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Fact Sheet: Community Impact: School-based sealant program, 2023-2024

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COMMUNITY IMPACT: SCHOOL-BASED SEALANT PROGRAM, 2023-2024

The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services Oral Health Program (OHP) has established a school-based dental sealant program (SEAL!ND) which has been providing dental sealants, fluoride varnish applications, oral health education, and dental screenings and referrals for students throughout North Dakota dating back to 2012. School-based sealant programs are a highly effective way to deliver preventive oral health services and dental sealants to children less likely to receive private dental care.



70
schools



8,531 teeth protected with dental sealants



3,070 students screened by a dental provider



1,817 referrals for follow-up dental care*



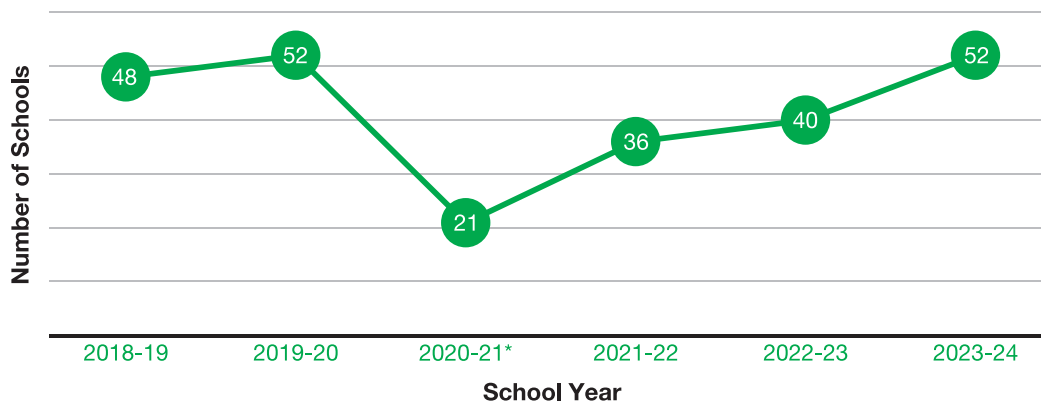
5,006 applications of fluoride varnish

*Represents the total number of referrals made across the first and second school visits. This is not the number of students with a referral. Students referred for care at the first visit may be referred again at the second.

SEAL!ND RETURNS TO PRE-PANDEMIC REACH

During the 2023-24 school year, 70 schools participated in SEAL!ND. Only 52 of the 70 schools met the criteria of high-risk, reporting at least 45% of their students enrolled in the free and reduced-fee school lunch program. The OHP prioritizes schools who qualify for services and care is provided through grants awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Before the 2020-21 school year, in which the COVID-19 pandemic delayed or stopped service delivery, the number of schools that qualified for, and received, services from the OHP had increased annually and exceeded the 5% growth goal. SEAL!ND has returned to its pre-pandemic reach.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS QUALIFYING FOR AND RECEIVING SEAL!ND SERVICES BY SCHOOL YEAR



Contact the author and program evaluator with questions about data:
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Visit the SEAL!ND program page: hhs.nd.gov/health/oral-health-program/SEALND