

Public-Private

Partnerships

The state of Illinois has a wealth of partnerships made up of a broad constituency of stakeholders who are working together to improve the oral health of all Illinoisans. The partnerships display a high level of synergy and demonstrate that successful collaboration creates new and better ways of thinking about problems and solutions. Illinois partners are engaged and are heavily invested in oral health issues.

Partnerships in Illinois are breaking new ground, challenging the “accepted wisdom,” and discovering innovative solutions to problems. They see the “big picture” and understand their local environment and determine appropriate strategies most likely to succeed.

Illinois partnerships take action by combining complementary knowledge skills and resources. They attack problems from multiple vantage points simultaneously; carry out comprehensive interventions that connect varied services, programs, policies and sectors; and coordinate community efforts to fill gaps effectively and efficiently.

Partnerships in Illinois are committed to broad community relations based on community needs. They incorporate the knowledge, concerns and priorities of community stakeholders. They focus on what is important to those affected and they build on community assets while expanding support through individuals, agencies and institutions in the community that also are committed to improving oral health.

Illinois partners in oral health include: citizen activists, political leaders, professional organizations, advocacy organizations, government agencies, businesses, not-for-profits, foundations, hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, municipalities, health centers, Head Start centers, and health departments. IFLOSS is considered one of the very best state oral health coalitions in the U.S. Highlights of just a very few partnerships follow.

The **Illinois State Dental Society** continues to partner with state agencies and other IFLOSS member organizations to reduce oral health disparities and improve access to care for underserved populations. ISDS has advocated for enhanced HFS reimbursement rates, participated in educational programs and community-based initiatives, and sponsored professional volunteerism opportunities for its members. The **Donated Dental Service Program**, operated by the Illinois Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped, provides donated dental care to homeless, mentally compromised or disabled persons. The Illinois State Dental Society and the Division of Health Policy of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services have developed the **Take Two Program**, a volunteer dental program that helps to provide dental care to children who are wards of the State and are in the care of foster parents. In collaboration with the **Illinois Dental Hygienists Association**, a long-term care in-service training program was developed to provide long term care facility staff with training in the management of the oral health of residents.

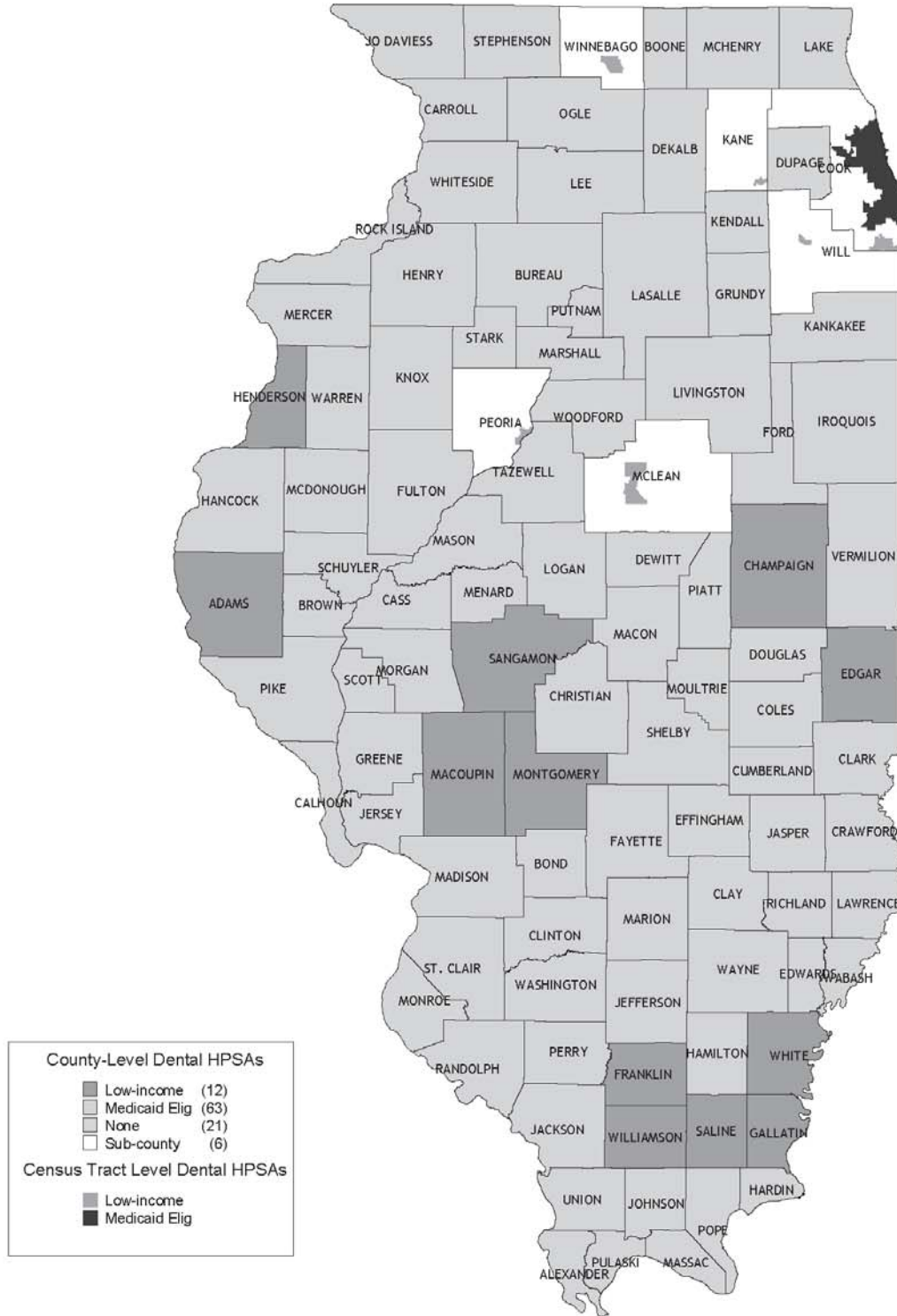
Established in 1937 and administered by the **University of Illinois at Chicago, the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)** is the Illinois Title V agency that provides care coordination for families and children with special health care needs. DSCC’s mission is to assure that children with disabilities, and those who have conditions which may lead to disabilities, grow and develop to the full extent of their abilities.



The **Illinois Rural Health Association** is re-establishing their Oral Health Subcommittee to address access to care, increase public awareness and offer educational programs for rural communities and school districts.

The **Campaign for Better Health Care** advocated for oral health care to be included as a component of the plan to assure health care access to all Illinois residents developed by the Adequate Health Care Task Force. The Task Force developed this plan to meet its charge established in the Health Care Justice Act.

The **University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)** – College of Dentistry (COD) has created a community-based oral health clinic experience program for their dental students. Students have the opportunity to provide oral health care services to residents in rural and underserved areas of Illinois. The first clinical experience outside of Chicago was located in Rockford and has been considered a success by UIC Rockford officials and participating students. UIC-COD is working to expand the clinical experience to other underserved areas of Illinois in the next few years.



Map generated by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health