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**INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) **Oral Health Program Newsletter**. This Newsletter will be distributed *quarterly* and will contain information about selected activities of the Oral Health Program (OHP), as well as other activities at the ISDH related to oral health.

Also included in each newsletter will be resources on a specific oral health topic, suitable for the general public, that may be shared with patients or people in your community interested in oral health.

These newsletters will be archived on the OHP website at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/18695.htm> under the section entitled *Newsletters*. This website contains other information about oral health that may be of interest to you.

**ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM**

**Selected Activities of the OHP**

The OHP is developing a list of metrics that will provide an overview of the oral health status of the people of Indiana.

The OHP is also developing a list of dentists, clinics, community health centers, and various other organizations that provide low cost dental care. If interested in being included on this list, contact Patty Morris at [Pmorris@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:Pmorris@isdh.IN.gov).

**Oral Health Topic:**  
**Periodontal Disease**

\*Am. Acad. Periodontology

\*NIDCR

\*ADA

*Disclaimer: The materials provided in the Oral Health Topic's section are for informational purposes only. Individuals should see an oral health professional to discuss any specific oral health issues.*

*Continuing Education Courses*

The OHP is currently working to create CE courses, which will have a public health component. We anticipate a course on *infection control in dental facilities* will be available soon. Once a course is ready, we will post information on the OHP website about how to access it.

*Other Activities at the ISDH*

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) plans to start offering oral health information to its clients at selected WIC sites throughout the state. This OHP is consulting on this project.

**ORAL HEALTH TOPIC**

*Periodontal Disease* - Many people are unaware of the importance of good oral health care in regards to keeping their *gums* healthy.

There are several online resources for information on gum disease. This information includes types, causes, symptoms, treatment, and prevention, and is available at the following websites:

- National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research  
<http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/oralhealth/Topics/GumDiseases>  
This site also discusses risk factors for gum disease.
- American Academy of Periodontology  
<https://www.perio.org/consumer/types-gum-disease.html>  
This site also discusses 4 different types of gum disease.
- American Dental Association  
<http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/az-topics/g/gum-disease>  
This site also has a slideshow on the *Myths of Gum Disease*.

*Note: If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please contact Linda Hillers at [LHillers@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov) and she will remove your name from the mailing list.*