



**Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services
1005 West Worley Columbia MO 65203**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Health and Human Services Releases Community Health Assessment

COLUMBIA, MO - The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) released the 2013 Columbia/Boone County Community Health Assessment on May 9, 2014. This document is the culmination of over a year's worth of work conducted by the PHHS and its community partners throughout the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process.

The Community Health Assessment details the efforts, research, data, as well as a new approach to community health where programs and interventions are not only rooted in the data, but also are reflective of what Boone County residents feel is important for a healthier life.

"We were very cognizant of those who live, learn, work, and play in our community throughout this process," Department Director, Stephanie Browning said. "The driving force behind much of the Community Health Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan that will follow, was the voice of Boone County residents."

In conjunction with the release of the Community Health Assessment, community partners and stakeholders will use the findings of the Assessment to guide their work in creating a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP will identify goals, strategies, activities, and necessary resources to appropriately address the five strategic issues outlined in the Community Health Assessment.

"This has been a very impressive and intensely focused process to be involved with," Jennifer Grabner, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Southern Boone Learning Garden, explained. "I believe the groundwork has been laid for effective community partnerships, programs, and policies that will lead to healthier lives for all Boone County residents."

Physical copies of the Community Health Assessment can be viewed in several locations in Boone County, including the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services at 1005 W. Worley and the Southern Boone Regional Library at 109 N. Main St. in Ashland.. A complete list of locations, as well as a digital copy of the Community Health Assessment can be viewed online at <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Health/2013CommunityHealthAssessment.php>.