



Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Dear Citizens of Kansas City,

I present to you the Kansas City Health Department's 2011 *Community Health Assessment* report.

Kansas City is actively involved in promoting health and working towards a healthier city. In 2012, the Kansas City-Community Health Improvement Plan (KC-CHIP) was endorsed and supported by the Mayor and City Council and was recently added as a top City priority. Created through community engagement and collaboration, the goal of KC-CHIP is to "improve health where we live, learn, work, and play." KC-CHIP recognizes the critical role of prevention and emphasizes the importance of health starting "in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our playgrounds and parks, and in the air we breathe and the food we eat."

In support of KC-CHIP and other public health priorities, we have strengthened our ability to respond to infectious diseases and terrorism threats; improved the quality of our restaurant and other inspections; taken significant steps to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke in both the workplace and in public venues; and, helped to establish a medical care clinic in an underserved area of the community. We have embarked on a number of newer initiatives to address the complex web of policies and behaviors that discourage healthy lifestyles and, thereby, contribute to the health problems extracted by chronic diseases, diet, and inactivity.

As a community we cannot measure progress without the data provided by reports such as the *Community Health Assessment*. Documenting health indicator information for Kansas City residents, however, is only the first step. We must take this information, decipher its complete meaning, and translate the findings into community actions for the improvement of health for all and the elimination of health disparities and health inequities.

Please join us in improving the health of all of our citizens,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Archer".

Rex Archer, MD, MPH
Director, Kansas City Health Department