



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Idaho Public Health Districts

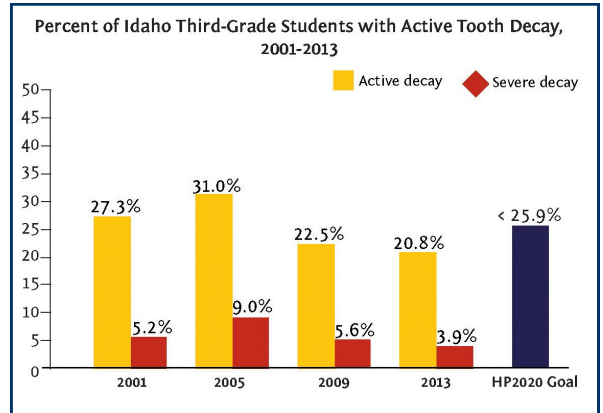
# Idaho Public Health Districts

February 2015

During the 2012-2013 school year, the Idaho Public Health Districts, in partnership with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Idaho Oral Health Program, conducted a statewide oral health screening on third-grade students. The purpose of the Idaho Smile Survey is to monitor and collect data on the oral health status of children. It has been conducted in four year intervals since 2000.

The survey sample included 4,737 students from 70 randomly selected schools and assessed the number of decayed, missing or filled primary and permanent teeth, the presence of sealants\*, the need for restorative and preventive dental services, and the presence of fluorosis. Data on age, race, and ethnicity was also collected. Some key findings from the 2013 report follow:

- More than one in five (21 percent) Idaho third-grade students had untreated tooth decay, significantly lower than surveys conducted in 2001 and 2005. This finding represents a seven percent reduction since 2001. The Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) goal for children aged six to nine years is a rate of untreated decay of 25.9 percent or less.
- More than half (58 percent) of third-grade students had dental sealants on all teeth recommended for sealants, similar to the previous surveys. Sixty-three percent had sealants on at least one tooth recommended for sealants, a statistically larger rate than in any of the previous surveys. The HP2020 goal for children aged six to nine is a rate of 28.1 percent or better on one or more of their permanent first molar teeth.



The Smile Survey provides useful surveillance information to support the development of programs that help to ensure that all children in Idaho are healthy and ready to learn. In 2013, for the first time ever the Public Health Districts coordinated and provided school-based dental sealant clinics.

Idaho Schools that Participated in Sealant Clinics	Number of Children Screened in 2013-2014	Number of Children that Needed Sealants	Total Sealants Placed	Cavities Averted in Children Grades 1-8
45	3,240	1,249	5,841	900

The Public Health Districts also continue to offer fluoride varnish\*\* clinics at District offices for clients enrolled in the Women Infant Children (WIC) program, and at daycares, Head Start/Early Head Start, and Migrant Seasonal Head Start. Between July 2013 and September 2014, these clinics reached 11,765 children, with the majority being under five years of age.

The next Smile Survey will be conducted in the 2016-2017 school year. The Public Health Districts continue to work hard to improve the oral health of children living in Idaho.

\* Sealants are a plastic coating that is "painted" on permanent teeth to seal the pits and grooves and prevent tooth decay.

\*\* Fluoride varnish, which is a substance that is "painted" on the child's teeth with a small brush, strengthens tooth enamel to reduce and/or prevent tooth decay.



## HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT (1)	PUBLIC HEALTH - IDAHO NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT (2)	SOUTHWEST DISTRICT HEALTH (3)	CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH (4)	SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (5)	SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (6)	EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (7)
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