



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Dental Champions Corner

Kathy Hunt, RDH, ECP II, (Class I) spoke at the Parents as Teachers Conference in Topeka on Tuesday. Her presentation focused on partnering with parents to improve the oral health of children.



The Gift of a Smile

Brian Maixner received a priceless gift this week: a new smile. This waiter from Wichita was gifted this

Wichita Community Forum: Still Focused on Fluoride

Nearly two dozen people gathered in Wichita on Friday, February 27 for an Oral Health Kansas Community Forum. The forum offered Wichitans the opportunity to learn more about the oral health outlook at the state level and to share current oral health concerns in the community. In 2012, Wichita voters soundly defeated a ballot measure that would have established water fluoridation for the first time in the city's history. The Wichita oral health community remains interested in water fluoridation, and forum participants brainstormed ways to continue the fight to fluoridate. Forum participants also expressed interest in building an advocacy effort to establish adult dental benefits in the Kansas Medicaid program known as KanCare.

Sign up for a community forum near you! We are continuing to add locations for our forums. If you are interesting in hosting a forum in your hometown, **email Sarah** today!

smile by a generous customer who had also suffered from dental problems as a child. [Read more from the Wichita Eagle.](#)



Tobacco Cessation Training Event

Learn how to make tobacco cessation part of regular health care practice on Thursday, March 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information or to register visit www.kumc.edu/AHECcalendar.



Traveling Sugary 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.



Participants watching our video at the Kansas Leadership Center

Share Stories about the Need for Medicaid Expansion

The Kansas House of Representatives will hold hearings on Medicaid Expansion later this month. It is important they hear from individuals who support this policy. Stories from Kansans have a far greater impact on policymakers than stories relayed by statewide organizations.

In concert with other health advocates, Oral Health Kansas is collecting stories from Kansans about the need for expansion and the positive changes it could bring to individual lives.

Please think about your life, the lives of Kansans you know, and the lives of your patients. What changes would occur in their lives, if they had access to health insurance? We realize that Medicaid expansion does not come with comprehensive dental benefits for adults, but it is a strong step in the right direction. Adults would at least have access to preventive services and annual exams. **Please send your stories here** by March 13.



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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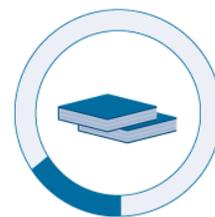
Latest Oral Health Data from Healthy People 2020

Healthy People 2020 just released its latest oral health data. Oral health is one of 26 leading health indicators which communicate high-priority health issues. The oral health leading health indicator measures the number of children, adolescents and adults who visited the dentist in the last year. This data includes dental visits by gender and education level, along with informational infographics.

[Check out the latest data here.](#)



54.2%
at least some college
(age adjusted)



18.2%
less than high school
(age adjusted)

Persons Without a Dental Visit by Education, 2012

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