



SMILES Dental Project

Spanning Miles in Linking
Everyone to Services

Expanding Access to Dental Homes Across Colorado

Funded by:
Caring for Colorado
Colorado Health Foundation



The Big Picture

*“You are not healthy without
good oral health...”*

C. Everett Koop, MD

- Dental disease is the most common chronic disease of childhood.
- Profound disparities in oral health and access to care exist at all ages, but especially for children.
- Oral disease can severely affect systemic health
- **Oral disease is preventable and controllable.**



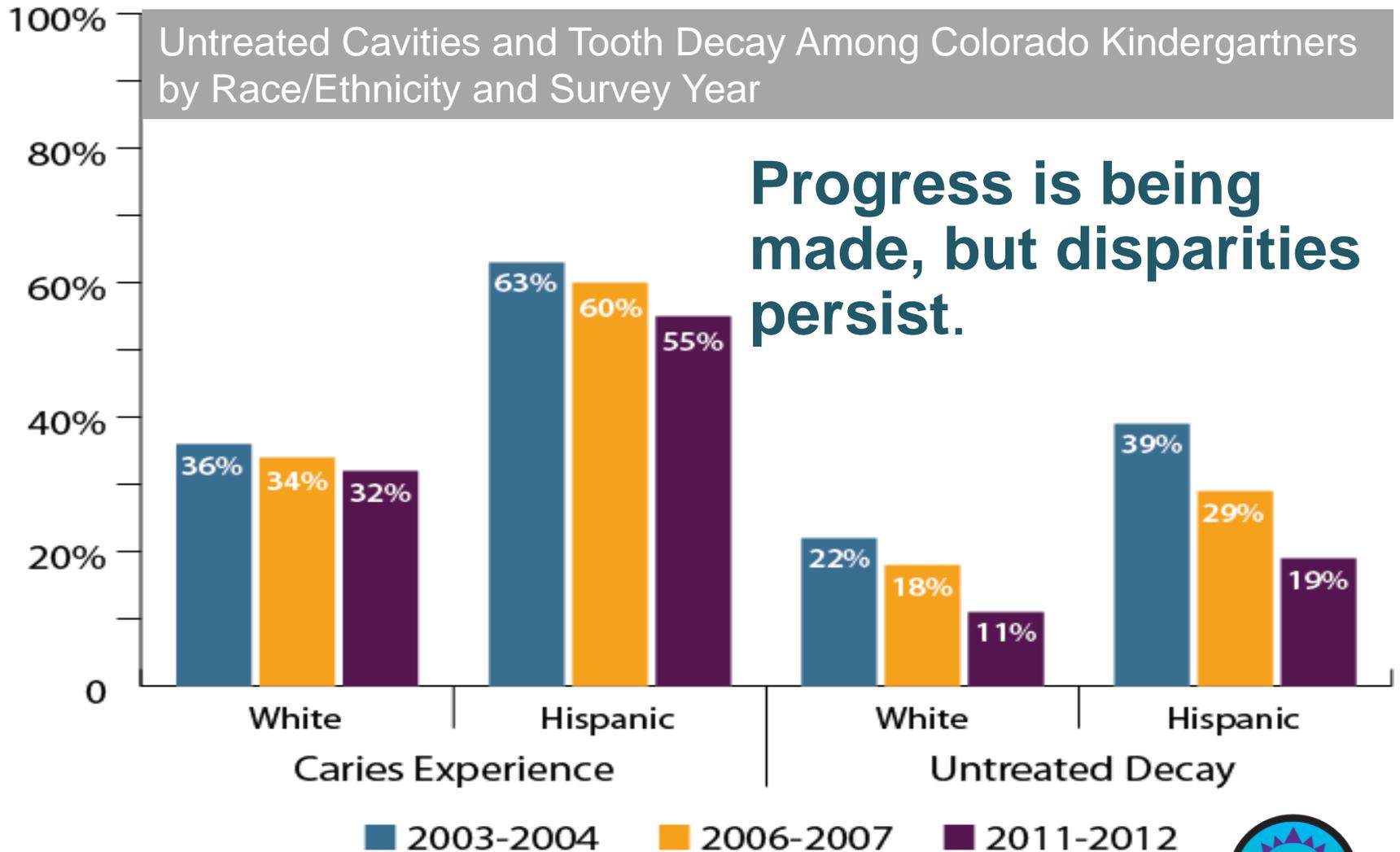
The Challenge

Unprecedented level of dental coverage but workforce shortages and others barriers impede access.

- 1 in 5 Coloradans are insured by Medicaid; all have a dental benefit.
- 8 counties are “dental deserts” with no providers.
- 7 counties have some dental care, but no providers who accept Medicaid.
- 877 Colorado dentists (out of 2,654 currently practicing) accept at least one Medicaid patient.



The Challenge



Source: Children's Oral Health Screening Colorado, 2011-2012



The Challenge

Colorado kids miss an estimated **900,000 days of school** every year due to mouth pain. This trend is especially true for poor and minority children.



https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CDPHE_WB_OralHealth.pdf



The Opportunity--*Virtual Dental Home*

- Modeled after a successful demonstration project in California
- Addresses barriers to care by bringing a dental home into communities, where children go to school.
- Integrates dental hygienists into community settings to deliver preventive care and some dental treatment, as directed by a dentist via tele-health.



The Opportunity



https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=OHO-Wp6dFuM

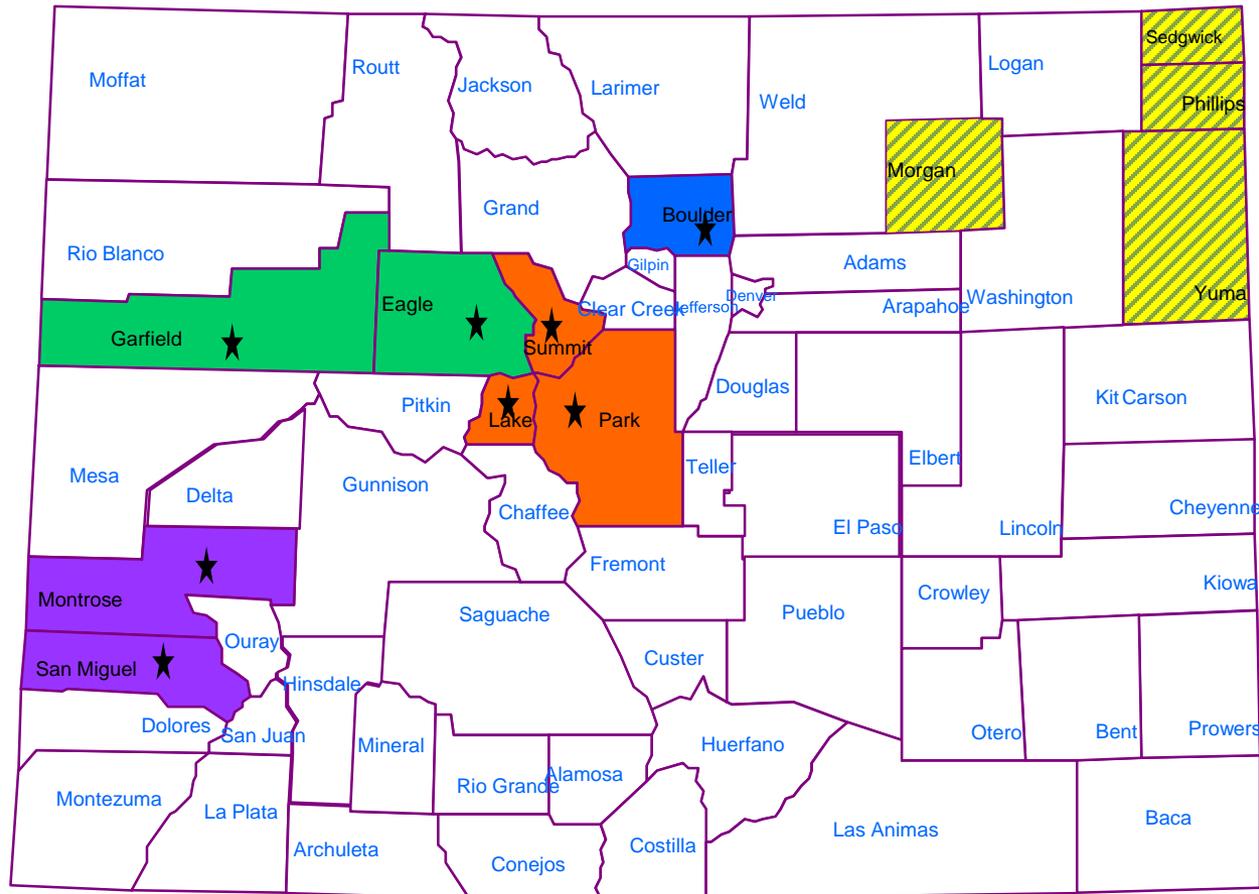


Progress To Date

- SMILES Dental Project Initiative was formed.
 - \$4.7, four year effort, funded by Caring for Colorado and The Colorado Health Foundation.
- HB 15-1309 was passed
 - Allows permitted registered dental hygienists to place interim therapeutic restorations, under the direction of a Dentist via tele-health technology.
- 5 regions in Colorado have been funded to implement the model. 4 are focused in school populations.



SMILES Dental Project Sites 2017



How Does it Work?

- Hub-and-spoke model
 - Integrate RDHs into community
 - RDHs provide routine preventive dental services.
- RDHs communicate with a “hub” dentist via telehealth technology for patient assessments, treatment planning, and to facilitate treatment for patients identified with more complex dental health needs.
- Interim Therapeutic Restorations can be prescribed by DDS and delivered by RDH in the community. (This is the expanded scope for RDH.)



Interim Therapeutic Restorations

Before...



Interim Therapeutic Restorations

...and after!



The Opportunity --Workforce



SMILES Dental Project trained 12 registered dental hygienists from the first ITR training in Colorado

9 SMILES registered dental hygienists now have approved ITR permits

Community College of Denver offers training for certification

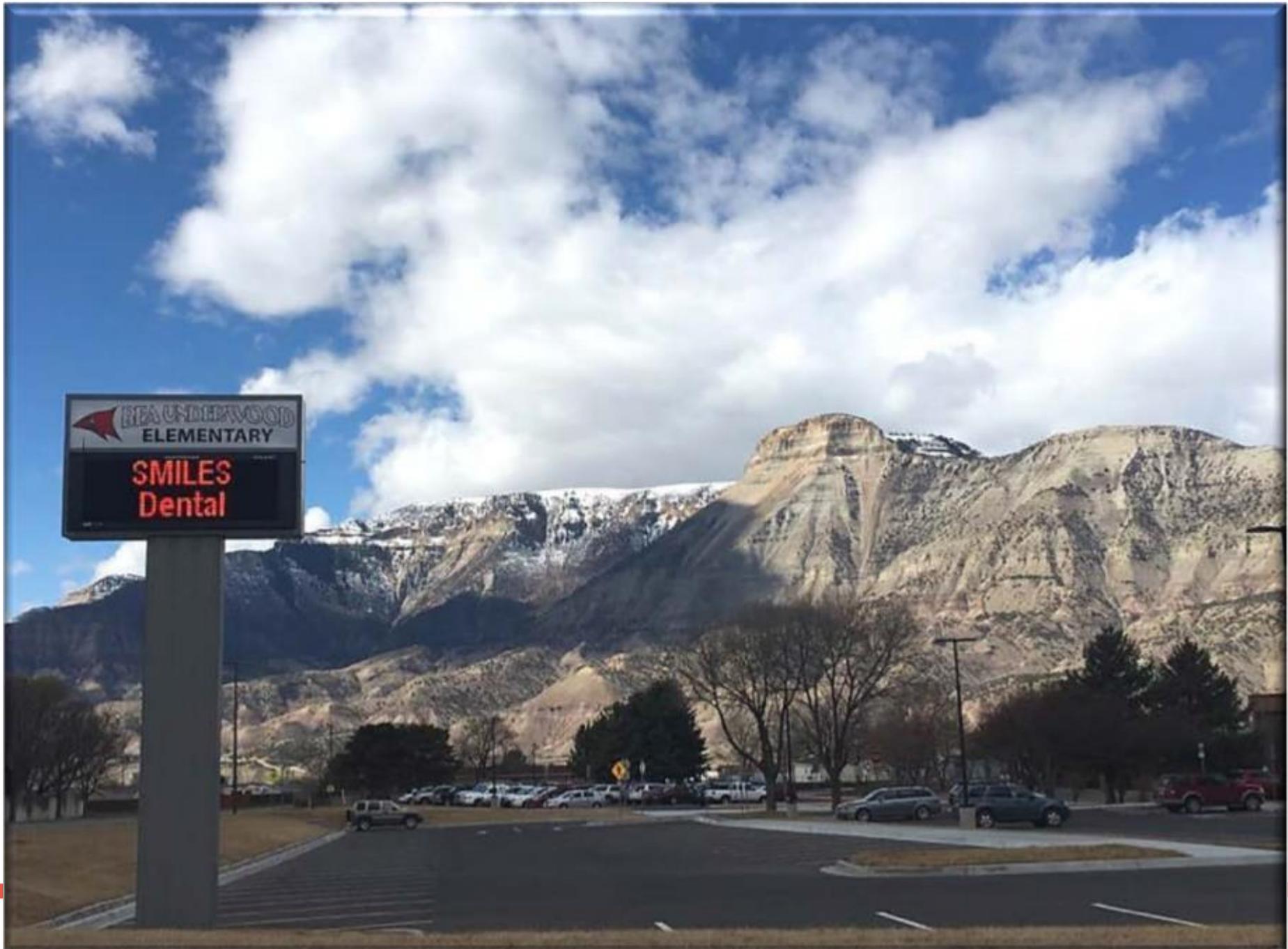


Services are Starting!

Colorado's **FIRST** Interim Therapeutic Restoration was performed at Beau Underwood Elementary in Parachute



BEA UNDERWOOD
ELEMENTARY
SMILES
Dental



Impact of the Virtual Dental Home

- Patients receive needed care in their community
- Students are seen in a familiar, comfortable environment
- Reduce missed school days due to travel to oral health appointments
- Patients get connected to a dental home
- Providers see patients with a treatment plan
- Reduced costs & ER visits
- Improved health!



Impact of the Virtual Dental Home



Uses portable/mobile dental equipment



Addresses barriers to care

Services are able to be performed on site in almost any space



Colorado Pioneers the Way

In the role of innovator & pioneer:

Colorado is the first state to address barriers to care and increase dental care utilization among those most in need in a **comprehensive, evidence-based, patient-centered approach that addresses payment & reimbursement from the start.**



Pioneer:

One who goes before to prepare or open up the way for others to follow.



Colorado Pioneers the Way

We're a leader in a quickly developing national movement. In particular, Western states with large geographic areas & rural populations are looking to us.



Keep in touch

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