

# The Smile Share Program: Oral Health Education for the Community

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**Mission Statement:** Provide community educational outreach programs because oral health education is the best way to prevent dental diseases that affect all age groups.

## Significance

A significant proportion of the population, including children and adults, experiences preventable tooth decay and periodontal disease.<sup>1</sup> One tool in the prevention of these diseases is oral health education. Some segments of the population have limited or no access to oral health education and have a disproportionate amount of dental disease.<sup>2</sup> The Smile Share Program was developed to address this disparity and bring oral health information and preventive services to underserved and marginalized groups within the Bay Area.

## History

The Smile Share Program was developed in Fall 2008 by Patti Chan, M.S., a community dental health instructor in the Foothill College Dental Hygiene Program. During the first year, she and her second year dental hygiene students participated in three elementary school dental screenings. Since that first year, the program has expanded to include target groups around the Bay from Gilroy to San Francisco.

This year we visited the following groups:

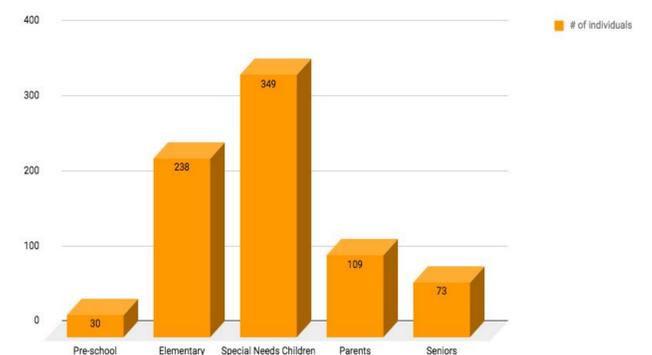
- 15 elementary school classrooms from grades Jr-K through 8th
- 17 special education classrooms, including children with developmental, orthopedic, and hearing challenges
- 4 senior center events
- 2 classrooms with parents and their pre-school children



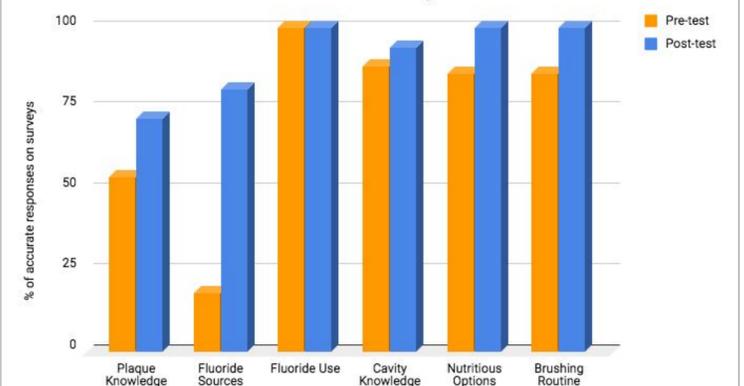
## Objectives

- ★ Improve the oral health knowledge of communities in the Bay Area through education.
- ★ Decrease the incidence of dental diseases within these communities.

Number and Type of Impacted Individuals from the Smile Share Program (2017-2018)

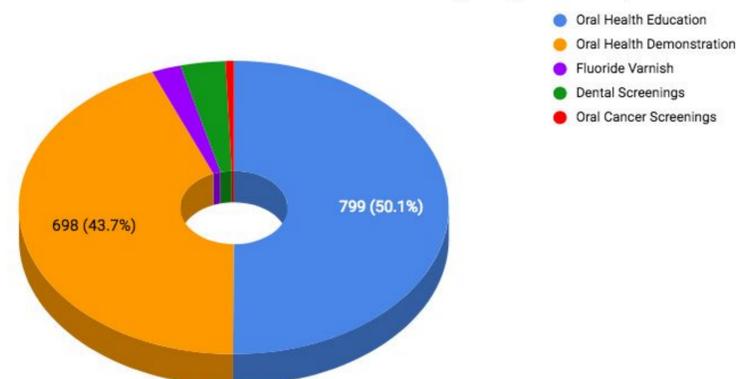


Results from Pre- and Post-Test Surveys from the Second Grade



★ Survey results showed that students' knowledge of oral health improved after our oral health presentations.

Services Provided in the Smile Share Program (2017-2018)



## What We Do as Smile Share Ambassadors

- ★ *Interactive presentations about oral health for:*
  - Pre-school and school-aged children
  - Special needs students (Autism, Hearing-impaired)
  - Seniors
- ★ *Discussion of oral health topics*
  - Bacterial plaque and dental diseases
  - Brushing and flossing demonstrations
  - Nutritional counseling
  - Promoting quality and routine oral health practices
- ★ *Preventive services*
  - Dental caries screening
  - Fluoride varnish
  - Oral cancer screening
- ★ *Assessment of community knowledge through surveys*

## Acknowledgements

Goodwill Industries  
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Martí Santizo, Colgate

## References

1. Razdan, M. et al. Oral health outreach programs-can they address the disparities in access to dental care? J Oral Health & Comm Dent. 2016 Jan [cited 2018 Jan]; 10(1):14-17. Available from: <http://ezproxyfh.fhda.edu:2127/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=3&sid=15e3d5e8-9cb3-46cf-b162-c8b39954af63%40sessionmgr102>
2. Oral health. Centers for disease control & prevention. Centers for disease control and prevention [Internet]. 2017 Oct 23 [cited 2018 May 9]. Available from: [www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/basics/adult-oral-health/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/basics/adult-oral-health/index.html)