

# SCHOOL-BASED ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

*Providing dental care to high-risk children throughout West Virginia.*



## ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

In West Virginia, the Department of Health and Human Resources funds school-based oral health programs that offer a variety of dental services in preschools and schools with a high number of children from low-income households. All programs provide services to prevent tooth decay such as fluoride treatments and dental sealants while some programs provide restorative services such as fillings.

## DENTAL SEALANTS

Dental sealants are thin coatings painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to prevent cavities. Sealants protect the teeth by covering them with a protective shield that blocks out germs and food. School-based programs are an effective way to deliver sealants to children who are less likely to receive private dental care. Programs that deliver sealants to children at high risk for tooth decay save money. Each tooth sealed saves more than \$11 in dental treatment costs.

## THE NUMBERS

**221**

The number of preschools and schools with an oral health program in SY2020-2021

**3,319**

The number of children served by school-based oral health programs in SY2020-2021

**6,493**

The number of teeth that received a dental sealant through school-based oral health programs in SY2020-2021

## DESCRIPTION OF CHILDREN SERVED

**PK-12**

The grade range of children served by school-based programs during SY2020-2021

**81%**

The percentage of children served by school-based programs that were eligible for Medicaid during SY2020-2021.

**5%**

The percentage of children served by school-based programs that had no dental insurance coverage during SY2020-2021.

Reference: CDC. Vital signs: dental sealant use and untreated tooth decay among U.S. school-aged children. MMWR. 2016;65(41):1141-1145.