

Arizona Dental Sealant Program

a preventive dental program

Objectives:

- To increase the percentage of children with dental sealants.
- To reduce the proportion of children who have ever had tooth decay.

History:

The AZ Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health began the Dental Sealant Program in 1987 through a grant from the Flinn Foundation. Later that year, additional funds from Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities allowed the Program to continue. In July 1989, the sealant program was added to the State budget allowing the Program to continue with a full-time dental hygienist as its coordinator and funding for supplies, travel, equipment and contract personnel.

Current Program

The Program utilizes portable dental equipment serving school children on their school campus. The Office is involved in cooperative efforts with other health agencies to promote the use of dental sealants and provide technical and educational assistance where needed.

Funding:

The Program has multiple funding sources including federal dollars, state appropriations, and corporate foundation donations.

Eligibility:

- 2nd and 6th grade children who are uninsured or with public dental insurance (AHCCCS or KidsCare) and who have erupted, non-restored, non-decayed first and/or second permanent molars.
- Public and charter schools with 65% or higher Free and Reduced School Meal Program participation may apply for the Program.

Program Staff:

- *AZ Department of Health Services-Office of Oral Health, Dental Sealant Program Manager:* administers the program statewide.
- *Local Program Coordinators:* coordinate the Program with schools & dental personnel.
- *AZ Licensed Dentists:* provide sealant screenings to determine which children should receive sealants.
- *AZ Licensed Dental Hygienists:* provide dental sealant applications and screenings.
- *Program Assistants:* provide aid to dentists and hygienists during screenings and provisions of sealants.

Occasionally dental, dental hygiene and assisting students from various programs statewide also participate with the Program. This opportunity provides students with a clinical public health experience.

Child Participation:

Children with parental consent obtain a dental screening by the licensed dentist or dental hygienist. Each screening takes about 2 minutes. Parents receive notification of their child's need for sealants and general oral health status. Eligible students in need of sealants usually receive them on a separate day. This simple procedure takes about 15 minutes per child.

2007-08 School Year Statistics:

- 10,481 children in 192 schools in 6 counties participated in the Program.
- 7,860 children received 29,628 sealants.

For more information contact:

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July 2008



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