

The Healthy Smiles program was established in 1997 after a needs assessment by Dr. Chester Douglass of Harvard School of Dental Medicine found that nearly a third of Cambridge first graders had untreated cavities. Healthy Smiles has been enormously successful in identifying Cambridge children at risk for dental disease. About 3,000 elementary school children, preschoolers, and toddlers are screened each year. During the 2008-2009 school year, almost one in four children were referred to a dentist for treatment.

### **Cambridge Healthy Smiles Program**

For more information, please contact:

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**A Children's Oral Health Program  
in Cambridge Schools**



**Question:** What is the most common disease in children?

**Answer:** Tooth decay

## Cambridge Healthy Smiles Program

A Children's Oral Health Program in Cambridge Schools



- Oral health education in the classroom
- Free dental screening at your child's school
  - Free toothbrush



The Cambridge Public Health Department wants your child to have a healthy mouth!

It's easy for you AND your child... because we are bringing the dental screening directly to your school.

## Why are dental screenings important?

Children should see a dentist two times each year for good oral health. A simple dental screening can identify a serious problem early, so the child can get treatment right away.

## Who provides the services?

The dental screenings are a program of the Cambridge Public Health Department. A dental hygienist or dentist does these screenings.

## How much does it cost?

The dental screening is free for all children.

## Do all children at the school receive a free dental screening?

Yes. If you do not want your child to receive a free dental screening, return the permission slip to your child's teacher.

## What if I have questions or want more information?

Please call Joyce Lefevre at the Cambridge Public Health Department at (617) 665-3806.