

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

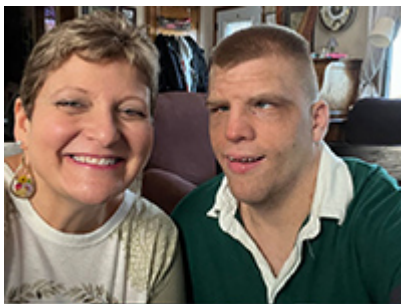
The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

February 1, 2023

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Kansas Family Shares Story in Washington

Kathy Keck and her son Jacob have had challenges in accessing dental care due to Jacob's disability. She is often seen at the Kansas Statehouse with Jacob testifying on many issues. Kathy and Jacob were interviewed by [Families USA](#) as part of a video

series to share at the national level that will highlight the impact of dental services for adults enrolled in Medicaid. Families USA sent a crew to Topeka, Kansas to interview them both and how his coverage will improve with the [Medicaid adult dental policy change](#). Kathy and Jacob attended the national Families USA conference last week where their video debuted. Conference attendees gave them a standing ovation! Watch the video [here](#) to learn more about Kathy and Jacob's journey.



Healthy Mouth for a Healthy Heart

February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on a healthy heart! Having a healthy heart is more than just getting up and exercising. It's also about watching what you eat. Oral health and heart disease are connected by the spread of bacteria - and other germs - from your mouth to other parts of your body through the bloodstream.

- Untreated cavities and racial or ethnic groups: Nearly twice as many non-Hispanic Black or Mexican American adults have untreated cavities as non-Hispanic White adults.
- Adults and oral cancer: Head and neck cancers are more than twice as common among men as women. The 5-year survival rate for oral pharyngeal (throat) cancers is lower among Black men (41%) than White men (62%).
- Among working-age US adults, over 40% of low-income and non-Hispanic Black adults have untreated tooth decay.

This Heart Month the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention is expanding the reach of the Million Hearts and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Foundation's ["Live to the Beat" campaign](#), which focuses on encouraging and empowering Black adults ages 35 to 54 to take small steps to reduce their risks for cardiovascular disease.

[Read more](#) about disparities in oral health.



Messages to Help During National Children's Dental Health Month

There's still time to plan for National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM), which begins today! OHK created [various resources](#) for NCDHM to help you plan an event or share information with families. Children's oral health is important every day, but this month highlights the importance of delivering the message to families. Oral health problems are one of the main reasons children miss school. Having a tooth ache or discomfort makes it difficult to concentrate in school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states:

- Cavities and racial or ethnic groups: Based on data from 2011 - 2016, for children aged 2 to 5 years, about 33% of Mexican American and 28% of non-Hispanic Black children have had cavities in their primary teeth, compared with 18% of non-Hispanic White children. For children aged 12 to 19, nearly 70% of Mexican American children have had cavities in their permanent teeth, compared with 54% of non-Hispanic White children.
- Untreated cavities and family income: For children aged 2 to 5 years, 17% of children from low-income households have untreated cavities in their primary teeth, 3 times the percentage of children from higher-income households. By ages 12 to 19, 23% of children from low-income families have untreated cavities in their permanent teeth, twice that of children from higher-income households.
- Sealants and family income: Children aged 6 to 19 years from low-income households are about 15% less likely to get sealants and twice as likely to have untreated cavities compared with children from higher-income households.

Visit our [website](#) for more consumer resources to share with families.



Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: Oral Health for Children - What You Should Know** (This is a Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care Licensing approved training). February 6, 6-7:30pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Class:** Do you support breastfeeding families? Breastfeeding 101 Basics Class February 16, 8:30m-12pm

CST. Register [here](#).

- **Missouri Oral Health Policy Conference**, March 2 and 3. Learn more [here](#).
- **Kansas Mission of Mercy**, March 24 and 25 in Topeka. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **2023 National Oral Health Conference**, April 17 - 19, 2023. Click [here](#) to register.



We're happy to share some exciting news! Dental Champion and previous OHK staff member, Megan Foreman, has recently started a position as housing



coordinator for Johnson County. This is a newly created position where she will bring together community stakeholders that provide housing services and initiatives to work together to improve efficiency on how the county serves people. Megan has stated that she wants to incorporate public health into addressing homelessness. We can't wait to see the amazing work she will do to tackle the needs of the homeless community. Read more about her new position [here](#).



Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Displays available for reservations. We only have a limited amount so please sign up soon if you're interested in reserving one. Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

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