



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

2024 Public Policy Priorities

Oral Health Kansas promotes local, state, and federal policy improvements that increase access to dental care and improves oral and overall health. All policy change must acknowledge the role social determinants of health play in Kansans' lives and ability to access healthcare services.

POLICY AREA	SPECIFIC INITIATIVE OR LEGISLATION	LEVEL OF SUPPORT
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 an appropriation to add dental examinations and cleanings to KanCare dental benefits for all adult beneficiaries.• Advocate for KanCare to take a preventive whole person approach to dental care.• Advocate with Congressional delegation for a comprehensive Medicare dental benefit, Medicaid adult dental benefits, and dental benefits for veterans.• Encourage elimination of administrative barriers for dental providers participating in KanCare.• Advocate for KanCare expansion.	
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 residents 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, including through the KanCare re-procurement process.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Target populations include children, people with disabilities, and elderly adults.◦ Encourage expansion of oral health data collection and reporting under KanCare.◦ Actively engage Managed Care Organizations in increasing their dental provider network.◦ Improve access to sedation dental care for people with disabilities.• Deploy an impact campaign to reduce oral health disparities by encouraging dental offices to treat children and adults with disabilities.	
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.• Ensure Kansas kids have access to clean, safe drinking water.• Direct Kansas Department of Children and Families to submit a waiver to utilize SNAP funding for oral health items, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste.• Support policies to reduce harm from cigarettes, tobacco products and electronic cigarettes.• Encourage all early childhood organizations and agencies to align their policies by requiring dental visits by age one.	

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