



Together, day by day, building a healthy community

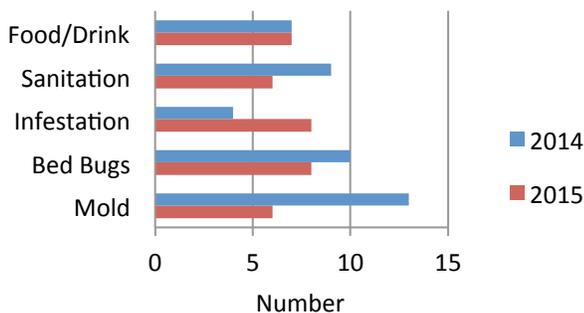
Importance | Environmental health professionals work to protect the public from environmental health hazards such as air, water and ground pollution, unsafe built structures, and foodborne illness. The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department addresses reports from the public related to environmental health complaints and hazards to ensure that regulated entities are in compliance with applicable laws.

By tracking reports of environmental hazards the Health Department is able to inform and educate the public on issues affecting their community. Our goal is to promote and protect the health of our community, and we strive to quickly respond to potential health hazards because it is crucial in preventing the spread of illness and injury.

Location of Concern

Throughout 2014 and 2015, the Health Department received a total of 138 reports on environmental health hazards. The majority, 86% of the reports, came from Lawrence residents while 7% percent came from Baldwin City residents, 4% from Eudora, and 3% from Lecompton.

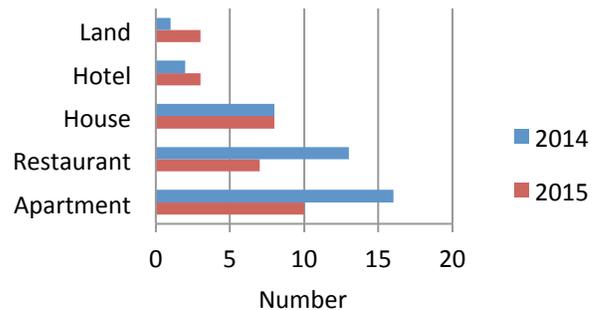
Top Concerns Specified



The chart above displays the top five environmental health concerns received by the Health Department in 2014 and 2015. Overall, concerns about mold was reported the most often; bed bugs were another top concern. Complaints relating to sanitation typically involved excessive garbage or trash and unclean environments.

When reports of environmental health hazards are received Health Department staff work with the public to identify the cause, consider risk of harm and develop a plan of action for addressing the issue. Action plans frequently involve other enforcement agencies such as the Kansas Department of Agriculture that is responsible for inspecting restaurants and investigating sanitation complaints at hotels and motels.

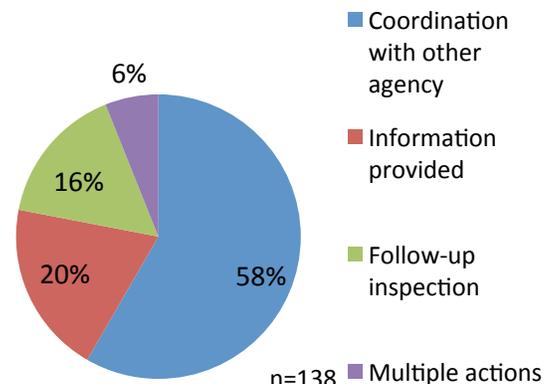
Property Type



Among property types, apartments received the most complaints. When concerns about apartments and other rental properties are reported, staff work closely with the City of Lawrence Planning and Development Department and Douglas County Housing Authority for follow-up.

Action Taken

When the Health Department receives a report, it is our duty to assure proper actions are taken in order to come to a resolution. Over half of all environmental health hazard reports received throughout 2014 and 2015 required coordination with another agency to assist in handling the issue.



Distribution of information and materials was necessary in one of five reports. Some reports were assigned for a follow-up investigation by Health Department staff. When this occurred, the on-site inspection was completed on average within two days of receiving the report from the public.