



## FILLING THE GAP

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A statewide plan to address the dental workforce shortage in Kansas

## OUR PARTNERSHIP

- Partners: Kansas Action for Children, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved and Kansas Health Consumer Coalition
- Funders: Kansas Health Foundation, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, REACH Healthcare Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- KDP Coalition membership includes 31 professional associations and social service organizations



## THE GOALS OF THE KANSAS DENTAL PROJECT

- Address the dental workforce shortage by adding a new mid-level professional to the dental team
- Provide more Kansans in rural and underserved communities with access to the dental care they need
- Provide routine care in a more cost effective way

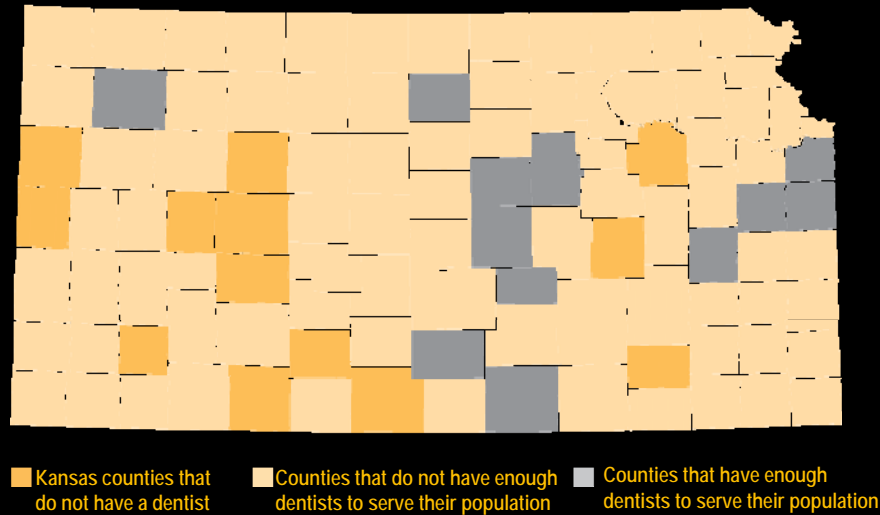


## When it comes to dentists, the shortage in Kansas is critical

- 93 of the 105 Kansas counties do not have enough dentists to serve their residents
- *13 Kansas counties* have no dentist at all
- The average dentist in Kansas is approaching retirement age with no plans for another dentist to replace them in their practice



## 93 Kansas Counties don't have enough dentists SOME HAVE NO DENTIST AT ALL



## But the shortage of dentists is only part of the problem

- Approximately 286,000 children, *more than one out of every three children in Kansas*, were enrolled at some point in Medicaid or CHIP last year
- The number of Medicaid billing dentists who saw *50 or more beneficiaries under age 21* is 222 for Medicaid and 128 for CHIP
- The number of Medicaid billing dentists who saw *100 or more beneficiaries under age 21* is 166 for Medicaid and 71 for CHIP
- **19 counties** have no enrolled Medicaid billing dentist and **27 counties** have no CHIP provider in Kansas



## Key Components of Legislation

- Qualifications
- Supervision
- Practice locations
- Scope of practice



## Qualifications

- Be a licensed dental hygienist who is also a graduate of a registered dental practitioner program.
- Pass a comprehensive, competency-based clinical examination that is approved by the board and administered independently of an institution providing registered dental practitioner education.
- Obtain a policy of professional liability insurance and show proof of such insurance as required by rules and regulations.
- Kansas has five dental hygiene schools that can serve as education sites for RDP programs.



## Supervision

- RDPs will work under the supervision of a dentist.
- The supervising dentist will decide the level of supervision: direct or general.
- An RDP must work under direct supervision for at least 500 hours before working under general supervision.
- The dentist and RDP have a written supervision agreement, including written protocols detailing the scope of practice the dentist authorizes the RDP to practice.



## Practice locations

- Federally designated Professional Workforce Shortage Areas
- Indigent health care clinics
- Nursing homes
- Head Start
- Federal and state correctional institutions
- Private practices (at least 20% of revenues from Medicaid)
- ECP I and ECP II practice locations
- Other areas or sites where the board determines RDPs will improve access



## Scope of practice

- Developed by dental professionals.
- Designed to equip RDPs with the skills necessary to provide treatment.
- Always subject to the limitations set by the supervising dentist through the written supervision agreement.



## What is the status of the legislation?

- During the 2011 Legislative Session, identical bills were introduced in the House and Senate – HB 2280 and SB 192.
- Each bill received a hearing and was supported by dentists, KDHA, clinics, and advocacy groups.
- The bills remain in committee for further debate and discussion in 2012.
- It is typical for legislation to take multiple years to pass.



QUESTIONS?

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