



**Core Activities, Services
and Programs**

Environmental Health Services

Health Education

Vital Records

Human Services

Public Health Nursing

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Department of Health & Human Services
Bloomfield, New Jersey

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Our Vision

Creating healthy communities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting the environment, and preventing disease.

Our Mission

To prevent disease and promote physical and mental well-being through policy development, disease detection, prevention, education, and enforcement; and to do so in a culturally competent manner that ensures the highest quality of life for the citizens we serve.

Public Health Is Your Health

Your health is determined not only by genetics and personal choices, but by the environment around you. Public health investigates the ecology of health – from social networks, mental health issues and economic circumstances to our environment – and then minimizes health risks.

Public health touches all of us every day and reminds us that where and how we live, work, eat and play has a lot to do with how healthy we really are.

With the support of the Partners for Health Foundation, this year Bloomfield adopted the “Eat, Play, Live” better community initiative to develop programs and policies that make the healthy choice the easier choice. Working with our community partners to improve health outcomes and prevent health problems before they occur is our ongoing commitment.

BOARD OF HEALTH GREETINGS

Dear Residents,

The Bloomfield Board of Health is pleased to present the 2013 Bloomfield Department of Health & Human Services annual report. Our goal is to inform all of our residents and public health partners of the programs and activities our department provides during the year to meet the needs of local residents. Please review this report to better understand some of our community's important emerging health issues.

The Board is committed to providing services and programs consistent with the needs of our residents and with our mission to ensure the highest quality of public health throughout our community. To that end, we are working to become one of the first accredited health departments in New Jersey, and we wish to extend particular thanks to the Partners for Health Foundation for their support and funding in our accreditation effort.

We encourage your comments and suggestions on our efforts to improve access to important health information, including our web page, www.bloomfieldwpnj.com/health, WBMA (Comcast channel 35, Fios Channel 30), our local newspapers, our official Facebook page, and our Twitter site @Bloomfieldhdnj.

We hope you find this report to be of interest and value.

Sincerely,
2013 Bloomfield Board of Health

James McLaughlin, President
Kathleen DeMarino, Vice President
Joel Elkins, Member
Stephanie Smith, Member
Antonio Rodriguez, Member
Councilwoman Peggy O'Boyle Dunigan, Board Liaison

CONTRACT REVENUE

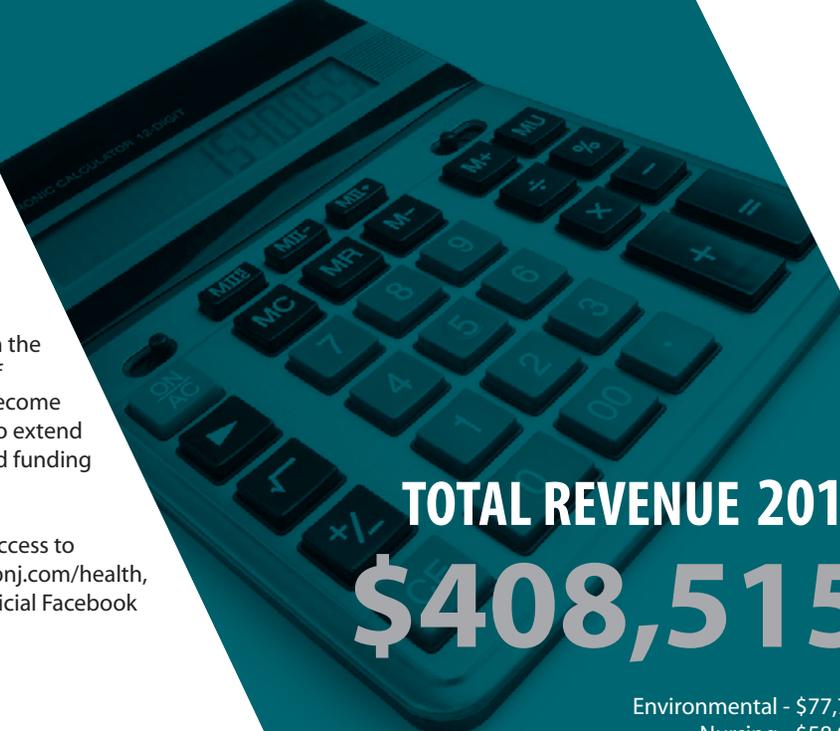
\$175,520

Inter-Local Service Agreements

- Caldwell Health Department
- Glen Ridge Health Department
- West Milford Health Department

Grant Providing Organization

- Partners for Health



TOTAL REVENUE 2013

\$408,515

Environmental - \$77,764
Nursing - \$58,974
Human Services - \$57,680
Vital Statistics - \$36,703
Inter-Local Contracts - \$175,520
Miscellaneous - \$40,000

MANAGEMENT PROFILES



KAREN LORE, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., D.C.S.W.
Director

Karen has extensive training in disaster and emergency response through the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services, Disaster and Terrorism Branch. Her clinical trauma training includes critical incident stress debriefings and psychological first aid.

Karen has been with the department since 1988. Prior to becoming the acting director, she directed Social Work Services and supervised Human Services. Her devoted community work led her to form Bloomfield's Neighbor to Neighbor Network.

She holds a master's in social work, and is a licensed clinical social worker with diplomate status in advanced clinical practice. She belongs to the National Association of Social Workers.



F. MICHAEL FITZPATRICK,
M.A., R.E.H.S., H.O.
Health Officer

Mike is the department's licensed health officer. He holds a master's in community health planning and is also a registered environmental health specialist. He has more than 40 years of private and public sector experience and has taught students, business owners and professional inspectors on subjects of health, housing and environmental issues.

Mike belongs to national and state environmental health associations, and to the New Jersey Association of City and County Health Officials. He's also a member of professional organizations devoted to radon scientists, environmental assessments, and professional home inspectors.



DONNA WILLIAMS, B.S.N., R.N., B.C.
Public Health Nurse Supervisor

Donna supervises Public Health Nursing and Health Education Services and has been with the department since 1994. She holds a bachelor's in nursing and is board certified as a community health nurse. She is current president of the Suburban Essex Nurse Supervisors' Association, belongs to the Bloomfield

Emergency Squad Board of Trustees, and serves on the nursing advisory boards of Bloomfield College and Caldwell College. She also belongs to three nursing associations.

As supervisor, Donna ensures that Nursing adheres to state and federal health regulations, including following protocols in health emergencies. Often, she seeks outside resources that offer no-cost or low-cost clinics and screenings as a way to serve more Bloomfield residents.



VINCENT NICOSIA,
B.S., R.E.H.S.
Environmental Health Supervisor

Vincent has been with the department for 23 years and is the chief registered environmental

health specialist, supervising the environmental health staff. He enforces health codes that regulate retail food establishments, schools, child care centers and beauty/nail salons. In

Bloomfield, Caldwell and Glen Ridge, he enforces local ordinances and state regulations and resolves environmental complaints about public health nuisances such as solid waste, noise, insufficient heat and property maintenance violations.

Vincent is licensed to conduct lead inspections and risk assessments and has special training in asbestos handling, bioterrorism and food safety. He belongs to the New Jersey Environmental Health Association.



PAULA PEIKES, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Human Services Supervisor

Paula oversees the Human Services Division. When she began with Bloomfield in 2000, she was the volunteer coordinator working to expand the Neighbor to Neighbor Network, which supports volunteer services for homebound and/or disabled people, families with limited financial resources, and homeless animals. She was instrumental in filing for NTNN's 501(c)3 status and currently oversees the program. In addition to having a master's in social work, Paula is a licensed clinical social worker, also certified in family systems. She belongs to the National Association of Social Workers.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

\$77,764

THIS DIVISION continually aims for a proactive environmental health program to reduce public health threats.

In 2013, we inspected 696 facilities and investigated 2,319 citizen complaints, for a total of 3,015 investigations in Bloomfield. The work resulted in 291 court summonses and \$30,463 in court fines.

In Caldwell and Glen Ridge, we investigated all citizen complaints to protect residents and to fulfill our contractual obligations. In West Milford, we supplied administrative and environmental support services.

Our Quality of Life program is a pro-active way to keep business districts free of litter and compliant with the Environmental Quality Assurance Code. We also respond to and resolve public health nuisance complaints in a timely manner.

To ensure food safety, the office provides education and training sessions for local merchants, and continually enforces local and state food safety codes.

■ Sanitary Inspections

To ensure compliance with state and local regulations, our staff inspected restaurants, schools, churches, day care centers, hair and nail salons, body art shops, gymnasiums, boarding homes, nursing homes, pet shops, youth camps and public pools. During inspections, we stressed food safety practices to merchants. Inspection results were published monthly on the township website and in the local media.

■ Site Complaints

Staff responded to resident complaints about issues such as solid waste, insufficient heat, litter, rodents, noise and certain property maintenance issues. Inspectors conducted timely follow-ups to ensure abatement.

■ Waste Monitoring

The staff monitored solid waste, litter and illegal dumping issues in township business districts.

■ Potable Water Samples

Each month, we review 50 potable water sample results from residential and business locations to analyze bacteria and chlorine levels in the drinking water. Samples were analyzed by our state-certified laboratory and results were monitored by the health and engineering departments.

■ Childhood Lead Poisoning

Dwelling inspections and painted surface testing resulted in abatement orders, environmental and nursing intervention, and follow-up inspections as necessary.

Retail Food Vendor Inspections

Chapter 24* Food Inspections	236
Chapter 24 Re-inspections	127
Hair/Nail Salons	102
Mobile/Temporary/Vendor	32
Food Complaints	47
Pool Inspections	2
Certificates of Occupancy	74
Temporary Food Permits	38
Plan Reviews for Business	
Renovation or New Construction	<u>38</u>
Total Inspections	696

* Chapter 24 is the NJ State Sanitary Code

Citizen Complaints

Initial Complaint Investigations	2,319
Re-Inspections	2,034
Total Investigations/Inspections	4,353
Violation Notices Issued	1,843
Court Summonses Issued	291

Sampling & Miscellaneous

Water Samples	624
Food	7
Embargo/Destruction	47
THM/HAA5	<u>16</u>
Total Sampling Activities	694

In 2014, Let the Good Service Continue ...

Pursue a pro-active environmental health program to reduce public health threats.

- Provide environmental health services to contracted inter-local towns.
- Educate merchants on food safety with two 1-day ServeSafe training sessions, and six 2-hour food handling courses.
- Develop appropriate regulations and enforce local and state food-safety codes.
- Emphasize the importance of grease trap maintenance to local merchants and inspect grease traps.

■ Enforce litter abatement in the business districts. Conduct bi-monthly quality-of-life investigations, canvassing specific areas on foot twice a month.

■ Pro-actively enforce laws made to protect food and drinking supplies, and to avoid air, water, noise and public health nuisances.

■ Investigate health hazards, preventable injuries, and disease exposure in work and community settings.

■ Provide relevant technical support to local, state and federal agencies when called upon.



HEALTH EDUCATION

The Bloomfield Health Educator provides administrative support within the Health and Human Services Department, while also developing and presenting programs such as chronic disease prevention/management, nutrition, injury prevention, bloodborne pathogen safety, home safety, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

More than 27 programs on improving health and wellness were provided in Bloomfield and in nearby communities that are contracted for Bloomfield health services. Some programs were presented in coordination with other community agencies.

Shaping NJ

Through the procurement and effective management of a \$10,000 grant from the State Department Health, the Bloomfield Health Department increased the number of gardening plots available at Oakeside Cultural Center for residents interested in growing their own healthy food. The grant also provided for a bikeability assessment to be performed in Bloomfield, with the ultimate goal of making the Township more bicycle friendly and accessible.

CHA/CHIP

The Health Educator spent significant time in 2013 managing the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) projects.

The CHA, completed in July, helped the department understand the most important health issues facing Bloomfield residents, including:

- 1) Low use of health screenings
- 2) High prevalence of chronic disease (specifically diabetes and hypertension)
- 3) Diets lacking in good nutrition
- 4) Lack of physical activity

Work on the CHIP began in September 2013 and was completed February 2014. Community partners were convened by the Health Department to help determine the issues to be addressed through 2016, as well as the measurable goals for each partner. (See details on the Health Department website.) CHIP priorities to be implemented include:

- 1) Health screenings (specifically diabetes and hypertension)
- 2) Nutrition and physical activity
- 3) Mental health/social well-being
- 4) Health awareness and education

2013 VITAL RECORDS

\$36,703

Total Fees Collected	\$17,073.00
Less State Marriage Fee	(\$7,645.00)
Total from Bloomfield	\$9,428.00
From Death Registrations	<u>\$27,275.00</u>
Grand Total	\$36,703.00

Marriage/Civil Union Applications	291
Marriage/Civil Union Licenses	241
Marriage/Civil Records	189
Certified Copies (Marriage/Civil Union)	406
Disinterment Permits	0
Burial Permits	6
Certified Copies (Death Certificates)	2,939
Death Records	124
Resident Deaths	325
Home Births	0
Certified Copies (Births)	7
Resident Birth Records	<u>158</u>
Total	4,686



HUMAN SERVICES

\$57,680

Human Services is the township's outpatient mental health and social services center. We aim to foster a sense of well-being and wholeness. Public health social workers provide counseling, crisis intervention, home visits and assessments as required by state-mandated practice standards. We are aided by a contracted psychotherapy professional who prescribes medications and conducts consultations as needed.

At all times, special attention is given to Bloomfield's most vulnerable populations: the elderly, people with special needs, and children. Public health social workers screen patients to determine if they are receiving all applicable services from government programs and nonprofit agencies. Educational programs, workshops and support groups address emotional and financial needs.

A Summary of Services

- Psychotherapy for individuals, couples and groups, as well as play therapy.
- Volunteer services.
- School-based counseling, consultation, and prevention programs.
- Case management for at-risk residents in need of on-going services and referrals.
- Crisis intervention and mental health disaster response.
- Employee assistance program services.
- Psychiatric evaluation and medication monitoring.
- Confidential depression and anxiety screenings.
- Benefit screenings for social and financial services.
- Senior services, both in-home and office-based.

2013 Human Services Requests

Total Initial Contacts	1,804
55 and older	578
18 – 54 years	1,214
17 years and under	12
Female head of household	891

2013 requests increased 12% compared to 2012.

Average Monthly Case Load (by patient)

	Psychotherapy	Clinical Case Management	Total
Avg Monthly Cases	104	87	191
Caseload By Age			
55 and older	24	52	76
18 – 54 years	53	35	88
17 years and under	27		27

2013 Case Load (by activity)

Activity	Psychotherapy	Clinical Case Management	Total
Medication Visits	282		282
Office Visits	823	941	1,764
Home Visits	43	346	389
Case Mgmt Hours	495	1,556	2,051
Total Activity	1,643	2,843	4,486

2013 HUMAN SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

- Helped the Essex County Division of Community Action identify areas of heavy homelessness.
- Created forms used by Glen Ridge seniors and disabled residents to access the Emergency Outreach Program.
- Participated in these programs:
 - Monthly CEAS meetings on homelessness prevention in Essex County.
 - Community Health Improvement Plan.
 - Partners for Health "Eat Play Live."
 - Lead Response Team of the Essex County Youth Traumatic Loss Coalition.
 - Monthly PAC/PACADA/Co-Occurring Task Force meeting.
 - Bloomfield High School Youth Services Program, Community Liaison Board.
- Through Essex County schools, provided on-site crisis intervention to children and adults exposed to life threatening events.
- Served as a field-learning site for Rutgers graduate social work interns.
- Served as an intake agency for the NJ Shares utility assistance program.
- Helped United Way of Bloomfield screen residents for financial assistance.
- Coordinated monthly visits of the Essex County Mobile Welfare Van.
- Helped the Bloomfield College Counseling Center coordinate student psychiatric services.
- Screened and referred 75 low-income Bloomfield children to participate in the National Council of Jewish Women's Back to School event.

Grants Received

- **\$10,000** grant from Partners for Health for Affordable Care Act
- **\$118,000** FY 2013 Social Services for the Homeless/Social Services Block Grant
- **\$39,000** CDBG
- **\$122,289** Sandy Homeowners and Renters Assistance Program (SHRAP)

Partnership Grants, Contracts

- **\$10,000** Partners for Health
- **\$10,000** Grotta Fund for Senior Care, Jewish Community Foundation of Metro West NJ
- **\$1,000** Investor Bank Foundation
- **\$20,000** Felicity Contract
- **\$5,000** Mayor Raymond J. McCarthy Charity Fund

HUMAN SERVICES / VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND COLLABORATIONS

- ▲ **170** Thanksgiving baskets distributed.
- ▲ **154** people attended holiday events.
- ▲ **3** Christmas trees donated to families by a local nursery.
- ▲ **981** holiday gifts from churches, individuals and businesses.
- ▲ **200** food units received from pantry for Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- ▲ **\$4,000** in donations from residents and businesses for holiday food, gifts, and emergency expenses.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Confidential Outpatient Counseling is available for many mental health disorders, including depression, anxiety, panic, post-traumatic stress, bipolar disorder, phobias, and issues related to grief, aging, self-esteem or family conflict. All clinical services are strictly confidential and fees vary depending on income and family size. No one is refused service due to inability to pay.

Counseling. Residents can schedule appointments for individual, couple, family, group or child/adolescent counseling. Home-based counseling for seniors and people with disabilities is also available, as well as play therapy for children as young as age 4. School-based child counseling is available as requested.

Psychiatric Services. A consulting psychotherapy specialist is available for psychiatric assessment and medication monitoring. Home-based consultations and assessments for seniors and disabled residents are available when indicated.

Crisis Intervention. Individuals who experience depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts or confusion can reach out to a trained professional for individual or family counseling. The division also offers psychological first aid, on-site assessment and referral, and phone support during regular business hours. The staff also responds to police requests for assistance in psychiatric emergencies.

Social Services / Welfare Contact (nonclinical)	
Analysis Type	Total Served
Units of food delivered from pantry	4,800
Utility screenings/referrals	216
Welfare van appointments at municipal building	60
Total Referrals, Low / Moderate Income Families	8,654

Referrals up 25% over 2012

SENIOR SERVICES

Information and Referral. To help seniors remain independent and in their own homes, the division provides a social work professional to identify individual needs and appropriate resources.

Outreach. Home visits are designed to assist seniors with problem-solving. Home-based counseling and mental health assessments are provided when requested.

Consultation. The staff consults with family members, groups and organizations about senior citizen issues.

2013 Senior Services	
Seniors served	200
Volunteers recruited, trained for senior programs	67
Volunteer hours spent visiting with seniors	5,500
Volunteer hours spent delivering food to residents	1,600

Services up 22% over 2012

HUMAN SERVICES / VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Food Delivery Program. In 2013, volunteers collaborated with the Human Needs Food Pantry in Montclair to make weekly, no-cost deliveries of fresh groceries to more than 100 low-income seniors and disabled individuals. Volunteers picked up and delivered fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, and canned goods — the only constant food source for many homebound seniors.

Friendly Visitor Program. Volunteers are matched with Bloomfield and Glen Ridge seniors to provide weekly companionship to homebound elderly residents who lack the support of family or friends. Volunteers also assist with grocery shopping, errands and minor home care. In 2013, 56 new matches were made. Overall, 125-150 Bloomfield and Glen Ridge seniors were paired with friendly visitors.

Nursing Student Program. Bloomfield College nursing students make bi-weekly visits to seniors through the Friendly Visitor Program. In 2013, 45 pairs of students were matched with seniors to learn how to communicate better with seniors while helping alleviate their loneliness. In 2014, first-year nursing students will host events for seniors at the local senior center.

Bingo. Human Services collaborated with Bloomfield Recreation to bring free weekly bingo games and luncheons to 45 Bloomfield and Glen Ridge seniors in May and November of 2013. Human Services volunteers called bingo, donated prizes, served lunch, and socialized with seniors. The Township recreation department provided transportation for seniors.

Community Collaboration. Local colleges, faith and community groups, and businesses support volunteer services throughout the year. They help with fundraisers and food/coat/toy drives, and holiday parties for low-income families.

UM ARMY. Human Services partnered with United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth to arrange for small, cost-free home repairs provided to 45 Bloomfield and Glen Ridge residents. The volunteers painted homes, replaced stairs, built handi-cap ramps and more.

Visiting students repair a senior's stairs as part of the UM ARMY program.

BLOOMFIELD HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The department, together with its many volunteers, collaborates with the following community partners to provide comprehensive resident services ...

Adult Protective Services
 American Red Cross of MetroWest
 Babyland
 Birthright
 Bloomfield Board of Education
 Bloomfield Civic Center
 Bloomfield College
 Bloomfield Democratic Party
 Bloomfield Emergency Squad
 Bloomfield Environmental Division
 Bloomfield Fire Department
 Bloomfield Immedicenter
 Bloomfield Police Department
 Bloomfield Public Schools
 Brookdale ShopRite
 Brookside Garden Center
 Building managers in rental properties
 Caldwell College, Department of Nursing
 Clara Maass Medical Center Community Health
 Cheer Me Up Foundation
 Community Health Law Project
 Dentistry for Children
 Division of Child Protection and Permanency
 Dorot's University Without Walls
 Dr. Maryann Alessio
 Dr. Michael Basista
 Dr. Michael Riccardi
 East Orange Health Department
 East Orange Mobile Crisis/Screening Center
 Essex County One Stop
 Essex County Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired
 Family Day Nursery
 First Choice Women's Resource Center
 Generazio Associates
 Glen Ridge Community Fund
 Glen Ridge Golden Circle
 Hackensack UMC Community Health
 Healthy Families NJ
 Home Friends
 Essex County Community Action
 Essex County Division of Senior Services
 Essex County Division of Welfare
 Faith-based organizations
 Family Support Organization of Essex County
 Hoffman La Roche
 Integrated Case Management Services
 Intensive Family Support Services
 Investors Savings Bank Foundation
 Jewish Family Services of Clifton
 Jewish Family Services of MetroWest
 Jewish Vocational Services
 Kinder Towers and Felicity Towers
 La Casa de Don Pedro
 Lens Crafters One Sight Program
 Lions Club
 Local hospitals (Mountainside, Clara Maass, East Orange General)
 Mayor Raymond J. McCarthy Charity Fund
 Medical Laboratory Diagnostics
 Montclair Emergency Shelter for the Homeless
 Montclair Family Success Center
 Montclair Human Needs Food Pantry
 Nanina's in the Park
 National Council of Jewish Women
 Neighbor to Neighbor Network
 Newark Community Centers
 Newark Emergency Services
 Newark Legal Services
 New Life Health & Wellness Center
 New Light Baptist Church
 NJ Blood Center
 NJ Dept. of Human Services, Division of Family Development
 NJ Div. of Vocational Rehabilitative Services
 NJ SHARES
 NJ Social Security Disability Determination
 Oranges ACA Navigator Project
 Partners for Health
 Partners for Women and Justice
 Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern NJ
 Perform Care
 Planned Parenthood
 Program for Parents

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
 Project Live, Inc. (supportive housing)
 Program of Assertive Community Treatment
 Rachel Coalition
 Rutgers University
 SAFE House
 Salvation Army
 ShopRite
 Town Pub
 UMDNJ S.A.V.E. Program
 UMDNJ Medical Center
 United Way of Bloomfield
 Van Tassel Funeral Home
 Watchung Presbyterian Church
 Wells Fargo
 WIC
 William Paterson University, Department of Nursing

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

\$58,974

In public health nursing, we focus on health problems of the general population, from newborn to senior citizen. Prominent issues include health disparities, emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness and response, and lifestyle-related chronic diseases.

The Bloomfield Public Health Nursing office serves the residents of Bloomfield, Caldwell and Glen Ridge, plus students at Bloomfield College and Caldwell College. For all of them, our core efforts are:

- Help a senior remain at home with dignity.
- Recommend disease-preventing and age-appropriate vaccines.
- Help someone understand their screening results.
- Identify risk factors to help a person make healthy lifestyle choices.
- Prevent the spread of disease.
- Know the latest government mandates to be an informed health resource.

By tending to individual and community goals, we afford everyone in our service area a better quality of life than they might otherwise experience.

2013 PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Served as a clinical rotation site for senior nursing students at William Paterson University, Bloomfield College and Caldwell College; and as a community project site for William Paterson.
- ✓ Achieved 100% on an annual audit of the Vaccines for Children Program.
- ✓ Conducted surveillance for diseases such as H7N9, H3N2v, measles and fungal meningitis (and more) as per the NJDOH Health Alert system.
- ✓ Partnered with the Blood Center of New Jersey to conduct two community blood drives.
- ✓ Updated the Public Health Nursing brochure, available in the office. Contents include programs offered and staff contact information.
- ✓ A Manchester, N.H. company that teaches families about lead poisoning spotted a relevant PowerPoint presentation on the Bloomfield Health and Human Services website. The presentation was part of a 2012 William Paterson nursing students' project and Bloomfield public health nurses were consulted for its accuracy. The company was granted permission to use the presentation.
- ✓ Increased investigation of communicable diseases by 4% from 2012 to 2013.
- ✓ Increased the number of vaccines administered in the Adult Vaccine Program by 18% from 2012 to 2013.
- ✓ Maintained steady vaccine administration totals in the Child/Teen Vaccine Program (2 months through 18 years), with 718 doses administered in 2012, and 719 in 2013.
- ✓ Instituted a partnership with the Access to Care Program, a one-on-one support system for women before and during pregnancy, plus free pregnancy testing. As of 2014, a program navigator comes to the Public Health Nursing office every Wednesday.



Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program

All pregnant women are screened for Hepatitis B in accordance with the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program of the NJ Department of Health. Those tested positive are referred for medical case management, which includes:

- Offering hepatitis B vaccination to the pregnant woman's household and outside sexual contacts.
- Timely administration of the entire hepatitis B vaccine series for the child, once born, and serology to determine the child's immune status.

All case management documentation is reported to NJDOH via the Communicable Disease Registry Surveillance System.

Childhood Lead Prevention Program

All children under age 6 must be screened for lead poisoning in accordance with state law. Children with a venous blood lead level of 10 to 14 mcg/dL (micrograms per deciliter) are considered "lead burdened." Those with a greater level are "lead poisoned."

On referral from the child's health care provider, public health nurses begin medical case management, which can take up to five years. The process includes: a) home visits, b) parent/ guardian health counseling and education on the effects of lead and lead prevention, c) blood monitoring, d) health care provider referral if needed, e) arrange family medical evaluation if needed, f) work with certified lead health inspector to determine the lead source, g) assess need for emergency relocation, h) contact appropriate agencies.

Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

Foodborne • Respiratory • Vector • Other

Public Health Nursing investigates reports of infectious or communicable diseases, such as legionella, a respiratory disease; West Nile virus or Lyme disease, two vector illnesses; or hepatitis C, and foodborne illnesses.

2013 Communicable Disease Investigations

- Foodborne, 18
- Vector, 40
- Respiratory, 6
- Other, 43

Tuberculosis Control Program

Tuberculin skin testing (also known as TST, PPD or Mantoux) is performed daily to prevent, control and detect tuberculosis. On average, the office administers 20 TSTs per month.

Residents with a positive TST (more than 10mm) and a negative chest X-ray are evaluated by a physician who prescribes free medication, if indicated. The medication comes from NJDOH TB Control Program.

Public health nurses monitor each client's TB medication compliance, dispense medication, provide assessment to local TB contacts, and submit quarterly reports to NJDOH.

Program Statistics

- 250 correspondences between PHN and client
- 531 client appointments
- 17 chest X-ray referrals
- 6 lab work referrals
- 11 clients with positive TST results

Breakdown of 2013 Clients Receiving TB Skin Testing

- 138 for school/college entry
- 29 for healthcare employment
- 27 for child care center employment
- 37 for Board of Education employment
- 7 for other employment

Child, Teen, Adult Vaccines

Public Health Nursing significantly contributes to the prevention and control of vaccine preventable diseases by offering adult immunization programs and a child vaccine program. In 2013, the office conducted these activities:

- 329 vaccines to children ages 2 months through 5 years.
- 356 vaccines to school children ages 6 through 18 years.
- 429 vaccines to adults age 19 and older.
- 1,226 immunization audits of children attending child care centers; 563 deficiencies referred.
- 1,056 immunization audits of students attending public and non-public schools; 22 deficiencies referred.
- 205 vaccines administered to incoming, uninsured freshman residing in Bloomfield College dormitories.
- 15 vaccines administered to 6th grade students in Bloomfield, Caldwell and Glen Ridge school districts.
- 436 flu vaccines administered to residents age 6 months and older.
- 20 flu vaccinations given to children attending Bloomfield, Caldwell and Glen Ridge child care centers.
- 43 audit results of child care centers, public schools, and non-public schools calculated and mailed to NJDOH.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Health Screenings

Health screenings are part of secondary prevention – that is, detecting disease in a person who does not display symptoms or have risk factors commonly associated with the disease. For the resident, detecting the disease can mean the difference between having good health or living with a chronic illness.

- All Screening Referrals, 38
- Colorectal, 126
- Urinalysis, 6
- Blood Screening, 102
- Lipid Panel, 13
- DRE, 32
- PSA, 32
- Stroke Screening, 23
- Respiratory Screening, 14
- Bone Density, 35
- Mammography, 94
- Pap Smear, 94
- Diabetes, 18
- BMI, 162
- Anemia, 20
- Blood Lead, 20
- M-CHAT, 6
- Post-Partum Depression, 26
- Oral Assessment, 327
- Nutritional Assessment, 327
- Lice Assessment, 187
- Growth/Development Assessment, 93
- Blood Pressure, 382
- Immunization Assessment, 380

Health Counseling and Referral

More than 4,000 residents called in public health inquiries in 2013 — some for information on screenings, others for specifics on disease transmission. Public Health Nursing gives referral, researches answers and mails information as requested.

Almost 1,000 calls in 2013 were referred to community partner agencies.

Emergency Preparedness

The nursing office monitors the state health alert network, and in an emergency, duties could include dispensing vaccine or prescribed medication, conducting a disease investigation or surveillance or setting up a medical needs shelter. To prepare for any such eventuality, Public Health Nursing participates in state and local trainings on emergency preparedness.

Public health nurses are a resource for local school nurses and child care centers with questions about immunization and infectious disease symptoms.

Clinical Training for Nursing Students

Fourth-year nursing students from William Paterson University, Bloomfield College and Caldwell College seek out the Bloomfield Public Health Nursing office for an opportunity to assist in scheduled activities while gaining a hands-on understanding of public health nursing and its community responsibilities.

Home Visitations

As part of a grant from the Essex County Division of Senior Services, nurses conduct monthly visits with Bloomfield's homebound seniors. In 2013, an average of 25 residents were visited every month by two public health nurses, and 15 doctor referrals were made.

Family members, a concerned neighbor, a friend or a local emergency services provider can request the routine visits.

Public health nurses also make visits to administer flu shots to homebound residents and their caregivers.

Non-Public School Health Services

Through an interlocal contract with Bloomfield Board of Education, Public Health Nursing provides school health services to St. Thomas the Apostle School.

The assigned nurse conducts screenings, provides first aid, conducts immunization assessments, administers medication, and makes referrals as indicated.

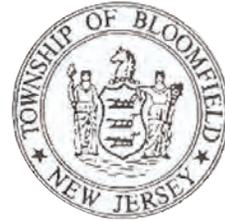
Non-Public School Nurse Services

- All referrals, 460
- Severe allergic reaction treatments, 11
- Epi-Pen delegate trainings, 3
- Students screened due to Child Health Study Team referral, 12
- Hearing tests, 81
- Vision tests, 130
- Height/Weight assessments, 260
- Immunization assessment, 142
- Medicine administration, 330
- Illness assessment, 1,215
- First aid administered, 1,216



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