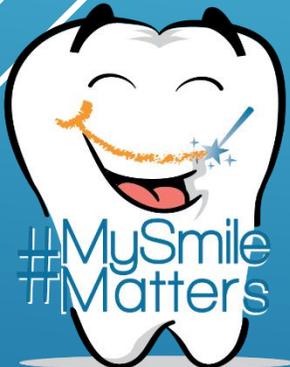




CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH AND ITS CONNECTION TO NUTRITION

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National Director, Youth Programs



An Initiative of America's ToothFairy

HISTORY OF AMERICA'S TOOTHFAIRY



- ▶ Founded in 2006 as a collaborative of clinicians, academicians, corporate leaders and other stakeholders
- ▶ Mission is to eliminate pediatric dental disease
- ▶ Educator, Preventer, and Protector
- ▶ Emphasis on children in vulnerable populations
- ▶ Work to address children's overall health by focusing on oral health
 - ▶ Provide education opportunities to increase oral health literacy
 - ▶ Support efforts to increase access to oral healthcare

CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA

- ▶ Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic childhood diseases
- ▶ 20% of children (5-11) have at least 1 untreated decayed tooth
- ▶ Untreated tooth decay affects low-wealth children twice as much of those in higher income households
- ▶ Children who brush their teeth daily with fluoride toothpaste have less tooth decay

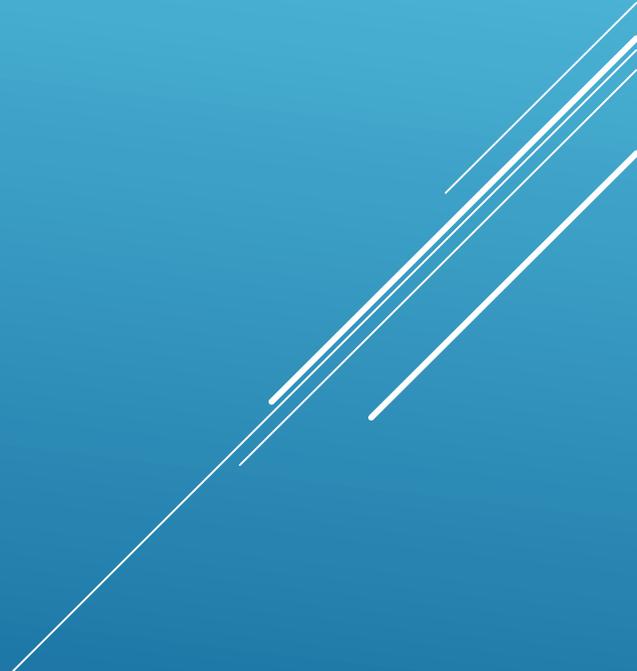
Source: http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/children_adults/child.htm

TOOTH DECAY IS 100% PREVENTABLE

- ▶ Tooth decay, or cavities, are NOT supposed to happen
- ▶ Cavities are NOT a “rite of passage”
- ▶ Children living in communities with fluoridated water have less tooth decay
- ▶ Children with access to fluoridated oral healthcare products (e.g., toothpaste, rinse) have less tooth decay
- ▶ Dental sealants reduce tooth decay in permanent molars by 81% for 2 years after applied with effectiveness lasting up to 4 years
- ▶ Fluoride varnish prevents tooth decay in primary teeth by 33%

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/children_adults/child.htm

PROGRAMS OF AMERICA'S TOOTHFAIRY

- ▶ Youth Programs, which includes the #MySmileMatters Youth Movement
 - ▶ Professional & Collegiate Programs
 - ▶ Network Affiliates
 - ▶ Esther Wilkins Education Program
 - ▶ Product Donation
 - ▶ Oral Health Zones
 - ▶ Students United with America's ToothFairly
 - ▶ Practice of Distinction
 - ▶ Smile Drive
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YOUTH PROGRAMS: #MYSMILEMATTERS YOUTH MOVEMENT

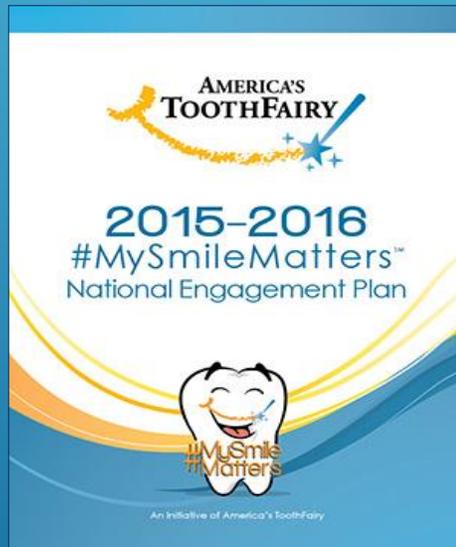
- ▶ A set of programs aimed at engaging youth as the voice on children's oral health
- ▶ Includes the #MySmileMatters National Youth Engagement Plan
- ▶ Social media driven
- ▶ Looks at the whole child/whole community
- ▶ Inclusive of oral health literacy, access to care and connection of overall health to oral health
- ▶ Everything from using the ToothFairy 101 Community Education Kit to planting a #toothfriendly garden to feed children and families in need to learning about community water fluoridation



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YOUTH PROGRAMS: #MYSMILEMATTERS NATIONAL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Four Steps:



Step 1
Get a ToothFairy 101
Community Education Kit



Step 2
Engage online

Twitter: @MySmileMatters
Facebook: MySmileMattersYouthMovement
Instagram: MySmileMatters

Step 3
Register to Lead a Smile Drive

SMILE DRIVE
HOSA chapters across the Nation collected over 20,000 oral health products during America's ToothFairy Smile Drive last year.

Can you double that?

Step 4
Engage all year on issues related to children's oral health



YOUTH PROGRAMS: TOOTHFAIRY 101 COMMUNITY EDUCATION KIT

- Kit focuses on 5 core lessons
 - Brushing
 - Flossing
 - Hand Washing
 - Germ Transmission
 - Nutrition
- Provides a supplement for youth with special needs



ORAL HEALTH & NUTRITION



- ▶ Oral health is connected to systemic/overall health
- ▶ Mouth is the “gateway” to the body
- ▶ A child experiencing oral discomfort cannot eat, sleep and learn

ORAL HEALTH & MALNUTRITION



- ▶ Malnutrition is caused by poor oral health and poor oral health is caused by malnutrition
- ▶ Alters homeostasis, which can lead to disease progression of the mouth
- ▶ Reduces the ability to resist microbial biofilm
- ▶ Reduces the capacity of tissue healing
- ▶ Effects salivary glands

- ▶ If a child cannot bite into the healthy foods he has access to, he continues to suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3576783/>

A PROPOSAL TO ADDRESS ORAL HEALTH & NUTRITION



- ▶ Seeking funding to create a pilot project bringing oral health literacy learning opportunities to summer food service sites
 - ▶ Inclusive of the ToothFairy 101 Community Education Kits
 - ▶ Inclusive of Smile Gardens teaching children about “toothfriendly” foods and skills on growing their own food
 - ▶ Inclusive of access to oral healthcare products (toothbrush/toothpaste)

QUESTIONS?



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