



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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New Adult Dental Webpage for Providers and Consumers

OHK has been gathering information for both providers and consumers on the Medicaid adult dental rate increase and what it will mean for both groups of people. The new KanCare adult dental benefits went into effect on July 1, 2022. The coverage includes fillings and crowns, periodontal care, and silver diamine fluoride. Transportation to dental appointments for



these services is also available. The managed care organizations (Aetna Better Health of Kansas, Sunflower Health Plan, and United Healthcare) will continue to cover exams and cleanings through their value-added benefits. Click [here](#) to find more information for each managed care organization.

We also created a list of frequently asked questions for [consumers](#) and [providers](#) to learn what services are covered and a [list of dental codes](#) that are covered. We'll keep our [webpage](#) updated as we continue to get more information.



Kansas Among One of the 50 State Champions for Oral Health

Oral Health Kansas is very pleased to be a part of the 100 Million Mouths Campaign (100MMC). The 100MMC is an initiative that is recruiting oral health education champions in each state, to work with health profession schools and programs to integrate oral health into their curricula to bridge gaps in oral health access. Learn more about 100MMC [here](#).

This year, we have partnered with KU Medical Center, K-State Physician's Assistant Program, Pittsburg State University's Nurse Practitioner Program, and Washburn School of Nursing to explore ways to integrate oral health into their core curriculum. If you know of a medical school you'd like us to reach out, please contact Kathy Hunt at khunt@oralhealthkansas.org.



Project Changes Name to Help More Families

Since 2019, OHK along with several partners have worked on the Dental Homes for Kids Project. This project was designed to help families with children with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) in Wyandotte, Johnson, and Allen Counties find a dental home. Our work has become so much more and the issues we are hearing are not just from families who have

children with IDD. We recently renamed our project to “Pathway to Oral Health” in hopes to broaden our scope of work. We hope to reach more families who are battling barriers to dental care. If you’re interested in learning more about the project, email MaryAnne Lynch Small at mlynchsmall@oralhealthkansas.org.



Report Shows Nearly Half of the World’s Population Has Untreated Oral Diseases

Published in November of this year, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) “[Global oral health status report](#)” is a current, comprehensive, and revealing compilation and commentary on the global oral health burden. Whilst painting an “alarming” picture of the status of global oral health, this document also critically serves as a reference for policy makers and a broad range of advocacy stakeholders to identify challenges and highlight opportunities to improve oral health. This is a document brimming with guidance and shows a necessary commitment from the WHO to prioritize oral health and healthcare. OHK will continue to review the report and provide context for our readers in the coming months.

The [Washington Post](#) published a story on the findings from WHO. Calling the global situation “alarming,” WHO officials say nearly half of the world’s population has untreated oral diseases, and that these illnesses affect more people worldwide than mental disorders, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cancers combined.



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: SDF and More: New Ways to Manage Caries,** December 8 at 6 p.m. CST. Register [here](#).



Thirsty for Health (TFH) team members, Tanya and TFH Intern Jenna Gorton gave a presentation at the Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas.

They shared information about the Thirsty for Health program and our work to increase access to water in schools. Pictured here are other speakers that attended the conference.



Sugary Drink Display

Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

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