

Special Smiles® – dentistry



Description:

The Special Smiles® discipline of Healthy Athletes provides comprehensive oral health care information, including offering free dental screenings and instructions on correct brushing and flossing techniques to participating Special Olympics athletes. Special Smiles® has demonstrated remarkable success in creating awareness and improving access to dental care for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Chosen outcomes:

Special Olympics studies in Germany 2009 - 2020 (N=10.700)
34% needed dental treatment.

Special Olympics National Games Berlin 2022 (N=485)
6% reported pain in the mouth.
85% have a family dentist.

Volunteer at Special Smiles:

Medical background:

- Dentists
- Dental professionals
- Students and trainees of the above mentioned professions

Task description:

- Dental and oral hygiene exercises, as well as education
- Non-invasive dental examinations
- Education on a diet for healthy teeth