



MHS Mobile Dental School-Based Preventative Oral Healthcare Program [About]

The goal of this outreach program is to provide quality preventative dental care to individuals living in Mississippi who may otherwise not have access to dental care on a regular basis. Many Mississippians, especially in the inner city and rural areas, are underserved when we look at oral health care. Not only are these individuals underserved by the lack of providers, but also by the lack of providers accepting state and federal funded programs such as Medicaid and the MS Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Mobile Health Solutions, Inc. has been providing on-site dental care in classrooms since 2009.

Statistics show that oral health significantly affects our children and for this reason, the program is focusing on the elementary schools, Head Start programs, youth summer programs and other organizations in our communities. Since there is such an obvious need, the MHS Dental program (*Approved by the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners*) will be coming directly to your community to offer dental care for the participants in your program. A full range of dental services will be offered and provided by a board certified dentist, a dental hygienist, and their staff. The program will fill an oral health care void in the areas that are underserved.

If a child has dental coverage through any program (Medicaid, CHIPS, Magnolia, private insurance) or has no coverage at all, then that child has the opportunity to be seen by a Board Certified Dentist while under the supervision of their schools, Head Start program, boys & girls club, or other programs. MHS intends to work with local health departments, MS Department of Health, or any organization that will partner with us to help bring quality oral health care to the schools, Head Start and other community programs. Our goal is to bring quality and convenient dental care to areas in Mississippi that are underserved by dental health care professionals.

What We Do.

The MHS Mobile Dental is a group of committed dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants who promote excellence in oral health and provide dental services to patients in non-traditional settings. Using portable equipment, MHS provides high quality dental services in schools, other childcare facilities or Head Start Programs.

Our Dentists Can Provide:

- Examinations
- Sealants
- Radiographs
- Teeth Cleanings
- Fluoride
- Free Toothbrushes
- Referrals to a Dental Home

Why We Do It.

Dentistry in the 21st century is changing. Although many individuals are still able to make regular visits to the dentist, there are many, for various reasons that cannot access a traditional dental office. Lack of transportation, lack of child care, lack of time off for the working parent, lack of local dentists accepting Medicaid, and limited traditional dental office hours are among the multitude of reasons that make mobile dentistry so popular.

How We Do It.

MHS Mobile Dental converts a classroom or any pre-determined area in a school or facility into a "dental office" for the day. Compressors, chairs, portable x-ray machines, sterilizers, high and low volume suction, air water syringe and focused lights are among the various pieces of equipment that are employed. New or disposable supplies are utilized for each patient. A referral base is always available to the patients and their families if further dental work is required.

Program Info for School Districts & Local Dentists:

- We are approved and regularly inspected by the MS State Board of Dental Examiners. We have been approved through MSBDE under Regulation 61 (Mobile/Portable Dental) since 2009. We strictly follow all guidelines put forth by the dental governing & regulatory body of Mississippi.
- Every single consent form, walk-out form, or any other form that MHS Dental distributes HAS been approved by the MSBDE.
- The purpose of this program is not to become a dental home of the patient, but to catch those under-served patients who are not seeing a dentist on a regular basis.
- Since 2009, our stats show that we only receive signed consent forms from approximately 25% of a total student body of most schools we go to. For High Schools that number is less than 10%.
- Of the approximate 25% of a student body that returns consent forms, our numbers show that roughly 35-40% of that 25% have NO insurance coverage at all. We provide those patients with a FREE comp exam, cleaning, fluoride, and sealants. We provide well over \$150 in free dental care to each uninsured child we see. Reference our website and you will see we provide in-kind/free care in the amount of well over \$500,000 per year to those uninsured.
- We only get approximately **less than 5%** returned consent forms from children with private insurance.
- We don't discriminate who can sign up for the program. Any parent that signs their child up will be seen regardless of insurance status.
- Our goal once a child sees us is to refer them to a local dentist that has signed up to be a referral for the area. Our hope is that the dentist will use his limited exam code, the two bite wings that we didn't take and treat the cavity or other issue that we referred them for. Then we hope that the local dentist would discuss with the parent that the child does have dental coverage and that it would be best to continue coming to that, clinic or any other local clinic of their choosing, every 6 months for regular visits and not at the school. Many of our referrals have done that and are now seeing entire new families because of children we have referred through the program.
- Any digital x-ray that we have taken can also be emailed to a dentist office upon request.



MHS Mobile Dental Program [Frequently Asked Questions]

Why should we have a Mobile Dentist at our location?

The U.S. Surgeon General and the Centers for Disease Control recommend in-school dental prevention and sealant programs for low-income children. Do you know that four out of five low-income children never see a dentist in a year? It has also been determined that **85% of all decay in children occurs in this group of low-income children.** Dental disease can be serious and lead to severe infections that can have serious health and learning consequences. Dental decay is highly preventable and the goal of our program is to serve the most vulnerable children who don't see a dentist for simple and highly effective prevention measures.

Do we have to pay MHS Mobile Dental to come to our location?

No. There's no cost to the school or any other program where we provide service.

Does the MHS Mobile Dental school-based program charge a fee to the families of the children?

Most dental insurances, including Medicaid and CHIP, cover 100% of the preventive services that we provide. Also, MHS sees any child that has NO insurance coverage if his parents return a signed consent form. **MHS Mobile Dental gives away between \$700,000 – \$900,000 in free dental care annually to the uninsured.**

How many people actually come to our location?

Our teams generally include a dentist and three to five dental assistants. One of the dental assistants will be working the check-in and checkout process with the computer. Another dental assistant will be assisting with the x-rays and the other assistants will be helping the school or program in getting the children to the dentist and back to class or other activities.

How long will our students be out of the classroom?

On average, the children are with our team for about 20 minutes, but the actual length of time depends on three things: the number of services the child requires, the age of the child and of course how many teeth need to be sealed.

What happens if a child requires a referral for additional dental work?

We have a referral list of dentists and dental public health facilities that accept patients for follow-up work. Every child that visits us in the school-based program will get a form listing a dentist that has agreed to take referrals from this program for any additional or emergency care. Also, if we take x-rays on a child, we will send those upon written request to the dentist providing follow-up care.

Do you see every child in the school or program that you visit?

No. By law, we can ONLY see children who have provided us a consent form that has been signed by a parent or guardian. Our forms have to be approved by the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE).

What do we need to prepare for a visit?

We ask you to do only two things before our visit:

- 1) Hand out the consent forms and health history forms (provided by us) to the children and/or parents and collect them as the children or patients return them.
- 2) Identify a space about 12x12-feet where we can set up our "dental office" that is in close proximity of bathroom and running water and has adequate electrical outlets.



DELIVERING BRIGHT SMILES TO BRIGHT MINDS

MHS Mobile Dental Program [Notable Oral Health Statistics in Children]

Please look at the following children's oral health stats. They provide proof that the frequency of oral disease occurrence directly correlates to disparities in dental care access.

One of the primary indicators of dental decay for children is low socioeconomic status. Approximately one in five Mississippians lives in poverty, and of this 20 percent, over one-third (38%) are children ages 17 and younger (*U.S. Census Bureau, 2000*). Therefore, a high percentage of the Mississippi school-age population is in a high-risk group for dental decay.

In the 2003 "*Keep America Smiling: Oral Health in America*" report by Oral Health America, Mississippi received an overall mark of "D+" compared to the national overall mark of "C." While Mississippi has begun to address the oral health needs of its children, many opportunities remain in the areas of prevention and access to dental care.

The statistics below are some of the reasons that the MHS Mobile Dental Program was developed. The following children's oral health stats provide proof that the frequency of oral disease occurrence directly correlates to disparities in dental care access.

Tooth decay (dental caries) is the single most common chronic childhood disease.

Approximately 1 in 5 preschoolers, half of second graders, and four in five 17-year-olds have at least one cavity or filling.

A child suffering from dental pain may have difficulty with school attendance, which compromises their mental and social well-being.

Children living in poverty suffer 2 times the tooth decay and pain, but are only one-half as likely to obtain a dental visit as their affluent peers.

One in four children living in poverty has not seen a dentist before entering kindergarten.

African American children have a much higher proportion (67.4%) of untreated dental caries than White children. (37.3%)

Research results of 5,227 third graders, representing 74 public schools in Mississippi included:

- Almost three in four children (70%) exhibited caries experience.
- Fifteen percent (15%) were in urgent need of dental care.
- African American children had one-half the number of sealants as White children.
- Children without sealants had 3 times the need for urgent care than children with sealants.
- Children with more than one sealant had less need for dental care.

(*Silberman, Mosca, Eklund & Stilley 2001*)



MHS Mobile Dental [Delivering Bright Smiles to Bright Minds.]

As the most widespread, chronic, and preventable childhood disease, dental caries is costly to children, families, and the state. In addition, poor oral health in young children, if untreated, sets the stage for a lifetime of negative health outcomes.

Clearly, continued support for efforts to increase dental care access and caries prevention in Mississippi will be necessary to improve the oral health of our children and to positively affect both the health and educational outcomes of Mississippi's youth.

The program, including the equipment, our procedures, and documentation, is **regularly inspected** by the MSBDE (MS State Board of Dental Examiners). This program is designed to not cost the school nor any patient (Medicaid, CHIP, Private Insurance or non-covered) any out of pocket expenses. The purpose of our outreach dental program is to provide a service of quality and convenient oral health care to anyone that has a need.

We hope that **if** you see a need for increased oral health care in the community, you will consider partnering with MHS Mobile Dental to offer our dental service in your school district or Head Start/Youth program. Our goal for this partnership is to improve the oral health and dental care access to our children by delivering bright smiles to the bright minds of Mississippi's future. A **Memorandum of Understanding** will be provided to be signed by MHS Mobile Dental and your school district or program should we agree to establish a partnership and offer this dental care service at your schools, Boys/girls club or Head Start program locations.

MHS Mobile Dental

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