

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Republic County Health Department

Republic County is located in North Central Kansas, 13 miles from the Nebraska border.

Quick Facts about Republic County:

- Population estimate as of July 2024: 4613
- Predominantly white at 95.7%
- Median household income as of 2023: \$53,611
- Uninsured rate is about 9.7%
- Persons in poverty is 11.9%

Republic County Health Department has 4 fulltime employees and two parttime employees. We have 4 contract employees that perform specific tasks for us or work in specific programs.

Services provided include:

- Family Planning
- WIC
- Maternal/Child Health and Home Visiting
- Lab testing including STIs, blood lead, UA, pregnancy testing, etc.
- Immunizations
- Toenails
- Kan Be Healthy and daycare physicals
- Vision and hearing screenings
- Ear wash, staple/stitch removal
- Environmental concerns
- Disease investigation
- Presumptive Eligibility
- Anything random that no one knows what to do about 😊

Outreach/Engagement:

- We work with DCCCA and KDADS on addiction and suicide prevention. DCCCA stands for Developing Caring Communities Committed to Action.
 - We are currently in our second year of a grant program that helps fund a community mobilizer to build a county wide coalition to address addiction and suicide.
 - Republic County has experienced several tragic losses due to suicide and addiction over the last few years with 6 completed suicides, the youngest being 13 years old.
 - Dccca.org/about-us/

- Safe Kids of Republic County:

- * Currently the lead agency
- * Work with multiple partners including our local hospital, clinic, law enforcement, newspaper, radio stations, local businesses, etc.
- * We provide education at community events.
- * Community Baby Showers
- * Car seat installations and check lanes, free car seats if needed.
- * Safe Sleep instruction with free portable cribs.
- * Bike helmet safety at both elementary schools in our county. This year we have given out over 100 free bike helmets.
- * We visit each daycare annually with safety talks.
- * We participate in each library's summer program with safety talks.
- * Youth Safety Camp July 8th-10th. 4 hours a day for 3rd to 6th graders and one 4 hour day for 2nd graders. This is the second year for this camp and it includes water safety at the swimming pool, Emergency Management 'smoking' up a room and instructing how to safely exit the room, youth actually using fire extinguishers, heat safety, first aid, vehicle safety, medication safety and much more.

According to Kansas Health Matters, Republic County had 10% of adults with cancer in 2021. We are working to address this and to provide more access to screenings for earlier intervention.

- * Host a cancer screening on the Saturday of the NCK Free Fair
- * Work with the Masonic Cancer Alliance and our local Masons
- * Last year over 75 individuals were screened with several being referred for further testing and one currently receiving treatment for prostate cancer.
- * Republic County holds the record for the Masonic Cancer Alliance screening with over 150 individuals being screened in one event.
- * Lab testing is offered at this event at lab fair prices.
- * We work directly with Exact Science Laboratories to facilitate eligible clients in receiving the Cologuard test kit at home.
- * We participate in the Early Detection Works program

Currently researching a garden project to help combat food insecurity in Republic County. Kansas Health Matters indicates that 12.4% of individuals in Republic County experienced food insecurity as of the July 2024 update.

- The Kansas Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program experienced delays this year and is now starting on July 14th per the KDHE website.
- Provide weekly access for everyone regardless of age or financial status.
- We have some commitments from volunteers and our BOCC is interested.
- School horticulture class may start our seeds and help plant the garden.

Childcare:

- RCHD initiated community conversations a year ago regarding the need for qualified childcare providers in our county.
- According to Child Care Aware of Kansas Republic County has an estimated 54% deficit on available childcare spots compared to the number of potential children to fill the spots. This means a potential of 99 childcare slots are needed.
- Our county has now established a foundation and we have applied for 501c3 status. The foundation's purpose is to identify ways to increase childcare availability and to support current and new providers.
- We received a grant from the Republic County Community Foundation that allows us to provide a \$3000 stipend to new providers that have finished their orientation and applied for licensing.
- RCHD works with the providers to bring classes to the county for their CEUs. We helped host a 2 day class in November for the providers.

Sunflower:

- * Several promotions with Sunflower Health
 - * Diapers for Lead
 - * Shoes for Shots
 - * Backpacks for school
 - * Community Baby Showers

Resources:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/republiccountykansas,US/PST045224>

<https://www.dccca.org/>

Kansas healthmatters.org

kdhe.ks.gov/1041/Kansas-Senior-Farmers-market-nutrition

<https://ks.childcareaware.org/data-research/>