

SF Pregnancy Family Village Report

Four Years of Participation at the Village



Magic Tooth Bus

12.04.2025

INTRODUCTION

The mission of Magic Tooth Bus (MTB), a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2017, is to provide accessible dental care and education to low income communities in San Francisco. We envision a world free of dental disease. Our values are centered on equity, accessibility, and community. Magic Tooth Bus has participated in San Francisco Pregnancy Family Village since June 2022.

Magic Tooth Bus was initially invited to the Pop Up Village in 2022 because dental services and healthy eating are critically important for the health and wellness of Black pregnant people and families.

- Overall, 65% of women had no dental visit during pregnancy; 52% reported a dental problem prenatally, with 62% of those women not receiving care. (National Library of Medicine, 2010)
- Nearly 60 to 75% of pregnant women have gingivitis, an early stage of periodontal disease that occurs when the gums become red and swollen from inflammation that may be aggravated by changing hormones during pregnancy. (ADA, 2006)
- Black children have the highest prevalence of untreated decay 26 percent - almost twice the rate of white children. (The Children's Partnership, 2022)

Services were necessary. However, there were barriers to why pregnant individuals were not receiving the care they needed. The most common reason for not receiving a dental visit was not perceiving a need to go (38%), followed by financial barriers (21%), attitudinal barriers (19%), considering care unsafe (14%), and provider advising against care (8%). (National Library of Medicine, 2010)

Magic Tooth Bus' program helps with resolve—we will bring in a team of dental professionals to provide **dental screenings and fluoride treatment**. Licensed dentists and Registered Dental Hygienists can provide dental screenings. This is done by checking the lips, tongue, teeth, gums, inside of the cheeks, and roof of the mouth to identify oral disease, especially tooth decay, or other oral conditions (for example, delayed tooth eruption or premature tooth loss, abscesses, or trauma). Screenings are not examinations and do not involve making diagnoses that lead to treatment plans. The benefit is to detect early decay and/or dental issues and provide guidance for the next steps the individual should take in their/ their child's oral health.

Fluoride varnish is a naturally occurring mineral that is commonly found in most toothpastes and some mouthrinses. It can help strengthen tooth enamel which is the outer coating of the teeth and help prevent tooth decay, slow it down, or stop it from getting worse.

Our team started with a trial run in June 2022, and decided that our goals were aligned. Magic Tooth Bus continued to provide necessary services to the community.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. To provide easy and accessible dental care to children, pregnant women, and families.
2. To decrease the rate of tooth decay and other dental issues during pregnancy and post-partum
3. To identify dental issues before they become emergencies
4. To connect families with needed dental services and help them establish a dental “home”
5. To provide the best dental service for children, pregnant women, and adults of all ages in a public community to prevent dental problems.
6. To educate the Children, Parents, Guardians, Caregivers, Teachers, and the community about dental care via a fun and unique experience.

OBJECTIVES

1. To know if patients have a dental home
2. To know if patients have dental insurance
3. To identify the chief complaint and if they need an urgent care referral

REFERRALS AND FOLLOW-UPS

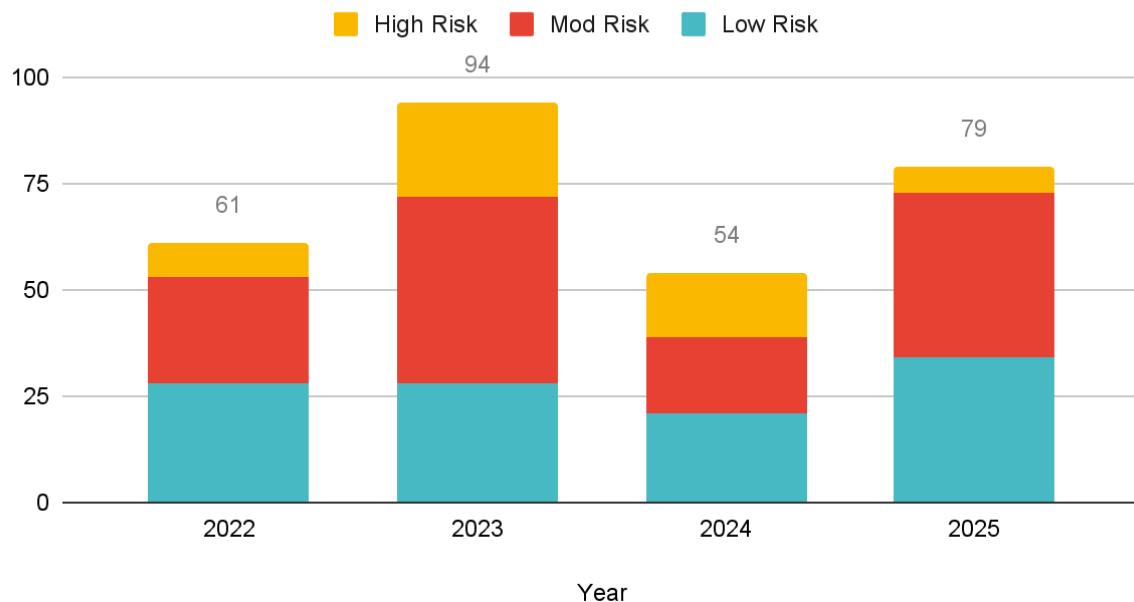
The following list are the most common dental homes recommendations:

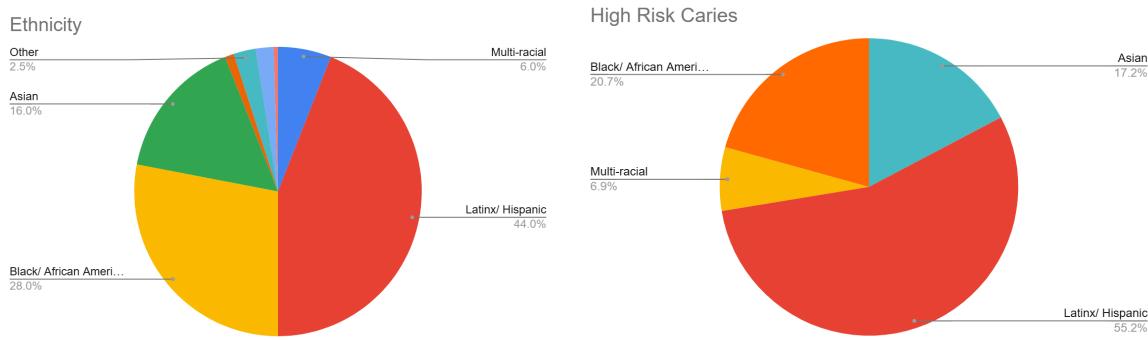
1. Southeast Health Center
2. Children's Choice Dental
3. Bayview Health and Wellness
4. Health Right 360
5. Equity Health
6. Mission Neighborhood Health Center
7. Mission Bay Pediatric Dentistry
8. Potrero Hill Health Center
9. University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)
10. University of the Pacific (UOP)

DATA

| Year | Total # Patients Screened ¹ | Total Fluoride Treatments | Total # Visitors | Total Number of Dental Kits Disbursed | Total Cost of Services Provided ² |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2022 | 61 | 28 | 121 | 651 | \$2,899 |
| 2023 | 94 | 43 | 317 | 1,581 | \$6,744 |
| 2024 | 54 | 21 | 220 | 906 | \$10,008 |
| 2025 | 79 | 27 | 248 | 1,243 | \$16,671 |
| Total | 288 | 103 | 906 | 4,381 | \$36,322 |

Caries Risk Assessment





RESULTS

Overall, SF Pregnancy Family Village visitors need assistance with Medi-Cal Dental application and finding a dental home for comprehensive dental care and routine teeth cleanings. Education surrounding insurance plans and tiers would be beneficial in helping the visitors make better decisions in their dental plan selection.

1. 28% of our visitors identify as Black/ African American³
2. Approximately 30% of our visitors want a dental screening
 - a. 36% of the screened patients received fluoride varnish treatment
3. Approximately 5% of our visitors are returning patients
4. 56 patients identified as Black/ African American
 - a. Of which 11% were high risk of tooth decay
 - b. Of all individuals with a high risk of tooth decay, 20.7% were Black/ African American patients
5. Approximately 67% of our patients identified as woman
6. 100% of visitors who wanted information on dental clinics received resources

RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Some recommendations and feedback from our team

1. Data Collection
 - a. Our team will continue to collect data from visitors to help with program assessment. We plan to begin collecting data on the number of pregnant patients that receive a dental screening.
 - b. We will continue to make improvements on what data to collect and how it is collected. We may begin to conduct short interviews and ask returning visitors to

complete short questionnaires related to their dental journey.

2. Oral Health Education as a requirement

- a. Visitors will now be required to participate in a short demonstration of proper brushing and flossing prior to receiving their dental kits.
- b. Visitors will be asked to participate in surveys to determine if this is beneficial.
- c. Surveys will also help Magic Tooth Bus determine if they have the proper oral hygiene knowledge, enhancing the education component.

3. Same patients/visitors and sequence of events

- a. Lack of excitement:
- b. Need to attract new visitors

CONCLUSION

Our regular participation became more than just visits—they became a trusted space where people felt empowered to return, chat, and help us build a healthier community. The power of prevention and education is our key driving force. The impact of education which will instill good oral health habits and create an understanding about how to keep teeth healthy and why it is important to visit the dentist regularly is reinforced during the screening. Our organizations are the resources for families and caregivers for oral health questions and concerns. Targeting young children and their families will establish a foundation for success in keeping the mouth healthy and clean. We hope we motivated and inspired the families, pregnant mothers, fathers, guardians and children to take care of their oral health by giving them the knowledge of proper oral hygiene, the status of their dental health by sharing dental screening findings and where to get connected to dental care.

Magic Tooth Bus will continue to enhance our programs and services for the community. It is a privilege to partner with **San Francisco Pregnancy Family Village**, and we anticipate even greater shared achievements as we continue our work together in 2026.

FOOTNOTES

1. Between 2022-2024, screening services was not provided at every event participation
2. Total Cost of Services Provided excludes the cost of dental kits
3. Ethnicity collection was inconsistent before 2023