



## MAGIC TOOTHBUS Report

Site: Martinez Early Childhood Center

Report Date: April 20, 2022

Magic ToothBus (MTB) and Altruistic Dental Smiles (ADS) collaborated in a “Give Kids A Smile” Event for Martinez Early Childhood Center (MECC) on March 31, 2022. MECC is a private, non-profit early education school serving around 70 children that are mixed with infants and toddlers that ages 3 to 5 years old.

### PROGRAM GOALS

Magic ToothBus is passionate about closing the service gap among underserved children and adults. The goal is to strengthen partnerships with Public Schools, Community Based Organizations and Community Health Centers to provide more options for treatment. Our dental program seeks to reduce access barriers and increase dental services directed to low-income families. Our fully equipped mobile clinic takes low-cost services right into the community, thus removing barriers of cost and lack of transportation. The mobile clinic goes out to schools, low-income housing apartments and community centers around the county in order to provide dental services in convenient, accessible locations to help ensure more families.

The ultimate goal is to build a healthier community by decreasing the rate of cavity prevalence and dental diseases. Magic ToothBus will provide a fun, creative and engaging curriculum to present to students and families on sites.

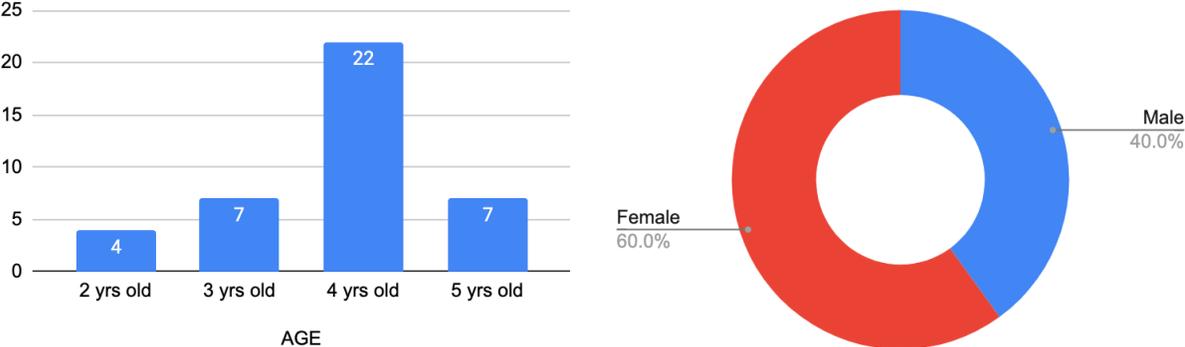
Through our fun, creative, and engaging oral health presentations, we aspire to:

- Close the disparity gap among those living in low-income communities.
- Motivate students, teachers, caregivers, and families to become more aware of their oral health;
- Expand our audience’s knowledge on proper oral hygiene;
- Underline the importance of maintaining a healthy oral hygiene;
- Break the negative stigma attached to dentistry;
- Build a positive foundation to prepare families for oral health success;
- Create a magical experience for our audience by providing oral health tips and quicker access to dental services, and;
- Strengthen partnerships with public schools, early education agencies, community-based organizations and community health centers so that we can provide a safety net and prevent disease progression.

### Day of Services

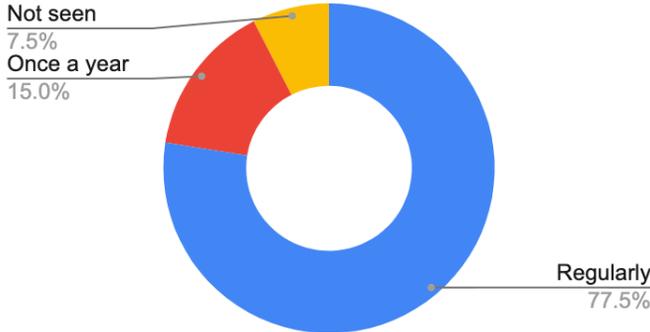
MTB and ADS provided oral health education, dental screening services, and fluoride application to students who consented to service. Teachers would provide lessons the week prior to the event to their students to get them excited about the event. During the day of the event, MTB would first get the students excited by talking about teeth and preparing the students on what to expect when the dentist screens their mouth. Oral health presentation was performed for all students regardless of receiving consent forms. Then the students would be called to receive the screening while the rest of the group continues with the oral health lessons. After screening and if consented, students would receive fluoride treatment. If no fluoride treatment consented, students would either be dismissed or directed to return to oral health education.

Of the 50 consents received, 38 students accepted screenings and 12 declined. Students who declined have recently visited a dental office. The following two diagrams show the breakdown of the age and gender of the students screened.



Children should see a dentist before the age of one. Per the Dental Visit diagram, the majority of the students from Martinez Early Childhood Center have already seen a dentist. Only 3 of the 38 students have not yet seen a dentist. [Why have they not seen a dentist? Should they see a dentist? Were they screened?]

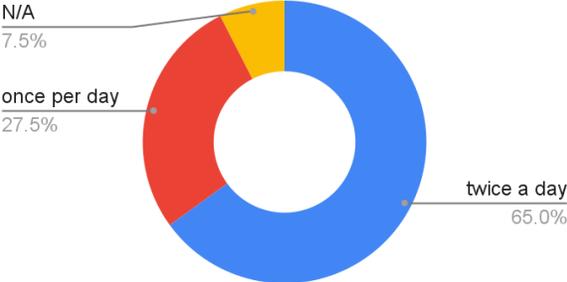
### Dental Visit



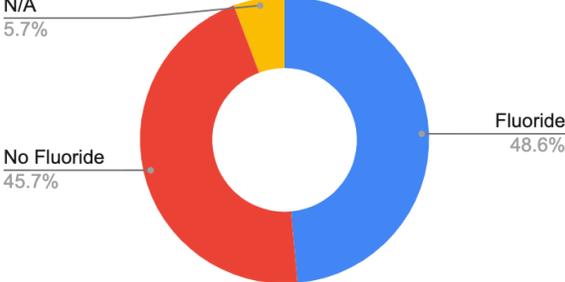
### At Home Habits

Students are recommended to brush at least twice per day for two minutes. This was reinforced during the oral health education.

#### Brushing Habit



#### Toothpaste Type



\*Note that the “N/A” responses were due to language barriers.

Per these two diagrams, over 60% of MECC students are brushing at least twice per day. Per guidelines, children over the age of 3 should use fluoride toothpaste. Therefore, 70% of the students should be using toothpaste with fluoride. However, our Toothpaste Type diagram only shows 49% of the students use Fluoride toothpaste. The reasons these students may not be using fluoride toothpaste are 1) parents do not believe that fluoride is safe for their child to swallow or use, 2) parents do not understand fluoride or 3) parents do not know that toothpastes had differences between fluoride and no fluoride. There should be an increase in awareness of fluoridated toothpaste by providing more education around its use.

### Referrals and Follow Up

Only 2 of the 38 students screened were referred to a dental clinic. Of the two students, only one student needed urgent dental care. Upon following up, the child was able to make a dental appointment to be seen.

## Recommendations and Improvements

Overall, MECC students are doing well with their oral health habits.

1. We recommend the continuous reinforcement of brushing twice per day and using fluoridated toothpaste.
2. We recommend flossing their teeth at least once a day.
3. To incorporate good oral hygiene habit in the classroom
4. To show videos about good oral hygiene in the classroom
5. We reminded the advising teachers to speak to the parents to regularly bring their child to their dental appointments for monitoring and regular teeth cleaning.
6. There was an open discussion of possible dental services in the future by Magic Tooth Bus and ADS.

## Conclusion

We hope we motivated and inspired the children to take care of their oral health by giving them the knowledge of proper oral hygiene. The power of prevention and education is our key driving force. The impact of education will instill good oral health habits and create an understanding about what occurs in the dental office. Our organizations are the resources for teachers, parents 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. Magic ToothBus has delivered a fun oral health curriculum that is easy to follow and that gives an orientation to the children before they are seen for dental screenings.