

A strong public health system is crucial for protecting and improving the health of Americans.

Kansas' Public Health

The leading causes of death disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities in Kansas. Hispanic/Latino Kansans have an 83% higher death rate from diabetes than the general population. African Americans have twice the rate of low birth weight babies and infant deaths. Understanding the effect of economics, access to health services, geography, and having good data are key factors in improving Kansans' health.

Local public health departments provide important services and protections in the public's interest. In 105 counties, 99 local health departments serve the public, but the public health workforce is strained. In a rural state such as ours, ensuring that we use every available partner in the system is critical.

Using data to make informed decisions in times of limited resources has never been more important. Information is at the core of strengthening Kansas' public health system.

For more information

Dick Morrissey
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 340
Topeka, KS 66612-1365
785-296-1200
rmorriss@kdhe.state.ks.us

Kim Kimminau
Kansas Health Institute
212 SW Eighth Ave. Ste. 300
Topeka, KS 66603-3936
785-233-5443
kkimmina@khi.org

THE
ROBERT WOOD
JOHNSON
FOUNDATION®

Kansas TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

What is Kansas Turning Point?

The national Turning Point initiative aims to transform and strengthen the public health system in the United States by making it more community based and collaborative. In Kansas, the Turning Point Initiative facilitated a Public Health Improvement planning process that identified a number of priority areas where attention was needed to ensure optimal public health for Kansas. Turning Point then provided funding to enable the state to take important action steps on some of these priorities.

How is Kansas Turning Point improving public health?

- Improving linkage of health data sources for public health planning and action to address health disparities
- Supporting a new training program for local leaders to improve their ability to use health data to affect public health improvement
- Linking state and community health efforts aimed at eliminating health disparities among Kansas racial and ethnic minority populations
- Catalyzing a Kansas public health workforce initiative that resulted in the Kansas Public Health Certificate program, a model program to improve the skills of local and state public health personnel
- Joining with the Kansas Health Foundation to expand the capacity of an exciting new Kansas Integrated Public Health System for local public health departments
- Facilitating discussion regarding health policy changes necessary to meet public health needs in the future

What can Turning Point help you do?

- Serve as a reliable source of information from around the nation about innovative programs being undertaken to improve the health of the public
- Provide up-to-date, accurate information regarding health status and health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities in Kansas
- Showcase effective partnerships that deliver quality public health and preventive medical services while meeting the needs of those with and without health insurance

Support

The Turning Point Initiative is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The National Program Office is located at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. Contact the National Program Office at 206-616-8410 or visit www.turningpointprogram.org.

