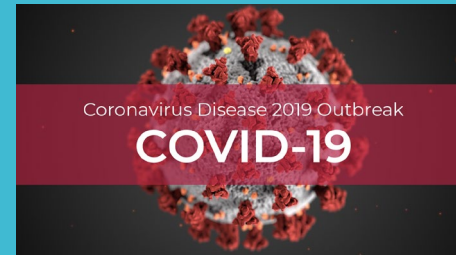


# Varnish! Michigan

## 2020 Annual Report



**2020!**  
**What a year!**




**Dental offices closed for months!**  
**WIC offices not seeing families in person!**  
**Many medical providers not applying varnish!**  
**Too much PPE to wear!**




# 2020 Varnish! Michigan Program Goals

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Varnish! Michigan-Program was developed to increase the number of medical providers that have oral health training and have oral health programs in their practices.



The ultimate goal of the program is to reduce the incidence of Early Childhood Caries in Michigan's 0-5 age high risk children.



Secondary goals are to train providers on counseling caregivers on the critical oral health fundamentals of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers and to encourage referrals for age 1 dental visits.

# Varnish! MI Program: Free Fluoride Varnish to Medical Providers

- Provides free fluoride varnish and parent brochures after training.
- Must sign a Memorandum of Agreement, and a signed Directive if indicated.
- Free varnish is dispensed for a period up to three years.
- No more than 200 free applications given in a quarter period.
- Agencies must submit quarterly reports.



# Required Trainings

## Smiles for Life

A national oral health curriculum



Caries Risk Assessment,  
Fluoride Varnish, and  
Counseling

- For all staff: Required to complete the Smiles for Life Course 6: Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish, and Counseling, endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.  
<https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/>
- For all staff: Required to complete the Varnish! Michigan Program training.
- Hour-long VM program training provides staff with basic oral health guidance and how to apply varnish.

## 2020 Varnish! Michigan-Fluoride Varnish Program

Training for Medical Professionals in  
Infant/Young Child Oral Health and  
Varnish! Michigan Program Requirements



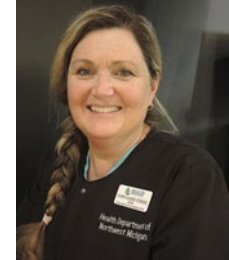
# Varnish! Michigan Trainers

Special thanks to  
these certified trainers  
of the Varnish!  
Michigan Program!.....

Susan Deming, RDH, Early Childhood Oral Health Specialist from the MDHHS Oral Health Program, has recruited other dental hygienists from local health departments across the state to assist in the demand for trainings from medical agencies.



Rebecca Maino, RDH  
Marquette County Health Department



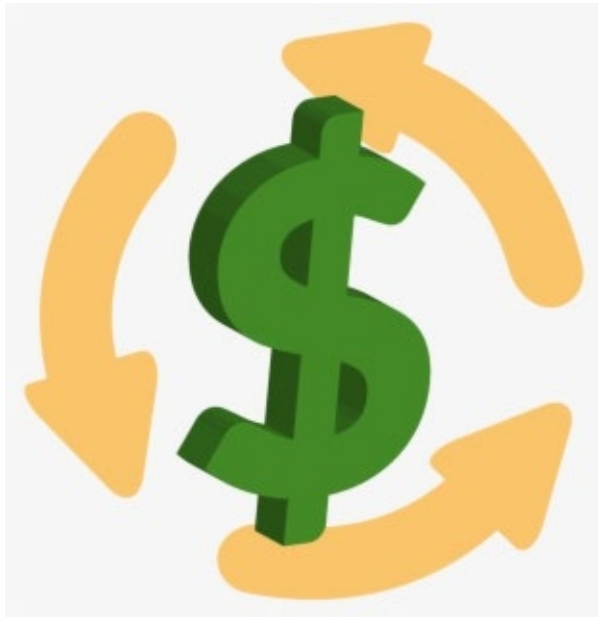
Dawn Marie Strehl, RDH  
Health Department of Northwest MI



Elizabeth Johnson, RDH  
District Health Department #10



Shelley Treynor, RDH  
Mid Michigan Health Department



## ***Reimbursement for Medical Providers***

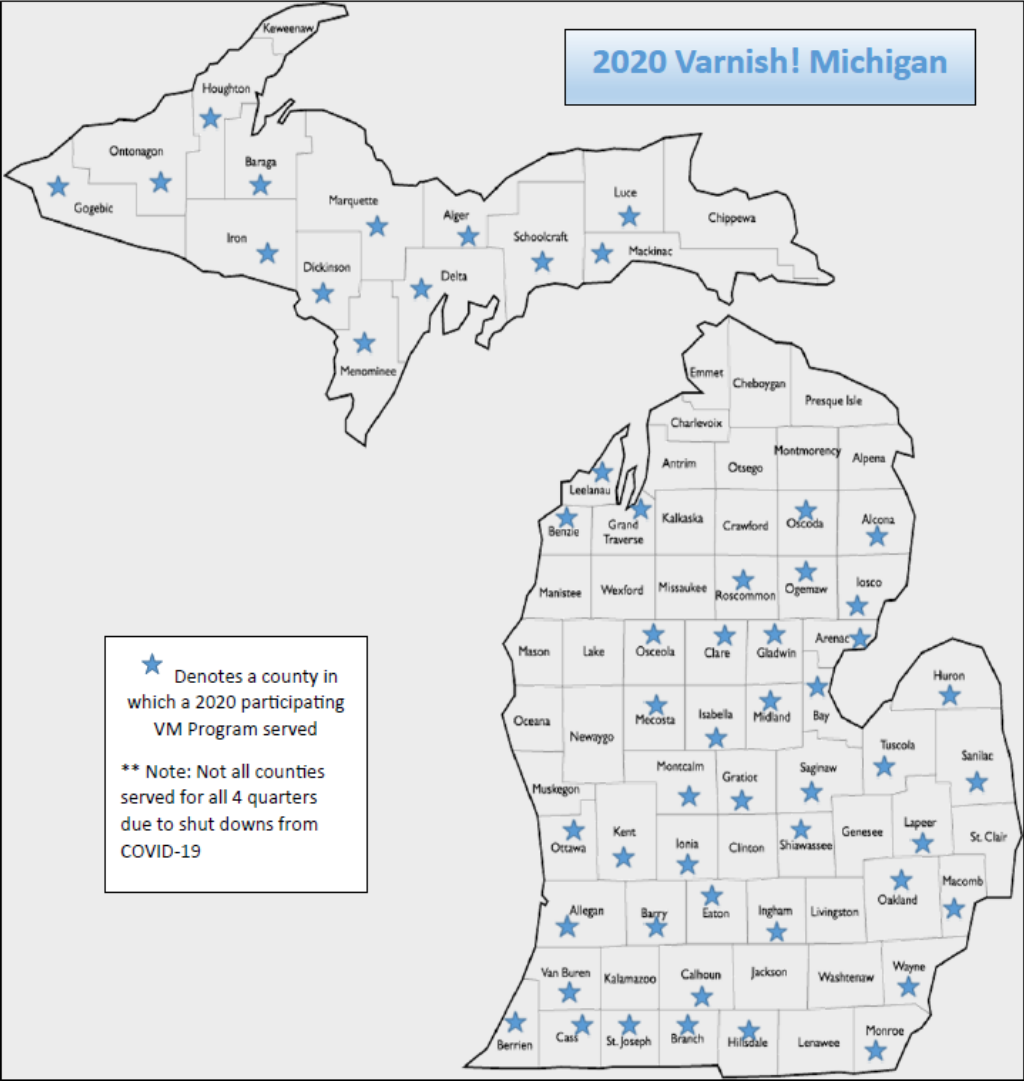
**Medical providers can bill Medicaid for two oral screenings a year.**

**Four fluoride varnish applications can be billed for a child through age 2.**

**Children 3-5 years old can have two varnish applications.**

**\*\*Medicaid health plans and other insurance carriers may reimburse for varnish applications too but may not be reimbursing for an oral screening.**

# 2020 Varnish! Michigan



★ Denotes a county in which a 2020 participating VM Program served

\*\* Note: Not all counties served for all 4 quarters due to shut downs from COVID-19



# Oral Screening Data Collected

## Data Collected From Participants:

Race

# of children screened (age 0-5)

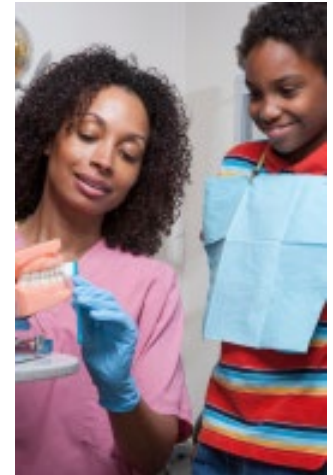
# of children that had a varnish application

# of children with previous decay

# of children with active decay

# of children with white spot lesions

# of children referred for treatment



# Data Collected for 2020

*The following are the results from the data collected October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020 from the 53 participating agencies. (Some agencies only participated during part of the year due to shutdowns from COVID-19)*

	# Screened	# w/varnish application	# w/treated decay	# w/active/untreated decay	# w/white spot lesions	# referred for dental care	# of programs reporting (out of 53 active)	% reporting in each qrt
1st qrt	2742	2460	77	211	186	769	43	81
2nd qrt	2174	2015	77	108	172	814	35	66
3rd qrt	536	438	30	23	13	28	36	68
4th qrt	563	413	12	17	26	49	32	60
<b>Year Totals</b>	<b>6015</b>	<b>5326</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>1660</b>		

**\*\*For FY 2020, the data collected were not indicative of the state as a whole and only represent those agencies volunteering to collect data as part of the Varnish! Michigan Program.**

	# Screened	# w/varnish application	# w/treated decay	# w/active/untreated decay	# w/white spot lesions	# referred for dental care
2019	12,983	11,822	475	782	1513	3573
2020	6015	5326	196	359	397	1660



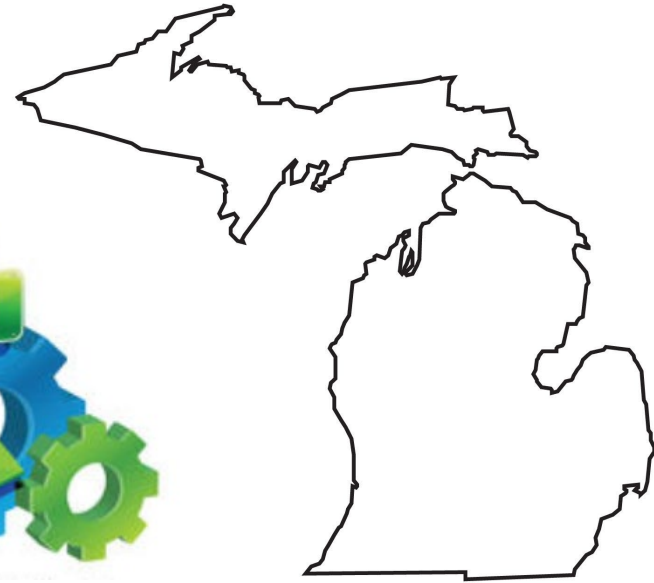
- There were fewer than half of the number of screenings and varnish applications in 2020 compared to 2019. Many agencies did not see children for routine care or did not have time to do the recommended PPE.
- Over 1,900 less children were referred to a dentist for care, due to lack of screenings and possibly due to many dental offices being closed.
- About two-thirds of participating agencies that reported had zero activity for 2020 quarters 3 and 4!

## Comparing 2019 and 2020 VM Data: Impact of COVID-19

# Varnish! Michigan Going Forward!

## Some ideas for 2021:

- Promote more participation by medical providers through social media messaging.
- Work with MIAAP for wider reach to pediatricians.
- Find funding to develop self online training module for VM.
- Extend free varnish to current participants for an extra year.



## For More Information:

**Susan Deming, RDA, RDH, BS**  
**Early Childhood Oral Health Specialist**  
**Michigan Department of Health and**  
**Human Services**  
**Oral Health Program**  
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