



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kim King, PIO
kinkgk2@lpha.mopublic.org
(417) 357-6134

Subject: Stone County Health Department Makes a Difference in Public Health Last Year

Stone County Health Department's 2011 Accomplishments

It is the Stone County Health Department's (SCHD) mission to "proactively protect and promote the health of Stone County by assessing health needs, promoting healthy behaviors, collaborating with community partners, and protecting our environment". During the year 2011, the SCHD completed major projects and accomplishments in public health.

Through our environmental wastewater regulatory programs, such as the septic system installation requirements and the Property Transfer Certificate, we assure that groundwater and recreational water is safe. A new electronic septic system permit database utilizing the parcel ID number was developed and is now available to the general public on the SCHD website.

On May 16 – 20, 2011 Kim King, SCHD Health Educator and nine (9) Community Hero Public Health (CHPH) volunteers participated in the National Level Earthquake Exercise, held at the Branson Airport, to test the newly developed volunteer scheduling and event tracking database. After the May 22nd Joplin tornado, six (6) SCHD staff and nineteen (19) CHPH volunteers responded to the request for public health assistance from the Joplin City Health Department in their tetanus vaccination efforts. On December 5th and 6th the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism, from Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), monitored SCHD's All Hazards Public Health Emergency Response Plan. The health department received a high rating for the plan's content and staff's knowledge of how to respond to a public health emergency as in the aftermath of a natural disaster, a communicable disease outbreak, food borne disease outbreak, or act of biological terrorism.

The Show Me Health Women Program enables us to provide screening services for breast and cervical cancer to women over the age of 35 without insurance coverage. Through this program many women have not only been screened but have had diagnostic testing completed to rule out cancer. The program has been instrumental in diagnosing and treating cancer in women that would have otherwise gone untreated. Due to limited funding from DHSS this program is frequently not available.

In 2011 staff assisted 23,777 residents through clinics, trainings, regulatory (food, lodging, sewage permits), and health education. The services included:

Educational Contracts – 3,755
Environmental Services – 9,125
Communicable Disease – 71
Tuberculosis (TB) Case Management – 8
TB Testing – 154
Latent TB–16
Animal Bite Reports – 46
Immunizations – 800
Seasonal Flu Vaccinations–571
Show-Me Healthy Women–44
Blood Draw Clinic– 317
Blood Pressure Checks – 252
Lead Screening – 27
W.I.C. Clinic – 5,022

Family Planning Clinic – 140
Pregnancy Tests – 295
Contraceptive Supplies – 375
STD Testing – 153
STD Treatment – 27
HIV Testing – 64
Medicaid Temporary Card – 126
Vital Record (Birth and Death Certificates) – 2,389
Car Seat Education/Placement/Inspections – 31

The numbers above do not include the many phone calls and office visits residents make to our offices to obtain public health information.

The SCHD staff will continue to serve you by protecting the public's health in 2012 through our vision of "assuring a healthy life for each generation".

To learn more about public health and the Stone County Health Department visit our website at www.stonecountyhealthdepartment.com or visit us at our two locations in Galena or Branson West.

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