



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

2021 Public Policy Priorities

Note: All bolded initiatives are those on which Oral Health Kansas plans to lead advocacy efforts.

| POLICY AREA | SPECIFIC INITIATIVE OR LEGISLATION | LEVEL OF SUPPORT |
|---|--|--|
| Increase access to providers | Ensure that all Kansans have access to comprehensive oral health care. Address policies and practices that would restrict or impact the ability of citizens to access oral health care. | Support and advocate. Take the lead when appropriate. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support recruitment and retention efforts to increase KanCare dental providers and their compensation.• Support initiatives to increase access to oral healthcare providers.• Ensure access to dental services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. | |
| Increase financial capacity to pay for dental services | Reduce financial barriers associated with professional dental care. Full dental benefits for all Medicaid enrollees are a priority. | Partner and take the lead. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate for a comprehensive dental benefit for all KanCare beneficiaries.• Advocate for an increase in tobacco tax in order to preserve and increase funding for health and oral health.• Encourage elimination of administrative barriers for dental providers participating in KanCare.• Advocate for expansion of KanCare. | |
| Improve Public Oral Health | Engage in activities to increase the oral health of all Kansans using evidence-based public health strategies. | Support and advocate. Take the lead when appropriate. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preserve existing community water fluoridation in Kansas.• Explore legislation or policy change to utilize funding for oral health items, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste.• Encourage expansion of oral health data collection and reporting under KanCare.• Support policies to reduce harm from cigarettes, tobacco products and electronic cigarettes.• Encourage all early childhood organizations and agencies to align their policies by adopting the completion of a first dental visit by age one. | |