






WORKING TO IMPROVE THE ORAL HEALTH OF ALL KENTUCKIANS

The Kentucky Oral Health Coalition believes all people of Kentucky should enjoy optimal oral health for life.

Did you know?

-  Tooth decay is the #1 most common chronic disease in children
-  Untreated tooth decay can lead to tooth loss, problems with speaking and eating, and even low self-esteem
-  Approximately 50% of Kentucky's kids have early or urgent dental needs.
-  Kentucky is ranked 5th most toothless in the United States
-  Thousands of Kentuckians do not or cannot regularly access the dental treatment they need



Kentucky Oral Health Coalition Priorities:



Improve oral health awareness



Expand school-based oral health services



Increase access to oral health care

KOHC is comprised of more than 120 members from every region of the state. Membership includes 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.

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition is a project of Kentucky Youth Advocates, a statewide nonprofit children's advocacy organization.

In the last five years, KOHC has:

- Created a “Big Tent” of diverse members from all over Kentucky to work on improving oral health and regularly convenes folks to create systemic policy change
- Expanded the utilization of Smiles for Life Curriculum. Over 350 health professionals now know their role in oral health
- Worked to pass legislation to expand school-based health services with SB 159
- Advocated for inclusion of specific oral health policy changes in the state’s chronic disease plan
- Brought in more than half a million dollars to Kentucky to improve oral health for all and used this as leverage for local funding
- Grown membership by 130%
- Created resources for stakeholders in Kentucky such as infographics, website, social media channels, and a report on school-based services
- Connected with national movements to improve oral health and acts as a leader in building a nationwide network
- Built working relationships with the Kentucky Dental Association, Kentucky Dental Hygiene Association, the Kentucky Oral Health Research Network, the Kentucky Oral Health Program, and managed care organizations, as well as many other influencers and decision-makers from across Kentucky and the U.S.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- Become* A MEMBER TODAY
- Sponsor* AN EVENT OR PROGRAM
- LIKE US ON *Facebook*
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- FOLLOW US ON *Twitter*
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