



**New Haven Public Schools**  
School Based Dental Clinic  
Department of School Health Centers/Dental Clinics

March 2021 Issue #2 NHPS Smile New Haven Dental Program

*Important News!*

NHPS Dental Clinics require parents to enroll students to have services. Until now, permission forms were on paper. Shout out to Eric Sholtz for assisting the team and making forms available electronically! Less paper, less handling and more trees! Access dental permission forms [HERE](#) or use the QR Code below.



*Inside This Issue*

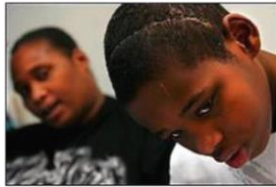
- Deamonte Driver**
- Dental Sealants**
- Importance of Fluoride**
- Dental Clinic Contact Information**

## Why are dental visits important?

### Deamonte Driver



A 12-year old boy from Maryland who died of a toothache in 2007 when the bacteria from a dental abscess spread to his brain



An \$80 tooth extraction could have saved him

A \$1 fluoride varnish could have prevented the abscess to begin with

Unfortunately, Deamonte's death was not talked about enough. The reality is that children suffer in silence all the time from oral disparities and lack of access to dental care around the nation. The NHPS dental clinic team is trying to close that gap for the students in New Haven.

*"Due to HIPAA, we cannot inform schools about what we see or how many students we have gotten infections treated for, but about one out of fifteen kids we see in our schools has a severe cavity", says Tracey Oberg and Elicia Lupoli.*

### Deamonte Driver

- Deamonte never complained and no one was looking
- Mid-January 2007, had severe headaches
  - Pediatrician found tooth decay upon an oral exam
- Diagnosed first as a sinus infection and then a brain infection
- Underwent 2 brain surgeries, experienced seizures, had 1 tooth extracted, and spent 6 weeks in a hospital
- Emergency treatment cost = \$250,000
  - Medicaid cost of simple extraction - <\$100
  - Medicaid cost of preventive services - <\$60 - \$80/year



Since opening the Smile New Haven Dental Clinics in 2015, we have been able to get students treated for infections and cavities, as well as preventive services such as fluoride.

This has helped keep students in class and improve their overall oral health, which contributes to academic success and attendance!

**SEALANTS WORK**  
 Sealants on permanent molars reduce the risk of cavities by 80%.



Source: "Sealants for preventing and arresting pit-and-fissure-occlusal caries in primary and permanent molars." Journal of the American Dental Association. Accessed July 19, 2016.

**ADA.**

## Importance of Dental Sealants

Dental Sealants are thin coatings that when painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth (molars) can prevent cavities (tooth decay) for many years.

Sealants protect the chewing surfaces from cavities by covering them with a protective shield that blocks out germs and food. Once applied, Sealants protect against 80% of cavities for 2 years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to 4 years.

NHPS Dental Sealant programs are especially important for reaching our students who are at greater risk for developing cavities and less likely to receive private dental care.



Since the Dental Hygienists started placing Sealants on the students of NHPS's, over the past 5 years we have seen an improvement in student's overall caries risk (cavity experience).

The Dental Hygienists have placed hundreds of sealants per year in schools with a dental clinic, for all students enrolled with the dental program, with or without insurance coverage.

This simple non-invasive procedure takes under 5 minutes per tooth to complete and is the best way to protect adult teeth and minimize children having caries experience.

## Importance of Fluoride

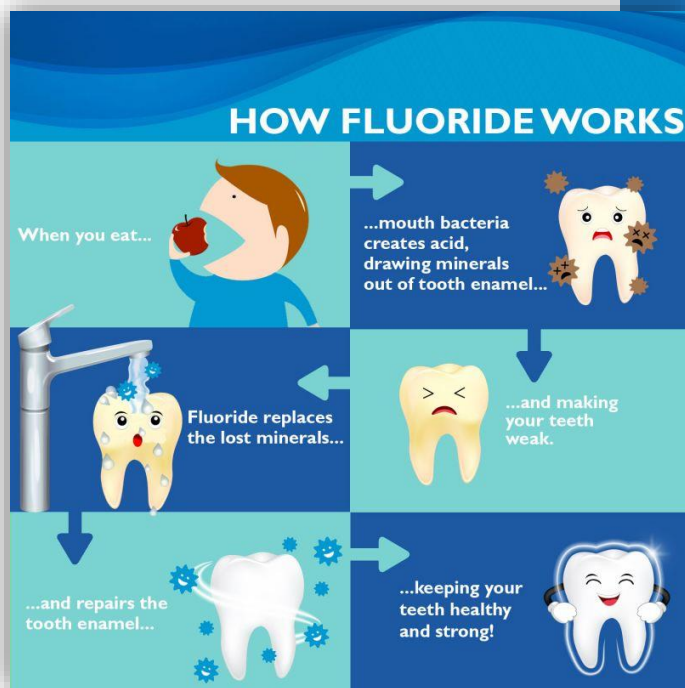
Did you know dental cavities are the most common, preventable disease in children and adults worldwide?

Fluoride Varnish application is one of the best and safest ways to prevent cavities for children.

How does it work?

- Strengthens tooth enamel
- Reduces the risk of cavities
- Contributes to reverse early signs of decay (remineralization)

Fluoride application takes under 30 seconds and protects the children's teeth for up to 3 months!



## Water, "Nature's drink!"

- Drinking fluoridated water (tap water) reduces tooth decay by 25%
- Protects all ages against cavities
- Safe and effective way of protecting the teeth.
- Children who drink fluoridated water as their teeth grow will have stronger teeth that resist tooth decay better over their lifetime



NEW HAVEN  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**SMILE**  
New Haven!



**DENTAL PROGRAM**

School Based Dental Clinics in the following schools:

Barnard - 475-220-3507

Brennan Rogers - 472-220-2219

Hill Central - 475-220-6121

King Robinson - 475-220-2793

Troup - 475-220-3078

Truman - 475-220-2148



Visit our Facebook page for oral health updates!



Visit our NHPS Webpage for more information!

**Have a Question..... Contact Us !**

**Tracey Oberg, RDH**

475-220-1231

[tracey.oberg@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:tracey.oberg@new-haven.k12.ct.us)

Hill Central, Troup, Truman

**Elicia Lupoli, RDH**

475-220-1230

[elicia.lupoli@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:elicia.lupoli@new-haven.k12.ct.us)

Barnard, Brennan Rogers, King Robinson

**Questions about the NHPS Dental program?**

**Contact Sue Peters, APRN, RN, MPH**

**Director of School Health Centers/Dental Clinics**

[sue.peters@new-haven.k12.ct.us](mailto:sue.peters@new-haven.k12.ct.us)