

Benton-Franklin Health District

2009 Annual Report



Pictures by: Lamees Arbogast

Benton-Franklin Health District



2009 Annual Report

On behalf of the Benton-Franklin Health District, we are pleased to present the 2009 Annual Report.

The mission of the Benton-Franklin Health District is *to provide all people in our community the opportunity to live full, productive lives by (1) promoting healthy life-styles; (2) preventing disease and injury; and (3) protecting individuals and their environment through cooperative participation among community and government.* This is accomplished by providing community health and environmental health services that benefit our residents and visitors on a daily basis.

This year was one of the most challenging years for the Health District. In spite of the budgetary cuts, reduction in the workforce and office hours, and the loss of programs and services we successfully prepared and responded to a pandemic, trained and adopted system changes for some of our programs, and served approximately 58,495 residents for approximately 81,900 services. Not captured in the number of clients served or services provided are the hundreds and thousands of phone calls, consultations, and walk-ins the Health District's staff responded to in order to meet the needs of the community. The clients served and services provided extend beyond both county lines; over 3,000 individuals came to our offices for over 4,500 services from Adams County, Yakima County, Walla Walla County, and other agencies.

The 2009 Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) Annual Report provides a snapshot of the wide variety of public health services conducted by the Health District last year that protected and promoted the health of all 242,000 residents of Benton and Franklin Counties, as well as the thousands of workers and visitors who entered the counties each day. The report highlights a variety of programs and services such as:

- Electronic Charting System: Nightingale Notes
- Zoonotic Disease/Dead Bird Surveillance: West Nile Virus
- Nutrition & Wellness: WIC Food Package changes
- Emergency Preparedness & Response: H1N1 Pandemic

We strive to establish relationships that will make our counties safer and healthier. Please use this report as a reminder of the value of public health.

Sincerely,

Larry Jecha, M.D., MPH
Health Officer/
Administrator

Sandy Owen, PHN, MPH
Preventive Health Services
Director

Bruce Perkins, BS
Environmental Health Services
Director

2009 Highlights

Reduction in Workforce, Office Hours & Programs and Services

As we assessed budget constraints and the feasibility to sustain services for our communities, reduction in workforce and hours of operation were inevitable. Our workforce was reduced by 12 full-time equivalent positions, some of which were vacant positions. With fewer people to do the job we discontinued services during the noon hour in vital records, WIC, and immunizations; creating longer waits for service. Preventive health programs reduced included preventive childcare health, children with special health care needs case management, teen parenting classes at Tri-Tech, and child death review. Environmental Health saw reductions in numerous community education programs such as air pollution, hand washing and food safety, pool inspections were reduced by half, and the lab lost its pollen counting program.

Electronic Charting System

In an effort to enhance practice, documentation, and information management we integrated an electronic record system known as Nightingale Notes. This is a web-based system to improve efficiency with our charting as well as completely changing the charting language. In January staff had their initial planning call with a trainer from CHAMPS software and then created an implementation team of staff members. In March there was a kick-off webinar for staff. There were a series of five webinars total for all staff. In June there was on-site training here at BFHD. The program went live in July. In October we switched to a purely electronic charting system. There were some challenges with changes in staff and programs but we managed to get through these changes with no loss in revenue. The system consists of information loops that details and links client problems, interventions, and outcomes; the foundation of evidence-based practice.

Zoonotic Disease/Dead Bird Surveillance

The year was a season of firsts for West Nile virus in our area: we had confirmed viral activity in mosquitoes and birds in May and June—two months earlier than previously found in Washington; we found the virus in horses, birds, and mosquitoes in Franklin County for the first time ever; and we had our first human cases identified in Benton County residents. Our confirmed West Nile virus activity in our area for the year included nine lab-confirmed cases of severe human illness (all from Benton County), nine positive birds found in Pasco, Prosser, West Richland, Benton City, Kennewick, and Richland (collection/testing discontinued in August due to funding), 26 horses test positive, and 173 positive mosquito samples.

Nutrition & Wellness

The WIC program helps reduce premature births and infant mortality, increase breastfeeding and immunization rates, reduce child abuse and neglect, support healthy development and early learning, and prevent chronic health problems like diabetes, asthma, and childhood obesity. In October 2009, the WIC food packages changed to better meet the nutritional needs of WIC participants. WIC new foods promote healthy lifestyles by: providing healthy choices, offering more variety, and supporting breastfeeding. Breastfeeding provides significant life-long health and economic benefits for the mothers, infant, and the general public and is an important public health issue that impacts the risk of developing chronic diseases.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response

We successfully prepared and responded to a pandemic- the first in 40 years. The H1N1 response began in April with the first wave of illness and continued through the end of the year in response to a second wave that hit in September. As fall approached, our focus was on vaccine availability and community mitigation. As vaccine became readily available we facilitated several clinics both at our offices and in the community. Response to this pandemic was possible due to funding provided to all Local Health Jurisdictions by the Federal Government.

Trended Data

Administrative Service

Vital Records	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
# of Birth Records	9,215	10,215	9,407	9,906
# of Death Records	1,769	1,986	2,207	2,128

Preventive Health Service

<u>Clients Served</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)	508	449	504	417
Early Intervention Project (EIP)	46	52	54	28
Alternative Response Services (ARS)	69	64	53	40
Early Family Support Services as of 2008 (EFSS)				
Passport (foster care) includes scheduled and interim updates	282	145	223	224
First Steps: Maternity Support Services (MSS)	1,468	1,672	1,647	1,717
First Steps: Infant Case Management (ICM)	101	104	84	112
Women, Infants & Childhood Nutrition Program (WIC)	10,290	10,623	11,119	11,999
Number of Births with Medicaid-Paid Child Care Health: immunization records reviewed	2,471	2,504	2,661	Not available
Immunizations (General & Travel)	31,495	28,346	27,503	30,979
Influenza & Pneumococcal (BFHD & State)	14,140	11,842	10,634	8,164
H1N1	none	none	none	4,502
International Travel Clinic	785	852	786	721
Assessed for Medicaid Eligibility	1,350	1,300	1,650	2,015
Access to Baby & Childhood Dentistry (ABCD) (active)	2,146	3,190	3,312	3,305
TB skin tests	3,286	3,577	3,764	2,797
HIV/AIDS Cases				
Benton	78	83	84	Not Available
Franklin	50	53	58	Not Available
*Chlamydia Cases				
Benton	375	374	514	Not Available
Franklin	284	287	262	Not Available
Blood Borne Pathogen Certificates	318	293	200	131
New Refugees	77	85	119	232
Safe Babies Safe Moms (active clients per month)	69	70	69	69
BFHD WIC Dollars to Grocery Stores	\$3,568,088	\$3,898,106	\$4,489,444	\$4,854,736
BFHD WIC Dollars to Farmers	\$38,584	\$26,564	\$33,390	\$36,930
Safe Kids (people at events reached)	~26,790	~24,114	~29,625	~27,675

*Key Health Indicator

Environmental Health Service

<u>Clients Served</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
On Site Sewage Permits	440	444	373	355
Onsite Sewage System Inspections	713	582	553	534
Onsite Sewage Permit Applications	580	564	443	447
Onsite Sewage System Evaluations	163	155	138	127
Plat Reviews	107	243	93	79
Solid Waste Facilities Inspected	302	347	215	209
Water Supply Reviews/Inspections	96	58	100	86
Zoonotic Disease/Rabies Investigations	318	345	379	384
Zoonotic Disease/Dead Bird Reports	167	146	145	127
Pools Inspected	377	478	608	300
Site Hazard Assessments	3	7	5	4
Living Environment	122	36	27	12
EH Education Presentation Attendees	12,676	9,000	9,700+	~2,000
Permanent Food Establishments Permitted	1,205	1,257	1,228	1,271
Permanent Food Establishments Inspections Conducted	2,151	2,810	2,817	3,021
Foodborne Illness and Facility Complaints Received	245	272	230	242
Temporary Food Establishments Permitted	638	734	899	999
Temporary Food Establishments Inspections Conducted	(no data)	319	1,003	1,029
Food Worker Training Classes Offered	337	341	340	305
Food Workers Trained (Cards Issued)	7,237	7,900	9,048	8,893

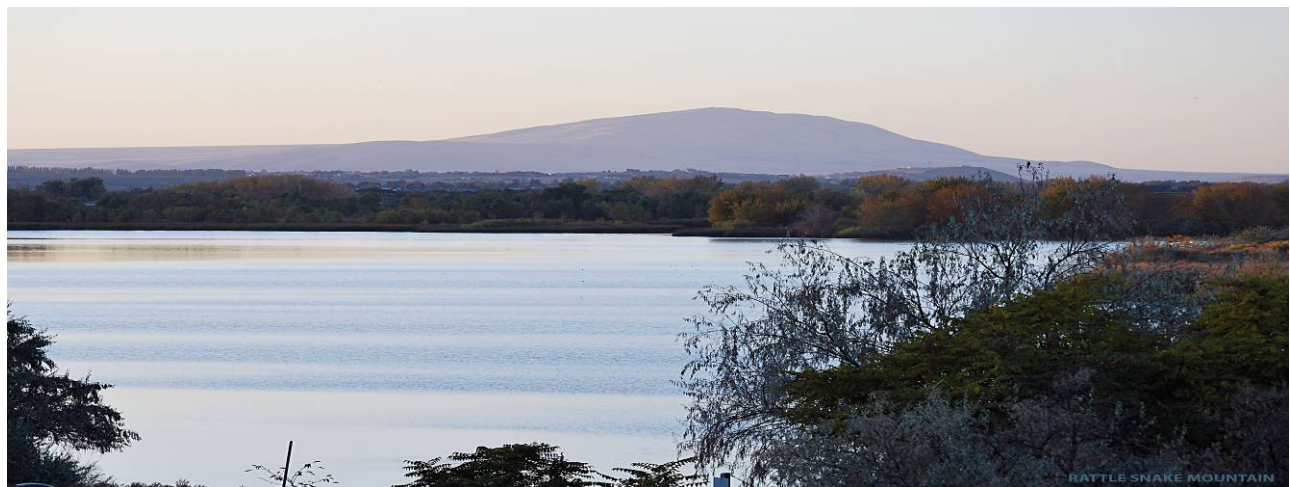
Laboratory Testing

<u>Clients Served</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Total Visits	3,039	3,375	3,247	3,285
Drinking Water:				
Bacteriological/Coliforms	7,002	7,710	6,960	6,981
Nitrates	781	895	675	654
Fluorides	71	107	78	71
Waste Water:				
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	372	418	530	595
Solids	400	632	619	555
Nitrogen (various forms)	366	438	327	313



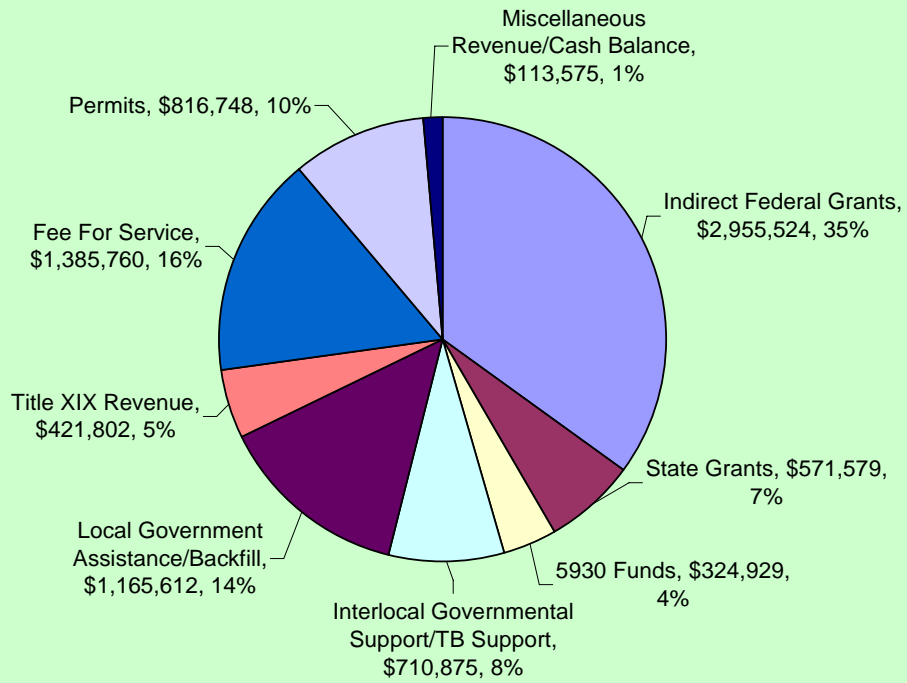
Region 8 Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response

<u>Population Served</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Benton County	160,600	162,900	165,500	169,300
Franklin County	64,200	67,400	70,200	72,700
Klickitat County	19,800	19,900	20,100	20,200
Walla Walla County	57,900	58,300	58,600	59,200
Yakima County	231,800	234,200	235,900	238,400
<u>Public Health Departments/Districts</u> 2006-2009				
	Benton-Franklin Health District			
	Klickitat County Health Department			
	Walla Walla County Health Department			
	Yakima Health District			
<u>Health Care Systems</u> 2006-2009				
Benton County	Kennewick General Hospital Prosser Memorial Hospital Kadlec Medical Center Region 8 EMS/Trauma Council			
Franklin County	Lourdes Medical Center Community Health Center- La Clinica			
Klickitat County	Klickitat Valley Hospital Skyline Hospital			
Walla Walla County	Providence St. Mary's Medical Center Walla Walla General Hospital			
Yakima County	Sunnyside Community Hospital Yakima Regional Medical Center Toppenish Community Hospital Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Tribal-Yakima Indian Health Center: Indian Health Services Community Health Center- Yakima Valley Farm Workers Community Health Center- Yakima Neighborhood Services Community Health Center of Central Washington			

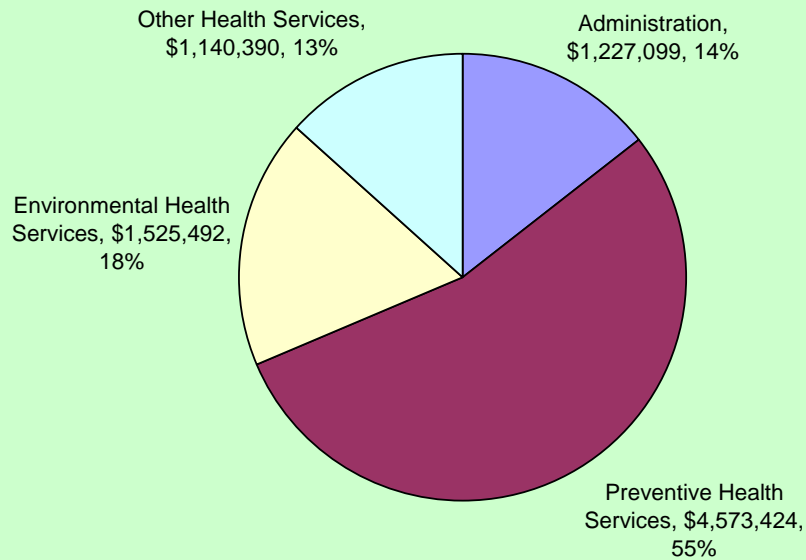


Financial Summary

2009 Total Program Revenue Sources



2009 Public Health Program Expenses



Looking Ahead

In 2010, we will continue our efforts to make Benton and Franklin Counties a safer and healthier place for our residents. A challenge in this effort is to continue to provide the same quality of services with fewer staff and programs. With the reduction in workforce, services, and programs we are monitoring the health of the community and the impact these reductions will have. In spite of the losses we faced, the health district continues to prepare and work toward meeting performance measures set by the state to improve public health systems.

To improve the internal processes and the services that we provide to the community, priority areas for improvement were identified. This process will help the agency in improving compliance with the Washington State Public Health Standards. The proposed priority areas are as follows:

- *Orientation Plan*
- *Policies & Procedures*
- *Job Descriptions*
- *Management Training & Evaluation*

Return on Investment

Administrative Service

- Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS) facilitates the process for expediting certificates to family members and receipt from funeral homes.
- Contracted with 9 insurance companies for immunization services in an effort to further remove barriers for children to get vaccinations.

Preventive Health Service

- Due to the demands of the H1N1 outbreak and the federal funds associated with it, we were able to improve our community's disease outbreak-response infrastructure:
 - We improved our ability to communicate with the community in order to not only provide information but to also improve the community's provision of needed information to BFHD.
 - We were able to mobilize an additional, efficient method of distributing federal assets (vaccines and administration supplies) to community providers in order to expand the community's ability to administer the vaccine to the appropriate populations quickly.
 - Funds were used to develop a Vaccine Inventory Software to improve providers' reporting of vaccine inventory not only for the H1N1 vaccine but for all other vaccines too.

Environmental Health Service

- Added time-extended educational inspections with restaurant managers in their facilities to focus on food safety practices in a non-regulatory capacity.
- Approximately 100 failing on-site sewage systems were replaced with new systems; we assisted with the design, permitted, and inspected the construction of the systems to ensure proper operation. Our response time was less than two weeks and most often within 24 hours of reporting.

Return on Investment (continued)...

Laboratory Testing

- The Lab's primary focus is to continue to monitor and ensure that the areas drinking water supplies both public and private are safe and free from contaminants of health concern (Bacteria/Coliforms and Nitrates).
- The Lab continues to provide testing services for wineries and other wastewater generators through out the counties and surrounding areas in an effort to help them meet regulatory responsibilities and prevent contamination of the Environment and drinking water supplies (various analysis).
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) implemented Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) audits in 2007. One requirement of the GAP audit is to test for *E. coli* and fecal coliforms in irrigation water, a service we continue to provide.

Region 8 Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Purchased the mass fatality trailer & supplies to be used by Coroners, Medical Examiners/ Prosecuting Attorneys through out the Region in response to mass fatality events.
- Continued to strengthen the Region 8 Health Care Coalition with the formal addition of representatives from the Coroners Office, Yakima Nation, Department of Corrections, and MedStar.
- All hospitals and Community Health Centers in the Region have signed agreements to share resources, purchased by Region 8 PHEPR grant funds, if requested.
- Trainings & exercises conducted with Community Health Centers, Hospitals and Emergency Management helps our community to prepare and response to public health emergencies and complies with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Continues to provide plan development assistance allowing for healthcare systems partners to come to the table and develop best practices. This previous planning proved to be of value during the H1N1 Response.



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Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Benton and Franklin Counties!