

SCHOOL-BASED ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS: DENTAL SEALANTS

BY THE NUMBERS



DENTAL SEALANTS

Dental sealants act as a shield for your teeth. They are thin, protective coatings that are applied to the back teeth, because the chewing surfaces are hard to keep clean. Teeth with sealants are less likely to be affected by germs and food, making it easier to avoid tooth decay. School-based sealant programs are an effective way to deliver preventive services to children who otherwise may not receive them. These services also help families save time and money!

THE NUMBERS



30

Preschools and schools with an oral health program during the 2022-2023 school year.



1,741

Children served by a school-based oral health program during the 2022-2023 school year.



4,505

Teeth that received a dental sealant during the 2022-2023 school year.



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WHO WE HELP

PK-12th grade children served during the 2022-2023 school year.

43% of children served were eligible for Medicaid during the 2022-2023 school year.

48% of children served did not have dental health insurance during the 2022-2023 school year.

OUR PROGRAMS

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services funds school-based oral health programs that offer a variety of dental services in preschools and schools with a high number of children from low-income households. All programs provide services to help prevent cavities, such as fluoride varnish treatments, while some programs provide restorative services such as fillings.



Dental sealants



Low-cost dental care



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES**

Office of Dental Health