

ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee Annual Report

Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023

Chair: Rudy Blea

Coordinator: Lori Cofano

ASTDD Sealant Coordinator: Sandy Tesch

Members: Tammy Alexander, Kim Bartolomucci, Jorge Bernal, Terri Chandler, Nelly Chawla, Stephanie Chickering, Katelyn Christiansen, Liz Clark, Sonia Garcia-Lopez, Jannette Gomez, Katrina Holt, Toni Hruby, Erika lafrate, Sherry Jenkins, Betty Kabel, Ashleigh Kirk, Kally Kline, Sarah Kowalski, Kerry Krell, Sherry Laliberte, Jenna Linden, Paula Lee, Mariela Leyba, Robert Calvin Lloyd, Jonise McDaniel, Robyn Maestas, Cathy Mills, Lauren Neufeld, Vonda Nutt, Danielle Peterson, Karen Phillips, Julie Shelby, Rachel Sizemore, Gwen Sullentrup, Debora Teixeira, David Tepel, Debra Trybom, Julia Wacloff, Andrea Whittaker, Matt Zaborowski

New members: Nelly Chawla, Sonia Garcia-Lopez, Sarah Kowalski, Paula Lee, Mariela Leyba, Danielle Peterson, Andrea Whittaker.

Subcommittee Members:

Sealant Retention Guidance Template: Rudy Blea, Terri Chandler, Lori Cofano, Betty Kabel, Karen Phillips, David Tepel, Sandy Tesch

Mobile-Portable Dental Services Workgroup: McAllister Castelaz, Lori Cofano, Judith Feinstein, Harry Goodman, Melissa Turner, Chris Wood, Sandy Tesch

Purpose: The ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health (SAOH) Committee serves as a resource to state oral health programs and works to ensure a strong oral health component in all school and adolescent health initiatives.

The mission of the SAOH Committee is to promote the importance of good oral health practices that improve the oral health of school-age children and adolescents through education, networking, and collaborative partnerships at local and national levels.

School-based dental sealant programs are a focus area for SAOH activities. In addition, the SAOH Committee collaborates with other ASTDD Committees to establish policies and promote oral health for this target population at the Association level.

The SAOHC supports the ASTDD Strategic Plan by encouraging the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and practices such as school-based dental sealant programs, identifying emerging issues and promising practices such as the use of teledentistry, fluoride varnish and silver diamine fluoride, identifying cross-cutting issues and providing tools and technical assistance to improve state and territorial oral health program policies, plans, programs and partnerships, promoting the collection of data, such as the ASTDD Basic Screening Survey (BSS) and sealant program data, to inform planning, decision making and evaluation.

Accomplishments and Current Activities:

- The SAOHC held five meetings via Zoom in 2023.
- The SAOHC held an informal face-to-face meeting during lunch at the NOHC in 2023.
- In January, Matt Zaborowski, the Preventive Health Activities Manager at the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP), presented the results of an ADA survey on dental sealant programs. SAOHC members offered input on the survey questions they would like to see included on a future sealant survey.
- Lori Cofano participated on the CDC coordination team calls to review and provide input on the presentation being prepared on school fluoride varnish programs. The information was expected to be presented to the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) in Fall 2023. The CDC team lead is Susan Griffin. The goal being to have the CPSTF recommend the use of two fluoride varnish applications per year as a preventive tool in school prevention programs.
- In February, Lori participated on two Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) listening sessions pertaining to CDC infection prevention documents and guidance.
- Dr. Nicholas Conte, Delaware's state dental director, was contacted regarding the use of black light flashlights to determine glass ionomer (GI) sealant retention. Delaware does not have a formal sealant program however black lights are being used to check sealant retention. An unexpected outcome has been black light turn plaque pink. That provides an opportunity to provide oral health education. Rudy, Lori, Sandy, and Chris Wood participated on the call with Dr. Conte and Diane Dell, one of the dental hygienists using the black light flashlight.

- In March, Melissa Fahrenbruch from the CDC Healthy Schools Division and Marcia Parker from the CDC Division of Oral Health offered information on opportunities for state oral health programs and state Departments of Education to collaborate. The CDC Healthy Schools Division released a new funding opportunity over the summer. Twenty states were funded. CDC Division of Oral Health expects their funding opportunity to be released in early 2024.
- In April, during the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC), Rudy Blea the SAOHC chair received the ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award.
- In May, Liz Clark from the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) presented on how school-based sealant programs can collaborate with school nurses.
- In September, Beth Lowe and Sarah Kolo from the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) presented various resources offered by the OHRC such as Seal America: The Prevention Intervention and School-Based Dental Sealant Program Training, Third Edition. OHRC publications can be found at: <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/publications/list.php>
- In November, Bianca Rogers the Project Manager at the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health talked about the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN). She asked members of the SAOHC what the needs and priorities are for school-based oral health. SAOHC members were invited to join OPEN.
- Nancy Chapman from the Oral Health Alliance reached out to Lori with a request to link some of ASTDD's resources to the Alliance's website. The Alliance has formed a group of stakeholders to review and provide input on the Nutrition and Dietary Guidelines that will be issued in 2025 and their goal is to have a piece related to oral health included in the guidelines.
- The Sealant Retention workgroup met several times. The group was formed to assist Oregon with the development of a sealant retention guidance template. Oregon is still in the process of finalizing the guidance document. Once it is approved by Oregon's administration it will be shared with the SAOHC.
- The ASTDD SAOHC and Dental Public Health Policy Committee and the America Mobile and Teledentistry Alliance (AMTA) collaborated on the Mobile and Portable School-Based/School-Linked Oral Health Programs: Delivery Models to Expand Care for Children and Adolescents Issue Brief. Dr. McAllister Castelaz, President of AMTA, served as the primary author. Several members of the SAOHC, Terri Chandler, Jannette Gomez, Katrina Holt, Jenna Linden reviewed the document as well as Dr. Steve Geiermann. The document was posted and disseminated in August 2023. Dr. Castelaz will present an ASTDD Spotlight on the document on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.
- As of the December 2023 there were not any technical assistance requests in the CDC AMP.

- The SAOHC 2023-2024 logic model and workplan were updated, approved, and posted to the ASTDD SAOHC webpage.
- The Integrating Oral Health Education into the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Health Model, and the School Dental Sealant Programs policy statements will be combined. ASTDD consultant Julie Janssen is collaborating with the SAOHC on this project.
- Lori reached out to the ASTDD Social Media Workgroup regarding messaging for Children's Dental Health Month (February 2024). A member of the Workgroup will share the messages as well as tips for dissemination during the SAOHC meeting on January 25, 2024.
- Lori was asked to participate in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) two-day brainstorming around the use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF). The results of the workgroup's input are to be shared later.
- Lori, Sandy, and Matt Jacob began strategic planning for a sealant communication technical assistance (TA) project for three CDC-funded states. Matt will provide TA on three to four communication pieces for each state. A survey was sent to all CDC funded states in late November and three states were selected in early December, Idaho, Iowa, and Pennsylvania. An orientation is slated for January 11, 2024. The project will run through May 2024 with the three states presenting their new and/or revised communication pieces during a sealant Community of Practice (CoP) in June 2024.
- The SAOHC webpage was updated and reorganized.
- SAOHC members who had not participated on a meeting in more than a year were removed from the roster.

ASTDD Sealant Coordinator

- Six dental sealant Community of Practice (CoP) and/or sealant-related webinars were conducted for CDC-funded school sealant programs (SSPs) during 2023.
- In January, Sealant Coordinator (Sandy Tesch) entered into a collaborative project with COHSII to update OHRC's online Seal America manual.
- In February, Matt Zaborowski, the Preventive Health Activities Manager at the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP), presented the results of an ADA survey on dental sealant programs. CDC sealant coordinators offered input on the survey questions they would like to see included on future sealant surveys.
- In April, Dr. Jeremy Horst Keeper presented *Alternative Interventions for SSPs* to include information on povidone iodine, silver diamine fluoride (SDF), and glass ionomer (GI) sealants. The recording and resources were placed in CoP

Dropbox. A link from CareQuest was sent to participants for ordering the publication, *Non-invasive Caries Therapy Guide*.

- In June, Dr. Marcia Parker presented to sealant coordinators and shared updates on CDC's guidance on blacklight usage for data collection and on the SEALS program. The CDC SEALS program is currently offline and not available for SSP data entry.
- In August, GC America conducted a dental sealants CoP presentation and sealant application demonstration on glass ionomer sealants. Placed PowerPoint presentation, recording, and resource documents in sealants CoP Dropbox for sealant coordinators.
- Sandy serves as a member on the Student and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC) and reports on CDC-funded SSP activities during committee meetings.
- Sandy attended the National Mobile and Teledentistry conference in Frisco, Texas on behalf of ASTDD on March 1-5th.
- Sandy served as a member on the Sealant Retention workgroup and the School-based/School-linked Mobile Portable Dental Services workgroups.
- Sandy and Chris Wood worked with Dr. Shillpa Naavaal on the development of a national survey for school sealant programs with Virginia Commonwealth University.
- Sandy is assisting Astrid Palmer (CDC Division of Oral Health) to plan and coordinate a dental sealant panel presentation for the upcoming CDC grantee meeting in March 2024.
- The Dental Sealant Resources webpage on the ASTDD website was updated.
- Lori, Sandy, and Matt Jacob began strategic planning for a sealant communication technical assistance (TA) project for three CDC-funded states; Idaho, Iowa, and Pennsylvania. The three states will present their new and/or revised communication pieces during a sealant Community of Practice (CoP) in June 2024.
- Continuous monitoring and correspondence to TA questions posted on CDC-funded dental sealants group listserv (cdc-funded-dental-sealants@groups.astdd.org) and ASTDD sealant coordinator's listserv (dentalsealants@groups.astdd.org).

Future Activities:

- Create workgroups as needed for various policy statements in the process of being updated.

- Continue to provide technical assistance as needed by SAOHC members and other ASTDD partner organizations.
- Continue to work with ASTDD Sealant Coordinator on school-related sealant activities.

Subcommittees:

- Sealant Retention Guidance Template Workgroup has completed the work needed to assist Oregon.
- The Integrating Oral Health Education into the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Health Model, and the School Dental Sealant Programs policy statements will be combined. A workgroup will be created to assist with review and input.
- The SAOHC continues to provide input on various documents and provides technical assistance on an as needed basis.

Unmet Needs:

- The Improving Children's Oral Health through the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model BPAR (2017) should be updated at some point. A discussion will need to take place as to how this will be done.