

1999 Public Health Services Report

In 1999, over \$20,000,000 was invested in public health services in Kent County. This is a report of the return on that investment — an accounting of the public health services provided to individuals in Kent County, and of the activities of over 330 public health professionals to protect and assure the health of our community.

Ten Essential Public Health Services

- Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships and actions to identify and solve health problems.
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Assure a competent public health and personal health-care workforce.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health problems.
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

The U.S. public health system -- a collaborative network of federal, state, and local public health agencies -- is among the best in the world. But of those agencies, it is *local* public health departments that are responsible for delivering the majority of public health services in communities across the country. The Vaccination Assistance Act, for example, — federal legislation to purchase and administer childhood vaccines — would be of little use if people were not able to visit a local health department to receive vaccines for their children. Likewise, federal and state monies to reduce lead paint hazards, breast cancer, and cigarette smoking are transformed from good intentions to tangible services — services people can use, and from which they can benefit — in the hands of local public health departments.

In Kent County, the Kent County Health Department administers federal, state, and local dollars to provide programs and services that protect and enhance the health of Kent County citizens: eight community public health clinics where people receive immunizations, WIC, child health screenings, health counseling, and blood pressure checks, among other services; restaurant inspections, and well and septic system evaluations to reduce hazards in the environment; visits to pregnant women and young children in their homes to build strong healthy families; and AIDS testing, health education classes, and the investigation and control of tuberculosis and other diseases in the community. This is how public dollars are translated into public services that prevent disease, prolong life, and promote community health; this is the business of local public health departments.

The Kent County Health Department pursues these responsibilities with the utmost sense of purpose. We strive to be responsible stewards of public dollars, and of public trust. Our commitment is not just to the community at large, but to every individual within it. We gratefully acknowledge your investment in public health in Kent County, and endeavor always to provide a return on that investment that goes above and beyond the minimum, and which exceeds your expectations.

Public Health is a good value.

April 2000

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

Your investment in public health is an investment in *your* health. It is an investment in the cleanliness of the water you drink, the safety of the food you eat, and the quality of the air you breath. Your public health investment is a guarantee of a standard of health and safety for you, your family, and everyone in the community.

In 1999, the Kent County Health Department provided a substantial return on that investment, and made good on our guarantee. Services delivered by our Department in the community helped assure that your children remained healthy by having access to immunizations, that the food you eat in restaurants is safe, and that disease outbreaks are controlled before they are spread to you and your family. Public health services are for everyone, and everyone benefits from them -- even if you did not receive services directly from our department.

I would like to thank the Kent County Board of Commissioners and the Kent County Board of Health for their continued leadership and support. Most of all, I would like to thank the citizens of Kent County for their continued investment in the health of our community. It is my pleasure to present the Health Department's 1999 Report on Public Health Services in Kent County.

Sincerely,



Douglas A. Mack, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Director



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Health Department Administrators

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Barbara Terry, M.S.
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Bill Anstey, M.B.A.
Director of Finance and MIS

1999 Kent County Board of Health

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Commissioner Kenneth Kuipers
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Public Health Director, Ex-officio

Public Health Reports

Copies of the *1999 Report on Public Health Services in Kent County*, as well as other reports on public health and health status in Kent County, are available as PDF (portable document format) files on the Kent County Health Department web site "Publications" page, using Adobe Acrobat. www.co.kent.mi.us/health/publications.htm

Public Health Administration

Douglas Mack, M.D., M.P.H., Director

Public health agency administration involves two sets of management activities. One is concerned with managing infrastructure that allows the organization to function efficiently: human resources, finance and billing, management information systems, contracts, and maintenance of the physical plant.

The other set of management activities is concerned with administering public health programs in the community — discharging the statutory responsibilities assigned to local public health departments in the Michigan Public Health Code. These activities include conducting community health assessment, providing medical and clinical oversight, coordinating public communications, providing leadership for community health decision-making, and directing all of the public health programs described in this report. In addition, promoting cultural sensitivity has been a cornerstone as Kent County Health Department administrators have monitored client satisfaction, performance outcomes, and workforce outputs.

The Administrative Division also provides oversight and coordination of the Healthy Kent 2010 (formerly Healthy Kent 2000) community health planning initiative. Begun in 1993, Healthy Kent 2010 identified five priority community health concerns in Kent County: AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections, Chronic Disease, Infant Health and Mortality, Substance Abuse, and Violence. These five areas have become the basis of public health planning in the community, and through Healthy Kent 2010, have provided a focus for core public health functions: assessing community health status, assuring the benefits of community health programs are available to everyone, and developing effective and proactive public health policy.

Financial Summary, FY 1998-1999

Revenues

State Grants	\$14,305,200	52%
County/Local	9,379,855	34%
Fees	1,982,982	7%
Medicaid/Medicare	1,953,219	7%
Total	\$27,621,256	100%

Expenditures by Service Category

Administration	\$13,901,702	50%
Nursing Services	4,354,296	16%
Health Promotion- Disease Prevention	3,794,389	14%
Clinical Services	3,513,336	13%
Environmental Health	1,991,439	7%
Total	\$27,555,162	100%

Expenditures by Expense Category

Personnel	\$12,700,235	46%
Substance Abuse*	6,494,514	24%
Other Contract Services	6,355,992	23%
Equipment	886,787	3%
Supplies	677,377	2%
Travel	211,310	1%
Communication	228,947	1%
Total	\$27,555,162	100%

*Substance abuse contracts administration was transferred to Kent County Community Mental Health October 1, 1999

Assessment and Assurance

Specialized Health Reports Published: 3

Total Reports Issued: 6

Community HealthWatch Report

Cards Published: 4

News Releases Issued: 47

Health Alerts Issued: 2

Average Response Time for Issuing

Health Alerts: 2 hours

Data Requests Fulfilled: 106

Percentage of Customers Who Rate Department Services as Above Average or Better: 85%

Community Clinical Services

Wanda Bierman, R.N., M.S., M.P.A., Director

The Health Department's Community Clinical Services Division provides health services to help individuals stay healthy, and to detect potential health problems as early as possible. Clinical health services include immunizations, WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children), child health and development screening, health and nutrition counseling, pregnancy testing, and blood pressure screening. Most of these services are provided at no cost to Kent County residents so they are available to everyone who needs them.

The Health Department operates eight community Public Health Clinics in Kent County. There are three clinics in the City of Grand Rapids — on Fuller St. in the main Health Department building; in the Sheldon Complex on Franklin St. S.E.; and the Westside Clinic on Bridge N.W. Other Health Department clinics are located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Sparta, Cedar Springs, and Lowell.

Most clinical services are funded through state and federal grants and generate little revenue. These preventive services however remain one of the best health care values to the citizens of Kent County: the cost of providing them represents only a fraction of the potential expense of treating the disease and illness they prevent.

Immunization

Vaccine Doses Administered: 60,176
Immunization Client Visits: 30,806
Travel Immunization, Vaccine Doses: 8337
Travel Immunization, Client Visits: 4517
Tuberculosis Tests Given: 5425
Percentage of Children Entering Kent County Schools with Up-to-Date Immunizations: 97%

Vaccine Doses by Type of Disease

Tetanus/Diphtheria: 14,872
Pertussis: 8797
Haemophilus Influenza B (HiB): 5945
Polio: 8689
Measles/Mumps/Rubella: 7873
Hepatitis B: 13,294
Varicella (Chicken Pox): 3288

WIC

Average Monthly Enrollment: 17,477
Clients Receiving Immunization During WIC Appointments: 2484
Percentage of Clients Who Participate in Optional WIC Nutrition Education Class: 89%

Other Clinical Services

Child and Refugee Health Screenings: 1419
Health Assessment and Counseling, Client Visits: 10,564
Pregnancy Tests: 1431
Hemoglobin Tests: 23,140
Blood Lead Tests: 8301*

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

Health Care Cost Savings

The availability of public health clinical services results in significant health care cost savings. Every dollar spent on WIC services results in \$4.21 Medicaid cost savings for newborns and their mothers. Likewise, it is estimated that every dollar spent on immunization saves over \$10 in future health care costs.

Community Nursing Services

Sandra Walls, R.N., M.S.N., Director

The Health Department's Community Nursing Division provides services designed to prevent health problems from the very earliest stages, during pregnancy and the first year of life. Healthy, full-term babies are less likely to die during their first year of life, less likely to experience developmental disabilities, and less likely to require expensive neonatal intensive care and other medical treatment services.

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. Public Health Nurses visit all MSS/ISS clients at home in order to listen, counsel, and teach.

Medicaid pays for Maternal and Infant Support Services for clients that are Medicaid-eligible. These services are also provided at no cost to low-income families that are not Medicaid-eligible. Recognizing the tremendous long-term dollar value of maternal and child health prevention services, the Kent County Board of Commissioners appropriates funds to cover costs which exceed Medicaid reimbursement limits.

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

In addition, the Community Nursing Division provides health services to other vulnerable or at-risk people in Kent County — refugees, residents of the Heartside neighborhood, children who are chronically ill or handicapped, the elderly — to assess needs and link them with other helpful services.

Maternal and Child Health

Maternal Support Services (MSS), Enrolled: 2519

Maternal Support Services Client Visits: 9090

Infant Support Services Client Visits: 20,328

MSS/ISS Advocacy Services, Families Served: 367

Percentage of Clients Who Deliver

Full-Term Infants: 96%

Medicaid Enrollments, Pregnant Women: 991

Medicaid Enrollments, Children: 280

Mother's Club, Participating Families: 60

School Health

Child Vision Screenings: 50,350

Child Hearing Screenings: 46,662

Student Scoliosis Screenings: 17,856

Special Populations

Children's Special Health Care Services,
Families Served: 1367

Refugee Health Services Screenings: 686

Percentage of Refugees Who Receive Health
Screenings from Health Department
within 90 Days of Arrival: 97%

Interagency Community Nursing Project,
Clients Served: 372

Recognition

In April 1999 the Community Nursing Division received the inaugural Community Group Professional Award from the Grand Rapids Child and Family Resource Council for the Maternal and Infant Support Services Program(s). The award was given in recognition of the important role of MSS/ISS services in promoting healthy families and helping to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Environmental Health Services

David Kraker, R.S., Director

The Health Department's Environmental Health Division provides services to control, and protect people from, health hazards in the community environment. Environmental health programs — most notably the engineering of public sanitation and sewage systems — are among the leading public health accomplishments of the 20th century, and are directly responsible for the reduction of water-borne infectious diseases as the leading killers of Americans.

Although Environmental Health services still include general sanitation, the scope of services has expanded to include food service establishment inspection and licensing, land use evaluation, well and septic system assessment, ground water monitoring, lead hazard reduction, and animal control. The majority of Environmental Health services are conducted outside the Health Department building, at locations across Kent County.

Most Environmental Health services are supported by user fees that support the cost of providing the services. State-administered grants and federal grants also support some specific services. Environmental Health programs have raised the standard of living in the U.S. by controlling or eliminating significant disease vectors in the community environment. The cost of these programs is far outweighed by the health benefits they confer to individuals in the community, and to the community as a whole.

Sanitation

Campground Inspections: 25
Child Care/Adult Foster Care Facilities: 224
Food Service Inspections: 3765
Mobile Home Inspections: 102
Public Pool Inspections: 448
Percentage of New, Remodeled or Existing Public Pools Receiving Comprehensive Inspection: 100%
Sanitary Facility Evaluations: 1342
Public Health Nuisance Investigations: 283

Water Quality

Type II Public Water Supply Permits: 21
On-site Water Supply (well) Permits: 1342
Surface Water Samples Taken: 531

Land Use

Vacant Land Evaluations: 258
Land Development Plan Reviews: 35
On-site Sewage Disposal Permits: 1989
Sewage System Evaluations: 2064

Education

Food Service Sanitation Class Participants: 1374
Percentage of Class Participants Passing Exam: 92%
Child Care/Adult Foster Care Facility Sanitation Class Participants: 230

Lead Hazard Control

Housing-related Lead Hazards Identified: 101
Percentage Investigated: 100%
Total Child Blood Lead Tests: 9882
Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels: 162
Home Lead Test Kits Distributed: 123

Animal Control

Total Complaints Received: 7569
Percentage Complaints Investigated: 97%
Total Bites Reported: 1125
Total Dog Licenses Sold: 33,458
Total Animals Received at Shelter: 5145
Animals Adopted to New Homes: 221
Animals Reclaimed by Owner: 859
Animals Euthanized (Unfit for Adoption): 2054
Animals Euthanized (Overpopulation): 1969

Health Promotion- Disease Prevention

Carol Vander Wal, M.P.H., Director

The Health Department's Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Division provides services that focus on preventing disease and promoting health, both in individuals and in the community as a whole. Health Promotion services that include health education, life-style risk assessment, and health risk screening, help individuals learn about their risks for chronic disease — the leading killers of Americans — and take steps to reduce their risks. Most health promotion services are available at no cost, or very low cost, so that they are available to everyone.

Surveillance and control of communicable disease in the population is also a critical activity of the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Division, and of local public health departments generally. Coordinating efforts with local hospitals, physicians, and other health care providers, the Communicable Disease Unit investigates disease outbreaks to control the spread of tuberculosis, HIV, hepatitis, and vaccine-preventable diseases, among others, in the community. Diagnostic testing done by the Kent County Public Health Laboratory is a crucial part of community disease control.

State-administered grants support many health promotion services and user fees also provide limited revenue. State funding also supports infectious disease control. These health promotion and disease prevention activities help reduce health care costs both in the short-term and in the future.

Communicable and Sexually Transmitted Disease Control

Clients Treated for Tuberculosis: 975
Clients Seen for STD Services: 6335
Clients Receiving Anonymous or
Confidential HIV Counseling/Testing: 2123
Clients Who Return for HIV Test Results: 74%
Premarital Health Classes Provided: 254
Participants in Premarital Health Classes: 2775

Public Health Education

Health Fairs Attended: 62
Persons Attending One-time Presentations: 5160
Persons Attending Community Classes: 2469
Persons Attending Trainings/Conferences: 638

Laboratory Testing

Environmental Bacteriology Tests: 22,593
Environmental Chemistry Tests: 11,217
HIV Serology Tests Conducted: 41,054
Syphilis Serology Tests Conducted: 4097
Gonorrhea/Chlamydia Tests Conducted: 62,994

Chronic Disease Control

Women Screened for Breast/Cervical Cancer: 1080
New Clients Enrolled in Breast/Cervical Cancer
Screening Program: 513
Adult Dental Services Program, Value of Donated
Dental Services: \$115,670

Health Promotion

Worksite Health Promotion Grants: 62
Participants in Programs Funded by Worksite
Grants: 2800
Participants in Community Health
Programs/Screenings: 4606

Recognition

In June 1999 the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Division received a National Association of Counties Achievement Award for the Campau Commons Project. Funded through a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Campau program focuses on building resiliency while reducing the risk of unhealthy behaviors -- substance abuse, violence, and early sexual activity -- among youth in the Campau Commons neighborhood.

A Proud Public Health History

The Story of Public Health in Kent County

The first record of a public health act in Kent County was the immunization of some 150 Native Americans by Dr. Charles Shepard in October 1835. Though the specific purpose of these immunizations has been lost to history, protecting the health of the community has always been the guiding principle of local public health efforts. Reviewing the history of public health in Kent County shows how far those efforts have taken us.

The first record of public sanitation activities was in 1849 when the Grand Rapids Village Council ordered that 200 barrels of lime be spread over the village streets to prevent health hazards from "primitive facilities and indifferent ways." The organization of the first public health authority in Grand Rapids took place 16 years later, in 1877, when the Council convened a local Board of Health for the "protection of its citizens."

In 1915 the beginnings of a health department for the remainder of Kent County took shape with the hire of Charlotte VanDuzzor, R.N., as the first County School Nurse. The Kent County Health Department was officially born in January 1931 with the passage of state legislation that allowed counties to organize health departments. Dr. J.D. Brook was the first Kent County health officer.

In 1952, Dr. Winston Prothro was named Director of the Grand Rapids Health Department, and in 1954, Director of the Kent County Health Department, with the goal of forming a single health department to serve all of Kent County. The consolidation of the Grand Rapids and Kent County health departments was completed in 1967.

Upon the retirement of Dr. Prothro, Dr. Douglas Mack was appointed Public Health Director in January 1977, and continues in that capacity today. In 1979, the Kent County Health Department moved to its present location on Fuller Avenue N.E. A reorganization of public health services in 1993 consolidated some 30 satellite clinics into eight full-service community Public Health Clinics. Today, the Kent County Health Department employs more than 330 public health professionals and is recognized as one of the most progressive local public health departments in the State of Michigan.

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Community Nursing Services

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Environmental Health

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Fax: 336-2436

Health Promotion/Disease Prevention

Phone: 336-3037

Fax: 336-3844

Communicable Disease/TB Unit

Phone: 336-3425

Fax: 336-2432

Public Health Laboratory

Phone: 336-2299

Fax: 336-2274

Other Important Phone Numbers

Immunization: 336-2233

WIC: 336-3011

AIDS Information Line: 336-3602

Outreach Unit: 336-4287

or toll-free 1-800-301-1733

Animal Shelter: 336-3210

Health Department Web Site

www.co.kent.mi.us/health

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Notes on this PDF publication

The report contained in this PDF file was published in print by the Kent County Health Department in April 2000. The colors and fonts used in this PDF file vary slightly from those used in the printed version, however the content is identical, with the exception of this paragraph. The page which contains "Ten Leading U.S. Public Health Achievements of the 20th Century" is the inside of the front cover of the printed version. This page is the inside of the back cover. The last page of this PDF file, page 11, is the cover of the report. 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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Ten Leading U.S. Public Health Achievements of the 20th Century

- Control of infectious disease
- Vaccination
- Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
- Fluoridation of drinking water
- Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard
- Safer and healthier foods
- Healthier mothers and babies
- Motor vehicle safety
- Safer workplaces
- Family planning

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