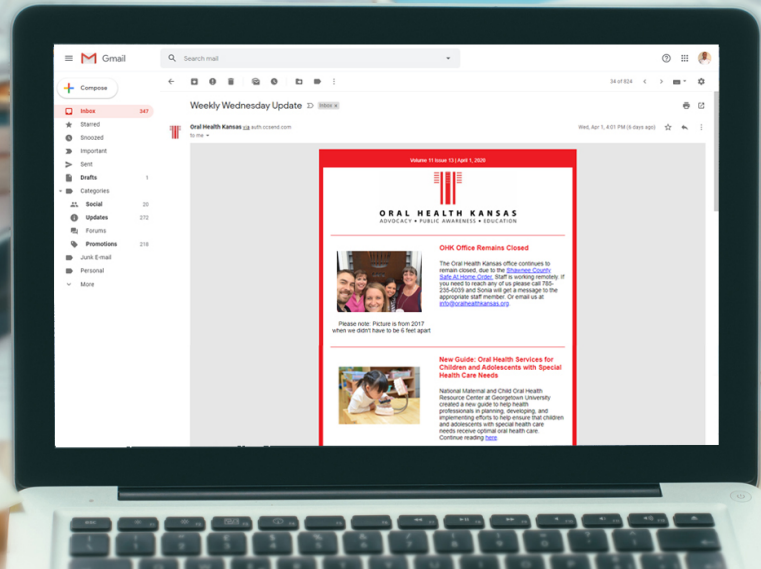




WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

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](#).

August 26, 2026

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Scan the QR code



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[Weekly
Wednesday
Update](#).



Nomination Deadlines This Week

If you haven't submitted your nomination for the Excellence in Oral Health Awards, the deadline is Friday, August 28 at 5:00pm! Award winners will be announced during the Conference on Oral Health luncheon on Friday, November 13. There are several categories to choose from to honor someone.

Outstanding Organization Award - An organization that is distinguished from others in excellence in promoting oral health awareness in Kansas.

Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award - A dental hygienist that is distinguished from others in excellence,

who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.

Outstanding Dentist Award - A dentist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.

Outstanding Community Leader Award - A community leader that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.

Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker Award - An outstanding policy maker that is distinguished from others in excellence, who shows support for the oral health of all Kansans.

Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award - An outstanding non-dental volunteer who demonstrates a positive difference in an organization - someone who saw a problem and got involved to find a solution.

Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award - This award is designed to recognize the outstanding work a Dental Champion has done as a direct result of participating in the Dental Champions Leadership Program.

Submit your nominations by Friday, August 28 by 5:00pm. Click [here](#) for the Excellence in Oral Health Award or [here](#) for the Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award.

Email info@oralhealthkansas.org with any questions about the awards nominations.

We ask that you do not nominate someone who has won an award in the past to allow everyone an opportunity in that category.



Exhibitor Opportunities Available at the Conference on Oral Health

We're getting excited for our annual conference! Come exhibit and connect with dental professionals, health center staff, students, professors, advocates, consumers and community leaders from across Kansas and

surrounding states. The Conference on Oral Health puts your organization in front of the people who matter most. Join us on Friday, November 13 at the KU Edwards Campus. Space is limited! As an exhibitor you will receive these benefits:

- Two complimentary spots with access to all conference sessions and meal functions and speakers
- A 5-foot undraped table in exhibitor hallway with two chairs
- Complimentary internet access
- 10% off returning exhibitors
- \$500 for profit organizations or \$350 for nonprofit organizations

If you are interested in exhibiting, view the sponsorship and exhibitor form [here](#). If you are a returning exhibitor, reach out to Sonia at solmos@oralhealthkansas.org for your 10% off.

The link to register as a sponsor or exhibitor is here:

<https://wichita.irisregistration.com/Form/26OHKSPEX>



Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition Visits with Pregnant Mothers

The Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition exhibited at the Community Baby Shower in Topeka, where they visited with about 50 pregnant mothers as well as their partners and family members. The mothers were interested in learning about how to clean a baby's mouth and when to take a baby to the dentist. Several

mothers shared their concerns with morning sickness. We reminded them to not brush their teeth after getting sick because the acid reflux from vomiting could damage tooth enamel and soften the enamel. Read our Tips and Tricks on [Morning Sickness and Your Oral Health](#) to learn tips on how to keep your mouth clean after morning sickness.

It is safe to go to the dentist while pregnant. It's important to keep your mouth healthy while pregnant to begin good oral health habits for your baby. Our [Pregnancy and Your Oral Health Tips and Tricks](#) explains how safe it is to go to the dentist while pregnant.

Do you know the answers the mothers asked?

- How to clean a baby's mouth?

Dampen a small wash cloth with warm water and gently wipe out the baby's mouth after feedings.

- When can you take a baby to the dentist?

By the child's first birthday or after the first tooth erupts. Of course, if you have concerns about your baby's mouth, you can go in sooner.

We have several Pregnancy and Infant and Toddlers Tips and Tricks on oral health. Below are a few on our website:

- [Pregnancy, Gum Disease and Diabetes \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Baby's 1st year \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Baby Teeth are Important \(Spanish\)](#)

You can visit the Consumer Educational Resources [webpage](#) for more Tips and Tricks!

Interested in learning more about the [Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition](#), reach out to us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Feeling Good About Your Smile: Bringing Oral Health Education to Kansas Communities

[Feeling Good About Your Smile](#) is an interactive oral health education program designed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The program focuses on building confidence, developing healthy brushing habits, and making oral health education fun, engaging, and easy to understand.

Participants get hands-on opportunities to learn about brushing, nutrition, plaque, and the importance of taking care of their teeth. The program uses demonstrations, interactive activities, and encouragement to help participants feel more confident about their

oral health and daily routines.

This week, Abby Richwine, Education Manager, traveled to [Woolly Farms](#) in Meriden to present Feeling Good About Your Smile to 30 participants. The individuals were highly engaged throughout the presentation and especially enjoyed the hands-on activities. Staff also participated and shared that they enjoyed the session, describing it as a fun and interactive way to learn about oral health and build healthy habits. Want to bring oral health education to your community?

Oral Health Kansas offers several outreach programs and educational resources that are available to organizations and community groups. There are also opportunities to receive training on how to deliver these programs, giving you the tools and confidence to bring engaging oral health education directly to the people in your community. Reach out to Oral Health Kansas to learn more about available programs and training opportunities at info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Celebrating Community Health Worker Week

This week, August 24 - 29, we celebrate Community Health Worker Week and the important role Community Health Workers (CHWs) play in supporting the health and well-being of their communities.

Have you ever wondered who helps connect people to the resources and support they need to stay healthy? Community Health Workers are trusted members of the communities they serve. They help individuals navigate the health care system, understand health information, connect with community resources, and overcome

barriers that may make it difficult to access care.

A CHW's role can look different depending on the community and organization they work with. They may help someone find a health care provider, schedule appointments, provide health education, connect individuals with transportation or food resources, or help people better understand and manage their health needs.

CHWs can also play an important role in oral health. They can educate individuals and families about the importance of oral health, encourage preventive dental care, help people find a dentist, and connect them with resources such as Medicaid dental benefits. By helping address barriers and make connections, CHWs can be an important part of improving access to dental care and overall health.

As part of our work to support CHWs, Oral Health Kansas created a dental curriculum to help community health workers incorporate oral health education into their work. Abby also attends their monthly educational and billing meetings, providing ongoing oral health education and support and helping CHWs feel more confident addressing oral health with the individuals and families they serve.

This Community Health Worker Week, we recognize and celebrate the CHWs who work every day to connect, educate, advocate, and support individuals and families in their communities. Their work helps bridge the gap between people, health care, and the resources they need to live healthier lives.



Upcoming Events

- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- **Webinar:** Substance Use Disorders and Oral Health in People Living with HIV, August 27 at 12:00pm CST. Click [here](#) to register.
- Community Care Network of Kansas annual conference, September 23-25 in Manhattan, Kansas. Learn more [here](#).
- Kansas Public Health Association Conference, October 5 - 6, 2026 in Manhattan. Click [here](#) for information.
- Rutgers University offering Perinatal Oral Health ECHO Series webinar. Check out the list of series [here](#).
- **Save the date!** The 2026 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 13 at the KU Edwards Campus.



Thank you to everyone who attended our Welcome Reception for Oral Health Kansas' (OHK) new Executive Director, Brooks Robertson. Brooks joined OHK on July 6 and has been busy learning the oral health culture and meeting with partners, stakeholders and funders.

Feel free to reach out to Brooks at brobertson@oralhealthkansas.org.





Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Display's 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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