

Key Facts in Rural Health

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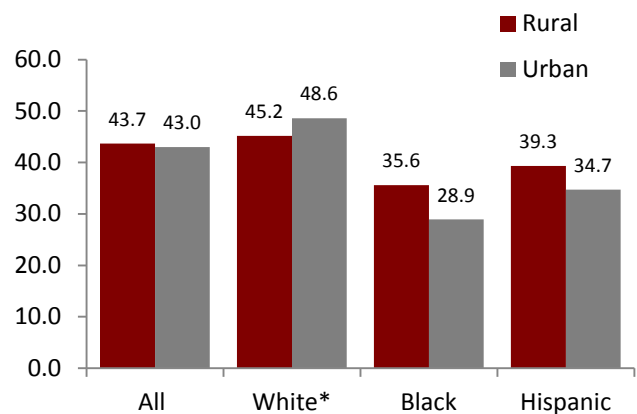
Dental Sealant Utilization Among Rural and Urban Children

This study examined the proportion of rural children who have dental sealants. We used parent-reported information about sealants for approximately 14,500 children age 6 – 14 years, obtained from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) of the Census Bureau. To confirm findings based on parental report, we also examined dental results of the 2003 – 2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which are based on professional examination of children's teeth.

Key findings:

- Similar proportions of rural (43.7%) and urban (43.0%) children had sealants.
- Within racial/ethnic groups, rural white children were significantly less likely to have parentally reported sealants than were urban white children; there were no significant differences based on residence for black or Hispanic children.
- Across racial/ethnic groups, white children (47.9%) were significantly more likely to have sealants than Hispanic children (35.3%) while black children were the least likely of all three racial/ethnic groups to report having sealants. Within rural children, 45.2% of white children, 35.6% of black children, and 39.3% of Hispanic children were reported to have sealants (not significantly different).
- Children at greatest risk of subsequent decay because they lack dental sealants include minority children, children receiving public insurance or without insurance, and those from low-income and low-education households.

Proportion of children with reported dental sealants, by race and residence, 2001-2004 SIPP



*Significantly different at $p >$

Percent of children with reported sealants, by insurance and residence, 2001-2004 SIPP

