School Dental Screenings are Rising!

The 2022-2023 school year screening data is in and thanks to school districts and dental screeners across the state, over 185,000 children received this service last school year. That is the highest number of children screened since reporting began over 15 years ago! The amazing work done by school nurses, district personnel, community health centers, dental safety net clinics and private dental practices made this possible and the goal is to continue on this upward trajectory and surpass this number during the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

Dental screenings, along with vision and hearing screenings, are the core of school-based health screenings that all enrolled children should receive. They provide insight into health issues that may impact a child’s ability to learn and lead to timely referrals to health specialists that can address the concern.

For any oral health screening questions or for more information, please contact the Bureau of Oral Health by email or visit our website.
Community Water Fluoridation Fun Facts

Fluorine is the thirteenth most abundant element in the earth’s crust. Because of this, natural levels of fluoride are found in almost all source waters in the world. However, the concentration of the natural fluoride levels will vary depending on various factors. Fluoride concentrations of 0.1 parts per million (ppm) have been identified in rain water while concentrations of 1.2 ppm to 1.5 ppm are typical in seawater. Regions in proximity to volcanic sources can be significantly higher due to volcanic emissions being a significant environmental source of the element.

In the United States, fluoride concentrations can range from non-detectable to over four ppm in ground water sources. The majority of surface waters contain concentrations lower than those needed to promote good dental health, 0.7 ppm as set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Communities whose municipal water provider does not contain natural fluoride concentrations of at least 0.7 ppm may decide to adjust their fluoride levels to optimally fluoridated concentrations by implementing a community water fluoridation program. By 2004, community water fluoridation was implemented in over 60 countries providing optimally fluoridated water to nearly 405 million people. Approximately 50 million people worldwide also receive the benefit of optimally fluoridated water through natural fluoride concentrations of at least 0.7 ppm. Fluoridation is practiced extensively in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, New Zealand, People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

According to the CDCs 2020 State Fluoridation and Percentage Calculations, Kansas ranks 34th and 65.4% of the state’s population is receiving fluoridated water from their Community Water System. If you are interested in learning more about community water fluoridation programs and how they work, please reach out to the Bureau of Oral Health.

Bureau of Oral Health staff attended the 2023 School Nurse Conference in Wichita, Kansas on July 18 and 19. Over 400 school nurses were in attendance and oral health hygiene and school-based dental screening information was provided.

This summer, Bureau of Oral Health staff have attended community baby shower events promoting oral health hygiene and education to expectant mothers and their families.
School-Based Dental Care Call for Screeners

The Bureau of Oral Health is Looking for Dental Providers

We are currently recruiting dentists and dental hygienists to help complete school-based dental screenings across the state of Kansas. We are recruiting now for the 2023-2024 school year. This data is crucial to improving oral health equity across our state. You have an opportunity to make a difference.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact the Bureau of Oral Health.

Are you interested in providing school-based dental services at your school? Are you a dental provider interested in providing mobile dental services in schools?

Last year our school-based sealant programs provided services in over 130 schools across the state and sealed approximately 4400 teeth. If you are interested in starting a school-based dental program or would like information on how to enter data into CDC Seals program please contact the Bureau of Oral Health.

We would love to see a dental program at every school in our state.
Save the Date

October 4-6, 2023 - Community Care Network of Kansas
2023 Annual Conference, Lawrence, Kansas
Contact Community Care Network of Kansas for more information.

October 5-7, 2023 - American Dental Association
SmileCon Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida
Contact American Dental Association for more information.

October 27, 2023 - Oral Health Kansas
Conference on Oral Health, Overland Park, Kansas
Contact Oral Health Kansas for more information.

November 5-8, 2023
NNOHA Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado
NNOHA is the largest group of safety-net oral health practitioners in the country, and our members all share a commitment to increasing access to quality oral health care for underserved populations.

NNOHA is committed to providing the highest quality resources and support designed to meet the unique needs of our members and their programs. For more information email the conference organizers.

Helpful Links
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Bureau of Oral Health
American Dental Association
Events & Community Outreach Programs
The Kansas Dental Board
CDC SEALS
Kansas Oral Health Screening Database

To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans