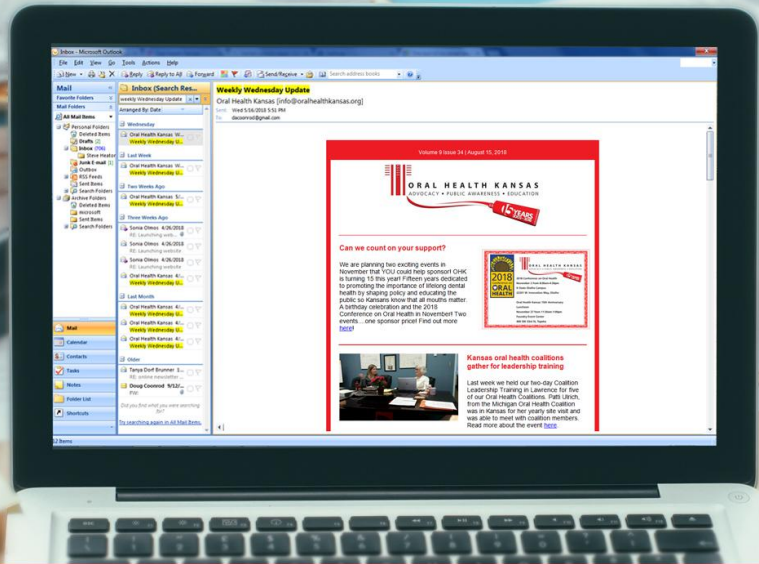




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
 ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

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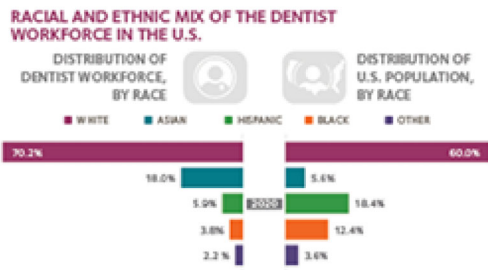
**Kansas Mission of Mercy**  
*Making a Difference*

## Kansas Mission Of Mercy Announcement

The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation has announced it will hold a [Kansas Mission of Mercy \(KMOM\)](#) this year. With the Covid pandemic, it had put this year's KMOM on hold. The free dental clinic has been rescheduled for July 23-24 at Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center in

Wichita. It will be the 20th KMOM project. It will provide patients with free cleanings, fillings, and extractions on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you or someone you know could benefit from services provided at KMOM, there is more information on the [Patient Information](#) page to learn more about the event. Volunteer registration will open up six weeks before the event.



## Dental Workforce Needs For Underrepresented Populations

A 2016 research article published by [Health Affairs](#) made it clear that Black, Hispanic, Latino, and Native Americans are underrepresented in the U.S. dental workforce and that the dentists who are from these communities serve a larger proportion of

communities of color than their white counterparts. The article concluded with this call to action, "A purposeful approach to improving the diversity of the dental workforce would involve investing in a longer, deeper, and sustained pipeline; robust systems of care; and a genuine culture of inclusion."

The American Dental Association (ADA) is addressing the growing diversity of the dental workforce in several ways. The ADA's Health Policy Institute (HPI) aims to be a thought leader and trusted source for critical policy knowledge related to the U.S. dental care system. They recently created an [infographic series](#) on racial disparities in oral health.

### Some of the results showed:

- 54% of first year dental students are white
- 70% of the dental workforce is white, while 18% are Asians
- 43% of dentists in the US participate in Medicaid or CHIP for child dental services

Read more information [here](#).

## Access To Marketplace With Low Premiums For Kansans

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that 164,000 Kansans are eligible for zero-dollar plans through HealthCare.gov due to the American Rescue Plan signed by President Biden on March 11. About 65,000 current enrollees and 99,000 uninsured adults can sign up for quality health coverage with no monthly premiums.



Additionally, 71,000 current enrollees and 110,000 uninsured adults are eligible for low-premium plans. Read the press release [here](#) for more information.

To learn more about dental plans and coverage in the Marketplace, read more information on our [website](#).



## Upcoming Events

- 2021 Conference on Oral Health, presented by Oral Health Kansas, November 4 and 5. More information will be provided [here](#).
- American Academy of Pediatrics Webinar: Addressing Adolescent Vaping and E-Cigarette Use, Friday, April 23, 12-1pm CST. Register [here](#).
- CareQuest Institute is hosting a webinar: Oral Health, Primary Care, and the COVID-19 Pandemic on April 29, 12pm. Register [here](#).



Last weekend Kansas lost a stalwart public health hero. Lougene Marsh retired two years ago after an exemplary career leading the public health departments in Emporia and Johnson County. She served as the president of the Kansas Association

of Local Health Departments and on the Oral Health Kansas Board. Lougene was a mentor and a friend to so many, including us. She lost her battle with cancer last weekend, and we mourn her loss and send our thoughts to her family.



Photo courtesy of:  
JoCo Dept. of Health and Environment



## Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

**Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.**



During this time, hand washing and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.

Follow Us



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