



Oral Health Screenings & Treatment in Tarrant County

FY2020

COMMUNITY BENEFIT MEASURES

Identified Community Health Need

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in US children, occurring more frequently in children from low-income families. In addition to social factors, access, transportation, and cost, many parents do not think their child is old enough to receive preventative dental care or do not believe oral health was important to their child’s overall health.



Current Strategies

1. Sustain improvements in oral health disease for Tarrant County children.
2. Increase access to oral health screening and treatment through coordinated care.
3. Increase access to dental health education and services for children, families, and community partners.

Cook Children’s (2018). Community Health Needs Assessment: Community-wide Children’s Health Assessment and Planning Surveys.

Cook Children’s 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Strategies to address oral health for FY19 – FY21.

2019-2020 School Year

- **7,554 children** (Pre-K thru 6th grade) received a limited oral evaluation in Tarrant County Schools and nearly **2,000 dental procedures** were performed for a total combined value of **\$566,330** – all provided free to children.
- **2,432 social services** provided by Save a Smile community health workers to facilitate treatment with volunteer dentists and perform family status checks.
- **The Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD)** recognized Save a Smile as a best practice with a fine-tuned, sustainable, collaborative process that achieves superior results and objectives.

Working through COVID-19

- Access to schools, dental care, and pediatric dentists was limited for several months during FY2020.
- From March through August 2020, SAS community health workers continued with support services, **providing 615+ calls to families and 200+ referrals** to assist with common challenges such as financial stress, food, rent, utilities, and home schooling support.
- Distributed nearly **12,000 oral health kits** containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, and educational resources to children in schools and later through a newly developed process for contactless distribution.
- Worked with redeployed Cook Children’s employees to help assemble **over 8,000 oral health kits** to distribute in 21 Tarrant County elementary schools in the 2020-2021 school year.

