



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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Johnson County Oral Health Coalition provides Smile Kits

To celebrate Older Americans Month this May, Johnson County Oral Health Coalition distributed 500+ Smile Kits to each Meals on Wheels recipient. The kits were delivered to all Meals on Wheels participants along with their meal of the day.

Oral Health Kansas designed and produces an educational message listing action steps for healthy teeth that were part of the kits. Meals on Wheels of Johnson County is a service provided by the county's Area Agency on Aging. Smile Kits were part of the 2,000 donated in 2015 by Delta Dental of Kansas.

Oral Health Kansas 2016 conference announces Keynote Speaker: Michael Shermer

OHK is excited to announce Professor [Dr. Michael Shermer](#) as our keynote speaker for our 2016 conference. Michael Shermer is the Founding Publisher of [Skeptic magazine](#), and the author of several books, including his most famous book, Why People Believe Weird Things, on pseudoscience, superstitions, and other confusions of our time.



Share your story!

With the KanCare public forums underway this week, brings to our attention the unheard voices from consumers, advocates and organizations. Do you have an oral health story you would like to share with us? Or do you know someone who has had an experience worth sharing? Let us know! Fill out this [short form](#) with the information.



Adult smoking rates decrease

A recent [report](#), states the rate of smoking among adults in the U.S. fell to 15% last year thanks to biggest one-year decline in more than 20 years. The smoking rate has been falling for decades but usually only drops one point or less in a year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says smoking causes an estimate of 480,000 deaths a year. The



OHK's annual conference will be held November 3-5, 2016 at the Double Tree Hotel in Overland Park. We will keep you updated for when you can sign up as an exhibitor and when early bird registration opens!



Healthy Smiles initiative at KDHE leads to integration of oral health into child care programming

A new state-level collaboration has resulted in policy change that will ensure oral health is included

smoking rates gradual decline has coincided with an increase public understanding that smoking is a cause of cancer, heart disease and other lethal health problems.



Kansans perspective on health care

National Public Radio, Harvard University and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation partnered to survey Americans last year on their perceptions about health care. Seven states were surveyed: Kansas, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin.

One of the [results](#) found, adults in Kansas are much more positive when it comes to the health care they personally receive as patients than they are about the state's health care system overall. Far more adults rate the care they personally receive as excellent than rate their state's health care system similarly. About one in six Kansans report having been unable to get the care they needed at some point in the past two years.

Learn more about this story from the [Kansas Health Institute](#).

in the child care licensing process.

Last year, Child Care Licensing at Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) collaborated with Oral Health Kansas, the Bureau of Oral Health, and others to pilot a project aimed at changing behavior and practices in licensed and group day care homes. The ultimate goal was to reduce the rate of untreated decay upon entering school. The project activities included:

- Completion by child care providers of a two hour on-line oral health training through Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO) focused on nutrition and integrating tooth brushing into the child care routine.
- Free screenings for children 0-11 years of age from child care centers in SW Kansas. Parents received screening results and referrals, in addition to oral health education materials.
- Child care providers participating in a local *Baby Day* kickoff in SW Kansas received an educational kit



Sugary Drink Display

Our friends at the [Thomas County Office Complex in Colby, Kansas](#), shared our drink display and received a lot of feedback from viewers! Have you reserved yours yet?

The drink display is free and shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot!



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which included oral health supplies.

The initiative proved so successful that Child Care Licensing has instituted following actions into their regular programming:

- A question regarding tooth brushing practices was added to the annual and initial inspections for all licensed and group day care homes as means of gathering oral health practices. The date obtained may guide future regulation changes and training.
- Surveyors provided a consultation regarding the oral health benefits of nutritious foods, tooth brushing and toothbrush replacement.
- Additional on-line oral health training's through KCCTO are in the process of development by Oral Health Kansas and will be offered at no cost.
- Face to face oral health training has also been made available through Child Care Aware at no cost to participants.

Lori Steelman, KDHE Child Care

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Licensing states "As a result of our surveyors providing oral health consultations to Licensed and Group Day Care Home providers, we have seen an increase in the number of providers that report that oral health practices have been written into the facility business plan and put into practice in daily routines. KDHE remains committed to continuing to provide support to child care providers that help to improve the oral and overall health of those they serve".

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