



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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New Hampshire Statewide Sealant Project (NHSSP)

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Oral Health Program, with the support of a Task Force representing partners and stakeholders, established a demonstration project called the New Hampshire Statewide Sealant Project (NHSSP). A grant from Endowment for Health, a private NH foundation, funded the project for a planning year (7/1/03 – 6/30/04) and three implementation years (7/1/04 – 6/30/07). The project: (1) built on the existing infrastructure of NH's 21 school-based programs, using volunteer dentists to provide required patient examination, and school-based programs' dental hygienists to apply sealants to eligible children; (2) placed teams consisting of a volunteer dentist, dental hygienist and dental assistant in schools, which are not served by existing school-based programs but have large populations of at-risk children, to provide examinations and sealants to eligible children (based on an Ohio sealant program model with some modifications); (3) worked with the communities with the NHSSP Ohio Model to create sustainable programs which will provide sealants for children in school-based settings; (4) evaluated and compared the three delivery models set up to deliver dental sealants with regard to clinical efficiencies and sealant retention rates (school-based vs. school linked vs. NHSSP Ohio Model sealant programs); (5) increased the number of NH dentists volunteering in school-based program; and (6) sponsored annual continuing educational conferences for dental health and public health professionals, providing them with the latest evidence-based research on clinical use of dental sealants. The project increased access and delivered dental sealants for children in NH schools: provided 18,216 dental screenings/examinations/sealant retention checks for 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade children and 5,926 sealants to 1,670 children in 2nd and 3rd grades.

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