

Enforcement Activities Report

2013

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 2013. The areas included in the report are:

Communicable Disease

Pages 1-2

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

Child Care Licensing

Pages 3-4

- 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 5-7

- 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.

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

Visit us at:

www.ldchealth.org

Find us at:



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 588 reports of suspected communicable diseases in 2013. The table below shows the breakdown of the 285 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. Over the last two years the number of reports of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, 22 in 2012 and 23 in 2013, has been greater than the average of 12 of reports from 2009 to 2011.

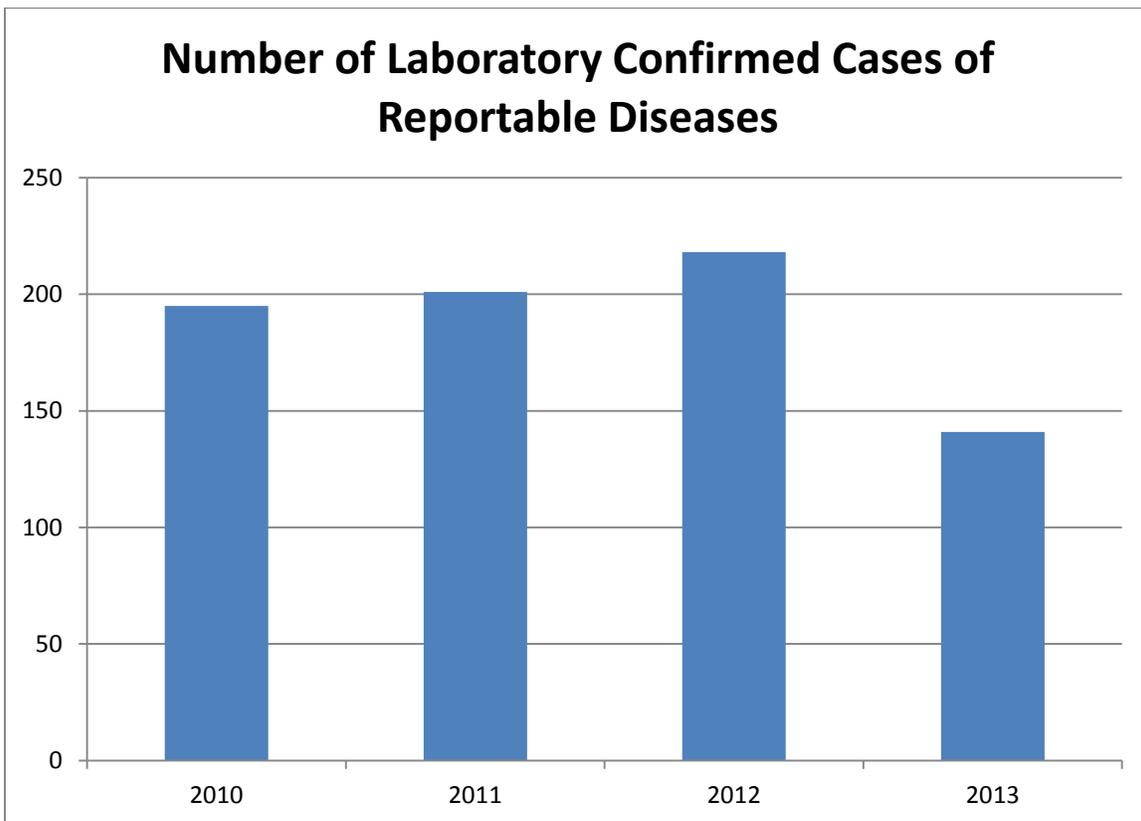
Cases of Communicable Disease Reported to the Health Department <i>(includes confirmed, probable, and suspect cases)</i>		
Hepatitis		
B Acute	2	Ehrlichiosis 12
B Chronic	13	Lyme 11
B Pregnancy	9	Streptococcus Pnemoniae 8
C Acute	3	Giardia 6
C Chronic	58	Shiga toxin producing E. coli 6
Latent Tuberculosis Infection	32	Cryptosporidium 4
Pertussis	27	Tularemia 4
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	23	Strep A, invasive 3
Varicella	17	Meningitis 1
Campylobacter	17	Mumps 1
Salmonellosis	15	Shigella 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 141 in 2013; these numbers do not include latent tuberculosis infections (LTBI). 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.



Child Care Licensing

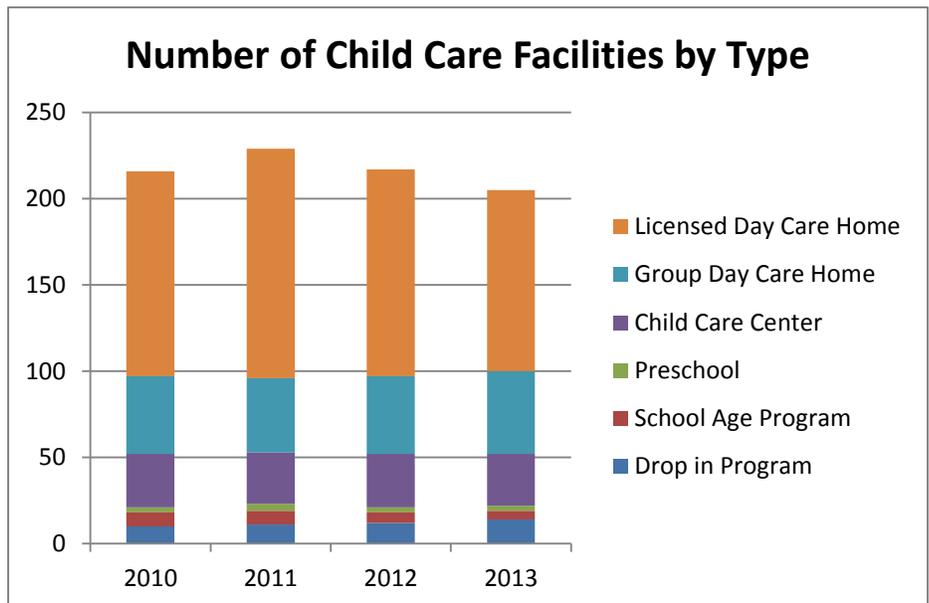
Authority

Through a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), 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.

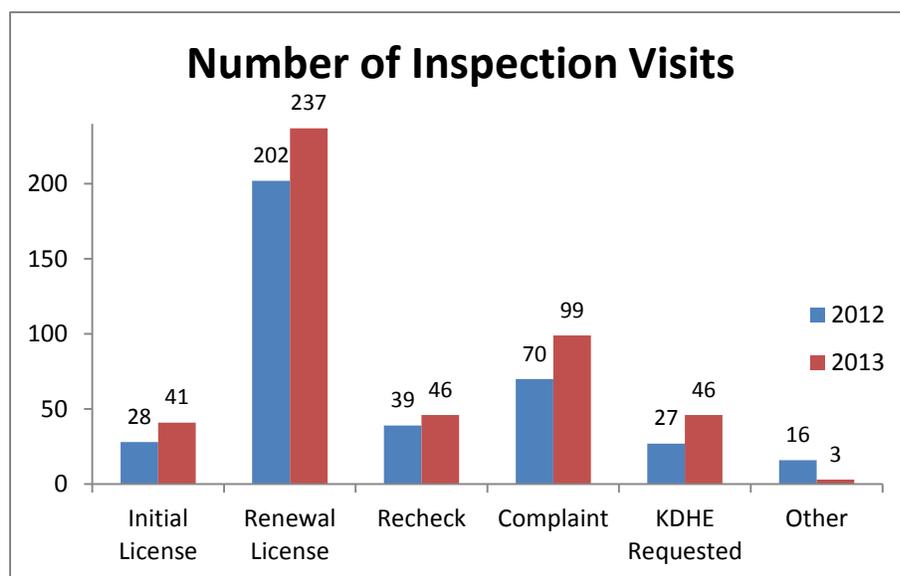
The overall number of child care facilities decreased from 218 in 2012 to 206 in 2013; however, the number of slots for children increased 4%. The total number of slots in licensed day care homes is 1,615, while the total number of slots for all other facilities is 6,963.



Child Care Licensing

Inspection Visits

Douglas County child care licensing surveyors conducted 471 inspection visits in 2013, a 23% increase over 2012. Over half of the visits were related to annual license renewal. There were 65 complaints reported during 2013 resulting in 99 inspections visits. The most common of which were illegal care and inappropriate discipline. There were two license revocations and two fines issued by KDHE in 2013.



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 average timeliness of inspections in 2013 was 87% compared to just 23% in 2012. The Health Department's standard for timely investigation of complaints related to child care is 5 business days and this standard was met 100% of the time in 2013.

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 2013, there were .04 accidents per 10,000 child care days. Facilities are also monitored for compliance with safe sleep practices and in 2013, 90% of facilities inspected were in compliance with safe sleep regulations compared to the goal of 95% compliance.

Environmental Health

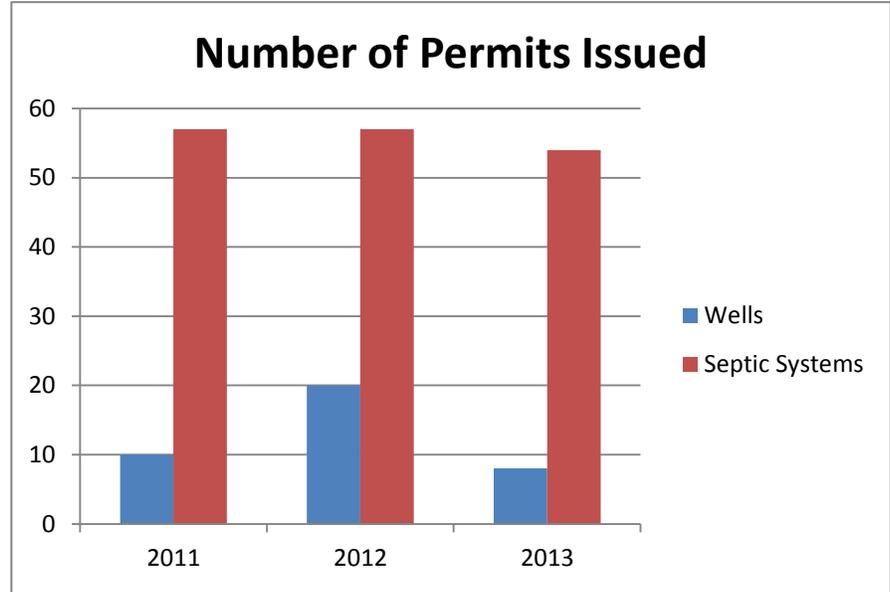
Authority for Sanitary Code Enforcement

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 2013, a total of 54 permits were issued to construct new systems and repair current septic systems. The Health Department also issues permits for water wells. In 2013, there were just eight permits for private water wells issued which is significantly fewer than the number issued in 2012.



In Douglas County a person needs to be licensed to be a sewage management system installer. At the end of 2013, there were 25 licensed septic installers providing services in Douglas County.

Environmental Health

A license is also required to be a septage hauler. The Health Department issued three of these licenses in 2013. 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 2013.

Inspection Visits

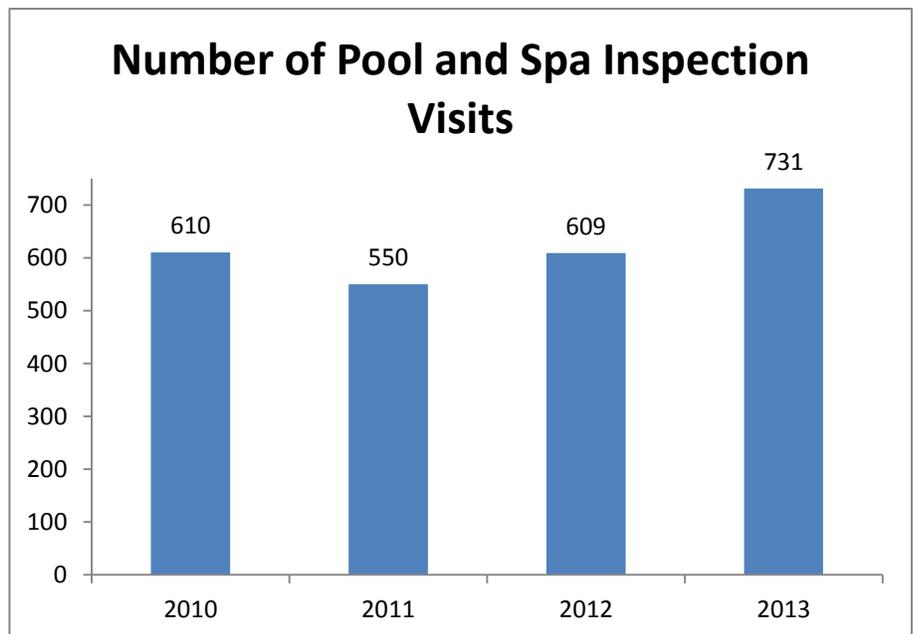
In 2013, the Health Department conducted 407 inspections related to septic systems. Additionally, there were 72 inspections conducted on water wells. Water tests for bacterial contamination found bacteria in 12 samples.

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 2013, there were 125 septic system inspections for real estate transfers. Nearly a third of the septic systems inspected required repairs including:

- 14 (11%) sites had to have new septic tanks installed
- 3 new pumps had to be installed
- 4 laundry drains were rerouted to the septic system

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. This standard for inspection frequency was met in 2013.

In 2013, out of the 731 inspections there were 60 closures. The most common reason for the closures was inadequate chlorine level; the rate of facility closures in 2013 was 9.4%.

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 2013, there were inspections conducted for 46 establishments. A total of 5 violations were found compared to 19 in 2012. 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. In 2013 there were 872 food safety inspections conducted in Douglas County.

Environmental Health Complaints

During 2013, the Health Department received a combined 95 complaints and requests for information about an environmental concern. Staff responded to 54% of the calls within one business day and 21% involved an on-site inspection. The most common concerns from the public were related to unsanitary conditions (26), bed bugs (17) and mold (12).