

LIBERTY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
 LEBANON, KENTUCKY
 August 28, 1938
 Polio Incidence
 Drops in State
 95 to 38



Pool Ordinance
 Has a Reading
 At Commission

The course OF public health 2008 Annual Report

**EPIDEMIC
 INFLUENZA
 (SPANISH)**
 This Disease is Highly Communicable.
 It May Develop into a Severe Pneumonia.
 There is no cure.
 Keep away from
 crowds.
 Keep the mouth
 closed in
 the street.
 The student
 should
 be
 checked.
 ISSUED BY T



Our mission

Healthy People Build Strong Communities – The Lawrence and Douglas County community has benefited from a strong public health presence for more than 120 years.

On your behalf, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department works to:

- Safeguard community health and safety through swift response to illness outbreaks
- Identify urgent and everyday health problems by tracking the health of the community to recognize health trends early
- Assess health problems and promote wellness by fostering community health initiatives
- Collaborate with community partners to protect health and control the costs associated with health problems.

Cover photo credits, clockwise: Five Douglas County men pose for a picture in the 1940s, a Douglas County family of nine in the 1890s, Watkins Community Museum of History; "Night Shift," (1941-1945) World War II poster, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration; "Healthy skin keeps him on the job," (1941-1945) World War II poster, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration; 1930s Douglas County woman with two boys and dog, Watkins Community Museum of History; "Jenny on the job - Home was never like this," (1941-1945) World War II poster, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration; 1970s Lawrence boys basketball team, Watkins Community Museum of History; 1920s Douglas County young women with watermelon, Watkins Community Museum of History; and 1870s children, Watkins Community Museum of History.

A special thanks to the Watkins Community Museum of History, the Kansas Historical Society and the National Archives and Records Administration for their assistance in this report.

Our beginning...

Battling contagious disease was a constant struggle in Douglas County in 1885.

In an age before good sanitation practices were understood, an illness could strike and quickly spread through an entire family. Antibiotics hadn't yet been

introduced, which made treatment difficult.

Typhoid, malaria and diphtheria were significant public health threats in 1885, Health Officer Dr. N. Simmons



Early Lawrence residents catch fish from the Kaw River in 1896. (KHS)

writes in Douglas County's first Annual Report.

"To prevent occurrences of this kind and stamp out infection and contagion... will require sleepless vigilance."

He presents the cases of eight families, who all battled typhoid after drinking contaminated water.

"My object in presenting these cases is to call attention to one of the most common sources of the



Douglas County students gather for a group picture outside their school in the 1880s. (KHS)

origin of typhoid fever. That the disease may be contracted by contact with the patients suffering with it, I think there is no doubt, and for this reason the most thorough and powerful disinfectants should be judiciously employed."

In addition to Dr. Simmons' report and analysis, the heads of area schools, including the University of Kansas and Baker University, also provided the status of their students' health.

The first steps to vaccinate elementary school students also began in 1885, with what is perhaps the county's earliest partnership between schools and public health.

Dr. Simmons goes on to discuss additional public health concerns. Read the full report and other features at www.lcchealth.org.



Director's Message

In 1885, Dr. Simmons, our first local Health Officer, was challenged with controlling diseases such as diphtheria, malaria and typhoid. At the same time, he was also busy enforcing the first state immunization law requiring children to be vaccinated against smallpox.

Where are these diseases today? Public health, locally and internationally, has eliminated smallpox and 123 years later we no longer fear such diseases in Douglas County.

While not as dramatic as an outbreak of typhoid, the public health challenges of today are just as real and a new focus on disease prevention through health promotion is needed.

While this is not the economic climate to initiate new programs, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is working to redefine our priorities to help improve the health of the community.

To that end, a community forum was held in November where we asked those attending what our priorities should be. Representing 37 different community agencies, participants told us that the Health Department's highest priority should remain disease prevention and containment.

The difference today being that the tools of public health have grown from a focus on sanitary conditions to using data and community engagement to identify health problems. And just as in 1885, we're working with the community to find solutions.

In this report, you will find many references to the progress and achievements of our programs. Please accept this Annual Report for what it is, an evaluation of our history, where we are today and where we want to be tomorrow.



Dan Partridge, RS, MPH
Director



“And just as in 1885, we're working with the community to find solutions.”

– Dan Partridge,
Lawrence-Douglas County Health
Department Director

In the media

In addition to mentions of the Health Department's National Public Health Week celebration in “The Nation's Health” and another national newsletter in 2008, the Health Department also was featured in:

- 64 newspaper/online media stories or briefs
- 10 television newscasts
- 30 radio broadcasts

Health department leader outlines agency to council

Baldwin City Signal July 10, 2008



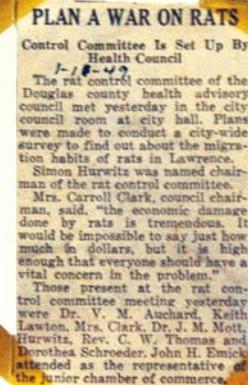
Channel 6 and *Lawrence Journal-World* reporter George Diepenbrock interviews Richard Ziesenis, Director of Environmental Health about mosquito control efforts.

Education key to reducing STIs

Lawrence Journal-World
March 31, 2008

Local public health headlines through the years

1949



Lawrence Daily Journal-World
Jan. 10, 1949

1966



Lawrence Daily Journal-World
May 17, 1966

2004

**At stroke of midnight,
it's outside for smokers**

Lawrence Journal-World
June 30, 2004

Environmental Health



Environmental Health Specialist Andrew Stull performs a food inspection at Woodlawn Elementary School in Lawrence.

Behind the scenes for health

It was a busy year for Environmental Health. In May, the program began conducting all Douglas County restaurant inspections as a contractor for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

In September, all food service contracts transitioned to the Kansas Department of Agriculture. With approximately 435 food establishments in the county, the goal is to inspect each facility at least twice a year.

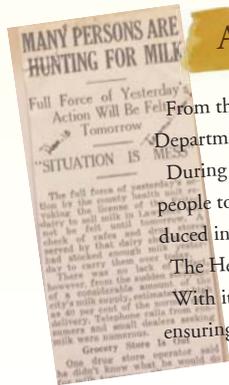
Also in 2008:

- The Douglas County Sanitary Code had its first revision since 2001. Changes to the code now include septic system and private well inspections at the time of a real estate transfer, new requirements for alternative septic systems and the elimination of septic systems for new housing built in the Douglas County flood plain.
- Sanitary code inspections were down in 2008, reflecting the economic downturn that slowed the construction of new housing.

Environmental Health 2008 program assessment



A note from history

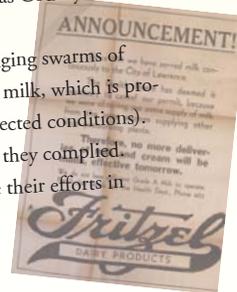


From the 1920s to July 1970, a city milk ordinance allowed for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department to ensure that milk provided to Douglas County residents was safe.

During World War II, Douglas County was named an emergency industry area, bringing swarms of people to the county for jobs. To meet demand, local dairies started bottling Grade C milk, which is produced in less desirable conditions as Grade A milk (produced under sanitary and inspected conditions).

The Health Department was forced to revoke the permits of two of the dairies until they complied.

With its new food service inspection program, Environmental Health staff continue their efforts in ensuring that the quality of food is safe for public consumption.



More program news

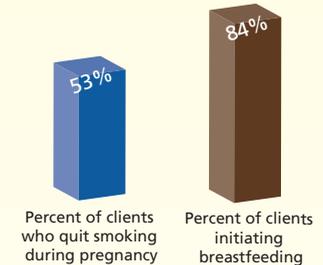
Maternal Child Health

The retirement of Nancy Jorn, Director of Maternal Child Health Field Services, and Nurse Case Manager Diane Pope, who had a combined 50 years of experience at the Health Department, ushered in a new era for the MCH program.

Also in 2008:

- MCH nurse Carolyn Ball was named program coordinator.
- Plans began to bring in Kansas Children's Service League staff to assist with serving at-risk families.

Improved health outcomes through MCH education



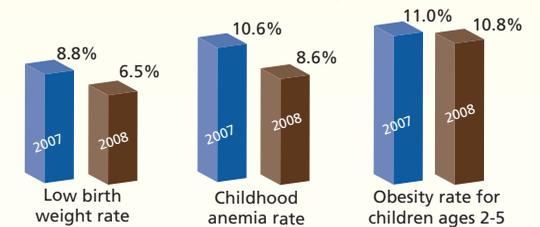
WIC

More than 60 families enrolled in WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) participated in the fifth annual Kickin' It with WIC event in September.



WIC Nutritionist Linda Rippetoe shares a healthy snack during a WIC class.

Risk factors decline among WIC clients



The WIC caseload continued to increase from 1,472 in 2007 to 1,546 in 2008.

As a result, the program's breastfeeding peer counselor also saw an increase in clients and during 2008, worked with 173 families – the most since the position was created in 2005.

Public health in Lawrence and Douglas County

1885-2008

1885

Kansas Board of Health established; Lawrence appoints first health officer, Dr. N. Simmons.

1901-1904

Smallpox and typhoid epidemics devastate Lawrence.

1917

The Kaw Water Plant comes on line in 1917; chlorination begins in the next decade.

1918

Spanish influenza pandemic strikes Douglas County and the world.



1921

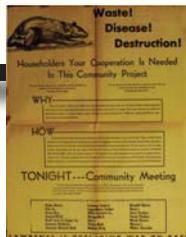
Tuberculosis clinic established by Lawrence City Health Unit.

1942

County joins city to form the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Community faces widespread milk shortage as war workers flock to city.

1948-1949

Public health officials initiate rat control campaign.



1955

First polio vaccine developed, thousands of Lawrence and Douglas County children and adults receive the shot.



1958

Survey of septic systems along Kansas Highway 10 reveal a 93 percent failure rate.

1964

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board reviews and confirms that the department's mission is to remain population based.

1965

The Kansas legislature directs the State Board of Health to establish family planning centers and to disseminate information regarding birth control methods.



1977

The Health Department's WIC program, one of the first in the state, begins.

The Health Department's homes

Lawrence City Hall (now Watkins Community Museum) 1929-1970	701 New Hampshire St. 1970-1980	Lawrence Memorial Hospital 1980-1999	Community Health Facility 1999-present



2003

Federal funds are awarded to start a Medical Reserve Corps unit in Douglas County. Hundreds of people were affected by an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis, with 96 cases confirmed by the Health Department.

1999

After two years of construction, the Health Department and other community agencies move into the Community Health Facility.

1989

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention visits the Health Department to analyze data on the 1988 mumps outbreak that sickened 128 people.

Child Care Licensing



Karen Flanders conducts an inspection of Ginger Hodison's home day care in Lawrence.

- The CCL program, along with other Health Department staff, participated in the 2008 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers program, which brought a book with a health message to more than 400 preschoolers in Lawrence and Douglas County.

In 2008, the Child Care Licensing staff oversaw the opening of four new child care centers and two school-age programs.

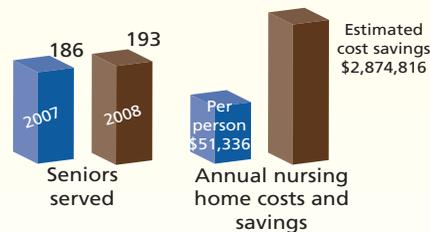
The new facilities' opening increased the system's capacity for child care, from 5,942 slots in 2007 to 6,282 slots in 2008.

Also in 2008:

- Karen Flanders, former child care licensing surveyor, became program coordinator in February. Ginger Salmans, who had worked in WIC, joined the staff as a surveyor.

Project Lively

Area seniors see continued benefits from Project Lively



In addition to serving area seniors in 2008, Project Lively staff shared their knowledge with international students from Korea and Germany.

A German student spent five weeks with the program in August and used what he learned to co-author an article for the "German Journal of Case Management."

Also in 2008:

- In the fall, Lively helped sponsor the annual

Interagency Network for Aging (INFA) Legislative Forum and continued to serve as a practicum site for University of Kansas social work students.

- The program's first client/community partner surveys were a great success, with 94 percent of clients agreeing or strongly agreeing that Project Lively services improved their quality of life. One hundred percent of community partners surveyed agreed that Lively services help to increase the continuity of care for aging adults in Douglas County.

Clinic Services



Nurse Kathy Colson performs a Well Child exam on Ryleigh Gaborie, 2, while her mother, Stefanie Gaborie looks on.

A challenging budget forced the Health Department to discontinue or limit some of its clinical programs and services in 2008. After more than 30 years of service to seniors, Health Screening Clinics for People over 60 were discontinued in September. Other cuts were made to Well Child Clinics. Administration of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine also was discontinued.

Conversely, additional vaccines for children were added to the inventory.

Also in 2008:

- In an effort to normalize HIV screening, all Family

Planning clients are offered to be tested for the virus. HIV testing also became a part of routine STD screening.

- The Health Department's Communicable Disease program created "The Infection Connection." The quarterly newsletter aims to engage local physicians and inform them of the latest disease surveillance in Lawrence and Douglas County.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Testing the public health response to an anthrax attack and a foodborne disease outbreak, were Public Health Emergency Preparedness exercises in 2008.

The anthrax exercise scenario involved the intentional release of the agent in Douglas County and focused on dispensing "medication" to emergency responders, volunteers and their family members.

The 131 participants came to the point of dispensing where they filled out medical questionnaires, were informed of the treatment and drug precautions and given pills (packets of M&M candy).

Also in 2008, the program partnered with Douglas County Emergency Management and the Roger Hill Volunteer Center for the second annual community-wide Preparedness Fair.



Health Department nurses provide 'medication' during the mass dispensing exercise in May 2008.

Financial statement

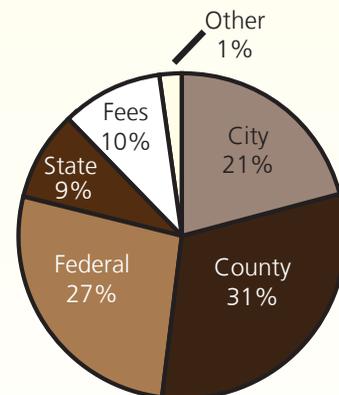
Unaudited statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2008

Operating Fund

Beginning balance	\$292,839
Revenue	
County	\$977,932
Federal	\$832,554
City	\$652,300
Fees	\$326,361
State	\$292,090
Other	\$57,572
Total revenue	\$3,138,809
Expenditures	
Salaries & wages	\$1,970,209
Payroll related expenses	\$622,557
Commodities	\$248,865
Contractual	\$222,181
Total expenditures	\$3,063,812
Ending balance	\$367,836
Net revenue over expenditures	\$74,997

Reserve Fund

Beginning balance	\$767,388
Revenue	
Transfer from Operating Fund	0
Other	\$8,679
Total revenue	\$8,679
Expenditures	
Personnel liabilities	\$42,155
Commodities	\$82
Transfer to Operating Fund	0
Total expenditures	\$42,237
Ending balance	\$733,830
Net revenue over expenditures	(\$33,558)



Looking forward...

Health Department staff worked to meet objectives of the agency's Strategic Plan in 2008.

Some of that work included:

- A quality improvement initiative began in early 2008 when the Health Department was awarded a national grant. Following an agency-wide capacity assessment, program managers attended a quality improvement workshop to learn about performance measures and how to apply them to report health outcomes, rather than outputs.
- In November, representatives from 37 community agencies attended the Forum on Community Health to help chart the agency's direction as it works toward accreditation and navigates a tough economic climate.
- "The Fifth Guy," a series of health education commercials, aired on local cable channels in March. The campaign, made possible through grant funds, used humor to show the importance of hand washing, staying home when sick and covering coughs and sneezes.



Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Director Dan Partridge speaks during the Forum on Community Health on Nov. 19, 2008.



Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board Chair Donna Bell, right, presents the first Kay Kent Excellence in Public Health Service Award to Sue McDanel.

- The first Kay Kent Excellence in Public Health Service Award was presented to Sue McDanel, Family Planning Nurse Practitioner. McDanel was one of six Health Department employees nominated by their peers for the honor. The award will be presented annually during National Public Health Week.
- In late 2008, the Health Department furthered its community involvement by partnering with the Douglas County Community Foundation's Physical Activity and Nutrition initiative. Program partners are working locally to address issues related to obesity and inactivity.

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board



Pictured from the left are:
Gerald Pees, MD
Paul Liechti
Donna Bell, Chair
Alan Cowles, MD, Vice Chair
and Karen Shumate, RN, MS,
CPHQ, Treasurer.

Lawrence City Commission

Michael Dever, Mayor
Robert Chestnut, Vice Mayor
Boog Highberger, Commissioner
Sue Hack, Commissioner
Mike Amyx, Commissioner

Douglas County Commission

Bob Johnson, Chair
Charles Jones
Jere McElhane

Local physicians look back

Lawrence physicians, Phillip Godwin and Helen Gilles, began their careers when doctors still made house calls.

A lot has changed in Lawrence and Douglas County since then, including public health.

With the development of immunizations and increasing public awareness, diseases that were once prevalent are under control.

Dr. Gilles began her practice in 1948 in an office on Massachusetts Street in downtown Lawrence.

During her career, she worked primarily with children, including running the Health Department's Well Child Clinics.

Both Gilles and Godwin (who began practicing in Lawrence in 1956) remember the 1950s polio epidemic and its devastation.

"When I got here, the American Legion had donated an iron lung to the hospital," Godwin said.

In the end, the machine was used only once – for a patient with a neurological illness.

"I had some polio patients, but that disappeared," he said. "It was just such a dramatic thing when we quit having polio."

The retired doctors also recall Dr. Dale Clinton, who led the Health Department from 1962 to 1973.

"He was an ardent advocate of childhood immunizations and when he was at the Health Department, Douglas County had some of the highest immuniza-



LEFT: Dr. Phillip Godwin practiced in Lawrence for more than 40 years.

BELOW: Dr. Helen Gilles, left, and Dr. Godwin remember the many changes in public health.

tion rates in the state," Gilles said.

Immunizations continue

to remain a

priority today at the Health Department, but like sanitary inspections their effectiveness is often overlooked until something goes wrong.

"Those are kind of the behind-the-scenes things that are important," Godwin said.

And as it has for decades, the Health Department alerts area physicians to disease outbreaks.

"If there's some threat that's going on in the community, they always communicated back to us well, I felt," Godwin said. "We have a certain amount of self confidence about things without much appreciation of what it was like before these things were done."

Looking forward, both doctors feel that public health should remain focused on sanitation, immunizations, family planning and drug and alcohol education.





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