

2005



200 Maine Street, Suite B

Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Office 785 843 3060

Clinic 785 843 0721

www.kalhd.org/lhd/lawdoug/index.html



Annual Report

A Message from the Director

I am pleased to share with you this Annual Report which highlights the Health Department's activities for 2005.

These achievements are a result of our continued commitment to protect and promote the health of Douglas County residents.

While public health, both on the national and local level, has made significant contributions to improving community health, it is important that we not become complacent. Public health must continue efforts to maintain the gains made during the past years while facing new public health challenges.

The positive accomplishments we have realized in Douglas County would not have been possible without the commitment and support of the staff, Health Board, City Commission and County Commission. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to each for their support of the Health Department's mission.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is to protect and promote the health of the population of Douglas County.



W. Kay Kent, RN, MS
Director

This past year has proven to be a challenging yet rewarding year for the Health Department.

Noticeable changes and differences could be seen in many areas of the department including additional responsibilities. These changes and new responsibilities reinforce and support the essential services of the agency . . .

Disease Control

In 2005, the state of Kansas saw a rise in pertussis (whooping cough) cases. Douglas County had 43 confirmed and probable cases. In September, a spike in cases corresponded with the start of the school year. Health Department staff worked with media, school nurses and local physicians to educate the public about pertussis and the importance of having children vaccinated. The agency offered a newly released vaccine for children 11-18 years of age to prevent pertussis. In addition, the agency posted educational information on its Web site.

For the first time, the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention designated one week in May as National Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week. The Health Department continued its annual prevention efforts and participated in the national event by letting the public know about health risks regarding recreational water illness. In addition to their responsibilities to educate pool operators, staff conducted numerous media interviews talking about prevention methods.

Maternal and Child Health

One important educational component of the *Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Woman, Infants and Children* (WIC) is to educate families and participants about breastfeeding. WIC staff developed and produced a Breastfeeding Booklet for their current and prospective clients. The booklet showcases local families who have breastfed their children and increases awareness among mothers about the benefits of breastfeeding.

Families who speak only Spanish and who are served by maternal and child health field programs grew to 20% over the last year. To serve this population better, two bilingual AmeriCorps Community Health members are currently working under the supervision of the Health Department to assist public health nurses to better communicate and address Latino family needs. In addition, a full time bilingual registered nurse joined the maternal and child health nursing staff.

Adult Health

In November 2005, *Project LIVELY* helped organize a legislative forum addressing various issues affecting senior citizens. Six Douglas County legislators participated in the forum. *Project LIVELY* staff also continues to facilitate bimonthly meetings of the Interagency Network for Aging. Meetings bring community service providers together to advocate, coordinate services, and ensure continuity of care for the elderly in Douglas County.

Community Health

The Douglas County Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP) was created in 1997 to provide cohesive direction and strategies for improving health in Douglas County. The Health Department helped to form CHIP and serves as the fiscal agent for the coalition.

In 2005, CHIP was awarded a grant of more than \$200,000 to expand tobacco use prevention strategies in Douglas County. These grant funds are awarded by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to support the following goals:

- Prevent young people from starting to smoke.
- Eliminate people's exposure to tobacco smoke.
- Help people stop smoking.
- Eliminate disparities in tobacco use among various groups of people.

The Health Department has benefited greatly by having AmeriCorps Community Health members work with the agency. The goal of one of the AmeriCorps members is to build the capacity of the community to effectively meet health and social service needs for Spanish-speaking families. The *Latino Community Coalition* was started in 2004 and further developed in 2005. The mission for the organization is to address the needs of Latinos in Douglas County. The coalition is already working to help Spanish-speaking families gain access to various services.

Environmental Health

Preliminary results of air quality data gathered over the summer were found to be positive for Douglas County. The Health Department continued its educational campaign about protecting air quality. *Do Your Share for Cleaner Air* was the agency's message to the public throughout the year including the Earth Day celebration in Lawrence. Asking people to be conscious about air quality was one way of letting the public know the need for residents to do their part in protecting air quality.

Public Health Preparedness

The Health Department conducted a mass vaccination exercise to test portions of its public health emergency response plan. *Project Flu* was a mass immunization clinic held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in October. Health Department staff and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers participated in the exercise, vaccinating 610 people in four hours.

Early in 2005, the Medical Reserve Corps began recruiting and training volunteers. Trained volunteers were able to participate in various activities including the *Project Flu* mass vaccination clinic and distributing environmental education materials at the Douglas County Fair. By the end of 2005, the Medical Reserve Corps had 38 volunteers trained.

Concern for a possible influenza pandemic heightened in 2005 as a result of reports of avian flu cases in Asia. The public health system has been working over the past few years to address the possibility of an influenza pandemic. A town hall meeting about pandemic flu was held in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The Health Department is working with community and state partners to plan for this possible health threat.

Communications

In addition to creating media releases and working with media outlets, the Health Department is able to better communicate and give the public basic program information via the Internet. The agency developed a Web site to help answer the public's questions regarding department programs and other agency information such as forms and clinic times and dates. A department e-mail address was developed as another way for the public to get in touch with the agency. These additions have given the community another resource to access information.

2005 HEALTH DEPARTMENT ENCOUNTERS

Immunization visits	9,458
Community Health Education encounters	6,426
Family Planning visits	5,045
WIC Clinic visits	4,202
Environmental Health inspections	2,017
Sexually Transmitted Disease visits	1,925
Pregnancy and Parenting visits	1,638
Project LIVELY visits	1,556
HIV Counseling and Testing visits	1,274
Tuberculosis Skin Test and Related visits	1,238
Health Screening Clinics for People Over 60 visits	706
Teen Independence Project visits	512
Family Health Referral visits	495
Child Care Licensing visits	429
Other Communicable Disease visits	140
Well Child Clinic visits	134
TOTAL ENCOUNTERS	37,195

Financial Statement

Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending December 31, 2005 (Unaudited)

REVENUE

City	535,286
County	824,298
Fees	413,993
State	260,227
Federal	686,289
Other	115,142

TOTAL REVENUE 2,835,235*

EXPENSES

Salaries & Wages	1,687,158
Payroll Related Expenses	558,638
Fees	67,676
General Operating Programs	82,159
	303,976

TOTAL EXPENSES 2,699,607*

Net revenue over expenses 135,628

*Net after removal of bad debts and depreciation

. . . As public health continues to tackle new and unknown challenges, the Health Department is committed in continuing its leadership role of protecting and promoting the public's health.

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH BOARD

Donna Bell, Chair
Tom Liebl, DVM
Carl McElwee, PhD
Gladys Sanders
Sherri Vaughn, MD

LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION

Dennis ("Boog") Highberger, Mayor
Mike Amyx
Sue Hack
Mike Rundle
David Schauner

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSION

Bob Johnson, Chair
Charles Jones
Jere McElhaney