



Policy development is a core function of public health. The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) recognizes that many different policies can affect population health. As public health practitioners, we bring a health in all policies philosophy to policy work. To this end, KPHA supports policy efforts that address social determinants of health and equity such as: health care, behavioral health, education, access to healthy foods and safe physical activity, environmental justice, housing, and transportation.

KPHA 2021 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Public Health Capacity and Preparedness

- Advocate for a strong governmental public health system (locally and across the state) to better protect Kansas communities, prepare for adverse events and improve health.
 - Support a temporary bipartisan mask mandate in conjunction with a mask education campaign to mitigate the spread of COVID-19
 - Support exploration and the development of strategies to improve local health officer capacity
 - Support policies that strengthen public health authority to assure the health of the public through investigation and infectious disease mitigation
- Support efforts to maximize vaccine access and immunization rates in Kansas.
 - Support a well-coordinated and equitable approach to COVID-19 vaccine prioritization, distribution and administration

Health Care and Access

- Advocate for expanding KanCare.
- Accelerate behavioral health modernization initiatives in Kansas to enhance access, improve outcomes and optimize funding.
 - Support funding for community-based and in-patient (both state and private psychiatric hospitals) crisis stabilization and treatment
 - Promote evidence-based interventions for opioid harm reduction and reduced criminalization

KPHA 2021 POLICY POSITIONS

Tobacco

- Support efforts to reduce tobacco use in Kansas:
 - Increase the tax on cigarettes by \$1.50/pack with a comparable tax increase on other tobacco products and electronic smoking devices to prevent a future generation from ever picking up a tobacco product
 - Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products (including menthol).
 - Increase retail license fees to support improved enforcement of T-21 regulations.
 - Expand indoor air protections to include a ban on e-cigarettes/vaping devices while safeguarding the 2010 Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act



Public Health Capacity and Preparedness

- Increase funding public health and increase support for core infrastructure and services as well as modernization efforts

Infectious Disease

- Support legislation that would explicitly allow and provide guidelines for Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)

OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST

Community Health

- Support efforts to improve school health in Kansas:
 - Support programs that improve and strengthen child nutrition and school meals programs
 - Support guidelines that increase student physical activity during the school day.
- Recognize that gun violence is a public health issue. Support increased research and policies that seek to prevent gun violence
- Support local and state efforts to improve data collection; availability and sharing; and analysis of child/youth injury and fatality

Environmental Health

- Advocate for community water systems in Kansas to adjust the fluoride levels to the optimal amount to prevent tooth decay
- 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
- Advocate for increased fees paid into the Dry Cleaner Trust Fund which is used to clean up contaminated groundwater from dry cleaner operations and increase authority to investigate

Oral Health

- Support efforts to increase access to dental providers and expand their reach into underserved communities