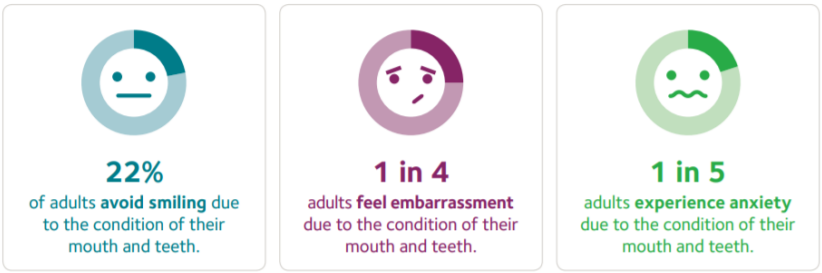
Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage in Kansas (SB 227)
Why increase the benefit?

Oral health plays an important role in a person's overall health.

- Poor oral hygiene can elevate chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In pregnant women, it can lead to pre-term delivery or a baby with low birth weight.

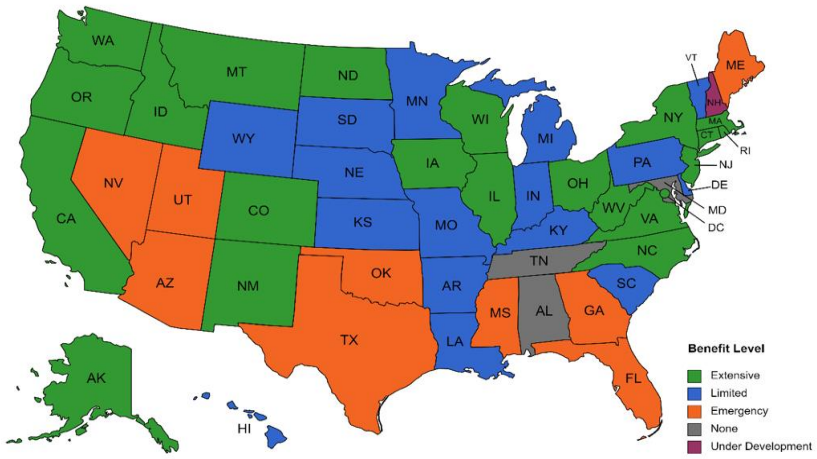
Oral health impacts employment opportunities and peer acceptance.

- The way a person's teeth and mouth look have a big impact on how others view them and how they perceive themselves (Oral Health in America, 2020). This perception has an impact on a person's ability to work, contributes to their social status, and can have an impact on their socioeconomic level in society *(Oral Health in America, 2020).*



(American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute's report: *Oral Health and Well-Being in Kansas*)

Kansas is one of 16 states that has limited adult dental coverage in Medicaid.



Estimating the Cost of Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits in Kansas

- The American Dental Association's 2021 study*, Estimating the Cost of Introducing Comprehensive Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits in Kansas,* found the net cost translates to $0.51 per enrollee per month in state funds. There will be significant savings in medical costs in Medicaid with adult dental benefits. The cost will be negligible by the third year.

Summary

- Comprehensive Medicaid dental benefits will improve overall health conditions. Increased employment opportunities help Kansans leave Medicaid.

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Please contact Oral Health Kansas for additional information or questions at info@oralhealthkansas.org or 785-235-6039. Visit our Adult Dental Webpage: http://oralhealthkansas.org/MedicaidAdultDentalAdvocacy.html.