



The Untapped Potential of School Sealant Programs

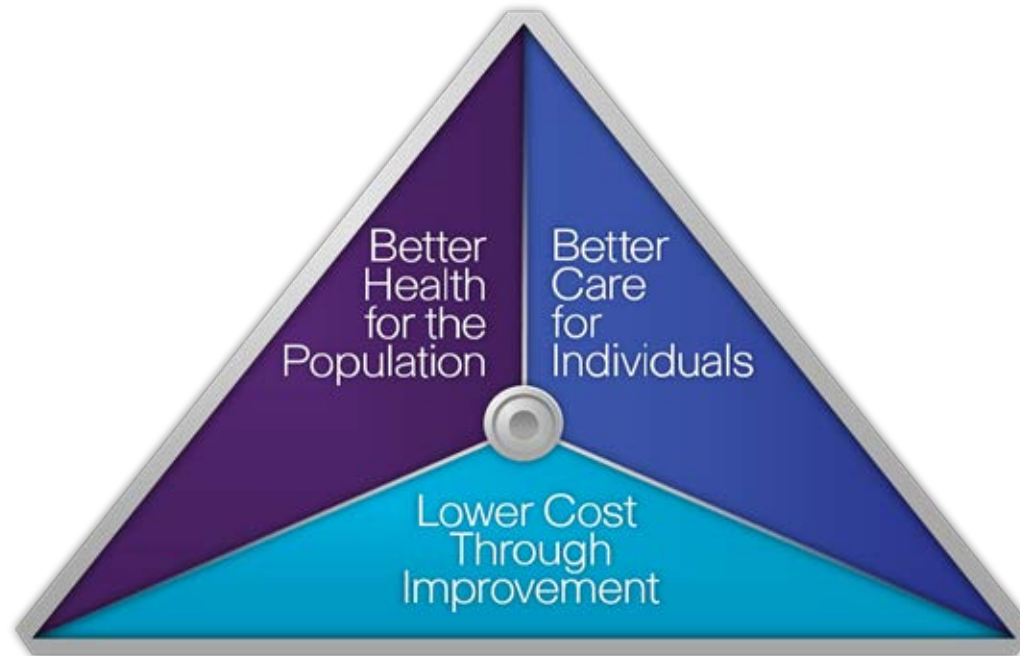
© 2016, Children's Dental Health Project

Thursday, July 28, 2016

Matt Jacob

Director, Communications & Outreach
Children's Dental Health Project

The Triple Aim



(Source: "Initiatives: The IHI Triple Aim," The Institute for Healthcare Improvement, <http://www.ihl.org/Engage/Initiatives/TripleAim/pages/default.aspx>)

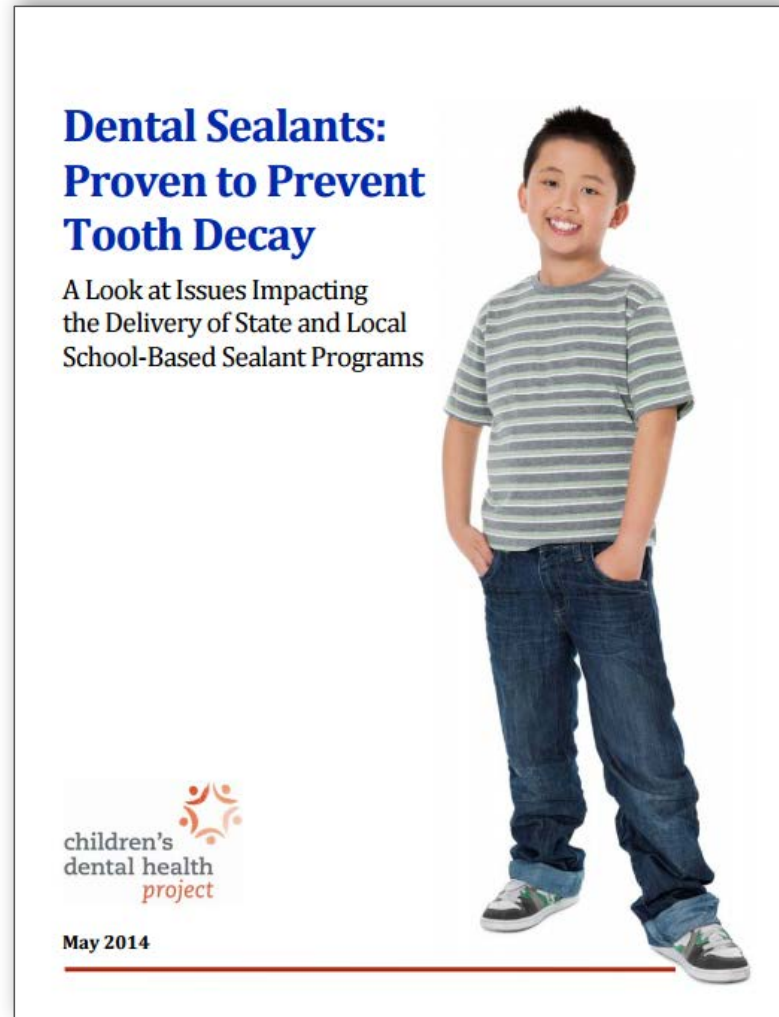
Prevention isn't reaching many children



- Only 1 in 7 children received a preventive dental service (topical fluoride, sealants, or both)
- A 2011-12 survey found that **only 4 in 10** school-age children had even one sealant

(Source: S.O. Griffin et al., Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, September 2014, Vol. 63, No. 2; B.A. Dye et al., "Dental Caries and Sealant Prevalence in Children and Adolescents in the United States, 2011-2012," National Center for Health Statistics, Data Brief no. 191, National Center for Health Statistics, 2015)

- **2014:** CDHP produced a lengthy report on school sealant programs (SSPs)
- We closely examined five states with significant and sustainable SSPs



(Source: "Dental Sealants: Proven to Prevent Tooth Decay," Children's Dental Health Project, May 2014, accessed at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdhp/CDHP+Sealant+Report+2014.pdf>)

The Sealant Work Group (SWG)

Objective: Provide recommendations and products (tools, tips, etc.) for strengthening the operations and sustainability of school sealant programs

Members: 12 people from diverse backgrounds, professional fields and geographic regions

The Sealant Work Group (SWG)

SWG Chair Matt Crespin:
*“Our goal is to help make
a good program a great
program.”*



Members – Sealant Work Group (SWG)

- **Donna Behrens**, RN, MPH, BSN, project advisor for the School-Based Health Alliance in Washington, DC
- **Ginny Spellman Black**, MPH, BSN, RN, school nurse in Columbus, Ohio
- **Mary Pat Burgess**, RDH, MBA, acting oral health director for the Chicago Department of Public Health
- **Richard A. Champany**, DDS, MPH, dental health consultant to the Navajo Nation

Members – Sealant Work Group (SWG)

- **Terri Chandler**, RDH, executive director and CEO of Future Smiles in Las Vegas, Nevada
- **Matt Crespin**, MPH, RDH, associate director of the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin
- **Jodie Hostetter**, RDH, BSDH, sealant program coordinator for the San Antonio (TX) Metropolitan Health District
- **Ana Karina Mascarenhas**, BDS, MPH, Dr. PH, professor at the College of Dental Medicine of Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Members – Sealant Work Group (SWG)

- **Daniel Romo**, DDS, dental director at Eisner Pediatric & Family Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif.
- **Bob Russell**, DDS, MPH, Oral Health Director, State of Iowa
- **Armando E. Soto-Rojas**, DDS, MPH, associate professor and director of Seal Indiana, Indiana University School of Dentistry
- **Merry Jo Thoele**, MPH, RDH, Oral Health Director, State of Minnesota



Priorities that were set by SWG members

PRIORITY #1: Collecting and Sharing Data

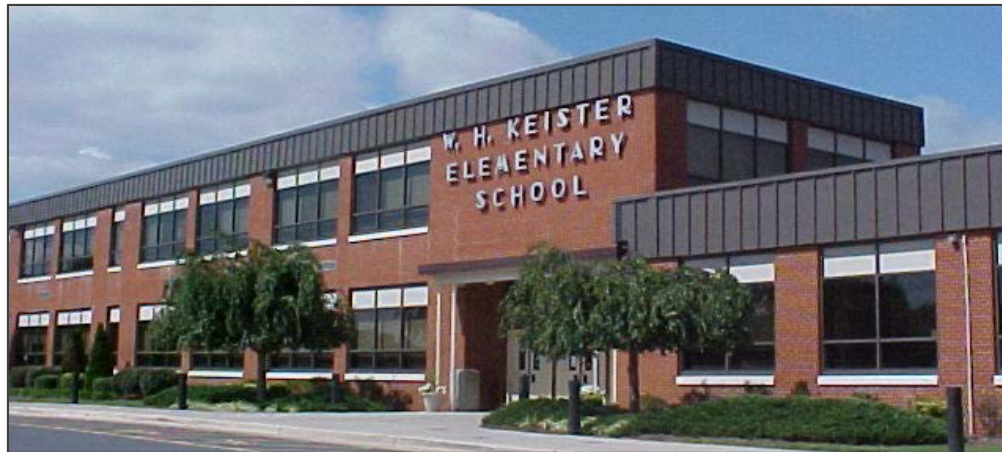
to confirm costs, strengthen quality control and share with school officials, funders and other stakeholders to show programs' impact, including cost and retention rates





PRIORITY #2: Demonstrating Quality and Efficiency by using evidence-based and promising practices in school sealant programs (SSPs)

PRIORITY #5: Communicating Effectively with School Officials and Staff to expand SSPs to new schools and improve participation rates



PRIORITY #6: Communicating Effectively with Families by engaging parents respectfully and using appropriate literacy levels to increase consent rates, follow-up dental care and children with a dental home



PRIORITY #8: Address Medicaid Billing Challenges – facilitate the ability to bill Medicaid by eliminating unnecessary hurdles (scope of practice, Medicaid application process, etc.) and encouraging those who are eligible to enroll as providers



- Sealant programs vary significantly from state to state — partly due to different state practice acts and rules around Medicaid billing.
- For this reason, the SWG is focusing on broader challenges that are confronted by most SSPs.



The SWG timeline

August

- *External reviewers examine SWG recommendations and products, offering their feedback*

September

- *SWG members decide on any revisions that may be appropriate*
- *SWG recommendations and products are sent to a designer for layout*

October

- *The SWG publicly releases its final recommendations and its associated products (tips, tools and guidance documents)*

Thanks to our funders:

- American Dental Hygienists' Association
- Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation
- Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation
- Future Smiles (Nevada)
- Oral Health America
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- Washington Dental Service Foundation



**Washington Dental Service
Foundation**

Questions?
Comments?