



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Last week, the Campaign for Dental Health convened its annual meeting for community water fluoridation advocates at the American Academy of Pediatrics headquarters in Chicago. The meeting focused on building statewide teams to support water fluoridation, and Kansas was well-represented. Cindy Tedder, school nurse from Olathe public schools; Megan Foreman, Program

## OHK Participates In Early Learning Advocacy Day At The Capitol

The Kansas Head Start Association convened early childhood advocates at the State Capitol today to learn about advocacy and meet with their legislators. Oral Health Kansas staff participated in the meeting and shared insight about oral health policy matters to discuss with legislators. We are pleased oral health is a part of the early learning advocacy conversation!



Manager at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment; and Tanya Dorf Brunner, Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas made up the Kansas team.



Megan is a former OHK staff member and a Dental Champion, and she presented a popular and well-received review of fluoridation advocacy campaigns in Kansas. Thanks to Megan, Cindi and Tanya for representing Kansas!

## WWU Survey

If you haven't taken our survey for the Weekly Wednesday Update, we have extended the time! We have received some really good responses and want to hear from the rest of you!

Please take a few minutes to respond to our [survey](#). There is a section for comments so please share any suggestions!



## NY Times Highlights Lack Of Medicare Dental

Last week, the [New York Times published an article](#) highlighting the fact that the Medicare program does not cover dental services. While Medicare is a widely popular program providing health care for older Americans, it has never covered routine dental services. As dental care and community water fluoridation have improved over the years, the majority of people expect to keep their teeth in their retirement years, but many have trouble doing that when they cannot afford dental care. Learn more about [Medicare dental advocacy from Oral Health America](#).



## New Policy On Opioid Pain Medications

At our [2017 OHK conference](#), [Alan J. Murray, LSCSW, LCSW spoke](#) about the importance of evaluating patients before prescribing them opioid medications. He provided participants with screening tools, how to determine risks and shared other medications as options for pain killers.

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## Sugary Drink Display

Our sugary drink displays are all over the state educating the smallest of kiddos! **Tiger Tots in Hays and Harmony Early Childhood Center in Olathe** are learning all about healthy drinks!

What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also 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! Need it for just a one day event? That's ok too! We have people reserve the drink display for health fairs and even parent teacher conferences.



Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Fill out this form](#) and we'll get back with you!

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The [American Dental Association \(ADA\)](#) recently announced a new policy on opioids.

The policy states:

- The ADA supports mandatory continuing education in prescribing opioids and other controlled substances.
- The ADA supports statutory limits on opioid dosage and duration of no more than seven days for the treatment of acute pain, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention evidence-based guidelines.
- The ADA supports dentists registering with and utilizing Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) to promote the appropriate use of opioids and deter misuse and abuse.

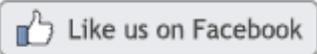
These new policy standards were created in hopes to help reduce the misuse of opioid medication when treating chronic pain.



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## Save the Date

The Oral Health Kansas' conference will be on Friday, November 2 in Johnson County. This one-day event is designed to bring people together to lead innovation in overall health for Kansans. There will be incentives to bring new people to the conference to learn about how innovations in oral and overall health are happening in Kansas communities and how dental professionals, policymakers, volunteers and organizations are leading the charge. At the conclusion of the 2018 Conference on Oral Health, participants will have access to new ideas and tools they can use to continue bringing people together.

We will provide more details as we continue with our planning! Stay tuned!

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