



Home by One Program

What You Should Know and How You Can Help

WHAT IS "HOME BY ONE"?

The State Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health has developed a program, called "Home by One", to build partnerships with dental and medical practitioners, social service providers, parents and caregivers that focus on oral health as essential to the overall health and well being of the children through the achievement of the following goals:

- Expand the number of dental practices providing **dental homes** for children beginning at **age one**.
- Coordinate and exchange oral health information as it relates to overall health among state agencies and community organizations.
- Train parents as advocates for oral health for their children and families.
- Expand the non-dental workforce competent in preventive dental strategies (i.e. oral disease preventive education).

WHY "HOME BY ONE"?

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Dental Association, American Dental Education Association all recommend preventive dental care by **age one** which includes risk assessment, preventive dental care and the establishment of a **dental home**.

- Parents and caregivers need the knowledge of preventive dental practices to reduce the risk of dental decay in early childhood.
- Oral disease can begin as soon as teeth erupt.
- Oral health is important for overall health.
- Oral disease can be PREVENTED.

WHAT IS A DENTAL HOME?

A Dental Home is:

- An ongoing relationship between the patient and the dentist.
- Providing comprehensive, coordinated, oral health care that is continuously accessible and family-centered.
- An approach to assuring that all children have access to oral health care both preventive and restorative.
- Best established in infancy for continuous dental care through all stages of life.
- Essential to prevent oral disease in early childhood.

HOW WILL PARTNERING WITH HOME BY ONE AFFECT YOUR PRACTICE?

- Infant oral health risk assessments and fluoride varnish applications are cost effective for the physician's office and can be provided by staff that have completed the training.
- The oral risk assessment will take place during the well child visit.
- Parents are receptive to anticipatory guidance from physicians.
- Referral liaisons can be made within your community between local WIC sites and dental homes.

HOW WILL THE "HOME BY ONE" PROGRAM HELP PARENTS UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR VISITING A DENTAL HOME?

The "Home by One" Program will:

- Provide advocacy and oral health workshops for groups of parents in the WIC program. Parents will be taught what to expect at the first dental visit and why it is important to assess oral health in infants before the disease is present.



- Provide support services, in collaboration with the WIC Program, to help ensure parents bring their children to dental appointments.
- Provide materials to help parents understand the importance of age one dental visits, keeping appointments and how to prevent oral disease in their children.
- Help parents build relationships with pediatric dental specialists and general dentists.



WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE "HOME BY ONE" PROGRAM?

- Children who are enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - better known as the **WIC Program**
- WIC children ages 0 to 5 that are at nutritional risk.
- WIC parents who will learn the value of regular dental visits and the importance of oral health for themselves and their children

WHY IS WIC POPULATION THE FOCUS FOR THE "HOME BY ONE" PROGRAM?

- WIC parents and caregivers often lack the basic knowledge of oral disease prevention to keep their children healthy.
- WIC children are from low-income families and at higher risk of oral disease.
- There is limited access to preventive dental services for low-income WIC children
- There is the potential to significantly reduce oral disease experience in WIC children as early as age one and prevent the need for restorative care.

WHAT CAN PHYSICIANS DO TO HELP?

- Partner with the CT Department of Public Health's "Home by One" Program and link with a **dental home**.
- Participate in the CT Department of Social Services "ABC Program" (Access for Baby Care to Dental Examinations and Fluoride Varnish).
- Refer children from the WIC Program to a dental home.
- Identify a liaison in your office as the contact person for WIC and dental referrals.
- Learn more about infant oral health from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry link at: www.aap.org
- View the AAP video from *Peds for the 21st century symposium*, Oral health in the 21st century Something to Smile About- Your Role in Children's Oral Health
<http://download01.eventcg.net/peds21/index.html>

HOW CAN I FIND A DENTAL HOME FOR WIC?

Contact **Tracey Andrews RDH, BS**, the "Home By One" Program Coordinator at the CT. Department of Public Health Office of Oral Health at **(860) 509-8146** or at:

tracey.andrews@ct.gov with questions concerning "Home By One"

- Training opportunities for fluoride varnish application and oral risk assessment are provided through EPIC and AAP.
- To schedule an in- office ABC training contact:
EPIC program
Telephone 860-679-1527
e-mail: mamorales@uchc.edu
- Or Contact tracey.ctaap@gmail.com for information on teleconference training.