Welcome to Public Health, on the front line every day, working to enhance the health and well-being of the people within the community. The significant thing about public health services is that their impact is much broader than the individual receiving services. As examples, consider:

- If one person is vaccinated against a communicable disease, everyone with whom they are in contact benefits.
- If one communicable disease is contained through treatment, everyone with whom they are in contact benefits.
- Every mother who receives prenatal care and has an improved birth outcome ensures a healthier baby and reduced medical costs which benefits overall health care and social program costs.
- Every child who experiences quality child care and early childhood learning is better prepared for school and life success.
- Every individual who participates in a health education class obtains information that will be shared with family and friends.

This is Public Health: Preventing, Promoting, and Protecting

**Our Vision:**
Health at the Highest Level

**Our Mission:**
Prevention of Disease and Promotion of Wellness for our Community

http://health.jocogov.org
Health Director’s Message

Within the first month of my joining the Health Department as Director in April 2009, first news of a flu pandemic began to surface. As H1N1 began to arrive in Kansas and in Johnson County, I had an opportunity to see first-hand the excellent level of preparedness within the department and with community partners. Delivery of H1N1 vaccinations to Johnson County residents, especially those in the target groups, was our top priority. The success of this vaccination campaign can be attributed to the fact that Johnson County has wisely invested time & resources to provide an infrastructure ready to respond. The success also was largely dependent on the outstanding response of community partners in the administration of vaccines, particularly public and parochial schools, as well as Johnson County Med-Act, hospitals, and private physicians. By the end of the year, 85,670 vaccines had been administered in the community. The pie chart clearly demonstrates that not all of our efforts were on H1N1 as it illustrates the number of Johnson County lives touched directly by Health Department services.

Lougene Marsh, Health Director

Divisions & Services

Family Health Services Division, Victoria Hanley, Director

- Prenatal and Well Child Health Programs, Debra Whiteman, Program Manager
- Women’s/Men’s Health Programs, Amalia Almeida, Program Manager
- Supplemental Food & Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Laura Drake, Program Manager
- Laboratory Services, Denise Stoll, Program Manager

The Prenatal Program is a preventive health program designed to improve pregnancy outcomes for mother and infant, promote entry into and compliance with prenatal, postpartum and newborn care, and decrease subsequent unintended pregnancies. Comprehensive prenatal services are provided utilizing a multi-disciplinary team approach that includes ARNPs, nurses, social workers, and dietitians. In 2009, this Program saw 540 clients who had 5,461 visits for services. Of the 470 women who delivered with JCHD, 324 initiated breastfeeding. The Prenatal Program achieved a low birth weight rate of 4% as compared to the national goal of 7.6% (Healthy People 2010).

The Well Child Program provides physical examinations and health screenings for infants, children, and adolescents of Johnson County including school health assessments, camp physicals, day care physicals, referrals, and follow-up with clients with abnormal findings. In 2009, of the 559 children and adolescents seen, 167 were referred for further medical evaluation and 173 were referred for dental services. This program received the KC Metro 2009 Medical Site of the Year award for its Reach Out and Read initiative, where volunteers read books to children in the clinic waiting room.

The Women’s/Men’s Health Program offers comprehensive reproductive health services to men and women who otherwise cannot obtain services, due either to economic barriers or lack of available medical resources. The program provides contraception, Pap smears and colposcopies, education on prevention and screening for STDs, HIV testing, and counseling and promotion of optimal family planning throughout the life cycle. In 2009, 7,564 clients were seen in 13,004 visits through this program.

Supplemental Food & Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) prevents or corrects nutrition-related health problems by providing checks to buy nutritious food, nutrition education & counseling, and health screenings to pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women and to infants and children under the age of five at or below 185% of poverty level. In 2009, the WIC program served 8,061 clients. The total value of checks distributed was $7,775,699. In August of this year, fruits and vegetables were added to the WIC food package.

Laboratory Services provides laboratory testing, services and screening to aid in diagnosis and treatment for Health Department programs. The laboratory is Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified to meet required proficiency program standards. In 2009, the total number of laboratory tests conducted in-house was 28,232.
**Disease Containment Division, Nancy Tausz, Director**

- Immunization Program, Julie Beach, Program Manager
- Disease Containment & Outreach Nurse Program, Cathy Shemwell, Program Manager
- Public Health Emergency Program, Liz Ticer, Program Manager

The Immunization Program provides adult, childhood, school and travel immunizations for vaccine-preventable diseases. The program offers vaccine education and screenings for tuberculosis. This program also serves as a resource to school nurses, daycare providers, and the general public in providing the most up-to-date information on immunization requirements and recommendations. In 2009, the Immunizations Program administered 31,681 routine (childhood, adolescent, adult, travel) vaccinations. In addition, 11,174 H1N1 vaccines were administered at on-site and community clinics. Staff also responded to more than 10,000 phone calls from the flu hotline.

The Outreach Nurse Program provides registered nurses who offer screening, assessment, education, resource information and referral services. The senior adult nurses focus on disease prevention, early identification of health problems, management of chronic illness, and client education related to disease processes. In 2009, 610 senior adult home visits were made. The mother/newborn nurses promote the use of preventive health services and early identification of health problems during the prenatal and postpartum period. In 2009, this program provided 1,306 mother/newborn home visits. The Outreach Nurses offer blood pressure screenings at 23 different locations every month.

The Disease Containment Program works to prevent, contain, and control the transmission of disease, including tuberculosis, through education and investigation of disease patterns in our community. This program also collaborates with the Public Health Emergency Program in active surveillance for unusual sets of symptoms and events. Staff provided surveillance, investigation, and education related to 1,039 reported H1N1 virus cases and other influenza-like illnesses since April when the virus was first identified in our area.

The Public Health Emergency Program (PHEP) is responsible for ongoing readiness related to large-scale disease outbreaks. PHEP collaborates continuously with community partners and other County departments to assess & support responses to natural and man-made disasters. In 2009, PHEP coordinated the distribution of more than 154,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine to 213 public and private providers (hospitals, physicians, & pharmacies). These providers administered more than 85,000 H1N1 vaccinations. The Johnson County Health Department continues to coordinate the County’s H1N1 flu response into 2010.

**Adult and Childcare Facilities Division, Eldonna Chesnut, Director**

The Adult Care Facilities Program monitors nursing homes, assisted living centers, adult daycares, and Home Plus (a residential setting facility) in accordance with Kansas state regulations, ensuring quality care and a safe, healthy living environment. Monitoring visits are made at least four times per year. The program provides education and consultation to families, facility staff, and the community. Program staff is available as a resource on state regulations and adult care facilities. In 2009, 222 monitoring visits were made to the 73 adult care facilities in Johnson County. Elder Smiles, the newest program of this Division, offers on-site oral hygiene services to seniors in long-term care facilities. In 2009, 397 seniors received Elder Smiles services.

The Child Care Facilities Program provides health and safety information and education to child care providers and parents. Program staff completes initial, annual, and compliance check visits to licensed child care facilities and recommends licensure to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Complaints on licensed or registered child care facilities are investigated and illegal care issues are resolved in collaboration with the District Attorney’s Office. In 2009, 2,186 initial, annual, complaint, compliance, and illegal care visits were conducted.
Health Education Division, Barbara D. Mitchell, Director

The Health Education Division promotes healthy behaviors and prevention of disease and injury through classes, presentations, programs, screenings, workshops, health fairs, webinars, and professional seminars throughout the community. The primary areas of focus are:
- chronic disease
- senior wellness
- childhood injury prevention
- worksite wellness
- HIV testing
- Parent & adolescent growth/development programs

This Division coordinates student internships within the Health Department and leads the Community Health Assessment Process that monitors health issues of the overall community. In 2009, 49,835 people received health education services from 527 various community events.

Administrative Operations Division

The Administrative Operations Division supports all Health Department Divisions through fiscal monitoring, grants coordination & reporting, budgeting, auditing, accounting, statistics, billing, computer operations, payroll, data entry, appointment scheduling, and medical chart preparation.

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Johnson County Board of County Commissioners

Annabeth Surbaugh, Chairman
C. Edward Peterson, District 1  ·  Jim Allen, District 2  ·  David A. Lindstrom, District 3
Ed Eilert, District 4  ·  Douglas E. Wood, District 5  ·  Calvin Hayden, District 6

Johnson County Management

In May 2009, following nearly three decades of public service, Michael B. Press retired after serving as the first County Manager under the auspices of the Home Rule Charter. Deputy County Manager Hannes Zacharias served as the Interim County Manager until September 1, 2009 when he was selected by the Board of County Commissioners to become the County Manager.

Bernice Duletski served as the Assistant County Manager and was named Deputy County Manager on September 1, 2009.