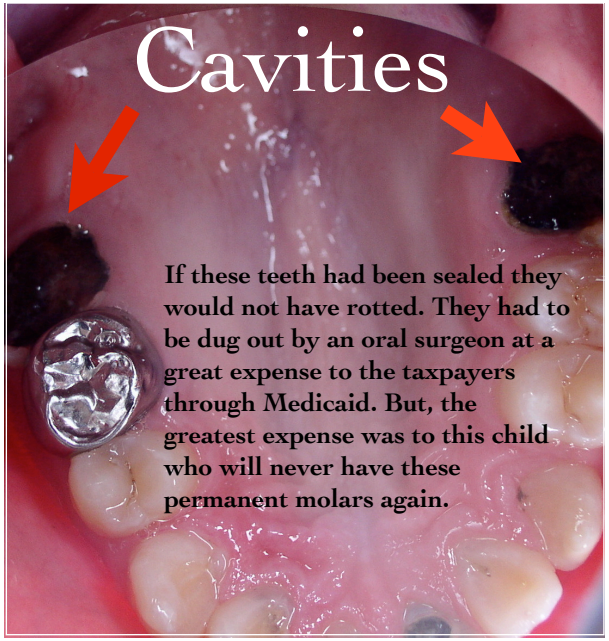

The Facts

- Although dental decay is largely preventable, it is the most common chronic disease of children - 5 times more than asthma.
- Forty-two percent (42%) of children aged 6-19 years and 68% of youth aged 16-19 have cavities.
- Dental decay is at its highest level in over twenty years for all age groups.
- Ninety percent (90%) of all decay happens in the biting surfaces of back teeth.
- Dental disease is the second costliest disease to treat. Only heart disease costs more each year. It is more costly than cancer, diabetes, trauma-related injuries, etc. every year.

HPS

Dental Sealants

Does your child have sealants?

Does your school have a sealant program?

If not, ask why?

Health Promotion Specialists

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"promoting health with a smile"

Dental Sealants

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that all communities adopt school-based sealant programs.

Prevention ave

What is a sealant?

Sealants are thin plastic coatings that are painted in the grooves on the biting surfaces of permanent back molar teeth to prevent and stop cavities.

Repairing the smallest cavity is three times more costly than a sealant.

Cavities Can Be Prevented

Dental sealants can prevent and stop ninety percent (90%).

- Sealants have been found to work well and have a low failure rate. (1)
- Sealants have been shown to last as long as 20 years at a rate as high as 87%. (2)
- Studies show that teeth with only part of a sealant remaining are much less likely to get cavities than unsealed teeth. (3)
- It has been proven that when teeth with obvious cavities are sealed, the cavity growth is stopped and may in fact get smaller under intact sealants. (4, 5, 6, & 7)
- Additionally, even with part of the sealant lost, there is no x-ray evidence of the cavity growing after two years. (8 & 9)
- Fluoride has greatly lowered the number of cavities over the past forty years, but it doesn't work well to prevent cavities in the biting surfaces of back teeth -- where 90% of cavities occur. (10)
- A tooth with a cavity is always better sealed than left alone. (11)

Sealants can save many children from needless pain and suffering and save South Carolina millions of dollars in dental costs.

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