

## WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

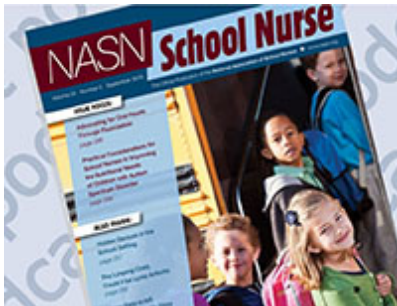
The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

## September 18, 2019

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## Oral Health Kansas In The National Spotlight

This month, Oral Health Kansas' work is featured in two national professional journals! Both journal articles focus on the importance of oral health education and take note of our extensive education portfolio.

“Advocating for Oral Health Through Fluoridation” is a featured article in this month's [NASN School Nurse journal](#). The National Association of School Nurses featured a

compelling story about the history and importance of community water fluoridation and the role school nurses play in advocating for oral health through fluoridation. The article was written by school nurses, including Cindi Tedder from the Olathe School District. Oral Health Kansas was featured as an example of an advocacy group with which school nurses can engage. The authors write, “By working together with advocacy groups, school nurses can promote health through new rewarding opportunities to work as a team toward health goals and outcomes.”

“Feeling Good About Your Smile: Implementation and Evaluation of an Oral Health Intervention for People with Intellectual Disability” is a new research article published in the September 2019 issue of the [American Association Intellectual and Developmental Disability journal Inclusion](#). The article is authored by University of Kansas researchers Noelle K. Kurth and Jean P. Hall and is the culmination of a multi-year project Oral Health Kansas did with KU to design and present oral health educational workshops for people with intellectual disabilities. OHK’s Dental Program Director Kathy Hunt worked with KU researchers to develop the “Feeling Good About Your Smile” workshop for people with disabilities. She has presented it numerous times in both Kansas and Arkansas. The research showed that people who participated in the workshops had improved oral health knowledge as a result. Kurth and Hall noted that the Feeling Good workshop empowers people with disabilities to improve their own oral health, but that systems change is needed to reduce the oral health disparities people with disabilities face. They said, “As such, service providers, family members, and advocates should work to assure that Medicaid coverage in their states includes comprehensive dental care and that dental school curricula include instruction on making services accessible to people with disabilities.”



## Chief Dental Officer To Speak At 2019 Conference On Oral Health

We are looking forward to having Dr. Tim Ricks speak at our annual Conference on Oral Health. Dr. Ricks is the chief dental officer of the U.S. Public Health Service. As chief dental officer and assistant surgeon general, he leads the U.S. Public Health Service’s (USPHS) Dental Category, providing guidance and advice to the U.S. Surgeon General on matters related to oral health and recruitment, retention and career development of dental officers. This year Dr. Tim Ricks attended the National Oral Health Conference and shared the importance of the work community coalitions do to provide interventions or services in communities. He is looking forward to coming to Kansas in November!

Have you signed up for the conference on Friday, November 8? The early bird special ends Friday, October 4!



## Do Your Genetics Determine Your Oral Health?

You may often hear people say "I got my teeth from my parents". But is that true? A recent study published in Pediatrics, "Genetic and Early-Life Environmental Influences on Dental Caries Risk: A Twin Study," revealed that a person's genetics do not affect their chances of developing tooth decay. The researchers collected sets of young twins data while the mother was pregnant (during the gestation period of 24 and 36 weeks) when they were born and at 18 months. The scientists conducted their last full dental examination when the child was six years old. At the end of the study, the researchers observed that the identical twins showed different degrees of tooth decay. However, the scientists did find a link between the mother's overall health and lifestyle choices during pregnancy and their child's future oral health. As the mother's weight increased so did their child's rate of tooth decay. Read more about the study [here!](#)



## Integrating Oral Health With Well Child Visits

Oral health assessments at a well-child visit are important because children that receive an oral health assessment are also likely to get other oral health care or utilize a dental preventive encounter. As a follow-up to the [infographic](#) the DentaQuest Partnership released last month, they have created an [expanded research brief](#) evaluating oral health services provided during medical well-child visits. While there has been an increase in oral health integration with primary care, they found that most Medicaid children are still not receiving recommended oral health assessments and treatments. Greater integration is needed in order to help facilitate early intervention and the prevention of dental disease.



## Where Is Oral Health Kansas?

Come find our table next Tuesday, September 24 at the [Kansas Public Health Association \(KPHA\)](#) conference! The conference is September 24-25, 2019 at the Ramada Inn in Topeka!



This year Rawlins County Dental Clinic (RCDC) celebrates 10 years! RCDC is based in Atwood, Kansas. RCDC's primary goal is to provide affordable and quality dental care while decreasing restrictions to access for that care. Attend their celebration on September 30!

**Celebration details:**

September 30th at 5:30 p.m.  
Rawlins County Dental Clinic  
515 State St. in Atwood, KS

## Our Fall Reservations Are Coming In!



Reservations for the Sugary Drink Display come in on a weekly basis. The October month is booked! Get your reservation in before another month gets booked!

What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink

display for a month.

We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee.

There is no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display; postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt. All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us with feedback about the display. **Click [here](#) to make a reservation!**

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? Click [here](#) to download our brochure.

## Follow Us



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