



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2003

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MEDIA ADVISORY

COUNTY TO SCREEN CHILDREN FOR ORTHODONTIC SERVICES *Annual Clinic Brings Straight, Healthy Smiles to Children in Low-Income Families*

- WHO:** Eligible children between the ages of 13-18 will be screened for free orthodontic services through the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, California Children Services program (CCS). Only children with evidence of severe misalignment of their teeth should be referred. Children under 13 may only be referred if they can show evidence that they have their permanent adult teeth. *Some families based on their income may have to contribute a minimal program fee for this service; children covered by Medi-Cal are not eligible as they are covered by Denti-Cal for this service.*
- WHAT:** Qualified children will receive services to straighten and align their teeth, and possibly even jaw surgery to correct the position of their teeth. Because orthodontic treatments can take several years, CCS funding enables eligible families to obtain this treatment. The child must have oral hygiene and cavities under control.
- HOW:** Referrals can be made by a doctor, dentist, school nurse, or families can self refer by calling (619) 528-4000. Pre-screening by an orthodontist is NOT required. ***Children MUST go through the referral process prior to attending the screening clinic. Walk-ins will NOT be accepted on the day of the clinic.***
- WHEN:** Referrals due by: Friday, Oct. 3, 2003
- WHERE:** Directions will be provided upon confirmation of referral
- WHY:** Recent studies have shown that poor dental and orthodontic health can negatively affect health in other areas. Children with severely misaligned teeth may experience problems with chewing, which can lead to digestive issues, as well as difficulty keeping the teeth clean.

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