

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT – 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

When asked, “What does Public Health do?,” most respond that it’s involved with medical care or solely with providing aid to those in need. However, the community health system impacts every one of us each day, even though most of these activities are completed outside of public view.

In St. Charles County, the Department of Community Health and the Environment responds to the needs of residents, business owners and visitors through the actions of three divisions (Environmental Health and Protection, Humane Services and Public Health). The Division of Public Health offers what many traditionally consider when listing public health services, including programs such as: immunizations, STD prevention and treatment, communicable disease investigations, health education and nutritional assistance for growing families, as well as issuing birth and death certificates and coordinating public health emergency response. The Division of Environmental Health and Protection promotes healthy conditions and reduces health risk through routine inspections of food service providers, day care centers, recreation facilities and more; the implementation of the county’s mosquito and other pest control efforts; and the coordination of the county’s recycling and waste management programs. In addition to operating the Pet Adoption Center, the Division of Humane Service directs the county’s animal control program through education and ordinance enforcement.

Extending its commitment to a community that has ranked among Missouri’s Healthiest Counties for five consecutive years by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Department enhanced the well-being of St. Charles County’s residents and businesses in many ways.

- ***DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH*** – Although the global threat for the Ebola virus did not impact St. Charles County directly, the department did collaborate with first responder and emergency management personnel on a local response plan to the disease, and the Communicable Disease staff investigated approximately 2,600 potentially threatening illness cases and received more than 3,900 reports of influenza cases throughout the year. To help prevent the development and spread of many communicable diseases, the Immunizations Clinic administered more than 12,500 vaccinations to various populations and the STD Clinic counseled nearly 2,000 patients. Recognizing that healthy populations begin with mothers and growing babies, the WIC staff provided nutritional education and supplemental foods to more than 1,900 clients each month and introduced a Breastfeeding Peer Counseling program to support new mothers.
- ***DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION*** – The Recycle Works Central and Recycle Works West locations collected more than 1.4 million pounds of recyclable material (including more than 25,000 pound of hazardous household material), furthering the departments focus on the ***Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*** mantra. Staff inspected more than 3,300 food service providers to ensure safe food distribution and preparation. In addition to contracting with local municipalities, staff responded to more than 1,500 requests for mosquito and vector control treatment as a means for eliminating nuisance creatures.
- ***DIVISION OF HUMANE SERVICES and the PET ADOPTION CENTER*** – As animals play a large part in the mental and physical health of a community, the Pet Adoption Center placed more than 2,700 pets in loving homes during the year (including over 1,100 dogs and nearly 1,500 cats). In addition, animal control staff responded to more than 6,600 animal welfare calls and returned more than 700 lost/missing pets to their owners.

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In addition to direct efforts by department programs, staff collaborated with many agencies to further public health in the community. One such project was a series of three Faith-Based Emergency Planning Workshops held to assist church leaders in St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren counties prepare their congregations for potential disasters. The Public Health division extended its partnership with the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department on the Care Trak program that helps locate missing individuals affected with Alzheimer's disease, autism, and other medical conditions. Through a coalition of volunteers, veterinarians and Humane Services staff, the popular Sterile Feral campaign has helped reduce the cat population in our community by spaying and neutering more than 300 feral or barn cats. Additionally, the Division of Environmental Health and Protection presented seven food establishments with 24 Carrot Gold Food Safety Excellence Awards, recognizing their commitment to outstanding food safety, sanitation and stewardship. Another example of this community involvement is the more than 300 educational programs reaching more than 7,000 individuals of all ages, presenting tips and ideas for improving the health and safety of residents and their pets. Finally, the Department is proud to join forces with community volunteers, who offered the divisions more than 7,200 hours of service (an estimated in-kind value of over \$150,000).

What Did SCC Health Do For You in 2014?

- Recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as one of Missouri's Healthiest Counties for the 5th consecutive year — placing among the state's top three for the Health Outcomes and Health Factors categories
- Investigated approximately 2,600 potentially threatening illness cases (communicable diseases and foodborne illness investigations), including eight incidences that were declared outbreaks
- Received more than 3,900 reports of influenza cases from Jan-Dec.
- Presented more than 300 educational classes and events, reaching more than 7,000 residents
- Treated approximately 6,500 individuals through the Immunizations and STD clinics
- Administered more than 12,500 vaccinations overall to various populations
- Served more than 1,900 clients monthly with food supplements and nutrition education through the WIC program
- Issued more than 31,000 birth and death record certificates to Missouri residents, generating more than \$375,000 in revenue
- Collaborated with county-wide first responder and emergency management personnel on response to the global threat of the Ebola virus and other public health threats
- Operated a successful public health disaster response exercise to test the department's ability to most effectively distribute life-saving medication to the public
- Hosted a three-part series of Faith-Based Emergency Planning Workshops, presenting preparedness and emergency response information to more than 500 participants representing 150 faith organizations across the St. Louis Metropolitan Area
- Collected more than 1.4 million pounds of recyclable material at Recycle Works Central and Recycle Works West, including more than 25,000 pound of hazardous household material
- Inspected more than 3,300 food service providers (both permanent and temporary establishments) to ensure safe practices
- Recognized seven County food establishments with 24 Carrot Gold Food Safety Excellence Awards, distinguishing these facilities for emphasis on food safety and stewardship
- Responded to more than 1,500 requests for mosquito and vector control treatment requests, as well as contracted with several area municipalities for season-long service
- Responded to more than 6,600 animal welfare/service calls and returned more than 700 lost/missing pets to their families
- Adopted more than 2,700 pets to new homes (including over 1,100 dogs and nearly 1,500 cats)
- Treated more than 300 feral and barn cats through the Operation Sterile Feral program
- Issued nearly 56,000 rabies vaccination certifications
- Received more than 7,200 hours of volunteer service (an in-kind value of more than \$150,000)
- Generated more than \$2.6 million in general revenue