

North Dakota School-Based Sealant Program: 2020-2021

The North Dakota Department of Health Oral Health Program (NDDoH OHP) established a school-based dental sealant program in 2012 which continues to provide dental sealants, fluoride varnish applications, oral health education, and dental screenings and referrals for students in their school setting.



30

schools
participated



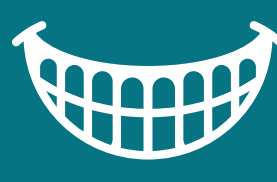
890

children
screened



1,411

teeth protected with
a dental sealant



1,294

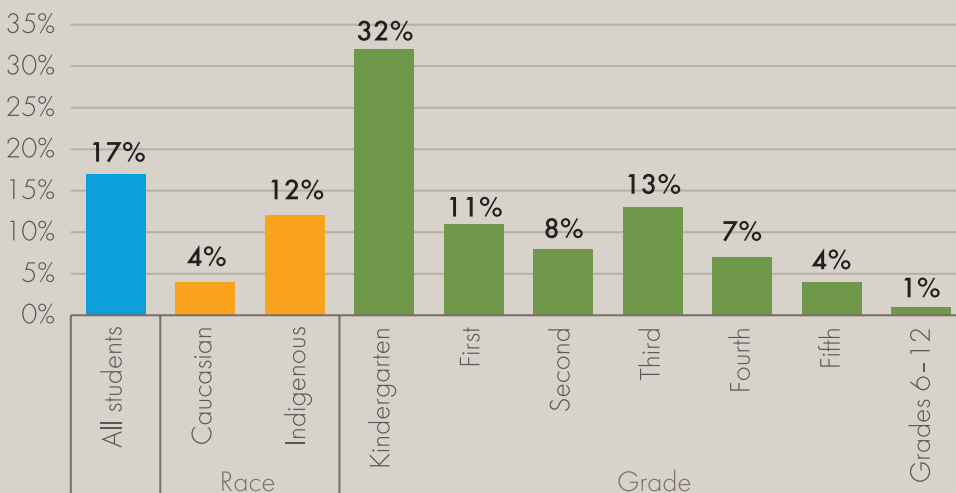
applications of
fluoride varnish



222

referrals for
follow-up care at
1st screening

Percentage of Students with no Previous Dental Visit



Nearly 1 in 3 students who were in kindergarten (32%) reported no previous dental visit. This was true for 1 in 8 students who are Indigenous (12%).

The North Dakota Oral Health Program assembled and distributed 47,778 toothbrush kits to 188 schools in North Dakota.



Conclusions & Recommendations

North Dakota's school-based sealant programs address issues around oral health inequity by improving access to oral health screenings, and both fluoride varnish and dental sealant applications in a school setting. Twenty-one percent of students served were Indigenous; this is notable given that only 5.6% of the total state population includes individuals who are Indigenous. Of those students served, a greater percentage of those who were Indigenous and those who were in kindergarten had not yet visited a dental provider. It is imperative to continue to support and grow participation in the school-based sealant program, and to identify opportunities to increase early dental visits among young children and children who are Indigenous.