

Connecticut Statewide Dental Sealant & Home by One Programs

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What are Dental Sealants?

Why are they important?

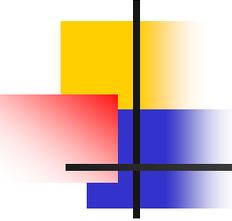
- One of the most effective methods for the prevention of tooth decay used today
- A thin layer of resin is placed on the chewing surface of teeth soon after they erupt, before decay can begin
- The chewing surface is the most common area for decay in children's teeth



Before...

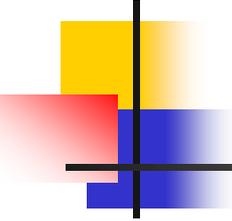
After...





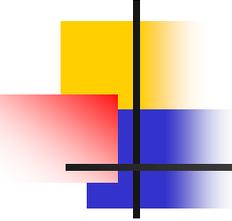
Dental Sealant Prevalence in Connecticut

- In the 2006-2007 school year, the Office of Oral Health conducted a state-wide, open-mouth survey of children in Head Start, kindergarten & third grade
- Schools were chosen to participate by a method called “random stratified sampling” to obtain an accurate representation of children throughout the state
- Over **600** children in Head Start and **8700** elementary school children were surveyed



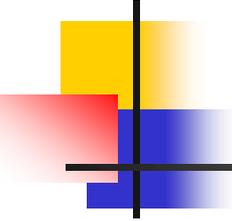
Dental Sealant Prevalence in Connecticut

- The national standard in surveillance for dental sealant prevalence is to survey children in third grade, since children's first adult molars typically erupt at age 6 or 7 (second grade)
- Our survey found that **only 38% of third graders** (across all socio-economic groups) in CT had at least 1 dental sealant on their first molars
- The **Healthy People 2010** goal for sealants is that **50%** of all children have at least 1 dental sealants by third grade



Current State of School-Based/Linked Dental Sealants in Connecticut

- The Department of Public Health does not currently administer a statewide school-based/linked dental sealant program
- There are, however, **321 schools** in **46 towns** with school-based/linked dental programs that **include dental sealant** application as part of all of the dental services they provide



Current State of School-Based/Linked Dental Sealants in Connecticut

- These dental programs are administered and funded by a variety of entities
 - Local Health Departments/Districts
 - Boards of Education
 - Community Health Centers
 - School Based Health Centers
 - Foundations
 - Hospitals

How are Services offered?

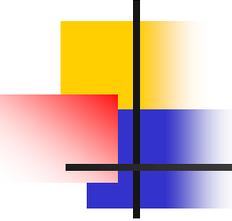
- Some schools have fixed dental equipment
- Some programs use portable dental equipment that moves from school to school



How are Services offered?

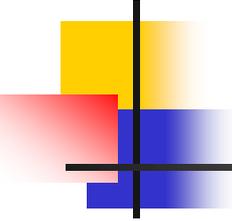
- Still others utilize a dental van or truck that travels from school to school





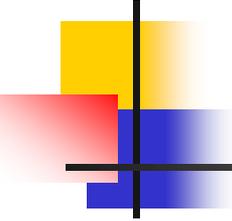
Pew Charitable Trust “Cost of Delay” Report on Children’s Oral Health

- Although CT received an “A” in the Pew report regarding children’s access to dental care, a failing grade was given with reference to dental sealant programs in “high risk schools”
- States were asked to report on programs that focus solely on dental sealant delivery...CT has only one program dedicated solely to applying sealants because it is **just as important to treat identified decay** as it is to apply sealants to **prevent decay**.



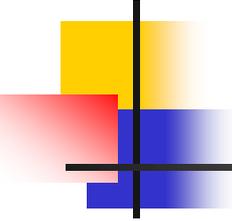
Pew Charitable Trust “Cost of Delay” Report on Children’s Oral Health

- The Pew Charitable Trust did not count dental programs that provide preventive or comprehensive care which include dental sealant as a component of their services in the report



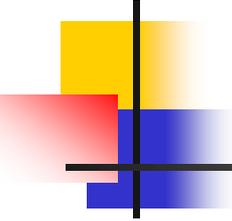
High Risk Schools Assessment

- When we look at CT schools and their students Free and Reduced Lunch Program participation, many high risk schools have school based/linked dental programs:
 - There are **160 elementary schools** in CT that have **50% or more** of their students participating in the **Free and Reduced Lunch Program**
 - Of these, **105 have school-based or linked dental programs**



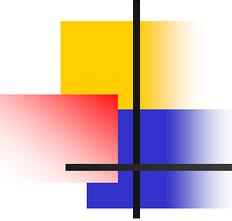
Current and Future Plans to Develop Sealant Programs

- In August 2008, DPH received a 5 year CDC Cooperative Agreement grant to enhance and improve the infrastructure of the state's Office of Oral Health
- One of the core requirements of this grant is to establish school-based/linked dental sealant programs statewide
- These programs are to be developed, coordinated and implemented in 2 phases
- The Office of Oral Health is currently in the first phase of this development plan



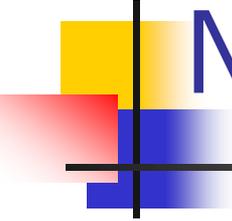
Phase One

- Hire a dental sealant coordinator (completed)
- Create a State Sealant Plan (*in process)
- Implement a dental sealant demonstration project (*in 2010-2011 school year)
- Evaluate the demonstration project (*in 2011)



Phase One – Current Activities

- Assessing where existing programs are and their capacities
- Determining “high risk” elementary schools - schools in which 50% or more of their students participate in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program
- Determining communities with few community dental services
- Identifying communities with and without fluoridated water



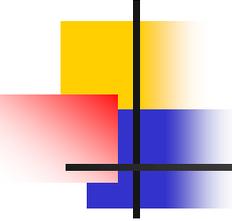
Next Steps

- Convene a “School-based/linked Sealant Advisory Committee” consisting of:
 - administrators of existing school-based/linked dental programs
 - Department of Social Services
 - other stakeholders and potential funders
 - to gather their input for the improvement & enhancement of existing services and increase the prevalence of children receiving age appropriate dental sealants, especially in high risk schools

S.E.A.L.S.

Sealant Efficiency Assessment for Locals & States

- Introduce “S.E.A.L.S.” to existing programs
- A free data collection software designed by the CDC specifically for sealants delivered in schools
- Opportunity to collect statewide dental sealant data from all school-based/linked programs and enhance the Department’s oral health surveillance capacity
- **DPH will not deliver the sealants**, but will be the recipient of the statewide sealant data
- The data will be shared with all stakeholders, both local and nationwide



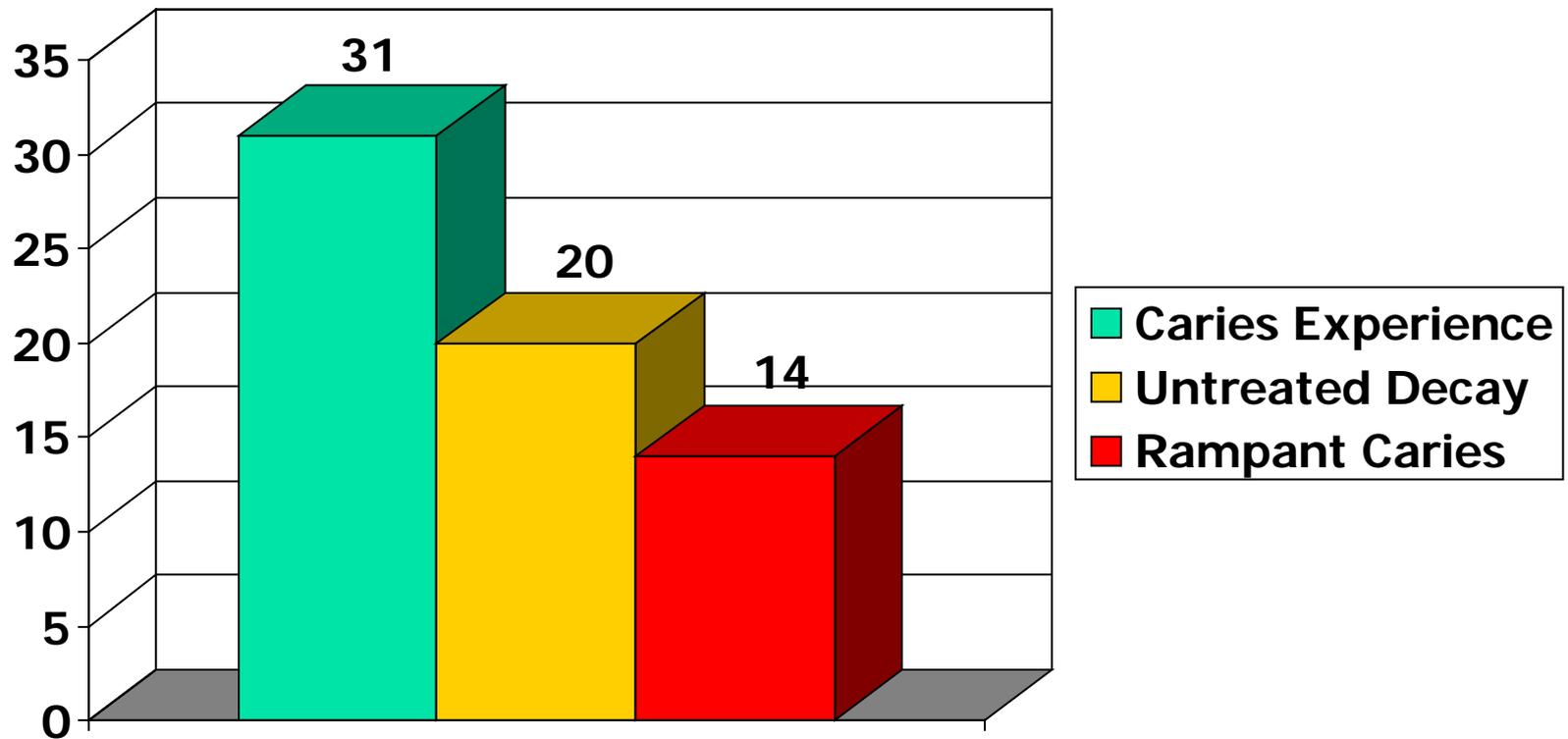
Statewide Dental Sealant Plan

- DPH, in collaboration with DSS and will produce a “Statewide School-based/linked Dental Sealant Plan”
 - To enhance existing dental programs
 - To develop new programs in high risk schools
 - To investigate **funding opportunities** to improve the percentage of high risk CT children receiving dental sealants

Office of Oral Health's Home by One Program

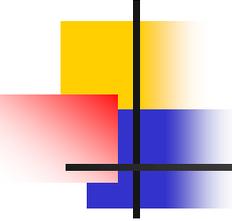


Prevalence of Decay in Connecticut's Preschool Children



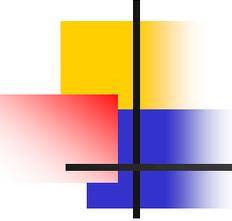
Source: CT DPH Every Smile Counts Survey 2007

www.ct.gov/dph/OralHealth



Lessons Learned from Every Smile Counts survey

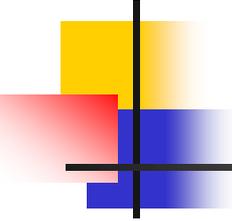
- Parents must be empowered to **prevent** decay before age 2
- Health professionals must focus dental disease prevention efforts in children **less than 2 years**
- Statewide **consistent** oral health education and messages needed



Home by One Program

GOALS

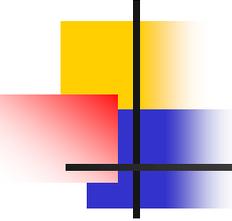
- I. Build a statewide infrastructure of integrated **partnerships** and **referral** patterns between WIC, dental and medical providers, parents and caregivers
- II. Develop a **network** of public and private providers that are knowledgeable, available and accessible
- III. Reduce and **prevent** oral disease by increasing age one dental visits in the state of Connecticut
- IV. **Help parents** to understand and value oral health



Home by One Program

ACTIVITIES

- Parent Training/Education/Advocacy
- Physician Training/WIC Staff Training
- Integration of Systems of Care/MCH/ECP/WIC/DSS/DDS/FSN
- **Dental Home Development/Age One Dental Visit Training**
- Consistent Oral Health Messages Throughout the State



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 is essential to the overall health and well being of children in Connecticut

100% funded by US Department of Health and Human Services. A TOHSS Grant Recipient 2007-2011

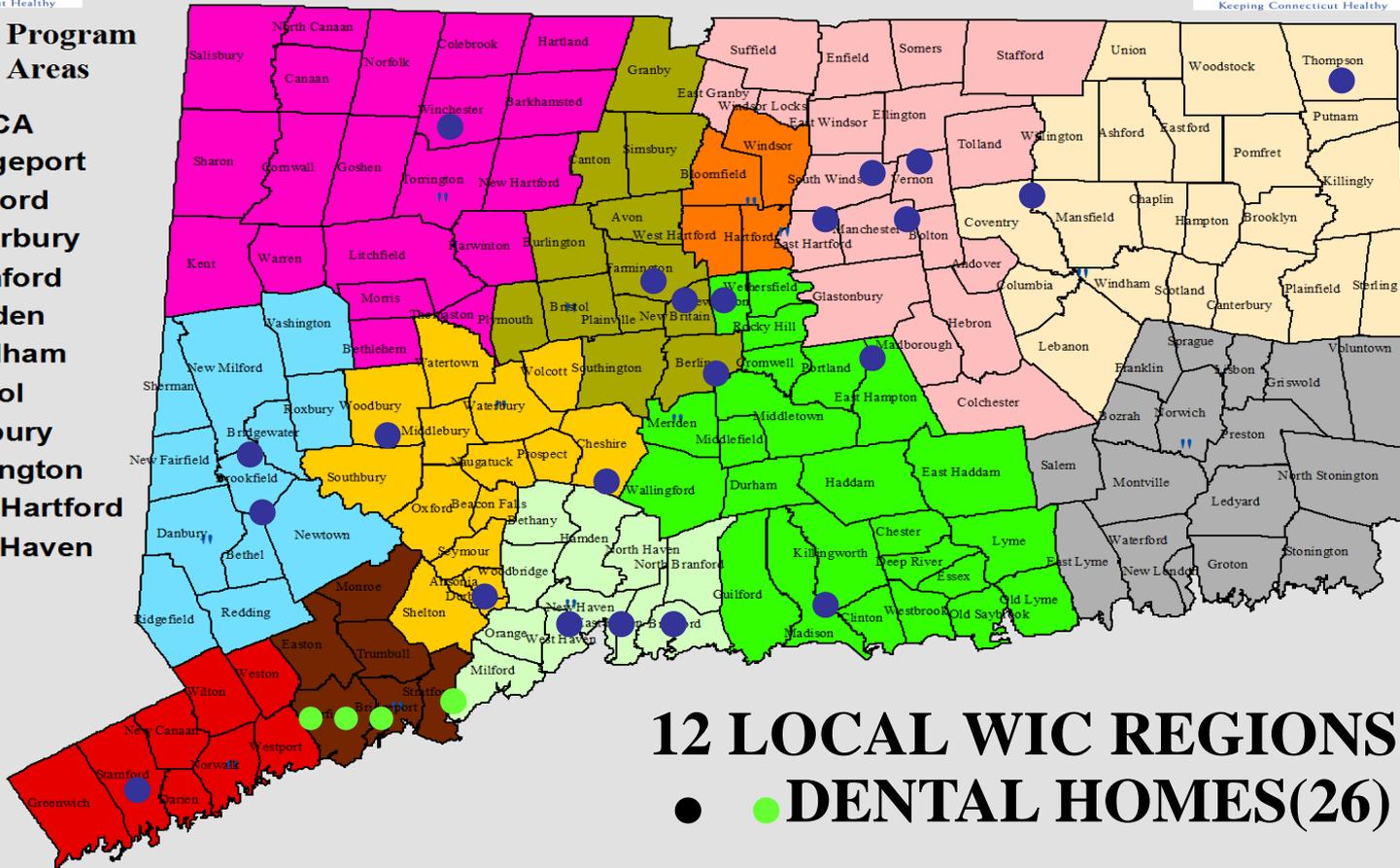
12 CT WIC Regions & Dental Home Networks



CONNECTICUT WIC PROGRAM

Local WIC Program Service Areas

- TVCCA
- Bridgeport
- Hartford
- Waterbury
- Stamford
- Meriden
- Windham
- Bristol
- Danbury
- Torrington
- East Hartford
- New Haven



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

Develop Resources to Enhance WIC Nutritionists Existing Oral Health Education



- ✓ First Smile
- ✓ First Tooth
- ✓ First Dental Visit by Age 1

Keep your baby healthy and cavity-free with a well-baby dental visit by age 1.

Call 2-1-1 for a dentist near you.



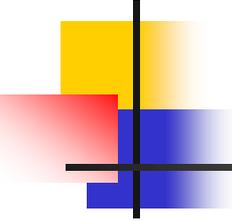
100% funded by US Department of Health and Human Services



- 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



www.ct.gov/dph/HomebyOne



QUESTIONS

