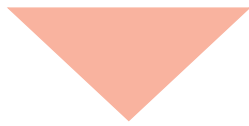


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2002/2003



Report on  
Public Health  
Services  
in Kent County



# Kent County Health Department

## Planning for the Future of Public Health

Local public health is an ongoing dialogue with the community -- a constant assessment of local health status and needs, implementation of programs and policies to meet those needs, and the assurance that those protections will be afforded to everyone in the community.

But as the world changes, so do community needs, and so do the threats to community health. For the Kent County Health Department, our changing world represents not only a reaffirmation of the importance of what we do, but an opportunity to grow. As an agency serving the community, our ability to adapt, to transform, and to innovate can have a profound impact on the health and safety of our community, and the individuals within it.

For those reasons, the Kent County Health Department in 2002 and 2003 undertook a dynamic and comprehensive strategic planning process. Through research, focus groups, work groups, staff surveys, and retreats, input was sought – and taken – from every level of the Health Department. The result, both a vision and a plan for realizing it, focuses on five areas vital to enhancing community health:

- Child and Family Health;
- Community Environment;
- Disease Prevention;
- Surveillance;
- Organizational Health.

Our strategic plan does not represent a departure from public health principles, but a realignment and refocusing of public health practice in Kent County, and an acknowledgment of the changing role of local public health agencies in a changing world.

(To review the Health Department's 2004 *Strategic Plan*, visit the Kent County Health Department web site at [www.accessKent.com/health](http://www.accessKent.com/health).)



To the Kent County Board of Commissioners,  
and the Citizens of Kent County:

As our community's public health agency, the Kent County Health Department has a unique responsibility to assess our community's health status, to develop sound public policy to protect and enhance it, and to assure that the results of our efforts benefit everyone in the community.

Over the past two years, it has become increasingly evident that while the mission of public health departments to prevent disease and prolong life remains unchanged, the activities we must undertake to achieve these objectives are indeed evolving.

In 2002 we began planning for the possibility of mass smallpox vaccination - a scourge that has not been present in the world for over 20 years. That same year, a statewide outbreak of West Nile Virus demonstrated the potential threat of emerging infectious diseases, and the importance of public health departments in mitigating that threat.

In 2003, as public health emergency preparedness remained a priority, we faced significant budget reductions, addressed facility issues, and made difficult decisions about both. We learned to do more with less, but never lost sight of our mission, our purpose, our unique responsibility. Our commitment to our community is detailed throughout the pages of this report.

It is my pleasure to present the Kent County Health Department's 2002/2003 Report on Public Health Services.

Sincerely,

Cathy Raeovsky  
Administrative Health Officer



# 2002/2003 Highlights

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The Health Department opened a **new tuberculosis (TB) clinic** October 1, 2002. The new TB clinic includes state-of-the-art x-ray and diagnostic equipment, as well as a negative-pressure HVAC system. Every year, the Health Department investigates two to three dozen newly-reported cases of active TB disease, and provides TB assessments to approximately 1,000 people. In addition, the Health Department provides over 5,000 TB skin tests in its clinics annually.

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**West Nile Virus (WNV)** came to Kent County in 2002 and the Health Department conducted active surveillance. WNV surveillance included dead bird and mosquito populations and human cases. In 2002, there were 57 human cases of WNV reported in Kent County, including four deaths. In 2003, the Department developed a WNV Action Plan focusing on education, surveillance, and mosquito control. Staff implemented public education programs, and alerts were issued for health care providers. There were no human cases of WNV reported in Kent County in 2003.

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In early 2002, the **Public Health Laboratory** began in-house blood lead testing. The new testing program has resulted in quicker testing and turnaround times for both preliminary and confirmatory blood draws. In 2003, the Laboratory applied to CDC for Select Agent Certification. Certification activities included a security risk assessment of the laboratory facility and creating security and safety plans which included controlled access to the

areas where select agents are stored and/or used. The Lab received notice of approval for Select Agent Certification in November, 2003.

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Following 2002's intensive **smallpox** vaccination planning efforts, the Health Department participated in regional smallpox vaccination clinics in 2003. Kent County is part of the State of Michigan's Region 6, a 13-county area of West Michigan. There were six smallpox vaccination clinics held in the region during 2003, and nearly 100 health care workers (from health departments, hospitals, and EMS agencies) received vaccinations.

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In September 2003 the Health Department was awarded a three-year, \$1.25 million, **Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)** Grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health. In the program – operated by the Health Department's Community Nursing Division – nurse home visitors work intensively with families to improve functioning in three broad areas: 1) women's health behaviors related to substance abuse; 2) enhancing qualities of family caregiving for infants and toddlers; and 3) prevention of unintended subsequent pregnancies, school drop out, failure to find work, and welfare dependence.

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The **Kent County Animal Shelter** continued to promote animal adoptions in both 2002 and 2003, collaborating with other animal aid agencies to sponsor Adopt-a-thons and 'Home 4 the Holidays' adoption campaigns. In July 2003 the Animal Shelter began an innovative new

temperament testing program to determine the adoptability of animals in their care. The program allows the Animal Shelter to gain a better understanding of each dog's needs and to appropriately match them with the needs, lifestyles, and abilities of potential adopters.

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There were several changes to **Health Department clinics** in 2003. Working within tight budget constraints, the Health Department moved proactively to consolidate clinical services on the County's north end -- opening a single large clinic in Rockford, and closing two part-time clinics in Cedar Springs and Sparta. The new, state-of-the-art North County clinic was designed for a new client-centered service model. Now, clients visiting the clinic remain in a private room exam room during their visit, and staff come to them to provide all services.

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With CDC **Emergency Preparedness** funding, the Health Department began construction of a Medical Coordination Center (MCC) on the lower level of the Health Department in fall 2003. The MCC will enhance the region's ability to respond to emergencies by enabling staff to access critical information and enhancing communication. When the MCC is not being used for emergency purposes, the room can be used to provide educational trainings to staff and community partners on a variety of topics. The room is equipped with modern communications equipment including satellite downlink, cable, internet access, VCR, electronic whiteboard, DVD, speaker phone and a NOAA weather radio.


# Administration

In order to uphold the statutory duties assigned to local public health departments in the Michigan Public Health Code, public health administration must prioritize, organize, and manage activities that allow the discharge of these responsibilities. Public health leadership not only includes administering clinical, environmental, and disease control programs, but also conducting community health assessment, providing leadership for community health decision-making, and assuring the protections of public health for everyone.

In 2002 and 2003, the Kent County Health Department continued its tradition of excellence in public health administration with strategic planning, facilities enhancement, and emergency preparedness as priorities. The strategic planning process (summarized on page 1) provided an opportunity to assess and enhance organizational capacities as budget cuts provided an impetus for increased efficiency.

At the same time, community health needs helped the Health Department prioritize needed facilities improvements. A new tuberculosis (TB) clinic was opened in 2002 consolidating all TB activities -- from assessment to diagnosis to treatment -- in a single Health Department facility. In addition, CDC emergency preparedness funding was used to develop an on-site Medical Coordination Center, an emergency communications and control center for the health care community.

The Kent County Health Department also continued its ongoing community health assessment efforts by conducting a Kent County behavior risk factor survey (BRFS) in 2002. The study -- which surveyed 1,200 Kent County adults -- was conducted in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Community Health and examined such topics as access to health care, injury prevention, and health behaviors, and was published in November, 2003. (To read the Kent County BRFS, visit the Health Department web site at [www.accessKent.com/health](http://www.accessKent.com/health)).



Financial Summary	2002		2003	
<b>Revenues</b>				
State Grants	9,214,028	37%	7,703,150	33%
County/Local Fees	7,470,877	31%	7,584,662	33%
Medicaid and Medicare	4,277,580	18%	4,620,094	20%
	3,321,984	14%	3,332,698	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,284,469</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$23,240,604</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>By Service Type</b>				
Administration	12,168,945	49%	10,393,421	44%
Nursing Services	5,815,519	24%	5,490,580	23%
Clinical Services	3,962,838	16%	4,712,666	20%
Environmental Health	2,689,545	11%	2,968,366	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,636,847</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$23,565,033</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Expense Type</b>				
Personnel	14,975,532	61%	15,403,493	66%
Other Contract Services	4,553,652	18%	3,640,093	15%
Equipment	565,171	2%	459,372	2%
Supplies	1,026,408	4%	930,775	4%
Cost Allocation	1,498,674	6%	1,441,922	6%
Programs/Training	1,109,067	5%	815,525	3%
Building /Facilities	908,343	4%	873,853	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,636,847</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$23,565,033</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Kent County Health Department Leadership Team

- Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer
- Mark Hall, MD, MPH, Medical Director
- Bill Anstey, Deputy Administrative Health Officer
- Gail Brink, CPA, Finance Director
- David Kraker, REHS, Division Director, Environmental Health
- Roberta Peacock, RN, BSN, Division Director, Community Clinical Services
- Sandra Walls, RN, MSN, Division Director, Community Nursing Services

# Administration

One of the bigger changes that took place during 2002 and 2003 was the realignment of services previously provided by the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Division. Departmental reorganization resulted in the dissolution of the Division, while its programs were consolidated within the Department's Administration Division.

The Prevention Services section provides services that focus on preventing disease and promoting health -- both in individuals and in the community as a whole -- through a unique combination of clinical, screening, and educational services.

The Epidemiology Section provides for the surveillance and control of diseases in the County. Coordinating efforts with local hospitals, physicians, and laboratories, the Epidemiology Section investigates disease outbreaks to control the spread of tuberculosis, HIV, hepatitis, and vaccine-preventable diseases, among others, in the community. The Epidemiology Section is the public health front line for identifying unusual disease outbreaks, whether natural, man-made, or intentional.

The Public Health Laboratory supports disease control efforts by providing diagnostic testing and confirmation, and working with state and federal laboratory authorities to identify infectious agents associated with both natural or intentional disease occurrences.

Other services include health education, risk assessment, and health risk screening to help individuals learn about their risks for chronic disease — the leading killers of Americans — and take steps to reduce them.



<b>STD and Communicable Disease</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Clients Treated for Tuberculosis:	1,136	1,101
Clients Seen for STD Services:	7,222	5,970
Clients Receiving Anonymous or Confidential HIV Counseling/Testing:	2,979	2,617
Clients Who Return for HIV Test Results:	63%	67%
<b>Laboratory Testing</b>		
Environmental Bacteriology Tests:	16,562	14,812
Environmental Chemistry Tests:	11,709	10,241
HIV Serology Tests Conducted:	33,981	31,940
Syphilis Serology Tests Conducted:	4,327	4,157
Gonorrhea and Chlamydia Tests Conducted:	31,598	21,803
<b>Health Education/Health Promotion</b>		
Women Screened for Breast and Cervical Cancer:	1,254	1,298
Participants in Community Health Programs/Screenings:	809	939
Number of individuals receiving education on following health topics:		
Substance Abuse/Violence Prevention:	6,974	9,045
HIV Prevention:	2,989	5,184
Youth Tobacco Prevention:	2,225	3,054

# Community Clinical Services

The prevention and screening services provided by the Health Department's Community Clinical Services Division constitute one of the best health care values to the citizens of Kent County: the cost of providing these services represents only a fraction of the potential expense of treating the diseases and illnesses they prevent.

The Clinical Services Division provides services to help individuals stay healthy, and to detect potential health problems as early as possible. Clinical health services include immunizations (one of the most cost-effective means of assuring health), Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), child health and development screening, health and nutrition counseling, pregnancy testing, and blood pressure screening.

In 2002 and 2003, there were several changes to the Public Health Clinics where these services are provided in the community. Working within tight budget constraints, the Health Department moved proactively to consolidate clinical services on the County's north end -- opening a single large clinic in Rockford, and closing two part-time clinics in Cedar Springs and Sparta. The new, state-of-the-art North County clinic was designed for a new client-centered services model.

Currently, the Health Department operates six community Public Health Clinics. Three are in the City of Grand Rapids, including one on Fuller St. in the main Health Department building; one in the Sheldon Complex on Franklin St. S.E.; and the Westside Clinic on Stocking N.W. In addition to the new North County Clinic in Rockford, there are also community Public Health Clinics in Wyoming and Kentwood.



<b>Immunization</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Total Vaccine Doses Administered:	57,542	44,499
Travel Immunization, Vaccine Doses:	6,286	5,216
Total Immunization Client Visits:	23,981	18,300
Travel Immunization, Client Visits:	3,303	2,602
Tuberculosis (TB) Tests Given:	5,594	4,790
Percentage of Children Entering Kent County Schools with Up-to-Date Immunizations:	99%	99%
<b>WIC</b>		
Average Monthly Enrollment:	18,988	19,585
Highest Monthly Caseload:	17,534	18,238
WIC Client Visits:	71,128	74,428
Clients Receiving Immunization During WIC Appointments:	2,396	2,301
<b>Other Clinical Services</b>		
Child and Refugee Health Screenings:	372	637
Health Assessment and Counseling, Client Visits:	5,206	5,244
Pregnancy Tests:	1,428	1,468
Hemoglobin Tests:	20,068	19,134
Blood Lead Tests:	7,614*	7,544*

\*Capillary blood lead tests done in Clinics as part of Community Nursing Division Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Total child blood lead tests (page 6) includes capillary and venous tests.

# Community Nursing Services

Because early detection and intervention help assure the best long-term health outcomes, most of the Community Nursing Division's services focus on preventing health problems from the very earliest stages: during pregnancy and the first year of a child's life. The Nursing Division's Maternal and Infant Support Services Program provides health assessment, education, counseling, case management, and referral for pregnant women and their infants. Medicaid pays for Maternal and Infant Support Services for clients that are Medicaid-eligible; however, these services are also provided at no cost to families with risk factors who are not Medicaid-eligible.

Recognizing the outstanding work done by the Nursing Division, the Michigan Department of Community Health awarded the Health Department a three-year, \$1.25 million, Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Grant in October 2003. In the NFP program, nurse home visitors work intensively with families to improve functioning in three areas: fostering healthy pregnancies; improving the health and development of children; and encouraging self-sufficiency.

In 2003 the Michigan Department of Community Health also awarded the Nursing Division a \$133,000 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) grant to coordinate and provide primary prevention and case management services in Kent, Ionia, Montcalm, Clinton, and Gratiot counties. The program supervisor is an active participant in the Get the Lead Out (GTLO) coalition.

School health services provided by the Division also focus on prevention and early detection. Skilled technicians screen thousands of children and adolescents for vision and hearing problems every year. Public Health Nurses also screen all 7th and 8th grade children for scoliosis.



	2002	2003
<b>Maternal and Child Health</b>		
Maternal Support Services, Enrolled:	1,500	1,291
Maternal Support Services Client Visits:	5,395	5,290
Infant Support Services, Enrolled:	3,964	3,572
Infant Support Services Client Visits:	21,143	21,506
MSS/ISS Advocacy Services, Families Served:	429	179
MSS/ISS Advocacy Services, Client Visits:	2,301	418
Medicaid Enrollments, Pregnant Women:	1,132	1,107
Medicaid Enrollments, Children:	50	40
Healthy Start Program, Family Assessments:	351	303
<b>School Health</b>		
Vision Screenings:	49,867	51,565
Hearing Screenings:	49,898	41,644
Student Scoliosis Screenings:	16,399	16,701
<b>Lead Poisoning Prevention</b>		
Housing-related Lead Hazards Identified:	52	61
Percentage Investigated:	100%	100%
Total Child Blood Lead Tests:	13,187	13,454
Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels:	394	319
Lead Poisoning Clients Enrolled:	288	196
Lead Poisoning Home Visits:	635	569
<b>Special Populations</b>		
Children's Special Health Care Services, Families Served:	1,174	1,481
Refugee Health Services Screenings:	222	284
Percentage of Refugees Who Receive Health Screenings from Health Department within 90 Days of Arrival:	99%	99%

# Environmental Health

Environmental Health programs have raised the standard of living in the U.S. by controlling or eliminating significant disease vectors, and by reducing health hazards in the environment. The Health Department's Environmental Health Division protects individuals in the community, and the community as a whole, by assuring a clean and potable public water supply, inspecting Kent County's food service establishments, and making the community safe for animal and human cohabitation. Environmental Health activities also include land use evaluation, well and septic system assessment, ground water monitoring, and lead and radon hazard reduction.

The majority of Environmental Health services are conducted outside the Health Department building, at locations across Kent County. While most Environmental Health services are supported by user fees that cover the cost of providing the services, state-administered grants and federal grants also support some specific services.

In addition, the Environmental Health Division operates the Kent County Animal Shelter. Animal control priorities include bite prevention education, community animal control and enforcement, and reducing pet overpopulation by promoting spaying and neutering of companion pets. In 2002 and 2003, the Animal Shelter continued to make great strides promoting animal adoptions, partnering with other local animal aid agencies to sponsor adopt-a-thons and holiday adoption events.

In 2002, the Animal Shelter also added two Animal Control officers to increase patrols and reduce the response time for complaints and other problems. In the fall of 2002, the Health Department added a health educator to coordinate dog bite prevention education in the community. In collaboration with the Grand Rapids Police Department, the Animal Shelter's targets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade school children to receive dog bite prevention education.



	2002	2003
<b>Sanitation</b>		
Campground Inspections:	35	39
Child Care/Adult Foster Care Facilities:	230	296
Food Service Inspections:	5,171	5,720
Mobile Home Inspections:	60	60
Public Pool Inspections:	491	430
Percentage of New, Remodeled or Existing Public Pools Receiving Comprehensive Inspection:	100%	100%
Sanitary Facility Evaluations:	1,160	1,060
Public Health Nuisance Investigations:	253	178
<b>Water Quality</b>		
Type II Public Water Supply Permits:	39	21
On-site Water Supply (well) Permits:	1,634	1,748
Surface Water Samples Taken:	843	555
<b>Land Use</b>		
Vacant Land Evaluations:	244	206
Land Development Plan Reviews:	35	24
On-site Sewage Disposal Permits:	1,658	1,623
<b>Animal Control</b>		
Total Complaints Received:	6,556	6,760
Percentage Complaints Investigated:	100%	100%
Total Bites Reported:	1,077	1,211
Total Dog Licenses Sold:	33,411	32,439
Total Animals Received at Shelter:	6,167	6,677
Animals Adopted to New Homes:	1,706	1,846
Animals Reclaimed by Owner:	769	858
Animals Euthanized (unfit for adoption):	2,888	3,419
Animals Euthanized (Overpopulation):	713	506



# Health Department Directory



## **Mailing Address**

Kent County Health Department  
700 Fuller NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

## **Phone**

(616) 336-3030  
Toll-free from anywhere in the 616 or  
213 area codes: 1-888-515-1300  
Fax (Administration): 336-3884 or 336-3033

## **Director's Office**

Administrative Health Officer, Medical Director  
Phone: 336-3023; Fax: 336-3033

## **Community Clinical Services**

Phone: 336-3962; Fax: 336-4915

## **Community Nursing Services**

Phone: 336-3040; Fax: 336-3983

## **Environmental Health**

Phone: 336-3089; Fax: 336-2436

## **Communicable Disease/Epidemiology**

Phone: 336-3028; Fax: 336-4621

## **Public Health Laboratory**

Phone: 336-2299; Fax: 336-2274

## **Other Important Phone Numbers**

AIDS Information Line: 336-3602  
Health Education: 336-3037  
Immunization: 336-2233  
STD/HIV Testing Clinic: 336-3085  
WIC: 336-3011  
Women's Health Network: 336-3058

## **Health Department Web Site**

[www.accessKent.com/health](http://www.accessKent.com/health)

## **Clinic Directory**

**Fuller Clinic** (616) 336-3045  
700 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids  
Hours: M, T, W, F 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.;  
Th 1:00-7:00 p.m.

**Kentwood Clinic** (616) 455-6811  
1620 44th St. SE, Kentwood  
Hours: M, T, W, F 8:30-11:30 a.m. and  
1:00-4:00 p.m.; Th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**North County Clinic** (616) 866-0632  
4388 14 Mile Rd. N.E., Rockford  
Hours: M, T, W, F 8:30-11:30 a.m. and  
1:00-4:00 p.m.; Th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Sheldon Clinic** (616) 336-3914  
Sheldon Complex, 121 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids  
Hours: M, T, W, F 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.;  
Th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Westside Clinic** (616) 336-3957  
669 Stocking NW, Grand Rapids  
Hours: M, T, W, F 8:30-11:30 a.m. and  
1:00-4:00 p.m.; Th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Wyoming Clinic** (616) 531-8120  
852 47th Street SW, Wyoming  
Hours: M, T, W, F 8:30-11:30 a.m. and  
1:00-4:00 p.m.; Th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Kent County Animal Shelter**  
711 Ball N.E., Grand Rapids  
(616) 336-3210  
Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.;  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### **Notes on this PDF publication**

The report contained in this PDF file was published in print by the Kent County Health Department in March 2001. The colors used in this PDF file vary slightly from the colors used in the printed version, however the content is identical, with the exception of this paragraph. This page is the inside of the back cover. The content of this report is public information and may be downloaded, stored, printed, copied, and distributed, in print or via e-mail or other electronic means, without permission.

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