

# Medicaid Denture Coverage in Kansas

## Why is denture coverage important?

Adults in Kansas tell Oral Health Kansas dentures would change their lives.

- A man named Hugo called our office asking for help. He was 65 and on Medicaid, and he told us he had been gluing his dentures together for the past five years. Hugo said they wouldn't stay together any longer, so he wanted help getting new dentures. After talking for a little while, we discovered he also had diabetes and couldn't keep his blood sugar under control because he couldn't eat healthy fruits and vegetables.
- At an event we met Frederick. He was seeking a partial denture because he wanted to be able to smile again. This wasn't just because he missed being able to smile. Frederick had a business idea and wanted to try to pitch it. But he knew he would not be successful if potential investors saw him missing several teeth.



**To people who are missing some or all of their teeth, dentures are the key to their health, dignity, and economic prospects.**

## Who would be affected if Medicaid included denture coverage in Kansas?

- Older adults, people with disabilities, and people with lower income are more likely to be missing teeth or have no teeth left.
  - Nationally, 2% of working age adults have no teeth.<sup>1</sup>
  - In Kansas, 13% of older adults have no teeth.<sup>2</sup>
- 38% of the Kansas Medicaid population are adults over the age of 21.<sup>3</sup>

## Do other states include denture coverage in Medicaid?

Nineteen states include denture coverage in Medicaid, including our neighbors in Nebraska, Iowa, and Colorado.<sup>4</sup>

## What will it cost to include denture coverage in Medicaid?

- The budget estimate to include denture coverage in the Kansas Medicaid program is \$1.7 million. This includes \$687,000 in state funds.
- Typically, less than 20% of people enrolled in Medicaid access dentures, which helps keep the cost of the coverage low for the state.

## Who supports including denture coverage in the Kansas Medicaid program?

A [growing list of statewide and local organizations](#) would like to see denture coverage included in the Kansas Medicaid program. This includes disabilities service providers, older adult advocates and providers, behavioral health advocates, early childhood advocates, food banks, homelessness advocates, dental care professional organizations, and health care professional organizations.



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS, INC.**

[www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentureAdvocacy.html](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentureAdvocacy.html)

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research: Tooth Loss in Adults (Age 20 to 64), <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/research/data-statistics/tooth-loss/adults#:~:text=2.2%25%20of%20adults%20to%2064%20years%20have%20no%20remaining%20teeth>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Oral Health. Oral Health Data [online]. 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealthdata/>

<sup>3</sup> KDHE Presentation to House Social Services Budget Committee, January 24, 2023,

[http://kslegislature.org/li/b2023\\_24/committees/cte\\_h\\_soc\\_srvcs\\_bdgt\\_1/misc\\_documents/download\\_testimony/cte\\_h\\_soc\\_srvcs\\_bdgt\\_1\\_20230124\\_01\\_testimony.html](http://kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/committees/cte_h_soc_srvcs_bdgt_1/misc_documents/download_testimony/cte_h_soc_srvcs_bdgt_1_20230124_01_testimony.html)

<sup>4</sup> CareQuest Institute for Oral Health: Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Coverage Checker, <https://www.carequest.org/Medicaid-Adult-Dental-Coverage-Checker>