



Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas

Policy development is a core function of public health. The Kansas Public Health Association will endeavor to support policy efforts that align with our mission: “Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas”.

KPHA 2020 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

- Advocate for strong governmental public health system, which includes adequately funding and protecting public health initiatives across the state.
- Support expanding KanCare.
- Support legislation that would explicitly allow and provide guidelines for Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT).
- Support changes to the Student Data Privacy Act to exempt surveys that do not collect personally identifiable information.

KPHA 2020 POLICY POSITIONS

- A. Support raising the age of sale for cigarettes, e-cigarettes (e.g., vaping devices), and all other tobacco products to age 21 and increase retail license fees to support improved enforcement.
- B. Support equalization of the tax rate between cigarettes, e-cigarettes (e.g., vaping devices), and all other tobacco products
- C. Safeguard the 2010 Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act and support expansion of indoor air protections to include a ban on e-cigarettes/vaping devices.
- D. Support programs that improve and strengthen child nutrition and school meals programs.
- E. Support guidelines that increase student physical activity during the school day.
- F. Support efforts to increase immunization rates in Kansas.
- G. Advocate for community water systems in Kansas to adjust the fluoride levels to the optimal amount to prevent tooth decay.
- H. Support efforts to increase access to dental providers and expand their reach into underserved communities.
- I. Support restoration of state funding for both community-based and in-patient (both state and private psychiatric hospitals) crisis stabilization and treatment.
- J. Support policies that promote evidence-based interventions for opioid harm reduction and reduced criminalization.
- K. Recognize that climate change is a public health issue and advocate for policy initiatives that seek to prevent and mitigate the harms of climate change.
- L. Recognize that gun violence is a public health issue. Support increased research and policies that seek to prevent gun violence.
- M. Support local and state efforts to improve data collection; availability and sharing; and analysis of child/youth injury and fatality.

KPHA’S POLICY PHILOSOPHY

Social Determinants of Health – Supporting Policies that Support Health

- KPHA recognizes that many different policies can affect population health, even if they don’t directly deal with a health topic. Public health practitioners should bring a health in all policies approach to policy work. To this end, KPHA supports policy efforts that support **education, access to healthy foods, environmental justice, housing, and transportation.**