



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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The [Kansas Dental Project](#) will be hosting their Kansas Dental Project Advocacy Day on January 24, 2018. To get involved on this day or for more information on the Kansas Dental Project, click [here!](#)

## Sign On And Support The Comprehensive Adult Dental Benefit

The KanCare Adult Dental Coalition (KADC) invites your organization to [sign on](#) in support of comprehensive adult dental benefits in KanCare2.0.

The deadline has passed for managed care organizations (MCOs) to submit their bids to the state for KanCare2.0 and now the state must review the applications and select winning bids. KADC believes comprehensive adult dental benefits are vital to the overall health and wellbeing of Kansans and encourage the state to select MCOs that have included adult dental services in their proposal. This sign on letter will be sent to Governor Brownback, Lt. Governor Colyer, Interim Medicaid Director Jon Hamdorf, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary Jeff Anderson, and KDHE Medical Officer Greg Lakin. The deadline to [sign on](#) is **Monday, January 22nd by 5 PM!** For questions, please contact [Christi Nance](#).



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## 2018 Kansas Mission of Mercy

On February 9-10, the Kansas Mission of Mercy will be held in Hutchinson. Doors open at 4:30 am and is first come first served.

Please share the [KMOM flyer](#) and [KMOM flyer in Spanish](#).

Are you interested in volunteering? OHK staff will be conducting exit surveys on both days. If you would like to help out, [email us](#).

For other volunteer opportunities at KMOM, click [here](#).



Kansas Mission of Mercy  
*Making a Difference*

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## Sugary Drink Display

Our sugary drink display's are so popular, we can't keep them on our shelves! The sugary drink display has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also

The KanCare Adult Dental Coalition is a growing coalition dedicated to advocating for comprehensive adult dental benefits as a covered benefit under the Kansas Medicaid program, KanCare. We invite you and/or organization to become a member by [signing up here!](#)



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## Tooth Brushing Helps Keep Illnesses Away

A [pilot program at the Salem VA Medical Center](#) aims to reduce hospital-acquired pneumonia by providing oral hygiene care to Veterans during hospital stays. Project HAPPEN, (Hospital Acquired Pneumonia Prevention by Engaging Nurses to provide oral care) began in October 2016 at the medical center's Community Living Center (CLC) by Shannon Munro, Ph.D., Nurse Researcher; Dr. Owais Farooqi, Chief of Dentistry; Dr. Shikha Vasudeva, Infectious Disease Physician; and Mike Raczynski, R.N., Infection Control Nurse, and Georgine Kamide and Leslie Woodie, Nurse Managers. Munro is on the leading edge of national research demonstrating that if the biofilm that forms on teeth is removed twice a day, harmful bacteria will not migrate into patients' lungs and cause pneumonia. Munro states, "We've prevented a lot of cases - 48 cases at a savings of \$1.92 million in 13 months,"

include some of our [Tips and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The display is free to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage! Use a sugary drink display in your office, school, health fair, school camps and more!



Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Email us!](#)



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she said. "It's really amazing."



With the Community Living Center's success, the Salem VA adopted tooth brushing as a priority throughout the medical center, and Munro is helping other hospitals start up programs as well.

To read more about the research project click [here](#).

## Take The Sugar Awareness Challenge!

We find sugar in almost all the foods we eat. From breads to the most sugary snack and beverage! This week is [National Sugar Awareness Week](#)! Can you take the challenge to omit sugar from your diet for five days?

WHY should we be aware of how much sugar we eat? Harmful oral bacteria feed on the sugars you eat to create acids that destroy the tooth enamel, which is the shiny, protective outer layer of the tooth. Without treatment, cavities can progress past the enamel and into the deeper layers of the tooth, causing pain and possible tooth loss. Limiting the

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amount of sugar you eat or drink, is important in helping your teeth!



[Here](#) are some ways to reduce your child's sugary snacking, but also a helpful way to reduce your own sugary snacking!

[Reserve](#) our sugary drink display to see how much sugar there is in 10 popular beverages.