

Addressing Oral Health Inequities in Los Angeles County

Prioritizing Elementary Schools at the Highest Risk

THE CHALLENGE



Low-income children have more tooth decay than higher income children



Latino/Latinx, Black/African American & Asian American children have more decay than White children



Children from Spanish speaking households have more tooth decay than children from English speaking households



Too few children have protective dental sealants, a simple, cost effective way to prevent tooth decay

ROADMAP FOR IMPROVEMENT



Develop programs to help assure that all kindergarten children receive their kindergarten oral health assessment



Identify and provide services in schools with the largest number of low-income and non-White children



Continue to develop and distribute oral health education materials in Spanish, English & additional languages



Expand school-based sealant programs in the highest risk schools

PRIORITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

There are more than 1,300 public elementary schools in LA County. The LA County Department of Public Health, Oral Health Program used the following criterion to select 63 priority elementary schools:

- More than 90% of children in the school are eligible for free meals which means they live in a household with an annual income below 130% of the federal poverty level (\$28,236/year for a family of three).

Number of priority schools by school district:

- Los Angeles Unified School District
 - 45 schools
- All other school districts in LA County
 - 18 schools

Description of students in the 63 schools:

- 98% are Hispanic and/or non-White
- 38% are English as a second language (ESL)

Approximately 95% of the priority schools are within the lowest California Healthy Places Index (HPI) zone.

