



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jill Griswold (760) 740-4288  
Cell (760) 533-5633

## **CHILDREN IN NORTH COUNTY GIVEN SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT** ***Free Sealants and Fluoride Varnish Provided to Kids Without Dental Coverage***

More than 250 children will be all smiles when they take part in a free dental clinic, offered by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). The second in five months in the North County, the clinic will take place Saturday, April 16, and will be staffed by dental professionals who have volunteered their time to provide dental screening, sealants and fluoride varnish, as well as dental education to the children and their families, without dental resources.

“We’re so pleased to be able to offer this second clinic to meet the dental needs of our North County communities,” said County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman, Pam Slater-Price, who highlighted dental health as one of her priorities. “This clinic is an example of how public/private partnerships can leverage resources and give our children something to smile about.”

“Tooth decay is the most common infectious disease among children in this country,” according to Peggy Yamagata, manager of HHSA’s [Dental Health Initiative](#). “Painting dental sealants and fluoride varnish on teeth is a safe and painless way to help prevent cavities.”

Unfortunately, many children do not receive routine dental care and prevention services due to lack of insurance. In fact, for every child without medical insurance in this country, it is estimated that there are over 2.6 without dental insurance. Adding to this problem is the shortage of dental professionals in some areas of North San Diego County.

This event is sponsored by Chairwoman Slater-Price’s office, and organized by HHSA’s North County Dental Task Force, the [Share the Care Dental Program](#), the [San Diego County Dental Society](#), San Diego County Dental Hygienists’ Society, [San Diego County SMILES](#) Program, Mesa Community College Dental Assisting Program and Southwestern College’s Dental Hygiene Program.

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