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### Labor Day

The Oral Health Kansas office will be closed on Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day.

### New ECP Grant Program

At the end of September KDHE's Bureau of Oral Health will release an RFP to provide start-up or expansion funds for an ECP Hygienist program. Safety-net clinics (including FQHCs), local health departments, and private practice dentists or hygienists will be able to apply for small grants to begin or expand an ECP program. The funds can be used to purchase portable dental equipment, supplies, or even as start-up funds to hire someone to run an ECP program. Partnerships with community organizations are a critical factor in the success of ECP programs, so partnerships will be strongly encouraged in the RFP. Look for more information at the end of the month. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Lassley, KDHE Dental Recruitment Program Manager, [dlassley@kdheks.gov](mailto:dlassley@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-1314.

### Oral Health. . . An Essential Healthcare Service for Pregnant Women

There is an old wives tale that is repeated often: "Lose a tooth for every child." Unfortunately, today's women today will continue to say that they have lost teeth as a result of their pregnancies. When a woman is pregnant, she can be putting her oral health at risk. And yet, many women who are pregnant do not receive preventive or restorative dental services that are important to them and their newborn babies. In Kansas, pregnant women who are enrolled in Medicaid do not have funding for dental care.

During pregnancy, most women experience nausea and acid reflux. Pregnant women also change their eating habits, having many small meals during the day and using crackers and hard candies to quell nausea and hunger. Hormonal changes during pregnancy often cause mild inflammation of the gums, leading to "pregnancy gingivitis." If



**Happy Labor Day**  
**From the staff at**  
**Oral Health**  
**Kansas**

**KAMU**  
**Taking Calls**  
**for Free**  
**Dental Care**

New federal funding is available for dental services through the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved.

For more information [click here.](#)



**Job Opening**  
**at the Kansas**  
**Bureau of**  
**Oral Health**

KDHE's Bureau of Oral Health is currently looking to hire a Childrens Oral Health Program Manager

**For more information or to apply**  
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women do not maintain proper daily oral hygiene - brushing and flossing, these changes put them at risk for tooth decay and increased gum disease, known as periodontal disease.

Researchers in the field of oral health continue to study the link between gum disease and premature, underweight births although the findings are not yet definitive. Some studies have shown a percentage of pregnant women with untreated periodontal disease, who have a baby that is born prematurely or with a low birth weight.



Mothers have been heard to say that their children inherited their poor teeth from her. The children did not "inherit" poor teeth nor are they born with decay-causing bacteria. Instead if the mother had untreated dental decay after the baby is born, she is likely to pass on high levels of decay-causing bacteria to her newborn.

To have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby:

- ❖ Visit the dentist for a check-up at any time during the pregnancy
- ❖ Have emergency dental treatment at any time during pregnancy, especially if there is inflammation
- ❖ Have regular treatment during the second trimester, which is the most comfortable for the mother
- ❖ Brush with fluoridated toothpaste and floss morning and night
- ❖ Eat a balanced diet, with healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, vegetables, low-fat cheese & yogurt, and whole grain crackers

**For more information on perinatal oral health care:**  
<http://nihcm.org/pdf/NIHCM-OralHealth-Final.pdf>

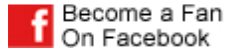
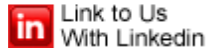
**Be sure to check out our website for the following Tips and Tricks related to oral health for pregnancy and infancy:**

**Pregnancy**

**Morning Sickness  
Ages 1-3  
Baby's 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
Baby Bottle Tooth Decay  
Daily Dental Care for Infants & Toddlers  
Why Baby Teeth Are Important**

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If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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