RENO COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
HISTORY





Before the establishment of the Reno County Health Department, the **Kansas State Board of Health** filled the role. **Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine** of Dodge City was one of the nation's leaders in the field of public health. He became secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health in 1904 and served for approximately 20 years. His public health campaigns included:

•Swat the fly

•Ban the public drinking cup

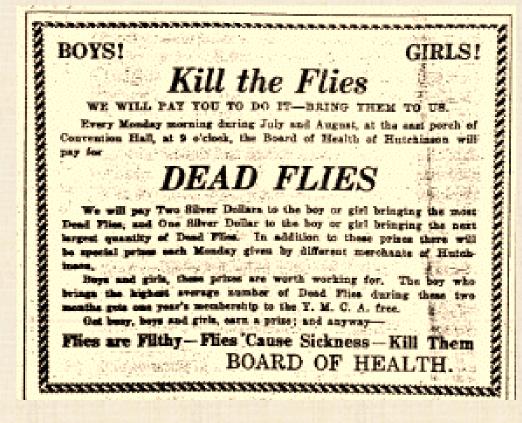
•Out with the common roller towel

Don't spit on the sidewalk

Pictures provided by the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.



FUN FACT:
Gunsmoke's
Doc Adams
was
patterned
after Dr.
Crumbine.



INFLUENZA 1918

In Kansas, 12,000 had died from influenza by 1919. Wichita reported 188 deaths in the month of January alone. Dr. Crumbine led efforts to counter the epidemic. Along with promoting a public awareness campaign, the Dodge City doctor discouraged the use of communal drinking cups and issued masks to the general public. Quarantine was the primary measure implemented and infected patients were isolated in makeshift hospitals throughout the state.

"SPARE THE LITTLE CHILDREN!" Cartoon which appeared in August 1910 in "Cup-Campaigner" in Dr. Crumbine's fight against the common drinking cup.

1921 - Smallpox is an epidemic in Hutchinson. Shown are a number of Smallpox entries in the Communicable Disease Ledger and a letter from Dr. Crumbine to the City Health Officer. Teachers, students, and janitors were prohibited from attending public schools unless they were vaccinated for smallpox.

RECORD OF

Hend of Family	Disease	Marital Relation	Age	Sex	Race	NO. IN HOUSEHOLD Adults Children		No. afflic- ted
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feision of Vital Statistics C. H. Lauresco, M. D., Registrat W. J. Davins, Statistician ision of Food and Drups icision of Venereal Discare
B. K. KERROURNE, M. D., Chief

STATE OF KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF THE

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

December 19, 1921

Dr. G. R. Walker, City Health Officer, Hutchinson, Kansas.

Dear Doctor Walker:

In view of the fact that smallpox is present in epidemic form in your city, and that a large number of exposures have been made at various places throughout the county, and further in order to facilita the suppression of the disease and to prevent the sprea of smallpox in epidemic form, consent is given for the promulgation of vaccination requirement, in accordance with Rule XXV, paragraph "C" of the Rules and Regulation of the Kansas State Board of Health, which requires the all pupils, teachers and janitors of your city public schools be prohibited from attending said public school unless they can show they have been successfully vacci-

This order to continue in effect for twenty-five (25) days after the appearance of the last case of smallpox.

Given under my hand and seal this 19th days of December, 1921.

Executive Officer.

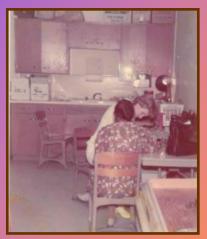
CHL/C

Taby (











THE BEGINNING OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- January 1970: A Home Health Agency was established at St. Elizabeth Hospital when one elderly man would not go home from the hospital after being dismissed; he believed he needed additional care. Sister Concetta, a nurse at the hospital, said she could visit him at home. This became the home health agency.
- Doctors made referrals for elderly people who needed their blood pressure checked, changing of dressings, and general nursing care. Sister Concetta worked from St. Elizabeth Hospital until the Hutchinson-Reno County Health Department was established in 1973.
- **January 1973**: The Home Health agency moved to Convention Hall and became the Hutchinson-Reno County Health Department.

WIC

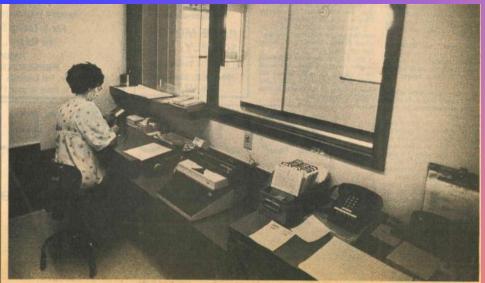
- The Special Supplemental Nutrition
 Program for Women, Infants, and Children
 (WIC) Program was established under a
 1972 amendment to the Child Nutrition Act
 of 1966. The WIC program, eligible to
 pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers,
 and children up to age five, helps with
 purchasing certain approved food items for
 those who are at nutritional risk.
- During his political career, Senator Bob
 Dole was a supporter of the WIC program
 and pushed continuously for increases in its
 funding. Today, WIC helps over 8 million
 women, infants, and children in the United
 States.
- WIC came to Kansas in 1974. Reno County WIC started prior to 1981.

STATEMENT OF SEMATOR BOB DOLE

Support for the W.I.C. Program

Mr. President, of all the federally-funded child nutrition programs, the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is surely one of the finest. The WIC program is intended to ensure that women and children receive adequate nutrition at the time when it is most vital to the development of human life. To deny an impoverished pregnant woman proper nutrition is to greatly enhance the risk that her child will suffer malnourishment, or even brain damage. It is precisely this danger that the WIC program is designed to address. It seems to me to be a misplaced set of priorities which has led to administrative foot-dragging on implementation of the WIC expansion mandated by overwhelming Congressional majorities last fall.

Although I voted for the child nutrition bill last October and voted to override President Ford's veto of the legislation, I am not one who could be said to be totally committed to each and every federal child nutrition program. Some are better than others. A reasonable consolidation of many of the federal child nutrition plans should, I think, be seriously explored. I am not suggesting that I favor the Administration's "block grant" legislation. This year's proposal by the Department of Agriculture will, in all probability, be accorded the same treatment as last year's block grant legislation, since it reduces funding drastically for all child nutrition assistance programs. Nevertheless, I believe a reasonable consolidation of existing child nutrition programs has conceptual merit, and I intend to explore further the possibility of such legislation in this session of Congress.



Receptionist Susan Elliott works in an area that overlooks the waiting room.

Health, ambulance move to new home

By Dennis Dumler

member which box the stapler is in, minute of it. but the county's new health depart- "Our first run this morning was to ment offices and ambulance substation South Hutch - we made it in less is in full operation.

west of Adams on 2nd, north of the been 10 or 12 minutes. That time can courthouse and Law Enforcement Cen- really make a difference, especially if ter, officially opened this morning. An you are talking about a heart attack or open house is planned later this fall, something like that."

County Health Director Judy Babb said none of the department's normal Miller said. services were delayed because of the "We've probably made 1,500 runs former offices in Convention Hall and building," Hager said. unloaded at the new building in less than five hours Saturday.

It's not all unpacked and put away to five calls. Ambulance officials estiyet, but enough was finished over the mate there will be an average of eight weekend that the office was open for alarms a day at the substation. business as usual this morning. Some Calls west of Main and south of examination-room equipment, drapes 11th, including all of South Hutchinson and waiting room furniture are still on and the southern half of the county.

Mrs. Babb said the new offices will the substation,

"Now we don't have to so all over then pleased with the ti-

Miller and Roger Hager were putting It's still a little too new to look like in their first 24-hour shift in the ambuhome and they're still trying to re- lance substation - and loving every

than three minutes," Hager said. The newly remodeled building just "From the hospital, it would have

"That first one was really exciting,"

move. Records, furniture and equip- apiece, but there was just something ment were loaded and hauled from the about that first one out of the new

The substation actually opened Sunday, when the crew on duty responded

will be handled by the crew on duty at

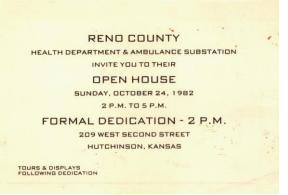
provide more privacy for patients and Ambulance crews work a 24-hour better working areas for staff nurses shift, which means some sleeping, and social workers. In addition, the cooking and lounge facilities are building houses a large meeting room. needed. Hager and Miller were more



The new substation faces Second Street.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT HISTORY



1981: Reno County assumed sole responsibility and the name changed to the Reno County Health Department (RCHD).

Here's HUTCH

Health-ambulance units host Sunday open house

The Reno County Health Depart-ment and Ambulance Substation will host an open house for the public from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday in their new facilities at 209 West 2nd.

A formal dedication will be held at 2 p.m. on the east side of the building. inclement weather, the dedicatio will be held inside.

Dennis Berndsen, president of the Health Department's Advisory Board, will be the master of ceremonies for the dedication service. Joseph Har kins, Kansas Secretary of Health and Environment, will assist in the dedication along with Reno County Commission Chairman Ralph Krehbiel and Gerald Smith, administrator of the Hutchinson Hospital Corp.

Tours, displays and demonstrations both agencies.

The theme of the open house will be a look at the past, present and future of health care services.

The Health Department will feature its expansion of Wellness and Self-Help programs such as "It's Up to Me", "Lively" and Parent Support Projects. The Emergency Medical Service will feature its newest equip ment and life-saving techniques. Re reshments will be served following

1982: RCHD moved to 209 West 2nd and occupied the east side of the building. Bob Johnson Youth Shelter was in the west side of the building and an ambulance substation was in the north part of the building.



• 1980s:

- Pregnant women were showing up at the Emergency Room to deliver babies without any prenatal care. Hutchinson Hospital and RCHD worked together to create a program at the Health Department for prenatal care.
- The hospital agreed to supply prenatal vitamins and sonograms and RCHD contracted with area physicians to provide the care.



Editorials

Wednesday, October 15, 1986

The Hutchinson News

AIDS in Hutch

Reno County Commission Chairman Lewis Larson said it all:

"Victims (of AIDS) reside in our state and possibly in Reno County. They and those to come must be treated humanely and with compassion."

With that, he voted to fire a county nurse who is accused of refusing to treat an AIDS victim.

However the nurse's case may ultimately be decided, there can be no doubt in the accuracy of Mr. Larson's inflexible insistence that victims of serious diseases be given the community's full support and care.

The nation was tragically slow in beginning the search for a cure for AIDS, mainly because the disease was killing off only homosexuals in its earlier years. Several thousand victims have died. Many more will die before a cure is found.

How many more is one of the great unknowns in the current epi-

demic, because the disease long ago left the mainly homosexual community. It now afflicts nonhomosexuals, as well as growing numbers of children.

Panic and hysteria about the disease must be avoided, though the current public discussion of nursing care of patients in Hutchinson shows that public concern about the unknowns of AIDS clearly are rising within the nursing profession, and with that, greater public concern is inevitable.

Greater public concern is more than inevitable. It's essential, whether the disease is AIDS or the Black Death. The concern, however, must be directed at truths and the realities of the disease, and not the fantasized fears of the unknown.

Keeping the current conversation focused on the truth, while ensuring compassion in Hutchinson, is the job of the elected and the health officials. They're doing it well. 1985: The Reno County AIDS Task Force was initiated by RCHD to look at education, testing and support for patients and their families. There was a lot of fear and misconceptions about AIDS. The need for public education about AIDS led to the first Public Health Educator position.

Reno County Sanitation Code



Adopted by the Board of County Commissioners July 2,2003 Effective October 1, 2003

Administered by the Reno County Health Department

209 West 2nd Street Hutchinson, Kansas 67501 620-694-2900 A Task Force was formed with the goal of developing a sanitation code for Reno County.

1987

1986

Environmental Health services were added to RCHD to address ground water pollution problems and concerns.



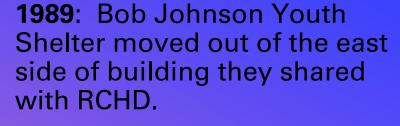


As services were added, space became a problem. Environmental Health and Home Health services were moved to the basement of the courthouse. Administration and some clinical services were also moved to the courthouse.









The Board of County
Commission approved the
building remodel so all RCHD
services could be in one
building.









• 1990: RCHD staff were all joined together in the newly remodeled space and the front door was moved to the west side of the building. These are pictures from the Open House held in October 1990.

1990:

RCHD Environmental Health staff led the Health Department in hosting a Hazardous Waste Collection Day. After the event, the County & City Public Works departments saw a benefit in having a permanent site for hazardous waste. A plan was developed, and a special building was placed at Reno County Solid Waste.





1991

Willowbrook Tornado – RCHD Environmental Health Staff aided homeowners with well and sewage systems.

RCHD set up a clinic for residents and volunteers to receive Tetanus boosters.

Residents were also able to turn in hazardous chemicals and flammables.

July 1991

RCHD was contracted by KDHE to do food service inspections.



Concerns were growing about the gap in health care for those in the middle-income range. RCHD Director and Hutchinson Hospital worked on a proposal for a Primary Care Project to address this issue.

RCHD started to provide primary care services.

Feb. 1991

Jan. 1992

Feb. 1992

RCHD received federal funding for a three-year Primary Care Project. A consortium formed between RCHD, Hutchinson Hospital, and Horizons Mental Health.









November 1992: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that effective October 9, 1993, there will be no more liquids dumped in landfills. A task force was developed to look at regulations and amendments to the Sanitation Code.



August 1994: Amendments to Reno County Sanitation Code become effective. Amendments included revisions to septage transportation and disposal incorporating new federal EPA regulations.

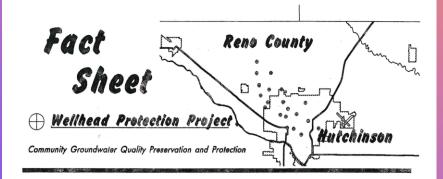


1994 – RCHD begins to participate in the Vaccines For Children (VFC) program. VFC is a federally funded/state operated vaccine program to provide access to immunizations for those on state insurance, are underinsured, or have no insurance. This program helped remove access and equity barriers.

Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. Vaccines help protect both individuals and communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases.



- September 1994: As the three-year federal grant for the primary care project was coming to an end, Hutchinson Hospital made a commitment to keep the Primary Care Project going.
- 1995: The Primary Care Project transitions to Hutchinson Hospital and becomes Community Health Center at 200 West 2nd (former KP&L building). Name changes to PrairieStar Health Center in 2007.



What is Wellhead Protection?

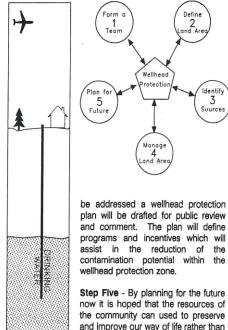
Wellhead protection is a five step process used by communities across the country to assess the potential threats to groundwater quality and to develop incentives and management strategies to reduce them. This is an attempt to prevent degradation of natural resources rather than restore them afterwards.

Step One - The Reno County Board of Commissioners has formed steering and advisory committees to develop a wellhead protection plan for City and County review. These committees are committed to involving the community as they develop this plan. If you would like to participate please contact the Health Department for the meeting time of the next advisory committee meeting.

Step Two - The Equus Beds Groundwater Management District will determine the zone of capture, (or wellhead protection zone) for the city of Hutchinson's public water supply wells.

Step Three - A description of the potential sources of contamination within the zone of capture will be developed.

Step Four - After assessing the needs to



to restore or replace a contaminated

source of drinking water.

1996: RCHD received a grant for developing a Well Head Protection plan. The goal was to protect the public water supply for Hutchinson.



Massive survey to assess water pollution

By John Green The Hutchinson News

A massive effort to identify pollution risks to the city of Hutchinson's water supply will begin later this month with a mailing to nearly 800 homeowners who live near city wells.

Letters from Hutchinson/Reno County Wellhead Protection Project will be followed by individual interviews with property owners.

Hutchinson High School and Trinity High School students will work with Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteers to go door-to-door collecting the data.

The volunteers will use a specially prepared inventory sheet that lists about two dozen land uses that are potential pollution sources, such as gas wells, cemeteries, septic tanks or storage tanke

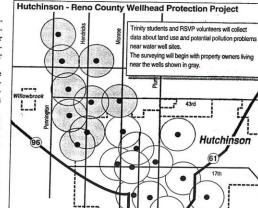
The information will be used by the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District, which has a \$5,400 contract with Reno County to create a protection model.

That model, expected to be completed by June, will be used to develop a management plan and future water-resource plan.

"We have to work with property owners to learn what their property has, so we can learn what issues are out there," said Judy Seltzer, Hutchinson/Reno County Health Department director.

Letters telling homeowners about the survey will be mailed Tuesday. There will be two public meetings to discuss the survey with property owners - 7 p.m. Feb. 24 at Mitchell Elementary, 2804 West 56th, and 7 p.m. Feb. 25 at Westbrook Baptist Church, 2005 North Hendricks.

"We want to let the folks in the area know we're working for their benefit, not against them," said project coordinator Gene Haas.



"The city gets all its drinking water from wells," Hutchinson Public Works Director Dennis Clennan told officials this week at the monthly meeting of the Hutchinson City Council and Reno County commissioners. "We've had three wells impacted by these issues. We need to evaluate what to do to protect the rest."

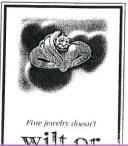
The city has 20 active wells and four that have been shut down because of pollution. The majority of the wells are northwest of town.

Using a \$22,000 grant, the modeling process for the protection plan will begin with the nine wells on the northwest side, Seltzer said. Plans are to then expand it to cover the seven operating wells within the city limits.

"It should be beneficial to pri-







For additional information contact the Reno County Health Dept., 209 W. Second Hutchinson KS 67501 Telephone 316-694-2900.

1999

Partners in Reno County recognized the need to educate and support the health of all populations in the places where people live, learn, work, and play. They received the Turning Point Grant which formed the first **Community Health Council,** appointed by the Board of County Commission.

The Community Health Council recognized the need for additional data to inform decision makers about the riskiest and most concerning issues to our citizens. They established the Community Health Assessment (CHA) which led to the (CHIP) Community Health Improvement Plan. This CHA/CHIP occurs every three years in Reno County resulting in a plan where community partners come together to address the most pressing issues in our community.

Walking trails, extended hours for health services, and smoke free establishments evolved from this work.

Community Health Coalition for Reno County

our mission is

...building the capability or



individuals, amilies, and communities to be healthy

Hepatitis A Outbreak of 2001

What happened...

- February: Reno County identified9 cases of Hepatitis A
- June-July Restaurant workers were identified as a source of spreading Hepatitis A.
- October: Declining numbers of Hepatitis A cases.
- December: Conclusion of Hepatitis A outbreak

What we did...

- Administered 3,154 Immune Serum Globulin Injections
- Administered 2,370 Hepatitis A Vaccines
- Conducted 1,000+ food service inspections
- Visited 100+ homes
- Provided follow up investigations for 500+ contacts of Hepatitis A cases
- Promoted handwashing throughout the community

• 2002 After 9/11 Public Health Departments were under heightened alert. In April 2002, Reno County received a Bioterrorism and Response Grant to build public health infrastructure. Because of this grant, a Preparedness Coordinator position was added to RCHD in 2004.







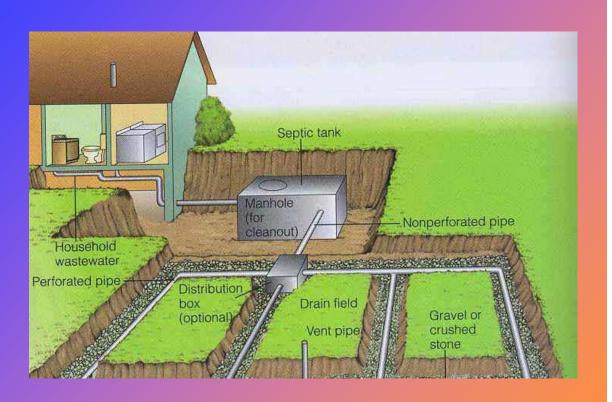
RENO COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

Smallpox Preparedness Response Plan

Prepared by Sharon Ledgerwood RN, Assistant Director

August 12, 2003

2003: After 9/11 there were concerns about a Smallpox threat. Kansas formed teams who would be vaccinated against Smallpox and ready to hold vaccination clinics, if needed. RCHD had 10 employees who were vaccinated and trained to respond.



 July 2003 Revised Sanitation Code. Amendments included revisions incorporating advances in private wastewater system design, maintenance of systems, lot size, requiring the permitting of lawn irrigation wells and adding a chapter on public water supply protection. The original code was adopted in 1988 and amended in 1994.

July 2003: Many agencies were making visits to new moms at the hospital. Local agencies worked to decrease duplication of services.

To avoid duplication, a grant was obtained for a Family Resource Coordinator, located at RCHD, to see new moms and babies and make referrals to PACE Agencies: Early Education, Early Head Start, Head Start, Kansas Children's Service League, Healthy Families, Parents as Teachers, and Hutchinson Regional Medical Center.

PACE

Partner Agencies for Child Excellence

What is PACE?

PACE serves families in Reno County who are expecting a baby or families with children up to five years of age.



Reno County Health Department

209 W. 2nd, Hutchinson, KS 67501 620-694-2900 ◆ TDD: 620-694-2925 www.renogov.org/health



+



• Greensburg tornado— May 4, 2007: RCHD staff responded to help and also provide Tetanus Vaccinations.



Outside Line for H1N1 Vaccine November 7, 2009



Waiting for H1N1 Vaccine November 7, 2009

May 2009: RCHD received notification of first H1N1 case.

0

Fall 2009: RCHD received the first H1N1 vaccines and administered over 5,000 doses.

Reno County providers administered over 12,000 vaccinations.



0

FALL 2009

• In the fall of 2009, 102 patients reported symptoms of Shigellosis. Reno County had 18 confirmed cases. Tracking cases and educating the public were key in controlling the outbreak.

- September 2008: The Kansas legislature moved food inspection responsibility from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the Kansas Department of Agriculture.
- December 2009: RCHD received word from Kansas Department of Agriculture of a 30-day notice to cancel the contract for Food Establishment inspections.

Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Food Safety and Lodging Phone (785) 564-6767

Fax (785) 564-6779 Manhattan, Kansas 66502 www.agriculture.ks.gov

KANSAS FOOD CODE

(Based on the US PHS 2009 Model Food Code)



Food Establishments







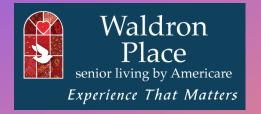




: Business based vaccine clinics—RCHD staff were asked to go to workplace sites to provide flu vaccination clinics for employees.







FOR EVERY MILE OF LIFE

















Child Care Licensing has been part of RCHD since early1980s.

- September 2010
- KDHE made changes to Childcare regulations -Registered daycares were phased out, and daycare providers needed to become Licensed.
 - These changes came about because of Lexi's Law which was adopted because of a 13-month-old who died in 2004 in a home daycare.



2012

KDHE rescinded the Local Environmental Protection Grant. To continue oversight of the Reno County Sanitation Code, RCHD had to increase costs for permitting of wells and wastewater systems; this was the first increase in fees since 2003.

2014: New Programs and Program changes

RCAT Vouchers

 Pilot program for RCAT vouchers for medical appointments began.

Stepping On

 A fall prevention program for people age 65+

BAM

 Becoming a Mom (BAM) a program funded by March of Dimes, was begun to assist expectant moms.

Skilled Home Health Program ends: With many agencies in town providing home health care services, the RCHD saw a decrease in patient census. After reviewing community needs and the availability of care, the department closed the home health section, which had served the community for over forty years. Older adult services continued, which includes foot care clinic, personal care and homemaker services. These services were able to be continued with grant funding from the South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging.

2015: RCHD entered into agreement with Reno County Community Corrections Drug Court Program to provide HIV, Hep B, and Hep C testing to all referred participants of the Reno County Drug Court program.

Pertussis Outbreak

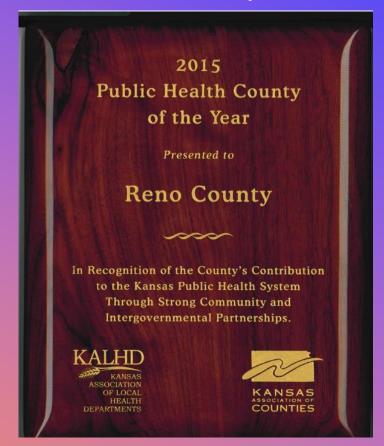
Staff Investigated reported cases of Pertussis. Reno County reported 97 confirmed cases.

120 cases were investigated.

Ended February 2016.

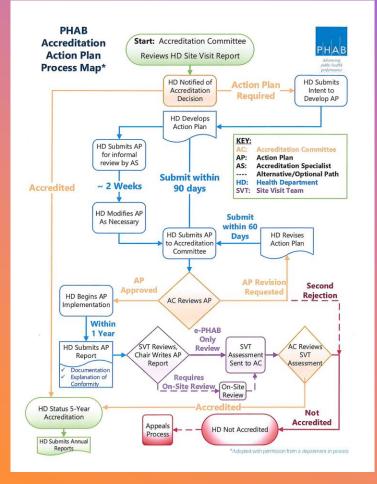
2015: KALHD Award

Kansas Association of Local Health Departments awarded RCHD *Public Health County of the Year.*



2016: Public Health Accreditation

RCHD started the lengthy process of Public Health Accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

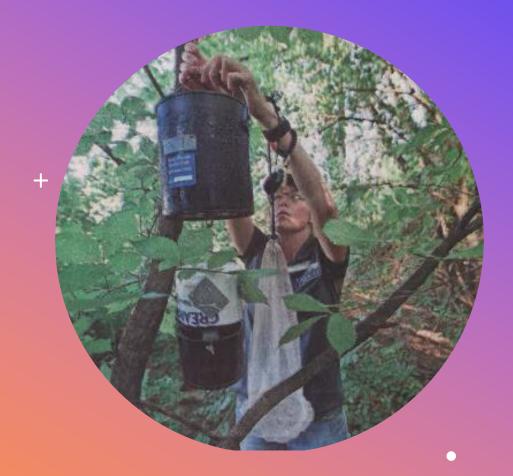


August 2018

Public Health Accreditation Board Site visit

February 2021 RCHD awarded Public Health Accreditation.





JUNE 2017 MOSQUITO MONITORING

After three people living within the Turon area died from West Nile complications, RCHD Environmental Health, KDHE, and Kansas Biological Survey began monitoring mosquitos.

A trap containing over 500 culex mosquitoes warranted a call from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Preventative measures began.



Substance Misuse

Opioid use and substance abuse became a national and local problem. KDHE contacted RCHD about possible funding.

RCHD received a Department of Justice (DOJ) grant - \$100,000 for six-month planning phase and \$575,000 for a twelve-month action plan. It was a tri-county award with Reno, Harvey and Barton counties to address the opioid problem.

2019

Aug. 2018

Dec. 2019

RCHD received a 3-year grant from Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding drug impact.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

February 2020

KDHE held a phone conference with Local Health Departments and Emergency Managers encouraging counties to meet with their local partners about COVID-19.

March 20, 2020

First confirmed case of COVID-19 in Reno County

December 2020

Health care workers receive first doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

2021 Community Covid Vaccination Clinics

- 10,477 Sports Arena POD
- 5,353 In-house vaccinations
- 4,542 Daily POD
- 3,231 Offsite PODs
- 23,603 TOTAL

March 2022

Governor Kelly advised that the State of Kansas is moving from a pandemic to an endemic response.

May 11, 2023

Expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration

MAY 2023 41











THANK YOU FOR 50 YEARS!