

TUSCOLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FY 2008-09 Annual Report



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Tuscola County Health Department Mission, Vision Statement & Vision Priorities

Mission

We are dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of Tuscola County residents by providing a wide range of quality human and environmental services.

Vision

The Tuscola County Health Department will be recognized by the public, medical community and collaborative partners as a valuable asset in providing resources and innovative approaches to health promotion and protection in the community.

Vision Priorities

- We engage the community to meet their health care concerns while recognizing the community's social, environmental, behavioral, economical and physical well being
- We adapt programs and services to meet the needs of the community
- We play an integral role in emergency preparedness
- We pursue funding avenues that coincide with our mission and vision
- We have effective public relations that promote our services
- We utilize advancements in technology to improve community services
- We engage in educational opportunities that advance the knowledge of our staff
- Effective teamwork is present among employees
- Respond to the community/individual needs

**Gretchen Tenbusch, R.N., M.S.A.
Health Officer**

The Tuscola County Health Department is always striving to improve service delivery to our residents. During Fiscal Year 2008-2009, many partnerships were developed. A colorectal education grant utilized Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac County Health Departments along with area hospitals from the tThumb. This grant provided education to Thumb residents regarding the need for colorectal screening. The Tuscola County Health Department developed an agreement with four other local health departments to share the services of Dr. Russell L. Bush, M.D., MPH, as Medical Director. The Health Department also worked with a network of providers as it assisted with the investigation of a multi-state outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium. As H1N1 began to spread across the USA, the Health Department implemented components of our pandemic flu plan as cases of the illness began showing up in Michigan and eventually Tuscola County. In response to the illness, the Health Department began preparations for mass vaccination clinics of county residents. We know that prevention is cheaper than treatment. In these struggling economic times, we will endeavor to find ways to continue programs and projects to improve the health of our community.

On behalf of the Tuscola County Health Department staff, I am pleased to present this Annual Report. This report is intended to highlight accomplishments for fiscal year 2008-09. These accomplishments of the Health Department were possible due to the hard work and dedication of the Health Department staff and the involvement of the Board of Health and Board of Commissioners. The Health Department will continue to protect and promote the residents of Tuscola County through surveillance, assessment, planning and collaboration. I hope you find this report interesting and informative. We thank you for your support of this organization and the services provided.

**10/1/08– 9/30/09 EMPLOYEE LIST
Tuscola County Health Department**

NAME	TITLE	HIRE DATE
Amend, Ron	Veteran Affairs Director	10/1/07
Anthes, Beth	PHN II	11/13/00
Barrons, Deb	Program Clerk II	4/27/92
Bellsky, Sally	PHN II	7/8/92
Brinkman, Marcy	PHN II	2/23/98
Bush, Russell M.D.	Medical Director	1/1/08
Caverly, Doraine	Account Clerk	7/10/78
Cuthrell, Amy	Health Educator	11/09/06
Dickinson, Janelle	Program Clerk II	7/5/89
Dunham, Patty	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	10/27/85
Germain, Kelly	PHN II/Program Coordinator	5/28/91
Gutierrez, Elva	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	1/5/93
Harrington, Lorraine	Registered Dietitian	5/7/86
Hepfer, Ann	Nursing Administrator	10/31/88
Hicks, Carol	Administrative Services Coordinator	12/17/74
Johnson, Sue	Program Clerk II	1/7/91
Kile, Ruth	Program Clerk II	1/4/93
MacGuire, Tip	Environmental Health Director	7/12/93
McCollum, Nancy	Billing Clerk	11/26/79
Mika, Sharon	P.H. Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	8/26/02
Milazzo, Dianne	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	1/8/00
Miller, Nancy	Nurse Practitioner	2/27/06
Peters, Lugene	Program Clerk II	8/6/90
Pokorski, Kathy	PHN II/Department Coordinator	7/21/03
Sammons, Bonnie	Fiscal Manager	2/19/74
Singer, Kent	Registered Sanitarian III	6/7/95
Smith, Mary	PHN II	7/28/06
Stephens, Carol	MIS Manager	10/7/74
Suber, Christina	Social Worker	3/11/98
Tenbusch, Gretchen	Health Officer	2/1/88
VanOchten, Jessica	Hearing & Vision Technician	2/27/06
Villalobos, Kristi	PHN II/Department Coordinator	9/28/98
White, Jerry	Registered Sanitarian III	5/15/91
Williams, Karen	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	5/8/00

Russell L. Bush, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director

Russell L. Bush, M.D., M.P.H., joined the staff of the Health Department as Medical Director on January 1, 2008. Dr. Bush, and his wife of 22 years, Peggy, live in Lapeer. They have two children, Saralynn and Bryan. Dr. Bush is employed at Professional Health & Medical Services and serves as Medical Director in Huron, Lapeer, Tuscola, Iosco, Alcona, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties. In the past he has worked in the Family Medicine Residency Programs and Department of Medical Education at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc and in his own solo medical practice.

Dr. Bush coordinates the Child Death Review Team which meets as needed to review all child deaths in the county under the age of 19.

Dr. Bush works closely with the health department staff regarding communicable disease issues, contamination issues, food recalls and oversees and reviews all medical policies, protocols, manuals and standing medical guidelines.

Management Information Systems Division
Carol Stephens, MIS Manager

The mission of the MIS Division is to make available comprehensive and high quality services to meet the information technology needs of the Tuscola County Health Department.

The agency website www.tchd.us is continuously maintained and updated, in an attempt to provide Tuscola County citizens the most up-to-date information possible. An internal website is maintained for staff use with training documents, program manuals and announcements.

The MIS Division has the continuous job of keeping all agency programs up to date with the most current software applications, backing up the system, monitoring for viruses and helping staff to create and run reports as needed.

Currently we maintain 2 file servers, 42 workstations, 7 laptop computers, and 10 shared printer stations. A variety of software programs used within the agency are continuously monitored and upgraded as needed. Investigation continues for possible software solutions to replace our current CMHC system.

TOBACCO REDUCTION

Tobacco Reduction efforts are conducted through the Tuscola County Safe Communities Coalition which is a community based coalition comprised of members of human service agencies, schools and the general public. This coalition meets on a quarterly basis, welcomes new members and provides a tobacco resource distribution and referral service to the community. The objectives are to:

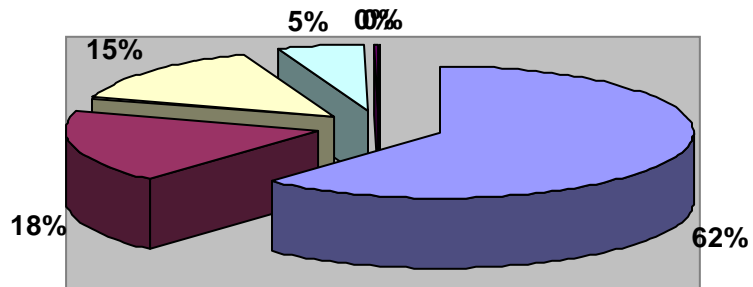
- 1) Develop and maintain community mobilization and awareness around tobacco-related issues.
- 2) Develop and maintain multi-cultural input into coalition efforts.
- 3) Promote and increase the availability of clean indoor air in the community.
- 4) Promotion of tobacco use cessation targeting health care providers in Tuscola County.
- 5) Encourage all area schools to be 24/7 Smoke Free.
- 6) Encourage smoking cessation in pregnant and post partum women.

FISCAL DIVISION
Bonnie Sammons, Fiscal Manager

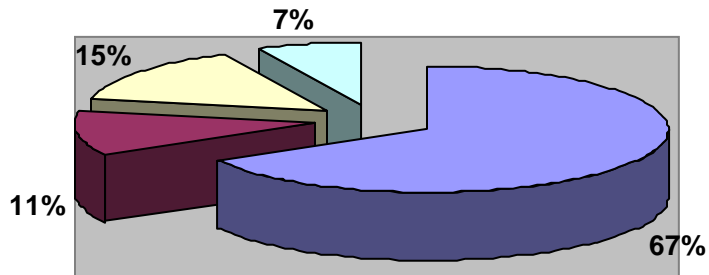
Tuscola County Health Department's Fiscal Division performs all general accounting functions, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, budgeting, payroll, financial reporting and internal control. The accounting policies of the Tuscola County Health Department conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to government units.

2008—2009
BUDGET
\$2,971,041

Revenues	
Intergovernmental	61.8%
Charges for Services	17.8%
Other Financing Sources	14.6%
Licensing and Permits	5.4%
General Contributions	.3%
Other	.1%



Expenses	
Personal Health	67%
Environmental Health	11%
Administration	15%
Other	7%



Office of Veteran Affairs

Ron Amend, Director

The County Veteran Affairs Director handles Federal, State and County Programs that are available to veterans, widows and dependent children seeking assistance. Federal Programs are VA benefits either in Compensation, Dependence and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Pension and Retirement Pay, Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Hospitalization, Home loans, Insurance and burial benefits. State programs include: Veteran Trust Fund, Employment, Education, two State operated nursing homes and other programs. County Programs include: Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund, The Veteran Affairs Office, food banks, and other agencies such as the Human Development Commission.

TUSCOLA COUNTY VA STATISTICS 2008/09			
Office Visits	985	Written communication received	343
Phone Calls Received	1940	Written communication sent	721
Phone Calls Placed	1508	D.A.V. Van used to transport Veterans To V.A. Hospitals	266
Home Visits to Veterans/Widows	19		
Trust Fund Applications (MVTf)	10		
MVTf Amount Granted	\$5,574.43	Hours logged by DAV Van Volunteers	1258
Soldiers/Sailors Relief Applications	95		
S & S Amount Granted	\$20,655.81		

Partnering For Health-A Coordinated Access to Care Project

In August 2007, the Thumb Rural Health Network (TRHN), a 13 member network of the hospitals and the health departments located in, or serving, the Thumb met to discuss how to increase access to care for the uninsured. Seeing no clear end to the steady decline of the economy, providers recognized a growing and urgent need and designed a pilot project to address the issues. The project addresses the primary care issues by utilizing a modified medical home concept through a coordinated process. This maximizes the use of existing services, integrates the existing healthcare system, and incorporates expectations and support for personal accountability. This pilot program is known as the *Partnering for Health Project*. The project emphasizes that there must be a commitment from the patient, as well as the providers, to improve health status. The project is not a free clinic; it is designated to provide the patient with traditional primary care physician services in a routinely scheduled format without cost. The registration for this program is done at the health department. The program services adults who are considered low-income (150% of the national poverty level) and uninsured. The care is provided free of charge in an assigned medical office clinic owned by one of the local hospitals. Participation in the program is limited.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Sharon Mika, Department Coordinator

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Department develops plans, educates staff and performs exercises through drills, tabletop, and full scale exercises to test our response to a public health emergency.

The Tuscola County Health Department prepared and participated in a State Wide Distribution Node exercise in March. The Exercise consisted of several TCHD staff, Law Enforcement, school officials, Caro Center, Emergency Management, County Government, Tuscola County ARES/RACES and Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network. The exercise tested the availability of a TCHD representative to sign the State to Local Transfer form for custody of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and then contact the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) by 800 MHz radio from our location to confirm receipt of our shipment. The health department set up the distribution node, simulated the breakdown of material and shipped a box of supplies to the Caro Center by following the chain of custody using all the proper paper work. A timed call down exercise was also completed of all participants.

On June 16, several TCHD staff participated in a Pandemic Flu tabletop exercise at Hills and Dales Hospital. Hospitals, long term care facilities, local public health departments from Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac and Tuscola counties reviewed their plans and procedures in the event of a Pandemic Flu outbreak. This exercise proved to be very timely with the outbreak of 2009 H1N1.

On June 24, the health dept. participated in a county generator drill which tested the ability to transport, hookup and run the generator at one of our identified dispensing sites.

The health department continues to train staff, update and revise plans, meet with our response partner to test our ability to respond to events and protect the public in Tuscola County.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

TIP MACGUIRE, R.S., Director

Adverse environmental factors have a direct influence on humans. Impacts can be disease transmission through exposure to pathogenic organisms, or by exposure to toxins having a physiological effect on humans. Lesser environmental factors such as living conditions in a home can effect the overall well-being of the persons subjected to the given environment. As a member of the public health team, environmental health advocates and promotes disease prevention. Goals are met through enforcement of regulations and programs developed to not only protect public health, but to also control adverse environmental factors. Programs and regulations are grouped into categories of: Water, Shelter, Food, Waste and Community Health. The following statistics falling under these categories reflect the services provided in fiscal year 2008-09.

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Regular inspections are conducted in all food service establishments in Tuscola County. Efforts in this program are key elements in assuring that meals consumed outside of the home are safe.

Fixed Food Service Establishments	155	Transitory Food Inspections	7
Fixed Food Service Inspections	465	Vending Location Inspections	11
Temporary Food Inspections	158	Foodborne Illness Investigations	0

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Contact with raw or improperly treated sewage is the major method by which diseases are spread. Proper disposal and treatment of sewage is a critical aspect of protecting public health. Under State and Local Code Enforcement, this division evaluates and issues permits for the installation of all on-site sewage systems in Tuscola County.

On-site Sewage Disposal Permits Issued	94	On-site Sewage Disposal Inspections	241
On-site Sewage Permits (Commercial)	1	On-site Sewage Inspections (Commercial)	10

SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER CONTROL

The basics to human life and public health philosophy is the provision that a safe and adequate water supply is available to the individual and public. To this end, all wells in Tuscola County are installed under permit with well locations being reviewed, proper isolations required, final inspections conducted and water sampling performed to determine water quality.

Well Permits Issued	156	Well Permit Final Inspections	132
Complaints Investigated	5	Operation/Maintenance Evaluations	48

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Additional activities important to health protection cover a range of programs such as: Shelter, Public Swimming Pools, Mobile Home Parks, Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste, Indoor and Outdoor Air, and Campgrounds.

Campground Inspection	14	Adult/Child Care Facility Inspection	45
Public Swimming Pool Inspection	10	Hazardous Waste	4
Solid Waste	12	Animal Control	4
Indoor/Outdoor Air	26	Subdivision Inspections	0
Ground Water Quality	24	Residential Dwellings/Lead Paint	0
Mosquito/Insect Control	2	Septage Inspections	65

COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN—SPECIAL POPULATIONS

On December 8, 2008, we were awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Michigan Public Health Institute for a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Campaign among Special Populations in Michigan. The grant funding period was from January 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009. The purpose of the grant was to promote universal awareness of colorectal cancer, its impact, and the importance of early detection. The program targeted residents in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties; along with the sub group of women who utilize the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Programs for all three counties. The goal was to increase the communities’ understanding of colorectal cancer prevention and early detection among the selected population and the medical community. We were successful in getting our message out using the following methods:

- Email Blitz: Estimated over the three counties with employees at hospitals and health departments that we sent 12,000 in three months.
- Using the local papers and Senior Horizons as media outlets more than 70,000 readers over the three counties.
- 223 business mailing that included materials for their employees over the three counties.
- Radio FM and AM public service announcements.
- The Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Programs educated 320 women face to face and also sent out colorectal cancer reminder messages to 276 women.
- 10,000 brochures were distributed to persons 50 and over.
- It is estimated that 20,000 people viewed the billboards.
- 76 physician offices across the three counties had their brochures stocked monthly

GERIATRIC SERVICES

ADULT HEALTH SERVICES	
Geriatric Enrollments	5
Dementia Community Presentations	11
Geriatric Home Visits	10

HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

ANN HEPFER, R.N., Nursing Administrator

MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT)/Well Child Clinic: Provides health and developmental screening and referrals for children ages birth to 21 on Medicaid. For a small fee the Well Child Clinic provides for the same medical services for children who do not have Medicaid. Services include Hearing and Vision Screening, comprehensive head to toe physical, Denver Developmental Screening and lead testing.

Women, Infant and Children (WIC): Serves children from birth to age 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women who meet the income guidelines. WIC is not only a supplemental food program, it also provides for nutritional information and breastfeeding promotion and support.

Maternal/Infant Health Program (MIHP): Provides home visits and/or office visits to pregnant women and their infants who are on Medicaid. This program is aimed at healthier outcomes for both the pregnant woman and the infant. A team made up of a Registered Nurse, Dietician and Social Worker take a multidisciplinary approach in working with the family.

Touching Lives of Children Program (TLC): Focuses on pregnant women and children from birth through three years of age who are at increased risk for abuse and neglect. A multidisciplinary approach is taken in working with the families. The team is made up of a Family Mentor, Social Worker, Registered Nurse and Dietician. Center Based Services are offered through Highland Pines so that children and parents can learn and have fun together.

Children Special Health Care Services (CSHCS): Provides financial support and case management services for children ages birth to 21 with chronic health problems or disabilities.

Prenatal Services: Health Delivery Incorporated provides prenatal care and educational services on site. Clients are seen by midwives and deliver at Bay Regional Medical Center in Bay City.

Hearing and Vision Program: Provides Hearing and Vision screenings in the schools throughout the year and in the summer at the Health Department by trained technicians.

MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS—2006/07	
Hearing Services Preschool/School Age	2860
Vision Services Preschool/School Age	4892
Touching Lives of Children Services Unduplicated Services	45
Women, Infant and Children Program—Monthly average	1645
EPSDT/Well Child Services	331
Maternal Infant Support Services Unduplicated Services	266
Pregnant Women Enrolled in Prenatal Services	121
Children Special Health Care Services—Unduplicated Enrollees	12

Community-Based Abstinence Education Program 2009

The Health Department was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health to provide Abstinence Education in the Huron and Tuscola County Schools, to the targeted age groups of 12-18. The benefit of this project is that students received a comprehensive researched based Abstinence Education program that will lead to an increasing number of students who abstain from sexual activity outside of marriage, abstain from illegal use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and other high risk activities that set students up to fail. The parent component of the program focused on educating parents in regards to their role and responsibilities in protecting their children from risky behaviors and opening dialogue between parents and their children in regards to the parents' expectations, family values and morals. The feedback we received from our first programming year was very positive. The pre/post test results and the parent post program surveys revealed a 97% satisfaction rating. The program was federally funded and in June of 2009 the federal funds were not signed back into legislation and as a result the program ended.

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

The Tuscola County Health Department's Family Planning Program philosophy is consistent with the Michigan Department of Community Health and Title X. Family planning is a preventive health measure which impacts positively on the health and well-being of men, women, children and families. Effective family planning programs are essential health care delivery interventions that correlate with decreased high-risk pregnancy and maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Services provided through family planning clinics allow men and women to make well informed reproductive health choices. The family planning clinic addresses the unmet family planning needs of women at or below, and those slightly above, the poverty level, but still considered low income, and provides access to those with special needs (such as teens and high-risk women). No one is denied services because of an inability to pay.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES—2009

Family Planning Unduplicated Clients	1068
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SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION SERVICES

The mission of the Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Program is to reduce the number of STI's through diagnosis, treatment and education. The program operates on an "as needed" basis. Authority is given to the Public Health Department according to Public Health Act 368 of 1978 (revised, October 1993). Due to a reduction in State funding over the past two years, we have curtailed our screening exams. Screening guidelines are in place that serve as a guide to who gets tested. Tuscola County is deemed a "low incidence" area and is allotted only a small number of test kits for free. Once the free kits are depleted we charge for the any additional tests. Our rate of STI's has remained relatively consistent over the past 5 years; the majority of our infections are either Chlamydia or Gonorrhea related.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION—3 YEAR COMPARISON

	2007	2008	2009
Chlamydia	69	68	100
Gonorrhea	6	8	15
Syphilis Primary	2	4	1

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Immunizations are a very important component of Public Health. The current immunization schedule for adults and children protects against sixteen diseases. New vaccines offered in the past year included Menactra, Hepatitis A, Tdap, and Rotavirus. Special priority projects included outreach clinics to the Amish community and an outreach clinic in Vassar once a month.

IMMUNIZATIONS	2006/2007	2007/08	2008/09
Clients Immunized	2569	3145	2791
Vaccines Administered	6264	7817	6520
Doses Distributed	2776	3456	1156
School Immunization Records Reviewed	3354	5439	6021
Percent of 19-35 month old children fully immunized in the county	74%	66%	55%
Adult Influenza Vaccine Administered	777	790	1291
Pneumococcal Vaccine Administered	70	44	81

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

State of Michigan's Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) is a Web-based communicable disease reporting and tracking system. The purpose of this system is to facilitate coordination among local, State and Federal Public Health agencies to provide secure transfer and analysis of communicable disease patterns. All area laboratories and hospitals report all allowable and reportable infections to the local health departments via MDSS.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS—3 YEAR COMPARISON			
	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
AIDS	0	1	0
Food Borne Illness	18	22	16
Meningitis-Aseptic	2	2	1
Meningitis-Bacterial	1	0	0
Meningitis—other	-	1	0
Pneumoniae Invasive	5	4	4
Cryptococcosis	0	0	1
Flu Like Illness	1130	746	671
Guillain-Barre'	0	0	0
Kawasaki	0	0	0
Legionellosis	0	1	0
Rabies-Bat	0	0	0
Chickenpox	27	11	8
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	2	0	0
Hepatitis B Chronic	1	2	0
Hepatitis B Perinatal	0	0	0
Hepatitis B Acute	-	3	2
Hepatitis C Acute	1	0	1
Hepatitis C Unknown	-	2	0
Hepatitis C Chronic	11	25	13
Coccidioidomycosis	1	2	0
Encephalitis	0	1	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	1	0	0
Staphylococcus Aureus Infections	1	0	0
MRSA	-	1	0
Mumps	0	0	0
Pertussis	1	3	6
Histoplasmosis	1	0	0
Q Fever	1	0	0
Streptococcus, Group A	1	1	1
Influenza—confirmed	-	3	2
Toxic Shock	-	-	1