



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Office of Local and Rural Health



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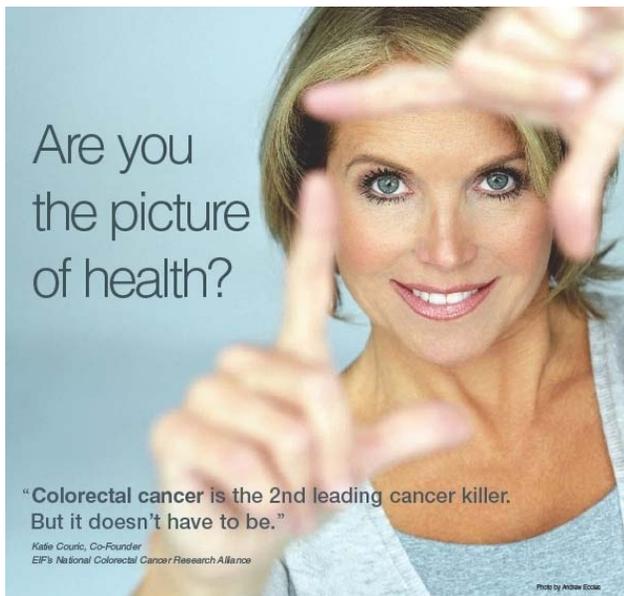
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MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

*submitted by Patrice J. O'Hara, Cancer Control and Prevention Program
Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE)*



Colon cancer is unique in the medical world. It is one cancer that can actually be prevented if detected early before cancerous polyps have a chance to grow and spread. Colon cancer can strike at any age, but nine out of 10 new cases are in people age 50 or older.

That is why colorectal cancer screening is recommended for men and women over the age of 50 and for anyone with a family history of the disease, regardless of age.

In 2005, 1,733 Kansans were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 1,604 died from the disease. Nationally more than 145,000 new cases of colon cancer were diagnosed in 2005 and 56,290 Americans died. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer among both men and women, trailing only lung cancer.

There is good news nationally, the American Cancer Society (ACS) reports a drop in colon cancer deaths in 2003-2004 due to an increase in screening and early detection. The National Colorectal Cancer Research

Alliance, co-founded by national news anchor woman, Katie Couric has promoted colonoscopy tests since 2000 and part of the rise in awareness can be attributed to those efforts. The ads “Are you the picture of health?” featuring Couric are being used extensively on TV, radio and newspapers statewide during March 2008 to raise awareness of colon cancer.

The Kansas Cancer Plan (KCP) is recommending that Kansans follow one of the testing guidelines set out by the ACS and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force to check for colorectal cancer. These tests can include a fecal occult blood test, colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy. Also, be aware of the colorectal cancer facts:

- If you are over age 50, see your doctor to get screened. For those with a family history of the disease screening should begin earlier.
- Colorectal cancer and precancerous polyps don't always cause symptoms.
- Colorectal cancer affects both men and women equally.
- When found early, colorectal cancer treatment can be very effective.
- Many insurance plans help pay for colorectal cancer screening.

Screening tests will depend upon your age, medical history and other factors. A colonoscopy can often detect polyps or small growths in the lining of the rectum and colon, which can be removed before cancer even develops. If cancer is detected while still localized in the bowel, 90 percent of patients can expect to be alive five years later.

Take the time during March to talk to your health care professional about what you need to do to be screened for colon cancer. After all, don't you want to remain "The picture of health?" For further information contact Patrice J. O'Hara at (785) 296-1228 or POHara@kdhe.state.ks.us.

NEW STATE ASSOCIATION

submitted by Jill Thomison, Ark City Clinic, P.A.

The Kansas Medical Group Management Association (KMGMA) has announced the birth of the Kansas Association of Rural Health Clinics, a committee of KMGMA. For many years the Kansas Medical Group Management Association has had an active Rural Health Committee, committed to addressing and solving issues that specifically Kansas Rural Health clinics face. Over the past several years the committee has recognized a need for a state association and with the help of the KMGMA, we are happy to announce that a Kansas Association of Rural Health Clinics now exists.

To join the Kansas Association of Rural Health Clinics (KARHC), clinics simply need to be a member or become a member of the KMGMA. Clinics or physicians interested in learning more about KMGMA membership, may visit the "Membership" area of the KMGMA Web site at <http://kmgma.org/membership.htm> or may contact Claire Daniels, KMGMA Executive Assistant at (316) 686-4414 or cdaniels1@cox.net.

The KSARHC also meets semi-annually at the KMGMA conferences. In addition, the KARHC will meet at other times during the year to address issues that are pertinent specifically to rural health clinics, both independent and hospital based. Those interested in learning more about the Kansas Association of Rural Health Clinics may e-mail any of the association leadership; Scott Focke at sfocke@nwkshealthcare.com, Jill Thomison at jthomison@arkcityclinic.com or Pam Hostetler phostetler@prmc.org.



KIC SYSTEM UPDATED

*submitted by Lou Saadi, Office of Health Assessment
Kansas Department of Health and Environment*

Kansas hospital discharge data for 2006 has been added to the Kansas Information for Communities (KIC), the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Health Information Portal. The 2006 hospital discharge data, provided to the state of Kansas by the Kansas Hospital Association, represents summary results for procedures and diagnoses from over 335,000 hospital discharges to Kansas residents.

The hospital discharge dataset also includes information on the primary pay source for the discharge, length of stay, and average length of stay for these hospital episodes. Creation of population-based discharge rates and comparison to previous years is possible in KIC. Data are provided in two versions: a) without Hispanic origin for comparison of trends back to 1995 or b) with Hispanic origin from 2003, the year this important element was included in the data.

Because the hospital discharge dataset is de-identified, the results may represent a duplicate count of patients – some of whom may be hospitalized more than



once in a given year. The data represent inpatient stays only and do not include visits to the emergency room. Totals for characteristics that are unknown are not displayed. Thus, individual cells within a row or column may not sum to the row or column total respectively.

Specific questions about the hospital discharge dataset can be sent to Rachel Lindbloom at rlindblo@kdhe.state.ks.us. General KIC questions can be directed to Kansas.Health.Statistics@kdhe.state.ks.us. The URL is <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/> for the KIC system and the URL for hospital discharge data is <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/discharge.html>.

WHY TIDE (TEACHING IMMUNIZATION DELIVERY AND EVALUATION)



Teaching Immunization Delivery and Evaluation (TIDE) a non-traditional web-based interactive curriculum is available by clicking the TIDE logo. The course modules include: clinical scenarios to trigger problem solving and discussion; clinical practice evaluation tool for quality improvement and free CNE, CME, and CEUs are available.

TIDE is for physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals responsible for immunization delivery. The curriculum is organized as five self-contained modules including all the resources needed for learners.

- Module A—Childhood Immunizations presents sample cases requiring the learner to make correct decisions for pediatric patients' vaccinations.
- Module B—Assessing Immunization Rates leads the learner through a chart audit to measure practice immunization rates. This is the first step to increasing immunization rates.
- Module C—Improving Immunization Rates in Your Practice presents ways to bring about change in office routines to improve immunization rates.
- Module D—Adolescent Immunizations presents sample cases requiring the learner to make correct decisions for adolescent patients' vaccinations.
- Module E—Vaccine Storage and Handling presents interactive scenarios highlighting requirements, assessment, policies, and practices.

TIDE is designed as a flexible tool for faculty to teach, and practitioners to learn, immunization delivery and evaluation. The main goal of this curriculum is to improve knowledge, attitudes, and skills that are likely to change provider behavior in clinical settings, leading to increased immunization rates for children. The curriculum grew from a need to improve both the content and the teaching method of more traditional curricula.

"The impact of vaccination on the health of the world's people would be hard to exaggerate. With the exception of safe water, no other modality, not even antibiotics, has had such a major effect on mortality reduction and population growth." (Plotkin & Plotkin, 2004)

TIDE sponsors include the Medical University of South Carolina and the Ambulatory Pediatric Association/Society for Adolescent Medicine.

"ELDER SMILES" - A NEW ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

*submitted by Barbara Mitchell
Johnson County Health Department*

The Johnson County Health Department in Johnson County, Kan. is launching a new oral health program for seniors living in Adult Care Facilities (nursing homes, assisted living, and home plus). The \$70,233 demonstration grant, funded by the REACH Healthcare Foundation, provides the springboard for this special service.

Elder Smiles is designed to provide on-site oral hygiene services in the form of cleanings and screenings twice a year and fluoride varnish and x-rays annually. The services will be provided by Extended Care Permit II hygienists (ECP II) and their sponsoring dentists. The program will start by serving Medicaid eligible nursing home residents in two facilities and will eventually serve all interested adult care residents/facilities.

Elder Smiles will be administered by the Adult/Child Care Facilities Division of the Johnson County Health Department. This program will serve as a safety net service and dental home for those facility residents that are unable to or have great difficulty



going to a dental clinic for services.

"One of the important health needs in our county is oral health, particularly for many of our seniors," said Leon F. Vinci, DHA, director of public health for Johnson County. Public health research has shown that approximately only one percent of residents in nursing centers have dental insurance and most seniors have not seen a dentist in the last year.

Eldonna Chesnut, division director for the Adult/Child Care Facilities Division said, "several area nursing homes have expressed an interest in participating in this program. We look forward to providing this worthwhile service to the community."

NEW ADMINISTRATOR AT WALLACE COUNTY

DeAnn Appelhans began working on Feb. 25 as the new County Health Nurse/School Nurse for Wallace County. Appelhans has been a nurse for 14 years mainly in hospital settings. "Public Health is a first for me but I am very excited about working with the public. Educating the public has been a priority for me since becoming a nurse," states Appelhans. Prior to coming to Wallace County DeAnn was a Staff Nurse at Greeley County Hospital, Wichita County Hospital and Goodland Regional Hospital; Home Health for Greeley County Hospital, and Director of Nursing at Greeley County Hospital.

DeAnn was born in Tribune, KS and her husband, Rick, have been married for almost 29 years. They have four children. They moved Wallace County 2 years ago due to a job change for my husband.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

*submitted by Janis Goedeke
Crawford County Health Department*



The die-hard Kansans will know that recently Kansas celebrated its 147th birthday. Kansas became a state on Jan. 29, 1861. Some Kansans may even have childhood memories of the centennial celebration of Kansas' 100th birthday! I am one of those die hard Kansans that has lived here all my life, and I love my state. After all, there is no place like home!

This year on Kansas Day I was privileged to be at the Capitol. While it was a very cold day in Topeka (the wind chill was -6), you could also tell it was a special day. The moment I entered the Capitol, I could sense the excitement in the air. The Capitol was filled with school children who were participating in the birthday celebration, and the legislators were scurrying throughout the building. I arrived just in time to hear the school children sing the 'National Anthem,' sing 'Happy Birthday' to Kansas and then of course they sang our state song, 'Home on the Range.' Following the singing, there was a huge birthday cake in the rotunda for all the students to enjoy. Students were then able to visit various stations learning about the limestone foundation of the capitol, the artwork, and of course they were able to visit the legislative floor. There were even story tellers dressed in civil war attire to entertain the birthday guests.

With all of the excitement of Kansas's birthday, everyone was in a festive mood. Elaine Schwartz, Executive Director, Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), Linda DeCoursey, Advocacy Director for the Kansas American Heart Association (AHA), and I met at the capitol to distribute packets for the Alliance of Health Care Advocates. We spent the morning dividing up the floors and distributing packets that promoted the strategic plans and legislative concerns of various public health and health care agencies. We visited 165 legislators and we were able to promote the Health Day at the Capitol which will be held on March 6.



The highlight of the day was a luncheon that Elaine had planned so that we were able to meet with some of the legislative health committee members. It was so interesting to listen to the legislators express their concerns. Elaine and I were also able to share with these legislators the KPHA legislative priorities and share with them our concerns for public health.

So Kansas Day was very exciting for me. I loved advocating for public health and I gained some basic understanding of our state's legislative process. While driving home, I was able to think about the excitement of the day and the discussion with the legislators. Before I knew it, I was pulling into my driveway and thought, "there is no place like home!"

Once again thank you for allowing me to serve as your KPHA president. To learn more about the KPHA or to become a member click the KPHA logo above.



NEW TRAIN COURSE LISTINGS

*submitted by Debbie Nickels RN,C BSN
KS-TRAIN Administrator*

Open a new web-browser, add <http://ks.train.org>, log-in, click the course links. Included below are the steps to create an account for those who have not previously used the learning management system. Forgotten your ID and password? Contact the helpdesk@kdhe.state.ks.us or call (785) 296-5655. Learners can also print out the NEW TRAIN QuickGuide by clicking the icon.



Terrorism/Emergency Readiness

National Course:

1. [NIMS and ICS: A Primer for Volunteers](#)

Kansas Courses:

1. ["Chemical Agents of Opportunity: Toxic Industrial Chemicals & Materials \(TICs/TIMs\) \(#1011971\)](#)
2. [NEKRHSC: Phase 1 Salamander Accountability Training \(#1011993\)](#)
3. [Basic Disaster Life Support \(#1012012\)](#)
4. [KDEM Trng "Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Train-the-Trainer \(#1006237\)](#)

General Public Health

National Courses:

1. [Field Epidemiology](#)
2. [CERC On-line Web-Based - WB1138](#)
3. [CERC On-line CD-ROM - CB1138](#)
4. [Surveillance of Congenital Heart Defects & Associated Syndromes \(Web on Demand\) - WD1278](#)
5. [Disaster Triage Exercises](#)
6. [Disaster Triage for Epidemics](#)

Health Care

National Courses:

1. [Measurement, Design, and Analysis Methods for Health Outcomes Research](#)
2. [Disaster Triage for Mass Casualty Incidents](#)

Infectious Disease

National Course:

1. [Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene: Practical Applications of Basic Principles](#)

Laboratory

National Courses:

1. [Laboratory Biosecurity: Build Security into Good Laboratory Practices \(CD-Rom\) - CB1073](#)
2. [Laboratory Biosecurity: Build Security into Good Laboratory Practices \(Web-Based\) - WB1073](#)

Cultural Competency and Mental Health

National Course:

1. [Cultural Competency and Disaster Mental Health](#)

How to Create Your Own Learner Account on KS-TRAIN:

1. Log onto <http://ks.train.org>
2. Click "create account" on the left hand side of the screen beneath the "login" button.
3. Complete the learner account by filling out all the necessary profile information on the subsequent pages. Required fields are indicated with a red asterisk (*).
4. Write down your User ID and Password in a secure place.

3RD ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

submitted by Governor's Public Health Conference Committee

The 3rd annual Governor's Kansas Public Health Conference, "*There's No Place Like Home: Early Intervention Strategies for Healthy Families*," will be held at the Wichita Airport Hilton, April 29-30. A Maternal Child Health Orientation will be held on April 28. Registration will be (mid-March) through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course #1012140.

The conference will provide information to assist public health providers practicing in the public health field with data, strategies, and resources to enhance knowledge and skills related to the provision of health promotion and prevention activities with individuals and families that ultimately, protect the health of all Kansans. The public health workforce is challenged to engage stakeholders and partners in communities to address the 2010 Healthy People indicators that include:

- Physical Activity
- Overweight and Obesity
- Tobacco Use
- Substance Abuse
- Responsible Sexual Behavior
- Mental Health
- Injury and Violence
- Environmental Quality
- Immunization
- Access to Health Care



Early intervention strategies to address societal, economic and environmental challenges will be explored, as well as considerations for local, state, and national policy to direct resources and interventions towards Kansas prioritized indicators.

Additionally, this conference will celebrate the perseverance of the Kansas public health work-force and stakeholders whose work continues to emulate the "courage, heart, and brains" demonstrated by those public health practitioners who have preceded them and whose impact on public health in our State continues to inspire recognition that "there's no place like home!"

This year's sponsors include: Bureau of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Program and the Office of Local and Rural Health at KDHE; Kansas Public Health Association; Saint Louis University Heartland Centers for Public Health Preparedness; and Wichita State University.

BASIC DISASTER LIFE SUPPORT COURSES

submitted by Judy Eyerly, Senior Coordinator

Kansas University Medical Center, Area Health Education Centers

Kansas University Medical Center, Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), in conjunction with Robert Moser, MD, Response Systems, is pleased to announce a series of programs using curriculum developed by the American Medical Association in collaboration with the National Disaster Life Support Education Consortium. Dr. Moser and Stephanie Wineinger, RN, are instructors for the course and are Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) providers.

BDLS[®] is targeted to multiple disciplines including: emergency medical service (EMS) personnel, hazardous materials personnel, public health personnel, and health care providers. By teaching multiple disciplines simultaneously, a commonality of approach and language will develop, improving the care and coordination of response in WMD disaster and public health emergencies.



The curricula includes: overview and disaster paradigm; natural and manmade disasters; traumatic and explosive events; nuclear and radiological weapon attacks; biological events; chemical events; the public health system and the psychosocial aspects of disasters.

BDLS[®] is the didactic component of the national disaster life support training. The BDLS[®] curriculum is developed with an all-hazards approach (recognition and management) to disaster response. Those completing the BDLS[®] didactic course can then participate in ADLS[™].



The course dates are:

April 16 - Garden City

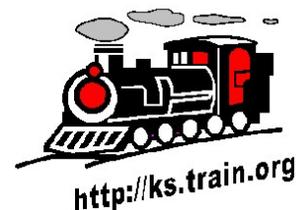
April 17 - Hays

May 7 - Salina

May 8 - Wichita

Future courses in Pittsburg and Kansas City are being planned for the fall.

Registration for these courses is limited. To register click on the KS-TRAIN logo, Course # **1012012** or the ACHE logo above.



BRIDGING THE GAP®

submitted by Cathy Anderson

Manager, Language & Cultural Services, Jewish Vocational Service



Bridging the Gap is a five-day training in medical and social services interpreting for bilingual interpreters. After attending all classes and passing a final exam, participants receive a certificate of completion in "Bridging the Gap." Participants receive a handbook, glossary and an interpreter's guide to common medications.

The next training will be held in Emporia at the Flint Hills Education Center, 1700 W. 7th Ave. June 23-27. The course runs from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and is **free of charge through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment**. However, we do require that you do the following: Register online for Bridging the Gap through KS TRAIN: <http://ks.train.org> and complete the Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) application form attached to "Go To Step 2" of registration. Send your application to JVS, 1608 Baltimore Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108, or fax it to (816) 471-2930. For more information contact Cathy Anderson at (816) 471-2808 or check out the JVS Web site at www.jvskc.org.

CHEMICAL AGENTS OF OPPORTUNITY

submitted by Lesa Roberts, Health Officer

Kansas Department of Health & Environment



The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) in conjunction with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are pleased to offer a 1-day course, April 17 on: *Chemical Agents of Opportunity: Toxic Industrial Chemical and Materials*. This course will provide awareness-level training on a variety of toxic syndromes likely to be encountered following exposures to TICs and TIMs and other chemical agents of opportunity.

There has been growing concern that many of the most likely threats of chemical terrorism involve "agents of opportunity." Both common and unusual industrial agents may pose a threat as potential terrorist weapons. While an understanding of the traditional military chemical weapons (e.g. nerve agents) remains essential, they will not be covered in these lectures. An appreciation of the myriad of other potential toxic chemicals readily available in our society is crucial if we are to optimally prepare, identify and defend against chemical threats. This course will utilize a symptom-based clinical approach to describe the medical impact of various chemical poisons. We will provide a framework to enhance recognition of the common health effects of apparently disparate chemical toxins, describe the risk to various healthcare workers, and introduce clinical and public health management strategies.



To register go to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course #**1011971**. Continuing education credits are provided for physicians, nurses, and emergency medical service practitioners. Certificates of attendance will be provided to all who complete the all-day course. The cost is \$25 per attendee which covers breaks and a working lunch. Registration will be held from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. The program is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The target audience for this course includes Public health officials, emergency response coordinators, first responders, prehospital care providers, FOSCs (Federal On-Scene Coordinators), environmental health scientists, toxicologists, occupational/environmental and emergency physicians, veterinarians, laboratorians, engineers, industrial hygienists and others involved with chemical terrorism preparedness and response. For additional information contact Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC) - Area Health Education Center (AHEC) East at (620) 235-4040.

DID YOU KNOW?

PHPartners is a site available through the **National Library of Medicine**. You can sign up for their weekly updates at <http://phpartners.org/>. Click on the box to subscribe. Their Mission: Helping the public health workforce find and use information effectively to improve and protect the public's health

*****[PHPartners.org](http://phpartners.org/) - News and Updates*****

Bioterrorism: Special Populations: Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/specialpopulationsanddisasters.html>

Provides links to selected Web sites featuring emergency preparedness for special populations including people with disabilities, people with visual or hearing impairments, senior citizens, children, and women. Links to information in languages other than English are also provided.

JOHNSON COUNTY JOB OPENINGS



The Johnson County Public Health Department, located in the Kansas City Metro area is seeking applicants for the following position:

- Child Care Facilities Specialist #104300

To review the job specifications click on the Johnson County logo on the left and scroll down the page. Interested applicants may send resume and cover letter to Stacy Barr, recruiter; stacy.barr@jocogov.org or for complete details and to apply online, visit <http://hr.jocogov.org>; or fax resume to (913) 715-1419; or mail to: Johnson County Human Resources; 111 S. Cherry, Suite 2600; Olathe, KS 66061. EOE

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