

Philanthropic Strategies to Reduce & Prevent Health Disparities

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PROBLEM

ORAL HEALTH IN SILICON VALLEY

Results of a Health Trust assessment conducted in 2001 indicated that disparities exist in the oral health status and in access to care among racial and ethnic minorities and low-income children.

Other measures, including the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey and the California Health Interview Survey, supported findings indicating disparities.

San Jose is the largest city in the United States without fluoridated water, a factor contributing to the oral health disparities that exist in Silicon Valley.

Oral Health Status Stratified by Eligibility for Free/Reduced Price Meals			
		Eligible	Not Eligible
% with Caries Experience	Kindergarten	73.8%	37.0%
	3rd grade	85.0%	58.6%
% with Untreated Decay	Kindergarten	51.5%	20.4%
	3rd grade	41.5%	19.5%
% with Rampant Decay	Kindergarten	24.3%	8.1%
	3rd grade	24.5%	14.3%

Access to Care Stratified by Race/Ethnicity				
		White non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Asian
% with no dental insurance	Head Start	NA	19.4%	10.6%
	Kindergarten	11.4%	26.2%	11.2%
	3rd grade	8.9%	25.6%	9.4%
% who have never been to the dentist	Head Start	NA	14.2%	8.0%
	Kindergarten	14.3%	21.8%	13.1%
	3rd grade	0.0%	7.1%	3.0%
% who needed care but could not get it	Head Start	NA	28.3%	19.0%
	Kindergarten	7.9%	28.0%	10.3%
	3rd grade	6.6%	34.2%	12.9%

INTERVENTION

1. Direct Services

Since 2000, The Health Trust has received more than

\$3 million in funding from the Knight Foundation, California Endowment, and Delta Dental to provide oral health education, insurance enrollment services, and dental care.

IN-HOME ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION BY PROMOTORAS

- More than 5,030 adults and children received oral health education from 2005 through 2008

INSURANCE ENROLLMENT

- Average of 5,127 children per year enrolled or re-enrolled in health insurance with dental coverage since 2001

DENTAL SERVICES

MOBILE DENTAL VAN (2001-2007)

- Served more than 1,500 children per year

SCHOOL-BASED CLINIC (2001-2008)

- Served approximately 3,000 children per year

THE CHILDREN'S DENTAL CENTER (est. June, 2008)

- Public/private funding model
- Up to 15,000 visits per year at full capacity
- Approximately 84% of all patients receive oral health coverage through public programs



Promotoras educate children about the importance of good oral health practices.



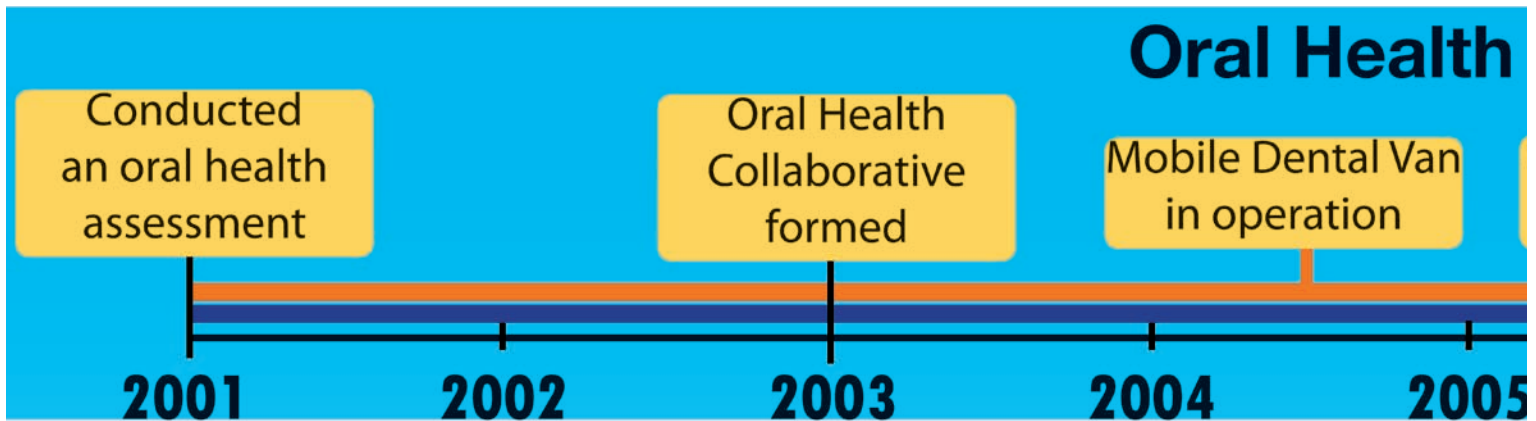
Promotoras instruct children and adults about how to floss and correctly brush teeth.



A dentist examines the mouth of a young girl at the Children's Dental Center in San Jose.



A father enrolls his son for dental insurance at a Health Trust program office.



2. Grant-Making & Collaboration

Since 1996, The Health Trust has partnered with numerous organizations and allocated significant funds to improve oral health in Silicon Valley.

- Member of Silicon Valley Oral Health Collaborative since 2003, whose mission is to improve the oral health for residents of Santa Clara County
- Provided \$150,000 in vouchers from 2001 to 2003 for dental care for low-income, uninsured children
- Awarded \$10,000 in 2005 to provide dental care for homeless adults
- Contributed more than \$3.5 million in funding to provide medical and dental insurance since 2001
- Funded an agency specializing in community organizing to promote awareness of health disparities and the lack of water fluoridation

3. Policy & Advocacy

California state law requires water retailers with more than 10,000 connections to fluoridate their water *if given the funds*. The Health Trust has worked in recent years to make fluoridation of all water a reality in Santa Clara County.

Timeline

School-Based Clinic in operation

Launch of Children's Dental Center

President of County Board of Supervisors declares fluoridation of water a 5-year goal

2006

2007

2008

2009

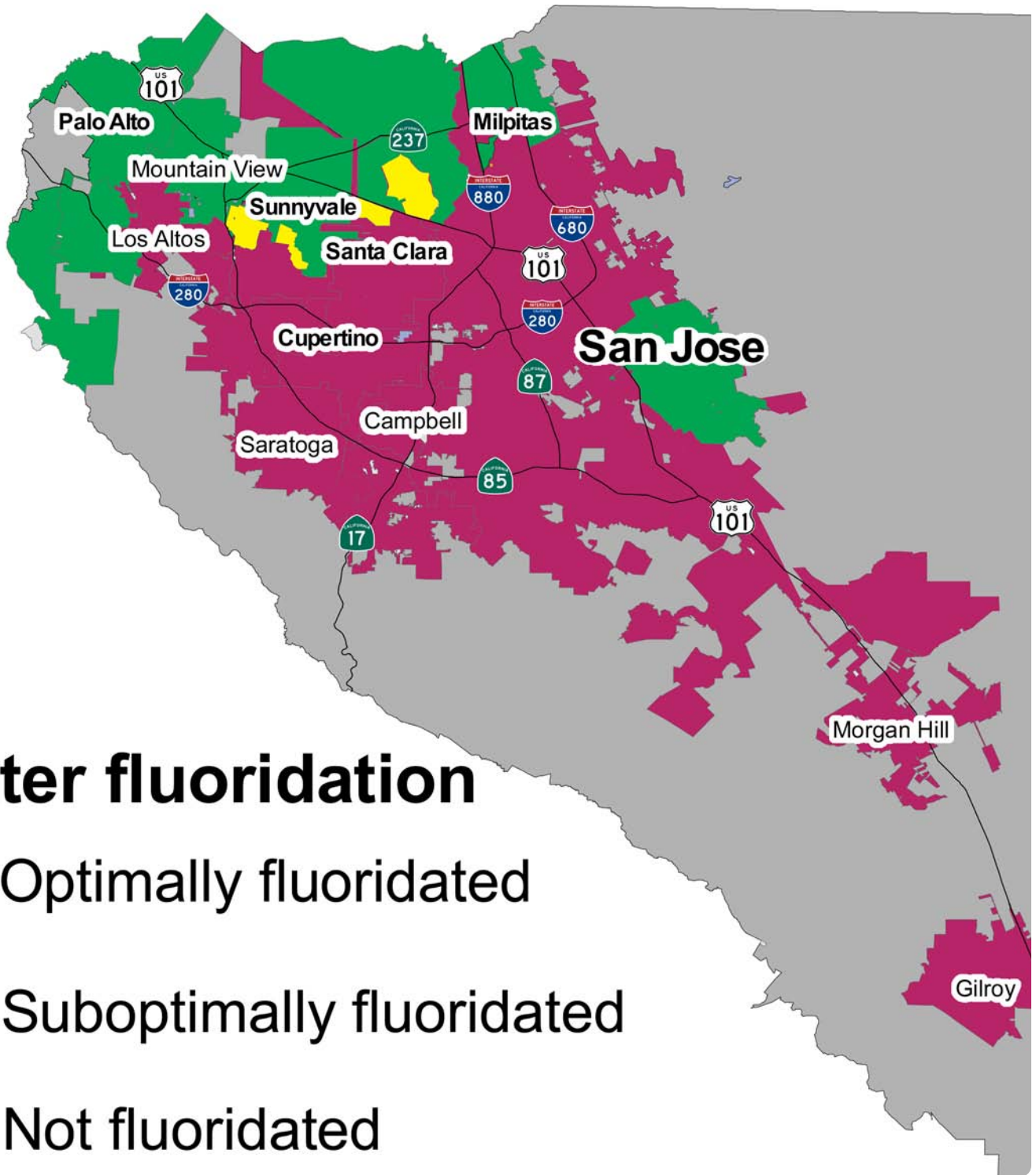
BUILDING CAPACITY TO FLUORIDATE WATER

- Hosted a CDC engineer to conduct a fluoridation workshop with Santa Clara Valley Water District engineers
- Funded the California Dental Association to analyze water systems in Santa Clara County and to determine costs of fluoridation

INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT FLUORIDATION

- Secured editorial supporting fluoridation of water from leading local newspaper
- Produced and distributed literature indicating fluoridation is endorsed by the American Dental Association, Centers for Disease Control, and American Public Health Association
- Began social marketing campaign emphasizing that fluoridation is a safe, effective, and inexpensive way to prevent tooth decay
 - The cost of fluoridation in large communities is \$0.50 per person per year
 - Every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves an estimated \$19 to \$38 in dental costs

Santa Clara County



OUTCOMES

- In-home oral health education resulted in improved oral health practices, increases in preventative visits to the dentist, and greater consumption of fruits and vegetables among participants
- Increased access to dental services for low-income and under-served children and families
- Secured an endorsement of fluoride from the President of the County Board of Supervisors

NEXT STEPS

- Expand the existing dental clinic and fund an additional large-capacity clinic to reach the communities that are in the most need
- Implement recommendations from a Capital Campaign Engineering Study to fluoridate water supplies

Disparities are exacerbated by the lack of community programs such as fluoridated water supplies.

- David Satcher
Former US Surgeon General

About The Health Trust

The mission of The Health Trust is to lead the Silicon Valley community to advance wellness.

The vision of The Health Trust is to make Silicon Valley the healthiest region in America—a place where every resident can achieve optimal health throughout their lifetime, no matter their background, income, race, ethnicity or age.

With a strong emphasis on prevention, we focus our work through three initiatives: Healthy Living, Healthy Aging and Healthy Communities.

For more information visit The Health Trust's website:

www.healthtrust.org

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