



Oral Health News

February 25, 2005

Vol. 2 No. 2

Mission:

To improve oral health in Kansas through advocacy, public awareness and education.

Oral Health Kansas Strategic Areas:

- Access to Care
- Prevention
- Oral Health Status
- Oral Health Leadership
- Work Force

CLEAR PRIORITIES EMERGE FROM WORKFORCE SUMMIT

On January 20, Kansas Health Institute (www.khi.org) released a report on the declining supply of dental services in Kansas. Key findings of the report included:

- Many poor and rural Kansans lag significantly behind an accepted standard for dental care and oral health.
- These gaps in services and care are caused in part by a limited supply of dentists, especially in rural areas.
- Without policy intervention, these service gaps and resulting oral health problems will grow as the supply of dentists declines.

That same evening, Oral Health Kansas hosted a public reception highlighting the study and offering legislators in particular and chance to hear an overview of the report and policy recommendations.

The following day, OHK hosted a working summit where participants prioritized the following policy recommendations:

Priority I:

Increase the supply of dentists and dental hygienists, especially in low-income and rural areas

Strategies will emphasize:

- Attracting dentists and dental hygienists to underserved areas
- Providing incentives to serve rural and low-income areas
- Targeting the areas of greatest need

Examples:

- **Increase the number of subsidized seats in dental schools***
- Attach requirements to subsidized dental school slots
- Offer focused scholarship programs for rural or minority students
- **Create or expand loan forgiveness and other incentive-based programs***
- Provide career education along the educational continuum, with special emphasis toward rural, low-income and minority students

- Explore means to enable foreign-trained dentists who are educationally qualified to obtain licensure

Priority 2:

Increase the supply of oral health care services, especially in low-income and rural areas

Strategies will emphasize:

- Forming partnerships
- Evaluating community capacity

Examples:

- Study and evaluate the use technology to bring dental care to rural areas
- Explore and evaluate new business models, i.e. using the “spoke and wheel” approach (dentist will travel, patients will travel), subsidizing satellite offices, sharing facilities
- **Provide fluoride varnish in primary care settings***
- **Explore the feasibility of a residency program located near an underserved area***

Priority 3:

Improve data/monitoring/reporting

Strategies will emphasize:

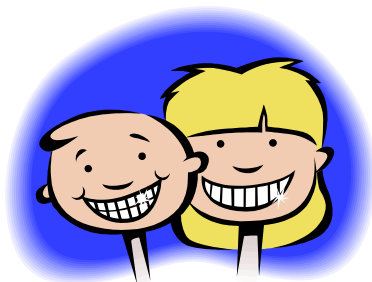
- Assessing and providing an inventory of existing data
- Identifying gaps in data

Examples:

- Promote further independent study, i.e. why those with insurance don’t use it, barriers to dentist participation in Medicaid
- Monitor state practice laws as well as use of Extended Care Permits to determine what the impact is on access and assist in identifying barriers
- Promote the authority to reside with State Office of Oral Health

****Indicates immediate strategies.***

ORAL HEALTH ADVOCACY DAY



The conjunction with Children’s Dental Health Month, Oral Health Kansas hosted several events on February 8 at the State Capitol to highlight oral health in Kansas.

Early that morning, oral health advocates gathered at a legislative breakfast reception for all legislators and staff.

Following the breakfast, OHK hosted a press conference to discuss the workforce priorities resulting from the Workforce Summit held in January. At the press conference, Senator Jim Barnett, Emporia, highlighted the connection between oral health and overall health and well-being, and Department of Health and Environment Secretary Roderick Bremby discussed the importance of access to dental care, especially for children.

Despite the weather, a group of dedicated children's oral health service providers met in the afternoon for an informational, resource sharing session. Advocates began work on the development of a statewide children's oral health committee, which will be part of Oral Health Kansas.

ORAL HEALTH PRINT AD AVAILABLE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



As Part of Kansas Action for Children's outreach efforts, they have an oral health print ad that they are making available to local organizations or communities to print in newsletters or local newspapers.

Kansas Action for Children will produce the ad, so the only cost to organizations or communities is to place it in local print media sources.

For more information, contact Carolyn Ward at carolyn@kac.org.

SMILES ACROSS KANSAS 2004 REPORT RELEASED

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recently completed a comprehensive oral health survey of third grade children in Kansas. The survey collected information on tooth decay, prevalence of sealants and the need for urgent dental treatment. The results of the survey have just been released in the *Smiles Across Kansas 2004* report.

Key findings of this first-time study include:

- One in every four children had untreated dental decay, and more than 50 percent of all children in the study have experienced dental decay in their lives.
- African American children received dental sealants at a lower rate than all other groups of children. These children also reported having the greatest difficulty in accessing general dental care in the 12

months prior to the study.

- More than 7 percent of all third graders had never been to a dentist, and almost 5 percent had not been in more than 3 years.
- Dental sealants, a well-accepted clinical intervention to prevent tooth decay on molar teeth, are underutilized as a preventive treatment among Kansas children. Only three of 10 children were studied were observed having sealants on these teeth.

You can download a copy of the full report at KDHE's website at www.kdhe.state.ks.us/ohi.

SALINA, KANSAS: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MISSION OF MERCY

The KMOM Salina project is now complete and preliminary numbers show that \$1.1 million in free dental care was provided to 2,326 patients.

Over the next few days, the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation will begin gathering stories, data and photos of the mission. Check them out on the Web at <http://www.ksdentalfoundation.org>.

KMOM By the Numbers

Garden City (2/03)	1,734 patients	\$553,979
Kansas City (8/03)	2,659 patients	\$758,455
Pittsburg (4/04)	2,159 patients	\$981,487
Salina (2/05)	2,326 patients	\$1,100,437
Total	8,878 patients	\$3,394,358

Oral Health Kansas:
Making oral health
a priority in Kansas
...because it matters!

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BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT: BRAUM'S ICE CREAM AND DAIRY STORES

Braum's Ice Cream and Dairy Stores, founded in the early 1950's by Bill Braum in Emporia, Kansas, have recognized the importance of children's oral health. In conjunction with Children's Dental Health Month, all of their stores are giving out dental care products to children in their kids' meal packs. Their *Brush Puppy* kit includes a toothbrush timer and brushing instructions along with trivia and other facts about oral health.



There are over 280 Braum's Ice Cream and Dairy Stores throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Missouri and Arkansas. The company remains family owned and operated.

Check out Braum's on the Web at www.braums.com.

BECOME A MEMBER

Please join us in improving the oral health status of all Kansas citizens.

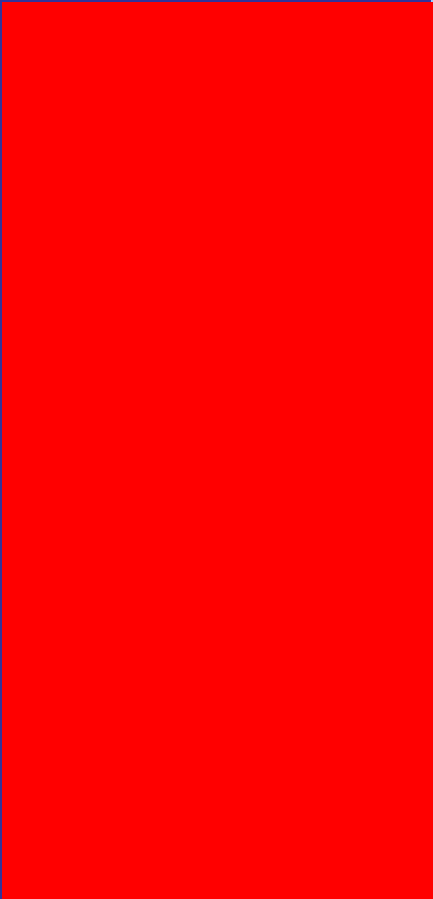
Privileges of membership:

- Opportunity to participate in the OHK annual meeting.
- Subscription to the OHK electronic newsletter, which includes information on state and national oral health initiatives and activities as well as legislative updates and alerts throughout the legislative session.
- Legislative, Executive and Administrative Branch and community advocacy representation.
- Opportunity to participate in coalition committees and other work groups.
- Discounted rates for OHK training and/or other events or educational opportunities.

Types of membership:

- **Sustaining Member (Above \$500):** Consider making an additional gift to Oral Health Kansas to support us in achieving our mission.
- **Corporate Member (\$500):** Open to for-profit entities, corporations, businesses, consultants, vendors or institutions that support oral health issues or provide oral health services.
- **Associate Member (\$100):** Open to not-for-profit or public entities





or organizations that support oral health projects or provide oral health services.

- **Individual Member (\$25):** Open to any individual who is interested in oral health issues (ex. individual dentists or hygienists, consumers, or other interested parties).

Please contact the OHK office for a membership application.