



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

INDEPENDENCE
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



Annual Report 2013

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Independence, MO 64051

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www.independencemo.org/health
www.buildingahealthierindependence.org

Environmental Public Health
Disease Prevention and Control
Maternal and Child Health

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Health Administration	325-7986
Disease Prevention and Control	325-7185
Animal Services Dispatch	325-7205
Barking Dog Hotline	325-7213
www.independencemo.org/health/animal_barkingdogs.aspx	
Birth and Death Certificates	325-7185
Communicable Disease Hotline	325-7204
Environmental Public Health	
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	
Landlord Tenant Complaint	325-7803
Neighborhood Code Compliance Program	325-7196 or 7988
Smoking Ordinance Complaints	325-7185
www.independencemo.org/health/smokingcomplaint.aspx	
Maternal and Child Health	325-7185

ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Advisory Board of Health advises the City Manager, Health Department, 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 judgment, will be helpful in carrying out its general purposes.

The Board consists of 10 members who represent various professions directly concerned with general matters of health. In 2013, the Board was involved in the following activities:

- Animal Services Issues
- Antibiotic Stewardship Program
- Budget
- Building a Healthier Independence Initiative
- E-cigarette Study
- Environmental Public Health Issues
- Immunization Rates
- Missouri Association of Local Boards of Health (MALBOH)
- National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)
- Regional Food Handler Permits

Howard H. Braby, MD, Chair

Ralph Ruckman, DDS, Vice Chair

Kathleen Bennett, RN

Caryl Goodyear-Bruch, PhD, RN

Allison Kisner

Donald Potts, MD

Billie Ray Preston

Rick Schrock, DVM

Christopher Sullivan, MD

Jason White

ADMINISTRATION

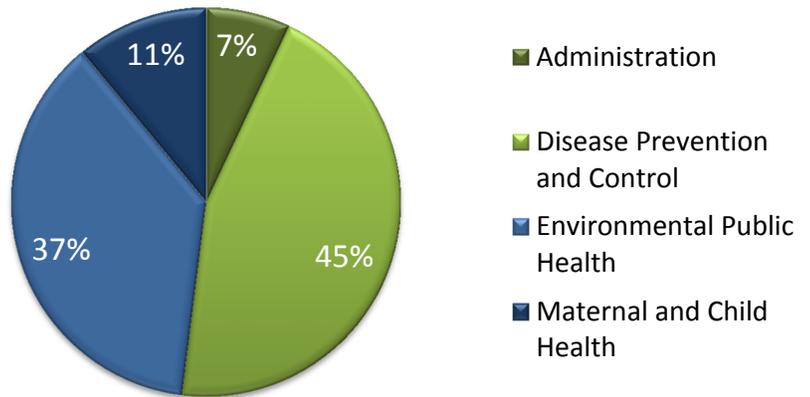
Larry D. Jones, MPH, Director

Health Department Budget

Financial support for the Independence Health Department services is derived from two primary sources: the City of Independence and state/federal grants.

The Department's budget during the 2013-2014 fiscal year totaled \$3,307,380, of which \$700,382 was from various state and federal grants. This amount is further divided into the following areas: Administration, Disease Prevention and Control, Environmental Public Health, and Maternal and Child Health.

2013-2014 Budget by Category



Top 3 Priorities

1. Overweight/Obesity

2. Tobacco Use

3. Teen Pregnancy

Preparing for Success in a Changing Environment

With the closing of the City's Animal Shelter in 2013, the Health Department reorganized to reflect changes in staffing and duties. The Disease Prevention and Control Division was created by merging the Health Promotions and Animal Services Divisions. A Maternal and Child Health Unit was also created. In addition to maternal and child health issues the unit focused on immunizations and reducing teen pregnancy. The Environmental Public Health Division includes the Food and Institutions Unit and Code Enforcement Unit.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Mike Jackson, MPH, CEHS, CCEO, Assistant Director

Reducing Tobacco Use

The use of tobacco products and unapproved nicotine delivery devices (including e-cigarettes) are now prohibited on all property or grounds operated by the Health Department, including parking areas.

A tobacco use prevention media campaign aimed at teens was launched. Staff collaborated with advisors from the Truth® campaign, nation-wide leaders in teen tobacco prevention efforts, to develop the messages for this campaign.

Six multi-unit housing complexes were surveyed to determine tenant interest level in smoke-free multi-unit housing. Staff is currently assisting housing management to develop smoke-free policies.

Improving Access to Healthy Foods

Two convenience stores in Independence agreed to participate in the Healthy Corner Stores Initiative, which aims to create greater access to healthy foods for Independence residents.

Health Department staff met with several Independence businesses to share the benefits of offering healthy vending items to employees in the workplace.

Staff provided assistance to the 16 community and school gardens throughout the city.

Staff coordinated various community gardening classes and school gardening programs. Additionally, seasonal plant and seed distributions events were held at the Health Department.



Over 1,000 people lined up for the 2nd annual Independence Park Trot.



A version of this ad was displayed at Independence Center.

Promoting Physical Activity

The 2nd annual Independence Park Trot 5K Run/Walk was held with more than 1,700 participants. The sponsors included Centerpoint Medical Center, Nature's Pantry, Bass Pro Shops, The Examiner, and the Government Employees Health Association.

The Mile Starts Here walking program returned for a second year. More than 100 participants met weekly to walk a designated one-mile route at several city parks and trails.

The City of Independence became a Let's Move! city, a program developed by First Lady Michelle Obama. This program aims to decrease childhood obesity through a number of healthy eating and active living initiatives.

The Get Healthy Independence app was launched allowing users to find parks, trails, local farmers' markets and community gardens.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Improving Local Public Health Preparedness and Response Capacity

The Health Department received a 100% rating on the Technical Assistance Review of the Emergency Response Guide from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. This review specifically tested the Health Department's ability to provide medical countermeasures to all Independence residents within 48 hours.



Traffic flowing through the regional response medicine dispensing site.

Regional Response Coordination

The Health Department hosted a regional public health emergency exercise with assistance from the City's Fire and Police Departments, as well as representatives from 17 other area local jurisdictions. The purpose of the exercise was to test the region's capability to respond to a public health emergency, such as a bioterrorist attack or pandemic, by dispensing medicine to the public in an extremely short amount of time. The exercise successfully met all of the CDC requirements.

100%
on the Technical Assistance
Review of the Emergency
Response Guide

Communicable Disease Surveillance

Staff processed 1,879 reported disease cases, of which 256 required further investigation.

Utilized eight surveillance sites that report daily or weekly communicable disease activity to monitor disease trends in the community.



Signs direct traffic for a public health response drill.

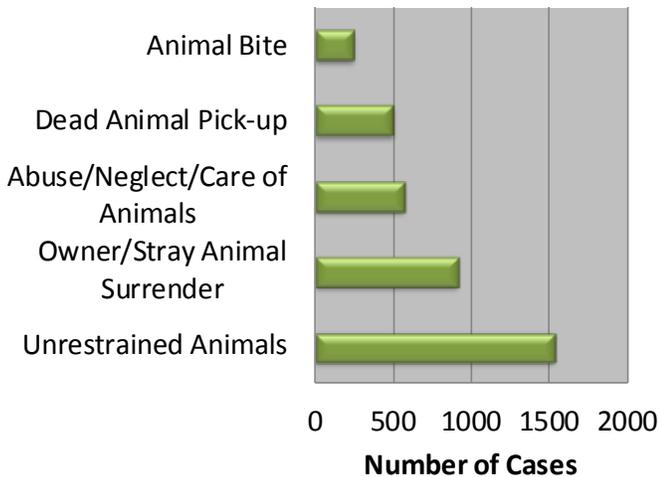
DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Shelter Transition:

On April 8, Animal Services staff transferred 68 cats and 52 dogs to the new Regional Animal Shelter, closing the City-operated animal shelter. Animal Field Services staff were moved to the Health Department building at 515 S. Liberty Street.

2,074
animals impounded

Top 5 Animal Services Case Types



New Animal Tranquilizer Guns Purchased:

Through the use of grant funds, the Department purchased two new CO₂ tranquilizer guns, one pistol and one rifle for use by Animal Field Services staff. These new guns replace an obsolete and outdated rifle. The four Animal Services Officers were all certified in the use of tranquilizer guns (chemical immobilization) by the National Animal Control Association (NACA).

Processed
5,035
animal-related
cases in
2013



Animal Services acquires a new truck.

New 4x4 Truck

Animal Services purchased a new four-wheel drive truck which allowed staff to respond in inclement weather. In addition, the truck served as a resource for the Health Department during emergencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO, Assistant Director

Electronic Records

In order to ensure accurate record keeping while conserving space, the Health Department began scanning closed cases using a laserfiche system. This form of records management offers document imaging, which allows for handwritten elements of a hard-copy case to be stored electronically. In 2013, a total of 15,153 cases were scanned from cases that originated from Fiscal Year 2011-2013.

Food and Intitution Inspections	2012	2013
Food Establishment	1,533	1,466
Complaint Investigations	181	195
Childcare Facilities	109	188
Swimming Pools	79	80
Tattoo Parlor Inspections	8	8
Soft Serve Inspections	75	70
Lodging Inspections	32	44
Temporary Events	268	208
Santa-Cali-Gon Booths	85	105

Just-In-Time Food Safety Video

The MARC Environmental Health Work Group created a “Just-In-Time” food safety video for volunteers who will be distributing/handling food in an emergency but lack previous cooking and sanitation experience. The Health Department took a leadership role in the development of the video from the idea phase through completion of filming and distribution.

Temporary Event Guidelines Update

The temporary event informational packet was updated to include guidelines for sampling. This effort was made to ensure that all food-related temporary event vendors have the requirements for the City of Independence. The sampling guidelines will be particularly helpful for Santa-Cali-Gon vendors who come from multiple jurisdictions around the country.

Food Handler Training Program

The Health Department issued 6,250 Food Handler and Food Manager Permits to food service workers, with more than 26% (1,657) of all food handler cards renewed online.

In November, the staff visited Truman High School Foods Classes to teach the Food Handler material to approximately 200 students. The students watched videos, participated in classroom discussion, and completed a hand-washing exercise. Sixty-six students tested and received their Food Handler permits. These students will be prepared to look for work in the food service industry and related fields.



Staff conducting a Food Handler Class.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Regional Food Handler Reciprocity Agreement

The Food Handler Reciprocity Agreement allows for the acceptance of food handler training cards without transfer fee among six local public health agencies including Independence, Cass County, Clay County, Platte County, Jackson County, and Kansas City, Missouri. The agreement has eased the financial burden on local businesses and food handlers while still meeting public health standards. The Health Department played a lead role in developing the project through the Mid-America Regional Council and submitting award applications to the National Association of City and County Health Officials and the National Environmental Health Association.



Rubbish being collected at NCCP.

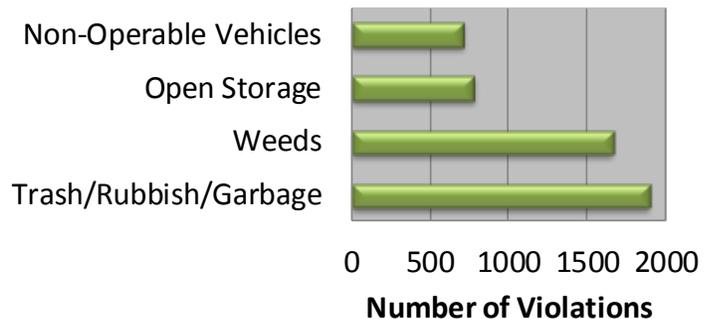
Android App Created for Property Maintenance Cases

Technology Services and the Health Department created a new app that replaced the officers' current digital cameras for documenting property maintenance inspections. Pictures taken using the app are automatically uploaded to the City's server from the field. The new process significantly reduced staff time required to process photos, reduced paper usage, freed much needed space on employees' computer hard drives, and streamlined the inspection process.

Santa-Cali-Gon

The Health Department received a total of 105 Temporary Health Permit applications related to Santa Cali Gon. All vendors were visited before opening and spot checked throughout the weekend.

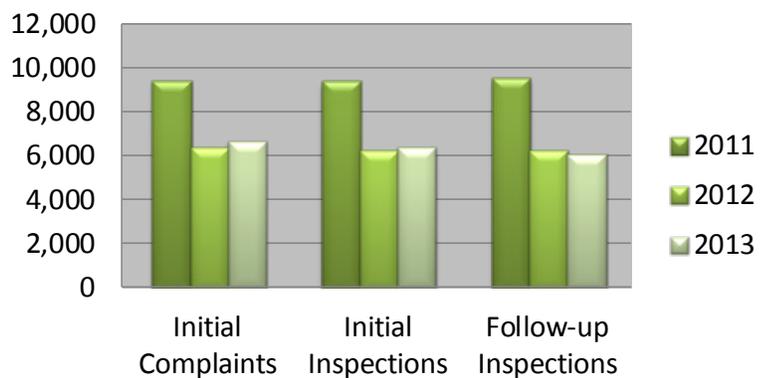
Top Property Maintenance Violations



Neighborhood Code Compliance Program (NCCP)

The NCCP was conducted in three areas in 2013 instead of eight due to funding challenges. A team approach that included all environmental public health staff was used to assist with inspections. These three cleanups yielded more than 94 tons of trash and brush. The compliance rates rose from 52.6% compliance on the pre-cleanup inspection to 87.3% compliance on the final inspection.

Property Maintenance by Year



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC, Public Health Manager

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of Independence was established to bring partners together with the common goal of reducing teen pregnancies. The coalition meets monthly and has representation from more than 20 agencies with interest in the health of our teens and community.

Childcare

The “Start Right” childcare recognition program was expanded to promote the health and safety of children enrolled in childcare settings. The program built on minimum licensing standards and incorporated emergency preparedness, indoor and outdoor safety, safe sleep, communicable disease, physical activity, nutrition, and general facility safety.

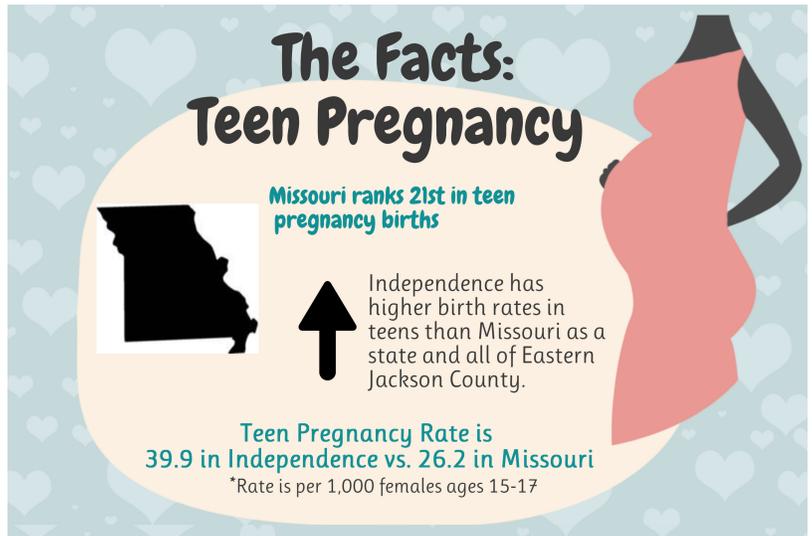
Asthma Education

The Health Department was awarded a grant from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City to expand the Open Airways asthma education program for third through fifth graders in all 18 of the Independence School District’s elementary schools. The funding provided for asthma education for the school staff.

Open Airways asthma education took place in all

18

of the Independence School District’s elementary schools



Combating Antibiotic Stewardship

An article written by staff was published by the Public Health Foundation, titled, “Local Antibiotic Stewardship Program: At the Nexus of Public Health and Health Care.” The article described progress and direction on the interventions and goals established for this program.

The Health Department partnered with Centerpoint Medical Center and the Independence School District to educate healthcare providers, pharmacists, and individuals on proper antibiotic use.

Vaccination Coverage and Promotion

Bi-annual onsite immunization audits were conducted at 54 childcare centers and home daycares licensed in Independence. Records were reviewed on more than 4,750 children to assure age-appropriate immunizations were received. After review and education, all records were 100% compliant.

Free Tdap vaccine was administered to 82 parents, grandparents and others in close contact with infants in order to prevent Pertussis (whooping cough).

More than 430 doses of influenza vaccine was provided to City employees.

STAFF LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITIONS

Ad Hoc Graduate Faculty, KU Department of Preventative Medicine and Public Health	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Child Abuse Prevention Association Health Advisory Board, Healthy Tomorrows Partnerships for Children	Karen VanFleet, BSN, RN
Certified Application Counselor (CAC) certification	Karen VanFleet, BSN, RN
Certified Open Airways Facilitator certification	Kristin Schlenk, M.ED, CHES
Commission on Aging, MARC	Karen VanFleet, BSN, RN
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
Emerging Leaders Academy, University of Kansas Public Management Center	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
Future of Nursing, Finalist	Dee Hampton, BSN, RN
Graceland University, Community Advisory Board	Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Healthy Lifestyles Leadership Academy, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City	Alicia Nelson, CHES
Independence Chamber of Commerce L.E.A.D. Graduate	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
Independence Coalition for Child Safety, Chair	Karen VanFleet, BSN, RN
Independence Hungry and Homeless Coalition, Chair	Cindy McCurry Friend, BSN, RN
Jackson County Inter-Agency Council Board of Directors	Cindy McCurry Friend, BSN, RN
Kansas City Terrorist Early Warning (KCTEW) Advisory Board	Mike Jackson, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
Mid-America Immunization Coalition, Steering Committee	Carol Roberson, BSN, RN
Missouri's Council for Public Health Nurses	Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Chair	Larry D. Jones, MPH

Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA)	
Board Member, At Large	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
NW Chapter Treasurer	Andrew Warlen, MPH, CEHS, CCEO
National Animal Control Association (NACA)	
Level 1 certification	Jim Holtcamp and Zach Gard
Level 2 certification	Laura Vaughn
Level 4 certification	Jennifer Polston and Tracy Hudson
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
Immunization Workgroup	Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Workforce Committee	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Workshop presentation, "Building a Healthier Independence: Multi-department collaboration to combat obesity and tobacco use," at the NACCHO Annual Conference	Christina Heinen, MSS
National Association of Workforce Boards, Healthcare Virtual Career Platforms Committee	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Poster presentation, "Building a Healthier Independence: multi-department collaboration to combat chronic disease," at the Society of Public Health Education Annual Conference	Christina Heinen, MSS
Poster presentation, "Building a Healthier Independence: multi-department collaboration to combat chronic disease," at the Joint Missouri Public Health Association and Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies Annual Conference	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Presented "Implementation and Evaluation of Strategies to Increase Availability of Healthy Foods" at the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting	Christina Heinen, MSS
Public Health Foundation, Antibiotic Stewardship Task Force, Member	Larry D. Jones, MPH
ServSafe certification	Kristin Schlenk, M.ED, CHES
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition; Independence, MO,	
Co-Chair	Shawna Jackson, MSN, RN, APHN-BC
Secretary	Kristin Schlenk, M.ED, CHES
UMKC School of Nursing	
Adjunct Consulting Faculty	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Community Advisory Board	Larry D. Jones, MPH
Wellness Committee, Chair	Dee Hampton, BSN, RN

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Healthier
Independence



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