

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](#).

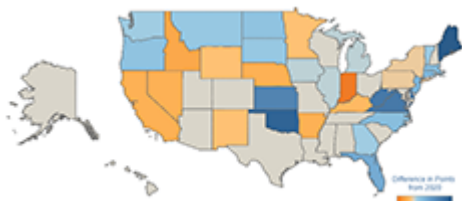
July 26, 2023

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**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Trends in Medicaid Coverage of Adult Dental Benefits

Last week we shared the news that [CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#) has released the newest [Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Coverage Checker](#). The data in this year's Coverage Checker is based on each state's coverage of Medicaid adult dental services as of December 31, 2022. In last year's version of

the Coverage Checker, Kansas received only one point on a scale of one to 32. This year we received 16 points and were rated as one of the states that improved our score the most. The map shows the change in points for each state. The darker blue color represents more change.

In a [blog post](#) about the newly updated Coverage Checker, CareQuest Institute policy consultant Stacey Auger said, “The period between 2020 and 2022 marked a significant expansion of Medicaid adult benefits across the country - one of the most significant in recent decades. Nearly half of all states expanded their Medicaid adult dental benefit offerings.” Kansas is one of five states that significantly expanded their existing adult dental benefits. The others are Maine, Oklahoma, Virginia, and West Virginia. The history of Kansas’ extension of dental benefits to adults is summarized well in the blog:

“In Kansas, Medicaid dental benefits were eliminated for all adults in 2010. (Between 2010 and 2022, Kansas provided emergency extractions to its adult Medicaid members. Some additional dental services were later offered through the state’s Managed Care Organizations as value-added benefits.) In 2013, the state’s three Medicaid-contracted managed care organizations (MCOs) began providing limited dental services to its adult members as “value-added services” at no cost to the state. They expanded those in 2018. In April 2022, the state budget was finalized and included funding for the restoration and expansion of Medicaid adult dental benefits. The new benefit (effective July 1, 2022) includes fillings, crowns, and periodontal treatment. The state’s MCOs continue to cover examinations and cleanings.”

The 2023 Coverage Checker demonstrates that 40% of states have expanded dental benefits for adults since 2020. In addition to covering fillings and periodontal care, the most commonly added service was dentures. This month Kansas began covering dentures in Medicaid, so we know Kansas will improve even more in next year’s version of the Coverage Checker when the Legislature’s investment in covering dentures will be reflected.



Celebrating the American Disabilities Act

Happy 33rd Anniversary to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)! Today, July 26, the ADA National Network and individuals, communities, and organizations across

the country will be celebrating. This historic civil rights law protects the rights of people with

disabilities. The ADA plays a pivotal role in ensuring equitable access to dental care for all individuals, , fostering a more inclusive and compassionate healthcare system.

At OHK, we believe everyone should have access to oral health care and the information they need to maintain their oral health. We work to improve the oral health of both children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. This includes the challenges that can arise as a person ages. We use several strategies to make progress on this goal, including:

- Advocating for oral health services for people with disabilities with Kansas Legislators, state government leaders, and community agencies serving adults with disabilities.
- Providing staff and caregiver oral health workshops to increase the knowledge, skills and confidence to support practices that maintain good oral health for adults with disabilities.
- Increasing access to professional dental care for adults with disabilities by offering continuing education opportunities to medical and dental providers.
- Providing fun, interactive learning sessions for adults with disabilities to learn how they can keep their mouth healthy with our [Feeling Good About Your Smile workshop](#).

For more resources visit our website:

http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/OlderAdults_PeopleDisabilities.html

The image shows a digital form titled "My Dental Care Passport" with a tooth icon. It includes instructions for users and dental providers. A section titled "Please check the box that applies:" has two options: "I completed this form myself" and "I completed this form with help from someone else". Below this, there is a section "This form was completed with help from:" with fields for Name, Phone, and E-mail. The "ABOUT ME" section includes fields for "My name is:" (with a note "I like to be called:") and "Nickname if you have one:", followed by gender options: "I am: Male, Female, Transgender Male, Transgender Female" and "Variant/Non-conforming, Not listed, ____". The final section is "My preferred pronoun is:" with options: "He, She, They, Ze, Not listed, ____" and "No preference".

Celebrating the ADA with My Dental Care Passport

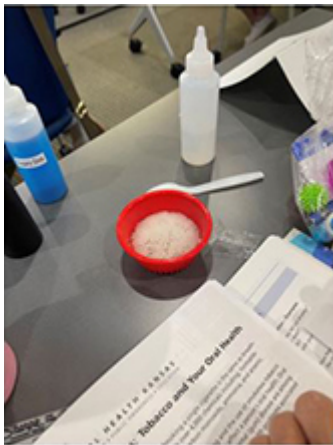
Dental practices are required to give reasonable accommodations to both patients and staff with disabilities, but as a person with a disability, or their family or caregiver, how do you best communicate your needs? My Dental Care Passport is a tool designed to allow people with disabilities and their family/caregivers voice their individual needs relevant to the dental office environment. To find out more, we invite you to check out

the My Dental Care Passport video created by Oral Health Kansas and the Pathways to Oral Health team in conjunction with Puppet Pin Productions.

By improving the communication of important information between people with disabilities and their dental team, the Dental Passport allows users and their families/caregivers to voice their individual needs, for example, explain what has worked well for them in past visits to the dental office and identify areas of the appointment they find most difficult. Opening up this communication channel can begin to shift attitudes, improve the dental team-patient

relationship, and allow the dental team to make reasonable changes to the dental office environment before a person even arrives.

My Dental Care Passport is available in English and Spanish at <http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html>. Here you will also find help sheets for passport users and for their dental team, with useful tips and tricks to get the most out of the Passport. My Dental Care Passport is endorsed by Aetna, United Healthcare, Sunflower Health Plan and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.



Acid Attack Demonstration

OHK Teaches Parents about Healthy Foods

Last week OHK staff member, Kathy Hunt, presented at [TARC](#) in Topeka to parents of children with disabilities. They participated in the acid attack demonstration and practiced choosing “healthy snacks” vs “treats”. Kathy was happy to answer their questions and provide them with resources to help with toothbrushing and healthy eating. The parents were also happy to hear about the new dental benefits covered through Medicaid (KanCare)! We always enjoy working with TARC and their families.



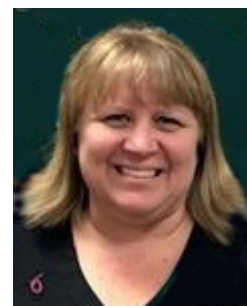
Upcoming Events

- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- **Webinar:** Public-Private Referrals for Veteran Oral Health in the Community Care Network , July 27 at 11:00am CST. Register [here](#).
- **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.
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Congratulations to Shawn Oprisiu, Class 9 Dental Champion! She is a recipient of the 2023 Mars Wrigley Foundation's Healthier Smiles Grant Program. She is the Director of Dental Outreach at Swope Health, and the Outreach program was awarded a \$5000 grant. This funding will help to sustain educational materials for students serviced throughout the school year. Way to go, Shawn!



Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Displays available for reservations. These displays are eye catching at exhibits, schools, library, dental offices, clinics and just about anywhere you see them!

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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