

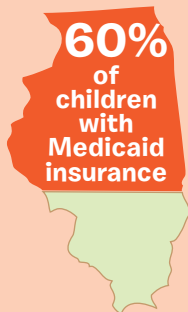


Brighter Smiles
Brighter Community

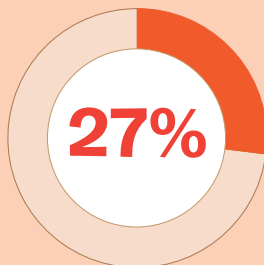
The Importance Of Children's Dental Health

U-46 Children Deserve Better Access to Dental Care

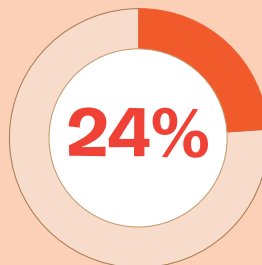
Illinois Children With
No Dental Visit in the Past Year



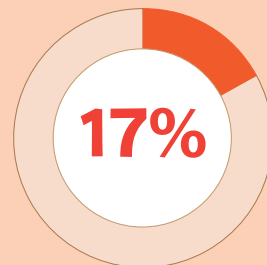
District U-46 Students Who Have Submitted the Required Dental Examination Form



Kindergartners



2nd Graders



6th Graders

Medicaid reimbursement rates for dentists in Illinois are among the lowest in the country. As a result, few dentists are willing to treat children with Medicaid insurance.

Tooth Decay is the Most Common Chronic Health Condition Among Children

In Illinois...

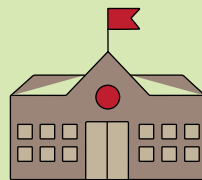


1 in 5 3rd graders



1 in 4 Black, Asian, and low-income children

have untreated **tooth decay**



Oral Health Affects School Attendance & Achievement



school hours lost annually for urgent and unplanned dental care

Students with toothaches are...



more likely to have **low grades**



more likely to **miss school** for dental problems

Poor Oral Health Has a Significant Impact on Children's Physical And Mental Health

Tooth decay is linked with...

Heart disease	Poor nutrition	Shyness
Stroke	Interrupted sleep	Unhappiness
Lung disease	Speech problems	Feeling worthless
Oral cancer	Behavior issues	Social withdrawal

Collaboration between schools, dentists, families, public health, and other community partners is essential.

Contact info@wellchildcenter.org for more information about how you can support children's oral health in our community.

www.WellChildCenter.org

