Overview:
The Idaho Oral Health Program (IOHP) collaborates with partners statewide to ensure Idahoans have access to optimal oral health care. To prevent oral diseases, the IOHP achieves this by:

- Assessing and monitoring oral diseases and disparities through the Idaho Oral Health Surveillance System (IOHSS).
- Working with the seven local public health districts to provide evidence-based prevention programs, such as:
  1. School-based dental sealant clinics in schools with a 50 percent eligibility in the Free and Reduced Meal Program or schools in counties considered 50 percent or more rural.
- Educating the public about the importance of early childhood caries prevention and the connection between oral health and overall health.
- Facilitating and maintaining productive, transparent relationships with professional organizations, the Idaho Oral Health Alliance, and community partners to address oral health concerns and solutions identified through collaborative efforts.

Total referrals made at all IOHP-funded local public health district sealant clinics 2019-2020 school year.

Total sealants placed at all IOHP-funded local public health district sealant clinics 2019-2020 school year.

4,087

412

Contact Information:

Angie Bailey, MSDH
Section Manager
Chronic Disease Section
(208) 334 - 6605
Angie.Bailey@dhw.idaho.gov

Matt Zaborowski, MPH
Program Manager
Idaho Oral Health Program
(208) 334 - 5973
Matthew.Zaborowski@dhw.idaho.gov
**Federal Funding:**
With the continued support from federal funding sources – Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Funding, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Health Resources and Services Administration – the IOHP is expanding its reach in dental health professional shortage areas by implementing innovative programs, such as teledentistry and the increased usage of silver diamine fluoride, which is a nonrestorative treatment for tooth decay.

**Idaho Smile Survey:**
Since 2000, the IOHP, in partnership with the seven local public health districts, has conducted the Idaho Smile Survey to monitor and collect data on the oral health status of Idaho's children.

The IOHP conducts the survey at four-year intervals and screens third-grade students from randomly selected schools to determine the prevalence of untreated tooth decay, treated tooth decay, missing teeth because of tooth decay (caries experience), the presence of dental sealants and the need for restorative care.

**Key Findings from the 2017 Idaho Smile Survey Report:**

- Of third-grade students, two-thirds (67.2 percent) had dental sealants on at least one permanent molar tooth. The Healthy People 2020 goal for children aged 6 to 9 is a rate of 28.1 percent or better. Since 2000, the rate has improved with each survey.

- Nearly two-thirds (65.6 percent) of third-graders had some caries experience. This rate has remained unchanged since the 2000 survey showed a rate of 65.4 percent. The Healthy People 2020 goal for children with caries experience is 49 percent or less.

- Fewer than 1 in 5 students (17.1 percent) had untreated tooth decay, which is lower than all previous surveys. The Healthy People 2020 goal is a rate of 25.9 percent or less.

- The rate of third-grade students requiring urgent restorative dental care because of pain, infection, inflammation or bleeding was 1.9 percent, which is significantly lower than the 5.4 percent rate found in the 2000 survey.

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**Note:** All data current as of July 2020, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.