SmileMobile: Providing Dental Access to WA Children
Advocates for oral health and is committed to:

- Preventing children’s oral disease
- Protecting children’s oral health and overall health
- Improving children’s chances for school and (later in life)

A Corporate Foundation funded by Washington Dental Service – a non-profit dental benefits company committed to improving oral health
SmileMobile at Vaughn Elementary
Children’s Oral Health in Washington

- **21%** of 2-5 yr. olds with untreated tooth decay.
- **40%** of Washington State children that start Kindergarten with tooth decay; almost 15% have rampant decay (7 or more decayed/filled teeth).
- **58%** of 3rd grade children have tooth decay in primary and permanent teeth.
- Low income, Native American and other racial and ethnic minority children have the highest rates of tooth decay.
- *Preventable disease*
The Impacts of Tooth Decay

- Pain
- Infection
- Low self-esteem
- Nutrition problems
- Tooth loss
- Sleep deprivation
- Missed school days
Increase access to dental care for children in underserved communities by providing a mobile van staffed by volunteer dentists serving children and building lasting relationships with referral resources in each community.
Over 30,000 children since 1995

In 2015:
- 1,920 children examined
- 2,010 sealants, 1,278 fluoride varnishes, and 501 fillings

Over 60 community partners

42 volunteer dentists

10 community leader visits

234 adults examined and treated at the following events:
- Clallam & Snohomish Project Homeless Connects
- Dentistry from the Heart
- Teeth Week
- Seattle King County Dental Clinic
Staffed By

- Host dentist and clinic manager
- Volunteer dentists and other dental professionals are key to success
  - Opportunity to volunteer in their own community
  - Combat dental disease among the most underserved children
  - Accept children into their own practice
  - Connect children to community health center
Identifying Sites

- High percent of population on Medicaid.

- Low percent of Medicaid insured children birth through high school who has not used dental services.

- High percent of children enrolled in free and reduced school lunch program.

- Access Issues - Is there a community health center and/or Medicaid providers nearby?

- Other barriers: language, single parent home, unaware that Medicaid covers dental and local resources
Partners

- State’s dental professionals - volunteer when the van is in their community
- Seattle Children’s Hospital
- University of Washington School of Dentistry
- Local hosting organizations – churches, schools, Boys & Girls Club and other community organizations
- Community Clinics
- Local Health Departments
Role of the Community Host

- Publicizes and promotes the SmileMobile
- Recruits children and their families who are in need of dental care
- Schedules children
- Works out the logistics – safe & accessible location (water)
- Help recruit local dentists
- Arranges for interpreters when needed
Services Provided

- **Diagnostic**
  - limited examination, digital x-rays and risk assessment
- **Preventive**
  - oral health education and hygiene instruction, sealants, fluoride varnish, cleaning (if needed)
- **Restorative**
  - fillings
  - stainless steel crowns
- **Acute and emergent relief**
  - extractions and minor surgical procedures
Coordination of care important to success of mobile clinic.

Provide list of local community dental clinics, practices and the ABCD program for referrals.

Smilemobile staff educate families and provides written referrals to community dental clinics, ABCD program, oral surgeons, ortho. etc.
How Can You Help?

- Promote the visit when it is in your community.
- Encourage dentists you know to volunteer.
- Encourage local dentists to treat low-income children.
- Consider a charitable gift to support oral health programs in your community.
Questions & Comments