Connecticut Department of Public Health
Office of Oral Health’s
Home by One Program

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Prevalence of Decay in Connecticut’s Preschool Children

Source: CT DPH Every Smile Counts Survey 2007
www.ct.gov/dph/OralHealth
Lessons Learned from Every Smile Counts survey

• Parents must be empowered to **prevent** decay before age 2
• Health professionals must focus dental disease prevention efforts in children **less than** 2 years
• Statewide **consistent** oral health messages needed
Why WIC Is A Perfect Venue

• Children on WIC program are already considered at high risk for developing early childhood caries.
• 25,000 of the 65,000 WIC participants in CT are age one or younger.
• 38% of all CT babies are already enrolled in WIC at birth,
• National average is 50%
• Pregnant, postpartum and breast feeding moms
  – Major changes in oral health can occur during this time.
  – Prime time to educate and give oral health messages.
  – 21 existing contact opportunities to integrate components of oral health program.
Home by One Program

Building the dental home network around early childhood partnerships that focus on oral health as essential to the overall health and well being of children in Connecticut

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Home by One Program

GOALS

I. Build a statewide infrastructure of integrated partnerships and referral patterns between WIC, dental and medical providers, parents and caregivers

II. Develop a network of providers that are knowledgeable, available and accessible

III. Reduce and prevent oral disease by increasing age one dental visits in state of Connecticut

IV. Parents understand and value oral health
Home by One Program

ACTIVITIES

• Parent Training/Education
• Physician Training/WIC Staff Training
• Integration of Systems of Care
• Dental Home Development/Age One Dental Visit Training
• Consistent Oral Health Messages Throughout State
Connecting Resources  Establishing Sustainable Infrastructure

www.ct.gov/dph/HomebyOne

Building Community Partnerships
12 CT WIC Regions & Dental Home Networks

Connecticut WIC Program

Local WIC Program Service Areas
- TVCCA
- Bridgeport
- Hartford
- Waterbury
- Stamford
- Meriden
- Windham
- Bristol
- Danbury
- Torrington
- East Hartford
- New Haven

12 LOCAL WIC REGIONS

DENTAL HOMES

Represents the location of the main offices of the local WIC Program

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Key Factor for Building Successful Collaboration with WIC

C — Contact, personalized attention, one to one
O — Overcome Challenges, troubleshoot
R — Orchestrate links to community dental resources
D — Recruiting parent dental advocates
I — Develop dental provider networks, relationships
T — Integration of oral health education into site
A — Navigate patient’s to dental home
V — Availability to answer questions from WIC staff
T — Travel out to sites, special events, presentations
O — Online training including consistent messaging
R — Resource for education materials, connections
Develop Resources to Enhance WIC Nutritionists Existing Oral Health Education

- Fact sheets for parents and caregivers
- Referral forms to dental homes
- Contact information of Regional Dental Care Specialist
- Caries risk assessment tools
- Educational Resources for WIC secondary education classes focusing on early oral health disease prevention
Dental Home Models Developed Around WIC

- LOCAL HEALTH DENTAL HOME MODEL
- MEDICAL DENTAL MARRIAGE
- MEDICAL CARE Coordinator
- WIC PARTNERSHIP
- WIC COMMUNITY HEALTH HOME MODEL
- WIC PEDIATRIC DENTIST PARTNERSHIP
- RDH AT WIC SITE
- FAMILY DENTAL HOME
- DH STUDENT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
  Linking WIC CLIENTS to DENTAL HOMES

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## Factors For A Successful Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase # of Dental Medicaid Providers</th>
<th>Increase Reimbursement Rate for Medicaid Dental Services (at least for children)</th>
<th>Establish a Single ASO for Dental Medicaid</th>
<th>Establish Regional Care Specialists, who help navigate participants to providers</th>
<th>Establish Advisory around early childhood oral health</th>
<th>Buy in from State Dental Association &amp; Age one Visit Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish Relationship with WIC Coordinators</td>
<td>Recognition of Local WIC staff’s daily challenges &amp; help reduce barriers through active partnership</td>
<td>Collaborate With Other Existing Early Childhood Initiatives</td>
<td>Consistent Message Campaign For Age One Dental Visit</td>
<td>Advocacy &amp; Oral Health Parent Education Programs</td>
<td>Develop Website for Resources &amp; collaboration</td>
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LESSONS LEARNED

&

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

www.ct.gov/dph/HomebyOne
Key Concluding Points

• Exercise **flexibility** when building collaboration and work with community needs to develop a successful program around **consistent messages**.

• **Coordinator** is key to building and **sustaining** collaboration and developing an active partnership with WIC.

• **Leverage** **existing resources**.