Good oral health during pregnancy is critical for the health of both the woman and baby.

Gum disease during pregnancy is related to increased risk of low birth weight and prematurity for babies.

Fewer than half of Illinois women had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy.

Pregnant women are 20% less likely to have a dental problem if their teeth were cleaned before or during pregnancy.

Women are two times more likely to get their teeth cleaned during pregnancy if they have dental insurance.

Illinois women are less likely to have their teeth cleaned before or during pregnancy if they:

- Are women of color
- Have a high school degree or less
- Are not married
- Are Insured by Medicaid
- Have more than 2 children
- Have too few prenatal care visits
- Smoke cigarettes
- Are younger than 35 years old

Questions? Contact the Illinois Department of Public Health

Office of Women’s Health & Family Services
DPH.MCH@illinois.gov

Division of Oral Health
DPH.OralHealth@Illinois.gov
Oral Health During Pregnancy in Illinois

Illinois Medicaid covers dental care during pregnancy, including teeth cleaning and visits for any problems, but there are major differences in access between women covered by Medicaid and women who are privately insured.

**Medicaid-Enrolled Women**
- Got teeth cleaned *before* pregnancy: 41%
- Got teeth cleaned *during* pregnancy: 27%
- Went to a dentist when they had a dental problem: 50%

**Privately Insured Women**
- Got teeth cleaned *before* pregnancy: 74%
- Got teeth cleaned *during* pregnancy: 61%
- Went to a dentist when they had a dental problem: 79%

**Resources**

**Need Help Finding a Dentist?**
To Find a Listing of Dentists Near You, Visit:
www.isds.org/for-the-public/find-a-dentist

For Illinois Medicaid Members:
- Managed Care Members: Contact the phone number on your membership card
- All Others:
  - Visit: dentaquest.com/find-a-dentist-gov/
  - Or Call DentaQuest: 1-888-286-2447

**More Information:**
- American Dental Association Information for Pregnant Women
- Safety of Oral Health Care During Pregnancy:
  www.acog.org/About-ACOG/News-Room/
  News-Releases/2013/Dental-X-Rays-Teeth-Cleanings-Safe-During-Pregnancy
- Dental Services Covered By Illinois Medicaid
  www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/dental/Pages/AdultDental.aspx

**About the Data**
PRAMS is a mail and phone survey of new moms that is completed 3-4 months after giving birth.
All data are self-reported. PRAMS is weighted to be representative of all Illinois new mothers.
Learn more at: www.dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/prams

**Questions?**
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- OR -
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