



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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**Massachusetts Dentists Give
Children In Need a Reason to Smile**

In observance of February's National Children's Dental Health Month, 125 Massachusetts Dental Society member dentists volunteered to take part in the American Dental Association's annual *Give Kids a Smile* program.

This year, the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) partnered with Head Start programs throughout the state to provide free dental exams and any necessary follow-up treatment for children participating in the Head Start program. Members also volunteered to provide local first-grade students with classroom presentations on the importance of taking care of their oral health.

The purpose of *Give Kids a Smile* is to help disadvantaged children access dental services and to highlight for lawmakers and policymakers the ongoing challenges that low-income children face in accessing even dental care.

A recent study released by the Catalyst Institute found that children from low-income families were more likely to suffer from tooth and gum problems.

"I think it's wonderful that our members are working together to fight oral diseases that disproportionately affect disadvantaged children," says Dr. Andrea Richman, president of the MDS.

Nationwide, more than 12,000 dentists and their staffs took part in *Give Kids a Smile*.

For more information on *Give Kids a Smile*, contact the Massachusetts Dental Society at (800) 342-8747 or visit www.massdental.org.

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