How KUMC Contributes to the Health and Well-Being of Wyandotte County
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Updates at www.kumc.edu

The University of Kansas Medical Center values its role in Wyandotte County and strives to improve the community in a variety of ways. KUMC contributes to the community’s health and well-being through programs, research, and the institution’s overall economic impact.

Economic impact

KUMC occupies more than three million square feet in Wyandotte County, employing more than 2,700 faculty and staff and educating more than 3,000 students at its Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health, and Graduate Studies.

With funding from the state of Kansas, The University of Kansas Hospital, the University of Kansas Physicians, research grants, and other sources, KUMC contributes approximately $2.4 billion to the regional economy. In addition, the campus continues to invest in major capital projects (see sidebar) similar to those that have recently generated significant economic benefits for the county. For example, the Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center, an $84 million building that opened in 2007, currently houses more than $24 million a year in research grant funding.

KUMC also contributes to Wyandotte County in other ways. A 2005 report indicated that National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, for which The University of Kansas Cancer Center is scheduled to apply in late 2011, would bring $1.3 billion in annual economic activity and 9,400 permanent new jobs. KUMC also assists life sciences companies. KUMC’s current incubator hosts four companies and the new Breidenthal Incubator will have 30 labs, 24 tenant offices, and collaboration space for use by small life sciences businesses.

Health of the community

Wyandotte County has generally scored lower than other Kansas counties in terms of health indicators, access, and behaviors.¹ KUMC provides services, research, and other programs to help reduce these gaps.

Health services

The University of Kansas Hospital and the University of Kansas Physicians served more than 30,000 Wyandotte Country residents in FY 2010. In addition, KU Medical Center faculty, staff, and students operate safety net clinics for the benefit of the community. The JayDoc Free Clinic is operated by medical

¹ Kansas County Health Rankings 2009, Kansas Health Institute
students, and Silver City Health Center is run by KU Health Partners, a health provider managed by KUMC’s nurse and allied health professionals. Each clinic serves almost 2,000 patients yearly. Additionally, KUMC’s TeleKidcare program uses telemedicine technology to ensure that school-aged children at seven Wyandotte County elementary and high schools receive health care – primarily mental health care – regardless of socio-economic condition, transportation availability, health insurance status or language barriers. In addition to treating patients at The University of Kansas Hospital, KUMC faculty members provide other valuable health care services to Wyandotte County. For example, K. Allen Greiner, MD, MPH, an associate professor of family medicine, currently serves as the Medical Officer for the Wyandotte County Health Department.

Research and departmental programs

Several KUMC departments conduct research and operate programs that address some of the health care disparities seen in Wyandotte County:

- The Office of Cultural Enhancement and Diversity (OCED) focuses on increasing minority student representation in the medical field, and more than 5,000 students have participated in OCED pipeline programs.
- The Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health conducts research using handheld computer behavioral intervention with adolescents to increase fruit and vegetable consumption, decrease sweetened beverage use, and decrease TV or screen time.
- Project EAGLE has provided comprehensive child development and family support services to more than 4,000 children and families.
- The Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health is researching best practices for smoking cessation in minority populations.
- KU School of Nursing’s Cultural Enrichment Program is a collaborative effort with other Kansas City nursing programs to develop curriculum that will eliminate barriers to care for the medically underserved among culturally diverse populations.
- The Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health investigates weight loss programs for obese African American women, incorporating motivational strategies along with gradual lifestyle change, increased physical activity, and decreased caloric and dietary fat intake.
- KUMC has begun planning for a School of Public Health, which would emphasize health disparities research and advocacy.
- Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health faculty have focused on underrepresented minority communities, one example being the Enhancing Health Initiatives in the Latino Community program.

Community service

KUMC and University of Kansas Physician employees pledged nearly $90,000 in the 2009 United Way of Wyandotte County campaign. KUMC faculty, staff, and students also participate in a variety of community service activities throughout Wyandotte County, including:

- American Red Cross, Wyandotte County Chapter annual “Scrubs Drive”
- M1 Community Service Day in Wyandotte County (1st year medical students)
- Community Outreach Program (nursing, allied health, and graduate studies students)
- Christmas in October

For more information about the University of Kansas Medical Center, please contact Marci Nielsen at mnielsen@kumc.edu