

## KIC upgrades web tools to track Hispanic health disparities

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has updated its interactive Web query tool to incorporate Hispanic ethnicity for key modules in Kansas Information for Communities (KIC), the agency's health information portal.

"We are excited to be able to offer Kansans statistical information on Hispanic individuals in our death, birth and cancer KIC modules. The Hispanic population in Kansas is the largest community of color in the state and continues to increase," said Sharon Goolsby RN, program manager of the KS Center for Health Disparities.

The KIC query tool allows individuals to access data tables that tally the number of events by any of a series of characteristics. In addition to Hispanic ethnicity, county of residence, and cause of death, race, and age – group, and gender, can tally death queries. For birth queries, tallies may include county of residence, race, ethnicity, age group, marital status and a series of birth outcomes indicators. The cancer query tool will produce results by county, age group, cancer type, race, gender, and ethnicity.

"KIC as well as other resources will assist individuals and groups with identifying disparities in health status that affect the well-being of Kansans," said Goolsby.

The changes to KIC coincide with plans for future KIC enhancements funded by a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. The grant will enable the department to identify additional datasets to be included.

"We will be working with groups and agencies to obtain data that we can incorporate into KIC," said Dr. Elizabeth W. Saadi, director of the Office of Health Care Information at KDHE, which maintains KIC. "We hope to include other datasets that are not considered traditional health datasets, but can provide insight into the health status of communities of color."

KDHE maintains other information that serves to identify health disparities. The agency's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) publishes results by race and ethnicity. (BRFSS), which is coordinated and partially funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is the largest continuously conducted telephone survey in the world. Kansas has managed the BRFSS since 1992.

KIC went online in 2000 and contains data on births, deaths, pregnancies, population, cancer, and hospital discharge by procedure and diagnosis. The URL is <http://kicuser/kic/index.html>. The URL for BRFSS information is <http://www.kdheks.gov/brfss/index.html>.