

DEPARTMENT REPORT

APRIL, 2015

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Health Director, Communicable Disease staff, Lincoln Police Department, Lincoln Fire & Rescue, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, The Bridge, Lincoln Public Schools and local hospital emergency room physicians held a news conference on April 24, 2015 to alert the public regarding a recent increase in incidents of K2 overdoses. Over 100 incidents have been reported to law enforcement, emergency medical personnel and hospitals during the past month. The Health Department also launched a database to help coordinate the reporting of K2 cases in the community. The Health Director will provide an update to the Board of Health at the May 12th meeting.

The Department hosted a community meeting of the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Partnership and Planning) Committee to update the community health status assessment that was last conducted in 2010-2011. Future meetings are scheduled for May 21 and June 25, 2015.

The Board of Health Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony was held on April 8, 2015 at the Bryan Health Conference Center. Award winners include:

Community Awards – Boys & Girls Club, St. Monica's Behavioral Health Services for Women, CenterPointe, and The Bridge Behavioral Health Service.

Food Sanitation Excellence Award – Super Taco and Sysco Lincoln.

John J. Hanigan Distinguished Service Award – Christian Kyle Haefele, MD

Public Health Leadership Award – Teresa Harms

Carole Douglas Public Health Achievement Award – Anita King, RN, BSN.

Twenty-one UNMC College of Public Health graduate students visited the Department on April 21, 2015. They were provided an overview of the Department, received a tour of the Department and paired with Health Department staff on ride-alongs for inspections, home visits, and demonstrations. Staff from the UNMC College of Public Health and the students were very pleased with their experiences. The Department will continue to work with the College of Public Health to provide internships and learning experiences for the students.

The Board of Health reappointments of Alan Doster, DVM and Lt. Col. Craig Strong were presented to the Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.

Health Department professional staff provided a potluck luncheon for support staff on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 in honor of Administrative Professionals Day.

Employee of the Month – Heh Wah – Dental Health & Nutrition Services Division.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Stats

	Sep 12- Mar 13	Sep 13- Mar 14	Sep 14- Mar 15
Pet Licenses Sold	36892	37320	37457
Cases Dispatched	12900	13064	13512
Investigation	13789	14090	14486
Animals Impounded			
Dogs	707	802	783
Cats	492	692	718
Court Citations Issued	197	229	188
Warnings/Defects Issued	8848	9799	9924
Bite Cases Reported	247	228	249
Attack Cases Reported	26	22	29
Dogs Declared Pot. Dangerous	46	39	32
Dangerous Dogs	11	5	12
Animal Neglect Investigations	341	340	316
Injured Animal Rescue	306	337	376
Wildlife Removal	187	198	220
Dead Animal Pickup	944	848	1025
Lost and Found Reports	1327	1141	1231
Phone Calls	15181	24208	24516
Average Response Time (in mins)	18	17	17

Two Animal Control Officers completed a 16 hour training with Capital Humane Society, Nebraska Humane Society and other Animal Control Officers from across Nebraska. Participants were trained on the handling of large animals/livestock that are injured or hurt during a disaster or other event. The training will be valuable if our officers are called to an incident involving large animals or called out in the event of a tornado or other disaster. The two officers will help train our other officers on the techniques they learned.

Animal Control staff participated in the UNMC student visit and talked to 5 groups of students about the connection between public health and animals. The students were interested and asked several insightful questions.

Phone calls into Animal Control and cases dispatched have increased slightly. In particular we are getting more reports of dead animals (wildlife) that citizens call in or email to Animal Control via the Action Line.

Animal Control officers will receive more training this spring/summer on report writing and preparing for court cases. Over two years ago the Animal Control reports were changed from hand written and some typed reports to all reports being done the same way under the same Word format decreasing inconsistencies in what information was gathered and how it was organized. This process is being further refined to include how reports need to be written when they are part of court trial preparations.

On Saturday, May 16th Animal Control will participate in Tails'nTrails at Pioneers Park, Pinewood Bowl. Staff will have a booth with educational information. There is no cost and program will start at noon.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASE

Goal: To lower the incidence of vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) by assuring access to recommended immunizations for those who are the most vulnerable.

Vaccine Efforts:

- 1) Vaccine Clinic: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended hours on Thursday evenings until 6 p.m. Services are available to children who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid insured, Native American or Alaskan Native. Adults are eligible for services if they are uninsured or underinsured. No eligible person is denied service due to inability to pay.
- 2) Titers for Adults: Many colleges, vocational schools, and employers require immunity to VPD before school entry or employment can begin. It is not uncommon for people to have misplaced their vaccination records or lack documentation of having a VPD (e.g. chickenpox, measles, etc.). Depending upon the patient's specific situation and the particular VPD, drawing a titer (a blood test) is often more cost efficient than providing repeat vaccination.
- 3) Healthy Families America: Home visitors emphasize the importance of vaccination for infants and help families successfully navigate through the health care system and their child's immunization schedule. Pregnant women should be immunized against VPDs such as pertussis, seasonal flu (inactivated), and if at

- high risk; Hepatitis A and B. Because infants cannot be fully vaccinated, families are encouraged to make sure everyone who is around the infant is up-to-date with their vaccines.
- 4) Information & Referral: Nurses are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and after hours on evenings, weekends, and holidays to answer vaccine questions via telephone and email. Typical questions include: getting vaccines on time as recommended, “catching up” if the person is “behind”, the overall safety of vaccination, risks of not vaccinating, school/work/travel requirements, tips for a less stressful experience with vaccines, vaccines from other countries, requests for records, and payment for vaccine services. Appointments in our Vaccine Clinic are made after the patient’s needs are assessed.
 - 5) Refugee Health Clinic: Refugees and asylees of all ages who recently settled in Lincoln receive vaccines from this grant-funded program. Infectious disease lab tests are also provided and follow up treatment is coordinated as needed.
 - 6) Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Clinic: People who obtain services in our STI Clinic can obtain vaccination against HPV (Human Papillomavirus) if they are ages 9-26 years. The FDA approved this particular vaccine for the prevention of cervical, vulvar, vaginal, and anal cancers, pre-cancerous or dysplastic lesions, and genital warts caused by HPV.
 - 7) Homeless Vaccine Outreach: Nursing staff offer vaccines to adults who utilize services at Project Homeless Connect, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, the Gathering Place, and the Center for People in Need. Seasonal flu vaccine and other recommended vaccines are provided at no cost to the patient. A significant number of the patients in this program are living in emergency or transitional shelters, and some are unsheltered (i.e. street homeless), putting them at very high-risk for obtaining a VPD.
 - 8) Clinic with a Heart: We offer vaccines to hard-to-reach, low-income children at two back-to-school events at Clinic with a Heart annually in August. Typically, children come from schools with the highest percentages of free and reduced lunch (a poverty measure) in the Lincoln Public School District.

Vaccine Conference:

On April 8th, CHS clinical & case management staff attended an immunization update sponsored by the LIVE Coalition (Lincoln Immunization Vaccination Effort). Learning objectives included; a) troubleshooting NESIIS (the state’s vaccine registry), b) dispelling vaccine myths among parents/caregivers, c) newly licensed and recommended vaccines, and d) recommended vaccines for health care workers. A huge thank you to LLCHD staff who helped organize the conference: Angie Elliott, Jeff Krotz, Marj Determan, and Karla Gregory!

DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION SERVICES

WIC

Caseload (Participation)

Total	3475
Main	2590
Cornhusker Clinic	885

Food: For November 2014 -

Food Monthly Obligations	\$ 235,660.64
Food Pkg Avg.	\$ 69.93
Women	\$ 41.36
Infants	\$ 145.77
Children	\$ 47.62

Mentoring:

(Number and school)

Students	4 RN – UNMC, Union College, 1=UNO- MPH
Interns	2 UNL – RD
Volunteers	3 UNL- RD
LMEP Residents	2

Dental Health

- Total number of clients served during all clinic hours (unduplicated count): 578
- Total number of patient encounters (duplicated client count): 696
- Total number of patient visits (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 997
- Total number of Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients: 429 (74%)
- Total number of children served: 353 (61%)
- Total number of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 352 (61%)

- Clients served during Thursday evening hours (unduplicated count): 69
- Client encounters during Thursday evening hours (duplicated client count): 76
- Patient visits during Thursday evening hours (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 123
- Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients during Thursday evening hours: 47 (80%)
- Children served during Thursday evening hours: 65 (94%)

- Patients enrolled in Medicaid during Thursday evening hours: 55 (80%)

Outreach Activities:

Center Pointe Presentation: 45

Children transported from Elliott, Everett and Holmes Elementary Schools in need of urgent dental services:

Total number of children: 15 children/21 patient encounters/38 patient provider visits.

Total number of children enrolled in Medicaid: 7 (47%)

Total number of children non-Medicaid eligible receiving services at no fee: 8 (53%)

Total of racial and ethnic children: 7 (47%).

Fluoride Varnish and Education Program:

Quarterly Report January - March.

- WIC North WIC Office (27th & Cornhusker Highway): 70 children and parents
- LLCHD WIC Office: 80 children and parents
- Educare Center: 195 children

One Dental Student from UNMC College of Dentistry rotated through the Dental Clinic.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

[Water Quality: Public Swimming Pools & Certified Pool Operator Training](#)

Purpose

Protect human health by preventing waterborne illness.

Water Quality Indicator

80% of swimming pools and spas meet health and safety regulations at time of inspection (do not have significant health and safety violations).

Strategies/Methods (What we do)

Train Pool Operators & Water Quality Testers; issue permits; review newly proposed or modified

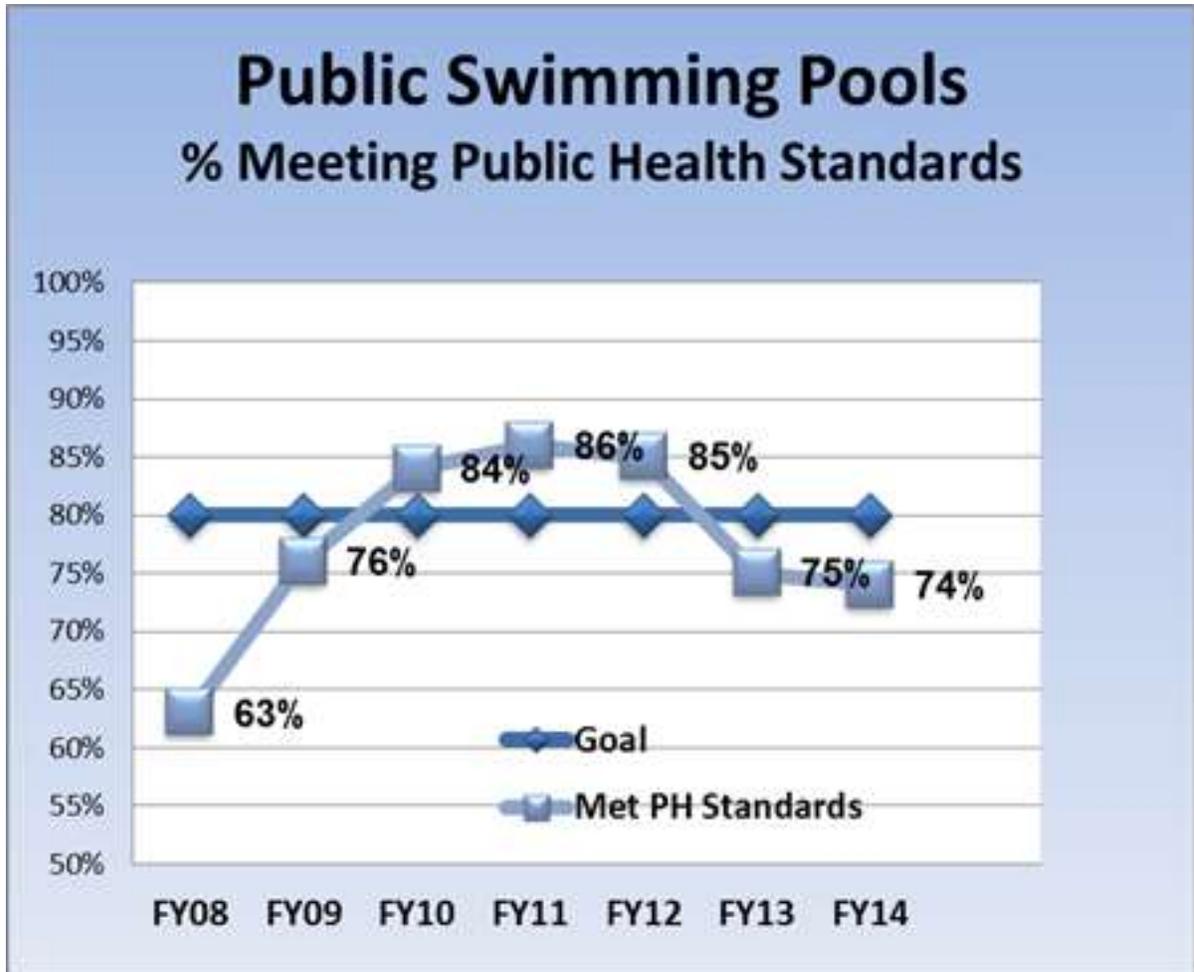


pools/spas; conduct pre-opening inspections for all seasonal pools; conduct inspections; take enforcement actions.

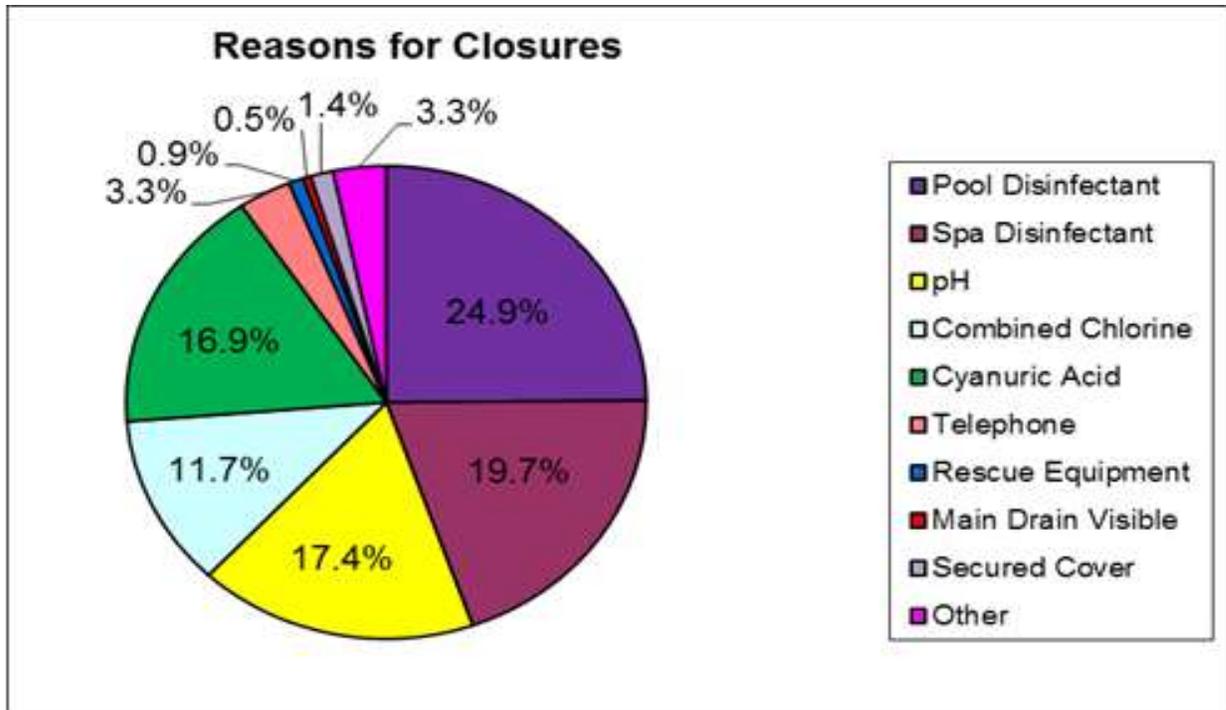
Funding/Source: 100% user fee funded

Percent of Pools Meeting Health and Safety Standards at time of inspection:

In FY14, 26% of pools did not meet public health standards.



The five main reasons for closure were violations of health risk based water quality standards, including inadequate disinfectant levels, pH (too high or low), high combined chlorine levels and high cyanuric acid levels.



Description

Lincoln ordinance requires all public swimming pools to be: built to regulations; permitted; inspected; operated by a trained Lincoln Pool Operator; and tested regularly for water quality by a certified Lincoln Pool Water Quality Tester (as of January 2015). In FY14, 235 pools/spas were permitted, 596 inspections were performed, and 519 people were trained to be Pool Operators. So far in 2015, 154 people have been trained and received a two year permit (\$20) as a Lincoln Pool Water Quality Tester. The permit fee for a pool was \$365 in FY14 and is \$375 in FY15. Pool operators were charged \$60 for training, which includes their two year permit fee. All program costs for conducting inspections, investigating complaints and training were 100% user fee funded. Seasonal public swimming pools and spas are inspected prior to opening and at least twice each year. Year round pools are inspected at least twice per year.

In FY 14, 74% of pools met health and safety regulations at the time of inspection, thus 26% of regular inspections found violations which resulted in the pool being temporarily closed due to significant health and safety violations. To reduce these health risks, the pool ordinance now requires that any person that tests public swimming pool water must have LLCHD training, pass a test, and hold a permit as a Lincoln Water Quality Tester or Pool Operator. Pool water must be tested before opening and at a minimum every 4 hours to assure compliance with these health risk based water quality standards. Pools which may present a higher risk of recreational waterborne outbreaks of disease are inspected more frequently. All public swimming pools must have a Lincoln Swimming Pool Operator and the Health Department provides this training. Regular inspections serve as an opportunity to interact with the pool operator and help assure that chemical

levels are at optimal levels to reduce the threat of recreational water illnesses (RWIs). Based on CDC data, as the swimming season progresses, the risk of RWIs, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia, increases. Large outbreaks of swimming pool related Cryptosporidiosis occurred across the U.S. the last several years. Fortunately, Lincoln did not have any outbreaks of pool related diseases in 2014.

Partnerships & Efficiencies

The Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has delegated regulation of public swimming pools and PO training to LLCHD, assuring efficient use of government resources.

HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION

After modifying several earlier versions of the YRBS (Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Survey) dashboard, the YRBS dashboard was posted online on April 21 with data on some of the risky behaviors teens participate in. See <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/yrbss/index.htm> or simply enter the term “data” in the Search box on the City’s homepage and scroll to the bottom of the webpage to find the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Survey. The first page explains some of the methodology and if you click on Data, YRBS data are available for every odd-numbered year from 2001 to 2015 for students in grades 9-12 for the public high schools in Lincoln and Lancaster County. For any year that’s opened via the dropdown window there’s a trend line on the left hand side and data by gender and by grade in frames on the right hand side of the dashboard. The YRBS is administered as a hard copy survey and random classes complete the survey in the schools that have also been randomly selected. The LLCHD has paid for “oversampling” the Lincoln and Lancaster County high schools every time the survey is conducted, which is every two years.

Upon learning of a recent cluster of overdose cases of so-called “synthetic marijuana,” which is commonly known locally as K2 or “spice,” the Health Director has asked the Public Health Epidemiologist to develop a survey for staff at the local hospital emergency rooms to fill out whenever they encounter an overdose case of K2 or spice. The hope is that we can gather data that may pinpoint the type of product or chemical that has led to the rash (in excess of a 100 cases either picked up by EMS, dealt with by LPD or admitted to the hospital ERs in less than a week in April) of overdose cases.

On April 23rd we held the first meeting of the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Partnership and Planning) Committee to help us update the community health status assessment that we last conducted in 2010-2011. While we routinely monitor health status indicators, we conduct a broader health status assessment with the input of our community partners every three to five years. The Lincoln hospitals also are required to conduct a community health assessment every three years so they are active participants in the update. Future meetings of the MAPP Committee are scheduled for the afternoons of May 21 and June 25 and we will soon be launching a website with material of interest to the committee as well as the general public. Over the next three or four months we

hope to review the latest data and make any changes to the community profile, conduct surveys and focus groups, evaluate the resources and assets in the community and the strengths of our local public health system, prioritize health issues and identify current progress on the goals in the CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan).

Local flu activity has been on the decline for the past month or so, but we continue to see an usually high number of cases of Influenza B locally as well as in Nebraska and the nation. Given that the strains in this year's flu vaccine did not match either the common type A flu viruses (H3N2 and H1N1) and type B viruses that circulated this year, the decision has been made by the ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) and CDC to ask pharmaceutical companies to incorporate four different strains (two type A and two type B strains similar to the strains currently circulating) in the flu vaccine for the 2015-16 flu season. That production has been underway for the past month or so in order to the vaccine available in the late summer (August) or early fall.

HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH

Chronic Disease Prevention and Minority Health

The 4th Annual National Bike Challenge will officially begin May 1 and end on September 30. Last year, Lincoln placed second behind Madison, Wisconsin in number of miles ridden during the Challenge. From October through April, the National Bike Challenge website is maintained in a pre-challenge mode which means that cyclists who want to continue to log miles throughout the winter may do so. During this period of time, Lincoln has accumulated more bicyclists riding every month and more miles of biking than any other city with a population of more than 250,000 people. A range of 300 to 500 Lincoln bicyclists have continued to log miles throughout the fall and winter months. Staff is anticipating at least 1,500 Lincoln bicyclists to participate in the Challenge.

Staff (LLCHD's League Certified Instructor [LCI] in bicycle education/operation/safety) with another League Certified Instructor led a bicycle education forum for all second graders at Kloefkorn Elementary School. The LCIs used the youth curriculum, "Under 10 Need to Know". This curriculum emphasizes the importance of: recognizing that a bicycle is not a toy but a vehicle; helmet use; checking the bike for safety; riding on the right; how to pass safely; and obeying signs and signals. The instructors use bikes, helmets, lights, and bells as hands-on instruction for the children. This introductory bicycle education curriculum gives staff an important tool to use in schools when the time for education is very limited.

Staff was featured on the Channel 10 Health "Shape of the City" segment that has been airing in April. The topic was on the 2015 Summer Food Service Program that begins on May 27.

Injury Prevention

Staff attended the annual Nebraska Office of Highway Safety Child Passenger Safety Technician Update to receive the latest child care transportation information. Staff continue to provide monthly Child Passenger Safety Seat trainings for licensed child care centers. It is required through NeHHS child care regulations that all licensed child care centers that transport children have their drivers participate in this three hour training. Staff provided a training in April with 20 child care center staff attending.

Tobacco Prevention

Staff presented on a variety of tobacco information to 10 students at a local high school who are parenting or soon will be parenting. Topics include secondhand smoke and effects on babies/children, smoking in cars, Nebraska Quitline and other cessation resources, staying tobacco free throughout high school and beyond, and more. The girls asked many questions on tobacco prevention including how to influence their parents and significant others. Staff also presented to 38 students enrolled in the “Families in Crisis” classes in two local high schools. These students are studying the varied factors that contribute to ‘crisis’ situations in families. Staff presented to 20 Malcolm High School students on tobacco prevention including spit tobacco and discussed the video, “Your Habit or Your Life.”

INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

IFM Manager has completed HIPAA training for Lincoln Fire and Rescue. Trainers also included Elizabeth Elliott, Law Department and Steve Henderson, City Information Services.

Information and Fiscal Management Division, Annual report on Performance measures completed and submitted to the Health Director.

IFM Division has started to work on the division strategic direction for the next 3-5 years. This will include the division role in the Department’s Strategic Plan and in Accreditation.