

AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM THE VAN BUREN/CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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August 2015

Prescription Drug and Heroin Conference

Please see page 2 for information about this extremely important conference Friday, August 28, 2015.

Substance Abuse Primary Prevention

Primary prevention begins at home; while there are no guarantees, what can you do?

- 1) Work to establish a moral compass and resilience in your children.
- 2) Model a responsible approach to prescription drug use and alcohol. "values are caught as well as taught".
- 3) Frame talks as a health issue and begin early. Mainly before middle school.
- 4) Set clear boundaries and expectations
- 5) Be positive; the majority of peers are not doing drugs.
- 6) Seize teachable moments from real life examples of problems (media, local news, and from your extended family).
- 7) Intervene early if you suspect a problem.
- 8) Address issues in a framework of unconditional love.

Public Health Efforts Combatting Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse

- 1) Increase community awareness of the increased prevalence and danger. (the U.S. population is 5% of the world, yet consumes 50% of the world's synthetic opiates!)
- 2) Heroin and prescription drug abuse are in all our communities! It is everyone's problem.
- 3) Work to decrease the number and strength of opioid prescriptions in our medical community.
- 4) TEACH:
 - Opioid prescribing rates are directly proportional to community drug overdoses.

- Substance abuse deaths are much more frequent than vehicular deaths.

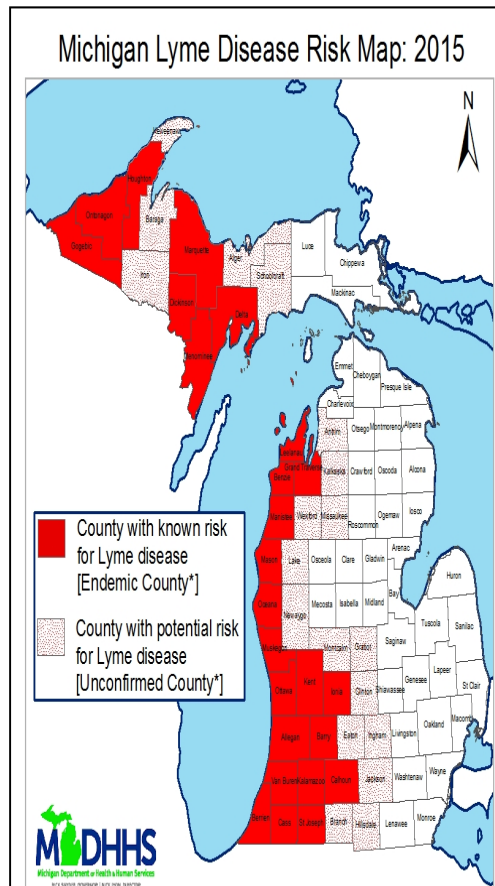
5) Continue to increase the safe disposal of prescription drugs.

6) Establish a community wide partnership.

Lyme Disease in Van Buren & Cass County

Continue to be vigilant in surveillance for Lyme disease. We have now had 6 confirmed cases in Van Buren/Cass County so far this year.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has a new and updated Lyme Disease toolkit for health care providers full of useful information about clinical signs and symptoms, tick identification and testing, treatment and more. Find the many resources available in this toolkit at www.michigan.gov/lymeinfo.



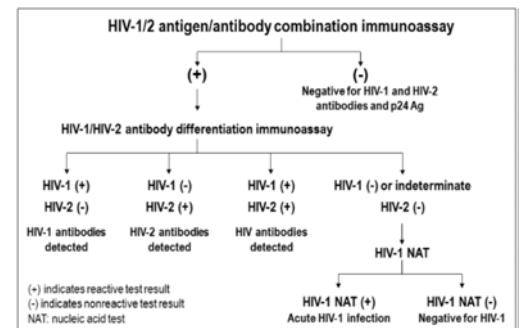
* Lyme disease risk in this map is based on known, field confirmed populations of infected blacklegged ticks, or laboratory confirmed human cases.
 a) Counties labeled "endemic" are counties where infected tick populations have been confirmed - and/or -
 Two or more laboratory confirmed human cases have been identified with local exposure.
 b) Counties labeled "unconfirmed" are counties bordering endemic counties, but which do not meet the above criteria for "endemic" counties.

HIV Diagnostic Screening

- Initial HIV screens should detect both antigen and antibody
- Two different reactive HIV tests may make an HIV diagnosis. If the second test is nonreactive or indeterminate, a third test must be run
- All initial reactive screening tests as well as all subsequent tests (regardless of the result) run must be reported to the health department

For further information visit:

- www.michigan.gov/hivstd
- Look under HIV case reporting and data to view the new HIV testing algorithm.



How to Reach Us:

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Substance Abuse:
 (269) 621-3143, ext 1306

Environmental Health:
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 (269) 621-3143 ext 1382

Voice. Change. Hope.

Prescription Drug and Heroin Conference

In recent years, Berrien County has ranked in the top five counties in Michigan for heroin overdose. Learn about the prescription drug and heroin epidemic and what is needed to support our community and aid in the recovery of people struggling with addiction.

Attendees can earn professional credits toward MCBAP, SCECH, and MCOLES



Friday, August 28

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Joseph High School Student Center
2521 Stadium Drive, St. Joseph

Cost is \$10, which includes materials, refreshments and lunch.

For scholarship information, please contact kteachout@bchdmi.org
For more information or to register, visit www.berriencommunity.org/hope

Who Should Attend

Addiction Professionals
Educators/School Professionals
Judges/Prosecutors/Attorneys
Law Enforcement

Medical Professionals
Parents/Families/Community Members
Peer Recovery Mentors

Persons in Recovery
Prevention Specialists
Probation/ Parole Officers
Social Workers

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