AIM: The current study investigated differences in caries presence, eruption status and children’s cooperation as they relate to sealant placement decisions for school based programs (SBP).

BACKGROUND: Recommendations for initial placement of sealants on 1st molars range from 6 to 9 years of age, many considering eruption status and children’s cooperation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Seal Indiana a SBP is a statewide mobile dental program that provides preventive oral health services including oral examinations, dental sealants, and fluoride varnish applications. Senior dental students have provided these services under faculty supervision since 2003. Data from one SBP from 2009 to 2012 were assessed. Variables included:

- children examined,
- children not receiving a sealant on a 1st molar and reasons for this:
  - presence of dental sealants,
  - presence of restorations
  - presence of caries [ICDAS 4-6]
  - 1st molars not fully erupted [NFE] tissue covering the occlusal surface, and
- uncooperative child.
- Comparisons between age groups were performed using ANOVA.

RESULTS: From Jan 2009 to Dec 2012, 4126 children were seen. Total results and results by year and age are shown in graphics 1-5.

CONCLUSIONS: No statistically significant difference was observed for caries or restorations as a reason for not sealing. Seven years of age may be the ideal age group for SBP as children have more teeth fully erupted and are more cooperative than younger ones.