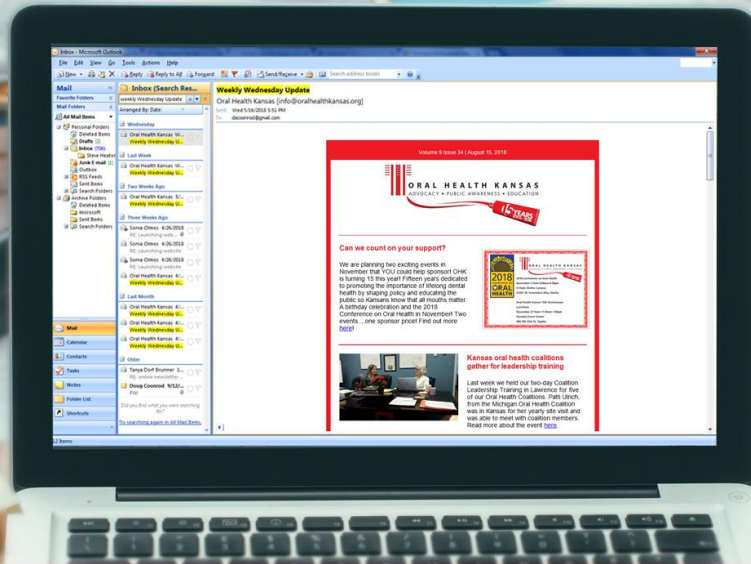




ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

February 10, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 6

State Score:



Introducing The 2021 Kansas Oral Health Report Card

Oral Health Kansas is pleased to release a [new report](#) on oral health in Kansas! Our state received a grade of 'C' as compared to the nation's performance on 13 key oral health indicators. The grade shows Kansas is making progress on improving oral health, but we have a long way to go to ensure the population of our state is as healthy as possible. The 2021 Kansas Oral Health Report Card will allow stakeholders in Kansas to work together to design strategies that will have the greatest impact on improving the oral and overall health of Kansas.

What can you do?

- Review all 13 oral health indicators on the report card
- Share the report card with your organization and colleagues
- Create and share social media posts with data from the report card

Keep an eye out for future communication from Oral Health Kansas on additional ways you can utilize the new 2021 Kansas Oral Health Report Card!



The Connection Between COVID-19 And Periodontal Disease

A [new study published in the Journal of Clinical Periodontology](#) looked at the connection between the severity of COVID-19 symptoms and periodontal, or gum, disease. As we know, COVID-19 is a respiratory tract infection with many complex effects on the body.

About 14% of cases are severe enough to require hospitalization and oxygen support. Early studies are showing that there is a clear link between the severity of COVID-19 and hyperinflammation. Periodontal disease, commonly known as gum disease, also results in inflammation. This new study has begun to look at the possibility of an association between gum disease and COVID-19 complications.

Gum disease is one of the most prevalent chronic inflammatory diseases. Fifty percent of adults are affected by mild to moderate gum disease, and 10% by the severe form of the disease. The severe form of gum disease destroys the structures supporting teeth and can result in tooth loss if left untreated. Gum disease also can affect overall health, as it is associated with an increased risk of chronic and debilitating diseases including heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, chronic renal disease, pneumonia, and cancer.

The study identified that the risk of COVID-19 complications was significantly higher among patients with moderate-to-severe gum disease, as compared with patients with mild or no gum disease. Gum disease was associated with a higher risk of admission to intensive care, assisted ventilation, and even death among COVID-19 patients.

Further research is necessary, but the early indications are that maintaining gum health may be important not only for overall health, but also for reducing the severity of COVID-19 complications. During this pandemic, dental offices remain open, and they are taking extraordinary precautions to keep patients and dental office staff safe. Do not put off routine dental care. To learn more about some of the changes you may see in your dental office, watch [Oral Health Kansas' video](#) about what you can expect.



Shawnee County Community Health Needs Assessment

Help improve the community and fill out the Shawnee County Community Health Needs Assessment. This is a partnership between Stormont Vail Health, Heartland Healthy Neighborhood and the Shawnee County Health Department. The survey asks questions about the health needs affecting your family. Here is the assessment in both [Spanish](#) and [English](#).



Unmet Dental Care Needs Among Working-age Adults

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a new report in the Journal of the American Dental Association, "Untreated caries among U.S. working-age adults and association with reporting need for oral health care." National data indicate that working-aged adults (20-64 years) are more likely to report financial barriers to receiving needed oral health care relative to other age groups. The report highlights how continued pursuit of strategies such as medical-dental integration and inclusion of Medicaid dental benefits beyond emergency services could be options to increase access to dental care services for working-age adults. You can read the abstract [here](#).



Upcoming Events

- Webinar: Trends in oral health services among those enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP and how early intervention can promote oral health outcomes among children. Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. CST tinyurl.com/1tafg7ft
- Webinar: The Youth Vaping Epidemic: From Science to Public Policy - February 10, 2021, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM CST- nyas.org/VapeSci21.
- Webinar: Vaping: Fact Versus Fiction - February 10, 2021, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST - nyas.org/VapeFacts2021

- Webinar: The DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement and the American Public Health Association (APHA) will present a webinar on social determinants of oral health (SDOH), February 25, 1PM EST, 12PM CST, tinyurl.com/17ds8wfl
- Funding opportunity for leadership program - Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (AMFDP) offers four-year postdoctoral research awards to physicians, dentists, and nurses from historically marginalized backgrounds. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will be awarding stipends to support research activities. Learn more [here](#)



Brett Roufs, DDS, Dental Champion Class 8, has decided to retire from his private practice in Newton. Dr. Roufs has been managing some health challenges for the last several months, and his retirement

will allow him to concentrate on his continued recovery.

Dr. Roufs has been a leader in the Kansas Dental Association, including serving as the President. He also has helped lead the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) for many years through his work on the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation Board and the state KMOM Committee. He also was instrumental in helping to launch the Extended Care Permit model for dental hygienists in the early 2000s. We are grateful for the impact Dr. Roufs has had on the oral health community in Kansas, and we send him our best wishes on his continued recovery.



Photo courtesy of Facebook



Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.

During this time, hand washing and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to



have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.

Follow Us



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