

# TUSCOLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## FY 2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT



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## **Tuscola County Health Department Mission, Vision Statement & Vision Priorities**

### Mission

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

### Vision

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

### Vision Priorities

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



**2004/05 EMPLOYEE LIST**  
**Tuscola County Health Department**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>HIRE DATE</b>
Anthes, Beth	PHN II	11/13/00
Balzer, Sandy	Hearing/Vision Technician	7/5/89
Barrons, Deb	Program Clerk II	4/27/92
Bellsky, Sally	PHN II	7/8/92
Brinkman, Marcy	PHN II	2/23/98
Buckey-Jamrog, Amy	Social Worker	10/14/03
Caverly, Doraine	Account Clerk	7/10/78
Carr, Julie	Abstinence Program Assistant Coordinator	1/28/00
Clark, Marsha	Program Clerk II	8/13/73
Dickinson, Janelle	Program Clerk II	7/5/89
Dunham, Patty	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	10/27/85
Germain, Kelly	PHN II/Program Coordinator	5/28/91
Gutierrez, Elva	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	1/5/93
Harrington, Lorraine	Registered Dietitian	5/7/86
Hepfer, Ann	Nursing Administrator	10/31/88
Hicks, Carol	Administrative Secretary	12/17/74
Johnson, Sue	Clerk II	1/7/91
Jones, Nancy	PHN II	10/1/03
Kapa, Judy	Nurse Practitioner	8/1/89
Kile, Ruth	Program Clerk II	1/4/93
Kimbrue, Ed	Environmental Health Director	7/5/67
MacGuire, Tip	Registered San. III/Department Coordinator	7/12/93
McCollum, Nancy	Billing Clerk	11/26/79
Mika, Sharon	P.H. Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	8/26/02
Milazzo, Dianne	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	1/8/00
Peters, Lugene	Program Clerk II	8/6/90
Pokorski, Kathy	PHN II/Department Coordinator	7/21/03
Sammons, Bonnie	Fiscal Manager	2/19/74
Shaw, Chris	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	6/9/81
Singer, Kent	Registered Sanitarian III	6/7/95
Smallwood, Dennis, DO	Medical Director	3/1/87
Spiekerman, Larry	Veteran Affairs Director	1/1/90
Stephens, Carol	MIS Manager	10/7/74
Suber, Christina	Social Worker	3/11/98
Tenbusch, Gretchen	Health Officer	2/1/88
Villalobos, Kristi	PHN II/Department Coordinator	9/28/98
White, Jerry	Registered Sanitarian III	5/15/91
Williams, Karen	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	5/8/00



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

On behalf of the Tuscola County Health Department staff, I am pleased to present this Annual Report. This report is intended to highlight accomplishments for fiscal year 2004-2005.

Fiscal year 2004-2005 was a year of challenges and change. Programs such as Hearing and Vision Screening, HIV/AIDS Counseling and Family Planning saw funding reductions or elimination. Our Environmental Health Division contracted with the State to become Septage Hauler Inspectors.

In the fall of 2004, the Tuscola County Health Department dealt with a county wide shortage of flu vaccine which resulted in redistribution of vaccine to area hospitals and long term care facilities, as well as, conducting large scale vaccination clinics for county residents. In preparation for disasters, the Health Department established Memorandums of Understanding with several area organizations to utilize their facilities as medication/ vaccination dispensing sites if the need arose. A generator was also installed at the Health Department to allow the agency to continue to function in the event of a power failure and also to protect vaccine which is stored in refrigeration at the Health Department.

In the summer of 2005, the Tuscola County Health Department received recognition for their performance in a regional exercise for its quick detection and handling of a mock exercise of Rift Valley Fever. In September 2005, public health workforces were mobilized across the United States as evacuees from Hurricane Katrina were relocated. The Health Department worked with several organizations in Tuscola County to deal with evacuees that were relocated to Tuscola County.

Our WIC program received a Silver Award from the Michigan Department of Community Health for serving individuals above and beyond our caseload assigned and funded from the State.

These accomplishments were possible due to the hard work and dedication of the Health Department staff and the involvement of the Board of Health and Board of Commissioners. The Health Department will continue to protect and promote the residents of Tuscola County through surveillance, assessment, planning and collaboration. I hope you find this report interesting and informative. We thank you for your support of this organization and the services provided.

**Dennis A. Smallwood, D.O.  
Medical Director**



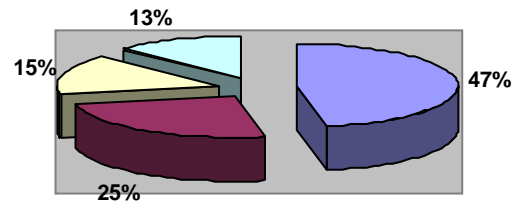
The old cliché' about Public Health is that, "The only constant is change", continues to hold true. Avian Flu, mumps, new and different vaccines, all have kept us in a constant state of adjustment. Meanwhile, research continues to demonstrate that prevention, including assuring that we have clean water, safe sewage disposal and bacteria "free" food all paramount to the good health of our community. We are indeed fortunate in our community to have a staff and Board of Health which take these challenges seriously and work closely together to achieve as healthy a community as possible.

**FISCAL DIVISION**  
**Bonnie Sammons, Finance Director**

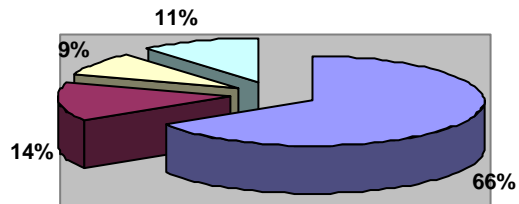
Tuscola County Health Department's Fiscal Division performs all general accounting functions, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, budgeting, payroll, financial reporting and internal control. The accounting policies of the Tuscola County Health Department conform to generally accepted accounting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

**2004—2005**  
**BUDGET**  
**\$2,371,033**

<b>Revenues</b>	
<b>State/Federal Grants</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Fees</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>County Appropriations</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Other Resources</b>	<b>13%</b>



<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Personal Health</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>11%</b>



## Management Information Systems Division

### Carol Stephens, MIS Manager

The mission of the MIS Division is to make available comprehensive and high quality services to meet the information technology needs of the health department.

The agency website ([www.tchd.us](http://www.tchd.us)) is continuously maintained and updated, in an attempt to provide Tuscola County citizens the most up-to-date information possible.

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

Currently we maintain 2 file servers, 42 workstations, 3 laptop computers, and 10 shared printer stations. A variety of software programs used within the agency are continuously monitored and upgraded as needed.

## Office of Veteran Affairs

### Lawrence Spiekerman, Director

The County Office of Veteran Affairs is the first point of contact by veterans and their families who seek assistance with Federal, State and County benefits. Monetary benefits payable to veterans and their dependents may be classified into four general categories: Compensation, Dependence and Indemnity Compensation, Pension and Retirement Pay. Other major benefit programs include: Education Assistance to Children, Wives and Widows, and Veterans, Vocational Rehabilitation, Hospitalization, Home Loans, Insurance Burial Benefits, Tuscola County Soldiers & Sailors Relief Fund, and Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund. Tuscola County provides a full time Veteran's Affairs Director to help coordinate benefits and services for the Veterans of Tuscola County.

<b>TUSCOLA COUNTY VA STATISTICS 2005</b>	
<b>Office Visits</b>	<b>495</b>
<b>Transport of Veteran's to Appointments</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Claims Filed</b>	<b>422</b>
<b>House Calls</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Trust Fund Applications</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Amount Granted</b>	<b>\$9,951</b>
<b>Soldiers/Sailors Relief Applications</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Amount Granted</b>	<b>\$13,355.00</b>

## **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

### **Sharon Mika, Department Coordinator**

Preparedness exercises continue to dominate the health department. On March 15, 2005 several staff participated in a food borne tabletop exercise. This exercise identified policy issues that would arise during an outbreak and what measures would be performed at the local level to contain the outbreak. It also illustrates the need for intense teamwork and communication.

On May 23, 2005 the public health nurses and several clerks participated in a pandemic flu tabletop exercise which tested the pandemic flu plan, the Health Alert Network System (MIHAN) the TCHD phone tree. The exercises also introduced the staff to the Job Action Guidelines (JAGS) that would be used to open and operate a mass dispensing site in the county. Lessons learned included revision to surveillance forms, additional staff added to the MIHAN system and that a pandemic flu is a real possibility and we need to be prepared.

Training is an integral part of preparedness with our local partners. Gretchen Tenbusch and Sharon Mika had the opportunity to attend the Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for mass casualty incidents. The 3 day hands on course is designed to provide guidance to hospitals, EMS and health care agencies who become involved in a mass casualty incident. We learned to set up and take down the decontamination shelters provided to the hospitals under the HRSA grant. We learned to don and duff personal protective equipment in the event we need to assist our medical partners. The intensive training prepared us to conduct safe and effective emergency response during a mass casualty incident (MCI).

Hospital infection control and laboratory staff was provided training to the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS). This system is designed to allow the rapid electronic routing of disease surveillance, emergent infectious disease and biologic terrorism data in real time to the appropriate local health jurisdiction.

On August 18, 2005, the health department received recognition for their performance in a regional exercise for its quick detection and handling of a mock exercise of Rift Valley Fever.

The health department continues to revise plans, participate in exercises to be able to respond in the event of a natural or man-made emergency.





**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**  
**TIP MACGURIRE, R.S., Director**

Adverse environmental factors have a direct influence on humans. Impacts can be disease transmission through exposure to pathogenic organisms, or by exposure to toxins having a physiological effect on humans. Lesser environmental factors such as living conditions in a home can effect the overall well-being of the persons subjected to the given environment. As a member of the public health team, environmental health advocates and promotes disease prevention. Goals are met through enforcement of regulations and programs developed to not only protect public health, but to also control adverse environmental factors. Programs and regulations are groups into categories of: Water, Shelter, Food, Waste and Community Health. The following statistics falling under these categories reflect the services provided in fiscal year 2004-05.

**FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM**

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

Fixed Food Service Establishments	186	Transitory Food Inspections	3
Fixed Food Service Inspections	490	Vending Location Inspections	6
Temporary Food Inspections	86	Foodborne Illness Investigations	1

**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**

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

On-site Sewage Disposal Permits Issued	307	On-site Sewage Disposal Inspections	666
On-site Sewage Permits (Commercial)	3	On-site Sewage Inspections (Commercial)	5

**SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER CONTROL**

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

Well Permits Issued	367	Well Permit Final Inspections	263
Complaints Investigated	4	Operation/Maintenance Evaluations	60



**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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

Campground Inspection	23	Mobile Home Park Inspection	15
Public Swimming Pool Inspection	38	Adult/Child Care Facility Inspection	36
Solid Waste	30	Hazardous Waste	3
Indoor/Outdoor Air	55	Animal Control	13
Ground water Quality	10	Subdivision Inspections	10
Radon	42	Residential Dwellings	2

**TOBACCO REDUCTION**

The Tuscola Partnership for Tobacco Reduction is a community-based coalition comprised of members of human service agencies, schools and the general public. This coalition meets on a quarterly basis and welcomes new members and provides a tobacco resource distribution and referral service to the community. The objectives are as outlined:

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

The Tuscola County Health Department with the support of Senior Millage funding, provides services to the senior

**GERIATRIC SERVICES**

citizen of this county. Staff participates in community coalitions directed toward the needs of senior citizens. Services provided include the provision of flu clinics, education to seniors on relevant health topics, participation in an annual Senior Fair, referrals and information resources for geriatric services, hypertension clinics and Tetanus-Diphtheria (Td) booster vaccination clinics.

ADULT HEALTH SERVICES	
Geriatric Enrollments	18
Dementia Community Presentations	18
Geriatric Home Visits	36

**HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION**  
**ANN HEPFER, R.N., Nursing Administrator**

**MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS**

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

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

**Maternal/Infant Support Services:** Provides home visits and/or office visits to pregnant women and their infants. This program is aimed at healthier outcomes for both the pregnant woman and the infant. A team made up of a Registered Nurse, Dietician and Social Worker take a multidisciplinary approach in working with the family.

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

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

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

**Hearing and Vision Program:** Provides Hearing and Vision screenings in the schools throughout the year and in the summer at the health department by trained technicians.

<b>MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS—2005</b>	
Hearing Services Preschool/School Age	2785
Vision Services Preschool/School Age	4370
Touching Lives of Children Services Unduplicated Services	80
Women, Infant and Children Program—Monthly average	1538
EPSDT/Well Child Services	306
Maternal Infant Support Services Unduplicated Services	212
Pregnant Women Enrolled in Prenatal Services	94
Children Special Health Care Services—Unduplicated Enrollees	39

**HIV/AIDS COUNSELING**

Tuscola County Health Department was identified as a low incidence area in December 2004; as a result we only offer court ordered testing. All request for HIV testing are referred to higher incident counties for testing such as Saginaw County Health Department, Basis in Bay City and Hearst Home in Saginaw.

## FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

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

### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES—2005

Family Planning Unduplicated Services	1392
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## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE SERVICES

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

### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE—3 YEAR COMPARISON

	2003	2004	2005
Chlamydia	62	52	60
Gonorrhea	11	7	10
Syphilis Primary	1	0	0

## IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Immunizations are a very important component of Public Health. The current immunization schedule for both adults and children protects against thirteen diseases. New vaccines offered in the past year included Menactra. Special priority projects included outreach clinics to the Amish community and an outreach clinic in Vassar the Presbyterian Church once a month. The 2005 flu season was very challenging as we experience flu vaccine shortages. In October, 2004, it was announced the Chiron Corporation would not be licensed to provide vaccine for the 04/05 influenza season. This resulted in a 50% reduction in the amount of vaccine available in the United States. The CDC worked very quickly to overcome the shortage and instituted strict priority guidelines causing us to limit flu vaccine to the "high risk" clients for most of the season. We worked diligently to ensure that there was enough vaccine to offer to all residents in need.

### IMMUNIZATIONS—2005

Clients Immunized	2752
Vaccines Administered	2892
Doses Distributed	2687
School Immunization Records Reviewed	10,561
Percent of 19-35 month old children fully immunized in the county	71.5%
Adult Influenza Vaccine Administered	1471
Pneumococcal Vaccinations Administered	41

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) just became operational in June of 2004. MDSS is a Web based communicable disease reporting and tracking system covering the State of Michigan. Over the course of 2005 we began training other health care facilities and laboratory entities on the importance of this system. The purpose is facilitating coordination among local, State and Federal Public Health Agencies to provide for secure transfer, and analysis of communicable diseases. This system is very important to address emerging infectious diseases, traditional disease surveillance, including biological diseases at the time that they are occurring. In January, 2005 the system was updated to allow us to enter Sexually Transmitted Infections with the exclusion of HIV/AIDS. All area laboratories and hospitals now report all allowable reportable infections to the health department via the MDSS. Tuscola County had no major outbreaks of disease in fiscal year 2005.

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REORTS—3 YEAR COMPARISON

	2003	2004	2005
AIDS	1	0	0
Food Borne Illness	18	7	16
Meningitis-Aseptic	6	11	4
Pneumoniae Invasive	1	2	1
Cyptococcosis	0	1	1
Flu Like Illness	1245	299	999
Guillain-Barre	0	0	1
Kawasaki	1	1	1
Legionellosis	0	1	0
Rabies-Bat	0	1	0
Chickenpox	44	15	10
Tuberculosis	4	1	1
Hepatitis B Acute	3	1	1
Hepatitis B Chronic	0	1	0
Hepatitis B Perinatal	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Acute	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Chronic	7	2	9

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[www.tchd.us](http://www.tchd.us)

