



Department of Health
Agency of Human Services



Health Department Voices Strong Support for Dental Sealants

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BURLINGTON – The Vermont Department of Health strongly supports the use of dental sealants to help prevent tooth decay, despite a Pew Center on the States' Children's Dental Campaign study "Falling Short: Most States Lag on Dental Sealants," released today.

The report gives Vermont a "C" grade for its sealant program in 2012, despite the state being among the best in the nation for children with dental sealants. Sixty-four percent of third graders in Vermont had dental sealants in 2009-2010. The survey data was unavailable to Pew in time to be included in this report.

"The study didn't take into account our most recent survey data, which shows Vermont far exceeds the national average in the number of third graders who have at least one sealant," said Steve Arthur, DDS, director of the Office of Oral Health. "With the more recent data, I believe we would have a much higher rating."

Vermont promotes and supports the use of sealants through the Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program. The program links school children who have not accessed dental care in the past year with local dental offices where they can receive comprehensive dental care, including sealants.

"We thank the dentists and hygienists around the state for their strong support of this important public health measure," said Dr. Arthur. "By continuing to promote and expand the Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program, updating the data we report on sealants, and providing incentives for increased use of all preventive measures, we will continue to improve oral health for Vermont kids."

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