

# KOHC September Quarterly Meeting

Friday, September 12th, 2025

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition

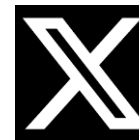


For a lifetime of oral health

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become a member, please  
visit [www.kyoralhealthcoalition.org](http://www.kyoralhealthcoalition.org)



Kentucky Oral Health  
Coalition



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# Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Mobile Services to Support Pediatric Oral Surgery Needs**
  - Smile MD
- **Spotlight Presentations**
  - Sterling Health Care
  - Lawrence County Health Department
- **Federal Budget Impacts**
  - Member discussion
- **KOHC policy priority discussion**
  - KOHC team and members
- **Member updates**



Kentucky Oral Health Coalition  
**KOHHC**  
For a lifetime of oral health

# VETERAN ORAL HEALTH

## VIRTUAL ROAD TOUR: **KENTUCKY**

September 12, 2025 | 12:00 PM EST



# Special Session on Veteran Oral Health

Today at 12pm-1pm

# Improving Access to Care with Office-Based Anesthesia

Brian Schloss MD

- The problem for pediatric dental patients requiring general anesthesia
- The negative impacts of inadequate access to general anesthesia
- Reasons why medical procedures are moving towards the office
- The safety of office-based anesthesia

# Extreme wait times are denying pediatric dental patients access to the operative care they need



## Long Wait Times

Hospitals and surgery centers wait times span 6-18 months; some completely refuse Medicaid dental surgeries



## Negative Impacts on Children

The impact of these delays on children and their families is severe

- Increased school absences leading to lower academic performance
- Nutrition issues
- Poor psychological development
- Parents missing work



## Expensive Outcomes

In addition, this population relies on expensive and inefficient options for managing symptoms

- Increased visits to urgent care and emergency departments
- Increased use of pain medications and antibiotics
- Most oral health issues continue to worsen if not treated

# SmileMD surveys our patients to gather community health data, giving us valuable insights into our patient's struggles

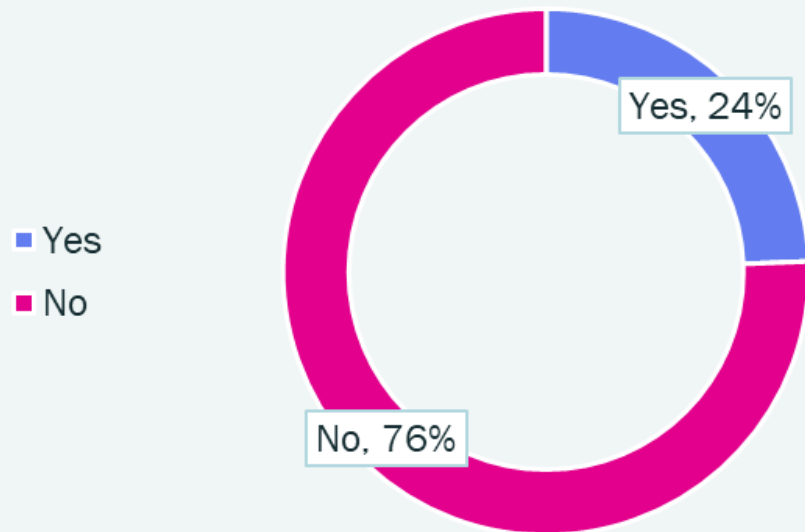


- Data collection started 12 months ago
- Each nurse provides the parent/guardian with a QR code
- 2 minutes average completion time
- Data is representative of:
  - Ohio
  - Kentucky
  - Tennessee
  - Illinois (Chicago)

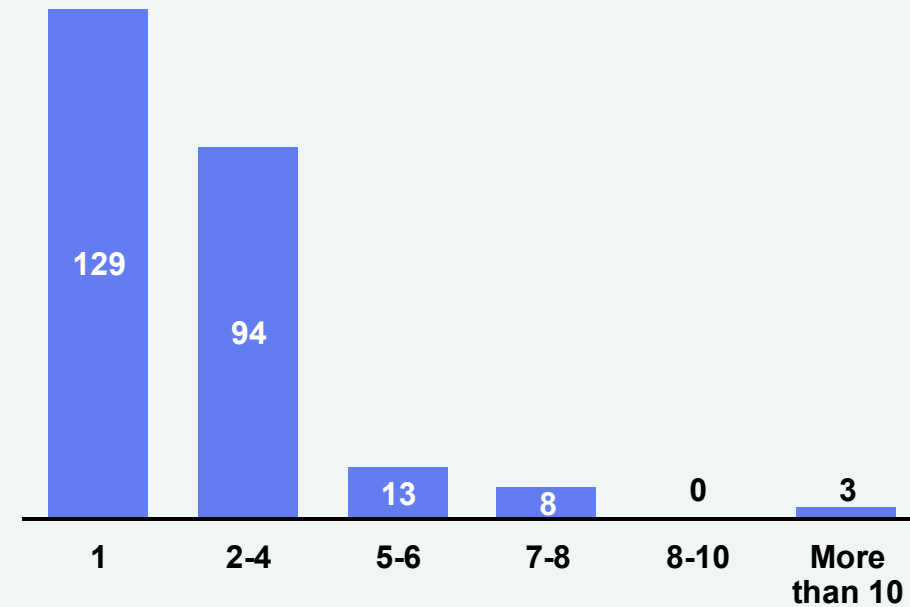
The image shows a document titled "ANESTHESIA DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS" from OFFOR HEALTH and SmileMD. The document contains several sections of instructions for parents/guardians, including: "For 24 hours following anesthesia, the child is at an increased risk of falling:", "When the child wakes up:", "Eating and Drinking:", "Care for Pain, Discomfort or Fever:", and "To help decrease the child's pain:". At the bottom right of the document, there is a QR code labeled "Community Survey" with a red arrow pointing to it. The QR code is intended for patients to scan and provide feedback.

# 24% of children have missed at least 1 day of school as the result of dental pain

Has your child missed school for these dental problems in the last 6 months?

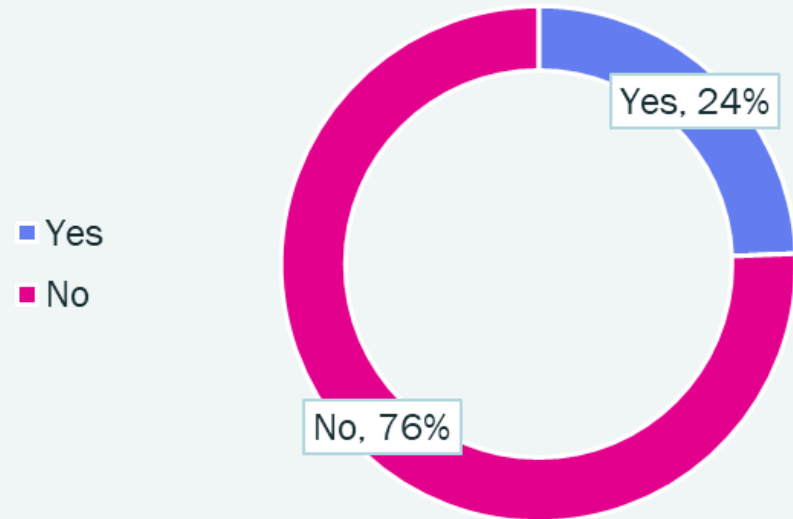


If yes, how many days of school were missed?

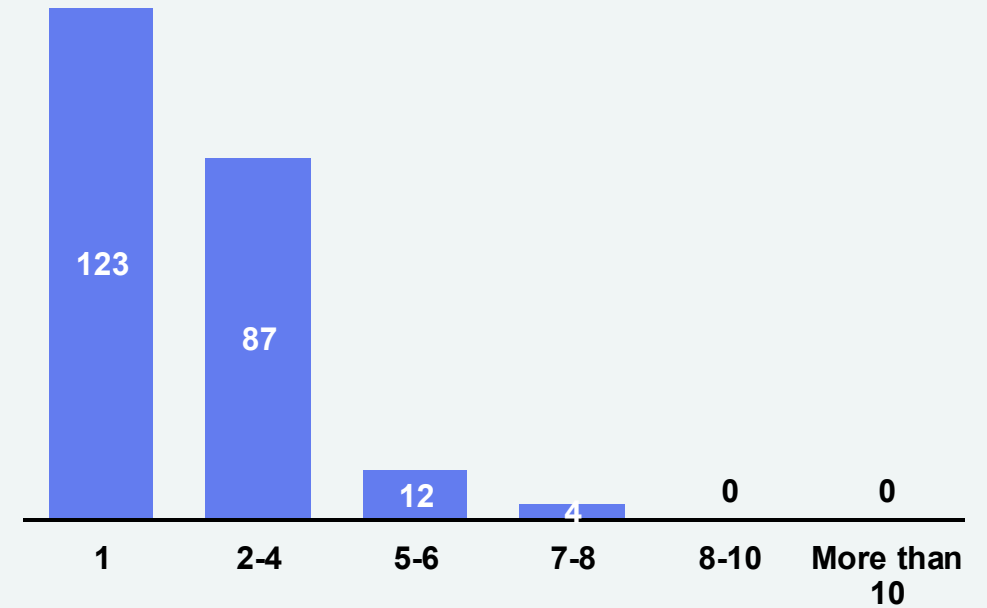


# 24% of parents have missed at least 1 day of work as the result of their child's dental pain

Have you missed work due to your child's dental problems?



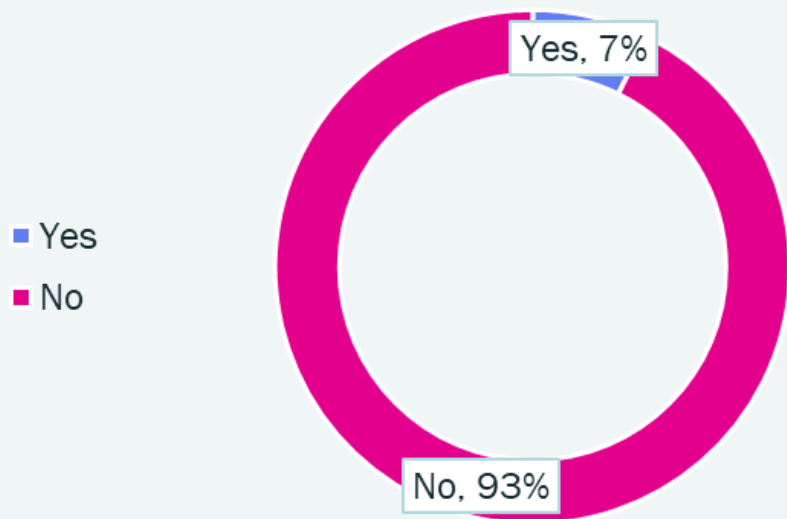
If yes, how many days of work were missed?



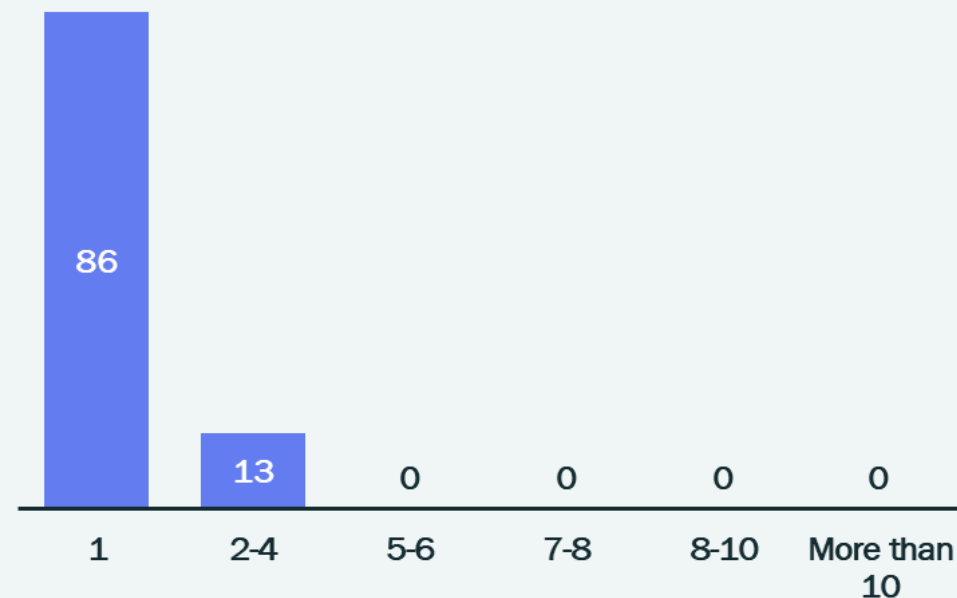
# 7% of children have been to the emergency department or urgent care as the result of dental pain



Have you missed work due to your child's dental problems?

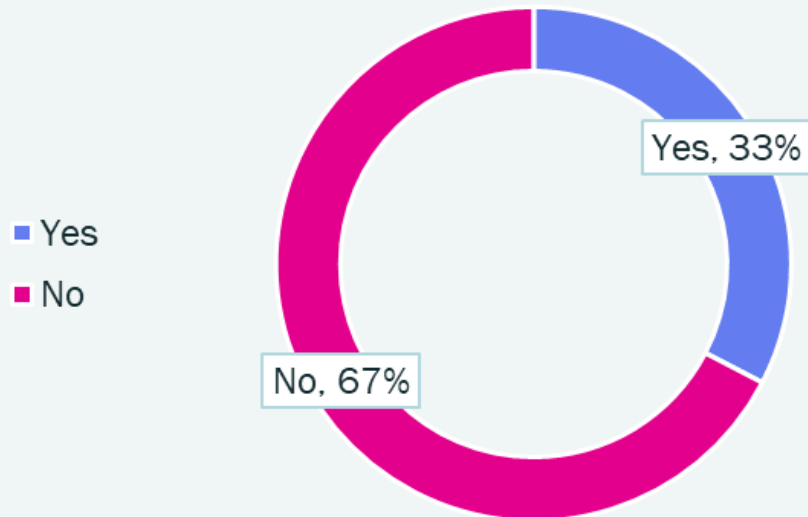


If yes, how many times?

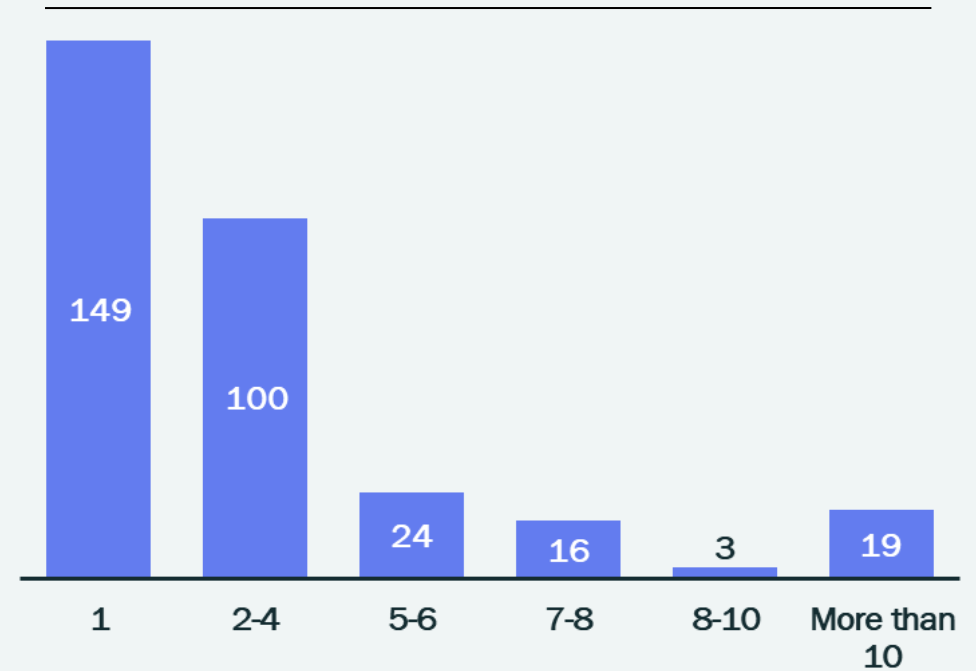


# 33% of children have required use of antibiotics and/or pain medication as the result of dental pain

Has your children needed antibiotics or pain medication for dental problems?



If yes, how many times?



- Access to hospital operating room time is extremely difficult for pediatric dental patients
- The need far outweighs the supply of operating room time in this country
- Patients are objectively suffering due to lack of care
- Opening avenues to non-hospital options is of critical importance

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**.....But where else is there to go?**

# The location where anesthesia is administered has evolved over the years

## 1960s

- All anesthesia care done in a hospital setting

## 1970s

- The first ambulatory surgery center (ASC) opens

## 1980s

- The number of ASCs in the United States reaches 1,000
- Office based anesthesia slowly starts increasing

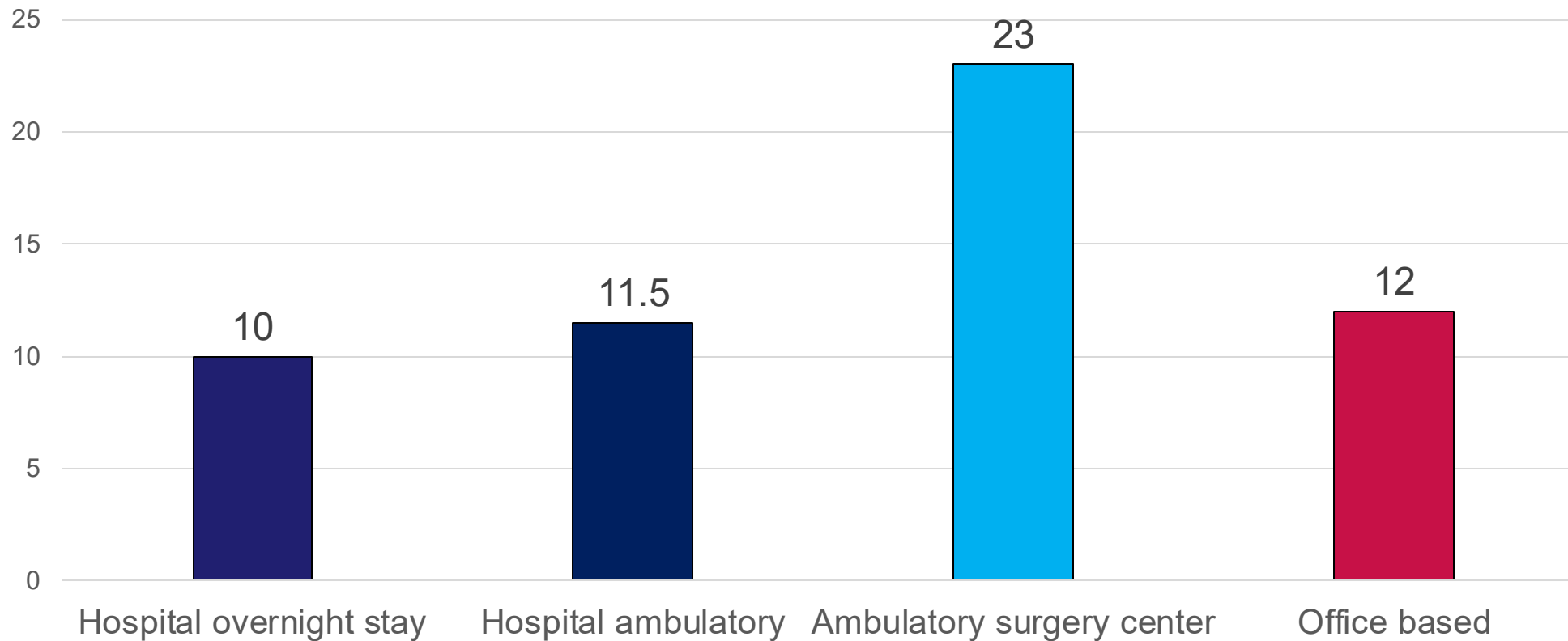
## 2005-2010

- The number of ASCs in the United States exceeds 5,000
- Office based procedures estimated at ~10 million annually in the US

# As of 2005, ASCs are the most common location of ambulatory operative procedures



### Annual Operative Procedures (listed in millions)



“Can your hospital survive the growing dominance of ASCs?” Obtained from: <https://www.ormanager.com/can-hospital-survive-growing-dominance-ascs/>

# Projections of the use of office-based anesthesia are increasing dramatically



- “The number of outpatient procedures in the US is expected to increase from 129 million procedures in 2018 to 144 million procedures by 2023 with offices comprising about 24%-35% of the volume.”
- “This represents an approximate *tripling of growth* from the 10 million office procedures performed in 2005 as estimated by the American Society of Anesthesiologists.”

# Insurers are now actively promoting the office setting for medical procedures

“We will **not** require precertification for these services if performed in an ambulatory surgical facility or an office.”



- Breast tissue excision
- Complex wound repair
- Cystourethroscopy
- Septoplasty
- Skin tissue transfer or rearrangement
- Tenodesis of long tendon of biceps
- Turbinate resection

Aetna. Site of Service for Outpatient Surgical Procedures Policy.  
[https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/outpatient-surgical-procedures.html#tab\\_content\\_section\\_responsivegrid\\_1824944717\\_responsivegrid\\_tabs\\_copy\\_link\\_tabs\\_copy\\_2](https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/outpatient-surgical-procedures.html#tab_content_section_responsivegrid_1824944717_responsivegrid_tabs_copy_link_tabs_copy_2)

## Why are so many procedures shifting to office-based models?

- “Our analysis of national Blue Cross Blue Shield data found that allowed **costs for common outpatient services were consistently higher in the hospital outpatient setting** than for those rendered in an ASC or office location.”
- “For all examined procedures... allowed **costs also grew faster in the hospital setting.**”

- Office-based anesthesia is a legitimate and rapidly growing area of care
  - Cost benefits, avoidance of overcrowded operating rooms, and patient preference are all driving more procedures to the office space
  - Medical procedures rendered in an office are being encouraged by insurers
- 

.....**But is it safe?**

# Detailed review of office-based anesthesia shows a solid safety track record



- Osman et al. performed a comprehensive literature review of office-based safety and outcomes.
- Finding: Vastly improved safety record over last 25 years. Contributing factors:
  - Accreditation
  - Proper credentialing of practitioners
  - Appropriate patient selection
  - Adherence to national guidelines
  - Proliferation of safety checklists

**“Within accredited practices, complication rates are no different than ASCs”**

# An evaluation of dental office-based anesthesia cases between 1996 and 2015 found risks of morbidity to be low



- Sample: 3.7 Million cases
- Total of 3 deaths: **0.00008%**
- Comparison to other “low risk” events:
  - Traffic deaths = 1:8,000 (**0.0125%**)
  - Accidental death in home = 1:11,000 (**0.009%**)
  - Lightning strike = 1:10,000,000 (**0.0000001%**)

**“The risk of serious morbidity was found to be low and similar to other studies investigating morbidity in office-based dental anesthesia.”**

# SmileMD presented our own safety data to Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia Conference (SAMBA)



- 31,936 Office-based dental anesthetics cases
- Comprehensive review to identify complications
- Results:
  - ✓ 0 Deaths
  - ✓ 0 Cardiac arrests
  - ✓ 0 Cases of permanent harm
  - ✓ 5 Total cases of unanticipated emergency room evaluations (**0.0156%**)

# Dental offices refer patients to SmileMD and the process begins with robust pre-admission testing



**Daniel Coleman, MSN, RN**  
Director of Patient Care Coordination

## Pre-Admission Testing

Not all patients are a good candidate for general anesthesia in an office setting

Thoroughly screening medical histories is essential to safe anesthesia delivery – especially in an office setting

## Pre-Admission Screening Checklist

- ✓ Conduct patient health review
  - Interview with Registered Nurse
  - Medical record collection
  - Doctor review
- ✓ Screen for illness prior to surgery day
- ✓ Gather proper consents
- ✓ Provide interpreting service and document translation

All general anesthesia medications and equipment are centrally procured, tracked and logged for safety



## MEDICATIONS

- Licensed by each state's board of pharmacy
- Standardized process
- Full cycle accountability and auditing
- Tracking lot numbers in case of recall



## EQUIPMENT

- Distributed logistics team purchases, organizes, and maintains all equipment to ensure seamless patient encounters
  - General anesthesia machine
  - Vaporizer with biomedical certification
  - OR monitor
  - PACU monitor
  - Video laryngoscope
- Partnership with third parties for predictive and prescriptive maintenance and certification
- Primary logistics facilities located in each state plus micro hubs to extend beyond metropolitan areas

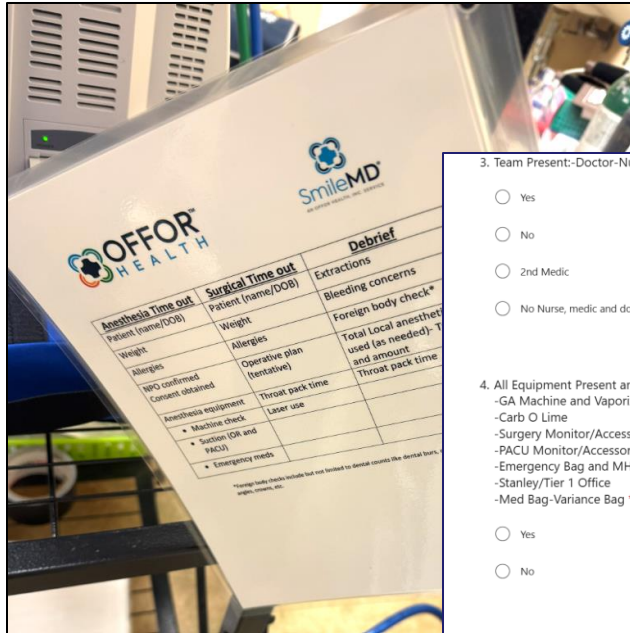
# When we arrive on the case day, we deploy a 3-person care team

## Care Team Details

- Team consists of an Anesthesiologist, PACU Nurse, Paramedic.
- Roles were selected to maximize safety and complete a rigorous training program.
- All patients and dental offices receive a consistent experience.
- We do not rely on dental office staff for any part of the anesthesia treatment.



# Safety is the foundation of everything we do



3. Team Present- Doctor-Nurse-Medic \*

Yes

No

2nd Medic

No Nurse, medic and doctor only.

4. All Equipment Present and Properly Functioning:

- GA Machine and Vaporizer
- Carb O Lime
- Surgery Monitor/Accessories
- PACU Monitor/Accessories-AED with Pedi and Adult Pads
- Emergency Bag and MH Kit
- Stanley/Tier 1 Office
- Med Bag-Variance Bag \*

Yes

No

5. Is the office suction functioning properly and providing adequate suction? \*

Yes

No

6. Oxygen Tank Air Pressure PACU (Record if no RN) \*

4/4

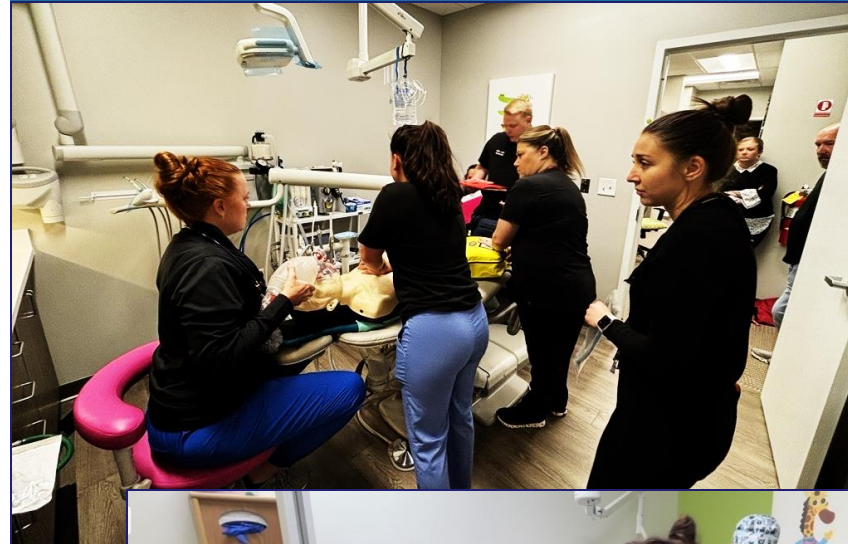
3/4

1/2

1/4

N/A- Office Main

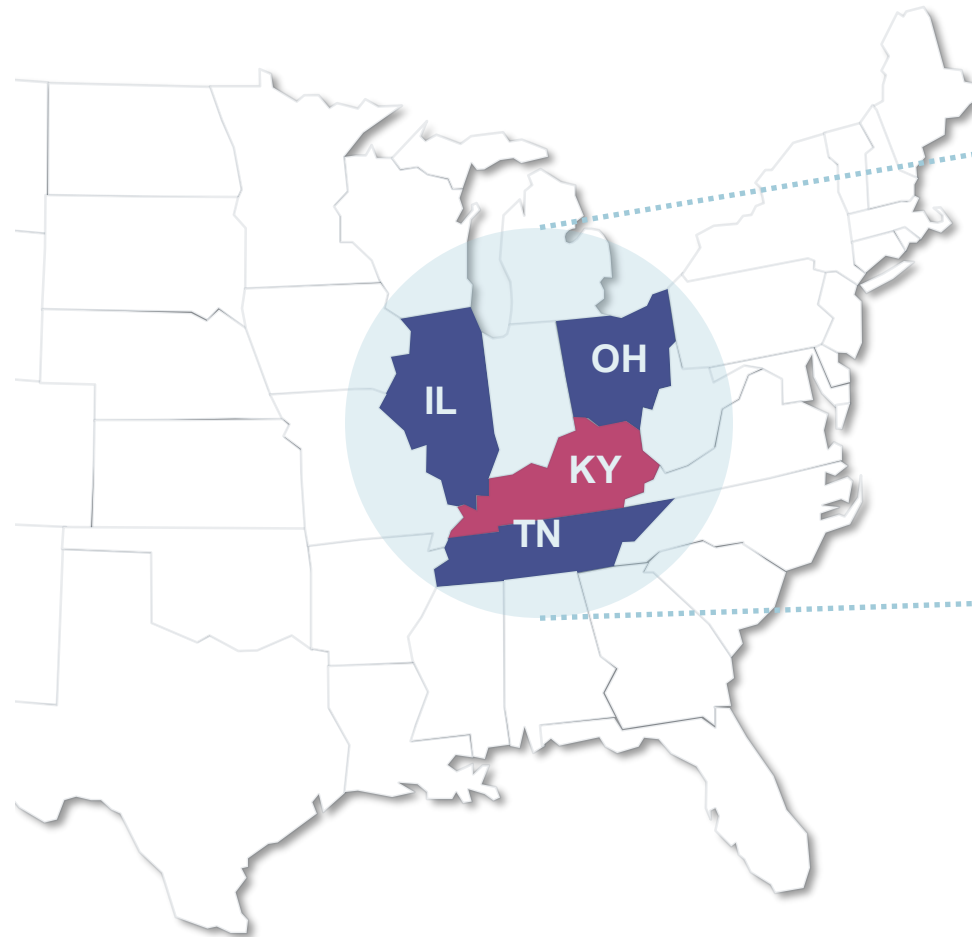
## EMERGENCY DRILLS



Office based anesthesia is a safe option when emphasis is placed on

- ✓ Accreditation
  - ✓ Guideline Adherence
  - ✓ Safety Practices
-

We are currently serving patients in 4 states and have contracts with MCOs covering 100% of Kentucky patients



Currently Serving  
**15,000**  
Patients  
Annually



# Questions



# Sterling Health Care

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## Bridging the Gap - Transforming Access to Dental Care in Rural Communities



## *Who or What is Sterling Health Care?*



**Sterling is a Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) aka Community Health Centers (CHCs)**

- ✓ **Non-profit – 501(c)3**
- ✓ **Provide healthcare services to the underserved**
- ✓ **Located in & serve high need communities**
- ✓ **Treat patients regardless of ability to pay**





# *Our Mission & Core Values*

**STERLING HEALTH CARE**

## **Our Mission**

To improve the lives of all people in the communities we serve, through improved health and regardless of their ability to pay.

**Our Core Values**

Teamwork  
Compassion  
Innovation  
Excellence & Quality  
Service  
Respect



## *Core Values:*

- **Respect**
- **Innovation**
- **Excellence & Quality**
- **Compassion**
- **Service**
- **Teamwork**



# Services Provided

**Primary Care**

**Dental Care**

**Substance Treatment**

**School-Based Health**

**Language Interpretation**

**Pediatric Care**

**Vision Care**

**Pharmacy**

**Transportation**

**Women's Care**

**Behavioral Health**

**Lab & X-Ray**

**Community Outreach**

**In August 2025, we added Endocrinology**

**In August 2026, we will add Podiatry.**



## Sterling's Mobile Dental Clinic

Sterling's Mobile Clinic is fully equipped with two dental chairs, x-rays, and sterilization units.

- Staffed by licensed dentist, hygienist, and assistants.

**Provides:**

- Dental screenings & exams
- Cleanings & fluoride treatments
- Sealants to prevent cavities
- Basic restorative care (fillings)
- Referrals for advanced care when needed

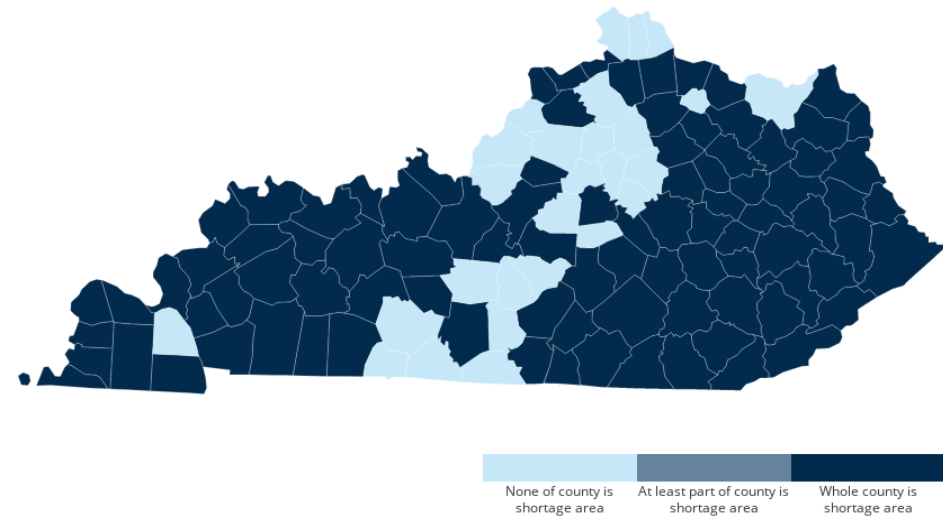




# Oral Health Care in Rural Kentucky

- **Rural areas face dentist shortages, transportation barriers and access to financial assistance (Insurance)**
  - July 2025 data reports that over 50% of all Kentucky counties reported a shortage of Dentist & Hygienist
  - Due to the lack of providers in rural areas, residents struggle to afford transportation to access care
  - Lack of insurance and or financial assistance is a major barrier to accessing care – families may prioritize urgent needs over preventive care.

Health Professional Shortage Areas: Dental Care, by County, July 2025 - Kentucky



Source: [data.HRSA.gov](https://data.HRSA.gov).



## Why Focus on Children in Rural Kentucky

- **Kentucky has one of the highest rates of childhood cavities in the United States. –**
  - The 2023 Kentucky Early Learners' Oral Health Surveillance Project found that the dental decay rate for all children across Kentucky ages two through five was 35% compared to a national average of 23%.
  - The highest decay rates were in South Central Kentucky at 53.8% and Eastern Kentucky at 53.5%.
  - Dental decay is completely preventable, and it's not hard and it's not expensive to prevent it – the key is providing access to education and care
  - Diet and caring for teeth at home are the next two steps to get ahead of dental decay – this comes down to educating parents about the importance of good dental hygiene



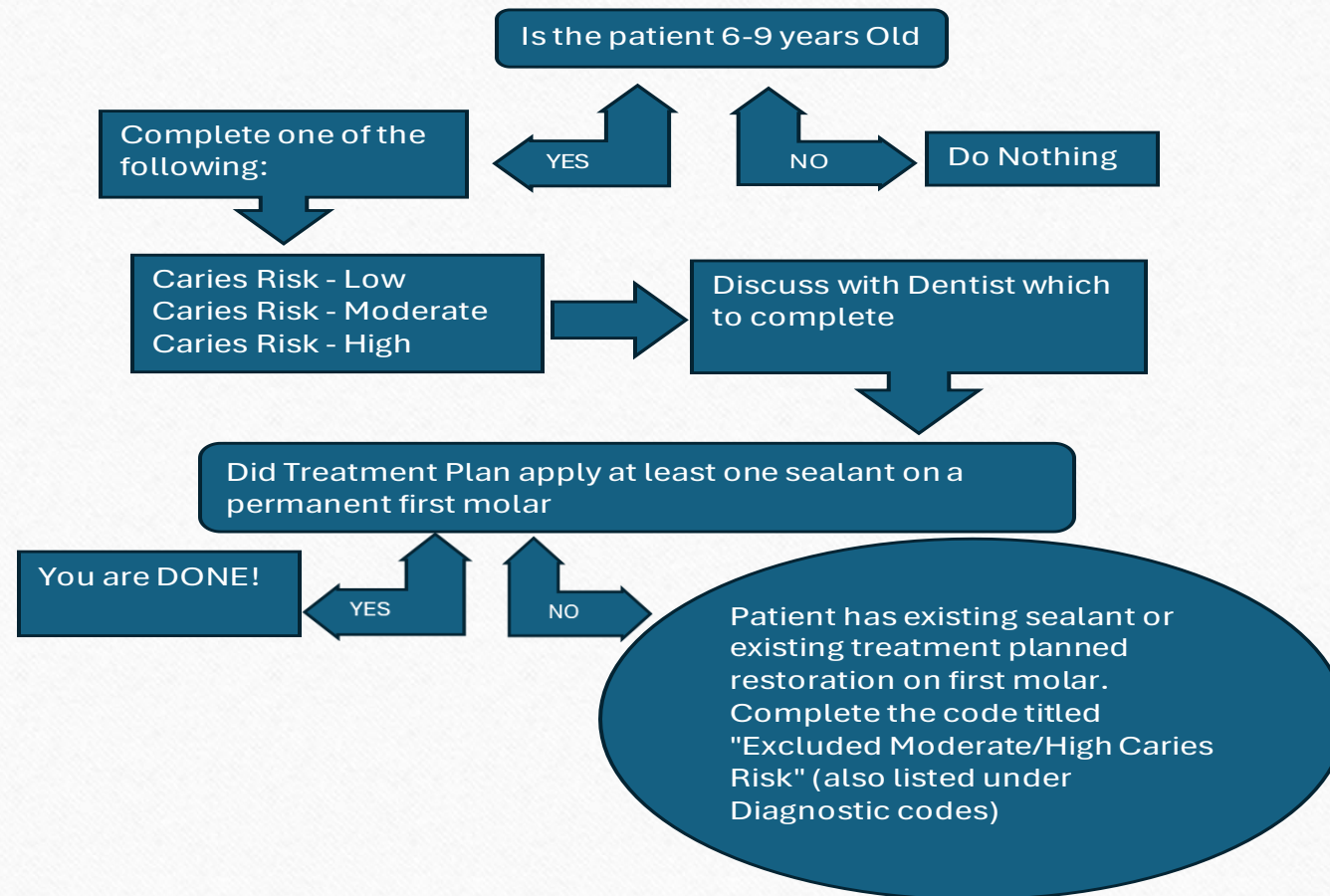
# Why Focus on Children in Rural Kentucky

- **Additional data to consider:**

- School based clinics in Kentucky notice an increase in urgent needs from 6% Pre-Covid to 12% Post-Covid, within the pediatric population
- HRSA – UDS sealant measures goal is to increase the percentage of children 6 to 9 year-old with moderate/high caries risk that receive a sealant on an adult first molar.
- During the Spring of 2025, we reported 68% of the school-based patients had active decay and 8.5% were classified as Urgent needs
- Utilization of mobile outreach dentistry is an important service to combat this increase in urgent needs along with reaching sealant measure goals.



# Sterling's Sealant Quality Metric





## How Mobile Units Impact Access to Care








- Breakdown barriers to care
  - Bring the provider to the patient instead of the patient coming to the provider
  - Building partnerships with schools, churches, and community organizations
  - Building trust with children, parents, teachers, and the community at large
- More than doubled completion rates for preventive & urgent care treatment
  - Accepting scheduled appointments, walk-in or same day access
  - Parental consent forms collected in advance or offered on-line for unscheduled examinations.
  - Provide education for children, parents or other caregivers to encourage ongoing preventive care at home
  - Parents receive post exam report after every visit
  - Oral health affects school performance, nutrition, and self-esteem.



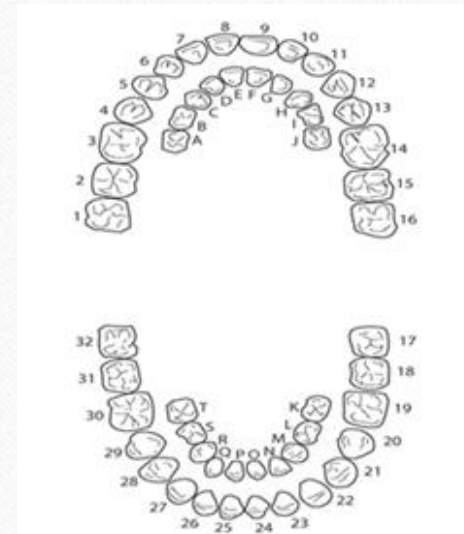
# Parental Follow Up

Your child, \_\_\_\_\_ received the following today at his/her school clinic. Care was provided by a dentist/hygienist from Sterling Health Care.

Dental examination   
  Dental x-rays   
  Restorative (fillings)   
  Sealants  
 Dental cleaning   
  Fluoride varnish   
  Extraction   
  "Baby Root Canal"/ SSC

		<b>URGENT Dental Needs</b> Your child has large cavities or infected teeth and needs to see a dentist <b>as soon as possible</b> .
		<b>Early Dental Needs</b> Your child has cavities and needs to visit a dentist soon.
		<b>Dental Sealants Recommended</b> Dental sealants act as a barrier to <i>prevent</i> cavities. They are a plastic material usually applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth where decay occurs most often.
		<b>Dental Cleaning Needed</b> Your child needs a professional dental cleaning..
		<b>Orthodontia (Braces) Consult Recommended</b> It is recommended you schedule braces consult for your child. An orthodontist can advise you if and when your child will need braces.
		<b>Parental Supervision Recommended</b> Due to the amount of plaque (food and build-up) around teeth and gums, we recommend an adult assists in brushing and flossing at home.
		<b>Treatment Complete</b> Your child has no additional treatment needs. A yearly exam with x-rays and 2 professional cleanings a year is recommended to maintain a healthy smile.

If you have any questions, please call our office at (859) 405-4024 or 859-498-7130. A representative from our dental clinic will contact you after your child's school exam to answer any questions and/or schedule an appointment.





# Communication is Key

- Communication is key to providing access to care
  - On-line calendar listing upcoming locations to access care
  - Providing necessary information about providers and services
  - Encouraging families to check into other services, such as assistance with insurance coverage

The screenshot displays the Sterling Health Care website's 'Mobile Clinic' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Request an Appointment', 'Patient Portal', 'Bill Pay', 'Employment', 'Home', 'Blog', and 'Contact Us'. Below the navigation is a banner image of a mobile clinic truck with the text 'STERLING HEALTH CARE - Medical & Dental Mobile Clinic' and 'We're Here For Your Family!'. The phone number (859) 404-7686 is also visible. Below the banner, a paragraph explains the mobile clinic service: 'Accessibility to quality, affordable medical and dental services is now available in mobile fashion through Sterling Health Care. Our professional providers will be making stops at a number of scheduled locations throughout our coverage area each month to deliver the amazing care and treatment you've come to expect from SHC. Whether it's through this new mobile option or utilizing one of our transportation vehicles to keep your appointments, SHC is committed to being here for your family!'. Below this text are three columns: 'Contact Information' (Direct Line: (859) 788-3387, Extension: 995), 'Services' (Dental Services, Medical Services, Screenings, Check-ups, Community Outreach, Delivery of these services to hard-to-reach populations), 'Consent Forms' (Dental Consent (English), Dental Consent (Spanish), Medical Consent (English - Up to age 21), Medical Consent (Spanish - Up to age 21)), 'Schedule' (A calendar for May 2025 showing dates 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 with specific service times for various locations), and 'Our Team' (Profiles for Sandy Gifford, Dr. Brian Badger, Dr. Chris Costerline, Keisha Fraley, and Melissa Walden).



# Sustainability – We can do this!

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## Sustainability – it comes down to \$\$ and Cents

- **Reimbursement for services**
  - Insurance coverage – working with every family to access coverage
  - Provide financial assistance to low-income families
  - Offering variable or fixed payment plans for families
- **Partnerships with community or regional organizations**
  - Offer Free Clinics at community events
- **Grant Funding (HRSA, Public/Private Foundations, and other charities)**



## Mobile Dental – It is COOL!





# Lesson Learned - Dental Care – It is Important

**Oral health  
is connected  
to overall  
health!**



**HRSA**  
Health Resources & Services Administration





## Key Takeaways

Together, we can bring healthy smiles to every child in Kentucky.

- Mobile dental clinics remove barriers to care
- Children receive preventive and urgent care locally
- Strong partnerships = sustainable impact



## Contact Information

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[Sterling Health Care](https://sterlinghealthky.org) - <https://sterlinghealthky.org>

Dr. Casterline – [Ccasterline@sterlinghealthky.org](mailto:Ccasterline@sterlinghealthky.org)

Sandy Gifford – [Sgifford@sterlinghealthky.org](mailto:Sgifford@sterlinghealthky.org)

Florence Mahoney – [Fmahoney@sterlinghealthky.org](mailto:Fmahoney@sterlinghealthky.org)



# Spotlight Presentation

- Lawrence County Health Department



# Federal Policy Impacts - Member Discussion

- How have you seen federal changes impacting your work?
- What are the anticipated impacts that have not yet taken place?



# Lookahead to 2026 state legislative session

- Protect community water fluoridation
- Expand practice setting for PHRDHs to FQHCs
- Medicaid budget investments

# Member Discussion

# Member Updates

# KOHC December Annual Meeting

Registration coming soon!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

## Kentucky Oral Health Coalition Annual Meeting

 **December 12th**  
10am-4pm EST

 **Louisville, KY**

DENTAL CEUS AVAILABLE FOR KOHC MEMBERS

THANK YOU TO OUR SIGNATURE SPONSORS

  
Aetna Better Health<sup>SM</sup> of Kentucky

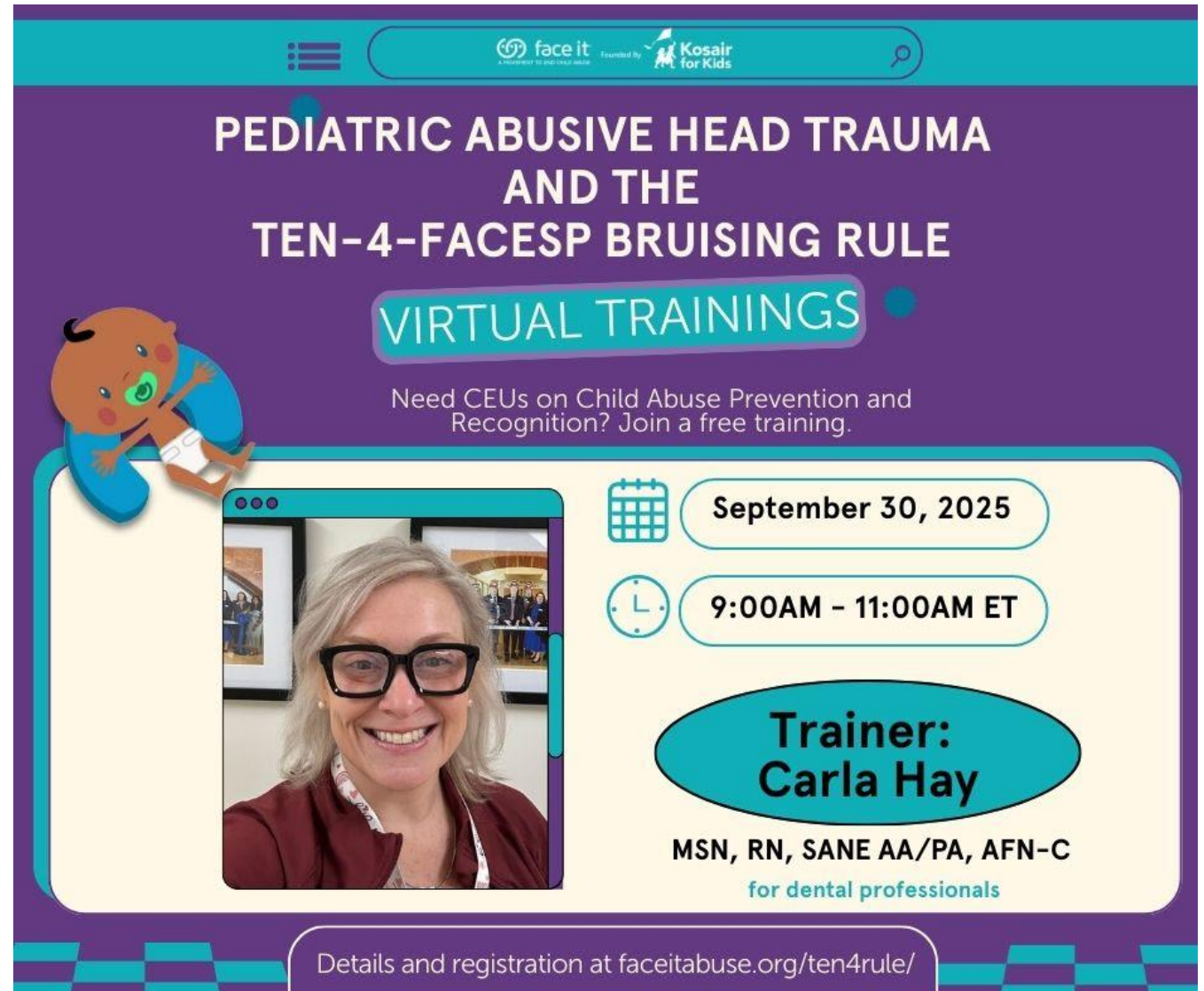
  
CareQuest  
Institute for Oral Health<sup>SM</sup>

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**LOUISVILLE.**  
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

# Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma for Oral Health Professionals

Register today!





face it  
A COMMITMENT TO EARLY INTERVENTION


Founded By  
Kosair  
for Kids


## PEDIATRIC ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA AND THE TEN-4-FACESP BRUISING RULE

### VIRTUAL TRAININGS

Need CEUs on Child Abuse Prevention and Recognition? Join a free training.



 **September 30, 2025**

 **9:00AM - 11:00AM ET**

**Trainer:  
Carla Hay**

**MSN, RN, SANE AA/PA, AFN-C**  
for dental professionals

Details and registration at [faceitabuse.org/ten4rule/](https://faceitabuse.org/ten4rule/)

Thank you for  
joining!

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

FB: KYOralHealthCoalition X: KYOralHealth





**AIDPH**

Kentucky Oral Health Coalition

**KOHHC**

For a lifetime of oral health

# VETERAN ORAL HEALTH

VIRTUAL ROAD TOUR: **KENTUCKY**

September 12, 2025 | 12:00 PM EST



Special Session  
on Veteran  
Oral Health -  
Starting now!