

## United Health Foundation and University of Kentucky: *Addressing Oral Cancer in Eastern Kentucky*

The University of Kentucky College of Dentistry (UKCD) is recognized as one of the nation's leading dental institutions. Through leadership in education, patient care, discovery and community engagement, the College aims to advance oral and general health in Kentucky and beyond.

In 2018, the United Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of UnitedHealth Group, and UKCD announced a three-year \$1 million grant partnership to address the high prevalence of oral cancer in Harlan, Letcher and Pike counties in eastern Kentucky, as well as the lack of access to local health care providers who specialize in oral cancer treatment. UKCD led an integrated outreach campaign that raised public awareness of the symptoms of oral cancer, provided free oral cancer screenings across eastern Kentucky, and connected patients who needed additional care to cancer specialists.

According to *America's Health Rankings' 2022 Annual Report*, only 57% of Kentucky adults reported visiting a dentist or dental clinic within the past year.



### COMMUNITY IMPACT\*

**1,892**

individuals screened for oral cancer

**12,500**

oral cancer self-exam flyers distributed in local newspapers

**2**

Accredited Continuing Education Courses for health care providers on oral cancer and tobacco treatment created

**42**

individuals connected to follow-up care, with 0 incidences of oral cancer ultimately reported

**197**

education sessions held with health care providers, health care students, community-based organizations and local businesses

\*2018-2022

### WHY IS THIS WORK CRITICAL?



By improving awareness about the signs and risks of oral cancer and increasing early screening for the disease, we can help more Kentuckians live healthier lives.”

Dr. Melvyn Yeoh

Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University of Kentucky College of Dentistry

