







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

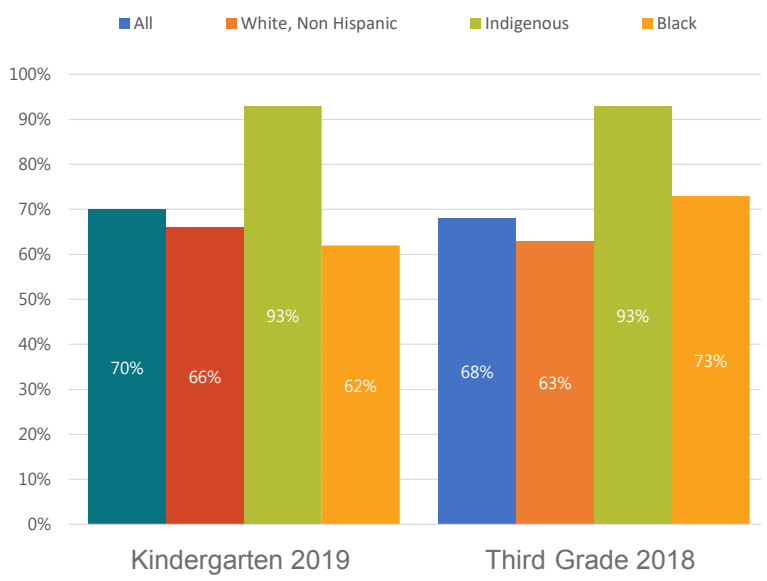
DENTAL SEALANTS

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?

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 Once applied, sealants protect against 80% of cavities for two years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to four years.
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 School-age children without sealants have almost three times more first molar cavities than those with sealants.
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 Prevention saves time and money by avoiding fillings, crowns, or other extensive procedures to fix decayed teeth.
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 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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