

Smart Mouths

Smart Kids

Improving Dental Health for Colorado Students

Smart Mouths Smart Kids: A Toolkit for Decreasing Health Barriers and Inequities

*Oral Health Florida Conference
July 28, 2017*



**“It makes a difference, doesn't it, whether we
fence ourselves in, or whether we are fenced
out by the barriers of others?”**

— E.M. Forster, *A Room with a View*

Objectives

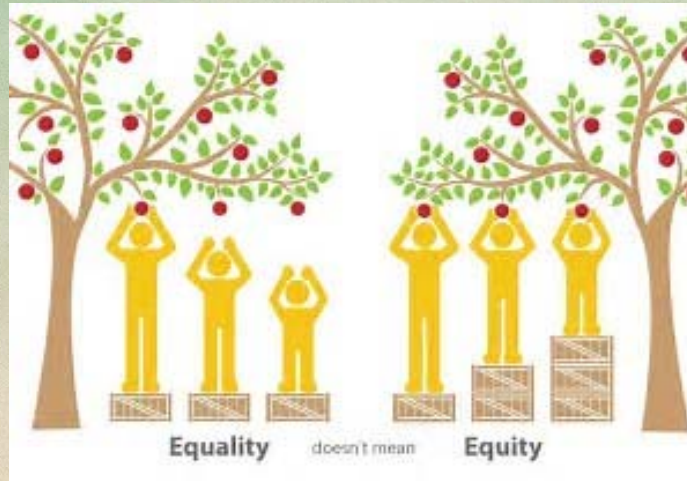
- ◆ Using a health equity lens, understand the lack of school-based oral health services in order to see how it impacts disadvantaged students
- ◆ Recognize the connection between oral health and student success and relate that connection to a collective impact model
- ◆ Assess the potential usefulness of the Smart Mouths Smart Kids Toolkit in a variety of communities
- ◆ Select next steps for planning, building, or enhancing school health and wellness programs that integrate oral health with other programs and efforts

Simply Put...

- ◆ School-based care makes sense!
- ◆ Good health means successful students!
- ◆ SMSK can help!
- ◆ You can make a difference!



Equality & Equity



Health Equity

- ◆ Health equity is attainment of the highest level of health for all people.
- ◆ Achieving health equity requires:
 - Valuing everyone equally
 - Focusing on societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities
 - Recognizing and rectifying historical injustices
 - Addressing contemporary injustices
 - Eliminating health and healthcare disparities
 - Assuring structural and personal conditions are in place to support optimal health.



(Adapted from Healthy People 2020 and Dr. Camara Jones)

Talking about equity implies that there are **inequities** that need to be fixed. Inequities are **“health gaps brought about by policies and practices in communities.”** They can be **undone**, because they are policies and practices that human beings put into place. Human beings can undo them as well.”

– Brian Smedley, PhD, Health Policy Institute Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Health & Student Success

Every student deserves a chance to be successful in school and life. This means the development of the whole child — one who is academically successful, healthy, motivated, and engaged.



Impacts

- ◆ When health needs are met, students earn better grades.
- ◆ Schools that provide in-house or in-community health service connections see:
 - An increase in attendance
 - A decrease in the dropout rate
 - Gains in student attitudes about learning

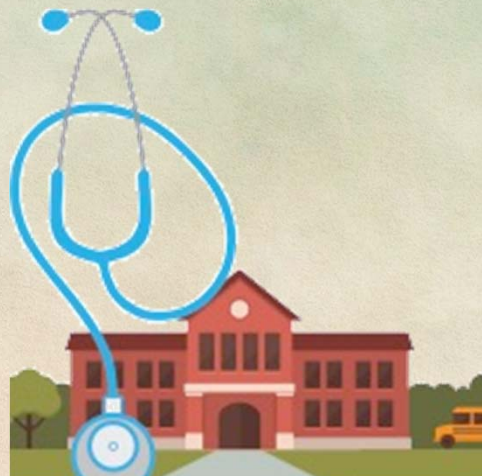
California Department of Education, 2005



“In-School” is Key

When students can seek medical treatment or preventive services without having to leave campus, the positive effect can be observed through improvements in the health and well-being of students, and also in attendance rates and GPA over time.

Walker et al. 2010



What About Oral Health?

- ◆ Children with poor oral health were more than three times more likely to miss school as a result of dental pain.
- ◆ Absences caused by pain were associated with poorer school performance, but absences for routine care were not.

American Journal of Public Health.
Stephanie Jackson, DDS, MS, et. Al 2011

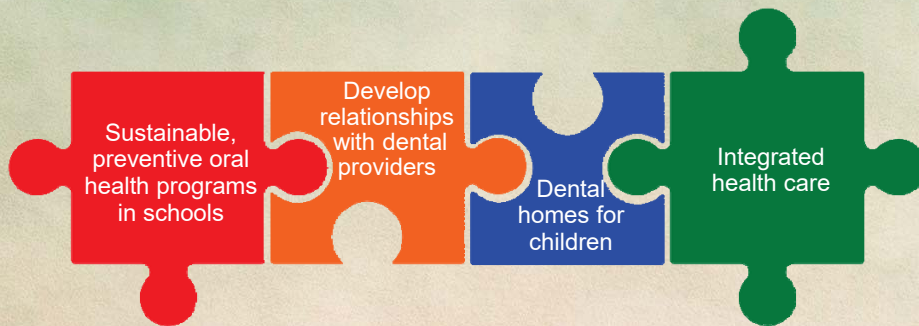
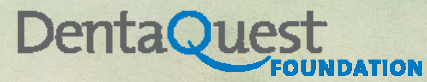


Smart Mouths Smart Kids

An in-school solution to improve equity,
and student health and success.



SMSK Evolution



Today

SMSK is part of a national network of partners working to achieve oral health for all.



www.oralhealth.network

Vision of Impact



Communities have the tools to ensure that elementary and middle school aged children have access to preventive oral health care and a dental home.

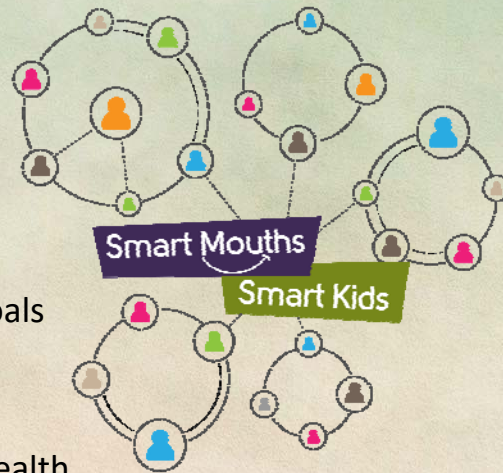
What It Is & Who It's For



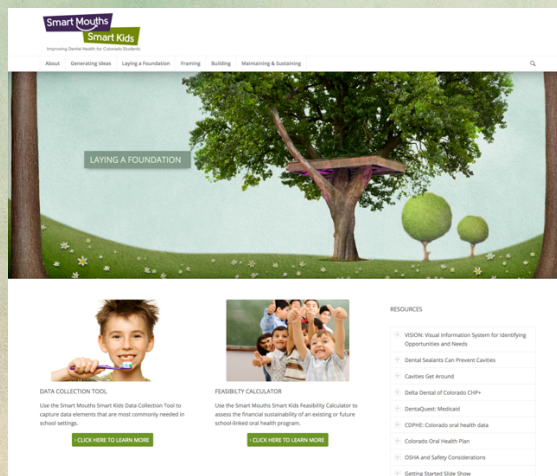
- ◆ More than “just” sealants
- ◆ A “process” that any stakeholder—parent, teacher, school administrator, hygienist, dentist—can use to integrate oral health into school health
- ◆ It’s for communities to help to achieve health equity for disparate populations in their state

More Than “Just” Sealants

- ◆ Equity
- ◆ Sustainability
- ◆ Student success
- ◆ Colorado Alliance for School Health
- ◆ Achieving OH2020 goals
 - Eradicate dental disease in children
 - Incorporate oral health into the primary education system



The Toolkit



SmartMouthsSmartKids.org

A Blueprint for “Construction”



A Blueprint for “Construction”



Close Up: Feasibility Calculator

Smart Mouths Smart Kids Feasibility Calculator
Only enter/modify information in white cells

School Information

Elementary Schools

Number of schools: Number of visits per school, per school year:

Select grades served: ECE ☐ K ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th ☐ 5th ☐

Automatic Calculation:
The calculator will use the average number of students per grade in Colorado and average percent enrolled in oral health programs.

OR

Enter your own numbers:
Actual total number of children, per grade, per school: ECE K 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th

AND enter the actual or anticipated enrollment percent:

Middle Schools

Number of schools: Number of visits per school, per school year:

Select grades served: 6th ☐ 7th ☐ 8th ☐

Automatic Calculation:
The calculator will use the average number of students per grade in Colorado and average percent enrolled in oral health programs.

OR

Enter your own numbers:
Actual total number of children per grade per school: 6th 7th 8th

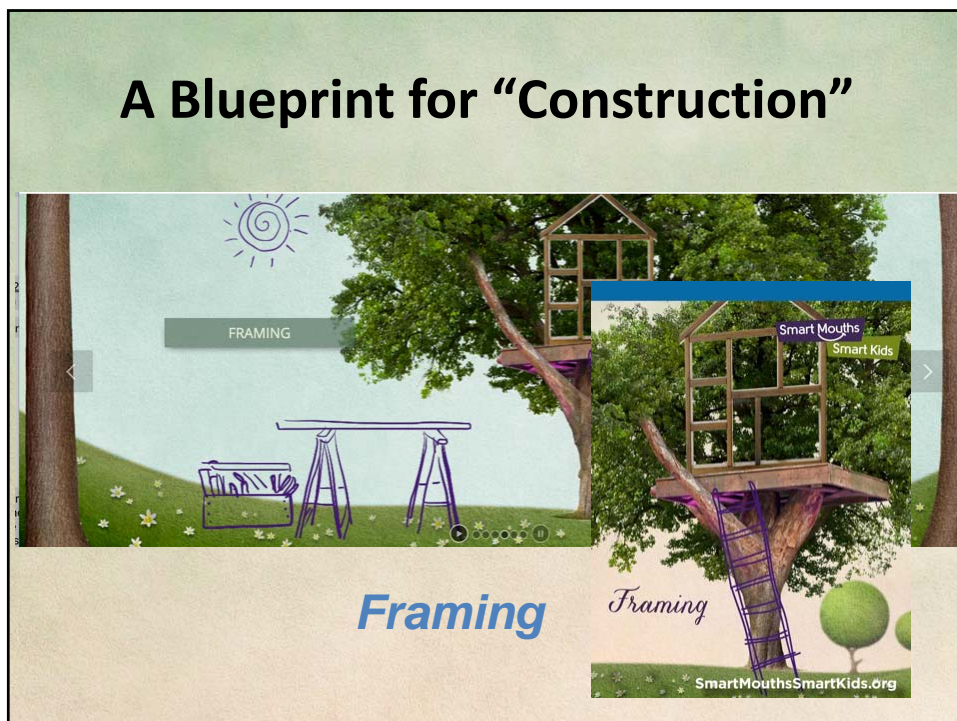
AND enter the actual or anticipated enrollment percent:

Services Included

- ☐ Dental Sealants
* Dental Sealants are calculated for 2nd and 6th grade only
- ☐ Interim Therapeutic Restoration
- ☐ Fluoride Varnish
- ☐ Oral Health Screening
- ☐ Classroom Education

1. School Entry Form 2. Program Entry Form 3. Staff Time Est. (optional) 4. Summary Results 5. Detailed Results

A Blueprint for "Construction"



A Blueprint for “Construction”



Close Up: Data Collection Tool



Close Up: Data Gathered Sample



A Blueprint for “Construction”

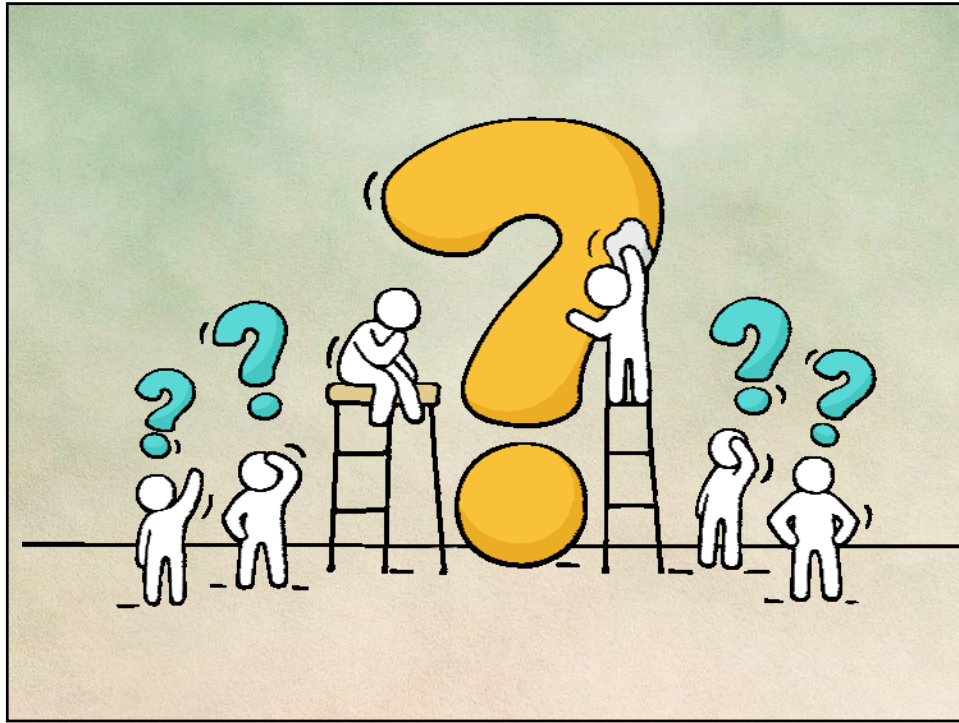


Steps You Can Take

- ◆ Visit the toolkit smartmouthssmartkids.org
 - Pick a spot in your “construction” that you’d like to plan, build, or refresh
 - Use the tools to support your work
- ◆ Follow SMSK on Facebook and Twitter
- ◆ Watch the “Get Started” prezi
- ◆ Join www.oralhealth.network

New Resources





Contact Us

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