

Community Health Concerns Index

Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development
The University of Kansas

HIV & AIDS

Support groups are available for people who are HIV positive or have AIDS.

Support groups and counseling services are available for family, partners, and friends of people who are HIV positive or have AIDS.

Condoms are easily available to young people.

Schools teach kids how AIDS is and is not spread.

Schools teach kids how to keep from getting or giving AIDS.

Radio and TV ads encourage condom use.

Condom manufacturers advertise on television.

Information about safe sex and condom use is shown on TV.

Teen magazines advertise condoms.

Clinics notify sex partners of HIV positive clients.

Clinics provide counseling services for people who are HIV positive.

Health insurance applicants are not tested for HIV or asked whether they have ever had an HIV test.

Health and life insurance is available for young, single men.

IV drug needles and syringes are not reusable.

Young people are taught how to say no to unsafe sex.

Clinics anonymously screen and test people for AIDS and HIV antibodies.

Drug abuse treatment centers confidentially screen and test people for AIDS.

Treatment for IV drug users is available and affordable.

Information about AIDS risk to IV drug users is provided through media advertisements.

Job policies and guidelines protect workers from getting AIDS while doing their work.

Blood and blood products do not carry AIDS or HIV antibodies.

People use condoms unless they are completely sure of their partner's sexual history.

Anti-discrimination laws protect people who are HIV positive or who have AIDS.

Females who have AIDS or HIV infection do not give birth.

Females who have AIDS or HIV infection do not become pregnant.

IV drug users use condoms during sex.

Gay couples are accepted by the community.

Understandable instructions for condom use are available.

The community has an outreach program that encourages drug abusers to get treatment.

IV drug abusers use only clean needles and syringes.

IV drug abusers do not share needles and syringes.

People do not have sex with IV drug users.

Identities of people who are HIV infected or who have AIDS are not reported or made public.

Convicted drug sellers are given heavy prison sentences.

Convicted drug users are given heavy prison sentences.

Prostitutes are instructed in safer sex practices.

Free condoms are available to prostitutes.

Health care professionals know the behaviors that put people at high risk for AIDS and HIV infection.

Health care professionals give accurate and culturally sensitive information about reducing risks of AIDS and HIV infection.

IV drug users know how to disinfect needles and syringes.

IV drug abusers get drug treatment.

People know how to assess their own risk of getting AIDS.

Clinics that treat high-risk clients offer confidential AIDS testing and counseling.

Affordable medical treatment is available to people who are HIV-positive or have AIDS.

People who are HIV-positive or have AIDS are not refused medical treatment.

People who are HIV-positive or have AIDS are not fired from their jobs.

Partners of people diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease are notified.

People know how people get AIDS.

Schools, churches, and community organization provide information about AIDS and HIV transmission.

Health departments and clinics provide information about AIDS and HIV transmission.

People know how to protect themselves from AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and where to get treatment.

Media ads provide information about sexually transmitted diseases and how to avoid them.

Schools provide information about sexually transmitted diseases and how to avoid them.

Young people can easily get information about condom use.

People who are HIV-positive or who have AIDS are not refused housing.

Affordable home health care is available to people with AIDS.

Hospice programs provide culturally sensitive services to people with AIDS.

Gays are able to meet and socialize in an atmosphere that promotes healthy behavior.

People who are HIV-positive or who have AIDS have their housing, medical treatment, and employment rights protected.

Smoking, Alcohol, & Drug Use

People do not drink and drive.

Kids discourage their friends from drinking and driving.

Bartenders and servers are able to handle problem drinkers.

People caught drinking and driving lose their licenses.

Medical care providers encourage heavy drinkers to stop drinking and seek counseling.

Treatment facilities for problem drinkers are available and affordable.

Special programs are available for minorities to help prevent problem drinking.

Treatment facilities for drug abusers are available and affordable.

Local police have the resources to stop people from selling and using drugs.

Teachers know how to help students who abuse alcohol and drugs.

Minors can't buy alcohol in our community.

Pregnant women don't smoke, drink, or use drugs.

Public areas are well supervised to discourage kids from drinking or using or selling drugs.

Laws against selling alcohol to minors are strictly enforced.

Non-alcoholic beverages are available at social gatherings.

Streets and public places are well-lit to discourage kids from drinking or using or selling drugs.

Community members work together to stop alcohol and drug use by teens.

Treatment facilities for IV drug users are available and affordable.

Friends discourage each other from using alcohol.

Friends encourage each other to drink non-alcoholic beverages at social gatherings.

Kids who avoid drugs and alcohol are considered cool.

Kids who use drugs and alcohol are considered uncool.

IV drug users act to reduce risks for AIDS and hepatitis.

Local organizations help prevent alcohol and other drug problems.

Schools educate students about the effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

High schools sponsor clubs for students against alcohol and drug abuse.

Elementary schools provide effective and age-appropriate programs about alcohol and drug abuse.

High schools provide effective and age-appropriate programs about alcohol and drug abuse.

School policies against drinking or using drugs on school grounds are strictly enforced.

Schools provide counseling for substance abusers.

Policies against using alcohol or drugs in the workplace are strictly enforced.

Community outreach programs encourage drug users to enter treatment.

Community outreach programs encourage use of sterile needles and safe sex practices among drug users.

Radio and TV announcements inform kids about the effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

Community celebrities inform kids about the benefits of not drinking or using drugs.

Public officials recognize communities that work to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

Community members know about local drug and alcohol abuse treatment facilities.

Adolescents abusing drugs or alcohol are required to attend local treatment facilities.

Kids do not have access to drugs or alcohol.

Treatment centers for drug and alcohol abuse are available and affordable.

Support groups are available for those who abuse alcohol or drugs.

Parents know how to talk to their kids about drugs and alcohol.

TV shows the use of alcohol as something bad.

Television advertising of alcoholic beverages is limited to late night viewing times.

Communities prohibit advertising of alcoholic beverages on billboards.

Communities work with police to keep drugs out of their neighborhoods.

Crack cocaine is not available.

A local detox and sober house are available regardless of ability to pay.

The public should be aware of support groups for children of alcoholics.

Kids work with each other to avoid alcohol and drugs.

Support systems are available for alcohol and drug users after they receive treatment.

Parents, teachers, and students cooperate in addressing alcohol and drug abuse.

AA groups are available.

Community education provides information about chemical dependency that results from alcohol and drug abuse.

Community education provides information about how parents and users deny drug and alcohol abuse.

Community education provides information about fetal alcohol syndrome.

Cancer

Farmers avoid using chemicals known to cause cancer (such as pesticides on crops and hormones to livestock).

Teens and young adults avoid smoking and chewing tobacco.

People eat healthy foods.

People know the warning signs for colo-rectal, lung, breast, and prostate cancer.

People know how to perform self-exams (such as breast and testicle self-exams).

People know the basic causes of cancer.

People get regular check-ups to detect and prevent the spread of cancer.

Parents model healthy behaviors (such as not smoking, eating healthy foods, regular medical check-ups, and appropriate hygiene) for their children.

People eat foods low in fat and high in fiber.

Public schools provide information about healthy lifestyles related to cancer prevention.

Lower insurance rates are available for non-smokers.

Insurance companies pay for regular check-ups for medical and dental care.

Doctors provide lower rates for patients who practice healthy lifestyles.

State laws and law enforcement officials encourage recycling.

Public officials recognize and reward schools that have healthy lunch menus (foods high in fiber and low in fat).

The community's toxic wastes are disposed of safely.

Communities are encouraged to recycle items that contribute to environmental pollution.

Businesses encourage healthy behaviors while employees are at work (such as stop smoking clinics, eating healthy foods, and bonuses for not smoking).

All public buildings and places of employment prohibit smoking.

Pre and postnatal care is affordable and available.

State laws discourage throwing away plastic, aluminum cans, or glass containers.

Illegal dumping of toxic waste can be reported simply and anonymously.

Regular check-ups and early intervention procedures (such as breast exams and removal of tumors) are affordable.

Low-income people are able to buy foods low in fat and high in fiber.

Programs to help people stop smoking are available and affordable.

Classes are available on how to prepare foods that reduce the risk of cancer.

Support groups and networks are available for people who are dying and their families.

Insurance companies provide information on healthy lifestyles.

Communities promote health and wellness with free public events.

Access to cigarettes is made difficult.

Federal subsidies and commodities support providing low fat, high fiber foods in school lunch programs.

No-smoking laws are strictly enforced.

Businesses that dispose of toxic wastes in an unsafe and illegal way are fined and expected to clean up the waste.

The community's air is of good quality.

The community's drinking water is of good quality.

Hospice programs are available for people who are dying of cancer.

Public schools are held responsible for poor school lunch menus and teens who smoke on school grounds.

Parents are held responsible for contributing to adolescent smoking.

State laws do not allow the sale of fresh fruits and vegetables that are sprayed with pesticides.

Cigarette vending machines are removed from public places.

Minors can not buy cigarettes.

Newspapers and magazines do not advertise cigarettes.

Cigarette companies can not give out free samples.

State laws and law enforcement officials encourage appropriate disposal of toxic waste.

Fitness & Nutrition

Outreach programs encourage overweight people to begin diet and exercise programs.

People don't eat too much fat.

People eat adequate amounts of carbohydrates including grain products, fruits, and vegetables.

Households buy foods low in sodium.

Households prepare food so that it is low in salt.

People know what foods are high in fat, cholesterol, calories, salt, calcium, and fiber.

Restaurants provide information about healthy foods on menus.

Grocery stores label healthy foods.

Health professionals provide nutrition counseling.

School lunches are low in fat, sodium, and calories.

Brand name items of processed food are low in fat, cholesterol, and sodium.

Nutrition education is provided from preschool through grade 12.

Restaurants provide low salt and low fat menu items.

Restaurants with heart-healthy menu items are given public recognition.

Work sites serve foods that are low in fat, cholesterol, and salt.

Kids take part in regular physical exercise.

Adults and children in this community take part in regular physical exercise.

Schools require students to participate in an extracurricular sport, intramurals, or exercise programs.

Counseling programs are available in schools to encourage overweight and high-risk students to exercise.

Work site programs are available to help employees exercise.

People know how long and how often they need to exercise to have a healthy life.

Doctors assess and counsel patients about their physical fitness as a normal part of routine physical examinations.

Doctors strongly encourage patients who are not physically fit to exercise regularly.

Students participate in daily physical fitness programs at school.

Physical education classes teach skills which can be used to promote participation in lifetime physical activity, such as jogging and swimming.

Work sites build or provide on-site exercise facilities and locker rooms.

Exercise classes are available and affordable.

Health clubs offer special training and/or discounts when a client is referred by a doctor.

Friends encourage each other to exercise regularly.

Pamphlets on cardiovascular disease and heart health are available in doctors' waiting rooms and employee break rooms.

Employees get bonuses for saving the company in health insurance (not smoking, for example).

People know that salt, fat, and excess sugar can increase cholesterol, high blood pressure, and the risk for heart disease.

People know that high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, smoking, and being overweight are among the major causes of heart disease.

Adults have their blood pressure checked regularly.

Adults have their cholesterol level checked at least every five years.

People with high blood cholesterol receive adequate counseling.

People know their blood cholesterol levels.

People know their average blood pressure.

Communities sponsor free public health fairs offering cholesterol and blood pressure checks.

People know the major sources of saturated fat.

Doctors inform their patients about the risks and factors associated with heart disease.

Work sites offer activities to help control high blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Patients who dramatically improve cholesterol and high blood pressure levels receive discounts from their doctors.

Swimming pools, nature trails, parks, and other recreational sites are available in your community.

Health insurance companies offer lower rates to people who exercise and have low blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Work sites encourage all employees to be certified in CPR.

High school graduation requirements include certification in CPR and first aid.

Work sites provide classes designed to promote exercise, stress management, and a healthy diet.

Employers give bonuses or time off to employees who attend classes designed to promote exercise, stress management, and a healthy diet.

Public officials recognize companies that promote heart health.

Personnel offices are trained to help individuals at risk to heart disease to adjust their lifestyles.

Unintentional Injuries & Injury Control

Parents know how to prevent injuries to their young children, such as keeping medication and poisonous household products out of reach.

Gun safety classes are available.

Bicycle safety classes are available.

Water safety and swimming education programs are available to help prevent drowning and head and spinal injuries.

There are laws designed to reduce the risk of injuries from firearms.

Children know how to safely cross the street.

Children know how to escape from their homes in case of fire.

Children know how to use the 911 emergency phone system.

People know how to prevent home fires (for example, not smoking while in bed).

People know about the high-risk activities that cause spinal cord injuries.

Non-smoking homeowners get discounts on their home insurance.

Youth who have taken firearms safety classes get a reduced rate on their hunting license or may hunt at an earlier age.

Residences with certified smoke alarm protection units in working order can get lower home insurance rates.

People wear the proper protective equipment in sports.

Laws prevent the widespread distribution of handguns and automatic weapons.

Day-care homes and centers meet state requirements for child safety (for example, all poisons and household cleaners are kept out of reach, toddlers are not able to climb up or down stairs inside the house).

Safety instructions are provided to people who buy lawn mowers.

Hot water is measured at the tap to make sure the water heater temperature is set at a safe level.

Toys that are used by small children are safe.

There are laws meant to reduce drinking and boating accidents.

Landlords install smoke detectors in all rented apartments or homes.

Firearms are designed to prevent firing by children.

Supervised community swimming pools are available to prevent swimming in shallow swimming holes.

Pill bottles are child-proofed to prevent accidental poisoning of children.

New parents use safety latches to lock up dangerous household poisons from children.

Parents keep medicine out of children.

Accidental over medication of adults is avoided.

People use proper lifting techniques to help prevent back injuries.

Smoke detectors are affordable.

Firearms are kept out of reach of children.

All terrain vehicles are outlawed.

Information is available about the safe use of farm machinery.

TV and radio ads encourage people to buckle-up.

Infant seat loaner programs are available to new parents.

Drivers' education classes are available and effective.

There are warning signs to tell drivers to slow down for children.

High schools have speakers with disabilities share personal injury experiences and ways to avoid severe injuries, such as spinal cord and head injuries.

Bicycle riders wear helmets.

Motorcycle riders wear helmets.

Radio and TV ads discourage people from drinking and driving.

Parents use proper car seats or seat belts.

People don't drink and drive.

People use safety belts.

High-risk railroad crossings have automatic closing gates to warn drivers or oncoming trains.

Parents with teens enrolled in driver's education classes can get car insurance discounts.

Drivers caught driving under the influence are severely punished.

Insurance discounts are available for owners of vehicles with passive restraint systems, such as automatic safety belts and air bags.

People who use their seatbelts get car insurance discounts.

Bars that serve liquor to drunk customers are legally responsible for accidents caused by their customers.

Police conduct vehicle safety checks regularly.

Laws for drunk driving are strictly enforced.

Speeding laws are strictly enforced.

Drinking age laws are strictly enforced.

Bicycle and walking paths are available.

Cars have automatic safety belts and air bags.

Alcohol breath detectors – to start ignitions – are installed in the vehicle of repeat DUI offenders.

Concrete barriers are installed on four lane highway medians to prevent head-on crashes.

Rumble strips are placed along the shoulders of super highways to warn drivers to drive their car back onto the highway.

Automobiles are designed to better endure crashes (for example, energy-absorbing bumpers).

Work Site Safety

Employees follow safety regulations (for example, wear goggles or hard hats when necessary).

Employees get bonuses for identifying safety hazards at work and recommending ways to make it safer.

Workers get bonuses for not having any accidents or injuries on the job.

Inspectors routinely check industries for safety.

Dangerous jobs, such as construction, meet safety rules to prevent falls.

Farm tractors have safety devices.

Safety glasses are given to workers who need them.

Public Safety

Communities have safe parks (for example, they place wood shavings under swing sets and jungle gyms).

Handgun laws are strictly enforced.

All public buildings have sprinkler systems and smoke alarm detectors.

There is effective and permanent disposal of nuclear and toxic wastes.

Children's clothing meets necessary fire retardant standards to decrease the likelihood of burns.

Sidewalks are shoveled after it snows to avoid falls.

There are community ordinances against animals that have a history of attacking people (such as pitbulls).

Stair railings in public buildings meet safety regulations.

High crime areas are well-lit.

A 911 number for reporting accidents and getting immediate help is available to everyone, including people who are deaf.

People get good medical treatment after injuries.

Emergency vehicles, such as ambulances, get to accidents quickly.

Senior citizens and others who need help walking can get canes and walkers at low cost.

Local neighborhoods organize crime watch councils.

Maternal & Infant Health

Pregnant women eat healthy foods.

Pregnant women avoid smoking and alcohol.

Affordable community programs are available to help pregnant women avoid drugs and alcohol.

Pregnant women get enough exercise.

Schools provide teens with information about healthy pregnancies.

Infants are born healthy.

Alternative childbirth methods, such as Lamaze classes and midwife assisted births, are available in your community.

Pregnant women know about hospitals and doctors that have high Cesarean birth rates.

Quality childbirth education classes are available in the community.

Lower medical rates are available to women who exercise regularly, eat good foods, and do not smoke while pregnant.

Medical professionals encourage non-interfering childbirth methods (such as relaxation and breathing techniques, birthing rooms, unmedicated births, and vaginal births after Cesarean births).

Health care personnel encourage questions from pregnant women and their partners.

Medical care appointments include discussion of healthy lifestyles during pregnancy.

Pregnant women and infants receive adequate medical care.

Minority and low-income women and infants receive adequate medical care.

Medical care is available and affordable for all pregnant women throughout their pregnancies.

Food is available and affordable for all pregnant women.

Adequate medical care is available and affordable for at-risk babies (such as those with low birth weights and immature development).

Alcohol and cigarettes are not sold to pregnant women.

Insurance companies provide lower rates to pregnant women who do not drink or smoke.

All pregnant women have their food and nutritional needs met regardless of ability to pay.

Schools provide education about pregnancy and the needs of the baby.

Doctors are allowed to practice with midwives.

Hospitals with a high Caesarian birth rate are investigated by a community accreditation board.

Health care is provided to families of at-risk babies regardless of ability to pay.

Parents of young children (age 6 or younger) do not smoke in the home.

Quality day care is available and affordable.

Tobacco Control

Stop smoking programs are available for minorities.

Employers provide smoking cessation programs for their employees.

Women of reproductive age (15-44) know about the harmful effects of smoking.

Adults know about the hazards of smoking.

Cigarettes are not sold to kids.

Families discourage their kids from smoking, drinking, and using drugs.

Kids discourage each other from smoking.

Low-income kids know about the harmful effects of smoking.

People with high school education or less are encouraged to enroll in smoking cessation programs.

Stop-smoking programs are available for poor people.

Young men are informed of the hazards of using chewing tobacco.

Kids are able to resist pressure from friends to smoke cigarettes.

Friends discourage each other from smoking cigarettes.

Programs to help people quit smoking are available and affordable.

Schools ban smoking by all faculty, staff, and students.

Schools educate students about the harmful effects of smoking cigarettes.

Public officials recognize students working to prevent smoking among adolescents.

School policies against smoking on school grounds are strictly enforced.

Employees prohibit smoking or restrict it to certain areas.

No-smoking ordinances for public buildings are strictly enforced.

Restaurants have adequate non-smoking sections.

Policies that prohibit smoking or limit it are strictly enforced.

Laws that prohibit selling cigarettes to minors are strictly enforced.

The media portrays use of cigarettes as bad.

Community celebrities inform kids about the benefits of not smoking.

Tobacco packages and advertisements provide information on all major health effects of tobacco use.

Health insurance covers the cost of stop smoking programs.

Vending machines are not available for minors to buy cigarettes.

Stores don't sell cigarettes to minors.

Communities prohibit advertising of tobacco products on billboards.

Magazine and newspaper ads for cigarettes are prohibited.

Sex Education

Teens do not practice premarital sex.

Family programs in elementary, middle, and high schools provide information on human sexuality, birth control, reproduction, and parenting.

Parents know how to talk to their children about pre-marital sex.

Parents know how to talk to their children about birth control.

Kids discourage each other from becoming pregnant or getting others pregnant.

Teens know about birth control.

Teens are able to use birth control appropriately.

Teens know about all the different types of birth control.

Teens have access to all methods of birth control through the school system.

Teens can get condoms without embarrassment.

Teens have access to affordable birth control through community clinics.

Teens know when girls are most likely to get pregnant.

Streets and public places are well-lit to discourage teens from having sex.

TV and other media discourage sex among unmarried teens.

TV and other media portrays teen sexuality without birth control as something bad.

Public areas are well supervised to discourage teens from having sex.

TV and other media offers advertisements about the various types of birth control.

Teens can receive information about teen pregnancy from teen parents.

Abstinence from sex by unmarried teens is encouraged in our community.

Schools offer supervised recreational activities that help protect against teen pregnancy.

Public officials recognize efforts to reduce teenage pregnancy.

Parents closely monitor home parties.

Parents can give age-appropriate information about marriage and family life, physical development, and birth control.

Teens have access to sex information hot lines.

Teens know the risks involved with having unprotected sex, including pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Health educators know how to teach about human sexuality and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Schools, churches, and community organizations provide appropriate family life and sex education courses.

Families are involved in the design of family life and sex education programs.

The public knows the risks associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs during pregnancy.

Schools, churches, and community organizations provide information about the risks involved with cigarette, alcohol, or drug use during pregnancy.

Women know the harmful effects of cigarette, alcohol, or drug use during pregnancy.

Health educators know how to teach about human sexuality and the prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases.

Health educators know how to identify and counsel those at risk for AIDS.

Health professionals inform women about the benefits of healthful behaviors, such as nutrition and exercise, before, during, and after pregnancy.

Teens have access to health care services (such as birth control, pregnancy testing, abortion, prenatal care) without parental consent.

Teens are assured of confidentiality in provision of health care services.

Teens understand the short and long term consequences of teenage parenting.

Teens develop strong basic academic skills.

Teens have (or are helped to develop) short and long term goals or plans for the future.

Teens have opportunities to learn and practice skills such as decision making and assertiveness in response to peer pressure.

Health professionals inform women about the hazards of certain behaviors, such as cigarette, alcohol, and drug use, before, during, and after pregnancy.

Health Care

Free clinics for medical and dental treatment are available in your community.

Financial help is available for people's health needs.

Transportation to health care services is available.

Social service agencies provide health care referral information to consumers.

Health insurance is available through your employer.

Health insurance is available and affordable to all people in this community.

Regular check ups are available and affordable.

Public health officials provide information about preventive health care to the community.

Vaccinations are available and affordable.

Community members are educated/informed about the availability of Hospice care for the terminally ill and their families.

Barriers to getting health care services are reduced, including dental, eye exams, glasses, and orthodontic care as needed.

Evening and satellite clinics provide health care and mental health counseling services.

Medical and dental treatment are available and affordable to all people.

Domestic Violence

Physicians/nurses understand the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Emergency room personnel recognize domestic violence and sexual assault victims and understand the issues without victim blaming.

Medical and law enforcement personnel refer domestic violence victims to shelters for support, shelter, or other referrals.

Medical personnel refer sexual assault victims to rape victim support services for support.

Schools educate students about the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault.

School teachers, emergency workers, and police recognize and offer support to people who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

School personnel understand the dynamics of children from violent homes.

Domestic violence and sexual assault information is accessible.

Training for dealing with sexual assault victims is available for public health personnel.