States Stalled on Dental Sealants

Nevada

Dental sealants are clear plastic coatings applied to cavity-prone permanent molars. Research shows that school-based sealant programs reduce tooth decay by 60 percent at one-third the cost of a filling. Nevada's grade in 2014, a C-, is lower than the C earned in 2012, because two of the three state Medicaid managed care organizations have closed panels, therefore hygienists are not able to bill for services delivered to all Medicaid children in schools.

C- 2014 Grade

2012 Grade: **C**

How well is **Nevada** protecting kids from tooth decay?

Sealant benchmarks	2012	2014	Goal
Percentage of high-need schools with sealant programs	**<25%**	**<25%**	**>75%**
Unnecessary rules restricting hygienists from applying sealants in schools?*	**Yes—some restrictions**	**Yes—some restrictions**	**No restrictions**
Participation in National Oral Health Surveillance System?	**Yes—and submitted recent data**	**Yes—and submitted recent data**	**Yes—and submitted recent data**
Meeting Healthy People 2010 sealant objective?	**No**	**No**	**Yes**

Grading	
A	10-11
B	8-9
C	6-7
D	3-5
F	0-2

6 Nevada earned 6 out of a possible 11 points on sealant policies.

For a detailed description of the grading system, see the methodology section of the report at **pewtrusts.org/dentalsealants**.

* Pew and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) surveyed states to learn whether regulations require dentists to examine children before hygienists can apply sealants at schools —restrictions that research shows are unnecessary. State policies were categorized as follows: A dentist's exam is not required – no restrictions; a dentist's exam is sometimes required (e.g., certain classifications of dental hygienists can apply sealants without a dentist's prior exam) – some restrictions; a dentist's exam is always required – severe restrictions; and a dentist's exam is always required and the dentist must remain on-site while the hygienist applies the sealant – most severe restrictions.