



# Dental Public Health State Activity Submission Form

ASTDD’s goal in collecting information about successful state Dental Public Health activities (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) is to share this information with other states, territories, and stakeholders who may be interested in implementing similar activities. We thank you for your time and willingness to share your experiences.

Please complete the form below and return to Lori Cofano, ASTDD Best Practices Project Coordinator, at [lcofano@astdd.org](mailto:lcofano@astdd.org)

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<b>STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy)</b> Minimum=300 Maximum=500	
Activity title:	<b>Future Smiles Mobile School Sealant Program</b>
State/Territory:	NV
Summary overview, which may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectives</li> <li>Rationale</li> <li>Personnel</li> <li>Key partners</li> <li>Costs &amp; sustainability</li> </ul>	
<p>Nevada is one of only five states where children are significantly less likely to receive preventive dental care when compared to the rest of the nation. This results in seven out of 10 children in Nevada having experienced tooth decay, which is significantly higher than the national average of five out of 10.</p> <p>Future Smiles was established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) to provide oral health education and preventive services to children at school-based locations. Children served by the program are typically from schools with greater than 50% free and reduced meal program enrollment (FRL), live well below the federal poverty guidelines (FPL), and are Medicaid/CHIP enrollees or underinsured/uninsured. All children in the Clark County School District (CCSD) are eligible for services.</p>	

Future Smiles is Nevada's largest school-based oral services provider. We operate two types of school-based delivery modes: (1) The Women's Philanthropy Dental Wellness Center (DWC), the first and only school-based dental restorative center in the state; (1) the Mobile School Sealant Program (SSP) provides services to approximately 50 schools per year. The mobile team sets up portable equipment to provide preventive services (screenings, sealants and fluoride varnish) to students with positive parental consent. The school receives oral health education materials and tooth brushing supplies for every student.

Our staff includes dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and case managers, who provide much needed oral health education, preventive dental hygiene services, and restorative services, supported by our philanthropic funders, to the children and families we serve.

## Lessons learned (Successes and **Challenges**):

### **Staff**

- Set goals and milestones for program services and delivery
- Evaluate program outcomes
- Conduct calibration training sessions for staff

### **Consent Forms**

- Design consent forms that are at an appropriate reading and comprehension level for children and families.
- Refresh and update consent forms annually, consider revising outdated policies.
- Consistency with information on the consent forms when compared to that in Dentrix- address changes, last name changes, etc.
- Incomplete information, unsigned forms, no phone number or email address included.
- Nature of manual input- entry errors, time needed for manual input can overlap into service time.

### **Parent Letters:**

- Letter not given to the parent by the student and parent/guardian may then be unaware that the child received services on a particular day.
- Parent/guardian does not review information on letter and takes no further steps in establishing a dental home for the child/children.

### **Enrollment**

- Increase enrollment into the Future Smiles Program. Our memorandum of understanding with the local school districts stipulates only those with positive consent are eligible to receive direct services. While this barrier remains the same, Future Smiles has worked to increase our positive consent return rate from 10-12% to 18-20% in the last year. We attribute this success to increased communication with school administration, working closely with the school Communities in Schools coordinator to distribute and collect consent forms, allowing more time for consent forms to be returned to us before providing services at a school.

### **Community Relationships**

- Provide patients with up-to-date information on community partners, outreach events, or any other resources that may be important on their journey to good oral health.

### **Program Planning**

- Perform a risk analysis each fiscal year to provide information to decision makers.
- Planning, implementation and evaluation should have firm objectives and resources committed to each segment. Establish a timeline for milestones and a schedule for milestones to be revisited or revised.
- Set goals and targets at the start of the fiscal year and categorize them as *to be met*, *to exceed*, or *to not exceed*.
- Be realistic with financial forecasting and look 6-12 months into the future.
- Be flexible with program planning and adapt to changes that occur both internally and externally.
- Clearly define expectations to staff on service targets and their role in short/long term goals of data collection.

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD</b>	
Activity Number:	31012
Submission Date:	May 2022
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