

National Children's Dental Health Month

February 2024

Rigoberto Vargas, MPH, Director – Ventura County Public Health

Mitchel Sloan, President and CEO – United Way of Ventura County

Michelle To, DDS – Ventura County Champion Provider Fellow

Oral Health Matters

In California, students miss 874,000 days of school due to dental problems, resulting in \$30 million dollar loss in attendance-based funding

More than half of California's current kindergartners have experienced tooth decay, and by third grade, this number rises to over 70 percent

In Ventura County, there are over 90,000 children enrolled in Medi-Cal Dental with approximately 135 dental offices serving the population

In Ventura County, between January 2022 and February 2024, there were 268 Emergency Room visits among residents between the ages of 0-17 related to "Diseases of oral cavity and salivary glands"



Building Healthy Smiles Collaborative



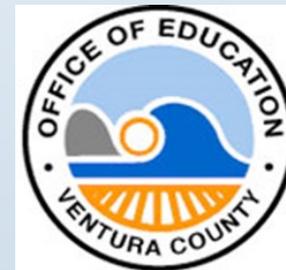
Who We Are

Collaborative
addressing oral health
gaps in services and
access to care barriers

Our Goal

Reduce tooth decay in
children

Building Healthy Smiles Collaborative's Partners



Impacts of Poor Oral Health on Children



PAIN



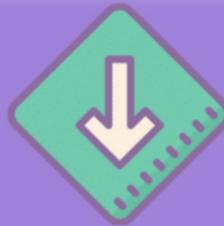
UNABLE TO EAT



UNABLE TO
CONCENTRATE



SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM



LOWER GRADES

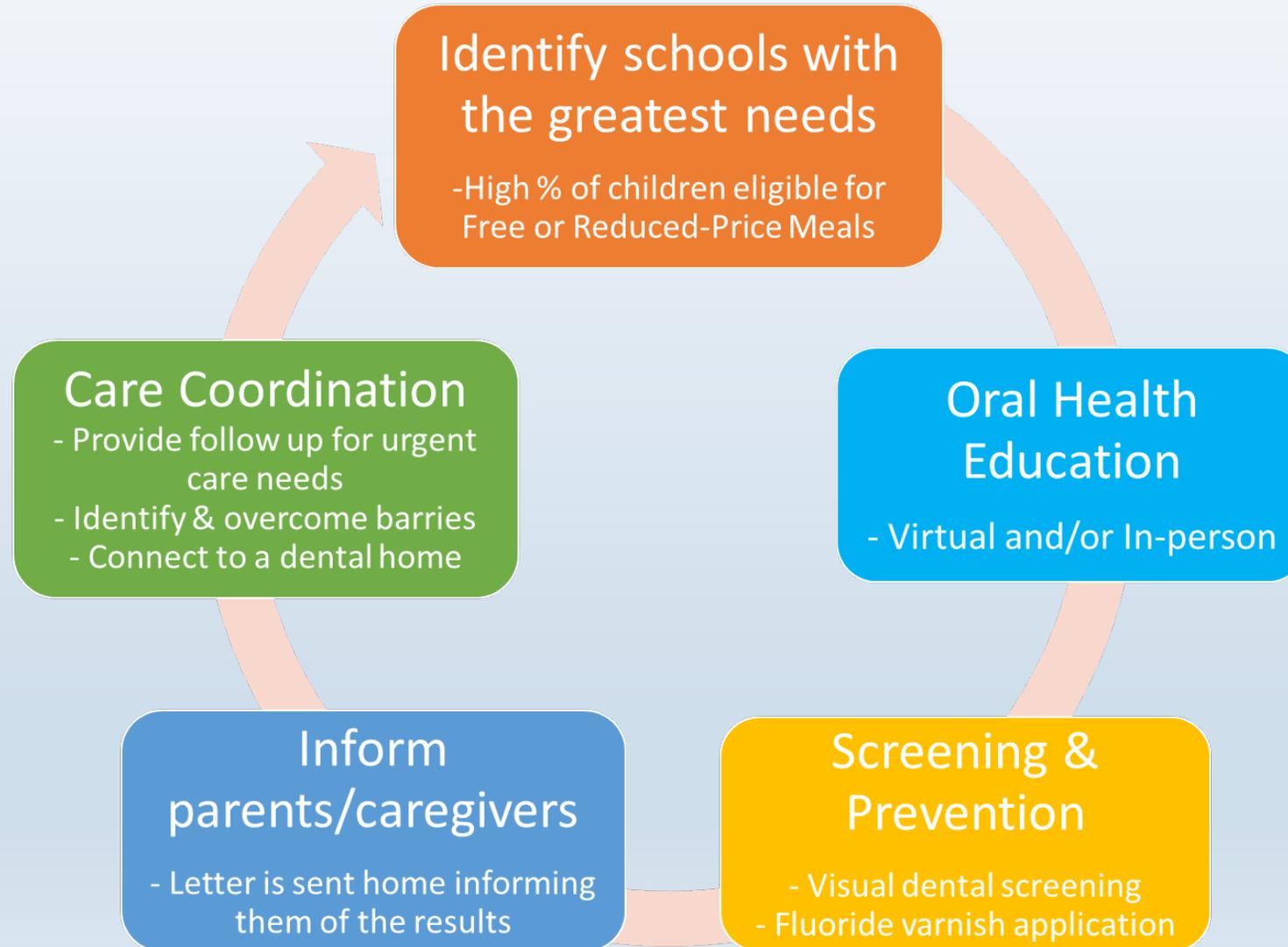


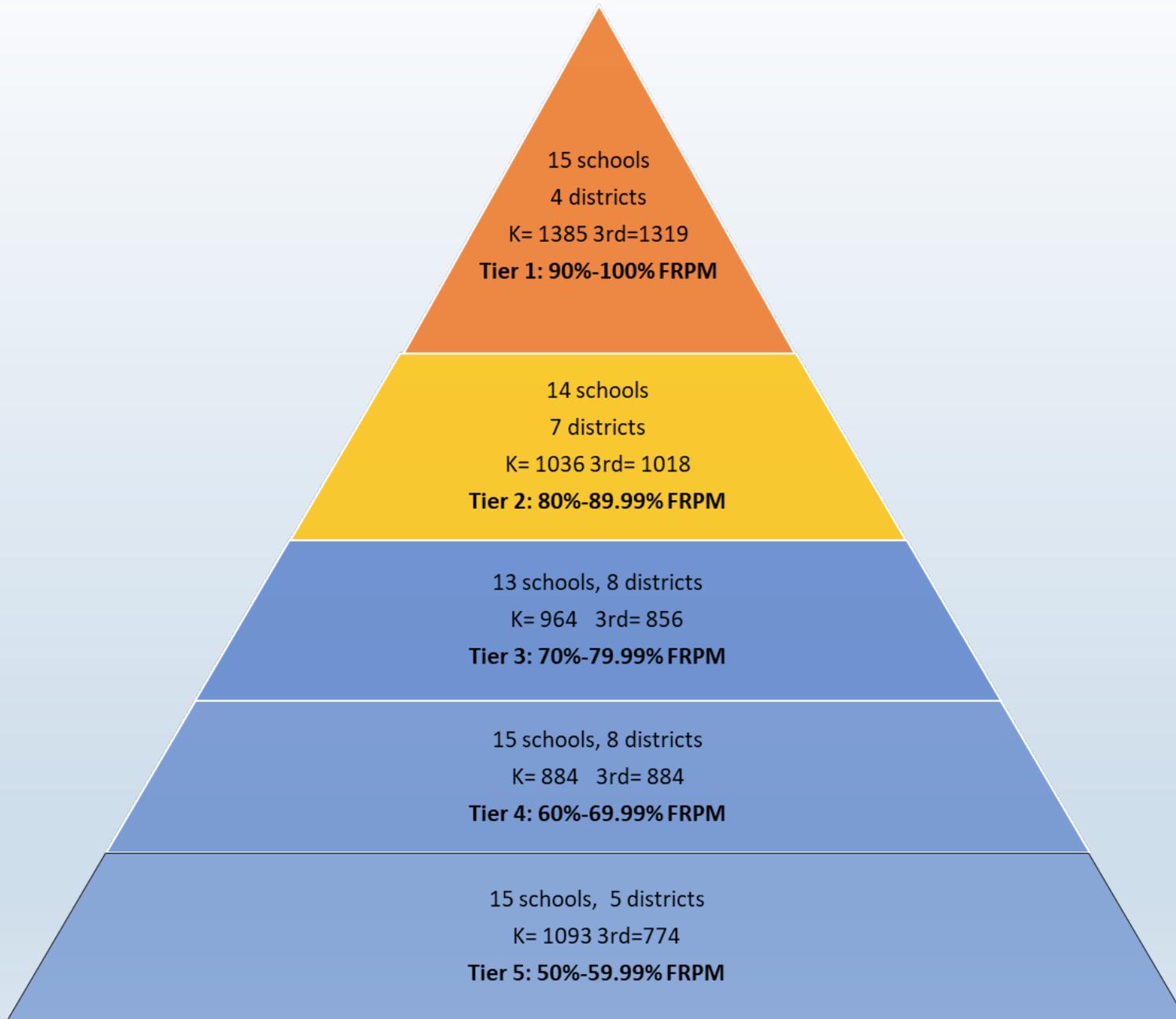
LOW
SELF-ESTEEM

Building Healthy Smiles School Screenings



School-Linked Dental Program





Tiered Approach to ensure schools with highest needs receive preventative dental care

School Partners for Calendar Year 2023-2024

- Santa Paula Unified School District – 3 elementary schools -
January/February
- Hueneme Elementary School District – 6 elementary schools –
February-March
- Ventura Unified School District – 1 elementary school – Tentative



How Many We Have Reached

2019-2020 School Year

1944 Children Screened

2023 received Oral Health Education and Dental Kits

2020-2021 School Year

230 Children Screened

919 received Oral Health Education and Dental Kits

2021-2022 School Year

1228 Children Screened

1472 received Oral Health Education and Dental Kits

2022-2023 School Year

1188 Children Screened

4640 received Oral Health Education and Dental Kits

Thank you

