

## School-Based Dental Sealant Programs (SBSPs)

The national Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends SBSPs based on strong evidence of effectiveness in preventing dental caries (tooth decay) among children. This recommendation is based on evidence that shows these programs increase the number of children who receive sealants at school, and that dental sealants result in a large reduction in tooth decay among school-aged children (ages 5 to 16).

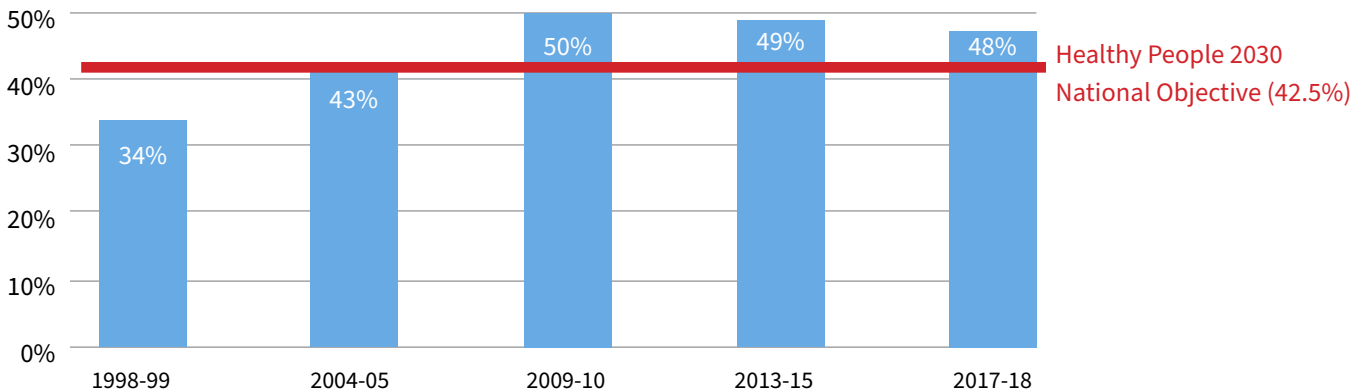
— [Guide to Community Preventive Services, 2022](#).  
Community Preventive Services Task Force,U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### SBSPs in Ohio typically:

- Provide dental sealants to children in school settings.
- Target schools in which 40% or more of the students are eligible for the Free/Reduced Price Meals Program.
- Target second and sixth grades.
- With parental consent, have dental hygienist/dental assistant teams place sealants on child’s teeth.
- Use portable dental equipment.
- Check the sealants of third-and seventh-grade students who received sealants in second or sixth grades.



### Percentage of Third Grade Students With at Least One Dental Sealant, Ohio, 1998-2018



Data from five statewide surveys of Ohio third grade school children show that the prevalence of dental sealants has increased since 1998-99. At 48%, Ohio far exceeds the national benchmark for the percentage of third grade students with one or more sealants (42.5%). [Oral Health Status of Third Grade Schoolchildren in Ohio, 2017-18](#). Ohio Department of Health. Accessed 3.2.23.

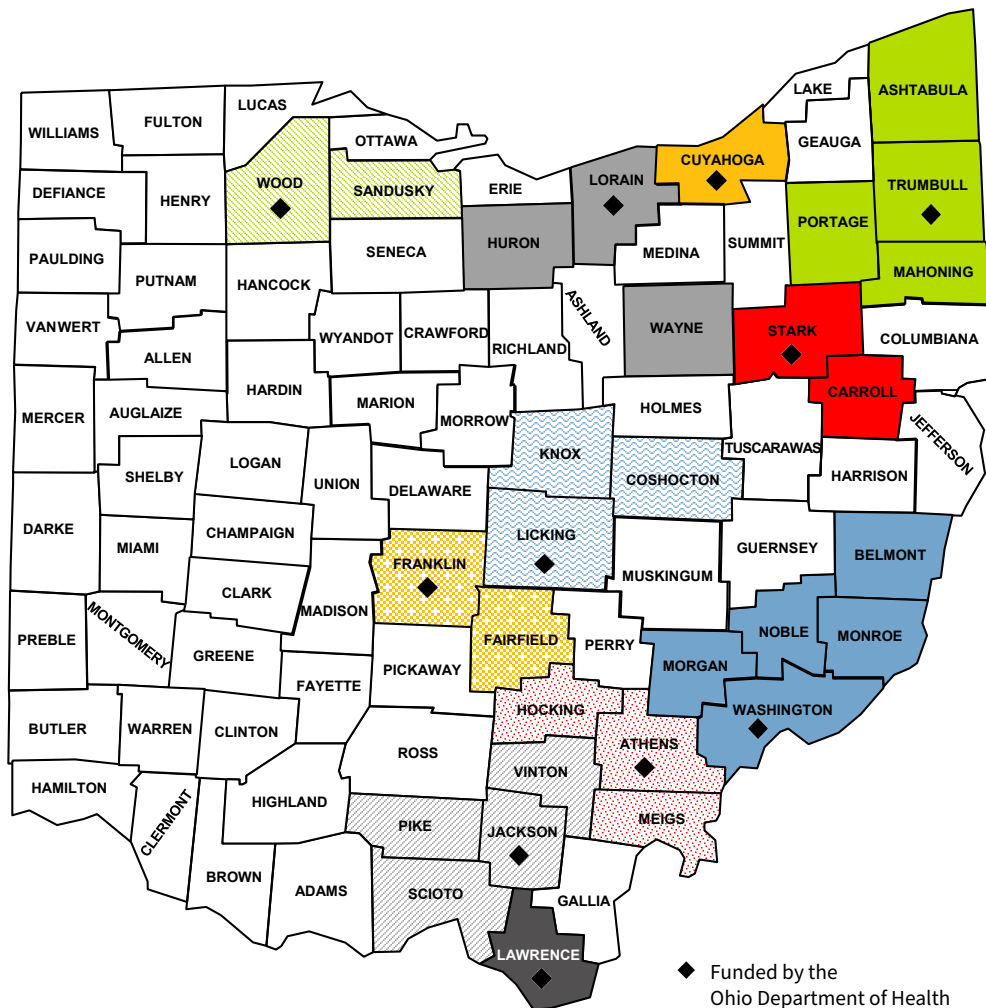
## Ohio Sealant Programs Over the Years

- Cincinnati City Health Department initiated the first Ohio SBSP in 1984.
- Since 1987, the Ohio Department of Health has had a grant program for eligible local agencies and organizations to support SBSPs, focusing on highly urbanized and very rural areas.
- During the 2022-2023 school year, 13,179 children received sealants through the SBSPs funded by the Ohio Department of Health. The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the number of children served by SBSPs, but programs are now seeing a steady increase in student participation.

## Resources for School-Based Dental Sealant Programs

The Oral Health Program offers a [web-based continuing education course on SBSPs](#). The OHP developed and offers the *School-Based Dental Sealant Program Manual* which provides detailed information on the expectations of, and standards for -SBSPs funded by the Ohio Department of Health. Such funded SBSPs must comply with the requirements in this manual. The manual and other resources may be found on the [OHP page of the ODH website](#).

## School-Based Dental Sealant Programs (SBSP) in Ohio 2024



Map current as of March 2024.

Ohio Department of Health • Oral Health Program  
246 North High Street • Columbus, OH 43215

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/oral-health-program/welcome>