



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Independence Health Department **ANNUAL REPORT 2012**



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Independence, MO 64051

Phone: 816-325-7986
Fax: 816-325-7074
www.independencemo.org/health

Animal Services Division
875 Vista Avenue

Environmental Public Health Division
Health Promotion Division
515 S. Liberty Street

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Animal Services Division.....	325-7205
Animal Shelter.....	325-7207
Barking Dog Hotline.....	325-7213
www.independencemo.org/health/animal_barkingdogs.aspx	
Birth and Death Certificates.....	325-7185
Environmental Public Health Division	
Code Compliance.....	325-7193
Code Compliance Complaint Forms	
www.independencemo.org/health/codecompliance.aspx	
Food and Institution.....	325-7803
Food Complaint.....	325-7803
Food Handler/Manager Class Information.....	325-7194
www.independencemo.org/foodsafety	
Communicable Disease Hotline.....	325-7204
Health Administration.....	325-7986
Health Promotion Division.....	325-7185
Neighborhood Code Compliance Program.....	325-7196 or 325-7988
Smoking Cessation Classes.....	325-7185
Smoking Ordinance Complaints.....	325-7185
www.independencemo.org/health/smokingcomplaint.aspx	

ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Advisory Board of Health acts as an advisory board to the City Manager, Department of Health, and City Council on matters pertaining to public health. The Board may also make such investigations and studies in the field of public health that, in its judgement, will be helpful in carrying out its general purposes.

The Board consists of ten members who represent various professions directly concerned with general matters of health. In 2012, the Board was involved in the following activities:

- 2011 Community Health Assessment Evaluation Report
- Animal Shelter
- Budget
- Building a Healthier Independence Initiative
- Environmental Public Health Issues
- Immunization Rates
- Initial Community Health Improvement Planning Conference
- Operation Litter Less Program
- Regional Food Handler Permits

Howard H. Braby, MD, Chair

Ralph Ruckman, DDS, Vice Chair

Kathleen Bennett, RN

Caryl Goodyear-Bruch, RN, PhD

Dana Posey

Donald Potts, MD

Rick Schrock, DVM

Christopher Sullivan, MD

Beth Webb

Jason White

ADMINISTRATION

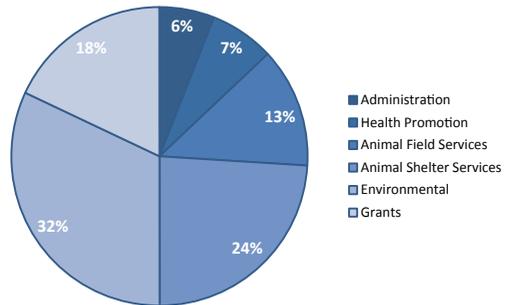
LARRY D. JONES, MPH, DIRECTOR

Health Department Budget

Support for the Independence Health Department services is derived from two primary sources: the City of Independence Fund, and State and Federal grants.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Department's budget totaled \$3,733,829. This amount is further divided into the following categories: Administration, Health Promotion, Animal Field Services, Animal Shelter Services, Environmental and Grants.

2012-2013 Budget by Category



Community Identifies Public Health Priorities

In order to get an accurate pulse on the City of Independence's current health needs, the Independence Health Department in collaboration with the University of Kansas Medical Center launched an extensive Community Health Assessment in 2011. The health assessment consisted of a mailed survey that was designed to tell us what is going on in the community so the Health Department could develop programs in response to the real needs of the community.

Those that participated in the Community Health Assessment were asked questions about health-related topics such as diet/nutrition, exercise, tobacco use, and access to health care. In addition, survey participants were asked to identify the most important overall health problems in Independence. The following issues were identified by survey respondents as the top five public health problems in Independence: 1) alcohol and drug abuse, 2) overweight/obesity, 3) domestic violence, 4) tobacco use, and 5) child abuse.

Using data from this Community Health Assessment and the Missouri Information for Community Assessment, Health Department staff and the Board of Health acknowledged that there are three health issues that should be addressed over the next five years. These issues included: overweight/obesity, tobacco use, and teen pregnancy.

Top 3 Priorities

1. Overweight/Obesity

2. Tobacco Use

3. Teen Pregnancy

ANIMAL SERVICES

MIKE JACKSON, MPH, CEHS, CCEO, ADMINISTRATOR

JENNIFER POLSTON, MANAGER

Mission: The mission of the Animal Services Division is to provide services that will ensure public health and safety, enhance the quality of our citizen's lives and promote animal welfare through education, enforcement, and community programs.

Accomplishments:

Euthanasia Rates are Down

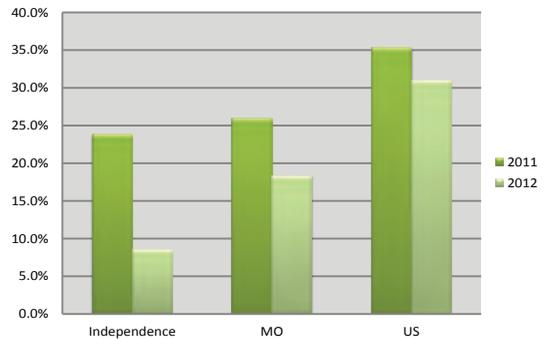
- Overall euthanasia rates were significantly reduced in 2012. Shelter staff, volunteers and animal rescuers worked very hard to find forever homes for the animals. Additionally, new techniques and procedures implemented in 2012 to control feline and canine communicable diseases decreased the number of sick animals euthanized. As a result, the overall cat and dog euthanasia rate of 23.8% in 2011 dropped to 8.3% in 2012. No dogs and only 1% of cats were euthanized in 2012 due to lack of space.

Improving Animal Safety at Shelter

- The Animal Shelter began using new cleaning products and revised its cleaning procedures. The new products are just as effective as the previous chemicals, however are less expensive, Green Seal certified and safer for use around animals and humans. Additionally, the revised procedures increased cleaning quality and efficiency.

Animals Intaken	2011	2012
Cats	2,065	1,408
Dogs	1,634	1,470
Animals Adopted	2011	2012
Cats	976	738
Dogs	779	570
Animals Returned to Owner	2011	2012
Cats	63	47
Dogs	513	525
Animals Euthanized	2011	2012
Cats	637	167
Dogs	109	72

Euthanasia Rate Comparison



Received Awards and Donations

- Animal Services was awarded a \$2,000 spay/neuter grant from the Missouri Department of Agriculture. These funds were used as seed money to start a new low cost spay/neuter program called Operation Litter Less. The program provides low income residents (with proof of government assistance) an opportunity to have their pet spayed/neutered for free.
- Numerous individuals and local organizations donated thousands of dollars to the Animal Shelter during 2012. These donations were used for various purposes, such as animal supplies, veterinary bills and reducing animal adoption costs.

Restoring the Dog Runs

- Since 2006, there have been four dog runs that were unusable due to missing gates. The cost to replace these custom built gates was estimated to be around \$850. Shelter staff were able to find three of the missing gates which had been removed and stored in various areas of the building. Specialized attachment hardware (approx. \$150) were located on the internet, and through the persistence and hardwork of Shelter staff, these gates were reattached. The three new usable dog runs increased the large dog holding capacity by 7%.



The story of the rehabilitation of a dog named Switch by Animal Services staff was highlighted in The Examiner newspaper.

Program for Obese Cats

- With the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention reporting that 55% of cats are overweight and an influx of obese cats arriving at the Shelter, a diet program was successfully implemented for cats with serious weight issues. Overweight pets often suffer from serious medical conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, cancer, high blood pressure and a shortened life span. In addition they are unable to effectively groom themselves, may have serious behavioral issues and adopters are often reluctant to adopt them due to the potential medical concerns. A quality canned food diet, controlled feedings, close monitoring of healthy weight loss and increased exercise are all part of the program implemented to improve quality and length of life for our adoptable felines.

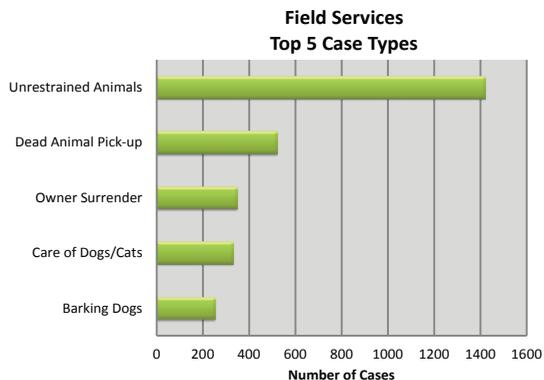
Processed
3,985
animal-related
cases in 2012

Collaborating with a Veterinary Technician Program

- An agreement was made with Anthem College's Veterinary Technician Program to provide free veterinary services for certain animals. Anthem representatives selected various cats and dogs for their teaching program, provided the necessary veterinary services and then coordinated the adoption of the animals.

Increased Hours of Operation

- The Animal Shelter increased hours of operation in order to provide more opportunity for the public to adopt animals. Beginning in September, the Shelter began opening on the third and fifth Saturdays of each month.



ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

ANDREW WARLEN, MPH, CEHS, MANAGER

Mission: The City of Independence has developed municipal codes to protect the life, health, safety and welfare of its residents. The Property Maintenance Code and the Health and Safety Code set the minimum standards to which properties, facilities and individuals must conform. The Environmental Public Health Division works in partnership with the citizens and businesses of Independence to promote and maintain a safe, healthy and desirable living and working environment.

Accomplishments:

Enhancements to Online Renewal System

- Technology Services and the Health Department have been diligently working together to expand the online food handler training interface. These efforts have made a significant impact on workload and customer convenience. In 2012, over 28% (1,857) of all food handler cards issued were processed online. An enhancement was made which allows volunteers working at a non-profit facility to renew their card at no charge.

Food Handler Training Program

- Issued 7,227 Food Handler and Food Manager Permits to food service workers.
- Staff visited Independence high schools and trained hundreds of students in safe food handling. Two hundred twenty-five of these students elected to pay for a Food Handler Permit after completing the training.



Raw meat at local food establishment

Food & Institution Inspections	2011	2012
Food Establishments	1,596	1,533
Complaint Investigations	162	181
Childcare Facilities	121	109
Swimming Pools	87	79
Tattoo Parlor Inspections	11	8
Soft Serve Inspections	72	75
Lodging Inspections	43	32
Temporary Events	162	268
Santa-Cali-Gon Booths	94	85

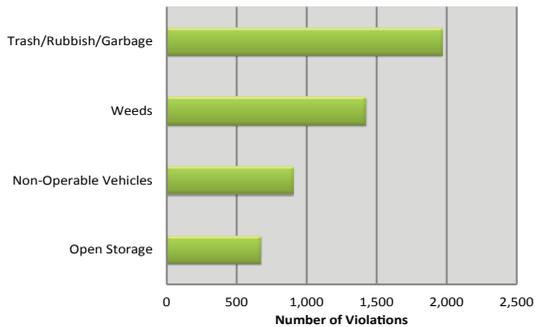
Record Number of Food Vendors at Santa-Cali-Gon

- Four two-person teams worked in adverse weather conditions to inspect 104 food booths, including 10 on private property and 8 in the carnival, to get them open by noon on August 31 for the Santa-Cali-Gon crowd. Additionally, inspectors worked throughout the weekend to spot check and ensure vendors kept food dry and safe. Although the rain subsided, it was replaced by heat which made monitoring temperature control of food critical.

Mobile Food Vendor Ordinances Amended

- City staff drafted and City Council approved amendments to the City Code which allow mobile food vendors more flexibility in meeting ordinance requirements. These amendments were made so Independence will be more inviting to mobile food units. Food sales through mobile food units is an emerging regional and national trend.

2012 Top Property Violations



Environmental Health Emergency Response Go-Kits

- The Health Department received 12 fully stocked Go-Kits which were designed by a regional environmental health workgroup and funded through Mid-America Regional Council. The Go-Kits will allow environmental health staff to respond in emergencies such as the Joplin tornado. These environmental health Go-Kits contain the “tools of the trade,” including such items as thermometers, personal protective equipment, cameras, etc., all in a case that it is packed and ready to go. Each kit costs approximately \$700. These kits will allow environmental health staff from the region to be deployed at a moment’s notice and assure that all staff have their tools ready to respond.

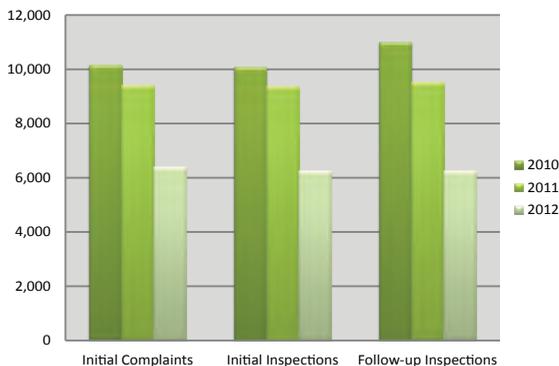
Neighborhood Code Compliance Program (NCCP)

- Due to funding challenges, the NCCP was conducted in two areas in 2012 instead of eight. A team approach including all environmental public health staff was used to assist with inspections. These two cleanups yielded over 71 tons of trash and brush. The compliance rates rose from 46% compliance on the pre-cleanup inspection to 98.6% compliance on the final inspection.
- Elected officials, city staff and citizens from Sedalia, MO visited to learn about the Neighborhood Code Compliance Program. Staff spent approximately two hours presenting a brief presentation and answering lots of questions. All who attended seemed very excited about the information they received and eager to try to implement a similar program in their city.



Rubbish collected at local cleanup

Property Maintenance Comparison by Year



Health Department Kiosk

- The Health Department now has a computer kiosk with four workstations which are available for cash/credit transactions for registering for food handler/manager classes, food handler renewals, and general health classes. One of the four workstations has an added option for business licensing. Staff is working with Technology Services to continue software development for the second phase which will allow processing for duplicate Food Handler/Manager Permits, transfers of Food Handler/Manager Permits from other jurisdictions and processing of Food Handler/Manager Permits for those who have alternate training.

HEALTH PROMOTION

SHAWNNA JACKSON, MSN, RN, APHN-BC, MANAGER

Mission: The Health Promotion Division staff inform, motivate, and help individuals and groups to assume responsibility for improving the health of themselves, their families, and their community; promote voluntary adoption and maintenance of healthy practices and lifestyles which will lead to the highest level of individual and community health, and advocates social and environmental changes as needed to facilitate these goals and monitors disease occurrence rates in the community.

Accomplishments:

Maternal & Child Health Program

- Created a “focus” identifying injury prevention as a concern among children, especially those that attend a childcare facility. Childcare provider knowledge and safety guidelines were assessed and sample policies were developed and distributed on various topics.
- Provided health and safety education to childcare providers through monthly classes, quarterly childcare association meetings, and quarterly childcare newsletters.
- Provided community outreach through Women's Clinic expecting parent classes, Parent's University, Safety Fest, school fairs, and various community events.
- Developed the Child Safe Program, a voluntary program identifying childcare facilities which have met safety standards that go above what is required. Implementation of this program will occur during 2013.

Vaccination Coverage and Promotion

- Conducted bi-annual onsite immunization audits at 53 childcare centers and home daycares licensed in Independence. Records were reviewed on more than 4,784 children to assure age-appropriate immunizations were received. After review and education, all records are 100% compliant.
- Provided free Tdap vaccine to residents 18 and older through the Adacel AmeriCares G.I.F.T. (Give Immunity Fight Transmission) program funded by Sanofi Pasteur. The vaccine provides adults with a pertussis booster that prevents disease among adults and potential exposure to vulnerable infants.

Combating Antibiotic Resistance

- Collaborated with the Public Health Foundation's Antibiotic Stewardship Program to prevent the development and transmission of anti-microbial resistant infections through educational programs, campaigns to promote the proper use of antimicrobial agents, and advocacy for vaccine use.
- Joined forces with Centerpoint Medical Center to educate physicians about the importance of prescribing the right antibiotic, at the right time, and for the right duration.
- Developed a comprehensive program plan that will be implemented in 2013.

Communicable Disease Surveillance

- Processed 1,015 reported disease cases. Staff investigated three outbreaks involving 274 ill persons.
- Utilized seven surveillance sites that report daily or weekly to monitor disease trends in the community.
- Responded to the regional outbreak due to an increase in pertussis throughout the Metro. The Health Department worked closely with local schools and childcare facilities to reduce the spread of disease.

**Reported cases
of pertussis
increased from
7 to 57
from 2011 to 2012**

** Data from communicable disease reports in 2011 and 2012 for Independence, MO*

Received a
100%
on local mass
prophylaxis plans

Improving Local Public Health Preparedness and Response Capacity

- Received a 100% on the Technical Assistance Review of the Emergency Response Guide from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. This review specifically tested the Health Department's ability to provide medical countermeasures to 100% of the population within 48 hours.
- In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the National Association of County and City Health Officials, staff conducted an exercise to assess the feasibility and acceptability, among public health practitioners and the pharmacy industry, regarding leveraging pharmacies to dispense federal antiviral assets to ill patients during an influenza pandemic.
- Participated in Amber Waves, a national level exercise focusing on radiological terrorism. The exercise tested the region's ability to receive citizens who are potentially contaminated with radioactive material, as well as their pets and their vehicles, and monitor them for radioactive contamination, perform decontamination as needed, register the citizens and discharge them.



Community Services League garden

City Employee Wellness Program

- Lunch and learns are now being videotaped and made available on CityNet, the City's intranet. If the employee is unable to attend the lunch and learns, they can watch the video and learn more about their health.
- Employee wellness activities offered during the year included lunch and learns, exercise programs, weight management programs and a wellness screening and fair.
- Two blood drives were organized with 62 registering to donate.
- Participated in the second annual Eastern Jackson County Municipal Challenge. Fourteen events were offered to employees of the six participating municipalities. Independence received the First Place traveling trophy for the year.

Increasing Food Security through Community Gardens

- Collaborated with The Kansas City Community Garden to become a distribution site for seeds and plants.
- A series of gardening classes were offered to the community. The response was positive with the average attendance at approximately 65 per class.
- Received an award of \$1,000 through the Truman Heartland Foundation for the Community Gardens Program. Through this funding, a new community garden will be added in 2013 in the northeast area of Independence.
- Constructed 20 raised-bed garden boxes at the Community Services League location using grant funds and donations from the Buckner Yella Wood Plant.
- Assisted with seven school gardens and eight community gardens. A total of 127 raised beds have been built and used to grow fresh produce.

Reducing Tobacco Use

- Offered smoking cessation classes to residents free of charge, using the American Lung Association's evidence-based curriculum. Enrollment in 2012 increased by 40% compared with the previous year, which prompted the Health Department to have an additional staff person trained to facilitate the cessation classes.
- Forty-five smoke-free park signs were installed at City playgrounds, spraygrounds, tennis courts and athletic fields.
- Conducted a counter tobacco advertising campaign throughout the city. Counter-tobacco messages focused on the harmful effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke, the benefits of quitting, and the availability of cessation classes.

1,021
registered for
1st Annual
Independence Park
Trot 5K

Improving Access to Healthy Foods

- The Farmers' Market/Craft Market continued providing cooking demonstrations with the partnership of the University of Missouri-Extension office. The demonstrations were increased from monthly to every other Saturday. Through the demonstrations, residents are able to learn and visualize how to use fresh produce in quick, easy and healthy recipes.
- Increased food stamp use at the local Farmers' Market by 90% in EBT transactions and 123% in debit transactions from 2011.
- Through a partnership with Truman Medical Center (TMC) and the Hospital Hill Economic Development Corporation, the Healthy Harvest bus now stops at two locations in Independence. The TMC Healthy Harvest Mobile Market is a grocery store which travels throughout the urban core on a weekly basis bringing residents opportunities to purchase affordable healthy choices such as fresh fruits and vegetables in their community.



Smoke-free park signs

Promoting Physical Activity

- Held the 1st Annual Independence Park Trot 5K run/walk with over 1,000 participants.
- Sponsored walk-to-school day events at Independence schools to raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and concern for the environment.
- Organized and created "The Mile Starts Here" walking program to encourage physical activity while exploring the City's parks and trails. Ninety participants met weekly to walk a designated one-mile route.
- Installed eight bike racks throughout the city to encourage residents and visitors to become more physically active.



Independence Park Trot participants

STAFF LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITIONS

Ad Hoc Graduate Faculty, KU Department of Preventative Medicine and Public Health.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Certified Health Education Specialist.....	Alicia Nelson, CHES
Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Director's Advisory Council for Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Independence Chamber of Commerce L.E.A.D. Class.....	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
Independence Coalition for Child Safety, Chair.....	Karen VanFleet, RN, BSN
Master of Public Health, University of Illinois-Springfield.....	Mike Jackson, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
Mid-America Immunization Coalition, Steering Committee.....	Carol Roberson, RN, BSN
Missouri's Council for Public Health Nurses.....	Carol Roberson, RN, BSN
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Chair.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Missouri Public Health Association, NW Chapter Treasurer.....	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)	
Board of Directors.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Health Equity and Social Justice Committee.....	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
Health Impact Assessment Mentorship Project.....	Kristin Schlenk, M.Ed, CHES
Immunization Workgroup.....	Shawwna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Poster Presentation at the NACCHO Annual Conference	
"Building a Healthier Independence: Model Policies and Inter-departmental	
Cooperation to Combat Obesity and Tobacco Use".....	Christina Heinen
Webinar Presentation:	
"Implementing the National Prevention Strategy at the Local Level".....	Christina Heinen
Workforce Committee, Chair.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
National Animal Control Association (NACA) Level III Certified.....	Jim Holtcamp Zach Gard
National Association of Workforce Boards, Healthcare Virtual Career Platforms Committee.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Presented at the Society of Public Health Education Mid-Year Scientific Conference	
"Community Garden Project".....	Joanie Shover, Ed. Specialist Kristin Schlenk, M.ED, CHES
Public Health Foundation, Antibiotic Stewardship Task Force, Member.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
UMKC School of Nursing Community Advisory Board.....	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Wellness Committee, Chair.....	Dee Hampton, RN, BSN

INDEPENDENCE
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

www.independencemo.org/health