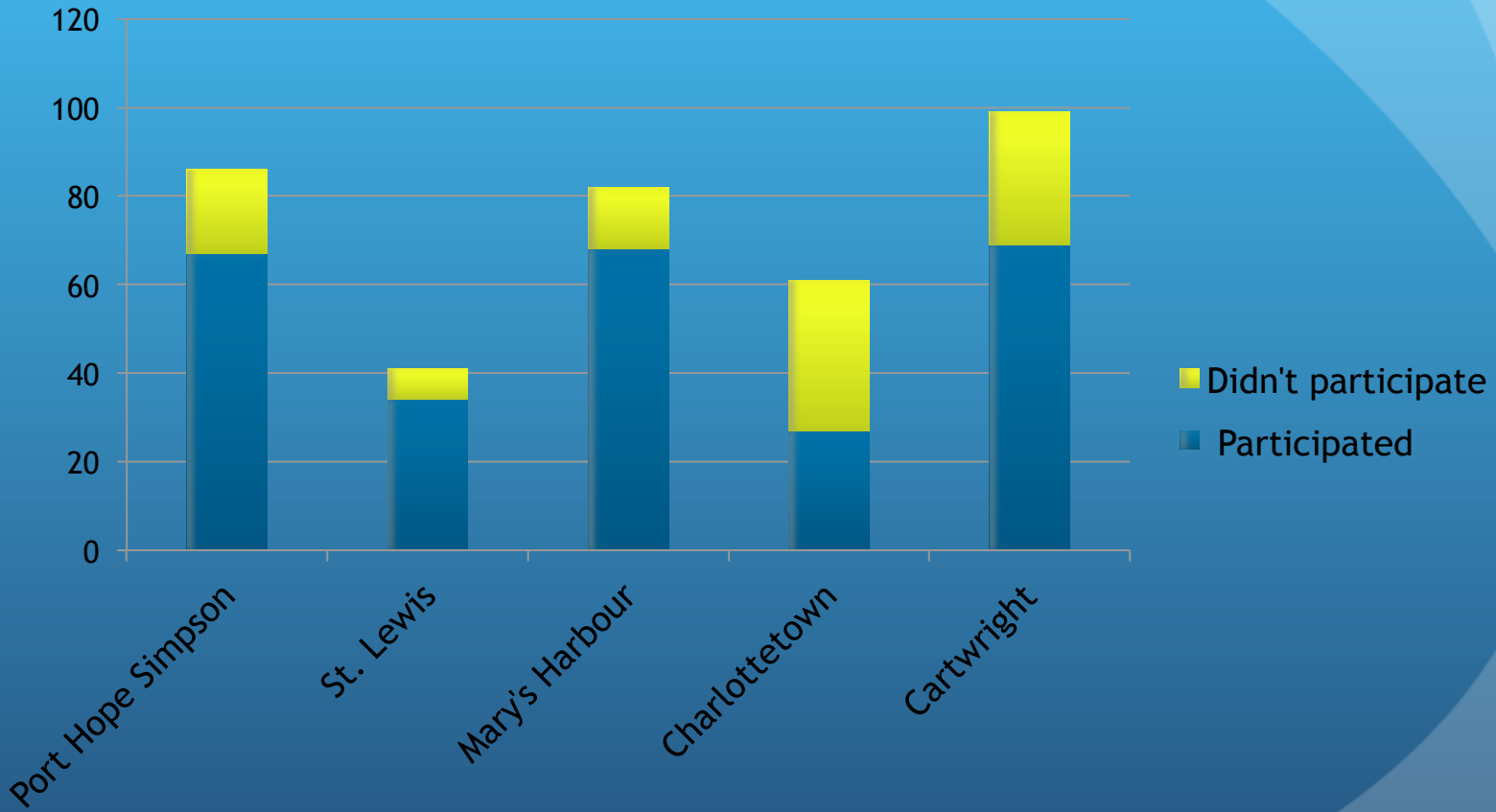
Twelve sessions completed

-- six more to complete



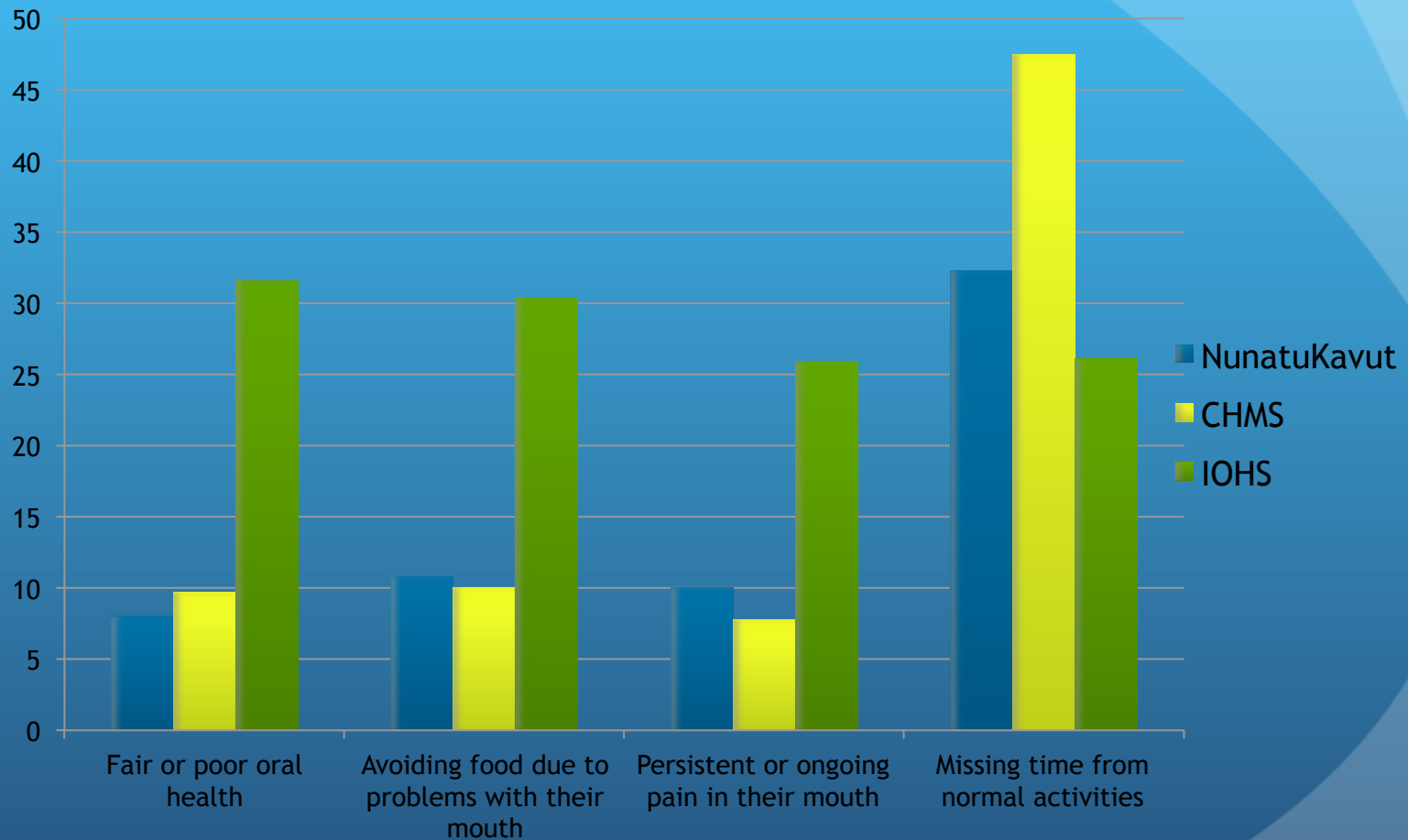
# Oral Health Survey

Number of participants by community



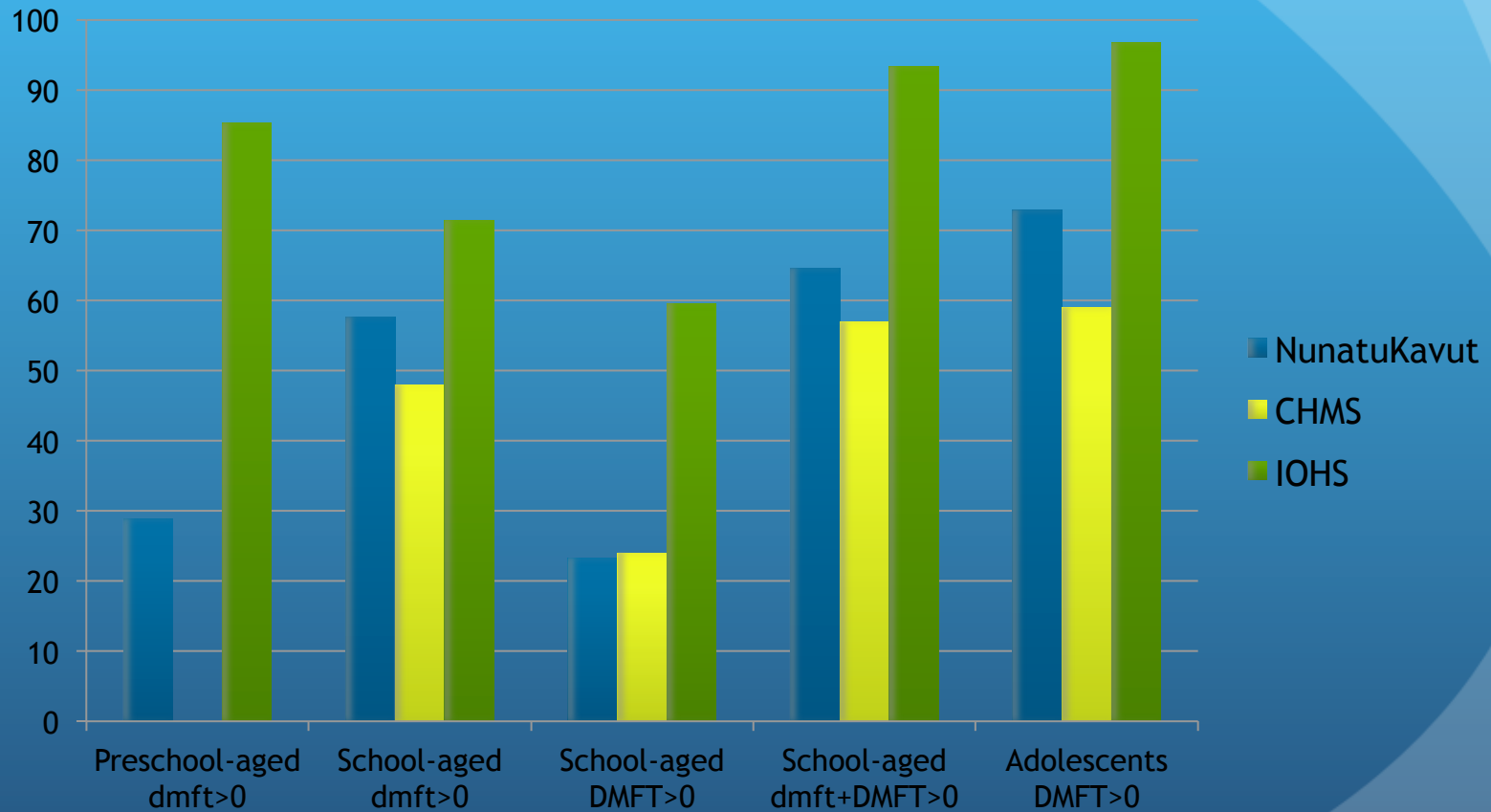
# Self-reported Oral Health Perceptions

Percent of respondents

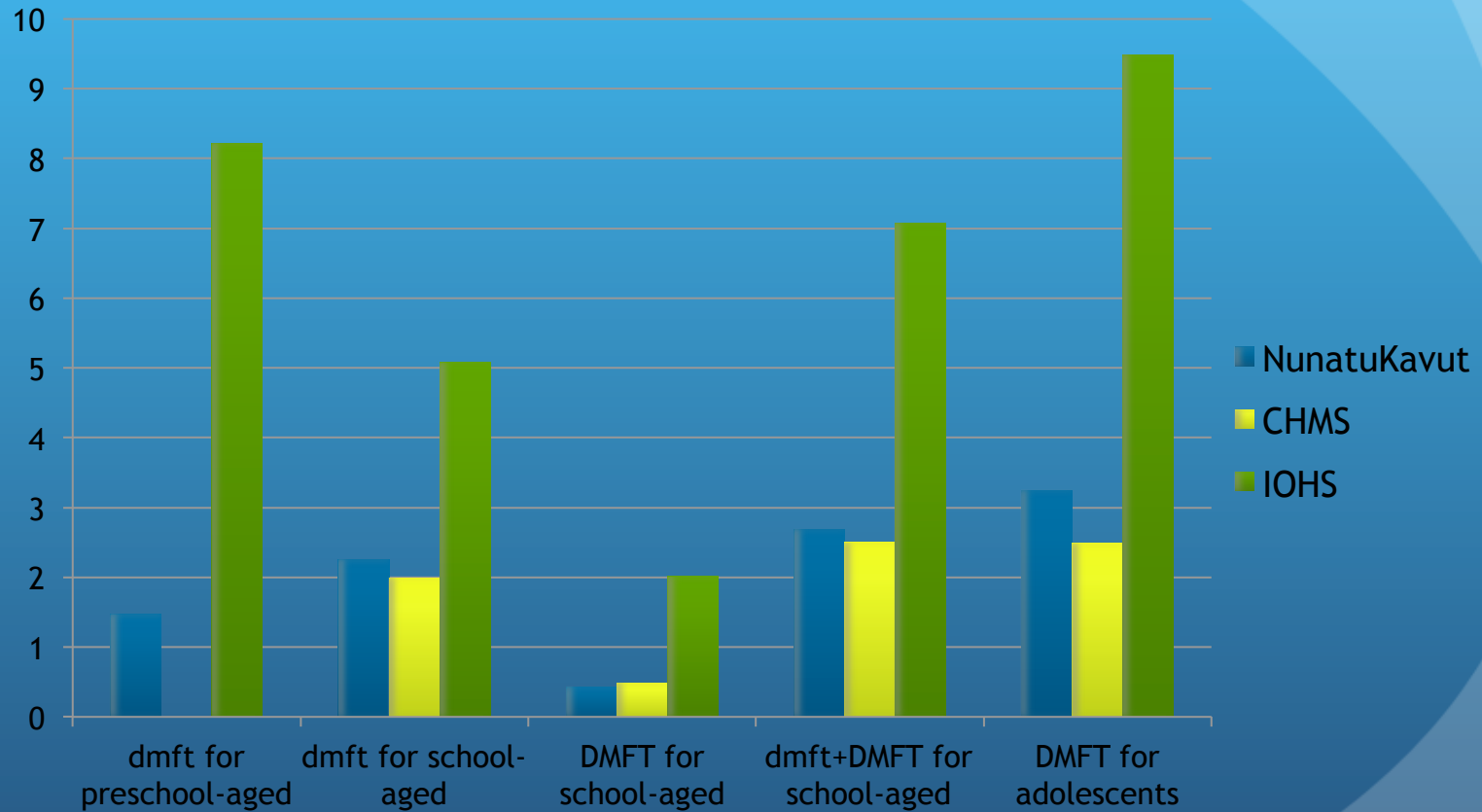


# Prevalence of Dental Caries

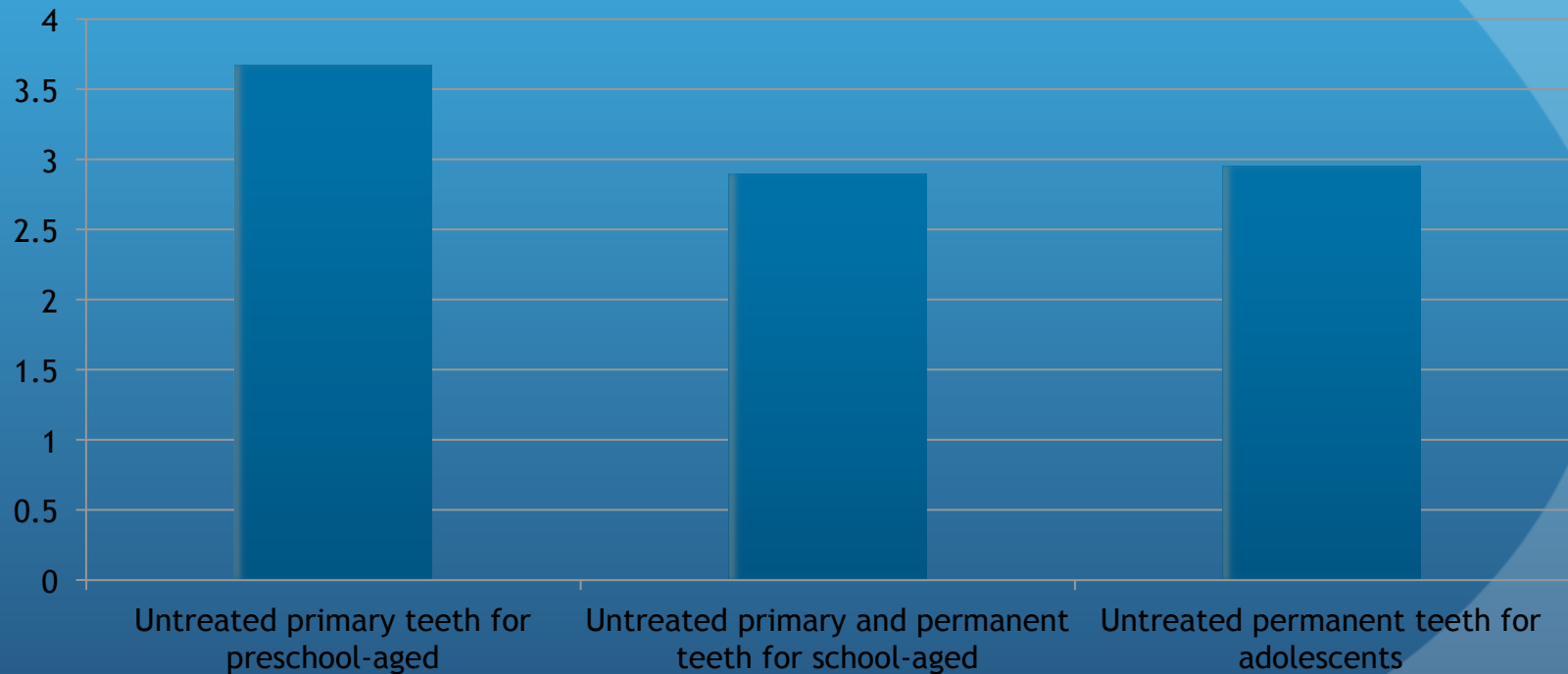
Percent of respondents



# Mean Number of Decayed, Missing, and Filled Teeth



# Mean Number of Untreated Teeth among those with 1 or more Untreated Caries



# Next Steps

- Complete Trip to Black Tickle & Norman Bay.
- Complete Key Informant Interviews in each Community.
- Compile additional information
- Analyze information
- Prepare information and projects to return to communities.

# For More Information:

- Contact:

Michelle Clarke

Healthy Smiles Coordinator

Port Hope Simpson - (709) 960 0342

healthysmiles@dal.ca

Iona Worden-Driscoll

Research Coordinator

Halifax - (902) 494 6038

iona.worden-driscoll@dal.ca

