



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**

Office of Dental Health

# Smiles for Veterans

The Smiles for Veterans program, in collaboration with Smiles of Hope, works to create accessible dental care for all veterans with care provided by dental students and licensed dental professional volunteers.

It helps alleviate the financial and dental burden by providing low-to-no cost dental treatment for our communities' bravest members. The program provides comprehensive care: exams, preventive dental treatment, treatment plans, extractions, pre-prosthetic surgery, required restorations, and full and partial dentures at no cost to veterans and their families. Improved oral health can decrease the risk of heart disease, improve blood sugar regulation, increase social connection, and more.

**The Smiles for Veterans program has helped veterans in Missouri access needed dental work.** It has resulted in over 2,000 veterans being screened at Smiles of Hope. These veterans were referred to the Smiles for Veterans program and received free dental care, including delivery of over 1,400 dental arches (dentures).

**2,000+**  
**Veterans**

**1,400**  
**Full or Partial**  
**Dentures**

**7,000+**  
**Extractions**

The program's success relies on a collaborative network of volunteers who donate their time and resources. Volunteers donated over 32,000 hours in nine years to bring back smiles to over 2,000 veterans in Missouri.



## How can I help?

Serving with Smiles for Veterans is an excellent opportunity to give back! You can donate your time, energy or funds to help a veteran.

**Interested? Visit [OralHealth.Mo.Gov](http://OralHealth.Mo.Gov) or  
call (573) 751-5874.**

# Veteran Satisfaction

One of the most recent Smiles for Veterans Sessions returned high praise!

A yellow circular graphic with the number 100% inside, flanked by two sets of three horizontal yellow bars, giving it a winged or speed-like appearance.

100%

of Veterans were satisfied with the work of dental students

A yellow circular graphic with the number 98% inside, flanked by two sets of three horizontal yellow bars, giving it a winged or speed-like appearance.

98%

of Veterans felt their oral health needs were met

A yellow circular graphic with the number 94% inside, flanked by two sets of three horizontal yellow bars, giving it a winged or speed-like appearance.

94%

of Veterans felt it was easy to schedule

## Veteran Feedback

“

I am forever grateful for this amazing program and the smile they gave me. Each appointment was smooth and exciting. I can't thank my student dentist and the faculty enough. Thank you!

- *Army Veteran*

”

“

Thank you so much. He did FaceTime me on Saturday, but we got to see him in person on Sunday. Even as his Mom I had to take a second look in person to realize it was my son. LOL. We thank you, so very much for everything.

- *Mom of a Veteran*

”

## Why Veterans?

A large, 3D-style yellow five-pointed star with the number 432,742 in white text across its center.

432,742

More than 432,000 Missourians are Veterans.

A large, 3D-style yellow five-pointed star with the number 15% in white text across its center.

15%

Only around 15% of Veterans qualify for dental coverage through the VA.

A large, 3D-style yellow five-pointed star with the number 85% in white text across its center.

85%

Around 367,000 Missouri veterans without long-term, VA-sponsored dental care.

Helping veterans with their oral health is not just about addressing dental problems; it's about improving their overall health, their well-being, and recognizing their service and sacrifice by giving them their smile back.