Fact: Dentists have known since the 1980s that fluorides do little to prevent cavities where more than 80% occur. Some quotes from dental publications the public has not seen:

**→** “It is estimated that **84%** **of the caries** [cavities] experience in the 5 to 17 year-old population **involves tooth surfaces with** **pits and fissures.** Although **fluorides cannot** be expected appreciably to reduce our incidence of caries on these surfaces, **sealants can.”**

SOURCE: Scholle R. (1984). Editorial: Preserving the perfect tooth. JADA 108:448 (Journal of the American Dental Assn.)

**→ “Pit and fissure cavities** aren’t considered to be preventable by fluorides, they **are prevented by sealants.”**

SOURCE: Gray, AS (1987). Fluoridation: Time for a New Base Line? Journal of the Canadian Dental Association 10: 763-765

**→ “Fluoride primarily protects the smooth surfaces of teeth, and sealants protect the pits and fissures (grooves),**primarily on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. Although **pit and fissure tooth surfaces only comprise about 15%** of all permanent tooth surfaces, **they were the site of 83% of tooth decay** in U.S. children in 1986-1987.”

SOURCE: Dental Health Foundation, 1997. The Oral Health of California’s Children-A Neglected Epidemic: Selected Findings and Recommendations from the California Oral Health Needs Assessment of Children, 1993-1994.