

NEWS RELEASE
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Health Department, KU launch website to track community health

(Lawrence, KS) – The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and the University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development have launched a website — healthydouglascounty.org — to measure and monitor community health. The website specifically focuses on the five priority areas for improvement outlined in the community health plan, “Roadmap to a Healthier Douglas County.” Those are:

- Access to mental health services
- Access to health care services
- Access to healthy foods
- Lack of physical activity
- Poverty/too few jobs

The Health Department and KU are working with community partners to evaluate and report progress toward goals on the plan.

“We encourage everyone in Douglas County — organizations and individuals — to be part of this process by sharing their stories on the website,” said Health Department Director Dan Partridge. “The broader the participation, the richer the data and the more we will understand the true impact of our collective efforts to improve our health.”

The site was developed in collaboration with the community health plan steering committee, which includes representatives from Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Douglas County Community Foundation, United Way of Douglas County, Heartland Community Health Center, K-State Research and Extension — Douglas County and Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center.

“This is a powerful tool to evaluate community change,” said Vicki Collie-Akers, associate director of health promotion research at the KU Work Group for Community Health and Development. “Healthydouglascounty.org is based on a platform developed by the KU Work Group that is used in communities around the world. We are excited to be able to put this tool to use in our own backyard.”