

# Livingston County Department of Public Health

## Annual Report 2007



**O**n behalf of the LCDPH staff, I present you with the 2007 Annual Report for the Livingston County Department of Public Health. We are again offering it via our website [www.lchd.org](http://www.lchd.org). I sincerely encourage you to review the report and to become aware of our programs and services.

**T**he report highlights the programs and services established to protect and promote the health of Livingston County residents. The Health Department directly provides health services to thousands of individuals through our environmental health and personal and preventive health divisions. We protect Livingston County residents from the spread of communicable diseases and from environmental hazards.

**H**owever, our impact on the overall health of the community goes beyond these services. Staff members are involved in many community initiatives, and our health services and programs positively affect the safety and quality of life for all Livingston County residents.

A few of our accomplishments during 2007 include:

- ◆ Successful passage of a county regulation to license and inspect body art establishments
- ◆ Strengthening the capabilities of our Public Health Volunteer Response Team
- ◆ Completion of the analysis of the birth defect rate for Livingston County
- ◆ A reduction of our administrative costs by contracting management staff to provide services to other local health departments

**S**hould you have any questions or comments after reviewing the report or about any information or topics detailed on our website, do not hesitate to contact me.

**F**inally, I want to thank the Board of Commissioners for their continuing commitment to improve the overall health status of the community.

Sincerely,



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## What Does the LCDPH Do for You?

LCDPH is a leader in improving the health and well-being of your community.

**Protects you from health threats, the everyday and the exceptional.** LCDPH guards multiple fronts to defend you from health threats, regardless of the source, and works to prevent disease outbreaks. LCDPH makes sure the tap water you drink, the restaurant food you eat and the air you breathe are all safe. It's ready to respond to any health emergency—be it a food borne outbreak, West Nile Virus or an environmental hazard. Our food service health inspectors organize and conduct classes to assist restaurant managers to meet current food safety standards.

**Educates you and your neighbors about health issues.** LCDPH gives you information that allows you to make healthy decisions every day, like exercising more, eating right, quitting smoking or simply washing your hands to keep from spreading illness. This information is provided through public forums in the community, public service announcements in the media, programs in the schools, and through our web site. During a public health emergency, LCDPH provides important alerts and warnings to protect your health.

Effective education can promote efficiency and offer support. LCDPH uses [www.lchd.org](http://www.lchd.org) to assist all the school districts in communicable disease reporting and to provide personal health fact sheets on a variety of common childhood illnesses, such as lice, pink eye, and norovirus.

**Provides healthy solutions for everyone.** LCDPH offers the preventive care you need to avoid chronic disease and to help maintain your health. It provides flu shots for adults and children, and helps income eligible mothers obtain prenatal support to give their babies a healthy start. LCDPH also provides children with immunizations to keep them healthy, and offers hearing and vision screenings to help them learn.

**Advances community health.** LCDPH plays a vital role in developing new policies and standards to address existing and emerging challenges to Livingston County residents' health while enforcing a range of laws intended to keep you safe. LCDPH is constantly working to maintain its unique expertise and deliver up-to-date health programs.

Treatment for Communicable Diseases has evolved rapidly during the last several years. The staff of LCDPH keeps up to date in preventing the spread of diseases through continuing education sessions.

### Public Health:

*"...creating the knowledge, tools and networks that people and communities want and need for their health... through health promotion, prevention of disease and injury and disability and preparedness."*

-Julie Louise Gerberding, MD, MPH Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Administrator  
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

## PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program has an emergency response plan for LCDPH that will be activated in the event of any large scale emergency or disaster due to a public health threat.

In 2007, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program offered trainings to the nurse volunteers from our Public Health Volunteer Response Team after surveying them to determine what topics would best strengthen our response in the event of a public health emergency. We held sessions on food borne illness investigation and family preparedness. We also successfully recruited and oriented several new nurse volunteers thereby expanding our pool of volunteer nurses.

To encourage residents to start or complete a personal or family emergency kit, LCDPH developed and distributed 10,000 emergency preparedness guides throughout Livingston County in 2007.

## HEALTH PLAN B

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The Livingston Health Plan B benefit program is a community-sponsored program that helps uninsured adults to get in-county health care services. Uninsured residents of Livingston County who meet residency and income eligibility requirements may be candidates for the Plan B benefit.

In 2007, we assisted 966 Livingston County residents in obtaining health benefits.

## CHILD DEATH REVIEW (CDR)

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The purpose of the CDR team is to conduct in-depth reviews of child deaths between birth through 18 years of age in order to understand how and why children die and to take action to prevent other deaths from similar causes. The review process also tries to improve the community's response to child deaths, including investigations and provision of services to those affected by the death. Based on findings from the local CDR teams, the State Advisory Team reviews the causes and trends of child deaths, and makes recommendations for policy and changes to practice to prevent future child deaths.

The Livingston County CDR Team was established in 1998. LCDPH has coordinated CDR activities which include selecting cases for team review, coordinating and facilitating the quarterly meetings and completing case reports. If preventable factors are identified, the team may make recommendations for action steps to prevent future deaths from similar causes. LCDPH staff will initiate correspondence to facilitate action within the community on behalf of the team's decision.

In 2007, the CDR team reviewed 5 cases.

## Personal Health Services

### CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

This program provides a broad range of care coordination services for families of children with special needs. Staff assists families with many service needs including referrals for diagnostics, completion of applications for new or renewed enrollment, determination of financial eligibility and assistance with billing and transportation issues.

- We provided these services to 410 families.

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Disease control is the focus of this program which includes surveillance, epidemiological investigation, and prevention and control of communicable diseases in Livingston County. Newly emerging and reemerging infectious diseases may be a threat to public health and therefore must be monitored. Disease or infection identification and timely reporting by hospitals, health care providers and schools to the Health Department comprise the first steps in the disease control process. Prompt investigation of infectious diseases by our staff assists in identification of the source of the infection and reduces the possible spread of the disease. Communicable Disease program activities included:

- Communicable Disease Reporting  
We investigated 402 reportable communicable diseases. We followed up with 188 animal bites with potential rabies exposure. Out of 126 animals tested, seven animals were positive for rabies: five bats; one dog; one skunk.
- HIV/AIDS Testing  
The HIV/AIDS program focuses on prevention, education and HIV testing. We provided 92 individuals with these services, and we participate annually in National HIV Test Day.
- STI Program  
In 2007, education and referral for evaluation and treatment was provided to 164 individuals with sexually transmitted infections.
- TB Prevention and Control  
We administered TB skin tests to 600 individuals in 2007. We followed up with 2 county residents for latent TB infections.



Erin Neuroth, Clinical Assistant, processes HIV blood specimens.

### NURSES WELCOME NEWBORNS (NWN) PROGRAM

Public Health Nurses offer support and education to parents and newborns in their homes. The nurses provide information about infant care, nutrition, growth and development, home and car seat safety as well as linking families with community resources. The NWN program served 176 families.

### LEAD PREVENTION PROGRAM

In 2007, 170 children in WIC received blood lead screening tests. Parents received specific information on how to reduce the lead hazards in their homes. We provide case management, including public health nursing and environmental assessment and follow-up to children identified with elevated blood lead levels.

## Personal Health Services

### IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

The goal of the Immunization Program is to protect the public's health from vaccine preventable diseases. The program includes clinic activities and support and outreach to county schools and private vaccine providers. Highlights of the program for 2007 were:

- Administered 4657 total doses of vaccine, including 1743 doses of influenza vaccine.
- Integrated two new vaccines into Immunization clinic services: Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (HPV vaccine) and Zoster Vaccine (Shingles).
- Utilized the School Immunization Reporting System (MCIR/SIRS) to assess the immunization status of children in Livingston County schools and preschools. 6600 K-12 student records and 3165 preschool records were assessed.
- Initiated the formation of the Livingston County Immunization Advisory Coalition. The coalition offers a venue for Livingston County vaccine providers to collaborate in their efforts to vaccinate county residents for influenza and other childhood and adult immunizations.
- Presented 11 Nurse Educator training modules to county physician office staff.
- Monitored immunization coverage levels for the county's 19-35 month olds. Collaborated with MCIR Region 1 Manager and county physicians to do a county-wide recall of children who were overdue for age appropriate vaccines. Immunization coverage level for year end 2007 was 72%.

### HEARING AND VISION SCREENING PROGRAM

The goal of the Hearing & Vision program is to promote the health of children. The technicians who conduct the screenings are specially trained and regularly evaluated by the Michigan Department of Community Health to assure that the tests are administered properly. Children who do not pass a hearing or vision screening are referred for evaluation to their health care provider. Families who need assistance are referred to appropriate community resources.

During 2007, school hearing screenings were provided to 7102 children in preschools, kindergarten, grades 2 and 4 and to students in special education. School vision screenings were provided to 9733 children in preschools, grades 1,3,5 and 7 and children in special education. Early childhood and driver's education students were also screened as requested. Other children referred to the program by a parent, teacher, or school nurse due to a suspected hearing or vision problem were also screened.

### WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM

The WIC program is a point of entry to health care for many clients. WIC provides screenings for some health problems and offers nutrition education. WIC staff provide referrals to other health and social services including immunizations, Medicaid, prenatal care and smoking cessation programs. In 2007 the average monthly participation in WIC was 1730 individuals.

210 packets of Project Fresh coupons were provided to participants of the WIC program to use at local farm markets to purchase Michigan grown produce.



WIC Program Clerk, Theresa Kelly (center) welcomes a new family to the WIC program.

## Environmental Health Services

### COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

LCDPH provides environmental health inspections through contracts with various State agencies. These inspections are critical to the licensing and operation of these public facilities in Livingston County. Environmental health staff routinely inspect, public swimming pools, public bathing beaches, child and foster care facilities, and public campgrounds. LCDPH also acts as an emergency resource to local EMS in potential contamination events that could cause health issues to the general public.

2007 Inspections:

- 8 seasonal campgrounds
- 8 childrens' campgrounds
- 81 adult foster care and child care facility inspections
- 58 pools & spas
- 15 public beaches

### FOOD PROTECTION

In an effort to maintain the health of our community, LCDPH regularly inspects food service establishments to ensure proper food handling and review standard operations in an effort to eliminate potential food borne illness. This is accomplished by educating our food establishments through training and certification of employees and managers. As a community service, LCDPH posts local restaurant inspection results online.

Food Protection program activities for 2007 include:

- 408 permanent food service establishments
- 34 plan reviews
- 18 food vending inspections
- 78 food-borne investigations
- 731 frequent food service inspections
- 164 temporary food inspections
- 8 mobile food service units
- 18 special transitory



LCDPH Food Team participates in the Relay for Life fundraiser breakfast.

### WATER QUALITY

The LCDPH onsite water supply program works to ensure public health protection through safe drinking water, proper well and water supply system construction, and site evaluation for land development. LCDPH acts as the local permitting agency for all residential and small public water supply systems. LCDPH also consults with the general public with respect to water quality and maintains active involvement in mapping and monitoring sites of environmental concern within the county.

Water Quality program activities for 2007 include:

- 515 permits
- 315 private wells sampled adjacent to contamination sites
- 361 non-community supplies, with 78 inspections

## Environmental Health Services

### AIR QUALITY

LCDPH provides resource information and consultation on various sources of air pollutants, such as: radon, mold, lead, asbestos, mercury, carbon monoxide, environmental tobacco smoke, and volatile organic compounds (voc). LCDPH does not typically perform indoor air quality investigations; however, our staff is available to assist the general public with their concerns and/or questions regarding indoor air quality.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

LCDPH services includes evaluation of site conditions to determine suitability for the utilization of onsite sewage disposal, evaluation and approval of system construction, and the investigation and enforcement of complaints regarding improper operation and maintenance of existing on site sewage disposal facilities in the county. LCDPH acts as the local permitting agency for all residential and small commercial onsite sewage treatment systems.

Waste Management program activities for 2007 include:

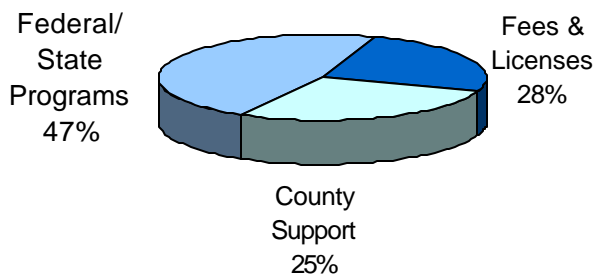
- 345 site evaluations
- 329 permits
- 11 licensed waste haulers
- 11 disposal sites inspected
- 1 septage receiving station inspected



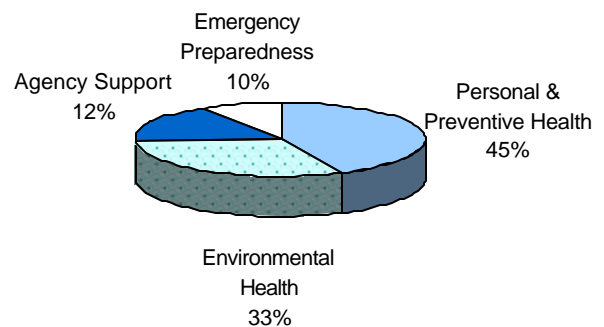
LCDPH sanitarians work closely with local excavators.

## LCDPH Revenues & Expenses

### Revenue by Source, 2007



### Expenses by Division, 2007



## ***Our Mission***

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Livingston County Department of Public Health will protect, preserve, and promote the health and safety of the people of Livingston County.

## ***Our Vision***

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Livingston County will be a safe and healthy community where all people realize their fullest health potential and live enriched and productive lives.



## **Livingston County Board of Commissioners**

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Maggie E. Jones, District 1  
Jim E. Mantey, District 2  
David J. Domas, District 3  
Ronald L. VanHouten, District 4  
Donald S. Parker, District 5  
Steven E. Williams, District 6  
Dennis L. Dolan, District 8  
John E. LaBelle, District 9

## **Executive Management Staff**

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Ted Westmeier, Health Officer/Director  
Elaine Brown, Personal & Preventive Health Services Director  
Dianne McCormick, Environmental Health Director  
Donald Lawrenchuk, M.D., Medical Director  
Bonnie Detweiler, Business Manager

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