



Mission

To provide dental education, screenings and free treatment to address what the US Surgeon General has called the most common, unmet health need – tooth decay.

Program Design

Smile Kentucky! was created in 2002 as a community partnership. Key stakeholders are the University of Louisville School of Dentistry, Louisville Dental Society, Louisville Water Company and Colgate. A steering committee consisting of 20 organizations guide the program.

The Need

The U.S. Surgeon has called tooth decay the most common, unmet health need. Kentucky's dental health ranks as one of the poorest in the nation. Statistics from Smile Kentucky! show that 33% of the children screened have obvious, untreated decay. That means the decay is evident by looking into the child's mouth with a light and mirror. Kentucky law requires an eye exam and medical check-up when a child starts school; there is no dental requirement.

How it Works

- Each year Smile Kentucky! works with 30 elementary schools in Louisville Metro and surrounding counties.
- During October and November, children in grades 3-6 receive a free dental screening at school; every child at the school takes part in education programs to learn proper brushing, the importance of visiting a dentist, healthy snacks and the value of fluoride in tap water.
- Every child at the school receives a new toothbrush, tooth paste and water bottle.
- Children with either no private dental insurance or government medical assistance receive free treatment in the program on the first Friday in February.

Impact

- Since 2002:
 - Education programs to over 90,000 children
 - Free dental screenings to over 24,000 children
 - Free dental treatment to over 1,500 children

Jefferson County Public Schools Impact

- 95% of elementary schools participated since 2002
- Nearly 10,000 children receive free dental screening
- 600 children receive free dental treatment at a value of over \$100,000