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## Free Dental Care Next Week For Low Income Connecticut Children

By [George Gombossy](#)

Starting Feb. 3 dentists across Connecticut will provide free dental services to low income children as part of a national program "Give Kids A Smile" program.

The free services range from screening, cleanings, fillings and sealant applications.

"Give Kids A Smile is about preventing dental disease before it begins," said Dr. Elise Cozzi, CSDA Give Kids A Smile Chair. "We are proud of the accomplishments of the program and Give Kids A Smile serves as a reminder of the importance of oral health."

For a list of some of the upcoming Give Kids A Smile programs taking place throughout the State visit, <http://www.csda-public.com/CharitableCalendar/CharitableCalendar.html>.



"Connecticut state agencies and the dental community have done a lot of work to increase the dental services that are offered to the children throughout the state. Give Kids A Smile is just one small way dentists are helping protect our children's oral health and raise awareness of the continued need for dental care," says the Connecticut State Dental Association.

"Oral health is integral to overall health. Untreated dental disease is painful and affects a child's physical, emotional and social development. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 4 children between the ages of 2 to 11, has untreated cavities in their baby teeth. While poor diet and oral hygiene certainly play a role, cavities are actually caused by a disease called caries, which is five times more common than asthma."

"Dental disease is preventable. Brushing, flossing, eating a balanced diet, regular dental visits and having access to fluoride and sealants are ways to prevent dental disease. Ultimately, the money spent on prevention saves a lot more money down the road in dental treatment."