



Dental Disease in the Pediatric Patient

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- We do not intend to discuss an unapproved/investigative use of a commercial product/device in our presentation.

AN INTRODUCTION

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- University of Kansas
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- Private Practice in Overland Park
- Clinical Director for Dental Hygiene Program
- Board of Directors for REACH Healthcare Foundation
- Oral Health Kansas Dental Champion
- No conflicts to report

TODAY'S ROADMAP

- Importance of oral health and challenges of dental disease
- Role of medical providers in improving children's oral health
- What is a dental therapist, and how can it address these issues?

DENTAL HEALTH

DENTAL HEALTH

- Oral health touches all aspects of our lives.
- Often taken for granted
- Window to overall health
- Shows signs of nutritional deficiencies or generalized infection
- Systemic disease may first become apparent because of lesions in the mouth.



NATIONAL DENTAL LANDSCAPE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

- 100 million Americans fail to see the dentist each year.
- Although it is well documented regular exams and preventative care can prevent most dental disease.
- Cost is the most common reason cited for failing to seek care.
- Low-income and racial and ethnic minorities tend to be disproportionately affected due to lack of access to care .



DENTAL DECAY

- Bacteria on teeth breakdown foods and produce acid leading to the destruction of enamel.
- According to the CDC, although preventable, it is the most common chronic disease of children and adolescents.
 - 90% of adults over the age of 20 have had some degree of dental decay.
- Presence of oral disease in children is a strong indicator for poor oral health in adulthood.



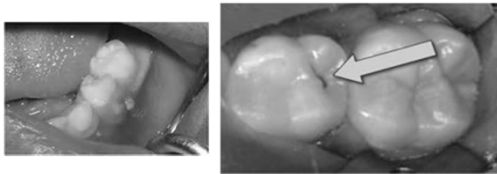
DENTAL DISEASE



LIFT THE LIP



WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE THESE?



DID YOU KNOW?

- Preterm babies exhibit enamel that is 20% thinner than full-term babies.
- Enamel surface quality is often irregular making them more susceptible to dental decay.
- Early intervention and prevention strategies are even more important.
- Since 2005, Kansas Medicaid has reimbursed medical providers to apply fluoride varnish.

BURDEN OF ORAL DISEASE IN KANSAS

Kansas Bureau of Oral Health "Smiles Across Kansas" 2012 Report:

- CDC Basic Screening Survey protocol used (National Standard)
- Over 2,000 third graders in 65 schools across the state
- 48% have treated decay (2004 survey was 55%)
- Healthy People 2020 target is under 49%
- Only 1/3 of children had preventative dental sealants – even less in minority populations – although this is a best practice



BURDEN OF ORAL DISEASE IN KANSAS

- Most children in Kansas do not visit a dentist until they go to school
 - AAPD recommends oral evaluation by age 1
 - Less than 20% of Kansas Medicaid enrolled children age 2 and under received service
- Early childhood centers and medical providers are vitally important for prevention, education, and referral.
- Children in schools with higher rates of free and reduced lunches were 66% more likely to have untreated decay than children from wealthier schools.

UNDERSERVED KANSANS NEED MORE DENTAL PROVIDERS

- 87 of Kansas' 105 counties are designated as dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.
- 14 Kansas counties do not have a dentist at all, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation *County Health Rankings*.
- Too few Kansas dentists accept KanCare insurance. 161,328 Kansas children enrolled in KanCare did not receive any billed dental care in 2015.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Almost half of the children in the state suffer an unnecessary health condition with lifelong implications.
- Presence of oral disease in childhood is a strong indicator for poor oral health in adulthood.
- Since the disease is almost entirely preventable, continued efforts to decrease disease will have lasting impact on Kansans.



How Dental Therapists Can Improve Children's Health

AN INTRODUCTION

My name is Amanda Gress, and I work at Kansas Action for Children. Our vision is to make Kansas the best state to raise a child, and we shape health, education, and economic policies that benefit Kansas children and their families.

Learn more: www.kac.org

ABOUT THE KANSAS DENTAL PROJECT

- Coalition includes more than 50 professional associations and social service organizations, dental hygienists, dentists, safety net clinics, citizens, and advocates across the state
- Supported by the Kansas Health Foundation, REACH Healthcare Foundation, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation

WHAT IS A DENTAL THERAPIST?

- Dental therapists work with a dentist's supervision as part of the dental team.
- They are mid-level oral health providers with rigorous training to perform some of the most common preventive and restorative procedures.
- They work in dental offices and community settings to expand access to dental care.



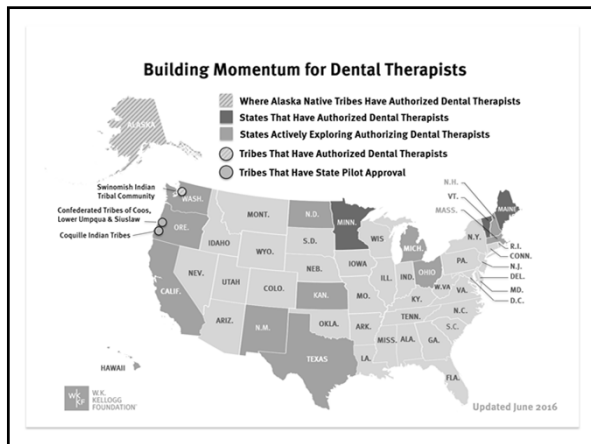
DENTAL THERAPY'S HISTORY

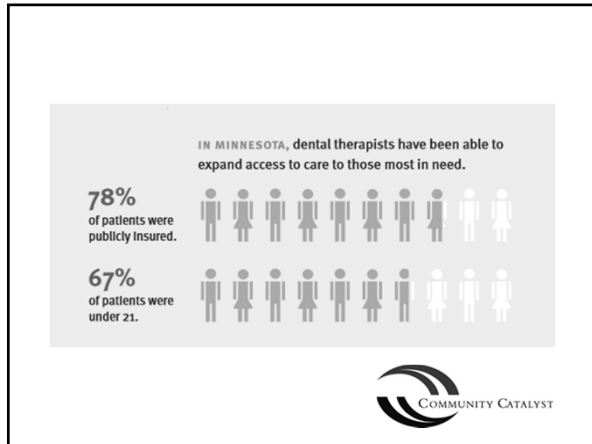
- 1923: First New Zealand dental therapists graduate.
- 2003: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium sends students to train as dental therapists.
- 2009: Minnesota authorizes dental therapy.

DENTAL THERAPY GLOBALLY

Dental therapists currently practice in 54 countries, including:

- New Zealand
- Australia
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- South Africa
- The Netherlands





THE PROBLEM

Too many Kansans – including children, those with KanCare insurance or no insurance, the elderly, rural communities, and Kansans with disabilities – can't find dental care.

Rural Dental Networks Hit Hard By Kansas Medicaid Cuts
By ANDY MARSO • DEC 12, 2016

THE PROBLEM

83% of Kansas counties need more dental providers

IT'S TIME TO BRING DENTAL THERAPISTS TO KANSAS

kansasdental.com

KANSAS DENTAL PROJECT

A SOLUTION

Allowing dentists and safety net clinics to hire dental therapists will create jobs, save money, and ensure healthy Kansans.

BRINGING DENTAL THERAPISTS TO KANSAS

- In 2017, the Kansas Dental Project introduced legislation to establish dental therapy in Kansas.
- New national education standards reaffirm that dental therapists will provide high-quality care.
- Kansas Dental Project and its supporters are educating lawmakers about dental therapy.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Kansas dental therapists will—

- Be dental hygienists who graduate from educational programs that meet CODA accreditation standards;
- Pass an independent clinical examination and complete a preceptorship period; and
- Work for a supervising dentist either employed by a safety net clinic or enrolled as a Medicaid provider.

GET INVOLVED!

www.kansasdental.com

Facebook: Kansas
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Questions & Discussion
