

# FACT SHEET

## FUTURE SMILES AT A GLANCE

Who We Are: Future Smiles is a school-based dental prevention and restorative program that guards Nevada's neediest children against tooth decay and pain. Since our establishment as a Nevada nonprofit, 501(c)(3) public charity in 2009, Future Smiles has provided dental services at low or no cost to more than 200,000 at-risk youth in Nevada.

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#### Funding Sources:

Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Clark County School District  
Delta Dental Community Care Foundation  
DentalQuest Foundation  
Elaine P. Wynn and Family Foundation  
Engelstad Foundation  
Helms Helps Foundation  
John Krakauer Charitable Trust  
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**The Need:** Tooth decay is a progressive disease, that when left unchecked results in excruciating pain, tooth loss and even death from a cranial infection that started with a tooth abscess. Tooth Decay is the most common chronic childhood disease, occurring five times more frequently than asthma.

Young, school-aged children often view toothaches as a normal part of their lives. The regular nightly pain can destroy a child's sleep. Collectively, toothaches contribute to chronic pain, poor diet, compromised growth and lack of sleep that can diminish a child's ability to be ready for school and learn in the classroom.

Dental care remains the greatest unmet health need among U.S. children even though it is an essential part of our children's everyday lives. Traditionally, oral health is often misunderstood and difficult for us as a community to rally behind. Often "teeth" are taken for granted by individuals, families, government and healthcare providers. We must defeat these challenges because poor oral health impacts our children's ability to sleep, learn, chew, taste, grow, speak, smile, smell, and touch.

**How We Meet the Need:** Future Smiles provides comprehensive dental healthcare through our community model. that includes dental education, prevention and restorative treatment.



EIN: 27-3160598 | Future Smiles | 3074 Arville Street | Las Vegas, NV | 89102  
O: (702) 889-3763 | Email: [info@futuresmiles.net](mailto:info@futuresmiles.net) | Web: [www.futuresmiles.net](http://www.futuresmiles.net)  
Revised August 2022



The prevention-focused **Mobile School-Based Sealant Program (SSP)** brings virtual and in-person oral health education programs and dental hygiene healthcare into the elementary, middle and high school settings.

We also operate Nevada's first school-based restorative center, **The Nevada Women's Philanthropy (NWP) Dental Wellness Center**, which opened in 2019 at Wynn Elementary School to provide children with comprehensive dental exams and restorative treatment from a dentist.

We provide case management and care navigation services to community partners who provide Pro Bono treatment or reduced-cost dental procedures beyond the services we offer.

Future Smiles provided **oral health education to 14,950 students at 61 schools and community locations** in the 2021-2022 school year. The program saw 4,700 students and provided one or more dental sealant(s) to 60% of the children, and at the conclusion of the school year, 75% of the children had new or existing sealants. Total dental sealants placed in one school year was 12,604.

Our program finds that **6 out of 10 children live with tooth decay and urgently require treatment, and that 25% of children are living with dental pain.**



### NWP Dental Wellness Center

5630 Coley Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89146  
(702) 799-1204

The NWP Dental Wellness Center is the dental home for more than 1,000 children in Southern Nevada and provides comprehensive dental care.

### Community Centers near us:

Acelero Head Start .5 miles  
Boys and Girls Club .5 miles

### Schools near us:

Wynn ES .4 miles  
Roundy ES .7 miles  
Clark HS 1.3 miles  
Cashman MS 1.4 miles  
Vegas Verdes ES 2.3 miles

**Return on Investment (ROI):** Tooth decay is a manageable and preventable condition. However, if tooth decay begins before the age of six, there is severe risk to damaging the teeth now and in the future. This lifelong effect of dental disease will compromise the oral health and overall well-being of the child, youth and future adult.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dental sealants will avert tooth decay by 80%.<sup>1</sup>As such, Future Smiles created a SSP to bring dental healthcare to low-income students who are unlikely to receive dental sealants otherwise. This means that eight out of the ten teeth we seal may never experience the impact of dental disease, tooth decay or pain.

According to the American Dental Association, the national average cost for a dental sealant per tooth is \$44.12, and the fluoride treatment is \$31.70.<sup>2</sup> In comparison, our cost for the same services provided by Future Smiles is \$20 per tooth sealed and \$20 for a fluoride treatment.



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1. Griffin, S. O. (2016). Vital signs: dental sealant use and untreated tooth decay among US school-aged children. MMWR. Morbidity and mortality weekly report, 65.  
2. Ada.org. (2016). Dental Sealants. [online] Available at: <https://www.ada.org/en/member-center/oral-health-topics/dental-sealants> [Accessed 31 Jan. 2019].