

Arizona Dental Sealant Program

a preventive dental program

Objectives:

- To increase the proportion of children who have dental sealants on their permanent molar teeth.
- To reduce the proportion of children who have experienced tooth decay.

History:

The Arizona 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 to deliver services to children in public schools. 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:

- Public and charter schools with 65% or higher participation in the National School Lunch Program may apply.
- 2nd and 6th grade children who are uninsured or with public dental insurance (AHCCCS or KidsCare) and have erupted, non-restored, non-decayed permanent molar teeth.

Child Participation:

Children with parental consent obtain a dental screening by a licensed dentist. This screening takes about 2 minutes. Parents receive notification of their child's need for sealants and general oral health status. Sealants are then provided by a dental hygienist which occurs on a separate day from the screening.

Program Staff:

- *Arizona 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.
- *Arizona Licensed Dentists:* provide screenings to determine which children should receive sealants.
- *Arizona Licensed Dental Hygienists:* provide dental sealant applications.
- *Program Assistants:* provide aid to dentists and dental hygienists during screenings and sealant placement.

On occasion dental, dental hygiene and assisting students from various schools statewide participate in the Program. This opportunity provides students with a clinical public health experience.

2008-09 School Year Statistics:

- The program was implemented in 8 counties.
- 9,164 children in 203 schools received a dental screening.
- 7,362 children received 25,406 sealants.

For more information contact:

**January
2010**



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