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Ottawa County Health Department Celebrating 80 Years of Excellence

Highlights to the Community 2011



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Preface

Lisa Stefanovsky, MEd, Health Officer

I am pleased to introduce the 2011 annual report and share in celebrating 80 years of exemplary service to the residents and visitors of Ottawa County. Throughout our history, Health Department staff has utilized the best scientific evidence available to protect our community against threats to human health. We have come a long way in the past 80 years but we still have much work to do. While many of the diseases that caused illness and death in 1931 are currently under control, they have not gone away (2011 saw the highest number of measles cases in the United States in 15 years). Public health workers must continually reinforce important measures to protect against the re-emergence of devastating historical diseases. We must also remain vigilant toward emerging health threats such as drug resistant strains of diseases that were once easily treated; the emergence of new pathogens; and rapidly increasing rates of diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer's.

As we look to the future, we strive to perform governmental public health in ways that ensure the highest degree of quality and cost effectiveness. Our public health work force has become actively engaged in the re-engineering of government processes that will sustain our excellence throughout the 21st century. This will require continued development in areas such as leadership, technology & innovation, health communications, health literacy, behavior change and collaboration.

I want to congratulate the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners for supporting 80 years of public health service and thank them for their vision and commitment to ensuring the health of our residents. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of our staff. Many of our programs set the bar for excellence and are models for others in Michigan. This is a direct result of the professionalism, integrity and commitment of the health department team.

In 1920, there were 131 county health departments in the U.S.; in 1931, 599 county health departments were providing services to one fifth of the U.S. population, including Ottawa County for the first time.

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Community Health Services

Community Health Services provides quality support, education and prevention programs to families, children and pregnant women throughout Ottawa County. Services are provided at the Health Department, in clinic settings, in homes, in schools and in community locations.

Maternal and Infant Health

The Maternal and Infant Health Program has an illustrious history in Ottawa County. In 1980, the Ottawa County infant death rate was 8.6/1000. In 1983, the Health Department ASSIST Program began to address the Ottawa County infant mortality rate. The program provided public health nurse support, increased education about prenatal care to pregnant women, and established a network among county agencies for referrals of pregnant women for support services. In recognition of this innovative approach, the Ottawa County ASSIST Program received the 1985 National Achievement Award in Washington DC from the National Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition.

In 1988, the State of Michigan instituted a program very similar to Ottawa County's ASSIST program called Maternal Support Services/Infant Support Services. Today, the Ottawa County Health Department continues working on the goal of reducing infant mortality by providing supportive services to pregnant women and their families through the Maternal/Infant Health Program. In the most recent data (2009), the infant death rate was 4.9/1000 in Ottawa County, a rate reduction of 43% since 1980.

Community Health	2011
Maternal Health Home Visits	1,134
Infant Health Home Visits	1,918
Infant Mental Health Home Visits	171

In 1900 in some U.S. cities, up to 30% of infants died before reaching their first birthday. In Ottawa County today, that number is less than 0.5%.

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Children's Special Health Care

Children's Special Health Care Services was first established as the Division of Services for Crippled Children in 1936. In 1988, the program adopted the name Children's Special Health Care Services to better reflect the more than 2,700 health problems covered by the program, and the new name describes the children CSHCS serves in a positive, respectful way. CSHCS continues Michigan's long history of providing medical care and treatment to local children with special needs, as shared in a note from a 2011 CSHCS client:

“Before my triplets blessed my life, I was in ignorant bliss about the realities of motherhood and the challenges of raising children with special needs. Since my children were born, at only 26 weeks and each weighing less than two pounds, they have taught me valuable lessons about love and strength that I didn't even know I needed to learn. Today, though our days are filled with mostly happy chaos, I must admit that managing the triplet's healthcare needs, appointments, medical information, insurance, IEP meetings... along with the ordinary worries and responsibilities of being a parent can be overwhelming. As a long-time CSHCS family, I have found that my yearly RN visit and the Plans of Care that she sends me, help me to cope by: 1) helping to manage my children's healthcare; 2) organizing large amounts of information; 3) planning for the future; and 4) reflecting on just how far we've come. “

Community Health	2011
Children's Special Health Care Average Monthly Enrollees	945
Children Screened for Vision	17,277
Children Referred for Vision Follow-up	1,298
Children Screened for Hearing	14,889
Children Referred for Hearing Follow-up	394

Safer deliveries in hospitals under aseptic conditions and improved provision of maternal care for the poor by states or voluntary organizations led to decreases in maternal mortality after 1930. During 1939-1948, U.S. maternal mortality decreased by 71%.

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Environmental Health Services

Environmental Health Services protect public health by ensuring risks from exposure to environmental hazards are minimized through prevention, identification, and response.

Food Safety

80 years ago, not much was known about the science of food safety. Today, we have the ability to not only observe and classify pathogens found in ill individuals and the food, but also sequence the pathogen's DNA for precise identification. Inspections have evolved from something based on basic sanitation, to an inspection that is based on science and risk factors. However, an increasingly global economy brings new concerns and risks. A single incident at the farm can cause illness not only to people in Ottawa County, but also around the world. This emerging problem makes product trace-back, and the ability to rapidly communicate with other agencies, and food establishments, a growing priority.

In 2011, the Food Program worked to strengthen its partnership with their customers. Recognizing that it is the responsibility of the restaurants to manage the risk levels in their establishments on a daily basis, the program has been working to educate restaurant staff, and enforce the appropriate regulations when necessary. To aid in efficiency, and support the relationship with local food establishments, assigned work areas for each inspector were created. An assigned area helps increase trust, builds rapport and creates consistency between the owner/manager and the health inspector. The feedback on this change has been extremely positive.

Environmental Health	2011
Food Inspections Conducted	1,833
Food Service Workers Trained in Food Safety	191
Food Service Complaints Investigated	28

In the 1930s, the main food and waterborne concern was Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid fever). In 2011, Nontyphoidal Salmonella, Toxoplasma, Listeria, and norovirus caused the most deaths. Approximately 3,000 foodborne related deaths occur in the United States each year.

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Solid Waste Program

Over the last 80 years, how communities handle refuse has changed dramatically. Waste disposal has moved from filling lowlands with mostly biodegradable materials like wood and paper, to modern high-tech landfills protecting the environment from hazardous materials, industrial wastes, chemicals, and the byproducts of modern life. In 2011, the Solid Waste Program expanded the personal pharmaceutical collection program to remove unwanted medications from the waste stream and water systems. The program acquired drop boxes and worked with the Sheriff's Department to place these at 6 locations throughout the county to facilitate disposal of controlled medications. For the previous 15 months, ending 12/31/11, the program collected approximately 1,600 pounds of unwanted medications. The program was able to secure approval to use the Kent County Waste to Energy incinerator for disposal, cutting pharmaceutical disposal costs from \$2200/ton to \$71/ton.

In 2011, the Waste Program also re-established a consumer electronics recycling program at no cost to the county or residents, and has recycled almost 15 tons of electronic devices. At the same time, the program renegotiated a recycling contract for a better rate, shorter term and cut hauling and processing fees by a little over 20%.

Environmental Health	2011
Resource Recovery Service Centers Customers	12,958
Gallons of Hazardous Waste Collected	11,207
Pounds of Solid Hazardous Waste Collected	71,270
Pounds of Pesticides Collected	11,207
Cubic Yards of Recyclables Collected	3,606
Recycling Memberships	659

In 1983, open dumps were prohibited by law. There are over 30 known historical waste disposal sites in Ottawa County. Currently, there are two regional municipal waste landfills, and two coal ash landfills operating within the county.

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Beach Water Quality

The beautiful swimming beaches throughout Ottawa County are a popular tourist destination and an important source of revenue for local communities. In an effort to make sure these beaches continue to be clean and inviting to residents and tourists, the Health Department has worked to increase water sampling and investigation at area beaches.

In 2011, the department was awarded multiple grants to increase the bathing beach program within the County. Over \$179,000 was awarded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Clean Michigan Initiative-Clean Water Fund. Activities funded by these grants include increased monitoring at Grand Haven State Park and Grand Haven City beach. The increased visits and samples taken at these beaches will assist in the creation of a predictive model for beach quality. Working closely with the United States Geological Survey, computer models will be created from the data collected to allow the department to better predict days of impaired water quality in the future.

These grants have also provided for investigation at Dunton Park on Lake Macatawa. A service using dogs specially trained to signal at human sewage was deployed to investigate possible sources of contamination. Through a partnership with Hope College, samples are now being analyzed for human DNA markers to quantify the possible contamination. This data will then be utilized to identify areas of concern and implement improvements.

Environmental Health	2011
Beach Water Samples Collected	1,411
Real Estate Evaluations	1,023
Drinking Water Samples Collected	1,521
Well Permits Issued	313
Well Inspections Performed	819
Septic Permits Issued	476
Environmental Complaint Investigations	72

From the 1930s through the 1950s, state and local health departments made substantial progress in disease prevention activities, including sewage disposal, water treatment, food safety, and organized solid waste disposal.

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Health Promotion

The Health Promotion Division of the Ottawa County Health Department strives to promote positive health behaviors that enable people to increase control over and improve their health. Health Promotion provides comprehensive prevention education programs, collaborative community project leadership, reproductive health education, substance abuse prevention, chronic disease prevention programs and oral health services.

CHOOSE (Communities Helping Ottawa Obtain a Safe Environment)

In 2011, the CHOOSE coalition was awarded the National Science and Service Award by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in recognition of the successful work the coalition has done to reduce alcohol related traffic crashes in Ottawa County. CHOOSE uses a coalition model to alter high risk alcohol use and related problems through improved community awareness, increased responsible beverage service, reduced underage alcohol access, and enhanced enforcement efforts and their impact. Because of this unified effort, there has been a reduction in the number of alcohol retailers willing to sell alcohol to a minor, a reduction in the percentage of youth reporting that it is easy to get alcohol, improved training and support for alcohol retailers and an increase in enforcement efforts targeting drunk driving. Between 2004 and 2010, the culmination of these efforts resulted in a 30% decrease in the overall number of alcohol involved traffic crashes, a 59% reduction in the number of alcohol involved crashes for drivers between the age 16 and 20, and a 33% reduction in the rate of alcohol-involved crashed (per 1,000 residents) in Ottawa County.

Health Promotion	2011
Retailers Complying with Youth Alcohol Sales Law	91%
Retailers Complying with Youth Tobacco Sales Law	95%
Responsible Beverage Service Training Participants	275
Alcohol & Drug Test Kits Sold	362
National Science and Service Award	1

Although drinking by persons under the age of 21 has been illegal nationally since 1984, people aged 12 to 20 years drink 11% of all alcohol consumed in the United States.

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Safe Routes To Schools Initiative

In 1969, about half of all students in the U.S. walked or bicycled to school. Today, fewer than 15% of all student trips to/from school are made by walking or bicycling (about 25% take a bus, and over half are driven in private automobiles). Traffic safety is one of the top concerns parents have when deciding whether or not to allow their child to walk or bike to school. In 2011, Health Promotion was awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health to pilot a Safe Routes To School project at two Jenison Public Elementary Schools. Funding, consultation and technical assistance was provided to address some of the traffic concerns expressed by parents and school officials. Three speed limit signs with a digital radar display were installed near school locations where motorists were frequently driving at high speed before and after school. In addition, cross walks were either re-striped or created to alert drivers to pedestrian traffic. Students also received education on how to safely walk or bike to school paired with an incentive program to give them a chance to win a new bike, a helmet and lock.

Holland Farmer's Market Initiative

Downtown Holland, in Ottawa County, is defined by the USDA as a "food desert", which is an area where healthy food resources are scarce. Since 2009, the Health Promotion team has been working diligently with Holland schools and the Holland Farmer's Market to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for low income residents living within the "food desert". Because of this successful collaboration, the USDA awarded a \$43,376 grant to further expand access to healthy food choices in 2012 and 2013.

Health Promotion	2011
Student Walking Program Participants	210
Farmer's Market Youth Vouchers Redeemed	65%

During the early 1940s, 25% of WWII draftees showed evidence of past or present malnutrition. The most urgent challenge to nutritional health in the 21st century is obesity.

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“Miles of Smiles” Dental Program

Since 1994, the “Miles of Smiles” dental-office-on-wheels has been providing preventive and restorative dental services for Medicaid-insured and dentally-uninsured Ottawa County children.

In the 2010/2011 school year, 336 dental exams on “Miles of Smiles” documented 636 teeth with decay (an average of 1.89 cavities per child). However, since 1999, a 40% annual average reduction in tooth decay has been documented on “Miles of Smiles” patients. To date, over 27,000 patient appointments have been facilitated on this mobile dental office.

Historically, dental disease has been perceived as a disease that only involves the mouth. However, recent research documents that there is a correlation between oral disease and systemic diseases. Oral health plays a significant role in one’s general health and well-being throughout life. Dental disease has been associated with chronic diseases such as diabetes, stroke and heart disease. Dental disease has also been correlated with increased risk of poor birth and pregnancy outcomes such as preterm, low birth weight babies and gestational diabetes.

Health Promotion	2011
Dental Unit Exams, Assessments & X-Rays	3,705
Dental Unit Cleanings & Preventative Treatments	3,733
Dental Unit Restorative Services & Oral Surgeries	1,032
Dental Unit Health Education	1,003
In-School Dental Sealant Screenings	424
In-School Dental Sealant Placements	1,389
In-School Fluoride Treatments	404
In-School Dental Health Education	1,638
Head Start Fluoride Varnish Screenings	248
Head Start Fluoride Varnish Applications	235

Failure to meet the minimum standard of having six opposing teeth was a leading cause of rejection from military service in both world wars.

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Clinical Health

Clinic Services are provided out of homes, schools, clinics and community locations. Programs include: Communicable Disease prevention; Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinics; Immunization Services, Travel Clinic, information for travel and immunizations; Family Planning medical exams, pregnancy testing/counseling, prescription birth control, and education.

Immunizations

In 2010, the Federal Government provided temporary funding (though 9/30/11) to be used toward developing or augmenting programs to increase adult immunizations. The Ottawa County Health Department's Immunization Clinic chose to use the majority of that funding to send public health nurses to vaccinate the residents of the Holland Rescue Mission. Starting in March 2010, the Health Department held an immunization clinic at the mission once a month, alternating between the men's mission and women's mission.

As of December 2011, the mission clinic has vaccinated 375 residents and provided over 900 immunizations using vaccines provided free of charge by the Michigan Department of Community Health, and a manufacturer's assistance program. The residents and staff deeply appreciate the outreach to the mission. One resident said, "Thank you so much for coming here. I have always wanted to get these immunizations and knew that I needed them, but could never pay for them." The department continues to send nurses to the mission each month as these residents are a vulnerable, hard to reach, and often overlooked population.

Clinical Health	2011
School Children Compliant with Immunization Law	99%
Travel Clinic Client Encounters	722
Travel Immunizations Administered	1,191

National efforts to promote vaccine use among all children began with the appropriation of federal funds for polio vaccination after introduction of the vaccine in 1955.

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Family Planning

Family planning services began in Ottawa County in 1971 as an educational program spearheaded by a group of women in the community. This group of women provided education on family planning options and health information to groups throughout Ottawa County. The Ottawa County Health Department facilitated the startup of clinics in Ottawa County, with encouragement from this women's advocacy group. The first clinic was held in Grand Haven in July 1971. The initial clinics were held for four hours twice a month and consisted of the provision of medical exams, education and methods. For many women, this new clinic served as their only link to health care services. Forty years later, the Health Department continues to be viewed by many women as their primary care provider, especially for those who are low income, uninsured, or a minority. Today, clinics are held in all three Health Department locations providing eight hour clinics, sixteen times a month. In 2011, 1,633 women received a "well woman" exam through the Family Planning program.

Clinical Health	2011
STD & Pregnancy Prevention Education Participants	1,101
Pregnancy Prevention Client Encounters	2,426
- Uninsured	74%
- Low Income	92%
- Plan First	45%

In 1912, the modern birth-control movement began. Margaret Sanger, a public health nurse concerned about the adverse health effects of frequent childbirth, miscarriages, and abortion, initiated efforts to circulate information about and provide access to contraception.

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Communicable Disease Prevention

TB (tuberculosis) is often thought of as a disease of the past. However, TB remains one of the leading infectious disease killers around the world. Currently, an estimated one third of the world's population has TB infection and almost two million people die of active TB disease every year.

Until recently, the TB skin test was the only screening test available for detecting tuberculosis infection. Unfortunately, the TB skin test can have high error rates. The Ottawa County Health Department was one of the first local health departments in Michigan to start using the new FDA approved T-SPOT TB test to increase testing accuracy. The new T-SPOT blood test can help identify those persons who truly require medical treatment. In 2011, the Health Department conducted 94 T-SPOT blood tests, of those, 84 had previously tested positive with the skin test. With the T-SPOT, 58 cases or 62% tested negative for TB infection. The new T-SPOT TB test prevented unnecessary chest x-rays, intensive medication treatment, and medical care for many county residents.

Clinical Health	2011
Sexually Transmitted Disease Client Encounters	2,824
Communicable Disease Investigations	1,156
STD Treatments Administered	296
HIV Tests Performed	936

The first U.S. civilian whose life was saved by penicillin (March 1942), died in June 1999 at the age of 90 years. Her hospital chart is now at the Smithsonian Institution.

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Public Health Administration

Public Health Administration manages the daily operations of the three Health Department facilities, four recycle centers and over 80 dedicated staff. Administration also oversees Public Health Preparedness, Epidemiology, Medical Examiner, Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system, Public Health Communication, and Public Health Accreditation.

“Meaningful Use” Certification

The Ottawa County Health Department maintains over 200,000 electronic medical records from both past and current patients and clients. In 2011, the department began the process to become federally “Meaningful Use” certified as part of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. This multi-step process aligns the department’s current processes for managing electronic health records to a federal standard that will facilitate the ability of the department to share critical health information with other certified care providers. Conceptually, this will allow residents complete and electronic access to their health history regardless of when and where care has been provided. The department secured a grant to work with a consultant specializing in this process change. In addition, federal funding is available to cover system changes as project milestones are achieved over the next five years.

Administration	2011
Electronic Medical Records	204,890
Medical Examiner Investigations	161
Flu Granny Facebook Followers	1,064
BeachWatch Facebook Followers	339

Public Health is credited with adding 25 years to the life expectancy of people in the United States in the 20th century.

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Postscript

Paul Heidel, MD, MPH, Medical Director

Like all other areas of medicine and science, public health has seen dramatic advances in recent years. From the early days when public health was measured primarily in terms such as “disease outbreaks”, “pregnancy-related death rates” and “polluted water supplies”, public health has evolved into a means of preventing disease rather than just treating it. Instead of simply giving antibiotics for childhood illnesses, public health focuses on ensuring that children are fully immunized so that they do not become ill in the first place. Instead of just treating food and water borne illnesses, the goal of public health is to ensure a continually safe food and water supply for all residents. Instead of dealing only with the aftermath of failed pregnancies or childbirth, the goal of public health is to provide better prenatal and postnatal care to prevent such pregnancy-related complications from ever occurring.

The Ottawa County Health Department continues to focus its attention on disease prevention as the cornerstone of public health. Through its educational efforts within the community and the implementation of innovative and data-driven health initiatives, the Ottawa County Health Department continues to be a leader in public health issues and disease prevention. Along with its community partners it takes great pride in the fact that in a recent study done by the University of Wisconsin, Ottawa County was recognized as the healthiest county in the State of Michigan in 2011.

County Health System	2011
Michigan County Health Ranking	1

In the early 1900s, efforts at surveillance focused on tracking persons with disease; by mid-century, the focus had changed to tracking trends in disease occurrence. In 1947, the newly formed Communicable Disease Center, the early name for CDC, began the first disease surveillance system.

Financial Statement

	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Actual
Revenues						
Licenses & Permits	\$385,459	\$362,473	\$392,769	\$404,832	\$459,368	\$552,669
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$3,247,491	\$4,349,298	\$4,055,163	\$3,572,158	\$4,392,368	\$5,133,020
Charges for Services	\$812,626	\$773,130	\$804,897	\$600,571	\$611,695	\$627,960
Interest & Rent	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Revenue	\$181,923	\$213,200	\$223,774	\$218,015	\$241,946	\$199,754
Total Revenues	\$4,627,499	\$5,698,101	\$5,476,603	\$4,795,576	\$5,705,377	\$6,513,403
Expenditures						
Personnel Services	\$6,012,192	\$6,374,861	\$6,525,928	\$6,238,358	\$6,123,262	\$5,877,766
Supplies	\$1,192,476	\$1,756,591	\$1,780,394	\$1,151,064	\$1,271,842	\$1,224,418
Others Services & Charges	\$2,129,772	\$2,217,205	\$2,191,313	\$1,906,773	\$1,834,892	\$1,619,228
Capital Outlay	\$119,118	\$0	\$241,471	(\$8,087)	\$13,032	\$5,760
Total Expenditures	\$9,453,558	\$10,348,657	\$10,739,106	\$9,288,108	\$9,243,028	\$8,727,172
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures Health Operations	(\$4,826,059)	(\$4,650,556)	(\$5,262,503)	(\$4,492,532)	(\$3,537,651)	(\$2,213,769)
Jail						
Revenue	\$20,458	\$18,361	\$13,397	\$6,180	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$779,283	\$860,792	\$795,491	\$268,752	\$0	\$0
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures Jail Health	(\$758,825)	(\$842,431)	(\$782,094)	(\$262,572)	\$0	\$0
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures - Total	(\$5,584,884)	(\$5,492,987)	(\$6,044,597)	(\$4,755,104)	(\$3,537,651)	(\$2,213,769)
Other Financing Sources (Uses):						
Transfers in	\$5,646,605	\$5,926,606	\$6,201,489	\$4,743,828	\$3,537,651	\$3,084,996
Transfers out			(\$1,300,000)			(\$871,527)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$5,646,605	\$5,926,606	\$4,901,489	\$4,743,828	\$3,537,651	\$2,213,469
FTE (Employees)						
Health Operations	101.70	102.28	98.78	92.38	85.08	84.13

Board of Commissioners

The activities and programs of this department are brought to you by the members of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners; Stuart Visser, Philip Kuyers, Dennis Swartout, Greg DeJong, Roger Rycenga, Joseph Baumann, Donald Disselkoe, Robert Karsten, James Holtrop, James Holtvluwer, and Jane Ruiter.

Visit www.miOttawa.org/health for more information about Ottawa County Public Health Services.

