

Delta Dental of South Dakota's

Mobile Program

The Delta Dental Mobile Program provides oral health services to children who don't have access to dental care. The program includes two mobile dental clinic trucks that travel the state and dental hygienists and community health workers based on the state's Native American reservations.

The Mobile Program serves approximately 5,000 kids across South Dakota every year. Care provided through the Mobile Program is at no cost to the child or family.

Mobile Clinic Trucks

The Mobile Program began in 2004 and its mobile dental clinic trucks have visited 86 communities across South Dakota, treating 50,000 patients with more than \$29 million in dental care.

The current trucks – Molar 1 & Molar 2 – began service in 2017. Each truck is 40 feet long with two dental operatories to treat patients with preventive, diagnostic and restorative care.



Delta Dental of South Dakota (DDSD) manages, operates and staffs the trucks. Local community agencies act as site partners to host a truck visit, providing the location, promoting the clinic, and recruiting and registering patients.

Each truck travels with a dentist, hygienist, 2 dental assistants and a coordinator.

It costs approximately \$26,000 per week to operate each truck. Local sponsors contribute a modest stipend, generally \$2,500 per week, for the clinic visit.

Children through age 21 who have not seen a dentist within the past two years or who live more than 85 miles from a dentist are eligible for care.

The mobile clinic trucks serve a total of approximately 3,000 kids every year.

Each truck travels across South Dakota an average of 40 weeks every year.



A **typical week** for **each truck** includes:



Average number of kids treated each week

36



Percent of kids treated who have tooth decay

59%



Average value of care provided to each child

\$911



Average total value of dental care each week

\$32,777

Community-based care on Native American Reservations

The Mobile Program also includes dental hygienists and community health workers in communities on South Dakota's Native American Reservations who provide oral health education, preventive care clinics, and support to access urgent dental care.

This facet of the Mobile Program began in 2013 and has provided \$6.4 million in preventive care to more than 15,000 kids.

Mobile Program staff work with local schools and Head Start programs to host preventive care clinics for kids in grades K-8. Staff use portable equipment in a spare room at each location to provide oral health screening, cleanings, fluoride varnish treatments, and dental sealants.



Mobile Program staff provide over 300 days of preventive clinics each year, serving around 2,000 kids. Since the program began, care has included:



Total patient visits

33,681



Total sealants placed

54,774



Total fluoride varnish treatments

33,350

For more information about Delta Dental's community activities, visit <https://southdakota.deltadental.com/mission/> or contact Mike Mueller, Communications Director, at 605-224-7345 or mike.mueller@deltadentalsd.com