



Dental Public Health State Activity Submission Form

ASTDD’s goal in collecting information about successful state Dental Public Health activities (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) is to share this information with other states, territories, and stakeholders who may be interested in implementing similar activities. We thank you for your time and willingness to share your experiences.

Please complete the form below and return to Lori Cofano, ASTDD Best Practices Project Coordinator, at lcofano@astdd.org

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| STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) Minimum=300 Maximum=500 | |
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| Activity title: | Georgia School-Based/Linked Dental Sealant Program |
| State/Territory: | GA |
| Summary overview, which may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives Rationale Personnel Key partners Costs & sustainability | |
| <p>The Georgia dental sealant program is a school-based/linked program designed to provide eligible students with dental sealants on their first and second permanent molars to prevent tooth decay. The Georgia Third Grade Oral Health BSS, in 2016-17, found 51% of 3rd grade children in Georgia have a history of tooth decay; 19% have untreated tooth decay; only 35% of 3rd grade children in GA have protective sealants on their 1st permanent molars.</p> <p>The Georgia Oral Health Program (GOHP) provides funds to support the school-based/linked sealant program (S-BSP) targeting high-risk schools, those with large proportions of students from families with low-income. In 2020, 34 of the state’s sealant programs were funded by the GOHPP and approximately 2,500 sealants were placed on schoolchildren. The GOHPP funds originated from the Maternal and Child Health Block (MCHB) grant and the Cooperative Agreement</p> | |

the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as state general funds.

Georgia currently has SSP's operating in nine districts. Some programs are 100% funded by the state and operate utilizing portable equipment owned by the state; others are funded by individual counties. For the last 3 years, S-BSP's have provided more than 8,000 sealants on elementary children with at least one molar sealant; 99% of the children participating in the free and reduced lunch program received at least one molar sealant.

All S-BSP's are required to track their sealant data in CDC's Sealant Efficiency Assessment for Locals and States (SEALS) software and provide the data information to GOHPP at the end of the event.

In FY 2021-22, the program was challenged due to the COVID-19 pandemic; instead of expanding the number of schools, the program focused on improving oral health education and increasing the number of children served within each school.

Lessons learned (Successes and **Challenges**):

School-based/linked dental sealant programs are a highly effective way to deliver sealants to children who are less likely to receive private dental care. Programs delivering sealants to children at high-risk for tooth decay also saves money. Each tooth sealed saves more than \$11 in dental treatment costs. However, this effective intervention remains underused. Less than half of children aged 6 to 11 years have dental sealants. Low-income children are 20% less likely to get sealants and twice as likely to have untreated cavities. Untreated cavities can cause pain, infection, and problems eating, speaking, and learning.

Georgia has expanded programs, adopted a more uniform retention rate check system, tried new approaches to increase parental consent rates.

- a. We will maintain, coordinate, implement, expand, and evaluate school sealant programs. We will work with participating elementary schools to implement strategies to increase completion rate of consent forms by families of eligible children. We will collect, analyze, and report school sealant programs' cost of resources, quality assurance (sealant retention rate) and program impact. We will communicate and promote the reach and impact of school sealant programs.
- b. We will utilize our GA Oral Health Coalition (GOHC), the sealant advisory committee, the dental and dental hygienists' associations, and public stakeholders to accomplish these goals.

| TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Activity Number: | 12009 |
| Submission Date: | May 2022 |
| Submission Filename: | SUM12009GA-sbsl-sealant-prog-2022 |