



**THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH.**  
[thisispublichealth.org](http://thisispublichealth.org)



# THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH.

## 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 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.

We are only as healthy as the world we live in.

The “This Is Public Health” campaign (visit [www.thisispublichealth.org](http://www.thisispublichealth.org)) was designed by the American Schools of Public Health to inform people of how public health affects them on a daily basis.

More than 200,000 stickers have been sent around the world to public health students, health departments and professionals eager to spread the word about the importance of public health.

Using the stickers in photos depicting public health (seen in this report) is one way the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department got involved in the campaign. Several of these photos were taken by local students.

This Annual Report is another channel to bring awareness to the importance of public health and that we are only as healthy as the world we live in.



**LEFT:** Students in the Pinckney Elementary Boys and Girls after-school program assisted with some of the photos in this report. Pictured in the back are: Dominic Woolery, Sam Kendrick, Tucker Wilson, Ryan Pharr, India Martin, Callie Rios, Quinton Cress, Ben Gotto and Matthew Hall. In the front are: Scott Walker, Stephen Davis, Darian Lewis, Sky Carey, Dmitri Smith and Dacia Starr.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Communications, SeeKC Run, Lawrence Farmers Market, LiveWell Lawrence, Lawrence Parks and Recreation and Pinckney Elementary Boys & Girls program students.

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I often ask new employees or visitors the question: What do you think public health is? Every answer I hear is different – and correct.

My short answer to the question is that public health is a system of your local health department and its many partners working to improve the health of the community.

Part of the health department's role in this system is to identify urgent, emerging and everyday health problems; protect health and control costs and safeguard the community's health and safety.

Two reports released in 2009 tell two different stories about the health of our community. The first, from the Department of Health and Human Services, looks at the current state of health in Douglas County. By their assessment, we are a healthy community.

The second report, from the Kansas Health Institute, looks at the conditions that determine future health status. In this report, Douglas County is ranked the 27th healthiest county in Kansas.

Our three greatest strengths were:

- Seatbelt use.
- Homes with decreased lead risk.
- Residents with high school diplomas.

Our three greatest challenges were:

- High respiratory hazard index.
- Binge drinking.
- Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) cases.

This Annual Report emphasizes the broad nature of public health because we believe the answer to how we improve the health of our community lies within the community and our public health system.

Thank you for your interest in public health!

Dan Partridge, RS, MPH  
Director



*"... We believe the answer to how we improve the health of our community lies within the community and our public health system."*

– Dan Partridge,  
Lawrence-Douglas County Health  
Department Director

# COMMUNITY HEALTH FACILITY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

"A penny buys a lot."

That was the slogan used in the 1994 sales tax campaign to fund the Community Health Facility, which houses the Health Department, the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center and the Douglas County Visiting Nurses Association, Rehabilitation and Hospice Care.

Nearly 400,000 Douglas County residents have been served since the doors opened in 1999.

An open house to celebrate the 10th anniversary was held Nov. 8. Attendees enjoyed music, refreshments and tours of each agency.

The 10th anniversary of the building is a reminder not only of the importance of the agencies housed here, but of the people who worked so hard to turn the dreams of a community health facility into a reality.



A ceremonial ribbon cutting was held during the 10-year celebration. Pictured from the left are: David Johnson, Craig Weinaug, Judy Bellome, Nancy Thellman, Rob Chestnut, Marceil Lauppe, Shirley Martin-Smith, Bob Sarna and Dan Partridge.

# KAY KENT EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARD



Health Department Director Dan Partridge congratulates Charlotte Marthaler, Director of Policy and Planning, for receiving the Kay Kent Award in April.

As part of its annual Public Health Week events in 2009, the Kay Kent Excellence in Public Health Service Award was presented. In its second year, the award is named for Kay Kent who served as director of the Health Department for 33 years.

Her visionary leadership, dedicated work and passion for public health inspired the award.

The 2009 recipient was Charlotte Marthaler, Director of Policy and Planning.

Marthaler was one of seven Health Department employees nominated by their peers for the honor, with the winner selected by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board.

# MEASURING PERFORMANCE

Program	Data Source	Target (Goal)	2009			
			1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
WIC						
% of infants who breastfed for a minimum of 6 months	KWIC	≥30%	28%	40%	27%	34%
Project LIVELY						
% of clients receiving a home visit at a frequency appropriate to their need	Access	≥90%	95%	98%	100%	98%
Clinic Services						
% of family planning clients ages 15-25 testing positive for Chlamydia	KDHE	≤5%	7.0%	5.1%	2.7%	3.6%
Child Care Licensing						
% of complaint investigations initiated within five business days	Access	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Environmental Health						
% of recreational water facilities closed	Fox Pro	≤3%	2.6	2.0	4.9	4.4
Emergency Preparedness						
% of staff completing all required Incident Command System (ICS) training	Training log	≥90%	74%	93%	100%	97%
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)						
Premature Birth Rate (% of MCH infants born at < 37 weeks gestation)	Perinatal Outcome Report	≤7.6%	0.0%	0.0%	18.8%	0.0%
Administration						
% of programs with total expenditures at or below YTD budgeted amount	QuickBooks	100%	100%	100%	88%	88%

# IN THE MEDIA



**ABOVE:** Nurse Karina Jones comforts a child at the Haskell H1N1 vaccination clinic. Photo courtesy/Richard Gwin, Lawrence Journal-World.

Public health is education and outreach.

The H1N1 virus dominated much of the media coverage in 2009. Stories included the Health Department holding the first H1N1 vaccination clinic in Kansas. The agency's web page with H1N1 information was one of the most visited pages for much of 2009, with the page receiving 7,341 hits.

Other media stories highlighted the economy's effect on the Health Department and the WIC program's impact.

In 2009, the Health Department was featured in:

- 110 newspaper/online media stories or briefs
- 30 television newscasts
- 26 radio broadcasts.

After much preparation, the department began a system of performance measurement in 2009 designed to answer the four questions described in the matrix to the right.

What you see above are a few of the measures the Health Department has developed to help answer the important questions of, "How good were our programs?" and "What impact did we have?"

Additionally, some of these measures were selected for their importance as an indicator of the health of the community.

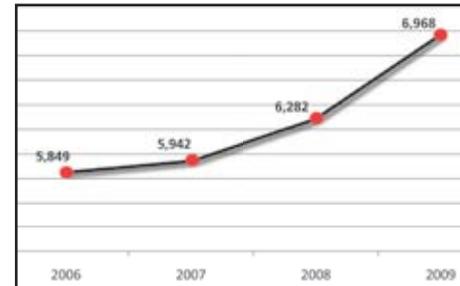
	Quantity	Quality
Input	How much service did we deliver?	How well did we deliver service?
Output	How much change did we produce?	How good were our programs?

See [www.idchealth.org/performanceasures.htm](http://www.idchealth.org/performanceasures.htm) for more performance scorecard data.

Public health plans to improve the community's health.

# CHILD CARE LICENSING

Community capacity for child care continues to increase



One of the goals of the Child Care Licensing (CCL) program is to respond to all complaints within five business days. The program met this goal with its response to the 79 complaints received in 2009.

The number of slots available in Douglas County for day care continues to increase as illustrated by the graph on the left.

CCL staff visit all licensed homes, group licensed homes, centers, preschools, school-age programs and drop-in programs once a year to ensure compliance with state regulations. In 2009, staff inspected 490 facilities and provided education about the 2009 H1N1 flu virus.

**Public health is enforcing public health laws and regulations.**

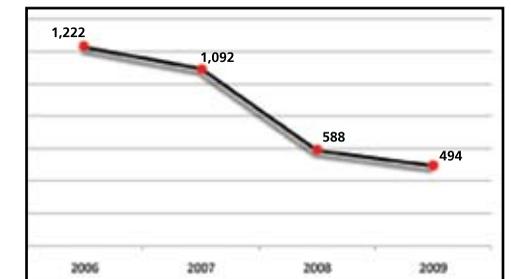
# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

In 2009, the Environmental Health program completed 2,066 inspections primarily related to sanitary code, food service, animal bites and pools.

The agency continues to see a decrease in sanitary code inspections, which is directly tied to the slowdown in the housing industry, as shown at left.

In December, state budget cuts forced the Kansas Department of Agriculture to end its contract with the Health Department to conduct restaurant inspections. This resulted in a loss of \$90,000 and two environmental health positions.

Sanitary code inspections continue to decrease



**ABOVE:** Luke Poly, 5, jumps rope at the annual Kickin' it with WIC Activity Day.

# WIC



WIC Nutritionist Linda Rippetoe checks the inventory of WIC-approved foods at a local store.

For the first time in its 35-year history, the WIC (Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition Program), introduced a new food package in 2009.

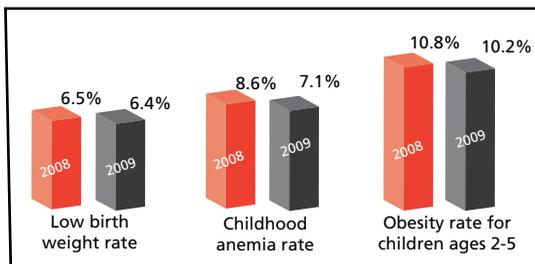
The new package allows for a greater number of healthy choices, which include foods lower in fat and higher in fiber. Fresh, frozen and canned fruits and vegetables are new to the food package as well as whole grain items, such as certain cereals and breads.

These changes help families meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Dietary Guidelines.

The package also promotes breastfeeding by offering the most foods to mothers who breastfeed exclusively.

Also in 2009, the rate of breastfeeding for a minimum of six months among Douglas County WIC clients improved to 32 percent. In Kansas, that number was just 21 percent.

Risk factors decline among WIC clients



# CLINIC SERVICES

High immunization rates and a reduction in sexually transmitted diseases are beneficial for the entire community. The Health Department's clinic provides prevention services at a reduced cost.

Many clients are uninsured or low income. For example, seven out of 10 Family Planning clients are low income.

In 2009, the department participated in the statewide Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) project. The project provided Tdap vaccine at no charge to 11-year-olds and helped increase rates of vaccination in this age group.

Budget constraints in 2009 reduced staffing hours and Well Child services.

**RIGHT:**  
Nurse Peggy Gabler vaccinates Paola Torres, 10.



Public health works to eliminate health disparities.

# PROJECT LIVELY

In 2009, Project LIVELY continued its internship program with University of Kansas social work students and for the second year, hosted Korean social work students.

Project LIVELY, along with the Interagency Network for Aging (INFA) hosted its annual legislative forum Oct. 7. Legislators discussed a variety of issues related to seniors and the future of home-based services.

The program also conducted its annual client and community partner survey in April.

- 93 percent of clients agreed that since obtaining Project LIVELY services their quality of life has improved.
- 100 percent of community partners agreed that Project LIVELY services help increase the continuity of care of aging adults in Douglas County.



Korean social work students and their professor from Hallym University in Chuncheon, Korea, visited the Project LIVELY program in 2009.

# PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

An exercise held as part of the statewide March Health Madness proved to be great training for the H1N1 vaccination clinics held later in the year.

The exercise, which took place at Lawrence's Free State High School, involved a fictitious outbreak of Hepatitis A. More than 192 people were "vaccinated" to protect them from the illness. Health Department staff, Medical Reserve Corps, Free State students and staff participated.



Other notes:

- The program received a score of 82 percent during its annual Technical Assistance Review (TAR). The TAR is a measure of how well a jurisdiction manages its Strategic National Stockpile assets and ensures that specific point-of-dispensing plans, security and public communications are current and functional. A score of 69 or more is a passing grade.
- The Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps recruited 11 new volunteers in 2009, many of whom assisted with H1N1 vaccination clinics.

# MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH



Lindsey Sleeper and her children, Brayden, Maycie and Alexia receive support from a Maternal Child Health nurse case manager.

Maternal Child Health (MCH) nurse case managers work with Douglas County families to improve health outcomes, enhance life skills and increase family self-sufficiency.

MCH staff served 382 parents and children in 2009.

State funding for the teen pregnancy case management program (Teen Independence Project- TIP) was eliminated in July 2009.

The loss resulted in the reduction of one staff member and shortened the time frame that teen moms could be in the program.

Presently, any mom in the Maternal Child Health program is eligible for support from a nurse case manager up to one year after delivery.

Public health is linking people to services.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

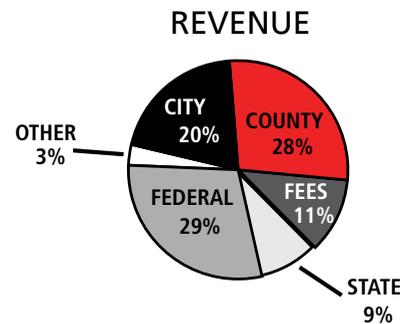
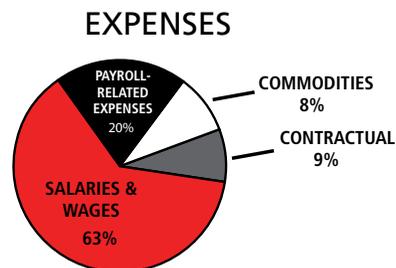
Unaudited statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2009

## Operating Fund

Beginning balance	\$367,836
<b>Revenue</b>	
Federal	\$967,882
County	\$948,900
City	\$669,000
Fees	\$359,424
State	\$290,542
Other	\$108,688
Total revenue	\$3,344,436
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Salaries & wages	\$1,877,389
Payroll related expenses	\$604,685
Contractual	\$278,967
Commodities	\$231,732
Total expenditures	\$2,992,773
Ending balance	\$719,499
Net revenue over expenditures	\$351,663

## Reserve Fund

Beginning balance	\$733,830
<b>Revenue</b>	
Transfer from Operating Fund	\$25,000
Other	\$4,692
Total revenue	\$29,692
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Personnel liabilities	\$8,916
Commodities	0
Transfer to Operating Fund	0
Total expenditures	\$8,916
Ending balance	\$754,606
Net revenue over expenditures	\$20,776



## WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY...

### The dynamics of health

Some public health experts predict that our children's generation will be the first in modern times to have a shorter lifespan. This startling assessment is based primarily on the upward trend in diabetes and obesity.

It is easy to say the solution is to eat right and exercise more, but to do so would be to ignore the many complex behaviors that shape our actions.

The Kansas Health Institute Community Health Status Report released in 2009 illustrates that change needs to

happen. Change must be made at both the personal and community level and is neither easy nor swift.

Our belief is that focusing on the smaller picture of accreditation helps advance the bigger picture of improving community health.

This is a goal the Health Department is working to complete in 2011. Our efforts will include a community health assessment and plan, with quality improvement processes already underway.



## LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH BOARD



Pictured from the left are: Paul Liechti, Shirley Martin-Smith, Gerald Pees, MD, Treasurer; Karen Shumate, RN, MS, CPHQ, Vice Chair; and Alan Cowles, MD, Chair.

## LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION

Robert Chestnut, Mayor  
 Mike Amyx, Vice Mayor  
 Aron Cromwell  
 Lance Johnson  
 Michael Dever

## DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSION

Nancy Thellman, Chair  
 Mike Gaughan  
 Jim Flory



# H1N1 INFLUENZA

**ABOVE:** More than 1,500 people were vaccinated at the first H1N1 clinic in Kansas. Oct. 21, 2009, at Haskell Indian Nations University.

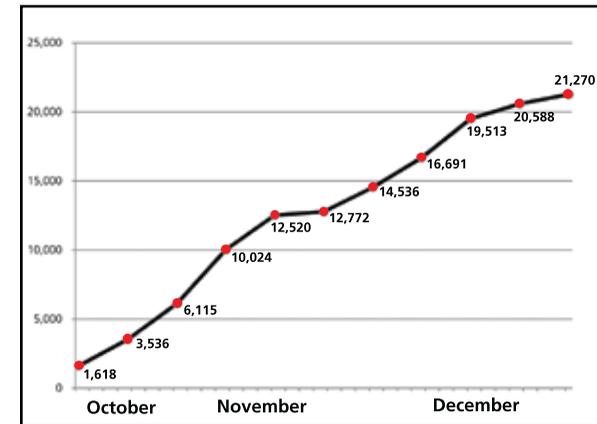
When the H1N1 virus emerged in April 2009, health departments around the country began preparations to protect their communities against a virus that had not been seen before.

With its spread extending beyond typical flu season and its disproportionate impact on young people, health officials began an unprecedented public health response.

Federal vaccination funding and support allowed the Health Department to provide thousands of doses of H1N1 vaccine at no charge. The department began its campaign in October, holding the first vaccination clinic in the state on Oct. 21 at Haskell Indian Nations University, where 1,502 people were immunized.

The response to H1N1 is expected to continue well into 2010, until the overall susceptibility of the county's population to the virus has been substantially decreased.

H1N1 vaccinations given in 2009





LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY

# Health Department

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