



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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## Save the Date!

The 2015 Oral Health Kansas Conference will be held November 12-14 at Kansas State University in Olathe. Please plan to attend. Details coming soon!



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## Topeka Conversation on Poverty

The Second Annual Topeka Community Conversation on Poverty was held all day yesterday.

## Adopted Tobacco Tax a Missed Opportunity for Kansans

This week the Governor signed a proposal to increase the state cigarette tax by 50 cents, bringing the total state tax to \$1.29 per pack of cigarettes.

Oral Health Kansas was a part of Kansans for a Healthy Future (K4HF), an organization that is dedicated to saving lives in Kansas through tobacco prevention. K4HF advocated for a \$1.50 increase in the state cigarette tax, as well as a substantial increase in other tobacco products (OTP), earmarking a portion of the proceeds for tobacco prevention and cessation as the best way to immediately improve the health of Kansans. Instead, the Legislature responded with a 50-cent tax increase on tobacco and no additional funding for the state's tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

Raising the tax by \$1.50 per pack would have saved more than 50,000 Kansas lives and saved state taxpayers up to \$237 million annually in smoking-related KanCare costs.

Throughout the legislative session, the tobacco tax was the only tax increase with supporters, including the public. Recent polling showed 73 percent of Kansas voters supported increasing the tobacco tax and 63 percent supported using a tobacco tax to

Community members discussed ways to alleviate poverty and create a better community. Oral Health Kansas donated tooth brushes to be handed out to all who participated in this conversation.



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## Pilot Helps Open Access to Oral Health Care

A pilot program developed by Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center at their Lexington, Mo., clinic is creating greater access to oral health services. Working with a patient-centered medical home consultant, the clinic has been working to integrate oral health services into the primary care setting. This work is part of the REACH Medical Home Initiative's added focus on integrated care. Turner House Children's Clinic in Kansas City, Kansas, is also participating in the oral health integration project.



Equal access. It's within reach.

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## Reserve our Sugary Drink Display

lower the state sales tax. Kansans recognized that this was a tax that would improve health, save on health care costs and deter kids from smoking.

**[Read the full press release from Kansans for a Healthy Future here.](#)**

## Delta Dental of Kansas Announces 2015 Grant Cycle

Delta Dental of Kansas (DDKS) released its 2015 community dental health grant and toothbrush kit program applications this week. Both funding opportunities have been hallmark programs for more than ten years. Interested organizations may view the grant guidelines, complete applications and find **[additional information here.](#)**

In 2014, DDKS funded \$497,458 in community dental health grants to 18 Kansas organizations, and 261,504 toothbrush kits (toothbrush, toothpaste and floss) were donated to more than 60 Kansas organizations. Grants are awarded to Kansas-based oral health programs that emphasize prevention, have a significant impact, and are sustainable solutions to improve the oral health of Kansans. Since 2004, funds have touched the lives of more than 1 million Kansans in all 105 counties through grants totaling more than \$9.8 million.

The 2015 grant cycle announcement comes from DDKS' Communications department, which oversees community-focused activities, including coordinating the annual grant cycle, oral health education events, and corporate donations and sponsorships.

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## Score 1 for Health

The Oral Health Kansas sugary drink display has been traveling around the state, making stops across Kansas.

Reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! 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!



Oral Health Kansas  
800 SW Jackson  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
785-235-6039  
[info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)

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## helping children in greatest need

Kansas City University's Score 1 for Health is a preventive health program for elementary-aged children built upon the belief that optimal health and well-being enhances one's ability to learn, grow and develop creatively.

Score 1 for Health provides free, in-school health screenings, preventive health education and health-care mentors for children. Score 1 for Health focuses on reaching children in areas of greatest need, including urban core, underprivileged and low-income families.

Each year, Score 1 for Health serves more than 13,000 children living in the Kansas City's urban core. In 2014, the program screened children in 50 schools within the Kansas City, Mo., Raytown, Center, Hickman Mills and Kansas City, Kan., school districts.



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