

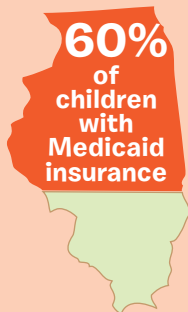


Brighter Smiles  
Brighter Community

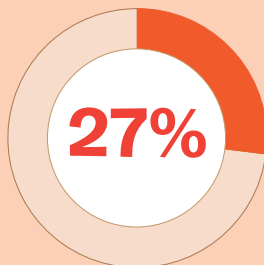
# The Importance Of Children's Dental Health

## U-46 Children Deserve Better Access to Dental Care

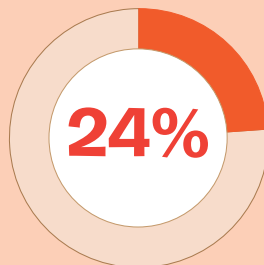
Illinois Children With  
No Dental Visit in the Past Year



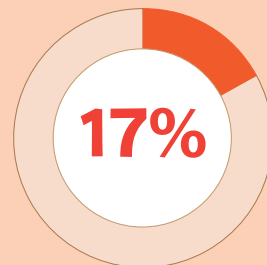
District U-46 Students Who Have Submitted the Required Dental Examination Form



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...

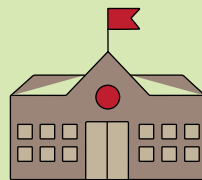


1 in 5 3rd graders



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

Make sure your child visits the dentist 2 times per year to keep their smile healthy! Scan the QR code below to find a dentist or contact your school nurse for information about free school dental exams.

[www.WellChildCenter.org](http://www.WellChildCenter.org)

