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Dental Champions Corner

The Dental Champions Leadership Program enjoys a partnership with the Kansas Leadership Center. One of the

State Adds Medicaid Adult Dental



Illinois Restores Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits

Illinois' Governor Quinn recently signed the legislatively-approved budget, which restores adult Medicaid dental benefits. The benefits were cut in 2011. Medicaid beneficiaries can begin using the dental services—which include a range of benefits, but are not entirely comprehensive—on October 1. Illinois counts about 3 million Medicaid beneficiaries, including 349,000 adults who became eligible last year when the state expanded their Medicaid program, as allowed under the Affordable Care Act.

Missouri's Restoration of Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Stalls

The [Missouri Legislature](#) recently approved a budget that included \$48 million to restore adult dental benefits originally lost to budget cuts in 2005. In a surprise twist, Governor Jay Nixon placed those funds and others in restrictions—effectively pushing the "pause" button on restoring dental benefits—because the two branches are locked in a broader battle over tax policy. The state's advocates are disappointed, but pleased that the conversation about adult dental benefits took place at all. Gary Harbison, Executive Director of the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health said, "We still feel we have made

KLC's Civic Leadership Competencies is "Diagnose Situation." How often do you use this competency in your work? Do you explore tough interpretations? Distinguish between technical and adaptive work? Test multiple interpretations and points-of-view? Identify who needs to do the work?

Leadership indeed is an activity, and it is hard work. Learn more from the [Kansas Leadership Center](#).



Save the Date...

The 2014 Oral Health Kansas Conference will be November 6-8 at Wichita State University. This year's conference theme is Oral Health Across the Lifespan.

Traveling Sugary Drink Display



tremendous progress. We are in a better position to move forward later this fiscal year or next year."

Costco's poll shows Americans support water fluoridation

Last month, we reported on a debate Costco began about water fluoridation. The superstore, best known for selling bulk merchandise, published an article in the May 30 issue of their magazine entitled, "Informed Debate: Should Community Drinking Water be Fluoridated?" The article was designed as a pro and con argument about water fluoridation and invited people to vote on whether they support water fluoridation. The results shows that Americans overwhelmingly support fluoridation. View the original article [here](#).

JUNE DEBATE RESULTS:
Should community drinking water be fluoridated?

**65% YES
35% NO**

Percentage reflects votes received by June 18, 2014. Results may reflect Debate being picked up by blogs.

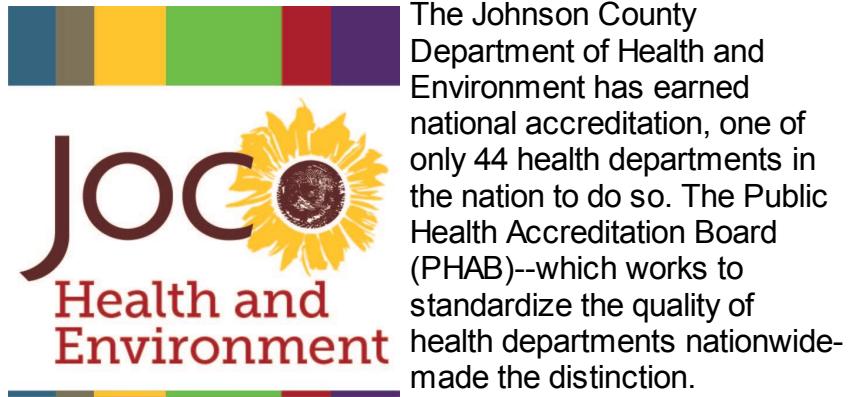
Oral Health Kansas, along with many other oral health advocacy organizations across the country submitted a letter to the Costco magazine's editor, expressing our disappointment that the company sparked such a debate on a proven public health practice. Our letter read, in part, "Debating well-established public health practices does not do anything to provide customers with quality goods and services. Rather, it plants seeds of fear in your customers' minds about the safety of an imminently safe practice like community water fluoridation." Read the full letter on our [website](#).

Accreditation for Johnson County Health Department

Reserve our traveling Sugary Drink Display for your business or event! Displays are available from June onward and reservations are made for one month at a time.

Return postage is covered by Oral Health Kansas. [E-mail Sarah here](#) if you would like to make a reservation.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



Health Kansas board secretary Lougene Marsh is excited about the accomplishment, which has been an ongoing process since August of 2011.

"Really, the whole accreditation process is not just demonstration of capacity, but of building a robust process by which you are continuously improving," Marsh said, "To me, that's one of the greatest benefits." Other local health departments in Kansas, including Sedgwick County and Lawrence-Douglas County also are close to gaining accreditation.

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.

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