



Media Advisory

For Immediate Release: October 17, 2023

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Dientes Launches Dental Care at Middle Schools to Kids in Need *Strategy to Address a Steep Drop off in Receiving Annual Dental Care*

What: Dientes will set up a two-chair mobile dental clinic and will be providing dental services to underserved children at Shoreline Middle School. Photo opportunities of students receiving dental care at school.

When: 10:00-11:00 am, Tuesday, October 24, 2014

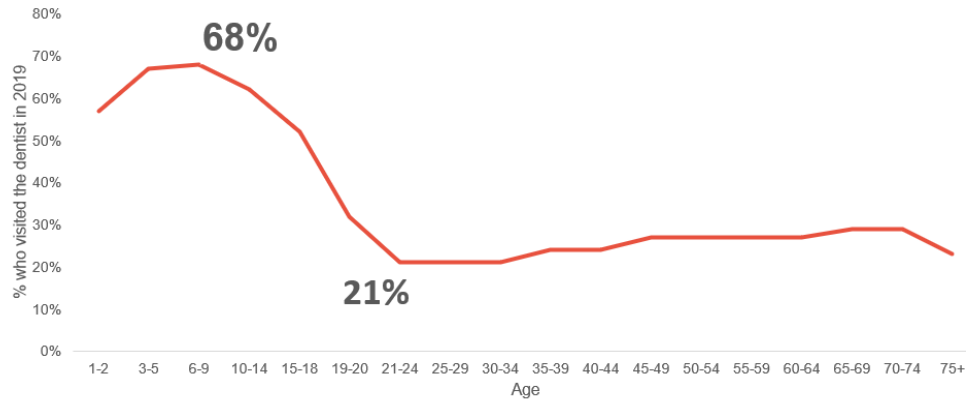
Where: Shoreline Middle School, 855 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Who: Dientes Chief Strategy Officer Sheree Storm and Dientes Outreach Manager Lizette Zamora will be on hand to describe the program and to answer questions.

Why: The hubbub of back-to-school has calmed down and now it is time to focus on learning. But, this is hard to do if you have a toothache and can't get to the dentist. That is why Dientes makes the effort to go to schools to provide oral health education and dental services. This year, Dientes' Outreach Program is serving over 20 schools in five school districts throughout Santa Cruz County, focusing on growing providing care at middle schools. Basic dental services are provided to students from exams and cleanings to fluoride treatments. More complicated treatment is referred to one of four Dientes' clinics, including the new 1500 Capitola Road clinic that includes a 4-chair pediatric suite and is part of a health and housing campus with Santa Cruz Community Health and MidPen Housing.

The expansion of Dientes' Outreach Program to Shoreline Middle School is part of an Oral Health Access Santa Cruz County strategy to address the drop off in going to the dentist that happens after age 9. The highest percentage of people going to the dentist is age 9 at 68%. This drops to 21% by age 21 and stays low for the rest of life, according to the [2022 Oral Health Report](#) that summarizes "[The Continuing Need for Oral Health Services](#)" needs assessment published by Dientes.

After age 9, going to the dentist dramatically drops in Santa Cruz County



Source: "The Continuing Need for Oral Health Services," Barbara Aved Associates, April 2022

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Dientes Community Dental Care's mission is to create lasting oral health for the under-served children and adults in Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities. 96% of Dientes' patients live at or below the poverty level. Dientes accepts Medi-Cal (one of ten providers in Santa Cruz County) and offers sliding scale fees for uninsured patients. Dientes is a proud partner of United Way.