



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 9, 2023

Volume 14, Issue 32

Scan the QR code



or click here to
sign up for our
**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Just released! Oral Health Kansas and Aetna Partner to Increase Dental Care for Individuals with Disabilities

Aetna Better Health of Kansas has donated \$30,000 to Oral Health Kansas for our Pathway to Oral Health

program. Pathway to Oral Health is a collaboration between Aetna Better Health of Kansas, United Healthcare, Sunflower Health Plan and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment with a goal to improve dental care access and reducing oral health disparities for Kansans with disabilities.

Kansas University Medical Center Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) will partner with Oral Health Kansas on the Pathways program to provide training for dentists, hygienists, case managers and other health care professionals on the unique oral health needs of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The goal of the Project ECHO training is to increase participants' ability to treat and manage complex health care challenges in their own communities. The donation will help sustain the five-session, continuing-education series offered to participants at no-cost.

Oral Health Kansas is feeling enthusiastic for this opportunity that we are so passionate! You can read the full press release [here](#).



Back to School

Do you have your checklist ready and marked off to get the kids ready for back to school?

- School supplies
- Hair cut
- Physicals
- Dentist appointment

Don't forget that setting up your child's dentist appointment is just as important as setting up appointments for hair cuts or physicals. You should set up appointments every six months for dental check ups as long as other dental work isn't needed.

What other things should you have on your checklist? How about replacing toothbrushes. Rule of thumb for changing out your toothbrush, is when the bristles start to fray or replace it every three months. Some families buy new toothbrushes when they purchase school supplies. Also, getting children into a routine a couple of weeks before school starts, to include a bedtime routine, is ideal for those bedtime struggles. We hope that your schedules have allowed for reading books with your children throughout the summer break, but if not, it's not too late to start and read for at least 15 minutes. The [Brush Book Bed program](#) is a good resource which focuses on creating a bedtime routine of brushing your teeth, reading a

book and going to bed at a certain time each night. You can also check if your area qualifies for the [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#) and get free books monthly for children ages 0-5.

For more oral health tips visit our [website](#). If you need help finding a dentist, click [here](#).



NOHC Welcomes You to Speak at the Conference

The **National Oral Health Conference**

(NOHC) is “the premier meeting” for those interested in continuing education and networking opportunities within the discipline of Dental Public Health. The 2024 NOHC will be the 25th joint meeting of the [Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors \(ASTDD\)](#) and the [American Association of Public Health Dentistry \(AAPHD\)](#). It will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, April 15 - 17, 2024 with Weekend Workshops on April 13 and 14, 2024.

NOHC offers educational sessions on a diverse array of topics by leaders in the field and is designed for dentists, dental hygienists, health researchers, dental/health educators, legislators, public health officials, Medicaid/CHIP dental program staff or consultants, state/territorial dental directors, county/city/local dental directors, community health center personnel, students, school-based and school-linked health center personnel, federally-employed dental personnel, as well as dental manufacturers/distributors and dental insurance companies - in short, anyone interested in engaging in collaboration to improve the oral health of the public.

They are inviting you to submit an abstract for a seminar, poster, oral presentation, or roundtable. Topics they are especially interested in:

- medical/dental integration
- oral health programs/practices/health promotion
- new and emerging research in oral health
- policy/advocacy
- surveillance/epidemiology
- social determinants of oral health
- diversity/equity/inclusion
- global oral health.

Please go to <https://www.nationaloralhealthconference.com/1150-2/> for details.



Report Finds Oral Health Disparities in Hispanic Communities

The Hispanic Dental Association Research Team conducted a scoping review of the existing databases with data representation for Hispanic/Latino populations at the national and

state level. They identified data for Hispano/Latino populations in each database and compared those against the overall estimates of those from other racial/ethnic groups. Higher percentages of gum disease and tooth loss were reported among Hispanic people compared with other racial groups, and Hispanic children ages 6 to 11 had more decayed and filled teeth than others in that age group, according to a [report](#) from the Hispanic Dental Association and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. The report also found that Hispanic dentists represented 6% of the US dentist workforce, 10.7% of dental hygienists and 30.4% of dental assistants.

Some of the findings were:

- Family poverty level and education appear to be more sensitive than race/ethnicity in detecting inequities in dental caries.
- On average, less than half of Hispanic children from 12 to 19 years had one or more dental sealants, with few racial/ethnic differences.
- Around 15% of the Hispanic adults 65 and over were edentulous. There is consistency in the edentulism estimates between normative (NHANES) and self-reported (BRFSS) data.
- Across all age groups, Hispanics reported lower “excellent” or “very good” status of teeth and gums than non-Hispanic White.

We continue to try to understand disparities in other cultures and educate health professionals with resources they can use with their patients. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

AAPD Offers Guidance to Physicians Considering the Use of SDF

Earlier this month, the American Medical Association introduced a new code into the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code set for physicians’ use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF). Code 0792T will be published in the CPT 2024 manual as a Category III code, meaning it



represents an emerging technology, service, or procedure and is being introduced primarily for data collection purposes to track usage of the service. Like other CPT codes, health insurance plans are not required to cover or pay for the service despite its inclusion in the code set.

Nobody knows SDF quite like pediatric dentists! As such, the AAPD Research & Policy Center developed guidance for our physician colleagues considering the use of SDF in their medical practices. The publicly available, free resource offers a review of the pros and cons of SDF, indications and precautions for its use, and advice on how to adequately prepare to offer it in a medical setting.

The interprofessional relationship between pediatricians and pediatric dentists - with active bidirectional referrals - will be key to successful patient co-management and crucial in ensuring children experiencing caries get the care they need.

Check out the complete resource [here](#) and feel free to share with pediatrician colleagues in your network. Reach out to RPC@aapd.org with any questions.



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.



The Kansas Head Start Association (KHSA) announced the selection of Heather Schrotberger as its new Executive Director on June 1, 2023.



Heather has worked for nearly 25 years in the early education and Early Head Start/Head Start field. Most recently, as an early childhood consultant, she has provided strategic planning, project management, facilitation, and grant writing services to local, state, and national early education organizations. Prior to that, she served as the Director of Project Eagle/Educare Kansas City at the University of Kansas Medical Center, an early education program serving children ages birth to five, and their families, in Wyandotte County, Kansas. We are looking forward to meeting Heather!



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

Copyright 2023

