Oral Health Promotion Fact Sheet

The Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health documented that “Those who suffer the worst oral health include poor Americans (especially children and elderly), members of racial and ethnic groups and those with disabilities.” The report also noted a connection between oral disease and diabetes, heart and lung disease, stroke and low-birth weight premature babies.

Ottawa County Oral Health Needs Assessment

- 76,150 individuals living below 200% poverty level—26.6%
- 24,433 medically uninsured individuals (Non-Elderly) - 9.2%
- 3,175 medically uninsured children < 18 years of age—4.5%
- 32,387 Medicaid eligible individuals—12.2%
- 19,226 children (0-18) insured by Medicaid—25.9%
- 16,595 children qualifying for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program—37.4%
- 8,493 children <18 years of age in poverty—12.6%
- 22,761 residents of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity—8.6%

Miles of Smiles Children’s Oral Health Initiative

- The Miles of Smiles (MOS) mobile dental unit is a custom designed dental office “on wheels”.
- MOS provides on-site preventative and restorative dental services for Medicaid insured and qualifying uninsured individuals.
- Service locations have included: schools; Head Start Centers; Ottawa Area Center; migrant summer schools; CASA program; Holland Rescue Mission; health department sites and more.
- Over 100 dental professionals including dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and students have volunteered on MOS.
- Over $1,000,000 in grant allocations have been received from: Michigan Department of Community Health; Delta Dental; Greater Holland Junior Welfare League; West Michigan Dental Foundation; Grand Haven Area Community Foundation; and Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland.

Miles of Smiles & Dental Sealant Program

2011/2012 Dental Services Provided

- 1809 Dental Chartings
- 1400 Dental Exams
- 178 Extractions
- 1410 Fluoride Treatments
- 890 Education Units
- 890 Cleanings
- 21 Root Canals
- 935 X-rays
- 975 Restorations (fillings)
- 409 Screenings
- 2753 Sealants

Ottawa Department of Public Health

Working for You in 2011/2012 School Year...

- 2,027 preventive and restorative dental appointments on “Miles of Smiles” mobile dental unit
- 236 Head Start children received dental screenings/exams
- 232 Head Start children received a fluoride varnish application
- 1,885 students received oral health classroom education