

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

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Executive Dental Director
Florida Department of Health

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School-based Dental Sealant Programs



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TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

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Fla. fails dental checkup

Less than a quarter of children saw a dentist in '07

By Iricka Berlinger
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

TODAY

LOCAL



At least one in five U.S. children go without annual dental care and most states, like Florida, lack key policies to ensure access to cost-saving preventive treatments, according to a study released today by the Pew Center on the

States.

Florida met just two of 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 from the nonprofit policy-analysis group. 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

Please see DENTAL, 8A

February 24, 2010



Florida met just two of eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health, earning the state an "F."



The State of Children's Dental Health: Making Coverage Matter

Florida



F

2011 GRADE

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.

EDV

Friday, Feb. 26, 2010

Dear Dr. Zapert,

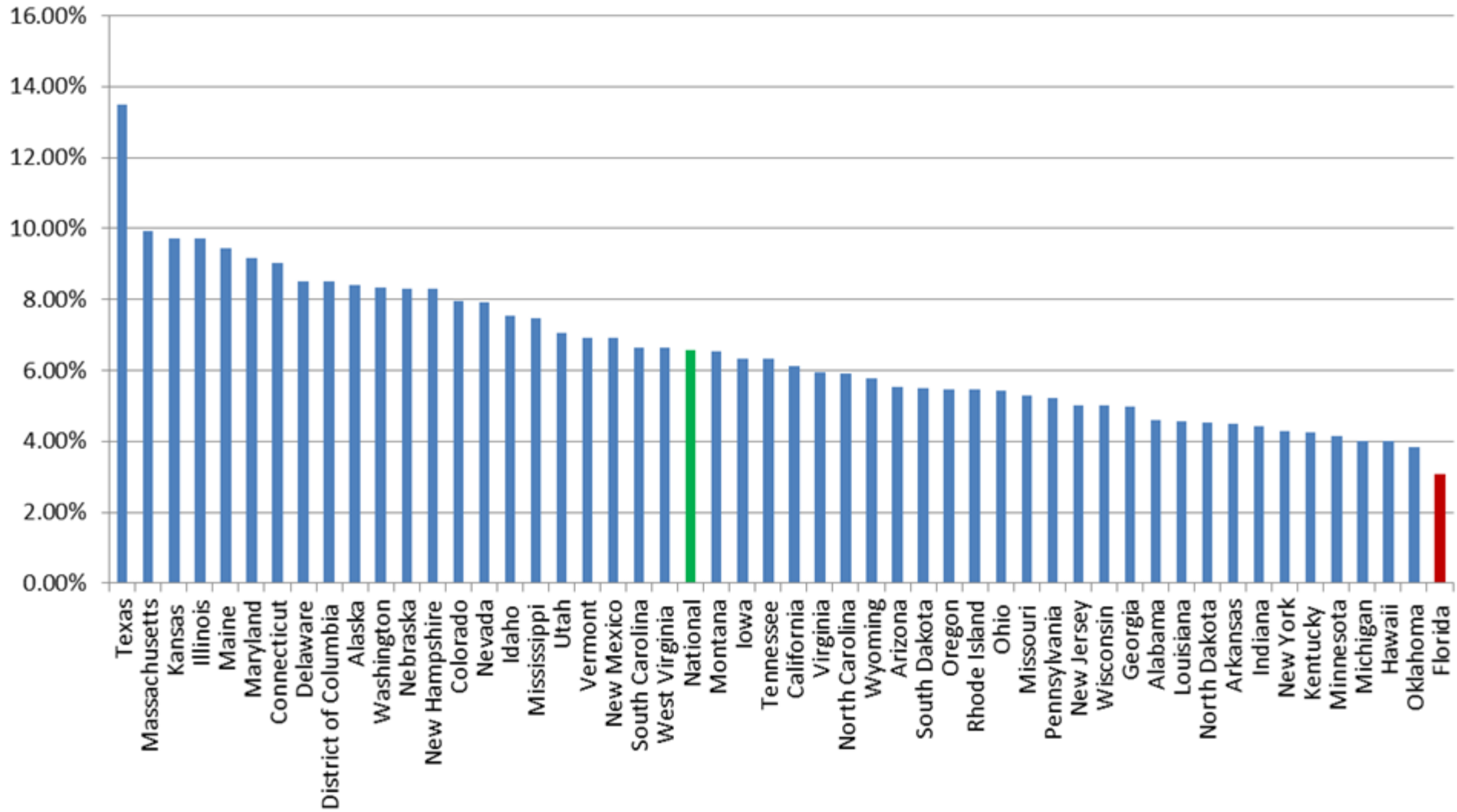
Congratulations... we saw you in the news! (Florida Times Union, 2/24/2010)

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

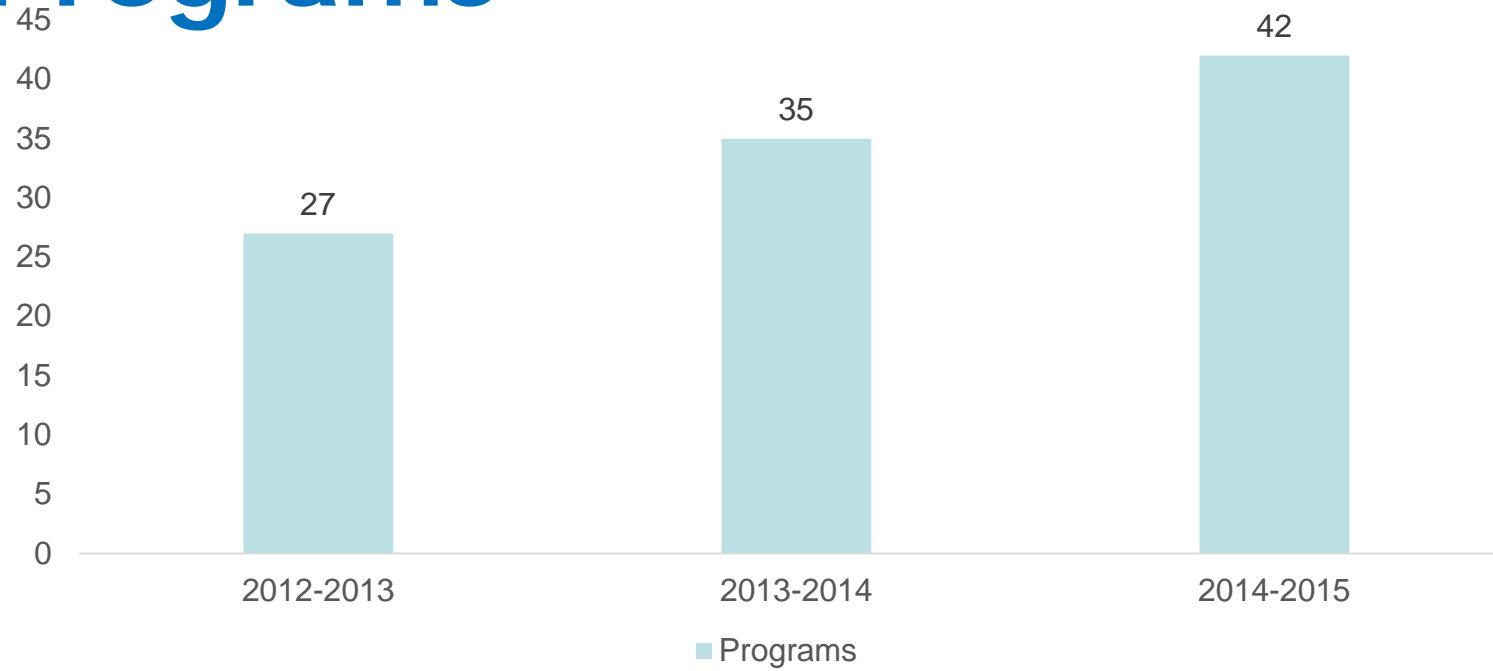
Sincerely,

David Higgins
Dir. of Member Relations

Percentage of Total Eligibles Receiving a Sealant on a Permanent Molar Tooth in 2012



Data Trends: School-based Programs



Fast Forward.....

States Stalled on Dental Sealants

Florida

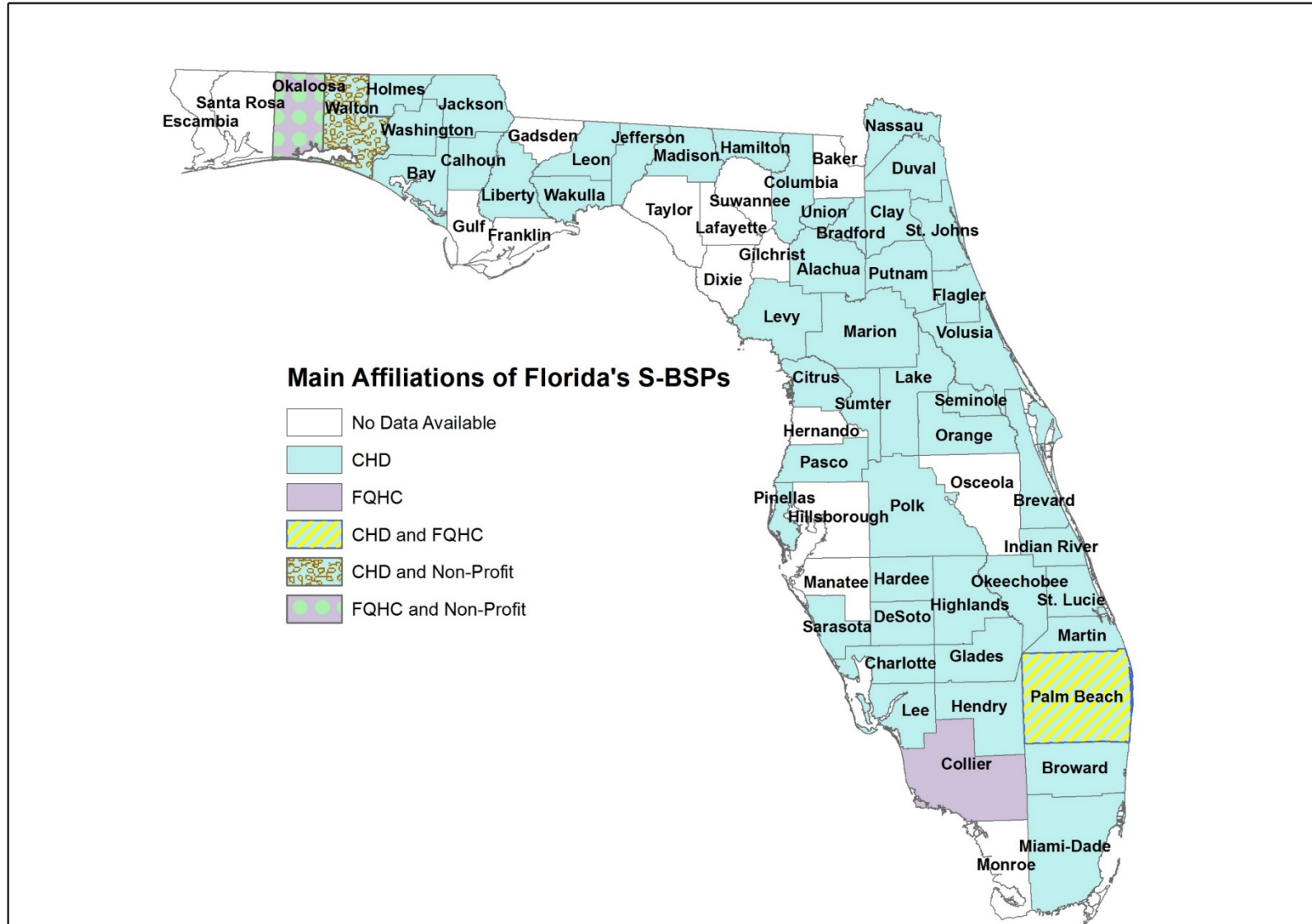
Dental sealants are clear plastic coatings applied to cavity-prone permanent molars. Research shows that school-based sealant programs reduce tooth decay by 60 percent at one-third the cost of a filling. Florida's grade in 2014, a C-, is an improvement from a D in 2012, because the state submitted data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

C- 2014
Grade

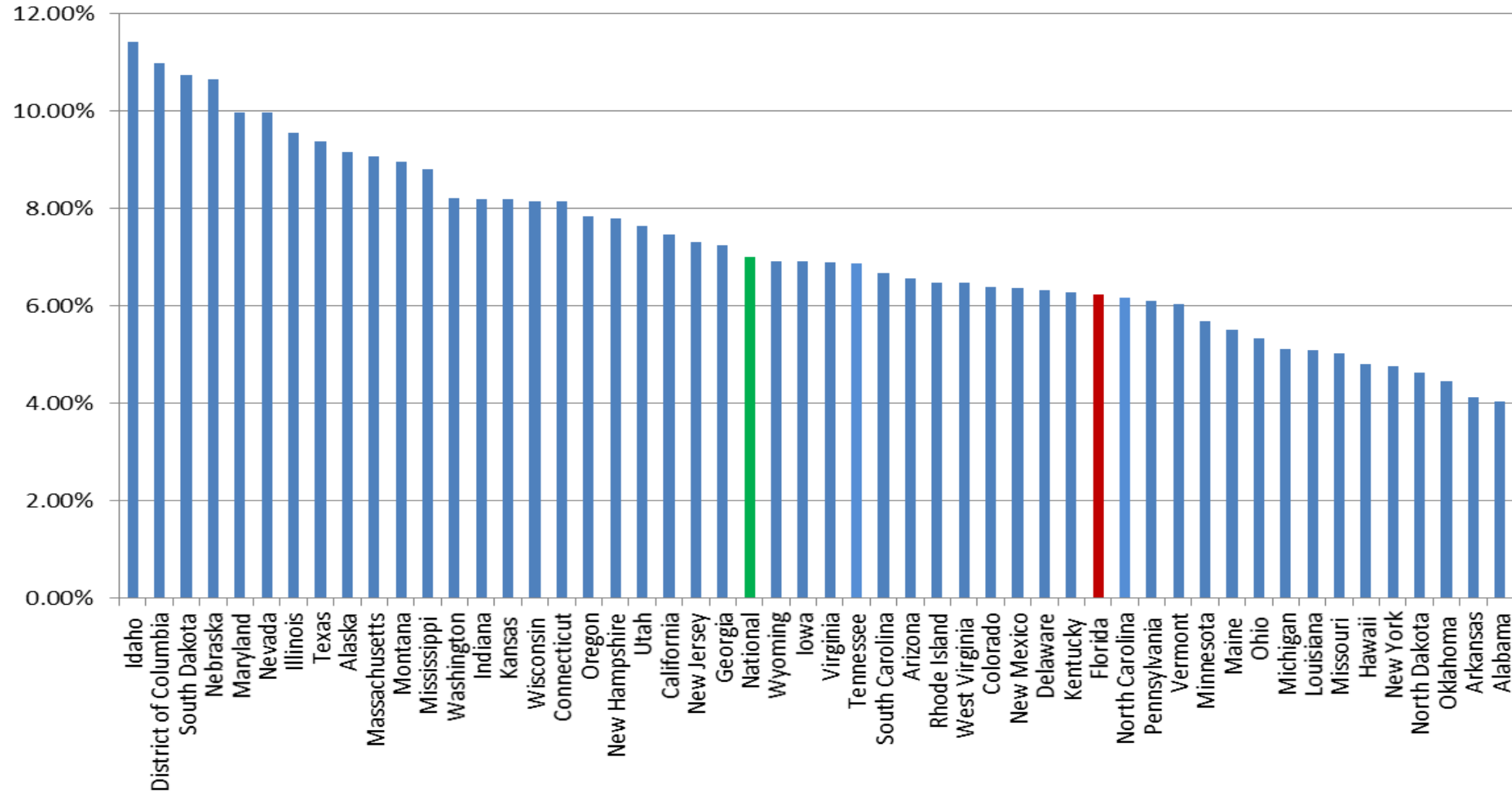
2012 Grade: **D**



2016-2017 S-BSP's



Percentage of Total Eligibles Receiving a Sealant on a Permanent Molar Tooth in 2017



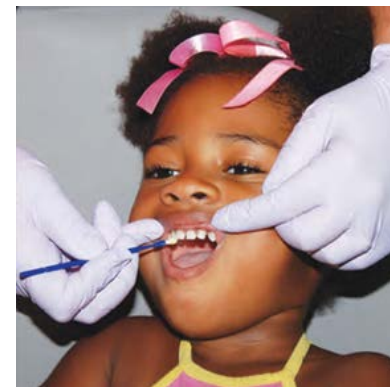
S-BSP Children Served



Children	98,407
Schools	784
Early Head Start Centers	18
Head Start Centers	118
Early Learning Centers	91
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Centers	7

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%)

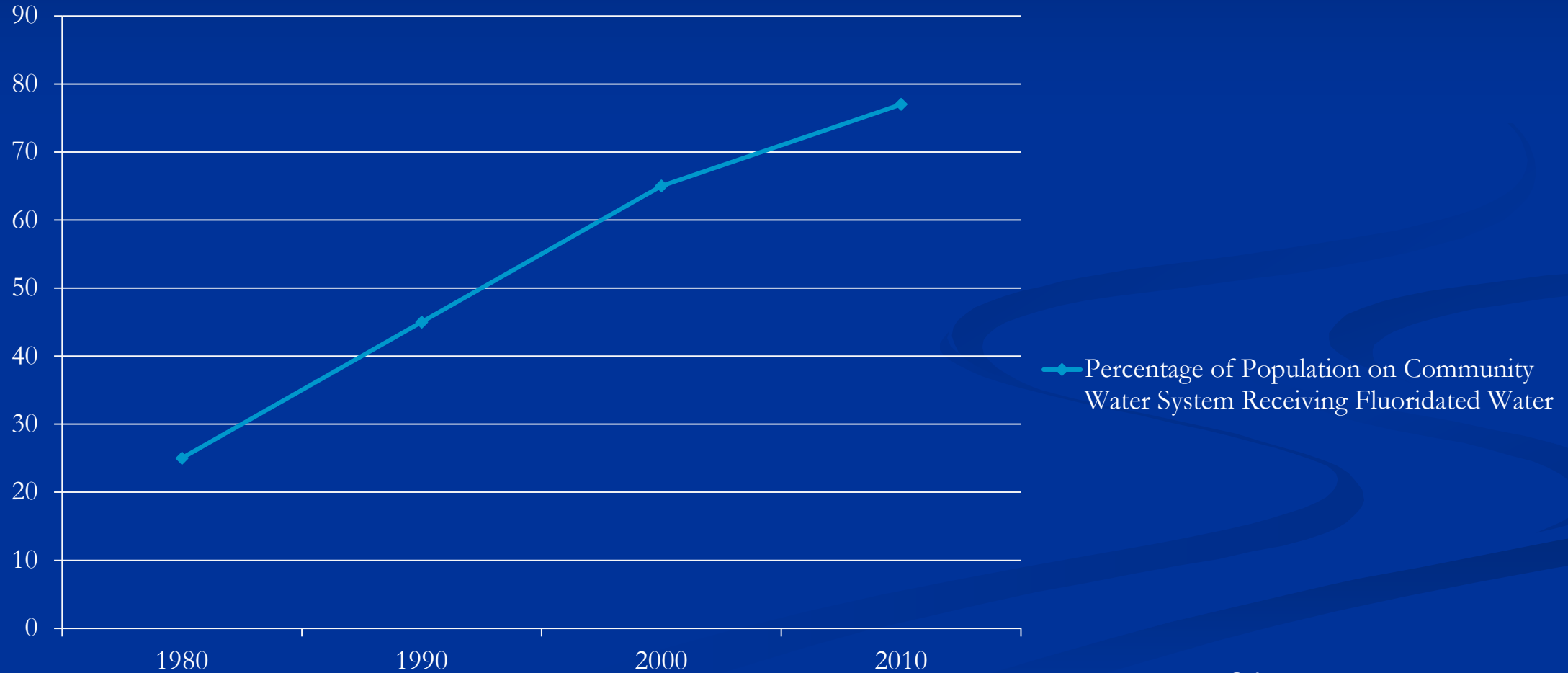
Winners !!!

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

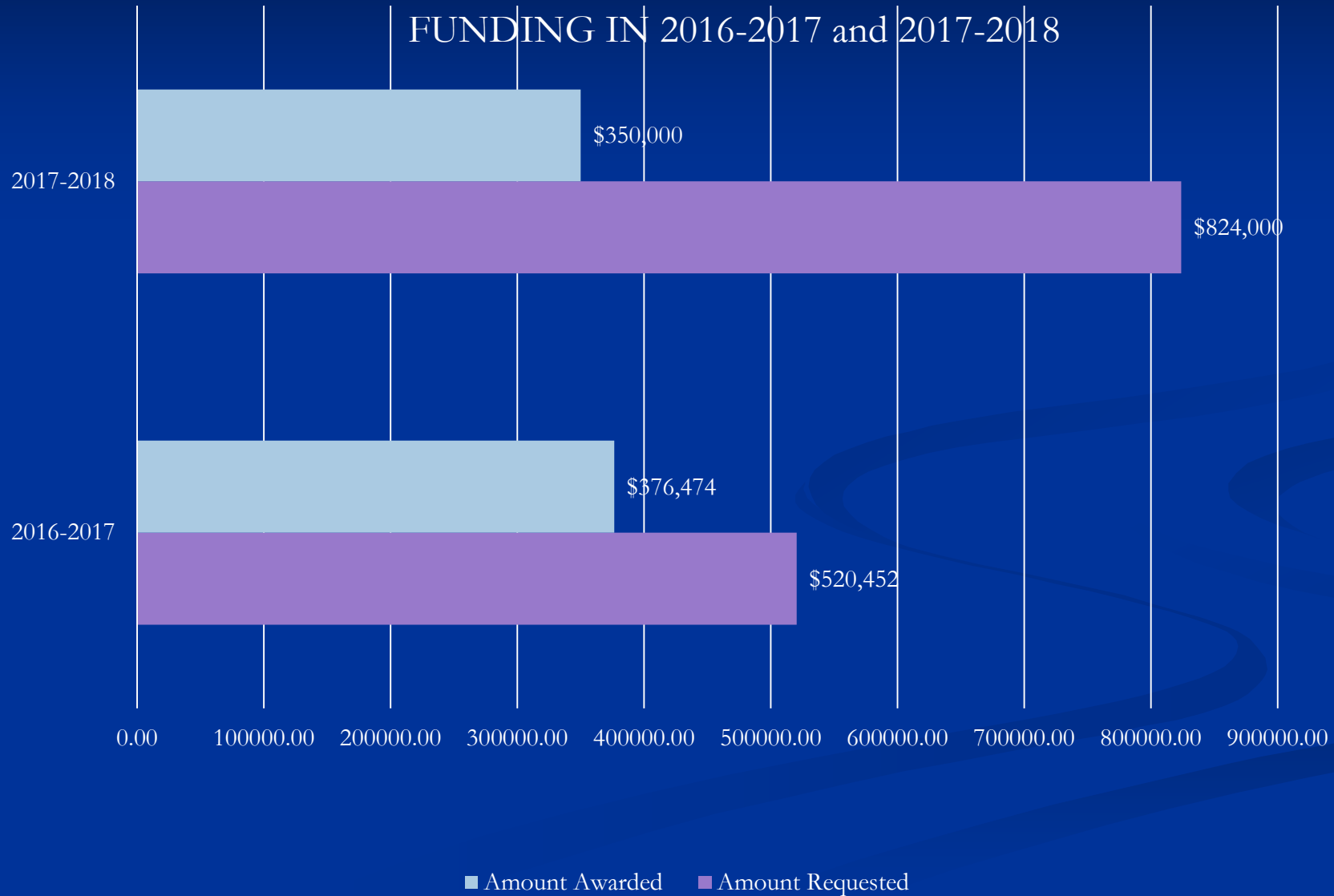
Fluoridation

Fluoridation In Florida

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



FUNDS REQUESTED / AWARDED
PURCHASE / INSTALL OR START / MAINTAIN
FLUORIDATION SYSTEMS



Fluoridation Systems

Fluoridation Systems



Florida Receives National Recognition

Florida was recognized as the state providing the greatest number of people with fluoridated water.

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

2017 State Fluoridation Initiative

FLORIDA

*for contributions made
on behalf of
community water fluoridation*



Contact Information

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To Protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts