Public Health in Kansas
Overview

1. Governance
2. Workforce
3. Financing
4. Defining public health
5. Modernization of public health
Governance of Local Health Departments

There are four types of governance for local health departments (LHDs) in the United States:

- Local/Decentralized: LHDs are units led by local governments, which make most fiscal decisions.
- State/Centralized: All LHDs are units of the state government, which makes most fiscal decisions.
- Mixed: Some LHDs are led by state government, and some are led by local government. No one arrangement predominates in the state.
- Shared: All local health departments are governed by both state and local authorities.
The KS Public Health System

- Decentralized system (local control)
- 105 counties
- 100 local health departments
  - 2 multicounty departments
- Most governed by Board of County Commissioners serving as Local Boards of Health
Variations in KS Service Delivery Models

- Hospital led: Cheyenne, Haskell, Stanton, Morris
- EMS led: Ellis, Phillips, Dickinson, Leavenworth
- FQHC led: Lyon
- Multi-jurisdictional: NEK (Brown, Atchison, Jackson) and SEK (Bourbon, Allen, Anderson, Woodson)
- City-County: Lawrence-Douglas County, City-Cowley County
- The remaining are county departments.
Workforce
Workforce
KS Local Health Depts.

- Number of employees: ranges 1-139
  - Providing services to counties with populations ranging from ~1,300 to ~580,000
- 72% of local health departments in KS have fewer than 10 employees
- 34% have fewer than 5 employees
- Staff losses due to budget cuts
  - 24% of KS health departments lost staff in either FY2014 or FY2015

Source: 2016 KS Local Health Dept. Survey (Aid to Local Grant Program)
Workforce

Percentage of Local Health Departments With Employees in Select Occupations

- Nurse (RN)
- Admin / Clerical
- Manager
- Emergency Prep Staff
- Nutritionist
- Nurse (LPN/LVN)
- Nursing/ Home Health Aide
- Health Educator
- Environmental Health Worker
- Community Health Worker
- Physician
- Public Information Specialist
- Epidemiologist

U.S.  Kansas

Source: NACCHO 2013 National Profile of Local Health Departments
Administrators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Kansas (n=78–79)</th>
<th>National (n=1,877–1,966)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Position</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Ethnicity</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Years Old or Older</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Years of Tenure</td>
<td>10.7 years</td>
<td>8.7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Graduate Degree</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Public Health Degree</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Nursing Degree</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Medical Degree</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NACCHO 2013 National Profile of Local Health Departments
Funding
Local Public Health Funding by Source, 2016

- Local: 38%
- State (Including Fed Pass Through): 24%
- Federal Funds: 16%
- Private Foundations: 2%
- Fee for Service: 19%
- Donations/Gifts: 0%
- Other: 1%

Source: KDHE Aid to Local Survey, 2017
What Is Public Health?
Defining Public Health

According to the CDC Foundation,

- Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities . . .
- promotes healthy lifestyles,
- detects, prevents, and responds to infectious diseases,
- is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations,
- prevents problems by implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services, and conducting research, and . . .
- works to limit health disparities.

https://www.cdcfoundation.org/what-public-health
Modernization of Public Health
Primary Focus of Public Health

- Focus on prevention of communicable disease (e.g., immunizations and improved sanitation measures)
- Focus on prevention of chronic disease through positive lifestyle changes (e.g., tobacco cessation)
- *Newly emerging*, focus on broader societal issues (e.g., social determinants of health, poverty, housing)
Advancing Public Health in Kansas

- Public health is changing. Public health in Kansas must evolve to be relevant and effective.
- There are disparities in resources, staffing (both numbers of staff members and skill sets), and services/programs between Kansas and the nation, as well as among Kansas counties.
- Funding is often siloed and insufficient.
- There is a lack of clarity about the role of public health.
September 2015: KALHD’s Vision for Local Public Health

A system of Local Health Departments committed to helping all Kansans achieve optimal health by providing Foundational Public Health Services.
Achieving the KALHD vision requires significant change.
KALHD Vision Implementation Strategies

- Define what Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) are for Kansas.
- Educate all local health departments about FPHS.
- Conduct assessments of what local health departments in Kansas are currently providing related to FPHS.
- Develop cost estimates for FPHS in Kansas.
- Engage a broader range of stakeholders in the public health system with this vision.
- Assess the need for statutory authority for the provision of FPHS.
Kansas Public Health Systems Group

The Public Health Systems Group is a coalition of public health, government, academic, and charitable institutions that works to protect and promote the health of Kansans.
The Future of PH in Kansas Project

- Purpose: To strengthen and modernize the Kansas public health system in order to fully and equitably protect the health of Kansans

- Outputs: In-depth research and assessment to determine the best path forward

- Outcomes: Detailed options for policy, governance, and funding structure
Key Considerations

Many health departments are struggling to meet the needs of their communities, which puts the health of Kansans at risk.

Our public health laws and the system to deliver public health services were developed decades ago, when the health challenges that our communities faced were different. While they provide a strong foundation, changes are needed to adapt to current needs.

To advance public health in Kansas, there is a need for new models and policies.
Work-to-Date

- Extensive review of Foundational Public Health Services efforts in other states
- "Development of the Kansas Foundational Public Health Services model"
- Convening of the Council on the Future of Public Health in Kansas
- Kansas FPHS capacity assessment
- Kansas FPHS fiscal assessment
The Kansas FPHS Model

### Kansas Foundational Public Health Services Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational Areas</th>
<th>Programs and Services Specific to Community Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communicable Disease Control</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Clinical Care</td>
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#### Foundational Capabilities

- Assessment
- All Hazards Preparedness/Response
- Communications
- Policy Development & Support
- Community Partnership Development
- Organizational Competencies
- Addressing Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health
Foundational Capabilities (FCs): Cross-cutting skills needed in state/local health departments everywhere for the health system to work anywhere; essential skills/capacities to support all activities

Foundational Areas (FAs): Substantive areas of expertise or program-specific activities in all state/local health departments necessary to protect the community’s health

Programs/Activities Specific to a Health Department or a Community’s Needs: Additional, critical activities significant to a specific community’s health, supported by FAs/FCs; most of a health department’s work

Foundational PH Services (FPHS): Comprised of the FCs and FAs; a suite of skills, programs/activities that must be available in state/local health departments system-wide
By the end of the year, the PHSG will issue The Future of Public Health in Kansas Report. The report will combine the research conducted over the past two years to identify options to modernize the Kansas public health system and move toward implementation of the FPHS model.
Future Work; Moving Toward Implementation

We are engaging state, local, and cross-sector partners to determine the feasibility of applying the Foundational Public Health Services in a rural, decentralized state in a four-county pilot site.

Over the next year, the pilot site will develop and document the planning process to implement the model of Foundational Public Health Services, to create a local implementation plan.

The plan will be replicable for use in other areas of the state.
Future Work; Moving Toward Implementation

- Cross-jurisdictional sharing is a key component/strategy for implementation.
- In conjunction with local implementation plan, we are developing a state-level modernization roadmap.
- To ensure accountability and measure effectiveness/outcomes, an FPHS performance management system is being created.
In Conclusion

- There is dissatisfaction with the status quo.
- PH in Kansas must modernize to meet the evolving needs of the population.
- All Kansans should have access to a core set of PH services, regardless of the jurisdiction in which they live, to ensure the public’s health.
- The vision for a positive future has been identified.
- We have taken the first steps toward achieving the vision.
Vision: A system of Local Health Departments committed to helping all Kansans achieve optimal health by providing Foundational Public Health Services.

- State Association for City-County Health Officials
- Affiliate member of the Kansas Association of Counties
- Nonprofit association dedicated to strengthening local health departments for the purpose of improving and protecting the health of all Kansans
- Membership consists of 93 of the 100 local health departments in Kansas