

**TITLE:** The impact of organizational communication challenges on the implementation of SBDSPs: causes, adaptations and innovations.

**AUTHOR(S):** Eiman E AlEissa, MPH, RDH and Joseph Catania, Ph.D

**PRESENTER(S):** Eiman E AlEissa, MPH, RDH

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** Yes

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Topic: School-Based Dental Sealant Programs (SBDSPs) Implementation Processes and Challenges. Target Audience: Public Health Researchers. Dissemination and Implementation science Researchers. Program developers, evaluators, and implementation drivers (dental providers).

**ABSTRACT:** Implementation science seeks to examine the processes of transitioning evidence-based interventions to practices in real-world settings. In the dental public health field, there is a focus on efficacy (discovery) trials rather than program implementation (delivery). Although there is strong evidence supporting the effectiveness of School-Based Dental Sealant Programs (SBDSPs), it is unclear if the implementation of these programs can be accomplished more efficiently. We assessed the implementation challenges and adaptations experienced by SBDSPs. Semi-structured interviews (n=18), guided by the implementation framework, were conducted with program directors, supervisors, and dental providers from five agencies implementing SBDSPs in Oregon. The participants identified internal (e.g., inadequate face-to-face communication) and external (e.g., poor communication between agencies) communication challenges; for which agencies employed successful and unsuccessful ad hoc adaptation strategies. For instance, agencies used the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) SBDSPs annual training as an informal networking opportunity to share adaptations specific to other implementation challenges. We recognize OHA's continuous efforts in improving the quality of SBDSPs and as a potential networking hub to generate innovations and disseminate adaptations to address SBDSPs implementation challenges (i.e., internal communication) and enhance inter-agency intellectual capital and collaboration.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Describe the implementation process of SBDSPs. Identify implementation challenges (i.e., communication), causes, and adaptations experienced by SBDSPs in Oregon.

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