

# An Oral Health Snapshot of Your Community's Children

**Tooth decay can be extremely painful. A child with a painful mouth has trouble learning and being successful in school. Your support for public health dental programs is vital.**

## How is your community doing?

This snapshot is intended to show how your community's children are doing with their oral health. Results shown are from a survey of public school third-grade students' oral health during the 2012-2013 school year. The Idaho Oral Health Program uses results from the **SMILE Survey** to learn about the oral health status of children in Idaho and to develop public health dental programs.

## How are the schools and local Public Health Districts involved?

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Public Health's Oral Health Program works with schools and local public health districts in Idaho to gather information on the oral health of Idaho's children. Schools in Idaho are randomly selected to participate in the **SMILE Survey**. If a school agrees to participate, a dental hygienist comes to the school to check third-grade children for decayed, missing and filled teeth.

The dental hygienist also collects information on dental sealants, fluorosis, and the need for dental treatment.



**Eastern Idaho Public Health District (PHD 7) includes these counties: Lemhi, Custer, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville.**

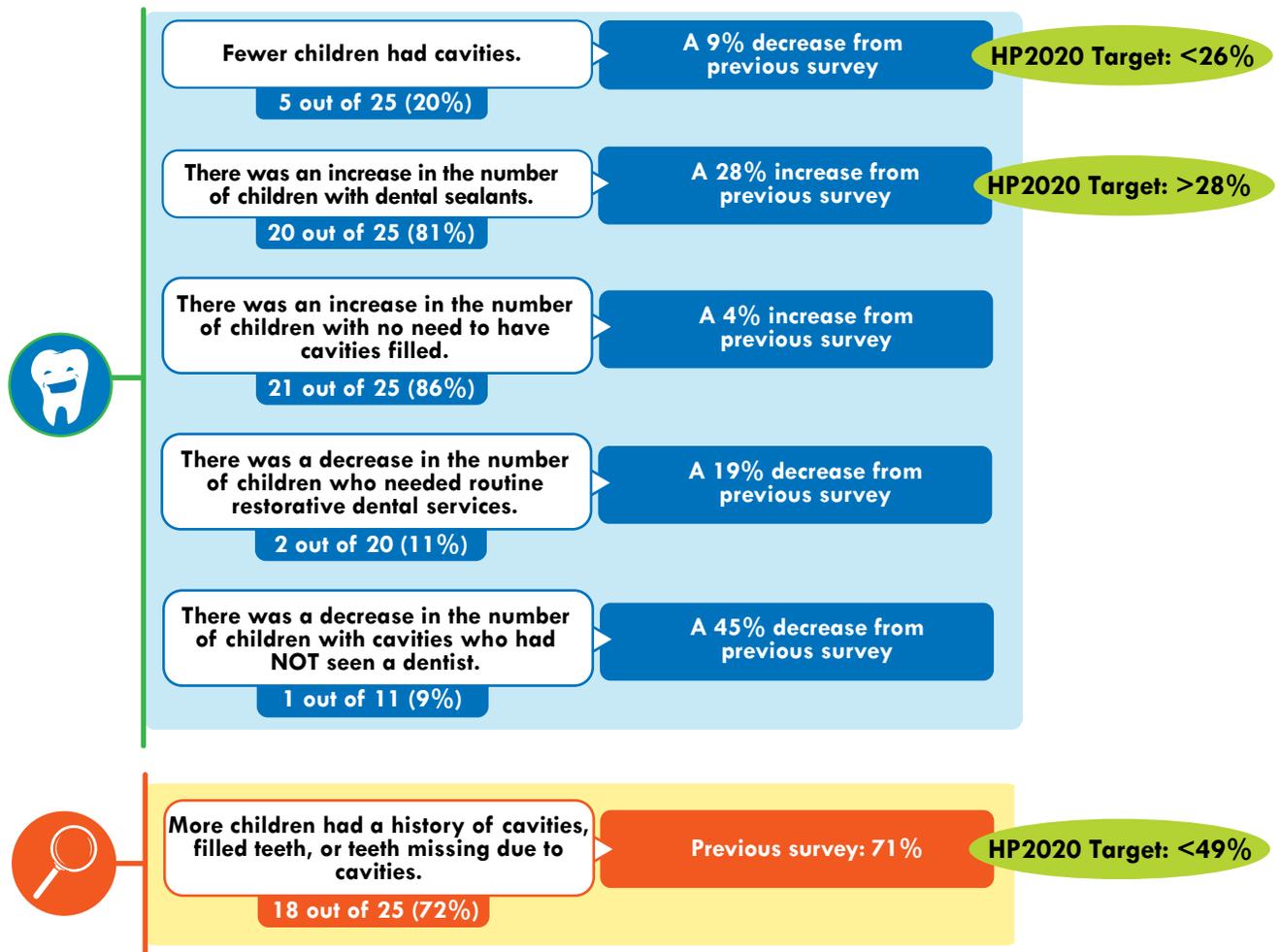
**In your region, 596 third-grade students from 9 randomly selected schools were part of the 2012-2013 SMILE Survey. This is an 11% decrease from the 2008-2009 school year, in which 666 third-grade students were part of the survey.**

**There was an excellent survey response rate of 84% (previous response rate was 88%).**

**For more information, contact:  
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# Highlights and Trends from a Survey of Your Community's Third-grade Children

This graphic shows changes between the latest Smile Survey data (2012/2013) and data from the previous Smile Survey done in the 2008/2009 school year.



## Definitions

### Dental Sealants

A dental sealant is a plastic coating applied to the chewing surfaces of back teeth. Because the back teeth are difficult to clean well, dental sealants help prevent dental decay in these teeth. Sealants can provide excellent protection from cavities on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. Children should receive sealants on permanent molars as soon as they erupt (about ages 6 and 12 years).

### Routine Restorative Dental Services

Routine restorative dental services means that the child needs to have cavities filled or their teeth cleaned.



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