

Cowlitz County Health Department

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



*Public Health...
Always working for a safer and healthier Cowlitz County*



Mission Statement

The Cowlitz County Health Department works to ensure the health of its communities and environment through health promotion and disease prevention.

Representing the Cowlitz County Health Department and its many community partners, it is with great pride that we present the third annual report on the accomplishments of the health department. This report, written each spring, provides us an excellent opportunity to evaluate our efforts and celebrate our successes of 2005.

We continue to Move FORWARD to perform our jobs better with improved technology to achieve better outcomes for the community. The Health Department staff recognizes the need for a responsive and cost effective public health system. We have established many standards to track and measure our progress. It is important to us that we:

- Communicate public health messages clearly, simply, and promptly to county residents
- Provide the Board of Health/Commissioners and other decision makers with unbiased, science-based, best practice driven data and information
- Establish a network of health, community service providers, business, education, and citizens to help form community priorities and actions
- Develop systems and programs based on assessed needs and wants of the community
- Develop and strengthen our ability to respond to the unexpected

We have a plan, goals, and measurable outcomes that we continue to work towards. It is only with your help and support as community partners that we are able to promote health and protect against diseases and risks in Cowlitz County. I encourage you to visit our website at www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health for more information.

To your health!



Sue Grinnell,
Director



Mimi L. Fields, MD, MPH,
Health Officer

2005 BOARD OF HEALTH

Per RCW 70.05.030 Cowlitz County Board of County Commissioners serve as the Board of Health

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) shall constitute the local board of health. Each local board of health shall have supervision over all matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people within its jurisdiction and shall:

(1) Enforce through the local health officer or the administrative officer appointed under RCW 70.05.040, if any, the public health statutes of the state and rules promulgated by the state board of health and the secretary of health;

(2) Supervise the maintenance of all health and sanitary measures for the protection of the public health within its jurisdiction;

(3) Enact such local rules and regulations as are necessary in order to preserve, promote and improve the public health and provide for the enforcement thereof;

(4) Provide for the control and prevention of any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease within the jurisdiction of the local health department;

(5) Provide for the prevention, control and abatement of nuisances detrimental to the public health;

(6) Make such reports to the state board of health through the local health officer or the administrative officer as the state board of health may require; and

(7) Establish fee schedules for issuing or renewing licenses or permits or for such other services as are authorized by the law and the rules of the state board of health: PROVIDED, That such fees for services shall not exceed the actual cost of providing any such services.



Commissioner
Kathleen Johnson
District No. 1



Commissioner
George Raiter
District No. 2



Commissioner
Jeff Rasmussen
District No. 3

Priority #1: PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY



Eat Smart, Play Hard, Breathe Free

WELLNESS – COMMUNITY

- ✓ Produced and provided data, information, and reports to community groups on behavioral choices (physical inactivity, tobacco use, poor nutrition, unsafe sexual choices) that lead to chronic conditions.
- ✓ Provided over 2,900 Basic Food Nutrition Education Program counseling and classroom education sessions with focus on nutrition and physical activity.
- ✓ Were awarded a \$50,000.00 Community Prevention Planning grant to address nutrition and physical activity from an environmental and policy approach.
- ✓ Partnered with Pathways 2020 to form a Healthy Lifestyle Coalition.
- ✓ Worked with local Parks and Recreation, Building and Planning, and cities to increase and publicize walking trails.
- ✓ Were awarded funds from Kaiser Permanente to develop www.cowlitzonthemove.com website. Web page to increase awareness about nutrition, physical activity and tobacco free lifestyles.



WELLNESS – COUNTY EMPLOYEES

- ✓ Developed an on-line employee wellness survey. 57% of Cowlitz County employees expressed an interest in an employee wellness program; 33% indicated depression or anxiety; 73% were overweight or obese.
- ✓ Survey results and recommendations provided to the Board of Health.
- ✓ Participated in Walk across Washington: 350+ miles walked by Health Department employees.

WELLNESS - CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH

- ✓ Provided 1,010 Public Health Nurse/Community Health Worker visits to families expecting or with newborns to offer education, parenting tips, linkages with medical care and support.
- ✓ Provided 46 health and safety consultations to area childcare providers.
- ✓ Conducted 169 home and office visits with high-risk families referred from DSHS – Child Protective Services.
- ✓ Provided 13 Work First evaluations for temporary aid to needy families (TANF), children with special health care needs, Head Start, and special needs populations.
- ✓ Participated in local health fairs to promote healthy lifestyles.
- ✓ Collaborated with Cowlitz County Human Services to form a Castle Rock Care Coalition.



TOBACCO FREE COWLITZ COUNTY

- ✓ Were awarded State funds for tobacco prevention and control program.
- ✓ Created Cowlitz Tobacco Free Coalition a subcommittee of the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition.
- ✓ Laid groundwork for Minor in Possession or Community Diversion Program.
- ✓ Distributed over 3,000 Quit Line cards, tobacco prevention brochures and literature to individuals and agencies throughout the county to educate the community about Initiative 901.

ORAL HEALTH

- ✓ Facilitated local Cowlitz-Wahkaikum Healthy Smiles Oral Health Coalition.
- ✓ Distributed 1,607 Oral Health Packets containing toothbrushes, dental floss, and oral health information to various community agencies.
- ✓ Coordinated appointments for the local UW dental clinic. Collaboration with Community Health Partners offering dental care to mothers and children. In 2005, 213 clients were served.
- ✓ Participated in an adult dental planning group which works to secure funding and services for the uninsured.



ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- ✓ AmeriCorps volunteer who has provided assistance to clients in obtaining Medicaid coupons, Basic Health Plan, and transportation assistance. Beginning in September has assisted 212 individuals.
- ✓ Participated in the development of a Free Clinic in partnership with Community Health Partners (CHP).
- ✓ Provide linkages for improved access to care with the Free Clinic where 338 patients have been seen to date since November 2005.



Priority #2: PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY



Promoting Health, Preventing Disease

PREVENTING COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

- √ Responded promptly to 769 reports of communicable diseases and 4 outbreaks. 34% increase in the number of cases from 2004.
- √ Conducted over 608 screening tests for TB, HIV, and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's)
- √ Conducted 16 health care provider and long-term care facility outreach visits to provide communicable disease reporting information and Notifiable Conditions posters.
- √ Distributed over \$603,000 of state-supplied vaccines for children to local physicians.
- √ Partnered with healthcare providers in completing an influenza survey for accurate identification of risk groups.
- √ Ensured the vaccination of approximately 20,000 high-risk people against influenza.
- √ Coordinated and facilitated a community Flu Forum to strategize how to use influenza vaccine to reach high-risk people.
- √ Conducted a successful influenza immunization program for elementary school using special grant funds. 191 children and 29 adults were immunized.
- √ Observed a 37% increase in Sexually Transmitted Infections. Responded to this increase by collaborating with the Department of Health to provide additional staff training on sexually transmitted infection interventions and increased outreach activities.
- √ Exchanged over 325,804 syringes and administered approximately 350 vaccinations in the needle exchange program.
- √ Developed performance measures for communicable disease activities and response.
- √ Fifty-three HIV/AIDS clients received case management services



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- √ Actively participated in refining a regional Emergency Response/Bioterrorism plan, a countywide plan and response for all hazardous emergencies.
- √ Developed a Pandemic Influenza Plan.
- √ Participated as public health representative on Region IV Homeland Security Council.
- √ Participated in Region IV Governing Council.
- √ Provided staff training in National Incident Management System and Incident Command emergency preparedness at work and at home.
- √ Conducted and participated in the Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise (WASABE IV) in Region IV. Exercised distribution of medication.
- √ Secured funding for regional epidemiologist.
- √ Conducted annual test of the local Health Alert Network (HAN) assessing how rapidly and efficiently communications between the health department, health care providers, and other community members occur. 30% increase in response rate from test one in August 2004 to test two in August 2005.

Mass Care Clinic- WASABE, May 2005

Priority #2: PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY

Promoting Health, Preventing Disease

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Safe Food

Strengthened Education

- √ Issued 4,922 food worker permits in partnership with Lower Columbia College and WSU.
- √ Expanded educational opportunity by contracting with Cowlitz County Jail to educate food workers. 16 food workers educated and food handler cards issued.
- √ Continued partnership with food industry through the Food Advisory Committee
- √ Partnered with WSU to implement new training for food establishments for "persons in charge"; 2 trainings conducted.

Continued mandated monitoring to assure compliance with safe food handling practices and reduce risk of food borne illness in retail food service

- √ Issued 606 permanent food service establishment permits
- √ Conducted 891 routine permanent food service establishment inspections with 85% not requiring follow-up inspections.
- √ Conducted more than 174 follow-up inspections of food establishments due to failed inspections.
- √ Conducted food inspections in 38 K-12 schools
- √ Issued 251 temporary food service permits
- √ Conducted approximately 250 temporary food service inspections
- √ Responded to 118 food service complaints.
- √ Closed one food service facility.
- √ Responded to two food borne outbreaks.
- √ Reviewed 35 food facility plans.



Tobacco Free Food Service

- √ Responded to 3 complaints and 8 contacts in food service facilities within the first month of the revised Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA).
- √ Developed tools to implement revised Clean Indoor Air Act.

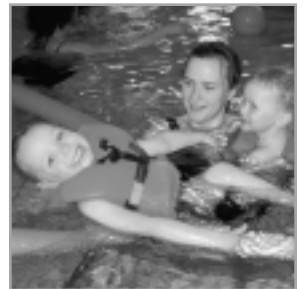
Safe Drinking Water

- √ Processed 913 water samples for bacteria, 26 samples for nitrates and 15 samples for arsenic.
- √ Conducted 35 water system surveys to identify high public health risk.
- √ Mapped 35 small public water system sources to locate and improve source protection.
- √ Collected 30 samples from small public water systems and private systems for arsenic testing.
- √ Issued 105 small public water system certificates.
- √ Responded to 100 water system adequacy requests to secure building permits.
- √ Issued and removed Boil Water Order due to failed water quality on small public water system.
- √ Responded to 8 public drinking water complaints.
- √ Coordinated food establishment restrictions due to large public water system boil water system order.



Safe Recreational Water Facilities

- √ Issued 40 recreational water permits.
- √ Conducted 41 recreational water facility inspections.
- √ Closed 8 water recreational facilities due to failed chemical levels and/or safety issues.
- √ Opened one new water recreational facility.



Other Environmental Activities

- √ Received 33 dead bird reports; 21 tested, all negative for West Nile Virus.
- √ Conducted 2 field visits and collected 1 specimen for Tularemia testing.
- √ Conducted one supporting environmental survey on non-food borne communicable disease outbreaks in public schools.
- √ Collaborated with Cowlitz County Humane Society to improve rabies surveillance and control through animal bite reporting.

Chemical/Physical Hazards

- √ Reviewed new plans for 5 methamphetamine labs for clean up.
- √ Released 9 sites for reuse after completion of methamphetamine lab clean up.
- √ Responded to 4 police reports on methamphetamine labs.
- √ Received and responded to 13 landlord/tenant reports, including mold.



Priority #3: QUALITY AND EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

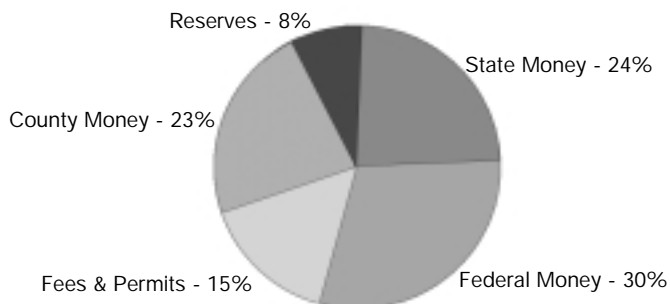


Working for a Safer & Healthier County

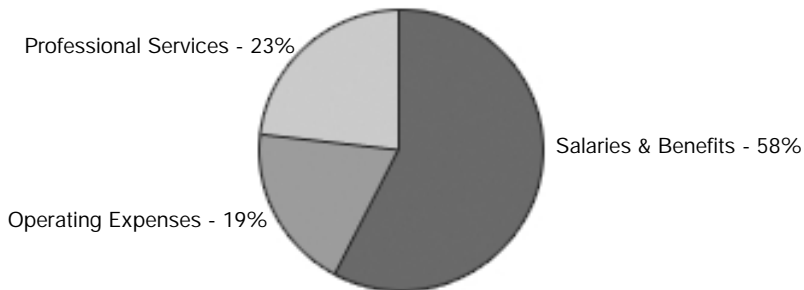
In 2005, we:

- Implemented automated phone line with over 60 recorded health messages.
- Expanded health department web page.
- Developed over 60 medical and operational policies and protocols for the Health Department.
- Continued strategic planning, reviewed assessment data, county needs and developed new goals for 2006-2008.
- Developed and instituted performance measures for health department programs.
- Participated in the Washington State Standards review; Evaluators identified many pieces of exemplary practices.
- Issued 3,971 birth certificates and 4,661 death certificates.
- Became a pilot site for the new Washington State Learning Management System, an online educational training system.
- Participated in Office Lean trainings –a process to review processes for inefficiencies to make improvements in providing quality customer service.

INCOME REPORT 2005



EXPENSE REPORT 2005



The Cowlitz County Health Department serves a population of over 96,000 residents with 31 employees providing essential programs to help protect and improve the health of our community. Revenues that support these primary functions come from Federal, State, and local funding. Revenues from the County and local fees are flexible money that cover the balance of operating expenses for the Health Department. The steady decline of County revenue for core public health functions, which began in 1999, continued in 2005, has prompted the reduction as well as elimination of necessary public health programs and support services.



PARTNERSHIPS

Working for a Safer & Healthier County

Cowlitz County Government and City Governments

Especially: Cities of Castle Rock, Kalama, Kelso, Longview, Toutle and Woodland; Cowlitz County Departments of Administrative Services, Auditor, Building and Planning, Corrections, Emergency Management, GIS, Human Services, Juvenile, Maintenance, Motor Pool, and Public Works; Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments; Kelso-Longview Parks and Recreation.

Cowlitz County Health Providers

Especially: Child and Adolescent Clinic; Family Health Center; Kaiser Permanente; Kirkpatrick Family Care; Longview Radiology; Lower Columbia Mental Health; Peace Health; Pediatric Clinic; Planned Parenthood of Western Washington; St. John Medical Center; including all providers of medical, dental, laboratory, mental health, pharmacy, substance abuse, and veterinary services.

Cowlitz County Agencies and Coalitions

Especially: Breastfeeding Coalition; Catholic Community Services; Child Care Resource and Referral; Community Health Partners; Community House on Broadway; Cowlitz HIV/AIDS Services; Cowlitz Substance Abuse Coalition; Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Healthy Smiles Oral Health Coalition; Emergency Support Shelter; Ethnic Support Council; FISH; Food Advisory Committee; Healthy Lifestyles Coalition; Humane Society Cowlitz County; Kelso and Longview Housing Authorities; KLTU, Lower Columbia Community Action Council; Ministerial Association; Parents Place; Pathways 2020; Progress Center; Public Health Advisory Committee; Radio Stations of KBAM; KEDO, KLYK; KJVH; KLOG; KUKN and KZOE; Safe Kids Coalition; Tobacco Free Coalition; The Daily News; United Way; Woodland Community Center; Youth and Family Link; churches and faith-based groups.

Educational Institutions

Especially: Lower Columbia College; Lower Columbia Head Start/ECEAP; Oregon Health Sciences University; School Districts of Castle Rock, Kalama, Kelso, Longview, Toutle, and Woodland; Washington State University - Vancouver; and the University of Washington, Educational Service District 112 Youth Workforce Program.

Other Governments

Especially Counties of Clark, Lewis, Pacific, Thurston and Wahkiakum; Cowlitz Tribe; Washington State Departments of Health, Social and Health Services, Agriculture, and Ecology; St. James Child Care Center.



PROMOTING HEALTH PREVENTING DISEASE

Cowlitz County
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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