



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Office of Local and Rural Health



Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

Kathleen Sebelius, Governor

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### KANSAS STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

*submitted by Linda Frazier*

*KDHE, Public Health Workforce Development Specialist*

[The National Public Health Performance Standards Program](#) (NPHPSP) is a national partnership effort to improve the practice of public health and the performance of public health systems. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has initiated a state public health performance assessment process using the NPHPSP state assessment instrument.



The NPHPSP state assessment instrument guides states in evaluating their current performance against a set of optimal standards and is based on the framework of the ten [Essential Public Health Services](#). Because many entities contribute to delivering the Essential Services, the focus of the NPHPSP is the “public health system.” The public

health system includes all public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to the delivery of the Essential Public Health Services within a given jurisdiction.

By initiating the state performance assessment process, KDHE will provide leadership to strengthen and improve the state public health system in Kansas. The outcomes of the assessment will be used to develop improvement strategies for the state public health system.

An internal phase of the assessment, evaluating KDHE’s performance against 40 model standards in the state performance assessment instrument, took place in November. Each bureau at KDHE was represented. A second phase, including multiple partners in the state public health system will be conducted after the first phase is analyzed.

By completing the NPHPSP, state public health system partners will document a baseline for system performance. This baseline will provide a foundation for quality improvement activities, to be implemented at the agency level within KDHE as well as the larger public health system, positioning the agency for future public health agency accreditation. For more information, contact Jon Anderson, Office of Local and Rural Health:

[janderson@kdheks.gov](mailto:janderson@kdheks.gov)

## INFLUENZA VACCINATION

*submitted by Sue Bowden, Director  
KDHE Immunization Program*



With annual influenza vaccination recommended for about 85 percent of the U.S. population, chances are everyone has at least one family member for whom influenza vaccination is recommended. Don't take chances with your family's health--make sure you all get vaccinated against influenza every year! It is easy to become infected and to transmit influenza to those at higher risk of health consequences from the disease. If you have any reservations about the importance of vaccination, please access the attachment and the following resources. Protection against influenza is readily available at your healthcare provider, and numerous pharmacies and retail outlets across the state. Vaccine is plentiful this year.

Video Warns Parents about the Dangers of Flu: [Families Fighting Flu, Inc.](#) (FFF), together with CDC, recently released a [video documentary](#) featuring parents who have tragically had a child die as a result of influenza. The video carries a strong message, underscoring the fact that influenza is serious and more than 20,000 children are hospitalized every year due to flu-related complications and some tragically die. Vaccination is the best and most effective way to help prevent the spread of the disease and its potentially severe complications, especially for children ages 6 months through 18 years and children with chronic illnesses such as asthma.

## NEW DRAFT OF CORE COMPETENCIES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

*News from the Public Health Foundation (PHF)*

In the seven years since the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (Core Competencies) were adopted by the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (the Council), the field of public health has seen major changes -- from the events of September 11, 2001 to new technologies, and an aging workforce. On May 23 the Council unanimously approved the new draft of the Core Competencies. In refining and updating the Core Competencies, the Council focused on the "mid-tier" of public health workers - those workers with an MPH (or related degree) and five years of work experience or individuals not having a public health degree but having at least ten years of public health or public health-related work experience.

Submit your comments on the draft [Core Competencies](#). The public comment period ends **December 15, 2008**.

Related Resources:

- Want to learn more about the process used for developing the new draft of Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals? [Visit the Core Competencies website.](#)
- Want to learn more about the Council on Linkages - its members and accomplishments? [Visit the Council on Linkages website.](#)
- Want to find public health continuing education courses by Core Competencies? [Visit TRAIN and search by competency.](#)

People need me . . . they depend on me. We're doing something important here. And knowing that gives me the energy to carry the sack, lead the pack, and keep coming back . . . Santa



## HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS NEW ADMINISTRATOR AT NESS COUNTY

*submitted by Eva Patterson, Administrator  
Ness County Health Department*



Eva Patterson is the new Ness County Health Department Administrator. She moved to Ransom, Kansas with her family in January of this year, after growing up and living most of her life in the northern Willamette Valley of Oregon. The move to Ransom was a decision made to get out of the rat-race of the metropolitan areas; and Eva says "They Love It Here". After high school, Eva did some part-time college, with no particular direction in mind but in 2005, she went back to college full-time, and chose the Health Care Administration field. After completing her Associate of Applied Science degree in June of 2006, she worked in a physician office for just over a year before her current professional move to the health department, and to what she already knew... that she likes to work with the public. Eva is looking forward to the upcoming holidays, and spending time with her family and new friends she has made here in Kansas.

### OTHER COUNTIES

Hamilton County new Nurse Administrator is Monique Cheatum  
Haskell County new Nurse Administrator is Vada Winger.

### REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEETINGS – 2009

Upcoming Regional Public Health Meetings and Billing Workshops.

- **North Central Region:** 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. please contact Debbie Whitmer at (785) 827-9639 for meeting location and time.  
Mar. 31     June 23     Sept. 22     Dec. 22
- **Northeast Region:** Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Flint Hills Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Topeka, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please contact Linda Frazier at (785) 296-3641 if you have any questions.  
Mar. 12     June 11     Sept. 10     Dec. 10
- **Northwest Region:** NW Educational Service Center, Oakley, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Mar. 12     June 11     Sept. 10     Dec. 10
- **South Central Region:** Reno County Health Department, 209 W. Second, Hutchinson, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Feb. 20     May 27     Aug. 6     Nov. 25
- **Southeast Region:** Southeast District Office, 1500 W. Seventh, Meadowlark Room, Chanute, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Feb. 12     May 14     Aug. 13     Nov. 12
- **Southwest Region:** Finney County Administration Building, 311 N. Ninth, Garden City, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Feb. 20     May 15     Aug. 21     Nov. 20

### BILLING WORKSHOPS - 2009

- **NE Billing Group:** Shawnee County Health Agency, 1615 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Auditorium, Topeka, 9 a.m. - noon.  
Feb. 5     May 7     Aug. 6     Nov. 5
- **Billing Biddies:** (North Central) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Mar. 4     June 3     Sept. 2     Dec. 2
- **Billers Anonymous:** (Northwest) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Jan. 13     Apr. 14     July 14     Oct. 13
- **Mission Impossible Group:** (South Central) 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Reno County Health Department, Hutchinson.  
Feb. 19     May 21     Aug. 20     Nov. 19
- **KUG's:** meets from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Satanta District Hospital's education room (in basement).  
To be announced.
- **Billers-R-Us:** (Southeast) Southeast District Office in Chanute, Meadowlark Room, 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Jan. 13     Apr. 14     July 14     Oct. 13

## YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

*submitted by Sam Sunderraj, Professional Environmental Engineer  
KDHE, Office of Waste Management*

In the home or on the road, daily activities cause emissions of greenhouse gases. Individuals can produce greenhouse gas emissions directly by burning oil or gas for home heating or indirectly by using electricity generated from fossil fuel burning.

Within the United States, per person emissions can vary depending on a person's location, habits and personal choices. For example, the types of fuel used to generate the electricity a person uses can lead to different levels of emissions. A power plant run on coal emits more greenhouse gases per unit of electricity than a power plant that uses natural gas. How much you drive and your vehicle's fuel efficiency, as well as time spent idling in traffic, also affect the level of emissions. In addition, the amount of recycling done by a person in his or her home can affect emissions by reducing the amount of methane-generating waste sent to landfills. Click on the footprint to take your own personal emissions assessments.



## ESSENTIAL SERVICES TOOL

*submitted by Linda Frazier  
KDHE, Public Health Workforce Development Specialist*

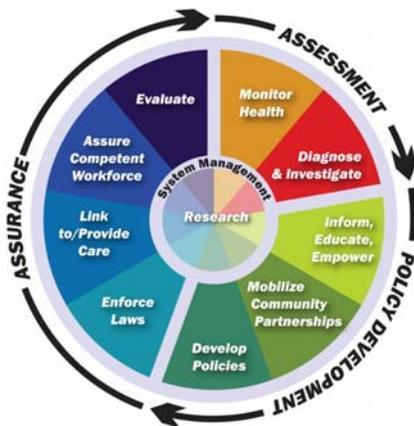
We introduced the new Essential Services Tool in the August edition of Connections. The tool is located at <http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/index.html>. Over the last three months we highlighted three of the functions it could be used for:

1. Increase understanding of Essential Services and Core Public Health Competencies
2. Create job descriptions
3. Develop Training Plans

This month we will highlight another function: "Begin a Community Health Assessment"

When you click on "Monitor Health" on the Essential Services Tool, it takes you to Essential Service One: Monitor Health Status to Identify Community Health Problems. Scroll down to "Resources" and you will find a link to Mobilizing for Action through Planning and

Partnerships (MAPP) is a community-driven strategic planning tool for improving community health. Next is a link to The Community Tool Box, which provides over 7,000 pages of practical information to support your work in promoting community health and development. Also provided are links to several national and state data resources for information you will need to begin your community health assessment.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS REPORT

*recommended by Dan Partridge, Administrator  
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department*

The goal of Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) is to provide an overview of key health indicators for local communities and to encourage dialogue about actions that can be taken to improve a community's health. The CHSI report was designed not only for public health professionals but also for members of the community who are interested in the health of their community. The CHSI report contains over 200 measures for each of the 3,141 United States counties. Although CHSI presents indicators like deaths due to heart disease and cancer, it is imperative to understand that behavioral factors such as tobacco use, diet, physical activity, alcohol and drug use, sexual behavior and others substantially contribute to these deaths (see chart). Click on the logo to the right to view this Web site.

In addition to the web pages, community profiles can be displayed on maps or downloaded in a brochure format. The CHSI mapping capability allows users to visually compare similar counties (termed peer counties) as well as adjacent counties with their county. The downloaded CHSI report allows broad dissemination of information to audiences that may not have access to the internet.





the browser print option. To access the CHSI mapping tool, select the mapping option at the top right-hand corner of the page.

## IN THE NEWS

*submitted by Linda Frazier*

*KDHE, Public Health Workforce Development Specialist*



Search engine giant Google launched a new tool that will help U.S. federal health experts track the annual flu epidemic. "Google Flu Trends" uses search terms that people put into the Web-based search engine to figure out where influenza is heating up, and notify the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in real time. "We've discovered that certain search terms are good indicators of flu activity," Google said in a statement.

"What this does is it takes Google search terms of influenza-like illness and influenza and it emulates a signal that tells us how much influenza activity there was," Dr. Lyn Finelli, chief of influenza surveillance at the CDC, said in a telephone interview.

Studies indicate that between 35 and 40 percent of all visits to the Internet are begun by people looking for health information. When people are sick, they tend to look up their symptom. Click on the Google logo to read the full story.



Satellite conference and live webcast, Strengthening Public Health Capacity to Serve the Community: Applying Accreditation and Quality Improvement Tools. This program will be broadcast on Thursday, Dec. 11, 12:00-1:30 p.m.: [www.adph.org/alphntn](http://www.adph.org/alphntn).



**Health Data Tools and Statistics:** Health Data Interactive [www.cdc.gov/nchs/hdi.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hdi.htm). Tables with national health statistics for infants, children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. Tables can be customized by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and geographic location to explore different trends and patterns.

Webcast: Public Health Survival: Leadership in a Falling Market [www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/public\\_health\\_survival\\_leadership\\_in\\_a\\_falling\\_market\\_8968\\_9396.html](http://www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/public_health_survival_leadership_in_a_falling_market_8968_9396.html)  
Dec. 15, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Health Data Tools and Statistics:** Health Data Interactive [www.cdc.gov/nchs/hdi.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hdi.htm)

Tables with national health statistics for infants, children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. Tables can be customized by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and geographic location to explore different trends and patterns.

BRFSS Data Show Unhealthiest, Healthiest U.S. Cities [www.rwjf.org/publichealth/digest.jsp?id=8982](http://www.rwjf.org/publichealth/digest.jsp?id=8982). Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) suggests that Huntington, WV, is the least healthy community in the nation, and Burlington, VT is the healthiest, according to an Associated Press analysis of the information.

New CDC Study Finds Community Physical Activity Programs Are Money Well Spent [www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r081114.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r081114.htm). Community-based physical activity interventions designed to promote more active lifestyles among adults are cost-effective in reducing heart disease, stroke, colorectal and breast cancers, and type 2 diabetes, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



New International Survey: More Than Half of U.S. Chronically Ill Adults Skip Needed Care Due to Costs

[www.commonwealthfund.org/newsroom/newsroom\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=727076](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/newsroom/newsroom_show.htm?doc_id=727076)

Compared to patients in seven other countries, chronically ill adults in the United States are far more likely to forgo care because of costs; they also experience the highest rates of medical errors, coordination problems, and high out-of-pocket costs, according to a new study from The Commonwealth Fund.

New NCHS Health Data Interactive Web Site

[www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/hdi/whatsnewhealth\\_data\\_interactive.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/hdi/whatsnewhealth_data_interactive.htm)

The National Center for Health Statistics has combined two interactive, web-based applications, Health Data for All Ages and Trends in Health and Aging, to create a new site, Health Data Interactive.

Workforce Development: National Center for Health Workforce Analysis

<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/>

Reports on the U.S. health workforce including health workforce profiles, shortages, and other analysis reports.

### Websites and Internet Videos

*recommended by Dawn McGlasson, Deputy Director  
Office of Oral Health*

- This is Public Health - [http://www.thisispublichealth.org/video\\_highres.html](http://www.thisispublichealth.org/video_highres.html)
- Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) Pathways Videos - <http://pathwaystopublichealth.org/ASPH-Pathways-Videos/50/>
- What is Public Health? - <http://www.whatispublichealth.org/about.html>
- Pathways to Public Health - <http://pathwaystopublichealth.org/>
- The Face of Public Health, DVD / Videotape (available from APHA) - in this moving video, the people of public health share what they do and how their work improves and protects the lives of those in their communities. Color, eight minutes. Available in DVD and VHS - APHA Member: \$13.99; Non-Member: \$19.99  
<https://secure.apha.org/source/orders/index.cfm>

### SAFE SLUMBER FOR THE CHILD CARE PROVIDER

*submitted by Christy S. Schunn, LSCSW  
SIDS Network of Kansas, Inc.*

Safe Slumber for the Child Care Provider is now on KS Train course #1014900. This presentation, primarily for child care providers, will focus on what Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is and is not, ways to reduce the risk of SIDS in the child care setting, how to handle a SIDS emergency and how to help yourself and others cope when SIDS occurs. Participants will explore strategies to reduce the risk of SIDS in the child care setting such as not smoking, back sleeping, proper temperature control, encouraging breastfeeding, proper use of pacifiers, establishing a *Safe Sleep Policy* and support information from the SIDS Network of Kansas. The course addresses definitions and statistics of SIDS and describes steps to reduce infant death in the child care setting.



## SCHOOL ORAL HEALTH SCREENING INITIATIVE

*submitted by Caron Shipley, School Oral Health Coordinator  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment*

### Oral Health Initiative

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Oral Health has developed an online training course, "Kansas Oral Health Screening Initiative" to "calibrate" dentists and dental hygienists performing dental screenings in Kansas schools. Kansas does have a state statute requiring annual school dental inspections for children, K-12. This course will provide standardized guidance to screeners performing oral screenings. The data collected from the screenings will be sent to the

State (OOH) and analyzed on county levels with results displayed on the OOH website.

This training was developed through the generous funding provided by the Kansas Health Foundation and the Delta Dental Foundation of Kansas. The Office of Local and Rural Health provided much technical assistance in placing this course on the Kansas Train at <http://ks.train.org> course #1015144.

Dental professionals taking the course and passing with an 80% competency rate will receive two Dental Continuing Education Credits. School nurses may also take this course, to obtain background information on how to facilitate the screening process. Nurses may self-submit for continuing education credit. More information and screening forms are available on the Office of Oral Health's website:

<http://www.kdheks.gov/ohi/index.html>. For more information contact Caron Shipley at (785) 291-3683.

## HEALTHY SMILES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

*submitted by Pamela Younger, R.D.H. ECP II*

*Oral Health Kansas Parent Educator for Children with Special Healthcare Needs*

Kansas Office of Oral Health and Oral Health Kansas announce a new continuing education online course on TRAIN, "Healthy Smiles for Children with Special Needs." The course provides basic information about oral health conditions and challenges experienced by children and youth with special health care needs. It also describes actions to prevent oral disease for everyone who supports children and youth needing specialized dental care. The course content is valuable to dental and medical staff, as well as those who are therapists, caregivers, and family members. This online course provides 2 free dental continuing education units, and other professionals searching for continuing education can receive a certificate verifying 2 hours in order to self-apply to their respective association. To access TRAIN, go to <http://ks.train.org>. Course #1015072.

## JOB OPENING AT SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

- CHN II - General Clinic [20002329111908](http://ks.train.org)
- Registered Dietician - WIC [20005880102108](http://ks.train.org)

Click on a job number to view details. For more information click the Sedgwick Seal on the right, or contact Jeff Goetzinger, Human Resource Assistant, Sedgwick County Health Department at (316) 660-7333.



**LOCAL HEALTH SECTION  
OFFICE OF LOCAL & RURAL HEALTH**

<p>Shirley Orr Director Local Health 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-296-7100 Cell phone –316-250-6940 Fax number 785-296-1231 E-mail address – <a href="mailto:sorr@kdheks.gov">sorr@kdheks.gov</a></p>	<p>Jon Anderson Public Health Capacity Development Manager 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-296-8435 Cell Phone – 785-231-9828 Fax number – 785-296-1231 E-mail address – <a href="mailto:janderson@kdheks.gov">janderson@kdheks.gov</a></p>
<p>Linda Frazier Public Health Workforce Development Specialist 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-296-3641 Cell phone – 785-231-4504 Fax number - 785-296-1231 E-mail address – <a href="mailto:lfrazier@kdheks.gov">lfrazier@kdheks.gov</a></p>	<p>Debbie Whitmer PH Nurse Specialist 2501-D Market Place Salina, KS 67401-7699 Office phone –785-827-9639 Cell phone – 785-220-8326 Fax number – 785-827-1544 Email address – <a href="mailto:dwhitmer@kdheks.gov">dwhitmer@kdheks.gov</a></p>
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