



Promoting and protecting public health

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Douglas County Health Department Issues Health Status Report

The Douglas County Health Department has released the 2007 Health Status Indicators report.

“The report is a snapshot of Douglas County as a community,” said Health Director Dr. Adi Pour. “The report details causes of death, indicators of maternal and child health, injury and violence statistics, communicable disease rates, disease risk factors, preventive health care and access to care for the county’s residents.”

The 50-page document is based on information collected through 2005 and reflects progress compared to the federal Healthy People 2010 initiative.

For example:

- Cancer has replaced heart disease as the leading cause of death in the community, while chronic lung disease has moved ahead of stroke as the third-leading cause of death in Douglas County.
- Racial and ethnic disparities exist for many of the indicators, including infant mortality, prenatal care, sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, strokes and cancer death.
- Incidents of AIDS and syphilis are well below the national average, but other sexually transmitted diseases continue to be an important public health problem in the county.
- The number of children in Douglas County with high blood lead levels appears to be decreasing.

The report uses population estimates provided by the U.S. Census and projections from Woods & Pool Economics.

“The report reflects the progress we have made toward meeting the Healthy People 2010 initiative, and provides a guide for where we have to go,” Dr. Pour said.

The Health Status Indicators report is online at www.douglascountyhealth.com.

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