

Enforcement Activities Report

2012

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has a role in ensuring that public health laws are enforced. In some cases, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has the enforcement authority. In other cases, the Health Department works with those who have the legal authority to enforce the laws, such as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment or the Kansas Department of Agriculture. When other agencies have enforcement authority, the role of the Health Department is to collaborate, assist, and share information. It is important for the public to know about these enforcement activities in the community as violations can impact the public's health.

This Enforcement Activity Report is a summary of enforcement of public health activities occurring in Douglas County during 2012. The areas included in the report are:

Communicable Disease

Pages 1-3

- Under the authority given by the Kansas Statute 65-101, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department investigates suspected communicable diseases in Douglas County

Child Care Licensing

Pages 4-6

- Under the authority contracted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department inspects and licenses all child care facilities in Douglas County

Environmental Health

Pages 7-9

- Under the authority of the Douglas County Sanitation Code, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department inspects septic systems and wells, licenses sewage management system installers and septage haulers, and inspects the condition of the water and wastewater management systems prior to real estate transfers.
- Under the authority given by the Lawrence City Ordinance 5-1403, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department licenses and inspects public swimming pools and spas.
- Under the authority given by the Lawrence City Ordinance 4-207B, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department inspects Cereal-Malt beverage retailers within the city of Lawrence.
- The authority for Food Safety and Lodging inspections falls under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

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For more information on the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department:

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Communicable Disease

Authority

According to Kansas Statute 65-101, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department under the supervision of the Secretary of Health and Environment, investigates the causes of disease, take action to prevent the introduction or spread of infectious or contagious disease, and provide public health outreach services including educational activities to increase awareness and use of public health services.

Communicable Disease Investigations

The Health Department investigated a total of 770 reports of suspected communicable diseases in 2012. The table below shows the breakdown of the 477 cases that included status reported as confirmed, probable and suspect. At-risk personal contacts were notified and recommendations were made for appropriate follow-up and/or treatment.

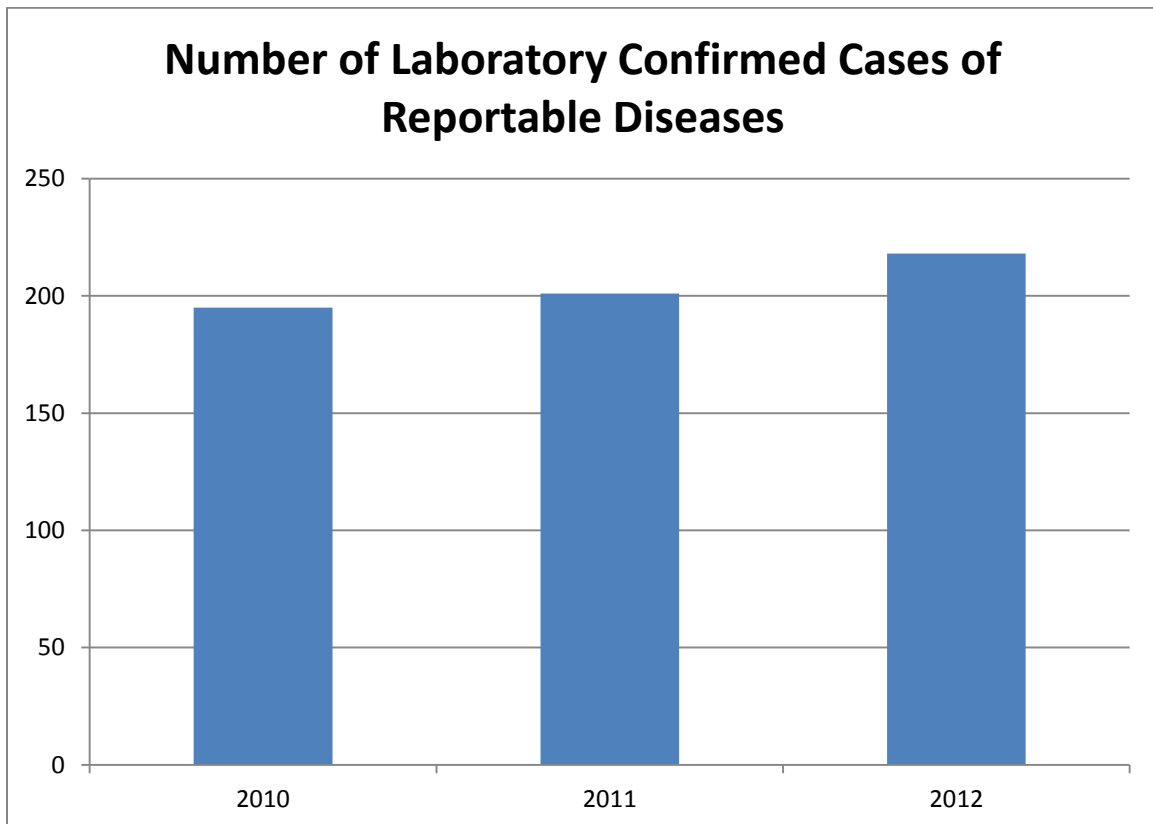
Cases of Communicable Disease Reported to the Health Department <i>(includes Confirmed, Probable and Suspect Cases)</i>				
Pertussis		214	Lyme	8
Hepatitis			West Nile Virus	5
	A Acute	2	Cryptosporidium	4
	B Acute	6	Giardia	4
	B Chronic	11	E. Coli	3
	C Chronic	88	Strep A invasive	3
Varicella		27	Mumps	3
Salmonellosis		25	Shigella	2
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever		22	Hemophilis Influenza	2
Norowalk virus		21	Ehrlichiosis	2
Campylobacter		13	Neisseria Meningitis	1
Steptococcus Pneumoniae		10	Dengue	1

Communicable Disease

Communicable Disease Program Standards and Trends

The Health Department's standard for timely investigation is to initiate the investigation within 24 hours of notice. For each of the last three years, this standard for inspection timeliness was met in 99% of the investigations.

The total number of laboratory confirmed communicable diseases identified in Douglas County has ranged from 195 in 2010 to 218 in 2012. During this time, enteric disease such as Campylobacter Infection, Giardiasis, and Salmonellosis have made up about 19% of the annual total. There are various reasons that a disease may not be confirmed including testing was not done; testing was done, but at the wrong time; or to be a confirmed case of disease a second test needed to be done.



Communicable Disease

Pertussis Investigation Process

In 2012, Douglas County experienced the second highest incidence rate of pertussis of all counties in Kansas. A confirmed case of pertussis leads to multiple follow-up inquiries with those involved.

Pertussis is a cough illness that lasts for over 2 weeks with symptoms of paroxysms of coughing, inspiratory “whoop,” or post-tussive vomiting. Public health staff investigated 313 reported cases of pertussis and over 900 potential case contacts in 2012.

The communicable disease staff is notified of a possible case through KDHE, physicians, school nurses, hospitals or private citizens. The investigation includes:

1. Contacting the healthcare provider to obtain information and immunization records of the case.
2. Interviewing the case to determine where they may have been exposed and where they may have exposed others during the infectious period (from date when the cough began and for 21 days, or if treated – 5 days after antibiotic therapy), including work and other activities.
3. Notifying contacts of the case that may have been exposed during the infectious period. High risk contacts include infants, pregnant women, immune compromised people and anyone in contact with infants or pregnant women.
4. Initiating control and prevention measures to prevent spread of disease. K.A.R. 28-1-6 states that each infected person shall remain in respiratory isolation for three weeks if untreated, or for five days after starting antibiotic therapy.
5. Providing education that includes basic information about the disease and its complications and ways to treat and prevent transmission. Providing a fact sheet for the general public.

Child Care Licensing

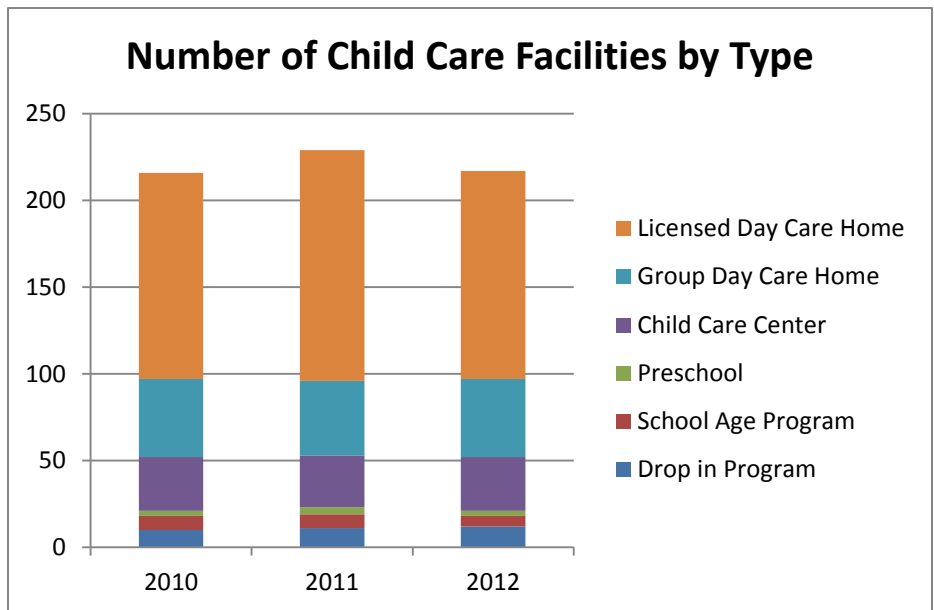
Authority

Through a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has the obligation to inspect child care facilities for compliance with state-issued rules and regulations governing the maintenance of those facilities. Child care facilities are required to be licensed and inspected annually.

Child Care Licensing Program

The Health Department safeguards children in out-of-home child care through on-site inspections and enforcement of standards related to healthy, safe and developmentally appropriate care. Staff provides education, technical assistance and consultation to child care providers to improve compliance with regulations.

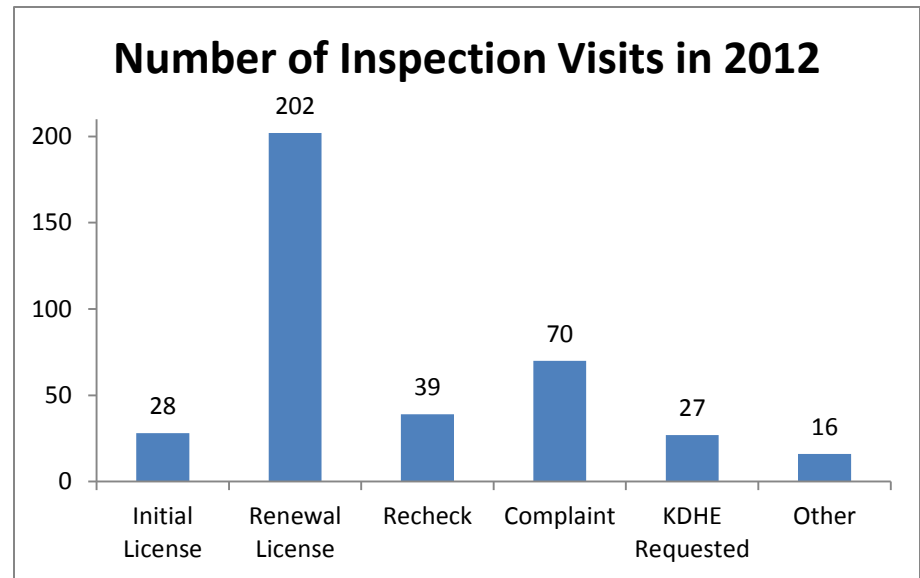
The overall number of child care facilities decreased from 232 in 2011 to 218 in 2012. The total number of slots for children in licensed day care homes is 1,730, while the total number of slots for all other facilities is 6,484.



Child Care Licensing

Inspection Visits

Douglas County child care licensing surveyors conducted 382 inspection visits in 2012. Over half of the visits were related to annual license renewal. There were 52 complaints reported during 2012 resulting in 70 inspections visits. The most common of which were illegal care and lack of supervision. There was one emergency suspension in 2012.



Child Care Licensing Program Standards and Trends

The standard for timeliness of inspections is that 90% of facilities in any given month receive their required annual inspection prior to the license renewal date. The Health Department's standard for timely investigation of complaints related to child care is 5 business days. The average timeliness of inspections in 2012 was 23% compared to 59% in 2011. The difference in timeliness is due in part to 108 facilities transferring from unlicensed to licensed facilities.

As a measure of child safety, the rate of reportable accidents occurring while children are in care is tracked each month with a goal of no more than .03 accidents per 10,000 child care days. In 2012, there were .02 accidents per 10,000 child care days.

Child Care Licensing

Quality Improvement Project

A random sampling of inspection reports found that 91% of licensed child care facilities were cited for one or more paperwork errors at their last survey. Errors included lack of up-to-date immunization records, missing emergency contact forms, and documentation of required staff training. As a result of these findings, the Health Department implemented a quality improvement project aimed at reducing the number of facilities cited for paperwork violations.

Health Department staff designed a system to organize paperwork required for each child and the provider. Classroom training was offered to current providers as well as incorporated into the orientation training for new home providers; a shortened version of the training was given to child care center and preschool directors. A You Tube video related to assembling the filing system was created and linked to the Health Department website.

The goal of the quality improvement project is to cite 20% or fewer facilities for paperwork errors. There has been significant improvement to date, with no paperwork violations cited for 23 of 60 providers at their most recent survey.

Environmental Health

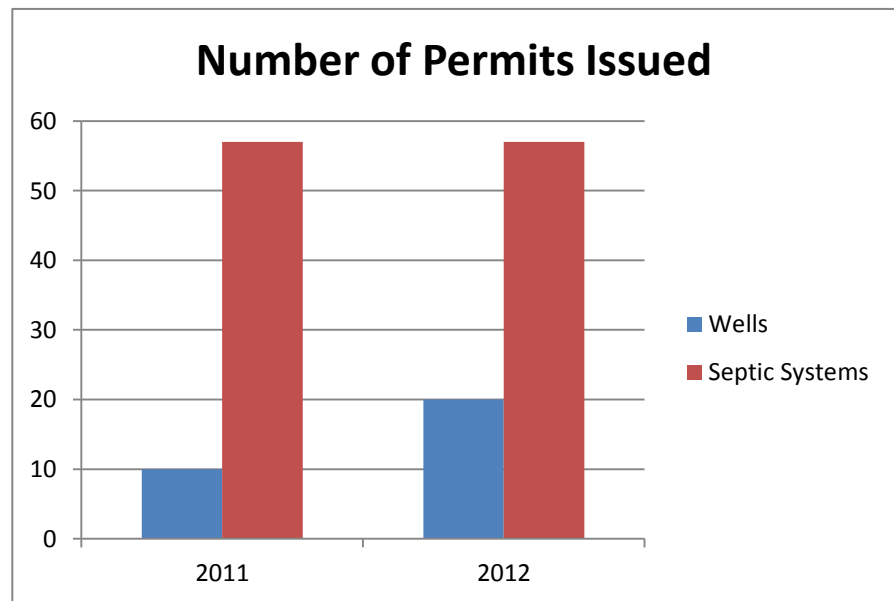
Authority for Sanitary Code Enforcement

Beginning in 1968, the Douglas County Sanitary Code has set forth procedures and regulations that are to be followed and administered to promote and protect the health, safety, comfort, and general welfare of the people of Douglas County, Kansas. The enforcement of this code reduces or eliminates development of environmental conditions that are hazardous, or could potentially be hazardous, to people's health and safety.

In accordance with the Douglas County Sanitary Code, adopted under the authority granted to the Board of County Commissioners, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department administers this code.

Permits and Licenses

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department issues permits for septic systems. In 2012, 57 permits for septic systems were issued. The Health Department also issues permits for water wells. In 2012, there were 20 permits for private water wells issued which is greater than the number issued in 2011.



In Douglas County a person needs to be licensed to be a sewage management system installer. In 2012, there were 8 new septic installer licenses granted as well as 22 renewal licenses issued.

Environmental Health

A license is also required to be a septage hauler. The Health Department issued three of these licenses in 2012. Licensed haulers are part of the Health Department's septage management program which assured that approximately 800,000 gallons of septic tank waste was properly disposed of in 2012.

Inspection Visits

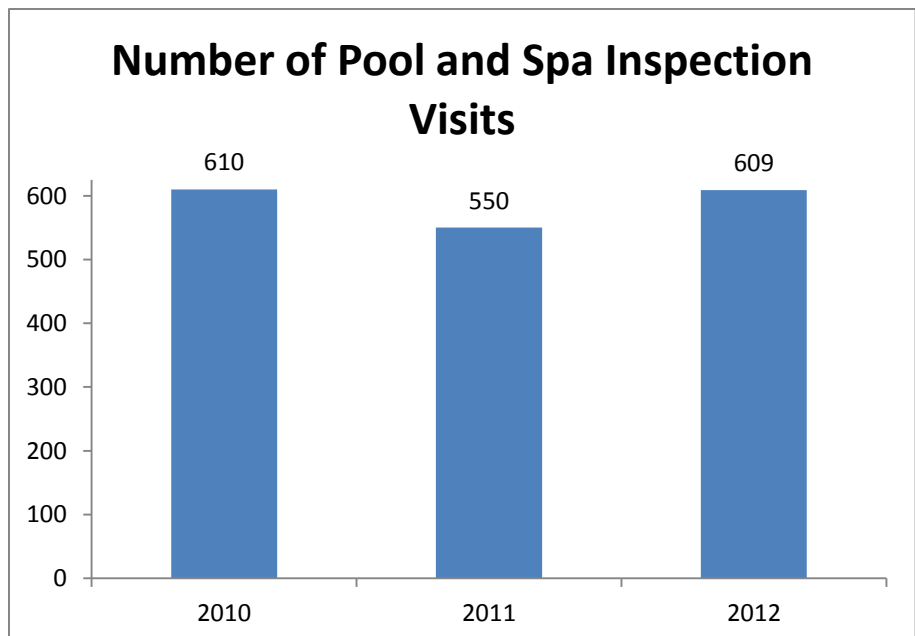
In 2012, the Health Department conducted 403 inspections related to septic systems. Additionally, there were 142 inspections conducted on water wells. Water tests for bacterial contamination found bacteria in 26 samples.

In accordance with the Douglas County Sanitary Code, whenever ownership of any property is transferred the Health Department is to inspect the condition of the wastewater management system. In 2012, there were 117 septic system inspections for real estate transfers.

- 12 (10%) sites had to have new septic tanks installed
- 3 new lateral fields had to be installed
- 15 (13%) sites had to have sewer piping rerouted or replaced

Authority for Public Pool and Spa Inspections

In accordance with the City of Lawrence, Kansas Ordinance 5-1403 the Health Department is authorized to make inspections of all swimming pools or non-residential spas.



Environmental Health

Pool and Spa Inspection Standards and Trends

The Health Department's standard is to inspect public swimming pools and spas a minimum of once a month when the facility is in operation; outdoor pools are typically inspected June through August. For each of the last three years, this standard for inspection frequency was met.

In 2012, out of the 609 inspections there were 53 closures. The most common reason for the closures were inadequate chlorine levels, followed by need for repairs, and safety violations. The rate of facility closures in 2012 was 8.7%.

Authority for Food Safety and Lodging Inspections

In accordance with the City of Lawrence, Kansas Ordinance 4-207B the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has the authority to inspect Cereal-Malt Beverage retailers within the City of Lawrence. In 2012, there were inspections conducted for 50 establishments. A total of 19 violations were found compared to 10 in 2011. The most common violation was improper food temperatures.

The remainder of Food Safety and Lodging inspections falls under the jurisdiction of the Kansas Department of Agriculture. They are responsible for inspections at grocery stores, restaurants in grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, schools, senior meal sites, mobile food units, lodging facilities, food wholesalers and warehouses.

Environmental Health Complaints

During 2012, the Health Department received a combined 141 complaints and requests for information about an environmental concern. Staff responded to 73% of the calls within one business day and 25% involved an on-site inspection. The most common concerns from the public were related to sewage (27), mold (24) and rabies (24).