

2001

R E P O R T O N

Public Health Services

I N K E N T C O U N T Y





Kent County Health Department

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

It is perhaps an understatement to say that 2001 was a year of change.

To begin, several changes took place here at the Health Department. Following the retirement of Public Health Director Dr. Douglas Mack in March of 2001, the Health Officer position was divided into two positions: an Administrative Health Officer and a Medical Director. I began as Administrative Health Officer in October, and wish to extend my gratitude to Dr. Mack for his continued service as interim Medical Director until a permanent replacement can be found.

Another significant change was the dissolution of the Kent County Board of Health in September 2001 and the convening of a 20-member Community Health Advisory Committee in November. This Health Advisory Committee brings an important and diverse perspective to the Health Department, and I look forward to their continued support, encouragement, and guidance.

While these changes have been substantial for the Department and its staff, as well as for me personally, they are insignificant compared to the changes wrought by the national tragedy of September 11, 2001. Public health has always been ready to respond in times of crisis, but this crisis has underscored the necessity of being able to mobilize a skilled, trained, and professional public health corps at a moment's notice. While surveillance and disease control have always been cornerstones of public health, we now understand the need for enhanced surveillance and communication capacity among local, state, and federal health authorities.

Perhaps the biggest change was our collective realization that everyone has a role to play in protecting the health and well being of our community. From our public health professionals to emergency responders -- law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics -- as well as health care providers, volunteers, citizens, and neighbors, our community is both a place and a responsibility we all share.

Kent County has a proud and strong public health history and I look forward to continuing and building upon that tradition. It is my pleasure to present the Kent County Health Department's 2001 Report on Public Health Services.

Sincerely,



Cathy Raevsky
Administrative Health Officer

2001 Public Health Services Report

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, and who are the front line of public health response.

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.

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.

Over \$23,000,000 is invested in public health annually in Kent County. This is a report of the return on that investment -- an accounting of the public health services provided to the citizens of Kent County, and of the activities of over 330 public health professionals who protect and assure the health of our community.

Health Department Administrators

Cathy Raevsky
Administrative Health Officer

Douglas A. Mack, MD, MPH
Interim Medical Director

Bill Anstey, MBA
Director of Finance and MIS

2001 Kent County Community Health Advisory Committee

Lawrence Baer, PhD
Healthy Kent 2010 Steering Team

Commissioner Jack D. Boelega
Kent County Board of Commissioners

Judith Claytor
Healthy Kent 2010 I-Team Representative

Candace Cowling
Healthy Kent 2010 I-Team Representative

William Cunningham, DO
Medical Community Representative

Diane Kimoto, PhD
Chair, Healthy Kent 2010

Jan Koopman
Healthy Kent 2010 I-Team Representative

Anna Kruse
Secretary, Healthy Kent 2010

Commissioner Harold J. Mast
Kent County Board of Commissioners

Joseph Moore, MD
Medical Community Representative

Lori Pearl-Kraus
Healthy Kent 2010 I-Team Representative

Tom Peterson, MD
Past Chair, Healthy Kent 2010

Gary Seech
Vice Chair, Healthy Kent 2010

Maureen Street, MD
Medical Community Representative

Cathy Raevsky, Ex officio

Public Health 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 2001, the Kent County Health Department continued its tradition of excellence in public health administration, with communicable disease, health disparities, and emergency preparedness as priorities. During the spring and summer, the Health Department produced a comprehensive three-part report on communicable disease, its impact on Kent County, and the role of public health in disease control. Addressing racial health disparities also remained a priority for the Health Department, with Kent County's Task Force on Health Care for People of Color providing policy-level support for these efforts.

The Kent County Health Department continued to build its emergency preparedness capacities as the spectre of bioterrorism became reality in Florida, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. The Health Department's internal bioterrorism response team -- redubbed the WATCH Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction and Threats to Community Health) -- coordinated professional education and public information efforts related to anthrax and smallpox, while identifying critical capacities and relationships necessary to mount a coordinated community response to bioterrorist event.

Financial Summary, FY 2000-2001

Revenues

State Grants	\$ 8,308,426	32%
County/Local	8,953,296	43%
Fees	5,080,278	19%
Medicaid/Medicare	2,872,220	15%
Total	\$26,279,111	100%

Expenditures by Service Category

Administration	\$ 7,797, 850	34%
Nursing Services	4,724,682	21%
Health Promotion- Disease Prevention	3,920,374	19%
Clinical Services	4,268,210	18%
Environmental Health	2,329,422	10%
Total	\$23,040,538	100%

Expenditures by Expense Category

Personnel	\$13,761,896	60%
Substance Abuse	1,312,597	6%
Other Contract Services	4,773,224	20%
Equipment	436,491	2%
Supplies	2,247,874	10%
Travel	242,800	1%
Communication	265,656	1%
Total	\$23,040,538	100%

Assessment and Assurance

Specialized Health reports Issued: 3
 Total Reports Issued: 5
 Community HealthWatch Report Cards Published: 6
 News Releases Issued: 55
 Health Alerts Issued: 1

The prevention and screening services provided by the Health Department's Community Clinical Services Division are 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 diseases and resulting 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 child health ever -- WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children), child health and development screening, health and nutrition counseling, pregnancy testing, and blood pressure screening.

In order to make these services as accessible as possible, 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 Stocking N.W. Other Health Department clinics are located in Cedar Springs, Kentwood, Lowell, Sparta, and Wyoming. Both the Lowell and Wyoming Clinics moved to new locations within these cities in 2001, allowing them to provide a more client-friendly environment and increase efficiency.

Because preventing disease costs less than treating disease, clinical screening and prevention services provide our community with significant long-term health care cost savings.

Immunization

Total Vaccine Doses Administered: 74,345
Travel Immunization, Vaccine Doses: 7,080
Total Immunization Client Visits: 46,053
Travel Immunization, Client Visits: 4,105
Tuberculosis (TB) Tests Given: 6,232
Percentage of Children Entering Kent County Schools with Up-to-Date Immunizations: 98%

Vaccine Doses by Type of Disease

Tetanus/Diphtheria: 14,131
Pertussis: 9,275
Haemophilus Influenza B (HiB): 5,418
Polio: 8,642
Measles/Mumps/Rubella: 7,477
Hepatitis B: 16,911
Varicella (Chicken Pox): 3,760
Pneumococcal Disease (PCV 7): 7,060

WIC

Average Monthly Enrollment: 18,192
Highest Monthly Caseload: 18,676 (November, 2001)
WIC Client Visits: 61,052
Clients Receiving Immunization
During WIC Appointments: 2,926

Other Clinical Services

Child and Refugee Health Screenings: 1,109
Health Assessment and Counseling, Client Visits: 6,641
Pregnancy Tests: 1,485
Hemoglobin Tests: 24,007
Blood Lead Tests: 9,612*

*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.

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.

Healthy, full-term babies are less likely to die during their first year of life, less likely to require expensive neonatal intensive care and other medical treatment, and less likely to experience developmental disabilities that can require a lifetime of costly treatment and care. 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.

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.

In addition to mothers and their infants, the Community Nursing Division provides health services to other vulnerable or at-risk populations in Kent County. Refugees, residents of the Heartside neighborhood, children who are chronically ill or handicapped, and the elderly also benefit from, and are served by, the Health Department's Nursing Division.

Maternal and Child Health

Maternal Support Services (MSS), Enrolled: 1,951
Maternal Support Services Client Visits: 7,123
Infant Support Services (ISS), Enrolled: 4,389
Infant Support Services Client Visits: 22,969
MSS/ISS Advocacy Services, Families Served: 402
MSS/ISS Advocacy Services, Client Visits: 2,195
Medicaid Enrollments, Pregnant Women: 694
Medicaid Enrollments, Children: 202
Lead Poisoning Clients Enrolled: 302
Lead Poisoning Home Visits: 773
Healthy Start Program, Family Assessments: 256
North County Mother's Club, Participating Families: 60

School Health

Vision Screenings: 55,905
Hearing Screenings: 52,695
Student Scoliosis Screenings: 16,638

Special Populations

Children's Special Health Care Services,
Families Served: 1,174
Refugee Health Services Screenings: 655
Percentage of Refugees Who Receive Health
Screenings from Health Department
within 90 Days of Arrival: 97%
Interagency Community Nursing Project,
Clients Served: 268

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 community 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.

In addition, the Environmental Health Division operates the Kent County Animal Shelter. In 2001, the Animal Shelter for the first time began selling Kent County dog licenses over the internet to make licensing more convenient. Other animal control priorities include bite prevention education, community animal control and enforcement, and reducing pet overpopulation by promoting spaying and neutering of companion pets.

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.

Environmental Health practices have taken on renewed significance as communities and health departments continue to assess the threat of the intentional contamination of food or water supplies, or the intentional release of chemical or biological agents into the air.

Sanitation

Campground Inspections: 36
Child Care/Adult Foster Care Facilities: 298
Food Service Inspections: 4,257
Mobile Home Inspections: 89
Public Pool Inspections: 546
Percentage of New, Remodeled or Existing Public Pools Receiving Comprehensive Inspection: 100%
Sanitary Facility Evaluations: 1,241
Public Health Nuisance Investigations: 262

Water Quality

Type II Public Water Supply Permits: 23
On-site Water Supply (well) Permits: 1,729
Surface Water Samples Taken: 801

Land Use

Vacant Land Evaluations: 214
Land Development Plan Reviews: 28
On-site Sewage Disposal Permits: 1,698

Education

Food Service Sanitation Class Participants: 1,978
Percentage of Class Participants Passing Exam: 97%
Child Care/Adult Foster Care Facility Sanitation Class Participants: 279

Lead Hazard Control

Housing-related Lead Hazards Identified: 84
Percentage Investigated: 100%
Total Child Blood Lead Tests: 12,307
Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels: 319

Animal Control

Total Complaints Received: 7,396
Percentage Complaints Investigated: 99%
Total Bites Reported: 1,118
Total Dog Licenses Sold: 34,272
Total Animals Received at Shelter: 6,208
Animals Adopted to New Homes: 1,573
Animals Reclaimed by Owner: 792
Animals Euthanized (Unfit for Adoption): 1,889
Animals Euthanized (Overpopulation): 1,643

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. The Division provides a unique combination of clinical, screening, and educational services to reduce chronic, infectious, and sexually-transmissible disease.

Surveillance and control of communicable disease in the population is a central activity of the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Division. Coordinating efforts with local hospitals, physicians, and laboratories, the Communicable Disease Unit investigates disease outbreaks to control the spread of tuberculosis, HIV, hepatitis, and vaccine-preventable diseases, among others, in the community. The Communicable Disease Unit is the public health front line for identifying unusual disease outbreaks, whether natural, man-made, or intentional. The Health Promotion Division also operates the Health Department's Public Health Laboratory, a vital component of community disease surveillance and control.

Other Health Promotion services include health education, life-style 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. In 2001, the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Division received three-year accreditation for substance abuse prevention from the Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Division staff also represented the State of Michigan on the National Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Task Force in Washington D.C.

Communicable and Sexually Transmitted Disease Control

Clients Treated for Tuberculosis: 1,143
Clients Seen for STD Services: 6,375
Clients Receiving Anonymous or Confidential HIV Counseling/Testing: 2,988
Clients Who Return for HIV Test Results: 67%

Laboratory Testing

Environmental Bacteriology Tests: 20,831
Environmental Chemistry Tests: 9,976
HIV Serology Tests Conducted: 36,783
Syphilis Serology Tests Conducted: 3,874
Gonorrhea/Chlamydia Tests Conducted: 49,264

Chronic Disease Control

Women Screened for Breast/Cervical Cancer: 965
African American women attending breast health education sessions: 1,264
Adult Dental Services Program, Value of Donated Dental Services: \$94,606

Health Promotion

Worksite Health Promotion Grants: 44
Participants in Programs Funded by Worksite Grants: 2,147
Participants in Community Health Programs/Screenings: 4,978

Health Education

Number of individuals receiving education on the following health topics:
Substance Abuse/Violence Prevention: 5,319
HIV Prevention: 19,271
Sanitary Food Service and Handling: 1,995
Youth Tobacco Prevention: 10,389

Public Health in a Changing World

It has been said that public health is a victim of its own success. Since 1900, the average life expectancy for Americans has increased some 25 years, and much of this increase is the result of public health interventions we now see as commonplace: public sanitation and hygiene, water treatment, vaccination, and pasteurization, among others.

While food and waterborne illnesses do occur, most Americans take for granted the relative safety of our food and water supplies. Declining childhood immunization rates during the latter part of the 20th century were not so much a reflection of parental apathy as they were a generation of Americans who had grown up immunized themselves, knowing few people who ever had measles, and no one whose home had been quarantined because of polio. As deaths from infectious disease in the U.S. decreased, so too did our sense of vulnerability. In such a climate, funding for public health remained predictably flat.

If nothing else, the events of 2001 demonstrated that the need for a well-funded, well-prepared, and well-coordinated public health system remains as critical today as any time during the last 100 years. Long before the threat of bioterrorism -- a deliberate, man-made disease outbreak -- our globe-spanning transportation networks, over both sea and air, have meant that any infectious organism can find easy passage to any location on earth. We must be ready, and we must be prepared.

The threats may change, in form, in where they originate, in how they may be delivered, but protecting the public's health will always require vigilance and diligence. Public health has changed the world, changed our lives, and will continue to evolve to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Health Department Directory

Phone: (616) 336-3030

Toll-free from anywhere in the 616 or 312 area codes: 1-888-515-1300

Fax: 336-3033

www.accesskent.com/health

Director's Office

Phone: 336-3023; Fax: 336-3033

Community Clinical Services Division

Phone: 336-3008; Fax: 336-4915

Community Nursing Division

Phone: 336-3040; Fax: 336-3983

Environmental Health Division

Phone: 336-3089; Fax: 336-2436

Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Division

Phone: 336-3037; Fax: 336-3844

Community Relations

Phone: 336-2220; Fax: 336-3884

Healthy Kent 2010

Phone: 336-2221; Fax: 336-3884

Communicable Disease/TB Unit

Phone: 336-3425; Fax: 336-2432

Public Health Laboratory

Phone: 336-2299; Fax: 336-2274

Other Important Numbers

Immunization: 336-2233

WIC: 336-3011

AIDS Information Line: 336-3602

Outreach Unit (toll-free): 1-800-301-1733

Animal Shelter: 336-3210

2001 Report on Public Health Services in Kent County

© 2002 Kent County Health Department, Grand Rapids, Michigan

This publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, without permission.

Copies of this publication are available on the World Wide Web at:
www.accesskent.com/government/departments/health_publications.htm

Written and designed by
Michael Mullet
Kent County Health Department

Notes on this PDF publication

The report contained in this PDF file was published in print by the Kent County Health Department in April 2002. 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.

2001 Report on Public Health Services in Kent County printed and electronic versions © 2002 Kent County Health Department, Grand Rapids, MI.