



More than 51 million school hours are lost each year due to dental related problems

DENTAL SEALANTS

School-based sealant programs are an effective way to reach children who are at greater risk for developing cavities and who are less likely to receive private dental care. A licensed dental professional will screen children for oral disease and apply dental sealants at their school. Dental sealants are a thin, plastic coating painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. Sealants are painted on as liquid and quickly harden to form a shield over the tooth.

Why are sealants so important?



Once applied, sealants protect against 80% of cavities for two years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to four years.



School-age children without sealants have almost three times more first molar cavities than those with sealants.

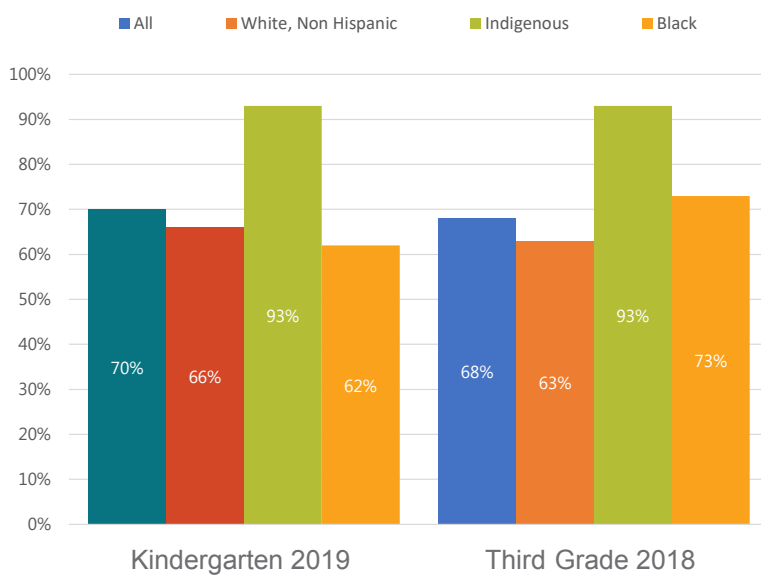


Prevention saves time and money by avoiding fillings, crowns, or other extensive procedures to fix decayed teeth.



Millions of children experience persistent dental pain, inability to chew foods well, embarrassment of damaged teeth, and distraction from play and learning.

In North Dakota, 70% of kindergartners and 68% of third grade students experience dental decay. Experience of decay is greater among students who are American Indian/Alaska Native.



North Dakota School-based Fluoride Varnish and Dental Sealant

SEAL!ND, through the North Dakota Department of Health, places a public health dental hygienists in qualifying schools two times a year to provide oral health education, dental screening, and dental sealant and fluoride varnish application. For more information contact, Toni Hruby at thrub@nd.gov or visit health.nd.gov/prevention/oral-health-program/school-based-fluoride-varnish-sealant-program.

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