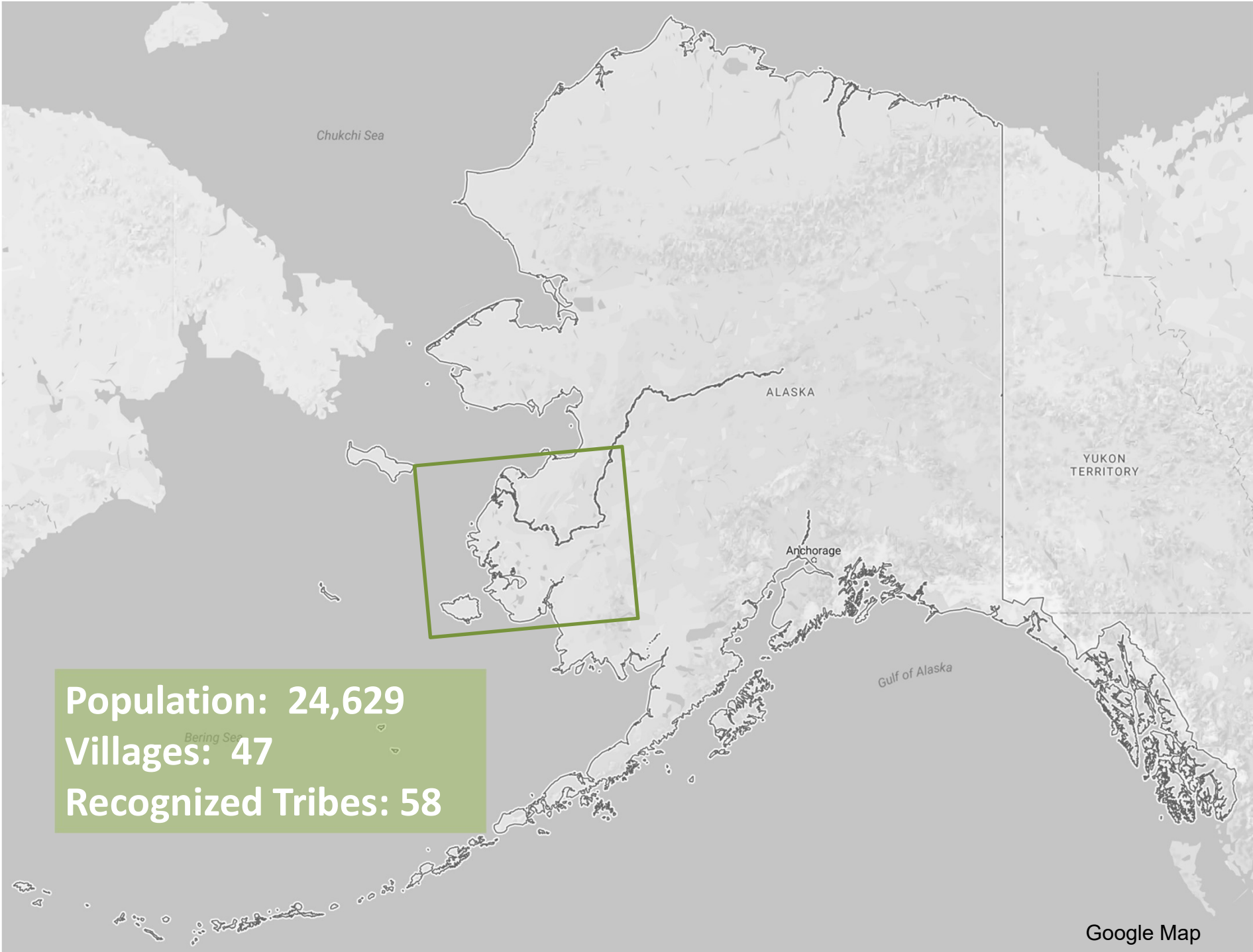


# Dental Therapy in Alaska

A photograph of a dilapidated, snow-covered wooden building in a snowy, coastal environment. The building has a steep, gabled roof with missing sections of corrugated metal siding. The ground is covered in deep snow, and other similar buildings are visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

**Dane Lenaker, DMD, MPH**  
**Dental Unit Chief**  
South East Alaska Regional  
Health Consortium

September 2017  
National Tribal Health Conference

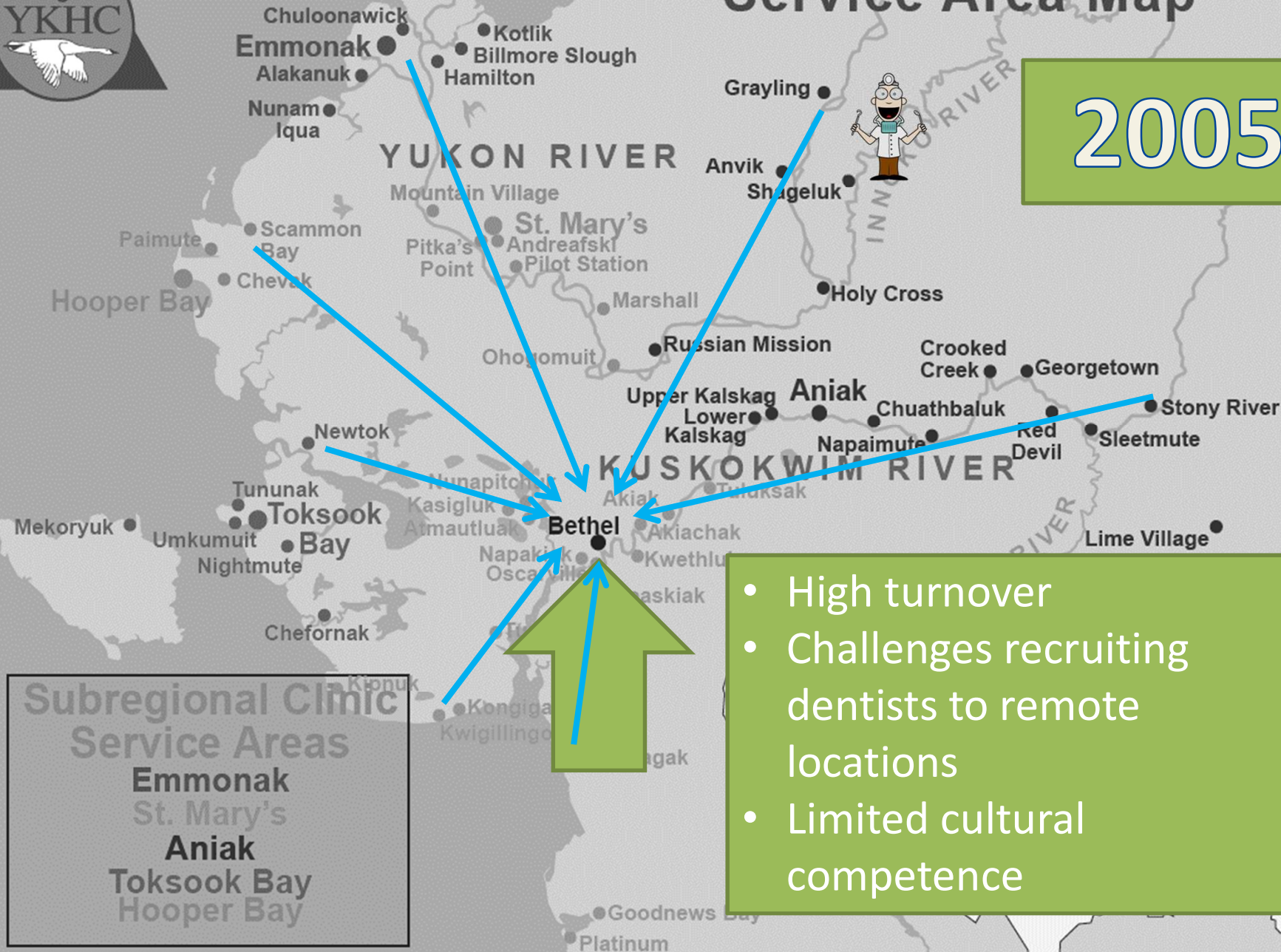


**Population: 24,629**  
**Villages: 47**  
**Recognized Tribes: 58**

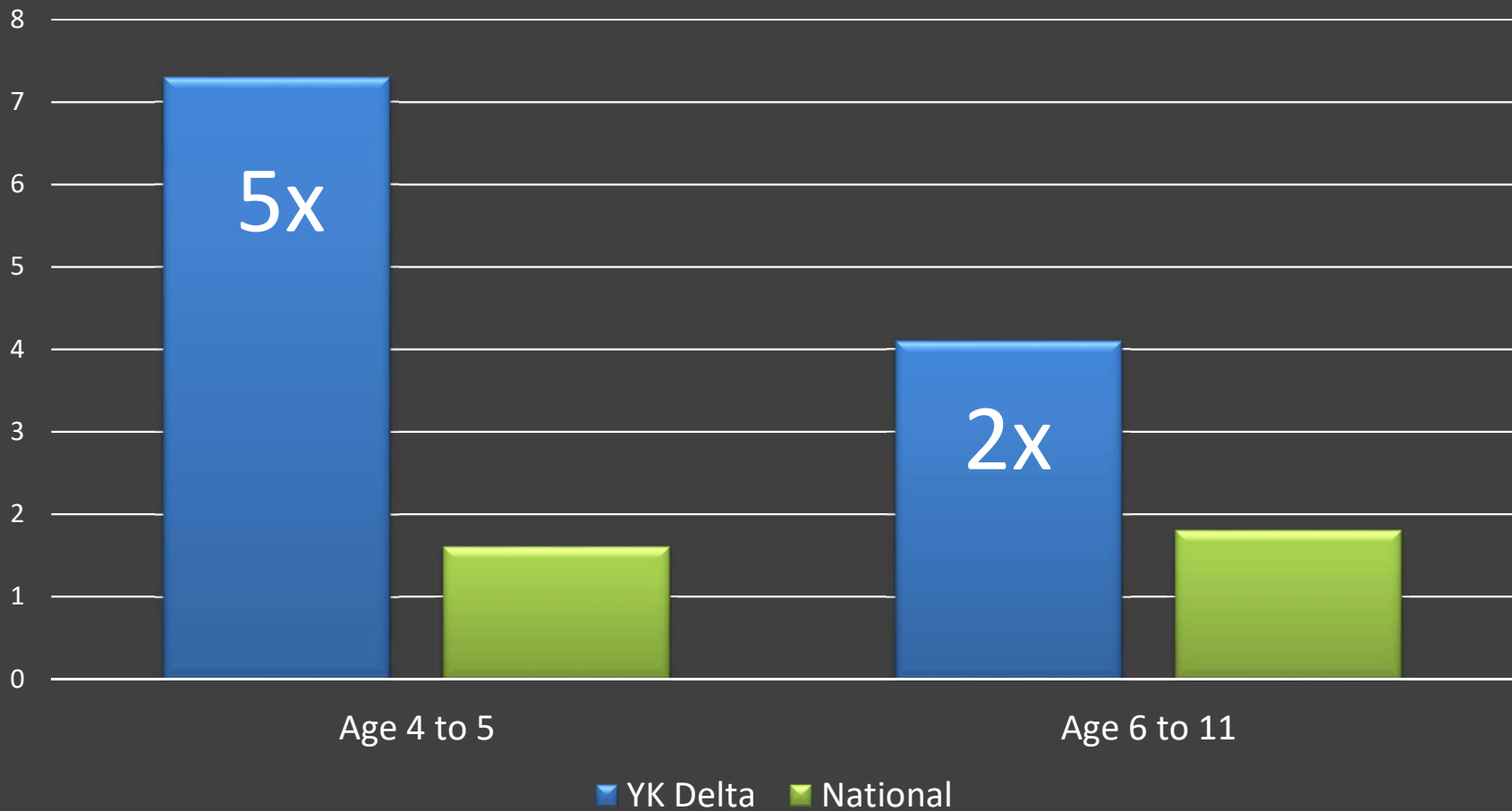


# Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation Service Area Map

2005



# Cavity Rates: YK Delta vs Nationally



# A Need for Change: DHAT History at YKHC



**2005**  
First DHAT's  
Return from  
New  
Zealand

**2009**  
First Alaska  
trained  
DHAT's  
Graduate

**2017**  
YKHC Employs  
10 Certified  
DHAT's

# How DHATs Help Their Communities

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## Typical Scope of Practice

- Prevention
  - Sealants / Basic Cleanings
- Basic Restorative
  - White / Silver Fillings
- Emergency Extractions
  - Critical for communities with limited access



# Aniak DHAT Team

**Conan Murat | 2005**



**Melanie Kerschner | 2014**





# Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation Service Area Map



**Subregional Clinic  
Service Areas**

- Emmonak
- St. Mary's
- Aniak
- Toksook Bay
- Hooper Bay

# Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation Service Area Map



2017



**Subregional Clinic  
Service Areas**

- Emmonak
- St. Mary's
- Aniak
- Toksook Bay
- Hooper Bay



A photograph of a person wearing a bright red jacket and a large, textured fur hat, sitting in a snowy environment. The person is looking down, possibly at something in their hands. The background is a soft, out-of-focus snowscape. The image is partially obscured by a dark grey diagonal overlay that contains the text.

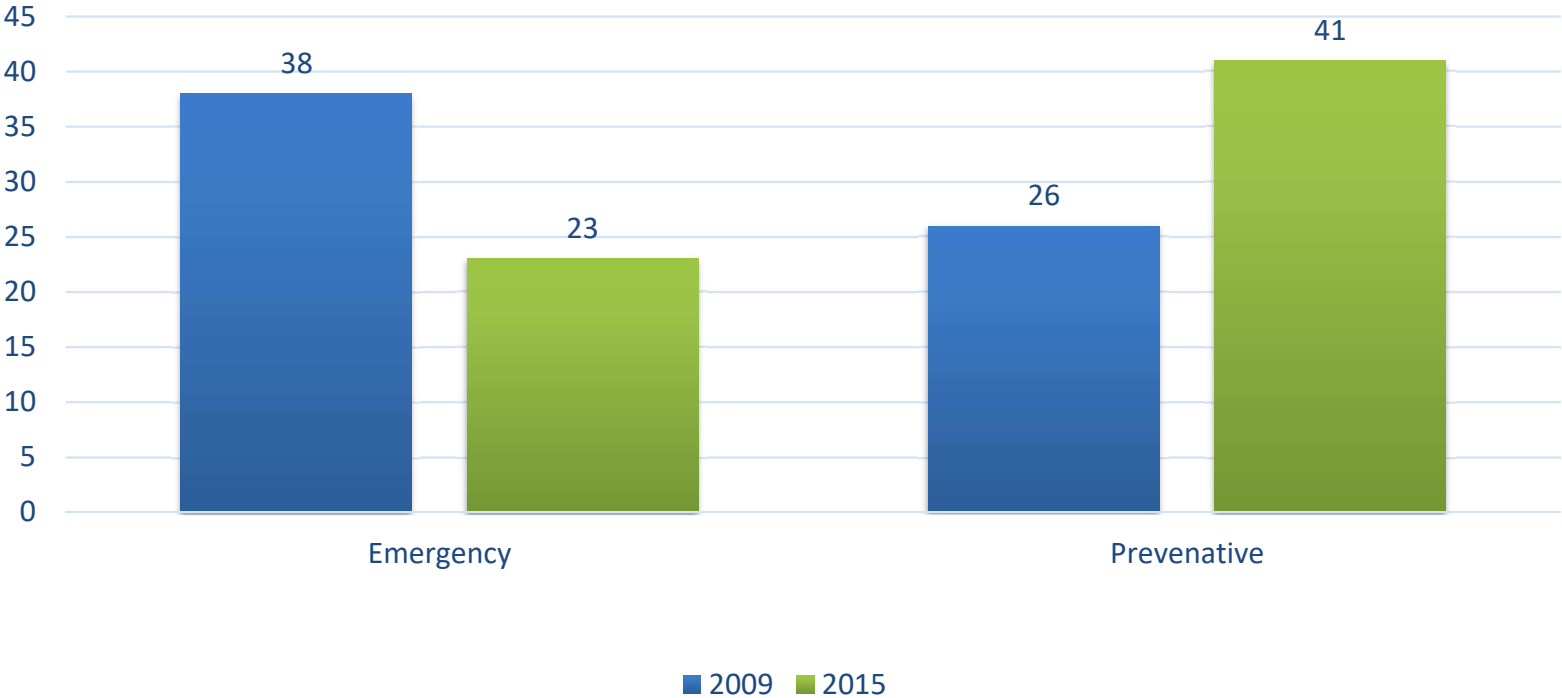
# Searching For Answers and Direction

- Are Dental Therapists Working For the patients of YKHC?
- Are there outcomes that are associated with DHATs?
  - Statistical Significance?
  - Clinical Significance?
- Would this information be helpful to YKHC and/or other organizations?

# YKHC Dental Internal Observations

## Ability to Provide Prevention Services

### Levels of Service 2009 & 2015



# Thank you!

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- YKHC
- Rasmuson Foundation
- WK Kellogg Foundation
- Pew Charitable Trusts

