



Benton-Franklin Health District



2008 Annual Report



Pictures by: Lamees Arbogast



Benton-Franklin Health District



2008 Annual Report

On behalf of the Benton-Franklin Health District, we are pleased to present the 2008 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.

The 2008 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 235,700 residents of Benton and Franklin Counties, as well as the thousands of workers and visitors who entered the counties each day.

The annual report highlights a variety of our programs and services. In accordance with Washington State Governor Gregoire's vision of efficient and effective performance, BFHD consolidated three offices into one, enhanced the communication infrastructure, and initiated new preventive health programs including Assessment and 5930 Performance Measures. Additional services and programs highlighted in this year's report include:

- Medical Records: Centralization
- Environmental Surveillance: First Appearance of West Nile Virus in Our Area
- Nutrition and Wellness: Women, Infants, & Childhood (WIC) Nutrition Program
- Laboratory Testing: Monitoring for Good Agricultural Practice
- Education: WSU, CWU, and UW Students Learn at Our Facility
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response: Regional Healthcare Coalition

The Benton-Franklin Health District strives 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

Sandy Owen, PHN, MPH
Preventive Health Services
Director

Bruce Perkins, BS
Environmental Health Services
Director



2008 Highlights

Consolidation of Services and Bolstering of the Infrastructure

Consolidating three Benton County offices into one building increased our business and management efficiencies, allowing us to provide better service to our community. The move precipitated various changes in staffing, providing the opportunity for the Health District to remain open during lunch hours. As a result, Immunizations and Women, Infant and Childhood Nutrition (WIC) services are more convenient, and available throughout the day. For further efficiency, Maternal Support Services (MSS) and First Steps clients are served during their WIC appointment, which means one visit instead of many.

This infrastructure update allowed all employees to function on one phone system, increasing flexibility, efficiency, and cost savings. E-mail and voice mail are now integrated. The phone system provides additional educational outreach through the use of pre-recorded hold messages which share information about programs and services with the community and clients.

Medical Records

In 2008, we centralized the medical records department and utilized existing software to assist with chart tracking. Now all Maternal Child Health and Travel charts are kept in one location regardless of where clients receive services. Many of our clients are served by multiple staff members who require access to their records to do their job. It is a great benefit to always know where to find the chart. Valuable/expensive professional time is saved when charts and medical records are managed by clerical staff.

West Nile Virus

The 2008 West Nile virus season proved to be the most active in Washington State since monitoring began in 2001. It was also the first time West Nile was identified within our district borders. With a total of 17 birds, BFHD submitted the third highest number of birds in Washington as part of the statewide monitoring program. The total animals/birds tested for the virus in Benton County included 17 birds (10 positive for West Nile), 7 horses (4 positive), and 163 mosquito pools (14 positive). Although no birds were testable from Franklin County, 2 horses and 147 mosquito pools were submitted; all tested negative for the virus. There were no human cases diagnosed in residents within the District.

Nutrition and Wellness

Over 6,000 families were enrolled in the Women, Infant and Childhood Nutrition Program (WIC). Nutrition education and coupons for healthy food choices were provided to clients. Learner-centered education techniques were implemented to motivate clients to change their eating behaviors and incorporate healthy habits. Staff is receiving on-going education on motivational interviewing techniques. Client feedback has been positive.

Laboratory Testing

Following the *E. coli* outbreaks in California and across the country in 2006, 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 provide. Primary users in 2008 were potato growers and a few large orchards. In addition to GAP for industry, we provide bacteriological and nitrate testing for all public water systems and private homeowners.

5930 Performance Measures

Communicable and chronic disease prevention and management were recognized as a core function of public health in Washington when the 5930 Performance Measures were adopted by the Secretary of Health in January 2008. We have prioritized our goals and activities to increase vaccine coverage for children, as well as accelerating and increasing the consistency of reporting all reportable communicable diseases. Both serve to prevent and manage disease outbreaks in our community.

The legislative directive was accompanied by funding which allowed the addition of three positions. An assessment coordinator was hired to assist with data and reporting, and two registered nurse positions were created to focus on childhood vaccinations and communicable diseases.

Assessment

Assessing our community's health is crucial to program development and implementation. Community Health Assessment is a method of collecting, analyzing, and using data to educate and mobilize communities, develop priorities, generate resources, and plan actions to improve public health. The assessment component this year has given us the opportunity to provide baseline community health data to the public, agencies, providers, and others interested in learning more about health disparities and the effects on the community.

Education

The Benton-Franklin Health District is proud to facilitate a learning environment for students across the state in hope that we will better foster the next generation of public health professionals. This year we welcomed nursing students from WSU, nutrition and community health education students from CWU, and an environmental health intern from UW. The quality of education provided to our students in both community health and pediatrics has greatly improved this year due to our new facility and improved relations and planning with University staff.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

To strengthen response to public health emergencies, the Region 8 Healthcare Coalition was formed and fortified by the Healthcare Systems Preparedness Planning Group. The Coalition meets quarterly and has representatives from public health, healthcare, and emergency management from Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, Walla Walla and Yakima counties. This group plans for potential natural and man-made emergencies by conducting regional drills and exercises and maintaining a regional plan.



Trended Data

Administrative Services

Vital Records (first copy)	2006	2007	2008
# of Birth Records	9,215	10,215	9,407
# of Death Records	1,769	1,986	2,207

Preventive Health Services

<u>Clients Served</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)	508	449	504
Early Intervention Project (EIP)	46	52	54
Alternative Response Services (ARS)	69	64	53
Early Family Support Services as of 2008 (EFSS)			
Passport (foster care) includes scheduled and interim updates	282	145	223
Maternity Support Services (MSS)	1,468	1,672	1,647
Infant Case Management (ICM)	101	104	84
Women, Infants and Childhood Nutrition Program (WIC)	10,290	10,623	11,119
# of Births with Medicaid-Paid	2,471	2,504	Not available
Child Care Health:	2,009	2,804	2,343
# of immunization records reviewed			
Immunizations provided	30,467	27,465	26,559
Travel Clinic clients (includes follow-up visits)	1,075	1,121	953
Assessed for Medicaid Eligibility	1,350	1,300	1,650
Access to Baby & Childhood Dentistry (ABCD) (active)	2,146	3,190	3,312
TB skin tests	3,286	3,577	3,764
HIV/AIDS Cases			
Benton	78	83	85
Franklin	50	53	57
*Chlamydia Cases			
Benton	375	374	513
Franklin	284	287	262
Blood Borne Pathogen Certificates	318	293	200
New Refugees	77	85	119
SBSM active clients per month	69	70	69
BFHD WIC Dollars to Grocery Stores	\$3,568,088	\$3,898,106	\$4,489,444
BFHD WIC Dollars to Farmers	\$38,584	\$26,564	\$33,390
Safe Kids: people at events reached	~26,790	~24,114	~29,625

*Key Health Indicator

Environmental Health Services

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

Laboratory Testing

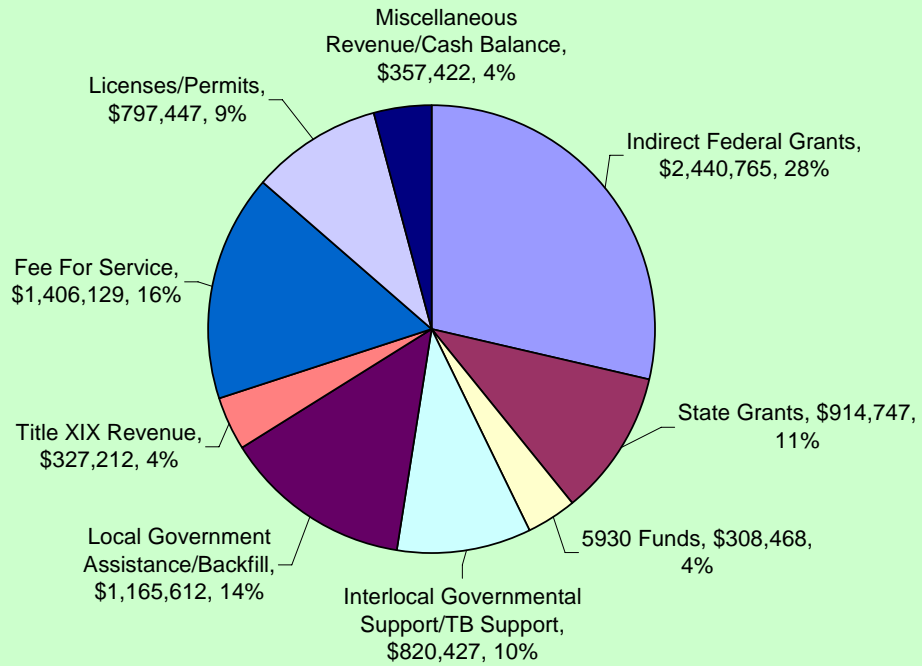
<u>Clients Served</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Total Visits	3,039	3,375	3,247
Drinking Water:			
Bacteriological/Coliforms	7,002	7,710	6,960
Nitrates	781	895	675
Fluorides	71	107	78
Waste Water:			
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	372	418	530
Solids	400	632	619
Nitrogen (various forms)	366	438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

Region 8 Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response

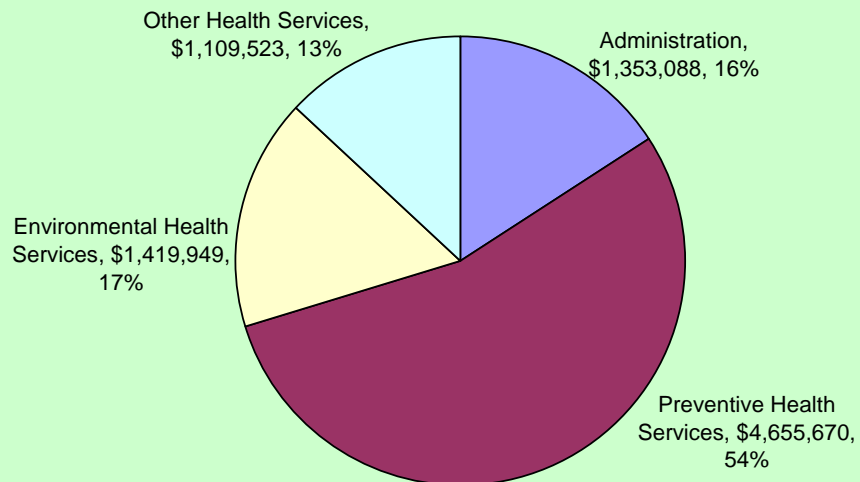
<u>Population Served</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Benton County	160,600	162,900	165,500
Franklin County	64,200	67,400	70,200
Klickitat County	19,800	19,900	20,100
Walla Walla County	57,900	58,300	58,600
Yakima County	231,800	234,200	235,900

Financial Summary

2008 Total Program Revenue Sources



2008 Public Health Program Expenses



Looking Ahead

In 2009, we will continue our efforts to make Benton and Franklin Counties a safer and healthier place for our residents. We will use the strategic plan to guide prioritization of public health goals and objectives, and continue to support efforts toward meeting the Washington State Public Health Standards. The agency purpose and infrastructure goals are as follows:

Agency Purpose

- *Goal 1:* Prevention, promotion/education, and protection are planned components of all public health programs and activities

Agency Infrastructure

- *Goal 2:* Hire and Retain well-qualified employees
- *Goal 3:* Enhance data management and use of public health information
- *Goal 4:* Improve external and internal communication and customer service
- *Goal 5:* Pursue stable and adequate dedicated funding and maximize our current resources
- *Goal 6:* Strengthen the public health system to better serve the public, including preparing for emergencies and everyday threats

Return on Investment

- Over 8,000 infants and children in Benton and Franklin Counties received supplemental infant formula and nutritious foods thanks to our WIC program.
- More than 230,000 residents and hundreds of visitors in Benton and Franklin Counties eat with the confidence that food establishments are safe.
- 1,498 pregnant women received a total of 4,805 nursing, registered dietitian, or social worker counseling sessions to improve their pregnancy outcomes (low birth weight).
- Environmental health ensures proper management of wastewater and solid waste to protect the environment and help safeguard our ground water supply.
- 1,536 children from 1 month old to kindergarten entrance received vision, hearing and dental screenings.
- Our grocery stores gained over \$4 million dollars and local farmers gained over \$33 thousand dollars thanks to the WIC families in Benton and Franklin Counties.



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Visit Our Website

Benton-Franklin Health District
www.bfhd.wa.gov

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