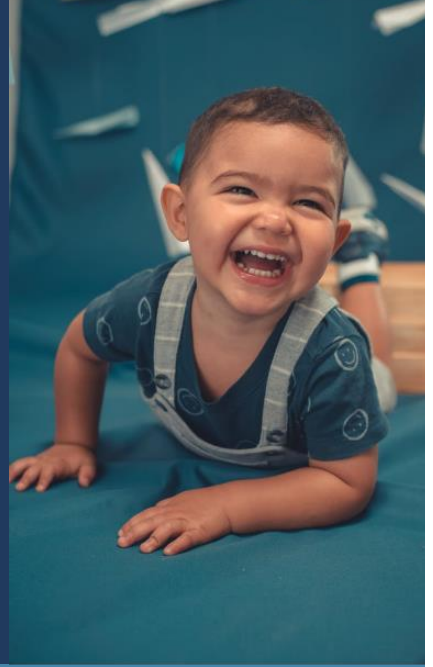


March 30, 2025

# SDF Application in the Primary Care Setting

## Lessons from Early Adopters

Melissa Keepert, MD, MaineHealth Primary Care Damariscotta  
Laura Blaisdell, MD, MaineHealth Primary Care Pediatrics Portland  
Brian Youth, MD, MaineHealth Primary Care Pediatrics Portland  
Lyvia Gaewsky, Program Manager, From the First Tooth



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## Disclosure Statement

None of the planners or speakers for this event  
have any financial relationships to disclose.

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## Learning Objectives



Discuss the use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) as a tool in primary care



Provide an overview of SDF usage in Maine



Provide lessons learned from Maine providers on SDF application in a clinical setting

3



Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) is the next major tool medical providers can add to their oral health toolbox

4

## Access to Dental Care



**8 out of 10** children covered by  
MaineCare do not have a dental home =  
**Approximately 98,000 children**



**4 out of 10** children covered by commercial  
insurance do not have a dental home =  
**Approximately 36,000 children**

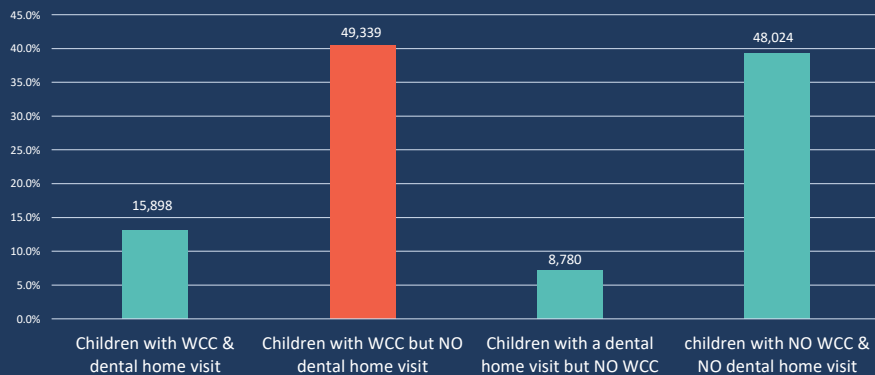
Data source: Maine Health Data Organization's All Payer Claims Database (APCD) per the data release requirements defined in 99-590 C.M.R., ch 120, Release of Data to the Public. See [MHDO website](#) for more details regarding data restrictions and participating insurers.

[2024-Dental-Home-Utilization-Maine-Children.pdf](#)

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## Access to Dental Care

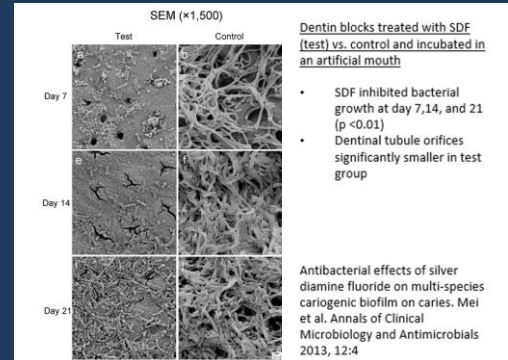
Percentage of children ages 6-months to 21 years with MaineCare insurance by visit type



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# Silver Diamine Fluoride

- SDF is part of the minimally invasive dental treatment movement and avoids need for drill and fill
- SDF is a topical medicament used to treat dental sensitivity, prevent dental caries and arrest tooth decay
- Used in Japan in the 1970s during a surge in childhood caries and a shortage of dentists. Used safely in many other countries including Japan, China, Australia, Brazil and the United States
- Composition:
  - 25% Silver – antimicrobial that denatures proteins, breaks cell walls and inhibits DNA replication
  - 5% Fluoride – promotes remineralization and hardens teeth
  - 8% Ammonia- Stabilizing solution
- SDF turns the area of decay permanently black



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# Silver Diamine Fluoride

## Indications for Use:

- Extreme caries risk (Xerostomia or Severe Early Childhood Caries)
- Treatment challenged by behavioral or medical management
- Patients with carious lesions that may not all be treated in one visit
- Patients without access to dental care

## Contraindications:

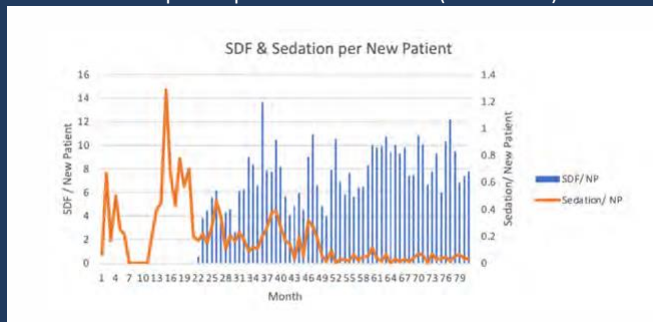
- Signs of infection in young children
- Visible pulpal exposure
- Gingival ulceration
- Silver allergy



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# Impact and Outcomes

- Reduced emergency visits
  - SDF reduced emergencies by 80% in young Floridian children waiting for treatment under general anesthesia
- Decrease in need for treatment under general anesthesia
  - 75% reduction in deep sedation cases upon implementation of SDF (2016-2022) – Montshire Pediatric Dentistry



Source: Dr. Colin Boswell, Board Certified Pediatric Dentist, Pediatric Oral Health ECHO: Emerging Role of Silver Diamine Fluoride for Early Childhood Caries in Primary Care. Session 2, Emerging Opportunities.

Thomas, M. L., et al. (2020). Silver Diamine Fluoride Helps Prevent Emergency Visits in Children with Early Childhood Caries. *Pediatr Dent.* 2020 May 15;42(3): 217-220.

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# SDF Application in Maine

## Pilot Sites

- MaineHealth Primary Care Damariscotta
- MaineHealth Primary Care Pediatrics Portland
  - Applied to 48 patients between 6/15/2024 and 1/1/2025

## Onboarding SDF

- Northern Light Family Medicine and Residency- Bangor
- Dr. Harry E Davis Pediatrics Center
- Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency



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## SDF Practice Integration



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## Providers Experience!

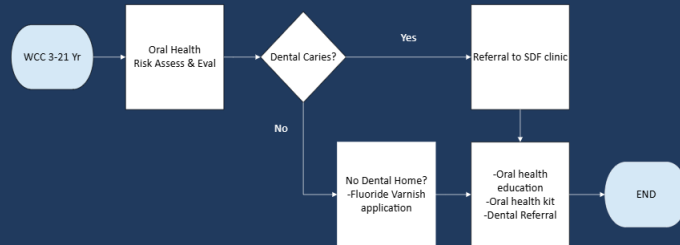


Dr. Melissa Keepport  
Dr. Laura Blaisdell  
Dr. Brian Youth

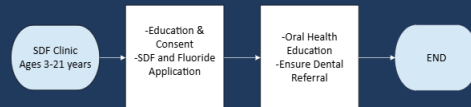
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## Workflow- Applied at SDF Clinic

### Normal clinic visit

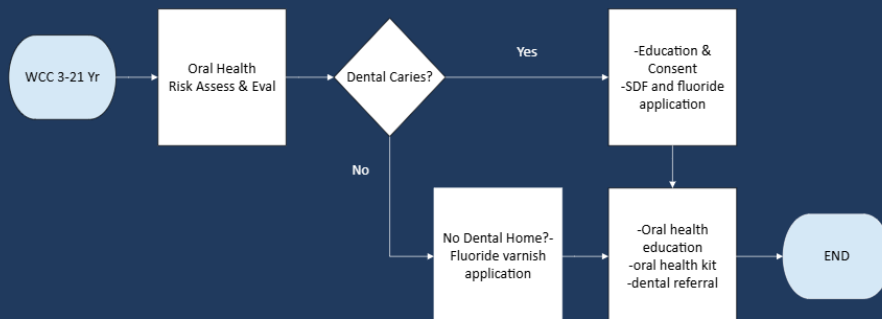


### SDF clinic visit



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## Workflow- Applied During WCC



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