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First Confirmed Congenital Syphilis Case Since 2009

by KDHE



Kansas has received notification of its first confirmed congenital syphilis (CS) case since 2009. Perinatal transmission of syphilis can occur at any time during pregnancy and at any stage of the disease. Effective prevention and detection of CS depends on the early identification and treatment of syphilis in pregnant women. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends, and Kansas law requires, routine serologic screening of pregnant women for syphilis during the first prenatal visit. However, as a result of this recent CS case, we strongly encourage providers to perform enhanced serologic testing for communities and populations with a high prevalence of syphilis and for women at high risk for infection. Enhanced serologic testing consists of additional screening twice during the third trimester: once at 28-32 week's gestation and again at delivery. All pregnant women should be treated with the penicillin regimen appropriate for their stage of infection. Please report all positive blood tests, diagnoses (including presumptive diagnosis), or treatment for syphilis to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) immediately. The current CDC treatment guidelines for CS can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/> If you have any questions, or concerns, please contact the STI/HIV Section of KDHE at 785-296-6174.

Regional Public Health Meetings

*by Teri Caudle, RN, PHN, Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The 2017 regional public health meetings are designed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. The first quarter agenda includes a variety of topics: WIC Program and Bureau of Family Health Updates; Leading for Changing Times, a presentation from the WSU Community Engagement Institute; and Pregnancy Support Services with Catholic Charities. You will be able to register on KS-TRAIN in the near future.

The dates and locations for the meetings are:

- Southeast Region, Chanute, January 12
- South Central Region, Hutchinson, February 1
- Southwest Region, Garden City, February 8
- Northwest Region, Oakley, February 9
- North Central Region, Beloit, March 1
- Northeast Region, Topeka, March 14

If you have ideas for regional meeting topics please contact Teri Caudle at teri.caudle@ks.gov

Webinar Training on Catalyst Enhancements - December 5, 12, and 19

by KDHE



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will be providing training via webinar on December 5, 12 and 19 to demonstrate the new enhancements to the Catalyst system. Catalyst is the system used for the Aid to Local process. Please register at ks.train.org, Course ID# 1064942. For more information about the training, contact Karen Kelley at karen.kelley@ks.gov or 785-296-0425.

Office of Primary Care & Rural Health Launches Community Spotlight Project

by Office of Primary Care & Rural Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment



In the spirit of National Rural Health Day, the Office of Primary Care & Rural Health is launching the Community Spotlight Project. To help celebrate the power of rural, Community Spotlight will be used to highlight projects and initiatives from Kansas rural health providers and partners that demonstrate collaboration, community support and addressing community health priorities. Find out more and share your success story by visiting the [website](#).

Kansas Infant Mortality Rate Decreases to 5.9 per 1,000 Live Births

by KDHE



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) reports the Kansas Infant Mortality Rate reached its lowest level in 2015, at 5.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) reflects the health and well-being of a nation or state. The U.S. rate is 6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. The statewide IMR of 5.9 is below the Healthy People 2020 target of 6. Overall, 230 infant deaths were reported in 2015 to KDHE, the [lowest number ever reported](#).

Announcing Upgrade to KIC System

by KDHE Vital and Health Statistics Data Analysis



For some time now, [Kansas Information for Communities](#) (KIC) has been undergoing behind the scenes modifications to provide a more viable tool to the user. On November 10, the upgraded system was released to production. Although the system still looks the same for the most part, it is now capable of visibly including counts for Unknown within the query results of the Birth, Pregnancy, Death, Hospital Discharge - Diagnosis & Procedure and Cancer Modules. Regarding the Birth Module, indicators have been expanded from 21 to 64 options; and 5 new Key Variables have been added allowing a user to set query criteria in a multitude of possibilities. Also, within the Birth Module's results, any column heading or row heading that is underlined and blue in color can be clicked on to expand the group, showing other indicators that apply.

The system has been updated with the most current information available: Birth - CY2015, Pregnancy - CY2015, Hospital Discharge-Diagnosis - CY2014, Hospital Discharge-Procedure - CY2014, Population - CY2015, Death - CY2015 and Cancer - CY2013.

As part of the roll out of the new KIC system, the Vital and Health Statistics Data Analysis will provide technical assistance on the use of KIC should there be sufficient demand. If you are interested in learning more about how to use KIC in your community health assessment or other public health activities, please email Kansas.health.statistics@kdheks.gov. Please include an explanation of the area for which you would like more information. The Vital and Health Statistics Data Analysis will plan online training sessions based on the responses received.

2015 Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics Available

by Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics



The 2015 Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics is now available. The report contains information on births, deaths, marriages, divorces and more. Among the highlights for 2015:

- The state's infant mortality rate has decreased from 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 5.9 in 2015.
- The number of births to Kansas residents was 39,126, a decrease of 0.2 percent from 2014. The state's birth rate decreased to 13.4 per 1,000 population from 13.5 in 2014.
- Teen pregnancy numbers decreased by 7.9 percent, from 3,118 in 2014 to 2,872 in 2015.
- The 10 leading causes of death in Kansas remained unchanged from 2014 to 2015, though their order changed in some cases. Heart disease replaced malignant neoplasms as the leading cause of death. All other rankings in the ten leading causes remained unchanged.
- Unintentional injury deaths increased in 2015. The age-adjusted mortality rate was 47.8 deaths per 100,000 population, a 7.4 percent increase from the rate of 44.5 deaths per 100,000 in 2014.
- The marriage rate in Kansas was 6.0 marriages per 1,000 population, slightly lower than 2014 (6.1 per 1,000 population) but 25 percent lower than the peak in 1996 of 8.0 marriages per 1,000 population.

The Annual Summary has been updated to improve readability. A new section, Fetal and Infant Mortality, has been created by grouping together tables and figures previously included in the Live Births (formerly Pregnancy Outcomes) and General Mortality (formerly Deaths) sections. Within each section, statewide analyses are presented first, followed by county and city-level tables and maps. The full Annual Report of Vital Statistics can be accessed on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's website here: <http://www.kdheks.gov/hci/annsumm.html>

National TRAIN Site Moves to New Platform January 30

by PHF TRAIN



Users who access TRAIN through the national portal at www.train.org will see the new TRAIN 3.0 look and learner functionality starting January 30, 2017. Learners will be able to view a welcome video on the new anonymous homepage and access tutorials and job aids. Additionally, the Public Health Foundation TRAIN team will be holding a webinar on January 26, 2 - 3 p.m. to introduce TRAIN users to the new platform. Register for the webinar on TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1067236. KS-TRAIN, as an affiliate to National TRAIN, hopes to move to the new platform in May of 2017. Questions on TRAIN 3.0 can be directed to the KS-TRAIN staff at kdhe.kstrain@ks.gov.

CDC Public Health Associate Program



by CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is accepting applications for the [Public Health Associate Program](#) (PHAP). Applications are to be submitted January 3 - 19, 2017 from state, tribal, local, and territorial public health departments, non-governmental organizations and CDC quarantine stations to host a public health associate starting in October 2017. PHAP is a two-year training program designed to train and provide experiential learning to early-career public health professionals. It's a great opportunity to build your organization's internal workforce capacity and have an impact on developing the skills of the future public health workforce. Associates' salary and benefits are paid by CDC. The work of the associates is expected to provide value-added public health services to help the host organization meet their program goals and objectives.

PHAP developed a two-part technical assistance webinar series to provide an overview of PHAP and more detailed technical assistance for organizations interested in applying to host an associate.

- [PHAP 101: Overview of PHAP - Does My Site Want to Host an Associate?](#)
- [PHAP 201: Strategic Development of a Quality PHAP Training Experience - the CO-STARR Model](#)

PHAP strongly suggests interested organizations begin their host site strategy before applications open on January 3. The host site strategy must include proposed work activities, host site supervisor and training activities. For more information on developing a strategy and an application, watch the PHAP webinars. Please email questions to phap@cdc.gov.

Enter to Win an iPad from Kansas Health Matters



by Kansas Health Matters Partnership

Has your organization completed a successful project or initiative aimed at improving health in your community? If you answered Yes, then you could be eligible to win an iPad. If you do not wish to win an iPad, other prizes are available for substitution such as a gift card of your choice for \$500, a Chromebook, or two registrations for the Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference, April 25 - 27, 2017.

Kansas Health Matters is interested in adding your local examples to kansashealthmatters.org. Each example of a promising practice is automatically entered for a chance to win an iPad. Visit the Kansas Health Matters website to review guidelines for submission and to complete the Promising Practices Submission Form at kansashealthmatters.org/promisingpractices. The deadline to enter is December 1 and the winner will be contacted on or before December 12.

For assistance submitting a promising practice, contact Tatiana Lin, Kansas Health Institute at 785-233-5443 or tlin@khi.org.

Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition

by Alissa Rankin, Project Specialist, WSU Center for Public Health Initiatives



In August 2016, a group of 33 Community Health Workers (CHWs) and their allies began meeting to discuss the design of the Kansas CHW Coalition. The purpose of the Kansas CHW Coalition will be to increase the capacity, recognition and effectiveness of CHWs through education, collaboration, advocacy and empowerment.

Over the past few months, the group has made significant progress by composing vision and mission statements for the coalition, selecting and forming four committees, and electing the coalition and committee co-chairs. Each of the committees will have its own strategic focus:

- The Executive Committee will assist with coalition navigation and decision making;
- The CHW Symposium Committee's purpose is to design the 2nd Annual Kansas CHW Symposium;
- The CHW Advocacy Committee will raise awareness about the value of CHWs in Kansas;
- The CHW Education Committee will work to identify minimum training criteria and establish a process to obtain education for Kansas CHWs.

The committees will meet between November and February to develop goals, preliminary activities and recruitment strategies.

In keeping with the principle of nothing about us without us, the coalition has made CHW leadership and empowerment a key priority. The coalition and committee co-chair positions are equally divided, with one co-chair reserved for a CHW and the other for a CHW ally. CHWs are involved in the decision making, strategic planning, and recruitment at every level of the coalition.

The first collective Kansas CHW Coalition meeting will be held in March 2017. To learn more about the coalition or its committees, please contact Alissa Rankin at alissa.rankin@wichita.edu or 316-978-3464.

Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The December webinar has been cancelled. The next webinar will be January 24. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.

Health Insurance Literacy

*by Alicia Lillich, MLS, Kansas Outreach and Technology Coordinator,
National Network of Libraries of Medicine, University of Kansas Medical Center*



Health insurance is not only one of the costliest products a consumer will purchase, with an average price tag of \$386 per month for an individual, it is also one of the most complex products to understand. Many people think they have the skills and knowledge to select and utilize their health insurance, but the

evidence shows otherwise:

- A 2014 Kaiser Family Foundation [report](#) found that 37 percent of enrollees did not know the amount of their deductible, and 46 percent thought they were getting a subsidy though it was actually 85 percent.
- A 2014 [report](#) from the Urban Institute noted that nearly 50 percent of adults with an income below 400 percent of the Federal Poverty level that reported limited literacy and low numeracy skills had difficulty locating information to help them support their insurance plan choices.

This lack of literacy can prove detrimental to the consumer if they select a plan that doesn't provide needed benefits or puts them at financial risk. The concept of health insurance literacy is fairly new, and while there is no official definition it has been [described](#) as the extent to which individuals have the knowledge, ability and confidence to find and evaluate health plans, select the best plan for themselves and use the plan after enrollment.

In 2014, the American Institutes of Research [reported](#) on their work to develop a measure of health insurance literacy. They created a [conceptual model](#) containing four domains that may be of interest to health care professionals. A number of resources are available to address health insurance literacy needs.

Resources for assisting consumers or patients:

- [Access Better Coverage: Insurance Basics Explained](#) - This site from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America helps educate consumers about health insurance coverage and prescription drugs.
- [Alliance for Health Reform](#) - The Alliance works to improve the delivery of affordable, quality care. They have numerous toolkits including [The ABCs of the ACA](#) and [Health Literacy and Health Insurance Literacy: Do Consumers Know What They Are Buying?](#)
- [Enroll America: Health Insurance Literacy Resource Hub](#) - The Hub has researched-based digital tools, fact sheets, handouts and videos to bridge the gap between consumers and those assisting them. They have numerous [toolkits](#) to help you engage with a variety of audiences, including [Muslim Faith Engagement Tool](#), [Health Care in the Pulpit](#), [Young Engagement Toolkit](#), and [Provider and Hospital Week of Action Toolkit](#).

Resources for consumers or patients:

- Get free help applying, selecting a plan and enrolling in your area at <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/#intro>.
- [FairHealth.org](#) - Numerous healthcare decision-support tools to help individuals understand healthcare costs.
- [HealthCare.gov](#) - Resources for selecting or changing a plan, plan categories, determining the total cost of care and understanding the different kinds of plans.
- [MedlinePlus: Health Insurance](#) - Resources and handouts to assist consumers understand and select insurance. Many of the handouts are available in Spanish.

Public Health Training Centers in New Public Health 3.0 Report

by Public Health Learning Network



In a new [report](#) released in November, Dr. Karen De Salvo, the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, lays out 5 critical dimensions to advance population health. The first dimension is a Strong Leadership and Workforce, and local health departments are recommended to “partner with public

health training centers and academic schools and programs of public health to inform training that meets the local public health workforce needs.” The report, Public Health 3.0: A Call to Action to Create a 21st Century Public Health Infrastructure, builds on other important efforts shaping the future of public health, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Health Impact in 5 Years \(HI-5\)](#) initiative and the Public Health Leadership Forum's recent report: [The High Achieving Governmental Health Department in 2020 as the Chief Health Strategist](#).

Kansas Public Health Training Fellowship Program

*by Sonja Armbruster, Director of Center for Public Health Initiatives
and Seth Bate, Director of Center for Leadership Development*



In September, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program and their partners launched the Kansas Public Health Training Fellowship Program. Twenty-one public health professionals from across the state are participating in this eight-month course led by the Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute. Participants will increase their understanding of the public health environment in Kansas through online and in-person training events. In October, Fellowship awardees attended an in-person event in Topeka to enhance leadership skills that are critical for effective public health planning and practices, identify individual leadership challenges they would like to address and meet with key system partners within KDHE and across the community. In November, these participants participated in the Evidence-Based Public Health Course offered by KDHE. They will continue to learn together via webinar trainings through March 2017. In April, Fellowship participants will present the results of the experiments and interventions they implemented to address their identified leadership challenges at the Kansas Governor's Conference on Public Health.

ACCREDITATION CORNER

Update on PHAB's New Work Related to Accreditation of Health Departments Serving Less than 50,000



The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) continues to work on developing a product for health departments serving populations of less than 50,000 or with 10 or fewer non-clinical Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs). Although several health departments of this size have attained PHAB accreditation, PHAB has received feedback that there is a need to hold discussions on the barriers smaller health departments face. Additionally, there is supporting data available from the National Association of County & City Health Officials Profile and Forces of Change surveys.

PHAB is currently exploring a product of recognition that provides a pathway towards accreditation. The product is intended for health departments who wish to become PHAB accredited in the future, but who cannot see a clear way to do it at this point. It will be a product for health departments who wish to pursue quality improvement in their work and begin to prepare for accreditation but find the accreditation process and standards to be too daunting as a first step. It is not a lower level or tier of accreditation.

PHAB has established a Think Tank on this topic that includes a representative from a local health department in Kansas, Diedre Serene, Marion County Health Department. The group has held three teleconferences to review all 12 of the PHAB Domains as well as the foundational public health capabilities language in an effort to determine which components most accurately align with the work of smaller health departments. They met in person on September 14 - 15, 2016, to put some early concepts together that can then be shared for broader input. There are examples from other accrediting bodies that PHAB can use as reference points to guide the basis for this project. The Think Tank will meet in the spring of 2017 to develop draft documents for public vetting and PHAB will continue to hold informational and feedback webinars. Fees will be determined once the final process is developed. For more information visit the [PHAB web-site](#) and click on the [Hot Topics icon](#).

Webinar - Practical Application of the Updated PHAB Guide



The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has made available the archived webinar from August 17. In the webinar, Accreditation Education Specialist David Stone joined Margie Beaudry, Senior Associate for Performance Improvement Services at the Public Health Foundation (PHF), for a 90-minute webinar that helped health departments understand important changes to the accreditation process with the updated [Guide to National Public Health Department Initial Accreditation](#) that went into effect earlier this year. An archive of the Practical Application of the Updated PHAB Guide webinar [is now available](#) for on-demand access along with answers to questions asked by attendees during the live presentation.

QI in Five Video Series



The Public Health Centers for Excellence has made available QI in Five, a new video series of quick tutorials. These brief webinars cover topics such as quality management, using run charts, using control charts and communicating with data. In addition to the Quality Improvement (QI) in Five webinar series, the Public Health Centers for Excellence also offers two brief webinars on performance management and seven on health assessment and planning. You can view the videos [here](#) or on the Public Health Centers for Excellence [YouTube channel](#).

PHAB Launches Accreditation Webinar Series



PHAB has launched a quarterly webinar series that will highlight topics that are important to applicants or have been suggested by the field. The first webinar focused on documentation, with presenters providing tips on how to optimize documentation to help your health department succeed in the accreditation process through first-hand perspectives. Presenters were Shirley Orr, PHAB Consultant; Marita Chilton, PHAB Accreditation Manager; April Harris, PHAB Accreditation Specialist (and Three Rivers District Health Department at the time the webinar was recorded); Colleen Svoboda and Jeff Soukup, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The [webinar](#) and [slides](#) from the event can be found on the PHAB website or on [YouTube](#).

2017 Schedule Meetings and Conferences Impacting Local Public Health Agencies

[Click Here](#) to Access the Calendar

Funding Opportunities

Cardinal Health Foundation's E3 Grant - Effectiveness, Efficiency and Excellence in Healthcare Grant Program - Deadline December 9



Cardinal Health develops and supports programs that help healthcare providers implement best practices that can truly transform patient care. Over the past nine years, the Foundation has invested \$8.6 million with 297 grants to hospitals, health systems or other health-related organizations. These projects have produced some very significant outcomes and insights. Cardinal Health remains committed to helping improve the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare and in 2017 the [E3 program](#) will take into account rapidly changing demographics, the importance of the patient and the family as key partners in care and a renewed appreciation for the value medications, when used appropriately, can play in positive patient outcomes.

Cardinal Health Foundation is seeking proposals that include the following criteria in 2017:

- Supporting the best use of medications, especially at transitions across the continuum of care from the hospital to home and ambulatory settings;
- Managing diabetes and/or multiple chronic diseases;
- Being informed by and implementing emerging innovations that have been tested and are supported by data showing success in improving outcomes, reducing cost or accelerating the rate of change in healthcare;
- Engaging patients and their caregivers and families as well as healthcare leadership;
- Publishing or otherwise sharing outcomes;
- Finding innovative and sustainable ways to effect long-term change.

The emphasis is on helping patients achieve their clinical goals for diabetes or multiple chronic diseases. In addition to measuring clinical outcomes, grantees will also be asked to measure reduced lengths-of-stay and readmissions. The [E3 Grant Program Proposal Guidelines and Instructions](#) provide further details on the grant requirements. Responses to some of the most [frequently asked questions](#) are available on the [website](#). Questions about the grant opportunity can be directed to communityrelations@cardinalhealth.com.

NACCHO's 2017 Medical Reserve Corps Challenge Awards - Deadline December 9



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is accepting applications for the [2017 Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\) Challenge Awards](#) through December 9. This award is open to eligible MRC Units with an opportunity to receive funding of up to \$13,000. NACCHO will award innovative projects that are aligned with nationally recognized health initiatives, have a significant impact at the local level and demonstrate capability within the MRC network.

This awards program is designed to highlight MRC Units that address community needs in an innovative way, evaluate effectiveness and share their results to facilitate development of improved processes or resources. Proposed projects should include a number of approaches, such as educational programs, formation of unique partnerships or coalitions, community outreach, or creation of innovative tools or systems. Unit leaders can also use this opportunity to evaluate their programs and translate the processes and outcomes through research.

Project proposals may draw from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response's [National Health Security Strategy](#), the six [Surgeon General's Priorities](#) including the [National Prevention Strategy](#), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Winnable Battles](#), or the strategic plans of other partner organizations.

Additional information on the MRC Challenge Award is available in the [request for application](#) and the [NACCHO's award application website](#). Potential applicants are encouraged to view the 2017 MRCH Challenge Awards [informational webinar recording](#) and [presentation slides](#). All questions and inquiries should be directed to mrc@naccho.org.

CPR Savers AED Grant Program



CPR Savers
& FIRST AID SUPPLY

The CPR Savers Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Grant Program provides funding for AEDs. AEDs can literally mean the difference between life and death. The survival rates for those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest decrease by 10 percent with every minute that passes. In order to be prepared for these types of medical emergencies, having an AED on site as well as trained individuals who can use the device is critical. Due to the costs involved in purchasing and implementing an AED program, many organizations are seeking out AED grant programs that will pay for some or all of the AED. There are several opportunities out there for grants, including the CPR Savers AED Grant Program. Requests for AEDs and AED accessories can be submitted through the [online submission form](#) or through faxing or emailing the [PDF application](#) to 480-525-9570 or training@cpr-savers.com. If you have questions about the application, contact CPR Savers at 1-800-480-1277.

Improving the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders - Deadline December 15



The Laura and John Arnold Foundation's (LJAF) core objective is to address our nation's most pressing and persistent challenges using evidence-based, multi-disciplinary approaches. LJAF is seeking proposals from organizations with ideas for evaluating addiction treatment programs and strategies for people with opioid use disorders. Projects may be focused on rigorously evaluating existing treatment programs, testing new approaches to treatment and re-orienting government spending around effective programs that demonstrate measurable results. This request for proposals is part of an effort to accelerate the adoption of evidence-based approaches to treating opioid addiction.

Many communities are seeking promising solutions and have implemented a number of different programs in an effort to treat individuals with opioid use disorders. However, the majority of federal, state, and local funding for opioid addiction treatment is allocated to programs that are not based on evidence and have not been rigorously evaluated. Although a growing body of research suggests that medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combined with behavioral interventions could be an effective method of treating individuals with opioid use disorders, further study is needed to determine if and how these programs should be expanded and scaled to help people with different needs.

LJAF is seeking proposals for projects that fall under the following categories:

- Evaluations of interventions funded by governments or other entities to treat opioid use disorders. The evaluation proposals are invited within two tiers: randomized controlled trial (RCT) tier and innovation tier.
- Innovations in government program design, delivery systems and infrastructure to build rigorous evidence, redirect spending, and improve access to proven treatment programs. Funding will be provided to support study design, infrastructure and system innovations rather than direct service provision.

Additional guidance for each category may be found in the [application instructions](#).

Voices for Health Kids Grant - Deadline December 15



The American Heart Association and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are collaborating to create a culture of health through the Voices for Healthy Kids initiative. The initiative aims to engage, organize and mobilize people to help all children grow up at a healthy weight. Voices for Health Kids focuses on advancing coordinated state, local and tribal public policy advocacy campaigns focused on healthy eating and active living; the initiative will utilize the American Heart Association's proven advocacy capacity to drive meaningful, widespread policy change.

The Strategic Campaign Funds Open Request For Applications (RFA) opportunity funds strategic issue advocacy campaigns focused on helping kids grow up at a healthy weight at the state, local, and tribal level. Applications must align with the Healthy Kids' [policy priorities](#) and must support at least one [Voice for Healthy Kids Policy Lever](#). The Open RFA or start-up campaign grants are designed to fund a campaign coordinator position to enable the starting of a campaign. These are longer term grants and may fund a campaign for up to one year. Nonprofit organizations that are tax exempt and have the ability to lobby are eligible to apply. Private companies and government entities are not eligible. Questions regarding the application process can be directed to Shannon Melluzzo, Grants Manager at Shannon.Melluzzo@heart.org. All applications must be submitted by email to voicesforhealthykids@heart.org by December 15. A Frequently Asked Questions [factsheet](#) is available and the [Open RFA instructions](#) are available for guidance.

Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Access to Care Grant - Deadline December 15



Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children: The Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is committed to supporting community-based initiatives providing Dental Homes to children whose families cannot afford dental care. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry defines a Dental Home as the ongoing relationship between the dentist and the patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care, delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated and family-centered way. One way Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children (HSHC) supports this goal is through one-year Access to Care Grants in support of care for children up to age 18.

HSHC Access to Care Grants support community-based initiatives in the U.S. that provide dental care and ultimately serve as a Dental Home to underserved/limited access children. Grant funds may be used to cover costs, such as child oral health care; clinic supplies, instruments and equipment; salary and education and/or outreach to recruit dentist participation in program activities. All expenses must have a clear, direct impact on pediatric oral health care and a direct link to the Dental Home. Special considerations are given to initiatives supporting the age-one dental visit, providing care to special needs patients, or addressing the needs of specific underserved demographic groups. The deadline for grant proposals is December 15. [Guidelines](#) with detailed information and a timeline of the grant cycle are available. More information is available [online](#). Questions can be directed to kkatona@aapd.org or 312-337-2169.

Career Development Grants - Deadline December 15



The American Association of University Women's (AAUW) [Career Development Grants](#) provide assistance to women who, through additional higher education, technical training, or participation in professional development institutes, are making career changes, seeking to advance in current careers, or reentering the workforce. Primary consideration is given to women of color, women pursuing credentials in nontraditional fields and women who do not currently hold an advanced degree. Grants provide support for coursework toward degree programs other than a doctorate or for specialized training in technical or professional fields. [Applications for AAUW Career Development Grants are open August 1 - December 15.](#)

AMA Foundation Healthy Living Grant for Prescription Medication Safety Health Education Projects - Deadline December 16



The AMA Foundation's Healthy Living Grant is accepting applications for projects that specifically focus on prescription drug safety. The project's target audience must be youth and young adults between the ages of 2 - 21. The target audience must be an underserved or at-risk population. Funding is awarded for a 12-month project period; grantees will be awarded in February and will have approximately one year to complete their project. The limitations on funding are outlined in the grant application and include limitations on funding award dinners and special events; capital construction or improvement; operating or indirect expenses such as utilities and rent; general equipment such as computer equipment; salaries to operate the organization in general or on a long-term basis. The application is available [here](#). For additional information or questions, please contact amafoundation@ama-assn.org. Applications must be submitted by December 16 at 5 p.m.

Walmart Community Grant Program - Deadline December 31



The 2016 grant cycle for the Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program is coming to a close. Walmart believes in operating globally and giving back locally - creating impact in the neighborhoods where employees live and work. Through the Community Grant Program, Walmart associates are proud to support the needs of their communities by providing grants to local organizations. Before applying, please note the 2016 grant cycle began February 1 with the application deadline to apply December 31. Applications may be submitted at any time during this funding cycle. Please note that applications will only remain pending in the Walmart system for 90 days. Awarded grants range from \$250 to \$2,500. Applications must be completed in full and submitted online to be considered. Submitting an online application does not guarantee funding. Organizations applying include the following:

- An organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c) (3), (4), (6) or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- A recognized government entity: state, county or city agency, including law enforcement or fire departments, that are requesting funds exclusively for public purposes;

All organizations must verify that they meet the eligibility requirements. This may require submitting a support ticket through Cybergrants. The facility manager and the grant administrator reserve the right to adjust the amount awarded to each organization without prior notice.

Please read the [Community Grant Guidelines](#) before beginning [your application](#).

Community Giving Program Links:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Community Grant Guidelines](#)

HRSA Rural Health Network Development Planning Program - Deadline January 3



Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has released notice of the Rural Health Network Development Planning Program grant opportunity. The purpose of the Network Planning program is to assist in the development of an integrated health care network, specifically for entities that do not have a history of formal collaborative efforts. Health care networks can be an effective strategy to help smaller rural health care providers and health care service organizations align resources and strategies, achieve economies of scale and efficiency, and address challenges more effectively as a group than as single providers. The Network Planning program promotes the planning and development of healthcare networks in order to: achieve efficiencies; expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of essential health care services; and strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. The health care system is undergoing a significant amount of change and this can be particularly challenging for small rural providers.

The goals of the Network Planning program are centered around approaches that will aid providers in better serving their communities given the changes taking place in health care, as providers move from focusing on the volume of services to focusing on the value of services. This program will bring together key parts of a rural health care delivery system, particularly those entities that may not have collaborated in the past under a formal relationship, to establish and improve local capacity and coordination of care. The applicant organization must be a rural nonprofit or rural public entity that represents a consortium or network of three or more health care providers. The program will support one year of planning with the primary goal of helping networks create a foundation for their infrastructure and focusing member efforts to address important regional or local community health needs. Additional information about the grant requirements is [available online](#).



Captain Planet Foundation Environmental Learning Small Grants - January 31

The Captain Planet Foundation primarily makes grants to schools and organizations with an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million. The goal of this funding is to support youth projects that allow hands-on environmental stewardship opportunities, serve as a catalyst to getting environment-based education in schools and inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities. Grants are made for activities that conform to the mission of the Captain Planet Foundation and must have all four of the following to be considered for funding:

- Be project-based;
- Projects must be performed by youth;
- Projects must have real environmental outcomes;
- Be based in the United States.

Captain Planet Foundation will accept small grant requests for amounts between \$500 - \$2,500. Preferential consideration is given to requests who have secured at least 50 percent matching or in-kind funding for their projects. Captain Planet Foundation may choose to fund a portion of the project budget that best fits within the foundation guidelines or contact an applicant for further discussion.

Captain Planet Foundation funds may not be used for:

- Capital or building campaigns, purchase of real estate, or endowments
- General operating expenses or staffing salaries
- Beautification or landscaping projects
- Travel costs or Field trips that are not an essential part of the proposed project
- Scholarships
- Expensive equipment that can only be used once, used only by a small number of children, or is principally being purchased for the general use of the school or organization beyond the stated needs of project.
- Promotional items such as t-shirts, flyers, postcards, or signage.

For more information about the grant, including Frequently Asked Questions, visit the [website](#).

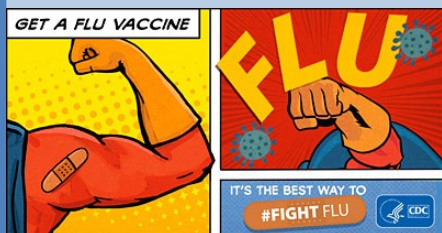
Community Transportation Association's Opportunities for Technical Assistance for Rural Communities



The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) has been addressing the unmet mobility needs of rural America through its [Rural Passenger Transportation Technical Assistance Program](#). The program is designed to assist rural communities enhance economic growth and development by improving transportation services. Public transit can help support a wide range of other economic development initiatives. Program objectives include helping small and emerging businesses and stimulating economic development through new and improved transportation programs. The program provides planning assistance for facility development, transit service improvements and expansion, new system start-up, policy and procedure development, marketing, transportation coordination, training and public transit problem solving activities. The planning assistance is provided through a site visit of one to four days, and subsequent follow-up work.

To qualify for technical assistance, a project must be located in a rural area with a population of less than 50,000. Requests for technical assistance may be submitted by private-for-profit or non-profit organizations or agencies. Public entities are not eligible recipients; however, eligible recipients can usually be identified in most communities. The project must also benefit new or existing small and emerging businesses. [Applications](#) are accepted on a continuing basis. Contact Charles Rutkowski for further information at rutkowski@ctaa.org and 202-299-6593.

It's Influenza Time - Looking for Resources?



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [free resources](#) available on its website for the flu season. Resources include a [digital media kit](#), resources in [Spanish](#) and [11 other languages](#), targeted resources for [Seniors](#), plain language resources, and more. If Your Kids are a Size [poster](#) provides a reminder that flu protection is recommended for children six months and older. [Resources](#) are also available targeting pregnant women to raise awareness on the risk for serious complications from the flu. There are also posters available for [families](#), including [No Flu In My House](#), which can be [ordered](#) for free.

Training and Conference Announcements

NACCHO Webinar: Breastfeeding in the Community: Engaging the Hard-to-Reach - December 5



The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) will host an interactive webinar on December 5 at 1 - 2:30 p.m. to address how local health departments (LHDs), community based organizations (CBOs) and other public health professionals can better support communities with low breastfeeding rates by engaging and retaining women and families who are traditionally classified as hard-to-reach. Participants will hear from three former NACCHO Breastfeeding Project grantees who successfully engaged their communities and established or enhanced programs to serve teenage, African American or low income mothers who faced structural barriers to breastfeeding at optimal levels. Register for the webinar [online](#).

Webinar - Consumer Insights on Dairy's Role in the Clean/Clear Labeling Trend - December 6



Join Midwest Dairy Council for a webinar on December 6 at 11 a.m. to learn more about survey findings on whether consumers understand how foods fit into the growing clean labeling trend. The webinar will also preview new resources available to help bridge gaps in patient/client knowledge about how milk and dairy foods surpass dairy alternatives when delivering on this clean trend. Learn more and [register here](#).

Webinar - What Works: Strategies to Improve Rural Health - December 6



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings & Roadmaps will be hosting a 30 minute webinar highlighting their recent report, What Works: Strategies to Improve Rural Health. The webinar will be held on December 6 at 2 - 2:30 p.m. The webinar will outline specific policies and programs that can improve health in rural areas along with key steps towards building healthy communities. Register for the webinar [online](#).

Ebola Risk Communications Training - December 6 and 7



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be offering an Ebola Risk Communications Training to meet the requirements Item 6 of the PHEP Ebola, Zika, and Infectious Diseases Work Plan. The trainings will be held at 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The one-day training will be held on December 6 in Oakley and will be offered a second time in Salina on December 7. The training will provide an introduction to risk and crisis communications, pre-crisis communication planning, effective messaging, effective communication with the media, implementing the crisis plan, addressing unexpected issues and post-crisis evaluation. Please register for the training at ks.train.org, Course ID# 1065100. Further information on the training can be found on KS-TRAIN. Questions can be directed to Elisa Nehrbass at elisa.nehrbass@ks.gov or 785-296-1882.

Webinar Series - Improving the Health of Women, Children and Adolescents - December 8 and 9



The American Public Health Association is hosting a webinar series to learn about how to improve the health of women, children and adolescents. The second webinar in the series, How Business Can Advance Adolescent Health, will be on December 8 at 8:30 - 10 a.m. and will feature a dynamic discussion focusing on where we currently stand regarding advancing adolescent health, current actions from the private sector and opportunities for greater impact. The webinar series' third webinar, Maintaining Momentum and Building on Strategies to Prevent Stillbirths, will be on December 9 at 8 - 9 a.m. and will review progress that has been made on ending preventable stillbirth deaths, highlight strategies for faster progress and discuss ways to provide better care to women and families following stillbirths. Register for the [second webinar](#) and the [third webinar](#) online. The [recording](#) of the first webinar in the series, Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health in Humanitarian Settings, is available to view; the first [webinar](#) has an international focus.

Webinar - Supporting Health Care Professionals in Providing Evidence-Based Information to Shape Health Policy - December 9



The Midwest Cancer Alliance and the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network will be hosting the Supporting Health Care Professionals in Providing Evidence-Based Information to Shape Health Policy webinar on December 9 at 12 - 1 p.m. The webinar will provide health care professionals with a foundational knowledge regarding the policy making process and how they can add value. Speakers will include the University of Kansas Cancer Center's Dr. Roy Jensen, the University of Kansas Medical Center's Dr. Joshua Mammen, Hope Krebill, the Executive Director of the Midwest Cancer Alliance, and Hilary Gee, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's Kansas Government Relations Director. Continuing education credits are available for physicians, APRNs, nurses, and social workers. Pre-registration is required by 12 p.m. on December 7. Please email ahcepitt@kumc.edu or call 620-235-4041 to register. For more information, please contact the Kansas University Area Health Education Center at 620-235-4040.

Webinar - Applying a Health Equity Lens to Public Health Practice - December 12



The Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) will host a webinar on December 12 at 2 - 3p.m. on approaching public health practice through a health equity lens. Increasingly, health departments are serving as leaders in communities to address the root causes of health inequities. This requires changing systems and policies, and working with non-traditional partners to ensure that all people have the opportunity to attain their highest level of health. Join PHNCI as they explore the stories of two health departments working to transform communities to ensure that ZIP codes do not dictate health outcomes. Speakers will include Jeanne Ayers, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health, Jennifer Hadayia, Senior Policy Planner/Health Equity Coordinator, Texas' Harris County Public Health, and Umair Shah, Executive Director of Texas' Harris County Public Health. Register for the webinar [online](#).

CDAK Semi-Annual Meeting - December 13



The Chronic Disease Alliance of Kansas (CDAK) will be having its Semi-Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 13 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan. The meeting will include a Lessons Learned from Statewide Health Coalitions panel presentation featuring the Kansas Cancer Partnership, Oral Health Kansas and Tobacco-Free Kansas Coalition. The Kansas Leadership Center's Patty Clark will present on inspiring collective action. Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute will facilitate a session on Advancing our Collective Vision for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control in Kansas. This facilitated conversation will help set the stage for continued success in 2017. Full details on the day's event can be found on the [CDAK website](#). Register for the event [online](#).

Webinar - Rankings in Action: Schools as a Hub for Health - December 13



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings & Roadmaps will host a webinar on December 13 at 2 - 3 p.m. on Schools as a Hub for Health. The webinar is a part of the Putting County Health Rankings into Action series and will explore the intersection between health and education. Miranda Kridler, County Planner, will share how the Athens County Health Coalition is effectively partnering with five school districts in rural Athens County, Ohio. She will share how they are focusing on what is important, building on what is working and moving into implementation of sustainable, evidence informed strategies. Registration and more information is available [online](#).

CDC Grand Rounds Presents Public Health Law: A Tool to Address Emerging Health Concerns - December 13



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will host a [live webcast](#) on Tuesday, December 13 at 12 - 1 p.m. on using public health law as a tool to address emerging health concerns. The speakers will include Montrece McNeill Ransom, JD, MPH, Team Lead of the CDC's Public Health Law Training and Workforce Development Program; Matthew Penn, JD, MLIS, Director of the CDC's Public Health Law Office; and Dr. Karen DeSalvo, the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Acting Assistant Secretary for Health. The speakers will present on public health law in the twenty-first century, using legal research to improve public health practice and developing and implementing local health laws that enhance community health. A live webcast will be available via the Webcast Links section of the CDC's website. A video of the session will be posted to the [CDC archives](#) 2 - 3 days after the presentation for those who are unable to view the session live. The CDC invites attendees to email questions before or during the session.

KDHE Preparedness Program Webinar - Compliance and Work Plan - December 14



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Preparedness Program is hosting a webinar to discuss Compliance and Work Plans. The webinar will allow for focus on checking on the status of compliance and work plans. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grantees can attend at 10 - 11 a.m. and should register online [here](#). The webinar for Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grantees will be at 2 - 3 p.m. and attendees should register [here](#).

Webinar - Transitional Care Partnerships: Improved Communication & Care Coordination Across the Healthcare Continuum - December 15



The Center for Public Health Continuing Education is hosting a webinar on Transitional Care Partnerships: Improved Communication and Care Coordination Across the Healthcare Continuum on December 15 at 8 - 9 a.m. The webinar will focus on why cross-setting collaboration across all healthcare provider and community service settings is important for achieving improved outcomes. Speakers will discuss the driving forces for improved transitional care management and strategies to include caregivers in the care transition team. A full description of the program and information about available continuing education credits are available [online](#) or in the [informational flyer](#). A recording of the webinar will be available [online](#) two weeks after the live event. Registration for the webinar is available [online](#).



Webinar - Navigating Rural Health Resources - December 20

The Office of Primary Care & Rural Health of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will be hosting a webinar on December 20 at 12:30 -1:30 p.m. to feature available rural health resources. The webinar will feature a guest speaker from KDHE's Lead Hazard Prevention Program and will also highlight the Rural Health Information (RHI) Hub Evidence-Based Toolkits. Register for the webinar [online](#).



Webinar - Obstetric Care Quality and Access for Rural U.S. Women - January 11

Rural Health Research Gateway is offering a webinar on January 11, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on the quality of obstetric care in rural areas, the workforce providing obstetric care in rural areas and the predictors of non-local childbirth for rural women. The focus of this presentation is on understanding whether rural pregnant women have access to the care they need, and whether rural hospitals have the capacity to meet the needs of rural women and families. The webinar is free and registration is not required, but participation is limited to the first 200 to log-on the day of the webinar. In order to participate in the webinar, the link for joining is https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/gateway_webinar/ and the conference line number is 888-997-9863, participant code: 8157657. More information is available on Rural Health Research Gateway's [website](#). Questions regarding the webinar can be directed to Kristin Trelstad, Rural Health Research Gateway, at kristin.trelstad@med.und.edu.

NACCHO Offers Online Management Essentials Training



The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) is offering the Management Essentials Training Series. The Management Essentials Training Series has been tailored for local health officials and offers a fresh perspective and broad introduction to the three critical topics of strategic planning, successful people management and fundamentals of financial management. The training series will be delivered in 60 to 90 minute segments with a total of approximately ten hours of instruction per each of the three courses. NACCHO encourages local health department staff with one to three years of experience who are seeking additional management training to enroll in these trainings.

The courses are being provided by NACCHO at no cost. However, as space is limited, participants are strongly encouraged to sign up early and to sign up for a single course at a time. Courses will begin on Monday, January 23, 2017. For more information on the content of the individual courses and to register, visit the NACCHO [website](#).

Working with Persons with Dementia Session - January 21



Oral Health Kansas is sponsoring a session on January 21 at 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Wichita on working with persons with dementia. The speaker, Rita Jaudon-Jablonski, Ph.D., CRNP, FAAN, will provide valuable insight on techniques to help dementia patients with oral care. This information-packed workshop will address the learning needs of dental hygienists by delivering concrete and practical material about working with people with dementia. Topics will include:

- The common faces of dementia (Alzheimer's dementia, vascular dementia, Lewy Body dementia, Parkinson's Disease dementia, frontal-temporal dementia);
- The Why behind the What: how specific changes in the brain promote refusals, tall tales, agitation, illusions and hallucinations;
- Overview of common medications used (both appropriately and inappropriately) in persons with dementia, and how these medications may impact care delivery by dental hygienists;
- Clinically-tested techniques to prevent triggering behavioral and psychiatric symptoms of dementia, and to promote acceptance of dental hygiene examinations and procedures;
- Resources (including free mouth care videos on YouTube) to share with colleagues and family caregivers.

Please [register online](#) by January 17; early registration is encouraged as the course is expected to reach capacity quickly. Three continuing education credits are available for the session.

Webinar - Navigating Rural Health Resources February 28



The Office of Primary Care & Rural Health will be hosting a webinar on February 28 at 12:30-1:30 p.m. to provide information on a number of resources available. The featured speakers will include a representative from the Early Detection Works Program and from Blue Cross Blue Shield's Blue Health Initiatives. Please register for the webinar [online](#). For more information, please contact ru-health@ks.gov.

Continuing Education Courses Available for Public Health Professionals Via KS-TRAIN



[Syringe Exchange in Louisville, KY 1065807](#) focuses on the development of a syringe exchange programming (SEP) within Louisville, KY. It highlights SEP implementation as an evidence-based response to concerns around substance use, HIV, and Hepatitis C within Kentucky. This course examines the process of SEP development and provides preliminary outcomes of this intervention. The University of Louisville Office of Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development designates this activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™] and has been approved by the Kentucky Board of Nursing for 1.2 continuing education credits.

[Sentinel Level Laboratory Updates: Keeping You in the Loop](#), Course ID# 1065278 discusses the updates made in 2015 - 2016 to the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Sentinel Level Clinical Laboratory Protocols for Suspected Biological Threat Agents, mainly *Bacillus anthracis*, *Brucella* spp., *Burkholderia mallei*, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, *Francisella tularensis*, and *Yersinia pestis*, including changes to key biochemical test procedures. The archived webinar includes a discussion of the ASM recommendations for the safe use of Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization Time-of-Flight (MALDI-TOF) and the potential misidentifications. This course is approved for 1.0 hour of P.A.C.E.® credit.

[Supportive Housing to Address Social Determinants: Cross-sector Collaborations and Funding Possibilities](#) presenter Kristen Miller, Director of Corporation for Supportive Housing, discusses housing as a social determinant of health, describes the supportive housing model, and provides examples of how to use data to identify and target individuals in need of supportive housing. 1 CHES; 1 CPHCE are available.

[MMWR Weekly – November 4, 2016 - WB2526-110416](#) topics include, Effects of Maternal Age and Age-Specific Preterm Birth Rates on Overall Preterm Birth Rates - United States, 2007 and 2014 ; Ocular Syphilis - Eight Jurisdictions, United States, 2014–2015 ; Recommendations for Use of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccines in HIV-Infected Persons - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2016 ; and Progress Toward Poliomyelitis Eradication - Afghanistan, January 2015-August 2016. 0.1 CEU/CE; 1 CHES; 1 ANCC: Contact Hours Continuing Nursing Education; 1 ACCME: AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™] are available.

[Applying Best Practices for Reporting Medical and Health Information on Birth Certificates](#) from the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Course will assist you in discovering your role in improving maternal and infant health information in the United States. This course is designed to increase your knowledge of the importance of and best practices for reporting birth certificate and report of fetal death information. The target audience for this course is physicians, nurses, and non-clinical staff at hospitals or free-standing birthing centers who are responsible for completing the medical and health information for the certificate of live birth and report of fetal death. Course content, was developed by state and national vital statistics experts and covers the latest national guidelines for reporting this information. 0.1 CEU/CE, 1.5 CME, 1.4 CNE Contact Hours and 2 CPHCE will be awarded.

[NIOSH Total Worker Health Webinar Series: Productive Aging and Work: Theory, Health Data, & Practical Solutions - September 27, 2016 \(Web on Demand\) - WD2335-092716](#), Course ID# 1067366 presents an expert panel of speakers to discuss the concept of productive aging, designing aging-friendly workplaces, and hands-on methods organizations can take to meet workplace health and safety needs of workers of all ages. The course provides 0.2 CEU/CE; 1.5 CHES; 1.5 ANCC Contact Hours of Continuing Nursing Education and 1.5 ACCME: AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™].

[Needs Assessment Theory and Practice Part 2: Data Issues 1065811](#) is part two of a series that reviews the types and sources of data commonly used in needs assessment. This includes existing versus new data as well as quantitative versus qualitative data. The University of Louisville Office of Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. This program has been approved by the Kentucky Board of Nursing for 1.2 continuing education credits.

New KDHE Approved Online Courses Available to Child Care Providers



New subject matter experts in the Bureau of Health Promotion and the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics have partnered with the KS-TRAIN team in the development and posting of three new online courses to the learning management system KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. The new courses each have one clock hour available as a learning activity for the child care workforce. The new online courses are:

- [Let's Move! Child Care \(Day Care Homes\): Promoting Physical Activity in Early Childhood Education \(1064944\)](#)
- [Let's Move! Child Care \(Centers\): Promoting Physical Activity in Early Childhood Education \(1063970\)](#)
- [KDHE: Carbon Monoxide Awareness Training \(1065557\)](#)

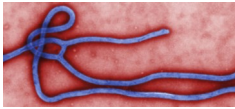
To access a complete list of Kansas Department of Health and Environment approved KS-TRAIN courses [click here](#).

Opioid Crisis Webinar Available on KS-TRAIN



The opioid epidemic has emerged as a top priority for public health and healthcare in 2016. To address the need for training, the Public Health Foundation (PHF) and Bio-Defense Network co-hosted a webinar, How Local Public Health is Tackling the Opioid Crisis. This webinar is available on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1065714. It provides information, examples and resources for communities addressing opioid use. Presenters include PHF Senior Quality Advisor [Jack Moran](#), who provides an overview of PHF's [Population Health Driver Diagram for Combating the Opioid and Heroin Crises](#) and how to create one for your community, Maria Wood from [Seattle-King County Public Health](#), Washington and Jefferson Katchel of [Snohomish Health District](#), Washington, who discuss their pharmaceutical stewardship programs, and Debra Buckner from [Marion County Public Health Department](#), Indiana, who presents on substance use outreach services. For any questions or to share how you're combating opioid crisis in your community, email Vanessa Lamers at vlamers@phf.org.

Preparedness Program Develops Ebola Online Course



The Preparedness Program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has developed an online course, [KDHE: Ebola and Other Infectious Diseases - Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures, Course ID# 1067247](#) to meet public health workforce competency requirements and Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Local Public Health Ebola Supplemental Grant deliverables. The course is also beneficial for new employee orientation training, or as a refresher for healthcare personnel. At the conclusion of the one hour training you will be able to apply the proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures for the Ebola virus and other infectious diseases.

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APRIL 25-27, 2017

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News and Resources

Study: Heart Disease Declines 20% in US



United States heart disease cases decreased 20 percent between 1983 and 2011 due to better risk factor prevention and detection, researchers [reported](#) in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Data showed that although there has been an increase in diabetes cases in recent years, the link between diabetes and heart disease decreased during [the study](#) period.

Microcephaly Found in Babies of Zika-Infected Mothers Months After Birth



Some [babies not born](#) with the unusually small heads that are the most severe hallmark of brain damage as a result of the Zika virus have developed the condition, called microcephaly, as they have grown older. The findings were reported in a [study](#) of 13 babies in Brazil that was published Tuesday in [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#). At birth, none of the babies had heads small enough to receive a diagnosis of microcephaly, but months later, [11 of them did](#).

Kansas One of Only Two States with Higher Obesity Rate in 2015



One of every three adult Kansans was obese in [2015](#), ranking the state seventh in the country in an annual report. Kansas also was one of only two states where obesity rates increased from the previous year. [The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America](#) by the nonprofit Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation reports that Kansas had an obesity rate of 34.2 percent in 2015, [up from 31.3 percent in 2014](#), when Kansas ranked 13th. In 1995, just 13.5 percent of Kansans were obese.

Why Men in Richest US Counties Can Expect to Live 10 Years Longer Than Poorest, Study Finds



Residents in the poorest counties in the United States face a life expectancy [up to decade shorter](#) than their counterparts in the wealthiest areas, according to a [study](#) published in the American Journal of Public Health. Researchers from East Tennessee State University wanted to better understand how socioeconomic status was associated with health outcomes. To find out they reconfigured the country's 3,141 counties into 50 new states (with 2 percent of the counties in each) based on median household income as opposed to geographic proximity. The researchers broke down the data by county since they found state-level data may hide some of the impact of socioeconomic disparities.

Americans Blame Obesity on Willpower, Despite Evidence



Americans [believe](#) that obesity is tied with cancer as the biggest health threat in the nation today. But though scientific research shows that diet and exercise are insufficient solutions, a large majority say fat people should be able to summon the willpower to lose weight on their own. The findings are from a nationally representative [survey](#) of 1,509 adults released on Tuesday by NORC at the University of Chicago, an independent research institution.

Study: High Blood Pressure Now Associated with Poverty



High blood pressure has become a [disease of poverty](#) rather than affluence, according to a study published in The Lancet. The number of people with high blood pressure has almost doubled in 40 years to over 1.1 billion worldwide, scientists said on Wednesday, with the burden of the condition shifting from the rich to the poor. In the largest study of its kind analyzing blood pressure in every nation between 1975 and 2015, the scientists said that it has dropped sharply in wealthy countries - possibly due to healthier diets and lifestyles - but risen in poorer ones. The increases are especially significant in Africa and South Asia, the researchers said, and could be partly due to poor nutrition in childhood.

While Pregnant, Women Should Get Health Care 8 Times, W.H.O. Says



Women should see a doctor, nurse or trained midwife at least eight times during each pregnancy, with five of those visits in the last trimester, the World Health Organization said Monday as it issued [49 recommendations](#) to prevent deaths in childbirth. Previously, the agency had advised women to visit clinics four times per pregnancy.

Premature Births Rise Slightly, First Uptick in 8 Years, March of Dimes Reports



[Forty weeks](#). The medical field considers forty weeks, or nine months, as the perfect pregnancy. Babies born before this mark face the possibility of health complications that could last a lifetime. Yet, according to the latest data, more women are having their babies too soon. The number of preterm births in the United States rose in 2015 for the first time in eight years, according to data presented Tuesday by the March of Dimes. The organization also reported that racial minorities continue to experience early labor at higher rates.

Opioid Overdoses Have Nearly Tripled Among Kids, Teens



The number of young children and teens hospitalized for overdosing on opioid painkillers has spiked [nearly threefold](#) in recent years, a new study finds. Among children under 10, most of the painkiller poisonings were accidental, with children eating them like candy. Among teens, most were accidental overdoses, although some were suicide attempts. Among children aged 1 to 4 years, the number of poisonings went up 205 percent from 1997 to 2012. For teens 15 to 19, the increase was 176 percent. Overall, the study showed a 165 percent increase in poisonings from opioid painkillers among those [19 and younger](#).

Understanding How Trauma Affects Health and Health Care



The Center for Health Care Strategies had made available a [fact sheet](#) that examines the causes of trauma, how it can impact an individual's health and opportunities to advance trauma-informed approaches to care. They have also developed a [brief](#) outlining key ingredients for successful trauma-informed care implementation. These resources were developed as a part of Advancing Trauma-Informed Care, a national initiative supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Job Postings

Geary County Health Department

- [Health Nurse I - RN](#)
- [Health Nurse II - BSN](#)
- [WIC Registered Dietitian](#)

Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories

- [State Training Coordinator](#)

Kansas Health Matters

- [AmeriCorps VISTA](#)

Lower 8 of Southeast Kansas Regional Preparedness Group

- [Regional Coordinator](#)

Marion County

- [Part Time County Staff Nurse](#)

Pottawatomie County

- [Public Health RN/Supervisor](#)

Reno County Health Department

- [Administrative Associate - Full-Time - Health Department](#)
- [Environmental Health Specialist](#)

Riley County Health Department

- [Public Health Nurse-Maternal & Infant/Home Visitor Program](#)
- [WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor](#)

Sedgwick County Health Department

- [Health Department - Part Time Dental Interpreter](#)
- [Mobile Immunization Nurse](#)
- [Public Health Nurse II - Healthy Babies](#)



Career opportunities at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found [here](#).

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

- | | |
|---|--|
| Epi Updates Newsletter | Sammelweis Times |
| Green Guide | Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program |
| Health Homes Herald | Newborn Screening Newsletter |
| KanCare Advisor | Nutrition and WIC Update |
| Kansas Environmental News | Oral Health Newsletter |
| Kansas Health Statistics Report | What's Happening Wednesday (Immunization) |

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, email phc@kdheks.gov.
Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at
http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm.

Send your public health news to
Katie Mahuron at katie.mahuron@ks.gov.