

THE EVOLVING ROLE OF PHARMACISTS IN ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH

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DISCLOSURES

Faculty

Rebecca Geiger, faculty for this activity, has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose.

PRE-TEST

1. What key roles can pharmacists play in advancing public health initiatives?
2. What opportunities exist for pharmacy-led interventions to improve population health?
3. Which of the following are examples of pharmacists integrated in public health?
4. What resources are available to assist pharmacists in Kansas?

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WHAT IS WITH THE UNIFORM?

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USPHS COMMISSIONED CORPS

In Officio Salutis



- Established in 1889, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps is solely committed to protecting the public's health.
- The Commissioned Corps is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is overseen by the Assistant Secretary for Health.
- The U.S. Surgeon General and the Deputy Surgeon General provide operational command of the USPHS Commissioned Corps.



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USPHS: WHAT WE DO

Improving drug therapy for underserved communities:

- Traditional pharmacists roles
- Pharmacist providers roles with expanded scopes of practice
 - Improving patient outcomes through direct patient care; chronic care clinics
- Administrative roles
 - Leading multi-disciplinary healthcare teams



Beyond traditional pharmaceutical care:

- Work in various regulatory, clinical, and scientific research roles
- Review, approve, and monitor safety of new drugs
- Assist in public health emergencies



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WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

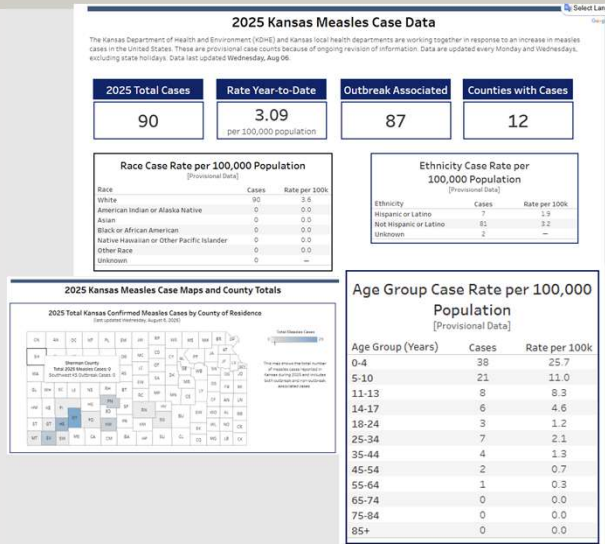
KEY ASPECTS:

- **Prevention** – prioritizing health problems before they occur.
- **Population-level impact** – interventions that aim to benefit entire communities reaching many at once.
- **Addressing health equity** – ensuring equal opportunity to achieve good health.

REALITY:

**ALL Pharmacists and
Pharmacy Technicians are
Public Health responders!**

**HOT TOPICS IN
PUBLIC HEALTH**



<https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/2314/Measles-Outbreak-Data>

MEASLES OUTBREAK

- This dashboard provides up-to-date information on the ongoing measles outbreak identified in Southwest Kansas.

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WHAT CAN WE DO?

Patient education and awareness:

- Combat misinformation
- Education on symptoms and prevention

Vaccination efforts:

- Administer MMR vaccine
- Vaccine advocacy

Check out the Measles toolkit!

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/php/toolkit/index.html>

<https://www.ksrx.org/resources/health-education/immunization-toolkit>



<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/measles-isnt-just-a-little-rash-infographic-508.pdf>

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TUBERCULOSIS

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TB IN THE NEWS

AMA [Join](#) [Renew](#) [Search](#) [Member Benefits](#)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tuberculosis in Kansas, Ebola virus update, and rising egg prices due to bird flu

Feb 5, 2025 10 Min Read

abc NEWS

[Live](#) [Video](#) [Shows](#)

Kansas faces one of the largest tuberculosis outbreaks in US history

So far, there have been 67 confirmed cases of active TB related to the outbreak.

By [Mary Kekatos](#) and [Youri Benadjaoud](#)
January 28, 2025, 3:05 PM



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

What the Tuberculosis Outbreak in Kansas Means for Public Health

Published February 06, 2025

By Aliza Rosen
Photography by Kateryna Kon/Science Photo Library via Getty Images

EPIDEMIOLOGY HEALTH
SECURITY INFECTIOUS
DISEASES INTERNATIONAL

TB outbreak in the U.S. often signals a need to strengthen the systems
rely on to keep case rates low

The New York Times

SUBSCRIBE FOR \$1/M

Kansas Is Dealing With Major Tuberculosis Outbreak

State health officials said that dozens of people in the Kansas City, Kan., area have the disease, which has drawn a federal response.

Listen to this article · 3:43 min [Learn more](#)

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TB RESPONSE

Promote TB testing!

- High risk individuals including those with DM are especially vulnerable
- Fact sheets, flyers, digital graphics

Education and counseling for those on treatment

- Adherence and side effects
- Optimizing drug regimens



<https://www.cdc.gov/think-test-treat-tb/partner-toolkit/index.html>

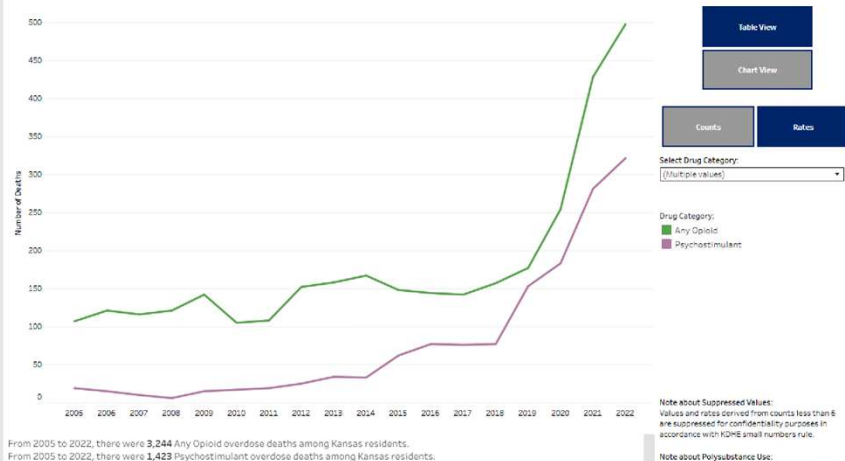
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OVERDOSE RESPONSE

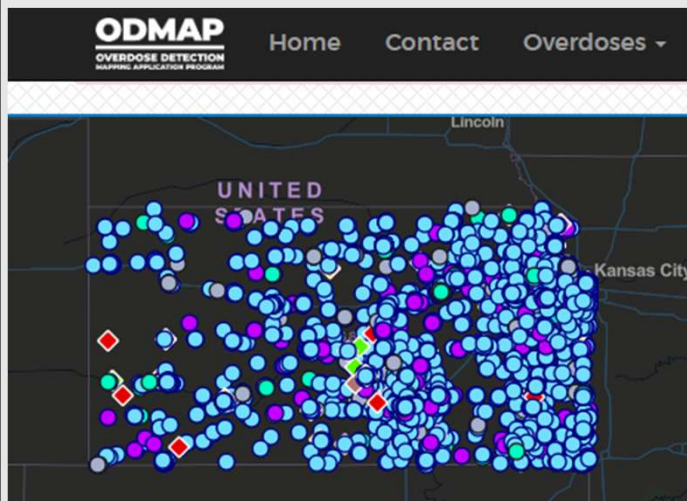
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STATE OVERDOSE DATA

Kansas Any Opioid & Psychostimulant Overdose Death Totals by Year, 2005 to 2022



From 2005 to 2022, KDHE reports 3,244 overdose DEATHS from opioids among Kansas residents



ODMAP DATA

This data and mapping of overdoses in Kansas is from the reporting period of 1/1/2024 to 8/8/2025.

Total Suspected Overdoses:	17322
Suspected Fatal Overdoses:	257
Naloxone:	2927

SAVE A LIFE WITH NALOXONE

Promote
naloxone in your
community!

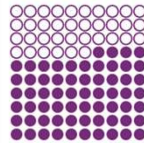
Be prepared –
carry naloxone
with you.

What were the circumstances¹⁸ surrounding overdose deaths in 2022, Overall (30 jurisdictions)?

Overall (30 jurisdictions) ▾

2022 ▾

View data for: Potential opportunities for intervention to prevent overdose ▾



64.7%

of drug overdose deaths had at least one potential opportunity for intervention



¹⁸Circumstance percentages are only among decedents with an available medical examiner or coroner report

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NALOXONE: WHERE CAN I FIND IT?



- DCCCA – Free naloxone/fentanyl test strips by mail <https://www.dccca.org/naloxone-program/>
- **Narcan Vending Machines in Kansas:**
 - **Hutchinson:** Crossover Recovery Center, 400 W. 2nd Ave., Hutchinson, KS 67501
 - **Kansas City:** Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, 625 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101
 - **Lawrence:** Transit Center, 2314 Bob Billings Parkway, Lawrence, KS 66045
 - **Salina:** CKF Addiction Treatment, 617 E. Elm St., Salina, KS 67401
 - **Wichita:** Second Chances, 705 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS 67214

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STI CONCERNS: SYPHILIS

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SYPHILIS – THE GREAT PRETENDER!



Although the Shawnee outbreak was declared "over" in July 2024, syphilis is not gone.

Current challenges – recall of 1st line recommended treatment, Penicillin G Benzathine injection, in July directly impacts treating congenital syphilis cases as well as for those with allergy to doxycycline.

<https://kshealthdata.kdhe.ks.gov/t/KDHE/views/InfectiousDiseaseCaseDashboard/DiseaseCharts?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y>

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GETTING INVOLVED:

- Educate on the importance of testing! Guidance for testing congenital syphilis is at first visit, 3rd trimester, and delivery.
- TEST! Provide rapid testing for HIV, HIV, and STIs (syphilis). Several CLIA waived tests available.
 - Reimbursement :75% Medicaid rate!
- Counsel and intervene on prevention options:
 - Condom use, doxyPEP, etc!

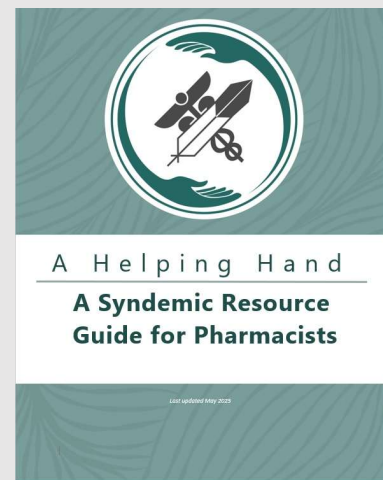


<https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30309/Bulletin-23196-UPDATED---General---Pharmacists-as-Providers-PDF?bidId=>

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SYNDEMIC WORK

- Building capacity! IHS Pharmacist Syndemic Toolkit – The toolkit is packed with adaptable example policies and protocols, wrap-around documents, training resources, and implementation pearls.
- Includes: HIV, HIV PEP and PrEP, STIs, hepatitis C, and harm reduction.
- <https://www.ihs.gov/sti/forproviders/clinicalpharmacy/>



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OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

So many more than the topics listed!

- Diabetes prevention – assisting with healthy habit and activity campaigns
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Smoking/Nicotine cessation – reducing cancer risks
- Medication safety and adherence
- Health literacy
- MAT and SUD care



THERE ARE
NUMEROUS
OPPORTUNITIES TO
ENGAGE

HOW TO GET PLUGGED IN?

Stay Updated: Kansas HAN

<https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/801/Kansas-Health-Alert-Network-KS-HAN>

Get trained!

[Point of Care Test + Treat 101](https://www.ksrx.org/events/programs/kansas-test-treat-101)

<https://www.ksrx.org/events/programs/kansas-test-treat-101>

ADVOCATE!

Join and Support KPhA in policy and advocacy efforts

<https://www.ksrx.org/advocacy/programs>

Follow KDHE dashboards!

<https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/2046/Data-Dashboards>

Work with Drug Take Backs and Encourage Naloxone Saturation

<https://www.dea.gov/takebackday>

<https://www.dccca.org/program/kansas-naloxone-program/>

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CALL TO ACTION:

Elevate your role as a vital contributor to population health.

Preventive Powerhouse: Champion vaccinations, screenings, and healthy lifestyle promotion within your community.

Shape the Future: Advocate for policies that improve health equity and access to care for all.

Engage Today! Find resources and training to expand your public health impact.

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POST-TEST

1. What key roles can pharmacists play in advancing public health initiatives?

- Advocacy and policy action
- Educating the public as well as providers
- Providing clinical services that impact public health outcomes
- All of the above

POST-TEST

2. What opportunities exist for pharmacy-led interventions to improve population health?

- Rapid testing and treatment
- Assisting with naloxone saturation and DEA drug take back
- Providing education and immunizations
- All of the above

POST-TEST

3. Which of the following are examples of pharmacists integrated in public health?

- A. Pharmacist not providing clinical services
- B. Pharmacists leading vaccination campaigns
- C. Pharmacists providing STI testing at their pharmacies
- D. Both B and C

POST-TEST

4. What resources are available to assist pharmacists in Kansas?

- A. Federal guidance from CDC, FDA, and NIH.
- B. State databases and guidance for up to date information on current priorities or outbreaks.
- C. KPhA resources and training opportunities.
- D. All of the above

REFERENCES

KDHE Opioid Dashboard: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1309/Data-Dashboard>

KDHE Measles Dashboard:

CDC TB: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/index.html>

KDHE TB Outbreak: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/2242/Tuberculosis-Outbreak>

Kansas HAN: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/801/Kansas-Health-Alert-Network-KS-HAN>

THANK YOU!



Questions?

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