



# At-A-Glance

## School-Based Dental Sealant Programs

The Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends school-based sealant delivery programs 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).

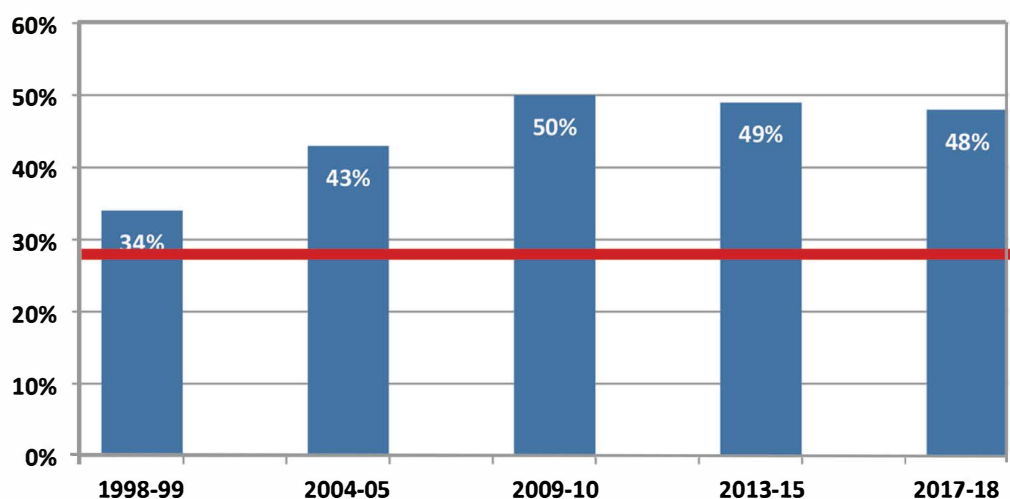
– *Guide to Community Preventative Services, 2013. Community Preventative Services Task Force, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/>*

### School-based dental sealant programs (SBSPS) in Ohio typically:

- Provide dental sealants to children in school settings
- Target schools where 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
- 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



Healthy People 2020  
National Objective (28%)

Data from five statewide surveys of Ohio third grade schoolchildren show that the prevalence of dental sealants has increased since 1998-99. At 48%, Ohio far exceeds the national benchmark for the percentage of children with one or more sealants (28%).

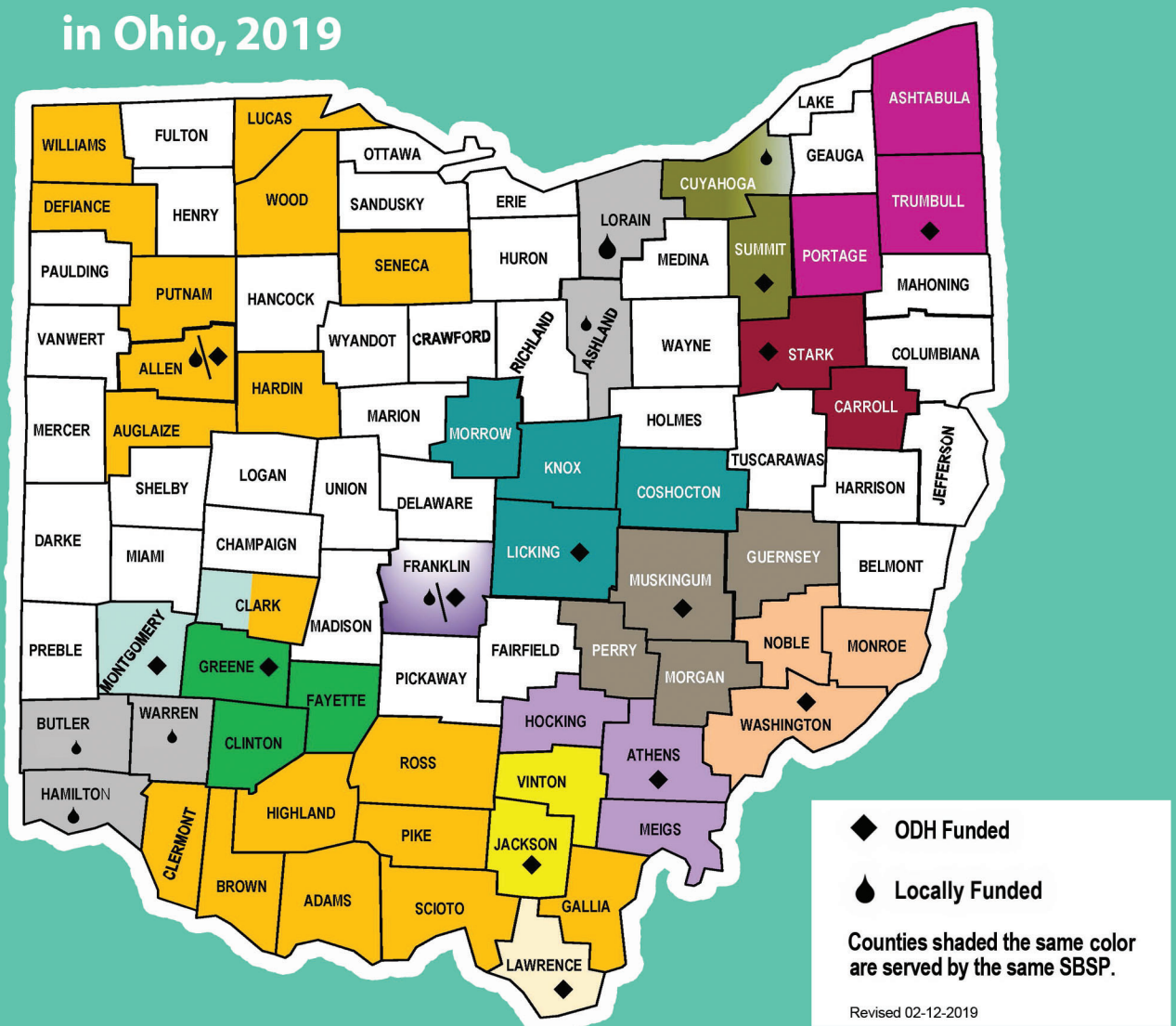
# Ohio Sealant Programs Over the Years

- Cincinnati City Health Department initiated the first Ohio SBSP in 1984.
- Since 1987, ODH has had a grant program to support SBSPs, focusing on highly urbanized and very rural areas. Grantees are local agencies and organizations.
- During the 2018 school year, nearly 21,000 children received sealants through Ohio SBSPs, mostly through the 13 programs that receive all or part of their funding from ODH.

## Resources for School-Based Dental Sealant Programs

OHP offers a web-based continuing education course on SBSPs. OHP developed and offers the *School-Based Dental Sealant Program Manual* which provides detailed information on the expectations of, and standards for, ODH-funded SBSPs. ODH-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 in Ohio, 2019



Ohio Department of Health • Oral Health Program

246 N. High St. • Columbus, OH 43215

BCFHS@odh.ohio.gov • <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/oralhealth>