

**Joint City-Cowley County
Health Department**



**2015 Annual Report
of Activities**

City-Cowley County Health Department
320 E 9th, Suite B – Winfield, KS 67156
620-221-1430

The report of activities and accomplishments of the Joint City-County Health Department for the year ended December 31, 2015. This report is provided to the elected representatives and citizens of Cowley County, Kansas.



City-Cowley County
Health Department

Prevent~Promote~Protect

115 E. Radio Lane 320 East 9th, Suite B
Arkansas City, KS Winfield, KS
67006 67156



From the Administrator/Public Health Officer:

I am extremely honored to be serving the residents of Cowley County as the Administrator of the health department and as your Public Health Officer. Public Health is best defined with three simple words: Prevent-Promote-Protect. In essence that is what we at the health department strive to accomplish each day. Through training and education we promote excellent health. By providing immunizations, health screenings and disease investigation, we prevent disease. Through environmental permitting, sanitation code enforcement, testing and monitoring we protect our environment so that we all can enjoy a high quality of life.

Your Health Department is not a place where indigents go for health care. It is a vibrant service organization, staffed by caring professionals, working with people from all walks of life who are seeking to get and stay healthy. All our efforts are organized so we can help you achieve your personal health improvement goals and do so in the most cost effective manner possible. We know that prevention is much less expensive than acute and chronic care.

My work here began last August and I found that Cowley County residents' health consistently ranks in the lower 20% of counties statewide. What factors contribute to our less than optimal health rankings? It appears that as a population we carry a bit too much weight, we don't make healthy food choices and we are not as physically active as we should be. Some of us enjoy using tobacco products even though we know that they are harmful. Sadly all of our poor choices are linked to our poor health outcomes.

So in the effort to improve population health going forward the Health Department will be speaking directly to the community in targeted terms. We want to increase the number of us who choose to routinely eat healthy foods, to reduce the number of residents that are at risk for diabetes, heart disease and other chronic ailments. We hope to reduce our high rate of teen pregnancy, to reduce the incidence of women who smoke while pregnant, to increase the number of babies born healthy. We need to make sure that all of us, children and adults, are properly vaccinated and protected from illness and disease.

We will always be constrained by budgets, economics and factors beyond our control but those will not deter our commitment to you. That is why I am proud to provide you this annual report; so you can know what we at the Health Department are doing, and how our efforts help us all enjoy healthier lives. Please join us as we work to make Cowley County one of the healthiest counties in Kansas.

Be Well;

***Thomas Langer
Administrator/Public Health Officer***



City~Cowley County Health Department

Our Vision:

Cowley County residents enjoying healthy lives, exercising personal responsibility for their health and the health of their family members.

Our Mission:

The City-Cowley County Health Department works to promote excellent health, prevent disease, and to protect the environment to benefit all our citizens.

Prevent~Promote~Protect

CITY-COWLEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2015 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

In July 1946, a joint resolution was adopted by the Cowley County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Commissioners of the cities of Arkansas City and Winfield to form the Joint City-Cowley County Health Department to be governed by a local Board of Health. Each of the local governing bodies appointed the members. Our Board of Health was one of the first eighteen within all of the state of Kansas.

Seventy years later the City-Cowley County Health Department remains committed to public health service and can be characterized as a multi-disciplinary organization that includes physicians, nurses, environmental officers, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, dietitians, health educators and communication professionals; that assess common health measures and work to improve community health and the quality of life by providing interventions and promoting healthy behaviors.

This constitutes the Annual Report of Activities to the local appropriating units of government for the City-Cowley County Health Department as required in the Bylaws of the Board of Health. We believe we are continuing to meet our goals for mission and vision within the community and at the organizational level as represented by our 2015 activities summarized below:

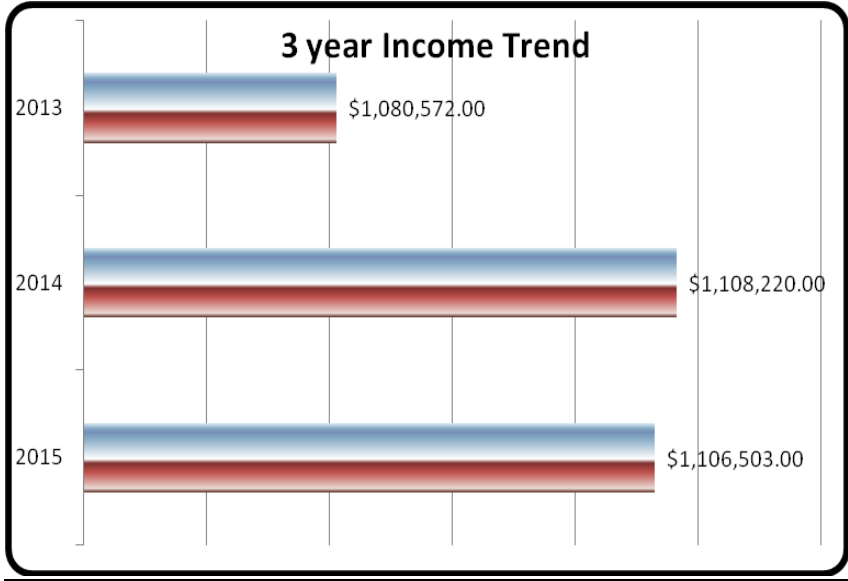
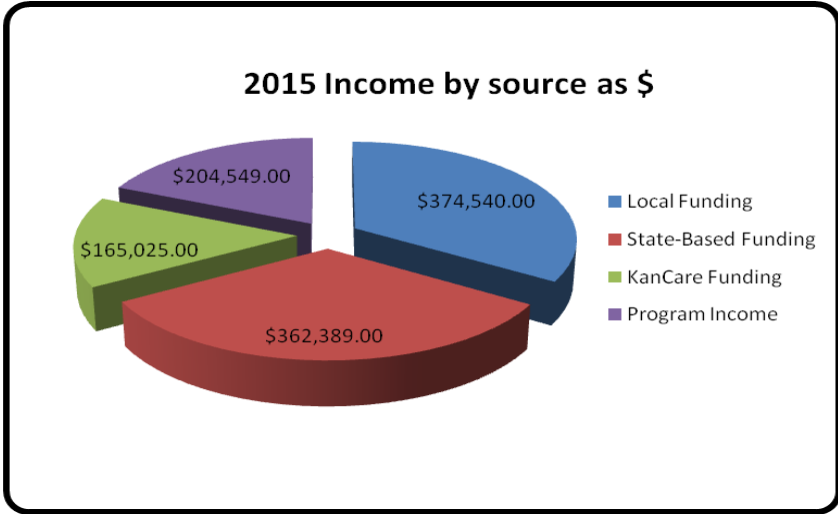
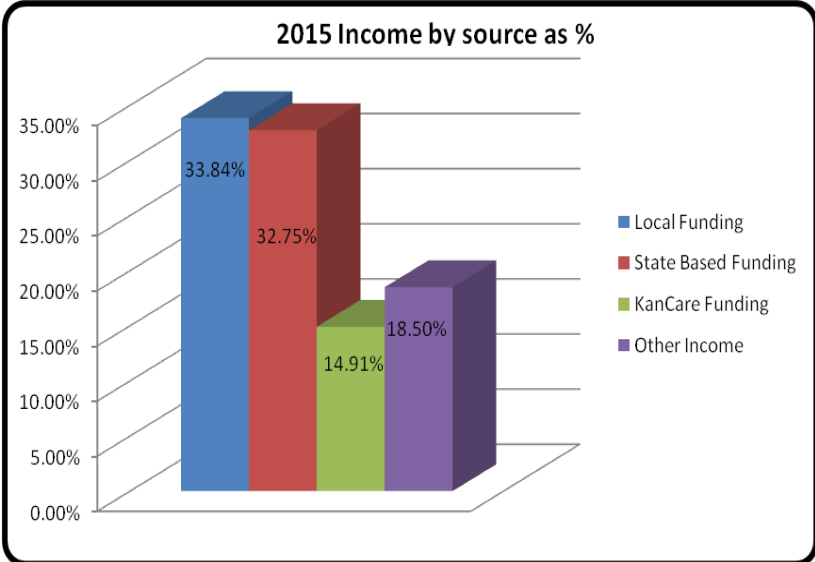
2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

Health Department management and the Board of Health are committed to operating efficiently while providing excellent service to all county residents. We are pleased to report that the fiscal condition of the City-Cowley County Health Department is stable. During 2015 Jarrett & Norton CPA provided audit services to insure that all accounting practices connected to the department are consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and public law.

A Balanced budget for the year 2015 was set at \$1,120,736.00. The final income for the year was \$1,106,503; which was 1.25% or \$14,233 less than budgeted. 2015 income was \$1,679 less than 2014 income of \$1,108,182.

Expenditures for the year were controlled and kept at \$ 1,107,291 which was 1.2 % or \$13,445 under budget. Income and expense totals reflect a net deficiency of \$874.00 for yearly operations. Midyear 2015 projections made after state and local funding commitments were made indicated that a deficit of nearly \$20,000 was likely to occur in CY2015. Management was able to restructure the expenditures and reduce the cost of healthcare for staff in order to effectively manage the operations. During the 4th quarter of 2015 some lost income was recovered through service expansion. Service quality to residents of Cowley County was not threatened during 2015. The health department is poised to continue sound and prudent fiscal policy in 2016 and is working to continually improve the health of county residents.

Key comparisons of income sources are provided in graphic form as follows:



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2015

Your health department is a vital partner in numerous partnerships and coalitions. We understand that as a single organization we can accomplish some goals but as part of a larger group we can contribute to lasting changes. We participate in and strongly support Healthy Communities Cowley County, Safe Kids Cowley County, Breastfeeding Advocates of Cowley County, Clean Air Cowley County and the Local Environmental Protection Committee.

The health department continually seeks to bring state directed program grants for coalition development and activities into our community. The following are some of the more visible events that these funds provide for our County.

- The Cowley County Health and Safety Fair is an event that has grown in popularity and participation.
- The promotion of driver safety and seatbelt use is strongly supported by the Health Department and the police departments in our communities.
- BACC was awarded statewide recognition and Winfield was named as one of only five “communities supporting breastfeeding” in Kansas.
- Support of Community Gardens.
- Safe-Kids Cowley County continues to support child safety in both motor vehicles and on bicycles through car seat checks and helmet give away promotions. No child in Cowley County should have to be at risk for injury during these activities.
- Annual influenza “drive thru clinics in Arkansas City and Winfield.
- The annual “Baby Shower” for all new and expectant parents.
- Safe walking to school practices for children and adults as the school term begins.
- Safe “Trick or Treating” practices for children.



(2015 Health & Safety Fair)



(2015 County wide Baby Shower)



(Seat Belt Safety Lanes – Bucks for Buckles – Cowley Cup 2015)



(2015 Walk to School Day)



(2015 Drive thru Flu Clinic)

One of our strong commitments in Public Health is Emergency Preparedness. In today's fast changing world we are continually faced with emerging threats to our health and safety. Severe weather, vector borne or other contagions, manmade disasters and accidents can strike with little or no warning. While it is sometimes grim work considering the devastation that emergency events can inflict upon our communities we spend the serious time to contemplate our community structures and develop all hazards plans to protect and preserve life. Your Health Department works diligently with the Cowley County EM staff and the local first responders and health care providers to plan and practice as best we can to prepare for a moment none of us hopes to ever face. The Health Department receives funding from Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to work on such plans and keep them updated annually. In 2015 we reviewed our contagion outbreak response to prepare for threats like Ebola virus disease and also spent time to develop and draft a Mass Casualty plan for our County. This work is ongoing as we are well aware that even in the best of circumstances we as a community may likely need to rely upon our own resources until external help may arrive. It is a serious matter that we give serious attention to.

Your Health Department works closely with both local hospitals, South Central Kansas Medical Center (SCKMS) and William Newton Hospital (WHN). During 2015 as part of our support the department reviewed in depth our Community Health Assessment (CHA) and our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). A broad based stakeholder group worked to identify key areas of concern that will help guide the efforts of the Health Department now and in the future as we continually seek to make Cowley County a healthier place to live, work and raise a family. The results of the review are posted and available to the public on the Health Department web site.

PROGRAM AND PROJECT REPORT

Immunizations

This service area is focused to inform and move to action people of all ages who wish to get and remain healthy.

In the area of immunizations 3 key groups are examined. The first is infant children up to 24 months old. Cowley County has a 70.4% immunization rate meaning that 70.4% of children in this age group are fully immunized against known disease. That rate is slightly less than the overall state average of 70.6% and well below the targeted number of 80% or higher.

Unvaccinated and under vaccinated people present a risk to the population which has become increasing evident with outbreaks of measles and Pertussis (whooping cough) in our state. Cowley County has been fortunate to this point and has not had a serious outbreak but luck is not a factor we wish to rely upon.

The Health Department continued close collaboration with local school districts in 2015 to ensure that Kansas statutes and regulations that require immunizations be up to date or proof of disease be documented are adhered to. Even as the department maintains consistent immunization rates and our unified school districts complete annual immunization audits, some members of our Cowley County community avoid or find exemption for the use of vaccines.

This choice increases the risk of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks within Cowley County. We are working hard to identify and notify families needing to obtain or remain current upon preventative vaccinations. We offer all vaccines to families and especially to children regardless of ability to pay – so there should be no barrier to the service. We have identified this area as an opportunity for improvement moving forward. The health department continued participation in the “Immunize Win a Prize” program in 2015. This very popular program includes all children receiving vaccines in the state of Kansas.



(Courtesy of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment)

The second population group we look at in the areas of vaccinations and wellness are teenagers and young adults. Sadly a misconception exists that once a child has been vaccinated and enters school all is well and further vaccinations are no longer needed. The reality is that the preteen and adolescent age group is at very high risk for specific preventable diseases such as meningococcal disease, hepatitis and human papillomavirus. Parents and teen aged children need to be aware that to remain fully protected that well person visits and immunization reviews should occur annually. The Health Department can help in this regard and work with you to insure that you stay healthy during a time in life where health risks flourish and change happens rapidly.

The final age cohort that we look closely at is adults. As we age we become more affected by illness and diseases. The need to monitor and maintain health is more vital as we age and part of that monitoring is adherence to a routine schedule of vaccinations such as yearly influenza and if needed pneumonia. Many adults are also concerned about Varicella (chickenpox and shingles). The Health Department can assist any adult that has questions about vaccinations and provides easy access to them. We also process all types of insurance claims and can help families figure out what insurance covers and pay for and if need be we can work on simple payments for needed immunizations not covered. We will work with you to help you understand health care and control the cost as well.

In 2015 the Health Department administered more than 5500 vaccinations to Cowley County residents of all ages.

New Immunizations

The department strives to stay current with all the new vaccines that become available to the health care community. The two newest offering that are in stock are Bexsero a Meningococcal Group B vaccine for all ages and Prevnar 13, a pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine for adults.

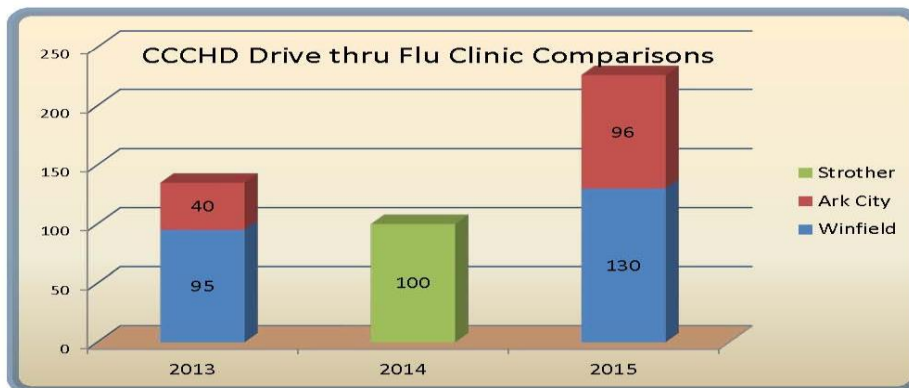
Flu Immunizations

In 2015 the department administered 1721, doses of seasonal influenza vaccine. For the ninth year, the health department provided drive-thru flu clinic events in both Arkansas City and Winfield. These clinics provide ease of distribution and allow the Health Department to practice our Point of Dispensation (POD) plan for vaccine or antibiotic distribution that may be implemented



for emergency response in a pandemic or terrorist event. This mode of distribution offers a quick and extremely convenient way for individuals to receive preventative or protective pharmaceuticals. It is particularly suited for those who have the following: physical mobility challenges, disability or poor health status and young children (who can remain in the vehicle). Other positive factors for this activity include over coming time constraints which do not allow easy access to a medical appointment and limited disease transmission, as people remain in their vehicle.

City – Cowley County Health Department Health Department
Drive thru Flu Shot Clinic Data Comparisons 2013 – 2015



Using 2013 as a baseline: (135 vaccinations administered)
95 in Winfield location and 40 in Ark City location

2014 volume declined by 26% (100 vaccinations administered)
Single clinic at Strother Field location

2015 volume increased by 60% (226 vaccinations administered)
2015 Winfield location increased by 37%
2015 Ark City location increased by 140%

Communicable Disease Control

In order to protect the public's health, the City-Cowley County Health Department provides epidemiological services in conjunction and collaboration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology. Health Department staff utilizes the Kansas Electronic Disease Surveillance System, (EpiTrax) for managing all reportable diseases. Our department investigates communicable diseases by identifying source cases of infection, ensuring treatment, investigating transmission to other individuals, electronically reporting case data and providing immunizations to prevent additional spread of infection. To date the department maintains six staff members able to perform epidemiological services.

Health Department investigations and State of Kansas data reveals that Cowley County has a higher than expected rate of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). Sadly it is not uncommon for more than 26% of Cowley County teenagers to become infected with a sexually transmitted disease. The Health Department will target this area of concern to gain improvements in population health, reduce the rates of teen pregnancy and lower the rate of newborn children at risk of serious health outcomes.

Family Planning Services

The Family Planning Program is designed to prevent unintended pregnancies by offering affordable methods of birth control accompanied by education and counseling. In addition, pap smears, breast exams, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases are provided. Depending on the client's needs, they are served by a physician, physician assistant or public health nurse. This program is very important to families who face the loss of health insurance. This program is administered on a sliding fee scale with discounts ranging from 0 – 100%. In 2015; 292 people utilized this service of the Health Department.

Early Detection Works

The Early Detection Works Program serves more than 5,300 Kansas women annually providing nearly 20,000 screening and diagnostic services. Uninsured women who are diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through Early Detection Works are enrolled in Medicaid through the "Treatment Act" signed into law by then President Bill Clinton. In 2015 the City-Cowley County Health Department participated in screening and referring 25 women for diagnostic testing and needed treatment.

KAN Be Healthy

KAN Be Healthy Assessments (KBH) are provided to Medicaid recipients from birth to 21 years of age. The KBH medical screens include vision, hearing, and dental assessment. The KBH screen follows the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment guidelines and is considered an important tool in preventive health care and developmental screening. During 2015 the Health Department conducted 805 KBH assessments and 44 Well Child Health Assessments for families in Cowley County.

Tiny Teeth Program

The Tiny Teeth Program provides education on oral health in conjunction with fluoride varnish applications to children that receive Kan-Be-Healthy Assessments or request service. Fluoride has been scientifically demonstrated to be a safe and effective means of reducing dental carries. Good oral health practices that are initiated early help to ensure good oral health outcomes for life. Fluoride varnish applications can begin as early as 6 months of age or initial eruption of the first tooth. The fluoride is “painted” onto the baby teeth by a public health nurse. This application is repeated every 6 months with a possible total of five applications. 58 children were provided this treatment during 2015 in the health department offices.

WIC

The Woman, Infants and Children Program provides supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women; and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. Our WIC nutritional supplement program is one of the health department’s most utilized programs. The goal of the program is to prevent or correct health problems associated with poor nutrition. This equates to better health, contributing to lower infant mortality in the county, as well as providing a boost to our local economy due to food vouchers exchanged at local grocery stores. Annually the WIC program adds nearly \$800,000.00 to the Cowley County economy and provides nourishing healthy food to 1200 families.

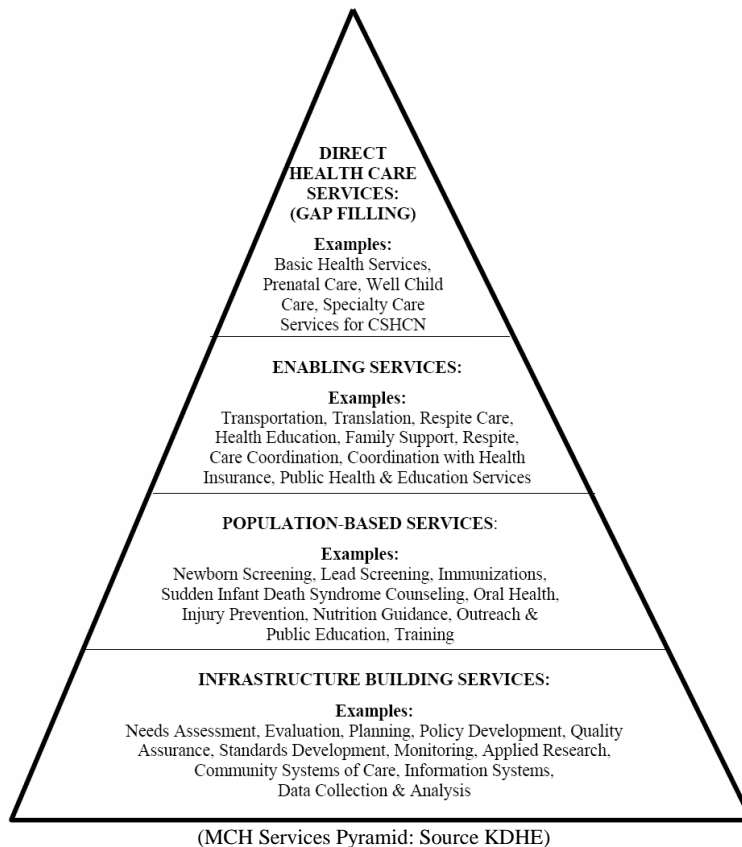
The WIC food packages have changed to better meet the nutritional needs of WIC participants. The recent food packages align with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. WIC foods are intended to "supplement" participants’ food intake and should be consumed along with other wholesome foods needed for a balanced diet.



(WIC exclusive breastfeeding food package)

Maternal Child Health-Prenatal Risk Reduction- Healthy Start Home Visits

The goals of the Maternal Child Health Program (MCH) are to reduce the incidence of poor pregnancy outcomes, reduce child abuse and neglect, and ensure early identification of infants and families at risk. Integration with other health and social services such as family planning, immunizations and child health assessments, supplemental food and nutrition programs (WIC), genetic and substance abuse counseling, pediatric health services, and prenatal care, general health assessments, basic health education and parenting education is emphasized. Enhanced services are available through the Family Planning Program for pre-pregnancy counseling and annual health screenings. MCH services provided through the MCH Block Grant include four tiers of services for MCH populations. The model below illustrates the uniqueness of the MCH Block Grant, which is the only federal program that provides services at all levels of the pyramid. These services are direct health care services (gap filling), enabling services, population-based services and infrastructure building services. Public health programs are encouraged to utilize their funding to provide more of the community-based services associated with the lower-level of the pyramid and to engage in the direct care services only as a provider of last resort.





In Cowley County MCH home and hospital visits are provided to families expecting or with newborns. During 2015, 162 visits were provided to new mothers in Cowley County. This program is a major area of emphasis moving forward and the Health Department has established goals of contacting every expectant mother in Cowley County to offer the home visitor service. The most recent data (2014) indicates that in Cowley County 50% of babies are born to single mothers; further 12% of babies are born to teenage mothers. Cowley County's birth rate for live births

county-wide remains at approximately 456 per year. Risk factors reveal that of this birth cohort 25% or 114 babies annually will be at high risk for health problems. Our goal is to reduce this number and work with mothers during pregnancy and post partum to insure that their babies get off to a healthy beginning in life.



Child Safety Seat Program

The health department currently employs two staff persons certified as a Child Safety Seat Technicians. The Child Safety Seat Technicians distributed and installed 87 car seats to eligible families in Cowley County during 2015.

The Safe Kids Cowley County car safety seat ticket forgiveness program continues to be a model for all of Kansas.

Participant's misdemeanor violations are forgiven, on a one-time basis, if violators attend the health department's child safety seat class. This class is offered at a minimum of once a month in Arkansas City and Winfield.

Child Care Facility Licensing Program

The regulation of child care facilities is designed to reduce the risk of predictable harm to children while in out of home care settings. Public regulation represents a basic level of protection for all children. Further, effective public regulation provides basic consumer protection. The health department employs a full time surveyor to carry out inspections of daycare providers to ensure that Cowley County Children are being cared for by qualified providers in a safe and healthy environment. As of December 31, 2015, Cowley County had 71 regulated child care facilities which consisted of 49 licensed daycares, 17 group daycares, 3 centers and 2 pre-schools. The total capacity of all of these regulated providers is nearly 900 children.

During 2015 the Child Care Licensing and Registration Program also served Elk, Chautauqua and Harper Counties for licensing services through contractual agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment which and continues support of our local program with supplemental state funding.

Environmental Health Services

The City-Cowley County Health Department is responsible for ensuring enforcement of the Cowley County Sanitary Code. Implementation of the code is supported by user fees through the Local Environmental Protection Program. This code provides oversight to and the permitting of private wastewater systems throughout the county. During 2015; 44 wastewater permits, 41 Build/Floodplain permits, 63 real estate inspections and 18 private well drinking water screens were accomplished. For a total of 166 combined inspections/permits.

Nuisance Abatement

The health department was given the authority and responsibility by the Cowley County Board of Commissioners to carry out Nuisance Abatement for the non-incorporated areas of Cowley County in 2006. The Environmental Health Officer was assigned the duty to investigate complaints and report back to the Cowley County Board of Commissioners. In 2015, the Environmental Health Officer investigated 4 properties where nuisances were alleged to occur and worked with property owners to resolve the issues.

Lead Inspections

Due to the age of many residences and to parental occupational exposures, lead poisoning continues to be a health risk to many children in Cowley County. Lead is common in our environment and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) classifies lead poisoning as today's major preventable environmental health problem. Blood lead levels (BLLs) as low as 5 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL) are associated with harmful effects on



children's learning and behavior. Blood lead levels as high as 70 ug/dL can cause seizures, coma and death. You cannot just look at a child and determine if they have been exposed and are at risk. The only sure way to know is through a low cost blood lead screen that the Health Department can perform. All children in Cowley County should be checked at least 3 times once at 12 months of age or as they begin to crawl, then again when they are 2 years old and a final follow up before they start pre-school or kindergarten.

Adults who work in construction and remodeling, welding, oil and gas industries or who engage in hobbies that use leaded products should also be tested routinely to insure that you are not at risk or taking lead home to your families.

In 2015, 544 lead tests were given to children who were considered at risk for lead exposure. Of these children 24 were above (>5mg/l) and considered at high risk. An environmental lead home visit is conducted when a child is diagnosed to be lead poisoned which occurs when the blood lead level is greater than 10 ug/dL and has been confirmed by a second test.

Chronic Disease Risk Reduction/Enhancement Grant

The Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Grant is funded through the state from a block grant and funds obtained through the state's tobacco settlement. This program works with local coalitions to develop and carry out strategies to meet the goal of improving nutrition, increasing physical activity and reducing tobacco use. Program staff continues to support the activities of Clean Air Cowley County and is integral in the Health Communities Cowley County Coalition.

Chronic diseases account for roughly 75% of health care costs each year in the U.S. These costs represent greater than \$10 billion per year in Kansas. As states struggle to meet the staggering costs of providing health care to those in need, the most cost-effective interventions are often overlooked. Population health improvements are possible by reducing the prevalence of risk factors that underlie chronic disease and injury. The Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Grant priorities are improved nutrition, physical activity and tobacco prevention; these are modifiable behavioral risk factors for chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease.

More than 30% of the 700,000 children living in Kansas are overweight or at risk for becoming overweight. (BRFSS, 2010). Healthcare costs related to obesity are excessive. In Kansas, an estimated \$657 million is spent per year in total direct medical costs with Medicare and Medicaid expenditures of \$138 million and \$143 million, respectively (Finkelstein E. A, et al. *Obesity Research*. 2004:12(1):18-24). Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Kansas. Annually, cigarette use alone causes approximately 3,800 deaths in Kansas, costing more than \$927 million in medical expenditures and \$863 million in lost productivity from an experienced workforce that dies prematurely (CDC SAMMEC). Currently 22% of Cowley County residents smoke and 24% of expectant mothers smoke during pregnancy! (KDHE).

Bioterrorism and Emerging Infectious Diseases

The department's Public Health Emergency Planning Program promotes all-hazards planning, defined as planning in the absence of a specific threat for capabilities that would be required to respond to any emergency regardless of the causative factor. The department receives Public Health Emergency Program (PHEP) funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be used to maintain, refine and to the extent achievable, enhance the health and medical systems in Cowley County, including local exercising and improvement of preparedness plans for all-hazards. In addition, this program builds public health preparedness response capabilities through associated planning, personnel, equipment, training and exercise capabilities.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFFING:

The City-Cowley County Health Department is staffed with 21 members. Our personnel carry out program activities in the department offices located in Arkansas City, Winfield and in outreach settings across the County. The Administrator maintains an open door policy with staff and creates a work environment where personal achievement is encouraged and rewarded and organizational improvement is required. We foster a learning environment where we constantly evaluate needs, create programmatic response, monitor results and evaluate our outcomes. The entire group of staff members value the public health principles stated in our mission. They work each day to better the lives of the citizens of Cowley County and continually look to find new ways to create a sense of pride and realization within the community that the Health Department is a vital resource for all of Cowley County.

Working in public health is a true calling and the citizens of Cowley County can take pride in the commitment to health that the staff exhibits each and every day.

MOVING AHEAD IN 2016:

The City-Cowley County Health Department is consistently seeking new avenues and methods to provide public health service to our citizens. Current population based health indicators which rate the health status of our county are less than we hope for. We know that much work in the areas of disease prevention, new born health, adolescent health, chronic disease prevention and elder health needs to be accomplished. In total it seems a daunting task. Resources will always be limited but our enthusiasm for the health and well being of our residents will not waiver. Our Board of Health and Administration will continue to maximize every resource we have to provide excellent service to you. We will remain committed to and support the Vision 20/20 strategy action coalitions of: Healthy Communities Cowley County, Safe Kids Cowley County, Breastfeeding Advocates of Cowley County, Clean Air Cowley County and the Local Environmental Protection Committee. We will work with local stakeholders and employers to provide wellness programs and personal health monitoring for individuals. Above all else we will encourage you to join us in a quest to be the healthiest county in Kansas.

Prevent~Promote~Protect!



City-Cowley County
Health Department

CITY-COWLEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Cowley County Health Department was originally established in 1941, being among *the first eighteen health departments formed in the State of Kansas*. In July, 1946 the cities of Arkansas City and Winfield joined with the county to form the City-Cowley County Health Department. The City of Winfield withdrew effective January 1, 1985, however they reinstated their support effective January 1, 1993.

The Joint City-Cowley County Health Department is governed by a local Board of Health, with the local governing bodies appointing the following nine members: (3) Cowley County, (1) City of Arkansas City, (1) City of Winfield, (1) USD #462, (1) USD #471, (1) Cowley County Medical Society and (1) Cowley County Dental Society. Members of the Board serve three-year terms. The Board annually elects a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson in January. The Department's Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Board, is an ex-officio member of the Board, and serves as Secretary – Treasurer. A Medical Consultant is retained to advise the Board and Administrator on medical matters. The Board maintains two offices, one at the County Courthouse Annex in Winfield and another in Arkansas City.

2015 Board of Health Members:

Bob Mathews, Arkansas City
Mary Benton, Arkansas City
Thomas Langer, MPA, (Administrator)
David Schmeidler, M.D., Arkansas City
Lorri Greenlee, R.N., Winfield
Nick Rogers, D.D.S., Arkansas City
Sharon Eggen, R.N. (retired) Arkansas City
Kelle Thompson, R.Ph. Winfield
K.C. Colvin., Dexter

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Secretary/Treasurer (Ex Officio)

2015 City-Cowley County Health Department Personnel:

Bryan Dennett M.D., Medical Officer
Ginger Bahruth P.A. Family Planning
Van Coble, D.P.H., Consulting Pharmacist
Thomas O. Langer MPA, Administrator
Marsha Donals, R.N., Director of Nursing
Kelli Waggoner, R.N., PHN III, WIC Coordinator, Arkansas City Charge Nurse
Kathy McKimens, R.N., B.S.N., PHN II, Lead Investigation, Newborn Home Visit Coordinator
Cheryl Huguley, R.N., PHN II, Breast Feeding Coordinator, Outbreak Investigation
Karen Sattler, R.N., PHN II, MCH Coordinator, Outbreak Investigation
Sharon Faust, Fiscal Accounts Manager
Teri Bruner, Medical Services Accounts Coordinator
Sylvia Gatton, Office Manager, WIC Administrator
Lorrie Gordon, Office Assistant III
Jody Pew, Office Assistant II
Patricia Wimmer, Office Assistant I
Rylee Blanton, Office Assistant I
Ariel Lynn, Office Assistant I
Gavin Christiansen, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator
Ruth Bumgarner, CDRR Coordinator
Amber Benavides, MCH Health Educator
Carol Misora, Environmental Health Officer
Josephine (JoJo) Tijerina, Healthy Start Home Visitor
Karen Knowles, Child Care Licensing and Registration Surveyor
Alicia Ramey, R.D., Dietician, WIC Nutritionist

Acknowledgements for Content:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases; Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) -
- World Health Organization
- US Health and Human Services
- Public Health Administration and Practice, 9th Edition, 1990, Pickett/Hanlon
- Essentials of Public Health, 2007, Bernard J. Turnock
- US Homeland Security
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation