



Registered Dental Practitioners: Local Efforts

*CREATES JOBS
ENSURES HEALTHY KANSANS
SAVES MONEY*

KANSAS DENTAL PROJECT GOALS

- 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.

WHAT IS AN RDP?

- Registered dental practitioners (RDPs) will be dental hygienists who obtain advanced training.
- RDPs will provide routine preventive services like cleanings, fillings, and simple extractions.
- RDPs will work in indigent care clinics and offices that accept Medicaid.
- RDPs will always work under a dentist's supervision.

NATIONAL MOMENTUM

- 45,000 people in Alaska have received care from a dental mid-level provider.
- In Minnesota, mid-level providers are saving their employers money.
- Last year, Maine became the third state to approve mid-level dental providers.
- Legislation passed House in New Mexico.



POLICY AND POLITICS

- RDP Advocacy Day held January 21, 2015
- Communications and outreach

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

- Postcards mailed to legislators in 2014 and 2015.
- TV ads in Wichita.
- Engagement of new allies: AARP, Wichita State University, National Dental Association.



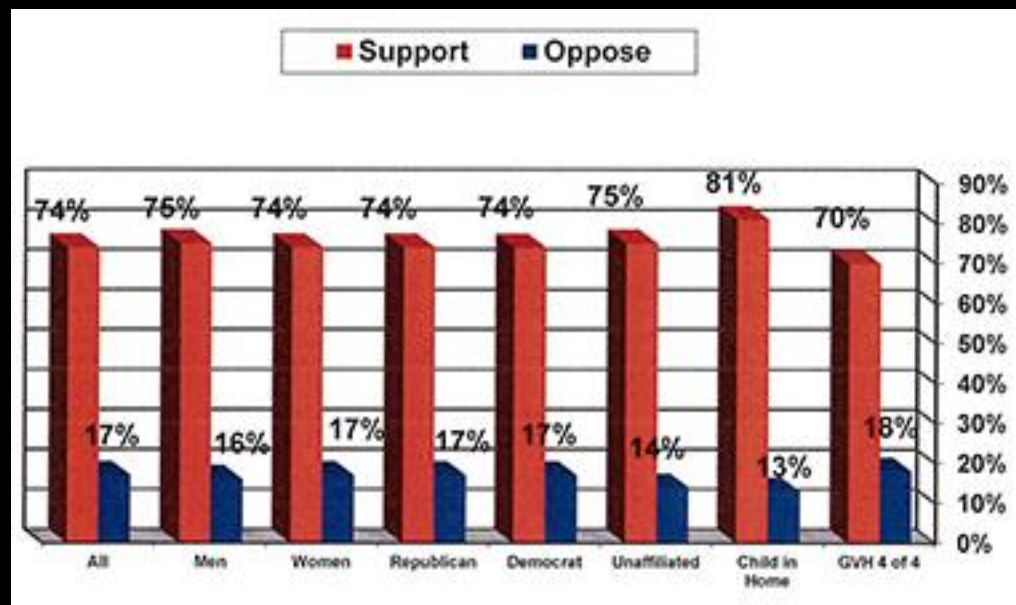
POLICY AND POLITICS

- RDP Advocacy Day held January 21, 2015
- Communications and outreach
- Polling

POLL FINDINGS

- 74% of voters want their legislator to support the creation of RDPs.
- There is strong support for RDPs regardless of party affiliation.
- The two most effective messages are the ability of RDPs to drive down costs and the comparison to physician assistants.

POLL: SHOULD YOUR LEGISLATOR SUPPORT RDPS?



POLICY AND POLITICS

- RDP Advocacy Day held January 21, 2015
- Communications and outreach
- Polling
- Hearings on legislation held in both House and Senate H\health committees
- However, legislation did not move forward

CHALLENGES

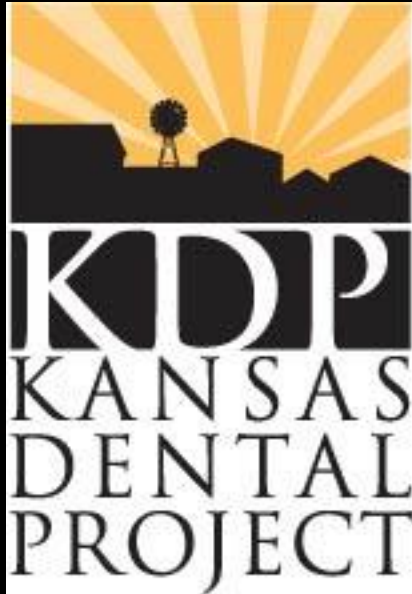
- KDA has 15 lobbyists on staff to fight this issue.
- Legislators have dentists.
- Dentists are major campaign supporters.
- There hasn't been a strong push at the community level.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Get the facts.
- Work with your safety net clinic and hospital.
- Involve local school boards.
- Get local government support.
- Call, write, email, visit your legislators.
- Join KDP Coalition.

A photograph of two young children walking away from the camera on a gravel path. The child on the left is a boy with short brown hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt and khaki shorts. The child on the right is a girl with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt and shorts. She has her arm around the boy's shoulder. The path is made of light-colored gravel and leads into a grassy area. The background is slightly blurred.

**More dental
providers means
*healthier families.***



Katrina McGivern

Policy & Public Affairs Director
Kansas Association for the Medically
Underserved (KAMU)

kmcgivern@kspca.org

(785) 233-8483