

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](#).

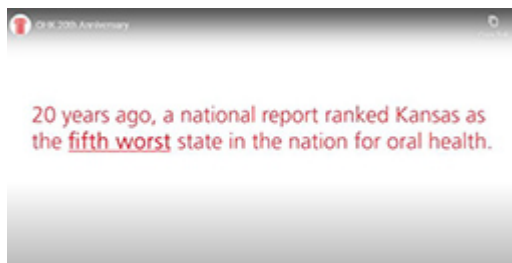
July 12, 2023

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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Share Your Memories Throughout 20 Years

We think 2023 is a year to celebrate, especially to celebrate Oral Health Kansas as we mark 20 years of working together to improve the oral health of Kansans.

We have worked hard but our work is not done. In 20 years we have:

- Trained 9 Dental Champion Leadership classes on how they can be oral health leaders in their communities.
- Provided oral health education and resources to families.
- Advocated for Medicaid (KanCare) to extend dental coverage for adults enrolled.
- Presented at national conferences.
- Assisted a group of volunteers in Shawnee County to educate families on oral health.

This list is only on the beginning of what we have achieved! [Watch](#) and share our anniversary video to see a glimpse of our work and impact. If you have worked on a project with us and want to share your memory or share how we helped someone, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



National Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental health and oral health are interconnected and can have a significant impact on each other. Stress, anxiety, and depression can affect oral health in several ways. People experiencing high levels of stress or anxiety may engage in habits like teeth grinding (bruxism) or clenching, which can lead to tooth damage, jaw pain, and headaches. Depression and anxiety can also affect a person's motivation and ability to maintain good oral hygiene practices, leading to an increased risk of dental issues like cavities and gum disease. People who take mental health medications can experience dry mouth, which also can lead to tooth loss. Taking care of oral health can contribute to better mental well-being. Maintaining good oral hygiene, such as brushing twice a day, flossing regularly, and visiting the dentist for check-ups, can help prevent dental issues and reduce the risk of associated psychological distress. It can also help with self-esteem, because a healthy smile helps everyone feel confident.

These issues are part of the reason it is so important people have the opportunity to access to dental care. Following last year's implementation of Medicaid adult dental benefits, Oral Health Kansas and our partners worked hard this year to advocate with the Kansas Legislature to add denture coverage to the state's Medicaid adult dental benefits. The coverage went into effect July 1.

The denture benefit will be open to people over age 21 and will include both dentures and partials, as well as repairs and adjustments. People who need dentures or partials will be able to receive replacements every five years. A list of all the codes covered and the rates for the codes is in the [policy change bulletin](#).

We will update our [Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits webpage](#) with information about the new denture benefit this month.



What Can You Do While Your Legislator is on Break?

The 2023 legislative session adjourned in April and legislators will return January 8, 2024. During this time, you can still find opportunities to talk to your legislators while they're back home in their districts or communities. If you are not sure who your legislators are, [watch this short video](#) by OHK that will walk you through how to find that information.

When you find out who they are, you can browse their webpage or social media to see if they announce a day or time they will be out meeting with constituents. Some legislators have a "coffee time" or attend an event to visit with the community. Spending time getting to know your legislators at home is one of the best ways to ensure they will listen to you when you want to share your perspective on important issues, such as improving Medicaid dental services.

Our [Advocacy Toolkit](#) has several short videos if you need help on ways to contact your legislator and even how to talk to your legislator. If you have other questions, contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



The Call for Abstracts for the 2024 National Oral Health Conference Has Opened!

The [submission site](#) for all submission types for the [2024 National Oral Health Conference](#) is now open. Information about [registration rates and the hotel](#) is also available on the website.

Weekend Workshops:

August 24, 2023 - Deadline to submit proposals to Christine Wood (cwood@astdd.org), Executive Director of ASTDD, or Dr. Frances Kim (fkim@aaphd.org), Executive Director of

AAPHD, for Weekend Workshops. Weekend workshop abstracts are only accepted after approval by either executive director.

August 31, 2023 - Notifications regarding Weekend Workshop proposal status sent out.

September 28, 2023 - Deadline to submit abstracts for Weekend Workshops. Site closes at 11:45 pm EST

October 2023 - Notifications emailed to Abstract Submitters for Weekend Workshops.

60- and 90-minute Seminars:

September 6, 2023 - Deadline to submit abstracts for 60- and 90-minute seminars. Site closes at 11:45 pm EST

October 2023 - Notifications emailed to Abstract Submitters for 60- and 90-minute seminars

Roundtables, Posters, Oral Presentations and AAPHD Student Merit Awards:

October 18, 2023 - Deadline to submit Roundtable, Posters and Oral Presentation abstracts, and Student Merit Award documents. Site closes at 11:45 PM EST.

December 2023 - Notifications emailed to Abstract Submitters

For more information click [here](#).



Upcoming Events

- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- **Webinar:** Unequal Treatment Revisited: A Workshop Series: Part 1, July 12-13. Click [here](#) to find out more.
- **Webinar:** Part 1: Prevention Super Partners: Dental Care

Teams & QuitLines, July 27 at 1:00pm CST. Register [here](#).

- **Webinar:** Part 2: Saving Smiles and Lives: Tools to Integrate Smoking Cessation into Practice, August 3 at 12:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Learning Community - Oral Health Policy & Advocacy, August 30 at 2:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- Community Care Network of Kansas conference, October 4-6, in Lawrence. Learn more [here](#).
- [Conference on Oral Health](#) - hybrid conference on Friday, October 27 at the KU Edwards Campus.



OHK isn't just in Kansas! When given the opportunity, we try to expand our reach in other states to share what we're doing. Staff member, Kathy

Hunt, attended the American Dental Hygienist Association national conference in Chicago last week. In her role as the national lead for the Head Start DHL (Dental Hygienist Liaison) Project, she staffed an exhibit to share information with attendees. She also had several opportunities to share our work at OHK and the work of oral health coalitions nationally.



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!

Follow Us



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