

KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORY

**Local Health Departments
Health Officers
Medical Consultants
Environmental Health**

Kansas Department of Health and Environment



Bureau of Local & Rural Health

**1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340
Topeka, KS 66612-1365
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September 1, 2009

<http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh>

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

**LOCAL HEALTH SECTION
BUREAU OF LOCAL & RURAL HEALTH**

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY IS ON THE
BUREAU OF LOCAL AND RURAL HEALTH WEB PAGE AT: <http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh>

CDC Public Response Service

CDC Health Communication Specialist are available to respond to the Public's questions and concerns regarding bioterrorism

		Contact Information for the General Public	
Toll	Free Numbers	English	1-888-246 -2675
			1-888-246 -2857
Spanish			1-866-874 -2646
TTY			

E-Mail Address cdcresponse@ashastd.org

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8am – 11pm (ET)
Saturday – Sunday 10am – 8pm (ET)

Health Department Governance

Local health departments offer public health services through population-based activities in each of the 105 counties in Kansas. With very few exceptions, the county commissioners serve as the county board of health under KSA 65-201 (quoted, below). It is very common to have a working supervisor (quite often a registered nurse) to handle department supervision and grant administration, with a physician under contract as a medical advisor. Staffing and scope of services vary widely, but are generally linked very closely to county population and demographics. Funding for public health operations is obtained from three broad sources: Federal and State grants, local tax revenue, and fees for services.

K.S.A. 65-201. County, city-county and multi-county units; local health officers; appointment, tenure, removal; laws applicable. The county commissioners of the several counties of this state shall act as county boards of health for their respective counties. Each county board thus created shall appoint a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, preference being given to persons who have training in public health, who shall serve in an advisory capacity to the county board of health and as the local health officer, except that the appointing authority of city-county, county or multi-county health units with less than one hundred thousand (100,000) population may appoint a qualified local health program administrator as the local health officer if a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a person licensed to practice dentistry is designated as a consultant to direct the administrator on program and related medical and professional matters. The local health officer or local health program administrator shall hold office at the pleasure of the board.

Public Health Governance Structures in Kansas

In 89 of 105 counties in Kansas, the county commissioners serve as the board of health. The local health department is a division of the county government, and staff members are county employees. Decisions about the scope of services, budget, staffing, and other features of the agency are made at the county level.

A small number of bi-county systems for public health delivery have existed in the past, although all have dissolved.

Cheyenne, Haskell, and Morris counties deliver public health services as a department or function of their county hospital. The hospital board serves as the board of health. Budget support is typically channeled from county coffers to the hospital.

Public health services are provided to seven counties by two multi-county agencies, NEK Multi-county (Atchison, Brown, Jackson) and SEK Multi-county (Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, and Woodson). NEK operates as a 501(c)(3) under contract to serve the three counties listed.

Five counties have formed joint city-county boards of health. In general terms, these boards represent the interests of both units of government by having city and county commissioners or their appointees sit on the board. Other representatives to these boards may include healthcare providers, most strive for consumers or members-at-large, and some include veterinarians. A sixth county, Wyandotte, has a unified government. Those 11 commissioners are the board of health.

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