Public Health Dentistry Collaborations:
Fluoridation & School-Based Dental Programs

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Florida Department of Health

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School-based Dental Sealant Programs
By Errika Berlinger

American Dental Health

Florida met just two of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health, earning the state an "F." Only six states received an "A" grade for their dental health policies, according to the report. Even children in those states have problems accessing care, the report said.

"Americans will be spending $106 billion on dental care this year," said Shelly Gehshan, director of the Pew Children's Dental Campaign. "Much of that care pays for costly treatments such as fillings and root canals, which have their origins in poor childhood dental care, she said."

The report shows that Florida was so low on the grading system because of the low rate of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving dental care. In 2007, Florida was one of three states (joined by Delaware and Kentucky) where less than a quarter of children saw a dentist.

Ed Zapert, a pediatric dentist with the Leon County Health Department's Molar Express, said that he wasn’t surprised that the state received such a low grade, pointing blame to low Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Zapert explained that if a child came in to get
Florida met just two of eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children’s dental health, earning the state an “F.”
Florida meets two of the eight policy benchmarks for strengthening children's dental health. Florida was the worst performer with regard to ensuring low-income children's access to care. Fewer than one in three Medicaid-enrolled kids received any dental services. During 2010, newspaper articles highlighted several challenges, such as the number of Florida communities that lack fluoridated water¹ and the fact that 32 counties have no pediatric dentists who accept Medicaid.²,³
Ed Zapert, a pediatric dentist with the Leon County Health Department’s Molar Express, said that he wasn’t surprised that the state received such a low grade, pointing blame to low Medicaid reimbursement rates.
Friday, Feb. 26, 2010

Dear Dr. Expert,

Congratulations... we saw you in the news! (Florida Times Union, 2/24/2010)

Thank you for your commitment to your community, profession and the Florida Dental Association.

Sincerely,

Dave Harris
Dir. of Member Relations
Data Trends: School-based Programs

- 2012-2013: 27 programs
- 2013-2014: 35 programs
- 2014-2015: 42 programs
States Stalled on Dental Sealants

Florida

Dental sealants are clear plastic coatings applied to cavity-prone permanent molars. Research shows that school-based sealant programs reduce tooth decay by 60 percent at one-third the cost of a filling. Florida’s grade in 2014, a C−, is an improvement from a D in 2012, because the state submitted data to NOHSS for the first time. However, Florida received a “minus” because hygienists cannot bill Medicaid for placing sealants in schools.

2012 Grade: D
2014 Grade: C−
To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

2016-2017 S-BSP’s

Main Affiliations of Florida's S-BSPs

- No Data Available
- CHD
- FQHC
- CHD and FQHC
- CHD and Non-Profit
- FQHC and Non-Profit
Percentage of Total Eligibles Receiving a Sealant on a Permanent Molar Tooth in 2017
To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

## S-BSP Children Served

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Served</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>98,407</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Head Start Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head Start Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Learning Centers</td>
<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Centers</td>
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</tbody>
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Statewide School-based Sealant Program

• Expand school-based sealant programs from current total of fifty one (51) programs to having school-based programs in all 67 counties.

• Pursue dental hygienist workforce model in Title I schools.

• Exploring additional funding options for school-based preventive dental programs.
Funding?
Funding?

- State Senator Bill Montford (District 3)
- Two Years Remaining
- Want SBSP in all Title I Schools
- CEO, Florida Association of District School Superintendents
Funding?

- Medicaid Rate Per Sealant $19.32

- 4 Sealants Per Hour = $77.28
Revenue (@ Medicaid Rate)

- Assessment/Screening - $10.40
- Prophylaxis* - $20.81
- Oral Hygiene Instruction - $8.92
- Fluoride Varnish - $16.35
- Sealants (four) – 4 x $19.32 = $77.28

Total $133.76 ($187.26 @ 140%)
Winners !!!

- State of Florida (out of last place…)
- MMA plans (increased utilization rates)
- Kids in Florida (85% reduction in cavities)
Fluoridation
Fluoridation In Florida

30 - Year Trend for Percentage of Population on Community Water Systems Receiving Fluoridated Water

- Percentage of Population on Community Water System Receiving Fluoridated Water
FUNDS REQUESTED / AWARDED
PURCHASE / INSTALL OR START / MAINTAIN
FLUORIDATION SYSTEMS

FUNDING IN 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>$520,452</td>
<td>$376,474</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$824,000</td>
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</table>

Amount Awarded | Amount Requested
Fluoridation Systems
Florida was recognized as the state providing the greatest number of people with fluoridated water.
Contact Information

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