

# MCH & Immunization Conference

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# Dental Sealants

- Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings that are put on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (molars)
- Sealants are painted on the teeth and harden either chemically or with a curing light to form a shield over the teeth



Chewing surface  
before sealant



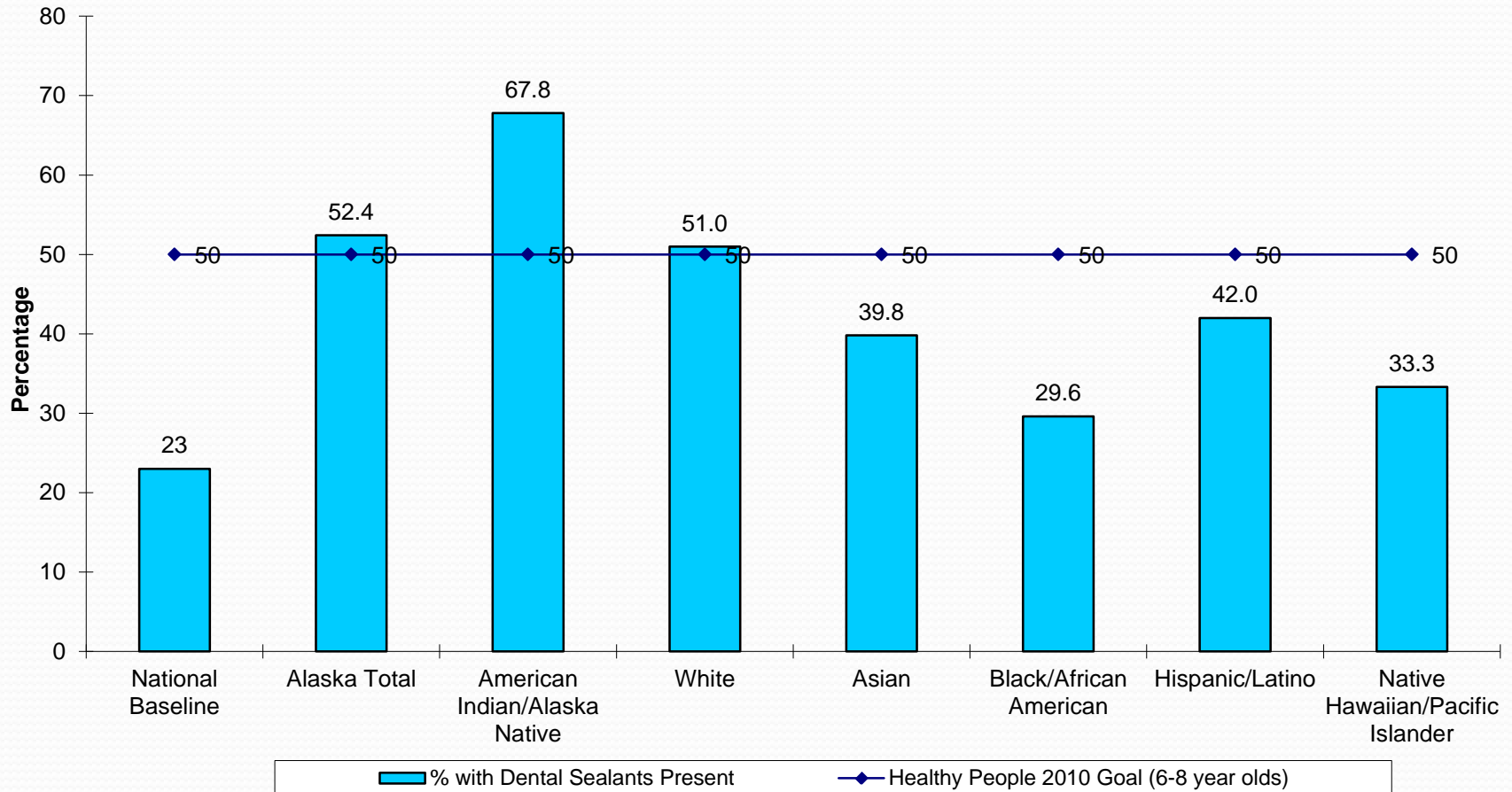
Tooth protected by  
shaded sealant

# Dental Sealants

- Almost 100% effective in preventing caries on the chewing surfaces of teeth
- Provide a physical barrier and are most effective if placed on teeth soon after they erupt
- Permanent first and second molars are at the highest risk for decay
- Placement on teeth with incipient caries is also useful in preventing the further progression of dental caries

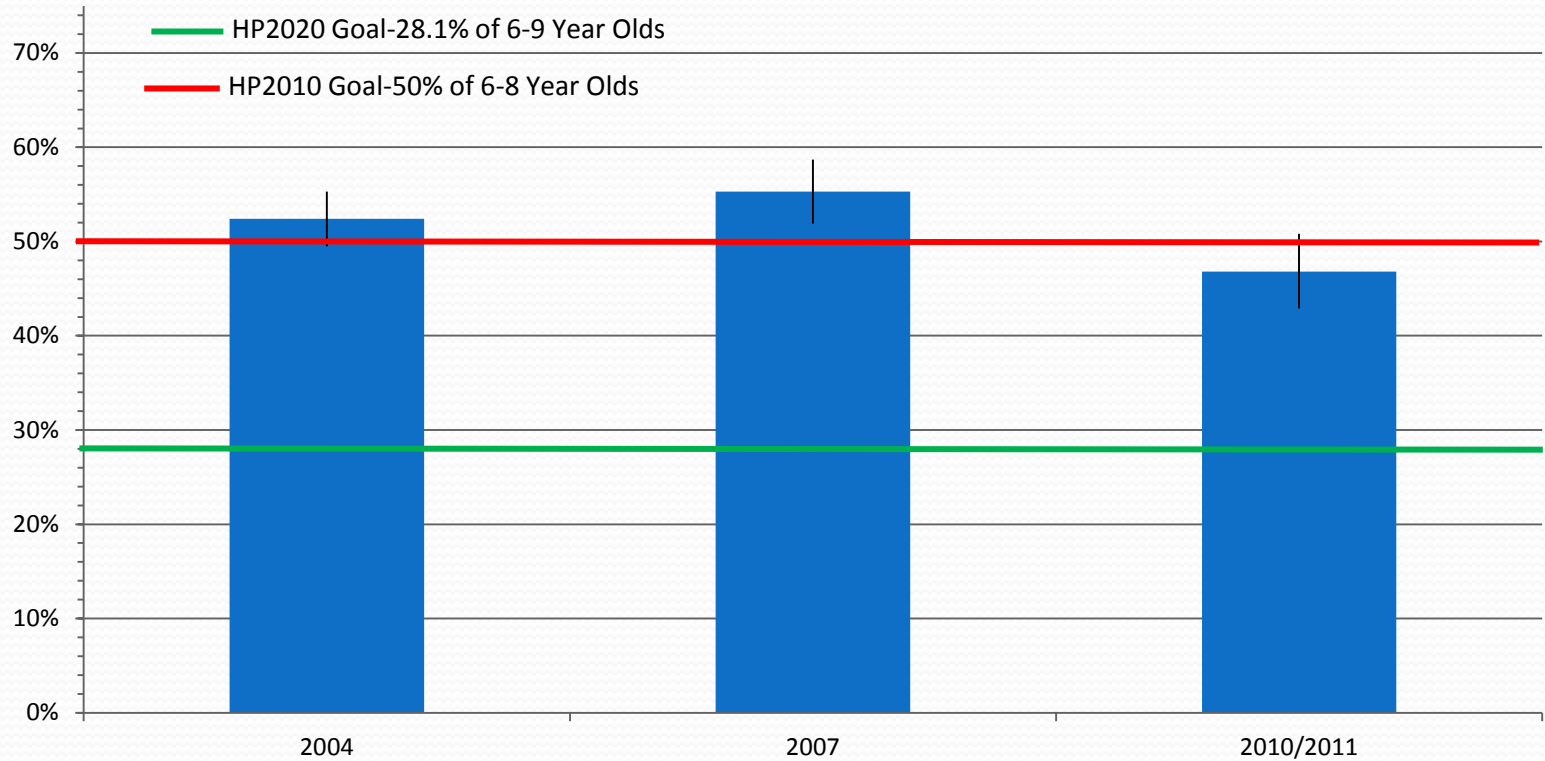
# Dental Sealants – Alaska 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (2004)

Third Graders - Dental Sealants: Percent with Dental Sealants by Race/Ethnicity  
(n=1,206)



# Dental Sealant Trends – Alaska 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

**Percent of Third Graders with Dental Sealant on the Permanent Molar, n= 628**



# School-based dental sealant programs

Evidence-based: Community preventive services task force recommendation – median of 60% decrease in decay on occlusal surface (top of tooth) of molars and premolars among children 6-17 years old.

Target schools: Rural schools in areas where median income is at or below 235% of federal poverty level – urban schools with 50 percent or more of children eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program

# 2005 Sealant Inventory

- 259 of 358 (72%) schools serving K-6 are target schools (<235% FPL or >50% free/reduced cost school lunch criteria)
- 192 of 358 (54%) schools serving K-6 reported that dental programs provide sealants in school based/linked programs
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium or tribal dental programs provided school-based programs in 42 schools and school-linked programs in 107 schools

# Schools without Programs

- In 3 urban areas of Alaska (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau)
- In small towns or villages on the road system
- In regional hub communities



# Target Schools

- Urban – 19 in Anchorage, 1 in Fairbanks
- Towns/Villages on Road System – 1 in Big Lake, 1 in Kenai
- Hub Communities – 1 in Nome

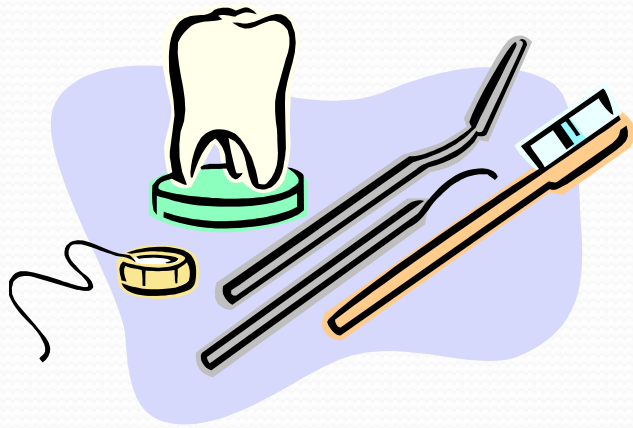
# Service Delivery

- Not looking at program direct service
- Partner with CHC/FQHC programs and Tribal programs

# Selected Pilot – Taku Elementary



# Dental Team - ANHC



Ghazal Ringler, DMD

Kim Conley, DDS

Marina Vinnikova, RDH

Walter Lopez, DA

Marian Reindorf, DA

Pamela Hawk, Dental  
Operations Manager

# Dental Equipment - SCF

SCF set up and took down equipment

- 2 patient chairs
- 4 dentist/assistant chairs
- 3 lights
- 2 ADEC units
- 1 compressor
- Handpieces
- Electrical cords and miscellaneous



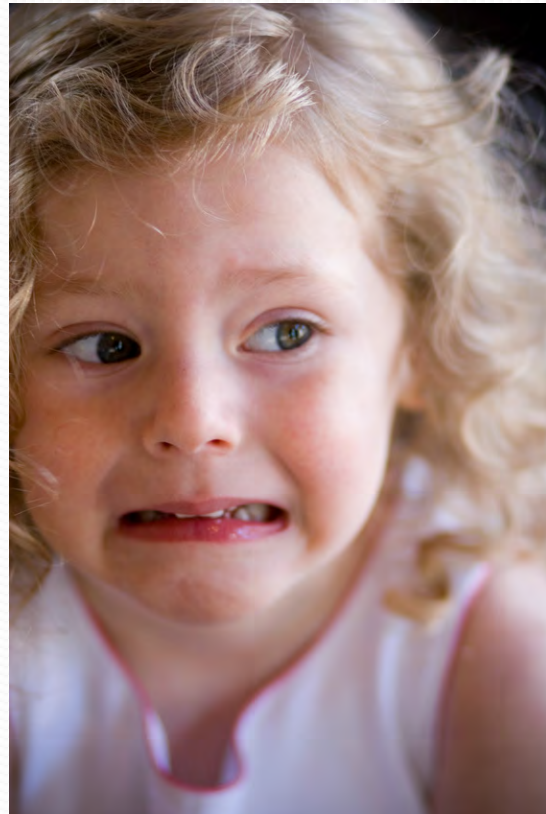
# Cleaning Their Teeth

- Students brushed their teeth with non-fluoridated toothpaste in the classroom



# Student Concerns

- Will I get a shot?
- Will I get my teeth pulled?





# The Dentist Screens to Determine Who Needs Sealants





# If Sealants are Indicated . . . .

- An acid etch is put on the tooth to make the surface rough and help the sealant adhere to the tooth.
- The tooth is rinsed and dried. Cotton is put around the tooth to keep it dry.



# The Magic Happens

- Sealant material is brushed on in liquid form and a curing light is used to help the sealant set.



# ... And the Children Leave Happy



# Letter to Parents

- Which teeth were sealed
- Referral to dentist
  - At least once a year
  - In the near future
  - Immediately

# Follow-up

- Return to Taku Elementary School in next year
- Rescreen students seen as 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
- Check for sealant retention and newly erupted permanent molars
- Apply additional sealants as indicated

# 2<sup>nd</sup>-Graders Screened/Sealed

School Year	# Students Screened	# Received Sealants	# Teeth Sealed
2009-10	18	14	51
2010-11	21	15	49
2011-12	19	15	52

# 3<sup>rd</sup>-Graders Rescreened

School Year	# Students Rescreened	# Students w/Sealants	# Sealants Placed Prev Yr	# Sealants Retained
2010-11	13 of 18	11	39	20 (51%)
2011-12	11 of 21	7	21	14 (67%)

# Lessons Learned

- Find ways to increase participation (39% of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in 2012)
- Schedule sealant event and retention check in same school year
- Use 4-handed technique for applying sealants in order to increase retention rate



# Oral Health Program – plans for the future??

