

DIVISION OF ORAL HEALTH

CDC's [Division of Oral Health](#) (DOH) promotes optimal use of proven interventions such as community water fluoridation and dental sealants to reduce the rate of cavities, especially for populations at highest risk. DOH supports state and territorial oral health programs, collects surveillance data on oral diseases, and develops and promotes adherence to infection prevention and control guidelines for dental health care personnel. The division supports the integration of medical and dental care to address other chronic diseases associated with poor oral health. DOH also strengthens the dental public health workforce with a residency training program.

With an FY 2021 budget of \$19.5 million, DOH focuses on improving oral health and achieving [health equity](#), which is when every person has the opportunity to attain their full health potential. To meet these goals, DOH works to:

- Measure how cavities and other oral diseases affect populations in the United States.
- Study interventions to find out and promote what works best to prevent cavities and gum disease.
- Fund and guide states and territories to maintain oral health infrastructure, use proven interventions, and evaluate programs.
- Share information to help all people living in the US have better oral health and keep their natural teeth longer.

OUR IMPACT: Health Equity Highlight School Sealant Programs

The Challenge

Children from low-income households are twice as likely to have cavities as children from higher-income households.

Although dental sealants are an effective way to prevent cavities, children from low-income households are 15% less likely to get this service.

CDC's Approach

[School sealant programs](#) are a great way to deliver sealants to children at high risk of cavities. CDC [currently funds](#) 20 states and one territory to support oral health programs and expand sealant delivery in schools in low-income and rural areas.



In the United States:

1 IN 2
CHILDREN

aged 6 to 8 have had a cavity in at least one of their baby (primary) teeth.



1 IN 4
ADULTS

has untreated cavities.



46%
OF ADULTS

over 30 show signs of gum disease.



\$45
BILLION

in lost productivity is due to untreated dental disease.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

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