



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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Popular Classroom Course Goes Internet: Public Health Threats and Preparedness

by Cat Howland, Project Manager



Research and Training Center on Independent Living, University of Kansas

Currently, there is a noticeable increase in the media's coverage and public's interest in disaster preparedness information; rightfully so, with all

of the severe storms hitting the U.S. this year and large scale disasters overseas. An often overlooked disaster category is public health threats, including seasonal and pandemic flu. A new free one-hour course has just been released on KS-TRAIN, "The Prepared LifeStyle, Part 1: Public Health Threats, Pandemics and Associated Risks for People with Disabilities," course number 1032885.

"Enjoyed the information, checklists, and the instructor's delicacy of handling a scary topic." Course participant .

This unique course covers public health threats, the characteristics of pandemics, and the risk factors of people with disabilities in public health threats. It consists of narrated content, with a test-your-knowledge exercise to reinforce public health terms of epidemic, endemic and pandemic.

The course is designed to meet continuing education requirements and it is right at your finger tips via your computer. Be it a first time person to public health preparedness or a seasoned veteran, this course has proven it will keep your interest and can learn from it.

Only 22% of the course participants had a pandemic plan. After taking the course, 68% wanted to develop a plan, and 6% with existing plans wanted to update their plan.

The Prepared Lifestyle was originally conducted as a two-hour course hosted by seven local public health department or emergency management agencies in Kansas. The new version of the course on KS-TRAIN divides the materials into two separate one-hour courses, Part 1 and Part 2, with Part 2 covering the actual prevention and preparedness side of seasonal and pandemic flu. Part 2 will be completed this summer.

The original classes were deemed very successful as shown in statistical analysis of course participants' surveys. The material held the interests of a diverse group of participants, was very well received, increased knowledge and lead to a majority of the learners desiring to make a commitment to make changes to be better prepared (a Prepared LifeStyle). We believe the

new Internet course will exceed the original classroom instruction in delivery.

Course instructor Cat Howland, from the University of Kansas Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL), completed a week long intensive training by the Federal Emergency Management on pandemic flu preparedness and planning prior to developing the course. She has experience in public health and has contributed to two research projects on the impact of disasters on people with disabilities. Course consultant Carol Ferguson, Ed.D, is a registered nurse with 40 years of experience in nursing and education.

"Enjoyed that it was a casual refresher with good up-to-date information." Course participant .

To view the complete library of preparedness courses developed by the University of Kansas Research and Training Center on Independent Living (RTC/IL) that are posted on KS-TRAIN click the RTC/IL image above.

New APRN Regulations

*by KU Area Health Education Centers
University of Kansas Medical Center*



As of Jan. 1, all Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) in the state of Kansas became known as Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRNs). Revisions to the continuing education requirement specific to APRNs are also included in the new statutes. Beginning with license renewals in or after Jan. 2013, APRNs will be required to have 30 hours of continuing

nursing education (CNE) related to their role as an APRN.

CNE providers are responsible for assuring the content is appropriate to the role of an APRN and clearly identifying APRNs as the target audience. The target audience may also include RNs, LPNs and other health care professionals.

Statute changes can be found on the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) website, click the KSBN logo to view the new changes. To assist in meeting the new educational requirements, the University of Kansas Medical Center's Area Health Education Center is planning APRN appropriate programming, watch for more information.

Kansas Evidence-Based Public Health: A Course for Local and State Practitioners



by Bureau of Health Promotion

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Health Promotion will be presenting, "Kansas Evidence-Based Public Health: A Course for Local and State Practitioners," on July 23-26 at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Dykes Medical Library. This course is ideal for [Public Health Core Competency Tier Two and Tier Three](#) public health professionals.

Applied use of evidence-based interventions at the state and local levels is critical to achieving successful public health outcomes, a skilled and adaptable workforce, and more efficient and effective use of resources. This training is offered by the Bureau of Health Promotion in collaboration with the St. Louis Prevention Research Center and adapted from their highly regarded Evidence-Based Public Health Course. Presented in nine modules, the Kansas course features state specific data, insight from successful Kansas initiatives and guidance from instructors who practice public health in Kansas. As state and local health departments prepare for public health accreditation, the topics, techniques and tools provided through this course will enhance current understanding of principles of health assessment, improvement planning, and evaluation.

Course Themes:

- Selecting Evidence-Based Interventions
- Action Plans for Results
- Quantitative Evaluation
- Using Qualitative Data
- Prioritizing Program & Policy Options
- Economics of Prevention

Developers for this course include an eclectic mix of Kansas public health professionals representing academia, state and local health departments. To receive the course application, send your contact information to healthpromotion@kdheks.gov.

Harmful Algal Bloom Season



Picture courtesy of Scott Lang, KDHE Milford Lake 2011

by Bureau of Environmental Health

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH), KDHE has added several new resources to the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) website. Newly included are the 2012 KDHE HAB Policy and Response Plan, a Toolkit for Local Health Departments and a HAB YouTube video. In collaboration with Kansas State University, BEH also offers related information for private water bodies. BEH invites you to visit their website for the latest up-to-date lake closure status. To reach the Kansas Environmental Health Facebook, click the image on the left. For

information on lake status when you are out and about without the internet, feel free to use the afterhours toll free Lake Status Hotline at 855-422-5253.

KDHE samples recreational bodies of water for blue-green algae when the agency is alerted to a potential algae bloom. When harmful algal blooms are present, KDHE, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP), responds by informing the public of these conditions. Based upon sampling results and established health risk levels, the following warnings and advisories are in place.

Kansas public waters currently under warning:

- Memorial/Veterans Lake, Great Bend, Barton County

Kansas public waters currently under advisory:

- Logan City Lake, Phillips County
- Marion County Lake, Marion County

- Marion Reservoir, Marion County
- Overland Park South Lake, Johnson County
- Old Herington City Lake, Herington, Dickinson County
- Winfield City Lake, Cowley County

For more information on algae and algae blooms, including up-to-date conditions, click the image above.

Center for Performance Management Website Launched



*by Brenda Nickel, M.S., R.N., Director
Center for Performance Management, KDHE*

The Center for Performance (CPM) website has been, "launched." The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Webmaster, Jeff Rozwick, and the KDHE Office of Communications assisted in the development of the site with Chris Carter, Bureau of Community Health Systems, who procured logos and graphics. The logo development was a public health nursing leadership practicum project of Sylvia Ford, University of Kansas School of Nursing graduate student who worked with the Center during the 2012 spring semester. Ms Ford also conceptualized the, "QI Quick Tips," and provided content for that portion of the website. The Center's website provides information and resources for local health departments, partners and KDHE staff that includes:

- "Snapshots" of quality improvement work being undertaken through three KDHE Divisions.
- Resources to assist both internal customers and external customers for work related to quality improvement and measuring progress of improvement.
- Public health accreditation information and tools.
- Information and a link to the statewide Kansas Health Matters <http://kdheks.gov/cpm/qi.htm>, the Healthy Communities Network System for use in conducting community health needs assessment, health improvement planning and tracking of health indicators at the local, regional, state and national level.

The new web site is located under the Office of the Secretary (Administration) and the Division of Public Health web pages on the KDHE web site. Click the CPM logo to navigate to the new website, or contact Brenda Nickels at bnickel@kdheks.gov if you have questions.

Warning Signs of Tooth Decay

*by Marcia A. Manter, Community Development Specialist
Oral Health Kansas (OHK)*



Tooth decay is painless until the decay breaks through the enamel. Tooth decay will cause severe pain, swelling, inflammation, and changes in behavior. Don't ignore it. Decay will grow and spread to other teeth.

Immediate examination and treatment by a dentist can save a tooth.

Do not ignore these warning signs:

- Using only one side of the mouth to chew
- Becoming combative, cranky or withdrawn
- Touching the mouth and cheek frequently
- Complaining about pain
- Asking for pain relievers
- Brown spots on teeth
- Wanting to eat only soft foods
- Sensitivity to hot or cold food
- Chronic bad breath
- Dry mouth



To download the Tooth Decay Warning poster click the OHK logo above; for the Spanish version click the image of the boy brushing his teeth.

Beloit, Sabetha Receive Kansas' First Level IV Trauma Designations

*by Miranda Steele, Public Information Director
Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has designated two Kansas hospitals as Level IV trauma centers. They are

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems in Beloit and Sabetha Community Hospital in Sabetha. Hospital administrators were presented their certificates at a meeting of the State's Advisory Committee on Trauma in Topeka today.

These designations are a landmark, as they are the first hospitals to receive Level IV trauma center designation in the State of Kansas. KDHE was given legislative authority earlier this year to begin designating Level IV trauma centers.

"Trauma center designation is one component of a comprehensive statewide trauma system designed to get patients with life-threatening injuries to a hospital with the necessary resources," said Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer. "It means these hospitals have met essential criteria that ensure institutional performance and trauma care capability."



State trauma designation is a voluntary process that provides confirmation that a hospital has demonstrated



its commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care for all injured patients. To earn designation, the hospital must have the necessary equipment and resources needed for trauma care.

The criteria for trauma center designation was established by the American College of Surgeons and endorsed by the State's Advisory Committee on Trauma. There are four separate categories of designation (Level I, II, III & IV) that are awarded by KDHE. Each category has specific criteria that must be met by a facility seeking that level of designation. Level IV trauma centers are community hospitals that provide urgent care for those who are seriously injured and have relationships with other trauma

centers if a higher level of care is needed.

"A trauma center designation recognizes the hospital's dedication to providing optimal care for those who have been injured in their community. Designated Level IV trauma centers are a vital resource to rural communities when every second matters," said Moser.

Accreditation Corner

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Share Your Leading Health Indicator Story



Healthy People 2020 is looking for real stories from organizations that are working to make its goals a reality. If your organization is doing great work on specific Leading Health Indicators they want to hear about it. Click the Healthy People logo to submit your story.

Core Competencies: Tools to Improve Organizational Performance

by the Council on Linkages



The performance of health departments and other public health organizations is closely tied to the competence of the workforce. Within the field of public health, skills desired for professionals delivering the Essential Public Health Services (EPHS) are detailed in the [Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#) (Core Competencies), a consensus set of competencies that can serve as a starting point for public health organizations trying to better understand and meet their workforce development needs.

The [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice's](#) (Council on Linkages) [Core Competencies Workgroup](#) is developing tools and other resources to help organizations integrate the Core Competencies into their workforce development activities. Resources currently available include:

- A [Crosswalk of the Core Competencies and the Essential Public Health Services](#), illustrating the relationship between individual competencies and the EPHS;

- [Competency Assessments](#) to help public health professionals determine their level of knowledge and skill with respect to each of the competencies;
- The [3-Step Competency Prioritization Sequence](#), a quality improvement process for focusing workforce development efforts on areas that address gaps in workforce strengths, while advancing organizational goals; and
- [Competency-Based Job Descriptions](#) which incorporate the Core Competencies in order to tie work activities to specific skills and help ensure the right fit for a position.

In addition to these existing tools, a number of other resources are under development, including examples of how to demonstrate attainment of competence, examples to help clarify competencies and guidance for building cultural competence.

All of these resources will be made available to public health professionals and organizations in either draft or final form as they are completed. Watch the [Core Competencies Tools webpage](#) or the [Council on Linkages' Update](#) for new resources. For more information about any of these tools, please contact Council on Linkages Project Manager Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

Guide to Funding Your Community Health Initiative

The "County Health Rankings," illustrate that where we live, learn, work and play matters to our health and that by working together we can improve the health of our communities. Moreover, the "Rankings" illustrate that all of us – from public health leaders, researchers, health care providers, community leaders, elected officials and business owners – play a role in improving the health of our individual communities.

A common barrier many communities face is how to get the financial support for new community health policies, programs, or systems changes that are identified during community discussions or planning efforts. The purpose of this guide is to give your team tools for identifying and accessing funding resources for your community health initiative. Click the, "Take Action," logo to learn more.



Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Mini-Grant Opportunities for Youth-Led Tobacco-Use Prevention Projects – Deadline Sept. 3



**TOBACCO FREE KANSAS
COALITION**

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition (TFKC) is providing approximately 15 competitive grant awards of up to \$1000 this upcoming fall 2012 to assist in engaging youth groups in tobacco prevention and education. The grant project is part of TFKC's continuing support for a statewide youth movement to reduce youth use of tobacco products in communities across Kansas.

"Empowering youth to develop their own tobacco prevention systems is a proven way to reduce initiation and use of cigarettes and tobacco products," says Mary Jayne Hellebust, Executive Director of TFKC. She noted that Kansas high school smoking rates have declined from 26 percent in 2000 to 17.1 percent in 2010 but that the latest Youth Tobacco Survey statistics show that 4.1 percent of middle school boys and 15.5 percent of high school boys now report using smokeless tobacco. "These competitive mini grants help youth groups design their own projects to reveal the truth about tobacco use and the misconceptions and marketing tools that still result in almost 3,000 Kansas youth beginning to smoke each year."

Tobacco use, which still remains a leading cause of death and disease in Kansas, usually begins before the age of 18. With funding from the Kansas Health Foundation, TFKC's mini grant program offers funding of up to \$1000 for youth-led tobacco prevention projects that impact other teens at the community level. Youth from 12-17 within school, prevention, church and social groups, youth coalitions, youth sports and afterschool programs may apply for the funding by completing a short application.

The grant application can be obtained on the TFKC website by clicking on their logo above or by contacting Erica Anderson at eanderson@tobaccofreekansas.org. The deadline for this round of applications is Sept. 3, with award announcement made by Sept. 21.

Training Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

A Framework for Local Health Departments and Community Collaboration Webinar



The American Public Health Association (APHA) presents, "Strategies for Working with Local Community Coalition: A Framework for Local Health Departments," on June 5, 1:00-2:00 PM. This webinar will discuss a highly structured step-by-step approach for health departments working with local community coalitions. To register for this webinar, click the APHA logo.

Moving Against Cancer: Working with Local Coalitions



The Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) populations presents, "Moving Against Cancer: Working with Local Coalitions," on June 7, from 12:00 - 1:00 PM. This webinar will discuss current strategies for in working with underserved and emerging Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. To register for this webinar, click the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum logo.

Engaging and Communicating with Governing Entities



The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) is hosting a webinar on June 7, 2:00-3:00 PM which will focus on communication and engagement by the health official or health department staff member trying to engage/communicate with a governing body. Skills built in this webinar will apply to sharing health messages with a variety of audiences. Presentation will cover basic background on boards of health from the NALBOH profile, what the role of the board is in relation to the health department, and types of communicators. To register for this webinar click the NALBOH logo.

Annual KAFP Meeting



KANSAS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CARING FOR KANSANS

Each year the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians membership gathers for its Annual Meeting for training, to elect new leadership, and to provide opportunities to network with colleagues and meet new members. This year's meeting will be in Overland Park at the Marriott Hotel on June 7, 8, and 9. For more information, click the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians logo.

Grant Writing Workshop



GRANT WRITING USA

*by Bureau of Community Health Systems
Kansas Department of Health and Environment*

The Bureau of Community Health Systems will host a grant writing workshop on June 11-12, from 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m., at the Curtis State Office Building, Room 530. The workshop will be facilitated by Grant Writing USA and is targeted at beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities. Please note there is a tuition cost of \$425 associated with this workshop. This registration cost includes the workbook, a resource CD, two days of instruction and free access to Grant Writing USA's Alumni Forums. Payment is preferred at time of enrollment; however, other arrangements may be made.

To begin registration, go to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> and search for course #1032829 in the Course ID field on the home page. For more information, click the Grant Writing USA logo.

2012 Emergency Preparedness for Long-Term Care Train-the-Trainer Workshop



The Kansas Department on Aging with funding from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment presents the Emergency Preparedness for Long-Term Care Train-the-Trainer Workshop. This program is designed to assist key staff in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Residential Healthcare and Home plus organizations in Kansas to plan for potential emergency situations. Other targeted audiences include County Emergency Managers, and Emergency Preparedness Hospital and Local Public Health Preparedness Coordinators.

This is an award-winning national disaster preparedness initiative created by Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging, designed to provide long-term care and senior living communities with the competencies needed to respond to any natural or man-made disaster or emergency. Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging is the research and education area of service for Mather LifeWays, a unique not-for-profit organization based in Illinois.

The workshops are from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with dates and locations as follows:

- June 11
 - Clarion Inn, North Ballroom, 1911 E Kansas Avenue, Garden City
 - Sternberg Museum, Expedition Room, 3000 Sternberg Drive, Expedition Room, Hays
- June 13
 - Holiday Inn, Wichita East I-35, South Ballroom, 549 S Rock Road, Wichita
 - Courtyard Marriott, Cottonwood D, 310 Hammons Drive, Junction City
- June 15
 - Holiday Inn Express, Gorilla/Buffalo Room, 4011 Parkview Drive, Pittsburg
 - Holiday Inn, Kansas Ballroom, 8787 Reeder Street, Overland Park

Pre-registration is required for all attendees and must be done online. To register for your preferred location, go to [KS-TRAIN](#) course # 1033068. Limit of two persons from each organization or corporate office. For more information contact Karla Werth at 785-296-6681 or email at karla.werth@aging.ks.gov.

KDA and KDHE Conducting Zoonotic Disease Workshops

*by Ingrid Garrison, State Public Health Veterinarian
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) are facilitating, "One Health Zoonotic Disease Workshops," for veterinarians, health care professionals and the public health workforce in 2012 and 2013. The day-long workshops will be held June 15 in Topeka; Aug. 9, Colby; Oct. 11, Dodge City and March 2, 2013 in Wichita. Registration for the learning events, are through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1033834.

The objectives of the workshop include:

- Information sharing regarding zoonotic and foreign animal disease preparedness and response measures.
- Discussion of general accepted practices regarding surveillance, disease prevention, routes of transmission, disease reporting, disease reporting and biosecurity, cleaning and disinfection.
- Overview of specific zoonotic and foreign animal diseases.
- Encouraging networking and communication among the participants.



The workshop will include various presentations and conclude with an informal discussion based exercise. Please direct workshop questions to Dr. Tarrie Crnic, Kansas Department of Agriculture, call 785-296-2326 or tarrie.crnic@kda.ks.gov.

PHF Prepares to Launch New Public Health Works Training Series



The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is preparing to launch a new national training series, "Public Health Works," that will benefit State, Tribal, Local and Territorial (STLT) Health Department staff, health care personnel, community health professionals and others. The purpose of this series is to demonstrate how health departments and other public health organizations use evidence-based strategies, interventions and quality improvement methods to improve organizational performance and the health of the communities they serve. To learn more click the PHF logo.

Eat Healthy – Be Active Community Workshops



The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion presents six one-hour workshops that include lesson plans, learning objectives, talking points, hands-on activities and handouts. The workshops are designed for community educators, health promoters, dietitians/nutritionists, cooperative extension agents and others to teach to adults in a wide variety of community settings. To view these workshops click the health.gov logo.

Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds

Are you a lifelong learner? The Spring 2012, Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds' sessions are now available for viewing as archived webcasts through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. [Click HERE](#) to view the library of archived sessions and registration information.

News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Physicians Call for Improvements to Country's Public Health System



The American College of Physicians (ACP) calls for an improved public health infrastructure that works collaboratively with physicians in order to ensure the public's safety and health. The action was highlighted by the release of a new policy paper, "*Strengthening the Public Health Infrastructure*," at Internal Medicine 2012, ACP's annual scientific meeting in New Orleans. To learn more about the policy paper, click the ACP logo.

SAMHSA Launches 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline



The recent spate of severe storms around the country is a driving catalyst behind the decision by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) to change the status of its formerly as-needed helpline available after disasters, into a permanent program, the Disaster Distress Helpline. To learn more click the SAMHSA logo.

As Preterm Births Soar Globally, U.S. Ranks 130 of 184



The world's developed countries have seen their average rate of premature births double to 6 percent since 1995, despite efforts to reduce the phenomenon. The U.S. rate is 12 percent, the worst of the G8 countries. To learn more about premature births, click the Medline Plus logo.

USDA Announces New Safeguards to Protect Consumers from Foodborne Illness



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces a series of prevention-based policy measures that will better protect consumers from foodborne illness in meat and poultry products. These measures will significantly improve the ability to trace contaminated food materials in the supply chain, to act against contaminated products sooner and to establish the effectiveness of food safety systems. Click the USDA logo for more information.

Frontiers in Public Health Services & Systems Research



As noted on its website, this online journal features peer-reviewed articles that offer brief descriptions of preliminary findings from an ongoing or recently completed empirical study or quality improvement project that answers a question of importance regarding the organization, financing and delivery of public health services; the structure, operation, and management of public health delivery systems; the application of quality improvement methods in public health settings; and/or the impact of these endeavors on population health. To learn more click the Frontiers logo.

High-Risk Behaviors for Skin Cancer Common Among Young Adults



Young adults are increasing their risk for developing skin cancer, according to two studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). One study, of people aged 18-29, found that 50 percent reported at least one sunburn in the past year, despite an increase in protective behaviors such as sunscreen use, seeking shade and wearing long clothing to the ankles. Another report found that indoor tanning is common among young adults, with the highest rates of indoor tanning among white women aged 18-21 years (32 percent) and 22-25 years (30 percent). To read these studies click the NCI logo.

Report Identifies Key Obesity-Prevention Strategies to Scale Back 'Weight of the Nation'



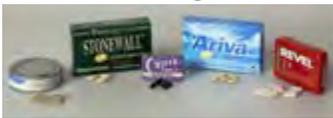
A new report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) says that solving the obesity epidemic requires a comprehensive set of solutions that work together to spur across-the-board societal change. The report identifies strategies with the greatest potential to accelerate success by making healthy foods and beverages and opportunities for physical activity easy, routine, and appealing aspects of daily life. To read more of this report, click the IOM logo.

U.S. Obesity Rate Set to Soar, Costing Billions



Even if the skyrocketing rates of obesity level off, 42 percent of Americans will be obese and 11 percent will be severely obese by the year 2030, a new report predicts. That means 32 million more people will be tipping the scales in the wrong direction, costing the country billions, according to the study, appearing online May 7 in the "American Journal of Preventive Medicine." Click the image on the left to read the complete article.

Surgeon General Report Warns: New Tobacco Ads Share Hard-Hitting Stories



The Grim Reaper — tobacco — is on the prowl in the United States, pointing its proverbial scythe at the nation's kids. With 3.6 million U.S. teens smoking cigarettes, tobacco use — the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States — is threatening to rob the

nation of its very future.



The first update on the subject since the surgeon general's initial report in 1994, "Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults," brings troubling news. In addition to cigarettes' deadly grip on millions of middle school and high school kids, smokeless tobacco products are increasingly attracting America's youth. To read more about this report click the images.

HRSA Launches National Campaign to Educate Older Adults on Registering as Organ Donors



An effort to educate adults 50 and older about the importance of registering to be organ, eye, and tissue donors has been launched by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), in partnership with the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging and the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging. Click the HRSA logo to learn more.

U.S. Lowers Threshold for Lead Poisoning in Children



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has cut the threshold level for defining lead poisoning in children to 5 micrograms per deciliter from 10, marking the first such reduction in 20 years. To learn more, click the Reuters logo.

USPSTF Releases Final Recommendation on Screening for Prostate Cancer



The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), an independent panel of non-Federal experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine and is composed of primary care providers, concludes that many men are harmed as a result of prostate cancer screening and few, if any, benefit. The Task Force recommends against screening for prostate cancer. There is moderate or high certainty that the service has no net benefit or that the harms outweigh the benefits. To learn more about this decision click the USPTF logo.

Interactive Atlas of Heart Disease and Stroke



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides an online mapping tool that documents geographic disparities in cardiovascular diseases and their risk factors at the local level. The atlas allows users to create county-level maps of heart disease and stroke and include overlays of congressional boundaries and health care facility locations. In addition, county-level maps of poverty rates, education levels, the food environment, access to health care and other social factors are available. To learn more click the CDC logo.

County Health Calculator



Want to improve health? Start with where we live, learn, work and play. The County Health Calculator is a tool for advocates and policy makers. Health is about more than healthcare. It is about education, income and the environment in which we live. Use the calculator to see how education and income affect health outcomes. Click the County Health Calculator logo to learn about the outcomes.

NLM Releases Free iPad App, "Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness"



To give those who can't travel to Bethesda, Maryland the opportunity to see this lively virtual experience, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) announces a new, free iPad app that captures the contents of its popular exhibition, "Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness." To learn more click the NLM logo.

NACCHO ePublic Health Informatics



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is establishing a set of criteria that will be used to determine who is eligible to receive Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments for the adoption of certified electronic health records. Included in the criteria, which is broken into three stages, are electronic submissions of syndromic surveillance, laboratory and immunization data to public health agencies. To learn more about the eligibility requirements click the CMS logo.

2012 Primary Care Health Professional Underserved Areas Report



The 2012 Primary Care Health Professional Underserved Areas Report is now available on the KDHE, Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS) website. To download this report, click the KDHE/BCHS.

Job Openings

Franklin County Health Department

The Franklin County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [ARNP \(part-time\)](#)



Johnson County Health Department

The Johnson County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Customer Service Specialist](#)



Lyon County Health Department

The Lyon County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Dental Access Specialist](#)



Reno County Health Department

The Reno County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Home Health Aide](#)



Sedgwick County Health Department

The Sedgwick County Health Department is taking applications for the following positions:

- [Registered Dietitian – WIC \(3 positions\)](#)
- [CHN II - Healthy Babies](#)
- [CHN II - TB Control Program](#)



Shawnee County Health Department

The Shawnee County Health Agency is taking applications for the following positions:

- [Clinical Provider](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse - Primary Care/Women's Health/Float](#)



Wyandotte County Health Department

The Wyandotte County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)



Public Health Connections Information

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