

Accessing Oral Health Care in Illinois

Oral Health Fact Sheet

There are options available to everyone in Illinois.
Finding the right dental home starts with knowing where to look!

FINDING A DENTAL HOME

Ready to find a dentist? Ask yourself these **4 questions first**:

- ✓ **Location** — Is the office easy to get to from home or work?
- ✓ **Hours** — Do their office hours work for your schedule?
- ✓ **Insurance** — Is this dentist in your dental network?
- ✓ **Language** — Do you need translation or interpreter services?

OTHER WAYS TO ACCESS CARE

- Local health department dental clinics
- Dental schools and dental hygiene programs — often lower-cost care
- Check whether your medical insurance plan includes dental coverage
- Consider purchasing a dental insurance plan



FIND CARE NEAR YOU — SEARCH BY ZIP CODE



All three resources below let you search by ZIP code to find care close to home:

FIND A DENTIST

Illinois State Dental Society member dentist directory
ids.org/for-the-public/find-a-dentist

FIND A DENTAL CLINIC

For people with limited financial ability
ids.org/for-the-public/find-a-dental-clinic

FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

For low-income, uninsured, or undocumented residents
findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov



WHY ORAL HEALTH MATTERS

Oral health is more than just your teeth — it includes your **gums and all the supporting tissues** of your mouth. Poor oral health has been linked to serious conditions including **heart disease, diabetes, pre-term low birth weight, and immune disorders**. Changes in your mouth are often the first warning signs of problems elsewhere in the body.

REFERENCES

American Dental Association: ada.org/resources/research/health-policy-institute

American Dental Hygienists' Association: adha.org

Mayo Clinic — [Oral Health: mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/dental/art-20047475](https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/dental/art-20047475)

Georgetown Health Policy Institute: hpi.georgetown.edu/oralhealth/



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