

DENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE-SHARE THE CARE (DHI-STC) PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

The Dental Health Initiative-Share the Care (DHI-STC) is a public-private partnership between the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, the San Diego County Dental and Dental Hygienists' Societies, and the San Diego County Oral Health Coalition. Established in 1994, the program has been recognized for its excellence by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Dental Association, the American Dental Hygienists' Association, and the National Association of Counties.

MISSION:

Through the collaborative partnerships of public and private organizations, ensure optimal oral health for pregnant women and children in San Diego County.

GOALS:

Targeting families who have limited resources, DHI-STC provides access to dental care and education with the goal of improving oral health for all children in San Diego County.

- Finds no-cost or reduced-cost emergency dental care through a network of pro bono dentists.
- Offers preventive services in neighborhood-based programs.
- Provides information and education to parents, pregnant women, youth, educators, community-based organizations, and childcare providers in an effort to promote preventive dental care for children.

ACTIVITIES:

- **Urgent Care:** Links school-age children in need of immediate dental treatment, who have no other resources, to pro bono dentists and resources for comprehensive care.
- **Preventive Oral Health Screenings/Dental Sealants and Varnish:** Organizes oral health screenings for children ages birth through 5 throughout the year and coordinates dental varnish clinics. DHI-STC hosts dental sealant/varnish clinics. There is no cost to the organizations or families who receive these services.
- **Education:** Educates pregnant women, adolescents, parents, and caregivers of children and youth on tips for a healthy mouth and teeth.
- **Training:** Trains staff from childcare sites, community-based organizations, medical/dental professionals, and others who interact with pregnant women and teens, parents, and caregivers.
- **Technical Support and Community Mobilization:** Facilitates community collaboration, task forces, and a local five-year oral health needs assessments.

**Dental
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of
San Diego**

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