

CDC Expert Panel on School-based Sealant Programs

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Presentation Overview

- Explain why state oral health programs promote and support school based sealant programs
- Describe challenges faced by states in promoting these programs
- Describe ASTDD's request to CDC to provide assistance in addressing some of the challenges

Background

- Healthy People 2000 and 2010
- MCH National Performance Measure
- National Oral Health Surveillance System indicator
- Task Force on Community Preventive Services

Surgeon General Report

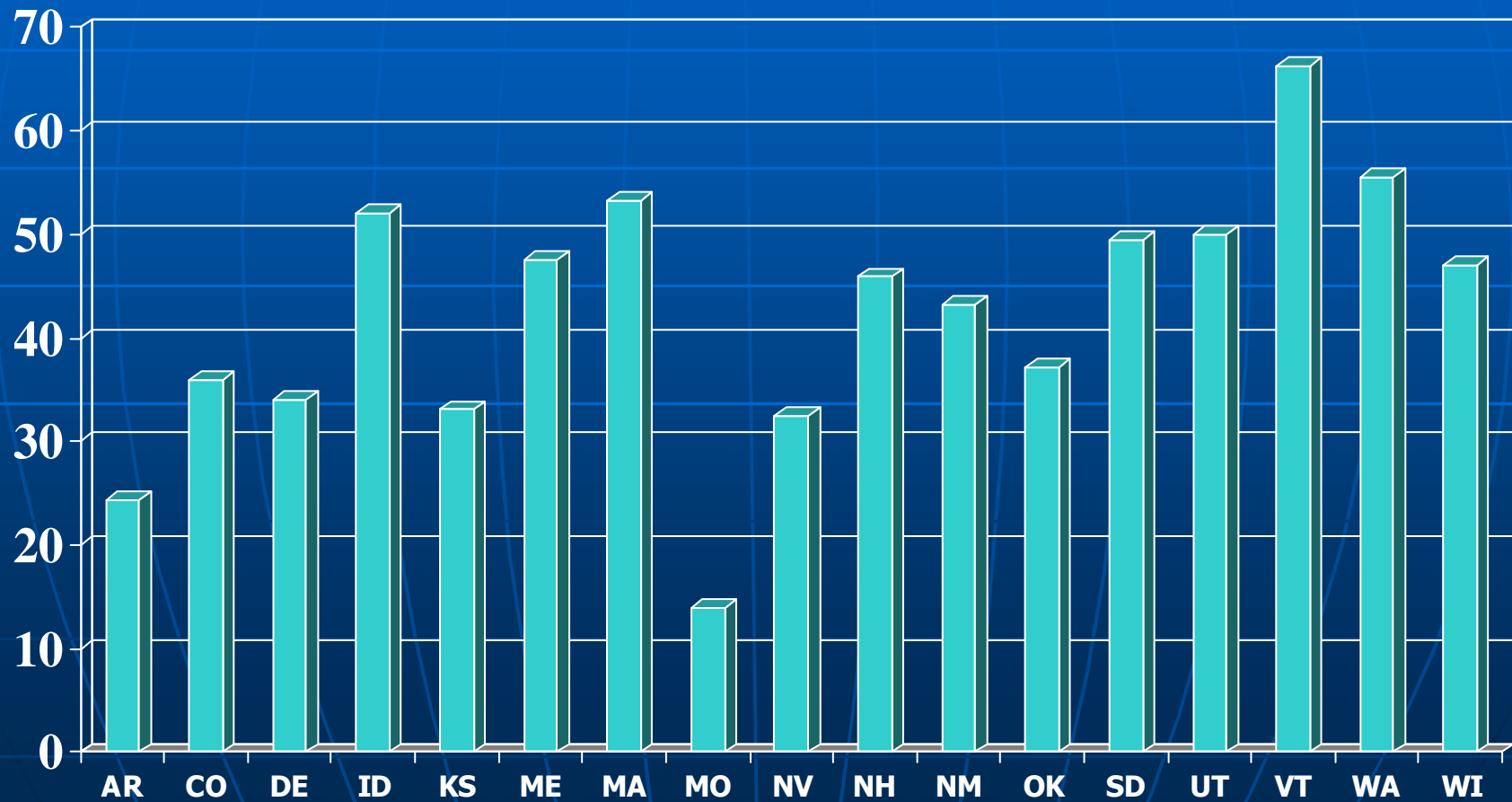
- “strong evidence” supports the effectiveness of sealants
- “....community sealant programs are cost-effective and may even provide cost savings” when targeted
- Call to Action
“Promote and apply programs that have demonstrated effective improvement in access to care”

Background

- 1993 PHS Policy Statement
- Current guidelines for sealant use developed 1994 and published in JPHD in 1995
- Other systematic reviews of sealant effectiveness
- ASTDD Best Practice approach
 -however, barriers remain for state dental programs

Sealant Prevalence: NOHSS

% of 3rd Graders with Sealants on at least one permanent tooth.



ASTDD Survey

- Identify the barriers:

“....ASTDD is aware that despite current research regarding effectiveness, some states are struggling to initiate, expand, or even continue operating public health sealant programs.”

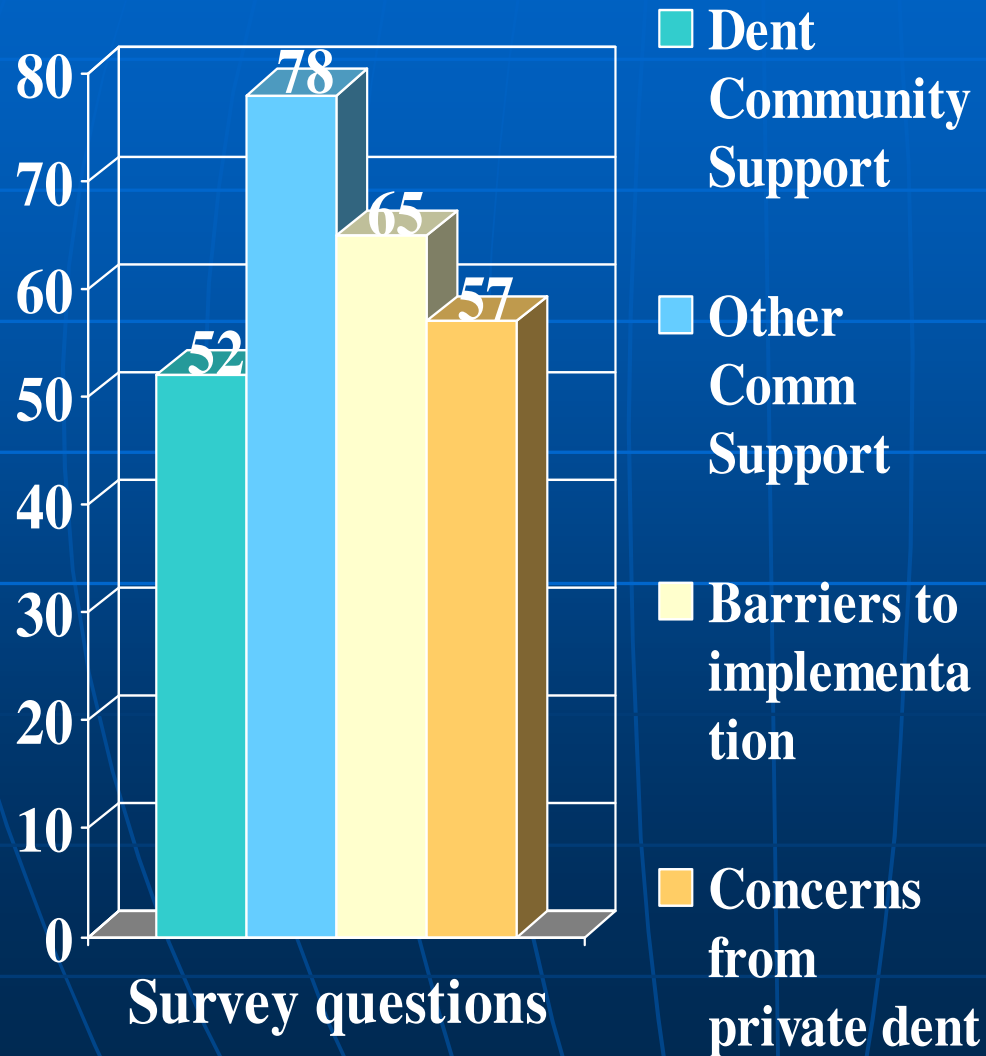
ASTDD Survey

1. Does your program participate in, or support financially or otherwise, a school-based or school-linked dental sealant program?
2. If yes, has the school sealant program(s) been actively supported or endorsed by:
 - The dental community (private practitioners)?
 - Other community organizations?

ASTDD Survey

3. Have you encountered any barriers to your sealant program, or to starting a sealant program, other than funding and practice act issues?
4. Have private dental practitioners spoken to you or others about any concerns with the sealant program for the children served?

Survey Results



- 30 states responded

- 23 states (77%) had programs and completed survey

Concerns by Private Dental Community

- **Sealing over decay**
- **Need radiographs or other dx tool (ie enamelplasty, Diagnodent)**
- **Public health programs do not adequately follow children/QA**
- **Assurance that sealant programs ONLY serve underserved populations**



ASTDD Request

- Assistance in assuring that guidelines and model protocols for sealant delivery in school programs reflect the current state of the science and support a range of practices that are acceptable, applicable, and feasible in school settings; and
- Communication and dissemination strategies be developed for state dental directors to use with private dental community