

Public Health Dental Prevention Program Providers

An effective way to prevent cavities among children, particularly those who are most vulnerable to decay is through the Public Health Dental Prevention program. These preventive services were created to address the needs of priority populations identified by DHEC using standard public health principles.

47%

of the students in the 2017-18 SC Oral Health Needs Assessment had experienced tooth decay

20%

of the students in the 2017-18 SC Oral Health Needs Assessment revealed they had untreated decay

The percentage of children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years with untreated tooth decay is twice as high for those from low-income families (25%) compared with children from higher-income households (11%)

The providers that are currently engaged in a partnership with DHEC to deliver these services for the 2021-2022 school year include:

Beaufort-Jasper-Hampton
Comprehensive Health Services, Inc.

ChildSmiles Dental, Inc.

Classy Smiles, Inc.

SC Dental Screening Associates

Dental Access Carolina, LLC

Little River Medical Center, Inc.

ReGenesis Health Care

Rosa Clark Dental Clinic

Rural Health Services, Inc.

Public Health Dental Prevention Program Providers

Pre-Covid, during the 2018-2019 school year the PHDPP providers reached:

504

Schools served by DHEC School-based Prevention Program providers

19,928

Children reached and served

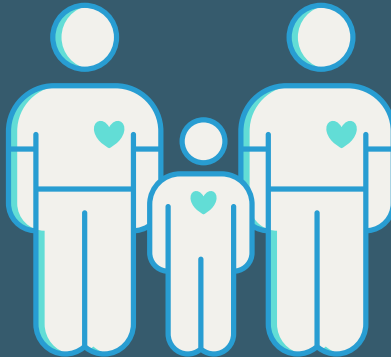
Post-Covid, during the 2021-2022 school year the PHDPP providers reached:

97

Schools served by DHEC School-based Prevention Program providers

4,207

Children reached and served



School-based programs can provide preventive services such as dental sealants and fluoride varnish. Dental Sealants are thin plastic coatings that are applied on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to keep out tooth decay, germs and food. Once applied, sealants protect against 80% of cavities for 2 years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to 4 years." The South Carolina State average for children assessed with a sealant present is 27.17%.

Efforts are underway to reach more schools and return to pre-Covid levels to ensure more students can receive these needed preventive services. For more information on positively impacting the oral health of students contact oralhealth@dhec.sc.gov