

# 5 Steps to Promote Health Equity

## DENTAL SEALANTS

### 1. Make dental sealants a priority

- Dental sealants can be used to foster a more equitable healthcare delivery system that focuses on the importance of prevention. Use the [ADA's Dental Sealants and Disease Prevention Points for Providers](#) to establish a plan to prioritize dental sealant placement.

### 2. Write a Call to Action

- Articulate the need to prioritize prevention and dental sealant placement through a written submission to your state dental association or local journal. Use personal narratives and experiences to help promote oral health prevention in a local newspaper or on digital platforms. Consider doing this at the start of a school year.

### 3. Promote prevention to all

- Placing dental sealants is just one of the ways you can promote prevention. Oral health prevention shouldn't be a menu with only a few options. It should be encompassing and ensure optimal health can be achieved.

- Work with a local school or district to implement or support a [school-based dental sealant program](#).

- Use the [National Children's Dental Health Month](#) (NCDHM) to discuss and incorporate oral health prevention into your office, regardless of the yearly theme.

### 4. Collaborate and foster a shared vision

- Discuss with your colleagues (both medical and dental) the importance of oral health prevention. This will help to demonstrate how public-private partnerships build opportunities for collaboration and equitable health outcomes through prevention and inclusivity.

- Continuing to utilize dental sealants to improve equitable health outcomes is necessary.

### 5. Support better data collection and utilization

- Collect data on sealant acceptance, retention, and efficacy. Use this data through a culturally competent perspective, one that works to reduce health disparities, understand cultural drivers, and improve efforts to increase dental sealant placement.

- Advocate for more diversified data on sealant prevalence, including additional racial/ethnic groups, analyze oral health prevention and dental sealants at the macro-level, and research dental sealant placement/rate it is offered to those who have Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

- Follow the Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle of Quality Improvement. Do NOT Give Up! Understand successful methods from various settings and try them in your office. Collect data, reflect on its ability to meet the desired outcome, make necessary changes, and repeat.

