



Cowlitz County Health Department

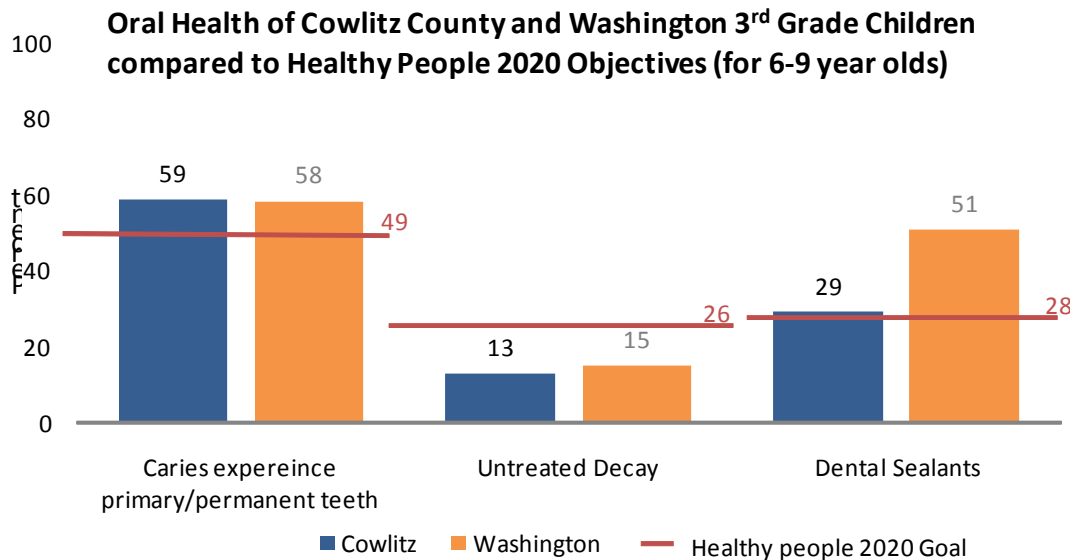
1952 9th Avenue
 Longview, WA 98632
 TEL (360) 414-5599
 FAX (360) 425-7531
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health

Board of County Commissioners

Mike Karnofski District 1
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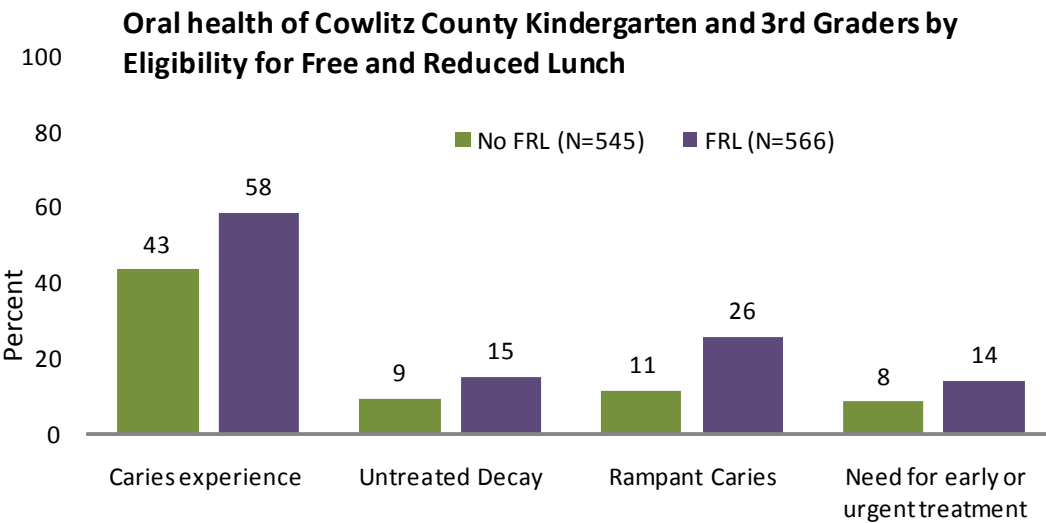
Smile Survey 2010: Children's Oral Health

The Smile Survey was an oral health screening conducted during the 2009-2010 school year on Kindergarten and third graders across Washington State. Ten elementary schools in Cowlitz County were included in the screening and the results are presented below.



Key Findings:

- Only one in three 3rd graders in Cowlitz County have sealants compared to one in two in the state.
- In comparison to the Healthy People 2020 Oral Health Objectives, Cowlitz County 3rd graders:
 - **Have not** met the objectives for decay experience and sealants.
 - **Have** met the objective for untreated decay.
- Cowlitz County children from low-income families were more likely to have decay experience, untreated decay, rampant caries and treatment needs.



Tooth Decay can be prevented

Untreated tooth decay causes pain and infections may lead to problems affecting a child's ability to eat, speak, play and learn. A combination of dental sealants and fluoride has the potential to nearly eliminate tooth decay in school-aged children. In addition, children should brush their teeth twice a day and reduce the consumption of sugars and simple carbohydrates. Early access to dental care helps kids stay healthy.