Evaluating Colorado's School-Based Sealant Program and SEALS Implementation.

Megan Martinez, MPH

Mathew Christensen, PhD

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Oral Health Unit

Background

- School-based sealant program in Colorado started in 1998 with Chopper Topper.
 - 28 schools, 1,524 2nd graders screened
 - 1,298 sealed, 4,281 sealants
- Increased capacity in 2004 with Rocky Mountain Youth (School-linked, mobile unit) and Summit School District (Coordinated School Health Pilot).
 - 35 schools, 1,838 2nd graders screened
 - 1,389 sealed, 4,719 sealants

School-Based Sealant Program Delivery System

- Contracts w/RDH's are secured
- Portable equipment is used in schools
- Consent is obtained from parents
- An educational component is delivered

- Dentist or RDH screen 2nd graders
- Sealants are placed on those who need them
- The following year a retention check is completed to determine success

2004-2005

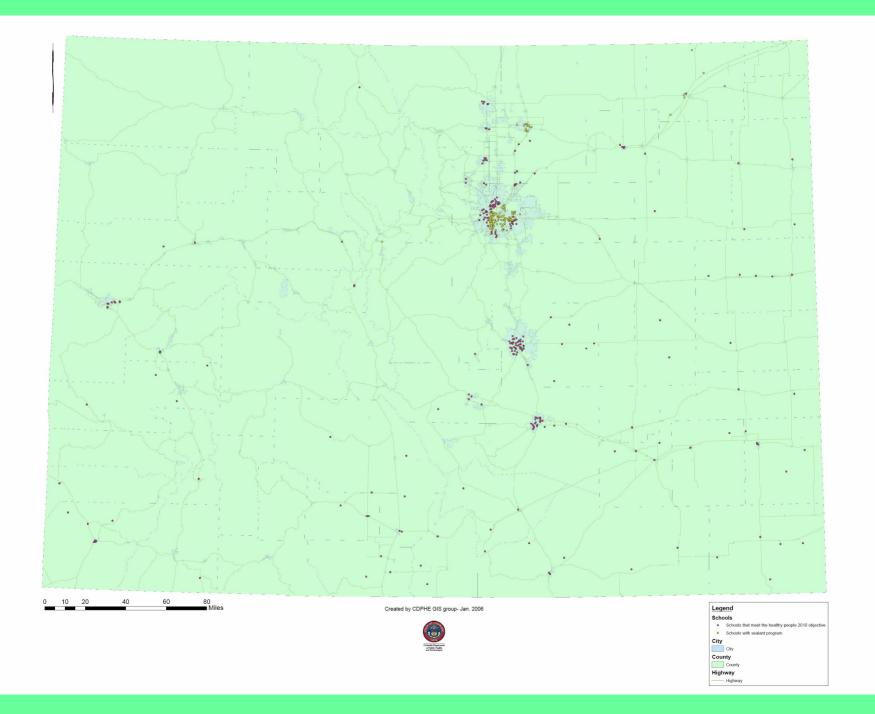


- A cost analysis (Joan O'Connell from CU Health Sciences Center) was completed to determine which areas to expand SBS.
- Expansion to Weld County and El Paso County were highlighted.
- A Sealant Coordinator was hired.
- The SEALS (Sealant Efficiency Assessment for Locals and States) software was previewed, and a program decision was made to implement it in the fall of 2005.



2005 cont.

- An evaluation of which schools qualified in Colorado was completed based on CDC req.
 - free and reduced lunch status of individual schools
 - school districts 235% or more below the FPL
- New contracts were secured with a RDH in Weld County (Greeley) and Logan County (Sterling).
- Denver Health received a planning grant from the Oral Health Program and additional funding from Caring for Colorado to implement SBS program.



2005-2006 DATA

School-Based Programs

- Chopper Topper, Denver Health, Sterling, Weld
 - 75 individual schools sites
 - 2,858 2nd graders screened
 - 1,962 2nd graders sealed
 - 6,660 sealants placed
 - 3.4 sealants/child
 - \$64,008.00 in contracts through CDC/HRSA funds
 - Estimated 1,434 cavities averted

SEALS Implementation

- The CDC software was implemented in the fall of 2005.
- Chopper Topper began using it in January 2006.
- Training was held for all the contractors
 - In computer lab, CDC trained.
- Many TA calls and visits were needed.
- A follow-up meeting was convened in the summer of 2006 to interview contractors about their experience using SEALS.

2006-2007

- New contractor secured in Colorado Springs
- Three of the six contractors have reported data through March 2007:
 - 67 schools
 - -1,700 screened
 - 1,351 sealed
 - 4,350 sealants



Be Smart & Seal Them!

Summary

- Colorado's School-Based Sealant Program increased:
 - Capacity (contractors, coordinator, schools, students
 - Uniform data reporting (CDC SEALS)
 - Meeting the greatest oral health needs
 (Disparities reduced, disease averted and cost savings)

Megan Martinez, MPH megan.martinez@state.co.us 303-692-2529 CDPHE – Oral Health Unit 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South PSD-OH-A4 Denver, CO 80246