Smile Survey 2020
The Oral Health of Los Angeles County’s Children

About the Survey
More than 10,000 kindergarten and third grade children in 72 public schools received dental screenings

Children’s oral health has improved since 2005

- 17% fewer children have decay experience (includes currently decayed and restored teeth)

- 23% fewer children have untreated decay (includes currently decayed teeth)

Despite improvements, disparities persist

- Lower income children are significantly more likely to have tooth decay compared to their higher income peers

- Children from racial/ethnic minority groups are significantly more likely to have tooth decay compared to White children

Too few children have dental sealants

- Only 31% of 3rd grade children in LA County have sealants compared to a national average of 42%

- Sealants are a safe, cost effective way to prevent decay

On any given day, 4,500 of LA County’s kindergarten and 3rd grade children need urgent dental care.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Oral Health Program
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohp/