

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Water Fluoridation featured in KLC Journal

The Kansas Leadership Center's latest Journal features the story of the successful 2014 water fluoridation campaign in Salina and features Dental Champion Allison Lesko (Class VII). [Read the issue](#) and learn more about the successful efforts to preserve community water fluoridation in our state.

New county health rankings released

The [Kansas Health Institute reported today](#) that the new county health rankings have been released. Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute rank nearly all the counties in the country according to a set of criteria related to the physical environment, social and economic factors, clinical care, and health behaviors.

This year, Johnson County ranks at the top for Kansas, and Wyandotte County is ranked at the bottom of the state's 105 counties. While, there is a significant disparity in health ranking in the urban Kansas City area, the 2016 report focused on disparities between urban and rural areas of states. It shows that people in rural areas are more likely to be obese, uninsured and smokers.

The Kansas Health Institute created



New Medicaid expansion website focuses on consumer voices

Kansas remains one of only 19 states that has not expanded our Medicaid program. A new [website](#) to promote KanCare expansion was launched recently, with a goal of bringing the voices of Kansans into this important policy discussion. Our elected officials need to hear from their constituents.

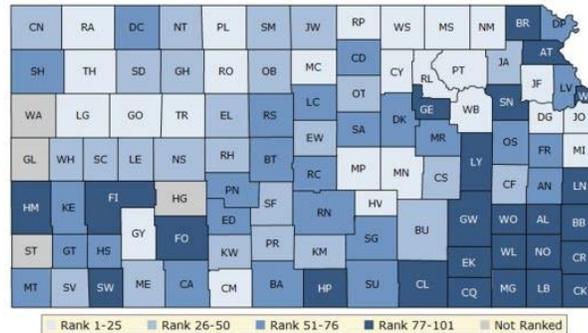
This new website called Alliance for a Healthy Kansas contains a wealth of information and resources about why expansion matters, as well as tools to help supporters urge their legislators to take action.



March is National Nutrition Month!

March is National Nutrition Month. In honor of the occasion, Oral Health America is raising awareness for the connection between school nutrition and oral health. Join their [Campaign for Oral Health Equity](#), to help

individual county data pages for all of the counties in Kansas. Access your county's page on the [KHI website](#), and access the entire Kansas report at [countyhealthrankings.org](#).



How much sugar are we drinking?

A new video is available on YouTube showing what it would look like if we ate the amount of sugar found in common beverages. Most people in the oral health community recognize the dangers of hidden sugars to both oral health and overall health, but never has this been more clear than when it is demonstrated in this little video.

lead the effort: oral health affects overall health. Let's work together to improve the quality of life for all.



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How Humans: Eat Sugar

Check out the video, and then [contact Oral Health Kansas](#) to reserve our sugary drink display. Let's all work together to spread the word about the dangers of sugary drinks and what a better idea it is to choose water!



Healthy People 2020 offers webinar on oral health

On March 24, Healthy People 2020 will host a webinar focusing on the importance of oral health for people living with HIV/AIDS. People who are HIV-positive need comprehensive and individualized oral health care, yet many people with HIV have unmet needs for oral health care.

The webinar will feature the Boston Public Health Commission's HIV Dental Ombudsperson Program and will include information about the importance of oral health and strategies to improve oral health among people living with HIV/AIDS. Learn



more and register [here](#).

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