

# National Children's Dental Health Month

## February 2024

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# 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



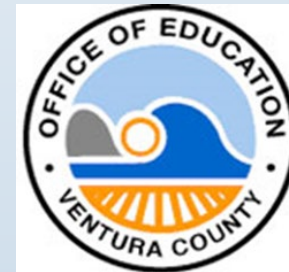
## Who We Are

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



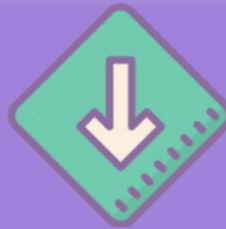
UNABLE TO EAT



UNABLE TO  
CONCENTRATE



SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM



LOWER GRADES

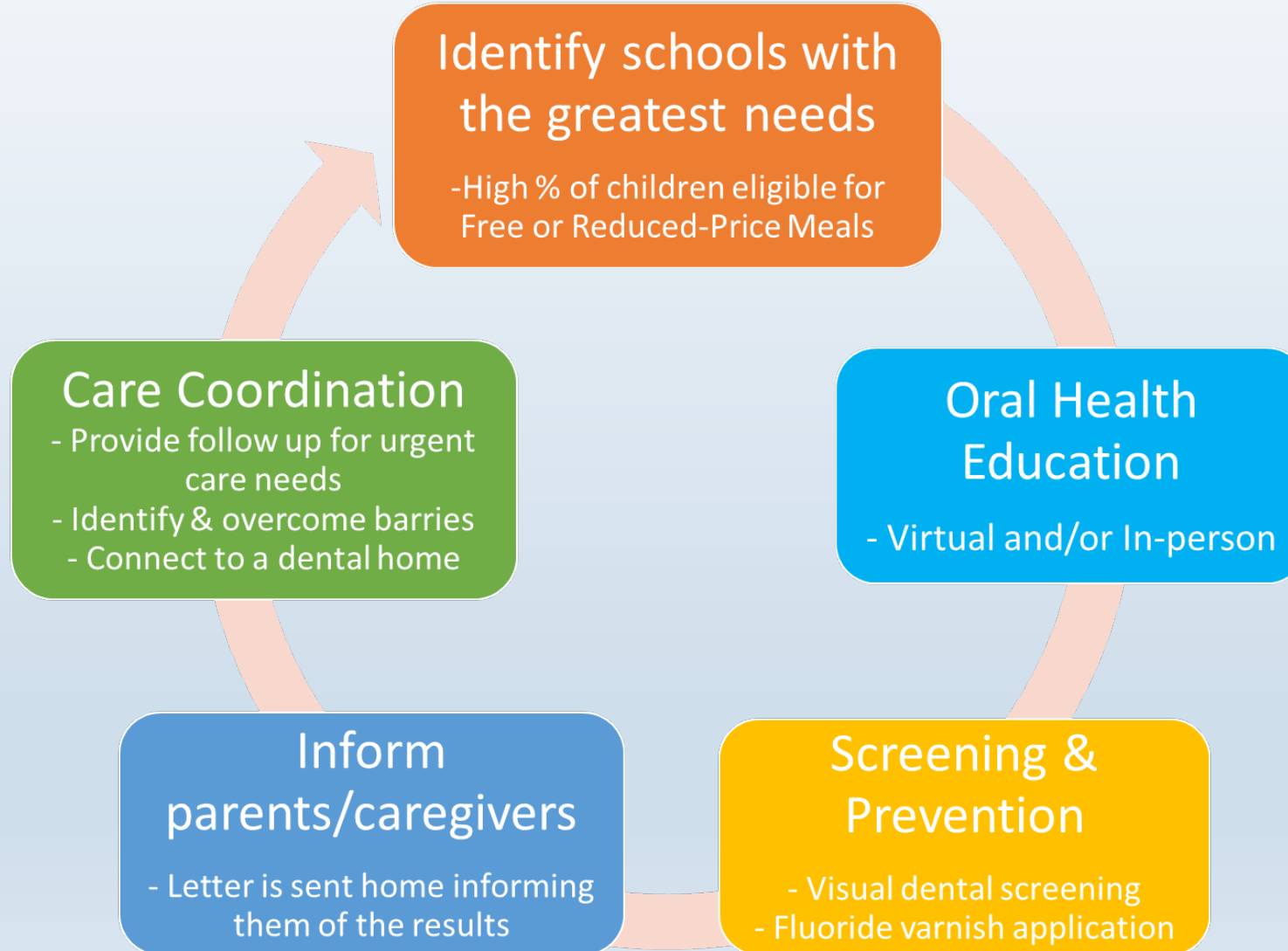


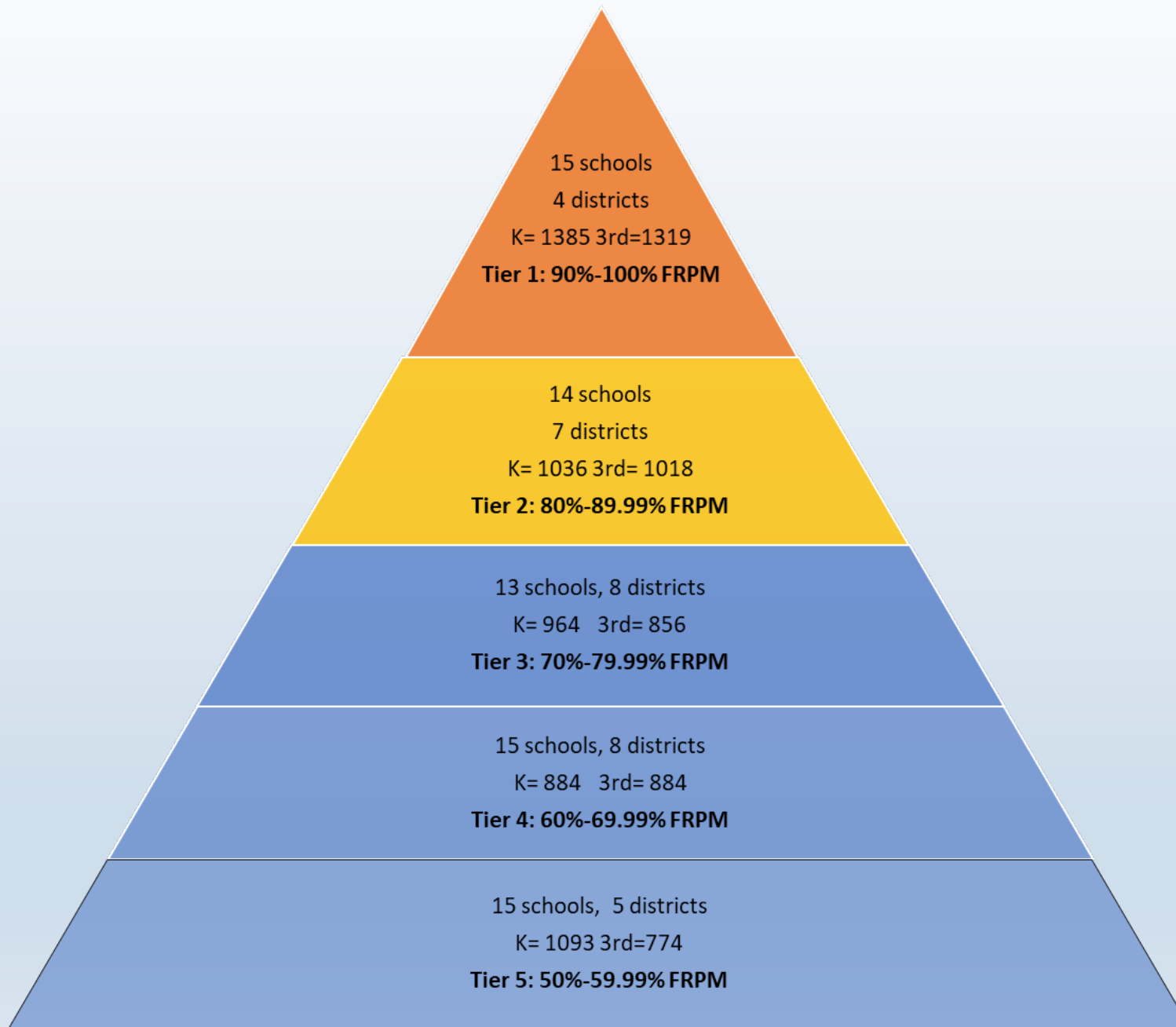
LOW  
SELF-ESTEEM

# 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

