



COUNTY-LEVEL EXAMPLE

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Health Impact Checklist – County Level Example

Environmental Nuisance Abatement – Linn County, Kansas

Summary Page

Proposal Name
Environmental Nuisance Abatement – Linn County, Kansas

Key Points of Proposal
The regulation has four primary provisions: 1) authorizes a public officer to investigate nuisances; 2) authorizes the county to require the owner to abate the nuisance; 3) allows the costs of abating the nuisance to be charged to the owner; and 4) individuals that fail to comply may be fined up to \$200 or imprisoned up to 10 days, and receive a Class C misdemeanor.

Impacted Social, Economic and Environmental Conditions	Potential Health Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment: Impacts on employment stemming from this proposal were unclear. • Environmental Conditions: By removing nuisances, exposure to pests and dangerous materials could be reduced. • Social Cohesion: The removal of nuisances through nuisance abatement enforcement could improve the strength of relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a community. • Incarceration: There is a risk that the implementation of this policy could lead to increased numbers of individuals who are imprisoned for up to 10 days. • Discrimination: While the nuisance abatement regulation does not single out specific groups or individuals, there is a possibility the regulation could be implemented in a manner that puts certain groups at a disadvantage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased injury risk • Improved mental health • Decreased exposure to waterborne illnesses • Decreased exposure to pests • Increased health disparities • Increased risk of infectious diseases • Increased risk of chronic diseases

Impacted Population(s)	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children: By removing dangerous nuisance materials, injury risk to children may be reduced. • Persons with low-income: Low-income individuals may face challenges covering the costs of abatement, putting them at risk of fines and imprisonment for up to 10 days. • Minorities (Black): Although Linn County is predominantly non-Hispanic White (93.3 percent), 0.9 percent of Linn County residents are Black, and 2.9 percent are Hispanic. Given that nuisance abatement policies historically have negatively impacted people of color, particularly Blacks, it will be critical to further assess the potential impacts of this policy on minority populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ways to aid low-income individuals facing difficulty addressing nuisances, so that incarceration and fees may be avoided. • Work with impacted populations to establish ways to investigate discriminatory implementation, if any.

Entity Completing the HI-C	Entity Receiving the HI-C	Completion Date
Kansas Health Institute	None – Example Only	1/17/2020

Health Impact Checklist- County Level Example

Environmental Nuisance Abatement – Linn County, Kansas

Section I. General Information

1. Name of proposal:

Nuisance and Dangerous Structures Abatement Regulation – Linn County, Kansas

2. Provide a short summary of the key points of the proposal, including expected outcomes if specified in the proposal. (Type in.)

As stated in Article One of the regulation, the aim of this policy is to “eliminate and prevent the development of the conditions that are injurious to the health, safety, and welfare of inhabitants within Linn County.” The regulation focuses on nuisance abatement and dangerous structures. However, this checklist only discusses potential health impacts associated with nuisance abatement. More specifically, the regulation has four primary impacts: 1) the regulation authorizes a public officer to investigate nuisances on their own determination or after receiving two or more complaints in writing from the public; 2) the regulation authorizes the county to require identified nuisances to be abated within 30 days by the owner, and requests for hearing to be made within 10 days of the notice; 3) the regulation allows the costs of the removal or demolition of the nuisance to be charged to the owner either directly or through a special assessment after being covered by the general fund; and 4) individuals that fail to comply with a notice may be fined up to \$200 or imprisoned up to 10 days, and receive a Class C misdemeanor. The full text of the regulation can be found here: <https://www.linncountyks.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Nuisance-Abatement.pdf>

3. Which of the following social, economic and environmental conditions (determinants of health) does the proposal have the greatest potential to impact? (Check at least three.)

Social, Economic and Environmental Conditions ^{1, 2}		
Economic Stability	Neighborhood & Physical Environment	Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education and Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Income	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> High School Graduation
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing Instability/ Homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Conditions (e.g., water, air and soil quality)	<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Insecurity	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Healthy Food	<input type="checkbox"/> Language
<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Literacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Social, Economic and Environmental Conditions ^{1, 2}		
Community and Social Context	Health and Health Care	Note: The number of social, economic or environmental conditions examined could depend on available resources, stakeholder interest and timeline. After examining three, additional conditions may be examined further.
<input type="checkbox"/> Civic Participation	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Coverage	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Provider Availability	
<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Stress	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Health Care	
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Isolation	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Behavioral Health Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incarceration	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Care	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Social Cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Section II. Description of Impacts

Instructions: Having described the proposal and identified its potential impacts on various social, economic and environmental conditions, collaborate with organizations that might have research capacity to complete items included in Section II.

4. What partners can help you find research regarding potential impacts of the proposal on the social, economic and/or environmental conditions identified in Question 3? (Type in.)

Specific Partner(s)	Partnership Contribution(s)
Local Public Universities (Kansas State University, University of Kansas, etc.)	Researchers and students may be able to assist with a review of published research on potential health impacts identified in the checklist.
Local Planning and Zoning Department	The local planning and zoning department, which currently receives the nuisance complaints, could help describe details regarding implementation of the policy.

Potential partner types include community foundations, nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, universities or colleges, health care organizations, community coalitions, stakeholder groups, community organizations (including those representing populations facing significant barriers to health and well-being) and others.

5. Describe how the proposal could impact the social, economic and/or environmental conditions identified in Question 3 and how it could result in associated health impacts for the community overall. (Type in.)

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impact of the Proposal on Condition	Impact of the Condition on Health	Overall Impact on Health
Employment	Implementation of a nuisance abatement plan has the potential to increase the	Because the connection between the regulation and employment was not	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impact of the Proposal on Condition	Impact of the Condition on Health	Overall Impact on Health
	<p>economic strength of the community.³ Furthermore, some communities site increasing tourism and attracting businesses as reasons for nuisance abatement regulations. However, review completed for this checklist was not able to identify published research on the association between nuisance abatement and employment.</p>	<p>established, the health impacts of the nuisance abatement plan were not further explored and remain unclear.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear</p>
<p>Environmental Conditions</p>	<p>Standing water, abandoned structures and vehicles, and piles of refuse could create nesting and reproductive environments that lead to increases in the number of rats, mosquitos, mice, opossums, and other pests. The presence of scrap metal, used lumber, used tires, and garbage could increase injury risk and may reduce the overall quality of housing when homes are present. Substandard housing has the potential to increase exposure to numerous housing-related dangers, including mold, allergens, and lead.⁴ Lastly, the dumping of these nuisance materials in unmaintained and managed areas may contribute to the development of impervious surfaces and could contribute to stormwater runoff. Increased storm water runoff and standing water could contribute to increased waterborne disease, and pollution of watersheds.⁵</p>	<p>Pests and other nuisances can contribute to conditions of disrepair which may be connected to multiple negative health impacts, including neurological disorders,⁶ behavioral problems,⁷ and decreased overall mental health.⁸ Additionally, removing nuisances such as garbage, scrap metal, broken appliances, and used wood may decrease likelihood of injury – as was found in the Superior, Nebraska assessment.⁹ Substandard housing conditions have been associated with asthma and respiratory disease,^{10, 11} increased blood lead levels¹² and related neurological damage.¹³ Lastly, the abatement of polluted water runoff from some nuisances could reduce exposure to waterborne illness and pollutants.¹⁴</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear</p>

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impact of the Proposal on Condition	Impact of the Condition on Health	Overall Impact on Health
Social Cohesion	Enforcing nuisance abatement plans can contribute to improving social cohesion, defined as the strength of relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a community. ¹⁵ Additionally, nuisances that contribute to blighting conditions within the community, such as deteriorating boarded-up houses, may be associated with a breakdown in social cohesion. ¹⁶	Addressing nuisances in the community may remove items that decrease community connectedness. Improvement in social cohesion may contribute to neighborhood’s collective willingness to contribute and help out for common good, which has been connected to lower rates of premature death, homicide, and death from cardiovascular disease. ¹⁷	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Incarceration	As described in Article 8 of the regulation, individuals failing to comply with a nuisance notice and order “shall be fined in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) or to be imprisoned not to exceed ten (10) days, or both fined and imprisoned.” The implementation of this policy could lead to increased numbers of individuals within the county that have been incarcerated for up to 10 days. Additionally, violations of the nuisance regulation are deemed a Class C misdemeanor. Therefore, if individuals fail to comply with the regulation, they may receive a misdemeanor on their permanent record.	Incarceration may contribute to a variety of negative health impacts. Research indicates that individuals face more chronic health challenges after incarceration than before, and that the impact of incarceration on health may be largely independent of the length of incarceration. ¹⁸ Additionally, though misdemeanors are viewed as low-level offenses, their presence on individuals’ record could be a barrier to employment opportunities and influence sentencing for other crimes. ¹⁹	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Discrimination	While the nuisance abatement regulation applies across the county and does not single out specific groups or individuals, there is a possibility the regulation could be implemented in a manner that puts certain groups of people at a disadvantage. Existing research has demonstrated that	If nuisance abatement policies are implemented in a discriminatory way, they may contribute to poor health outcomes and health disparities for non-White groups. ²¹ These disparities can include premature death and death rate, ^{22, 23} chronic disease and others. ²⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impact of the Proposal on Condition	Impact of the Condition on Health	Overall Impact on Health
	historically some nuisance abatement policies that incorporated public complaint into the process have been used to discriminate against certain groups, particularly Blacks. ²⁰		

6. Based on the potential impact of the proposal on the social, economic or environmental conditions identified in Question 3, identify populations who could be impacted and how the proposal might affect their health. (Describe at least three populations.)

Note: Focus on populations that are at a higher risk for poor health as a result of the barriers they experience to social, economic, political and environmental resources, as well as limitations due to illness or disability. For a full list of potential populations of focus, see Section IV. Glossary of Terms.

Social, Economic or Environmental Condition	Impacted Population	Impact on Health	Overall Impact on Health
Environmental Conditions	Children	The presence of some nuisances – abandoned appliances, used lumber, scrap metal – may increase the risk of injury or harm for children. In rural areas of the county the response times may be slower and the injuries stemming from these nuisances could be especially harmful. ²⁵ By removing some of these nuisances, the proposal may reduce potential injury risks for children.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear
Incarceration	Persons with low income	Low-income individuals who own properties that must be abated may have difficulty covering the associated costs. More than 14 percent of people in Linn County live below the poverty line. ²⁶ Additionally, if unable to comply with the notice because of lack of resources, low-income individuals may be more likely to end up being fined or end up in jail, as provided in the regulation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear

Discrimination	Racial and ethnic minorities (especially Black)	Although Linn County is predominantly non-Hispanic White (93.3 percent), 0.9 percent of Linn County residents are Black, and 2.9 percent are Hispanic. ²⁷ Because nuisance abatement policies in other communities have been shown to negatively affect people of color, particularly Blacks, it will be critical to further assess potential impacts of this policy on these populations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear
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Section III. Recommendations

Instructions: Having described the potential impacts of the proposal and populations who may face significant barriers to health and well-being, use Section III to identify collaborative approaches to addressing these findings.

7. What partners can help you to develop recommendations to address or mitigate the potential health impacts identified in Questions 5 and 6? (Type in.)

Specific Partner(s)	Partnership Contribution(s)
Area Community Foundation	Resources from a community foundation may be able to support trainings for avoiding implicit bias and discrimination in implementation of the policy.

Potential partner types include community organizations, impacted population(s), community foundations, nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, universities or colleges, health care organizations, community coalitions, stakeholders, populations who face significant barriers to health and well-being, and others.

8. Based on the results of this Health Impact Checklist, suggest recommendations that can help to maximize potential positive health impacts and/or mitigate potential negative health impacts of the proposal. (Type in.)

Recommendation(s)
Work with local nonprofits or community organizations to assist low-income individuals who are facing difficulty addressing nuisances.
Work with local community organizations and impacted populations to establish ways to investigate discriminatory implementation of the nuisance abatement policy, if such concerns are raised.

Section IV: Glossary of Terms

Summary definitions for determinants of health were pulled from Healthy People 2020²⁸ and additional sources.^{29,30} Additional information is available [here](#).

Civic Participation: Encompasses a wide range of both formal and informal activities including voting, volunteering and participating in group activities or organizations.

Determinants of Health: The “conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.”

Discrimination: A socially structured action that is unfair or unjustified and harms groups or individuals. Discrimination occurs at both structural and individual levels and can be attributed to social interactions that occur to protect more powerful and privileged groups at the detriment of other groups. Discrimination on the basis of race is one example of discrimination.

Food Insecurity: The disruption of food intake or eating patterns due to a lack of money or other resources.

Housing Instability: Despite no standard definition, housing instability encompasses a number of housing-related challenges including trouble paying rent, overcrowding, staying with relatives, moving frequently, or spending the bulk of income on housing.

Impacted Populations: Populations who were identified by completing the Health Impact Checklist as being impacted by the proposal. Those groups may include populations who face significant barriers to health and well-being (populations of focus).

Populations of Focus: Populations may include racial and ethnic minorities, including persons of Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander races and persons of Hispanic ethnicity; rural/urban residents; children; pregnant women; persons who are LGBTQIA+; older adults; persons with chronic illnesses; persons with housing instability or who are homeless; immigrant populations; displaced persons; persons with limited English proficiency; persons with low literacy; persons with low income; persons with disabilities; and others.

Social Cohesion: The degree of social integration and inclusion in communities and society at large, and the extent to which mutual solidarity finds expression itself among individuals and communities.

Social Isolation: A person’s lack of social connectedness is measured by the quality, type, frequency and emotional satisfaction of social ties. Social isolation exists when an individual lacks opportunities to be socially connected. Social isolation can impact health and quality of life, as well ability and motivation to access adequate support. It also can impact the quality of the environment and communities in which a person lives.

Toxic Stress: A strong, frequent or prolonged activation of the body’s stress management system. Stressful events that are chronic, uncontrollable and/or experienced by children without access to support from caring adults tend to provoke toxic stress responses. Studies indicate that toxic stress can have an adverse impact on brain architecture.

Section V: References & Sources

Instructions: In your preferred format, provide citation or reference information on the resources used to complete the HI-C.

- ¹ The list of social, economic and environmental conditions is adapted from Healthy People 2020 and the Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health> and <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/beyond-health-care-the-role-of-social-determinants-in-promoting-health-and-health-equity/>
- ² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2019). *Healthy People 2020*. Retrieved from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources>
- ³ City of Superior, Nebraska. (2013). *Health impact assessment of nuisance abatement plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/data-visualizations/2015/hia-map/state/nebraska/nuisance-abatement-plan-in-superior-nebraska>
- ⁴ De Leon, E., & Schilling, J. (2017). Urban blight and public health: Addressing the impact of substandard housing, abandoned buildings, and vacant lots. Washington, DC: *The Urban Institute*.
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- ⁶ Bashir, S. A. (2002). Home is where the harm is: Inadequate housing as a public health crisis. *American Journal of Public Health, 92*(5), 733–738.
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- ¹¹ Rauh, V. A., Chew, G. L., and Garfinkel, R.S. (2002). Deteriorated housing contributes to high cockroach allergen levels in inner-city households. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 110*(S2), 323–327.
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- ¹⁵ City of Superior, Nebraska. (2013). *Health impact assessment of nuisance abatement plan*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/data-visualizations/2015/hia-map/state/nebraska/nuisance-abatement-plan-in-superior-nebraska>
- ¹⁶ Cohen, D. A., Mason, K., Bedimo, A., Scribner, R., Basok, V., & Farley, T. A. (2003). Neighborhood physical conditions and health. *American Journal of Public Health, 93*(3): 467–471.

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- ²⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2019). *Healthy People 2020*. Retrieved from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources>
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