

# The Infection Connection

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY  
**Health Department**  
[www.ldchealth.org](http://www.ldchealth.org)

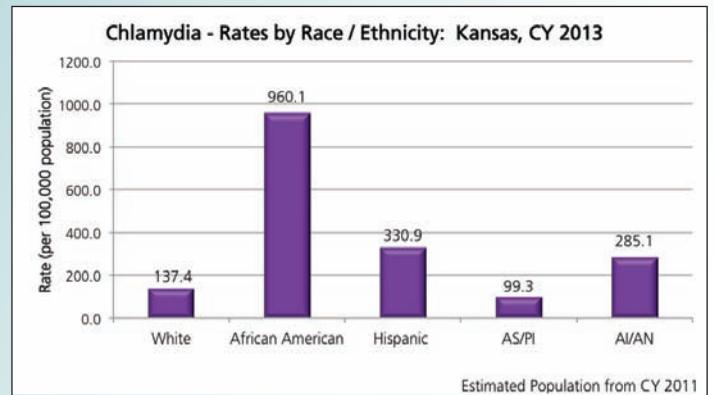
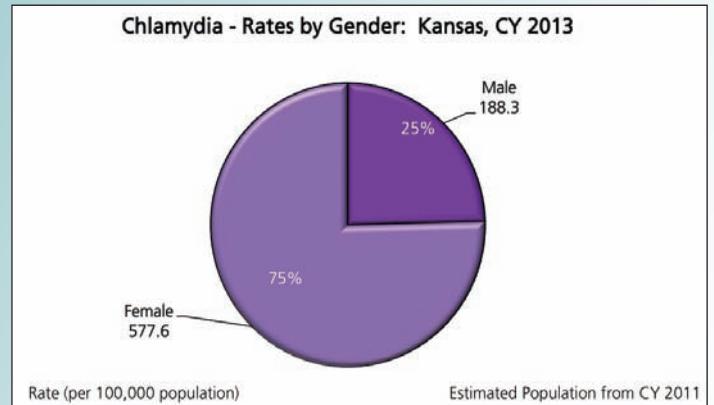
## Chlamydia, gonorrhea rates high in Douglas County

In 2013, Douglas County's chlamydia rate of 521 (per 100,000 population) was considerably higher than the Kansas rate of 384. The Douglas County rate for gonorrhea was 85.1 (per 100,000 population), which also was higher than the state's rate of 75.4. It is important to ask about STD risk in all sexually active patients, and consider testing.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), screening is necessary to identify chlamydia infections because they can be asymptomatic. Screening programs have been demonstrated to reduce rates of adverse sequelae in women. CDC recommends yearly chlamydia screening of sexually active women, ages 25 or younger, and older women with risk factors

for chlamydia infections. Risk factors include a new partner or more than one partner. Pregnant women should be screened during their first prenatal care visit. Pregnant women under 25 are at increased risk for chlamydia, so they should be screened again in their third trimester. Any woman who is sexually active should discuss her risk factors with a health care provider who can then determine if more frequent screening is necessary.

While nearly half of all new infections occur among people, ages 15-24, sexually transmitted diseases aren't discriminatory based upon age. Any person who is sexually active is at risk for contracting a sexually transmitted disease, and thus, the preventative measures are applicable to all.



## Grocery store tours help families buy healthy foods on a budget

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is offering guided tours of Douglas County grocery stores to help families buy nutritious foods on a budget. The tours are open to anyone and there is no cost to participate.

During the one-hour tour, participants will learn how to:

- Understand food labels.
- Find the best bargains with unit pricing.
- Shop for fruits and vegetables when they are at their peak.

See Grocery on page 2



From left, Sarah Rahija and Leslie Von Holten, Health Department Advisory Council members; Kathy Colson, clinic supervisor; and Katie Uhde, Community Health intern, learn about cereals during a grocery store tour May 1 at Dillon's.

### 24-7 EPI hotline

To alert the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department to a reportable disease after hours, please use this number: **785-856-7305**.

## Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	Feb. 14	Mar. 14	April 14	Total
Enteric	Campylobacteriosis	1	2	1	4
	Salmonella	1	0	1	2
	Shigella	1	0	0	1
	STEC	0	0	1	1
General	Hep B, chronic	1	2	1	4
	Hep B, pregnancy	0	1	0	1
	Hepatitis C, chronic	7	8	7	22
	Strep Pneumo, invasive	1	0	0	1
	Strep A, Invasive	1	0	0	1
	Hemophilus Influenza, Invasive	1	0	0	1
Vaccine-preventable diseases	Pertussis	0	0	1	1
	Varicella	0	2	0	2
	Bacterial Meningitis	0	1	0	1
STDs (tested at HD only)	Chlamydia	13	4	14	31
	Gonorrhea	3	4	1	8
	Syphilis	0	4	0	4

This report includes the number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: Confirmed, probable and suspect.

## Grocery store tours help families shop on a budget

Continued from page 1

- Identify whole grains.
- Stick to a budget.

After the tour, participants will receive \$10 and they will be challenged to use the skills they learned to buy a healthy meal. They also will receive a recipe book with shopping tips and a reusable grocery bag.

Tours are offered at a variety of times and locations through the summer and they are listed on our website: **ldhealth.org**.

If you would like a flyer, please contact Communications Coordinator Karrey Britt at [kbritt@ldhealth.org](mailto:kbritt@ldhealth.org) or 785-856-7362. She can email a flyer or bring some to your workplace.

### Upcoming tours include:

- **Saturday, May 31** — 10 a.m., Dillon's 4701 W. Sixth St.
- **Saturday, May 31** — 2 p.m., Hy-Vee Food Store, 4000 W. Sixth St.
- **Thursday, June 5** — 2 p.m., Walmart, 3300 Iowa St.
- **Wednesday, June 11** — 9 a.m., Dillon's, 1740 Mass.

## CDC's advice on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is monitoring information about the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MERS-CoV is a virus that is new to humans and was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. As of May 16, there have been 572 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS in 15 countries, including two in the U.S. Most of these people developed severe acute respiratory illness, with fever, cough, and shortness of breath; 173 people died. Officials do not know where the virus came from or exactly how it spreads. There is no available vaccine or specific treatment recommended for the virus.

Health care professionals should evaluate patients for MERS-CoV infection who have:

(A.) fever and pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome, and either

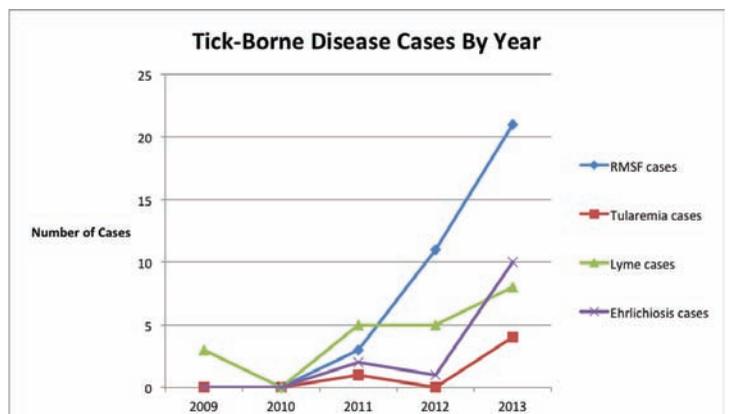
- a history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula within 14 days before symptom onset, or
- have had close contact with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula, or
- are part of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is being evaluated;

(B.) or anyone who has had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of MERS while the person was ill, in consultation with state and local health departments.

## Watch for ticks! Health Department saw uptick in cases last year

It's time to think about ticks again! When patients complain of fever/chills, aches and pains with or without rash, it is always important to think about the possibility of tick-borne illness and ask about potential tick exposure.

In 2013, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department investigated 43 confirmed and probable cases of tickborne disease during the months of May through September compared to 17 confirmed and probable cases investigated during the same time period in 2012. If you have questions regarding tickborne diseases, call the Health Department at 785-843-0721 and ask to speak to a Communicable Disease nurse or visit [cdc.gov/ticks](http://cdc.gov/ticks).



Graphic by Josie Naron