



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Oral Health Kansas annual conference

OHK is continuing to make plans for our [2016 conference](#) in November! This year's theme "Igniting Collective Impact: Inspiring Communities", will provide a conversation about what we can do to tackle social changes and work collectively to achieve impact. You will want to be a part of this!

Save the dates, **November 3-5** at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park.

Stay tuned for details!

Kansas health clinics awarded grants to improve access to oral health

[The Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#)

awarded \$156 million in funding to support 420 health centers in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to increase access to integrated oral health care services and improve oral health outcomes for Health Center Program patients. Of those 420 health centers, six were from Kansas:

- Center for Health and Wellness/HealthCore, Wichita, \$350,000.
- Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg, \$525,000.
- Flint Hills Community Health Center, Emporia, \$350,000.



KanCare expansion advocates launch campaign to educate voters

[The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#) is planning community events across Kansas to learn about what KanCare expansion would mean to Kansans. The goal is to educate Kansans about the economic and health benefits of expanding eligibility for KanCare, the state's privatized Medicaid program, so that they can question incumbent lawmakers and challengers about the issue during the primary and general election campaigns, said David Jordan, executive director of the alliance.

The events are free and open to the public!

June 22, Dodge City, 6p-8p
Dodge City Senior Center
2408 Central Ave.

June 23, Garden City, 7p-9p
USD 457 Garden City
Educational Support Center

June 29, Topeka, 6p-8p
First Congregational UCC
1701 SW Collins Ave.

- Heartland Medical Clinic, Lawrence, \$350,000.
- Prairiestar Health Center, Hutchinson, \$350,000.
- Salina Health Education Foundation, Salina, \$286,420.

This funding enables health centers to expand integrated oral health care services and increase the number of patients served. With these awards from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), health centers across the country will increase their oral health service capacity by hiring approximately 1,600 new dentists, dental hygienists, assistants, aides, and technicians to treat nearly 785,000 new patients.

Executive Director, Tanya Dorf Brunner, shared with the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), the importance of these grants and what it means for oral health in Kansas. "The funding will be particularly important in Kansas because the state has offered fewer grants to support oral health care for low-income people. In the last few years, the state funding for these dental services has been decreasing". Read the [KHI article](#) to see how it will benefit clinics and

Read more about the campaign on the [The Kansas Health Institute](#).



2016 Kids Count Data Book released

The [KIDS COUNT Data Book](#) features the latest data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia, and the nation.

"Since 2011, Kansas has reduced early education funding and significantly weakened the state safety net. This has been negatively impacting children and families for years, but we're only just now starting to see the consequences due to a lag in the data," said Annie McKay, president and CEO of Kansas Action for Children. "What's evident is that policy choices of the post recession-years have eroded the well-being of children and families in Kansas- especially compared to other states that made different choices. Kansas struggles to keep afloat while other states swim laps around us."

The percentage of children without health insurance improved, dropping from eight percent to five percent since 2008, with Kansas' national ranking in this indicator improving from 23rd to 17th since last year's Data Book. This reflects national trends attributed to the implementation

patients in your area!



Kansans join Midwesterners at regional meeting

This week, over 100 oral health leaders from across the Midwest gathered in Chicago for the DentaQuest Foundation's Midwest Regional Oral Health Convening. This annual meeting is a chance for oral health advocates, educators and providers to share best practices and ideas to address the Foundation's Oral Health 2020 goals:

1. Kids reach age five cavity-free
2. Oral health is integrated into the school systems
3. State Medicaid programs include comprehensive adult dental

of the Affordable Care Act.



Sugary Drink Display

Get in line to reserve your drink display for the school year or for your event. We have folks asking about September already! Don't miss your chance!

Our drink display has 10 beverages that will show you how much sugar is in each! 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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coverage

4. Medicare program includes comprehensive adult dental coverage

5. Build a comprehensive national measurement system

6. Integrate oral health into person-centered healthcare

7. Improve the public perception of the value of oral health

Kansas stakeholders from several organizations are working on each of these goals through a series of collaborative grants. Stakeholders include Oral Health Kansas, KAMU, Bureau of Oral Health, Kansas Head Start Association, Kansas Dental Association, Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Twelve Kansans represented these organizations at this week's Chicago meeting, including four Oral Health Kansas staff members and two board members. Participants gained a greater understanding of facilitative leadership approaches to solving these daunting oral health challenges. They also learned more about oral health equity and how to ensure underserved Kansans have a voice in their own care.

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Learn more about the [Oral Health 2020 Initiative from the DentaQuest Foundation.](#)



Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner speaks at conference

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