

North Dakota Department of

HEALTH

Biennial Report 2005 – 2007



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

North Dakota Department of Health
Biennial Report
2005 to 2007

John Hoeven, Governor
Dr. Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer

Loreeta Canton, Editor



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

State Health Officer's Message



December 1, 2007

Every day, North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) personnel work tirelessly to protect and safeguard the health of every North Dakotan. From environmental issues to disease outbreaks, public health is on the front lines. Here are just a few of our efforts this biennium to address public health challenges facing our state:

- The NDDoH's environmental scientists responded to a salt water spill in western North Dakota that threatened water quality, plants and wildlife, as well as the livelihood of area ranchers who depend on the water.
- Tobacco use, unhealthy diets and poor exercise habits all contribute to chronic diseases and early death. NDDoH personnel work with local public health units and other partners across the state to promote healthy lifestyles and timely medical screenings.
- From West Nile virus to norovirus to shigella, disease detectives from the department work hard to identify and contain disease outbreaks. Their efforts to educate the public and track down sources of illness help to protect us all.
- No one knows when the next influenza pandemic will strike. However, NDDoH personnel are working to educate the public and enhance the ability of the state's public health and medical personnel to respond.
- NDDoH personnel travel across the state conducting inspections of nursing homes, ambulance services and hospice programs in an effort to ensure that the people of North Dakota receive quality care when they are most vulnerable.

I am so proud of the work of every public health professional on our Department of Health team. I invite you to read this report and learn more about the goals and accomplishments of the NDDoH during the 2005-2007 biennium.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Dwelle".

Terry Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M.
State Health Officer

A Look at the Department

Mission Statement

The mission of the North Dakota Department of Health is to protect and enhance the health and safety of all North Dakotans and the environment in which we live.

To accomplish our mission, the NDDoH is committed to:

- Improving the health status of the people of North Dakota.
- Improving access to and delivery of quality health care.
- Preserving and improving the quality of the environment.
- Promoting a state of emergency readiness and response.
- Achieving strategic outcomes within available resources.
- Strengthening and sustaining stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

State Health Council

The State Health Council serves as the North Dakota Department of Health's advisory body. The council's 11 members are appointed by the governor for three-year terms. Four members are appointed from the health-care provider community, five from the public sector, one from the energy industry and one from the manufacturing and processing industry.

Department Overview

The North Dakota Department of Health employs about 300 people dedicated to making North Dakota a healthier place to live.

The six sections of the department are under the administrative supervision of the state health officer and the deputy state health officer. They include:

- Administrative Support
- Community Health
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Medical Services
- Health Resources
- Environmental Health

Employees in these sections provide the following core public health services promulgated by Public Health in America:

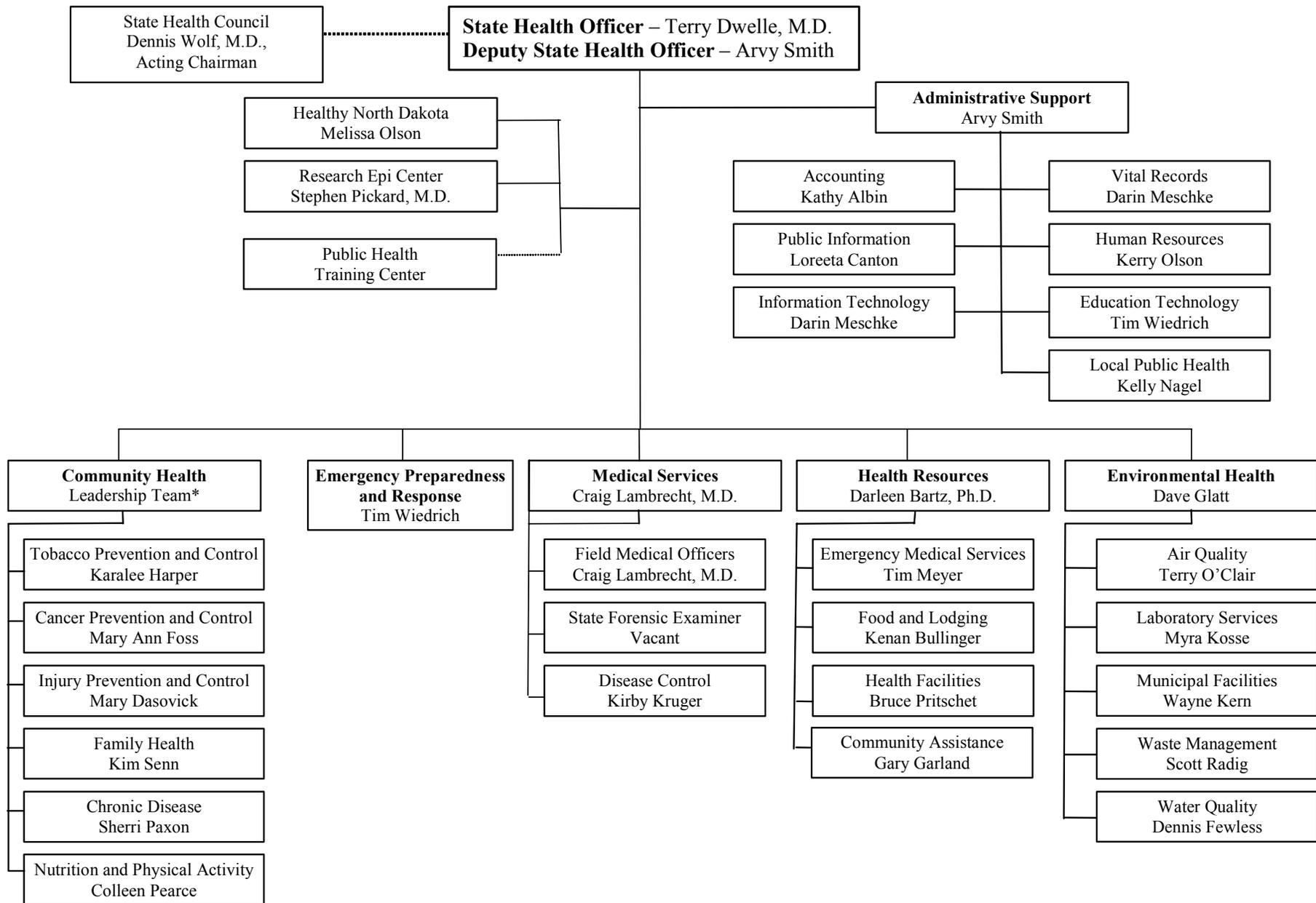
- Preventing epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protecting against environmental hazards
- Preventing injuries
- Promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors
- Responding to disasters and assisting communities in recovery
- Ensuring the quality and accessibility of health services

The department logo is a representation of both apples and wheat. An apple is the universal symbol of good health and well-being; the wheat represents the richness of North Dakota's environment.



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

Organizational Chart



Office of the State Health Officer

The Office of the State Health Officer manages the activities of and provides direction and leadership to the Department of Health. The office is composed of the state health officer, the deputy state health officer and *Healthy North Dakota*.

State Health Officer

The state health officer is appointed by the governor to be the chief administrative officer of the department, as well as a member of the governor's cabinet. The state health officer implements state laws governing the department within the guidance of the governor and the rules adopted by the State Health Council. In addition, the state health officer is a statutory member of about a dozen boards and commissions. The state health officer also supervises the following projects.

Public Health Training Center

The Public Health Training Center – a cooperative effort among the NDDoH, the University of North Dakota and the University of Minnesota – is designed to improve public health practice in the state through advanced public health education.

Research Epi Center

The Research Epi Center is a joint project between the NDDoH and UND designed to improve utilization of health data.

Health scientists are working to ensure that communities, policymakers, health planners and

public health agencies have information needed to understand the causes of disease and premature death, to ensure the effectiveness of public health programs and to provide the best health care possible for all the state's citizens.

Goals of the Epi Center include compiling county-specific health data and analyzing the health status of certain vulnerable populations in the state.

The NDDoH currently is working to expand the project to include other institutes of higher education.

Deputy State Health Officer

The deputy state health officer position was created in 2001 to address administrative policy and practice, allowing the state health officer to focus on medical policy and practice. The deputy also serves as section chief for the Administrative Support Section.

Accomplishments

- Provided oversight for local public health planning process.
- Updated department strategic plan and leadership priorities, including goals and objectives and health indicators. A copy of the department's Strategic Map is on page 64.
- Developed legislative training video.
- Strategized and collaborated with partners on new process for childhood immunizations to adjust to changes in funding levels and number of recommended vaccines.



Terry Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M.
State Health Officer



Arvy Smith
Deputy State Health Officer

- Coordinated departmental legislative efforts.
- Secured federal funding for new priorities – suicide prevention and minority health.
- Transitioned into new facilities for Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness and Response.
- Approved grants and contracts of more than \$53 million in funding to numerous local entities and other vendors for provision of public health services.

Goals

- Integrate the new Special Populations Section; transition in the new Division of Children's Special Health Services and the minority health grant.
- Provide general leadership and oversight to implementation of six leadership priorities.
- Continue to increase programmatic effectiveness through process to continually monitor health status, identify needs, establish goals and objectives, align department programs and strategies, and evaluate results.
- Seek additional funding sources to address employee salaries and priority public health objectives.
- Update department policies to reflect procedures necessary to meet leadership priorities.
- Provide leadership and oversight to implementation of PROtect ND Kids, the new immunization strategy for North Dakota.

Healthy North Dakota

In 2002, Governor John Hoeven launched the *Healthy North Dakota* initiative to provide support, education and encouragement to all North Dakotans seeking to improve their health.

The goal of *Healthy North Dakota* is to support North Dakotans in their efforts to make healthier choices by focusing on wellness and prevention – in schools, workplaces, senior centers, homes and anywhere people live, learn work and play. Studies show that focusing on wellness and prevention will result in a healthier population, lower health-care costs and an improved quality of life.

Healthy North Dakota works with partners to promote and implement health-related laws, policies and programs. Currently, the program is composed of more than 400 North Dakotans representing about 150 agencies, organizations and businesses from across the state.

During the 2005-2007 biennium, partners worked in the following focus areas:

- Tobacco use
- Healthy weight – nutrition
- Healthy weight – physical activity
- Health disparities
- Worksite wellness
- Community engagement
- Third-party payers/insurance
- Oral health
- Cancer
- Early childhood
- School health

- Aging
- Immunizations
- Cardiovascular health
- Injury prevention and control
- Diabetes
- Environmental quality

The NDDoH administers the *Healthy North Dakota* program, providing resources and coordination supporting the program’s partners. The partners work to identify common strategies to address health issues. This process ensures continuity and coordination and creates a more efficient, cost-effective approach to improving health in the state.

Health and wellness are concerns everywhere – from schools and universities to private businesses to hospitals and nursing homes. *Healthy North Dakota* strives to improve the health of every North Dakotan.

Accomplishments

- Developed process to improve collaboration and communication.
- Received planning grant to establish an office for the elimination of health disparities.
- Provided training and ongoing technical assistance to worksite wellness specialists.
- Facilitated worksite wellness nutrition education and incentive program with NDPERS.
- Revised the *Healthy North Dakota* website.
- Assisted in the development of the Statewide Vision and Strategy for improving health in North Dakota.

- Conducted a strategic assessment process of *Healthy North Dakota*.

Goals

- Establish a statewide mechanism to assist businesses interested in implementing worksite wellness programs.
- Determine efficacy in *Healthy North Dakota*’s community engagement concept.
- Assist in implementation of the Statewide Vision and Strategy for improving health in North Dakota.
- Develop a statewide plan to address obesity and healthy weight issues.



Administrative Support Section

The Administrative Support Section provides support services to assist all NDDoH divisions in accomplishing their goals.

The section consists of the following:

- Accounting
- Local Public Health
- Education Technology
- Public Information
- Information Technology
- Human Resources
- Vital Records

Division of Accounting

The Division of Accounting provides accounting and financial control records that comply with state and federal requirements.

This data is distributed monthly to department managers to help them monitor federal and state grant expenditures, revenue, and state appropriations. The division prepares financial reports, reviews grant applications, collects revenue, processes contracts, pays expenses, processes the payroll and submits the department's biennial budget.

Accomplishments

- Submitted the 2007-2009 biennial budget to the Office of Management and Budget in compliance with the governor's guidelines.
- Provided training programs on federal and state grants and appropriation monitoring.
- Reviewed grant applications and cooperative agreements that resulted in receipt of about \$96 million in federal funding.

- Processed about 1,600 contracts providing funding to a variety of entities for public health services.

Goals

- Assist staff and management in securing additional grants or other funding sources.
- Continue to provide financial information to staff and management on a timely basis.
- Continue to provide quality financial reporting to various state and federal organizations.

Office of Local Public Health

The Office of Local Public Health acts as liaison to local public health units and other key public and private partners. The local public health liaison administers the State Block Grant, which provides funding to local public health units, and advises the state health officer about issues related to local public health. In addition, the local public health liaison works with NDDoH staff members to assist public health units during disease outbreaks and natural disasters and with other public health issues.

Accomplishments

- Served on board of directors of the Association of State and Territorial Local Health Liaison Officials.
- Served on the Wellness Advisory Board of United Tribes Technical College.
- Facilitated public health planning process to identify gaps in public health service delivery

and minimum expectations. The information obtained was provided to the 2005 Legislative Assembly, which increased state aid general funds to local public health.

- Coordinated and facilitated completion of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program Assessment of tribal, local and state public health systems.
- Facilitated creation of NDDoH Employee Wellness strategic plan.
- Served on planning committee for the Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health.
- Developed and implemented local public health board orientation program.

Goals

- Assist in development of a community engagement facilitation system to enhance community health improvement.
- Assist local public health units in identifying health-status indicators, and develop local public health unit health profiles with web-based accessibility.
- Revise and update local public health information on the NDDoH website.
- Create a networking system for local health officers and boards of health.
- Coordinate and facilitate performance standards assessment with 15 local boards of health.
- Assist Three Affiliated Tribes with establishment of a comprehensive health board.
- Assist tribal entities with establishment of a tribal public health delivery system.

Division of Education Technology

The Division of Education Technology uses advanced technology to create and distribute quality public health information, education and training. The division also deploys the Health Alert Network, which provides a secure emergency communications system for public health services.

Accomplishments

- Expanded the high-speed communications network (STAGEnet) to include tribal health agencies.
- Developed and distributed health alerts, advisories and updates to medical professionals across the state.
- Exercised the alerting capacity of the Health Alert Network with public health units and hospitals.
- Conducted monthly training programs via the video conference network, and produced programs for online training.
- Implemented information management system for the NDDoH emergency operations center and Department of Emergency Services emergency operations center.
- Maintained high-speed communications network in North Dakota acute-care hospitals.

Goals

- Implement patient-tracking system and mortality-tracking system.
- Implement a learning-management system.

Office of Public Information

The Office of Public Information supports the department's communication of public health information, policies and resources to the citizens of North Dakota. Duties include coordinating media relations; preparing newsletters, brochures and other materials; coordinating special events; providing or arranging communication training; releasing information through the media; and working with various groups to promote public health.

Accomplishments

- Provided daily consultation to NDDoH personnel concerning communication and media issues.
- Provided support to eight regional public health public information officers.
- Developed and tested emergency hotline.
- Developed and provided spokesperson training to local public health and NDDoH personnel.
- Served as regional representative on board of directors of the National Public Health Information Coalition.
- Coordinated redesign of department website.
- Planned and hosted annual statewide public information conference.

Goals

- Coordinate development of state pandemic influenza website.
- Complete pandemic influenza communications plan.

- Continue to provide timely consultation to staff regarding communication issues and media events.

Office of Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology provides leadership to information technology (IT) professionals throughout the department in coordinating activities and functions. The office also develops and implements the department's IT plan; monitors IT budgets; assigns IT staff and support; and monitors the security component of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Accomplishments

- Implemented the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) IT system, a joint effort with the state of Iowa.
- Implemented the Division of Laboratory Services – Microbiology laboratory management system, called STARLIMS.
- Implemented the Division of Vital Records electronic vital event registration system (EVERS).

Goals

- Integrate technology and data collection throughout the department to ensure efficiency.
- Continue to develop and coordinate IT policies and procedures.

Division of Human Resources

The Division of Human Resources provides a variety of services to the NDDoH, including employee relations, employee recruitment, position classification, training and development, salary administration, policy development, and safety.

Accomplishments

- Assisted managers with recruitment and retention issues.
- Provided daily assistance to management, supervisors and employees regarding laws, rules, policies/procedures and personnel issues.

Goals

- Update personnel policy manual.
- Develop human resource initiatives that support strategic planning efforts.
- Continue work on employee rewards and recognition system.
- Continue to provide support and assistance to management and staff.

Division of Vital Records

The two main functions of the Division of Vital Records are registration and certification of vital events that occur in the state, including births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages and divorces.

Accomplishments

- Registered 19,949 certificates of live birth; 12,207 certificates of death; 121 certificates of fetal death; 8,698 marriage records; 3,794 divorce records; and 120 delayed registrations of birth. More than 185,000 requests for certified copies, record searches, amendments and verifications were processed. The fees collected for providing these services were deposited to the state's general fund.
- Compiled annual reports using data collected from vital event certificates. Also compiled data for specific requests from the public or other state agencies.
- Implemented the Electronic Vital Event Registration System (EVERS), which allows the state's 21 birthing hospitals to register all births electronically with the Division of Vital Records.

Goals

- Maintain 100 percent registration of all vital events in the state. To achieve this goal, extensive querying and follow-up is done.
- Continue to provide timely responses to requests for certified copies of vital event documents. Individuals now can order copies on the department's website using a credit card for payment.
- Develop and implement electronic death and fetal death registration system.

Vital Signs

On an average **day** in North Dakota:

- **27** babies are born; **8** of them are born out of wedlock, **2** are born to a teenage mother and **4** are born by Caesarian section.
- **16** people die, **4** of them from heart disease and **3** from cancer.
- **11** couples are married, and **5** are divorced.

In an average **week**:

- **1** infant dies.
- **1** person commits suicide.
- **4** people die from diabetes.
- **3** people die from influenza and pneumonia.
- **5** people die as a result of accidents.

In an average **month**:

- **6** children younger than 20 die.
- **8** people die as a result of motor vehicle accidents.
- **4** babies are born outside of a hospital setting.

The average age at death is **75.1**.

Community Health Section



The Community Health Section's programs focus on the promotion of health and the prevention of illness and disease.

The Community Health Section is composed of six divisions:

- Cancer Prevention and Control
- Chronic Disease
- Family Health
- Injury Prevention and Control
- Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Tobacco Prevention and Control

The director from each division is a member of the Leadership Team and serves in rotation as section lead.

The goal of the section is to promote health and prevent illness and disease. Local public health units and other partners across the state provide many of these services.

Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

The Division of Cancer Prevention and Control works to reduce the incidence of and illness and death from cancer in North Dakota.

Programs include:

- Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control
- *Women's Way*
- Cancer Registry

Accomplishments

Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control Program

- Worked to expand membership of the North Dakota Cancer Coalition.

- Cosponsored two Cancer Coalition summits.
- Published and implemented North Dakota Cancer Control Plan.
- Presented and distributed comprehensive review of data to describe the burden of cancer in North Dakota.

Women's Way

- Continued to focus on breast and cervical cancer screening for medically underserved North Dakota women, primarily those ages 40 through 64.
- Partnered with local public health units, private health-care providers and a statewide volunteer network to provide screening services to eligible women in every North Dakota county and on every reservation.
- Screened more than 8,900 women for breast and cervical cancer since September 1997, 13 percent of whom were American Indian. The screenings detected 141 cases of breast cancer and 792 cases of cervical conditions requiring treatment.
- Provided professional development for health-care providers, including clinical trainings, inservice trainings, speaker sponsorship and a symposium.
- Met annually with the *Women's Way* Medical Advisory Board, which advises the program on clinical issues.

- Collaborated with state Medicaid to pay for breast or cervical cancer treatment for 169 *Women's Way* clients.
- Cosponsored four women's health summits with North Dakotans Partnering for Women's Health.
- Continued to enhance partnerships, including with organizations such as *Healthy North Dakota*, the American Cancer Society, Blue Cross Blue Shield, the North Dakota Medical Association and others.
- Conducted research-based public education and awareness promotions.

Cancer Registry

- Achieved gold certification for data timeliness, completeness and quality.
- Responded to 61 data requests, seven cancer cluster inquiries, and 11 North American Association of Central Cancer Registries data requests for national research projects.
- Enhanced partnerships with medical facilities, physicians, clinics, the Comprehensive Cancer Prevention and Control Program, the Northern Plains Epidemiology Center, the North Dakota Cancer Coalition and others.
- Appointed to provide professional development training to cancer registrars.

Division Goals

- Continue implementation of strategies and activities identified in the state five-year plan for comprehensive cancer control.
- Expand partnerships to include less-traditional partners.

- Provide breast and cervical cancer screening services to 3,300 eligible North Dakota women each year.
- Enhance *Women's Way* recruitment and screening of American Indian women.
- Continue Medicaid treatment program to ensure *Women's Way* clients diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer receive treatment.
- Increase electronic cancer reporting from the various reporting sources.
- Maintain North American Association of Central Cancer Registries certification.

Division of Chronic Disease

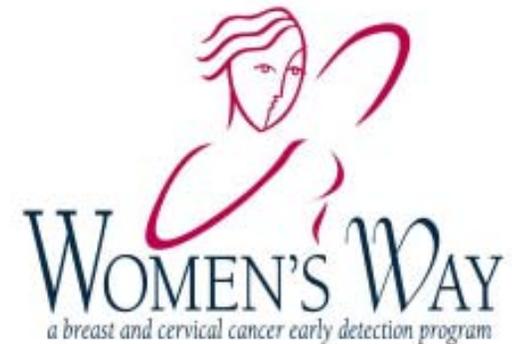
The Division of Chronic Disease works to improve the health and quality of life for North Dakotans who have chronic diseases. Programs in the division include:

- Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
- Diabetes Prevention and Control

Accomplishments

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program

- Convened the Heart Disease and Stroke Advisory Council.
- Conducted the Acute Stroke Treatment System Survey to obtain information for enhancing hospital treatment systems.
- Administered environmental scans of schools, businesses and health-care facilities that focused on nutrition, physical activity,



Since September 1997, the *Women's Way* program has screened more than 8,900 North Dakota women for breast and cervical cancer. The screenings detected 141 cases of breast cancer and 792 cases of cervical conditions requiring treatment.



The Division of Chronic Disease works to improve the health and quality of life for North Dakotans who have chronic diseases such as diabetes or heart disease.

secondary prevention, health, tobacco usage, and worksite wellness.

- Collected photos and stories from the state's four American Indian reservations. The project helped identify local champions to help develop culturally competent strategies for improving health care.
- Provided funding to four counties to implement cardiovascular health initiatives.
- Recognized 19 *5 Plus 5* communities that encourage people to eat fruits and vegetables and be physically active.
- Provided funding to 20 Roughrider Health Promotion Conference school teams to implement their action plans.

Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

- Continued the North Dakota Diabetes Care Provider Report, a partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield that monitors diabetes care; recognized providers achieving high-quality diabetes care with the Diabetes Care Provider Award.
- Continued diabetes collaborative projects that promote quality diabetes care.
- Expanded the Dakota Diabetes Coalition to address diabetes prevention, access, technology and funding.
- Awarded seven mini-grants to local organizations for wellness and diabetes projects.
- Distributed prevention messages via magazines, newspapers, posters, radio, television and printed materials to reach American Indians, the elderly and the general public.

- Developed Dakota Diabetes Coalition website as a resource for state partners.
- Expanded diabetes listserv and included column on treatment and management.

Division Goals

- Improve chronic disease prevention, early diagnosis and disease management by working with communities, health professionals and health systems in the areas of policy, quality improvement and education.
- Reduce illness, disability and death related to heart disease, stroke and related risk factors through education, policy, systems and environmental changes.
- Collect, analyze and report data to assess chronic disease prevalence, incidence and impact, and to evaluate programs.
- Develop diabetes and heart disease and stroke state plans.
- Work to eliminate chronic disease health disparities based on gender, gender identity, race and ethnicity, income and education, disability, rural locality, age, and sexual orientation.
- Increase awareness and improve diabetes management.
- Increase diabetes prevention activities in North Dakota.
- Increase the number of nontraditional chronic disease partners.
- Improve chronic disease surveillance and evaluation methods.
- Share Healthy People 2010 data with health department programs and state plans.

Division of Family Health

The Division of Family Health administers state and federal programs designed to improve the health of North Dakota families. Programs include:

- Abstinence-Only Education
- Child and Adolescent Health Services/School Nursing
- Coordinated School Health
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
- Family Planning
- Newborn Screening
- Optimal Pregnancy Outcome
- Oral Health
- Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System
- State Systems Development Initiative
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- Title V/Maternal and Child Health
- Women's Health

Accomplishments

Abstinence-Only Education Program

- Provided funds to community organizations, schools and other entities to provide abstinence-only educational activities and events.
- Provided funds to support a statewide youth-based educational program.
- Provided assistance to a local organization in writing successful application for a Community Based Abstinence Education grant.

Child and Adolescent Health Services/School Nursing

- Provided consultation, technical assistance and resources to North Dakota school nurses and other health professionals in promoting health for children and adolescents.
- Conducted school nursing services survey to determine school nurse-to-student ratio and current service-delivery models.
- Provided technical assistance to the Dakota Medical Foundation to support its five-year model school nurse project.
- Collaborated with Child Care Resource and Referral on the first health and safety conference for child-care providers.

Coordinated School Health Program

- Collaborated with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to support implementation of coordinated school health programs in 11 schools or school districts.
- Developed strategy sheets for physical activity/nutrition, tobacco, safety, and HIV/significant contagious diseases.
- Collaborated with DPI on the 2005 and 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Surveys.
- Cohosted annual Roughrider Health Promotion Conference.
- Developed a web-based reporting system for Roughrider Conference teams to submit success stories.
- Supported concurrent resolution to study healthy choices and educational success.



The Oral Health Program works to improve the oral health of North Dakotans through prevention and education.

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

- Began implementation of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems State Plan.
- Supported efforts and partnerships that support families through the *Healthy North Dakota* Early Childhood Alliance.
- Provided consultation, technical assistance and resources to Head Start health consultants, child-care health consultants and other health professionals.

Family Planning Program

- Provided medical, education and counseling services to more than 23,000 men and women in North Dakota.
- Continued services to the James River Correctional Facility, the Cass County Jail, and Spirit Lake and Standing Rock reservations.

Newborn Screening Program

- Followed-up on 772 abnormal lab results and confirmed 33 disorders that required treatment and follow-up care.
- Added cystic fibrosis to the list of newborn screenings; confirmed four cases the first year of implementation.
- Provided onsite training and distributed screening guidelines manual to all birthing hospitals and clinics in the state.
- Developed disorder-specific protocols.
- Helped plan the April 2007 statewide genetics conference.

Optimal Pregnancy Outcome Program

- Served nearly 1,000 pregnant women.
- Participated in the Partnership for the Prevention and Cessation of Tobacco Use in Women of Reproductive Age.
- Received funding and support through the Graduate Student Internship Program to evaluate program effectiveness.

Oral Health Program

- Held September 2006 Oral Health Conference, at which the Oral Health Burden of Disease and State Plan was unveiled.
- Created website to serve as a resource for oral health professionals, policymakers and the public.
- Evaluated oral health program efforts.
- Worked with the Oral Health Coalition to support successful legislation allowing medical providers to apply fluoride varnish.
- Provided funding to dental clinics serving low-income and uninsured individuals.

Pregnancy Risk Assessment

Monitoring System

- Collaborated with North Dakota State Data Center (SDC) to apply for a PRAMS grant.
- Worked with the SDC to create fact sheets about birth trends and pregnancy.

State Systems Development Initiative

- Worked with the Department of Human Services to coordinate data collection and reporting for the Title V/Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

- Provided education and information about sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) to health-care providers, clinics, birthing hospitals, local public health units, and families who suffer a SIDS death.
- Received a grant from the CJ Foundation for SIDS to increase knowledge among American Indians about SIDS risk-reduction measures.

Title V/Maternal and Child Health Block Grant

- Awarded contracts for about \$1.6 million to all 28 local public health units, four nonprofit agencies and four American Indian programs. The funds are used for activities such as maternal care, well-baby clinics, newborn home visits, car seat safety programs, school wellness activities, nutrition and physical activity education, injury prevention, immunizations, and oral health care.

Women's Health Program

- Collaborated with the Center for Excellence for Women's Health.
- Promoted National Women's Health Week.
- Participated in the Partnership for the Prevention and Cessation of Tobacco Use in Women of Reproductive Age.

Division Goals

- Promote healthy lifestyle choices through education, awareness and partnerships.
- Increase male involvement in Family Health.
- Support abstinence-education programs.

- Increase access to nursing services in school and child-care settings.
- Develop school health service guidelines.
- Cohost annual Coordinated School Health Roughrider Health Promotion Conference.
- Implement the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems State Plan.
- Reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies.
- Pursue revision of the Title V/Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funding formula.
- Continue to develop newborn screening program policies, protocols and fact sheets.
- Educate health-care professionals and the public about newborn screening.
- Ensure proper and timely collection of newborn screening specimens.
- Increase the number of pregnant women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.
- Continue to educate pregnant women about healthy lifestyle choices.
- Promote innovative and cost-effective approaches to oral health promotion and disease prevention.
- Foster partnerships to promote oral health and improve access to dental care.
- Increase awareness about importance of preventive oral health care.
- Continue coordination of follow-up services for families who suffer SIDS deaths.
- Provide SIDS information and education to health-care providers, parents and caregivers.
- Collaborate on women's health issues and disseminate women's health information.



The Division of Family Health works to ensure that every baby born in North Dakota grows up healthy and strong.

Division of Injury Prevention and Control

The Division of Injury Prevention and Control is dedicated to reducing the frequency and severity of intentional and unintentional injuries to North Dakotans. Programs include:

- Injury/Violence Prevention
- Child Passenger Safety
- Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis
- Suicide Prevention

In September 2005, the department did not receive federal funding for the Injury Surveillance and Traumatic Brain Injury programs. In January 2006, the Injury Prevention Program was reorganized into the Injury/Violence Prevention Program and the Child Passenger Safety Program.

Accomplishments

Injury/Violence Prevention Program

- Provided funding to 18 domestic violence/rape crisis agencies for building local teams to address sexual violence prevention efforts.
- Assembled a state team to work on a needs and resources assessment concerning sexual- and intimate-partner violence. The assessment will be used to set goals and objectives for statewide prevention activities.
- Distributed bicycle safety information to 52 agencies and the bike helmet display to nine.
- Distributed playground safety information and displays to seven agencies.
- Chaired the North Dakota State Injury Prevention Coalition comprised of partners

from other state agencies, private business, public health and private health care.

- Provided 57,000 stickers, 59,000 magnets, and videos concerning Poison Control to day cares, hospitals, clinics, public health agencies, schools and other interested parties.
- Collaborated with other state agencies to provide information and expertise concerning falls and farm, poison and playground safety.

Child Passenger Safety Program

- Measured restraint use by children in 10 communities. Results showed restraint use by 98 percent of infants, 90 percent of toddlers, and 82 percent of children ages 6 through 10.
- Conducted six national child passenger safety certification courses, and certified 102 child passenger safety technicians.
- Provided 3,583 car safety seats to parents of young children.
- Coordinated or assisted with car safety checkups, inspecting 2,600 car seats.
- Assisted the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission with product recall effectiveness checks in 10 communities.
- Created and provided educational materials for Child Passenger Safety Month. Partners distributed the materials to schools and gave 4,194 presentations to 62,781 children.
- Coordinated the Introduction to Injury Prevention course with the Aberdeen Indian Health Services.
- Coordinated the Occupant Protection Rally with the Department of Transportation.



The Child Passenger Safety Program works to educate parents about the importance of making sure their children always ride buckled up.

Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program

- Funded six centers for safe visitation with and exchange of children in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault or stalking.
- Provided state and federal funds to local agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- Distributed STOP Violence Against Women funds to law enforcement, judicial, victim-service and other agencies that provide services to victims of violence.
- Collaborated to implement model law enforcement domestic violence policies.
- Developed audit teams in four communities to make recommendations to improve domestic violence response.
- Provided consultation with the Tribal Justice Institute on issues of cross-deputization and enforcement of Full Faith and Credit provisions within North Dakota's Tribal Nations.

Lead Program

- Investigated reports of elevated blood lead levels in 75 North Dakota children.

Suicide Prevention Program

- Worked with the Suicide Prevention Coalition to develop Suicide Prevention Plan.
- Received three-year, \$1.2 million Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention grant.
- Collaborated on expansion of the Suicide Prevention Coalition to include representatives from schools, the Department of Public Instruction, the juvenile justice system,

substance abuse and mental health programs, faith-based communities, child and youth organizations, state and tribal colleges, public health and human services agencies, policymakers and the public.

- Coordinated and implemented suicide prevention and early intervention strategies.
- Solicited funding applications from community-based programs in six areas of the state with high youth-suicide rates.

Injury Surveillance

- Published North Dakota Injury Prevention Plan based on morbidity and mortality data.

Traumatic Brain Injury Program

- Published a statewide assessment of the needs and resources of children and adults with traumatic brain injury and their families.

Division Goals

- Continue working to reduce childhood injuries and deaths.
- Collaborate with state partners, the CDC and others to increase program planning and evaluation to address sexual violence.
- Continue working to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes through grants, trainings and partnerships.
- Collaborate with suicide prevention coalition and local grantees to reduce suicides through prevention and early intervention efforts.
- Provide physicians with information about lead poisoning and the recommendations for managing elevated blood levels in children.

Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity

The Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity promotes healthy eating and physical activity in order to prevent and reduce overweight, obesity and related chronic diseases in North Dakota. Division programs include:

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Maternal and Child Health Nutrition
- Healthy Weight

Accomplishments

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- Provided healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to more than 41,800 women, infants and children.
- Implemented *WICnet*, a web-based management information system.
- Continued work on a research grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study motivational interviewing (MI). Findings indicate that MI was most effective in decreasing juice consumption, increasing low-fat milk consumption, and improving breastfeeding initiation and duration.
- Established a third peer-counseling program for promotion and support of breastfeeding.
- Revitalized the *Healthy North Dakota* Breastfeeding Committee, which is working on a state breastfeeding plan.



The Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity emphasizes the importance of eating healthy and being physically active.

Maternal and Child Health Nutrition

- Received recognition for “On the Move” as a 2006 National 4-H Council Program of Distinction and as the 2006 National Outstanding Program for Family Strengthening from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- Received recognition for “WALK ND” as a 2006 Program of Excellence from the NDSU Extension Service and as a Promising Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials.
- Coordinated the Healthy Weight Council with members representing public, private and nonprofit sectors.
- Took part in the Third-Grade Dental Survey.
- Coordinated 2006 Public Health Nutrition Workforce Survey.
- Provided “Fit Kids = Happy Kids” information to Head Starts, day-care centers, WIC nutritionists and elementary classrooms.
- Provided support to local maternal and child health nutritionists for addressing the issues of healthier school environments and for promoting physical activity with Head Start, child care and WIC.
- Supported local nutritionists in their work with local nutrition and physical activity coalitions, community initiatives, breastfeeding coalitions, and the Healthy Pregnancy Task Force.

Healthy Weight

- Assisted communities, schools and worksites in promoting, developing, implementing and evaluating healthy weight programs.

- Managed the 5+5 Communities grant program, which provides funding to support the activities of 17 local nutrition and physical activity coalitions.
- Provided technical assistance and consultation for the physical activity and nutrition components of the Coordinated School Health Program.
- Assumed administration of the National Fruit and Vegetable Alliance Program (formerly 5 A Day).

Division Goals

- Increase the percentage of mothers who breastfeed their infants at hospital discharge.
- Increase percentage of healthy-weight adults.
- Partner with health-care providers and MCH programs and explore new partnerships to improve the quality of life for families.
- Collaborate on development of a state plan for nutrition, physical activity and the reduction of chronic diseases.
- Develop diet and physical activity education materials for use by all programs.
- Enhance the *WICnet* system.
- Establish a WIC vendor advisory group to improve communication with grocers and help implement the new food packaging.
- Implement USDA research study findings.
- Continue the WIC peer counseling program.
- Provide breastfeeding education and training.
- Develop state breastfeeding plan to support local coalitions, identify and promote community experts, and support resources.
- Encourage physical activity through WIC.

- Continue to facilitate the *Healthy North Dakota* Healthy Weight Council.
- Promote healthy schools through Coordinated School Health, Healthy School Nutrition Alliance and Roughrider Conference.
- Encourage quality physical education and physical activity in schools.
- Ensure that breastfeeding support is a component of *Healthy North Dakota* Worksite Wellness initiatives.
- Encourage healthier communities through local programs and campaigns.
- Collaborate to promote healthy weight.
- Monitor nutrition, physical activity and weight data and assess need for additional data sources.

Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control

The Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control works to reduce the health and economic consequences of tobacco use and to promote tobacco-free lifestyles.

Accomplishments

- Hosted two Achieving Success in Tobacco Cessation conferences.
- Continued implementation of the Community Health Grant Program that supports tobacco prevention efforts in all 28 local public health units across the state. Funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also support state and local



The percentage of North Dakota youth who smoke cigarettes has decreased significantly in recent years, from 40.6 percent in 1999 to 22 percent in 2005.



During the biennium, the North Dakota Tobacco Quitline served more than 6,000 callers seeking help with quitting tobacco. More than 37 percent of the callers were not using tobacco six months after completing the program.

tobacco control initiatives in local public health units, the four American Indian tribes and one Indian Service Area. Highlights of efforts include:

- * Provided evidence-based tobacco prevention curricula in more than 350 schools, reaching more than 34,000 students.
- * Worked with 144 school districts to develop tobacco-free grounds policies that protect more than 80 percent of students.
- * Worked with 39 school districts to achieve gold-star school tobacco policies, protecting about 19 percent of students.
- * Provided tobacco cessation services in more than 60 locations for more than 1,800 individuals.
- Continued implementation of the North Dakota Tobacco Quitline, which provides free counseling to any North Dakota tobacco user interested in quitting. During the biennium, the Quitline served more than 6,000 callers. More than 37 percent of the callers were tobacco free six months after completing the program.
- Continued to implement the surveillance and evaluation system to track progress in tobacco prevention efforts. The data was used to publish the first *Tobacco Prevention and Control in North Dakota: A Status Report of Leading Indicators* to report progress and trends in tobacco prevention efforts.
- Conducted the Youth Tobacco Survey in coordination with the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to assess youth tobacco attitudes and behaviors and evaluate tobacco

prevention program efforts. According to the YRBS survey, the percentage of North Dakota youth who currently smoke cigarettes significantly decreased from 40.6 percent in 1999 to 22 percent in 2005.

- Secured supplemental funding from CDC to support the development of a strategic plan to address tobacco-related disparities. Five critical issues and corresponding objectives were identified and a plan was published.
- Secured supplemental funding from the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs to assist reaching women of reproductive age through nontraditional partners.

Goals

- Work with local communities to implement objectives in the tobacco-related disparities strategic plan.
- Develop and implement strategies to prevent and reduce use of spit tobacco, cigars and hookah.
- Continue working with North Dakota communities to develop and maintain comprehensive tobacco control programs that follow best practices.
- Continue to promote smoke-free environments to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Continue programs to reduce youth and adult tobacco use.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Section

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Section works to enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of the state's public health and private medical providers. The section utilizes federal grants provided to all states for this purpose: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant funds efforts to build the state's public health infrastructure, and the Health Resources Services Administration grant funds hospital preparedness.

The section works to create and promote a state of readiness and response to protect the health of North Dakotans during catastrophic events, large-scale disasters and emergencies. Efforts include coordinating assessment, planning, response and support services with public health providers, private medical providers, public safety agencies and government officials.

The section coordinates with many other divisions and sections of the NDDoH, including Disease Control, Health Facilities, Laboratory Services, Public Information, Food and Lodging, Environmental Health and Education Technology. In addition, the section chief serves on the governor's Continuum of Government Committee and the Division of Emergency Services advisory committee. The section chief also provides training and leadership to the NDDoH in incident command.

The following efforts throughout the NDDoH are funded by emergency preparedness grants.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Section

Accomplishments

- Coordinated local public health and hospital planning efforts for pandemic influenza and distribution of Strategic National Stockpile materials, medications or vaccinations.
- Conducted local and regional exercises.
- Achieved Medical Reserve Corps designation for the public health volunteer reserve corps.
- Established quality improvement program.
- Completed training and exercising of emergency medical services response teams.
- Expanded inventory of emergency medications and medical supplies.
- Provided guidance and training to hospitals to meet National Incident Management System requirements.

Goals

- Refine and exercise interventions for chemical, biological and radiological agents and naturally occurring health threats.
- Decrease time needed to notify NDDoH staff of significant public health event and to initiate incident command response.
- Enhance advance registration and credentialing system for clinicians according to new requirements.
- Implement Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program.
- Develop plans and capacity for managing large numbers of deaths.
- Establish plans for minimal-care facilities.



The Emergency Preparedness and Response Section conducts exercises with partners across the state in an effort to ensure North Dakotans are protected during a public health emergency, including an influenza pandemic.

- Establish telephone triage system to provide treatment while minimizing exposure and transmission of infectious disease.

Division of Disease Control

Accomplishments

- Began development of contact tracing and notification module for the Disease Surveillance Management System.
- Redesigned immunization registry to receive electronic medical records information and for use in countermeasure response.
- Added animal testing data from the NDSU Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory to the syndromic surveillance system.
- Integrated veterinary diagnostic testing data into the Private Practitioner Portal.
- Began development of isolation and quarantine protocol and community isolation guidelines for pandemic influenza.
- Facilitated the Avian Influenza Planning Committee comprised of representatives from state and federal agencies to coordinate avian influenza response.
- Received training to provide instruction about avian influenza response.

Goals

- Continue integrating the state's major private labs into the electronic laboratory reporting system.
- Develop community containment guidelines for communicable diseases, including pandemic influenza.

- Continue developing the disease reporting system (DREAMS).

Division of Laboratory Services

Accomplishments

- Established memorandum of understanding with the North Dakota National Guard, 81st Civil Support Team (CST) to assist in environmental bio-/chemical-threat sample receipt and screening. The CST will work as part of the laboratory response team to provide testing on a 24/7 basis.
- Installed an emergency generator to provide backup power in the event of a power loss.
- Designed and distributed Biological Agent Transfer (BAT) kits. The kits are bar coded and traceable to the point of origin.
- Hosted a workshop on rule-out testing of biothreat agents with personnel from the state's sentinel site laboratories.
- Developed an online training course for laboratory personnel in packaging and shipping of biological specimens.
- Continued to enhance the Laboratory Response Network of laboratories trained to recognize and rule out bio-threat agents.
- Renewed registration of the laboratory facility to handle and store select agents.
- Tested the Laboratory Response Network through a tabletop exercise.
- Expanded testing capabilities to include testing for specific metals in human urine related to possible chemical events.

Goals

- Increase pandemic influenza surge-capability testing, along with increased surveillance for common types of influence.
- Conduct bioterrorism training for Laboratory Response Network personnel.
- Expand metals testing capabilities to include metals in blood and speciation of metals in different matrices using liquid chromatography in conjunction with metals analysis.

Office of Public Information

Accomplishments

- Conducted spokesperson training.
- Provided support to eight regional public health public information officers.
- Translated emergency information into seven languages spoken by certain special populations in the state.
- Developed and distributed pandemic influenza emergency planning guide for the public.
- Tested and exercised NDDoH emergency hotline.
- Hosted annual crisis emergency risk communication conference.

Goals

- Enhance Strategic National Stockpile public information materials, including uniform signs for use across the state.
- Coordinate communication planning with key partners statewide.

- Work with volunteer coordinator to update PHEVR/MRC brochures and identify other needed materials.
- Complete pandemic influenza communications plan.

Division of Education Technology

Accomplishments

- Expanded the high-speed communication network (STAGEnet) to include tribal health agencies.
- Developed and distributed health alerts, advisories and updates to health and medical professionals across the state.
- Exercised the alerting capacity of the Health Alert Network with public health units and hospitals.
- Conducted monthly training programs via the video conference network, and produced programs for online training.
- Implemented information management system for the NDDoH emergency operations center and Department of Emergency Services emergency operations center.
- Maintained high-speed communications network in North Dakota acute-care hospitals.

Goals

- Implement patient-tracking system and mortality-tracking system.
- Implement a learning-management system.

Medical Services Section

The goal of the Medical Services Section is to prevent disease and disability in North Dakota. The section is responsible for disease prevention, surveillance and identification, as well as epidemiologic investigation and forensic examinations.

The section includes the following:

- Field Medical Officers
- Disease Control
- State Epidemiologist
- Forensic Examiner

Field Medical Officers

The field medical officers provide medical direction and support to programs throughout the NDDoH. Areas of emphasis include the health aspects of environmental pollution, newborn metabolic screening, disease control, immunizations, infant mortality, adolescent suicide, cancer cluster investigations, bioterrorism, long-term care, emergency medical services and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Accomplishments

- Provided consultation to the NDDoH about health-related programs, projects and patient-care issues.
- Improved communications between the NDDoH and private physicians and clinics.
- Provided a variety of continuing medical education sessions on public health issues.

- Collaborated on development of a public health training program in conjunction with the University of Minnesota.

Goals

- Continue to provide clinical consultation support to NDDoH divisions.
- Provide consultation support for divisional clinical protocol development.
- Continue to provide presentations, as well as education and dialogue forums, at medical meetings.
- Continue to provide direction and support during disease outbreaks.
- Continue to provide other special clinical insight and consultation for NDDoH committees.
- Develop policy initiatives to address health-care disparities.

Division of Disease Control

The Division of Disease Control identifies and analyzes disease trends and implements appropriate intervention activities to reduce illness and death. The division also acts as a resource for health-care providers and the public regarding public health issues and often works with the media to provide timely public education.

Programs within the division include:

- Epidemiology and Surveillance
- HIV/AIDS
- Immunization



The Medical Services Section works to safeguard all North Dakotans by reducing illness and death caused by infectious diseases.

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Hepatitis
- Tuberculosis Control

Health-care providers and laboratories statewide notify the division of mandated reportable diseases. During the biennium, division personnel collected information about or conducted investigations into approximately 13,800 cases of reportable conditions. In addition, division personnel work closely with private health-care providers, health-care facilities, local public health units and the public to reduce the incidence of communicable diseases and to help ensure the public health of North Dakotans.

Epidemiology and Surveillance Program

The Epidemiology and Surveillance Program works to strengthen collaboration between epidemiology and laboratory practices through the CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant. The goal of this program is to increase disease surveillance and response; build epidemiology and laboratory infrastructure; provide training and education; and improve reporting systems.

Accomplishments

- Continued seasonal influenza sentinel physician network and implemented year-round influenza syndromic surveillance network.
- Increased collaboration with all laboratories in the state to report influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) testing results.

- Enrolled 12 regional schools to report absenteeism; enlisted long-term care facilities to report influenza-like illness outbreaks.
- Collaborated with the Division of Aging Services on statewide influenza public service announcement.
- Continued sentinel chicken flock surveillance for West Nile virus (WNV); collaborated with the North Dakota State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on testing of equine and avian samples.
- Increased number of venues at which WNV education materials and mosquito repellent wipes were distributed.
- Investigated 25 norovirus outbreaks that caused illness in more than 700 people.
- Implemented online reporting for norovirus outbreaks in long-term care facilities.
- Collaborated with local public health units, tribal health, the Indian Health Service and the Division of Food and Lodging to respond to large shigella outbreak in 2006. During the biennium, the state experienced a 40-fold increase in shigella cases, with 239 cases reported in 18 counties.
- Assisted in surveillance for vancomycin-resistant enterococci.
- Collaborated with 10 area states on drug-resistance public education planning workgroup.
- Collaborated with the State Board of Animal Health to develop and implement the North Dakota Electronic Animal Health Surveillance System, which involves real-time,



The NDDoH encourages North Dakotans to take precautions to avoid contracting West Nile virus.



The department's HIV/AIDS programs provide services designed to reduce and prevent the transmission of HIV and to reduce illnesses and deaths of HIV-infected North Dakotans.

electronic laboratory reporting from the NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

HIV/AIDS Programs

The mission of the **HIV/AIDS Prevention Program** is to reduce and prevent the transmission of HIV and to reduce the associated illnesses and deaths of HIV-infected people. HIV prevention services are conducted at 25 contractual sites, including local public health units, substance-abuse treatment centers, college/university student health centers, family planning clinics, community action agencies and a homeless clinic. The services include HIV testing, pre- and post-test risk-reduction counseling, partner notification, referrals, education, and case management.

Accomplishments

- Completed annual Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan in collaboration with the North Dakota Community Planning Group (CPG).
- Updated the CPG bylaws.
- Continued to implement a quality assurance program for the HIV counseling and testing sites. Compliance with written protocols, record keeping, specimen collection and handling, appropriateness of services and referrals, and staff training and education are reviewed.
- Received training in the Popular Opinion Leader program, a community-level HIV-prevention intervention.

- Conducted strategic planning with the CPG to create a framework for HIV-prevention activities for the next five years.

The mission of the **HIV Surveillance Program** is to monitor the incidence and prevalence of the disease. The data collected by the program focuses policy and resource allocation.

North Dakota continues to have the lowest incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the nation; through June 30, 2007, a total of 399 HIV infections have been reported in the state.

Accomplishments

- Participated in the Interstate De-duplication Evaluation Project to evaluate case duplication in the national HIV/AIDS data base.
- Conducted routine record linkage of HIV/AIDS case reports and death certificate records.

The **Ryan White Care Program** helps low-income HIV-positive residents access and maintain health-care and supportive services. Available services include case management, assistance with purchasing drugs, and assistance accessing primary medical services.

Accomplishments

- Re-established the Ryan White Advisory Board, ensuring that North Dakota provides the best care possible.
- Updated all policies and procedures.

- Increased the number of medications available to clients on the AIDS drug assistance program.

Immunization Program

The Immunization Program works to ensure that children and adults are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Program staff investigate cases of vaccine-preventable diseases, provide education to providers and the public, monitor immunization rates, and maintain the North Dakota Immunization Information System.

Vaccination rates for North Dakota children remain high. The National Immunization Survey estimates that 84 percent of North Dakota children ages 19 months to 35 months were up-to-date on their immunizations in 2006. The goal for Healthy People 2010 is 90 percent.

Accomplishments

- Investigated 14 cases of mumps in the state.
- Presented vaccination awards to health-care providers with rates higher than 85 percent.
- Added rotavirus, hepatitis A and human papillomavirus vaccines to the routine immunization schedule.
- Created the Immunization Advisory Council to assist with program policies.
- Facilitated six immunization forums across the state to discuss vaccine supply issues and methods for increasing immunization rates.
- Planned the transition to a Vaccine For Children supply policy because of level

federal funding and increasing numbers of recommended vaccines. Investigated the potential for contracting with vaccine manufacturers on behalf of providers for lower-cost vaccines.

- During the 2007 legislative session:
 - * Received state funding to continue universal-select vaccination supply status until Jan. 1, 2008.
 - * Supported legislation requiring the use of the North Dakota Immunization Information System for childhood immunizations.
 - * Supported legislation requiring pneumococcal, hepatitis A and rotavirus vaccine for day-care entry; the second dose of varicella vaccine for kindergarten entry; and Tdap and meningococcal vaccine for middle school entry.
 - * Received state funding for human papillomavirus education.
- Received 2007 award for improved immunization rates at the National Immunization Conference.
- Added pregnancy in a person with a chronic infection (such as hepatitis B) to the list of mandatory reportable conditions.

STD Program

The goal of the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Program is to prevent and control the spread of sexually acquired infections. Staff members provide education, partner notification, and referral for screening and clinical services.



The Immunization Program works to ensure that children receive lifesaving vaccinations.

Accomplishments

- Continued to provide free chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis medication for infected people and their partners unable to pay.
- Provided free examinations, testing and counseling in six North Dakota cities for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis to patients who are at risk and unable to pay.
- Screened more than 34,000 females and 7,000 males for chlamydia and gonorrhea.
- Observed a 14 percent increase in chlamydia testing.
- Identified 3,097 sexual partners of people diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, nearly one-half of whom were examined and/or treated for an STD.

Tuberculosis Program

The Tuberculosis (TB) Program works to prevent, control and eliminate TB in North Dakota. Activities include identifying and reporting all cases of active TB, ensuring completion of treatment, identifying and screening all people who have had contact with infectious cases of TB and offering laboratory services.

TB continues to be a disease of low incidence in the state, with an average of six cases each year from 2000 through 2006.

Accomplishments

- Produced *Epidemiological Report on Tuberculosis* with information about TB activity in the state, treatment and infection-control

guidelines, policy changes, and laboratory information.

- Held a four-part videoconference at 24 sites with Heartland National TB Center. A total of 400 people participated.

Division Goals

- Continue improvement of communicable-disease reporting.
- Increase education efforts to improve influenza vaccination rate among health-care workers.
- Develop an enteric disease/foodborne illness website and a foodborne illness investigation manual.
- Implement the Popular Opinion Leader HIV/AIDS intervention program in the state's metro areas.
- Conduct a needs assessment to ensure high-risk HIV/AIDS populations are being reached.
- Confirm that at least 50 percent of adults newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS have an initial CD4 count reported within 12 months of diagnosis.
- Increase identification and reporting of HIV-infected people in the state.
- Assess client satisfaction of Ryan White Program clients.
- Develop a quality management plan to ensure Ryan White Program efficiency and effectiveness.
- Attend training to develop and provide an annual TB fundamentals class for health-care workers.

-
- Host a TB event in 2008 with Heartland National TB Center for the state's health-care providers.

State Epidemiologist

The state epidemiologist coordinates epidemiological studies, investigations and surveillance activities; conducts data analysis; and provides technical expertise and consultation. Additional responsibilities include collaborating on disease surveillance, control, prevention and health intervention activities and providing information to health-care providers, community organizations and the media.

Accomplishments

- Coordinated epidemiology and surveillance program for CDC bioterrorism grant.
- Assisted in supervision of full-time CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service officer.
- Provided oversight to the development of a web-based contact tracing and sexually transmitted disease reporting system.
- Conducted numerous presentations about bioterrorism and other public health issues.
- Participated in the development of community guidelines for the containment of communicable diseases, including pandemic influenza.
- Conducted an epidemiological study of vancomycin-resistant enterococci.

Goals

- Increase the number of medical laboratories reporting diseases electronically.
- Provide epidemiological assistance to the department.
- Provide timely epidemiological response for health-care providers and the public.

State Forensic Examiner

The role of the state forensic examiner is to provide medical examiner services to county coroners and law enforcement officials in the investigation of sudden and unexpected deaths in North Dakota.

Once a case has been referred to the state forensic examiner, the body is brought to Bismarck for an autopsy. Services provided include autopsy or examination of the body, photographic documentation, toxicology analysis, collection of evidence, follow-up with investigating agencies, certification of cause and manner of death, and court testimony as needed.

Accomplishments

- Accepted 469 cases during the biennium; performed autopsies and examinations.
- Provided education statewide to law enforcement officers, county coroners and other agencies involved in death investigations.
- Participated in the North Dakota Child Fatality Review Panel, the Mass Fatalities

Incident Response Course and the National Disaster Medical System.

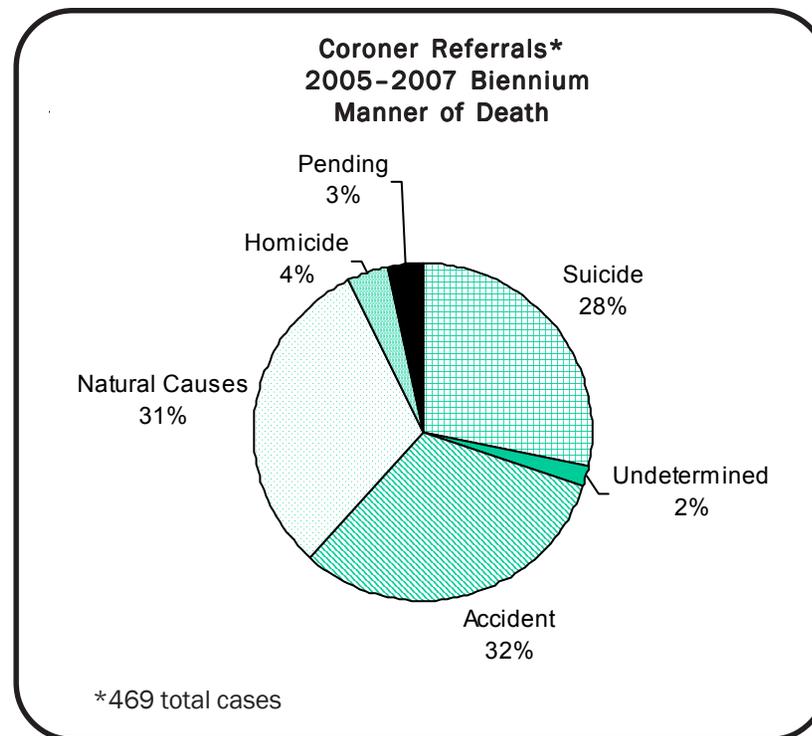
- Received referrals of cases from all geographical areas of the state, with local county coroners responding very favorably to availability of forensic examiner services.

Goals

- Pursue adequate number of staff to handle the caseload.
- Continue to provide educational activities for county coroners, law enforcement officers

and other officials involved with death investigations.

- Continue to perform duties and to provide vital information to county coroners, law enforcement personnel, public health officials and families of the deceased in an effective, timely and courteous manner.
- Work towards an expanded role for the state forensic examiner in a statewide death investigation system, to include centralized reporting of all suspicious and violent deaths.



Health Resources Section

The Health Resources Section consists of three divisions – Health Facilities, Emergency Medical Services, and Food and Lodging – and the Office of Community Assistance. The section works to promote quality care and services for the people of North Dakota by:

- Licensing inpatient and outpatient health-care facilities, basic-care facilities, home-health agencies, ambulance services, hospice programs, electrologists and electronic hair removal technicians; and certification of emergency medical technicians.
- Licensing and inspecting restaurants, bars, lodging facilities, mobile-home parks, campgrounds, bed-and-breakfast facilities, retail food stores, meat markets, bakeries, and assisted-living facilities (food services and building safety).
- Conducting certification surveys of all facilities and programs that provide service to people eligible for the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs; certification is voluntary but required for the provider to receive payment through Medicare and Medicaid.
- Certifying clinical laboratories that test human body substances for medical purposes.
- Administering alternative health-care projects program; nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs and registry; and emergency medical services system.
- Providing assistance to communities in determining if alternative health-care services are feasible.

Division of Health Facilities

The Division of Health Facilities strives to ensure that the buildings, equipment and staff of North Dakota's inpatient care facilities and outpatient programs provide services consistent with generally accepted practice and meet applicable standards.

The division licenses the following:

- General acute, primary care and specialized hospitals – 51
- Nursing facilities – 83
- Home-health agencies – 30
- Hospice programs – 15
- Basic-care facilities – 58
- Electrologists and electronic hair removal technicians – 22

The division certifies the following:

- Long-term care nursing facilities – 83
- Hospitals, including swing beds and general acute services – 12 general acute care hospitals; 33 critical access hospitals; two Indian Health Service hospitals; three psychiatric hospitals
- Intermediate-care facilities for the mentally retarded – 67
- Home-health agencies – 24
- Hospice programs – 15
- Rural health clinics – 64
- State-surveyed clinical laboratories – 75
- Ambulatory surgical centers – 17
- End-stage renal dialysis units – 14
- Portable X-ray units – 1



The Division of Health Facilities conducts surveys of nursing homes to ensure the safety and health of residents.

Staff members conduct periodic surveys to determine compliance with state licensure requirements and federal certification Conditions of Participation contained in Title XVIII (Medicare), Title XIX (Medicaid) and CLIA of the Social Security Act. In addition, the division is responsible for investigating quality-of-care complaints.

The licensure and certification surveys are conducted by surveyors who represent a wide range of professional disciplines, including clinical laboratory scientists, licensed social workers, licensed registered dietitians, registered nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, qualified mental retardation professionals and fire safety surveyors.

The division approves nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs consistent with federal certification requirements for long-term care facilities. The department's nurse aid registry maintains a record of individuals who successfully complete an approved competency evaluation.

Accomplishments

- Continued to convene quarterly meetings of the Long Term Care Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives from the long-term care community.
- Conducted several workshops in conjunction with the state's provider associations. The workshops focused on care-related services identified through the survey process.

- Maintained state approval for 35 paid feeding assistant programs to assist with nourishment and hydration of dependent long-term care residents.
- Established an internal and external group of stakeholders to assist with reengineering the life safety survey program to increase survey consistency.
- Developed website to house program-specific information accessible by the public.

Goals

- Maintain the average survey interval of 12 months or less for long-term care facilities.
- Address complaints in a manner consistent with federal and state guidelines.
- Ensure that new surveyors receive adequate training to pass the national Surveyor Minimum Qualifications Test on the first attempt.
- Certify critical access hospitals as permitted by the federal Rural Hospital Flexibility Act.
- Promote consistency in the survey process.
- Implement two-tiered system of determining noncompliance in basic-care facilities.
- Establish and implement life-safety demonstration project with onsite review of new nursing-home and basic-care facility construction through a consulting agreement.

Division of Emergency Medical Services

The Division of Emergency Medical Services is the lead agency for North Dakota's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System. The division conducts the following activities:

- Annually licenses 137 ground- and four air-ambulance services that meet standards for service availability, equipment and training.
- Updates and maintains training, testing, certification and licensure programs for EMS basic and advanced life support personnel, including emergency medical technicians and paramedics.
- Administers an EMS grant program of about \$620,000 per year for training ambulance service personnel.
- Provides technical assistance to EMS services regarding patient care, system design, administration and operation issues.
- Maintains data system with about 20,000 EMS certification and licensure records.
- Maintains ambulance run-report data system that adds about 60,000 records per year.
- Provides critical incident stress debriefing services to law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel engaged in EMS.
- Coordinates and maintains Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.
- Provides continuing education to emergency medical services through distance learning and videotape presentations.
- Implements and maintains a statewide trauma system.

- Inspects and licenses EMS training institutions.
- Reviews continuing education curricula.

Accomplishments

- Trained, tested and certified about 1,600 new personnel and 3,300 existing personnel. Courses included first responder, emergency medical technician, emergency medical technician – intermediate, and paramedic.
- Provided licensing and inspection services for 141 ambulance services.
- Conducted distance learning through a videotape-based library system that provides continuing education material to 250 sites.
- Provided 47 critical incident stress debriefings to EMS personnel; conducted training for about 425 EMS providers in healthy stress-coping techniques.
- Maintained a trauma system that designates 38 trauma centers, develops trauma transport plans, maintains a trauma registry and trains EMS and trauma center personnel.
- Conducted emergency medical services for children programs that advocate specialized training and recommend equipment for pediatric emergency care.

Goals

- Maintain or strengthen EMS in rural North Dakota through policymaking, technical assistance and grant opportunities.
- Contract with national experts to evaluate trauma and EMS systems.



The Division of Emergency Medical Services provides training for the state's emergency medical responders.

- Improve rural EMS with a grant to develop access-critical services that supplement their staffing. Strategies include:
 - * Implementation of grant-dispersal policies that focus on the most vulnerable ambulance services.
 - * Revision of licensure requirements to facilitate regionalization of EMS services.
 - * Development of quick-response units to replace struggling ambulance services, when appropriate.

Division of Food and Lodging

The Division of Food and Lodging is responsible for protecting public health through licensing and inspection of 738 restaurants, 392 bars and limited restaurants, 389 lodging facilities, 506 mobile-home parks and campgrounds, 74 bed-and-breakfast facilities, 563 retail food stores, 50 meat markets, 20 bakeries and 53 assisted-living facilities. Inspection procedures ensure that these licensed establishments meet both sanitation and certain fire/life safety standards before opening to the public and while in operation.

Under an agreement with the Department of Human Services, staff members also license and inspect 48 preschools and day-care centers that prepare food. In addition, staff members license and inspect 97 schools and migrant food-service sites through an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction. The division provides educa-

tional courses in safe food handling, reviews plans for new establishments and extensive remodeling projects, and helps investigate possible foodborne illness outbreaks.

The division serves as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) liaison in the state on issues related to manufactured food and pesticide residues in food.

Accomplishments

- Conducted more than 5,000 inspections of licensed facilities.
- Continued standardization of local public health inspectors.
- Began updating state food code for uniformity with the 2005 FDA food code.
- Obtained regulatory responsibility for tattoo/body art and tanning facilities during 2007 legislative session.
- Established new annual license fees through administrative rules process.

Goals

- Update memorandums of understanding with local public health units.
- Continue to standardize local public health unit inspector procedures.
- Pursue conducting inspections for State Board of Funeral Services.
- Post inspection results for various facilities on department website.
- Establish new annual license fees through the administrative rules process.
- Promulgate regulations for body art and tanning facilities.



The Division of Food and Lodging protects the public's health by inspecting restaurants to ensure the food is cooked and handled properly.

Office of Community Assistance

The Office of Community Assistance is responsible for providing technical assistance and administrative support to communities to help maintain local health-care infrastructures. Duties include:

- Designation of workforce-shortage areas.
- Management of dental, physician and advanced-practice nursing loan repayment programs.
- Management of the J-1 Visa Waiver program for foreign medical graduates.
- Promotion of the development of Federally Qualified Community Health Centers.
- Partnering with the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences (Center for Rural Health), the Healthcare Association and North Dakota Quality Healthcare Review Inc. to review and approve grant applications from North Dakota critical access hospitals.
- Serving on the North Dakota Blue Cross Blue Shield grant program to review and award grants to health-care providers to improve health-care services.
- Publishing an annual Guide to Nursing Facility Charges.

Accomplishments

- Placed six physicians, two midlevel practitioners and six dentists in North Dakota communities through the dental, physician and advanced-practice nursing loan repayment programs.

- Placed 15 foreign medical doctors in areas of need through the J-1 Visa Waiver program.
- Helped develop four Federally Qualified Community Health Centers serving nine North Dakota communities.
- Awarded more than \$650,000 in federal funds to critical access hospitals through the federal FLEX program.
- Assisted in awarding \$775,000 in grants to health-care providers through the Blue Cross Blue Shield grant program.
- Received more than 1,600 requests for copies of the annual Guide to Nursing Facility Charges from North Dakota residents seeking information about long-term care charges.
- Continued to assist rural hospitals with the critical access hospital designation, which allows greater flexibility in the use of nursing and medical staff, as well as a more favorable Medicare reimbursement process.

Goals

- Place six dentists, eight physicians, eight midlevel practitioners, six veterinarians and 10 foreign physicians in areas of need.
- Award four dentists with grants to practice in underserved areas.
- Designate six dental shortage areas.
- Conduct six community meetings for the development of Federally Qualified Community Health Centers.
- Publish two annual Guides to Nursing Facility Charges.
- Serve on grant-awarding committees.

Environmental Health Section



The Environmental Health Section protects the public's health by safeguarding the quality of North Dakota's air, land and water resources.

To safeguard North Dakota's air, land and water resources, the Environmental Health Section's five divisions work with federal agencies (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Food and Drug Administration), special interest groups, local governments and the citizens of the state. The merging of the Microbiology and Chemistry laboratories into the Division of Laboratory Services has expanded this partnership to include physicians, health-care facilities, local public health units and veterinarians.

Staff members deal with issues that affect the comfort, health, safety and well-being of all North Dakota citizens and their environment. Enforcement of state and federal environmental laws is accomplished through permitting, inspecting, sampling, analytical services and monitoring activities. Laboratory services ensure a rapid response to public health threats.

An important department goal is to maintain delegation of all federal environmental programs for North Dakota and to ensure that the regulated community complies with state environmental statutes.

The Environmental Health Section consists of the following divisions:

- Laboratory Services
- Air Quality
- Waste Management
- Municipal Facilities
- Water Quality

Division activities are coordinated by the section chief's office. Employees oversee quality assurance procedures; help coordinate public information efforts; assist with staff training; and coordinate computer and data management activities, emergency response efforts and funding requests.

The section's role in the initial response to an environmental incident is one of support to local responders and the Division of Emergency Services. The section customarily takes the lead role in post-emergency environmental clean-up activities.

The section chief's office coordinates the annual state/EPA agreement, which defines the scope of environmental program responsibilities and commitments.

An assistant attorney general assigned to the section chief's office provides legal counsel to the section and assistance with enforcement procedures regarding violations of state environmental laws. During the biennium, this involved resolving violations of air, water pollution, hazardous waste and solid waste management statutes and rules.

The section chief's office also includes a small business ombudsman who serves as an advocate for small businesses in need of assistance to understand and comply with environmental laws and rules.

The section encourages public participation through opportunities for public comment, public hearings and the establishment of ad hoc task forces and advisory groups.

Division of Laboratory Services

The Division of Laboratory Services has two principal programs: Chemistry and Microbiology.

Accomplishments

- Established a memorandum of understanding with the North Dakota National Guard, 81st Civil Support Team (CST) to assist in environmental bio/chemical-threat sample receipt and screening. The CST will work as part of the laboratory response team to provide testing on a 24/7 basis.
- Installed an emergency generator to provide backup power in the event of a power loss.

Microbiology

The microbiology laboratory (i.e., the public health laboratory) performs testing in the areas of bacteriology, mycology, parasitology, immunology, virology, molecular diagnostics, aeroallergens, and dairy and water bacteriology. The laboratory is responsible for providing rapid detection and identification of pathogens that may threaten the public's health. Outbreak response and control is dependent upon the laboratory's continuing commitment to maintain and develop testing capabilities in advance of newly emerging disease agents and bioterrorism threats. In addition, the laboratory provides training and consultation expertise regarding safety and testing methodologies.

Accomplishments

- Implemented reporting system that electronically transmits data from the Laboratory Information Management System to the North Dakota Disease Reporting, Epidemiological Assessment and Monitoring System.
- Implemented auto-email system for use by environmental testing clients for nonconfidential reporting. About 90 percent of laboratory reports are sent electronically.
- Developed microbiology website with online ordering and centralized information and Laboratory Response Network website with centralized information and services.
- Developed a respiratory protection plan. All laboratory staff are tested and trained annually for proper fit and respiratory protection.
- Designed and distributed new biological agent transfer kits. The kits are bar coded and traceable to the point of origin.
- Maintained mosquito surveillance monitoring for West Nile virus and other arboviruses.
- Updated and distributed service directory and a customer satisfaction survey.
- Validated genetic sequencing capabilities for identification of bacterial and fungal isolates.
- Maintained federal testing certification for clinical specimens, dairy products and drinking water.
- Received a National Laboratory Systems grant to promote education and training on antimicrobial susceptibility testing.
- Hosted a workshop on rule-out testing of biothreat agents with personnel from the state's sentinel site laboratories.



The Division of Laboratory Services conducts tests to identify diseases that may threaten the public's health or chemical compounds that may threaten the state's environment.

Microbiology Testing

Category	Number of Tests
Dairy Products	4,819
HIV	39,759
Tuberculosis	19,458
Mycology/Legionella	2,141
Parasites	2,640
Hepatitis A, B, C	16,519
Rabies (human exposure)	1,989
Shiga Toxin	6,132
STDs	83,988
Virology/Immunology	8,137
Water Analyses	14,132
Bacterial/Biothreat	13,984
Mosquito Surveillance	3,083
Total	216,781

- Developed an online training course in packaging and shipping of biological specimens for laboratory personnel.
- Continued to enhance the Laboratory Response Network of laboratories trained to recognize and rule out bio-threat agents.
- Participated in pandemic influenza exercises at various locations throughout the state.
- Completed the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments laboratory inspection and recertification process.
- Renewed registration of the laboratory facility to handle and store select agents.
- Tested the Laboratory Response Network through a tabletop exercise.
- Completed certification of air flow systems in all biosafety level-three laboratories.
- Responded to a shigella outbreak in several areas of the state.
- Validated new HIV testing to include both HIV-1 and HIV-2 detection capabilities.

Goals

- Sponsor presentation on antimicrobial susceptibility testing and appropriate usage of existing guidelines at the Region V Tri-State American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science conference in Fargo.
- Increase pandemic influenza surge-capability testing at the laboratory, along with increased testing for common types of influence.
- Conduct on-site bioterrorism training for Laboratory Response Network personnel.
- Implement media inventory management system.

- Maintain or increase laboratory efficiency and responsiveness; provide continued support for physicians, health-care facilities, local public health units, veterinarians, state and federal agencies, and the public.
- Continue membership in proficiency programs and maintain current certifications, including CLIA and state licensure.

Chemistry

The chemistry laboratory provides analytical chemistry data to environmental protection, public health, agricultural and petroleum regulatory programs in the state. The laboratory also maintains a certification program for North Dakota laboratories that provide environmental testing services.

The NDDoH's environmental protection programs use laboratory data to regulate air quality; solid and hazardous waste; municipal wastewater; agricultural runoff; surface, ground and drinking water quality; petroleum products; and other media of environmental or public health concern. The Department of Agriculture uses data to regulate livestock feed, pet foods, and agricultural and home-use fertilizers.

The laboratory consists of six analytical sections and one certification section. The analytical sections include:

- **Demands Laboratory:** Performs biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids and pH tests; provides analytical data used to determine compliance with permit requirements of municipal and industrial wastewater discharges.

- **Feed and Fertilizer Lab:** Provides analytical data to the Department of Agriculture; tests agriculture feeds and fertilizers, pet foods, and lawn and garden fertilizers to determine compliance with labeling.
- **Mineral Lab:** Tests matrices such as water and soil for major cation and anion parameters or general chemical quality. Typical analyses include fluoride, chloride, chemical oxygen demand, nitrate, sodium, ammonia and total Kjeldahl nitrogen.
- **Organic Lab:** Provides identification and quantification of insecticides, herbicides, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other synthetic organic compounds in drinking, surface and ground water; soil; river and lake sediments; foliage; fish tissue; sludge; oil; landfill wastes; and samples from other environmental sources.
- **Petroleum Lab:** Tests petroleum products such as gasoline and diesel for product quality.
- **Spectroscopy (or Metals) Lab:** Identifies and quantifies metal concentrations in drinking water sources and distribution systems, surface and ground water resources, fish, hazardous and solid wastes, river and lake sediments, and other environmental media.

Accomplishments

- Provided analytical support to help public water systems comply with federal and state drinking water rules and regulations. About 6,600 samples were tested for more than

26,000 analytical components, including nitrates, metals such as lead and copper, fluoride, pesticides, and volatile organic compounds such as benzene and toluene.

Included in this program were:

- * Summer testing of drinking water systems for haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes – some of the more common byproducts of chlorination disinfection.
- * Analytical demonstration of capability tests, determinations of method detection limits and proficiency testing for renewal and maintenance of certification under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Provided analytical services necessary to monitor ground water quality. Testing included nitrates, metals, pesticides and general water quality parameters, as well as Arsenic Trioxide Superfund testing. About 650 private water wells in Richland, Sargeant and Ransom counties were tested for arsenic levels. The laboratory also tested samples of oil well brine solutions used as road deicers.
- Continued to participate in and successfully complete several laboratory performance evaluation programs. In addition, the laboratory certifies the state's other environmental laboratories and reviews and recognizes other states' certifications programs for out-of-state laboratories that meet the requirements of North Dakota's certification program.
- Continued to provide information to other laboratories through training and conferences.
- Continued to provide analytical chemistry data to the State Water Commission. In

addition to routine ground water monitoring, 1,217 samples taken upstream and downstream of the Devil's Lake outlet were tested for general water quality chemistry with emphasis on sulfates.

- Continued to assist the Environmental Health Section during environmental emergencies, including providing 24-hour services during major emergencies to ensure timely response. Some analysis associated with emergency situations this biennium included:
 - * Samples from a freight-rail accident at Lake Ashtabula/Sheyenne River.
 - * Samples from a brine release on Charbonneau Creek in western North Dakota.
 - * Unknown powders found in mail-sorting facilities, post offices and letters.
- Analyzed about 31,600 samples for about 321,000 chemistry analytes.
- Expanded testing capabilities to include testing for specific metals in human urine related to possible chemical events.

Goals

- Maintain or increase laboratory efficiency and responsiveness; provide continued analytical support for environmental protection, public health, agriculture and petroleum regulatory programs.
- Continue membership in performance evaluation programs; maintain current EPA laboratory certification and obtain certification for new drinking water components as they become regulated by EPA.

- Continue to develop and update the chemical laboratory component of the state's comprehensive public health emergency preparedness and response plan; expand metals testing to include metals in blood and speciation of metals in different matrices.
- Investigate biofuels testing paradigms.

Division of Air Quality

The Division of Air Quality consists of two major programs responsible for protecting the state's air quality resources and for ensuring control of radiation. Staff scientists, meteorologists, engineers and technicians also provide technical assistance during environmental emergencies.

North Dakota is one of only 11 states that met all federal ambient air quality standards during the 2005-2007 biennium.

Air Pollution Control Program

The Air Pollution Control Program is responsible for protecting and fostering the state's air quality resources. The program promotes clean air activities and initiates enforcement actions to correct air pollution problems.

Program staff members' primary responsibilities include evaluating permit applications, conducting computer modeling of potential impacts to air quality, issuing permits that restrict emission levels to ensure that standards are met, inspecting facilities to ensure compli-

ance, investigating air pollution complaints, and operating a statewide ambient air quality monitoring network.

Radiation Control and Indoor Air Quality Program

The Radiation Control and Indoor Air Quality Program performs two major functions: (1) monitoring the development and use of ionizing and nonionizing radiation sources to protect the health and safety of North Dakotans and the environment and (2) evaluating and mitigating asbestos, radon, lead and other indoor air quality concerns, as well as implementing a public awareness and education program concerning these health risks.

Accomplishments

- Maintained attainment status for all state and national Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Complied with all federal program requirements and maintained federal delegation responsibilities for EPA programs.
- Evaluated about 40 applications for Permits to Construct to determine effects on air quality, including three ethanol plants, two power plants and a coal mine.
- Responded to and assisted in the mitigation of environmental emergencies involving oil distribution, commercial battery sales and coal gasification facilities.
- Implemented medical x-ray operator training requirements for nonregistered technologists.
- Distributed environmental information to the public and provided education and outreach

on a variety of environmental issues by holding public information meetings, scheduling discussion sessions with local public health units, and participating in college and other agency seminars.

- Selected by EPA as a test state for the new continuous particulate matter fine and coarse analyzer.
- Made substantial progress toward implementing Regional Haze and Clean Air Mercury rules.
- Finalized consent decrees with Minnkota Power Cooperative Inc., ADM and Cargill Inc.

Goals

- Maintain delegation and responsibility for federally mandated programs.
- Further define and develop emergency response capabilities.
- Continue education and outreach activities to keep the public informed about environmental issues specific to air and radiation.
- Provide cross training to staff to improve versatility and job satisfaction and to provide an effective public response.
- Continue to respond to indoor air quality concerns by direct intervention and assistance to local public health personnel.
- Coordinate training programs to improve radiation technology education for facilities that offer such services to the public.
- Develop state plans for the reduction of regional haze and mercury emissions.
- Implement federal Clean Air Mercury Rule.



North Dakota is one of only 11 states that met all federal ambient air quality standards during the 2005-2007 biennium.

Division of Waste Management

The Division of Waste Management works to safeguard public health through programs designed for generators of solid and hazardous waste and operators of underground storage tanks.

The division includes the following:

- Hazardous Waste Program
- Underground Storage Tank Program
- Solid Waste Program
- Abandoned Motor Vehicle Program

Hazardous Waste Program

The Hazardous Waste Program regulates facilities that generate, store, treat, dispose or transport hazardous waste. The program encourages practices that minimize or eliminate hazardous waste generation and works to ensure that hazardous waste does not adversely affect human health or the environment.

In addition to other inspections, the program conducts polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) inspections at facilities or sites known or suspected to have equipment containing PCBs. The program also coordinates assessments and cleanups at Brownfield sites, which are properties owned by a city, county or development organization that are underdeveloped due to actual or perceived contamination.

Accomplishments

- Conducted permitting and inspections of the regulated community, which consists of about 700 businesses that have notified the

division of hazardous waste activity. This includes hazardous waste generators; transporters; and treatment, storage and disposal facilities.

- Inspected about 80 facilities that generate or manage hazardous waste; provided compliance assistance to other hazardous waste facilities.
- Conducted about 16 PCB inspections; assisted businesses and tribes in investigating and managing regulated PCB waste; and promoted the management of unregulated PCB waste as regulated PCB waste.
- Worked with five facilities to investigate and remediate contaminated soil or ground water.
- Developed “Guide to Hazardous Waste Management in North Dakota” CD and distributed it to businesses that generate hazardous waste.
- Worked with the the N.D. Bureau of Criminal Investigation on clandestine drug labs.
- Responded to citizen complaints and assisted in the cleanup of environmental spills.
- Assessed 13 Brownfield properties in 11 communities, and removed contamination at seven sites. These activities were conducted at the request of a community, county or other governmental entity.

Goals

- Continue to inspect facilities that generate or manage hazardous waste and to provide compliance assistance to the regulated community.
- Reissue appropriate hazardous waste permits.

- Continue to review investigation reports, proposed remedies and remediation progress at facilities conducting clean-up activities.
- Continue to conduct PCB inspections and to promote the proper handling and disposal of regulated and unregulated PCB waste.
- Seek additional EPA funding for Brownfield assessment and remediation activities, if needed.
- Conduct training that provides a general overview of regulations and requirements and helps businesses comply with state rules.

Underground Storage Tank Program

The Underground Storage Tank Program (UST) regulates petroleum and hazardous-substance storage tanks, establishes technical standards for the installation and operation of underground tanks, maintains a tank notification program, establishes financial responsibility requirements for tank owners, and provides for state inspection and enforcement.

UST regulations are designed to find and correct problems created by leaks and spills, prevent future leaks and spills, and ensure that owners and operators can pay to correct the problems created by leaking tank systems. Leaking USTs can cause fires or explosions that threaten human safety and can contaminate nearby soil, ground water or surface water.

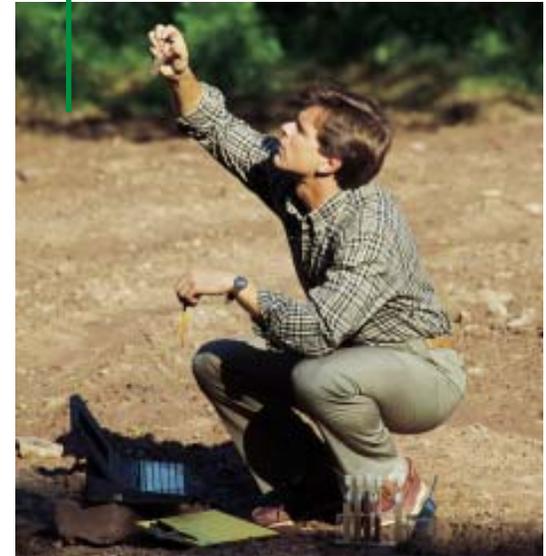
The program also works with retailers and manufacturers to ensure that specifications and standards for petroleum and antifreeze are met.

Accomplishments

- Regulated more than 900 active tank facilities, for a total of 2,286 tanks. Compliance is monitored by a mail-in self-certification process, as well as onsite visitations. Program staff observed more than 25 tank closures, conducted upwards of 500 onsite inspections, and investigated and monitored cleanup of more than 50 leaking UST sites.
- Conducted routine collection and analysis of 495 petroleum samples; notified petroleum retailers of analytical results, including octane and distillation end points.
- Registered all antifreeze manufacturers and 136 bulk antifreeze retailers in the state.
- Used Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund money to investigate suspected UST releases and to conduct corrective actions when a release had occurred but the responsible party was recalcitrant, unable to pay, or could not be identified. LUST Trust Fund money was used to install and operate a clean-up system for contamination in a high school.
- Continued outreach to tank owners about proper maintenance and operation of USTs. More than 9,400 USTs have been removed during the 18 years the UST Program has been in existence. Many of these tanks leaked or had the potential to leak.

Goals

- Assist tank owners with contamination assessment/clean-up activities following



The Division of Waste Management responds to and assists in the cleanup of environmental contamination.



The Solid Waste Program promotes recycling to help preserve the state's natural resources.

upgrade and/or replacement of USTs or when leaks occur.

- Provide compliance monitoring, inspections and public outreach to inform tank owners about the proper operation of USTs (e.g., leak detection, spill reporting, etc.).
- Amend UST rules to conform to EPA guidelines regarding delivery prohibition, secondary containment and owner/operator training.
- Use LUST Trust Fund money to investigate and properly close additional abandoned UST sites throughout the state.
- Collect petroleum samples from retailers and respond to product and labeling deficiencies.
- Review antifreeze registration requests and respond to formulation and labeling deficiencies.

The Solid Waste Program

The Solid Waste Program regulates the collection, transportation, storage and disposal of nonhazardous solid waste. The program promotes resource recovery, waste reduction and recycling activities that preserve and enhance the quality of the state's natural resources. In addition, the program assists individuals, businesses and communities to provide efficient, environmentally acceptable solid waste management systems.

Accomplishments

- Regulated 14 municipal solid waste landfills, 31 transfer stations, three industrial waste

landfills, 21 special energy and oil industry landfills, and 182 inert waste landfills.

- Continued implementation of the Nutrient Management requirements to help food processing and livestock facilities recycle organic waste materials; facilitated cleanup of a large stockpile of manure used to reclaim an anhydrous ammonia spill.
- Approved plan for Grand Forks landfill to continue operation until October 2008.
- Conducted annual landfill operator training and certification sessions attended by about 40 operators and solid waste professionals.
- Promoted recycling and beneficial use of construction and demolition materials, use of wood for energy recovery, and use of compost for landscaping.
- Evaluated solid waste issues in coordination with tribal entities.
- Cosponsored recycling workshops and the annual Solid Waste Symposium; made presentations to various groups about waste reduction, recycling, composting, disposal and waste hauling.
- Worked with nonprofit organizations to develop educational materials, host workshops and partner in grant opportunities.
- Participated in meetings with city officials about abandoned and dangerous buildings, disasters and emergencies, and the need for long-term planning on solid waste and economic development issues.
- Worked with the North Dakota Solid Waste and Recycling Association to conduct five

- workshops on construction and demolition recycling and backyard burning issues.
- Worked with schools to initiate chemical clean-out efforts and provided instruction about health and liability risks posed by toxic materials such as mercury.
 - Encouraged auto scrap-metal companies to adopt pollution-prevention practices that manage wastes associated with their industry.
 - Approved use of coal combustion product (otherwise a waste) for stabilizing oilfield drilling waste; about 30,000 tons of the product were utilized.

Goals

- Promote integrated waste management, including waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.
- Continue implementing and evaluating beneficial uses of materials to help reduce the need for newly manufactured products, as well as the amount of waste in landfills.
- Promote development of effective solid waste practices and facilities, including long-term solutions for solid waste needs.
- Continue education efforts through training, workshops and educational materials.
- Work with counties and cities to evaluate options for abandoned and dangerous buildings, emergencies, economic development and sustainable growth.
- Work with entities in northeastern North Dakota on long-term solutions to issues caused by 2008 closure of the only solid waste landfill in the region.

- Implement the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Removal Program for auto recyclers and scrap-metal facilities.
- Work with new and expanding industries on sound, integrated and sustainable waste management practices.
- Evaluate and update solid waste rules regarding landfill development, final closure, and integrated waste management.

Abandoned Motor Vehicle Program

The Abandoned Motor Vehicle Program focuses on assisting political subdivisions in the cleanup of scrap metal.

Accomplishments

- Worked with local public health units to complete projects in Traill, Richland, Ransom Sargent and Mercer counties, as well as in several smaller communities; began surveying Dickey County; collected and recycled about 7,600 tons of scrap metal.
- Evaluated and facilitated cleanup of numerous tire disposal sites.

Goal

- Promote the use of Abandoned Motor Vehicle Program funds to clean up unwanted scrap and to evaluate alternative uses and management of scrap tires.



The Division of Municipal Facilities helps to ensure safe drinking water through a variety of programs and activities.

Division of Municipal Facilities

The division administers the following three programs that help communities, industries and citizens of North Dakota in the areas of water supply and treatment and wastewater collection and treatment: (1) the Public Water Supply Supervision Program; (2) the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program; and (3) the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program.

Public Water Supply Supervision Program

The PWSS Program works with the 519 public water systems in North Dakota to ensure that drinking water meets all standards established by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This is accomplished by monitoring contaminants and providing technical assistance to the systems. The program provides training for and certification of operators in charge of water treatment and distribution facilities and wastewater collection and treatment plants. There are 1,023 certified operators in the state. Program staff also administer the state's fluoridation program and provide technical assistance to private water systems.

Four inspectors/trainers inspect about 700 public water and wastewater systems to ensure that facilities comply with state and federal public health standards. Program activities contribute to the proper operation and maintenance of these facilities.

Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund

The DWSRF Program provides low-interest loans to help public water systems finance the infrastructure needed to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Eligible borrowers can obtain financing to construct water treatment works at below-market interest rates. Through June 30, 2007, loans totaling about \$150 million have been approved to assist North Dakota water systems. Program staff also review about 150 drinking water projects each year to ensure compliance with state design criteria before construction.

Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

The CWSRF Program provides low-interest loans to fund conventional wastewater and nonpoint source pollution control needs. Eligible borrowers can obtain financing to build wastewater treatment works at below-market interest rates. Through June 30, 2007, loans totaling about \$198 million have been approved to assist North Dakota wastewater systems. Program staff also review about 150 projects each year to ensure compliance with state design criteria before construction.

Accomplishments

- Complied with all major federal program requirements and maintained federal delegation responsibilities for EPA programs.

Goals

- Maintain delegation for federally mandated programs.
- Continue to provide funding for the state's drinking water and wastewater needs.

Division of Water Quality

The primary statute providing for water quality protection is the federal Clean Water Act of 1972. This act and its amendments have proven to be the driving force behind many recent water quality improvements. Even before the federal Clean Water Act, North Dakota had its own law to protect water quality – the North Dakota Water Pollution Control Act enacted in 1967. The NDDoH is largely responsible for monitoring the quality of the state's lakes, reservoirs, streams and wetlands. The Division of Water Quality helps ensure that water stays clean for people today and in the future.

Polluted water may carry certain diseases that result in dangerous illnesses and increased health-care costs. Contaminated water costs more to treat and is less appealing for recreational uses. And, of course, there is an environmental cost since polluted water affects the plants and animals dependent upon it.

Water quality has improved since passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, but much remains to be done to achieve the goal of restoring and maintaining the quality of the state's and nation's waters.

Water Quality Standards

The state's Water Quality Standards establish the beneficial uses of the state's water and assign numeric criteria for chemical concentrations necessary to achieve the designated uses. A significant change in the standards was the establishment of site-specific criteria for Lake Sakakawea that requires a minimum volume of water to support the cold water fishery. The standards provide guidance to the North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program and set goals for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program and the Section 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load Program.

The Clean Water Act requires that the standards be reviewed and, if necessary, revised every three years to accommodate the contemporary needs of the state and to incorporate the latest scientific information. Public hearings concerning revisions were held during 2006, and the standards were adopted in January 2007.

Special Project: Devils Lake

The NDDoH is the lead agency for monitoring water quality and providing technical information in the Devils Lake basin. The monitoring consists of seven sites in the Devils Lake chain of lakes. The NDDoH also is involved in special studies as needed. Implementation of the Devils Lake Water Management Plan is necessary to achieve long-term solutions for flooding in the Devils Lake basin.

Technical assistance has been provided for protection and maintenance of water distribution and wastewater treatment systems. The NDDoH also has provided regulatory oversight for threatened fuel storage areas, potential hazardous materials sites and other environmental threats.

The NDDoH issued a permit to the North Dakota State Engineer to discharge water through West Bay of Devils Lake to the Sheyenne River. The permit was modified in 2006 to allow greater flexibility in operations while protecting downstream water quality. An adaptive management plan was implemented to ensure the maintenance of all beneficial uses.

Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program

Point source pollution is defined simply as pollution coming from a specific source, like the end of a pipe. Environmental regulations implemented during the last 30 years have resulted in a significant reduction in pollution from major point sources (e.g., municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities).

Since 1975, the program has issued about 500 major and minor wastewater discharge permits (25 percent industrial and 75 percent municipal).

Since 1992, permits have been required for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities and industrial facilities.

About 1,470 facilities are covered by general permits for stormwater discharges. The primary focus in the area of stormwater dis-

charges has been meeting the obligations of Phase II of the EPA's Stormwater Rule.

Impacts to water from livestock operations are an increasing concern in North Dakota. Currently, 626 livestock facilities have been approved to operate. Most of these are cattle, hog and dairy facilities that are part of a farmer's total farm operation. In recent years, however, there has been an increase in the number of large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) proposed in the state.

Accomplishments

- Maintained a 0 percent backlog of major and minor North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) permits.
- Conducted 168 stormwater inspections, 23 industrial pretreatment inspections and 357 industrial and municipal wastewater compliance evaluations/records reviews.
- Received primacy from EPA for implementing Industrial Pretreatment Program.
- Revised industrial stormwater permit forms to better reflect the permit conditions on discontinuing coverage, sampling and reporting; developed a survey to inventory the progress of municipalities in implementing requirements of Phase II stormwater rules.
- Developed a fact sheet explaining the operation and maintenance requirements of the construction stormwater permit; developed a stormwater sampling guidance document outlining sample collection procedures for industrial facility operators who are required to monitor stormwater runoff.

- Arranged and conducted annual two-day conferences on stormwater management, erosion and sediment-control practices and permit requirements.
- Developed and implemented data base to monitor compliance in the NDPDES Program, including stormwater, pretreatment, majors/minors, animal feeding operations, septic pumpers, hydrostatic testing and dewatering.
- Conducted 239 inspections of livestock facilities; issued “approvals to operate” to 93 facilities, of which 19 were for large CAFOS (seven hog and 12 beef).
- Participated in 25 educational/professional events on stormwater permit requirements, including four half-day workshops conducted with the North Dakota Home Builders Association that focused on the industry’s stormwater permit requirements.
- Modified the Devils Lake outlet permit. The permit modification challenged in state district court was upheld.
- Participated in the annual operator training and the North Dakota Water Pollution Control Conference, providing updates and training on stormwater, pretreatment and wastewater discharge issues.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program

One of the primary challenges to maintaining or improving the quality of the state’s surface water resources is nonpoint source (NPS) pollution because this pollution does not

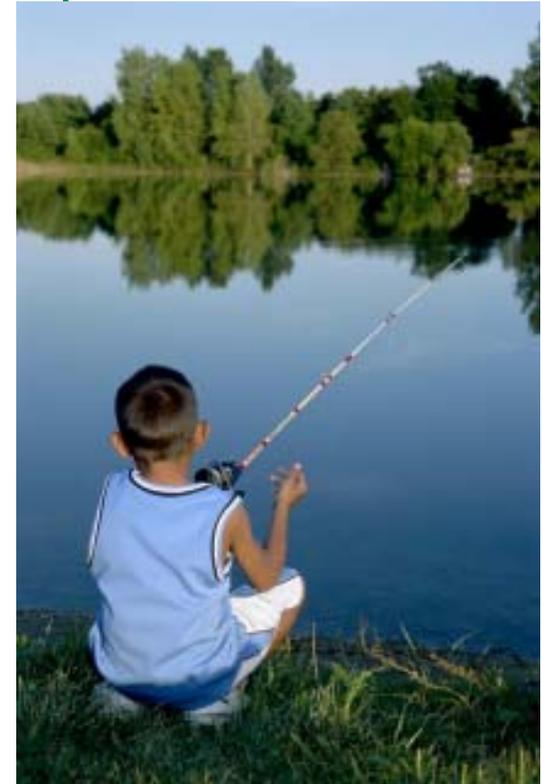
come from one point. NPS pollution includes runoff from construction sites, city streets, livestock feedlots and agricultural lands. Runoff carries pollutants – including sediment, nutrients and pesticides – and deposits them in the state’s waters.

Accomplishments

- Provided about \$8.7 million in Section 319 funding to support 45 locally sponsored projects. These projects used the funding to cost-share agricultural practices, conduct education events, deliver technical assistance to agricultural producers and evaluate water quality trends or conditions.

Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program

The state’s surface water resources are significant. Currently, the NDDoH recognizes 224 publicly owned and managed lakes and reservoirs totaling 715,000 surface acres. The two largest are Lake Sakakawea (368,000 acres) and Devils Lake (125,000 acres). There are 54,427 miles of rivers and streams in the state. Estimates of river and stream miles are based on the National Hydrography Dataset and include ephemeral, intermittent and perennial rivers and streams. In addition, the state contains about 2.5 million acres of wetlands, the majority of which are located in what is commonly called the Prairie Pothole Region.



The Division of Water Quality protects the public’s health and the environment by monitoring the state’s lakes, streams and rivers.



North Dakota contains 224 recognized lakes and reservoirs totaling 715,000 surface acres.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires pollution-reduction targets to be developed for surface waters considered water-quality limited and requires load allocations, waste load allocations and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Typically, surface waters not meeting their designated beneficial uses are included on the TMDL list.

Regional TMDL/watershed liaison staff work with local stakeholders in the development of water quality assessments and TMDLs based on the Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. Regional staff provide technical assistance to local soil conservation districts and water resource boards, assist in the development of nonpoint source pollution management projects, provide technical expertise to local stakeholder groups and assist with youth and adult information/education events.

Accomplishments

- Maintained a network of 34 monitoring sites on 19 rivers to assess trends and to describe the general chemical character of the state's major river basins. The department cooperates with the U.S. Geological Survey in maintaining seven of the 34 sites, including the Red River at Fargo and Grand Forks.
- Worked to complete a three-year biological assessment of rivers and streams in the Red River Basin, including sampling macro-invertebrates and fish at 100 sites. Data will be combined with data collected by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and

used to develop and refine existing multi-metric biological indices and to assess the biological condition of the Red River Basin.

- Conducted water quality monitoring on Devils Lake four times each year and maintained water quality monitoring program on Lake Sakakawea. In conjunction with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the NDDoH sampled Lake Sakakawea weekly during the open-water period in 2006 and 2007. Data is used to assess the general status of Lake Sakakawea and to provide estimates of the lake's cold-water habitat.
- Participated in the 2007 National Lakes Survey of more than 900 lakes and reservoirs across the nation. In North Dakota, 42 lakes and reservoirs were sampled. Results will be used to assess overall water quality and trophic condition.
- Conducted a Lake Water Quality Assessment Project with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department with the goals of (1) monitoring the chemical, physical and biological character of the state's lakes and reservoirs; (2) assessing current water quality conditions and trophic status; (3) determining spatial differences; and (4) determining temporal trends in lake water quality. Information will be used to prioritize lakes, reservoirs and watersheds for maintenance and improvement projects. To date, more than 60 lakes have been sampled.
- Conducted a regional wetland condition assessment of the biological condition of the Missouri Coteau ecoregion. In cooperation

- with NDSU and the EPA, the NDDoH sampled wetlands using a probabilistic approach. Phase I used remote sensing data to assess the wetlands; Phase II used field sampling and applied the Index of Plant Community Integrity.
- Developed and received EPA approval for a Nutrient Criteria Development Plan to address the need for credible and defensible nutrient criteria in the state's water quality standards. Excessive levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are linked to impairment of aquatic life and recreational use. Focusing on rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs, the plan (1) recommends an approach for developing nutrient criteria; (2) identifies needed data; and (3) identifies key issues, milestones and decisions.
 - Submitted the 2006 Integrated Section 305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report and Section 303(d) List of Waters Needing Total Maximum Daily Loads. The report provides a summary of water quality conditions for the state's lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams and fulfills the state's CWA Section 303(d) reporting requirement by providing a list of impaired waterbodies needing TMDLs.
 - Completed and received EPA approval for TMDLs on Dead Colt Creek; Northgate, McDowell, Indian Creek, Carbury and Armourdale dams; and Hoskins and Pheasant lakes. Completed draft nutrient TMDLs for McGregor, Short Creek, Blacktail, Crown Butte, Sweetbriar and Sheep Creek dams and

Brewer and Mirror lakes; and a draft bacteria TMDL for the Maple River.

- Worked with local stakeholders on TMDL projects and watershed assessments for Larimore Dam; the Turtle, Maple, Rush, Wild Rice and Wintering rivers; Seven Mile Coulee; and Beaver, Otter and Oak creeks.
- Cooperated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to analyze more than 250 fish tissue samples collected from lakes Tewaukon, Sprague, Darling and Ilo. Results will be used to revise and update the 2003 Fish Consumption Advisory. In addition to species-specific information, the advisory contains lake- and river-specific advisory information.

Ground Water Program

North Dakota's ground water protection programs are designed to control potential sources of contamination. This is accomplished through permit programs, waste discharge limits, performance and design standards, contaminant remediation, and best management practices for NPS pollution. The degree to which contamination incidents are investigated or remediated depends upon the contaminant, its impact on the beneficial use of the resource and the overall risk to the public or the environment.

Accomplishments

- Successfully protected human health and the environment at spill sites, such as the Zynergy salt water spill into Charbonneau

Creek and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe train derailment at Lake Ashtabula.

- Worked with livestock producers to locate 68 new facilities in areas with minimal risk to ground water and to upgrade waste handling systems at existing facilities where needed. Provided site review summaries and supporting figures to the division's feedlot program after all of the information on geology, ground water, surface water, soils, wells, test holes, wellhead protection areas and source water protection areas had been reviewed.
- Continued working with the EPA, the local rural water district and rural residents on the Arsenic Trioxide Superfund site in southeastern North Dakota. Safe drinking water was provided to Hankinson and Wyndmere as part of the expansion of the Southeast Water Users District water treatment and distribution system. Department staff sampled about 380 private wells for arsenic concentrations in an effort to collect data for evaluating water supply options for rural area residents.

Wellhead and Source Water Protection Programs

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act established the Source Water Protection Program to serve as an umbrella of protection efforts for all public water systems, including ground water- and surface water-dependent systems. The Wellhead Protection Program continues for ground water-dependent systems. The Source Water Protection Program for surface water-dependent systems involves

(1) the delineation of protection areas along rivers or reservoirs that provide source water for the systems and (2) an inventory of potential contaminant sources within the protection areas. These programs help the NDDoH define the susceptibility of public water systems to potential contaminant sources found in their protection areas.

Accomplishments

- Maintained 100 percent compliance with Source Water Protection/Wellhead Protection Program requirements.
- Reviewed the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline project; helped evaluate and select a corridor that would minimize impacts to source water protection areas and the shallow aquifers located along the proposed route.
- Eliminated Safe Drinking Water Act violations for several community water systems through hydrogeologic investigations and studies.
- Conducted public awareness and education meetings with community water systems to develop a proactive approach to safeguarding community drinking water supplies.

Underground Injection Control Program

The Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program helps prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water by injection wells (e.g., domestic waste, industrial wastewater or motor vehicle waste disposal).

There are five classes of underground injection wells, defined according to the types

of fluid they inject and where the fluid is injected. The Division of Water Quality regulates Class I and Class V underground injection wells.

Accomplishments

- Conducted 33 inspections at facilities located in high-risk areas such as wellhead protection areas and other sensitive ground water areas.
- Obtained closure of 30 high-risk wells located in wellhead protection areas or other sensitive ground water areas.
- Conducted public outreach to UIC well owners concerning new rule requirements.

Ambient Ground Water Monitoring Program

The maintenance of a baseline description of ground water quality is an essential element of any statewide, comprehensive ground water protection program. In recent years, concern for the quality of the environment and drinking water has increased as many states have experienced ground water contamination from a variety of point and nonpoint sources of pollution. The goal of the Ground Water Monitoring Program is to provide an assessment of the quality of North Dakota's ground water resources with regard to agricultural chemical contamination.

A number of glacial drift aquifers have been monitored each year of the program since 1992. Fifty aquifers considered most vulnerable to contamination are included in the program. Conducting the monitoring on five-

year cycles, preferably using most of the same wells for sampling, provides a temporal assessment of agricultural chemical occurrence in specific aquifers.

Accomplishments

- Sampled about 450 wells in 32 aquifers for trace metals, general water chemistry parameters, nitrates and pesticides. Summarized all data collected in annual reports.
- Continued working with the State Water Commission, area irrigators and producers to mitigate the nitrate contamination in the Karlsruhe aquifer.

Division Goals

- Obtain employee salaries comparable to salaries for similar job classifications in other government agencies and private organizations.
- Provide education about the public's impact on water quality; increase awareness of local and state efforts to provide the quality of water necessary to meet all beneficial uses, such as drinking, fishing and swimming.
- Increase educational outreach to building contractors regarding stormwater issues.
- Continue dialogue with local zoning authorities on issues such as water quality and odors related to large, concentrated animal feeding operations.
- Continue monitoring mercury in fish to ensure protection of special populations such as children and pregnant women when consuming fish caught in the state.

- Improve the cold water habitat in Lake Sakakawea.
- Expand monitoring for pesticides in ground water to ensure that drinking water supplies are not contaminated and that they stay safe for North Dakota residents.
- Increase state funding for NPS pollution projects.
- Continue to use a watershed approach in all monitoring, assessment and control programs.



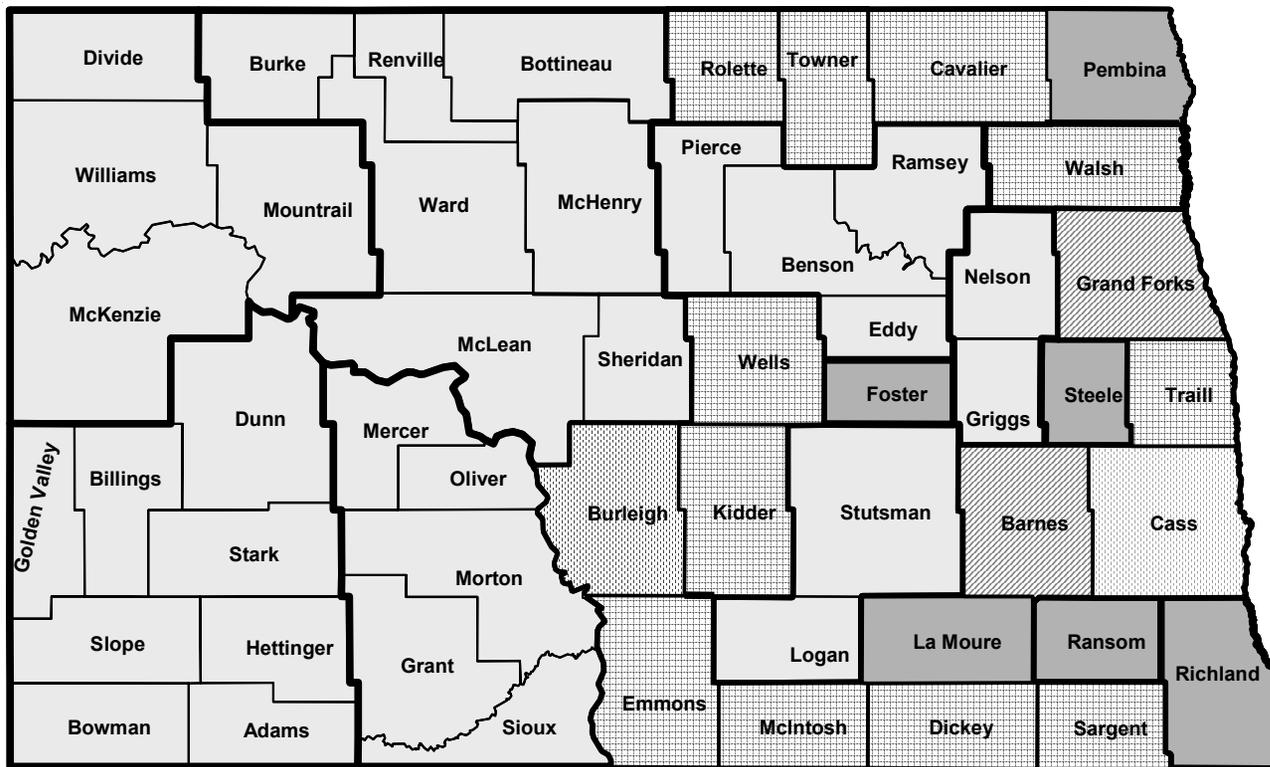
The NDDoH works to ensure that North Dakota's water stays clean for people today and in the future.

Local Public Health Units

North Dakota's public health system is made up of 28 single- and multi-county local public health units (LPHUs).

Services offered by each LPHU vary, but all provide services in the areas of maternal and child health, health promotion and education, disease control and prevention, and emergency response preparation and coordina-

tion. Some local public health units maintain environmental health programs; others partner with another local public health unit or the NDDoH to provide environmental services, such as public water system inspections, nuisance and hazard abatement, and food service inspections.



- | | |
|---|--|
|  Multi-County Health District |  City/County Health Department |
|  Single-County Health District |  Single-County Health Department |
|  City/County Health District | |

Health Unit	Location	Administrators
Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health	Bismarck	Paula Flanders, R.N.
Cavalier County Health District	Langdon	Terri Gustafson, R.N.
Central Valley Health Unit	Jamestown	Robin Izler, R.N.
City-County Health Department	Valley City	Theresa Will, R.N.
Custer Health	Mandan	Keith Johnson
Dickey County District Health Unit	Ellendale	Roxanne Holm
Emmons County Public Health	Linton	Bev Voller, R.N.
Fargo Cass Public Health	Fargo	Mary Kay Herrmann, R.N.
First District Health Unit	Minot	Lisa Clute
Foster County Health Department	Carrington	Jackie Schroeder, R.N.
Grand Forks Public Health Department	Grand Forks	Don Shields
Kidder County District Health Unit	Steele	Janel Brousseau
Lake Region District Health Unit	Devils Lake	Karen Halle, R.N.
LaMoure County Public Health Department	LaMoure	Tony Hanson
McIntosh District Health Unit	Ashley	Cathy Brendel
Nelson/Griggs District Health Unit	McVille	Julie Ferry, R.N.
Pembina County Health Department	Cavalier	Eleanor Stuberg, R.N.
Ransom County Public Health Department	Lisbon	Deb Bergstrom, B.S.N.
Richland County Health Department	Wahpeton	Debra Flack, R.N., M.S.
Rolette County Public Health District	Rolla	Barb Frydenlund, R.N.
Sargent County District Health Unit	Forman	Colleen Sundquist
Southwestern District Health Unit	Dickinson	Carlotta Ehlis
Steele County Public Health Department	Finley	Diane Jacobson, R.N.
Towner County Public Health District	Cando	Dana Kitsch, B.S.N., R.N.
Traill District Health Unit	Hillsboro	Brenda Stallman, R.N.
Upper Missouri District Health Unit	Williston	Mike Melius
Walsh County Health District	Grafton	Wanda Kratochvil, R.N.
Wells County District Health Unit	Fessenden	Karen Volk, R.N.

Local Public Health Unit Expenditures

For the Period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007

	<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>Annual Per Capita Expenditures</u>
District Health Units		
Cavalier County Health District	\$ 368,402	\$ 42.54
Central Valley Health Unit	2,144,528	46.84
City County Health Department	1,558,446	70.36
Custer District Health Unit	4,302,654	50.62
Dickey County Health District	252,672	23.02
Emmons County Public Health	278,015	72.31
First District Health Unit	6,455,870	39.12
Kidder County District Health Unit	262,997	53.00
Lake Region District Health Unit	1,146,368	22.62
McIntosh District Health Unit	199,326	33.07
Nelson Griggs District Health	404,718	34.18
Rolette County Public Health	446,596	16.11
Sargent County District Health	312,020	37.59
Southwestern District Health Unit	3,165,738	47.05
Towner County Public Health	109,373	21.50
Traill District Health Unit	508,185	30.54
Upper Missouri District Health Unit	2,553,534	38.07
Walsh County Health District	507,600	21.87
Wells County District Health Unit	370,436	40.49
City/County Health Departments		
Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health	3,877,498	26.26
Fargo Cass Public Health	12,902,273	49.24
Grand Forks Public Health Department	5,408,501	41.01
County Health Units		
Foster County Health Department	333,963	46.64
LaMoure Public Health Unit	224,980	25.66
Pembina County Health Unit	188,162	11.70
Ransom County Health Department	490,061	42.17
Richland County Health Department	2,096,844	60.46
Steele County Public Health	103,453	25.77
Total Local Public Health Funding	\$ 50,973,211	\$ 40.18

Financial Summary

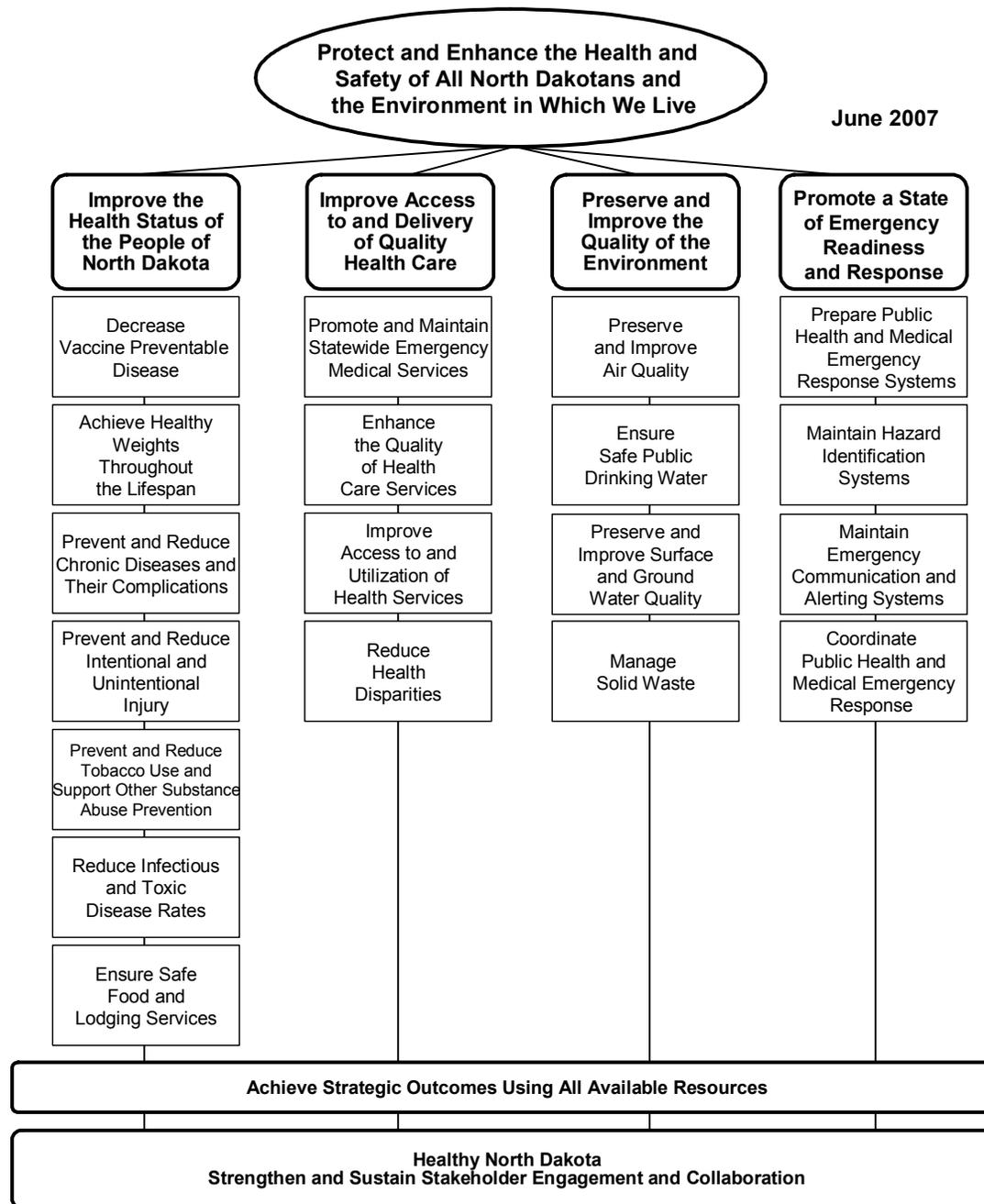
North Dakota Department of Health Appropriations Summary For the Period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007

<u>Use of Funds</u>	<u>Original Appropriation</u>	<u>Emergency Commission Aug-05</u>	<u>Capital Construction Carryover</u>	<u>Emergency Commission Sep-06</u>	<u>Total Department Appropriation</u>
Salaries & Wages	\$ 32,342,513	\$ 300,000		\$ 207,400	\$ 32,849,913
Operating Expenses	25,613,981	6,500,000		476,000	32,589,981
Capital Assets	1,514,469			100,000	1,614,469
Capital Assets Carryover			475,000		475,000
Grants	41,832,166	4,500,000		6,892,600	53,224,766
Tobacco Program	8,685,995				8,685,995
WIC Food Payments	15,750,000			1,800,000	17,550,000
Total	<u>\$ 125,739,124</u>	<u>\$ 11,300,000</u>	<u>\$ 475,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,476,000</u>	<u>\$ 146,990,124</u>
General Funds	\$ 13,468,904				\$ 13,468,904
Federal Funds	98,781,696	4,100,000	475,000	9,476,000	112,832,696
Special Funds	13,488,524	7,200,000			20,688,524
Total	<u>\$ 125,739,124</u>	<u>\$ 11,300,000</u>	<u>\$ 475,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,476,000</u>	<u>\$ 146,990,124</u>

**North Dakota Department of Health
Expenditures by Section
For the Period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007**

Use of Funds	Administrative Services Section	Medical Services Section	Health Resources Section	Community Health Section	Environmental Health Section	Emergency Preparedness & Response
Salaries & Wages	\$ 3,724,150	\$ 4,702,820	\$ 5,075,556	\$ 3,200,590	\$ 13,544,806	\$ 647,872
Operating Expenses	2,290,283	9,167,465	1,249,412	5,115,023	5,478,457	1,731,322
Capital Assets	10,864	693,946			664,901	37,828
Capital Construction Carryover		208,261				
Grants	1,615,772	1,313,104	1,552,601	14,286,938	16,116,856	6,416,988
Tobacco Program				8,506,729		
WIC Food Payments				17,337,118		
Total	<u>\$ 7,641,069</u>	<u>\$ 16,085,596</u>	<u>\$ 7,877,569</u>	<u>\$ 48,446,398</u>	<u>\$ 35,805,020</u>	<u>\$ 8,834,010</u>
Total FTEs	34.80	47.25	53.50	40.45	135.00	3.50

Strategic Map 2007 – 2009



State Health Council

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Lee Larson, consumer, Leeds

Gordon Myerchin, consumer, Grand Forks

Gary Riffe, health care, Jamestown

Carmen Toman, consumer, Bismarck



June 30, 2007

Publications

Copies of the following publications can be accessed on the North Dakota Department of Health website at www.ndhealth.gov or by calling 701.328.2372.

Community Health Section

Newsletters

- Building Blocks to Safety/Buckle Update
- Focus on Oral Health
- Health Care Provider Examiner
- Pick-WIC Paper

Reports

- Division of Chronic Disease Indicator Report (2005 and 2006)
- North Dakota Cancer Control Plan
- North Dakota Healthy People 2010 Progress Report
- Oral Health in North Dakota: Burden of Disease and Plan for the Future
- North Dakota 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results
- 2006 North Dakota School Health Profiles: School Questions Answered
- Tobacco Prevention and Control in North Dakota: A Status Report of Leading Indicators (2005 and 2006)
- North Dakota's Strategic Plan for the Identification and Elimination of Tobacco-Related Disparities
- Smoking Cessation Practices for Women of Reproductive Age –
 - * Family Planning Program Staff
 - * Obstetricians and Gynecologists
 - * Optimal Pregnancy Outcome Program
 - * Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program Staff

- North Dakota Injury Prevention Plan
- North Dakota Suicide Prevention Plan

Other

- Newborn Screening Healthcare Guidelines
- Model School Policy for Tobacco Use
- 2006 Diabetes Prevention and Control Program Highlights

Medical Services Section

Newsletters

- Epi Report
- Immunization Newsletter
- Influenza Weekly Surveillance Report
- West Nile Virus Weekly Surveillance Report
- Pump Handle

Administrative Support Section

Reports

- North Dakota Department of Health 2003 – 2005 Biennial Report

Other

- How You Can Be Prepared for a Flu Pandemic

Environmental Health Section

Newsletters

- Official Bulletin
- Quality Water
- Radioactive News

Reports

- Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary (2005 and 2006)
- Annual Drinking Water Compliance Report Summary (2005 and 2006)
- Devils Lake Findings and Conclusions
- Statement of Basis for Devils Lake Outlet Permit Modification
- Chemical, Physical and Biological Characterization of Devils Lake 1995-2005
- Devils Lake Outlet Briefing Paper
- North Dakota 2006 Integrated Section 305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report and Section 303(d) List of Waters Needing Total Maximum Daily Loads
- SK-ND Transboundary Ambient Monitoring Network Air Quality Reports (quarterly)
- State/Industry Ambient Monitoring Network Air Quality Reports (quarterly)
- Williston Monitoring Data (quarterly)
- Annual Mosquito Report (2005 and 2006)

Other

- Air Quality Issues in North Dakota (web publication)
- North Dakota Air Pollution Control Rules
- “Our Water – Keeping It Clean” monthly article in the *North Dakota Water* magazine
- Directory of Microbiology Services

- Bench Guide for Bioterrorism Services
- Biosafety Level 3 Safety Poster
- North Dakota/Minnesota Challenge laboratory proficiency testing program
- Laboratory Response Network protocols
- A Guide To Understanding North Dakota’s Infectious Waste Regulations
- Solid Waste Guideline 37 – Environmentally Friendly Auto and Metal Salvage Facilities
- Private Water Well Construction Requirements

Health Resources Section

Newsletters

- CLIA Bits
- Dialysis Dialogue
- Home Health Update
- Long Term Care Highlights

Reports

A Guide to Nursing Facility Charges

