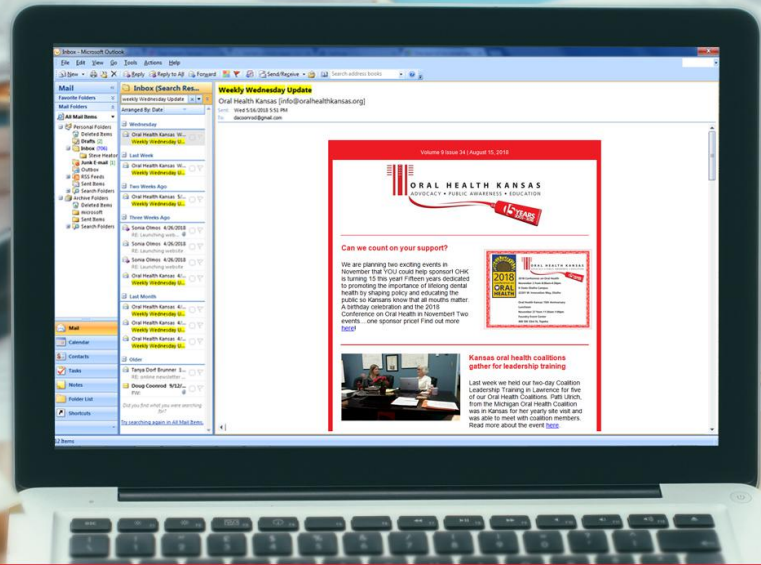




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
 ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

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Register For the Virtual 2021 Conference on Oral Health

[Registration](#) for the 2021 Conference on Oral Health is open! The two, half day virtual sessions will be held on November 4 and 5. The conference will bring national

and state thought leaders who will cover topics including: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Dental Care, serving people with disabilities and a panel on new ways to deliver dental care. We are also including **TWO** Skill Building Pre-Conference Sessions for FREE both at 8:00am

on Thursday, November 4 and 8:00 am on Friday, November 5. If you are not able to attend one or both days, that's ok. You can view the recorded sessions for up to six months. The deadline to register is October 22. Sign up to be one of the first 100 people to [register](#) and receive a conference mailing with swag!



Photo by Jhon David on Unsplash

Medicaid Adult Dental Services Benefit AI/AN People

“Making adult dental services mandatory in Medicaid would expand access to dental care for millions of low-income AI/AN people outside the tribal health system, while improving the ability of tribal health systems to meet the oral health needs of their patients. "A [new issue brief](#) from Community Catalyst, calls out the inequities American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people face in accessing dental care. Leaders from Native American Connections, National Indian Health Board, and Southern Plains Tribal Health Board contributed to this issue brief that outlines the health and income disparities AI/AN people experience and the responsibilities the federal government has under treaty obligations to provide for the health of AI/AN communities.

New legislation in Congress called the Medicaid Dental Benefits Act would make comprehensive dental benefits universally available to all Medicaid beneficiaries. The brief points out, “This (legislation) is particularly important for equitable access within AI/AN communities, as many tribal nations span more than one state.” Oral Health Kansas has signed onto a letter supporting this legislation in Congress. We also are leading advocacy efforts to enact a comprehensive dental benefit for the Kansas Medicaid program. Contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org to get involved in advocating for dental benefits for all low-income and marginalized populations.



Campaign Engages Health Care Providers to Help Tobacco Users Quit

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has launched a statewide campaign to raise awareness of the health risks of tobacco use and connect users with the [Kansas Tobacco Quitline](#)

([KanQuit](#)).

KanQuit is a free service that offers confidential help to quit tobacco to all Kansas residents 18 and older through online and telephone programs. Additional benefits are available to patients with qualifying mental illnesses or substance abuse conditions, including ADHD, bipolar disorder, depression, drug or alcohol abuse disorder, anxiety, PTSD and schizophrenia. In Kansas, 24.6 percent of adults use tobacco products, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes¹, and almost one-third (31.4 percent) of adults with poor mental health* smoke. That is more than double the prevalence among adults without poor mental health (13.6 percent).

In addition to reaching tobacco users directly, KDHE is arming health care providers with information, training and tools to help their patients choose KanQuit. Health care providers play a critical role in helping tobacco users understand the health risks of tobacco products as well as helping them access free help to support their quit journey. One in every four Kansas Tobacco Quitline participants heard about the program from a healthcare professional,³ and 8.1 percent of Quitline participants are referred directly to the program by their provider.

The KanQuit program offers tips and tools to support providers working with patients to quit tobacco. The program features the [Kansas Tobacco Cessation Help \(KaTCH\) Online Training](#), which is a free self-directed training.

KDHE is providing materials that can be displayed in clinic settings including posters and fact sheets. KDHE needs participation from primary care, dental and behavioral health care providers as well as independent pharmacists throughout the state to make this an urgent conversation with patients.

For information about KanQuit, visit KSquit.org.



Tooth Loss During Pregnancy

A woman on the [Today Show shared her story](#) of losing her teeth throughout her four pregnancies. Tooth loss and rotting during pregnancy is primarily caused by pregnancy gingivitis. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to 75% of people experience gingivitis during pregnancy. Hormonal changes common during pregnancy can cause gums to

loosen their grip around the tooth and hasten decaying.

What can you do if you're pregnant to prevent tooth loss:

- Visit your dentist every six months
- Eat plenty of vegetables and fruit

- Brush with fluoride toothpaste and floss
- Monitor for any issues in your mouth, that could spread to other parts of your body

Read the Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: [A National Consensus Statement](#) which provides guidance on oral health care for pregnant women for both prenatal care health professionals and oral health professionals, pharmacological considerations for pregnant women, and guidance for health professionals to share with pregnant women.



Upcoming Events

- 2021 Conference on Oral Health, presented by Oral Health Kansas, November 4 and 5. Register [here](#).
- Webinar series: Integrating Race Conversations into Healthy Patient-Provider Interactions, 3rd Friday of every month at 12:00pm CST. Find more information [here](#).
- Center for Science in the Public Interest Speaker Series, Addressing Diversity in Nutrition and Dietetics: Moving Beyond the Why, October 5, 2:00pm-3:00pm. Register [here](#).
- Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas (SACK) Conference, virtually on October 16, 9:30am-5:30pm. Register [here](#).



During the 2021 Conference on Oral Health, we will be unveiling a new tool to help people with disabilities access dental care. One of our partners in this project is Tami Allen, Co-Executive Director of [Families Together, Inc.](#) Tami

will share insight about how to prepare a dental office to understand the unique needs of each person with a disability. Learn more during the [panel presentation on Thursday, November 4.](#)





Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.

During this time, hand washing and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.



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