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Infographic: Progress in Oral Health Care and Dental Hygiene Among North Dakota Third Grade Students: 2014-2022

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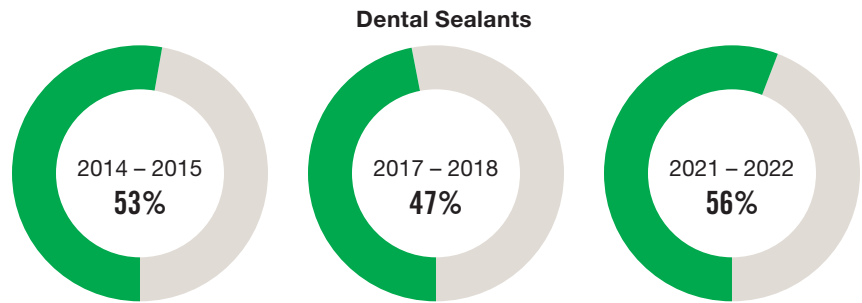
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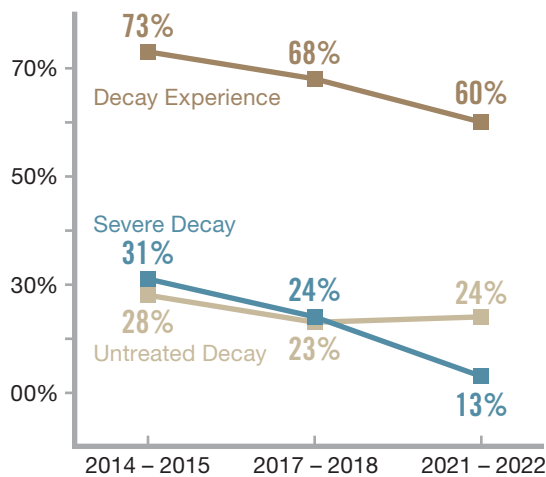
PROGRESS IN ORAL HEALTH CARE AND DENTAL HYGIENE AMONG NORTH DAKOTA THIRD GRADE STUDENTS: 2014-2022

More than half of the third-grade students in North Dakota had dental sealants on their back teeth in the most recent school year.

Dental sealants are plastic-like coatings applied to the chewing surfaces of back teeth. The applied sealant resin bonds into the grooves of teeth to form a protective physical barrier and prevents tooth decay (cavities).



Since 2014-2015, there has been a steady decline in the percentage of children with decay experience and the percentage with severe tooth decay.



Decay experience refers to students who had untreated decay (cavity), a dental filling, a crown, or teeth that were extracted because of tooth decay.

Untreated decay describes dental cavities or tooth decay that have not received treatment.

Severe decay refers to having untreated or treated tooth decay on seven or more teeth.

No change in the percentage of third grade students who need early or urgent dental care.

One in five third grade students need early dental treatment or care before their next regular check-up. This usually includes signs of a cavity or other minor oral health problem that needs attention.



3% urgently need dental treatment as soon as possible to address symptoms including pain, swelling, or infection.

These data represent 1,769 third grade children in North Dakota who received a dental screening at 41 schools randomly selected during the 2021-2022 school year. 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. Contact Dr. Shawnda Schroeder at Shawnda.schroeder@UND.edu