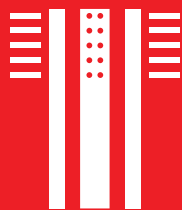


# 2025 KANSAS ORAL HEALTH REPORT CARD



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

# Kansas Oral Health 2025 REPORT CARD

State Score:



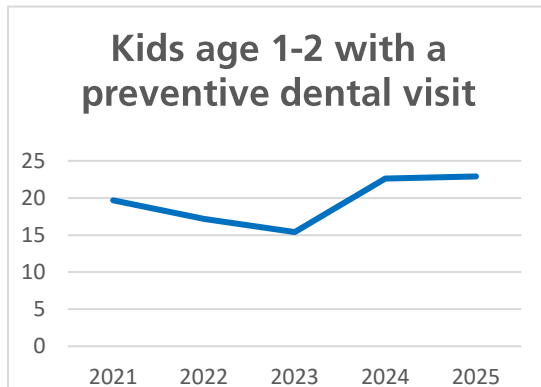
## Navigating the Path to Improved Oral Health

Oral Health Kansas is releasing its fifth annual Kansas Oral Health Report Card, which compares our state's oral health outcomes to national benchmarks. The Kansas Oral Health Report Card shows that our state is doing many things right, but that we have a long way to go to ensure that all Kansans are able to maintain their oral health. For the fifth year in a row, Kansas received a grade of C on a series of indicators. **The data shows us where more research, advocacy, and education are needed.**

The 2025 Kansas Oral Health Report Card presents opportunities for stakeholders in the oral health community to take action to improve the dental provider network, especially for people living in poverty and underserved populations, and to increase Kansans' understanding of how to access the dental care they need. We invite dental professionals, managed care organizations, policymakers, community service providers, and consumers to join us in the work to improve oral health for all Kansans.

### Progress and Promising Trends

**Children enrolled in Medicaid are receiving preventive dental care at consistent rates.** From the



2024 to 2025 Report Card, there did not seem to be any significant change (around 1% or less) in the percentage of children of ages 1-2, ages 3-5, and ages 1-20 who received a preventive dental care visit. The steady increase in the number of kids enrolled in Medicaid is an indicator that the trend is going in the right direction, but less than 50% are receiving preventive dental care.

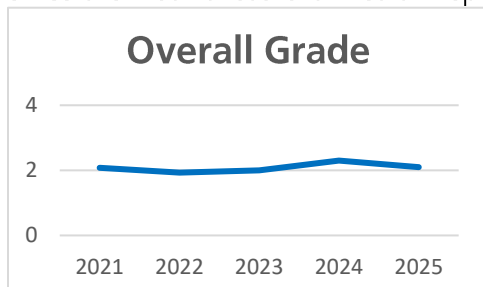
The overall percentage of Kansas children who had a dental visit in the last year remains strong at 83%—though slightly down from 85% in 2024, it reflects a long-term improvement in access to dental care for kids. It's important to recognize

that while numbers fluctuate, Kansas is dedicated to improving kids' oral health year after year.

Additionally, we've seen a **plateau in the percentage of older adults who have lost some or all of their natural teeth.** While there is still work to be done, this stability gives us hope for continued progress in the future.

### Ongoing Challenges and the Road Ahead

Since the first Kansas Oral Health Report Card five years ago, there has been **almost no change in**



**outcomes for adults.** About two-thirds of Kansas adults had a dental visit in the last year. This number has not changed over the last five Report Cards. The rate of adults with a dental visit is roughly equivalent to the percentage of Kansas adults who have dental insurance.<sup>1</sup>

Kansas' overall grade has been a C since the first Report Card. While individual measures may be moving up or down, overall Kansas is not making significant progress in improving oral health.

## Next Steps

Oral Health Kansas and our partners are addressing the fact that the Medicaid dental provider network for children and adults, and especially people with disabilities, is not robust. There are positive signs, especially with a new requirement that Medicaid managed care organizations track and publish their lists of sedation dental providers beginning in 2025. The 2025 Report Card demonstrates that dental care access for adults is lacking. **Research, education, and advocacy strategies are needed to make more progress.**

- **Research**

- The most recent dental insurance coverage report is based on research from 2017. In 2022 the Kansas Medicaid program began covering dental care for adults, so it is likely the rate of dental insurance in Kansas among adults has increased. **Kansas needs a new study to show how much the percentage of adults with dental insurance has increased.**

- **Education**

- Because more adults have dental coverage through Medicaid, it is important to **make sure adults are aware of their benefits and understand how to access that care.**
- It is perhaps even more important for **dental providers to understand the dental coverage available for this new population.**
- Oral Health Kansas' new Dental Medicaid Facilitator and Education Coordinator staff members will help to reach more Kansans.

- **Advocacy**

- Since 2022, adults enrolled in Medicaid have had access to restorative dental care. In 2024, Medicaid expanded coverage to include preventive dental care, such as dental exams, x-rays, and cleanings. However, to ensure that everyone with Medicaid coverage can access the care they need, further steps must be taken, including addressing the ongoing issue of low reimbursement rates for Medicaid dental services.
- Oral Health Kansas leads a Sedation Dental Care Task Force that will launch a **comprehensive survey of dental providers in 2025 to determine their ability to provide sedation dental care and to treat people with disabilities.** This data will help the Medicaid managed care organizations produce the newly required sedation network reports beginning in 2025 and will help shine a light on capacity and access.

## Oral Health Kansas Resources

Oral Health Kansas is a statewide organization whose mission is to improve oral health in Kansas through advocacy, public awareness, and education. Follow us on our [website](#), as well as our [e-newsletter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

- [Medicaid adult dental benefits](#) webpage has resources for consumers and providers.
- [Consumer webpage](#) features tips, resources, and strategies for maintaining good oral health.
- [Lived Experience Advisory Group](#) focuses on the real oral health challenges faced by people who have Medicaid coverage.

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<sup>1</sup> Kansas Health Institute: "Dental Insurance Coverage and Unmet Dental Needs in Kansas," 2020. <https://www.khi.org/articles/dental-insurance-coverage-and-unmet-dental-needs-in-kansas/>

