

# KOHC December Annual Meeting

Friday, December 1st, 2023

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition



For a lifetime of oral health

To learn more about KOHC and  
become a member, please  
visit [www.kyoralhealthcoalition.org](http://www.kyoralhealthcoalition.org)



Kentucky Oral Health  
Coalition



@KYOralHealth

Thank you to  
our Sponsor



For their support of this meeting





**Aetna Better Health<sup>®</sup>  
of Kentucky**

***Kelly Pullen***  
***Executive Director, SKY***

# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Keynote: Oral Health – Behavioral Health Connection
- Community Health Workers in Oral Health
- Lunch
- UK Early Learners Surveillance Study
- KY Oral Health Landscape Assessment
- Fluoridation in KY
- KOHC Policy Agenda
- Member Voting
- Closing

# LUNCH BREAK

Please get to know your colleagues!

# Kentucky Oral Health Landscape Assessment Overview

- In the first half of 2023, KOHC collected data to learn more about the behaviors and perceptions around oral health, as well as barriers and potential solutions
- We curated existing data and gathered new data to illustrate the state of oral health in Kentucky, all in one place
- We used a combination of surveys and focus groups to collect data from every region of the state



# Thank You to Those Who Contributed

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this report through focus group and survey participation.

A special thank you to the following groups:

- Family Health Centers
- Family Resource Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky
- Kentucky Association of Health Departments
- Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children
- Kentucky Dental Association
- Kentucky Dental Hygienist Association
- Kentucky Primary Care Association
- Kentucky Public Health Association
- Kentucky Youth Advocates
- Southeast Kentucky Oral Health Coalition



# How to use the report

- Our hope is that this report can serve as a tool to advocate for effective change to improve oral health care in Kentucky
- Report content outlines several existing data sources, including:
  - Connections to whole body health and the cost of oral health care in our state
  - Trends in Kentucky related to oral health – smoking and cancer rates, tooth loss, opioid use
  - Shortage of dental professionals serving Kentuckians
  - Disparities that are present among different population groups

# Our Findings

- Beyond the existing data that is outlined in this report, we include information we learned when talking to and surveying Kentuckians in every region of the state
- We highlight what we heard about affordability of care, prioritization of oral health, and how common dental problems are

**Throughout the report you can find quotes from consumers and providers:**

*“I’ve got about 16 [teeth] left in my mouth that need to go...but there were just so many appointments...it was gonna be a long process.”*

*-Consumer, Jefferson County*

*“Every time I get something done, I shouldn’t have to call every dentist in the city...to know what insurance do they take, what is it gonna cost me, and how long am I gonna have to wait.”*

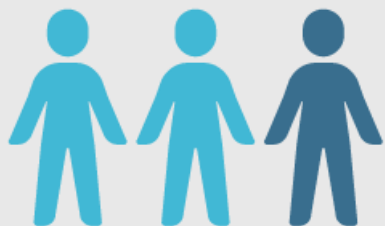
*- Consumer, Jefferson County*

*“Both my son and I go to a private clinic and we don’t have dental insurance either and so it’s something we pay for out of pocket.”*

*- Oral health provider, Western Kentucky*

# Our Findings

- We highlight some of the main barriers to care – and differentiate the barriers as reported by consumers and those reported by providers



**2 out of 3**

Kentuckians say their routine dental care is not very affordable.

Only **36%** rated their dentist at a 9-10 on affordability for routine care, and **21.5%** rated them at a 5 or below.

## PRIMARY BARRIERS TO ACCESSING DENTAL CARE:

**Dental providers:** lack of insurance, oral health not being a priority, and a lack of providers

**Community service providers:** lack of insurance, economic issues (e.g. transportation), oral health not a priority in the family, and a lack of dentists

**Consumers:** most common barriers to seeking dental care were scheduling conflicts and other family priorities

# Recommendations

- Utilize alternative options for care – teledentistry, bringing care to where people are, co-locating services, expand access to school-based providers
- Increase community dental model to meet the needs of patients outside dental treatment – increase use of CHWs in dental settings, co-locate services, etc
- Expand network of Medicaid providers - increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental providers + decrease administrative burden
- Expand access to oral health resources and care options for underserved communities – immigrant/refugees, those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, non-English speakers.

Questions?

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition

KOHIC

For a lifetime of oral health

# KOHC 2024 Policy Priorities

- Protect community water fluoridation programs
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental providers
- Protect current services covered in the Medicaid program
- Reduce youth initiation of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vapes

# Member Voting

- Any active KOHC member may participate in voting
- Organizational members may vote once per organization – designate one person to participate from your organization
- Use voting cards at your table

## Vote 1

- Protect community water fluoridation programs

## Vote 2

- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental providers

## Vote 3

- Protect current services covered in the Medicaid program

## Vote 4

- Reduce youth initiation of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vapes

# Vote 5

- **KOHC Steering Committee membership**

- Jennifer Hasch, MPH, RDH – Dental Assisting Program Chair, Ivy Tech Community College
- Dr. Jill Keaton – Dean, University of Pikeville, Tanner College of Dental Medicine
- Dr. Julie McKee – Dental Director, Department for Public Health
- Dr. Stephanie Poynter – Dental Director, Family Health Centers
- Dr. Ronald Singer – Associate Professor, University of Kentucky College of Dentistry
- Leah Smothers, PHRDH – Floss and Gloss Program Manager, Purchase District Health Department
- Dr. Justin Whitney – Assistant Professor, University of Louisville Dental School



Thank you for  
Joining!

[www.kentuckyoralhealthcoalition.org](http://www.kentuckyoralhealthcoalition.org)

FB: KYOralHealthCoalition TW: KYOralHealth

