Van Buren/Cass District Health Department

Serving the residents of Van Buren & Cass Counties.

Hartford 57418 CR 681 Hartford, MI 49057 (269) 621-3143

Paw Paw 801 Hazen Street Paw Paw, MI 49079 (269) 657-5596

Cassopolis 201 M-62 North Cassopolis, MI 4903 I (269) 445-5280

Dowagiac 702 Orchard Dowagiac, MI 49047 (269) 782-0064

On the web www.vbcassdhd.org

Annual Report 2005



Prevent Disease

Promote Health

Protect the Environment

Good News in Public Health!

Bombarded with bad news, like rising gas prices, images from Katrina, Iraq, and elsewhere, taking the time to be thankful for good news in local public health should be worthwhile. The people of Van Buren and Cass Counties had a Good Public Health year!

No major foodborne illness outbreaks occurred. We did not have any increased activity in specific communicable disease. Thankfully, we were not troubled significantly by new emerging diseases. There were no local reported cases of West Nile virus or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in 2005. Flu Vaccine was delayed in arriving but, present in ample supply.

In Chronic Diseases we were just below state averages in the two leading causes of mortality: Heart Disease and Cancer. We did not have a higher incidence of low birth weight infants than the State of Michigan, and our abortion rate was well below the state average.

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department continues to be one of the few Michigan Health Departments that offers: Family Planning Services, Dental Clinics, and Drug Treatment Services. Each of these three are not available at most Health Departments, but all three provide excellent and necessary services here!

Our first ever Back-to-School Bonanza provided backpacks, school supplies, education, and other resources to young families. The continued dedication of our staff, provides innovative new opportunities of service.

Planning, training, and exercising continued in local Emergency Preparedness. We learned from Katrina that we must have local capability! We immunize; provide community education; and detect, treat, and through case contacting, control communicable disease.

Even Methamphetamine lab activity appears to have peaked and is now on a decline in our district. Our drug abuse and treatment program continues to be a statewide model for access and results.

Our new and expanded website provides updated community resources and information, visit us at www.vbcassdhd.org. Lets work and strive for continued improvement and good news next year! It is a privilege to serve as your medical director.

Sincerely, Rick Johansen, MD, MPH Van Buren/Cass
District Health
Department Board
of Health Members

Robert Morris, Chairperson South Haven

Carl Higley, Sr, Vice-Chairperson Cass County Commissioner

Judith Schincariol Paw Paw

Don Hanson Van Buren County Commissioner

John Tapper Sr. Van Buren County Commissioner

> Dale Lowe Cass County Commissioner

Dwight Dyes Cassopolis

Public Health... Prevents & Helps

Substance Abuse Prevention Services

The purpose of prevention services is to prevent or reduce the impact of drug and alcohol use and abuse for residents of Van Buren County by providing best practice or model programming proven to have positive outcomes.

Victim Impact Panel (VIP)- Held every other month. VIP is an alternative sentencing option for individuals charged with drinking and driving offences in our county. Panelists include survivors of drinking related crashes and relatives who have lost loved ones to drunk driving.

Alcohol Information Series— A Program to provide information to first offenders, is an educational series for drunk/drugged drivers and minors in possession of alcohol or drugs.

TND (Toward No Drug Abuse) Groups- An intense science based educational program for youth who are experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol but do not meet criteria of addiction. This group meets weekly for 7 weeks for two hours (after-school) to discuss issues including: addiction, personal relationships, feelings, and decisions. Additional information on methamphetamines has been added to the program.

Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU)- A substance abuse prevention specialist trains teens to use their commitment and skills as a tobaccofree youth advocate to mentor younger children, so they will make the healthy choices to stay tobacco free and to be an advocate for tobacco control in their community.

Methamphetamine Task Force- The Meth Task Force is a multi-agency collaboration to provide planning, leadership, policy changes and community education to help Van Buren County fight the methamphetamine problems in Southwest Michigan. The VB Meth Task Force website is http://www.vbmeth.org/

Individuals receiving Prevention Services- 4362

Meth Task Force Members - 30

Girls on the Run- Life-changing, experiential learning program for girls age eight to thirteen years old. The program combines

training for a 3.1 mile running event with selfesteem enhancing uplifting workouts. The goals of the program are to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual and physical development.

Girls in the pilot program- 165 girls

Reproductive Health Program
Family Planning services provide opportunities for individuals to receive baseline medical care and education promoting healthy decision making in regard to planning for a pregnancy as well as avoiding an unintended pregnancy. Comprehensive contraceptive methods are available to men and women. All services are confidential and fees are based on family size and income level. Service will not be denied based on inability to pay. High risk populations such as teens are a priority to assist in avoiding an unintended pregnancy.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program Another component of the Reproductive Health Program is the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) for women ages 40-64. This service provides for medical screening and early detection of breast and cervical cancer for uninsured or underinsured women.

In 2005 the Reproductive Staff provided Family Planning services for 8% of the total population of women between the ages of 20-44 in Van Buren and Cass Counties.

Individuals Served- 1811 #Clinic Visits Provided - 3564 #Adolescent Encounters - 576 **#BCCCP Encounters— 129** #Medical Evaluation Referrals- 140 #Pap Test Provided- 1004 (8 % required follow-up, 6% diagnosed with cancer) Mammogram Screenings— 102 (4 cancers detected = 3%)

^{*} Note statistics are totals for both Van Buren and Cass Counties

Public Health... Protects & Promotes

Environmental Health

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Environmental Health Division is compliant with a broad set of issues affecting public health in Van Buren and Cass Counties, including septic system design and inspection, well construction code compliance, raw land evaluations, campgrounds and swimming pool inspections, non-community public water supply oversight, subdivision development, bathing beach monitoring, housing complaint investigations, lead investigations and water supply monitoring in areas of contamination.

Well Inspections – 84 # Well Permits- 1,420 # Septic Permits— 1,138

Food Service

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's food service program identifies food handling issues associated with the preparation and processing of foods within our district. Although in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), the health department governs the inspection services of food service establishments and temporary vendors. Temporary food vendors visit the district during summer and holiday seasons, preparing food at festivals and special events. Food service remains a popular commodity as evident by the numerous plan review submittals provided to the district each year. Plan review is an essential part of establishment preparation and operator training prior to issuance of a license for serving food. Education remains the primary tool and a crucial part of all daily activities to ensure continuous and flawless food service operations. Inevitably, accidents do happen but the program staff is trained to effectively and efficiently track and reduce the risks associated with food related issues.

Licensed Establishments – 410 # Temporary Licenses— 170 # Plan Reviews-20

Nursing Services
Public Health Nursing is focused on the prevention of disease and controlling the spread of communicable diseases. Nurses assess individual and family health needs, provide health teaching, counseling, and referral.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Services STD services are essential to prevent the spread of diseases within the community. The program provides treatment & follow-up of sex partners of persons reported to have an STD to stop further transmission of the disease.

STD Clinic Visits— 1.065 HIV education to individuals - 3,435

Children's Special Health Care Services This program provides contact with the Michigan Crippled Children program for the purpose of identifying chronic and/or crippling conditions in children ages 0-21. It provides a means of payment of on-going management of qualifying conditions through the age of 21.

Children receiving services 598

Immunization Program

The purpose of the immunization program is to reduce or eliminate vaccine preventable diseases in our communities. Immunizations are given at public clinics and collaboration and education of local medical providers is on-going to assure high levels of immunity within the community.

of Influenza Vaccinations given- 3,710 % of Children 19-35 months of age have been fully immunized and their record entered into the Michigan Care Improvement Registry- 72%

Vision & Hearing Program

Certified technicians test the vision and hearing of preschool and school-aged children to detect problems and assure referral to medical professionals for care.

Hearing Screens - 8,396 # Vision Screens— 14,187

^{*} Note statistics are totals for both Van Buren and Cass Counties

Public Health... Treats & Educates

Substance Abuse Treatment Services Substance Abuse Service's mission is to assist

Substance Abuse Service's mission is to assist clients in the assessment and treatment of substance abuse and chemical dependency and to help alleviate the biological, social, emotional and spiritual distress caused by abusive or addictive relationships with chemical substances. By providing efficient, cost-effective, treatment services of the highest quality and standard, we assist clients in the restoration of hope, health, peace and success.

Assessment- prior to involvement in treatment activities, each client participates in a two-hour session assessment process. The purpose of the assessment is to: gather a psycho/social, health history to determine patterns of chemical use/abuse, identify significant persons/supports in the client's environment, catalog occupational, social, emotional, spiritual and daily living skills and/or deficits, determine the presence of other psychiatric and/or medical symptoms, access the client's appropriateness for treatment in an outpatient level of care; identify ancillary needs that will require a referral to other programs/services.

Out-Patient Treatment- Substance Abuse Services offer outpatient treatment (via individual, family, group and psycho education) services for clients presenting with a primary DSM-IV diagnosis of either substance abuse or dependency and deemed appropriate for an outpatient level of care per ASI placement criteria. Outpatient services offer comprehensive, coordinated programming.

The <u>Exploration Group</u> is a 6-week didactic group for adults who possess ambivalence regarding their relationship with mood-altering chemicals and/or for clients who express a desire to establish or maintain abstinence, and are in need of information regarding, the process of addiction, the disease concept, tolerance, cross-dependency, and building a support system.

The Relapse Prevention Group is an eightweek mixed-gender process group designed to address the early recovery issues of the chemically dependent adult. The Intensive Out-Patient Program (IOP) provides a higher level of treatment than other group programs with nine hours of treatment per week. Typically, participants complete between 10 and 20 sessions in IOP then transition to individual out-patient treatment.

<u>Residential Services</u>, when required, are referred to the Access Center for evaluation and placement in the most effective setting.

A New Direction Criminal Justice Treatment Program is a partnership with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department, county probation and judges. The program targets incarcerated drug abusers in the Van Buren County Jail who have significant methamphetamine problems. The program has been running for nearly three years with significant success.

- # Referrals for Services 502
- # Individuals Admitted for Treatment- 337
- # Individual Therapy Sessions— 1,803
- # Group Therapy Sessions— 1,111
- # IOP Services 769
- # Participants New Directions Program— 136

Bangor Health Connections School-Based Health Center

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department was notified in October 2005 that it was selected to be the recipient of a three year State of Michigan grant to implement an adolescent school based health center located in Bangor Public Schools. The health department and Bangor Public Schools worked for several months on developing the winning proposal. The school based health center will provide primary care services, with an emphasis on preventive care; chronic disease management; Medicaid outreach and enrollment; immunizations; psychosocial and health education services; and referral services. A Community Advisory Council and Youth Advisory Council provide oversight and guidance for the center, ensuring that high quality, youth friendly services are provided.

Public Health... is here for you.

Dental Health

The mission of the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Dental Program is to promote and contribute to the highest level of dental health and well-being possible for the people of Van Buren and Cass County. Our goal is to help alleviate the problem of high demand for dental services for Medicaid and low income populations being serviced by few dental providers. We focus on the prevention of dental problems and the treatment of dental disease.

#Hygiene Procedures- 4068 #Dental Procedures- 5,365 #Outreach Education Programs-18

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness works to improve the health and safety of the community during times of emergency. 2005 was a busy year in the preparedness field. The Health Department focused on training personnel in the Incident Command System or ICS. This is a nationally recognized and mandated command structure for disaster response. 100% of our Public Health Leadership Team and more than 60% of all employees have completed this critical training. This trend will continue in 2006 as we prepare for pandemic influenza response.

Health Promotions

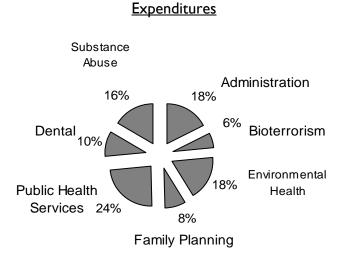
The Health Promotions Department provides health education, resources and public information. Services include the coordination of classroom presentations, community education, health fairs, and lead organization of the Van Buren Safe Kids program.

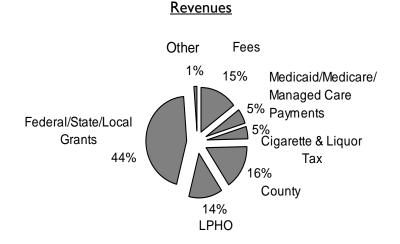
Van Buren Safe Kids works to help prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children 14 and under. In May 2005, Safe Kids members coordinated a National Safe Kids week theme event, geared towards reminding parents that their children are watching their example and following their lead when it comes to safety. 350 infant/toddler, child, youth, & adult helmets were fitted and distributed at the event.

The first ever Back to School Bonanza was held in August 2005. The Health Department worked with 16 agencies to organize and conduct the event. It drew over 1, 500 people, far more than expected. 645 children received school supplies and backpacks, along with a variety of educational materials. Families visited hands-on stations to help them be safe and healthy for the new school year.

Fiscal Year 2005 Budget

Expenditures & Revenues= \$4,723,177





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