

Open Ended Question Responses

1. **What do you expect from the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department?**
 - a) Collaboration
 - b) Public education - help us understand our health risks at a basic behavior level
 - c) Affordable direct services
 - d) Comprehensive outlook of public health

2. **What are the 3 most important health needs of the community?**
 - a) Access to health care for everyone including mental health and substance abuse services and coordinated services
 - b) Protection from mass population based health problems (to include disaster level emergencies)
 - c) Need to address behaviors that lead to poor health

3. **What needs to be done to assure that the people of Douglas County lead healthier lives?**
 - a) Collaborate as a community – end turf battles – all agencies come together
 - b) Provide a home for all homeless people – substance abuse and mental health are related to homelessness
 - c) Leadership from the Health Department - educate public on how to lead a better life – reliance on cars, fast food, lack of social fabric - what may seem to others like the “good life” is not always as it seems
 - d) Identify barriers for the future - begin preparing now – need to get ahead of the future demand
 - e) Engage the public in solutions

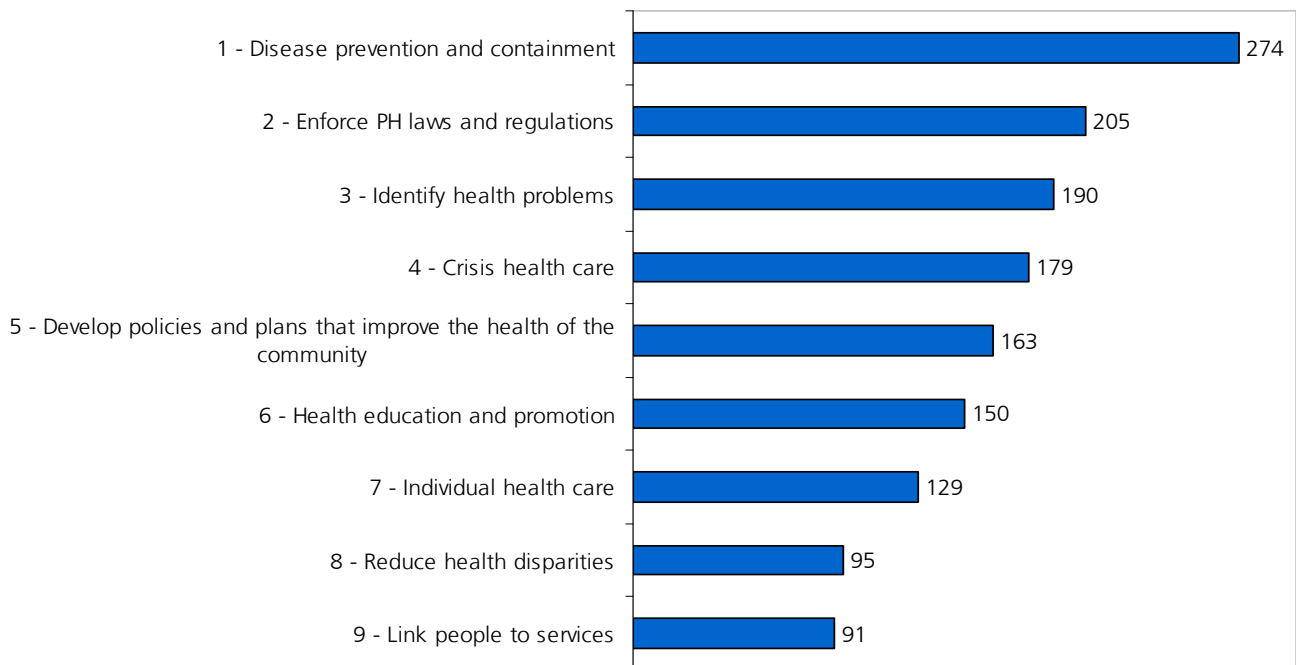
4. **What segments of our community have greater health needs?**
 - a) Small business owners and their employees – some may have to cut health insurance benefits for employees
 - b) Minorities
 - c) Uninsured
 - d) Elderly
 - e) Children
 - f) Homeless

5. **What community asset/characteristic is our strongest resource for improving the health of community?**
 - a) Community is resource rich as exemplified by:
 - Human resource experts
 - Organizational resources such as schools, Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc
 - Great sense of community

- b) Geography – we have a rural/urban mix and natural resources in the area to sustain ourselves as long as we protect them (water, soil etc)
6. **Conversely, what community deficits/characteristics play the largest role in eroding the health of the community?**
- a) Lack of money or perceived lack of money
 - b) Tunnel vision about money – we have always done things this way
 - c) Not enough service providers – people have to wait for service
 - d) Some businesses benefit from poor health behaviors
7. **What is the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department doing right?**
- a) Extremely good to work with as exemplified by:
 - Good people to work and partner with
 - Great resource - after hours accessibility
 - Hire qualified staff who follow through
 - Willing to work with community and answer questions
 - High quality reasonably priced services
 - b) Great leaders in the community
 - c) Elected officials are getting the message of what the Health Department is doing now and plans for the future
 - d) Creative thinking – closing gaps and preparing for the future

Prioritizing Public Health Services Exercise

Rank order and total score



Results from 41 completed forced choice instruments.