



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

December - 2013 Volume 13, Issue 12

Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

What's Inside

KDHE Reports on Health of Kansas Veterans, Veterans Health Is Often Different than Civilians..... 2

Save the Dates - 2014 Governor’s Public Health Conference..... 2

In the Spotlight - Montgomery County and KDHE Hold Free Blood Lead Screening Clinic..... 3

In the Spotlight - Farmworker Health Program Encourages Healthy Eating Habits..... 3

January is Radon Action Month Reminder – Free Test Kits Available 4

Upcoming Regional Public Health Meetings..... 4

Local Public Health Leadership Series 4

Epi Updates Shared During Monthly Population Health Call..... 5

CDC Updates Recommendations for Pertussis Post-Exposure Prophylaxis 5

Kansas Vaccination Manual from IKK and KAAP..... 6

Open Enrollment Starts for KanCare Members..... 6

Kansas Narrowly Misses Second Place in Text4baby National Contest 6

KDHE Reports on Local Level Health Behaviors, Conditions 7

2012 Natality and Mortality Data Added to Kansas Health Matters 7

New County Economic Impact Reports Released..... 7

Healthy Students are Better Students 8

Suicide Rate Climbing in Kansas and U.S. 8

Rural Health Virtual Training Gateway 8

Office of Communications Launches the Dispatch 8

Accreditation Corner 9

 New Resource: Guide to Communicating about Performance Improvement 9

Funding Opportunities 9

 Project Orange Thumb Grant - Deadline Dec. 31 9

 Rural Health Network Planning Grant Opportunity - Deadline Jan. 16, 2014..... 9

 HealthierUS School Challenge Training Mini-Grants 9

 Healthy Habits..... 10

 Do Something Grants..... 10

Training Announcements..... 10

 Spring 2014 Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds..... 10

 Navigating Rural Health Resources: Telemedicine in Kansas - Dec. 12 10

 Fall 2014 KPHA Conference - Mark your Calendar 10

 CDC Introduces New Strategic National Stockpile Online Course..... 10

 New Universal Sample Submission Form 11

 Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases 11

 You Call the Shots..... 11

News and Resources..... 11

 Population Health and Preparedness State Wide Call..... 11

 10 Things E-Cigarettes Won't Tell You 12

 CDC Operations Under the 2014 Continuing Resolution..... 12

 Annual Hospital Safety Scorecard 12

 Million Hearts Initiative 12

 Nurses Health Study..... 12

On the Lighter Side..... 12

 Six Components Necessary for Effective Public Health Program Implementation..... 13

 Flavored-Little-Cigar and Flavored-Cigarette Use Among U.S. Middle and High School Students 13

 Evidence-based Information and Resources for the Healthy People 2020 Topic Areas 13

ACC/AHA Release New Guideline for Assessing Cardiovascular Risk in Adults..... 13

Job Openings 13

Harvey County..... 13

Johnson County Health Department 13

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department 14

Pottawatomie County..... 14

Saline County Health Department..... 14

Sedgwick County Health Department 14

Shawnee County Health Department..... 14

Wyandotte County Health Department..... 14

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters..... 14

Public Health Connections Information 14

KDHE Reports on Health of Kansas Veterans, Veterans Health Is Often Different than Civilians

*by Ginger Park, Communications Manager
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) released a report in November on the health of Kansans Veterans. This review of 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data shows many differences in health conditions between veterans and civilians and between younger veterans (18 to 64 years old) and older veterans (65 years old and older). Veterans are defined as those who reported they had ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, either in the regular military or in a National Guard or military reserve unit.

“I encourage health care providers to use the information in this report to be informed of the increased health risks for veterans and provide appropriate advice and support to these individuals, including referrals to many of the support systems available for our veterans,” said Robert Moser, M.D., Secretary and State Health Officer, KDHE.

This data shows that younger veterans (18-64) are more diverse than older veterans. Younger veterans are less likely to be non-Hispanic white and more likely to be female. Younger veterans had a higher prevalence of having health care coverage but also had a higher prevalence of many health issues including overweight/ obesity, disability, depression, hypertension, coronary heart disease, diabetes and heart attack than civilians 18-64 years old.

The health differences between senior veterans (65 and older) and senior civilians were much less pronounced. Senior veterans had a higher prevalence of the following conditions: cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, heart attack, overweight/ obesity and stroke as compared to senior civilians.

More veterans 18-64 years old were diagnosed with depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as compared to senior veterans. The percentage of veterans who have received psychological or psychiatric treatment in the past year was more than three times higher among younger veterans as compared to senior veterans.

“This report shows that many veterans are using the health and mental health services available to them,” said Moser. “We encourage all veterans to use these services to maintain and improve their health.”

As the battles the U.S. is involved in move around the world, the challenges, skills, demands and risks to which veterans must adapt continue to change as well. Improving veterans’ health depends on the ability to describe veterans’ health risks and understand what prevention strategies and resources to choose. This report is a first step at describing the health of this population in Kansas. To view the full report, click the image above.

Save the Dates - 2014 Governor’s Public Health Conference
 Save April 29-May 1, 2014 for the 9th Annual Governor’s Public Health Conference, Wichita, Marriott
 “Connecting the Dots for Healthy Kansans”

In the Spotlight - Montgomery County and KDHE Hold Free Blood Lead Screening Clinic



by the Bureau of Environmental Remediation, KDHE

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Prevention Program, in partnership with the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics (BEPHI), Bureau of Environmental Remediation (BER), the City of Cherryvale and the Montgomery County Health Department held a free blood lead screening clinic on Nov. 13 and 14 in Cherryvale at a local community building. The clinic was provided to all residents - children and adults - of Montgomery County. The purpose of the clinic was to give Montgomery County residents an opportunity for a free assessment of their blood lead levels. A total of 133 citizens were screened during the clinic.

State and local health officials were on hand to answer questions and provide information on sources of lead exposure and potential health outcomes. In addition, BER representatives provided educational materials to citizens pertaining to the National Zinc Company Site, located in Cherryvale. The site was a zinc smelting facility operating from 1898 to 1976 that generated large volumes of solid waste which was historically used as fill material in the Cherryvale community. These waste materials can be contaminated with heavy metals like lead, cadmium, arsenic and/or zinc. BER is currently overseeing investigation activities to determine the extent of soil contamination in the City of Cherryvale. Additional information for the site is available by clicking on the image above.

In the Spotlight - Farmworker Health Program Encourages Healthy Eating Habits



by the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

The Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program (KSFHP) is placing a greater focus on encouraging and teaching farmworker families to change eating habits in order to maintain a healthy weight. After a review of five different curriculums, KSFHP staff chose www.choosemyplate.gov, developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as the basis of the intervention. KSFHP staff wrote the transcript and created a video record of the intervention in Spanish and English. The video was then sent to all KSFHP staff and expert farmworkers for review and feedback.

The bilingual comic book, "Small Changes Big Results", as well as colorful bilingual MyPlate worksheets were identified to supplement and reinforce concepts. The intervention was named Healthy Plate to Healthy Weight Curriculum. A critical aspect of this curriculum is that it utilizes a one session face to face encounter, to overcome barriers due to lack of transportation, limited availability, and farmworker mobility. It is appropriate for individual or small group settings, and the information is presented mostly visually and verbally due to education level and limited English proficiency. The curriculum uses popular education methods to engage and encourage community involvement and active learning which is culturally appropriate.

Kendra Baldrige and Patricia Fernandez along with Dr. Jill Kilanowski presented the curriculum during a well-attended break-out session at the Midwest Stream Farmworker Health Forum on Nov. 16. The presentation was interactive, informative and fun and they received good feedback from the Health Promoters and Case Workers who attended the session. KSFHP staff looks forward to continuing to implement this curriculum with their clients as well as spread the information to other programs throughout the country so that it can be utilized in other states. Visit KSFHP's website at www.ksfhp.org. and "Like" their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ksfhp.



January is Radon Action Month Reminder – Free Test Kits Available



by Angela German, Public Health Educator
Bureau of Environmental Health, KDHE

Just a reminder that it is not too late to contact Angela German for free radon test kits to disseminate to the public. In January and February 2014, 1,500 radon test kits will be distributed free through county health departments and local organizations.

The success of this project is dependent on the participation of many partners. Currently there is a total of 55 participants, but you still have time to join in on this project. A greater number of partners will help ensure the success of the radon kit distribution as well as increase the knowledge of Kansans regarding exposure to radon as a risk for the lung cancer, especially among those who smoke or are exposed to second hand smoke.

Thank you in advance for your interest and participation. We look forward to working with you on this project. For more information contact Angela German at agerman@kdheks.gov or call 785-368-7154.

Upcoming Regional Public Health Meetings

by Teri Caudle, Public Health Specialist, Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

Don't miss the opportunity to attend one of the upcoming regional public health meetings, which are designed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work that you do within your communities. These meetings are designed for the local public health department administrator; however, any staff interested in a particular topic are welcome to attend.

Learn more about Enforcement of Hotel and Restaurant Inspections from Adam Inman with the Kansas Department of Agriculture and Disease/Outbreak Investigation from a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) expert. The dates and locations are:

- North Central region in Beloit on Dec. 10
- Northeast region in Topeka on Dec. 19
- Northwest region in Oakley on Jan. 9
- Southeast region in Chanute on Jan. 16

Register on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID: 1047085. If you have ideas for regional meeting topics please contact Teri Caudle at tcaudle@kdheks.gov.

Local Public Health Leadership Series

by Jane Shirley, Population Health Center Director
Local Public Health Program Director
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) are offering a leadership development opportunity for public health professionals in Eastern Kansas for Spring 2014. Sessions have been held in the western and central parts of the state and it is anticipated that future opportunities will be made available in other regions.

The purpose of the Local Public Health Leadership Series is to equip individuals and their departments to exercise leadership for the enhancement of the Medicaid service system.

Leadership involves mobilizing others, sometimes without direct authority to do so, in an effort to address difficult community challenges. These difficult, daunting, adaptive challenges don't have a single expert or manager that can fix them. In fact, they can't be "fixed." Progress can be made to address adaptive challenges but it will require learning, involvement of stakeholders and persistent efforts. Public health professionals are in key positions to provide this kind of leadership.

The Local Public Health Leadership Series will develop core knowledge and skills related to identifying and responding to adaptive challenges. The focus will be on development of leadership competencies identified by the Kansas Leadership Center: Diagnosing the Situation, Managing Self, Energizing Others and Intervening Skillfully.

The Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research (WSU-CCSR) will serve as faculty and coaches for the series which is modeled after the Kansas Leadership Center's (KLC) training curriculum and methods. If you want to know more, click the KLC logo or email seth.bate@wichita.edu.

Materials, hotel accommodations ([Holiday Inn Convention Center](#)), travel stipends and most meals are provided.

This will require attendance at four 1 ½-day sessions which will take place at the Holiday Inn, Lawrence.

- March 5 afternoon and evening; March 6 morning and afternoon

(Cont'd)

(Cont'd from page 4)

- April 10 afternoon and evening; April 11 morning and afternoon
- May 5 afternoon and evening; May 6 morning and afternoon
- June 5 afternoon and evening; June 6 morning and afternoon
(*schedule subject to updates*)



In addition to class sessions, participants will be expected to spend about three hours completing assignments between each session. Assignments may include reading, written reflections, conversations with a coach and consulting with a peer group. All work between sessions can be accomplished individually, by phone or online.

If you are interested in participating in this program, click on the KALHD logo and complete the application by Dec. 31, and return it to michelle.ponce@kalhd.org.

Enrollment is limited; those not selected will be eligible to apply for future development opportunities.

Epi Updates Shared During Monthly Population Health Call

EPI UPDATES

by Charles Hunt, State Epidemiologist

Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE

During the Nov. 26, Population Health Conference Call, Charles Hunt, State Epidemiologist, KDHE, discussed the FY2012 initiated pilot performance measures for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement related to, Disease Reporting and Disease Control. The study was limited to a small number of diseases and to five randomly selected counties. This grant year, FY2013-2014, Kansas and all other states are expanding the measures statewide. KDHE is including additional diseases since some of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention selected diseases occur too rarely to provide meaningful data. Diseases to be tracked are botulism, measles, meningococcal disease, pertussis, varicella, tularemia, shiga-toxin producing E. coli, salmonellosis, shigellosis and hepatitis A.

Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health began publishing statewide PHEP data in the [Nov. issue of Epi Updates](#) newsletter. Data are for the current PHEP budget period, July 1, 2013 through the end of the previous month. The bureau is also working on a process for county or regional level data to be disseminated to Kansas local health departments. To view PHEP information click the Epi Updates logo.

CDC Updates Recommendations for Pertussis Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

by Charles Hunt, State Epidemiologist

Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently [updated recommendations for post-exposure prophylaxis](#) (PEP) for contacts of pertussis cases. The CDC website notes bulleted points that can be shared with your community healthcare providers on targeting post-exposure antibiotic use to persons at high risk of developing severe pertussis and to persons who will have close contact with those at high risk of developing severe pertussis.

Previous recommendations were to provide PEP to most close contacts, regardless of setting. Extensive contact tracing and widespread use of antibiotics among contacts may not be an effective use of limited public health resources and the widespread PEP also raises concerns about over-use of antibiotics.

CDC now recommends targeted PEP to:

- Household contacts
- Infants < 12 months
- Pregnant women in the third trimester
- Persons with pre-existing health conditions that may be exacerbated by pertussis
- Contacts who themselves have close contact with infants, pregnant women, or others with pre-existing health conditions at risk of severe illness or complications
- All contacts in high risk settings (e.g., those that include infants or women in third trimester of pregnancy)
- Broader use may be warranted in limited circumstances (clusters, outbreaks, etc.)

Kansas Department of Health and Environment will issue updated Disease Investigation Guidelines and will communicate changes in recommendations to local health departments and other partners.

Kansas Vaccination Manual from IKK and KAAP

by Dennis M. Cooley, MD, FAAP

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics



The Kansas Vaccination Manual from Immunize Kansas Kids (IKK) and the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) is now available in app form for Android phones and tablets and for iPhone and iPad devices.

This manual app will help providers manage the ever-changing immunization situation, in a concise and easy-to-use source. Tailored for the busy Kansas provider, it is written by Kansas health care professionals who understand the immunization issues providers encounter in their practices.

The Immunize Kansas Kids project is a unique partnership among the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Health Institute and dozens of stakeholder organizations across Kansas. IKK's goal is to protect every Kansas child from vaccine preventable diseases. This project is made possible by funding and support from the Kansas Health Foundation. The Kansas Health Foundation is a philanthropic organization whose mission is to improve the health of all Kansans.

To download an app version visit:

[Android App Link](#)

[iTunes App Link](#)

To request hard copies of the manual and find online resources, including a PDF version of the manual, visit kansasaap.org. For phone support, call KDHE's Kansas Immunization Program at 855-896-7337, and for immunization questions, contact KAAP at immunizations@kansasaap.org.

Open Enrollment Starts for KanCare Members

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



healthcare Community Health Plan.

KanCare members who joined the new Medicaid program on Jan. 1, 2013, will have an open enrollment period from Dec. 1, 2013, to March 2, 2014. During this open enrollment period, members will have the opportunity to switch health plans after reviewing their current KanCare services and comparing services among the three KanCare health plans: Amerigroup, Sunflower State Health Plan, UnitedH-

This first group of members received open enrollment packets at the end of November. Members who enrolled in KanCare after Jan. 1, 2013, will have their open enrollment period in 2014 during the corresponding month of their original enrollment.

KanCare members who like the plan they have now and do not want to change plans will be able to continue with their current health plan without taking action on the open enrollment packet.

If you're a KanCare member and have questions regarding open enrollment, please call KanCare Consumer Assistance at 1-866-305-5147. To find more information about KanCare open enrollment, including a video message from KanCare Ombudsman Mr. James Bart, visit the KanCare website by clicking on the KanCare logo.

Kansas Narrowly Misses Second Place in Text4baby National Contest

by Joseph Kotsch, Maternal and Child Health Program,
Bureau of Family Health, KDHE



Kansas was .6 percent away from second place for medium states in the national text4baby enrollment contest designed to encourage pregnant women and new moms to sign up for the free service. It is easy for a woman to enroll by texting the word "baby" (or "bebe" in Spanish) to 511411 and typing in the due date/birth date and zip code. Through free text messages, pregnant women and moms with babies under age one receive customized health and safety information and public health alerts to support them in achieving key developmental milestones, giving their babies the best possible start in life. Kansas is currently ninth in the nation for percentage of enrollees per eligible population. For more information click the text4baby logo.

KDHE Reports on Local Level Health Behaviors, Conditions

*by Ginger Park, Communications Manager
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recently released, "Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System-Local Data, 2011", which highlights health risk behavior statistics for local geographic areas compiled through data from the 2011 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. More than

20,000 adult Kansans participated in the 2011 survey, comprising a sample large enough to provide reliable information for 43 of the state's 105 counties and for 16 Public Health Preparedness Regions.

"BRFSS data help public health professionals measure Kansans health behaviors, conditions and concerns at the state and the local level," said Robert Moser, M.D., Secretary and State Health Officer, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). "These data are important when we consider where to focus our public health efforts and to help us emphasize the benefits of prevention."

BRFSS provides data on a wide range of health issues including information related to access to health care, chronic and infectious diseases, clinical preventive services, environmental quality, infant and child health, injury and violence, maternal health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, obesity, oral health, reproductive and sexual health, substance abuse and tobacco use.

The Kansas BRFSS is a random digit-dial telephone survey conducted among non-institutionalized adults age 18 years and older residing in a private residence with a landline and/or cellular telephone. KDHE's Bureau of Health Promotion has conducted the Kansas BRFSS survey continuously since 1992. The data are used extensively for monitoring the contributors to disease and premature death; tracking health status and assessing trends; measuring knowledge, attitudes and opinions; providing measures for program evaluation; and conducting program planning.

The local level data website is designed for use by local and regional public health officials, community leaders and decision makers in identifying health conditions and behaviors related to chronic and communicable diseases, disability and injury. The information is unique to each county and/or region and provides counties and regions the ability to compare their data with state statistics. Data from 2011 onward cannot be compared to previous years as the BRFSS data collection and analysis methods changed beginning in 2011. Click the KDHE logo.

2012 Natality and Mortality Data Added to Kansas Health Matters

*by Greg Crawford, Director, Vital Statistics Data Analysis
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics,
KDHE*



The Kansas Health Matters (KHM) site has been updated to include 2012 natality and mortality information. Natality indicators include nine major measures on pregnancy outcomes tracked by public health agencies in Kansas, ranging from infant mortality to teen pregnancy. The mortality indicators include population based rates and years of productive life lost for the top ten leading causes of death. Most of the KHM indicators have been updated for 2012, the most recent year available. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment provides statistics to Kansas Health Matters as part of its participation in the Kansas Partnership for Improving Community Health. If you have questions about KHM, visit [Ask an Expert](#) or any of the [resources and training materials](#) available.

Add these links to your Favorites:

[Public Health Informatics Group](#)
[Kansas Information for Communities](#)
[Kansas Health Matters](#)

New County Economic Impact Reports Released

by the Kansas Hospital Association



The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) is pleased to release the new county-level analysis of the economic contributions and potential of the local health care sector on the economies of each of the state's 105 counties.

The new county economic impact report, "The Importance of the Health Care Sector to the Economy," is available by clicking on the KHA logo. The report was completed by Kansas Rural Health Works and the Office of Local Government, K-State Research and Extension. Funding for the reports was provided by KHA. The purpose of the report is to provide hospitals with data and information that may be used to communicate to community leaders, policymakers, and concerned citizens on the relative importance of health care to the local economy. KHA shared the findings of these reports with legislators and the media.

Healthy Students are Better Students

*by Marley Sugar, Health & Wellness Program Manager
Midwest Dairy Council*



Midwest Dairy Council is pleased to announce the release of a new report, "The Wellness Impact: Enhancing Academic Success Through Healthy School Environments." The report helps make the case that health is not a competing priority to academic performance; in fact, healthy behaviors, including good nutrition and physical activity, can help students learn better.

The support of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for Fuel Up to Play 60 has been instrumental in creating healthier schools - and healthier students. To read the Wellness Impact report, click on one of the images. We encourage you to further your leadership in this important conversation by:

- Sharing copies of the report and the briefs with school administrators, parents and student leaders
- Presenting the information to your local school board or parent Teacher Association/Organization groups
- Helping your school(s) wellness committee reinvigorate their existing school wellness program



This report will direct public attention toward the importance of school wellness and students' readiness to learn, which includes the role of good nutrition and regular physical activity. If you'd like more information, please contact Marley Sugar, RD, LD, Health and Wellness Program Manager with Midwest Dairy Council at msugar@midwestdairy.com. To

learn more about the Midwest Dairy Association click their logo.

Suicide Rate Climbing in Kansas and U.S.

from the Kansas Health Institute News Service



At least once a week, Kimberly Rowlands talks to someone contemplating suicide. "It's a big chunk of what I do," she said. Rowlands, 48, is what is called a mental health co-responder. When Olathe police respond to reports of someone threatening to kill himself or herself, she goes with them. "I wouldn't even guess how many times I've been called out," she said. "I'm not on duty 24 hours a day, but when I'm working and a call comes in, I go out." Rowlands is on the front line of a problem that is growing nationally and in Kansas.

Suicides have exceeded automobile deaths since 2009 to become the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. In Kansas, suicides increased more than 31 percent between 2011 and 2012. Click the Kansas Health Institute News Service logo to read the complete article.

Rural Health Virtual Training Gateway

from the National Rural Health Resource Center



The Rural Health Virtual Training Gateway newsletter was developed for the State Flex Programs, rural hospital contacts, rural networks and those involved in rural health care across the country. The Newsletter highlights upcoming distance-learning educational opportunities that can be found on the National Rural Health Resource Center's Rural Health Virtual Training Gateway click on there logo. If you have any questions, or any educational opportunities that you would like posted, contact Kate Stenehjem at 218-727-9390 ext. 236 or kstenehjem@ruralcenter.org.

Office of Communications Launches the Dispatch

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Communications recently launched the Dispatch, a video series, posted to YouTube, which spotlights programs in the agency.

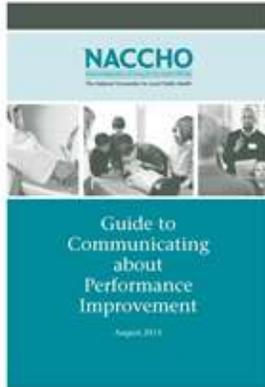
To view recent episodes click the links below:

- [Child Care Licensing](#)
- [Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy](#)
- [Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics Vital Statistics](#)
- [Kansas Brownfields Program](#)
- [South Central District Office](#)

Accreditation Corner

New Resource: Guide to Communicating about Performance Improvement

from the NACCHO website



As local health departments (LHDs) engage in performance improvement activities, including quality improvement, community health improvement planning, and accreditation preparation, they may encounter challenges communicating about the benefits of these activities. These challenges can be internal with agency leads and staff, or external with governing entities, community partners and the public. To help LHDs overcome these challenges, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has developed a Guide to Communicating about Performance Improvement. This easy-to-read guide is designed to help LHDs share their performance improvement stories with key audiences. The guide uses a step by step approach to help LHDs craft tailor-made messages and strategies to help build support and understanding of performance improvement with staff members before reaching out to governing bodies and the media. Download the guide by clicking the booklet cover on the left.

Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Project Orange Thumb Grant - Deadline Dec. 31



As a leader in the lawn and garden industry, Fiskars believes in contributing to the growing community garden effort and all it represents - creative expression, beautiful outdoor spaces, civic and community collaboration, healthy hand-grown food and sustainable living. To help support the community garden movement, Fiskars created Project Orange Thumb. Since its inception, Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb has provided over \$1.3 million to 140 community groups and helped to complete fourteen garden makeovers in the U.S. and Canada. To contact Fiskars' for specific information and to apply for this funding opportunity, click their logo.

Rural Health Network Planning Grant Opportunity - Deadline Jan. 16, 2014



The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy recently released the application for the Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program. The purpose of this grant is to help in the development of an integrated healthcare network. Applicants may request up to \$85,000 for 1 year to create a network infrastructure and form a coordinated plan to address local health needs.

The deadline to submit an application is Jan. 16, 2014. Click on the Grant.Gov logo to access the application then type in HRSA-14-043 in the funding opportunity box.

HealthierUS School Challenge Training Mini-Grants

from the Kansas State Department of Education Child Nutrition and Wellness Newsletter



The Kansas Health Foundation and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Child Nutrition & Wellness Program are providing the opportunity for 50 schools to receive \$2,000 in training mini-grants to act as an incentive to apply for the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) and to help provide training to staff. Schools who choose to apply for the training mini-grant will commit to working towards applying for the HUSSC or advancing towards the next award level if already a recognized HUSSC award winning school over the next two school years. Using these funds schools can provide training opportunities to applicable staff (school foodservice, physical education teachers and staff involved in teaching nutrition education) that will assist the school in working towards meeting updated HUSSC criteria. For more information, including the application, go to the School Nutrition Programs, [What's New page](#) on the KSDE website or click the [HealthierUS School Challenge Training Mini Grant](#) title ink.



Healthy Habits

MetLife Foundation supports projects to empower people to lead healthy, productive lives and strengthen communities. The Foundation makes grants in health, education, civic affairs and culture. Underlying the Foundation's programs is a focus on education at all ages and a commitment to increasing access and opportunity. The Healthy Habits program seeks to promote healthy habits and physical fitness for illness prevention; especially among children. Requests are accepted and reviewed throughout the year.

Do Something Grants



American Express and dosomething.org provides grants of \$250-500 to spearhead national campaigns so 13 to 25 year-olds can make an impact. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. To learn more click the Do Something logo.

Training Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Spring 2014 Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds



The Kansas Association for Local Health Departments, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and KU Medical Center's Department of Preventive Medicine and Area Health Education Centers are once again collaborating to make available the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds series. The Spring 2014 series will occur live on Wednesday from Jan. 22 through May 7 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. via the internet utilizing the Adobe Connect webconferencing system.

A total of 14 sessions are planned. Based upon feedback from participants in previous series, as well as current issues in public health, topics for the Spring 2014 series include: Public health law; KanCare update; information on KUMC poison control center; public education initiative on health care exchanges; adolescent vaccine platform; colorectal cancer disparities in urban and rural areas and status of HPV vaccinations in Kansas.

To learn more about the live Kansas Public Health Grand Round Sessions and how your organization can participate, click [here](#) or contact the University of Kansas Medical Center, Area Health Education Centers at 620-235-4040 or email at ksphgr@kumc.edu. Click the Jayhawk to view the announcement.

Navigating Rural Health Resources: Telemedicine in Kansas - Dec. 12

by Ashley Muninger, Rural Health Coordinator
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



The State Office of Rural Health will host a webinar "Navigating Rural Health Resources: Telemedicine in Kansas" on Thursday, Dec. 12, 12-12:45 p.m. The webinar will feature a presentation from the Heartland Telehealth Resource Center. Participants will also hear from local providers who have successfully been using telemedicine in Kansas. Click the logo above to register for the webinar. For more information, contact ruralhealth@kdheks.gov.

Fall 2014 KPHA Conference - Mark your Calendar



Many of us are setting our calendars for 2014 so don't forget to pencil in, The Kansas Public Health Association Annual Conference, "Health is Where You Live," Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, in Topeka.

CDC Introduces New Strategic National Stockpile Online Course



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released its first online, self-paced introductory course on the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and its operations. The course is designed to provide basic background information and definitions of federal agencies, stakeholders and other partners that will help understand all SNS operations during a public health event. The SNS Overview Course will fill the professional practice gap by providing the states and local agencies with information to manage SNS assets that may be deployed to sites during a public health

(Cont'd)

(Cont'd from page 10)

emergency. The participants will learn the levels of support provided by the SNS, and the response concepts, the planning functions needed for consideration and operational requirements for receiving, distributing and dispensing of SNS material. SNS will provide information on the SNS formulary as well as rules and regulatory requirements to consider when distributing and dispensing those assets. Learners will also become familiar with the planning functions for designing a system to quickly dispense prophylactic medications to the public. Access the course through <https://ks.train.org>, Course ID: 1041004. This online course provides continuing education credit for nurses, pharmacists, physicians and certified health education specialists.

New Universal Sample Submission Form

The Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories have developed a new universal submission form. The course, KHEL: New Universal Sample Submission Form Overview, at <https://ks.train.org>, Course ID: 1047090 is the 30 minute online version of the webinar training that Laura Ross, from the Kansas Health and Environment Laboratories, has been conducting to introduce the new universal sample submission form. At the conclusion of this training the learners will be able to:

- Discuss the reason and transition for the change from the old forms, both the Universal and Blood Lead to the new forms
- Discuss the changes and the differences of the forms
- Discuss the requisition of the new forms
- Discuss new policies relating to sample submission
- Discuss the changes to the reports
- Discuss how to effectively communicate with the laboratory
- Discuss the future of sample submission
- Discuss who to contact with questions

Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hosts an online series of courses on TRAIN for, Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases. This series provides the most current information in the constantly changing field of immunization. The series is updated annually to provide a comprehensive overview on immunization based on the latest recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Each course includes case studies and a discussion of frequently-asked questions on each topic. The series is divided into eleven modules, each 60 to 90 minutes in length. Nursing continuing education credit has been extended to May 2014. Click the CDC logo to download the course titles posted to TRAIN.

You Call the Shots



CDC also hosts on TRAIN the series, You Call the Shots which are interactive, web-based immunization training courses. You Call the Shots consists of a series of modules that discuss vaccine-preventable diseases and explain the latest recommendations for vaccine use. Each module provides learning opportunities, self-test practice questions, reference and resource materials, and an extensive glossary. The first module in the series discusses general recommendations for immunization practice. Nursing continuing education credit expires January 2015.

News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems



Population Health and Preparedness State Wide Call

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a monthly Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call the fourth Tues. of the month. Due to the Christmas Holiday the December 2013 call will be Tuesday, Dec. 17, 10:00 a.m. To view minutes from the monthly calls click the KDHE logo.

10 Things E-Cigarettes Won't Tell You

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL 

An article in The Wall Street Journal reports that the cigarettes of the future could be safer, cheaper and less taboo than the smokes of the past. But they also threaten to upend decades of antismoking efforts. Antismoking advocates and public-health officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention alike concede that e-cigarettes have fewer toxins than regular cigarettes and none of the tar. To read more click The Wall Street Journal logo.

CDC Operations Under the 2014 Continuing Resolution



In November the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its extramural [funding strategy](#) for the fiscal year 2014 continuing resolution (CR). The CR was signed into law on Oct. 17 and provides funding for the federal government through Jan. 15, 2014. Additionally, CDC released a memo detailing guidance for operations under the CR. The memo also indicates funding limitations that are expected during the CR. Click the CDC logo to learn more.

Annual Hospital Safety Scorecard



The Leapfrog Group, an independent, national, not-for-profit organization, founded by large employers and private health care experts, has released its [Annual Hospital Safety Scorecard](#) compiled from more than 2,542 hospitals. Leapfrog uses 28 measures on which to base each hospital's grade; 15 are process-related and 13 are outcome-based. Leapfrog uses several sources of data: the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, certain measures on Hospital Compare and American Hospital Association Annual Survey information. The numeric score is then translated into a letter grade. Leapfrog's Hospital Safety Scores do not include Critical Access Hospitals, specialty hospitals, mental health hospitals, pediatric hospitals or federal hospitals.

Million Hearts Initiative



Million Hearts® is a national initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017. Million Hearts® brings together communities, health systems, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and private-sector partners from across the country to fight heart disease and stroke. During its first year (2012), Million Hearts® built strong partnerships and worked to improve heart health. Learn more about the progress being made by Million Hearts® and what you can do to support this effort by clicking on their logo.

Nurses Health Study



The Nurses' Health Study is recruiting for its third round. The most recent Nurses' Health Study is examining health issues related to lifestyle, pregnancy and fertility, and environment. Researchers are now working to recruit female registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, licensed vocational nurses, and nursing students ages 20 to 46 who live in the U.S. or Canada. Click the Nurses Health Study 3 logo to learn more.

On the Lighter Side
(click the image below)



Six Components Necessary for Effective Public Health Program Implementation



A new analysis by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., takes a look at why some public health programs succeed while others do not. All share the common goal of maximizing health, yet some programs fail despite being urgently needed and well-funded. Dr. Frieden finds that successful public health programs have six common characteristics, each building on the other:

- Innovation to develop the evidence base for action
- A technical package of a limited number of high-priority, evidence-based interventions that together have a major impact
- Effective performance management, including real-time monitoring, evaluation, and improvement
- Partnerships and coalitions with public- and private-sector organizations
- Communication of accurate and timely information to the health care community, decision makers, and the public to effect behavior change and engagement
- Political commitment to obtain resources and support

Click the image of Dr. Frieden to find the article, published online ahead of print by the American Journal of Public Health, detailing each of these components of effective public health program implementation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support has posted a "Public Health System 101" slide set on the [STLT Gateway](#) in both PowerPoint and PDF format. The slides describe the components of the U.S. public health system and how they work together to improve population health. State public health departments are invited to use any of these slides in their own presentations or to educate themselves or others.

Flavored-Little-Cigar and Flavored-Cigarette Use Among U.S. Middle and High School Students



More than two out of every five middle and high school students who currently smoke report using either flavored little cigars or flavored cigarettes, according to a report by the Centers for Disease of Control and Prevention. This article, using data from the 2011 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS), is the first to measure how many American youth are using flavored little cigars and flavored cigarettes.

Evidence-based Information and Resources for the Healthy People 2020 Topic Areas



HealthyPeople.gov provides evidence-based resources on topic areas and objectives of the Healthy People 2020 agenda for improving the Nation's health. The searchable database gives you access to a wealth of information available from multiple sources. Click the HealthyPeople.gov logo to learn more.

ACC/AHA Release New Guideline for Assessing Cardiovascular Risk in Adults



The American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association has released a new clinical practice guideline to help primary care clinicians better identify adults who may be at high risk for developing atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and potentially serious cardiovascular conditions caused by atherosclerosis, and who thus may benefit from lifestyle changes or drug therapy to help prevent it. Click the ACC logo to learn more.

Job Openings

Harvey County

The Harvey County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Assistant Director-Health Department](#)



Johnson County Health Department

The Johnson County Health Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [ARNP](#)
- [Registered Nurse - RN \(3 month temporary\)](#)
- [Registered Nurse - RN \(on-call/prn\)](#)



Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

The Lawrence Douglas County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Pottawatomie County

The Pottawatomie County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Saline County Health Department

The Saline County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Health Department Director](#)



Sedgwick County Health Department

The Sedgwick County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Community Health Nurse II](#)



Shawnee County Health Department

The Shawnee County Health Agency is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Administration Team Leader](#)



Wyandotte County Health Department

The Wyandotte County Health Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Program Supervisor](#)



Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[Health Homes Herald](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

[ZIPS Newsletter - Bureau of Family Health/Children and Families](#)

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov

Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at

http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm

Send your public health news to

Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov or

Debbie Nickels at dnickels@kdheks.gov

CONTENTS

KDHE Reports on Health of Kansas Veterans, Veterans Health Is Often Different than Civilians.....	2
Save the Dates - 2014 Governor’s Public Health Conference.....	2
In the Spotlight - Montgomery County and KDHE Hold Free Blood Lead Screening Clinic.....	3
In the Spotlight - Farmworker Health Program Encourages Healthy Eating Habits.....	3
January is Radon Action Month Reminder – Free Test Kits Available.....	4
Upcoming Regional Public Health Meetings.....	4
Local Public Health Leadership Series.....	4
Epi Updates Shared During Monthly Population Health Call.....	5
CDC Updates Recommendations for Pertussis Post-Exposure Prophylaxis.....	5
Kansas Vaccination Manual from IKK and KAAP.....	6
Open Enrollment Starts for KanCare Members.....	6
Kansas Narrowly Misses Second Place in Text4baby National Contest.....	6
KDHE Reports on Local Level Health Behaviors, Conditions.....	7
2012 Natality and Mortality Data Added to Kansas Health Matters.....	7
New County Economic Impact Reports Released.....	7
Healthy Students are Better Students.....	8
Suicide Rate Climbing in Kansas and U.S.....	8
Rural Health Virtual Training Gateway.....	8
Office of Communications Launches the Dispatch.....	8
Accreditation Corner.....	9
New Resource: Guide to Communicating about Performance Improvement.....	9
Funding Opportunities.....	9
Project Orange Thumb Grant - Deadline Dec. 31.....	9
Rural Health Network Planning Grant Opportunity - Deadline Jan. 16, 2014.....	9
HealthierUS School Challenge Training Mini-Grants.....	9
Healthy Habits.....	10
Do Something Grants.....	10
Training Announcements.....	10
Spring 2014 Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds.....	10
Navigating Rural Health Resources: Telemedicine in Kansas - Dec. 12.....	10
Fall 2014 KPHA Conference - Mark your Calendar.....	10
CDC Introduces New Strategic National Stockpile Online Course.....	10
New Universal Sample Submission Form.....	11
Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases.....	11
You Call the Shots.....	11
News and Resources.....	11
Population Health and Preparedness State Wide Call.....	11
10 Things E-Cigarettes Won’t Tell You.....	12
CDC Operations Under the 2014 Continuing Resolution.....	12
Annual Hospital Safety Scorecard.....	12
Million Hearts Initiative.....	12
Nurses Health Study.....	12
On the Lighter Side.....	12
Six Components Necessary for Effective Public Health Program Implementation.....	13
Flavored-Little-Cigar and Flavored-Cigarette Use Among U.S. Middle and High School Students.....	13
Evidence-based Information and Resources for the Healthy People 2020 Topic Areas.....	13
ACC/AHA Release New Guideline for Assessing Cardiovascular Risk in Adults.....	13
Job Openings.....	13
Harvey County.....	13
Johnson County Health Department.....	13
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.....	14
Pottawatomie County.....	14
Saline County Health Department.....	14
Sedgwick County Health Department.....	14

Shawnee County Health Department..... 14
Wyandotte County Health Department..... 14
Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters..... 14
Public Health Connections Information 14