

The Washington Dental Service Foundation SmileMobile



- The **SmileMobile** is a modern dental office on wheels that brings oral health services to children who have no other options for dental care; the SmileMobile has traveled across the state since July 1995.
- The SmileMobile, on average, treats 60 children each week.
- Working in three dental operatories, a full-time dentist and local volunteer dentists and their staff are providing a range of services, from examinations and preventive services to fillings and minor oral surgery. Children with serious dental problems are referred for appropriate care.
- Medicaid coupons are accepted, and a sliding fee scale based on family income is used for those who are not eligible for Medicaid.

Crisis in oral health care

- Dental decay is the single most common chronic disease of early childhood, 5 times more than asthma.
- Nearly 60% of elementary school children in Washington have had dental decay. Our two-year olds are more than twice as likely as children nation-wide to have dental decay.
- Dental neglect can lead to oral pain, recurring infections, badly decayed and lost teeth, eating disorders, undetected oral cancers and low self-esteem.

The SmileMobile partnership

- The SmileMobile, which began operating in 1995, is a partnership between Washington Dental Service Foundation and Seattle Children's Hospital. Since it first hit the road, the mobile clinic has treated more than 25,000 children throughout the state.
- Coalitions of local health departments, community organizations and state agencies are providing volunteer coordination and support services.
- Washington Dental Service Foundation is the state's largest foundation committed to improving oral health. Supported by its parent organization, Washington Dental Service, Washington Dental Service Foundation supports innovative oral health programs focused on preventing oral disease, expanding access to dental care and increasing awareness of the importance of oral health.

For more information, contact MONIKA FORO, SmileMobile Clinic Manager at Washington Dental Service Foundation (WDSF) (206) 517-6303 or (800) 572-7835 ext 6303 or KARRI AMUNDSON, Program Coordinator at (206) 528-7339 or (800) 572-7835 ext 7339.