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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Give Kids a Smile in February



Each February, thousands of the nation's dentists and their dental team members provide free oral health care treatment to children from low-income families as part of **Give Kids a Smile**. The Pinellas County Health Department's dental staff is participating once again with **screenings on Feb. 3 and services provided on Feb. 17-18**.

In Pinellas about 34 percent of families at 100 percent of the federal poverty level had access to dental care in 2009. At 200 percent, only 36.4 percent of children and 5.3 percent of adults have access to dental care.

To receive care during *Give Kids a Smile*, children must be between the ages of 4 and 14 and not have dental insurance. Household gross income must be between 100 to 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. (For a family of four, 100 percent means an income of up to \$22,350; 200 percent is a gross income of up to \$44,700.) Parents or guardians must accompany the child to the screenings. Families will be financially screened prior to the child's appointment on Feb. 3.

Program applications, more information about eligibility and hours and addresses for the screening and treatment sites are at http://gkaspinellas.com/GKASpinellas/Patient_Information.html. For information, call (727) 210-4222. School social workers can also accept applications and, in some cases, make appointments.

The Pinellas County Health Department participates in *Give Kids a Smile* and also has initiatives such as the *Partners for Smiles*. This program has general dentists and specialist dentists who donate pro bono services that range from simple fillings to lifesaving dental surgeries for patients with oral cancer.

For information about the Pinellas County Health Department, go to www.pinellashealth.com or call (727) 824-6900.

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