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**Subject:** Kansas Statewide Tobacco Survey



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### Webinar Announcement

The Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Association is pleased to announce the following educational webinar. This one-hour mini-course, entitled Oral Health and Dentistry 101 is recommended for Medicaid and CHIP Directors, dental program

## Kansas Statewide Tobacco Survey

***77 % of Kansas Voters Support Keeping State's SmokeFree Law  
Even 54% of smokers favor law protecting people from secondhand smoke***

A new poll released today by a coalition of public health groups finds 77 percent of Kansas voters support the state's recently passed smokefree law. The poll shows broad support for the law including large majorities of Democrats, Republicans and Independent voters across Kansas.

"These results show what we have always known- Kansans understand secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard, and they don't want their right to breathe clean air taken away," said James Gardner, M.D., Chair of the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition. "Although certain special interests may not like the smokefree law, it is clear the people of Kansas overwhelmingly support being free from toxic effects of secondhand smoke."

The survey also found among Kansas voters:

- 59 percent are less likely to vote for candidates who want to repeal the law
- 84 percent view exposure to secondhand smoke as a

administrators, Title V Directors and other staff or administrators who have limited professional dental education and are interested and or make policy and program decisions regarding oral health, and oral health care services.

Watch for a simple on-line registration available soon.

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health hazard

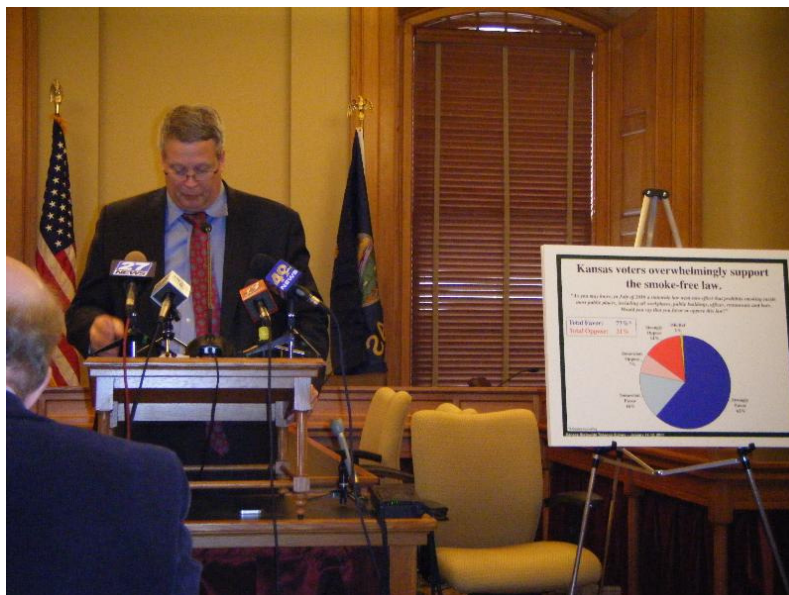
- 54 percent of people who smoke like the state's smokefree law

The survey of 500 likely Kansas voters was released by a coalition of public health groups. The polling firm Public Opinion Strategies conducted the survey January 11-12, 2011. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.38 percentage points.

In February 2010, Kansas became the 28th state to pass a smokefree law that protects workers and the public from the serious health hazards of secondhand smoke in public places and hospitality venues. The law went into effect on July 1, 2010.

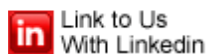
The need for protection from secondhand smoke in all workplaces and public places has never been clearer. Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemical including at least 69 carcinogens. The evidence is also clear that smokefree laws protect health without harming business. As the U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona concluded in 2006, "Evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smokefree policies and regulations do not have an adverse impact on the hospitality industry."

The coalition of public health groups releasing and funding the poll includes the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Sunflower Foundation, Oral Health Kansas, Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, Clean Air Kansas and Wichita Medical Research Education Foundation.



*Glen Bolger reviews the poll conducted in January 2011 by his firm, Public Opinion Strategies at the Statehouse, February 9, 2011*

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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