



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Promotes Cancer Control and Prevention in October

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan, October 1, 2008 – Local health departments across the state have designated October as Cancer Prevention and Control Month.

“Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans, exceeded only by heart disease,” said Barb Peterson, Family Nurse Practitioner. “While breast cancer awareness is typically promoted in October, we need to take this opportunity to educate Dickinson and Iron County residents about other cancer screening services and resources available to them, as we are always working to promote healthy lifestyles.”

Regular screening and examinations by a health care provider can result in the prevention of cervical and colorectal cancers through the discovery and removal of precursor lesions. Screening can detect cancers of the breast, colon, rectum, cervix, prostate, and oral cavity, and skin at earlier stages when treatment is more likely to be successful. Cancers that can be prevented or detected earlier by screening account for about half of all new cancer cases.

In 2006, the American Cancer Society estimated that 48,250 new cancer cases in Michigan were diagnosed with 19,470 cancer deaths occurring in our state.

Michigan’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to underserved women in Dickinson and Iron Counties. Since the program began in 1991, over 114,000 women have been screened through the BCCCP with over 1,900 breast cancers and 2,000 cervical cancers diagnosed statewide.

For more information about the local BCCCP, call 779-7247 in Dickinson County and 265-9913 in Iron County.

Smoking is the leading risk factor for lung cancer. The best way to prevent lung cancer is not to smoke and to avoid people who do. The Michigan Tobacco Quit Line (1-800-480-QUIT) provides free tobacco cessation counseling services to all Michigan residents. In addition, tobacco cessation resources, including the Michigan Smoker’s Quit Kit, are available through the Michigan Department of Community Health’s Clearinghouse at www.hpclearinghouse.org or by calling 1-800-537-5666.

For more information about cancer prevention and control resources, please contact your local health department or visit www.didhd.org, www.michigan.gov/cancer, www.michigancancer.org, www.cancer.org, or www.cancer.gov.

Additional information about the “Public Health – For Michigan. For You” slogan can be found at www.malpb.org.

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