

Working with Businesses to Protect Public Health

The new code, passed into law in April, 2002, requires parents to be present during body art applications of minors. Public concern regarding tattooing and piercing of minors led the City Council and Mayor's Office to direct the Health Department and City Attorney's Office to develop a local ordinance. Staff worked closely with the body art industry and nearly all the businesses have welcomed the new regulations. 25 body art practitioners were trained and licensed by Department staff in September and October, 2002. 14 body art establishments have been licensed to date.



Animal Control

The Lincoln City Council approved new ordinances this past year that continue to promote public health through responsible pet ownership and animal protection. Through partnerships with animal rescue groups, we are able to prevent adverse conditions for animals and people in Lincoln.

PUBLIC HEALTH STARTS WITH GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE



The WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program served 3,878 clients last year from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds and strives to improve the health of women, infants and children throughout the county. WIC foods, such as milk, cheese, eggs, juice, cereal, beans and peanut butter provide important nutrients to growing infants and children. The WIC clinic also provides education on numerous topics, including the Food Guide Pyramid, physical activity, immunizations, growth and development and breastfeeding. WIC has also helped families meet health and nutrition needs through referrals for prenatal and well-checks as well as social service programs.

Public Health Clinic Services

The clinic staff provide a variety of personal health services so that families can access much of what they need in the least possible number of visits. Neighborhood health outreach served 18,364 people last year. The Department has intentionally targeted preventive health screenings and education services to those populations who have the greatest health disparities. Access to health care is made difficult because of language barriers, transportation and cost. A lack of knowledge and recognition of traditional health practices can also create barriers to health care. Screenings offered include blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, weight, fitness, immunizations and referrals for mamography and pap smears. Staff encourage individual responsibility for health outcomes by promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

