

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition



For a lifetime of oral health

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## MISSION

To improve the oral health of all Kentuckians so every resident of the Commonwealth can enjoy optimal oral health for life.



## PRIORITIES

1. Improve oral health literacy
2. Expand School Based Oral Health Service
3. Increase the number of providers accepting Medicaid.



## SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

 /KYOralHealthCoalition

 KyOralHealth

 /kyoralhealth

## OVERVIEW

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition (KOHC) is a project of Kentucky Youth Advocates, a non-profit statewide children's well-being advocacy organization. Kentucky Youth Advocates staffs and is the fiscal agent for the Coalition. KOHC is comprised of four executive committee members.

## RECENT NEWS FEATURES

- Kentucky Dental Association Magazine
- Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians
- Kentucky Public Health Grant to Help Fight Kids' Tooth Decay - WKMS 91.3 FM (Murray State's NPR Station)
- December's Insider Louisville: Inside Kentucky Health

## MEMBERS

Roughly 120 members including: dentists, dental hygienists, family resource centers, managed care companies, business corporations, government entities, teachers, parents, educators, social workers, public health departments, community health advocates and many others. Every region of the state is represented.

## MILESTONES:

- Receipt of 3 grants for literacy projects
- New partnerships with corporate and organizational sponsors (American National Oral Health Coalition, Southeastern Regional Health Equity Council, Colgate, Delta Dental, Toothwisdom, Children's Dental Project)
- Worked to pass legislation to expand school based health services with SB 159
- Advocated for inclusion of specific oral health policy changes in the KYHealthNow initiative and the state's chronic disease plan
- Brought in almost half a million dollars to Kentucky to improve oral health for all and used this as leverage for local funding
- Created resources for stakeholders in Kentucky such as an infographic, website, social media channels, and a report on school based services
- Created a "Big Tent" of diverse people from all over KY to work on improving oral health and regularly convenes folks to create systemic policy change
- Growing the KY utilization of Smiles for Life Curriculum – this means 219 additional health professionals now know their role in oral health

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KOHIC

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## ORAL HEALTH STATISTICS:

- Kentucky has the fifth highest rate of “toothlessness” in the country among adults 65 and older
- A 2012 national study by the Pew Center on the States gave Kentucky a grade of D for its ability to provide dental sealants to children
- A 2007 survey revealed that nearly one in three Kentucky children experienced one or more oral health problems, such as cavities and bleeding gums, during the past year
- Only 60 percent of Kentucky adults reported visiting a dentist or dental clinic in the previous 12 months in 2012
- The 2012 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP) found 1.7 million Kentucky adults lack dental insurance
- In 2012, 40% of the Kentucky children enrolled in Medicaid or KCHIP received dental services

## GOALS:

- Engage partners across the state to create a collaborative oral health literacy campaign designed to educate parents, activate policymakers, inspire health professionals, and engage communities to create optimal oral health for all.
- Continue to expand and strengthen that national oral health network through Kentucky’s Initiative structure.
- To actively participate, communicate and encourage relationships of the Kentucky Oral Health Coalition with other advocacy groups in promoting oral and overall health for everyone residing in the Commonwealth;
- To promote and encourage active interaction, effective collaboration and cooperation between all providers of oral and general health care and individuals within the population of Kentucky that need oral health services, prevention and education through the establishment of public-private partnerships by 2014;
- To advocate for improved access to oral and general health prevention, services and education for all residents of the Commonwealth by 2020.