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IDPH to host annual summit on antimicrobial stewardship

IDPH's Division of Patient Safety and Quality will be hosting the annual Illinois Summit on Antimicrobial Stewardship on Tuesday, July 12. The event, which lasts from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., will be online.

The misuse and overuse of antimicrobials is one of the world's most pressing public health problems. Antimicrobial stewardship is a coordinated program that promotes the appropriate use of antimicrobials (including antibiotics), improves patient outcomes, reduces microbial resistance, and decreases the spread of infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms.

The summit aims to:

- Summarize the regulatory and national landscape for antimicrobial stewardship.
- Apply national guidelines and best practices for implementing and evaluating facility antimicrobial stewardship programs.
- Review past successful antimicrobial stewardship programs and lessons learned.
- Identify tools and resources for implementing antimicrobial stewardship programs.

Health care and public health professionals, including oral health



workers, are encouraged to attend the summit. Registration is available at <https://hopin.com/events/2022-illinois-summit-on-antimicrobial-stewardship/registration>.

To review best practices for antimicrobial stewardship in oral health, refer to the [Antibiotic Stewardship Toolkit for Dental Providers](#) and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Director's [Policy Statement: Promoting Antibiotic Stewardship in Dentistry](#).

For questions about the summit, contact the IDPH Division of Patient Safety and Quality at DPH.DPSQ@Illinois.gov.

Visual communication resources for health education

Communicating data is a vital part of providing the public with oral health knowledge and overall health literacy. Visual communication is particularly effective at reaching wide audiences and distilling complex data into understandable charts, graphs, diagrams, or other visuals.

However, visual communication can also be challenging to do well. Visuals can be misunderstood, and they have the potential to offend certain groups or reinforce negative stereotypes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a webpage that assists health educators in creating effective content and avoiding common mistakes. The webpage contains links to free public domain images and workbooks for improving visual communication skills.

Of particular note is the Urban Institute's [Do No Harm Guide: Applying Equity Awareness in Data Visualization](#). This guide assists health educators in being aware of diversity, equity, and inclusion while presenting visual data. It details how to choose appropriate colors, shapes, and words for visuals, and how to be inclusive to marginalized groups.

The full CDC visual communication resource guide can be viewed [here](#).



IOHP IV Objective 4.C sets the goal to distribute data briefs and reports that highlight inequities in disease burden between different population groups to spur action. These communication resources aid in working towards this objective.



Volunteers sought for Oral Health Event at the State Fair



IDPH's Oral Health Section will be hosting the annual Oral Health Event for children at the Illinois State Fair this August. During this event, volunteers offer free dental exams to children and oral health education to those who would like to know more.

The Oral Health Event is an opportunity to educate families about the importance of oral health and to assist those needing the required dental school exam form for their children.

The school exam is a requirement by the Illinois State Board of Education for children entering kindergarten, second, sixth, and ninth grades.

The Oral Health Event will take place August 11-21, 2022, in Springfield. Oral health workers interested in volunteering to do dental exams or health education should contact the Oral Health Section at DPH.OralHealth@illinois.gov or call 217-785-4899.

OHS Illinois dental resource map nears completion

IDPH's Oral Health Section (OHS) is working to complete a dental resource map. This map will include dental clinics and practices, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), local health departments, and hospitals in Illinois outside the Chicago metropolitan area that provide oral health services.

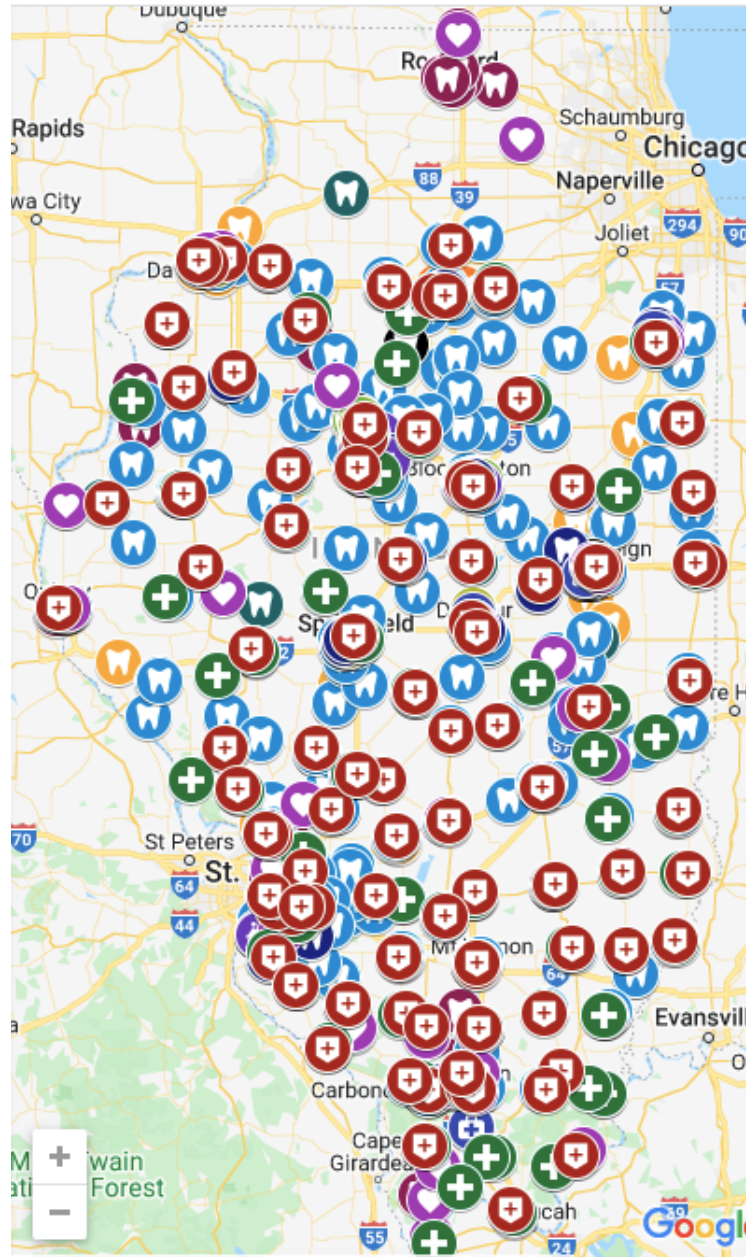
The dental resource map provides basic contact and service information and designates which providers accept Medicaid and provide Spanish language accommodation.

The OHS dental resource map can be accessed at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1a2ZGYxXW3nLd3RAn4kPKiSOxVXBP90Cj&usp=sharing>.

Food resource and dental resource maps were requested during stakeholder meetings for the Illinois Oral Health Plan IV.

After the in-progress food resource map was published in the March OHS newsletter, stakeholders brought Illinois Extension's [Find Food IL Community Food Map](#) to the section's attention. This map is another excellent resource for locating food pantries, soup kitchens, grocery stores, farmers markets, and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) offices in Illinois.

OHS will continue to update and expand the dental resource map outside the Chicago metropolitan area. If information on this map is missing or inaccurate, contact OHS at DPH.OralHealth@Illinois.gov.



IOHP IV Objective 1.B.6 sets the goal to increase understanding of where to access oral health care in the community, including for Medicaid members. The OHS dental resource map works towards this goal by providing an easy-to-use tool that assists individuals in finding oral health providers that fit their needs.

The map also aims to assist oral health stakeholders in identifying and visualizing provider shortage areas.

Upcoming Opportunities

July 15-16 • Downers Grove, Ill.
[Delta Dental's Dentist by 1 Education Session and Community Service Event](#) (12 CE credits)

August 16-18 • Atlanta, Ga. (Hybrid)
[2022 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media](#)

Forms for school dental exams

As a new school year approaches, OHS would like to remind oral health workers to download the most current school dental exam forms.

School dental exam forms are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [French](#). Dental examination waiver forms are also available on the [OHS website](#).

For questions, reach out to DPH.OralHealth@Illinois.gov.

Public health educator joins OHS staff

IDPH's Oral Health Section is pleased to introduce Cristy Wedemeyer as a new Public Health Educator and Grants Manager. Cristy will be managing the Long-Term Care Oral Health Training Grant, which aims to create a standardized training for oral health care in long-term care facilities.

Cristy most recently worked at the Jackson County Health Department in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Division. She has more than 20 years of experience in public health and consulting.

Cristy's interest in public health began, surprisingly, with a bag of french fries. After learning her fries had been handled by a worker infected with hepatitis A, Cristy visited her local health department to get vaccinated.

"That was my first experience with the health department," she said. "I learned about how important public health and prevention is."

Cristy also credits her health education professor in college with stoking her interest in the field. "She inspired that passion and interest to pursue this career," Cristy said.

Cristy is looking forward to working with oral health collaborators, learning about oral health programs, and gaining further experience in public health.

When she's not at work, Cristy enjoys making specialty popcorn and watching movies. She has two teenagers who keep her on her toes.



**For comments, questions, or to be added to the
OHS newsletter distribution list, email
DPH.OralHealth@Illinois.gov**