



## KanCare Denture Benefit Talking Points

### Current KanCare dental coverage for adults

- As of July 1, 2022, KanCare now covers fillings, crowns, and periodontal care (gum disease) adults.
- The KanCare managed care organizations (MCO) offer a \$500 annual benefit for adults that includes exams, cleanings, and x-rays. These details of what is covered vary from one MCO to another and from year to year.
- Some denture coverage is available for Kansans enrolled in the HCBS Frail Elderly waiver, but the same coverage is not available for older adults living in nursing facilities or people with disabilities.
- Denture coverage is an investment because it will save money in medical costs including diabetes care.

### What we know about tooth loss

- Nearly a third of older Kansans have lost six or more teeth due to tooth decay or gum disease.
- Thirteen percent of older Kansans have lost all their teeth due to tooth decay or gum disease.
- Once people lose six or more teeth, their mouth function begins to deteriorate.
- People who have significant tooth loss face challenges including:
  - eating a healthy, balanced diet
  - controlling chronic disease, such as heart disease or diabetes
  - obtaining a job
- Diabetes is one of the hardest diseases to control when people cannot eat a healthy diet.
  - A [2018 cross-sectional study](#) showed people without teeth were at increased risk of presenting with high glycemic levels and had higher odds of hyperglycemia (both demonstrating poor diabetic control)
  - As of 2021, 11% of adult Kansans have been diagnosed with diabetes, amounting to an [estimated cost of \\$2.4 billion dollars annually](#).
  - [According to the CDC](#), 61% of annual diabetic spending is for adults aged 65 or over.

### Jobs and Confidence

- Twice as many low-income adults than middle- and high-income Kansans say the appearance of their mouth and teeth affects their ability to interview for a job.
- Nearly 50% of low-income Kansas adults say life in general is less satisfying due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.
- Dental care presents [higher](#) financial barriers than other areas of health care.
- Cost of care is the reason 63% of Kansans cite for not visiting the dentist in the last year.

### Who will have coverage

- 38% of the Kansas Medicaid population are adults over the age of 21 and would be eligible for denture coverage.
- An estimated 13% of older adults in Kansas have lost all their teeth, and 30% of older Kansans have lost six or more teeth.

### For more information

- Visit Oral Health Kansas' webpage: <http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentureAdvocacy.html>
- Contact Tanya Dorf Brunner at [tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org)