

Special Olympics Special Smiles: Virtual Special Smiles Self Assessment Program and Poll (VSSSAPP)

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Introduction

Special Olympics is the world's largest public health organization for people with intellectual disabilities, delivering access to free health services for a population with significant, unmet health needs. Healthy Athletes provides accessible information, resources, systems, and policies at the individual, community, national, and global levels.

The Special Smiles discipline of Healthy Athletes provides attainable information, resources, and comprehensive oral health care to participating Special Olympics athletes.



Figure 1. Special Olympics Special Smiles dental screening event with dental resident and student volunteers.

Objectives

COVID-19 forced Special Olympics to cancel its in-person Healthy Athletes Screening (HAS) program for an undetermined period of time. The HAS program collects information on the dental status of each athlete to calculate statistics on the Healthy Athletes population.

Virtual Smiles Self Assessment Program and Poll (VSSSAPP) was created by adapting the Special Smiles "Training Manual for Standardized Oral Health Screening".

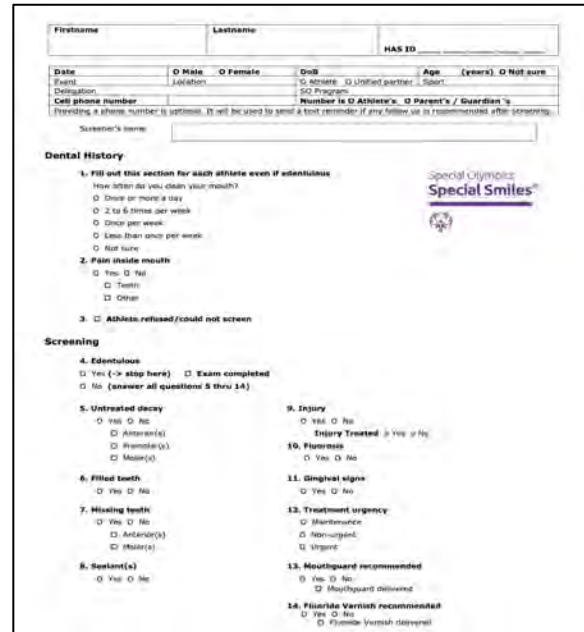
Participants of Virtual Screening

- Special Olympic Special Smiles Healthy Athletes and Caregivers
- Special Olympic Special Smiles representatives
- Trained Special Smiles Clinical Directors (CDs) to oversee the program
- Dental student volunteers, dental residents, hygiene students
- Licensed dental professionals trained to supervise and host breakout rooms

Theoretical Framework of VSSSAPP

- Multimedia to help athletes identify their habits, understand their current oral health, and to identify their risk assessment
- Zoom polling gathered participant responses for shared feedback and analysis by Special Olympics Special Smiles
- Breakout rooms provided opportunities for athletes to ask questions that were not addressed or clarified during the poll
- Questions with group participation led to clearer understanding of topics
- Opportunity to sign up for "one on one" or personal time for athletes to ask private questions

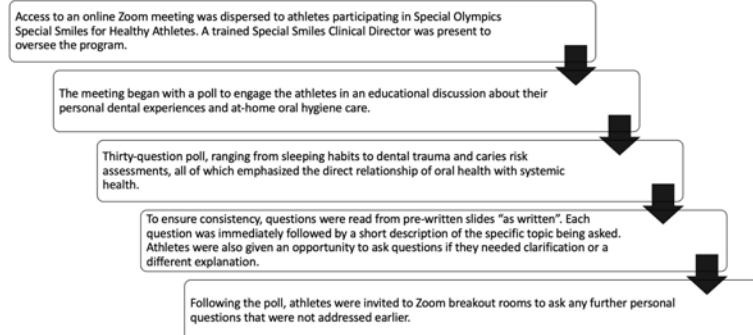
Special Smiles Screening



The form includes sections for: Personal Information (Firstname, Lastname, HAS ID, Date, Sex, DOB, Age, Nationality), Dental History (Oral hygiene habits, Pain inside mouth, Adhesions, Untreated decay, Filled teeth, Missing teeth, Sealant, Injury, Fluorosis, Gingival signs, Treatment urgency, Mouthguard recommendation, Fluoride Varnish recommendation), and Screening results (Exam completed, Answered all questions).

Figure 2. Screening form to be filled out at in-person Special Smiles events prior to COVID19. Participating athletes are interviewed by a dental provider to record their oral health status.

Self Assessment Poll



Telehealth Education

Advantages to telehealth education

- Provides a non-threatening atmosphere
- Direct communication with participant and provider
- Desensitization of a dental atmosphere and clinical setting
- Can serve as impetus to create a provider directory
- Promotes access to care through referrals
- Engages dental team members as time commitment is reduced
- Cost effective
- Builds self-empowerment through learning and understanding

Challenges with telehealth education

- Internet availability and bandwidth may limit participation
- Participants can become inundated and overwhelmed
- Limited view of a participant's mouth
- Familiarity of technology is required by the participant
- Unable to provide physical reinforcement or effective demonstrations
- Smart phones or tablets limit the screen view which can affect poll responses
- Access to a computer or smart phone, microphone, and speaker
- Potential lack of follow ups and referrals made

Discussion and Conclusion

- Provided access to Healthy Athletes during a time without interpersonal interaction
- Thorough self-assessment questions allowed participants to assess their health comprehension
- Dental providers had direct communication with participants and their caregivers
- Poll findings were recorded and necessary referrals were completed
- Participants engaged in an oral health education setting that encouraged empowerment of patient autonomy

Future Directions

The VSSSAPP provides vital information regarding the oral health status of athletes in Special Smiles Healthy Athletes. With COVID19 restrictions declining and the HAS program able to reopen with in-person screening events, a virtual meeting can still be beneficial to the athletes and their providers. The poll questions can continue to be used in a virtual format to record the systemic and dental history of each athlete. The online meeting can also serve to address athletes that are not able to physically attend the HAS program. The HAS screening form will be submitted with these additional questions for CDC approval to be distributed and used at screening events.

OKU Sutro Excellence Day Project Cover Sheet

(ONE Cover Sheet per project)

Project Title: Special Olympics Special Smiles: Virtual Special Smiles Self Assessment Program and Poll (VSSSAPP)

Award Category: DDS & IDS - PIP: Community Health Service & Health Promotion

List names of all contributors to this project:

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8. Enter your abstract text here (300 word max) :

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. COVID-19 forced Special Olympics to cancel its in-person Healthy Athletes Screening (HAS) program for an undetermined period of time. In response, the Virtual Special Smiles Self Assessment Program and Poll (VSSSAPP) was created by modifying the Special Smiles " Training Manual for Standardized Oral Health Screening. "

The poll process was created to engage athletes and provide them with an education experiences that will also be fun for them. Special Smiles have the ability to collect data using the athletes ' responses. At the end of the program, participants are invited to have a personal Zoom meeting to answer questions the athlete may be embarrassed to ask in a group setting, and questions meant to alert program leaders to refer athletes if urgent dental care is necessary. Questions emphasize the relationship of oral health to overall health, including

- " sleeping, sleep apnea
- " trauma
- " smoking and vaping
- " hydration and caries risk assessment

VSSSAPP comprises of the following:

- " PowerPoint presentation with 30 questions and health education facts. Adherence to the slide content and wording is important
- " The PowerPoint presentation is the focal point of the Self Assessment
- " Uses multimedia to help athletes identify their health habits, understand their current oral health, and teach them to make good choices and identify their risk
- " Zoom polling to collect responses from participants, share feedback on results and capture data for analysis
- " Opportunity for breakout rooms so that the athlete questions might be addressed
- " Questions with Group participation at the end
- " Opportunity to sign up for " One on One " or rather personal time for the athlete to ask personal/private questions.

Thank you for filling out the OKU Sutro Excellence Day Project Cover Sheet! Please merge this Cover Sheet with your Final Project Materials (ie, research poster, clinical case, paper, or other creative production) before uploading to the Final Project Submission Form.