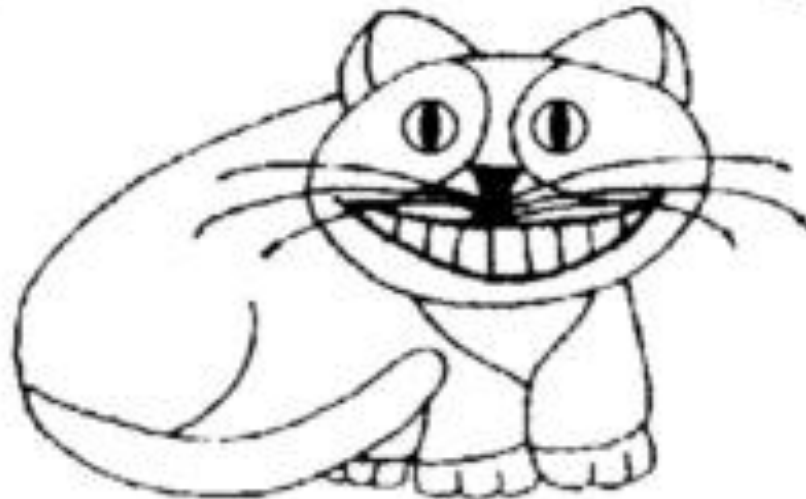


**CHESHIRE**



**SMILES**

**Every Child Deserves to Smile**

# Mission Statement

To bring all members of the dental community together to increase access to dental care and reduce dental disease among children; and raise the dental health awareness within the community.

# History



The Council for a Healthier Community studied a 1995 Monadnock United Way needs assessment.

Of the top fifty-nine most pressing unmet needs, access to dental care ranked second.

A survey of the local school nurses in the spring of 1996 indicated that twenty-five percent of children had unmet dental needs.

# Starting Up...

A pilot project in May 1996, offered free dental screenings to kindergarten and first grades at five elementary schools.

The start up phase was in the spring of 1997, in which dental screenings as well as cleanings were conducted at five elementary schools in Keene with first and second graders, and kindergarteners through second graders at Winchester Elementary School.

Cheshire Smiles became established in nineteen schools during project year four (2000-01). Services today are conducted at twenty-one elementary schools and three middle schools.

# Program Overview

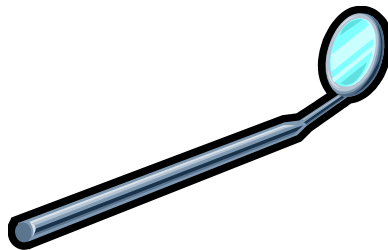


# Level 1

## Screenings

A visual check of the teeth and surrounding structures by a licensed dental hygienist or dentist.

In project years 1-16: 22,118 children were screened.



## Level 2

### Cleanings



If a child is not receiving regular dental care, a preventive visit (cleaning, fluoride, oral hygiene instruction, and/or sealants) is offered at the school using portable dental equipment.

In project years 1-16: 4,726 children were seen for preventive visits.



## Level 3

### **Restorative Care/Referrals**

Referrals are made to area dentists for children in need of further care, and to those in need of a dental home.

Referrals are also made to Cheshire Medical Center's Family Resource Counselor for assistance with New Hampshire Medicaid applications.



# Sealants

Children who receive in-school cleanings and are in need of dental sealants had traditionally been invited to a “Sealant Day” held at local dental offices staffed by volunteer dental professionals.

In 2010-11, a policy change allowed dental hygienists working under public health supervision to place sealants on these children in the schools without first having a dentist examine the teeth. Starting in the 2012-2013 school year all sealants are now placed as part of the preventive visit. This was made more efficient with the purchase of a cordless curing light purchased with funds received from a NH Dental Society Foundation grant.

In project years 1-16: 8,550 teeth have been sealed.



# Education



Cheshire Smiles offers dental health education lessons in the classrooms (preschool to third) and to older grades on request.

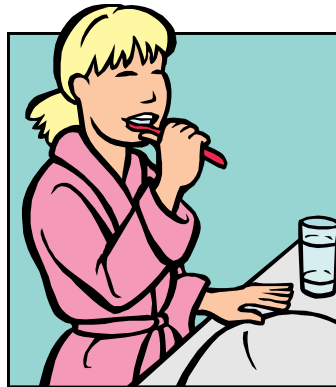
These lessons include information on brushing and flossing, healthy snacking, safety, and the decay process.

New tooth model/brush sets were purchased with monies from the NH Dental Society Foundation grant and a donation from the Keene Lions Club.

# Fluoride

Frequent rinsing with a low concentration of fluoride can significantly reduce the occurrence of decay. In 2012-13, thirteen of our schools participated in a weekly fluoride rinse program. A fluoride varnish program is being piloted in the 2013-14 school year.

Several PTA groups sponsor their school's fluoride rinse programs.



# Head Start

Cheshire Smiles conducts dental health education lessons at local Head Start centers, and provides dentists with charting assistance during screenings.



# Benefits

- Many children seen at school have not been to a dentist's office - we help familiarize them with equipment and procedures in an environment they are comfortable in (school)
- Provide parents with referrals to enroll in NH Medicaid and referrals to dental homes
- Through education, increase awareness about the importance of dental health to overall health

# Challenges

- Case management: it can be difficult to make contact with parents to discuss their child's dental visit/needs
- Follow-through on referrals
- Limited number of dentists taking new patients with Medicaid insurance

# Funding

- NH Oral Health Program \$28,472
- Cheshire Health Foundation \$50,000
- Medicaid Billing: \$20,000 billed, \$8,000 paid
- DHW & CMC/DHK In-Kind: \$125,000
- Other: \$850

# Dental Public Health Task Force



## TRAVELING ADULT DENTAL SERVICES (TADS)

**What is the connection?**





# Dental Public Health Task Force

- **Mission:** to increase access to preventive and restorative dental care among uninsured, low-income, adult residents of Cheshire County, New Hampshire
- Membership includes dentists, dental hygienists, school nurses, citizens, hospital staff

# Traveling Adult Dental Services (TADS)

- Partnership between the DPHTF and the dental practices in the community
- Clinics held in dental offices in the region
- Preventive and restorative care
- Application process, eligibility guidelines
- 2013: 60 patients/\$20,000 in free care

# Dental Health Works

- Non-profit dental practice in Keene since 2002
- Since 2002, seen 7,600 patients
- Provided over \$1.9 million in unreimbursed care
- Collaboration with CMC re: Cheshire Smiles
  - 2004 provided supervision to CS
  - 2010 subcontracted state oral health grant
  - 2013, Cheshire Smiles a program of DHW

# Thank You!



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