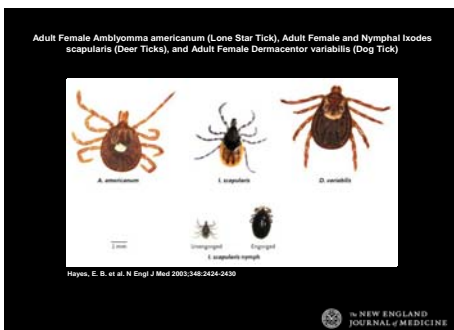




# Warren County Health Department 2008 Annual Report





## From the Health Officer

It is with pleasure I present the 2008 Warren County Health Department Annual Report.

Warren County Health Dept. works in many areas to accomplish the vision of public health: **“Healthy People in Healthy Communities.”** This includes preventing the spread of disease, protecting against environmental hazards, preventing injuries, promoting healthy behaviors, responding to disasters, providing health services, and much more.

Everyone faces the challenges of living a healthy life. We are constantly confronted with making the right choices to maintain our health. We make decisions everyday on diet, wearing seat belts, getting immunizations, exercising and many other activities which directly impact our health. We also depend on regulatory agencies to protect our health from polluters and set standards to safe guard us from exposure to harmful substances. Finally, as a community we need to work together to promote responsible healthy life-styles, by supporting healthy activities every chance we get.

This report summarizes the Health Department’s activities, challenges and accomplishments. I hope you find this report informative.

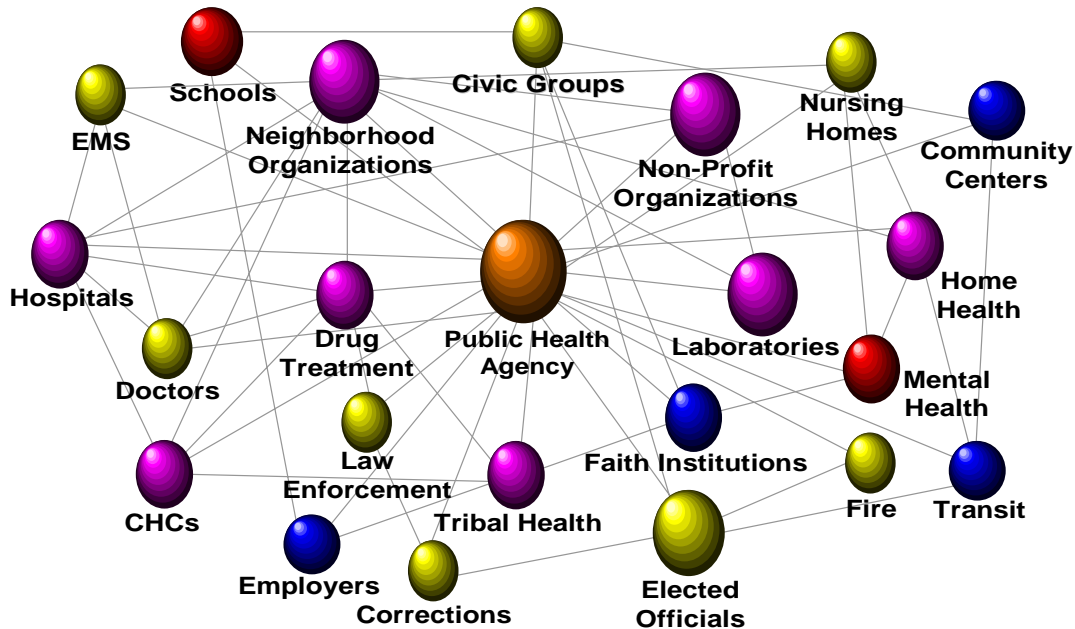
**The first wealth is health.**  
**- Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Claude W. Mitchell, MPH  
Warren County Health Officer

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# Public Health System



## THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

The public health system is the community system of agencies that work together to protect the health of residents through the prevention of disease, illness, and injury. It involves the collaboration of social, economic, and environmental agencies working together to achieve healthy communities. The Health Department, through implementation of the three core functions of public health: assessment, policy development, and assurance, works to accomplish the following objectives:

- ✓ Monitor and investigate health status in the community to identify problems and hazards
- ✓ Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies
- ✓ Develop, apply, and enforce policies, laws, and regulations that improve health and ensure safety
- ✓ Lead efforts to mobilize communities around important health issues
- ✓ Link people to health services
- ✓ Achieve excellence in public health practice through a trained workforce, evaluation, and evidence-based programs.

Comprised of several divisions offering services in areas of environmental health, consumer health, health education, personal health and emergency preparedness, the Health Department's goals are achieved through prevention, education and regulatory action. All activities are conducted in close, ongoing cooperation with state, municipal and private agencies. The staff invites inquiries concerning health issues and services, and welcomes the opportunity to serve the citizens of Warren County.

## **On going training and education of staff .....**

The department is staffed by highly qualified and dedicated licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS), Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), Nurses (RN's and LPN's), Therapists and office support personnel. Continuing education is the key to keeping our staff qualified and interested. For 2008 staff attended State mandated and job appropriate seminars/trainings provided in state. The following are some of the topic areas attended:

For Registered Environmental Specialist, Health Officers, Health Educators, etc.

- MAFP Spring and Fall Seminars
- Return of Harvey full scale
- Spanish in a Pinch
- Serv Safe food Seminar
- NJ Preparation For risk-Based retail Food Inspection Workshop
- Silicosis Intervention in NJ: Impact Evaluation
- Mass Antibiotic dispensing: Engaging at Risk Populations
- New PEOSHA Strategic Plan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Emergency & Crisis communication Conference
- Pandemic Influenza Crisis & Emergency risk communication
- Media & Spokesperson Training for Health Officials
- Avian Flu Rapid Response Training
- Produce Safety
- Foreign Products on Market
- Ethnic Foods: Meeting the Challenge
- Annual Health Officers Meeting
- Mid & Annual NJSOPHE meetings
- Spring & Fall Infectious Disease Summit

For our nurses additional topics of meetings and conference have been:

- Avian Influenza Rapid Response Training
- Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Disease
- North East TB Controller meetings
- Infectious Disease Summit, NJDHSS
- Lead Exposure
- New Jersey Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System Updates
- New Jersey Public Health Nursing Summit
- Maternal & Child Health Network Meetings
- Immunization Update through CDC
- CPR Training
- Spanish In A Pinch Training
- NJIIS Training
- Media Training for Health Officials
- Oral Health – The Nursing Professional's Role

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Division of the Warren County Health Department serves the entire county as the environmental arm of the New Jersey State Departments of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Health. The programs of this division are designated and authorized under County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) and the county government. Programs focus on air, water, and noise pollution, hazardous waste, emergency response, solid waste, pesticides, underground storage tanks, and general sanitation services.

### Air

It is the goal of the **Air Pollution Control Program** in Warren County to maintain clean and healthful air and to protect the county's forests, land, and water bodies from being damaged by air pollutants. Activities include regular compliance inspections of air pollution sources. All program activities are:

- ✓ The investigation of DEP referrals and citizen air pollution complaints of odors, particulates, and open burning, and the initiation of enforcement actions for violations of the State Air Code.
- ✓ Performing routine air permit compliance inspections of gas stations dry cleaners, and boilers.
- ✓ The assessment and collection of penalties from noncompliant facilities.
- ✓ Activism against any proposals by upwind power plants or other emissions that would negatively impact Warren County's Air Quality.



2007 Inspections	2008 Inspections
29 Gas Stations	26 Gas Stations
1 Dry Cleaning	5 Dry Cleaning
13 Paint Spray Inspections	5 Paint Spray Inspections
7 Facility Reinspections	10 Facility Reinspections
36 Boiler Inspection	50 Boiler Inspection

In addition to the regular inspection of all necessary sites the Health Department received 36 Air Quality complaints from citizens, and 20 from the DEP, in 2007. In **2008** there were **35** Air Quality complaints from citizens and **36** from the DEP. All complaints were responded to promptly.

**The Risk of Radon:** Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe. As they break down further, these particles release small bursts of energy. This can damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. Not everyone exposed to elevated levels of radon will develop lung cancer. The amount of time between exposure and onset of the disease may be many years. Scientists are more certain about radon risks than risks from most other cancer-causing substances based on studies of cancer in humans (underground miners).



In conjunction with the NJ DHSS, the Warren County Health Department serves as an information and referral source to the citizens of Warren County.

The department is the distribution source for the Newborn Pilot Program which distributes radon test kits to new parents free of charge. The kits are analyzed and the test results are sent directly to the applicant.

## Water



It is the goal of the **Safe Drinking Water and Water Pollution Control Program** to ensure that the streams, lakes, and rivers of Warren County will be fishable, swimmable, and support healthy ecosystems, and that every person in the county will have an adequate supply of safe drinking water. In addition to these, the Warren County Health Department monitors all private and certain public groundwater sources to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. To reach this goal water analysis from all installed wells are reviewed to ensure they are suitable as a drinking water supply.

The activities of this program include:

- ✓ The investigation of all complaints concerning surface and groundwater contamination, abandoned wells, and failing septic systems, as well as the necessary abatement action.
- ✓ Regulation of new and altered septic systems, including plan reviews, installation inspections, issue of certifications, and distribution of septic care information to property owners.
- ✓ Establishment of a system to track septic system malfunctions and addresses the causes of system failure.
- ✓ Regulation of new and altered private and public non-community well systems including plan reviews, inspections, review of water test reports, issue certifications, and distribution of well protection information to well owners.
- ✓ Inspection of Public Non-Community (PNC) non-transient systems every two years and transient systems every four years. Review the NJDEP public water database to identify systems that fail to samples as required. Take "zero tolerance" enforcement action against violators.
- ✓ Investigation of private and PNC well contamination complaints, as well as taking follow up action on well test reports of primary drinking water standard exceedances generated by the Private Well Testing Act, and the notification of property owners near wells found to be contaminated with a hazardous substance.
- ✓ Participation in the NJDEP ambient surface water network summer bacterial sampling.

In **2008**, the Health Department received a total of **7** complaints concerning surface water, and responded with **6** initial inspections and **12** reinspections. In regards to potable (drinking) water, **83** routine Well site/Well line inspections, **4** well installation inspections, **219**

PNC compliance inspections, and **29** PNC reinspections. Additionally, there were **20** complaint inspections and reinspections conducted.

**Solid Waste**

It is the purpose of the **Solid Waste Management Program** that all waste be managed in an environmentally sound manner. The objective of this program is to help improve the overall recycling rate in Warren County. The Environmental Division conducts waste management inspections at businesses, recycling centers, landfills, and illegal dump sites.



Solid Waste activities include:

- ✓ Investigate all complaints from citizens and the NJDEP concerning improper operation of solid waste facilities, illegal dumping, unpermitted facilities and sludge mishandling.
- ✓ Conduct compliance monitoring inspections of landfills, recycling (including exempt) facilities, scrap tire sites, and leaf mulching sites. Inspect compost facilities jointly with NJDEP.
- ✓ In cooperation with the County Recycling Coordinator, conduct recycling status surveys of schools and businesses. Encourage and assist facilities found to be out of compliance with State Recycling Regulations to improve their performance.
- ✓ Monitor solid waste haulers for compliance with NJDEP transporter regulations and the Solid Waste Management Plan. Inspect vehicle loads for permitted waste type.

For **2008** there were **7** complaints received, resulting in **10** complaint inspections and reinspections. Other standard inspections that were conducted:

<b>2007 Standard Inspections</b>	<b>2008 Standard Inspections</b>
4 Resource Recovery Facility	4 Resource Recovery Facility
24 Warren County Landfill Site	22 Warren County Landfill Site
22 Mulch Facilities	15 Mulch Facilities
4 Compost Facilities	4 Compost Facilities
45 Total Recycling Facilities	46 Total Recycling Facilities
75 Recycling Surveys	106 Recycling Surveys



## **Noise Control Program**

The Warren County Health Department maintains the **Noise Control Program**, as required by the NJDEP. The primary activities include the following:



- ✓ Respond to all noise complaints from citizens and NJDEP, and investigate all complaints which are under the jurisdiction of the State Noise Code.
- ✓ Compile and maintain files and records to support NJDEP and county enforcement actions.
- ✓ Maintain certification from the Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center of at least one individual on staff in the performance of noise control investigations. Maintain at least one sound level meter and associated sound measurement equipment.
- ✓ Initiate enforcement proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction against violators of the State Noise Code.
- ✓ Assist municipalities with adoption of model noise ordinances.

In **2008** the department received and responded to **14** noise complaints.

## **Pesticide Control Program**

The **Pesticide Control Program** dedicates itself to ensuring pesticide control compliance through multiple monitoring activities in accordance with NJDEP protocol. This protocol includes public housing, landscaping, retail food establishments, and other facilities that require pesticide control. Additionally, school inspections are conducted to assist the schools in the adoption and implementation of the Integrated Pest Management Program in compliance with State law.



Activities of this program include:

- Assessing and evaluating citizen complaints,
- Collecting environmental samples, and
- The compilation and maintenance of files and records to support NJDEP Pesticide Control Program enforcement actions.

In **2008**, **50** pesticide inspections were performed.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**



Through funding received from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS), the Warren County Health Department has been able to establish the **Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program**, which plays a vital role in the health department's ability to prepare and respond to emergencies through various activities such as:

- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Exercises and Drills
- ✓ Warren County Emergency Task Force
- ✓ Education and Training
- ✓ Health Alert Network Notification of public health emergencies.

**The New Jersey Local Information Network and Communications System (NJLINCS)/Health Alert Network (HAN)** is an electronic public health communication system which connects federal, state and local health agencies, healthcare providers, community health organizations, and many other health and community partners throughout the state. Every County in the state is required to have a LINCS agency and the Warren County Health Department serves as the agency. The Public Health Emergency Notification System (PHENS) Coordinator, located at the health department, receives NJLINCS email messages from the state, and electronically distributes them to healthcare providers, as well as any other public health or community partners within the county.



In **2008** the Warren County LINCS agency distributed **335** email messages to county healthcare providers, hospitals, and public health and community partners. Messages consist of Alerts, Advisories, Updates, General Information, News Releases and Public Health Preparedness News and Events.

Emergencies or disasters are unexpected. Crisis or perceived crisis occurs when there is not sufficient time to prepare appropriate information for the public. In the absence of appropriate information, misinformation becomes news. The **Health Educator Risk Communicator (HERC)** is responsible for preparing clear, concise, factual, messages to be disseminated to the public which are simple, straight forward, and realistic. A vital part of delivering these messages is providing the public with educational programs concerning emergency situations. In 2007, 7 programs were delivered to the public regarding topics such as Influenza, Emergency Preparedness, and Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Areus (MRSA).



For **2008** the Health Risk Communicator provided:

- participation in 5 health fairs
- 7 Pandemic Influenza/Seasonal Influenza programs
- 2 MRSA presentations
- 1 Meningococcal Disease Program
- 2 Emergency Preparedness Exercises
- 1 Strategic National Stockpile Training

Additionally the HERC is responsible for educating and training the Medical Reserve Corps. MRC Training for 2008 consisted of 7 programs:

- CPR/AED training
- Vulnerable Needs Population
- Hazardous Materials Operations
- Incident Command/NIMS 700 Training
- The Role of Public Health in Nuclear or Radiological Terrorism
- Sheltering in Place

**Warren County Hazardous Materials Response Team (WCHMRT)**. The team primarily responds to situations and incidences when there are releases of hazardous materials affecting the environment and safety of the public. The Hazmat team responsibilities include:



- ✓ Responding to all hazardous materials emergencies referred by NJDEP or reported through 911, as well as the coordination of response action with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.
- ✓ Investigation of Hazmat complaints received from citizens and NJDEP, and the appropriate referral of cases requiring significant remedial action to NJDEP.
- ✓ Maintaining a fully trained and equipped County Hazmat Team also capable of response to chemical, biological, and radiological incidents. The team and response program must operate in close cooperation

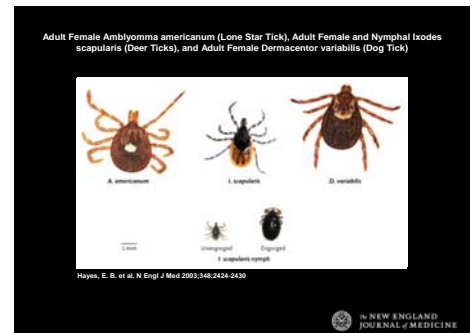
with the County Office of Emergency Management.

In **2008** the Emergency Response Team had **27** initial responses and **23** complaint reinspections.

# Epidemiology and Surveillance Program

The **Epidemiology and Surveillance Program** plays a key role within each division of the health department. The epidemiologist on staff is responsible for disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, study designs, data collection and analysis, and the development of statistical models. The surveillance data is an integral part in assessing and evaluating the overall health of the community.

The following table contains the most common communicable diseases reported in significant numbers for the past three years. For **2008** there were a total of **1,057 cases** reported and investigated and followed-up by the department.



Disease	# of Cases 2006	# of Cases 2007	# of Cases 2008
Campylobacteriosis	11	14	9
Giardiasis	11	9	6
Hepatitis B-Chronic	25	27	5
Hepatitis C-Chronic	127	115	41
Lyme Disease	375	573	907 reported/ 244 confirmed
Salmonellosis	10	12	10

Private physicians, hospital infectious disease control nurses, and laboratories are responsible for reporting to the program. The Warren County Health Department has a major responsibility as a "sentinel" in the recognition and control of communicable diseases with the County required by State law to report certain "reportable disease," which is then investigated by a Public Health Nurse/epidemiologist. This enables the Agency to monitor disease patterns and trends to promptly identify disease outbreaks.

## CONSUMER HEALTH



The Consumer Health Division of the Warren County Health Department works closely with the Environmental Division to ensure the safety and quality of all public services which directly or indirectly affect the health of the public. It is considered an umbrella service that includes sanitary protection, public health nuisance inspections, and a variety of additional environmental health investigations.

The **Food Protection Program** is designed to respond to citizen complaints concerning retail food establishments, and is responsible for inspecting all food establishments in the county at least once a year. By doing so, they insure the service of safe food products throughout the county.

2007 Inspections		2008 Inspections	
786	Initial retail food establishment	730	Initial retail food establishment
120	Reinspections of retail food est.	104	Reinspections of retail food est.
8	Vending machine inspections	7	Vending machine inspections
29	Food plan reviews	19	Food plan reviews
1	Recall food inspection	22	Recall food inspection
99	Food safety complaint responses	71	Food safety complaint responses

## Public Health Nuisances

The Consumer Health Division is also required to investigate **Public Health Nuisance** complaints such as those concerning waste disposal, indoor smoking, housing, weed, insect, and rodents. In **2008**, a total of **389** complaints were received:

2007 Complaints		2008 complaints	
32	Insect/rodents initial inspection	46	Insect/rodents initial inspection
116	Garbage initial inspection	109	Garbage initial inspection
94	Weeds initial inspection	86	Weeds initial inspection
65	Housing initial inspection	66	Housing initial inspection
17	Tobacco/smoking complaints	18	Tobacco/smoking complaints
718	Nuisance reinspections	665	Nuisance reinspections
200	Notices of violation	172	Notices of violation



The Warren County Health Department has been participating in the **State Tobacco Age of Sale (TASE) Program** for the last 10 years. The intent of this program is to enforce existing public laws to prevent the sale of tobacco products to minors. The department had seen a slow decline in the sale of tobacco products to minors since the inception of the program. Unfortunately in **2007** Warren County saw an increase in the sale of cigarettes to minors by about **15%**. In **2008**, **9** out of **72** inspections saw a **12.5%** increase. The State goal is to bring these percentages down below **8%**.

**“Hazard Communication/Right To Know”** is the law that each individual has the right to know the chemicals to which they may be exposed to in their daily living. All public and private employers must complete an annual Right-To-Know (RTK) survey and send copy to the Warren County Health Department and copies are made available upon request to residents. The Health Department is the County lead agent for RTK. In addition to Right-To-Know, the Environmental Division responds with the NJDEP to any complaint of illegal dumping or storage of hazardous substances. In **2008** there were **17** RTK training programs provided, **21** outreach site visits and **19** telephone outreach calls completed.



The Consumer Health Division also enforces the county's **Rabies Control Program**, which regularly inspects and regulates kennels and pet shops for compliance with state sanitary code, tracks animal bites and exposures, enforces quarantines, and reviews lab results and exposure data. Courier service of animal specimens to the state laboratory for rabies examination is also provided.

For **2008** there were:

2007 Inspections	2008 Inspections
35 Kennels/Pet Shop Inspections	32 Kennels/Pet Shop Inspections
215 Animal Bite Quarantine	199 Animal Bite Quarantine
219 Animal Bite/Exposure Releases	218 Animal Bite/Exposure Releases
138 Specimens taken to the lab	140 Specimens taken to the lab
68 Specimens delivered to vets	46 Specimens delivered to vets



**The Health Department also conducts compliance inspections of a variety of facilities within the county.** These facilities include youth camps, campgrounds, and recreational bathing sites, child health care centers, and tattoo parlors. Additionally, this section of the Consumer Health Division conducts child lead exposure investigations. Future inspections will include tanning parlors.



In **2008** there were:

<b>2007 Inspections</b>		<b>2008 Inspections</b>	
6	Complaints received	6	Complaints received
26	Youth camp inspections	9	Youth camp inspections
4	Campground inspections	2	Campground inspections
117	Recreational bathing units	103	Recreational bathing units
19	Recreational bathing reinspections	19	Recreational bathing reinspections
2	Tattoo Parlor inspections	2	Tattoo Parlor inspections
48	Child Health Care Center inspections	47	Child Health Care Center inspections
5	Child Lead investigations	2	Child Lead investigations



The Warren County Health department is contracted by 11 municipalities for plumbing inspection services. The **Plumbing Sub Code Program** plays an important part in maintaining the health of the public through the careful review and approval of all plumbing plans within these jurisdictions. In **2008** there were **236** plumbing plans approved, **114** inspections done, **229** final approvals given, **35** notices of violations, and **42** existing cross connections inspections done. This program was terminated in December 2008 due to declining municipal participation.

## HEALTH PROMOTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Education Division of the Warren County Health Department provides a variety of programs that encourage and enable people to take responsibility for their health and safety. Each program is designed by a certified health education specialist, to meet the specific needs of the target population. This is accomplished through various program activities including:



- ✓ Collect, compile, and maintain community data and statistics for grant applications, community profiles, and strategic plans.
- ✓ Works closely with all community organizations and other Departmental Divisions in the assessment, development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of health education programs and projects for Warren County.
- ✓ Maintain, develop and procure all necessary literature, biological models, posters, and table top displays needed to conduct current and appropriate health education programs
- ✓ Offer State-mandated Hazard Communication, Blood borne Pathogens, and CPR/First Aid Training and other Occupational Health and Safety education to Warren County public and private organizations upon request
- ✓ Provide education programs upon request concerning various aspects of Personal health including, but not limited to...
  - Stress management
  - Nutrition
  - Smoking Cessation
  - Substance Abuse
  - Bending, Lifting, and Body Mechanics
  - Chronic Disease topics such as Heart Disease, Hypertension, Diabetes, Cancer, and Arthritis
  - Maternal and Child Health topics such as Women's health issues, Lead Poisoning, general health and Safety
  - Environmental Health concerns such as Food Handling, Radon, and Hazard Communication
  - Communicable Diseases such as Lyme Disease, AIDS, Hepatitis A, B, and C, West Nile Virus, and emerging infections
  - Specifically designed Health Fairs displays

In addition to the **46** educational programs that were planned and delivered throughout the community in 2008, the Health Education Division led the strategic planning process, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Coalition in the over site of the county's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which identified, prioritized, and summarized the important health issues facing Warren County. There are currently 71 members of the coalition participating on a variety of workgroups to address the health concerns identified in the CHIP. The health educator is the coordinator of the workgroups.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

The Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders established the Public Health Nursing Agency in 1966 for the purpose of aiding the county residents to reach and maintain optimum health. Its goal continues to be one of providing quality health care utilizing health promotion and education, therapeutic and rehabilitative care, and the use of family and community resources for the solution of community health problems.



The Public Health Nursing Agency serves as the **Personal Health Services Division** of the Warren County Health Department, providing comprehensive, therapeutic home and community health services. Licensed by the State as a Medicare certified home health agency, the Public Health Nursing Agency provides skilled and rehabilitative care under physician's orders for person's who are homebound. Nursing care is available 24 hrs/day 7 days/week. Other services include tele-health, physical, speech and occupational therapy, medical social services, certified home health aides, and nutritional counseling.

Our nurses continue the public health nursing home visiting services for families living in Warren County. Our goals are to support the efforts of primary care providers and other social service organizations in Warren County to deliver effective health supervision, education, and medical care to high-risk families. Referrals are received from multiple sources within the county. We are contracted with multiple insurance companies which reimburse for many home visits.

In 2007, 34,662 home visits were made with services provided to 1,132 patients. Individual nursing visits were 16,523; Home Health Aide visits were 7,474; Physical Therapy visits were 7,744; Occupational Therapy visits were 2,300; speech Therapy visits were 376; and Nutrition visits were 245. In **2008**, a total of **32,611** visits were provided to **925** patients. Nursing visits totaled **14,051**, Home Health Aide visits **7,085**, Medical Social Worker **120**, Nutrition **240**, Occupational Therapy **2,069**, Physical Therapy **8,670** and Speech Therapy **515**.

In the **Adult Health Services Program and Employee Health Program**, addresses heart and circulatory diseases, cancer, diabetes, health promotion and provides health assessment, testing, screening and counseling to Warren County's adult citizens. This helps to prevent premature death and disability from diseases. Screenings for diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol are performed at Senior Nutrition Centers, Senior Housing Units, the Warren County's Farmer's Fair, local health fairs, businesses, and through its Employees Health Program. In 2007, the Nursing staff performed screenings for 1588 adults that resulted in 76 referrals and 392 risk-assessments for Diabetes and Hypertension. **In 2008 there were 1,523 clients served for Adult Health Services, and 594 County employees served, that resulted in 67 referrals.**



**Our Maternal and Child Health Program** assists families and their children in achieving the child's full potential in all areas of their growth, development and health. Birth to age five is a critical period in a child's life. Establishing good health and safety practices can give children a good foundation for a healthy life. Our supervision of infants and preschool children is accomplished through many programs: home nursing visits following birth and continuing for parental education in childhood immunization programs, healthy benefits of breastfeeding and safe sleep environment, promoting proper eating habits, protection from hazards, and early screening for lead poisoning. New Jersey requires that children be screened for lead poisoning and we are able to provide this service through our Child Health Clinics (CHC). All children should be screened at 12 and 24 months of age, and any child between three and six years of age who has never been screened. We participate in the state Lead Trax data system. Our case management interventions focus on prevention measures and education in addition to monitoring the blood lead levels.

Clientele	2007	2008
Child Health Clinic (CHC) annual total	134	131
CHC immunization	157	160
Risk assessments- Childhood Lead poisoning	100	131
Children screened- Lead Poisoning	57	59
Confirmed positives- Lead Poisoning	0	0
Women receiving prenatal/postpartum visits	73	48
Women <20 years of age receiving prenatal/postpartum visits	8	10

We provide public health nursing services, as requested by local agencies, for follow-up visits to high risk women in the form of pregnancy counseling, prenatal information, and promotion of prenatal care in the first trimester. Prenatal and postpartum home nursing visits provide nursing support, education, and referral as appropriate.

Another program under the Maternal Child Health is the **Improved Pregnancy Program**. We maintain an active information and referral file of all providers of family planning, prenatal care, and WIC (Women, Infant and Children) services within our County for those requesting such services. A liaison is maintained with the prenatal clinic services at local hospitals, Planned Parenthood, Northwest New Jersey Maternal Child Health Network consortia, school nurses, and school health educators.

The **Special Child Health Services and Early Intervention Programs** provide case management services for children from birth to 21 years of age who have special health needs. Early Intervention provides support and services to families of children, birth to 3 years old, who have delays or disabilities. In **2008**, Early Intervention serviced **332** clients. SCHS Case Managers, with parental consent, work with the child's parents and the physician to evaluate an affected child's strengths and needs; and develop an individual service plan for the child and family. In **2008**, **Case Management served 365** clients.

We continue to offer one **Child Health Conference** every other month in Hackettstown, Phillipsburg, Washington and Belvidere. We have experienced an increase in attendance at our Child Health Clinics due to the current unemployment situation and loss of health benefits. We encourage the uninsured families to apply for the New Jersey Family Care insurance. We continue with four full-time nurses. We also have a physician at each site, one clerical staff and one community service aide who can assist with translation for our Spanish speaking population.

In the **School Health Program**, nurses perform audits of the immunizations records of children attending preschool for compliance with the NJDHSS regulations. Nurses also perform health screenings, health supervision and education for parochial and private schools under contract. In 2008, we audited 32 schools. There are currently 53 day care facilities in Warren County. Emphasis is placed on the facilities using age appropriate standards as defined in Chapter 14. Any child care center with less than 90% compliance is reassessed and a follow-up review is completed. The Annual Immunization Status report, which assesses the immunization status of new school entrance to kindergarten and grade 1, grade 6 and out of state transfer attendants, is now being submitted electronically with a copy forwarded to the State and to the local Health Department.

**Non-Public School Nursing Program** - Nursing services to non-public schools by contractual arrangements between local boards of education, non-public schools and the Health Department are on a year to year basis. Currently, we are serving 2 schools in this capacity. The services provided include assistance with medical examinations, hearing screening and other services provided for under N.J.S.A. 18:1:40-42, et seq. Our Health Department provides reports to the Board of Education on the services provided. A total of **94** students received vision and hearing screening. **Seven** referrals were made as a result of the screenings. One Mantoux was placed this year. Ninety-four immunization audits were completed.



The **AIDS Community Care Alternatives and HIV Home Care Programs** enable individuals infected with HIV to remain at home instead of an inpatient facility and receive necessary care. Residents may contact the agency for more information.

## Community Health Services Program

Our Community Health Services **Blood Pressure Screening Sites Program** continues with each full time nurse staffing sites in an area of the county with the majority of her caseload. Through the program, **1523 clients were seen for a total of 1758 visits**. Vital signs are monitored and education provided in many topics. We continue with **14 sites** throughout the county.

The **Communicable Disease Program** is responsible for offering many health services to the public including: skin tests, chest x-rays, and medication follow-up for those with TB; STD screenings; and case management follow-up of all reportable diseases (i.e. hepatitis and Lyme disease). Additionally, clinics providing Influenza, Pneumococcus and Hepatitis B vaccines are held throughout the year. We continue to work with the New Jersey State Department of Health CDRSS Program, which is a secure system that provides a method for electronically entering and updating, reporting and tracking New Jersey based communicable disease information. Three staff members from the PHNA received training from the State.

Services	2007	2008
Number of immunizations administered	2000	757 (Flu/Pneumo vaccine reported separate)
Cases of reportable diseases	348	357
Investigations of reportable diseases	782	1,057
Total verified cases of TB	3	0
Number of TB contacts identified and examined	12	0
Number of positive TB contacts placed on therapy	5	0
Total clients receiving STD services	6	11

This office received communicable disease reports during the year that required varying degrees of follow-up. This type of timely intervention is most important with diseases that are vaccine preventable. Pertussis cases have increased in general due to waning immunity.

The other groups of diseases that require this type of follow-up are Enteric Diseases: Salmonella and Giardia. All cases of these diseases were investigated and followed according to State and CDC guidelines. There were **10** cases of salmonella in **2008**, and **6** confirmed cases of Giardiasis.



The most frustrating diseases to follow-up and report were the Lyme disease cases. Although all were contacted and questioned regarding symptoms, rash, treatments, etc., many cases did not meet the requirements to be classified as actual cases. Many of these clients had been treated with months of antibiotic therapy, which relieved their symptoms. Due to the volume of cases, many requests to health care providers are incomplete. Our investigations of Lyme disease were increased from **2007 to 2008 by 47%**. Warren County Lyme disease cases rank second highest in the state.

Another important aspect of our communicable disease program is the inter-local agreements with county municipalities to provide Hepatitis B Vaccine to each township's designated high-risk personnel. A total of **64** Hepatitis B adult shots were administered in **2008**. There was 1 acute case of Hepatitis B, and no acute Hepatitis C cases.

We participated in the New Jersey Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Project this year in which we:

- Provided counseling to prevent transmission of the HBV infection.
- Identified, tested and immunized susceptible household and sexual contacts of HBsAG positive pregnant women.
- Used the statewide reporting system for perinatal Hepatitis-B cases.
- Began immunizations for infants born to mothers who test positive for HBsAG.
- We have 2 cases which are being followed in 2008.

Head lice continue to be a problem throughout the County with constant referrals from school nurses and the community for "home visits" to instruct families on proper methods of treatment. There were no scabies outbreaks in institutional settings this year.

Bed Bug (*Cimex Lectularius*) infestations has generated several telephone calls and education time. We have provided basic information about the health significance of these pests, and offered guidance on treatment and elimination.

### **The 2008-2009 Influenza/Pneumonia Program** -

The 2008 recommendations for influenza prevention & control:

- Beginning with the 2008 – 09 influenza seasons, annual vaccination of all children aged 5 – 18 years is recommended. Annual vaccination of all children aged 5 – 18 years should begin in September or as soon as vaccine is available for the 2008 – 09 influenza season, if feasible, annual vaccination of all children aged 5 – 18 years should begin no later than during the 2009 – 10 influenza season.
- Annual vaccination of all children aged 6 months – 4 years (59 months) and older children with conditions that place them at increased risk for complications from influenza should continue. Children and adolescents at high risk for influenza complications should continue to be a focus of vaccination efforts as providers and programs transition to routinely vaccinating all children.
- The 2008 – 09 trivalent vaccine virus strains are A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, and B/Florida/4/2006-like antigens.

Influenza Vaccine Administration                      TOTAL 2148

- ✓ Public Sites                      2115
- ✓ Home care                      33
- ✓ Walk-Ins                      117, (includes 46 Employee Health)
- ✓ Employee Health                      123, (included in Total)
- ✓ Vaccine for Children                      78, (included in Total)

Pneumococcus Polysaccharide Vaccine Administration                      TOTAL 41

- ✓ Public Sites                      41, (inc. 2 Employee Health)
- ✓ Home Care                      0
- ✓ Walk-Ins                      0