

ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee Annual Report

Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024

Chair: Rudy Blea

Coordinator: Lori Cofano

ASTDD Sealant Coordinator: Sandy Tesch

Members: Tammy Alexander, Juyoung Joyce An, Jasdeep Kaur, Stephanie Chickering, Katelyn Christiansen, Liz Clark, Lindsay Deinhammer, Ericca Facetti, Sonia Garcia-Lopez, Jannette Gomez, Katrina Holt, Toni Hruby, Erika lafrate, Betty Kabel, Kally Kline, Paula Lee, Mariela Leyba, Jenna Linden, Robert Calvin Lloyd, Jonise McDaniel, Robyn Maestas, Lauren Neufeld, Danielle Peterson, Karen Phillips, Jacqueline Pugliese, Rachel Sizemore, Carrey Spencer, Gwen Sullentrup, Debora Teixeira, David Tepel, Debra Trybom, Julia Wacloff, Mindy Wells, Andrea Whittaker

New members: Juyoung Joyce An, Lia BenYishay, Julie Boeckman, Amy Dark, Lindsay Deinhammer, Ericca Facetti, Jasdeep Kaur, Danielle Peterson, Carrey Spencer, Mindy Wells

Liz Clark, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) representative for the past few years, resigned from the committee as she retired. She provided the committee with a new NASN representative, Amy Dark.

Purpose: The ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health (SAOH) Committee serves as a resource to state oral health programs and works to ensure a strong oral health component in all school and adolescent health initiatives.

The mission of the SAOH Committee is to promote the importance of good oral health practices that improve the oral health of school-age children and adolescents through education, networking, and collaborative partnerships at local and national levels. School-based dental sealant programs are a focus area for SAOH activities. In addition, the SAOH Committee collaborates with other ASTDD Committees to establish policies and promote oral health for this target population at the Association level.

The SAOHC supports the ASTDD Strategic Plan by encouraging the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and practices such as school-based dental sealant programs, identifying emerging issues and promising practices such as the use of teledentistry, fluoride varnish and silver diamine fluoride, identifying cross-cutting

issues and providing tools and technical assistance to improve state and territorial oral health program policies, plans, programs and partnerships, promoting the collection of data, such as the ASTDD Basic Screening Survey (BSS) and sealant program data, to inform planning, decision making and evaluation.

Accomplishments and Current Activities:

- The SAOHC held meetings via Zoom in January, March, June, August, and October.
- In January, at Lori Cofano's request, Heather Beavers from the ASTDD Social Media Workgroup shared messages and graphics for Children's Dental Health Month. The information was linked to the ASTDD website and shared via email so states could get permission to share the resources on social media platforms.
- In January, Dr. McAllister Castelaz presented an ASTDD Spotlight on [Mobile and Portable School-Based/School-Linked Oral Health Programs: Delivery Models to Expand Care for Children and Adolescents](#). More than 100 people logged on.
- Julie Janssen worked with the SAOHC to combine two policy statements, *Integrating Oral Health into Health Education Curricula in Schools* and *Integrating Oral Health into the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child School Health Model*.
- The [Integrating Oral Health into School Health Education Curricula Using the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child School Health Model](#) was posted to the ASTDD website in December.
- Three CDC funded states, Idaho, Iowa and Pennsylvania, were selected to receive technical assistance related to their school sealant program printed materials. Matt Jacob provided his communication expertise. Lori Cofano and Sandy Tesch reviewed and provided input on the materials. Technical assistance started in January and in June the three states shared their revised materials via a Sealant Coordinators Community of Practice. States indicated they would like to see the project replicated during the new CDC grant. Matt developed a summary document for the project.
- Matt Jacob submitted an abstract for NOHC 2025 on the sealant communication technical assistance project. The abstract was not accepted.
- Karen Phillips from Oregon and David Tepel from New York were asked to submit abstracts for the NOHC. Karen's would highlight Oregon's process for getting rules changed regarding sealant retention checks. David would share New York City's sealant program and how they have used electronic health records to provide follow-up care as well as a case management component.
- Lori Cofano participated in the CDC coordination team calls to review and provide input on the presentation being prepared on school fluoride varnish programs. The information was presented to the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) in Fall 2024. The CDC team lead is Susan Griffin. The CPSTF recommendation was released in November: [Oral Health: School](#)

[Fluoride Varnish Delivery Programs](#). It recommends the use of fluoride varnish as a preventive tool in school prevention programs.

- An abstract on the process of getting fluoride varnish in school programs through the CPSTF has been accepted for the NOHC 2025. CDC requested Lori Cofano be part of the presentation.
- Lori Cofano and Sandy Tesch provided recommendations for the CDC grant component one and three workplans per Bev Isman's request.
- In June, Erica Facetti from Virginia Health Catalyst presented on their quality improvement project. The presentation was based on a presentation she did during the CDC grantee meeting in March.
- In August, Lori Cofano presented on the use of black light flashlights for screening and retention checks. The information presented was based on Dr. Conte and Dr. Phipps' presentation to the state dental directors.
- In October, Michelle Lee from the Association for Dental Safety (ADS), formerly the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP), presented on the numerous resources ADS has related to infection prevention. Sarah Stream attended as well since her primary role with ADS is infection prevention for sealant programs.
- At the request of Chris Wood, Lori Cofano participated in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) workgroup to discuss medical/dental integration around the use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF).
- As of the December 2024 there were not any technical assistance requests in the CDC AMP.
- The SAOHC 2024-2025 logic model and workplan were updated, approved, and posted to the ASTDD SAOHC webpage.

ASTDD Sealant Coordinator

- Six dental sealant Community of Practice (CoP) and/or sealant-related webinars were conducted for CDC-funded school sealant programs (SSPs) during 2024.
- Starting in January, three CDC-funded states, Idaho, Iowa and Pennsylvania, were selected to receive technical assistance related to their school sealant program (SSP) written materials. Matt Jacob served as the communication specialist on the project. Sandy Tesch and Lori Cofano served as sealant and school health experts by reviewing and providing input on submitted documents. Technical assistance and monthly meetings started in January and continued through June with the states. Each developed an "elevator" pitch/speech specifically for their state program. In June, the three states shared their revised materials via a Sealant Coordinators Community of Practice. States indicated that they felt this communication project was extremely beneficial and would like to see the project replicated in the future. Matt Jacob developed a summary document for the project.

- In March, Sandy Tesch facilitated a “participant led” CoP with sealant coordinators who reported on SSP activities, challenges, and lessons learned within their individual state programs.
- Sandy Tesch worked with Astrid Palmer (CDC DOH) to plan a sealant panel presentation for the March 2024 CDC DP-1810 closeout grantee meeting in Atlanta. Participating were Arkansas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Vermont. The session was titled, *Navigating Success: Charting the Roadmap for School Sealant Advancement*.
- *An abstract titled: New Tools, Tips, and Tricks for School Sealant Programs has been accepted for the NOHC 2025.* The session will be a panel discussion with Shillpa Naavaal (SSP data collection), Ericca Facetti (SSP quality improvement program), and Nick Conte (blacklight technology for sealant detection).
- Additional sealant-related activities that Sandy Tesch participated include revisions of the Seal America: The Prevention Intervention dental sealant manual and the School-based Dental Sealant Training from Ohio. Both resources are available at: <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/seal/>.
- Worked with SAOH committee on revisions to ASTDD’s Whole School, Whole Child, Whole Community policy document.
- Sandy Tesch worked with Lori Cofano to identify activities and strategies for the CDC grant component one and three workplans per Bev Isman’s request.
- In October, Sandy Tesch attended the CDC grantee meeting on behalf of ASTDD as a DP24-0049 funded partner. She offered technical assistance and networking opportunities for newly funded CDC states.
- Throughout November, Sandy attended multiple CDC DOH webinars and AMP training for DP24-0049 partners.
- In December, Sandy facilitated a dental sealants COP with the Association of Dental Safety (ADS). Sarah Stream presented on ADS resources and their role as SME on Infection, Prevention, and Control education and training.
- Serves as a member on the Student and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC) and reports on CDC-funded SSP activities during committee meetings.
- Continuous monitoring and correspondence to TA questions posted on CDC-funded dental sealants group listserv (cdc-funded-dental-sealants@groups.astdd.org) and ASTDD sealant coordinator’s listserv (dentalsealants@groups.astdd.org).

Future Activities:

- Create workgroups as needed for various special projects.
- Continue to provide technical assistance as needed by SAOHC members and other ASTDD partner organizations.

- Continue to work with ASTDD Sealant Coordinator on school-related sealant activities.

Subcommittees:

- The SAOHC continues to provide input on various documents and provides technical assistance on an as needed basis.

Unmet Needs:

- None at this time.