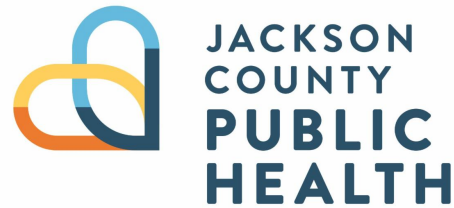


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, May 9th, 2024
Contact: Kindle Biermann,
Public Information Officer
(816) 447-0423
kindle.biermann@uhkc.org



New Report From Jackson County Public Health Identifies a Local Housing Policy That Can Improve Tenant Health in Eastern Jackson County

*Proactive Rental Inspections Recommended to Ensure Safe & Habitable
Rental Units*

Lee's Summit, MO: A new policy brief from Jackson County Public Health (JCPH) ["Improving Tenant Health: A Proactive Approach Through Rental Inspection Policies,"](#) highlights the crucial correlation between housing quality and resident well-being in Eastern Jackson County (EJC).

JCPH believes families should live in homes that meet the safety standards we all want, from good plumbing to lead-free paint. As explored in our brief, renters are more likely to live in houses with severely inadequate plumbing, heating, wiring, and general upkeep. These conditions contribute to problems like asthma, mold exposure, pest exposure, and childhood lead poisoning.

Most housing code enforcement programs only require an inspection after a complaint has been filed. But cities with proactive rental inspection (PRI) programs can reduce the length of time that property violations remain unaddressed.

“Rental inspection policies serve as proactive measures to identify, rectify, and prevent housing issues in rental homes,” says Meghan Senne, MPH, Health Policy Coordinator at JCPH. “These policies protect tenants from living in chronically inadequate conditions, and ultimately promote the overall livability and well-being of the entire community.”

Jackson County Public Health celebrates the cities in EJC that already have a PRI in place, and calls on other cities in our jurisdiction to implement similar policies. Cities of any size or capacity can participate. The following municipalities currently have PRI programs in place:

- Buckner
- Grandview
- Raytown
- Sugar Creek

These municipalities all require inspections before rental units can receive a permit or certificate, as well as routine follow-up inspections.

“The City of Grandview first implemented this program to ensure families and individuals have access to safe and healthy housing,” says Grandview Mayor Leonard Jones. “After five years, I can confidently say this program is working. By inspecting units and homes between a change of tenants, our inspector can identify necessary repairs to protect future tenants. This program is one of the many ways Grandview is improving the quality of life for its residents.”

On a national level, other cities with PRIs have also seen a positive impact. For example, the city of Rochester, New York, implemented a PRI program in 2005 which successfully decreased lead paint hazards for over 85% of tenants. The program showed a direct health benefit as there was a more significant decrease in blood lead levels for Rochester children compared to the rest of the state.

Such interventions also enjoy broad community support. In JCPH’s [2023 Community Health Assessment Survey](#), 77% of survey respondents expressed support for a program that would establish health and safety standards for rental housing units.

Through encouraging proactive rental inspection policies and providing data on the impact of inadequate housing conditions, Jackson County Public Health aims to uphold essential health and safety standards in rental properties. These policies not only safeguard tenants from potential health risks but also foster a more robust sense of community well-being. By holding landlords accountable for maintaining safe and livable housing, cities can lay the groundwork for a healthier environment conducive to the flourishing of all residents.

For further details, the full policy brief "Improving Tenant Health: A Proactive Approach Through Rental Inspection Policies," can be found [here](#).

For media questions, please contact Kindle.Biermann@uhkc.org.



**JACKSON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

About Jackson County Public Health:

We offer services, provide programs, and advocate for policies so that all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. Learn more at www.jcph.org.

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by kindle.biermann@uhkc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!