

SMILING

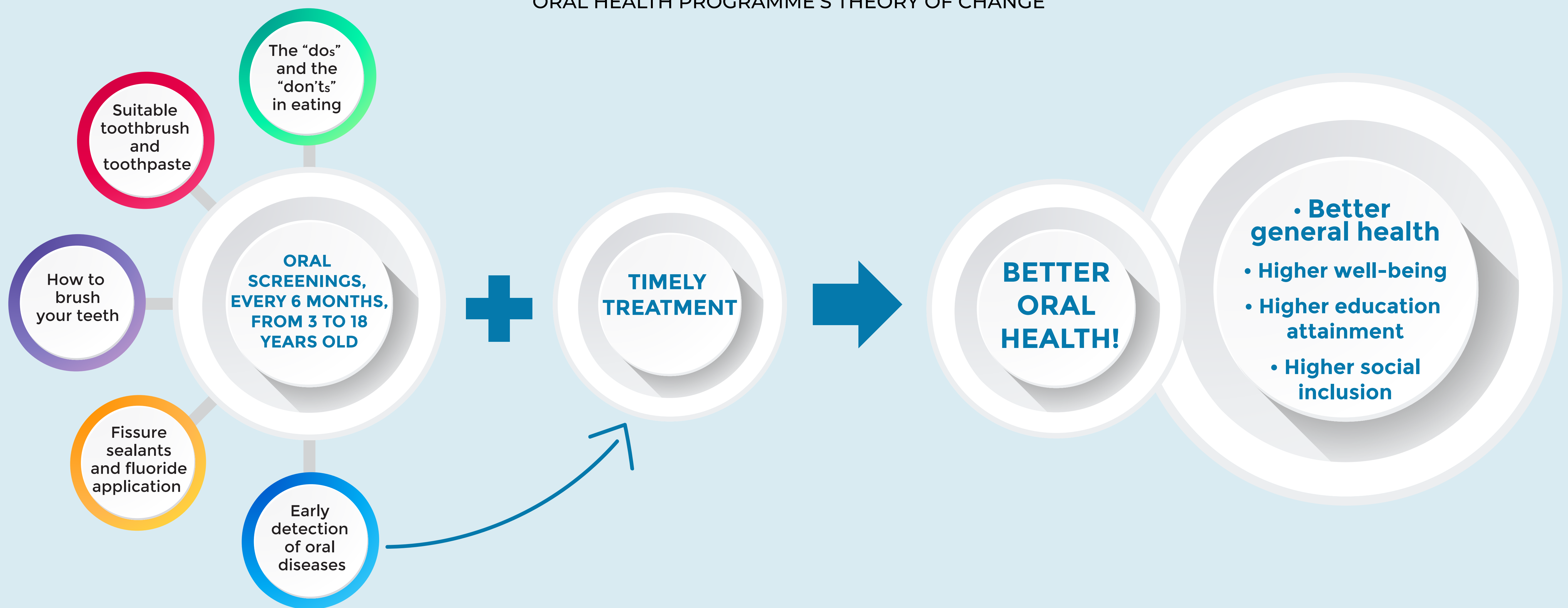
Does prevention matter?

INTRODUCTION

The oral health programme is one of the Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso Foundation's child health monitoring programmes, with universal access that ensures equity*. The oral health programme is performed by oral hygienists (for the screenings) and dentists (for treatment) and its main goal is the prevention of tooth decay and other oral diseases.

*Families who can afford it, pay the cost of the service; those who can't, after socioeconomic evaluation by a social worker, have discounts according to their income or are free of charge.

ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMME'S THEORY OF CHANGE

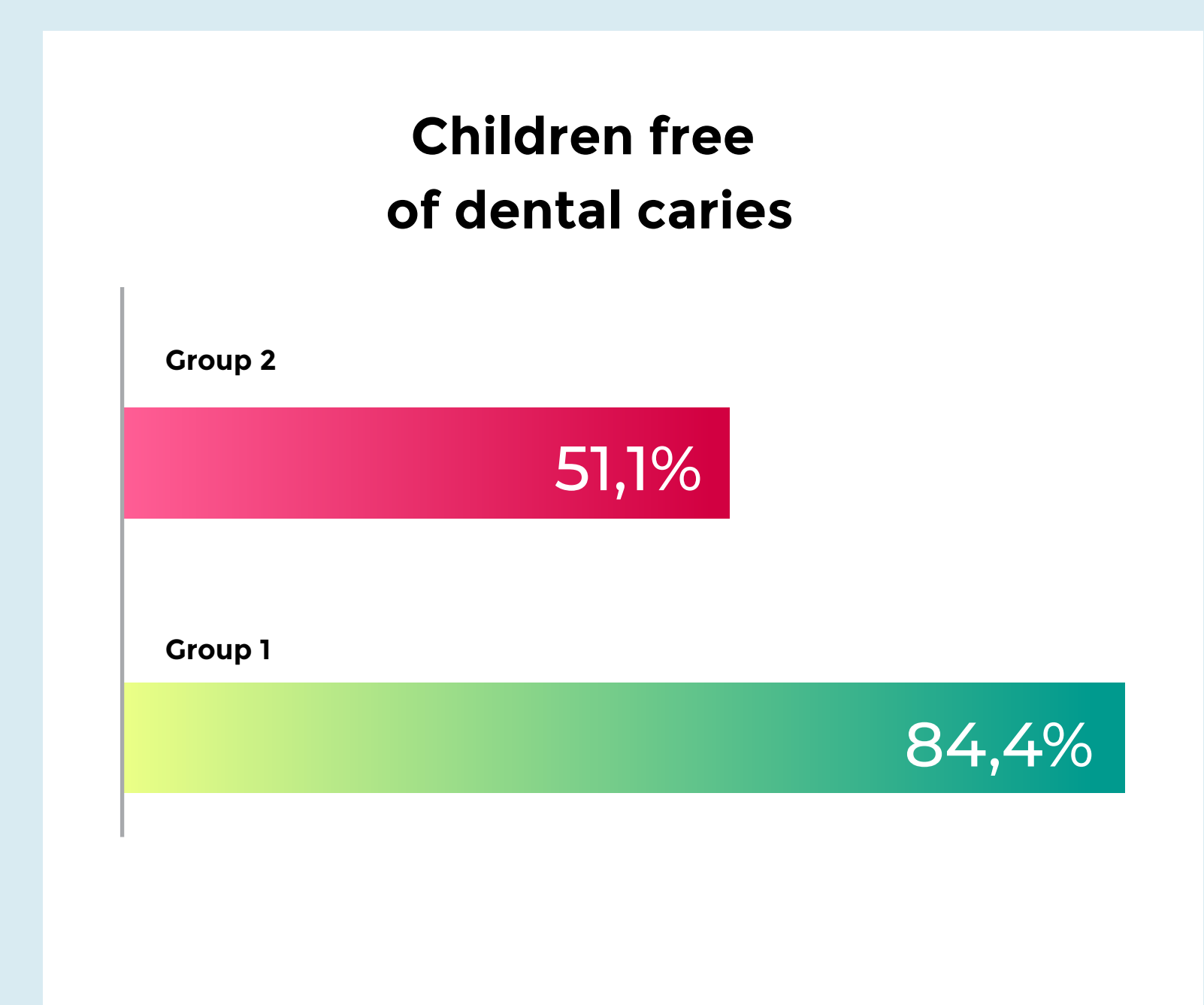
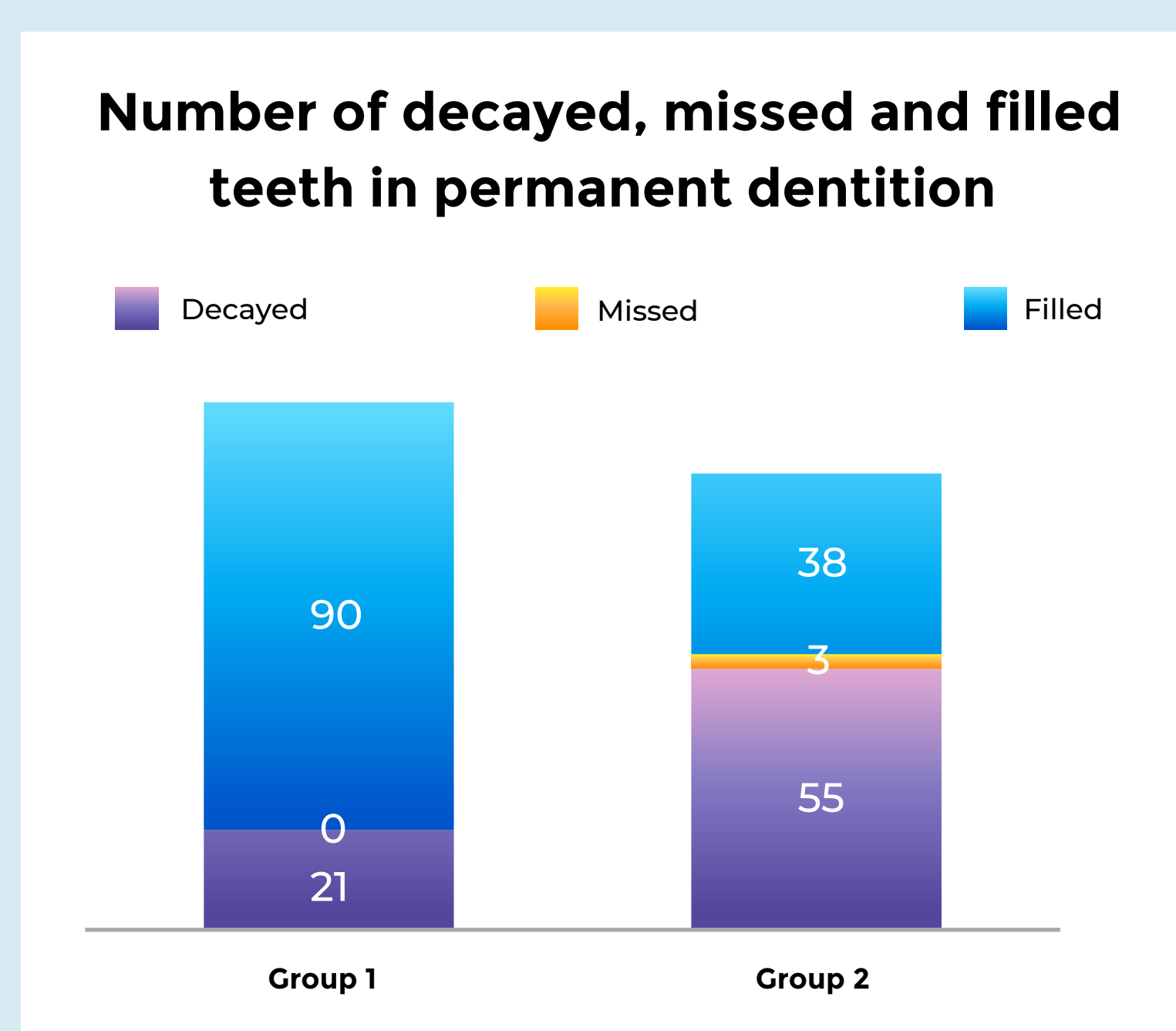
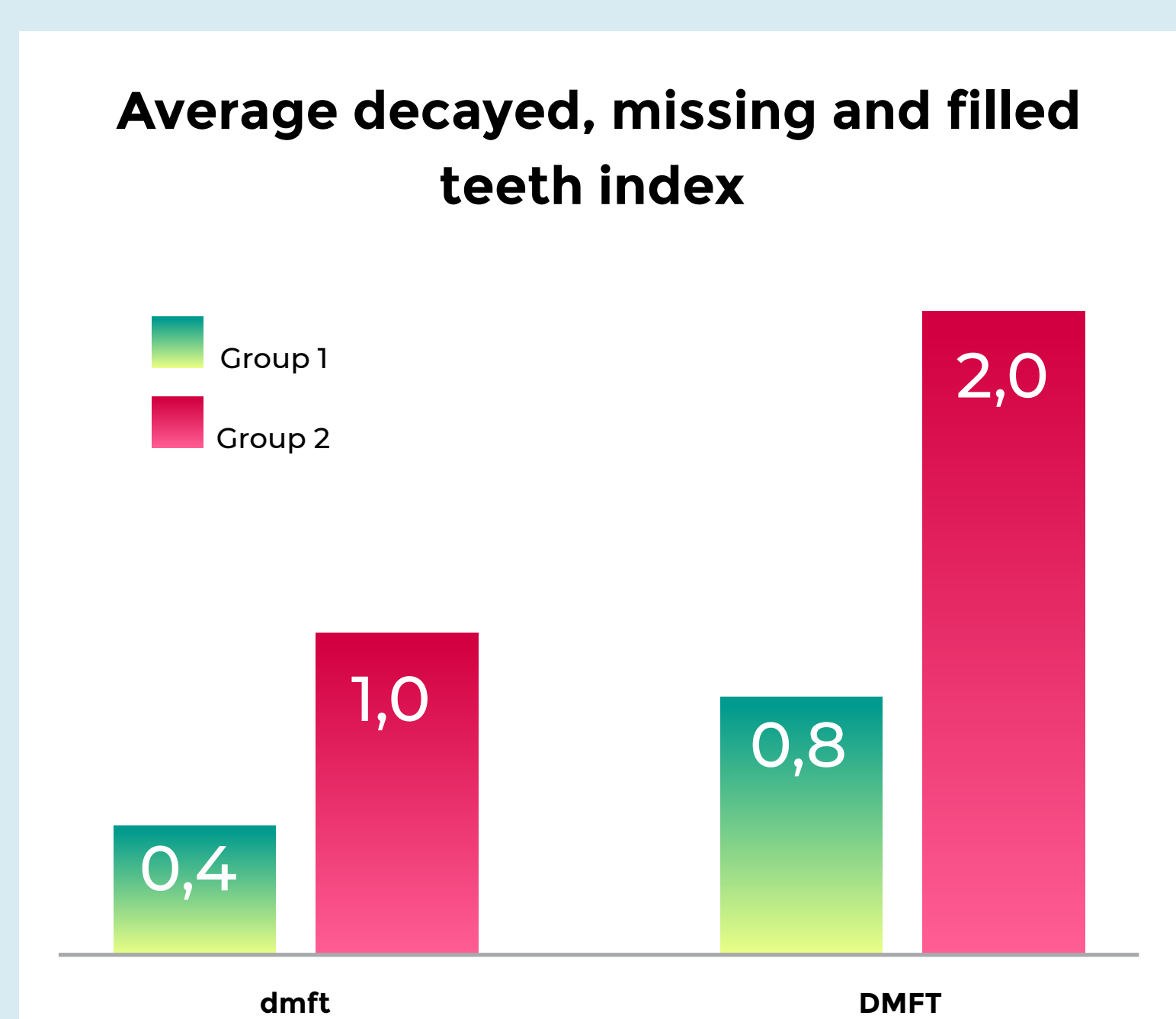


SMILING'S GOAL AND METHODS

The SMILING project's goal is **to measure the outcomes of the NSBSFoundation's Oral Health Programme in children aged 10 – 13 years old**, using two (inter)national oral health indicators: i) the decayed, missing and filled teeth index, which measures the lifetime experience of dental caries, both in primary dentition (dmft) and in permanent dentition (DMFT); ii) the percentage of children free of dental caries. In order to measure the outcomes, from the children aged 10 - 13 years old enrolled on Foundation's oral health programme, we isolated two groups:

- **Group 1 (N=141)** - those who began oral health screenings at the age of 3
- **Group 2 (N=47)** - those who began at the age of 10 or after

SMILING RESULTS (2018)



CONCLUSION

As one can see, children who began oral health monitoring at 3 years old have better oral health outcomes than those who began later. Given the importance of oral health in general health status (recognized by the World Health Organisation itself), preventative oral healthcare leading to a better oral health contributes also to a good general child health. **And the earlier we start the better are the outcomes!**

At NSBSFoundation, we strongly believe that investing in the first years of life is the best way to build a healthier and more sustainable society.