



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.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

August 4, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 29



599 People Treated

On July 23rd and 24th, the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) was held at the Century II Bob Brown Expo Hall in Wichita. The dental, medical and general volunteers gave many hours to contribute their time and services to

treat **599 people**. The patients thanked the volunteers and appreciated the help they received, as seen from the many pictures on the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation's Facebook page](#). At the event, COVID vaccinations were also provided through the Sedgwick County Health Department.

Earlier this year it wasn't clear if KMOM would be possible this year, but the numbers tell the story:

- \$774,626 in donated dental care
- 1,626 extractions
- 712 fillings

OHK would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time including some of the Dental Champions Leadership Alumni!



ADA Requests Prioritizing Dentists' Participation In Medicaid

The American Dental Association (ADA) is asking the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to increase reimbursement and reduce administrative burden in order to increase the number of dentists who participate in the Medicaid program.

In a [July 16 letter](#) to Daniel Tsai, deputy administrator and director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, ADA President Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S., M.D., and Executive

Director Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., said that easing the credentialing and audit processes and paying clean claims within 15 days would encourage more dentists to take Medicaid.

The letter also states the ADA anticipates working with CMS to:

- Require the CMS Center for Program Integrity to issue guidance to state Medicaid agencies concerning best practices in dental audits and developing standardized training for dental auditors.
- Provide guidance to state Medicaid agencies to streamline dentist credentialing by utilizing the ADA Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare credentialing service or equivalent.
- Establish the benchmark floor for all Medicaid dental fees at 75th percentile of regional dental fees based on ADA survey data.
- Work to enhance consistent adult dental benefits across all Medicaid Programs.
- Partner with the dental community to establish an appropriate Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System billing code to help address ongoing challenges regarding access to dental rehabilitative services in operating rooms in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.
- Increase oral health equity, including incentivizing dentists to practice in underserved communities across the United States and strengthening support for Action for Dental

Health initiatives.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

In 2019 and 2020, Oral Health Kansas successfully advocated for rate increases for Medicaid dental providers. While the rates still remain low overall and the administrative burdens are still in place, the Kansas Medicaid program is heading in the right direction.



Oral Health for Children with Special Needs

A [report](#) in the journal Pediatrics looked into the prevalence of oral health concerns as well as the ability to receive preventive oral health care for children with disabilities. Caregivers were asked about toothaches, bleeding gums, delayed teeth, cavities, and overall teeth conditions. Preventive dental visits, cleanings, tooth

brushing as well as oral health care instructions, fluoride, and sealants were defined as preventive oral health services.

Some of the findings from the study:

- A higher proportion of children with special health care needs than those with no special needs had received preventive dental care
- There were higher rates of oral health problems in children with special health care needs than their peers with no needs
- Decayed teeth and cavities occurred in 16% of children with special health care needs and only 11% in their peers

Children and youth who have special health care needs may also need specialized dental care. When people have physical, intellectual or emotional disabilities, they may have conditions that interfere with effective daily dental hygiene care. OHK provides resources including videos that may help support the oral care of children with special needs. [View](#) the list of resources on our website to see what works best for you.



Learn About Public Health Models And Issues

The 78th annual Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) will hold their Fall Conference virtually September 21-23, 2021 from 8:30 - 12:30 each

day. The theme this year is Strengthening Social Connectedness. [Register](#) soon and receive the early bird special!

The deadline to submit abstracts is quickly approaching! Abstracts are to be submitted **no later than 5:00 pm, Friday, August 6, 2021**. For more information on submitting abstracts, click [here](#).



Upcoming Events

- 2021 Conference on Oral Health, presented by Oral Health Kansas, November 4 and 5. More information will be provided [here](#).
- Alliance for a Healthy Kansas is hosting community meetings around the state to discuss Medicaid expansion. In El Dorado, August 10 from 6-7:30 and Newton, August 19 from 6-7:30. For more information and locations, click [here](#).
- Community Care Network of Kansas, Virtual Conference, September 20 - 23, 2021. Register [here](#).



Last year at the 2020 Conference on Oral Health, we awarded Emily Day, DDS, with the Excellence in Oral Health Award for Outstanding Dentist. She was honored for her leadership and

innovation during the COVID pandemic. We are seeking nominations for the 2021 Excellence in Oral Health Awards! Winners will be announced during the virtual 2021 Conference on Oral Health November 4 and 5. If you would like to nominate someone for their hard work to improve oral health in their community, click [here](#)!





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.

Follow Us



Oral Health Kansas • PO BOX 4567Topeka, KS 66604
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax info@oralhealthkansas.org
Copyright 2021