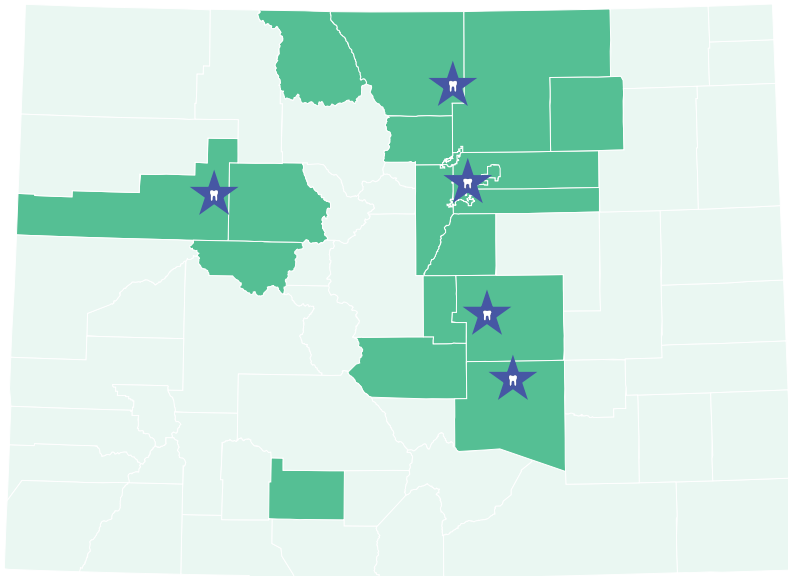


# Healthy Smiles Evaluation Findings

Prepared by Vantage Evaluation for Healthy Child Care Colorado

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In 2018, Healthy Child Care Colorado (HCCC) hosted **five Healthy Smiles Summits across Colorado** (locations shown as stars in the map below). At the Summits, HCCC aimed to: 1) provide free dental screenings for children; 2) raise awareness of early childhood oral health among early childhood education (ECE) providers; and 3) enable ECE providers to integrate oral health best practices and policies to sustain those practices into their programs. Following the Summits, a subgroup of ECE providers who attended the Summits received continued support from Healthy Smiles Champions and HCCC staff to implement oral health practices and policies in their programs.

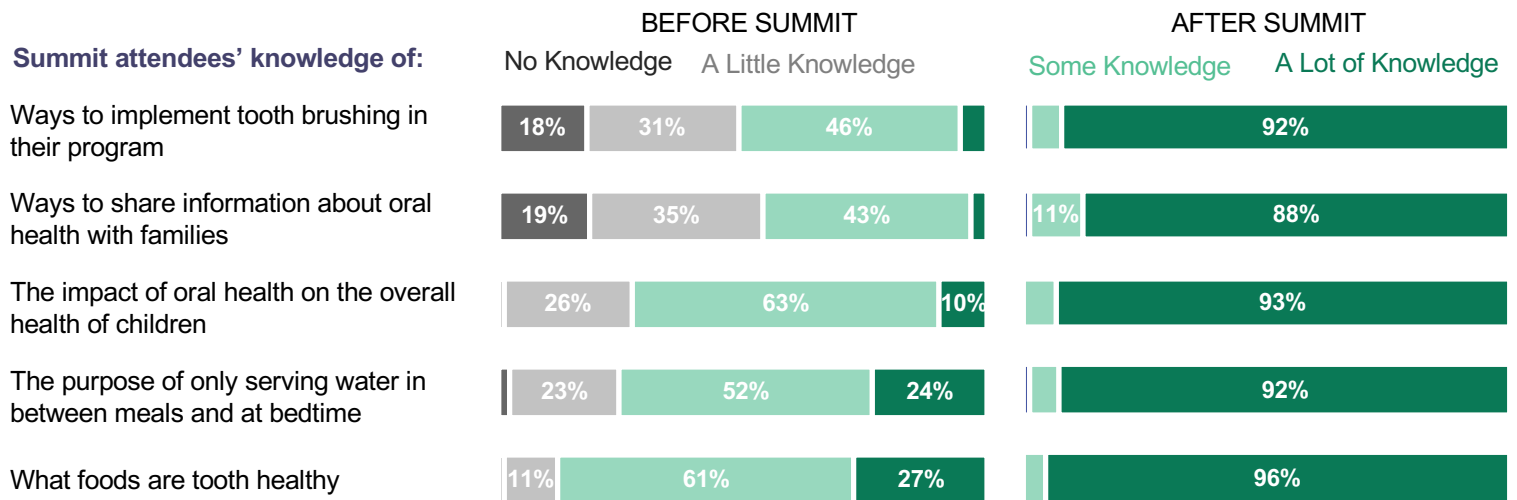


**59** Children received free dental screenings at the Summits.

**110** Early childhood education providers who work in 18 counties across Colorado attended the Summits. They gained knowledge about early childhood oral health and ways to promote oral health in their programs.

**16** Early childhood education providers received ongoing support from Healthy Smiles Champions and HCCC staff. They used the information and skills learned at the Summits, combined with the additional support, to implement oral health best practices and policies in their programs.

**At the Summits, the majority of attendees gained knowledge and awareness of early childhood oral health best practices. This knowledge gain was especially strong for tooth brushing and sharing information with families.**



- All Summit attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the Summit:
- **Motivated them** to help staff and leadership improve oral health practices in their programs;
  - Provided **new information** about ways to support oral health in their programs;
  - **Prepared them** to implement oral health best practices and activities in their programs; and
  - Provided materials that will help programs **sustain the use of oral health best practices in their programs.**

*“This training was super helpful and motivating. I received all of the tools we need to implement [oral health best practices] in our program.”*

-- Colorado Springs Summit Attendee



## The majority of Summit attendees left intending to use and share what they learned, specifically they planned to:



Share oral health materials with families (78% of Summit attendees)



Use Cavity Free Kids activities with children in their programs (77% of Summit attendees)



Implement tooth brushing in their programs (77% of Summit attendees)

30% of Summit attendees reported that they already use tooth brushing in some classes in their programs.



Create and/or revise policies to promote and sustain the use of oral health best practices in the classroom (66% of Summit attendees)

### Following the Summits, 16 ECE staff and directors received ongoing support to implement oral health best practices and policies to sustain those practices in their programs.

With support from Health Smiles Champions and HCCC staff, the 16 ECE staff and directors implemented **tooth brushing in 44 classrooms caring for over 350 children** across Colorado, including:



**7** Infant classrooms



**10** Toddler classrooms



**25** Preschool classrooms



**2** School-aged classrooms

All 16 ECE staff and directors that received ongoing assistance from Healthy Smiles Champions **created or revised tooth brushing and water policies to sustain the use of oral health best practices in their programs.**

*"We are so thankful for the education and resources provided. Our kids are jazzed about the lessons and tooth brushing, and our families have been thankful we are working on this at school."*

-- ECE Program Director

## Healthy Smiles 2018 Evaluation Approach

Vantage Evaluation used a mixed-methods evaluation approach to draw on the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative data sources to understand: 1) the extent to which participants in the Healthy Smiles Summits and Healthy Smiles Program increased their knowledge and awareness of early childhood oral health best practices; 2) the extent to which participants and their ECE programs implemented the oral health promotion practices; and 3) if the ECE programs implemented policies to sustain their improvements in oral health practices.

Specifically, Vantage used the following sources of information in the evaluation:

### AT THE SUMMITS

**104** Point of Contact Reflections from **Healthy Smiles Summit Attendees.**

**99** Post-Summit Survey Responses from **Healthy Smiles Summit Attendees** (90% response rate).

A portion of the surveys implemented immediately after the Summits used retrospective, pre-post questions. This allowed participants to self-assess the knowledge and skills gained during the training, stating both their pre-training knowledge level and post-training knowledge directly following the training.

### FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS

**14** Healthy Smiles Champions (100% response rate) & **14** ECE program staff or directors (88% response rate) completed follow-up surveys six weeks after completing the Healthy Smiles Program. Information about ECE programs' implementation of oral health practices was compiled from both the Health Smiles Champions & ECE staff or directors.

### ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Healthy Child Care Colorado staff and volunteers collected data on the number of attendees at each summit as well as reports from Healthy Smiles Champions that listed the number of programs that implemented policy changes.

