North Dakota Department of Health

2001 ~ 2003 Biennial Report

[Images of people engaging in health activities]
North Dakota Department of Health
Biennial Report
2001 to 2003

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Isn’t it amazing how public health affects our lives every day? We breathe clean air and drink safe, sparkling water. Our garbage is picked up and disposed of properly. We can do our jobs in smoke-free workplaces and feel confident that the food we eat at restaurants is safe. Our children are immunized against many diseases that we hardly think about today but that struck fear into the heart of every parent just a few decades ago – diseases such as diphtheria, measles and polio. All these accomplishments and more are due to the efforts of public health.

As state health officer, I’m proud of the department’s public health professionals and the work they do to safeguard the health of all North Dakotans. Consider just a few of the many challenges we faced during the past two years:

• Emerging diseases such as West Nile virus and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)
• Bioterrorism preparedness and response, including vaccinating public and private health-care workers and others who would be called upon to respond to a smallpox outbreak
• Air quality issues such as maintaining North Dakota’s status as one of only 14 states in the nation that meet all National Ambient Air Quality Standards
• The train derailment and subsequent anhydrous ammonia release in Minot

Even as we respond to unexpected challenges, we continue building the state’s public health infrastructure. For example, the department is providing scholarships to several students who are pursuing advanced degrees in public health. In addition, we have increased our partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, such as universities, nonprofit organizations, the private health-care community and local public health units.

We look forward to continuing our service to the public and to meeting whatever challenges come our way during the next biennium. In the meantime, I invite you to read this report and learn more about the goals and accomplishments of the NDDoH during the 2001–2003 biennium.

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

The North Dakota Department of Health is dedicated to ensuring that North Dakota is a healthy place to live and that each person has an equal opportunity to enjoy good health. We are committed to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, the protection and enhancement of health and the environment, and the provision of quality healthcare services for the people of North Dakota.

We advance our mission by networking, facilitating local efforts, collaborating with partners and stakeholders, and providing expertise in developing creative public health solutions.

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.
With the passage of 2003 legislation, the Crime Lab was moved to the Attorney General’s office July 1, 2003.

**On Sept. 1, 2003, the Community Health Section was reorganized into the following divisions: Cancer Prevention and Control; Chronic Disease; Family Health; Injury Prevention and Control; Nutrition and Physical Activity; and Tobacco Prevention and Control.**
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 and the deputy state health officer.

**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.

This biennium, the state health officer launched three initiatives designed to enhance public health efforts in North Dakota: the Public Health Training Center, the Research Epi Center and Healthy North Dakota.

**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.

Approved applicants receive scholarships through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Grant. Nine students have completed or are enrolled in the program, and about 70 percent of the state’s public health workforce have indicated interest in applying for scholarships.

**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 from both organizations are working together 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.

Beginning in January 2004, UND will take the lead in collecting and interpreting adult behavior risk data. Goals include compiling county-specific health data and analyzing the health status of certain vulnerable populations in the state.

**Healthy North Dakota**

*Healthy North Dakota* supports North Dakotans in their efforts to make healthy choices by focusing on wellness and prevention. Gov. John Hoeven appointed an advisory committee that launched the initiative at a statewide summit in August 2002. More than 130 people from more than 75 organizations met to define wellness and identify priorities for North Dakota.

Ultimately, *Healthy North Dakota* will inspire North Dakotans to establish behaviors and support policies that improve health and reduce the burden of health-care costs through innovative statewide partnerships.
Deputy State Health Officer

The deputy state health officer position was created in November 2001 to address administrative affairs of the department, allowing the state health officer to focus on policy and practice. Legislation passed in 2003 provided statutory authority for the deputy to act on behalf of the state health officer with the limitation that a deputy who does not hold a health degree cannot issue an order regarding public health unless the order is cosigned by a physician employed by the department or by the state epidemiologist.

Accomplishments

• Initiated department-wide strategic planning to guide the efforts and direction of the NDDoH.
• Provided leadership and oversight for phase I of the renovation and addition project for the department’s laboratory facility, which will be occupied in the spring of 2004.
• Secured funding for phase II of the laboratory renovation and construction of state morgue.
• Approved grants and contracts of approximately $32 million in funding to numerous local entities for provision of public health services.
• Completed departmental reorganization to streamline efforts and communications, including–
  * Establishment of Emergency Preparedness and Response Section.
  * Streamlining of Community Health Section by removing middle reporting level.
  * Merger of injury prevention programs.
  * Elimination of central library function.
• Consolidation of administrative support functions.
• Transfer of Crime Lab to Attorney General’s Office.
• Transfer of OSHA Program to Bismarck State College.
• Consolidation of medical services functions.
• Consolidation of non-environmental regulatory functions.
• Establishment of Division of Education Technology and Office of Information Technology.
• Developed system to coordinate effective departmental legislative efforts.

Goals

• Complete strategic planning efforts to include system to ensure attainment of departmental strategic goals and performance standards.
• Secure resources (i.e., funding, staff, space) necessary to implement initiatives of the department and to comply with state and federal laws.
• Complete remodeling of judicial wing floor space for adequate, safe and efficient accommodation of staff.
• Provide systems and strategy to ensure program efficiency and effectiveness and compliance with state and federal laws, contract requirements and program guidelines.
• Collaborate with the UND Center for Rural Health on the development and implementation of public health policy.

Phase I of the department’s laboratory renovation and addition project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2004.
The Administrative Support Section provides support services to assist all NDDoH divisions in accomplishing their missions. The section consists of the following:

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

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, pays expenses, processes the payroll and submits the department’s biennial budget.

Accomplishments

- Submitted the 2003-2005 biennial budget to the Office of Management and Budget in compliance with the governor’s guidelines.
- Held general fund spending for the 2001-2003 biennium to near the 1999-2001 biennium level.
- Underwent successful annual audit and received a clean opinion from the State Auditor’s Office.
- Provided assistance to department personnel through training programs on federal and state grants and appropriation monitoring.
- Reviewed grant applications that resulted in receipt of about $70 million in federal funding for the department.
- Processed about 1,600 contracts providing funding to a variety of entities for promotion of public health services.

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

- Reviewed positions to determine exemption status under the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Assisted in development and implementation of the Tuition Reimbursement Scholarship Program for graduate work in public health.
- Provided assistance to management, supervisors and employees regarding laws, rules, policies/procedures, and personnel issues.

Goals

- Develop new employee orientation program.
- Utilize a standard format to measure and report performance.
- Continue to provide technical 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 15,883 certificates of live birth; 12,858 certificates of death; 116 certificates of fetal death; 8,751 marriage records; 3,724 divorce records; and 120 delayed registrations of birth. More than 141,000 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.

Goals

- Maintain 100 percent registration of all vital events in North Dakota. To achieve this goal, extensive querying and follow-up is done.
- Continue to provide timely responses to public requests for certified copies of vital event documents. Individuals now can order copies on the department’s website using a credit card for payment, which simplifies the ordering process. Vital event documents are needed for passport applications, school entrance, job applications, Social Security benefits, etc.

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 consultation to NDDoH personnel concerning communication issues.
- Developed NDDoH crisis communication plan.
- Developed media-focused website.
- Completed statewide public health communication needs assessment and special populations assessment.
- Joined working group comprised of health communicators from Canadian provinces and American states adjacent to the border.
- Served on executive board of the National Public Health Information Coalition.

Goals

- Coordinate redesign of department logo and efforts to brand NDDoH as the leading public health resource in North Dakota.
- Plan and host statewide public information conference.
- Assist regional public information officers in developing emergency communication plans.

Vital Signs

On an average **day** in North Dakota:
- **21** babies are born; **6** of them are born out of wedlock, **2** are born to a teenage mother and **6** are born by Caesarian section.
- **16** people die, **5** of them from heart disease and **4** from cancer.
- **12** couples are married, and **5** are divorced.

In an average **week**:
- **1** infant dies.
- **2** people commit suicide.
- **4** die from diabetes.
- **3** die from influenza and pneumonia.
- **5** die as a result of accidents.

In an average **month**:
- **9** children younger than 20 die.
- **7** people die as a result of motor vehicle accidents.
- **3** babies are born outside of a hospital setting.

The average age at death is **75.9**.
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
- Developed and distributed public health education programs on a variety of topics, including smallpox preparedness, West Nile virus and SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome).
- Developed and distributed health alerts, advisories and updates regarding anthrax, SARS, West Nile virus, etc.
- Assessed local public health unit communications infrastructure and developed a plan for implementing connection to the high-speed communications network (STAGEnet).

Goals
- Conduct education needs assessment.
- Develop training plan and emergency preparedness curriculum.
- Provide incident command training.
- Implement Health Alert Network communications system.
- Connect all 28 public health units to STAGEnet.
- Equip the state’s lead public health units with video-conferencing equipment that will allow two-way interactive video conferencing.

Office of Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology works with information technology (IT) professionals throughout the department to coordinate IT activities and functions. The office also develops and implements the department’s IT plan; monitors IT budgets; assigns IT staff and support; and serves as security officer for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Accomplishments
- Implemented HIPAA regulations protecting individually identifiable health information; implemented 11 HIPAA security policies.
- Worked with Iowa WIC and the North Dakota WIC Program to develop a two-state, web-based information management system.
- Assisted in developing the web-based Disease Reporting Epidemiologic Assessment and Monitoring System as part of a nationwide public health information network.
- Assisted in developing the Health Alert Network communication system that allows timely exchange of critical health information and rapid response to any potential health threat.

Goals
- Integrate technology and data collection throughout the department to ensure efficiency.
- Ensure full compliance with HIPAA security rules by April 21, 2005.
- Continue to develop and coordinate IT policies and procedures.
Office of Local Public Health

The Office of Local Public Health acts as liaison between the NDDoH and 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.

Accomplishments

• Elected to board of directors of the Association of State and Territorial Local Health Liaison Officials.
• Coordinated information for local public health personnel about tuition reimbursement scholarships for public health studies.
• Coordinated local public health Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) workgroup and training. Compiled HIPAA questions-and-answers document for local public health units.
• Coordinated participation of a four-member state and local public health team in a national public health leadership institute; as a team project, the group developed an educational video and brochure about zoonotic diseases.
• Assisted in the development, coordination and distribution of a local vector-control survey. Presented the results at the NDDoH West Nile Virus Conference.

Goals

• Assist local public health units in identifying health-status indicators and develop local public health unit health profiles with web-based accessibility.
• Facilitate the completion of state and local National Public Health Performance Standards assessment tool and the development of a public health improvement plan.

Division of Crime Laboratory

With the passage of 2003 legislation, the Crime Laboratory was moved to the Attorney General’s office July 1, 2003.

Forensic Laboratory

The Forensic Laboratory provides technical assistance to the criminal justice system in the investigation of crime. The laboratory accepts evidence from agencies, including prosecutors and law enforcement officers (local, county, state, federal and military), as well as defense counsels.

Laboratory analysis includes processing of evidence by the following techniques: examination for flammable chemicals used in arsons, drug identifications, firearm and tool mark examinations, biological screening, trace evidence examinations, special photographic techniques, development of latent fingerprints, comparison of tire and footwear impressions, and DNA profiling.

Drug identification is the major area of analysis and includes identification of clandestine drugs, pharmaceuticals and chemical compounds.
Accomplishments
• Processed 18,104 pieces of evidence from drug cases.
• Processed evidence from 5,192 cases and testified at 26 trials.
• Implemented DNA testing, established a DNA database of convicted sex offenders, and updated laboratory techniques.
• Received accreditation for DNA testing.
• Purchased modern equipment for trace evidence analysis.
• Provided staff training on DNA, firearms, drug and arson analysis, and crime scene and clandestine lab investigations.
• Conducted 30 classes to train 948 officers who were responsible for conducting 5,508 breath-alcohol tests.
• Testified at 58 administrative hearings and court trials.
• Developed new postmortem kits that increased compliance and reporting efficiency on traffic fatalities.

Toxicology Laboratory
The Toxicology Laboratory provides technical assistance to the criminal justice system for traffic safety, death investigations and other purposes. Staff members accept evidence from local, county, state, federal and military agencies. Assistance includes training officers in breath-alcohol determination, maintenance of breath-testing instruments, blood-alcohol analysis, and chemical drug and toxic substance analysis. The laboratory also provides expert testimony in criminal prosecutions and traffic safety hearings.

Accomplishments
• Performed 8,017 analyses for alcohol and other drugs on 5,299 submitted cases.
• Inspected, maintained and repaired 165 preliminary and 349 evidentiary breath-alcohol instruments.
• Conducted 30 classes to train 948 officers who were responsible for conducting 5,508 breath-alcohol tests.
• Testified at 58 administrative hearings and court trials.
• Developed new postmortem kits that increased compliance and reporting efficiency on traffic fatalities.

Division Goals
• Provide rapid, accurate analysis of evidence and minimize case backlog.
• Continue staff training and development in criminal case work.
• Ensure quality breath-alcohol testing.
• Provide statewide training for breath-testing recertification classes via the Interactive Video Network.
• Continue integrating new generation breath-testing devices capable of electronic data transmission.
• Continue expanding drug analysis capabilities to keep pace with new pharmaceuticals.
• Develop new evidence tracking and reporting process.
• Implement a new laboratory information system.
• Continue pursuit of Crime Laboratory accreditation.
• Obtain additional space to perform statutory mandates.
Community Health Section

The Community Health Section is responsible for maternal and child health and health promotion services in the state. The section’s goal is to promote health and prevent illness and disease. Many of these services are provided by local public health units.

The section includes the divisions of Maternal and Child Health and Health Promotion.

The Department of Health completed strategic planning during the biennium, which led to plans to reorganize the Community Health Section. During the next biennium, the two current divisions will be divided into six to improve communication at all levels and to meet the needs of the department’s partners more fully.

Division of Maternal and Child Health

The mission of the Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) is to ensure healthy women, children and families. The division supports and encourages better health through education, policy development, advocacy and partnerships.

Programs within the division include:
- Abstinence Education
- Adolescent Health
- Arthritis
- Coordinated School Health
- Early Childhood Services
- Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis
- Family Planning
- Genetics
- Injury Prevention
- Lead Program
- MCH Nursing
- MCH Nutrition
- Metabolic Screening
- Optimal Pregnancy Outcome Program
- Oral Health
- Prenatal Risk Assessment Monitoring System
- State Systems Development Initiative
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)
- Women’s Health

Accomplishments

Abstinence Education
- Provided federal funds to seven Regional/Tribal Children’s Services Coordinating Committees and two local public health units to provide abstinence-only education activities.

Adolescent Health
- Collaborated with the Arizona Pima County Health Department to develop the North Dakota BE AMAZED – Teen Maze Planning Guide, with activities in which adolescents experience both the positive and the negative outcomes of specific behaviors.

Arthritis
- Provided training through the Arthritis Foundation for leaders certified to teach self-help courses to people who have arthritis.
- Collaborated with the Arthritis Foundation to coordinate an arthritis symposium.
Coordinated School Health
• Provided technical assistance to the Dakota Medical Foundation to support its five-year model school nurse program project.
• Collaborated with the North Dakota School Nurses Organization to:
  * Produce and distribute Chalkboard on Health, a biannual newsletter with information about school health issues.
  * Develop guidelines for a school-nurse-of-the-year award.
• Conducted the School Nursing Services Survey to determine school nurse-to-student ratio.
• Included questions about school nursing services in the School Health Education Profile survey.
• Collaborated with the Department of Public Instruction and the Division of Health Promotion to write a successful grant application for the Coordinated School Health Programs and Reduction of Chronic Diseases Infrastructure Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis
• Provided state and federal funds to local agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.
• Sponsored training that focused on the role of professionals during a domestic violence investigation and promoted coordinated community response.
• Distributed STOP Violence Against Women funds to law enforcement, prosecution, judicial, victim-service and community agencies that provide services to victims.
• Collaborated with partners to submit a Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Early Childhood Services
• Collaborated with the Department of Human Services and Child Care Resource and Referral to provide consultation and educational services for child-care and Head Start entities.
• Facilitated a statewide early childhood meeting with key stakeholders to gather information for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant application.

Family Planning
• Provided medical and education/counseling family planning services to more than 20,000 North Dakotans.
• Expanded services to the James River Correctional facility and the Cass County Jail.
• Redesigned the MCH website to be more user friendly and informative. The new website received a gold Addy Award from the Advertising Federation of Bismarck.
• Initiated collaboration with the Women’s Way Program to assess the channels through which American Indian women hear health messages.

Genetics
• Collaborated with the Department of Human Services to track most major birth defects in the state through the North Dakota Birth Defects
Monitoring System, which helps to ensure that affected children are linked to needed health-care and other services.

Injury Prevention
- Conducted observation surveys to measure restraint use by children, which indicated that 97.2 percent of infants were properly restrained, as were 86 percent of toddlers ages 1 through 5, and 69.5 percent of children ages 6 through 10. Forty-three percent of children ages 6 through 10 rode in the front seat.
- Conducted eight 32-hour child passenger safety courses and certified 96 individuals as child passenger safety technicians.
- Provided about 4,000 car safety seats to 50 local car seat programs for distribution to parents of young children.
- Distributed 6,000 bike helmets to about 40 local agencies for distribution to children, and provided instructions about proper helmet fit.
- Coordinated or assisted with car safety seat checkups, inspecting about 1,600 car seats.
- Continued chairing and coordinating the Adolescent Suicide Prevention Task Force.
- Conducted Boost, Then Buckle public information campaign to increase the use of booster seats by children who weigh 40 to 80 pounds.
- Published and distributed Building Blocks to Safety newsletter with Buckle Update insert.

Lead Program
- Implemented a nine-month blood lead-screening program for non-Medicaid children funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. None of the 222 children screened were found to have elevated levels of lead.
- Received reports of elevated blood lead levels in 39 children. Testing confirmed that 14 had true elevated levels.

MCH Nursing
- Revised the following publications – Services Offered for Women and Children by Public and Private Agencies Statewide and the Child Health Services manual.
- Provided education and training to school, child-care, Head Start, school nurse and public health personnel about issues relating to head lice detection, treatment, management and policy development.

MCH Nutrition
- Coordinated the Healthy Weight Council consisting of more than 45 members representing agencies and programs from the public, private and nonprofit sectors.
- Coordinated activities of the Healthy North Dakota nutrition priority area, including the following committees: Breastfeeding, Healthy School Nutrition, and Fruit and Vegetable.
- Provided support to local nutritionists to address the issues of healthy weight for children and adolescents, promotion of increased fruit-and-vegetable intakes (5 A Day for Better Health) and increased physical activity.
• Received approval, but not funding, for a nutrition and physical activity grant.

**Newborn Metabolic Screening**
• Increased the number of tests given to all North Dakota newborns to include the following conditions: biotinidase deficiency, hemoglobinopathies (sickle cell disease and other blood disorders) and several other conditions identified through a new technology called Tandem Mass Spectrometry.

**Optimal Pregnancy Outcome Program (OPOP)**
• Revised OPOP policies and forms.
• Provided services to nearly 1,400 pregnant women.
• Provided training about how to counsel pregnant women to quit smoking by implementing the 5 A’s approach.
• Implemented the Providers Partnership Project on Maternal Depression pilot project at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, N.D.

**Oral Health**
• Supported the following legislation passed by the 2003 Legislative Assembly:
  * Donated Dental Services Program, which supports volunteer dentists who provide comprehensive care for needy, disabled, aged or medically compromised people.
  * Dental Loan Repayment Program, which provides educational loan repayment dollars for three new dentists each year who commit to four years of full-time dental service.
• Received $118,557 CDC grant to develop oral health infrastructure, education and surveillance efforts.
• Collaborated with the Dakota Initiatives on grant applications and recruitment of dental students.
• Supported water fluoridation efforts in the state. Currently, 95.4 percent of North Dakota’s drinking water contains fluoride.

**Prenatal Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)**
• Completed the PRAMS survey, which obtains population-based information about women’s experiences before, during and following pregnancy.

**State Systems Development Initiative (SSDI)**
• Assisted in coordination of needs assessment, data collection and data reporting for the MCH Block Grant. SSDI is a cooperative program with the Department of Human Services.
• Developed and distributed fact sheets for MCH priorities identified from the needs assessment, as well as other reports and newsletters.

**Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)**
• Continued to provide education to the public about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and how to reduce the risk of SIDS.
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Partnered with Iowa WIC to procure a contractor for a new joint information management system, the first such collaboration in the nation.
- Developed the Parents Provide, Kids Decide video for parents that focuses on the division of feeding responsibility, the family table and physical activity.

Women’s Health
- Presented at the national Women’s Health Conference as one of 10 model women’s health programs in the nation. The presentation highlighted what can be accomplished through collaboration and coordination.
- Collaborated with partners in the Robert Wood Johnson Covering Kids and Family grant to promote health insurance coverage for eligible children.
- Promoted National Women’s Health Week with display board celebrating 100 years of women’s health. The display compared national and North Dakota statistics with significant milestones.

Division Goals
- Improve the health of North Dakota’s women and children.
- Implement the Community Health Section strategic plan.
- Plan and conduct the Title V Retreat.
- Continue to provide prenatal education helping pregnant women make healthy lifestyle choices.
- Continue to coordinate follow-up services for families who suffer SIDS deaths and to provide SIDS information/education to health-care professionals, parents and caregivers.
- Build state education and health agency capacity to implement Coordinated School Health Programs across agencies and within schools.
- Develop state school health services guidelines.
- Continue to provide technical assistance to the Dakota Medical Foundation to support its model school nurse program project.
- Continue to work to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes through grant awards, trainings and partnering with other agencies that address these issues.
- Continue partnership with Iowa WIC to implement a new MIS system designed to enhance program efficiency and accountability.
- Pursue funding for research on the use of motivational interviewing to change dietary and physical activity behaviors of WIC families.
- Co-sponsor lactation consultant training and the statewide breastfeeding conference.
- Improve short-term follow-up for the new tests in the Newborn Metabolic Screening Program through expansion of professional advisory committees and revisions to the metabolic screening practitioners manual.
- Analyze PRAMS data and disseminate information in an effort to improve birth outcomes.
- Develop case management plan for use by providers when a child is diagnosed with lead poisoning.
- Continue to support legislation to enhance the child passenger safety law.
- Pursue funding for asthma program.
Division of Health Promotion

The Division of Health Promotion works to enable communities to promote behaviors that prevent and control chronic disease, thus reducing health-care costs and improving the quality of life.

Intervention programs in communities, schools and local agencies focus on tobacco-free lifestyles, healthy eating, regular physical activity and use of preventive health services for early detection. Support programs collect data about healthy behaviors and incidence of disease and provide educational resources for communities, schools and health professionals.

Programs and services include:
- Cancer Prevention and Control
- Cancer Registry
- Cardiovascular Health
- Diabetes Prevention and Control
- School Health
- Tobacco Prevention and Control

Accomplishments

Cancer Prevention and Control
- Continued to focus on breast and cervical cancer screening for medically underserved women by participating in the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. North Dakota’s program, known as Women’s Way, has maintained its partnerships to provide screening services to a growing number of eligible women. Through local public health units, private health-care providers and a statewide volunteer network, Women’s Way has provided screening services to women age 18 to 64 in every North Dakota county and on every reservation.
- Screened more than 5,300 women for breast and cervical cancer, 12 percent of whom were American Indian. Detected 59 cases of breast cancer and 413 cases of cervical dysplasia requiring treatment. Each enrolled woman diagnosed with cancer received treatment.
- Recruited, trained and supported 900 Women’s Way volunteers. The volunteer network uses woman-to-woman and small-group strategies to encourage annual cancer screening.
- Collaborated with state Medicaid to pay for breast or cervical cancer treatment for 53 Women’s Way clients.
- Continued involvement with North Dakotans Partnering for Women’s Health, an organization chaired by North Dakota’s First Lady; hosted annual Women’s Health Summit.
- Provided professional development for health-care providers, including clinical breast exam training, program inservice training, and a statewide symposium on cervical health.
- Developed a coordinated approach to enhance breast and cervical cancer screening of American Indian women in North Dakota.
- Supported legislation to make treatment for women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer or cervical abnormalities a permanent part of the Medicaid budget.

Cancer Registry
- Responded to data requests from university students, national researchers and the public.
- Assisted in development of the Health Registry
Network, a secure web-based application for cancer reporting, quality control and analysis.

- Submitted data to the Central Brain Tumor Registry of the United States, the CDC National Program of Cancer Registry – Cancer Surveillance System, and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, earning Gold and Silver Standard certifications.
- Completed linkage with the Albuquerque Indian Health Service national database for quality improvement and to assist in accurately describing the burden of cancer on the American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

**Cardiovascular Health**

- Worked to improve the cardiovascular health of North Dakotans by promoting healthy lifestyles and policies that increase physical activity and improve eating behaviors.
- Collaborated with local nutritionists and county extension agents to promote *5 A Day for Better Health*, a national nutrition campaign that encourages Americans to eat five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables each day.
- Recognized 13 communities through the *5 Plus 5* Program, which encourages people to eat fruits and vegetables five times a day and to be physically active 30 minutes, five days a week.
- Conducted a survey of 1,100 worksites to establish a benchmark of health-promotion activities offered by North Dakota employers. Data obtained is being used by the *Healthy North Dakota* Worksite Wellness Committee to identify pilot intervention programs.

**Diabetes Prevention and Control**

- Reorganized the Diabetes Advisory Council and the North Dakota Diabetes Partnership.
- Developed strategic plan with input from the Diabetes Advisory Council.
- Expanded grants to diabetes clinics for implementation of a diabetes registry and care-tracking system.
- Collaborated with Blue Cross Blue Shield to produce the *Diabetes Care Provider Report*; demonstrated a significant improvement in diabetes care provided by physicians and diabetes care teams.
- Trained core group in Diabetes Today education and community-engagement techniques.
- Produced *Diabetes ... Finding the Balance*, a diabetes wellness guide for American Indians.
- Collaborated with the Montana Diabetes Prevention and Control Program to analyze prevalence of gestational diabetes.
- Completed estimates of diabetes prevalence by county in North Dakota.

**School Health Program**

- Completed a *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* and a *School Health Education Profile* in conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction. Survey results were provided to local decision-makers for help in planning programs that address common youth health problems such as tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor eating habits.
• Coordinated the annual Roughrider Health Promotion Conference, which brings together school and community teams to conduct health inventories of their schools and develop and implement plans to protect youth from health risks. Plans developed at the conference result in positive outcomes for school personnel, students and community members and reach more than 100,000 North Dakotans.

**Tobacco Prevention and Control**

• Developed long-range state tobacco prevention and control plan for reducing tobacco use.
• Convened Best Practices in Tobacco Control and Communities of Excellence trainings to assist local public health units and communities in implementing evidence-based approaches for tobacco-use prevention.
• Implemented the Community Health Grant Program funded with tobacco settlement dollars appropriated by the 2001 Legislative Assembly. Funds from the CDC also support state and local tobacco control efforts. All 28 local public health units, the four American Indian tribes and one Indian Service Area have developed initiatives to reduce tobacco use, including:
  * About 350 schools implemented evidence-based tobacco prevention curricula reaching more than 30,000 students. Nearly 900 teachers were trained in use of the curricula.
  * Nearly 50 individuals were trained to provide smoking cessation programs for students.
  * The Statewide Public Education Task Force on Tobacco implemented a statewide public education campaign on secondhand smoke.
• Post-campaign evaluation indicates increased support for smoke-free environments in schools, entertainment arenas, restaurants and private businesses.
  * Twenty-three communities formed coalitions to address local tobacco-use concerns.
  * Tobacco cessation programs are now available in 56 locations in 37 counties across the state. Seventy-seven individuals have been trained to provide cessation services, and more than 850 people have been served by local cessation programs.
• Worked with Dickinson to pass a youth-access ordinance. Seventeen communities now restrict vending machines, license tobacco retailers, require retail compliance checks, or place tobacco behind clerk-operated counters. These ordinances reach more than one-half of the youth population. Retailer compliance with the law prohibiting sales to minors increased from 89 percent in 2000 to 93 percent in 2002.
• Supported legislation passed requiring tobacco violations be reported to schools in the same manner as alcohol and other drug violations, as well as legislation outlawing the sale of bidis, a flavored cigarette very popular among youth.
• Conducted the Youth Tobacco Survey in coordination with the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Results will be used to design, implement and evaluate youth tobacco-prevention programs.
• Developed a tobacco website, listserv and newsletter to facilitate sharing of information with local communities and the public.
• Assisted five communities (Fargo, Minot, Grant Forks, Valley City and Jamestown) in implementing pilot cessation programs for city and county employees reaching 235 individuals.

**Division Goals**

• Link division programs to the *Healthy North Dakota Initiative.*
• Provide breast and cervical cancer screening services to 3,200 eligible North Dakota women each year.
• Develop materials for *Women’s Way* specific to the state’s American Indian population.
• Develop five-year plan for screening American Indian women through *Women’s Way.*
• Continue Medicaid treatment program to ensure *Women’s Way* clients diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer receive treatment.
• Develop a comprehensive cancer control program and a statewide cancer control plan.
• Define the cardiovascular disease burden and assess existing strategies for prevention of heart disease and stroke.
• Develop state plan for heart disease and stroke prevention with emphasis on developing heart-healthy policies, changing physical and social environments, and eliminating disparities based on geography, gender, race or income.
• Identify culturally appropriate approaches to promote cardiovascular health.
• Increase awareness of heart attack and stroke symptoms and the importance of calling 9-1-1.
• Provide grants to local public health units to support physical-activity and nutrition interventions, as well as policies and conditions that encourage heart-healthy lifestyle choices.
• Develop and implement a state employee tobacco cessation program and a statewide quitline that will serve all North Dakota residents who want to quit using tobacco.
• Implement a tobacco surveillance and evaluation system to track trends and assess progress and outcomes.
• Continue working with communities to develop and maintain comprehensive tobacco control programs that follow best practices.
• Expand use of the Health Registry Network.
• Obtain cancer data from clinics and independent physician offices; develop audit processes to ensure all diagnosed cancers are reported to the state registry.
• Obtain additional data exchange agreements with other states and/or individual medical facilities for the Cancer Registry, and expand data agreement with Aberdeen Area IHS to include all North Dakota reservations.
• Develop a state collaborative to enhance diabetes care in North Dakota.
• Complete a statewide Diabetes Health System Assessment.
• Involve NDSU Extension in diabetes education and community engagement efforts.
• Partner in joint diabetes and cardiovascular projects.
• Incorporate Healthy People 2010 objectives into a comprehensive diabetes indicator report.
The Emergency Preparedness and Response Section was created in 2002 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 integrates emergency preparedness with many other divisions and sections of the NDDoH, including Disease Control, Microbiology, Chemistry, Public Information and Education Technology. In addition, the section chief serves on the governor’s Continuum of Government Committee and provides training and leadership to the department in incident command.

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

**Emergency Preparedness and Response Section**

**Accomplishments**

- Established a grant advisory committee.
- Established eight public health emergency preparedness and response regions that include a regional coordinator and a part-time public information officer in each region.
- Completed assessment of state laws and provided legislative testimony that resulted in updates to quarantine and isolation laws.
- Completed assessment of state and local public health capacities.
- Developed smallpox response plans.
- Provided smallpox vaccine to public health and hospital response teams.
- Participated in statewide emergency exercises.
- Completed hospital needs assessment.
- Established relationship with North Dakota Healthcare Association for analysis of needs assessment, facilitation of hospital planning and recommendations.

**Goals**

- Develop local and regional health and medical response plans.
- Complete and exercise plans to receive and distribute the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Integrate plans with state and local emergency management response plans.
- Develop a plan for receipt of chemical antidotes.
- Develop health and medical annex template for augmentation of existing plans.
- Fund eight regional environmental health practitioners and five part-time tribal emergency preparedness coordinators.
- Develop regional hospital emergency plans that include—
  - Caring for large numbers of patients.
  - Isolation of infectious patients.
Plans for sharing staff to include supervision and orientation plans for each hospital.
Decontamination and personal protective equipment.
Complete emergency medical services assessment and make recommendations to enhance capacity.
Establish a hospital wide area network.
Develop pharmaceutical plan.
Develop mental health plan.
Implement credentialing and deployment plan for all health professionals.

Division of Disease Control
Accomplishments
- Initiated development of a web-based disease reporting and electronic laboratory reporting system.
- Initiated development of syndromic surveillance monitoring in the state that includes “real-time” monitoring of emergency room visits, poison control calls and health hotline calls.
- Added CDC-defined bioterrorism agents to the state’s list of reportable conditions.
- Developed regional epidemiology response teams to provide coordinated response to outbreaks and other public health emergencies.
- Increased epidemiology services by employing two additional field epidemiologists and two additional surveillance epidemiologists.

Goals
- Sponsor “Epidemiology in Action” course.
- Integrate animal disease reporting system with the state veterinarian and the North Dakota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Integrate the state’s major private labs into the electronic laboratory reporting system.
- Develop a “real-time” emergency medical services response reporting system.

Division of Microbiology
Accomplishments
- Planned and implemented the microbiology lab renovation project.
- Provided training to upgrade lab capacities.
- Purchased equipment for additional testing capabilities.

Goals
- Provide bioterrorism response training for sentinel laboratories.
- Provide training about packaging and shipping infectious substances and specimens at upcoming state laboratory convention.
- Collaborate with first responders on collection and transportation of hazardous materials.

Division of Chemistry
This activity was not funded by the CDC grant until Aug. 31, 2003.

Goals
- Develop and implement a statewide chemical terrorism preparedness laboratory program.
- Provide chemical terrorism laboratory coordinator to develop the chemical laboratory preparedness program.
- Expand testing capacity and expertise through training, developing protocols, updating.
instruments and renovating the laboratory.
• Collaborate with statewide partners to respond to chemical terrorism events.

Office of Public Information
Accomplishments
• Completed special population and public health communication needs assessments.
• Conducted smallpox training for the media.
• Developed emergency communication plan.
• Joined border working group of health communicators from Canadian provinces and American states adjacent to the border.

Goals
• Complete local and regional emergency communication plans.
• Coordinate emergency communication planning with key partners from across the state.
• Implement systems to address needs identified in the special populations assessment; contract with translation service to adapt basic materials for certain special populations.
• Conduct spokesperson training at state and local level.

Division of Education Technology
Accomplishments
• Awarded contract for system to activate response resources and send alerting messages to health-care providers and first responders.
• Developed mobile distance learning production capability.
• Collaborated with University of Minnesota School of Public Health and University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences to develop emergency preparedness education for physicians, health-care providers and public health professionals.
• Presented educational programs about smallpox, SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), risk communication, and environmental and clinical sample collection.
• Established public health education tuition assistance program.

Goals
• Implement Health Alert Network communications system that will:
  ∗ Broadcast warning/alert notifications in multiple formats.
  ∗ Confirm receipt of message.
  ∗ Concentrate on specific areas of the state through GIS capabilities.
• Connect all 28 public health units to the state’s high-speed communication network.
• Provide the lead public health units with video-conferencing equipment that will allow two-way interactive video conferencing sessions.
• Hire education coordinator and conduct education needs assessment.
• Develop training plan.
• Develop emergency preparedness curriculum.
• Conduct competency reviews and documentation.
• Provide incident command training.
• Collaborate with the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences to create biological, chemical and radiological online training.
The goal of the Medical Services Section is to prevent disease and disability in North Dakota. The section is responsible for disease prevention, surveillance, testing and identification, as well as epidemiologic investigation and forensic examinations.

The section includes the following divisions and offices:

- Field Medical Officers
- Disease Control
- State Epidemiologist
- Microbiology
- 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, communicable 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 NDDoH sections about health-related programs, projects and patient-care issues.
- Improved communications between the NDDoH and private physicians and clinics.
- Assisted in developing lead poisoning plan for the state.
- 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.
- Provided pediatric consultation services for the tracking program and Indian Health Service clinic at Spirit Lake Nation.

Goals

- Continue to provide enhanced, focused 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.

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 healthcare 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
• Sexually Transmitted Diseases
• Tuberculosis Control

Health-care providers and laboratories statewide notify the division of mandated reportable diseases. During the biennium, division personnel investigated about 2,300 cases of reportable conditions. In addition, division personnel work closely with private health-care providers, health-care facilities, local public health units and residents to reduce the incidence of communicable diseases and to help ensure the public health of North Dakotans.

Division Accomplishments

• Implemented SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) surveillance program and coordinated investigation of suspected SARS case.
• Participated in national investigation of transfusion-related West Nile virus with results published in New England Journal of Medicine.
• Developed regional epidemiology response teams to provide rapid response to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.
• Investigated four outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness involving more than 300 people.
• Investigated a foodborne illness outbreak at a school involving about 100 students.
• Investigated a cluster of strep throat infections.
• Investigated a cluster of appendectomies among students in a high school.

• Supported legislation that was passed to:
  ∗ Change disease reporting statute to include the state veterinarian.
  ∗ Enable the state health officer to initiate emergency reporting of public health conditions.
  ∗ Clarify implementation procedures for quarantine and isolation.
  ∗ Mandate chickenpox vaccination for entry into school and day care.

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 surveillance and response; build epidemiology and laboratory infrastructure; provide training and education; and increase reporting systems.

Accomplishments

• Increased laboratory capacity to include DNA fingerprinting of *E. coli* 0157:H7, polymerase chain reduction testing for noroviruses, and identification of parasitic infections. Also established an area for testing for foodborne illnesses at the Division of Microbiology.
• Increased influenza sentinel physician network from 10 to 16. Partnered with the level A laboratories to conduct surveillance for influenza and respiratory syncitial virus (RSV).
• Enrolled nine regional schools to report absenteeism and enlisted long-term care facilities to

The Department of Health encourages North Dakotans of all ages to get a flu shot to protect against influenza.
increase reporting of influenza-like illness outbreaks in their facilities.

• Provided funding from CDC to enable the North Dakota State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) to become a level C laboratory.

• Coordinated with the VDL to conduct West Nile virus (WNV) testing of birds and horses.

• Facilitated dead bird collection and shipping for WNV testing.

• Implemented statewide WNV surveillance program, and coordinated with the Division of Microbiology to expand mosquito surveillance.

• Coordinated and conducted a WNV workshop for city officials, health-care providers, local public health personnel, veterinarians and Indian Health Service personnel.

• Developed and distributed WNV prevention information.

• Established collaboration with VDL to facilitate exchange of Salmonella antimicrobial resistance data.

**HIV/AIDS Program**

The mission of the HIV/AIDS 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 22 contractual sites, including local public health units, family planning clinics, college/university student health centers and substance-abuse treatment centers. The services include HIV testing, pre- and post-test risk-reduction counseling, partner notification, referrals and prevention education.

**Accomplishments**

• Implemented new HIV-testing technology using oral fluid instead of blood.

• Collaborated with the UND Department of Counseling on two Safe Connections workshops designed to educate gay men about HIV prevention and sexual wellness.

• Developed an HIV-prevention media campaign for heterosexuals promoting the theme “HIV: It Can Happen to You in North Dakota.”

• Received a 2002 National Public Health Information Coalition Award for Excellence for the *Call Upon Your Spirit of Courage* HIV-prevention campaign targeting the state’s American Indian population.

The HIV Surveillance Program monitors the disease through both surveillance activities and HIV incidence and prevalence studies. The data collected by the program focuses policy and resource allocation.

North Dakota continues to have the lowest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the nation; through June 30, 2003, a total of 312 HIV infections have been reported in the state.

**Accomplishments**

• Enhanced surveillance of HIV cases through addition of viral load test results to the list of reportable conditions in North Dakota.

• Published HIV/AIDS data semiannually for the health-care community and the public.

The Ryan White Care Program assists low-income residents living with HIV/AIDS to access
confidential health and supportive services. Available services include case management; assistance with purchasing drugs; and assistance accessing outpatient, supportive-care and emergency services. Case management services are offered at 10 locations throughout the state.

Accomplishments
- Developed a television public service announcement to increase program participation. The PSA won the 2003 North Dakota Broadcaster’s Association Merit Award for Best Ad Agency TV Public Service Campaign.
- Collaborated with North Dakota Medicaid for online submission of pharmacy claims through the drug assistance program, allowing for cost-savings and efficient processing.
- Updated the Ryan White drug formulary to ensure client access to the most current HIV/AIDS medications and therapies.

Immunization Program
The role of the Immunization Program is to ensure that children and adults are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. The program also investigates suspected and confirmed cases of vaccine-preventable diseases and conducts active influenza surveillance.

Vaccine coverage levels for North Dakota children remain high. The National Immunization Survey estimates that 78 percent of children ages 19 months to 35 months were up to date on their immunizations. The goal for Healthy People 2010 is 90 percent.

Accomplishments
- Received 2002 award for achieving the highest childhood immunization rates in the nation from July 2000 through June 2001.
- Distributed pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for all North Dakota children.
- Distributed chickenpox vaccine for all North Dakota children.
- Expanded provision of influenza vaccine to all healthy children from 6 to 24 months of age.
- Converted the state immunization registry to a web-based format.
- Distributed new five-in-one vaccine (hepatitis B/DTzP/IPV) for all North Dakota children.

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.

Accomplishments
- Continue to provide chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis medication for infected people and their partners who are unable to pay.
- Implemented more sensitive chlamydia and gonorrhea testing technology and more inclusive chlamydia screening criteria.
- Provided funding to UND for development of a video discussing STD prevention for students.
- Screened more than 22,000 females and 3,200 males for chlamydia through the Region VIII Infertility Prevention Project.
To test for tuberculosis, a fluid called tuberculin is injected between the layers of the skin. In a person who is infected with TB, the injection site becomes hard and red.

- Observed a 12 percent increase in chlamydia testing, and continued to investigate reported chlamydia cases. During the biennium, 2,533 sexual-partners were contacted; more than one-fourth were diagnosed with chlamydia.

**Tuberculosis Program**

The Tuberculosis (TB) Program works to prevent, control and eliminate TB in North Dakota. Program 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 the number of cases ranging from five to 10 each year from 1998 through 2002.

**Accomplishments**

- Conducted an investigation involving a college student who had TB. About 1,000 students were tested, with no further cases identified.
- Produced *Epidemiological Report on Tuberculosis* with information about TB activity in the state, treatment or infection-control guidelines, policy changes and laboratory information.
- Conducted annual TB workshop for about 100 health-care providers. The workshop provides (1) information about the epidemiology of TB, (2) current treatment and infection-control guidelines, and (3) techniques for skill building.
- Coordinated with the Minnesota Department of Health, Indian Health Service and CDC to investigate multi-state transmission of TB.

**Division Goals**

- Continue to provide quality public and provider health information and education.
- Increase utility of the immunization registry for better monitoring of vaccinations, and increase utilization of the registry by providers.
- Maintain high vaccination-coverage levels.
- Increase adult vaccination services.
- Increase STD screening of high-risk people.
- Continue contact tracing and implementation of disease intervention measures.
- Implement innovative STD educational messages.
- Continue progress toward eradication of tuberculosis in North Dakota.
- Continue to provide screening support of people at increased risk of tuberculosis.
- Improve reporting of communicable diseases.
- Provide innovative intervention measures to prevent WNV infections.
- Implement year-round influenza surveillance.
- Coordinate with partners to implement epidemiological intervention activities.
- Develop and implement innovative approaches for HIV intervention.
- Increase screening of people engaged in high-risk HIV activities, and increase identification and reporting of HIV-infected people.
- Continue to provide necessary services for HIV-infected people.
- Increase community-based HIV intervention activities.
State Epidemiologist

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

Accomplishments

- Coordinated initial statewide bioterrorism grant.
- Coordinated epidemiology and surveillance program for CDC bioterrorism grant.
- Coordinated fulltime assignment of CDC medical epidemiologist to the NDDoH.
- Initiated development of a web-based disease reporting and electronic laboratory reporting system known as the North Dakota Disease Reporting, Epidemiological Assessment and Monitoring System (DREAMS).
- Initiated development of syndromic surveillance monitoring system that includes “real-time” monitoring of emergency room visits, poison control calls, and health hotline calls.
- Added CDC-defined bioterrorism agents to the list of reportable conditions in North Dakota.
- Initiated legislative changes to quarantine-and-isolation and reportable-disease laws.
- Coordinated North Dakota Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance program.
- Participated in planning and implementation of the state smallpox vaccination program.
- Conducted numerous presentations about bioterrorism and other public health issues.
- Assisted with coordinating public health assistance after Minot anhydrous ammonia release.
- Coordinated follow-up of affected people after anhydrous ammonia release in Minot.
- Participated as member of a national Public Health Leadership Institute team.

Goals

- Complete development of DREAMS with public and private health-care providers.
- Provide epidemiological assistance to the department.
- Provide timely epidemiological response for health-care providers and the public.

Division of Microbiology

The Division of Microbiology (the Public Health Laboratory) provides diagnostic and referral services to physicians, veterinarians, local public health units, health-care facilities, state and federal agencies and the public. The laboratory performs testing in the areas of bacteriology, mycology, parasitology, immunology, virology, molecular diagnostics, aeroallergens, and dairy and water bacteriology. As the only Laboratory Response Network reference laboratory in North
Dakota, the division performs specialty testing to detect new and emerging infections and possible bioterrorism agents. The laboratory continues to serve as the state’s central laboratory and certifying agency for the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) dairy and water bacteriological testing programs.

Accomplishments

- Developed and implemented network-based laboratory information management system.
- Established rapid molecular testing procedures for detection of infectious diseases and other public health threats.
- Expanded mosquito surveillance program to monitor for West Nile virus and other encephalitis-causing arboviruses statewide.
- Centralized tuberculosis testing to reduce turn-around time and improve reporting structure.
- Provided smallpox and anthrax immunizations for employees working with biothreat agents.
- Provided health-care and emergency response agencies with specimen transport systems for bioterrorism and chemical terrorism agents.
- Maintained federal testing certifications for dairy products, drinking water and clinical specimens.
- Provided training about procedures to rule out possible biothreat agents; laboratory safety techniques; infectious and diagnostic shipping regulations; blood-borne pathogen updates, etc.
- Provided training for mosquito network trap operators and local vector control personnel.
- Produced newsletters, bulletins, fact sheets, Directory of Services, and a Laboratory Response to Bioterrorism Agents poster.
- Enhanced the North Dakota Laboratory Response Network, a tiered network of clinical laboratories trained to recognize and/or rule out potential biothreat agents, by adding new laboratories and extending training.
- Participated in the design and construction of a new laboratory that will provide conditions for safely testing infectious agents.
- Received certification as a PulseNet laboratory, a network of public health laboratories that performs DNA fingerprinting on foodborne pathogens.
- Received registration to handle and store select agents and crossover agents as designated by the CDC, the Homeland Security Agency, and the United States Department of Agriculture.
- Became certified by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology in the collection, counting and identification of aeroallergens.
- Established new distribution plan for supplying public drinking water systems with prelabeled sampling containers to improve safe drinking water monitoring.

Goals

- Institute a Public Health Information Network-compliant information management system compatible with the North Dakota DREAMS Project, a national electronic disease surveillance system.
- Function as part of the national laboratory network by improving communications with the medical community, local laboratories, public health units and state and federal laboratories.

### Microbiology Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Products</td>
<td>6,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>29,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>28,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mycology</td>
<td>848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parasites</td>
<td>2,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A, B, C</td>
<td>12,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabies (human exposure)</td>
<td>2,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Bacteriology</td>
<td>12,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STDs</td>
<td>68,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virology/Immunology</td>
<td>12,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Analyses</td>
<td>16,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aeroallergens</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial/Biothreat</td>
<td>10,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito Surveillance</td>
<td>1,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>205,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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, toxicological analysis, collection of evidence, follow-up with investigating agencies, certification of cause and manner of death, and court testimony as needed.

**Accomplishments**

- Accepted 425 cases during the biennium; performed autopsies on the majority of them.
- Provided education statewide to law enforcement officers, county coroners and other agencies involved in the investigation of deaths.
- 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 the development of a permanent facility and 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.
- Establish electronic (web-based) reporting to laboratories and other health-care agencies.
- Relocate laboratory facility with minimal loss of services to the public.
- Continue to improve drinking water monitoring by adding barcodes to prelabeled sampling containers.

**Coroner Referrals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner of Death</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accident</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Causes</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*425 total cases; two examined with no autopsy*
The Health Resources Section consists of three divisions – Health Facilities, Emergency Medical Services and Food and Lodging.

The section is responsible for:
- Licensing inpatient and outpatient health care facilities, basic care facilities, home health agencies, ambulance services, hospice programs, electrologists and electronic hair removal technicians; certification of emergency medical technicians; and licensing and inspecting various establishments that serve food.
- 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).
- 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 or supplier to receive payment through Medicare and Medicaid.
- Certification of all clinical laboratories that test human body substances for medical purposes.
- Administration of the alternative health care projects program.
- Administration of the nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs and registry.
- Administration of the 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.

Licensure responsibilities:
- General acute, primary care and specialized hospitals – 51
- Nursing facilities – 83
- Home health agencies – 32
- Hospice programs – 15
- Basic care facilities – 52
- Electrologists and electronic hair removal technicians – 24

Certification responsibilities:
- Long-term care nursing facilities – 83
- Hospitals, including swing beds and general acute services – 47 general acute care and critical access hospitals; four specialized hospitals
- Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded – 71
- Home health agencies – 32
- Hospice programs – 15
- Basic care facilities – 52
- Electrologists and electronic hair removal technicians – 24
- Ambulatory surgical centers – 17
- End-stage renal dialysis units – 14
- Portable X-ray units – 1
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 certified lab technicians, licensed social workers, licensed registered dietitians, registered nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, qualified mental retardation professionals and fire safety surveyors.

The nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs provide for state approval of nurse aide training programs in order to be consistent with federal certification requirements for long-term care facilities.

Accomplishments
- Convened the Long Term Care Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the long-term care community.
- Conducted several one-day workshops in conjunction with the state’s provider associations. The workshops focused on care-related services identified through the survey process.
- 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.
- Established three community health centers in rural areas of the state.
- Awarded loan repayment dollars to two dentists through the Dental Loan Repayment Program.
- Established 14 foreign physicians in North Dakota workforce shortage areas through the J-1 Visa Waiver Program.
- Awarded $489,500 in grants to 84 long-term care facilities to support scholarship or loan-repayment programs for employees.

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.
- Conduct surveys of hospitals every three years.
- Implement the certification of critical access hospitals as permitted by the federal Rural Hospital Flexibility Act.

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 140 ground ambulance services that meet standards for service availability, equipment and personnel training.
• Updates and maintains training, testing and certification programs for EMS advanced life support and basic life support personnel, including emergency medical technicians and paramedics.
• Administers an EMS grant program of about $470,000 per year for training ambulance service personnel.
• Provides technical assistance to local EMS services regarding patient care issues, as well as system design, administration and operation.
• Maintains an EMS personnel data system that contains about 10,000 certification records.
• Maintains an ambulance run report data system that adds about 32,000 ambulance run 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 (EMSC) Program.
• Provides continuing education to emergency medical services through distance learning and videotape presentations.
• Implements and maintains a statewide trauma system.

Accomplishments
• Conducted programs that trained, tested and certified about 2,100 new personnel and 3,000 existing personnel. Courses included First Responder, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B), Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) and Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P).
• Provided licensing and inspection services for 140 ambulance services.
• Conducted distance learning through a videotape-based system that provides monthly continuing education material to 250 sites.
• Provided about 21 critical incident stress debriefings to EMS personnel; conducted training for about 165 EMS providers in healthy stress-coping techniques.
• Maintained a trauma system that designates 32 trauma centers, develops local trauma transport plans, maintains a trauma registry and trains EMS and trauma center personnel.
• Conducted emergency medical services for children (EMSC) programs that trained about 300 EMS providers in special pediatric techniques.

Goals
• Implement strategies that attempt to minimize the adverse impact of several negative factors on the state’s EMS system. These factors include reduced population, greater concentrations of older citizens, a reduction in the level of volunteerism, and inadequate reimbursements. Strategies include the following:
  * Improved access to training through expansion of Internet- and video-based training.
  * Revision of service 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 restaurants, bars, lodging facilities, mobile-home parks, campgrounds, bed-and-breakfast facilities, retail food stores, meat markets, bakeries and 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 inspect preschools and day-care centers that prepare food. In addition, staff members inspect schools and migrant foodservice sites through an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction. The division provides educational 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
• Amended Section 33-33-04 of the North Dakota Administrative Code to conform with FDA’s 2001 Model Food Code.
• Conducted more than 5,000 inspections of licensed facilities.

Goals
• Review and update the mobile-home park, trailer park and campground statutes and rules to conform with national codes.
• Pursue statewide foodborne-outbreak investigation training.
• Develop rules for assisted-living facilities.
• Update memorandums of understanding with local public health units.
• Form advisory workgroup for division activities.
• Standardize local public health unit inspector procedures.

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<th>Establishments Licensed by the Division of Food and Lodging</th>
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<td>Mobile Home Parks</td>
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The Environmental Health Section’s five divisions work closely with the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to safeguard the quality of North Dakota’s air, land and water resources. 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.

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:

- Chemistry
- Air Quality
- Waste Management
- Municipal Facilities
- Water Quality

Division activities are coordinated by the section chief’s office. Employees in this office oversee quality assurance procedures and coordinate computer and data management activities, environmental 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 Management. The section customarily takes the lead role in post-emergency environmental cleanup activities.

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

An assistant attorney general, assigned to the section chief’s office, provides legal counsel to all divisions of 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. The ombudsman 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 Chemistry

The Division of Chemistry provides analytical services to a variety of environmental protection, public health, agricultural and petroleum regulatory programs and laboratory certification for a variety of environmental protection programs. The NDDoH’s environmental protection programs use analytical data generated by the laboratory 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 analytical data generated by the laboratory to regulate livestock and pet foods, as well as agricultural and home-use fertilizers.

The division consists of seven analytical laboratory sections and one laboratory certification section. The following describes each analytical laboratory:

- **Biochemical Oxygen Demands Analytical Laboratory**: Performs tests such as biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids and pH; 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, as well as pet foods and lawn and garden fertilizers, to determine compliance with labeling.
- **Mineral Lab**: Tests a variety of matrices for major cation and anion parameters. 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, PCBs and other synthetic organic compounds in multiple matrices. Matrices include drinking, surface and ground water; soil; river and lake sediments; foliage; fish tissue; sludge; oil; landfill wastes; and other environmental sources.
- **Petroleum Lab**: Tests petroleum products such as gasoline and diesel for product quality.
- **Radiation Lab**: Identifies and quantifies radioactive elements in public drinking water supply systems and radon analysis. The laboratory also participates in a nationwide monitoring program that looks at the trends in atmospheric background radiation through bulk air samples.
- **Spectroscopy 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**

- Continued to assist the Environmental Health Section during environmental emergencies. The laboratory provides 24-hour services during major emergencies to ensure timely response. Some analysis associated with emergency situations this biennium included:
  - Testing of Pembina, N.D., water supply after a suspected tampering of the system.
* Analyzing water and soil samples from an anhydrous ammonia chemical release resulting from a train derailment near Minot, N.D.
* Testing of suspicious materials from potential terrorist activities following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the subsequent anthrax incidents.

- Provided analytical support to help public water systems comply with federal and state drinking water rules and regulations. About 5,500 samples were tested for more than 23,000 analytical components, including nitrates, metals such as lead and copper, fluoride, pesticides and volatile organic compounds such as benzene and toluene.
- Provided the analytical services necessary to monitor ground water quality across the state. Testing included nitrates, metals, pesticides and general water quality parameters. In addition, the laboratory analyzed samples for the environmental assessment of ground water and other factors related to feedlot operations.
- Participated in special projects in addition to routine analyses. For example, the division analyzed ground water from the Oakes Aquifer for nitrate contamination from various sources, including agricultural production.
- Maintained Internet website to provide information about the division’s services, sample submission procedures, analytical procedures, quality assurance plan and other general topics.
- Continued to participate in several laboratory performance evaluation programs, which the division regularly completes successfully. In addition, the division certifies the state’s environmental laboratories and reviews and recognizes other states’ certifications 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.
- Analyzed nearly 26,000 samples for more than 250,000 analytical parameters.

**Goals**

- Develop a chemical terrorism laboratory preparedness component to be included in North Dakota’s comprehensive public health emergency preparedness and response plan.
- 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.
- Complete the resolution of critical life-safety and ventilation deficiencies in the existing laboratory building via a laboratory addition approved by the 2001 Legislative Assembly and the remodeling of the existing laboratory facility as approved by the 2003 Legislative Assembly. Both projects are scheduled for completion in 2004.
- Begin providing analytical support to the North Dakota Water Commission.
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 members also provide technical assistance during emergency response efforts.

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 consist of scientists, engineers and technicians whose primary responsibilities include evaluating permit applications, issuing permits that restrict emission levels to ensure that standards are met, inspecting facilities to ensure compliance, investigating air pollution complaints and operating a statewide ambient air quality monitoring network.

Radiation Control Program

The Radiation Control Program monitors the development and use of ionizing and nonionizing radiation sources to protect the health and safety of North Dakotans and the environment. Staff members also operate programs to evaluate and address mitigation of asbestos, radon, lead and other indoor air quality concerns.

Accomplishments

- Maintained attainment status for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Complied with all federal program requirements and maintained federal delegation responsibilities for Environmental Protection Agency programs.
- Responded to and assisted in the mitigation of a train derailment that caused a catastrophic release of anhydrous ammonia impacting the city and surrounding community of Minot.
- Participated in an oversight evaluation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and received findings that the program is adequate for protection of public safety and compatible with NRC regulations.
- Played an active role in distributing environmental information to the public and providing public education and outreach by holding public information meetings; scheduling discussion sessions with local public health units; and participating in college and other agency seminars directed at providing education to the public on a variety of environmental issues.

Goals

- Maintain delegation and responsibility for federally mandated programs.
- Continue to work with officials at EPA to resolve issues surrounding the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Program.
- Enhance emergency response capabilities.

North Dakota is one of only 14 states that meet all National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
The Division of Waste Management works to safeguard public and environmental health in the state. Division programs are designed for generators of solid and hazardous waste and operators of underground storage tanks.

**Division includes the following programs:**
- **Hazardous Waste Program**
- **Underground Storage Tank Program (UST)**
- **Solid Waste 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 (PCB) inspections at facilities or sites known or suspected to have equipment containing PCBs. North Dakota is one of only six states that conducts PCB inspections in lieu of Environmental Protection Agency inspections. The program also coordinates assessments 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 routine inspections of the regulated community, which consists of about 750 businesses that have notified the division of hazardous waste activity. This includes small- and large-quantity generators; transporters; and treatment, storage and disposal facilities.
- Inspected about 120 facilities that generate or manage hazardous waste; provided compliance assistance to other hazardous waste facilities.
- Conducted about 30 PCB inspections; assisted businesses and tribes in investigating and managing regulated PCB waste; and continued to promote the management of unregulated PCB waste as regulated PCB waste.
- Worked with five facilities in investigating and remediating contaminated soil or ground water.
- Worked with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the N.D. Bureau of Criminal Investigation to clean up clandestine drug labs.
• Responded to and assisted in the cleanup of environmental spills and citizen complaints.
• Initiated a Brownfields program and raised awareness of the program among eligible applicants and other stakeholders.
• Assessed five Brownfield properties in one community, and provided Brownfield funding to Mandan for redevelopment planning for its central business district.
• Received recognition from EPA for meeting the national goal of issuing hazardous waste permits to all facilities that require them.

**Goals**
- Reissue appropriate hazardous waste permits.
- Continue to review investigation reports, proposed remedies and remediation progress at facilities with corrective-action permits.
- 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.
- Conduct training that provides a general overview of regulations and requirements and helps businesses comply with state rules.
- Maintain partnership with the regulated community. This partnership has had a positive impact on the compliance, which protects public health and the environment from mismanagement of hazardous waste in North Dakota.

**Accomplishments**
- Regulated 925 active tank facilities, for a total of 2,280 tanks. Compliance is monitored by a mail-in self-certification process, as well as onsite visitations. The program observed 35 tank closures, conducted 500 onsite inspections, and investigated and monitored cleanup of 16 leaking UST sites.
- Collected and analyzed 1,430 petroleum samples in cooperation with the Public Service Commission; processed and notified petroleum retailers of analysis results, including octane, distillation end points, etc.
- Registered 12 antifreeze manufacturers and 136 bulk antifreeze retailers.
- 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 also was used to install and operate a pilot clean-up system for diesel fuel contamination in downtown Mandan.

- Continued outreach to tank owners about proper maintenance and operation of USTs. More than 9,200 USTs have been removed during the 14 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 upgrade and/or replacement of USTs or when leaks occur.
- Provide compliance monitoring and inspections, along with public outreach, to inform tank owners about the proper operation of USTs (e.g., leak detection, spill reporting, etc.).
- Use LUST Trust Fund money to investigate and properly close additional abandoned UST sites throughout the state; continue with remediation of downtown Mandan.
- 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 promotes recycling to help preserve natural resources.

The Solid Waste Program regulates the collection, transportation, storage and disposal of nonhazardous solid waste. The program assists individuals, businesses and communities in planning for and providing efficient, environmentally acceptable solid waste management systems. The program promotes resource recovery, waste reduction, recycling and pollution prevention (P2) activities that preserve and enhance the quality of the state’s natural resources. In addition, the program assists in the cleanup of abandoned motor vehicles and other scrap metal.

**Accomplishments**

- Regulated 14 municipal solid waste landfills, 304 waste haulers, 29 transfer stations, four industrial waste landfills, 21 special waste (energy and oil industry) landfills, 189 inert waste landfills and seven compost facilities.
- Conducted more than 600 inspections of facilities; investigated complaints and spills.
- Worked with Grand Forks on a proposed landfill site; reviewed an environmental impact study for Turtle River Township; and approved and oversaw construction or expansion of landfill facilities.
- Assisted in clean-up activities, including the anhydrous ammonia release near Minot, scrap metal and auto salvage facilities, an abandoned rendering plant, and numerous oil product and oilfield releases and spills.
- Worked with the Division of Emergency Management and the state veterinarian to evaluate emergency disposal procedures during an outbreak of chronic wasting disease or livestock infestations such as foot-and-mouth disease or mad-cow disease.
• Continued work on tire disposal issues, including illegal disposal; improper management; and potential disease, fire and water pollution.
• Conducted annual landfill operator training and certification sessions attended by about 40 landfill operators and solid waste professionals.
• Developed and implemented guidelines for the utilization of coal ash for land stabilization in crop storage areas, feedlots, road construction, and reclamation of abandoned mine lands.
• Met with the EPA, the Office of Surface Mining, representatives of coal-producing states and industry stakeholders to discuss pending Federal regulation of coal combustion material.
• Co-hosted annual Solid Waste Symposium and made numerous presentations to civic leaders, interested citizens and solid waste professionals about waste reduction and recycling, composting, disposal, waste hauling and the use of wood waste material as fuel.
• Worked with various nonprofit organizations to develop educational materials, host workshops, and partner in federal grant opportunities.
• Developed a pollution prevention (P2) program that promotes waste reduction and reuse. The program promoted grasscycling (mulching) and composting; assisted two agricultural plants in using 19,000 tons of wood waste as an economical and clean-burning fuel; coordinated the use of nearly 30,000 tons of manure in the restoration of the ammonia release site at Minot; and worked with seven food processors and 17 livestock sales facilities to recycle organic wastes through nutrient management plans.
• Through the Abandoned Motor Vehicle (AMV) program, worked with local public health units to complete projects in Benson, Ramsey and Sioux counties; facilitated priority cleanups in several smaller communities; completed a survey of Bottineau and Renville counties; and, initiated collection activities in Bottineau, Renville and Ward counties. About 4,000 tons of scrap metal was collected and recycled through the program.

Goals
• Conduct education and outreach efforts through training, workshops, site visits, development of guidelines and educational materials and improvement of the division’s website.
• Promote P2 and integrated waste management through cost-effective waste reduction, reuse, recycling and energy recovery.
• Promote the use of AMV program statewide and support local efforts to remove unwanted scrap metal.
• Work with stakeholders to prepare for disasters and emergencies that may involve significant solid waste issues.
• Work with residents in Grand Forks and northeastern North Dakota to find an effective and environmentally sound solution to the pending closure of the Grand Forks landfill.
• Work with stakeholders and federal agencies regarding federal regulations affecting coal combustion material.
Division of Municipal Facilities

The division consists of four programs that help municipalities and other political subdivisions maintain public health and safety: the Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) Program; the Operator Training, Certification and Facility Inspections Program; the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) Program; and the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) Program.

Public Water Supply Supervision Program
The PWSS Program works with the 529 public water systems in North Dakota to ensure that drinking water meets all standards established by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This is accomplished by monitoring contaminants, providing operator training and certification, conducting sanitary surveys, reviewing plans and specifications, and providing technical assistance. The program also administers the state’s fluoridation program and provides technical assistance to private water systems.

Operator Training, Certification and Facility Inspections Program
The Operator Training, Certification and Facility Inspections Program trains and certifies people in charge of the day-to-day operation of water treatment and distribution facilities, as well as wastewater collection and treatment plants. There are 947 certified operators in the state.

Four inspectors/trainers annually inspect about 714 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 SDWA. Funding is expected to continue in the foreseeable future at the rate of about $9.5 million per year. Through June 30, 2003, loans totaling about $63.9 million have been approved to assist North Dakota water systems.

Program staff members also review about 150 drinking water projects each year. The reviews ensure that new or modified public water system facilities meet state design criteria before construction. The reviews help ensure that the facilities achieve desired public health objectives and can be properly operated and maintained.

Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund
The CWSRF Program provides low-interest loans to fund conventional wastewater and nonpoint source pollution control needs.

Funding is expected to continue in the foreseeable future at the rate of about $7.5 million per year. Through June 30, 2003, loans totaling about $153 million have been approved to assist North Dakota wastewater systems. Eligible borrowers can obtain financing to build wastewater treatment works at below-market interest rates.
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, streams and rivers. 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 in North Dakota and the nation has improved since passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, but much remains to be done if the goal of restoring and maintaining the quality of the state’s and nation’s waters is to be achieved.

Water Quality Standards

The Water Quality Standards are revised every three years to accommodate the contemporary needs of the state and to incorporate the latest scientific information. Preliminary review for the next revision has begun, and final adoption is planned for 2005. The standards establish the beneficial uses of the state’s water and assign numeric criteria for chemical concentrations necessary to achieve the designated uses. The Water Quality Standards provide guidance to the North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program, as well as set goals for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program.

Water Quality Certification Program

The NDDoH reviews federal Section 404 dredge and fill applications to determine compliance with the State Water Quality Standards. The NDDoH expedites the review of all flood control and infrastructure protection projects.
Devils Lake Flooding

The NDDoH maintains lead agency status on 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 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers environmental impact statement development process. 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 restricts the discharge to protect the water quality and flows in the Sheyenne River. An adaptive management plan will also be implemented to further 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 20 years have resulted in a significant reduction in pollution from major point sources; for example, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities.

Since 1975, the NDPDES Program has issued about 500 wastewater discharge permits (25 percent industrial and 75 percent municipal). Beginning in 1992, permits have been required for storm water discharges associated with construction activities and industrial facilities. About 750 facilities are covered by general permits for storm water discharges. This biennium, the primary focus in the area of storm water discharges has been meeting the obligations of Phase II of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Storm Water Rule.

Impacts to water from livestock operations are an increasing concern in North Dakota. Currently, about 535 livestock facilities have been approved to operate. Most of these are cattle-wintering, 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 North Dakota.

Accomplishments

• Implemented the Septic Pumper Program, the Hydrostatic Testing/De-watering Program and the Coal Mining Point Source Program.
• Worked with the Office of the Attorney General to finalize a program package transferring the regulatory authority for the industrial pretreatment program from the EPA to the NDDoH.
• Issued two new wastewater discharge permits and re-issued 66. This work included record reviews at all major facilities (26 per year with compliance sampling) and 533 wastewater plant inspections.
• Developed a permit for small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), which are those systems generally operated within cities of more than 10,000 people. Revised the existing stormwater permit for construction activities to include new areas of construction specified in the rule. Eighty-six stormwater inspections were completed.
• Issued “approvals to operate” to 27 livestock facilities and conducted 242 inspections at permitted livestock facilities.
• Conducted 25 public meetings around the state in conjunction with the NDSU Extension Service to discuss the new EPA/CAFO rules with producers and producer groups.
• Issued 154 septic pumper licenses in 2001-2002 and 151 in 2002-2003. Twenty permits for de-watering purposes also were issued.
• Revised the department’s Animal Feeding Operation Program to include EPA’s updates to the CAFO Program.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program

Most threatening to 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.

Efforts to control NPS pollution primarily are achieved through the North Dakota NPS Pollution Management Program, which came into existence in 1987 with the addition of Section 319 to the Clean Water Act. Under Section 319, EPA is authorized to award grants to state or local groups to control NPS pollution. The NPS Pollution Task Force provides input and recommendations about local projects funded through Section 319. The task force is composed of representatives from a number of public and private entities. The Division of Water Quality is responsible for administering these funds and implementing the NPS Pollution Management Program in North Dakota.

Accomplishments

• Provided financial support to more than 90 projects since 1990. Of these projects, 41 are currently active.

Surface Water Management

Historically, surface water quality monitoring conducted by the division consisted of a network of chemical monitoring stations. Typical water quality variables for which monitoring was conducted included temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, major ions, nutrients (i.e., phosphorus, ammonia and nitrate) and fecal coliform bacteria. Currently, the division has 27 ambient chemical monitoring sites across the state. The division will
maintain these as long-term monitoring sites to assess water quality trends and to describe the general chemical character of the state’s major river basins.

Accomplishments

- Completed pollution reduction targets (total maximum daily loads or TMDLs) as required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for Rice Lake (Ward County), Patterson Lake (Stark County) and the Sheyenne River (downstream of Valley City).
- Created four regional watershed liaison positions. In addition to developing TMDLs, these individuals will help increase the involvement of soil conservation districts, water resource districts and local stakeholders in developing watershed projects.
- Began the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program with the EPA’s Office of Research and Development and the U.S. Geological Survey to assess the state’s perennial rivers and streams. In addition to reference sites, more than 50 randomly selected sites were sampled throughout the state between 2000 and 2003.
- Conducted water quality monitoring on Devils Lake four times each year and maintained an active water quality monitoring program on Lake Sakakawea. Working cooperatively with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the department sampled Lake Sakakawea weekly during the open-water period in 2002 and 2003. Resulting data is being used to provide estimates of the lake’s cold-water habitat and to support the state’s lawsuit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding reservoir management.
- Monitored for mercury and other contaminants by collecting fish from the state’s lakes, reservoirs and rivers. Issued an updated advisory (A Guide to Safe Eating of Fish in North Dakota) about eating fish caught in the state’s lakes and rivers.

Ground Water Program

About 340,000 North Dakotans depend on ground water for their household drinking water supply. Of that number, about 250,000 people are served by cities or rural water systems, and slightly more than 90,000 people use private water wells for drinking water. Agriculture and industry also use large quantities of water on a routine basis.

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 Canadian Pacific Railway train derailment in Minot.
Wellhead and Source Water Protection Programs

The Wellhead Protection Program protects ground water resources by addressing the link between land uses and ground water quality. Potential contaminant sources in a defined protection area around a community’s drinking water wells are identified. Communities then can determine if these sources should be removed, restricted or monitored.

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) 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. Under both the Wellhead and Source Water Protection programs, the NDDoH defines the susceptibility of public water system to potential contaminant sources found in their protection areas.

Accomplishments

- Completed work on the minimum elements of wellhead and source water protection (delineation, contaminant source inventory, susceptibility). The 1996 SDWA Amendments required all states to complete the minimum elements of wellhead and source water protection by May 2003.

Underground Injection Control Program

The Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program helps prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water (USDW) 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

- Revised state UIC rules to reduce potential impacts to USDW resulting from high-risk disposal wells.
- Identified and inventoried approximately 70 new motor vehicle waste disposal wells.
- Conducted inspections at approximately 65 facilities located in high risk areas such as wellhead protection areas and other sensitive groundwater areas.
- Obtained closure of 10 high-risk wells located in wellhead protection areas or other sensitive groundwater areas.
**Division Goals**

- Include a watershed approach in all monitoring, assessment and control programs.
- Complete a triennial review of water quality standards.
- Help local public water supply systems manage source water protection areas, including well-head protection areas.
- Increase state level funding for NPS pollution projects.
- Finalize the revisions to the Animal Feeding Operation Program.
- Increase public awareness of the proper construction, use and potential hazards of underground injection wells.
- Refine and expand the monitoring and assessment of aquatic life for lakes and streams.
- Expand monitoring for pesticides, revise information about pesticides and develop criteria that include pesticides currently in use.
- Increase funding for restoration of lakes. Although the list of potential clean lakes projects is growing, funds virtually have disappeared.
- Improve Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities to help ensure multi-agency and public access to water quality data.
- Improve communication and data sharing among local, state and federal agencies.
- Ensure that revised water quality standards are user-friendly, utilize the most current information to ensure protection of human and aquatic life, support the state’s commitment to protect each body of water’s designated uses and outline the department’s regulation of point source discharges.
- Continue working with local soil conservation districts and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (“Save Our Lakes” Program) in the development of TMDLs for Cedar Lake, Indian Creek Dam, Dead Colt Creek Dam, Armourdale Dam, Carbury Dam, Northgate Dam, McGregor Dam, Blacktail Dam, McDowell Dam, Pheasant Lake and Renwick Dam.
- Continue developing TMDLs for the Red River near Fargo, the James River near Jamestown, the Wild Rice River in Sargent and Richland counties, the Maple River in LaMoure and Dickey counties, the Cannonball River and Cedar Creek.
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 coordination. Some local public health units maintain environmental health programs; others partner with the NDDoH to provide environmental services, such as public water system inspections, nuisance and hazard abatement, and food service inspections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-County Health District</th>
<th>City/County Health Department</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-County Health District</td>
<td>City/County Health Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>City/County Health District</td>
<td>Single-County Health Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Unit</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health</td>
<td>Bismarck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cavalier County Health District</td>
<td>Langdon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Valley Health Unit</td>
<td>Jamestown</td>
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<td>City-County Health Department</td>
<td>Valley City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custer Health</td>
<td>Mandan</td>
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<td>Ellendale</td>
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<td>Emmons County Public Health</td>
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<td>Fargo Cass Public Health</td>
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<td>Carrington</td>
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<td>Lake Region District Health Unit</td>
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<td>Wells County District Health Unit</td>
<td>Fessenden</td>
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</table>
State Health Council

CHAIR
Carmen Toman, consumer, Bismarck

VICE CHAIR
Hjalmer Carlson, Jr., consumer, Minot

SECRETARY
Joel Smith, manufacturing and processing industry, Fargo

MEMBERS
Howard C. Anderson, R.Ph., health care, Turtle Lake
Jeff Burgess, energy industry, Bismarck
Lowell Herfindahl, health care, Tioga
Marlene Kouba, consumer, Regent
Lee Larson, consumer, Leeds
Gordon Myerchin, consumer, Grand Forks
Gary Riffe, health care, Jamestown
Dennis E. Wolf, M.D., health care, Dickinson

June 30, 2003
## Financial Summary

**North Dakota Department of Health**
**Comparative Statement of Appropriations and Expenditures**

For the Period July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of Funds</th>
<th>Original Appropriation</th>
<th>Equity Salary Adjustment</th>
<th>Emergency Commission Jan-02</th>
<th>Emergency Commission Apr-02</th>
<th>Allotment Aug-02</th>
<th>Capital Construction HB 1023</th>
<th>Adjusted Appropriation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Wages</td>
<td>$ 28,636,615</td>
<td>$ 292,560</td>
<td>$ 158,573</td>
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<td><strong>$ 292,560</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 6,269,108</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 6,319,495</strong></td>
<td>$(156,765)</td>
<td><strong>$ 111,409,931</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of Funds</th>
<th>Original Appropriation</th>
<th>Equity Salary Adjustment</th>
<th>Emergency Commission Jan-02</th>
<th>Emergency Commission Apr-02</th>
<th>Allotment Aug-02</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 97,110,668</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 292,560</strong></td>
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<td>$(156,765)</td>
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North Dakota Department of Health
Expenditures by Section

For the Period July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2003

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<thead>
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<th>Use of Funds</th>
<th>Administrative Support</th>
<th>Medical Services</th>
<th>Health Resources</th>
<th>Community Health</th>
<th>Environmental Health</th>
<th>Bioterrorism Preparedness &amp; Response</th>
<th>Total Expenditures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>34.4</td>
<td>139.5</td>
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</table>
Publications

Copies of the following publications can be accessed on the North Dakota Department of Health website at www.health.state.nd.us or by calling 701.328.2372.

**Community Health Section**

**Newsletters**
- Building Blocks to Safety with Buckle Update insert
- Chalkboard on Health
- Focus on Fluoride
- Health Care Provider Examiner
- Health Data Notes

**Reports**
- Arthritis in North Dakota
- Benchmark Worksite Wellness Study
- Diabetes and Related Health Factors in North Dakota Adults: An Analysis of North Dakota BRFSS Data 1994-2000
- Estimates of Diabetes Prevalence by County
- Maternal and Child Health Status
- 1997-1998 Cancer Statistics – Cancer Incidence and Mortality in North Dakota with a section on Cancer Clusters
- 2001 North Dakota Youth Risk Behaviors

**Other**
- Diabetes ... Finding the Balance wellness guide
- Head Lice – A Lousy Problem booklet
- Parents Provide, Kids Decide video
- Teen Maze activity kit

**Medical Services Section**

**Newsletters**
- Disease Update
- Epi Report
- Influenza Weekly Surveillance Report
- MicroReport
- Pump Handle

**Reports**
- Epidemiology Semi-Annual Update
- HIV/AIDS in North Dakota, Mid-Year Update
- 2001 Epidemiological Report on Tuberculosis

**Other**
- Division of Microbiology Directory of Services

**Health Resources Section**

**Newsletters**
- CLIA Bits
- Dialysis Dialogue
- Home Health Update
- Long Term Care Highlights
Environmental Health Section

Newsletters
- Indoor Air Quality Monitor
- Quality Water
- Radioactive Newsletter

Reports
- Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary 2001
- Air Quality Monitoring Data Summary 2002
- Cedar Creek: A Water Quality Assessment
- Chemical, Physical and Biological Characterization of Devils Lake 1995-2002
- Chemical, Physical and Biological Characterization of Lake Sakakawea 1992-2000
- North Dakota 2002 Section 303(d) List of Waters Needing Total Maximum Daily Loads
- 2002 305(b)
- Water Quality Assessment with Pollution Reduction Targets for Maple River
- Water Quality Assessment with Pollution Reduction Targets for Nine Townships Assessment Project

Other
- A Guide to Safe Eating of Fish Caught in North Dakota fish consumption advisory
- “Our Water – Keeping It Clean” monthly article in the North Dakota Water magazine
To learn more about the North Dakota Department of Health, visit our website at www.health.state.nd.us.