

# Seeking Solutions: Dental Health and Disabilities in Indiana



McMillen Health talked to adults with disabilities, caregivers, and dental professionals. We wanted to find out how dental health educational resources are lacking and how we can fill those gaps.

The report *Seeking Solutions: Dental Health and Disabilities in Indiana* is a summary of what participants told us. In the report, we also made a summary of what other researchers are saying about dental health and disabilities. Read [Seeking Solutions: Dental Health and Disabilities in Indiana](#).



## What we learned from the participants:

- Adults with disabilities, family members, and support professionals need training about good dental health. Dental professionals need training in working with adults with disabilities.
- Trouble finding a dentist, transportation issues, and inaccessible offices cause poor dental health care in adults with disabilities.
- Physical limitations, sensory issues, anxiety, and trauma can make dental visits more difficult.

## What we learned from the literature:

- Education for caregivers improves at-home dental care.
- Dental care is better when it is available, accessible, accommodating, acceptable, and affordable.
- When dental services are modified, more patients avoid unnecessary surgeries.
- Medicaid does not cover dental care in at least 12 states. In other states, there usually are not enough dentists who accept Medicaid.

We also created a directory of Indiana dental offices that accept Medicaid and work with patients with disabilities. Read the [Indiana Dental Health Directory for Adults with Disabilities 2022](#).

Thank you to the project funders and all the participants. Without them, we would not have been able to seek solutions to dental health care barriers.



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