

Kent County
Oral Health Coalition

Mission Statement:

Improve the oral health of Kent County citizens

Vision Statement:

Healthy Teeth in every mouth

KCOHC Goal

Increase access to oral health care among underserved and hard to reach populations

Health Net of West Michigan

- Case Management
 - Connection to free/low cost oral health care services
 - General oral health education
 - Assistance with payment of oral health services
- Practice Engagement Specialist
 - Medical home technical assistance
 - Resources

KCOHC Oral Health Care Providers

Cherry Health

- Federally Qualified Health Center
- Houses six community clinics and three school-based clinics

Exalta Health

- Trusted community resource for medical and dental care
- Serves those unable to afford healthcare

Mel Trotter Ministries

- Serves those experiencing homelessness and community members
- Provides free dental services

My Community Dental Centers

- Provides increased access to high value oral health care in partnership with the Kent County Health Department
- Has three Kent County locations

Mini Grant Awardees

Cherry Health:

Improving oral health of pregnant women and young children

Degage Ministries:

Oral health education for those experiencing homelessness

Hispanic Center of Western Michigan:

Oral health education for limited English proficiency Latinos in Kent County

Community Events

Conferences

- Ready by Five Conference

Community Health Fairs

- Burton Heights Community Health Fair
- Early Childhood Resource Fair
- Kelloggsville Public Schools Resource Fair
- GRPS Back to School Celebration

Free Dental Services

- Free Dental Days at Exalta Health
- Free Dental Day at Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan
- Mission of Mercy Event

Advocate for Increasing Adult Dental Medicaid Reimbursement Rate

- Attend legislative coffee hours



- Advocate via petition and email



- Share OH 2020 policy social media posts



KCOHC Goal

Increase knowledge and awareness of the importance of oral health to overall health

PhotoVoice

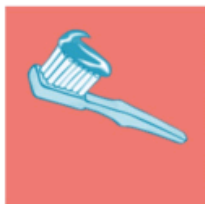
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiSxirRdnZM&feature=youtu.be>

Oral Health Toolkit

Oral Health Toolkit

A Guide to Promoting Oral Health in the Kent County Community

Created by Ashley Steponski, MPH



Oral Health Toolkit

The Kent County Oral Health Coalition offers this toolkit to help keep your teeth healthy throughout your lifetime. This toolkit is divided into three sections: oral health in children, oral health in adults, and oral health in older adults. Each section lists common oral health problems, ways to avoid these problems, and helpful tips for better oral health. At the Kent County Oral Health Coalition, our vision is for Healthy Teeth in Every Mouth!



Oral Health In Children



Baby teeth have an important job. They help children speak, chew food, and hold space in the mouth for adult teeth. Here are some helpful tips to keep your child's teeth healthy and cavity free:

Take your child to the dentist when their first tooth comes in or by their first birthday.

Talk to your dentist or pediatrician about fluoride varnish and dental sealants.

Limit the amount of sweets and sticky foods your child eats.

For more tips like these, please see page 10 of the toolkit.

Oral Health In Adults

Adults can still get cavities and can also experience gum disease. Gum disease is a major cause of tooth loss. Helpful tips to avoid cavities and gum disease are:

Use fluoride toothpaste and drink water with fluoride for strong, healthy teeth.

Avoid smoking and tobacco products.

Call your dentist or doctor if you notice a change in your mouth.

For more tips like these, please see page 20 of the toolkit.



Oral Health In Older Adults

Getting older does not mean losing your teeth. Since you still get cavities and gum disease as you get older, the tips below can be used to maintain your teeth. Other oral health issues older adults may have include dry mouth and problems with dentures.

Brush for 2 minutes two times each day and use dental floss once each day.

Drink plenty water.

Visit the dentist regularly for a cleaning and oral exam.

For more tips like these, please see page 28 of the toolkit.



Better Oral Health Means Better Total Health!
The body and the mouth are not separate. Your body can affect your mouth and your mouth also affects your body. Taking good care of your teeth and gums by brushing twice a day and flossing once a day can help you live well longer!

This toolkit would not be possible without our valued partners: the Great Start Collaborative and the Grand Valley State University Master of Public Health Program.



Icons used designed by Freepik from Flaticon.

Educational Materials



✦ ✦ Protect Your Smile ✦ ✦

Dental Disease

There are two major types of dental disease: cavities and gum disease.

Both are caused by bacteria and both are preventable.

Taking care of your oral health helps improve your overall health too!



Preventing Dental Disease

✓ Brush for 2 minutes, 2 times each day, using toothpaste with fluoride. Floss at least 1 time each day. Help your child brush if they are younger than 6 years old.

✓ See your dentist every 6 months. Call your dentist if you notice a change in your mouth. Bring your child to the dentist on their 1st birthday or when their first tooth comes in.

✓ Children under the age of 21 with Medicaid automatically have Healthy Kids Dental coverage. Call toll-free at 800-482-8915 for more information.

Join Us!

Improving oral health outcomes and access to care in
Kent County

KCOHC In Action

- Grassroots member of the Oral Health 2020 Network collaborating nationally to improve the nation's oral health
- Provide Healthy Kids Dental education and improve the community's knowledge and understanding of oral health through the Rethink Your Drink Curriculum
- Analyze state of oral health in Kent County and respond to identified needs through a community oral health improvement plan
- Advance health equity through educating the community on oral health as a social justice issue

Thank You

To join: contact Shannon Kaza, Oral Health Coordinator at skaza@healthnetwm.org or (616) 421-4819

To learn more: visit our website: <http://healthnetwm.org/programs/kent-county-oral-health-coalition-kcohc>