

# Children's Oral Health in Orange County

## *Policy Brief*

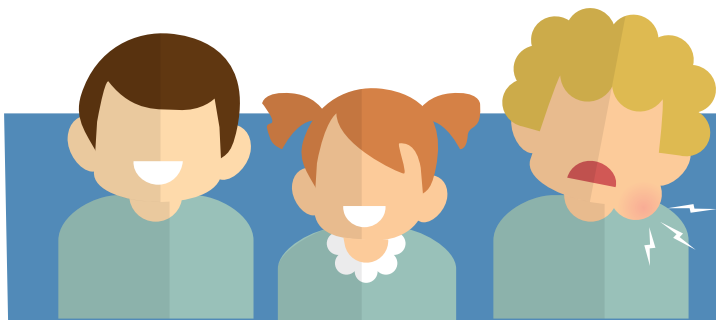
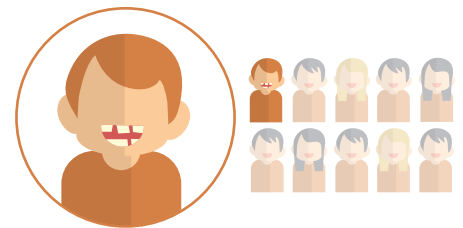


**Tooth decay** is the most common chronic childhood disease, resulting in

**51+** million  
lost school hours each year.

**1 out of 10**

Orange County children have **never visited a dentist.**



**One out of three**  
OC children have **untreated tooth decay.**

## Our Goal



Every child in Orange County has access to oral health care including screening, preventive care, and treatment.

We can do this, by:

BUILDING THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

Increase the number of dentists serving young children.

1

SERVING LOW-INCOME CHILDREN

Reduce disparities in oral health care.

2

ADDRESSING FAMILY BARRIERS

Reduce barriers that prevent access to dental services.

3



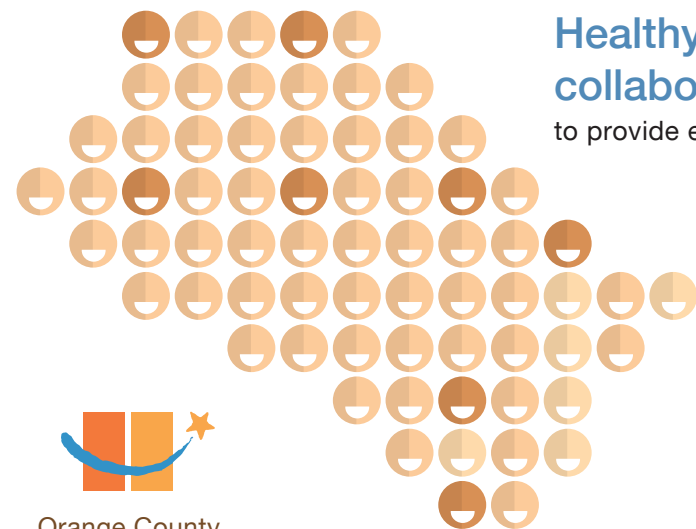
## Commission Investments in Oral Health

To support screenings, treatment, education and a dental residency program through Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County.

**\$15+ million** since 2002/2003



**\$20 million** catalytic investment for 2012-2020



Healthy Smiles works in partnership with a collaborative of countywide community clinics to provide education and treatment services annually to over

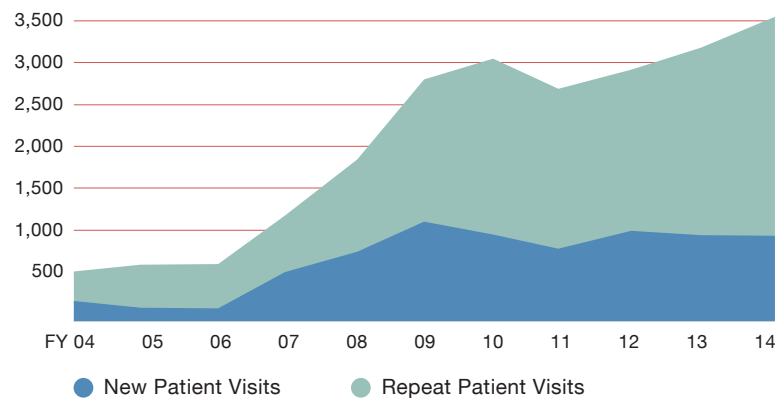
**19,000** young children

and over 8,000 family members to prevent and treat tooth decay.

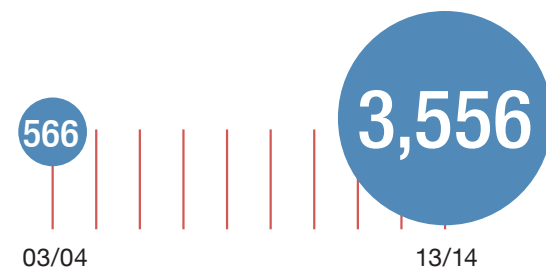


## Healthy Smiles Clinic Visits

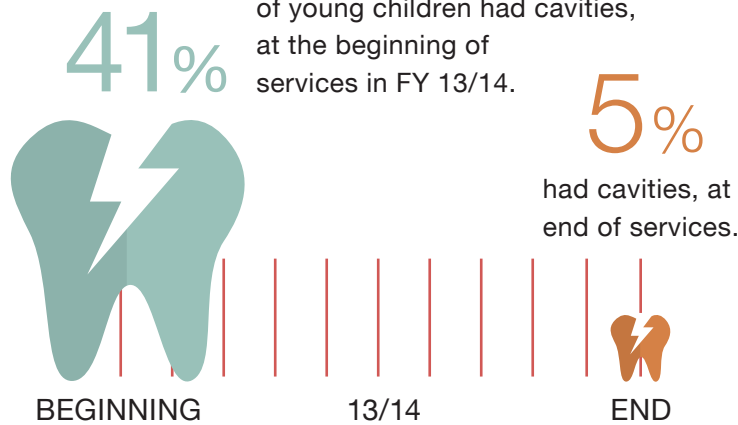
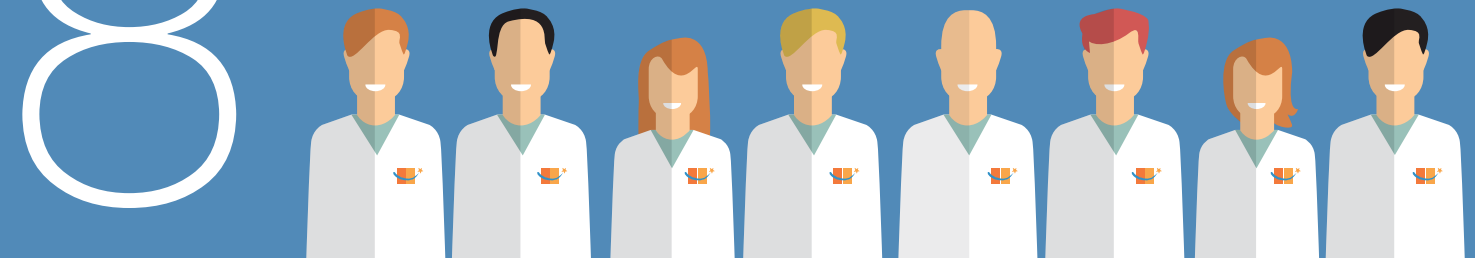
Children Ages 0-5



The number of visits to the Healthy Smiles dental clinic for children under six has grown **528% in 10 years.**



**8** pediatric dentists in the residency program stayed in Orange County.



Healthy Smiles reports they are increasingly seeing children at an earlier age.

The average age of children at their first visit to a dentist has dropped from five years to 2.1 years old.



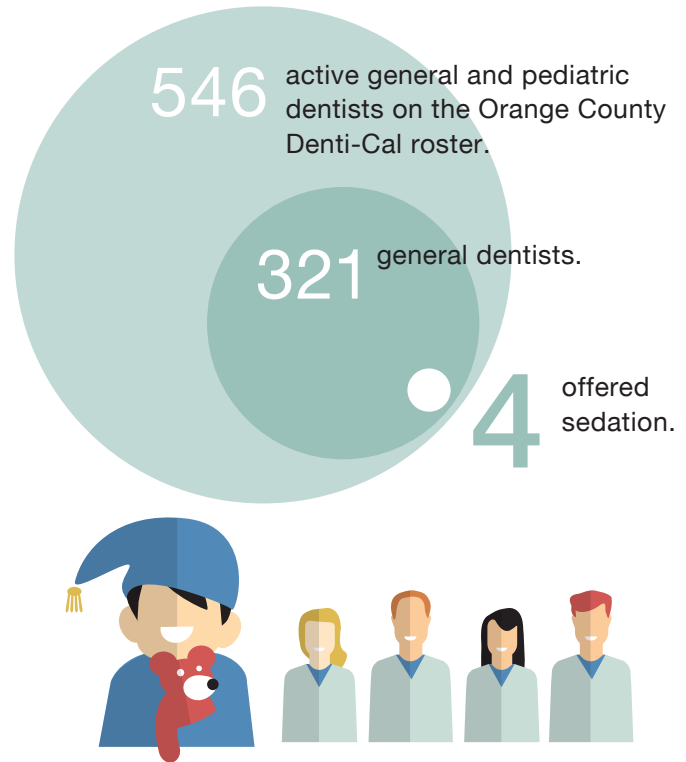
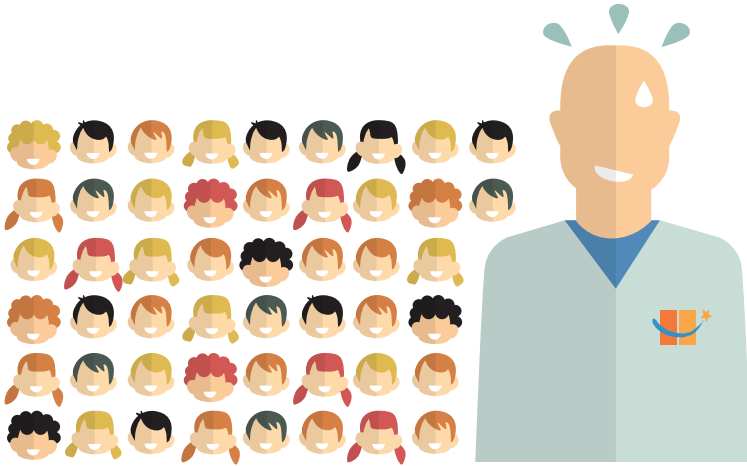
At **49%** Orange County has the highest percentage in the state of young children enrolled in Denti-Cal who received at least one preventive visit within the past year.



## One pediatric dentist per 4,900

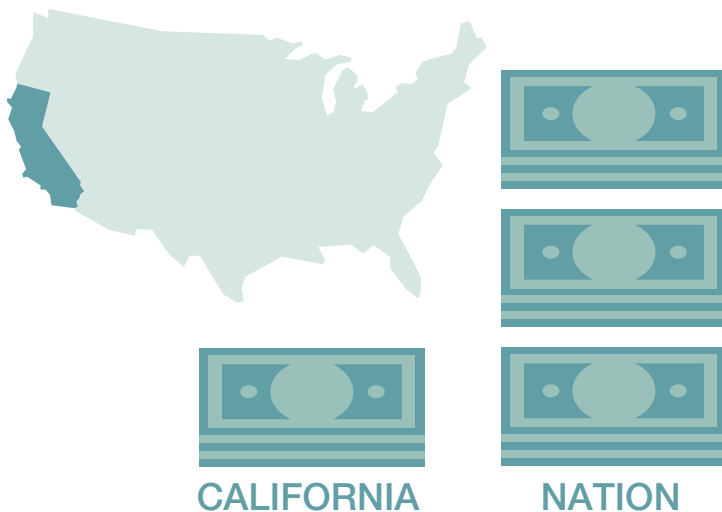
Orange County children under six with Denti-Cal insurance.

 = 100 children



## Denti-Cal reimbursement is

$\frac{1}{3}$  of the national average for Medicaid reimbursements



## The average wait for children needing treatment under general anesthesia is

4 months at Healthy Smiles

8 months at CHOC Children's.

