

For Immediate Release
July 8, 2011

New Brunswickers want more focus on dental care

A new study, commissioned by the New Brunswick Dental Society, shows that the majority of New Brunswickers think the provincial government should take a leading role when it comes to addressing dental care in the province.

In the Spring 2011 Atlantic Quarterly survey, conducted by Corporate Research Associates, 94 per cent* of respondents think the government should be educating the public on the importance of good oral care practices, while 75 per cent think such information should be made available in New Brunswick's schools.

"These results clearly show that the provincial government should be doing more to help New Brunswickers maintain good dental health," said Dr. Kent Orlando, President of the New Brunswick Dental Society. "We know it does a good job of providing information to keep our bodies healthy, such as on nutrition and exercise, but little is being done to guide people in proper dental care. A lifetime of healthy teeth is something every New Brunswicker deserves."

Getting access to dental care is another concern for most New Brunswickers, particularly for children and the elderly. The same survey reveals that 95 per cent of respondents say it is important or critically important for the New Brunswick government to improve access to dental care for seniors and children.

"Oral health is an essential component of general health and wellness," said Orlando. "Research shows a relationship between oral disease and other health problems, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Yet the majority of oral disease is preventable. As our survey clearly demonstrates, New Brunswickers want their provincial government to take the lead in improving access and increasing public education on good oral health practices."

About the New Brunswick Dental Society

The New Brunswick Dental Society exists to promote professional growth, high ethical standards and quality care giving through communication, education, and regulation of dentistry in New Brunswick.

**These statistics are based on results from a Corporate Research Associates survey of 400 New Brunswick residents, conducted by telephone between May 12 – May 31, 2011. Results from a sample this size can be considered accurate to within +/- 4.9%, 19 times out of 20.*