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Infographic: Oral Health of North Dakota's Third Grade Students: Comparing to National Trends

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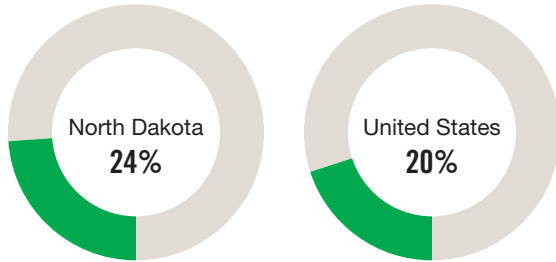
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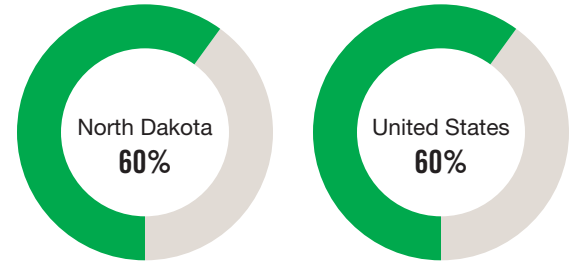
ORAL HEALTH OF NORTH DAKOTA'S THIRD GRADE STUDENTS: COMPARING TO NATIONAL TRENDS

Untreated Decay



Untreated decay is tooth decay or cavities that have not been treated.

Decay Experience



Decay experience means the student had at least one tooth that had untreated decay (a cavity), a dental filling, a crown, or had removed because of tooth decay.

MORE THAN HALF

56%

56% of North Dakota's third grade students had at least one dental sealant compared to only **42%** of third grade students in the general U.S. population.



Dental sealants are plastic-like coatings applied to the chewing surfaces of back teeth. This seals off the grooves in teeth that tend to collect food and protects them from the acid. The process is quick and easy, with the whole procedure taking roughly **10 minutes**. Sealants prevent cavities by creating a barrier between the teeth and cavity-causing bacteria. Sealants also stop cavities from growing and can prevent the need for fillings.



Dental sealants prevent 80% of cavities in the back teeth, where 9 out of 10 cavities generally occur.

These data represent 1,769 third grade children in North Dakota who received a dental screening at 41 randomly selected schools during the 2021-2022 school year compared to the general U.S. population screened between 2011-2016 as part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). This work was completed in cooperation with the State Oral Health Program. The content is the sole responsibility of the author and does not necessarily represent the official views of the State Department of Health & Human Services.

Additional State oral health data are available at hhs.nd.gov/health/oral-health-program
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