



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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## Dental Champions Corner

Congratulations to Daniel Lassley (Class 5) on being named an Account Executive at WIBW TV in Topeka!



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**DENTAL CHAMPIONS**  
Leadership Program  
a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

## Advocacy Alert: Contact Your Legislators!

The state legislature is on break until Wednesday, April 29, when Veto Session begins. When they get back to Topeka, the legislature will draft and approve a budget for the next fiscal year. Recent estimates show that the state needs to find about \$400 million to fill the FY 2016 budget hole. Until they return, most legislators are spending time in their districts and many are holding town hall meetings or legislative coffees to hear from constituents. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with your elected representative. If you don't know who they are, you can [find out here](#).

Oral Health Kansas spent the 2015 Regular Session lobbying for policies that would improve the health of all Kansans (for a full list, [click here](#)). As we move into the next phase of the legislative process, we are joining our partners in the [RevUp Kansas Coalition](#) to encourage legislators to raise revenue by rolling back the 2012 tax cuts.

The proposed increase on taxes for cigarettes and other tobacco products is a win-win solution, since these taxes also encourage people to quit using. Additionally, we would like to see the proposed cuts to safety net clinics restored, as this statewide network is sometimes the only place some people can access oral health services.

## Test Your Sugar Knowledge!

Hidden sugar is a health culprit. The latest draft nutritional guidelines for America recommend no more than 10 percent of one's total daily caloric intake come from added sugars - which are linked with obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. When you compare the added sugar content in your yogurt, cereal or favorite beverages, you might discover that the packaging's claims to health mask a hefty serving of extra sugar. Test your knowledge in [this quiz!](#)



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## Special Enrollment Period Still Open

The special enrollment period for tax season ends next week, April 30th.

Kansans who want to find a Navigator or other assister in their area can visit [www.insureks.org](http://www.insureks.org). These Cover Kansas Navigators have completed training with CMS, passed background checks and are available at trusted community organizations around our state.

Check out [this flyer from Cover Kansas](#) for more information and to see who is eligible for this enrollment period.

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Join In: WSU Dental

Finally, KanCare expansion should remain part of the discussion, as much to provide care to citizens as to stimulate job growth statewide. We encourage you to contact your legislators - or meet with them face to face - and give them the same message.



## This Month: National Minority Health Month

During April, we mark National Minority Health Month by raising awareness about the health disparities that continue to affect minority populations. This [U.S. Health and Human Services \(HHS\) blog post](#) explains why health equity is an important consideration when working to expand access to affordable health care. The Affordable Care Act has played a major role in reducing the number of uninsured minorities.

Oral Health Kansas focused on "Seeking Equity in Oral Health Care" at the 2014 Oral Health Kansas Conference. To see these presentations, [visit our conference site here](#).



## Day

Wichita State University Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program is hosting a Dental Day for students interested in a career in dentistry. Dental Day is a great opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in the field of dentistry and dental hygiene. This camp is geared toward high school students interested in the field of dentistry, including dental hygiene and dental assisting.

This program will be held Friday, June 26, and registration closes June 1st or until all spots are filled. Find out more about this opportunity at the [Dental Day website!](#)



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## Traveling Sugary Drink Display

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. A few recent display locations include Reno County Head Start, All Smiles Dental Care in Minneapolis, Harper Public Library, and Southeast Kansas Multi-County Health Departments.



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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