

Lincoln County Seal-a-Smile Program 2017-2018

Lincoln County Health Department



Why is Oral (Dental) Health Important?

Good oral health improves the ability

to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow, and make facial expressions.

Good oral health can prevent mouth pain, tooth decay, tooth loss, oral and throat cancer, birth defects, and other diseases of the mouth.

Making a Difference

In 2017-2018, Lincoln County Health Department secured a \$1022.00 grant from Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin along with Medicaid reimbursements of approximately \$5,000 which assists in providing funding for program expenses, supplies and staff time. During the 2017-18 school year, Wisconsin Seal-a-Smile (SAS) programs provided sealants for nearly 30,000 children statewide

Need for Oral Health Programs

- More than 108 million children and adults lack dental insurance according to the Surgeon General report.
- There is 1 dental clinic in Lincoln County who will treat Medicaid/Badger Care patients.
- 48% of 3rd graders in the northern region of Wisconsin have treated decay, while 16% have untreated decay, and 54% have experienced dental caries (2012-2013)

Components of the Seal-a-Smile Program

The Seal-a-Smile program is coordinated through Lincoln County Health Department with support from area schools. The following are the components of the program.

1. Classroom Education
2. Oral Health Exam
3. Placement of Sealants
4. Two Applications of Fluoride Varnish
5. Retention Check of Sealants placed previous year

Financial Implications

This program is provided at no cost to families. The saving to families, on average, is as follows:

- \$135 to seal one child's mouth.
- \$130 to screen one child.
- \$30 to apply one varnish.
- One dental sealant is roughly 1/3 the cost of a filling.
- Decreases costs associated to missing work and school because of dental needs.

IMPACT OF TOOTH DECAY

Tooth decay can impact a child's life in the following ways:



learning



self-esteem



speaking



sleeping



eating

Program Statistics

Table 1 to the right, shows the program summary for the Lincoln County Seal-a-Smile program. For 2017-2018, elementary school participation consisted of 2nd graders and retention checks for 3rd grade students. Middle school participation include 6th grade students and 7th grade retention checks.

Dental sealants are thin coatings that when painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (molars) can prevent cavities (tooth decay) for many years. Sealants protect the chewing surfaces from cavities by covering them with a protective shield that blocks out germs and food. Once applied, sealants protect against 80% of cavities for 2 years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to 4 years.¹ Children aged 6 to 11 years without sealants have almost three times more first molar cavities than children with sealants.

1-Center for Disease Control 2016

Number of urgent referrals are decreased as the SAS program has progressed with increased number of children screened.

Table 1: Total Participation

	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18
Number of schools participating	6	7	6
Number of students screened	225	203	257
Number of children sealed	154	150	169
Number with treated and untreated decay	134	141	158
Number of children referred for urgent dental care	12	6	3



Program Statistics by School

Washington Elementary School

	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18
Total student participation	34	47	41
Number students sealed	22	28	24
Number with treated and untreated decay	29	32	26
Number referred for Urgent dental care	1	2	1

Jefferson Elementary School

	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18
Total student participation	53	41	37
Number students sealed	24	26	22
Number with treated and untreated decay	28	18	19
Number referred for Urgent dental care	4	2	1

Kate Goodrich Elementary School

	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18
Total student participation	48	42	71
Number students sealed	39	40	46
Number with treated and untreated decay	34	39	50
Number referred for Urgent dental care	5	1	0

Prairie River Middle School

	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18
Total student participation	35	24	48
Number students sealed	35	15	36
Number with treated and untreated decay	21	17	30
Number referred for Urgent dental care	1	1	0

Program Statistics by School (continued)

Tomahawk Elementary School

	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18
Total student participation	33	24	31
Number students sealed	18	18	17
Number with treated and untreated decay	15	21	20
Number referred for Urgent dental care	0	0	0

Tomahawk Middle School

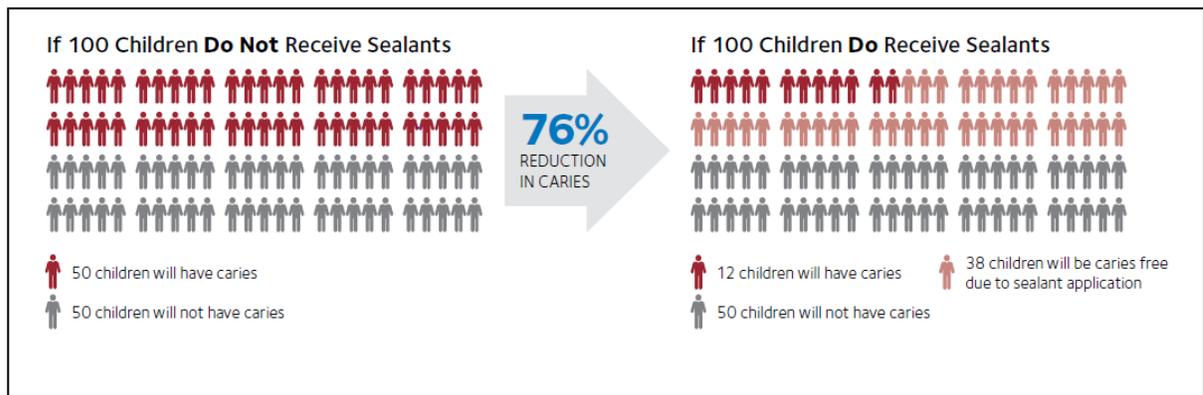
	'15-'16	'16-'17	'17-'18
Total student participation	22	16	29
Number students sealed	16	16	24
Number with treated and untreated decay	7	10	13
Number referred for Urgent dental care	1	0	0



PREVALENCE

About 60% of Wisconsin children have dental sealants.

Children with poor oral health were nearly **3x more likely to miss school** due to dental pain.



Center for Disease Control 2016

THE 2017-2018 LINCOLN COUNTY SEAL-A-SMILE PROGRAM SERVED 257 CHILDREN WHICH POTENTIALLY SAVED 125 DENTAL FILLINGS; PER DATA COMPARISONS FROM A 2016 AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION SURVEY.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank these community agencies for all of their hard work and collaboration for the Lincoln County Seal-a-Smile Program:

- Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital
- Merrill Area Public Schools
- Tomahawk Area School District
- Lincoln County Health Department
- Area Dentists and Dental Hygienists
- Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin

If you would like to support the Seal-a-Smile

Program by volunteering to assist at a clinic; providing funding for supplies; and or sponsor a school clinic, contact Karen Krueger Public Health Nurse, Lincoln County Health Department.

For more information, please contact:



Karen Krueger
Lincoln County Health Department
607 North Sales Street
Suite 101
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-0307

<http://lincolncountyhealthdepartment.com/>

