



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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OHK Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner has the pleasure of serving on the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation's Board of Directors. This month she was elected to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for the next year. The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation's mission is to providing funding and resources to improve oral health

Kansas Is An Up And Coming State

Oral Health America released the 2018 A State of Decay, Vol. IV report on April 17. This is the fourth report in a series that documents the oral health status and policy priorities for each state. While Kansas ranks as fair in the report, we have improved our overall score this year. Oral Health America described Kansas as one of seven up and coming states because our score improved this year. The 2016 report helped us see where we needed to improve, and our state made progress.

A State of Decay measures all 50 states in six areas of older adults' oral health: severe tooth loss, a dental visit in the last 12 months, Medicaid dental services for adults, community water fluoridation, a State Oral Health Plan with SMART objectives that include older adults, and a Basic Screening Survey for older adults.

The report recognizes Kansas' investments

in the state of Kansas. Over the years, the KDCF has donated more than \$17 million in dental care through its signature event, the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM).



A Conversation About Oral Health In America

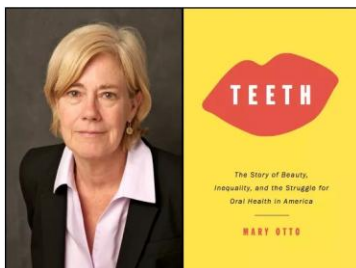
Next week, attend a FREE event featuring speakers who will address oral health in Kansas. Also listen to an interview with Mary Otto and receive her book, *Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America*.

Date and Time: Friday, April 27, 2018 | Noon-1:30 p.m.

Lunch and program

Kansas Health Institute
212 SW 8th Avenue, first floor -
Directly across from the
Kansas Statehouse

Register [here!](#)



in maintaining good oral health for older adults. A State of Decay reinforces the value of prioritizing the oral and overall health of older adults in our state. It also points to the areas in which we can improve. For example, the Medicaid data necessary for this report was not available in our state at the time it was requested. This affected our overall score and shows us that we need to do more to ensure current and accurate Medicaid data is available in Kansas. It also points to the very real fact that we need to provide basic restorative services for all Medicaid beneficiaries in Kansas. The report showed us we can revisit opportunities such as a Basic Screening Survey for older adults and that we can do more to ensure older Kansans visit the dentist each year and keep their teeth throughout their lives.

Stakeholders in Kansas are committed to working together to address the oral health of older Kansans. We must continue to work to ensure all older adults have access to the services and support they need to keep their mouths healthy, as a key factor in overall health and wellness throughout the senior years. We must commit to do more to ensure older adults are healthy and can maintain good oral health throughout their lives.

OHK's Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner had the privilege of serving on Oral Health America's Scientific Advisory Committee and helped develop the advocacy toolkit for the 2018 report. Download the report at <https://oralhealthamerica.org/astateofdecay/>

Sugary Drink Display

One more month of school! But that doesn't mean the education stops. If you would like to reserve a drink display for a summer camp, event or office, let us know! Want to reserve one for the upcoming school year? [Sign up!](#)

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.



Adult drink display

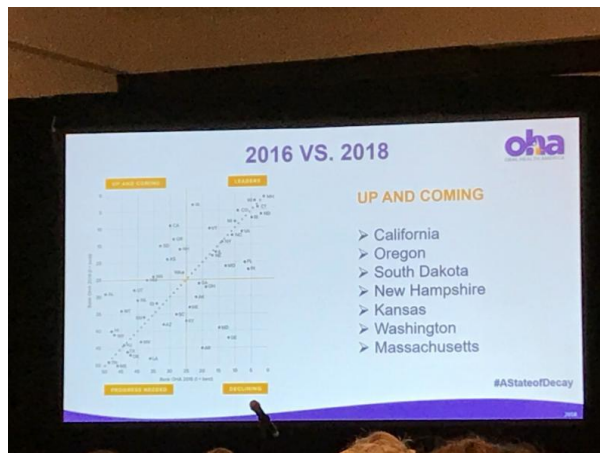
Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Fill out this form](#) and we'll get back with you!



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Pilot Program Will Help Adults With Dental Coverage

Last week we were excited to hear that Maryland's Medical Assistance Program [would begin a Dental Coverage for Adults pilot program](#). The legislation is now waiting for their Governor's signature for approval.

The legislation would require the Maryland Department of Health to implement a pilot program for adult dental coverage. The pilot, which may begin as early as January 2019, is a major step forward in establishing adult dental coverage for Maryland residents.

Oral Health Kansas continuously advocates for managed care organizations to include comprehensive dental benefits for all adults enrolled in KanCare. The KanCare Adult Dental Coalition is a growing coalition that is dedicated to advocating for comprehensive adult dental benefits as a covered benefit under the Kansas Medicaid program, KanCare. To sign up and join, [click here!](#)

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Early Childhood Learn About Sugary Drinks

The Harmony Early Childhood Center in Olathe had the opportunity to learn about how much sugar is in some of the beverages they drink by reserving one of our Sugary Drink Display's.

Families were surprised to see how much sugar is in the drinks they like!



If you are interested in reserving a Sugary Drink Display, [fill out the request form.](#)