

*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

Legislature Approves Dental Office

Kansas lawmakers have allocated \$50,000 to help pay for the creation of a state dental office to address multiple issues related to oral health.

By working to improve access to care and by leveraging federal and private funds that were previously unavailable to us because we did not have a state dental office, a Dental Director will be able to place a much-needed and much-lacking emphasis on oral health in our state.

Two of the office's main goals will be to seek avenues of care for low-income patients and to explore ways to combat the chronic shortage of dentists that continues to worsen in our state.

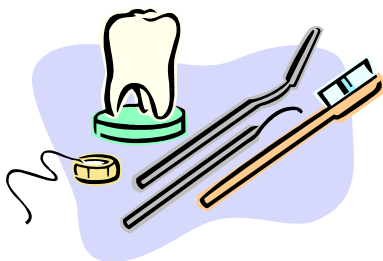
Federal Oral Health Legislation

The Children's Dental Health Improvement Act (H.R. 4622) was recently passed as part of the Health Care Safety Net Amendments of 2002 (PL 107-251). The program, however, has not yet received an appropriation.

Ten million dollars is being requested in the FY 2005 Appropriations Bill so that states may use monies for a variety of initiatives, including: increasing access to oral health care for underserved populations; recruiting additional dental school faculty and practitioners; developing a prevention program which would include services such as water fluoridation, dental sealants, nutritional counseling; and establishing a state dental officer position or augmenting a current state dental office to coordinate oral health and access issues.

For more information on this legislation, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

OHK Receives \$55,000 Grant



Oral Health Kansas has received a grant from United Methodist Health Ministry Fund of Hutchinson to help dental professionals and community organizations understand how to utilize the Expanded Practice Act, which passed during the 2003 Legislative session.

With this new law, a dentist may sponsor a dental hygienist to provide services in specified settings, such as a nursing home, health department, school, Head Start program or correctional facility. The grant will allow OHK to develop templates and provide training and technical assistance to parties interested in implementing this type of service delivery system.

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

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Hutchinson Approves Fluoridation

In early July, the Hutchinson City Council approved an ordinance to fluoridate the city's water supply on a vote of 5-0. To defray start-up costs, the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund will provide funding to the city as it begins the process.

The Health Fund supports start-up (and re-start) of community water fluoridation for Kansas water systems of all types. The detailed request for proposals issued for community water fluoridation grants is available for interested communities and groups at <http://www.healthfund.org/oralhealth/htkrfp04.php>.

Other major Kansas cities that do not have fluoridated water include Wichita, McPherson and Great Bend.

New Study Documents Cost of Dental Care

The Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, has just released a study entitled "Dental Services: Use, Expenses, and Sources of Payment, 1996-2000".



Some statistics from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey include:

- About 42% of the U.S. population received dental care at least once each year from a dental professional.
- For people who had a dental visit in 2000, the average dental expenses totaled \$480, which is a 28% increase of the average expense in 1996.
- Children ages 6-18 were most likely to use dental services and had the highest total annual dental expenses. (In 2000, that amount averaged \$607 per child.)
- In 2000, 26.8% of blacks and 25.7% of Hispanics had a dental visit, compared with 46.7% of whites.
- Women were more likely to use dental services than men. In 2000, 44.9% of women had at least one dental visit, compared to 38.2% of men.
- The elderly pay more out-of-pocket for dental services than any other age group. Americans paid nearly one-half of all dental expenses out-of-pocket, but people age 65 and older paid more than three-quarters.

You can access the study at

http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/PrintProducts/PrintProd_Detail.asp?ID=614.

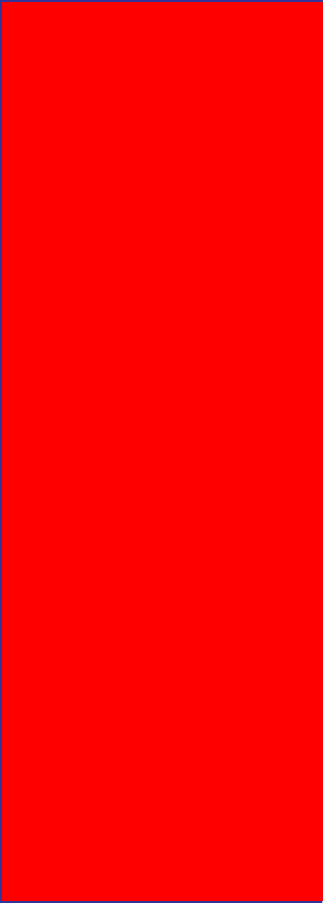
Mark Your Calendars!

What: Oral Health Kansas Annual Meeting

When: September 22, 2004

Where: Wichita Airport Hilton

Keep an eye on your e-mail. More information will be sent in the next few



weeks regarding the program and how to register.