2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Serving the Community in Environmental Health, Personal Health Services and Chronic Disease Prevention

Dedicated to Serving You!
To the Residents and Our Community Partners in Dickinson and Iron Counties:

I am pleased to offer you the Dickinson Iron District Health Department’s Annual Report for 2009. It highlights some of the department’s efforts to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the health of our residents. Our success in these endeavors is the direct result of the efforts of highly professional Health Department staff, dedicated community partners and the ongoing support of the Board of Health.

Influenza, particularly the new strain of H1N1, was the primary focus of many at the Health Department in 2009. Having started the year with a relatively light influenza season over the winter of 2008-2009, things really changed with the discovery of a new strain of Influenza first introduced to this country in April by spring breakers returning from Mexican vacations. Initially referred to as the “swine flu”, this outbreak of a new strain of influenza developed into a world wide pandemic by the end of the year. All of our planning and preparation was put to the test by this new virus. Our department and our community partners worked very hard to educate the public about prevention, mitigation and vaccination. The outbreak arrived in our area in the late fall, resulting in school closures in several school districts. In November our area, unfortunately, experienced the first H1N1 influenza related death in the Upper Peninsula. Beginning in mid November vaccine became more readily available and a very successful mass vaccination campaign was conducted. Despite all the extra hours required for this massive undertaking, all of the other programs and clinics of the department continued uninterrupted – an incredible feat in itself.

Within these pages many of the activities and programs of the department are outlined. What is harder to convey is the caring and expertise that comes into play in the provision of these services. I am very proud to be a part of this agency, and deeply appreciate the commitment and dedication of the staff to the service of our communities, which was especially evident this year. I encourage your review of the following report and invite your comments or suggestions. We are all partners in promoting and improving the health of Dickinson and Iron Counties.

Sincerely,

Linda Piper

Linda Piper, RN, BSN, MPH
Director/ Health Officer

Our Mission:
“To assure the highest possible level of health for the people of the communities we serve.”

Health Department Administration

Linda Piper, RN, BSN, MPH
Director/Health Officer

Teresa Frankovich, MD, MPH
Medical Director

Stephen Markham, BS
Finance Director

Joyce Ziegler, RN, BSN
Community Health Services Director

Daren Deyaert, RS, BS
Environmental Health Director

Address:
601 Washington Ave.
Iron River, MI 49935
and
818 Pyle Drive
Kingsford, MI 49802

Phone:
(906) 265-9913
(906) 774-1868

Fax:
(906) 265-2950
(906) 774-9910

E-mail: rumpf@hline.org

We’re on the web! www.didhd.org

Serving you since 1936

Dickinson-Iron District Board of Health

George Brunswick, Chair
Frank Smith, Vice Chair
Bob Black
Rosalie King
Joe Stevens
Henry Wender

“An ounce in prevention is worth a pound in cure.”
Emergency Preparedness H1N1 Pandemic Response

The health department played the lead role in the Dickinson and Iron county response to the new influenza virus. When the novel virus emerged in April 2009, the department met with community stakeholders who had contributed to the department’s Pandemic Influenza Response Plan to begin to disseminate the information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to local healthcare providers, school officials, school nurses, employers and the general public. In addition, the department coordinated the rapid distribution of anti-viral medications to five locally owned pharmacies who agreed to dispense the medication. Beginning in November, the department distributed 4,252 doses of vaccine to 25 private healthcare providers. The Department vaccinated 5,898 at two Mass Vaccination Clinics and at school based clinics, senior centers, businesses and group homes.

Building Healthy Communities

The health department received a planning grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health to begin work on community level initiatives to improve cardiovascular health and reduce the rate of childhood obesity. Strategies to help communities become more pedestrian and bike friendly and to establish community gardens and farmers markets are designed to complement the efforts of families, schools, hospitals and other partners in wellness. The first two initiatives the Building Healthy Communities Coalition is focusing on are assisting with the development of a designated bike trail and the establishment of a local community garden.

EH Computer Reporting

The Environmental Health Division of the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has made a major upgrade in the food inspection program. In April of 2009 the environmental division started utilizing SWORD Solutions which is a computerized program for food service inspections. The systems components are quite basic. It consists of a lap top computer and wireless printers. With this new upgrade, reports compiled during routine restaurant inspection are generated during the inspection. A major advantage to report generation is to allow the sanitarian to clearly convey violations to the owner/operator at the time of the inspection. Providing the information to the operator at the time of the inspection has resulted in quicker response to violation compliance. SWORD Solutions is also equipped with an office version which allows managerial reports to be generated. These reports have aided in uniformity among sanitarians throughout our district.

eClinical Works

The passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided incentives to encourage health care providers to adopt the use of electronic health records (EHR) to reduce costs by improving quality, safety and efficiency.

An Electronic Health Record (EHR) is an electronic version of a patient’s medical information. The EHR may include clinical data, demographics, progress notes, problems, medications, vital signs, past medical history, immunizations, laboratory data, radiology reports and billing information.

In 2009 the health department began using eClinicalWorks to meet our clinical, financial and administrative needs. The system brings together all the elements essential to creating an electronic health record, medical billing and streamlining the management of clinics and billing. Once fully implemented the health department will be providing services to the community more effectively and efficiently.

Medical Director’s Report

When Public Health first began, infectious disease was the biggest threat to the health of every community, and while the control of infectious disease will always be important, chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease and cancer are now emerging as the nation’s leading health threat. Because of these diseases, today’s children are likely to be less healthy over their lifetime than their parents...for the first time in history.

The good news is that much of our chronic disease risk can be reduced with simple lifestyle changes such as avoiding tobacco use and exposure, maintaining a healthy weight, being more physically active and eating a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

What can local public health do to help prevent chronic disease? First, health educators can ensure that everyone has access to the information they need to make healthy choices. Screening programs can help to detect disease early and limit its long-term impact. Projects like “Building Healthy Communities,” can allow the health department to foster local collaborative efforts to effect policy and environmental changes that make our communities healthier places to live.

Together, as a community, we can turn the tide and help to make the next generation, the healthiest in our history.
Public Health Programs

The health department provides a wide range of services to the general public and special populations. A few of the agency’s programs are highlighted below:

**Seasonal Flu Shots:** In addition to H1N1 vaccination clinics, the health department led large-scale community clinics for seasonal flu shots in both Dickinson and Iron Counties, in partnership with two hospitals, nine schools, many local churches and Beacon Ambulance. We also had local nurse volunteers and students from two schools and two colleges.

**WIC:** In 2009, the Women, Infants and Children Program provided nutrition education and supplemental food benefits for more than 1,100 infants, children and pregnant, post-partum and breast-feeding women per month.

**MIHP:** The Maternal Infant Health Program conducted 939 visits by registered nurses, registered dietitians and social workers to high-needs families with pregnancies or infants. 183 families were served.

**Hearing and Vision screening:** More than 5,000 hearing and vision screenings were conducted in preschools and K-12 schools throughout both counties.

**Family Planning:** Family planning clinics in the agency’s two offices served 1,521 clients in 2009, providing clinical exams, education, communicable disease testing and affordable birth control.

**BCCCP:** Through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, 269 low-to-moderate income women age 40-64 received breast and pelvic exams, pap tests, mammograms, and follow-up treatment as needed.

**Senior Screening:** 118 residents age 60-plus received free health screenings, referral and follow-up services. Services include: total cholesterol, HDL, glucose, hemoglobin, blood pressure and hemocult screenings.

Environmental Health Programs

Environmental health (EH) programs prevent illness from contaminated food, water and other environmental sources. Permitting, inspections, education, and when necessary, enforcement actions protect the public’s health. A few of EH programs are highlighted below:

**FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM:** The focus of the food program is to assure a safe, clean food product for the public through regular inspections and education. Efforts in this program are key elements in assuring the meals we consume outside of the home are safe. Agency sanitarians conducted 549 evaluations at restaurants, schools and temporary food events in 2009. The health department offers a Certified Food Safety Manager course, 83 food establishment managers successfully completed this program in 2009.

**ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL MANAGEMENT:** One of the most important methods of preventing the spread of disease and viral infection is the proper treatment of human wastewater. These programs provide guidance and oversight for on-site sewage disposal. Site and soil assessments, construction permitting, and inspections are conducted by health department sanitarians to prevent environmental contamination. In 2009, 165 site assessments were completed, and 163 construction permits were issued for new on-site sewage systems.

**PRIVATE & NON-COMMUNITY WATER:** A fundamental objective of public health met by these programs is the protection of our lakes, streams and the water we drink. Sanitarians monitor the quality of 66 non-community public water supplies such as schools, restaurants and campgrounds. Last year, construction permits for 104 new residential wells were issued to ensure well construction and water quality requirements were met.
Community Health Status Indicators

Local public health departments track, analyze and publicize rates of disease, health care access and utilization rates, demographics and other community health indicators.

Did you know that the population of the Dickinson-Iron County area declined by 4.8 percent from 1998 to 2008, from 40,750 to 38,813? About 21 percent of local residents are age 65 and older, compared with 13 percent statewide. Broken down even further, the percentage in Dickinson County is 19.5% and in Iron it’s 23.7%.

There have been 368 births and 499 deaths in 2008 for the two-county area. The leading causes of death - heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease are the same locally for Dickinson and Iron Counties and the trend is similar with U.S. statistics. Michigan, however, appears to have a few more deaths associated with chronic lower respiratory disease than stroke as compared to local and U.S. data.

The health department monitors reports from physicians and laboratories of a variety of communicable disease, and is alert to possible disease outbreaks. Below are annual trends for several common conditions, including illnesses such as influenza and chickenpox that can be prevented or reduced through immunization.

Selected Communicable Disease Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease or Disease Group (Dickinson-Iron County Totals)</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food-borne illnesses (Campylobacter, Cryptosporidiosis, Giardia, Salmonella)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flu-Like Disease</td>
<td>2914</td>
<td>3227</td>
<td>2607</td>
<td>2691</td>
<td>1713</td>
<td>2542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningitis (Aseptic and Bacterial)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella (Chickenpox)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis C (Acute and Chronic)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyme Disease</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finance Report

2009 Revenues by Source:
- Fees & License: $244,184
- Insurance-3rd Party: $571,049
- LPHO: $206,779
- Fed/State Funding: $691,820
- Local Effort: $458,203
- Other: $211,667
- Total: $2,331,089

2009 Expenses by Division:
- Environmental Health: 13%
- Community Health Programs: 64%
- Agency Support: 23%

2009 Expenses by Division:
- Agency Support: $543,543
- Community Health Program: $1,494,972
- Environmental Health: $292,574
- Total: $2,331,089
Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Our two office locations:

601 Washington Avenue
Iron River, MI 49935
Phone: (906) 265-9913
Fax: (906) 265-2950

818 Pyle Drive
Kingsford, MI 49802
Phone: (906) 774-1868
Fax: (906) 774-9910

Visit our website at www.didhd.org