

*Van Buren / Cass  
District Health Department*

# Annual Report 2011

Serving the  
Residents of  
Van Buren &  
Cass Counties

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

Cassopolis  
201 M-62 North  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
(269) 445-5280

Dowagiac  
520 Main St.  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
(269) 782-0064

On the web  
[www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org)



**Prevent Disease  
Promote Health  
Protect the Environment**

The **MISSION** of Van Buren/Cass District Health Department is to promote AND contribute to the highest level of health possible for the people of Van Buren and Cass County by:

- Identifying & reducing health risks in the community,
- Detecting, investigating & preventing the spread of disease,
- Promoting healthy lifestyles,
- Promoting a safe & healthful environment,
- Promoting the availability of accessible quality health care services through the private sector, and
- Providing quality health care services to those with limited resources and access.

Our **VISION** is to be responsive to a dynamic and diverse environment. In addition to the programs and services provided to our residents, we serve as a catalyst for improving health and quality of life by collaborating with other health care providers and agencies.

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department believes in the following core **VALUES**:

- All people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- All people should have access to needed services that achieve optimal outcomes.
- All people should be empowered to exercise informed choices.
- Continually improve both organizational management and service delivery.
- Diversity and cultural competence is integrated into all service activities.
- Enhance the involvement of persons served in all of our service activities.

In support of our mission, vision and values, the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's **PURPOSES** are:

- Develop and maintain current, field-driven operations to improve the value and responsiveness of the programs and services we provide.
- Reduce disease and better the health of the whole public.
- Seek input and be responsive to the individuals we serve.
- Provide information and education, as needed, to the public.
- Provide health services where they are not otherwise available.
- Be committed to the improvement of our programs and services with a focus on the needs and outcomes of the clients we serve by continually learning about and improving health and linking to other institutions and organizations.
- Prepare to respond to a public health emergency or disaster.
- Provide leadership when needed.
- Providing health care options that are efficient and cost effective.
- Partnering to provide best solutions to complex health issues.



## District Board of Health Members

Robert Morris, Chairperson, South Haven  
Carl Higley Sr., Vice-Chairperson, Cass County Commissioner  
Dwight Dyes, Cass County Commissioner  
Richard Firestone, Van Buren County Commissioner  
Vacant, Cass County Commissioner  
Don Hanson, Van Buren County Commissioner  
John Tapper, Sr., Paw Paw Member at Large

## Directors

Jeffery L Elliott BBA Health Officer/Administrator	269-621-4665 or 269-621-3143 ext 337
Frederick Johansen MD MPH Medical Director	269-621-3143 ext 318
Michael Laufer RS Environmental	269-621-3143 ext 312
Suzanne Bailey RN BSN Nursing	269-621-3143 ext 319
George Kilts BS Data Management	269-621-3143 ext 338
Chantal Wojcik BS Finance Administrator	269-621-3143 ext 339
Mona Hale MSN APRN BC Reproductive Health	269-621-3143 ext 330
Nikki VanSandt MA LPC CAADC NCC CCS Substance Abuse	269-621-3143 ext 306
Jennifer Zordan BS CHES Emergency Service Coordination	269-621-3143 ext 382

## Supervisors

Susan Oosterwal RN BSN  
STD/HIV 269-621-3143 ext 360

Mick McGuire RS  
Public Water Supply 269-621-3143 ext 315

Cary Hindley  
Food Service 269-621-3143 ext 377

## The 10 Essential Public Health Services

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assures the provision of healthcare when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

## 2011 Highlights



Molly Hamre, Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, accepting a check on behalf of the Van Buren Substance Abuse Task Force for \$5,000 from Freshwater Community Church

On Saturday, August 13, 2011 the Community Recovery Bash was held at the Paw Paw Middle School. The Bash was sponsored by Methcapital.org an organization founded by Jewel Dailey, a recovering meth addict and dealer of 16 years. In the midst of her recovery, she felt called to use her past struggles to positively impact the community through fundraising for meth prevention. Jewel partnered with Freshwater Community Church, a local church in Paw Paw, the Van Buren Drug Treatment Court, and the Van Buren Substance Abuse Task Force. These organizations provided assistance and recourse to make the Community Recovery Bash '11 possible.

The Community Recovery Bash was a fund-raising event that featured a cross-country 5k run/walk, live music, pig roast lunch, inflatables and other games for kids, a silent auction, celebrity dunk take, guest speakers, and much more. All activities raised money for the Van Buren Drug Treatment Court and the Van Buren Substance Abuse

Task Force, two organizations that stand on the front lines of meth prevention.

The event started at 9am and was scheduled to run until 4pm, but due to inclement weather the event was closed early. Although, the weather was uncooperative, the methcapital.org was able to raise \$18,000 in donations. Part of the proceeds will be used to fund the Community Recovery Bash '12 and the remainder was given to VB Drug Treatment Court and VB Substance Abuse Task Force (VBSATF). The VBSATF was awarded a check for \$5,000 at the Task Force meeting held on August 18th. This money will be used to fund the substance abuse prevention education campaign in Van Buren County.

### **FREE RX CARD PROGRAM CONTINUES**

Partnered with UNA (United Networks of America) on providing a way for Van Buren and Cass County residents to get a FREE Rx Discount card that could be used at local pharmacies to receive up to 75% of savings. Residents could pick up a prescription card at various agencies through-out both counties or stop in at one of our offices. The cards can also be downloaded off our web site [www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org).

### **NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK EVENT**

Various agencies throughout both Van Buren and Cass County held this event on April 30, 2011 at various locations. This event was established to fight abuse and misuse of prescription medication by providing residents a safe way to dispose of any unwanted and or expired medicines they may have in their homes.

#### **Van Buren**

Held at 7 sites, over 170 lbs. of prescription drugs collected

#### **Cass**

Held at 3 sites, over 73 lbs. of prescription drugs collected

#### **State of Michigan**

Over 6,610 lbs. of prescription drugs collected

## **LAFTR & COMPANY**

The non-profit organization LAFTR & Co. continues to grow and has become a popular presence at medical and nursing conferences across the state. The 4 year old company founded by Van Buren/Cass District Health Department nurse practitioners Mona Hale



and Holly Husted, was established to provide financial assistance for underserved and underinsured women in need of specialty healthcare services across Southwest Michigan. The company's successful Beads for Biopsies project has raised over \$10,000 for women's healthcare services.

## **PINK SATURDAYS**



The Reproductive Health medical staff was privileged to be appointed as providers of record for Van Buren and Cass County residents participating in the Pink Saturday's breast cancer screening promotion held during the month of October. The regional goals to increase breast cancer awareness and mammogram screenings for men and women across southwest Michigan was achieved and exceeded expectations by providing 1,600 mammograms, clinical breast exams and medical oversight during the event. Those served within Van Buren and Cass County represent 10% or over 150 of the total individuals served. The collective support of communication organization and medical specialist alike have contributed to the success of the program as well as potentially saved the lives of many.

## Substance Abuse Services

During FY2010/2011 Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Substance Abuse Services provided a variety of treatment and prevention services to residents of Van Buren and Cass County.

### **Treatment**

#### Outpatient Treatment Referrals:

- Total Referrals (**556**) for FY2010/2011 are up from FY2009/2010 (**527**).
- Referrals are coming from a variety of sources. The referrals are coming from the court system, New Directions, DHS, CMH, SARF, self, family and others.

#### Outpatient Services:

- At this time, 1.5 hour outpatient Relapse Prevention Group and Women's Living in Balance Groups are being offered to clientele. 1275 outpatient groups were held in FY 2010/2011. This is an increase from the 683 groups that were held in FY2009/2010.
- A total of 914 outpatient individual sessions were conducted during the FY2010/2011. This is an increase from the 801 outpatient individual sessions held during FY2009/2010.

New Direction Criminal Justice Drug Treatment Program: During FY2010/2011, approximately 88 individuals participated in New Directions. Sixteen individuals graduated from the program, saving approximately 2419 jail bed days.

### **Prevention**

Van Buren Substance Abuse Task Force: The Substance Abuse Task Force has formed subcommittees to address methamphetamine, alcohol abuse, prescription medicine abuse, and judicial/law enforcement. The Substance Abuse Task Force meets monthly with the committees meeting as needed.



*Drug Treatment Court/Law Enforcement Committee:* A partnership continues between the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department and the Van Buren County Drug Treatment Court to provide substance abuse treatment services to the programs participants during the FY2010/2011.

*Towards No Drug Abuse (TND):* TND is a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration) model program. The program consists of an educational curriculum that addresses adolescent alcohol and other drug use. The program can be conducted in both the school and community settings.

*TND Classroom:* A ten session class of one hour duration presented in a classroom during regular school hours. Prevention workers facilitated classes in Gobles Middle School.

*TND Small Group:* Conducts 6 (2 hour) sessions to a class of 5-10 students referred by schools, the court system, and concerned parents. Class participants are facing penalties for lesser drug use and do not meet criteria for treatment.

*Classroom Speaking Engagements:* Prevention workers participated with various schools to educate health classes regarding alcohol and other drugs, chemical dependency, family dynamics, and tobacco, and drug advertising. Prevention workers presented to South Haven, Gobles, Paw Paw, Mattawan, Decatur, Lawrence, and Bangor schools.

*Professional Speaking Engagements:* Prevention workers provided a variety of professional in-services during the fiscal year.

*Van Buren/Cass County Girls on the Run:* Girls on the Run is a non-profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. The goals of the program are to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and physical development. During FY 2010/2011, Girls on the Run reached and changed the lives of 486 girls and their families during the 2011 season representing 9 schools from Van Buren County and 4

schools from Cass County. This is an increase of 11 girls since the 2010 season.



*Van Buren Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking:* The Van Buren Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking consists of teens from around Van Buren County who get together monthly to address underage drinking issues in the community. Annually they sponsor Prom/Graduation Rally which is held at the Paw Paw Performing Arts Center at Paw Paw High School. This is a daylong event that addresses the risks of underage drinking at prom and graduation. Over 350 students from Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties attend. The teens also volunteer to help out at the Van Buren County Youth Fair Kids Day event handing out underage drinking literature to the parents and youth that attend.

*Keep A Clear Mind:* Keep A Clear Mind (KACM) is a take-home drug education program for fifth grade students and their parents. The take-home material consists of four weekly sets of activities to be completed by parents and their children together. The program also uses parent newsletters and incentives. KACM lessons are based on a social skills training model and designed to help children develop specific skills to refuse and avoid the use of “gateway” drugs. This unique, early intervention program has been shown to positively influence known risk factors for later substance use. This program was implemented in Bloomingdale, Decatur, Hartford, Lawrence, and South Haven schools in 2011.

## Dental Health

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Community Dental Clinics provide quality dental care at an affordable price for adults and children covered by Medicaid, MICHild, Healthy Kids Dental and the uninsured.

Dental Services include but are not limited to: Preventive Services (education, brushing techniques, flossing techniques, changing detrimental habits, fluoride applications, cleanings, sealants, space maintainers); Restorative Services (amalgams, composites, pulpotomies, stainless steel crowns); Prosthetic Services (partials, dentures); Surgical Services (extractions). In addition we provide Outreach/Prevention Programs to local Head Start Programs, Public Schools, and other community programs as requested. We have two (2) locations that serve the community; Dowagiac which has 10 operatories and Hartford which has 7.

In 2011 the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Community Dental Clinics employed 7 full and/or part-time Dentists, 6 full and/or part-time Hygienists, and 10 Support Staff which include, (Registered Dental Assistants with extended privileges). Additionally a Dental Laboratory with the capability to make full mouth dentures and partials on site continues to be a success.

Currently, our dental program has approximately 19,000 patients utilizing our oral health services.



## 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 partnerships with other local agencies.

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department partnered with Van Buren County's Child Death Review Team and Van Buren and Cass County Sheriff Departments and held a child passenger safety initiative and infant safe sleep event. The event was held at the Van Buren Technology Center. Participants received a car seat that was installed by certified car seat technicians as well as additional information on passenger safety. To find a certified tech to check your seat, visit [cert.safekids.org](http://cert.safekids.org).

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 14 and under. Each year in the United States, nearly 1,600 child occupants ages 14 and under die in motor vehicle crashes and close to 228,000 are injured as occupants in motor vehicles. Improperly restrained children are more likely to be injured, to suffer more severe injuries and to die in motor vehicle crashes than children who are restrained properly. The Child Death Review Team and The Health Department work to help each child ride safely. The Health Department continues to work in conjunction with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department who now facilitate the Car Seat Voucher Program. Car Seats should be replaced whenever a seat has been in an accident, has been recalled, damaged, or if it is no longer the right fit for the child. Parents and/or caregivers that could not afford a car seat were referred to the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department.



Once again, the public health department partnered with the ISD Early Childhood Development to sponsor the Back to School Bonanza in August. It was estimated that 1,017 children attended as well as 412 families from 11 school districts were present and 35 community agencies and/or programs were available to distribute program materials and additional school supplies. Van Buren/Cass District Health Department started this event 8 years ago and it continues to work with the VBISD to provide children with school supplies and information to start the school year.



## 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, body art licensing, raw land evaluations, campgrounds and swimming pool inspections, non-community public water supply oversight, subdivision development, housing complaint investigations, water supply monitoring in areas of contamination and public beach monitoring along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

#Well Inspections– 371

#Well Permits– 594

#Septic Permits– 450

#Home Loan Evaluations- 88

#Active Non-Community facilities-268

#Public Pools-85

#Body Art Facilities-2

### 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– 427

#Temporary Licenses– 130

#Plan Reviews-7

#Food Complaints-2

#Foodborne Illnesses-2

#Foodborne Outbreaks-0

#New/Change Ownership-10

#Smoking Related Complaints-2



## Emergency Preparedness

During 2011, the Emergency Preparedness (EP) Program worked to continue to train employees in the areas of radiological response/public decontamination and post exposure prophylaxis to an epidemic. This training will continue into 2012 in preparation for many drills and exercises. The EP program is also responsible for maintaining comprehensive plans for district-wide emergency and disaster response. The process of preparing a community to meet the challenges of a potential public health emergency has required the health department to build relationships with new kinds of partners such as emergency management agencies, law enforcement agencies, and other first responders - in addition to the hospitals and local health care providers.

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Program is here to assist Van Buren and Cass County residents, community agencies and businesses in preparing for a potential natural disaster, terrorist attack or disease epidemic.



## 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, referrals and coordination of needed health care. Cumulative statistical data can be found on our website, [www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org).



### **Vision & Hearing Program**

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

# Hearing Screens– 9,469

# Vision Screens– 12,773

### **Children's Special Health Care**

This program provides families access to the Michigan Children's Special Health Care program for the purpose of identifying chronic and/or crippling conditions in children. For qualifying conditions this program provides a means of payment for needed treatment and care management for persons through the age of 21.

# Children receiving services- 603

### **Sexually Transmitted Disease Services**

STD clinical services and quality community education are essential to the prevention and spread 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. Individual and group education is provided in schools and at various community sites.

# STD Clinic Visits– 743

#HIV education to individuals– 3,767

#HIV counseling & testing of individuals- 658



## **Immunization Program**

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

#Immunization Clinic Visits- 1,282

# Vaccines administered-4,705

% Children 19-35 months of age who have been fully immunized and entered in MCIR- 77%



## Reproductive Health Program (Family Planning)

Family Planning services provide opportunities for individuals to receive baseline medical care and education promoting healthy decision making in regards to planning a pregnancy. Comprehensive contraceptive methods are available to men and women. All services are confidential, received voluntarily 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 focus in an attempt to provide assistance in avoiding unintended pregnancy.



### **Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP)**

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



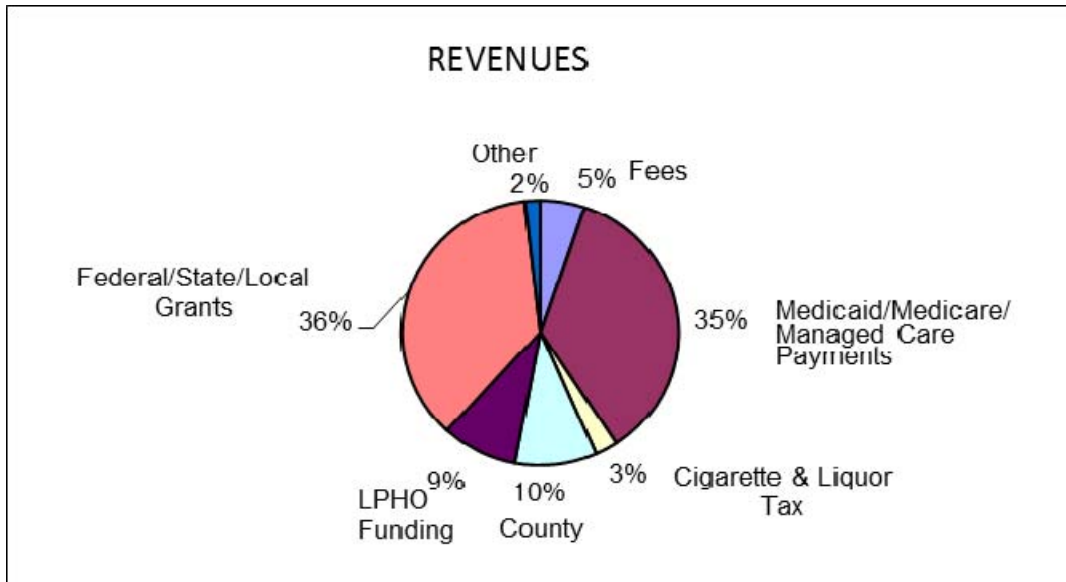
## 2011 Program Highlights

<b>Calendar Year 2011</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Actualized</b>	<b>Contract Compliance</b>
<b>Title X Funded</b>	613	667	<b>108%</b>
Plan First	300	197	
Total Users	913	FY 808	
		CY 811	

- 161 Medical Clinics
- 1,411 Scheduled Visits
- 1,376 Encounters
- Annualized Show Rate of 91%
- 12 Community Educational Presentations
- 197 Unduplicated Teens served
- 614 Unduplicated Adults served
- Unduplicated encounters (FY) 1399 (CY) 1376
- 1.7 visits per year average
- 421 Pap smears with 28 requiring additional follow-up
- 411 Pregnancy tests provided: (53 = Positive, 39 Adults and 14 Teens)
- 169 Chlamydia tests provided: (11=Positive or 4% of those tested)
- 126 BCCCP Services
- 129 Mammogram Screenings
- 36 Referrals
- 99% Average on Annual Satisfaction Surveys

# FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET

Revenues: \$6,516,200



Expenditures: \$6,516,200

