
Van Buren/Cass District Health Department

**Serving the
residents of
Van Buren &
Cass Counties.**

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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 49031
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Dowagiac
520 Main St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
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On the web
www.vbcassdhd.org

Annual Report 2006



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Prevent Disease

Promote Health

Protect the Environment

Prevent, Promote, Protect, & Partner

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department has worked hard to Prevent Disease, Promote Healthy Lifestyles, and Partnered with other community organizations to Protect the Public's Health. Dedicated staff members perform these activities for our citizens.

Highlights in 2006 include implementation of School-based Health, development of a new Dental Program, conducting a mass distribution exercise, and winning a Michigan Department of Community Health Award for our Girls on the Run Program.

The Bangor Health Connections School-based Health Center became a reality with great community and school support. Since opening day, this has been an active clinic providing services to students.

In an effort to address the dramatic increase in local oral health needs of the underserved and to attract and retain a quality dental staff, the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department affiliated with Michigan Community Dental Clinics (MCDC). This organization provided dental Services in over 12 locations in Michigan, partnering with multiple Public Health Departments. MCDC will provide the staffing, expertise, and oversight of dental services to meet the needs of our counties.

As part of Public Health Preparedness, a mass distribution clinic exercise was held at the Van Buren Technology Center in Lawrence. Over 500 individuals were rapidly screened and given medications in a very successful point of distribution exercise.

The Girls on the Run Program received third place honors for the Michigan Department of Community Health Director's Award for Exemplary and Innovative programs. This honor reflects the multiple community activities of the Health Department.

The Department expresses its appreciation to our Board of Health and County Commissioners for their continued support to Prevent, Promote, Protect, and Partner for the benefit of the citizens of Van Buren and Cass Counties.

Sincerely,
Frederick Johansen, MD, MPH,FAAP
Medical Director

District Board of Health Members

Carl Higley, Sr,
Chairperson
Cass County
Commissioner

Robert Morris,
Vice-Chairperson
South Haven

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

Frederick Johansen, MD received a master of public health degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee during 2006. Johansen serves as the Medical Director for the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department and the Berrien County Health Department, as well as a pediatrician at Southwestern Medical Clinic.

Public Health... Prevents & Helps

Reproductive Health Program

Family Planning services provide opportunities for individuals to receive baseline medical care and education promoting healthy decision making in regards to planning for a pregnancy. Comprehensive contraceptive methods are available to men and women. All services are confidential, and fees are based on family size and income level. Services 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 2006 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– 1978

#Clinic Visits Provided– 3301

#Adolescent Encounters– 564

#BCCCP Encounters– 122

#Medical Evaluation Referrals– 136

#Pap Test Provided– 979

(8% required follow-up, 6% diagnosed with cancer)

#Mammogram Screenings– 123

(3 cancers detected)

#Plan First Enrollment-337

***Note Statistics are for both Van Buren and Cass Counties**

The Reproductive Health Care Program was successful in achieving a competitive contract award for the provision of Reproductive Health Care Services for Van Buren and Cass Counties over the next five years.

Plan First Program

Plan First is a Michigan Department of Community Health initiative in conjunction with local public health agencies. Plan First launched an enrollment campaign on 7/1/06 in order to increase the opportunity to provide family planning services. This effort was targeted to help women between the ages of 19-44 to reduce the incidence of unintended pregnancies and have an income of at or below 185% of poverty. VBCDHD, based on population data was projected to enroll a minimum of 477 women. Within the first six months of the program 337 women have benefited from these successful enrollment efforts.

Bangor School-Based Health Center

The Bangor School Health Center opened and began serving clients in May of 2006, with a celebration open house event at the school in September 2006. The target population is Bangor area youth, ages 10 to 21.

School-based health centers emphasize prevention and early intervention, offering basic medical services, mental health services and health promotion activities. They support the mission of schools – healthy students are better learners. Students miss less school seeking needed health services (and parents miss less work), and students are better able to concentrate when health and mental health problems are addressed.

Although open for only part of 2006, the Health Center provided services to over 370 youth.

Individuals receiving services – 371

Total services – 1056

Immunizations – 301

Mental health services - 123

EPSDT/physicals – 242

Medicaid Outreach Public Awareness contacts- 11,117

Public Health... Protects & Promotes

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.

Vision & Hearing Program

Certified technicians test the vision and hearing of preschool and school-aged children.

Hearing Screens– 6,797

Vision Screens– 12,706

Success Story– a mother wrote a letter to the school vision and hearing program supervisor stating she was irritated to receive a letter from our hearing tech stating her daughter had failed her school hearing screening when she had passed her pediatrician's audio gram during a well child checkup a couple of months earlier. However, she followed the Health Department's recommendation for evaluation and her child was found to have a large amount of solid earwax and fluid behind the ear drum. This was causing her child to not hear. The child has undergone medical treatment to restore her hearing to normal.

Children's Special Health Care

This program provides contact with the Michigan Crippled Children's 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 treatment and management of qualifying conditions through the age of 21.

Children receiving services 627

Sexually Transmitted Disease Services

STD services are essential to the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases within the community. The program provides treatment & follow-up of sex partners of persons with STDs to prevent further transmission of diseases.

STD Clinic Visits– 1,047

#HIV education to individuals– 3,514

Immunization Program

The purpose of the immunization program is to reduce or eliminate vaccine preventable diseases in our communities. Immunization clinics are held and collaboration with local medical providers is on-going to assure adequate immunization levels of people in our communities.

Vaccines administered– 7,112

% Children 19-35 months of age who have been fully immunized and entered in MCIR– 74%

Dental Health

The Health Department continues to provide Oral Health services in Van Buren and Cass counties. These Services include the following: Oral Exams/ Cleanings, Fluoride Treatments, Fillings, Education, Dentures, Extractions, and other dental procedures.

Late in 2006, the Board of Health worked on an effort to enhance oral health services to the residents of Van Buren and Cass County by developing a partnership with Michigan Community Dental Clinics. Oral Health Services have expanded and are now improved and more comprehensive.

Environmental Health

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's 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– 261

#Well Permits– 1,174

#Septic Permits– 981

#Home Loan Evaluations-176

Public Health... Prepares & Responds

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. This includes (1) licensing and inspecting fixed food establishments, (2) issuing temporary permits to transient vendors that provide food at our summer festivals and special events, (3) performing plan reviews which is an essential part of establishment development and operator training, and (4) education which continues to be the primary tool for ensuring continuous and flawless food service operations. Inevitably, accidents do happen but our staff is constantly trained to effectively and efficiently track and reduce risks associated with food related issues.

#Licensed Establishments– 415

#Temporary Licenses– 145

#Plan Reviews-30

#Food Complaints-9

#Foodborne Illness-0

Emergency Preparedness

In June of 2006 the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department facilitated a department-wide dispensing site exercise. During this exercise, health department staff processed more than 450 individuals per hour with proper paperwork and prophylactic medication in response to an Anthrax attack. This is an incredible increase in patients over the previous drill held in the fall of 2004 where the health department processed only about 100 patients per hour. The recent mock clinic helped our staff to better understand the efforts needed to provide necessary medication to the general public during a public health emergency. Many community partners and agencies were involved with the exercise including; Van Buren County Red Cross, Van Buren Intermediate School District, Lakeview Community Hospital, Van Buren County Office of Domestic Preparedness, Van Buren County Sheriffs Department and other law enforcement

agencies, Van Buren County Department of Human Services, VBEMS and many other community partners.

In September of 2006 the Van Buren County Radiological Response Team performed a radiological decontamination exercise for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). During this exercise public health staff trained to perform radiological decontamination procedures and set up a public decontamination and reception center. This exercise required the assembly and use of portable radiation detection monitors. These monitors are part of Van Buren County's Radiological Response equipment. This exercise went well with no deficiencies noted from the federal evaluators. In conjunction with this exercise, the Emergency Operations Center was also evaluated by FEMA for the operations of continued emergency services during a radiological event with Palisades Nuclear Power Plant.

In December of 2006 the Public Health Preparedness program hosted a Pandemic Influenza Planning Summit for planning partners in Van Buren County. The summit was attended by more than 40 agencies including schools, businesses, government, public service and private organizations. The summit focused on helping partners plan for the next pandemic. The VBCDHD Medical Director, Dr. Rick Johansen, presented the group with the state of Public Health and how public health interacts with community partners. Dr. Eden Wells from the Michigan Department of Community Health presented on Pandemic and Avian Influenza preparedness. And Jim Goble of National City Bank helped the group understand the importance of developing a Continuity of Operations Plan for your agency.

This year the health department has collaborated with the Office of Domestic Preparedness and obtained a generator to ensure the safety of vaccines held within the health department during power outages.

Public Health... Treats & Educates

Substance Abuse Services

During FY2005/2006 Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Substance Abuse Services provided a variety of treatment services to residents of Van Buren County and continued to provide corrections treatment services in Cass County. In addition, services to Cass County were increased with the addition of Tracy Johnson, Prevention Specialist for Cass County.

Treatment services in Van Buren County processed a total of 631 referrals resulting in a total of 402 admissions for treatment. A total of 2017 individual counseling sessions were completed during the year. Group and Intensive Out-Patient Services were similar to 2005 numbers with 815 and 778 service units respectively. Consumer satisfaction with services was generally high, with location and travel inconvenience being the primary concern.

The Van Buren Substance Abuse Abatement Program, better known as New Directions, served a total of 133 individuals during the fiscal year. At the end of the year, 32 had graduated and 65 were still involved in active treatment. No graduates were arrested during this time frame for any serious crimes. The Program, a collaborative effort with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, saved \$77,099 in jail costs in 2006. Savings to state taxpayers in prison costs are being calculated, but initial projected saving range between \$528,000 and \$1,056,000. Michigan State University completed a study comparing New Direction participants with similar drug offenders receiving treatment as usual. Results indicate that New Direction participants are re-arrested at a significantly lower rate (4.4%) than the comparison group (31.5%).

In Cass County, the New Directions Program is currently providing services in the jail only. During 2006, a total of 61 individuals received some jail based treatment services, with the average number of groups attended by each individual being 8.4. A total of 98 groups were delivered to Cass County Jail inmates during FY 2005/2006.

Prevention Services were expanded to Cass County in 2006 with the addition of a new Prevention Specialist. In Van Buren County a total of 4330 individuals were served. In Cass County a total of 1615 individuals were served during our first year providing services in that county. Van Buren/Cass District Health Department provides a wide variety of SAMHSA approved programs to meet the needs of the communities served.

Examples of prevention programming in Van

Buren and Cass Counties include:

Alcohol Information Series

A Program to provide information to first offender education 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 professional in substance abuse prevention trains teens to use their commitment and skills as tobacco-free youth advocates to mentor younger children, so they will make the healthy choice to stay tobacco free and to be an advocate for tobacco control in their community.

Public Health... is here for you.

Methamphetamine Task Force

The Methamphetamine 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 Methamphetamine Task Force website is <http://www.vbmeth.org/>. The Cass County Methamphetamine Task Force has disbanded but we still provide some of the task force activities as needed to the community.

Girls on the Run– Life-changing, experiential learning programs for girls age eight to thirteen years old. The programs combine training for a 3.1 mile running event with self-esteem enhancing uplifting workouts. The goals of the programs are to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual and physical development. In 2006 165 girls participated from 6 local schools. This included Bangor, Covert, Gobles, Lawton, Paw Paw, and South Haven.

Health Promotions

The Health Promotions Department provides health education, resources and public information. Services include the coordination of classroom presentations, community presentations, 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 2006, Safe Kids members coordinated a National Safe Kids theme week event, geared towards reminding parents that their children are watching their example and following their lead when it comes to safety.

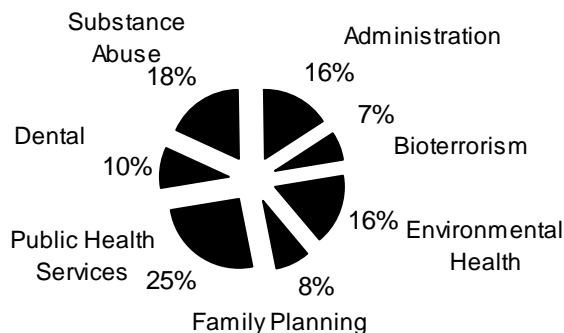
The second annual Back to School Bonanza was held in August 2006. The event drew over 2,100 people. Families visited hands-on stations to help them be safe and healthy for the new school year. 1,200 children received school supplies and backpacks, along with a variety of educational materials.

Fiscal Year 2006 Budget

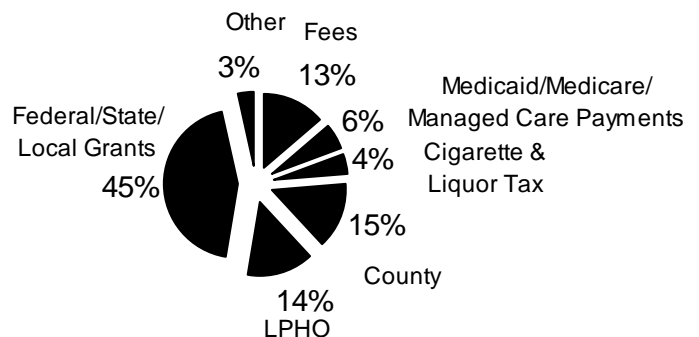
Expenditures & Revenues = \$3,691,504

Please note this is only for a nine month period, due to a change in the fiscal year.

Expenditures



Revenues



**Van Buren/Cass District Health Department
57418 Cr 681
Hartford, MI 49057**