



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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## In This Issue

[Join In: WWU Survey](#)  
[Community Coalition Coordinator](#)  
[Dental Champions Corner](#)  
[Traveling Sugary Drink Display](#)  
[Make a Difference in Your Community](#)  
[Happy Birthday to Fluoridation](#)  
[Awards Spotlight](#)

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## Join In: WWU Survey

Over 1,100 supporters receive Oral Health Kansas' **Weekly Wednesday Update**. We began publishing this update in October 2009 in response to partners and supporters telling us that they wanted regular updates from the state oral health advocacy organization. Each year we ask your feedback about the Weekly Wednesday update. Your responses will help us fine tune our communication as we all work to improve oral health for all Kansans.

**[Give your feedback here in this short survey!](#)**

## Make a Difference in Your Community

We would like to share an opportunity to start an oral health coalition in your community in partnership with Oral Health Kansas. You can bring together local people to address and improve oral health issues (identify and solve oral health problems) with local resources...all with Oral Health Kansas support.

Here is what you do. Identify an oral health community, need or problem that you want to work on. Find some other people in your community who are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of folks. OHK will provide leadership training and ongoing coaching from the Kansas Leadership Center, an OHK staff person who will be your partner during this startup year and a bit of seed money for a special project.

Check out **[the full RFP here](#)** and email us at **[info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)** if you have any questions!

## Happy Birthday to Fluoridation

Some things don't age gracefully, but community water fluoridation is looking great



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## Apply Today: Community Coalition Coordinator

Oral Health Kansas is seeking candidates for a new full-time staff person to lead our community oral health coalition program throughout the state. For more information [visit our website!](#)



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## Dental Champions Corner

A few slots remain in Dental Champions Class 7! Class 7 will focus on preserving water fluoridation in communities across Kansas. If you or anyone you know is interested in this opportunity, [email Sarah](#) today!



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## Traveling Sugary

at the age of 70. This inexpensive strategy saves money and continues to reduce the rate of tooth decay for children and adults. Yes, there was a lot of research conducted about fluoridation in the 1940s and '50s, but many **more studies** have been released in recent years. Together, they build a rock solid case for fluoridations' safety and benefits.

Many people wondered if fluoridation would prove valuable even after Americans began using fluoride toothpaste, but the evidence shows this strategy remains crucial. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **explains**, "Even today, with other available sources of fluoride, studies show that water fluoridation reduces tooth decay by about 25 percent over a person's lifetime."

Sure, there are a handful of people who attack fluoridation. It's nothing new. In the 1950s, University of Michigan researchers took the time **to examine** a long list of health conditions (ranging from acne to cancer) that critics tried to blame on fluoride. The researchers found no solid evidence to back any of these accusations.

In recent years, studies have looked into similar claims by fluoridation opponents. Last August, the Royal Society of New Zealand, one of the nation's most prestigious scientific bodies, **issued a report** stating that its panel was "unanimous in its conclusion that there are no adverse effects of fluoride of any significance arising from fluoridation at the levels used in New Zealand."

The facts are on our side. It's effective. It's safe. And it's the reason why both children and adults today have much less tooth decay than people used to have.

Check out the Campaign for Dental Health's **fluoride tool kit** for more fluoride resources!

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## Awards Spotlight

Celebrating fluoride's 70th birthday would not be complete without the acknowledgment of the

## Drink Display

Don't forget to reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! Our display shows how much sugar is in a variety of your favorite drinks, emphasizing which drinks are good and bad for you.



This display is completely free, and return shipping costs are reimbursed by Oral Health Kansas. Learn more [on our website](#) and [email Sarah](#) if you are interested in hosting the display!

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tremendous victory in Salina last November. At the heart of the campaign was the Salina Dental Society President, Dr. Allison Lesko. Allison was awarded the Outstanding Community Leader Award at the Excellence in Oral Health Awards last November.

When the Salina city council agreed to send the fluoride issue to the November ballot in early August, Dr. Lesko quickly developed a solid campaign plan, even raising \$50,000 for the effort in just a week. She was involved in every aspect of the campaign from designing the campaign images to posting social media messages daily to organizing an army of volunteers to deploy yard signs and knock on doors. Her constant efforts paid off when the Keep Fluoride campaign came out victorious by a two to one margin.

During the campaign, Allison also helped to plan the 2015 Kansas Mission of Mercy in Salina. She is an outstanding advocate for oral health, especially the preservation of water fluoridation. We congratulate Allison for going above the call of duty to help her community!



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