

## 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](#).

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**Weekly  
Wednesday  
Update.**



## It's Here!

You have been asking and it's the day! The 2023 Conference on Oral Health registration is now open! Our hybrid conference will be on Friday, October 27 at the Kansas University Edwards

Campus, 12600 S. Quivira Road in Overland Park. We will also be providing a preconference webinar.

We'll start with a free webinar on Friday, October 13 from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Come join us and listen in on an Introduction to Public Oral Health.

Here's a glimpse of our agenda for Friday, October 27.

- Oral Health's Impact on Overall Health Oral health
- Oral Health Equity for People with Disabilities
- Addressing Dental Care Needs in Rural & Underserved Areas: Workforce Strategies
- Federal and State Oral Health Policy Check
- Improving Dental Access through Medicaid: Policy Updates & Provider Insights

This doesn't include visiting with exhibitors, joining in our Give and Get Board and interacting with participants from across the state!

Find out more information including how to register for the early bird. You can also sponsor or sign up to be an exhibitor!



## Who Will Be the Next Outstanding Dentist

In 2015, Mollie Day received the Excellence in Oral Health Award for Outstanding Dentist. At the time she was a dentist at Health Partnership Clinic in Olathe. When she first started at Health Partnership Clinic, it hadn't provided dental outreach services, and in two short years built one of the largest and most comprehensive outreach programs in

Kansas.

If you know anyone who has done something to improve the oral health of their community, the Excellence in Oral Health Awards is a way to show them their work is being noticed. Click [here](#) to fill out the short nomination form. Nomination deadline is Monday, September 11 by 5pm.



Photo by Austin Wade on Unsplash

## American Indian/Alaska Native Children Have High Risk of Tooth Decay

The Indian Health Services Division of Oral Health released the 2022-2023 Oral Health Survey [Data Brief](#) of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Children Aged 6-9 Years. It is well documented that American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children suffer disproportionately from dental caries (tooth decay). At the age of 2, about 40 percent of AI/AN children have already experienced tooth decay, and by the age of 5, this number rises to 80 percent.

Key findings from this survey were:

- The lack of regular dental care during the COVID-19 Pandemic may have led to an increase in oral health issues among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children.
- Oral health disparities continue to be a significant issue. Compared to other racial/ethnic groups, AI/AN children have the highest rates of tooth decay and untreated dental problems.
- Although the COVID-19 Pandemic likely reduced access to protective dental sealants through clinic- and school-based programs, AI/AN children continue to have higher rates of sealants compared to the general U.S. population.

Many AI/AN communities reside in rural or remote areas with limited access to dental facilities. This geographic isolation makes it difficult for individuals to access regular dental check-ups and treatments. It's important for organizations to provide education and stress the importance of maintaining your oral health. We have various resources on our website that may be helpful. [Check it out!](#)

## Upcoming Events

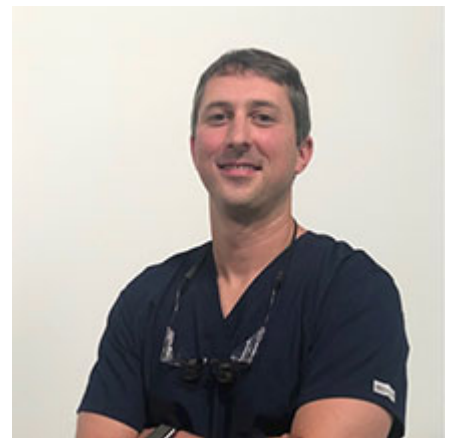
- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).



- **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.



Dr. Adam Barefoot, DMD, MPH, American Network of Oral Health Coalition Board Member and Secretary, was recognized as [one of the 32 most influential people in dentistry](#). Dr.



Barefoot, as part of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Special Health Initiatives, works to help coordinate [oral health initiatives](#) across Offices and Bureaus, and identify opportunities for collaboration for cross-cutting, agency-level efforts. Dr. Barefoot recently led HRSA's effort to launch [A Healthy Mouth for Every Body](#), a national oral health literacy campaign to improve awareness through a variety of publicly available resources.



## 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



**Oral Health Kansas** • PO BOX 4567 • Topeka, KS 66604  
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax  
[info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)

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