

# School-Based Dental Sealant Program

Broward Dental SEALS

Sealing & Educating All Little Smiles

Florida Department of Health in Broward County Broward County Public Schools and Charter Schools

## Community Dental Need

- Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease
- 1 in 4 children have untreated tooth decay (cavities), tooth pain, or dental-related infection
  - Emergency room visits
  - Absence from school
  - Lack of concentration in class



#### What are Dental Sealants?

- Most effective way of preventing decay in molars
- Thin coating applied to biting surface of teeth
- Sealants and fluoride together can prevent 90% of decay



### Impact of Dental Sealants

- Prevents cavities
- Reduces dental-related pain and infection
- Preserves natural tooth structure
- Saves money!



## Benefits of School-Based Dentistry

- Comfortable and familiar environment
- Parents do not need to miss work
- Child will experience an enjoyable introduction to dentistry with their peers



#### 2016-2017 School Year

- Kindergarten to 7th grade
- 132 Title I elementary and middle schools
- 31% of targeted population
- 27,742 Students seen
- 18,667 Students sealed
- 937 dental emergencies identified

### 2017-2018 School Year

- Pre-K to 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- 138 Title I elementary and middle schools visited
- 33,472 Students Seen
- 22,925 Students Sealed
- 1,664 Dental Emergencies Identified

### 2018-2019 School Year

- Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 1st year visiting Charter Schools
- 215 Elementary, Middle and Charter Schools visited
- 60,050 Students Seen
- 37,470 Students Sealed
- 1,337 Dental Emergencies Identified

#### Each Child Receives:

#### Dental Services

- Dental assessment
- Personalized education
- Sealants
- Fluoride
- Referrals for follow-up

#### Goody Bag

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Flossers
- Book about tooth care
- Resources for DOH Dental Clinics

## Increasing Response Rate

#### Discuss with students

- Morning announcements
- Classrooms
- Assemblies

#### Discuss with parents

- Open house
- Parent nights
- Marquee
- Website
- Social media





### FAQ

- When will the dental team arrive?
- How many days will the hygienists be in the school?
- How long will each student be out of class?
- Can the students eat and drink after this visit?
- Will students with allergies, medical conditions, or special needs be treated?
- Why were there children that were not called to receive dental services?
- What happens if cavities are found?
- Do the parents get billed?

### Contacts

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