


Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile
2000-2015

What is the Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile Program?

Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile (SAS) is a collaborative effort between Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services’ Oral Health program. Wisconsin SAS provides mini-grants to more than 40 local programs that provide school-based dental sealants statewide. All local programs follow specific policies and protocols set forth by state administration and use current best practices and evidence in providing care in schools.

What is the identified need addressed by SAS?

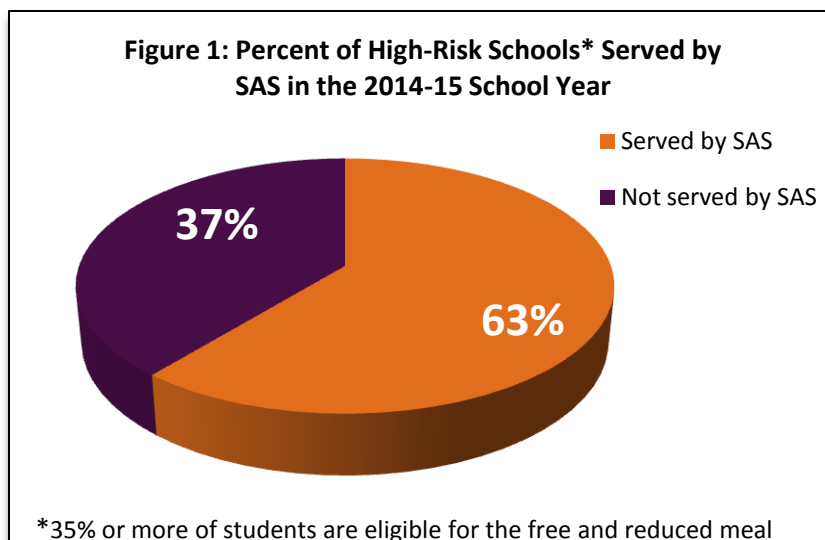
A significant focus has been made to reach high-risk schools in Wisconsin. Children living in poverty are more likely to develop tooth decay and are less likely to have access to regular dental care. Wisconsin SAS defines high-risk schools as those where 35 percent or more of students are eligible for the free and reduced meal program.

What are the eligibility requirements to receive SAS services?

All children in eligible schools are able to participate at no cost to the child or family. The only requirement to participate in the program is that children must have a consent form signed by a parent or guardian.

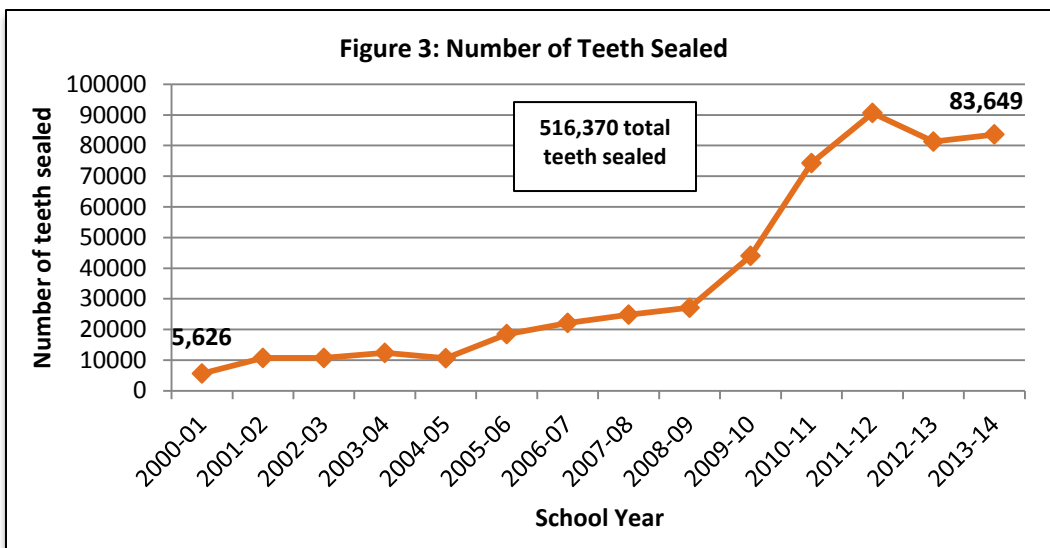
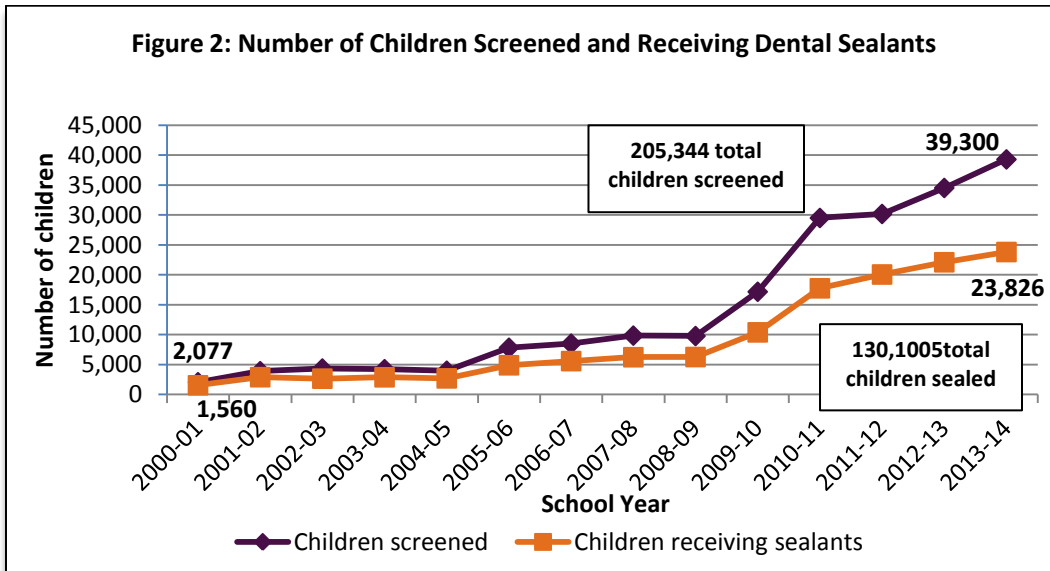
What is SAS’s reach?

SAS programs currently serve 61 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties. Currently more than half of the high-risk schools in the state are served by a Wisconsin SAS program (Figure 1). The program is looking to continue expansion efforts and funding is available for local programs who wish to develop a school-based program.



What has been the growth of the program since its inception?

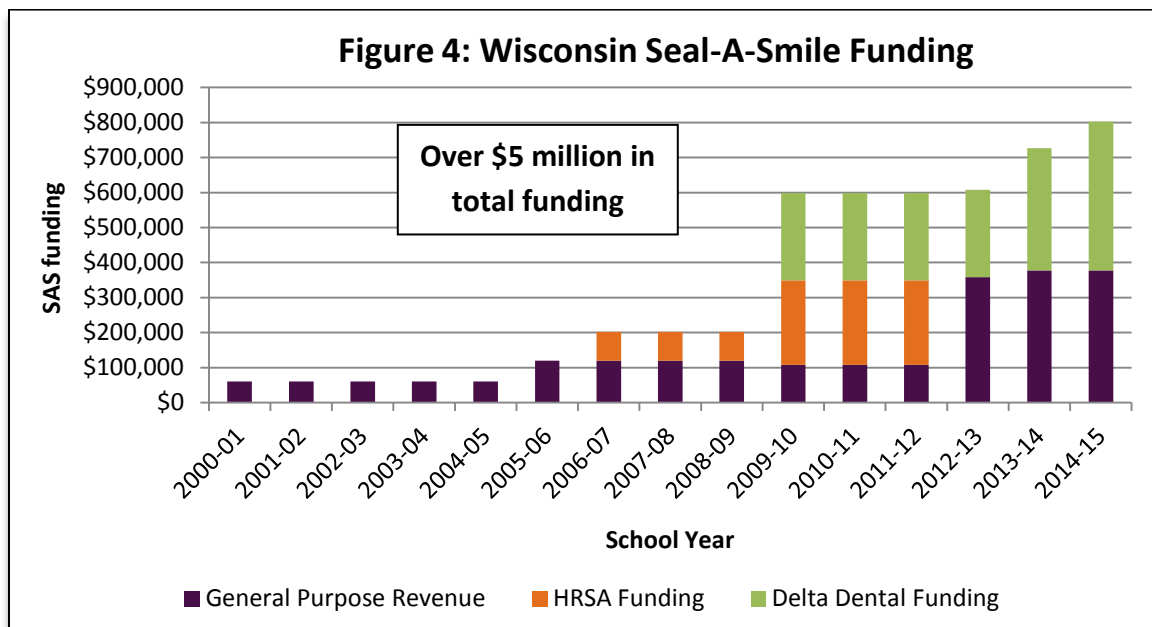
Since the 2000-01 school year, Wisconsin SAS has seen an increase in the number of children receiving dental sealants. Increases can be seen in both the number of children screened (Figure 2) and the number of sealants placed (Figure 3). The increases occurred as a result of funding increases in the 2005-06 and 2009-10 school years. Since the 2009-10 school year, funding has stayed relatively steady yet the number of children served continues to rise due to the increases in efficiency at the local program level.



What is the program’s funding source?

Funding for Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile is currently made up of state general purpose revenue (GPR) and matching funds from Delta Dental of Wisconsin. In 2005-06, Governor Jim Doyle’s Kids First Initiatives increased the state contribution from \$60,000 to \$120,000. In 2006-07, another increase in funding came via a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. This HRSA funding was increased in 2009-10, at which time Delta Dental of Wisconsin matched this funding dollar for dollar.

In 2012-13, HRSA funding ended, but because the State saw the value in the program and wanted to continue leveraging private funding, they increased their contribution to more than \$350,000 annually. Delta Dental of Wisconsin also increased their contribution to match the State’s. In 2014, Delta Dental committed an additional \$125,000 annually to expand service to Milwaukee county schools over the next two years.



How do I learn more about the program?

If your community is interested in providing this evidence-based programming and would like to learn more about the Wisconsin SAS program [click here](#) learn more.

Who do I contact with questions or for more information?

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