

# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Volume 7, Issue 38

September 21, 2016

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## Kids! Watch these two minute videos and brush

Parents, are you struggling to get your children to brush for a full two minutes? Having children brush is a difficult task already but having them brush for two minutes correctly, can be hard work! Why not let them watch a video for the full two minutes, reminding them to

## Four days left for nominations! Excellence in Oral Health Awards deadline

**Monday, September 26** is the deadline for the Excellence in Oral Health Awards. Each year at our Oral Health Kansas conference, we award individuals and organizations who were nominated for doing phenomenal work in oral health. Too often they are not given the recognition they deserve! Filling out the nomination form is easy and if you wish to remain anonymous, you have that option as well. Take this opportunity to let them know what a difference they make! Award winners will be honored at our Oral Health Kansas conference on November 3 at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park.

Here the categories. Please use only one:

- Outstanding Organization
- Outstanding Dental Hygienist
- Outstanding Dentist

brush while they watch!

Here are some [videos](#) to make brushing fun!

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## Become an advocate to improve the health in your community

If you are interested in advocacy and legislative change, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network will have an Advocacy Training on September from 6-7:30. This is a great opportunity to know how to become an advocate and what being an advocate means.

Find out more information [here](#)!



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## Attend a KanCare forum in your area

[The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#) is busy again making stops in your city. If there's a KanCare forum in your area, make sure to attend. Alliance for a Healthy Kansas wants to hear from consumers like you!

### **September 22, 6:30pm**

Arkansas City  
Ark City Senior Center  
320 South A Street

### **September 27, 6:30pm**

Emporia  
First United Methodist Church  
823 Merchant

### **September 29 6:30pm**

- Outstanding Community Leader, Bob Bethell
- Outstanding Policy Maker
- Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award.

[Here](#) you will find nomination forms and honorees from past years. If you have any questions, [contact us](#)!



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## Low-income Kansas adults report poor oral health in pair of new reports

The [Health Policy Institute](#) at the American Dental Association has released the results of two new studies about oral health and well-being and the oral health care system in each state. The news in the reports is not surprising, but the data certainly points to the fact that low-income adults in Kansas and across the country experience myriad challenges because of their oral health. Twenty-one percent of low-income adults in Kansas report their mouth and teeth are in poor condition, and 47 percent report that life is less satisfying because of the condition of their mouth and teeth. The [Oral Health Care System](#) and [Oral](#)

Hays  
Sternburg Museum  
Expeditions Mtg Rm, 3000  
Sternberg Dr.

**October 4, 6:30pm**

Paola  
Paola Community Center  
905 E. Wea

**Wednesday, October 5,  
6:30pm**

Atchison, Kansas  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
603 N. 8th St.



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## Sugary Drink Display

We just got some good feedback from the Ford County Health Department! They had our sugary drink display and had lots of people interested!

We have a few October slots open to reserve the drink display! If you're interested, contact us soon before all are booked.

Our drink display has 10 beverages that will show you how much sugar is in each! It has children asking lots of questions!



The drink display is free, and shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot! Spots are filling up fast!

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[Health and Well-Being](#) reports combine to provide data about rates of dental visits, oral health status, condition of the mouth and teeth, oral health literacy rates, and attitudes toward oral health and dental care across the country and in each state.

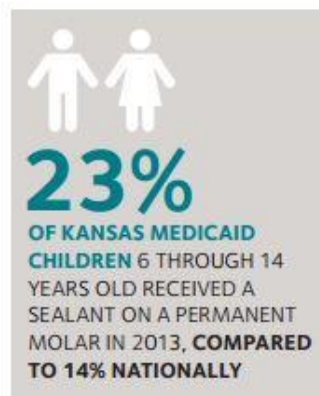


Oral Health and Well-Being  
in the United States



Oral Health Care System in  
the United States

Health Policy Institute Chief Economist and Vice President Dr. Marko Vujicic noted, "This multiyear effort brings together data and analysis in a way that helps inform policy decisions. And when it comes to oral health in America, indeed, many trend lines are important." One positive trend line is the increase in percentage of Medicaid children who receive a sealant on a molar. Twenty-three percent of Kansas children on Medicaid received a sealant in 2013, outpacing the national rate by nine percent.

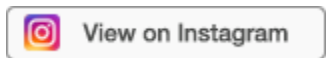
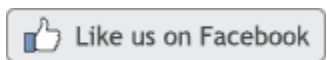




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The reports show that 95% of Kansans value oral health and 86% feel they need to visit the dentist twice a year. On the other hand, 84% of low-income adults believe they will lose some teeth with age, while 57% of high-income adults have the same expectation. Twenty-six percent of low-income adults report that the appearance of their mouth and teeth affects their ability to interview for a job. The troubling news continues with the fact that 35 percent of low-income adults avoid smiling because of the condition of their teeth.



The Health Policy Institute's mission is to provide policy knowledge related to critical issues in the dental care system in order to inform strategic decision making within and outside the ADA. The new reports help provide context and data for advocates seeking to understand the oral health challenges people face and the attitudes they have about their own oral health.