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Make it a Priority to Visit a Dentist in 2017
It's time to bring a better state of dental health to Oklahoma

Oklahoma City (January 5, 2017) - With the New Year here, comes a fresh start to shape new healthy habits. The Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA) and the American Dental Association (ADA) are urging Oklahomans to improve their oral health by visiting an ADA member dentist in 2017.

“It’s alarming that the state of Oklahoma ranks 48th for adults with a recent dental visit,” said the Director of Dental Health Service at the Oklahoma State Department of Health Dr. Jana Winfree. “It’s important for Oklahomans to realize how vital it is to establish a dental home and visit their dentist at least twice a year. Oral health is a key component to overall health and improved quality of life.”

While emergency rooms can provide pain relief and treat infection, few hospitals have dentists on staff to treat dental disease and provide comprehensive dental care. Moving patients with dental pain out of the ER and into a dental office ensures that they receive the right care at the right place and at the right time.

“The members of the Oklahoma Dental Association and the American Dental Association want to improve the quality of health for Oklahomans, but we can’t do that alone,” said Oklahoma Dental Association President, Dr. Edmund Braly. “People must be proactive with their dental health and visit their dentist before they experience pain. Use dental insurance to the maximum benefits allowed and don’t let 2017 end with letting a portion of your dental insurance go to waste.”

If an individual does not have a dental home, one can be found by visiting www.okda.org and click *Find An ODA Dentist*. Seven out of ten dentists in the U.S. are members of the ADA. These dentists have voluntarily agreed to abide by the high ethical standards reflected by the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct as a condition of their membership.

The Oklahoma Dental Association, founded in 1907, has a membership of more than 1,600 dentists. The Association was established to help foster an awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of the dental profession to society, to help advance the art and science of dentistry, and to promote public health and health services in the State of Oklahoma. For more information, visit www.okda.org.

Editor’s Note: If you would like to interview an ODA/ADA member dentist, please contact Tina Evans at **405.848.8873** or e-mail **tevens@okda.org**.

Reporters are invited to follow the ODA on Twitter [@OklaDentalAssoc](https://twitter.com/OklaDentalAssoc) and Like the ODA on Facebook [@okdentalassoc](https://www.facebook.com/okdentalassoc).