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**From:** Oral Health Kansas <jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org>  
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**To:** jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org  
**Subject:** Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
*Weekly Wednesday Update*

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

Volume 4, Issue 1

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### In This Issue

[Did You Know???](#)

[Happy New Year](#)

["C" on Sealants](#)

[2013 OHK  
Conference](#)

### OHK Website Links

[Home](#)

[Our History](#)

[Dental Champions](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Community Coalitions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Legislative Alerts](#)

### Dental Champions Corner

**Now taking  
applications for**

## Happy New Year!

In 2013 Oral Health Kansas celebrates 10 years of oral health advocacy, education and public awareness in Kansas. Throughout the year we will share highlights of the last 10 years and look ahead to the next 10.

Thank you for being a part of our organization. Together we are working to improve the oral health of all Kansans!

## Kansas Receives a "C" on Sealants

For the third year in a row, Kansas has received a "C" grade from the Pew Children's Dental Campaign. Pew released a report on January 8 grading all the states on their use of sealants for at-risk children. States were graded in four categories: dental sealant programs in high-need schools, allowing dental hygienists to place sealants in school settings without a dentist's exam, collecting data on the dental health of school children, and meeting the Healthy People 2010 objective on sealants.

## Class 6!

Over the past eight years five Dental Champions Leadership Program classes have graduated. 89 Kansans have joined the diverse network of state-level Dental Champions with a progressive vision for oral health in Kansas.

To view the application and guidelines [CLICK HERE](#)

To view the application and apply [CLICK HERE](#)



## Did You Know???

**Smile more!** Smiling - even forced smiling - has been scientifically proven to improve your mood. Smiles are contagious, so not only will you feel happier, you might brighten someone else's day as well.

Read the 13 tips about how to take care of your smile in 2013 from [Delta Dental of Kansas](#).

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## Falling Short

### Most States Lag On Dental Sealants

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment began a school sealant program two years ago and has made great strides in reaching schoolchildren since that time. The state's Dental Practice Act has allowed dental hygienists with an Extended Care Permit (ECP) to place sealants in schools without a dentist's exam for the last ten years. The law was expanded last year, through Oral Health Kansas' advocacy, to allow ECP Hygienists to see more schoolchildren while targeting the children with the highest risk for dental problems.

Kansas collected children's dental health data in 2012, but the final data was not available at the time Pew compiled the report. Only ten states met the Healthy People 2010 objective of over 75% of high-risk children receiving dental sealants. Kansas was not one of those states, but the number of Kansas kids receiving sealants is increasing each year.

While Kansas' grade for dental sealants is not high, we are making progress and many more children are receiving the vital prevention service than ever before.

The Pew report is available on their [website](#). The Kansas Health Institute published a [story](#) about the report today as well.

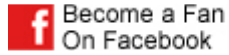
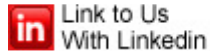
## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in November to celebrate Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary at the:

**2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference**

Johnson County Community College  
November 7-8, 2013

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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