



Dentistry as Primary Care

SEAL!ND School-Based Sealant Program

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SEAL!ND

- School-based sealant program that provides oral healthcare to low-income and underserved children.
- Registered Dental Hygienists offer:
 - ◆ Oral health education
 - ◆ Oral health screening
 - ◆ Dental sealants
 - ◆ Fluoride Varnish
 - ◆ Referral to dentist



Why Schools?

- School sealant programs are a highly effective way to deliver preventive services to children who are less likely to receive private dental care.
- Oral health is tied to student success
 - Poor oral health can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing and learning.
 - Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don't.



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Preventive Services

Dental Sealants

Dental sealants are thin coatings painted on the surface of back molars that can last up to nine years. Once applied, sealants protect against 80% of cavities for two years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to four years.



Fluoride Varnish

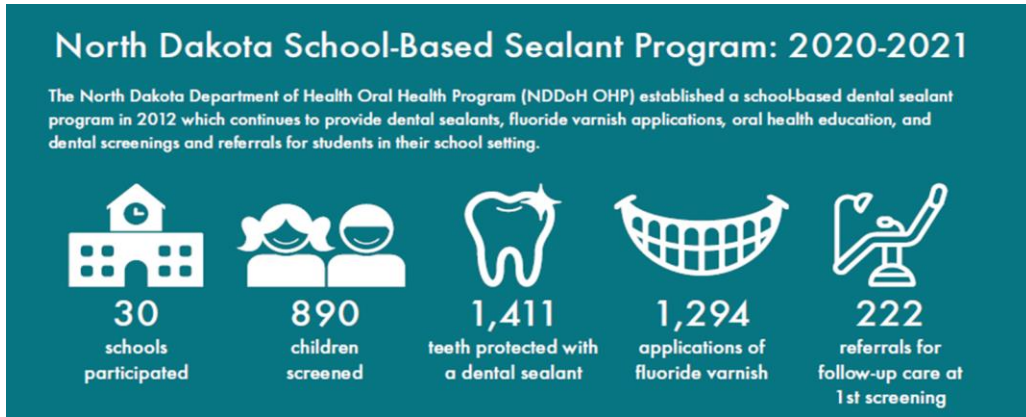
Fluoride varnish is a protective coating that is painted on the face of all teeth to help prevent cavities and to help slow or stop cavities that have just started. Varnish should be reapplied every six months.



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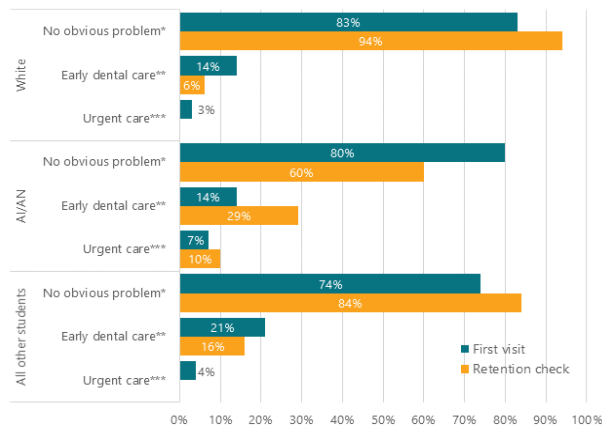
SEAL!ND Reach With Partners 2020-2021



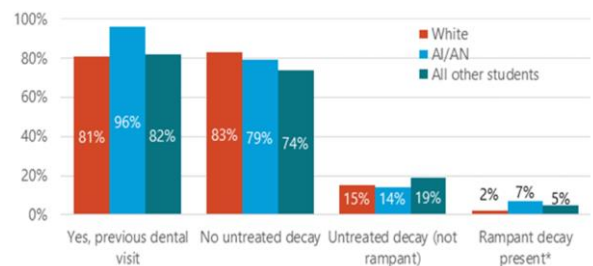
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Percentage of Students Reporting Dental Care Need and Visits by Race 2020-2021

Figure 8. Dental Treatment Need by Race and Visit



Percentage of Students at First Visit, by Race: 2020-2021 School Year



* No obvious problem, recommend regular checkup within six months.
 ** Early dental care is needed for decay without pain or swelling. Refer to a dentist for treatment.
 *** Urgent care is needed for pain, infection, large decay, abscess, or draining. Immediate referral for treatment.

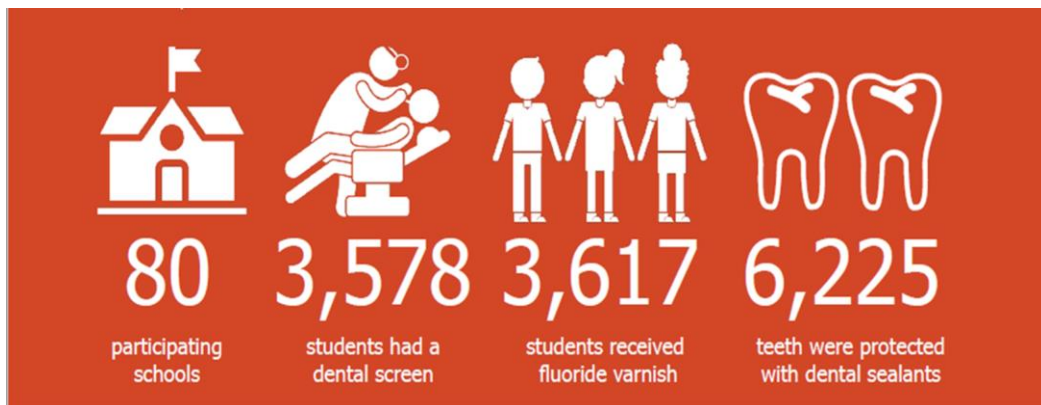
SEAL!ND Qualifying Schools 2020-2021

Schools that qualify for services collect additional student data. Among the 21 qualifying schools:

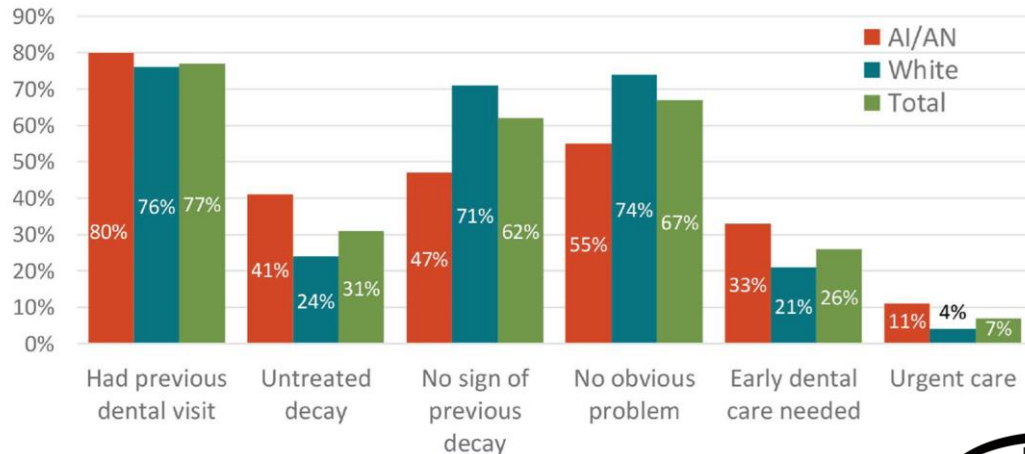
- Roughly one in five (19%) of the 564 students screened needed early or urgent dental care.
- Just over half (51%) of students already had a sealant placed before the school-based sealant program.
- Nearly all students (97%) received a fluoride varnish application at the first visit.
- Roughly one in three (32%) kindergartners reported no previous dental visit.



SEAL!ND Reach With Partners 2019-2020



Percentage of Students Reporting Dental Care Need and Visits by Race 2019-2020



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SEAL!ND Qualifying Schools 2019-2020

Schools that qualify for services collect additional student data. Among the 52 qualifying schools:

- Roughly one in four (26%) of the 2,387 students needed early dental care; an additional 7% required urgent care.
- Just under a quarter of students (23%) had no previous dental visit.
- Nearly all students (95%) received a fluoride varnish application.
- Half of the students in kindergarten (50%) reported no previous dental visit.



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School Personnel Experiences 2019-2020

"We absolutely need and love this program!!!"

"This program is wonderful."

"Thank you for all that you do."

"So grateful for this program."

"This is a fabulous service to our students and their families, providing opportunities for dental care they may not otherwise receive."



Current Partners



References and More Information

- North Dakota School-Based Fluoride Varnish & Sealant Program
<https://www.health.nd.gov/prevention/oral-health-program/school-based-fluoride-varnish-sealant-program>
- Evaluation of SEAL!ND 2019-2020 <https://ruralhealth.und.edu/assets/4061-17204/evaluation-of-seal-nd-2019-2020.pdf>
- Evaluation of SEAL!ND 2020-2021
https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/HSC/HP/OralHealth/Documents/Sealant_Report_2020-2021.pdf



THANK YOU

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