



Illinois Oral Health Surveillance Brief

Statewide Oral Health Surveillance
2018 to 2021



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Illinois Department of Public Health
Oral Health Section

Prepared by

Pedro Medina Cuevas, MPH

Janae Price, MPH

Leslie Wise, PhD

Mona Van Kanegan, DDS, MS, MPH, FCID

Prepared for

Illinois' Health Care System and Stakeholders

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Advisory Committee Members

Dani Brazee
Ashley Colwell
Michelle Esquivel
Wandy Hernandez-Gordon
Gregory Jacobs
Henry Lotsof
Cristina McKay
Janae Price
Kelly Pulliam
Gopal Rao
Tracey Smith
Alejandra Valencia
Leslie Wise

Inquiries concerning the content of this brief may be directed to:

Mona Van Kanegan, DDS, MS, MPH
Chief, Oral Health Section
Illinois Department of Public Health
mona.vankanegan@illinois.gov

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List of Abbreviations

ADA – American Dental Association
ASTDD – Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
BRFSS – Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CHIP – Children’s Health Insurance Program
CMS – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
ED – Emergency Department
EPSDT – Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment
FQHCs – Federally Qualified Health Centers
FTE – Number of full-time equivalent
HFS – Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
HSHG – Healthy Smiles Healthy Growth
HPSA – Health Professional Shortage Areas
IDFPR – Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
IDPH – Illinois Department of Public Health
IOHP IV – Illinois Oral Health Plan IV – Eliminating Inequities in Oral Health (2021-205)
IOHSS – Illinois Oral Health Surveillance System
IPHCA – Illinois Primary Health Care Association
ISCR – Illinois State Cancer Registry
ISDS – Illinois State Dental Society
LHDs – Local Health Departments
LTC – Long-Term Care
NHIS – National Health Interview Survey
NSCH – National Survey of Children’s Health
NTDC – Non-Traumatic Dental Concern
OHS – Oral Health Section
OHWS – Oral Health Workforce Survey
PIR – Program Information Report
PRAMS – Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System
T-MSIS – Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System
YRBS – Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Good oral health is intergenerational and leads to a better quality of life.



Introduction

Oral health plays an important role in maintaining and promoting general physical health.¹ When combined with good oral and dental hygiene habits, oral health can provide multiple benefits, such as good breath, healthy teeth and gums, and an aesthetic, confident smile.² Similarly, adequate oral health has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of developing several diseases and conditions, including, but not limited to, oral cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and adverse birth outcomes.³

Over the years, health professionals and researchers have described and emphasized the crucial connection between oral health and overall health status. However, despite the growing evidence supporting the relationship between the two, many individuals, health care providers, and the health care system, still struggle to recognize the importance of good oral health status.² Consequently, both in Illinois and the United States, oral diseases and conditions remain highly prevalent, access to oral health care is limited, and various oral health indicators remain unreported or undefined.² Taken together, these challenges impact oral and overall health outcomes and significantly burden the nation's health care system.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2019 Oral Health Surveillance Report, more than 50% of school-aged children (6-8 years) and adolescents (12-19 years) had dental caries in 2011-2016.⁴ During the same period, around 40% of adults (30 years or older) were affected by gum disease, about 45,000 cases of oral cancer were newly diagnosed per year, and approximately 30% of Americans did not have dental insurance.⁵

From a public health standpoint, various factors determine the distribution of oral disease across the United States. For example, people who live in rural areas have difficulty locating a dental provider or accessing fluoridated water and school sealant programs.⁶

In Illinois, there are several gaps and disparities surrounding oral health. For instance, from 2018-2019, non-Hispanic Asian children had a higher prevalence of cavities (28.8%) than any other ethnic grouping.⁷ Similarly, during 2017-2019, less than one-third of Medicaid-insured pregnant women had their teeth cleaned, 64% of adults did not visit an oral health professional due to the cost (2015), and nearly 2.3 million state residents lived in dental health professional shortage areas (HPSA) (2018).^{2,7} Overall, such barriers magnify inequities in oral health and restrict Illinoisans from enjoying a holistic state of well-being.

This brief seeks to build on the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Oral Health Section's (OHS) efforts to provide a relevant and comprehensive overview of key oral health indicators by target population under the domains of oral health outcomes, access to care, intervention strategies, and workforce and infrastructure.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this brief is to serve as a user-friendly and timely source of oral health data that informs, activates, and recruits new leaders, resulting in improved oral health status across Illinois. The Illinois Oral Health Surveillance System (IOHSS) intends to collaborate with and equip health care providers, community organizations, policymakers, and the public with the information and vision needed to collectively address the oral health challenges facing individuals and communities statewide.

The primary roles of the IOHSS are to:

- Maintain an ongoing understanding of oral health by collecting, monitoring, and analyzing data on oral health and factors that influence oral health with a particular emphasis on disproportionately affected populations.
- Use data and information to document, and, when possible, determine the root causes of oral health disparities and inequities.

Objectives

1. Communicate findings to those responsible for programmatic and policy decisions and to the public.
2. Ensure data are used to inform and evaluate public health measures to prevent and to control oral diseases and conditions.
3. Identify a core set of measures/indicators to serve as benchmarks for assessing Illinois' progress in achieving good oral health.⁸



Illinois Oral Health Surveillance Brief
Oral Health Outcomes

Domain	Target Population	Indicator		Indicator Definition	Data Source (Reporting Date Range)	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Oral Health Outcomes	Head Start children	Caries experience (decay)		Proportion of children diagnosed as needing dental treatment during the program year at end of enrollment.	Illinois Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) (2019; 2021)		10.5%		6.7%	
		Untreated tooth decay		Proportion of children with “unmet need.”	Illinois Head Start PIR (2019; 2021)		5.4%		3.9%	
	Third-grade children	Caries experience (decay)		Proportion of children with either treated or untreated cavities.	IDPH OHS, Healthy Smiles Healthy Growth (HSHG) (2018-2019, every 5 years)	41.6%				
		Untreated tooth decay		Proportion of children with untreated cavities.	IDPH OHS, HSHG (2018-2019, every 5 years)	22.2%				
		Sealant prevalence		Proportion of children with at least one dental sealant present on a permanent molar.	IDPH OHS, HSHG (2018-2019, every 5 years)	53.0%				
	1-17 years children	Parent’s self-report of child’s oral health	Parent’s self-report of child’s oral health as “excellent or very good”		Proportion of parents who ranked their child’s overall oral health as “excellent or very good,” “good,” or “fair or poor.”	National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) (2019-2020)		76.6%		
			Parent’s self-report of child’s oral health as “good”			NSCH (2019-2020)		18.5%		
			Parent’s self-report of child’s oral health as “fair or poor”			NSCH (2019-2020)		4.8%		
		Oral health problems in the last year		Proportion of children who have had oral health problems, such as toothaches, bleeding gums or decayed teeth or cavities in the past 12 months.	NSCH (2019-2020)		15.5%			
	18-64 years adults	Any tooth loss		Proportion of adults who have had one or more permanent teeth removed.	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) – Statewide (biennial)	27.9%		24.6%		
	65+ years adults	Six+ teeth lost		Proportion of adults who have six or more permanent teeth removed.	BRFSS – Statewide (biennial)	8.5%		6.6%		
Complete tooth loss		Proportion of adults reporting the loss of all teeth.	BRFSS – Statewide (biennial)	11.3%		14.9%				

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Domain	Target Population	Indicator		Indicator Definition	Data Source (Reporting Date Range)	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Long-term care (LTC) residents	Six+ teeth lost		Proportion of residents reporting the loss of six or more permanent teeth.	LTC Survey*				
		Complete tooth loss		Proportion of residents reporting the loss of all teeth.	LTC Survey*				
	All ages	Incidence of and mortality from cancers of the oral cavity and pharynx	Cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx incidence	Age-adjusted** incidence rate (per 100,000) of oral cavity and pharynx cancer.	Illinois State Cancer Registry (ISCR) (2014-2018)	11.8	11.8		
			Cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx mortality	Age-adjusted** mortality rate (per 100,000) of oral cavity and pharynx cancer.	ISCR (2014-2018)	2.7	2.5		
		Emergency department (ED) visits for non-traumatic dental concerns (NTDC)	Children under the age of 18	Area-level rate of individuals who use ED visits for NTDC (per 10,000).	IDPH Public Health Community Map (2016-2019)	42.5			
			Adults 18+			IDPH Public Health Community Map (2016-2019)	92.0		
		Hospital admissions for NTDC (resulting from ED visit).		Number of hospital admissions for NTDC and UB04 Condition Codes P7 indicating direct admission from ED.		IDPH Hospital Discharge Data (Annual)	5,221	4,982	3,901

*Note: LTC survey data collection is not planned at this time. **Age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard million population.

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Access to Care

Domain	Target Population	Indicator		Indicator Definition	Data Source (Reporting Date Range)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Access to Care	Medicaid/ Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	Dental visit	Non-dentist provider	Proportion of Medicaid-enrolled children under 6 years of age who received oral health services provided by a non-dentist.	Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS 16) (Annual)	4.2%	4.6%	2.3%	2.3%
			Dental provider	Proportion of Medicaid enrolled children under 6 years of age who received any dental services.	HFS CMS 416 (2018; 2019; 2020)	29.5%	28.8%	20.7%	24.4%
		Dental visit (1-20 years of age)		Proportion of Medicaid enrolled children 1-20 years of age who saw a dentist or other oral health care provider for any kind of dental or oral health care during the past 12 months.	HFS CMS 416 (Annual)	47.1%	45.5%	36.6%	35.6%
		Preventive dental visit (1-20 years of age)		Proportion of Medicaid enrolled children 1-20 years of age who received at least one prevention or periodontal service.	HFS CMS 416 (Annual)	44.0%	42.6%	33.4%	32.9%
	1-17 years	Dental visit		Proportion of children who saw a dentist or other oral health care provider for any kind of dental or oral health care during the preceding 12 months.	NSCH (All children) (2019-2020)		82.4%		
		Preventive dental visit		Proportion of children and young adults who received at least one prevention or periodontal service.	NSCH (All children) (2019-2020)		77.2%		
	18 years of age or older	Dental care delayed due to cost		In the past 12 months, the percentage of adults who needed dental care but did not get it because they could not afford it.	National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) (2018)	11.3%			
	Adults with diabetes	Dental visit		Proportion of persons with a diabetes diagnosis who reported visiting a dentist or dental clinic within the past year.	BRFSS – Statewide (biennial)	60.2%		61.9%	
	Pregnant persons	Dental visit		Proportion of pregnant Medicaid members who received at least one preventive or periodontal service in the 365 days before delivery.	HFS Data Request (Medicaid enrolled only) (2019; 2020; 2021)		12.0%	9.1%	8.0%
				Proportion of expectant mothers who reported they had their teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist in the preceding 12 months.	Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) (2018; 2019; 2020)	58.6%	59.6%	62.3%	

* Note: States are required to provide Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits to children enrolled in Medicaid. CMS recommends that FFY 2020 data not be trended with data from other fiscal years due to both the significant change in the delivery of services because of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the initial use of Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) as a data source in 19 states.

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Intervention Strategies

Domain	Target Population	Indicator	Indicator Definition	Data Source (Reporting Date Range)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Intervention Strategies	All ages	Community water fluoridation	Proportion of Illinois residents who received optimally fluoridated water.	CDC (2018-2021)	98.2%	98.4%	98.4%	98.4%
	Adolescents (13-17 years)	HPV vaccination uptake	Proportion of HPV vaccination series completion (three doses) in eligible adolescents.	CDC Teen Vax View (2019; 2020)		54.5%	62.0%	
		Cigarette smoking and electronic vapor product usage	Percentage of adolescents who indicated having currently smoked cigarettes on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey.	High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) (2019)		4.7%		
			Percentage of adolescents who indicated having currently used electronic vapor products on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey.	High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) (2019)		19.9%		



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Workforce and Infrastructure

Domain	Target Population	Indicator	Indicator Definition	Data Source (Reporting Date Range)	2018	2019	2020	2021
Workforce and Infrastructure	Oral Health Workforce	Number of active licensed oral health professionals	Number of active licensed dentists currently working or employed in the oral health field.	Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Data Request (2018-2021)	10,175	10,675	11,178	11,568
			Number of active licensed dental hygienists currently working or employed in the oral health field.	IDFPR Data Request (2018-2021)	8,367	8,736	9,076	9,338
		Number of providers who actively participate in Medicaid	Number of dentists who actively participate in the Medicaid program by submitting at least one claim/per year.	HFS Data Request (2019; 2020; 2021)		2,766	2,677	2,544
		Number of providers who actively participate in Medicaid	Number of dentists who actively participate in the Medicaid program by submitting more than 50 claims/per year.	HFS Data Request (2019; 2020; 2021)		2,032	1,886	1,784
		Number of active licensed specialists in dentistry*	Number of active licensed specialists in dentistry working or employed in the oral health field.	IDFPR Data Request (2018-2021)	1,524	1,615	1,682	1,726
		Number of licensed oral surgeons who are enrolled and participate in Medicaid	Number of oral surgeons who are enrolled and actively participate in the Medicaid program.	HFS Data Request (2021)				134
		Proportion of general dentists who care for children under 3 years of age	Proportion of surveyed general dentists who indicated they care for children under 3 years of age.	OHWS (2021-2022)				66.6% (235 of 353)
	Providers Shortage areas and communities	Number of safety net dental clinics	Number of free, non-profit, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), local health departments (LHDs), and look-alike sites with comprehensive oral health services.	IDPH Program Report (Resource Map), Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS), Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA), IDPH OHS (2021-2022)	In process of determining a consistent and regular source of data.			
			Dental HPSA	Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) dental providers practicing in Dental HPSA.	IDPH Center for Rural Health (2022)	233.1 FTE		
		Number of full-time equivalent dental providers needed to remove Dental HPSA designation.		IDPH Center for Rural Health (2022)	405.6 FTE			

Domain	Target Population	Indicator	Indicator Definition	Data Source (Reporting Date Range)	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Community clinical linkages	Number of community health workers trained in oral health concepts	Number of community health workers trained in oral health concepts using IDPH "Oral Health 101" curriculum.	IDPH Workforce Activities Report (2020; 2021)			54	137
		Number of non-oral health licensed professionals completing "Smiles for Life" curriculum	Number of non-oral health licensed professionals completing at least one module of "Smiles for Life" oral health curriculum.	Illinois Smiles for Life Oral Health (2019; 2020; 2021)		536	530	342
	Training	Number of LTC staff who complete "oral health" training	Number of LTC staff trained in oral health.	LTC Training Program [§]				

[§] Note: LTC survey data collection will start in 2023.

*Note: Specialty includes oral & maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, prosthodontics, and endodontics.



Illinois Oral Health Surveillance Findings

Oral Health Outcomes

- **Head Start Program Information Report:** In 2019, approximately 10.5% of Head Start children needed dental treatment for tooth cavities during the program year at the end enrollment. This proportion moderately decreased in 2021, as only 6.7% of children were diagnosed as needing treatment for dental caries. On the other hand, 5.4% of children had an “unmet need” in 2019. This amount decreased in 2021, with about 3.9% of children having an “unmet need.”
- **Healthy Smiles Healthy Growth:** During 2018-2019, 41.6% of third-grade children had dental caries experience, either treated or untreated. Of these, 22.2% had only untreated dental caries. Furthermore, 53.0% of third-grade children had at least one dental sealant in a permanent molar during the same period.
- **National Survey of Children’s Health:** During 2019-2020, 76.6% of parents ranked their child’s overall oral health as “excellent or very good,” 18.5% said their child’s overall oral health was “good,” and 4.8% described their child’s overall oral health to be “fair or poor.”
- **National Survey of Children’s Health:** In 2019-2020, 15.5% of children indicated having had oral health problems (i.e., toothaches, bleeding gums, cavities) in the preceding 12 months.
- **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System:** In 2018, 27.9% of Illinois adults had one or more permanent teeth extracted due to disease. That proportion decreased to 24.6% in 2020. Similarly, the proportion of adults aged 65 years or older who had six or more permanent teeth removed declined from 8.5% in 2018 to 6.6% in 2020.
- **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System:** In 2018, the proportion of adults aged 65 years or older that reported the loss of all teeth was 11.3%. There was an increase in this measure in 2020 when 14.9% of adults in that age group reported the loss of all teeth.
- **Illinois State Cancer Registry:** The age-adjusted cancer incidence rate (per 100,000) of the oral cavity and pharynx was 11.8 both in 2018 and 2019. The age-adjusted mortality rate (per 100,000) of such cancers in 2018 was 2.7 and 2.5 in 2019.
- **Illinois Department of Public Health Community Map:** During 2018-2019, the area-level rate (per 10,000) of individuals who used ED visits for NTDC was 42.5 for children and 92.0 for adults.
- **Illinois Department of Public Health Hospital Discharge Data:** In 2018, the number of hospital admissions for NTDC and UB04 Condition Codes P7 indicating direct admission from an ED was 5,221. That measure declined to 4,982 in 2019. This decreasing trend was maintained for the years 2020 and 2021, with the number of hospital admissions for NTDC being 3,901 and 3,364, respectively.

Access to Care

- **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Annual Data:** In 2018, 4.2% of Medicaid-enrolled children under 6 years of age received oral health services from a non-dentist provider. This proportion increased to 4.6% in 2019 and then decreased to 2.3% in 2020. Lastly, in 2021, this proportion further decreased to 2.3%.
- **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Annual Data:** Approximately 29.5% of Medicaid-enrolled children received any dental services in 2018. For 2019, 2020, and 2021, this proportion was 28.8%, 20.7%, and 24.4%, respectively.
- **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Annual Data:** During the years 2018 and 2019, the proportion of children and who received any dental service in the year was 47.2% and 45.5%, respectively. This proportion decreased by approximately 10.0% in the years 2020 (36.6%) and 2021 (35.6%). The proportion of children and young adults who had a preventive or periodontal dental service showed a similar decreasing trend from 44.0% in 2018 to 32.9% in 2021.
- **National Survey of Children's Health:** From 2019-2020, the proportion of children who saw a dentist or other oral health care provider for any kind of dental or oral health care during the past 12 months was 82.4%. Additionally, in the same period, the proportion of children and young adults who received at least one prevention or periodontal service was 77.2%.
- **National Health Interview Survey:** In 2018, 11.3% of adults were unable to receive the oral health services they needed because they could not afford them.
- **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System:** Both for 2018 and 2020, the proportion of persons with a diabetes diagnosis who reported visiting a dentist or dental clinic within the past year was 60.2% and 61.9%, respectively. This indicates a 1.7% increase in the measured indicator from 2018-2020.
- **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Annual Data:** For the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, the proportion of pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid who visited a dental provider or other oral health professionals for preventive or periodontal service in the 365 days preceding delivery were 12.0%, 9.1%, and 8.0%, respectively. These values show a decreasing trend in visits during their prenatal period from 2019-2021.
- **Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System:** From 2018-2020, the proportion of expectant mothers who had their teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist in the last 12 months increased slightly from 2018 (58.6%) to 59.6% in 2019 and 62.3% in 2020.

Intervention Strategies

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** In 2018, 98.2% of the Illinois population was served by fluoridated community water. The proportion increased in 2019 and was maintained through 2021.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Teen Vax View:** Of the 328 adolescents that were sampled in 2019, 54.5% indicated having their HPV vaccination series completed. This percentage increased in 2020, with 62.0% of respondents reporting completion of their three vaccination doses.
- **High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey:** In 2019, nearly 4.7% of adolescents indicated having smoked cigarettes and 19.9% reported using electronic vapor products on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey administration.

Workforce and Infrastructure

- **Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation:** In 2018, the number of active licensed dentists currently working or employed in the oral health field was 10,175. This measure has shown a progressive increase over the period of interest, with the number having ascended to 10,675, 11,178, and 11,568 in 2019, 2020, and 2021, respectively. The same trend was observed for the number of active licensed dental hygienists currently working or employed in the oral health field: 2018 (8,367), 2019 (8,736), 2020 (9,076), and 2021 (9,338).
- **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Annual Data:** In 2019, the number of dentists who actively participate in the Medicaid program by submitting at least one claim/per year was 2,766. In 2020 and 2021, the number decreased to 2,677 and 2,544, respectively. The number of providers who submitted at least 50 claims per year was 2,032 in 2019. The number of providers who submitted at least 50 claims per year also decreased to 1,866 in 2020 and 1,784 in 2021.
- **Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation:** The number of active licensed specialists has increased from 2018-2021. For instance, between 2018 and 2019, this number increased from 1,524, to 1,615. Subsequently, during 2020-2021, this number further increased from 1,682 to 1,726.
- **Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Annual Data:** In 2021, 134 oral surgeons were enrolled and actively participated in the Medicaid program.
- **Oral Health Workforce Survey:** During 2021-2022, 66.6% of general dentists surveyed indicated they care for children under 3 years of age.
 - Note: The data for this indicator were collected through a convenience sampling method and represent a partial workforce response.
- **Illinois Department of Public Health Oral Health Workforce:** Between 2020 and 2021, the number of community health workers trained in oral health concepts using the IDPH “Oral Health 101” curriculum increased from 54 to 137 for a total of 191 Community Health Workers trained in “Oral Health 101.”
- **Illinois Smiles for Life Oral Health:** The number of non-oral health licensed professionals who completed at least one module of the “Smiles for Life” oral health curriculum in 2019 was 536, in 2020 530, and in 2021 342. The total number of non-oral health licensed professionals who indicated they completed at least one module of the “Smiles for Life” curriculum was 1,408 unique individuals.

A limited set of county-level oral health data can be found at Illinois Public Health Community Map (<http://www.healthcarereportcard.illinois.gov/map>). Asthma, Behavioral Health, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes, Emergency Department, HIV/AIDS, Injury, Maternal and Child Health, Oral Health, Preventable Hospitalizations, Readmissions, and Social and Environmental Factors Categories of Measures are displayed at the county level. It is the OHS' intention that additional oral health measures listed in this brief will be populated and regularly updated for display on the Illinois Public Health Community Map.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This surveillance brief represents an organized effort to describe and highlight various oral health indicator metrics across Illinois. From 2018 to 2021, some indicators demonstrated constancy or positive change.

- In 2018-2019, 22.0% of third-grade children had untreated dental caries; the same prevalence was found in 2013-2014.
- The proportion of adults reporting any tooth loss declined from 27.9% in 2018 to 24.6% in 2020.
- Surveillance results also indicated that the number of hospital admissions due to NTDC declined during 2018-2021 (from 5,221 to 3,364).
- From 2018 to 2021, the proportion of the population that receives fluoridated community water has remained consistent at approximately 98.4%.
- A total of 191 community health workers were trained in "Oral Health 101."
- A total of 1,408 non-oral health licensed professionals indicated completion of at least one module of the "Smiles for Life" curriculum.
- The number of dentists currently working or employed in the oral health field increased from 8,577 in 2018 to 8,674 in 2021.

From 2018 to 2021, some indicators demonstrated negative change where additional focus is needed to develop data-informed action by the public, communities, and health care stakeholders.

- The proportion of Medicaid-insured children visiting an oral health professional decreased moderately from 2018 to 2021.
- Decreasing numbers of Medicaid-enrolled children under 6 years of age receive oral health services from a non-dentist provider.
- From 2018-2021, the number of active licensed dentists currently working or employed in the oral health field increased from 10,175 to 11,568.
- In 2018, 11.3% of adults were unable to receive the oral health services they needed because they could not afford them.
- During 2018-2019, the area-level rate (per 10,000) of individuals who used ED visits for NTDC was 42.5 for children and 92.0 for adults.

The findings presented in this brief are meant to inform Illinois leadership about the state's oral health status and to guide future public health planning and intervention. To ensure an improved oral health status, Illinois should aim to further its oral health workforce, implement effective preventive care dental programs, and reduce overall disparities in oral health.

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