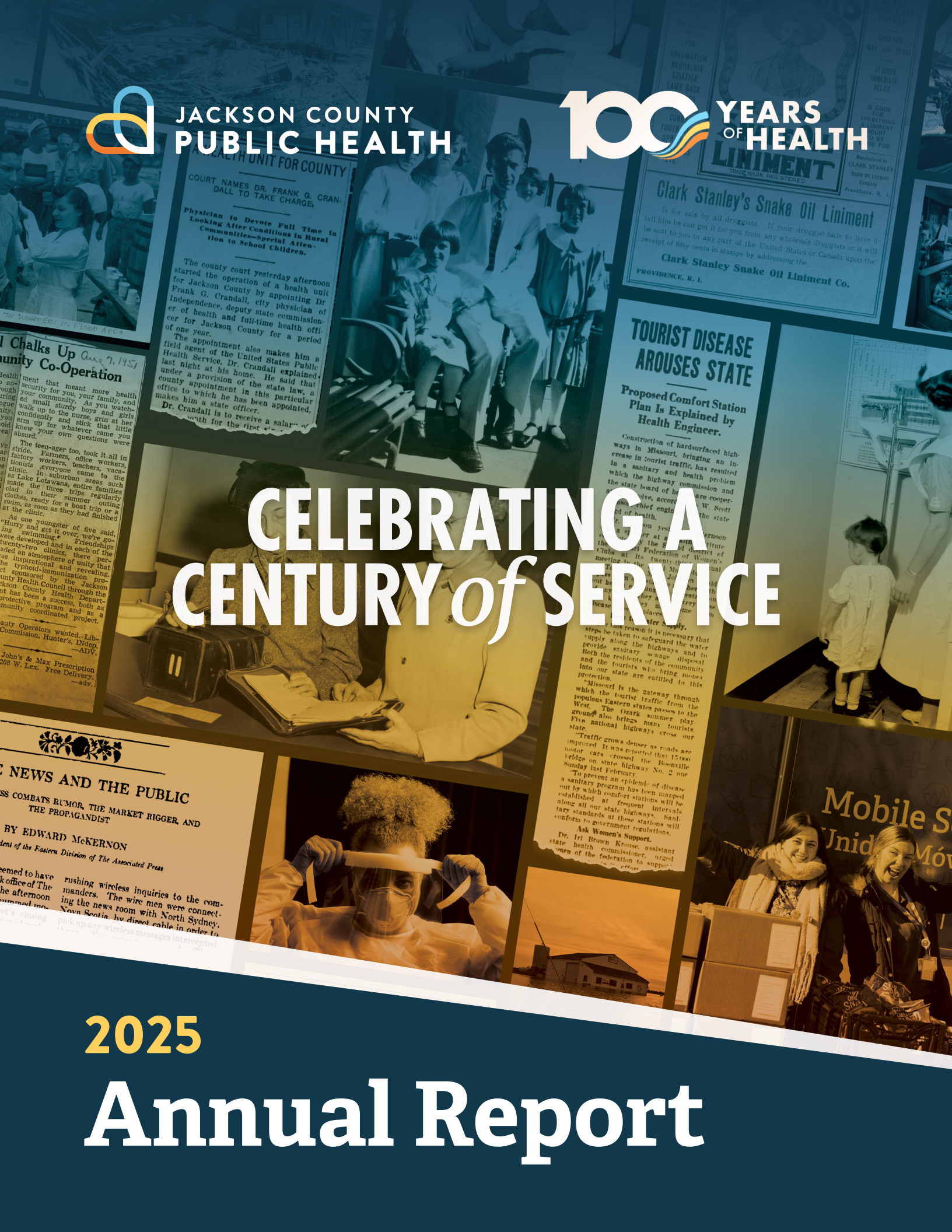




JACKSON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH



YEARS
OF HEALTH



HEALTH UNIT FOR COUNTY
COURT NAMES DR. FRANK G. CRANDALL TO TAKE CHARGE.
Physician to Devote Full Time in Looking After Conditions in Rural Communities—Special Attention to School Children.
The county court yesterday afternoon started the operation of a health unit for Jackson County by appointing Dr. Frank G. Crandall, city physician of Independence, deputy state commissioner of health and full-time health officer for Jackson County for a period of one year.
The appointment also makes him a field agent of the United States Public Health Service. Dr. Crandall explained last night at his home. He said that under a provision of the state law, a county appointment in this particular office to which he has been appointed, makes him a state officer.
Dr. Crandall is to receive a salary of \$1,000 a month for the first year.

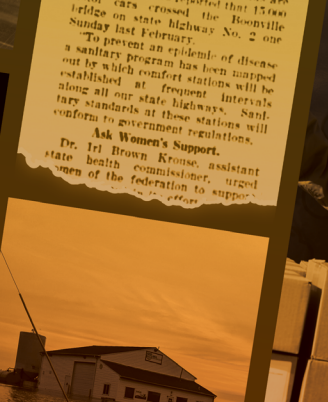
Clark Stanley's Snake Oil Liniment
Is for sale by all druggists. If your druggist fails to have it, tell him he can get it for you from any wholesale druggist or it will be sent to you to any part of the United States or Canada upon the receipt of fifty cents in stamps by addressing the
Clark Stanley Snake Oil Liniment Co.
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

TOURIST DISEASE AROUSES STATE
Proposed Comfort Station Plan Is Explained by Health Engineer.
Construction of hard-surfaced highways in Missouri, bringing an increase in tourist traffic, has resulted in a sanitary and health problem which the highway commission and the state board of health are cooperating to solve. Chief engineer W. Scott Brown yesterday afternoon explained the situation at a meeting of the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs at its headquarters in the state capitol building.
"The reason it is necessary that steps be taken to safeguard the water supply along the highways and to provide sanitary sewage disposal to both the residents of the community and the tourists who bring money protection."
"Missouri is the gateway through which the tourist traffic from the West. The Ozark summer playground also brings many tourists. Five national highways cross our state."
"Traffic grows denser as roads are improved. It was reported that 17,000 motor cars crossed the Rossville bridge on state highway No. 2 one Sunday last February."
"To prevent an epidemic of disease out by which comfort stations will be established at frequent intervals along all our state highways. Sanitary standards at these stations will conform to government regulations."
Ask Women's Support.
Dr. Irl Brown Krouse, assistant state health commissioner, urged women of the federation to support the plan.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY of SERVICE

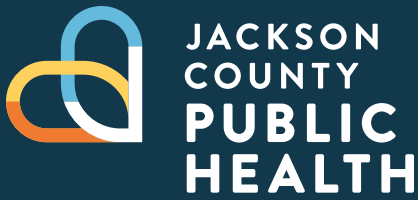
I Chalks Up Aug 7, 1957
Community Co-Operation
Health unit that meant more health security for you, your family, and your community. As you watched the small sturdy boys and girls walk up to the nurse, grin at her confidently and stick that little straw up for whatever that little kid knew for whatever came your way. You know your own questions were answered.
The teen-ager too, took it all in stride. Farmers, office workers, factory workers, teachers, vacationists, everyone came to the clinic. In suburban areas such as Lake Lotawana, entire families made the three trips regularly clad in their summer outing suits, as soon as they had finished at the clinic.
"As one youngster of five said, 'Hurry and get it over, we're going swimming.' Friendships were developed and in each of the twenty-two clinics, there was an atmosphere of unity that was inspirational and revealing."
Sponsored by the Jackson County Health Council through the Jackson County Health Department, it has been a success, both as a protective program and as a community coordinated project.
County Operators wanted. Librarian, Hunter's, Indigo, ADV.
John's & Max Prescription 208 W. Lex. Free Delivery, adv.

NEWS AND THE PUBLIC
COMBATS RUMOR, THE MARKET RIGGER, AND THE PROPAGANDIST
BY EDWARD MCKERNON
President of the Eastern Division of The Associated Press
seemed to have the office of The afternoon summed up the rising pick up any wireless messages intercepted



2025

Annual Report



MISSION

To offer services, provide programs, and advocate for policies so that all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.

VISION

A community where all people can live their healthiest lives.

SERVICE AREA

Jackson County Public Health primarily serves the more than 283,000 people in Eastern Jackson County outside the city limits of Independence and Kansas City. Most public health services and events are available to all, even those who reside in other communities.



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Letter from the Director

DEAR PARTNERS IN HEALTH,

In 2025, we made significant progress toward building a healthier community while celebrating major milestones, including 100 years of service, achieving national accreditation, and launching a new strategic plan to guide our future.

From our beginnings as a small rural health unit in 1925, we have grown into one of Missouri's most resilient health departments. This anniversary allowed us to reflect on our legacy and reaffirm our commitment to excellence. Earning accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board and the Project Public Health Ready designation highlights our dedication to high standards and emergency preparedness.

Our new strategic plan focuses on three priorities: innovative and efficient operations, a nimble and responsive department, and supporting lifelong health.

In 2025, we also expanded our impact. Vaccine distribution reached its highest level since 2022, while food and Narcan distribution more than doubled and STI testing capacity more than quadrupled, demonstrating both increasing community need and our ability to respond.

Despite a year marked by federal policy changes and funding challenges, these shifts reinforce the importance of collective action in public health.

We enter 2026 with optimism and a continued commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of all in Jackson County.

Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Sincerely,



Bridgette Shaffer

BRIDGETTE SHAFFER, MPH
HEALTH DIRECTOR, JCPH

In 2025, our teams and services had

175,536

unique interactions within our Eastern Jackson County community.



7,900

DOSES OF NALOXONE

13,670

FENTANYL TEST STRIPS



distributed at our clinic, at community events, and in free Narcan distribution boxes around EJC alongside other harm reduction materials



30,356

DEATH CERTIFICATES

15,992

BIRTH CERTIFICATES



28,222

POUNDS OF FOOD

DISTRIBUTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HARVESTERS

13,144

VACCINES ADMINISTERED



5,285

INDIVIDUALS IMMUNIZED



297 RESOURCE REFERRALS

DONE THROUGH IRIS



11,468 REPORTS

OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CASES



1,298

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENINGS leading to the diagnosis and treatment of



8,168 COVID/FLU TEST KITS

DISTRIBUTED IN EJC



2,266 STI TESTS

DONE AT OUR CLINIC

266

BREAST CANCER CASES

54

CERVICAL CANCER CASES



55



OFF-SITE CLINICS

2,245

INTERPRETATIONS IN 18 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES



2025 in Quotes



Meghan Senne
Jackson Co. Public Health Policy Coordinator

ON HOUSING POLICY

"This would **impact quite a few municipalities** in Jackson County." JCPH Policy Coordinator **Meghan Senne** told Fox 4 News about a proposed Missouri bill that could have cut healthy homes initiatives in February. Meghan helped craft responses and testimony to the legislation that ultimately failed to pass.



ON NALOXONE

"**When it comes down to it, it saves lives.** These are someone's mother, father, brother, sister," said founder of the U Matter Movement **Bobby Hines** about the importance of a JCPH Narcan distribution point in Blue Springs. We distributed 7,900 doses of the lifesaving medication in 2025.



ON HELPING FAMILIES

"I loved seeing everyone collaborate to serve the families," said **Leandra Lyon**, JCPH Program & Policy Specialist. "**Seeing the smiles on the kids getting new car seats made all the effort worth it.**" In 2025, we gave out and installed 199 free car seats for families in our community.



ON COMMUNITY

"**We love making sure people feel heard** and understood so we can connect them with what they need," said **Makenzie Lyon**, JCPH Cultural Health Navigator, part of the team that completed 2,245 interpretations in 18 different languages in 2025.



ON PARTNERSHIP

"**We love partnering with JCPH because this helps our students out tremendously,**" said **Robin Wagoner**, RN at Grain Valley High School. "This is easy, quick, and convenient for everyone." Our on-site clinics at schools provided required immunizations to 791 students in 2025.



ON STRATEGY

"This country deserves really a **vision and a strategy** for how we rebuild this public health system," JCPH Assistant Director **Ray Dlugolecki** told The Kansas City Star following \$1.1 million in federal grant cuts in April 2025.

JCPH proudly remains the highest rated health department in the region:



ON OUR HARVESTERS PARTNERSHIP

“**They do a great job.** They’ve always been friendly here,” said **Laura McCoy** at our November food distribution event. “Just any little bit helps. I always appreciate it.” McCoy was one of 2,817 people we served through our partnership with Harvesters in 2025.



AVERAGE GOOGLE REVIEWS RATING OF 4.8 STARS FROM 653 INDIVIDUAL REVIEWS

REVIEWS FROM 2025 INCLUDE:

“This is absolutely one of the best locations I have ever been to regarding anything to do with [the] health department. From checking in to calling into the people there they are absolutely fantastic front to back.”

“It’s a lovely place. Great, knowledgeable and pleasant staff. The facility is clean. Timely too. Thank you!”

“From checking in to getting seen the staff was most professional, efficient and friendly. Very knowledgeable and good customer service. Not only with me but everyone that they interacted with.”

“The whole process was easy and smooth and staff were all amazing.”

Earning National Accreditation



National recognitions in 2025, showed Jackson County Public Health is not just a leader across the Kansas City region, but across the country. The culmination of a multi-year process, we became one of the few Missouri health departments awarded with national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This is the gold standard in public health. Accreditation demonstrates excellence, accountability, and a proven commitment to continuous quality improvement.

“PHAB Accreditation is more than a credential, it reflects a department’s leadership, transparency, and dedication to building healthier communities,” said PHAB President and CEO Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MD, MPH, FACEP.

PHAB evaluates departments against a comprehensive set of evidence-informed standards spanning all core public health functions, from chronic disease prevention to health equity initiatives and emergency preparedness. This process drives internal improvement and creates pathways for long-term transformation and innovation. To maintain accreditation, we will continue to submit annual progress reports and will undergo a thorough reaccreditation process every five years to ensure continued compliance with national standards, performance management, and quality improvement across all services.

Prepared for Anything

Jackson County Public Health has continued to grow our emergency response capabilities to provide support to our community in a variety of crisis situations. The Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) recognition from the National Association of County and City Health Officials recognizes our ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from any public health emergency.

“Local health departments who are recognized by PPHR are healthier, better prepared, and capable of doing things in a better way,” said Wally Burden, PPHR National Reviewer.

Through this rigorous process, we enhanced our emergency operations plans, strengthened staff training, and improved our ability to communicate effectively with community partners during crises. PPHR recognition affirms that our department meets established national standards for public health preparedness and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to protecting the health and safety of our community. This milestone reflects the dedication of our staff and partners and reinforces our readiness to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies ranging from disease outbreaks to natural disasters.



Transformative Leadership

During the Missouri Public Health Institute’s Governmental Public Health Summit in December, Jackson County Public Health Director Bridgette Shaffer was recognized with the prestigious Change Manager Award. Over the past decade, Shaffer has guided our department through one of the most significant periods of growth and transformation in our history. Some of her many accomplishments include leading the way to national accreditation, significantly expanding our workforce, and relocating our organization to a new ADA-compliant facility. Institute leaders wrote that Bridgette has set a “powerful example of what transformative public health leadership can be.”

100 YEARS OF HEALTH

Celebrating a Century of Service

Over the past 100 years, Jackson County Public Health has played a crucial role in improving public health outcomes, reducing the burden of disease, and increasing life expectancy in Jackson County. Since its establishment in January 1925 as the Jackson County Health Unit, our department has stood as a beacon of prevention, education and care – committed to safeguarding the health of our community.

“This centennial celebration is more than a milestone – it’s a testament to the resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment of public health professionals who have navigated decades of challenges,” said Jackson County Public Health Director Bridgette Shaffer, MPH.

We chronicled those decades of challenges and triumphs in a 73-page book published in 2025: 100 Years of Health. The book highlighted stories of Jackson County’s early health leaders like Dr. Lydall and Leo Twyman, who documented a community stricken by recurrent epidemics in the 1800s, and the founding of the Health Unit in 1925. In a decade-by-decade journey, the story of the Health Unit evolved into the story of Jackson County Public Health. From combating the spread of tuberculosis in the 1920s and 1930s, to playing a pivotal role in vaccinating thousands of children against polio in the 1950s, to confronting the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the department has continually adapted to meet the unique public health challenges of its time.

2025 was a year to celebrate not only the achievements of Jackson County Public Health, but also the spirit of resilience and commitment that defines our community.

Part of those celebrations honored the deep community partnerships we’ve fostered in the past 100 years. Our partnership with Mid-Continent Public Library led to special 100 Years of Health displays and storytime events in more than a dozen branches across Jackson County.



Our 100 Years of Health book is now available for reading and research online and at several Mid-Continent branches so our history can be preserved, shared, and explored for generations to come.

jcph.org/100-Years

CITY, COUNTY OR DISTRICT

NAME OF EST.

OPERATOR

Health Council Chalks Up *Aug 7, 1957* Mark in Community Co-Operation

The Jackson County Health Council has just chalked up another mark in achievement through community cooperation. During the past four weeks, a new vogue has developed in this community. If you wanted to be "IN" you made a weekly visit to the typhoid immunization clinic in your area.

THE FIRST clinic trip may have been approached with some fear or uncertainty, but that soon evaporated as you joined the line of your neighbors and friends as they moved along swiftly and smoothly toward the cheerful friendly clerks and aids who helped you over that first step of your immunization series.

By the time you reached the nurses who wielded the needles and syringes, you began to feel you were a part of a great move-

ment that meant more health security for you, your family, and your community. As you watched small sturdy boys and girls walk up to the nurse, grin at her confidently and stick that little arm up for whatever came you knew your own questions were absurd.

The teen-ager too, took it all in stride. Farmers, office workers, factory workers, teachers, vacationists, everyone came to the clinic. In suburban areas such as Lake Lotawana, entire families made the three trips regularly clad in their summer outing clothes.

HEALTH HEAD



—Photo by Moore.
Dr. F. G. Crandall, who recently resigned as city physician of Independence to become head of the new Jackson county health unit.



13 Frozen food kept frozen; properly thawed

A HEALTH UNIT FOR COUNTY

COURT NAMES DR. FRANK G. CRANDALL TO TAKE CHARGE.

Physician to Devote Full Time in Looking After Conditions in Rural Communities—Special Attention to School Children.

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Dr. Crandall is to receive a salary of \$4,000 a month for the first six months.



prevented 2



29 Clean outer garments; proper hair restraints used
30 Good hygienic practices



NURSES GIVING TYPHUS SHOTS TO WORKERS IN FLOOD AREA

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL		3. VENTILATION	
66	Into public sewer, or approved	105	Rooms reasonably free from steam, condensation, smoke, etc.
3. PLUMBING		106	Rooms and equipment ventilated
67	Properly sized, installed and maintained	107	Hoods properly installed
68	Non-potable water piping identified	108	Intake air
69	No cross connections		
70	No back siphonage possible		
71	Equipment properly drained		

SECTION D. Food



A Century of Service
at Jackson County Public Health

HEALTH DIRECTORS of JACKSON COUNTY

This list of department past leaders was compiled from the 100 years anniversary program. As the first Jackson County Public Health unit had several of formal directors of health care services in the past. The names and dates shown here were approved through extensive research, including newspaper archives, official documents, and the recollections of past employees operating the department's continuity of service. An incomplete list of past directors is shown below.

DEMERIT SCORE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT _____

Date _____

Health Authority _____

REMARKS: (Use Reverse Side)

Department of Public Health and Welfare of Missouri
DIVISION OF HEALTH

Opioid Response in Action

"This Will Save Lives"

One of the greatest public health challenges in the past decade has been finding ways to respond to the opioid epidemic. Our department, like many others, struggled to find a footing to fight the extreme rise in overdoses and deaths we've seen from opioids. But we are finally making inroads. We now have access points in every part of our county where the community can get free Narcan (naloxone) that can reverse an opioid overdose. As part of these efforts, we've distributed nearly 8,000 doses of the life-saving medication this year alone.

Through community events, partnerships, and 17 satellite access points across Eastern Jackson County, Narcan has never been more readily available. Partners like **Raytown** paramedic Matthew Cushman point to outreach efforts like these as a major reason why opioid-related deaths in Jackson County are trending down.

"This will save lives and if you suffer from an opioid use disorder or if you have family members that suffer from that, you need to make sure in your home you have Narcan available," said Cushman, when speaking about a newly-installed access point outside a Raytown Fire station.

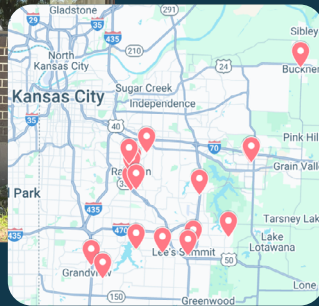
Overall, overdose deaths in the U.S. declined significantly in 2024 and preliminary data suggests continued improvement in 2025, but the number of fatal overdoses remains very high compared to pre-pandemic years. The epidemic remains widespread and complex across the United States and Jackson County. Evolving drug threats in 2025 also complicate progress, proving the opioid crisis is far from over.

Our Opioid Response Plan:

In 2025, we developed the first countywide opioid response plan to target the root cause of this crisis and reduce overdose deaths. That plan includes three phases:



In 2026, we are fully launch Phases I and II, ensuring that Jackson County's response is coordinated, evidence-based, and aligned with national best practices.



Satellite Access Points

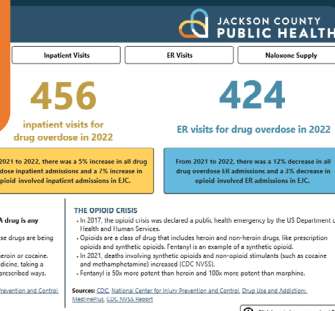
In 2025, we expanded our efforts to bring Narcan, fentanyl test strips, other educational resources into our community. We ended the year with 17 Satellite Access Points across a variety of locations, including: civic and community centers, healthcare centers, police and fire stations, and private businesses. By bringing more resources to where people are, we've been able to greatly increase the amount of life-saving Narcan in Eastern Jackson County.



Policy Briefs

Of the four policy briefs published by our team in 2025, two were in direct response to the opioid crisis. Including one on Harm Reduction that helped educate leaders on the harm reduction recovery model and recommended three strategies for fighting opioid overdoses. In the other opioid report titled: Closing the Gap: Recommendations for Timely Overdose Reporting, our team examined why timely overdose data is a powerful tool in reducing fatalities due to substance use. Through two actionable and practical recommendations, we worked to inform better policies at the local and state level.

44
DEATHS DUE TO DRUG OVERDOSE IN 2023



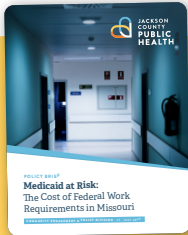
Data Dashboard

Timely overdose reporting has been a key concern, as the most recent local data on overdose deaths ends in 2023. In that year, 44 people in Eastern Jackson County lost their lives to drug overdoses. While national trends show a decline, we need up-to-date local data to fully understand what's happening in our community.

Community Engagement & Policy

Breaking Down Complex Public Health Policy Issues

Our policy team is integral to helping our community and leaders understand complex public health issues. In 2025, they published four briefs and reports diving into issues and offering solutions that can improve the health of our community.



Find our Medicaid policy brief and other data and policy briefs online

jcp.org/policy

Two briefs focused on the opioid crisis. We also outlined policy priorities for public health in Jefferson City and Jackson County and took a deep dive into how federal policy changes will impact Medicaid in Missouri. The policy brief titled: Medicaid at Risk: The Cost of Federal Work Requirements in Missouri, outlined the unintended consequences of new policies in H.R. 1 passed in 2025. In Missouri, 1 in 8 Medicaid enrollees are expected to lose coverage, which could also lead to greater ripple effects throughout our community. As the policy team wrote:

“Those who lose coverage will be left to make difficult choices. Many will delay or forego needed healthcare, potentially allowing chronic conditions like diabetes or heart disease to worsen.”

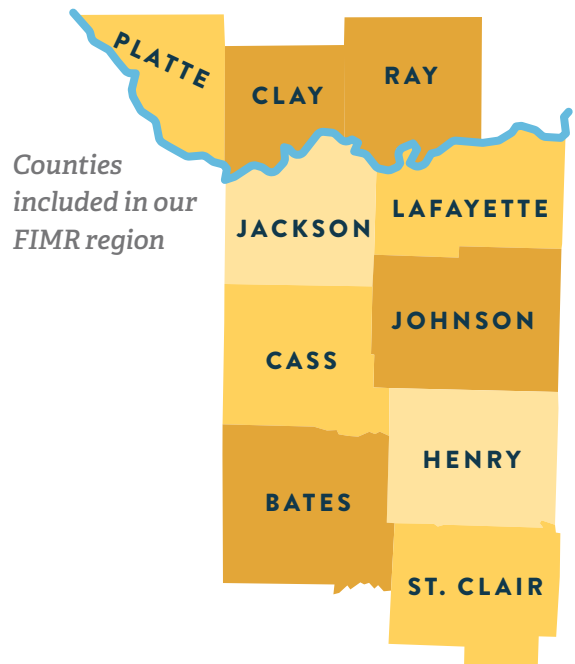
Our policy team also tracks and analyzes legislation at the local, state, and federal level to determine how it could impact the health of our communities. In 2025, we discovered a bill at the state level that could have significantly affected healthy housing initiatives. Jackson County Public Health quickly drafted a clear and accessible impact statement and analysis that partners were able to use during testimony in Jefferson City. Turning a complex policy issue into meaningful action helped ensure community voices were heard when it mattered most.

More First Birthdays

Missouri ranks among the worst states for infant and maternal health, with 441 babies dying before their first birthday in 2023. In 2024, the Missouri Legislature called for a more structured approach to address the crisis. Our Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) team, launched in 2025, is investigating fetal and infant deaths across 10 counties, through state contracts. By understanding the why behind these tragedies we can try to prevent them in the future. Each comprehensive review done by our team is:

- **Evidence-based:** A proven model used across the country to lower mortality rates.
- **Action-oriented:** Focused on targeted policy or programmatic change, based on real-world data.
- **Confidential:** Protects family privacy while gaining critical health insights.

This work is difficult, but important so we can help ensure every Missouri baby has a chance to celebrate their first birthday.



InCoLab Network Reaches New Heights

The InCoLab Network is a groundbreaking way Jackson County leaders are working across multiple sectors to address the root causes that impact the health and wellbeing of our community. 2025 marked the third year of the effort with the highest-attended Community Health Innovation Summit, showing our model is working at bringing people together to find solutions.

“No one organization has to do everything,” said Candace Ladd, Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom Outreach and Development Coordinator, “Together, we can make the change.”



Data insights from work groups are helping build the infrastructure for collective impact and systems change across the county to address two of our region’s most pressing challenges:

- **Housing and economic stability**
- **Mental and behavioral health**

Through more than 100 hours of collective work in 2025, one thing remains clear: staying with the status quo is not an option. We are addressing urgent and complex health issues by changing systems, and this work is not for the faint of heart. With more than 80 members, we have built the container that enabled 21 organizations to collaborate on solutions to the county’s most pressing challenges, and we are confident that transformational change is possible.

7,900 *

DOSES OF NALOXONE DISTRIBUTED

13,670

FENTANYL TEST STRIPS DISTRIBUTED

17

NALOXONE ACCESS POINTS IN EJC



4

BRIEFS + REPORTS PUBLISHED



15 🌙

FREE CRIBS PROVIDED WITH SAFE SLEEP EDUCATION

199 🚗

FREE CAR SEATS DISTRIBUTED + INSTALLED

52

HOURS OF CHILDCARE PROVIDER TRAINING ON HEALTH TOPICS

12

HOURS OF HEALTH EDUCATION PROVIDED FOR PRESCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

40

HOURS OF FREE SEX ED CLASSES FOR TEENS



Health Services

Increasing Demand for STI Services

In 2025, our clinical team expanded capacities to offer more robust health services for our community. Besides vaccine numbers increasing for the second year in a row, the amount of sexually transmitted infections (STI) tests completed increased by 470% from 2024. The addition of an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to our team means we're able to take on more STI patients with complex cases. Having more specially-trained nurses allows us to go beyond what most local health departments can offer, including same-day treatments and prescriptions for medications not provided by state programs.

Those services were recognized by incredibly high reviews through NexHealth, our electronic health record system, with clients rating Jackson County Public Health as 4.9 out of 5 stars. **Here is what they're saying:**

"A great experience. Kind and friendly staff."

"Would highly recommend."

"I could tell the nurses really cared about their job and enjoyed it. It's a rare quality in employees."

"I can't fully put into words how wonderful this facility and its team are."

Strengthening Emergency Preparedness

Emergency response and preparedness is a core tenant of public health. In 2025, our preparedness team expanded its work on our Point of Dispensing (POD) program. The program confirms our ability to quickly distribute lifesaving medications, like antibiotics or vaccines during disease outbreaks and other disasters. This work underscores the importance of trusted community partnerships with schools, community centers, long-term care facilities, libraries, and churches stepping up to volunteer their facilities in the case of emergencies. In 2025, our team added five new locations to the program, including one in Blue Springs, two in Oak Grove, and two in Raytown. We ended 2025 with a total of 22 POD sites, ensuring we are ready in case disaster strikes in any part of our community.

Delivering Mobile Services

Our health services team was able to bring clinical care directly to people across our community through strong and unique partnerships with local school districts. Starting in February of 2025, we visited 39 different schools in all eight of our local school districts to make sure students would be current on required vaccines for the 2025-2026 school year. We administered a total of 1,456 vaccines to 791 students in Lee's Summit, Blue Springs, Grandview, Raytown, Oak Grove, Fort Osage, Grain Valley, and Lone Jack school districts. Bringing convenient and accessible care to school-aged children was recognized as a great value to multiple districts. One school official in Grandview had this to say:

"You had a profound influence on making our families feel welcome and at ease. Language can be such a barrier and I was so grateful – not just for your Spanish-speaking skills, but for how lovingly you spoke to each parent and student, making each one feel that they are valued and important. I am honored to work with you!"

13,144

TOTAL VACCINES GIVEN

5,285 
INDIVIDUALS
IMMUNIZED

55 
OFFSITE
CLINICS



8,168 
FLU / COVID TESTS

2,266
STI TESTS

1,300
TB TESTS

124 
RESOURCE REFERRALS
completed through IRIS

280 
LYFT TRIPS COMPLETED
for clients needing rides

91 
ADULT BRAIN INJURY
PROGRAM CLIENTS

2,245 
INTERPRETATIONS
in 18 different languages



28,222

POUNDS OF FOOD
distributed with Harvesters

Going Above and Beyond

Our adult brain injury (ABI) program also expanded in 2025 to serve 91 people living with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Through rehabilitation and service coordination, our program enables each person with a TBI to obtain goals of independent living, community participation, and employment. Beyond helping people with TBIs on a day to day basis, our ABI coordinator Jazzmin showed true care and compassion that is at the heart of every Jackson County Public Health service.

Jazzmin received notice that one of her participants in the program was missing and a missing person's report was filed with local police. Jazzmin immediately reached out to assist in trying to locate the person. Our coworkers who overheard her jump into action said she handled the situation with professionalism, remaining calm, respectful, and supportive the entire time. The individual was safely located thanks in-part to Jazzmin's quick thinking and desire to help.

Supporting Families as Food Prices Rise

Our health services team is involved in both the day-to-day health of our community and addressing deep-rooted issues like food insecurities. In 2025, we provided more than 14 tons of food to our community at a time when many people weren't sure where their next meal would come from. Since we began partnering with the Harvesters Community Food Network in 2023, we've seen the need greatly increase. Rising costs of groceries and a federal government shut-down in 2025 meant we served more families than ever before. We served 2,817 people in 715 households through our monthly food distributions.

In November, The Kansas City Star wrote a front-page article about our services and profiled several Jackson Countians who rely on our help. That included Maria Barrera, who doesn't qualify for federal food assistance, but still struggles to pay for the food she needs due to inflation and rising bills. As she left our event, she told a reporter, "Today has been a very special day."

Epidemiology & Data Analytics

Protecting Communities with Data Action

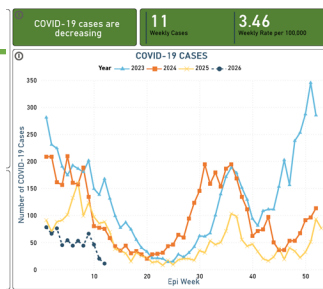
In 2025, our epidemiology team rapidly responded to multiple disease clusters and outbreaks in Eastern Jackson County, including influenza, COVID-19, and norovirus in long-term care facilities; pertussis (whooping cough) in local schools; and hand, foot, and mouth disease in daycares. These swift actions helped protect high-risk populations and reduce the spread of infectious diseases in the community.

These responses were made possible through the ongoing development and optimization of our Disease Containment Toolkits, first launched in 2024 to provide comprehensive plans for rapid action against the ten highest-risk diseases. In 2025, the toolkits were further refined to strengthen outbreak response and rapid mobilization capabilities.

Alongside toolkit improvements, we enhanced internal workflows and expanded our capacity for in-depth data analysis. Our data analytics team fulfilled 89 data requests and authored multiple briefs that help transform complex public health information into actionable insights. That work helps ensure our policies and processes remain grounded in reliable, evidence-based research.

By combining data-driven strategies with rapid outbreak response, our team continues to monitor, protect, and improve the health of Eastern Jackson County residents.

Our data team maintains multiple dashboards showing trends in our community. That includes our respiratory illness dashboard that breaks down real-time trends with user-friendly visuals to make complex information accessible to the public.



Monitoring Measles

In 2025, the United States experienced its highest number of measles cases since 1991, with over 2,200 confirmed infections nationwide. In Missouri, 7 cases were reported, primarily linked to travel. While Jackson County Public Health didn't have any confirmed cases, our team maintained vigilant surveillance and preparedness to quickly identify and respond to any potential exposures. Efforts included tracking national and regional trends, assessing local vaccination coverage, and identifying populations at higher risk for exposure.

The resurgence underscored the critical importance of the MMR vaccine, which remains the most effective tool for preventing serious complications and measles transmission in our community. Through proactive measures and continued emphasis on vaccination, our team is prepared to respond quickly and keep our community safe.

Enhancing Community Health Through STI Prevention

In 2025, our epidemiology team launched a community-centered sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and partner services program with the goal to strengthen local understanding of trends and provide more responsive, tailored support to community needs. Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) provide partner services, confidentially notifying people who may have been exposed to an STI, connecting them to testing and treatment, and offering supportive education to help prevent further transmission. DIS also collaborate with healthcare providers to support the continuum of care and connect residents to timely treatment and wrap-around services when needed.

These efforts help improve localized STI monitoring, strengthen awareness, and support equitable, community-responsive prevention and care for the diverse populations served in Eastern Jackson County.



11,468

TOTAL
COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE REPORTS

INCLUDING COMMON
ANNUAL VIRUSES...

7,714

INFLUENZA CASES

2,765

COVID-19 CASES

INCLUDING ANIMAL-
RELATED CASES OF...

496

ANIMAL BITES
& EXPOSURES

113

RABIES POST-EXPOSURE
PROPHYLAXIS

MOST INVESTIGATED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
IN 2025, FOLLOWING COVID + FLU

129

LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION

56

HEPATITIS B

50

HEPATITIS C

47

PERTUSSIS

45

CAMPYLO-
BACTERIOSIS

OTHER CONDITIONS
REPORTED

Salmonellosis
Streptococcus pneumonia

74



DATA
REQUESTS
FULFILLED

89



DATA
DASHBOARD
UPDATES

33



SCHOOL
HEALTH
REPORTS

Strategy & Operations

Positioning Jackson County for the Future

At the end of 2025, we kicked off our new strategic plan that will guide our organization from 2026 – 2030. We recognize we are launching this plan at a time when public health is facing extraordinary challenges, but that only makes our work more important than ever. The plan reinforces our commitment to our community and to each other through our cohesive values and three strategic priorities:

- **Priority 1: Innovative Efficient Operations**
- **Priority 2: Nimble, Responsive Department**
- **Priority 3: Thriving, Lifelong Health**

While each priority stands on its own, they are all connected by three core commitments: data-driven decision making, health equity, and collective impact. The plan will become the foundation for how we set goals, align programs, and measure our success. Each strategy will tie directly to our performance systems so we can clearly see the difference our work makes for our community. Every improvement to our own systems brings us closer to a healthier, more just community – where everyone has the opportunity to thrive across their whole life.



Supporting Well-Being Through Trauma-Informed Care

Jackson County Public Health strengthened our commitment to trauma-informed care, recognizing its importance for both the people we serve and our workforce. Trauma-informed care emphasizes creating safe, responsive, and supportive environments that acknowledge the impact of trauma on clients and staff alike.

Over the past year, our teams took deliberate and strategic steps to integrate these principles into daily practices: revisiting policies, refining client interactions, and fostering spaces where everyone feels recognized and supported. These efforts honor both lived experience and professional expertise, building trust and improving engagement across our programs.

The impact is clear: clients experience more responsive, compassionate care, and staff feel valued and supported in their work. Moving forward, we will continue embedding trauma-informed care across all programs and services, advancing our mission to ensure that everyone we serve, and every member of our team, can live their healthiest, most fulfilling lives.

Strengthening Operations with Quality Improvement

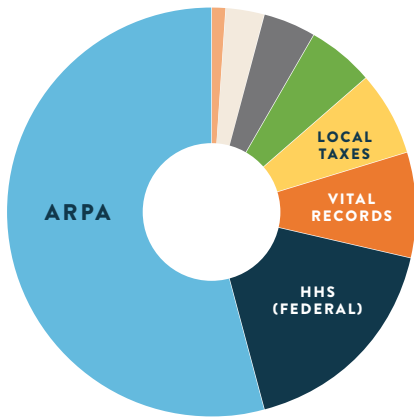
Throughout 2025, the Operations team focused on quality improvement to enhance efficiency, accountability, and communication. Key initiatives included:

- Centralizing vaccine ordering for better visibility and timely payments.
- Redesigning invoices with online payment options to speed turnaround.
- Refining recordkeeping with Vital Records for accuracy and consistency.

These efforts improved cross-team alignment, streamlined processes and reduced errors. Collectively, these initiatives reinforce the value of consistent administrative practices and a proactive approach to operational excellence.

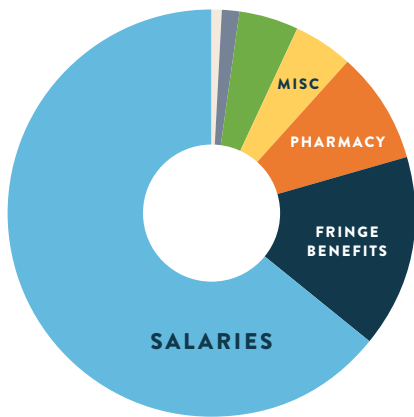
GRANTS AND CONTRACTS BILLING
\$ 5,675,118.36

INSURANCE AND CLIENT BILLING
\$ 640,104.00



2025 FISCAL YEAR TOTAL REVENUE
\$ 7,475,977.54

- **ARPA**
54.4%
- **HHS (Federal)**
17.3%
- **Vital Records**
8.1%
- **Local Taxes**
6.7%
- **Insurance Billing**
5.4%
- **DHSS (State)**
4.3%
- **Walk-In Clinic**
2.8%
- **Other Sources**
1.1%



2025 FISCAL YEAR TOTAL EXPENDITURES
\$ 6,247,432.48

- **Salaries**
64.2%
- **Fringe Benefits**
15.4%
- **Pharmacy**
8.8%
- **Miscellaneous**
4.8%
- **Supplies & Equipment**
4.7%
- **Contracted Services**
1.4%
- **Capital**
0.6%



34.5M

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS
estimated media reach

70,970

UNIQUE WEB VISITORS

245

MEDIA MENTIONS
online, television, print, radio

747,181

SOCIAL IMPRESSIONS

1,106

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS
published across 5 platforms

30,356

DEATH CERTIFICATES

15,992

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

1,429

professional development hours,
or ~24 hours per staff member



Leadership

2025 UNIVERSITY HEALTH EXECUTIVES

Charlie Shields
UNIVERSITY HEALTH PRESIDENT + CEO

Laura Peckham RN, MHA, MBA
UNIVERSITY HEALTH LAKEWOOD COO

2025 JACKSON COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Phil LeVota
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Darryl Forté
COUNTY SHERIFF

Melesa Johnson
COUNTY PROSECUTOR

2025 JACKSON COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Manuel Abarca IV
1ST DISTRICT

Jalen Anderson
1ST DISTRICT AT-LARGE

Vanessa Huskey
2ND DISTRICT

Donna Peyton
2ND DISTRICT AT-LARGE
VICE CHAIR

Charlie Franklin
3RD DISTRICT

Megan Marshall
3RD DISTRICT AT-LARGE

DaRon McGee
4TH DISTRICT
CHAIR

Jeanie Lauer
5TH DISTRICT

Sean Smith
6TH DISTRICT

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VitalRecords@uhkc.org

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & POLICY DIVISION

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HealthPromotions@uhkc.org

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE & EPIDEMIOLOGY HOTLINE

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