

# Van Buren/Cass District Health Department

## Annual Report 2007

**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 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**

## **District Board of Health Members**

Robert Morris, Sr, Chairperson South Haven  
Carl Higley, Vice-Chairperson, Cass County Commissioner  
Judith Schincariol, Paw Paw  
Don Hanson, Van Buren County Commissioner  
Dale Lowe, Cass County Commissioner  
Dwight Dyes, Cassopolis

*On behalf of the Board of Health, the 2007 Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Annual Report is presented to the citizens of Van Buren and Cass Counties. Activities and initiatives are highlighted in this issue. Special thanks to all of our community partners. We appreciate your support!*

*Frederick A. Johansen, MD, MPH, Medical Director*

*Jeffery L. Elliott, BBA, Health Officer/Administrator*

## **2007 Highlights**



**Dr. Johansen accepting the Directors Award for Public Health Achievement from Janet Olszewski, Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health.** The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department received this honor for their work and partnership to expand the Public Health Dental Clinics.

**The Donald Lyons Health Center opened in Dowagiac in May 2007.** This state of the art facility houses the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department and Borgess Lee Memorial Hospital outpatient clinics. The Health Center was a joint effort between the City of Dowagiac, the Health Department and Borgess Lee Memorial Hospital.

**LAFTR & Co. was developed by two of our public health nurse practitioners.** The mission is to assist underserved women of Southwest Michigan to obtain essential health services when the costs of such services are prohibitive. LAFTR sells jewelry made from broken and recycled jewelry. For more information visit [www.beadsforbiopsies.com](http://www.beadsforbiopsies.com).

## **Substance Abuse Services**

During FY2006/2007 Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Substance Abuse Division provided a variety of treatment and prevention services to residents of Van Buren and Cass County. Treatment services in Van Buren County served fewer clients than in FY 2005/2006.

### **Out-Patient Treatment Referrals**

- Total Referrals (**542**) for FY2006/2007 are down from FY2005/2006 (**631**), 15% reduction, but higher than FY2004/2005 (**502**).
- There is no pattern or trend for referral sources being lower this year other than DHS referrals being down 43%, **82** in 2005/2006 compared to **47** in 2006/2007.
- This may reflect a reduction in the impact of methamphetamine related referrals from DHS.

### **Individual Out-Patient Services**

- Admissions for treatment in FY 2006/2007 were down 12% (**361**) from FY 2005/2006 (**402**), but higher than FY 2004/2005 (**337**).
- Therapy groups and IOP were down significantly in FY2006/2007, 25% for groups and 50% for IOP.

## **New Direction Criminal Justice Drug Treatment Program**

During FY 2006/2007, the final year of Byrne Grant funding, Van Buren County's New Directions Program served a total of 115 individuals. Of the total participants in the program during the year, thirty-six graduated, thirty either quit or were terminated for violations. Three were transferred to programs that better met their needs (usually mental health related programs). One individual died from health complications. The remaining forty-five were active in the program as of 9/30/2007. Seventy percent of the total participants either graduated or were active in treatment at the end of the year.

During the FY 2006/2007, New Directions staff members delivered 239 group sessions and 3412 potentially billable service units. If these services had been billed to Kalamazoo Community Mental Health Services/Regional Coordinating Agency at the \$30.00 per service unit, the cost to tax payers would have been \$102,360.00. The cost of the program was \$79,626.52 which included therapy costs, drug testing costs and curriculum costs. The program continues to be a cost effective method of treating drug offenders safely in the community.

The New Directions program continues in FY 2007/2008 supported by local PA2 funding. Van Buren/Cass District Health Department is participating in a treatment outcome study funded by the Hazelden Foundation in partnership with the University of Minnesota. For details of this project follow this link.

<http://www.hazelden.org/web/public/andresearch.page>

## **Prevention**

In Van Buren County a total of 4,012 individuals were served. In Cass County a total of 2,003 individuals were served during our FY2006/2007. 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 methamphetamine and prescription drugs have 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.

### **Methamphetamine/Substance Abuse Task Force**

The Methamphetamine Task Force is a multi-agency collaboration that provides 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/>. During 2006/2007, the Task Force broadened its focus to include other drugs, with emphasis on alcohol and prescription drugs. After a period of reduced methamphetamine activity in the region, new manufacturing methods have allowed production to increase. Methamphetamine use remains high in the county. Alcohol, marijuana and methamphetamine are the top three primary drugs listed by clients seeking treatment in the county.

The Cass County Methamphetamine Task Force has disbanded but we still provide some of the taskforce activities as needed to the community.

### **Van Buren Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (VBCRUD)**

The Van Buren Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking's mission is to empower the youth of Van Buren County by educating families and the community about the hazards of underage drinking and additionally, by creating healthy and safe alternatives to drinking through activities and awareness campaigns. VBCRUD is comprised of teens from Van Buren County who initiate a project each year that addresses various underage drinking issues.

In 2007, VBCRUD implemented a number of projects. One was the Community Action Kits that provided tools to help spread awareness of the issues of underage drinking within their communities. The kits were provided to all the middle and high schools in Van Buren County. The kit included: VBCRUD banner; FACE's post(The Impact of Alcohol-Related Issues in your Community) and booklet (Common Sense for Community Change); VBCRUD brochures; assorted materials from MCRUD's Alcohol Awareness Packet; a copy of our 2006 Public Service Announcements. The schools were also encouraged to contact VBCRUD with help in implementing projects or for technical support.

In April 2007, they hosted their 13<sup>th</sup> annual Prom/Graduation Rally. This was a day long event that is open to all the high school seniors in Van Buren, Cass and Berrien Counties. The rally consisted of numerous entertaining and educational events that created awareness of the risks and problems associated with underage drinking. There were over 350 students that attended.

In July 2007, some VBCRUD teens sponsored a table at the Van Buren County Youth Fair Kids Day and passed out information on the risks of underage drinking and other alcohol related information.

The final project of the year was held in September 2007, a two-day student leadership training for 40 Van Buren County high school students conducted by Nigel Wrangham, CADC II CPS Trainer. Nigel's been a leader and innovator in the teaching, training, and substance abuse prevention fields since 1990. He has presented nationally on many topics, including community-based prevention, media literacy, media advocacy, and youth leadership, among others.

### **Van Buren/ Cass County Girls on the Run (VBCCGOTR)**

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 programs are to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual and physical development.

In 2006 the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department worked to make this innovate and positive life-changing program available to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls in Van Buren County. Local community participation and support have been instrumental in the programs formation and success. "Our communities have given GOTR unconditional support. We are lucky to have such caring individuals and businesses in our area", said Julie Bos, Council Director. "Thank you to all who have donated their time and money to sustain this incredible program" This program reached and changed the lives of 281 girls and their families during the 2007 season.

In 2008 even more girls will take part in the program, as it has grown from 6 sites to 13. Girls from Bloomingdale, Cassopolis, Covert, Decatur, Edwardsburg, Gobles, Hartford, Lawrence, Lawton, Marcellus, Paw Paw, Pullman and South Haven will participate. All girls regardless of income and ability to pay are welcome in the program.

### **Life of an Athlete**

Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist E.J. McAndrew and Tracy Johnson are currently consulting with the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SAC) on the implementation of the American Athletic Institute's (AAI) Life of an Athlete Program. AAI's Life of an Athlete program is a high school program to confront chemical health issues and impact the problems that face today's athlete. The Life of an Athlete program encompasses the influence of parents, schools, community and athletes to implement chemical health education, a code of conduct, and community mobilization against underage drinking and drug use, that helps keep their children safe and healthy.

The SAC, which includes seven Van Buren and One Cass county High/Middle schools, voted to adopt the Life of an Athlete program a year ago when John Underwood the founder and Director of AAI held several trainings over a two day period here in Van Buren County for athletes, coaches, school administrators and parents. They are currently putting the finishing

touches on the program and presenting it to each school's Board of Education. The SAC is the only high school athletic conference in the State of Michigan to implement a conference wide code of conduct. They have drawn the attention of the Michigan Athletic Administration Association (MIAAAA), the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP), and the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). OHSP through Prevention Network's Michigan Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking (MCRUD) are currently offering mini grants for school athletic directors interested in hosting AAI's Life of Athlete trainings.

### **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.

#### **Vision & Hearing Program**

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

# Hearing Screens– 8,835

# Vision Screens– 13,464

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

This program provides families access to the Michigan Children Special Health Care program for the purpose of identifying chronic and/or crippling conditions in children ages 0-21. It provides a means of payment for needed treatment and management of qualifying conditions through the age of 21.

# Children receiving services 634

#### **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– 1,095

#HIV education to individuals– 4,628

#HIV counseling & testing of individuals-923

#### **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- 1,475

# Vaccines administered– 7,091

% Children 19-35 months of age who have been fully immunized and entered in MCIR– 75%

## **Bangor School Based Health Center**

The Bangor School Based Health Center is one of 86 school-based/school linked centers in the state of Michigan, and one of over 1,700 in the nation. School based health centers provide a powerful partnership between health and education, offering health care where the kids are every day, offering primary and preventive care, and behavioral health services in a location convenient for both children and their families.

National research and evaluations have demonstrated that school based health centers represent cost-effective investments of public resources. Studies have documented positive effects including reduced inappropriate emergency room use (and notably a reduction in Medicaid expenditures for inpatient, drug and emergency department), increased access to services, increased number of immunized children and EPSDT (physical) screens, reduced teen pregnancy rates, increased school attendance, and decreased school discipline referrals.

The Bangor School Based Health Center provides medical and mental health screening and treatment, including primary health care, psychosocial, health promotion, disease prevention education, and referral services to youth ages 10 to 21 in the Bangor area. Services for minors are provided with parental consent. All insurances are accepted, but services are not denied based on insurance status or ability to pay.

Medicaid Outreach is another important component of the Health Center services. Over 140,000 children in Michigan do not have health insurance; many of them are eligible for Medicaid or MI Child. The Health Center works with families to provide information and assistance in the enrollment process.

Bangor Health Center patients responding to a 2007 satisfaction survey gave the center high marks:

“The people at the Health Center are helpful.”	100%
“I got what I needed today.”	92%
“I would feel comfortable visiting the Health Center again.”	100%
“Staff at the Health Center understand my problems/concerns.”	94%

Written comments on the surveys include:

- The workers are very helpful.
- I like the atmosphere and the people.
- It’s convenient.
- I like everything.
- The people’s cool.
- They help me with what I need.
- It is very helpful.
- Everyone is friendly.
- They always have time for you and they understand.
- It is a fun place to go and I can talk about anything.
- I like the people who work here.
- The staff are really nice.
- I like almost everything; it’s quick and simple.
- I like everything, mostly the people.
- I like the blue walls.

- They help me feel better when I'm sick.
- Really nice people.
- They listen to you and care about what you think.
- They are very understanding.
- The people and just cause they rock.
- Don't change, you're great.
- Keep going!

<b><u>Selected Statistics:</u></b>	
Total youth served since opening in May 2006:	656
In 2007:	
Youth served	477
Total visits	1265
EPSDT (physicals)	291
Immunization services	454
Behavioral health services	186
Number of behavioral health and health promotion groups	183
Referrals to community services	123
Number of Medicaid Outreach Activities	31,198
Number of families newly enrolled in Medicaid	33

### **Emergency Preparedness**

Over the past year the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Emergency Preparedness Program has been busy updating current plans and working to make them operational. This means taking current written plans and putting training and education in place to ensure staff is able to implement the plans if needed. Plans submitted to the Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness included an All Hazards Public Health Response Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications Plan, and a Strategic National Stockpile Plan. These plans received a score of 99%, Pass with Commendations. In the summer of 2007 the Strategic National Stockpile program plan was also subject to an on-site review from State program officials. All plans submitted to the State were returned with positive remarks and recommendations for improvement. Plan updates for 2008 were submitted in February.

In the fall of 2007 health department staff continued to enhance the mass vaccination program plans with several exercises. These exercises tested aspects of the plans such as client intake forms and information, communication routes, utilizing non-traditional staff and testing the effectiveness of after-hours clinics. The information gathered from these exercises is included in the corrective action plans for the program. Pandemic Influenza continues to be an important topic in Emergency Preparedness. Additionally, we assembled personal protective equipment packs for use during emergencies. These go-packs include gloves, protective gowns, N-95 respirators, and goggles. Equipment for the packs was purchased as part of the last year's grant monies.



## 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. Two large events for 2007 included:

A Community Baby Fair was held April 14th 2007; over 230 families enjoyed a day of health and safety fun. Children and adults enjoyed visiting 23 stations all created to help families get off to a good start. Children played at Early On's interactive area with playdough and rice. Expectant and new parents received information on calming techniques, first aid, postpartum depression, and many community resources. Child Passenger Safety Technicians from South Haven Hospital and the Pokagon Tribe checked child seats for correct installation. Each family went home with a goody bag that included a new book and had the chance to win several prizes. The event was made possible through a grant from the Van Buren County Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.



A Booster Seat Giveaway was held on June 15th, 2007, at John Tapper Automotive in Paw Paw, MI. 50 booster seats were given away in less than an hour. This event was held to increase awareness and use of booster seats. Car booster seats can protect kids from severe spinal cord injuries, abdominal injuries and ejection in a crash. Booster seats are for children that weigh between 40 and 80 lbs and are less than 4'9".

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. Michigan legislators are currently working to help pass booster seat legislation. This event was made possible through Corporate State Farm Insurance and Representative Tonya Schutemaker.



## **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 2007 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.

### **Stats at a glance 2007 Program Highlights**

Projected Goal: 1844 Combined Unduplicated Users (Title X and Plan First)

<b>Calendar Year 2007 Projected</b>	<b>Actualized</b>	<b>Contact Compliance</b>	
Title X	1367	1376	101%
Plan First	477	281	92%
Total Users	1844	1657	90%

- 256 Medical Clinics
- 2,984 Scheduled Visits
- 2,813 Visits
- Annualized Show Rate of 86%
- 587 Adolescent Encounters
- 10 Community Educational Presentations
- 1,630 (Fiscal Year), 1,657 (Calendar Year)
- 1.7 visits per person per year average
- 793 Pap smears with 80 requiring additional referral follow-up
- 769 UCG (pregnancy) tests: (137 = Positive, 36 positive teens = 26%)
- 126 Chlamydia tests: (19 = Positive, = 4%)
- 110 BCCCP Services
- 143 Mammogram Screenings (4 cancers detected)
- 122 Medical Referrals
- 19 Sterilization Consults
- 386 clients surveyed for annual satisfaction with 97% rating.

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

**The Reproductive Health Care practitioners for Van Buren and Cass Counties were recognized by the Susan G. Komen Foundation for being the Provider of Record for the area and coordinating care for women participating in Pink Saturdays.**

## **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, housing complaint investigations, and water supply monitoring in areas of contamination.

#Well Inspections– 592

#Well Permits– 966

#Septic Permits– 807

#Home Loan Evaluations- 153

## **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– 425

#Temporary Licenses– 124

#Plan Reviews-25

#Food Complaints-14

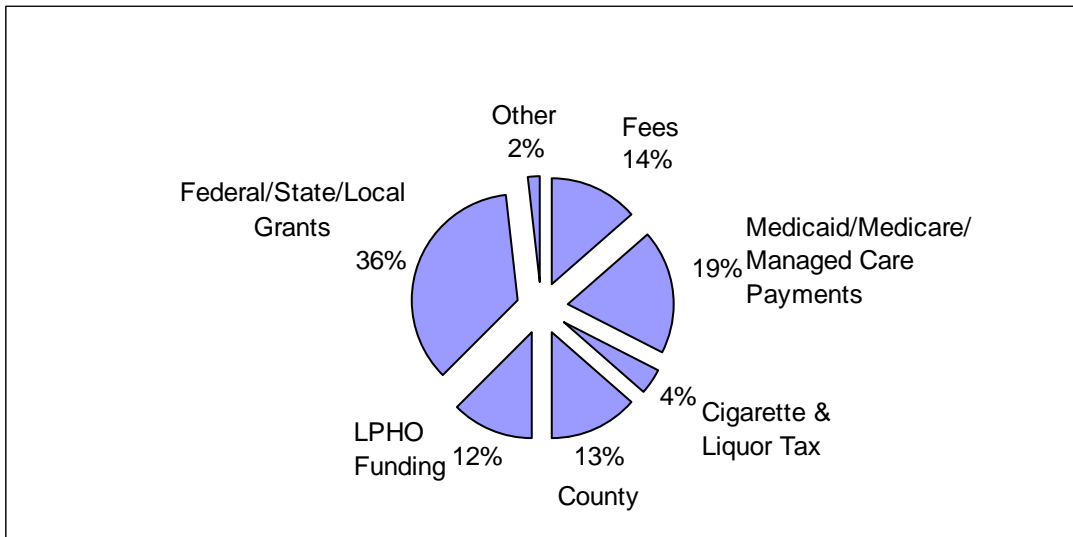
#Foodborne Illness-2

## **Dental Health**

The Health Department Dental Clinics provide oral health services in Van Buren and Cass counties. In 2007 oral health services were provided to 6,500 individual patients. These Services included the following: Oral Exams/Cleanings, Fluoride Treatments, Fillings, Education, Dentures, Extractions, and other dental procedures.

## Fiscal Year 2007 Budget

**Revenue \$6,154,907**



**Expenditures \$ 6,154,907**

