



## **INTRODUCTION:**

We are still in the early stages of development for this Newsletter and would welcome any suggestions for the **Oral Health Topic** section. Suggestions may be made to Linda Hillers at [LHillers@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov).

The **Oral Health Topic** section of the Newsletter is suitable for the general public, and may be shared with your patients or people in your community interested in oral health.

As a reminder, these newsletters are 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 is intended to provide an overview of the oral health status of the people of Indiana. These metrics should be released in 2016 on the OHP website.

### **Continuing Education Courses**

The OHP is currently working to create CE courses relevant to the oral health of Hoosiers. We are getting close to launching the first course titled, "Infection Control in Dental Facilities in the State of Indiana". 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 WIC sites throughout the state. The OHP is consulting on this project.

**ORAL HEALTH TOPIC:**

**Care of Patients with Disabilities**

Taking care of someone with a developmental disability requires patience and skill. It takes planning, time, and the ability to manage physical, mental, and behavioral problems. Dental care isn't always easy. Caregivers can find information on easing the challenges of dental care for people with a variety of disabilities at the following websites.

**National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research**

<http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/oralhealth/Topics/DevelopmentalDisabilities/DentalCareEveryDay.htm>

This site has illustrations that may be helpful when providing dental care to individuals with a disability.

**Alzheimer's Association**

<https://www.alz.org/care/alzheimers-dementia-dental.asp>

This site provides tips on daily oral care and working with the dentist to optimize the experience at the dental office.

**ALS Association**

<http://www.alsa.org/als-care/resources/publications-videos/factsheets/fyi-oral-care.html>

This site also contains a section titled "Caregiver Tips and Hints" that may be helpful for caregivers of individuals with disabilities.

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) or Patty Morris at [PMorris@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:PMorris@isdh.IN.gov).

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.