

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.

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June 9, 2021

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Awaiting Legislative Study Of Unmet Dental Needs

The 2021 Legislative Session concluded on May 26. From now until the end of the year, legislative committees will hold meetings to study a variety of topics. At the request of Oral Health Kansas, the House Appropriations Committee requested that the legislative leadership

approve an interim committee study unmet dental needs. The specific request the Appropriations Committee sent to legislative leaders reads:

“The Committee recommends an interim study on the availability and accessibility of dental care for adults who are uninsured, living in poverty, or senior citizens in Kansas. The study will identify existing services, gaps in or barriers in accessing existing services, and recommendations for steps to improve the accessibility of dental services to these populations.”

Legislative leadership should decide in June or July whether and when to schedule this interim study topic. We will keep our readers informed about the process.



Exhibitors Sign Up Here!

The virtual 2021 Conference on Oral Health will be held the mornings of November 4 and 5. We are currently taking sign ups for exhibitors. Exhibitors will submit a short video as their exhibit display and can attend the conference if they would like.

Last year participants enjoyed being able to watch exhibitor videos more than once and at their leisure. Conference attendees have access to all information on the platform for up to six months. If you are interested in signing up to exhibit or to sponsor the conference, click [here](#) or contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org to learn more!



The Impact Of Oral Health On Major Health Conditions

The Center for Medicare Advocacy has created a series of advocacy fact sheets that explains in layperson’s terms the connection between oral health and major medical conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Each fact sheet offers important oral health tips for persons living with these medical conditions, as well as their caregivers, advocates, and health care providers. While individual prevention and

management of oral and dental disease are important for people with underlying health problems, access to affordable dental coverage and care is also vital and is something too many Medicare beneficiaries lack. We hope these fact sheets will serve to illustrate why the

meaning of health care must include oral health care, and why oral health benefits should be added to Medicare.

- Fact Sheet - [The Dental and Heart Disease Relationship](#)
- Fact Sheet - [The Diabetes and Dental Disease Connection](#)
- Fact Sheet - [Dental Issues Related to Pulmonary Diseases](#)



Basic Screening Survey Of Individuals With Special Health Care Needs

Virginia's State Oral Health Program (SOHP) has years of oral health surveillance experience with multiple populations. However, Individuals with Special Health Care Needs (ISHCN) oral health data had not been collected in Virginia. In 2019, the SOHP conducted an ISHCN Basic Screening Survey (BSS) to assess barriers to dental care and document the current oral health status of ISHCN with a goal to utilize this information to improve access to dental services for ISHCN and expand components of the SOHP oral health initiatives. The infographic and final report detailing the survey results are available on the Virginia Department of Health website. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/oral-health/data-and-statistics/>



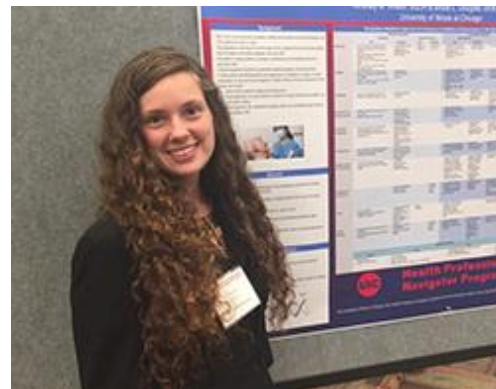
Upcoming Events

- 2021 Conference on Oral Health, presented by Oral Health Kansas, November 4 and 5. More information will be provided [here](#).
- 2021 OPEN Academy, Connecting for Collective Action to Advance Equity and Systems Change, will be held on June 23 - 25, with pre-conference offerings on June 22, and optional webinars to "set the stage" the week of June 14. Register [here](#).
- Kansas Mission of Mercy, July 23 - 24 in Wichita, Kansas. Find more information [here](#).
- Community Care Network of Kansas, Virtual Conference, September 20 - 23, 2021. More information coming soon.



This week we want to celebrate Oral Health Kansas Board member Whitney Zamora. This year she will finish her Master's of Public Administration through the University of California-

Berkley, and she is working with us on her practicum. One of her projects with us is a new advocacy toolkit. She's got some great ideas to make the toolkit fun and interactive, and we look forward to sharing it at our conference on November 5.



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.



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