



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2013

Contact: DOH Communications
(850) 245-4111

**STATEMENT FROM STATE SURGEON GENERAL ON RELEASE OF PEW CHILDREN'S
DENTAL CAMPAIGN**

“This week’s release of the Pew Children’s Dental Campaign highlights the importance of proper dental care for all children in Florida. The report concludes that the use of sealants is a cost effective means of providing preventive care. Fifty-five of Florida’s 67 county health departments (CHDs) currently provide preventive dental services to children.

With more than 100 dental sites across CHDs, the Florida Department of Health provides comprehensive dental care services to children, including the placement of dental sealants. Currently, 32 of our CHDs conduct school-based or school-linked sealant programs. This equates to 169,475 dental sealants provided by CHD dental programs to school-aged children. Since January 2010, 11 CHDs have started new school-based sealant programs.

Our state public health dental program is collaborating with Florida’s colleges of dentistry and Oral Health Florida to plan and conduct a statewide oral health surveillance assessment among third grade children in Florida. Data collected through this assessment will identify opportunities for prevention and care through our county health departments.

The Florida Department of Health will continue to work with all partners to ensure the children of Florida receive the best available dental care.”

###

The Department of Health’s mission is to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.