

Discover the Difference of Public Health

December 1, 2008–November 30, 2009

Annual Report

Boone County
Health Department



Mission

The mission of the Boone County Department of Public Health is to protect and promote health in Boone County.

Vision

The Boone County Department of Public Health will be recognized throughout the State of Illinois as:

- a catalyst to inspire and guide the community towards optimal health;
- a creative and innovative leader in quality public health program delivery;
- a model in public health program performance measurements;
- a team of public health professionals who exemplify common core values and goals.

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Boone County, Illinois

BOONE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

2009 Annual Report

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Environmental Health and Personal Health Services Program Highlights
- ◆ 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic Response
- ◆ Public Health At Work
- ◆ Educational Partnerships
- ◆ History Lessons

Message from the Assistant Administrator

In my first year as the Assistant Administrator, the term “Baptism by Fire” comes to mind, but not necessarily in a negative light.

2009 was definitely a year of challenges and growth opportunities for myself and the staff at Boone County Health Department. With the economic downswing, public health, like all other industries, had to find ways to accomplish our work with less. However, unlike other industries, during tough economic times, our services are being utilized more, putting a bigger squeeze on the department. Couple that with grant cuts from the State of Illinois and we find ourselves in a position we have not previously experienced.

Then throw in a pandemic flu. H1N1 Influenza has tested our emergency preparedness plans and revealed our strengths and



Stephanie Crawford, RN BSN/MBA

improvement opportunities.

These experiences, trying as they may be, have also been rewarding. The past year has demonstrated how

dedicated staff and Board of Health are to the department and our programs. It has allowed staff to be creative in finding ways to meet the needs of our clients. And it has provided the public with the valuable education on what it is we do. I am very proud and excited to be a part of this team. This Is Public Health!

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BCHD’s Environmental and Personal Health Services Divisions provide 23 separate programs for Boone County residents utilizing only 18 full-time employees.

Message from the Board of Health President

As a resident, physician, and Board of Health Member of Boone County, I have witnessed the evolution of the health department, and public health in general in our community. We have come a long way from the days of working out of a basement office for a handful of clients to serving thousands out of our current building. Challenges continually emerge

as we strive to meet our mission. As the needs of the community have changed, so have the programs we offer, the clients we serve, the staff, and our mission. Facing today’s economic woes will be no different. We will face it head on, make necessary changes, and move forward as best as we can with dedication to those we serve.



Kent Hess, MD

Boone County Board of Health



Kent Hess, MD
President



Joseph Frost, DVM
Vice President



Gary Turner
Secretary



Paul Larson
County Board Member



Allen Sisson
Treasurer



George Sprecher



Ronald Conder, DDS



Mary Simmons, MD



Anthony D'Souza, MD

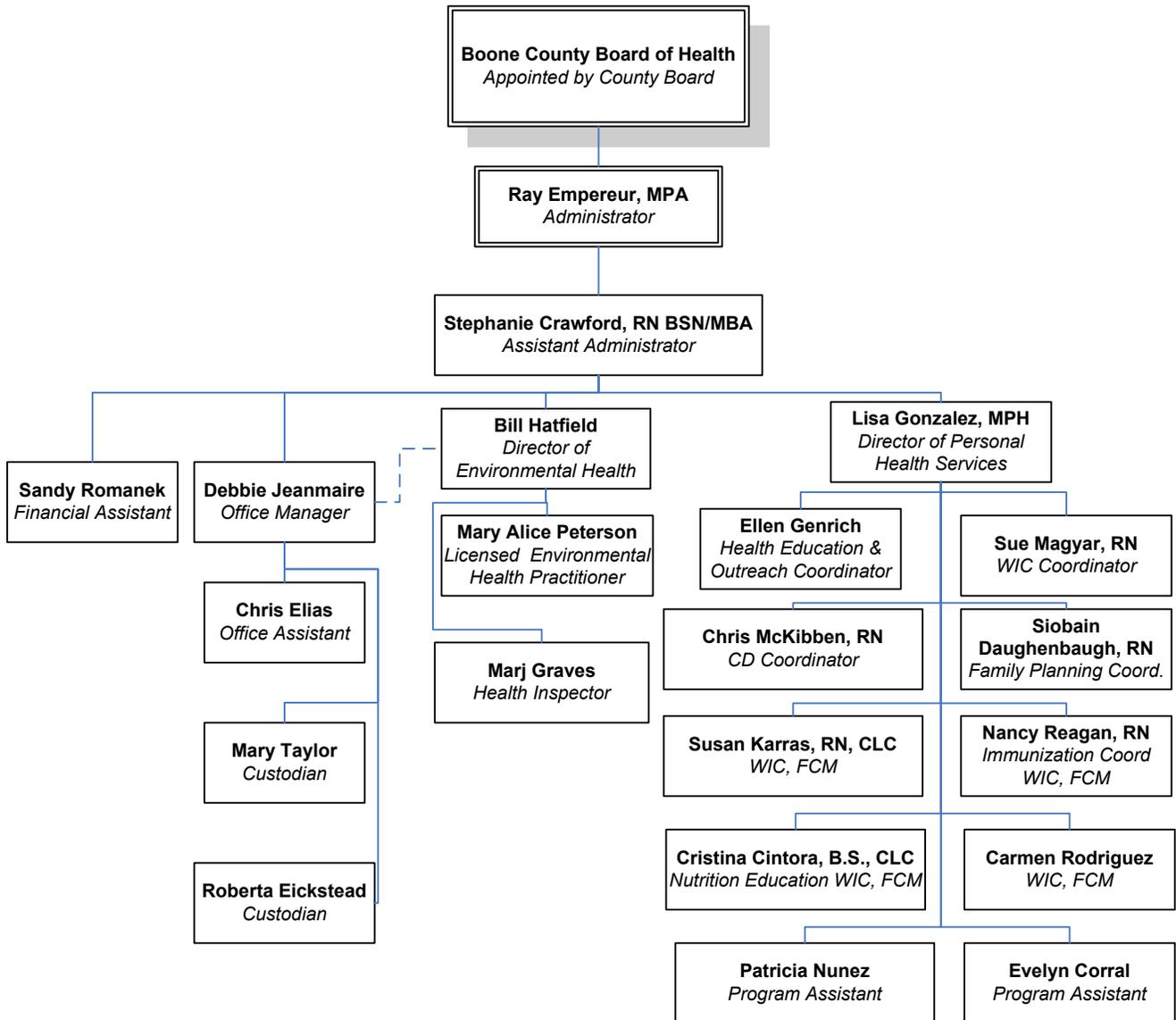


Jim Cox



Jack Spotz

Boone County Department of Public Health Organizational Chart



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This year our Food Program issued 557 food permits and completed 706 inspections. All restaurants, mobile food units and special event vendors selling food in Boone County are regulated by the Health Department. These inspections protect all consumers from food related illness.

The History of Public Health in Boone County

It is believed that Public Health originated around 1500 B.C., with the first known written health code in the book of Leviticus.

The Boone County Health Department's origin traces back only to 1937 with the establishment of the Boone County Health Council for the control of tuberculosis within the county. In 1966, the council was dissolved, and BCHD was established by resolution. The duties of the department included investigation and treatment of com-

municable disease (including TB), school health, mental health, and public health education.

Children's Health and Environmental Services were added in 1975, and immunizations in 1978. The department added the WIC program (Women, Infants, and Children), along with Family Planning Services in 1982.

In 1985, the voters of Boone County passed a referendum to allow the county to levy a tax to support public health services.

Since that time, the department met criteria to be designated as a certified public health department by the Illinois Department of Public Health. As the needs of the community change, so does the department.

The department continues work to with community partners, and to add and modify programs to serve our county.

Environmental Health Highlights

Pressure on public officials was intense, at times, hysterical. The clock was ticking, and people were dying by the dozens. The year was 1854; the scene was the Soho District of West London. During the stifling heat of August, there had been a handful of deaths from the dreaded disease cholera. Not unusual, in itself. But on August 31, the situation exploded: in a single evening, within a radius of only blocks, doctors reported 56 new cholera cases. By the next evening there were 143, and the death toll had reached 70 and was climbing. Residents started fleeing the district in panic. Dr. John Snow, utilizing a new theory regarding disease transmission through micro organisms rather than "bad air," determined through interviews of people in the district that a local public drinking well was the source of the illness. The well had become contaminated by a nearby leaking public sewer. Dr. Snow petitioned the city to remove the pump handle. It was removed, and new cases ceased.

The Boone County Health Department Environmental Division continues to investigate public health disease outbreaks

in addition to inspecting food facilities, new wells, and septic system installations to help prevent further incidents.

Over 800 inspections of various food establishments, including complaints follow up, were performed in 2009. Addition-



BILL HATFIELD, LEHP
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ally, there were 97 food recalls which required follow up by the health department. These recalls are often due to contaminants, mislabeling or allergen issues which can result in illness or death.

The department also inspected over 300 wells and septic systems. There are currently over 200 specialized non conventional septic systems which require operator permits. These systems must be regularly maintained and are monitored for compliance. The proper sealing and abandonment of 29 non compliant wells was completed. Water samples taken to the lab for analysis totaled 265.

Tanning facilities continued to be subject to inspections and follow up on complaints received. In the year 2010, inspections will also include body piercing and tattoo establishments.

Over 130 public health violation issues were investigated to seek compliance with county codes. We are the "behind the scenes" people making sure your food and water supplies are safe. We work to fulfill our mission—to promote and protect health in Boone County.



THE FIRST EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDY IN THE WORLD LINKED CHOLERA TO A PUBLIC WELL.

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Over half of Boone County's 54,000 residents have private wells and the Boone County Health Department served this population by processing 3,500 water samples, inspecting 1,100 new wells and sealing 250 abandoned wells in the last decade.

Annual Division Report—Environmental Services

	2009	2008
FOOD		
New Plan	12	6
Existing Plan	0	2
Permits	294	289
High Risk	123	125
Medium Risk	118	111
Low Risk	53	53
Inspections	459	491
Additional Inspections	25	47
Mobile/Temp Permits	263	266
Special Events	42	34
Sp Ev mob/temp Inspections	222	210
Complaint Investigations	41	30
Food Recalls	102	*
Referred to Court	3	0

POTABLE WATER		
Well Permit Apps	16	34
New Well Inspection	37	67
Water Analyzed	244	265
NCPWS Inspections	29	24
Well Seal	20	29
Comp. Well Inspections	2	3
Comp. Well Sealings	12	15
Referred to Court	1	2

SEWAGE DISPOSAL		
New Septic Permits	11	36
Repair Permits	21	33
Alteration Permits	6	8
Septic Installation Inspections	49	71
Sewage Complaint Investigations	7	10
Soil Bores Reviewed	42	57
Land Application Permits	4	3
# Operator Permits	103	87
Referred to Court	2	2

REAL ESTATE INVESTIGATION		
Wells	92	96
Septic	74	67

	2009	2008
NUISANCE		
Ref. Other Agency	20	18
Inspections	108	155
Re-Inspections	71	172
Corrective Orders Issued	89	128
Cases Closed	109	153
Referred to Court	0	1

WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE		
# Mosquitoes Tested	388	*
Sentinels Tests	1	*
Human Cases	0	*

TANNING		
Annual	4	5
Re-Inspections	0	0
Complaints/Investigations	0	0

PLAN REVIEW		
Plats, Prelim, & Adjusted Lots	1	0
Lots	1	0
Plats, Final	1	2
Total Lots	1	59
Revised Septic Plans	4	12
Other Reviews (i.e. pools, bldg,)	55	46

DEMOLITION PERMITS		
Includes minimum of 2 field inspections	7	30
Site Verifications	6	17

GROUP TRAINING/EDUCATION		
Food	11	15
Well	3	4
Septic	2	1
Other	5	4

* = did not report in 2008

Department Goals 2010

The Boone County Department of Public Health has established the following as its goals for the coming year:

- Continue to provide incentives to promote breastfeeding among our WIC and Family Case Management clients in order to improve health outcomes of Boone County infants.
- Establish a 5-year plan to address future space acquisition needs for the health department to accommodate the growing population and increasing demand for our services.
- Pursue Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to improve the efficiency of all clinic and environmental programs.
- Improve overall customer service by implement new training initiatives for staff and

volunteers.

- Strengthen partnerships with local emergency response agencies to ensure continuity of local emergency response plans.
- Maintain a fiscally responsible entity by exploring new grant opportunities and implementing strategies to reduce dependency on tax dollars while providing essential services.

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Any Boone County resident can receive vaccines at the Health Department where our nursing staff provided 1,536 childhood immunizations and 1,296 adult immunizations this year. Additionally, 5,110 H1N1 immunizations were given within a two month period.

Educational Partnerships

In 2009, the department again partnered with area educational institutions. Tara Branom, a student at Saint Anthony College of Nursing, worked on a project with the department to fulfill requirements for her bachelor's degree in nursing. In her project, Tara addressed the concern local businesses had regarding pandemic flu and business continuity planning.

Tara worked with staff to develop a presentation for local

businesses. She presented it to leaders at the local YMCA as a "Breakfast Before Business" meeting. The venture was a success.

The department also worked with Northern Illinois University to expose their student nurses to public health. An overview was provided to students in their community health rota-

tion each semester by Lisa Gonzalez, Director of Personal Health Services.



The department also partnered with the school districts within Boone County. The department provided educational presentations on topics such as tobacco, hygiene, abstinence, and sexual health. The department worked with schools to provide H1N1 vaccine to chil-

dren in the county.

The department joined with Rock Valley College to provide department staff training, and University of Illinois Chicago-Rockford on community studies aimed at public health needs.

These community partnerships are vital to the continued success of public health. It provided students with the opportunity to learn about the role of public health in their community.

Notable Health Department Achievements for 2009



Boone County Health Department Staff

Like other local health departments, the Boone County Department of Public Health struggled this past year with economic challenges.

Despite these challenges, the department is proud of the following successes of 2009:

- Successfully secured grants from: Cosmopolitan Club for Diabetes Education; IDPH for Women's Health Week,

and Women Out Walking and DHS for WIC initiatives.

- Maintained essential public services during the economic crisis.
- Provided funding to Soil and Water Conservation District to ensure services of Soil Scientist.
- Provided Emergency Response Training for Department Staff and

Community Partners.

- Responded promptly to the H1N1 pandemic to provide vaccine to all priority populations within the county.
- Began using social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Nixle) as a way to get important public health messages out in the community.

This is Public Health Serving You



Personal Health Services Highlights

Personal Health Services has successfully survived another challenging year in public health. With so much time and effort being put into H1N1 efforts this year, I am proud of our dedicated staff. Being able to maintain all programs while responding to the H1N1 flu pandemic in our community is truly a major accomplishment.

During 2009, our WIC and Family Case Management programs continued to provide case management services for clients enrolled. Due to the economy, these programs saw an increase in demand for the assistance they provide. This, in turn, increased the caseloads of our case management staff. During the fall of this year, the WIC program implemented some significant changes to attempt to lose

the stigma of being a “formula” program by implementing strategies to promote breastfeeding. Our staff found innovative incentives to increase the percentage of breastfeeding mothers. Also, fresh fruits and veggies are now offered as part of the food packages families receive, marking one of the first major program changes in a decade.

Our Family Planning Program continued to provide valuable reproductive health services to our community. The program experienced many challenges with program changes and

requirements from the federal level. The financial stability of the program continues to be evaluated due to the high cost of providing services and decrease in grant funding available for the program. With teen pregnancy on the rise in our county, the loss of this program would be detrimental to the community.

The CD program continued to provide investigations of reportable diseases in our county. Our CD Coordinator spent countless hours on the H1N1 response completing disease surveillance and responding to community

questions. A big part of the surveillance piece was developing and implementing a school surveillance initiative to be used in all Boone County public, private and parochial schools. This surveillance effort will help us to quickly respond to any potential illness cluster in our schools.

While 2009 proved to be challenging, we were able to come out of it with many lessons learned and proud of all that we have achieved. We were able to put our emergency response plan into action and were able to make adjustments to our plan based on real-time experience. As we moved into 2010, and the H1N1 response winds down, I am confident that we will continue to move forward as a division and a department.



LISA GONZALEZ, MPH
DIRECTOR OF PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

less hours on the H1N1 response completing disease surveillance and responding to community

Annual Division Report— Personal Health: Communicable Disease

Vaccines for Children:	2009	2008
DTap	83	185
Dtap/IPV/HepB	58	99
Gardasil	39	89
Hep A	53	0
Hep B	72	56
Hib	109	169
Influenza - H1N1	4682	0
Influenza - Seasonal	345	273
IPV	74	169
MMR	152	220
Meningitis	36	59
PCV 7	106	166
Rota Teq	30	32
Td	16	21
Tdap	159	120
Varicella	204	249

Adult Vaccinations:	2009	2008
Hepatitis A	11	6
Hepatitis B	7	20
Hep A + Hep B (Twinrix)	7	21
Number of Flu Clinics Held	35	26
Influenza - Seasonal	1250	1342
Influenza - H1N1	428	0
MMR	5	5
Tetanus	12	20
Varicella	0	6
Others:	4	0

Communicable Disease Reported:	2009	2008
Investigation and Follow-Up	0	0
Campylobacter	2	17
Chicken Pox	40	6
Chlamydia	79	69
Cryptosporidiosis	0	4
E. Coli 0157:H7	0	2
Giardiasis	4	1
Gonorrhea	10	6
Hepatitis B (chronic)	6	6
Hepatitis C (chronic)	26	20
HIV Infection	2	3
Invasive Group A Strep	2	10
Invasive Strep Pneumonia	1	8
Lyme Disease	9	5
Meningitis, Bacterial	1	1
Meningitis, Viral	0	0
Pertussis	1	1
Salmonellosis	6	10
Shigellosis	1	7
Syphilis	1	1
Others:	191	6

Tuberculosis Control:	2009	2008
Tuberculosis Skin Tests (PPD)	72	148
Positive TB Skin Tests (include referrals)	11	27
Chest X-Rays	0	4
Latent TB Infections treated (include referrals)	9	26
Active TB diseases	2	1

Annual Division Report— Personal Health: Public Health Nursing

APORS High Risk Follow-Up	2009	2008
Average Monthly Caseload	15	50
Referrals	89	71

Family Case Management	2009	2008
Average Monthly Caseload	521	537
Home Visits	74	335
Office Visits	3086	3120

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)	2009	2008
Average Monthly Caseload	1189	1081
Food Packages Distributed	5610	5732
Clients Attending Education	3624	2732

Healthworks	2009	2008
Average Monthly Caseload	34	27

Family Planning Program	2009	2008
Family Planning Visits	1439	1856
New Clients Under 20	70	130
New Clients Over 20	98	114
Pregnancy Tests	84	125
Educational Presentations	14	14
ECP (Emergency Contraception)	101	101
Hearing Screenings	107	366
Vision Screenings	106	366
School Physicals	114	87
Blood Lead Tests	237	261



BCHD is a Member of the Following Organizations:

- Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators (IAPHA)
- Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA)
- Rockford Health Council (RHC)
- Illinois Public Health Nurse Association (IPHNA)
- Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce
- Illinois Licensed Environmental Health Association
- Illinois Association of Ground Water Professionals
- Illinois Coalition on Tuberculosis (ICOT)
- Belvidere Citizen Corps
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

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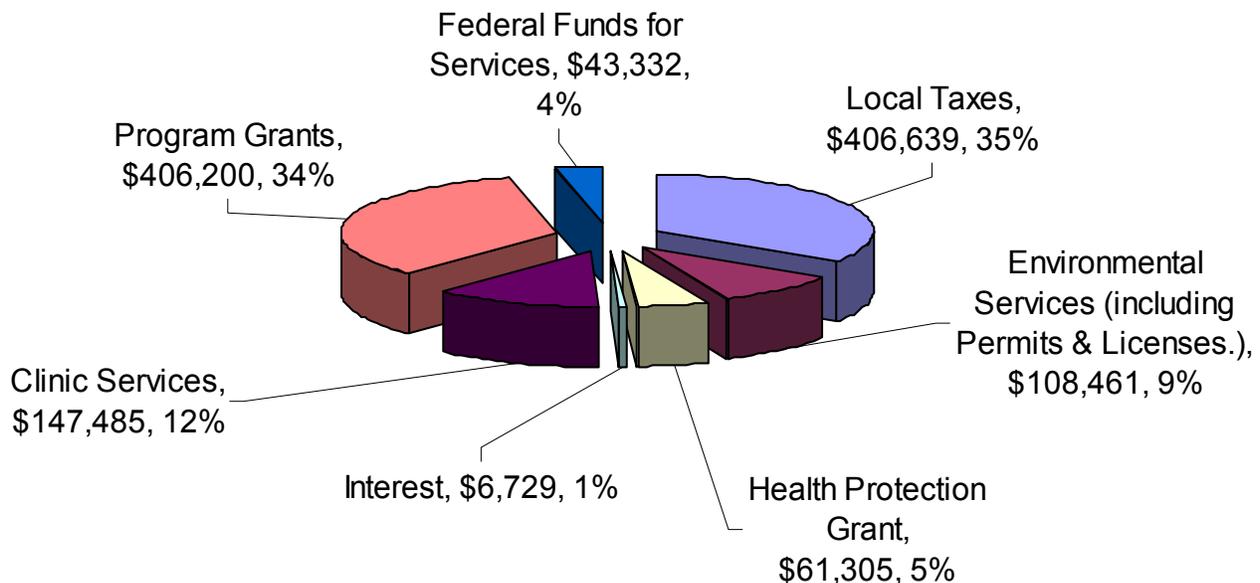
The Family Planning Program provided 300 pap screenings for the prevention and/or early detection of cervical cancer. Our goal is to empower women to take charge of their sexual health by providing them with the facts about sex, pregnancy, STDs and birth control options.

Ten Essential Public Health Services

In 1989, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiated a process to identify core organizational practices necessary for governmental agencies to carry on the public health mission. The ten organizational practices that define the role of local public health agencies in carrying out our mission are:

- Monitor health status to identify community health problems
- Diagnose and investigate identified health problems and health hazards in the community
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health problems
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect and ensure safety
- Link people to needed personal health services and ensure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Ensure a competent public health and personal health workforce
- Assess effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Revenue Received: December 1, 2008–November 30, 2009



Financial Report (Un-audited)

BEGINNING BALANCE 12/01/08 TOTAL		\$525,868
	Health Fund	\$265,470
	Grant Fund	\$260,398
REVENUES:		
FEES & SERVICES:		FY 2008 FY 2009
Grant Administrative Services		\$699 \$1,320
Permits, Licenses, Etc.		\$65,656 \$60,024
Other Environmental Services		\$59,623 \$47,117
Clinic Services		\$137,618 \$147,485
	Sub-Total	\$263,595 \$255,946
LOCAL FUNDING		
Taxes		\$264,081 \$406,639
Interest on Investments		\$23,155 \$6,729
	Sub-Total	\$287,236 \$413,368
GRANTS:		
Federal Funds for Service (prev. included w/interest)		\$43,332
Abstinence Education		\$33,950 \$23,153
Bioterrorism Response		\$45,944 \$45,468
COSMOPOLITAN CLUB (diabetes)		\$5,025 \$5,250
EPA- Groundwater		\$2,361 \$1,988
Family Case Management (Downstate)		\$124,000 \$117,491
Heart Smart for Women		\$0
Illinois Tobacco Free		\$19,162 \$19,345
Pandemic Flu		\$11,454
PHER I		\$7,915
Vision & Hearing		\$1,892 \$1,596
Walmart		\$1,000
West Nile Virus - IDPH (Mosquito Vector)		\$13,341 \$10,194
West Nile Virus - IDPH (Mosquito Surveillance) new		\$0 \$7,000
WIC		\$153,100 \$161,800
Special - Women's Health Week - IDPH		\$1,000 \$2,000
Women Out Walking		\$3,500 \$3,000
Local Health Protection (standard Health Dept Grant)		\$84,232 \$61,305
	Sub-Total	\$499,961 \$510,837
TOTAL REVENUE		\$1,050,793 \$1,180,151
EXPENDITURES:		
Salaries & Benefits		\$814,406 \$837,929
Operating Expenses		\$218,813 \$202,366
Equipment		\$99,489 \$11,305
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,132,708 \$1,051,600
ENDING BALANCE 11/30/09 TOTAL		\$654,420
	Health Fund	\$320,651
	Grant Fund	\$333,769



Boone County Demographic Profile—2008 Estimate

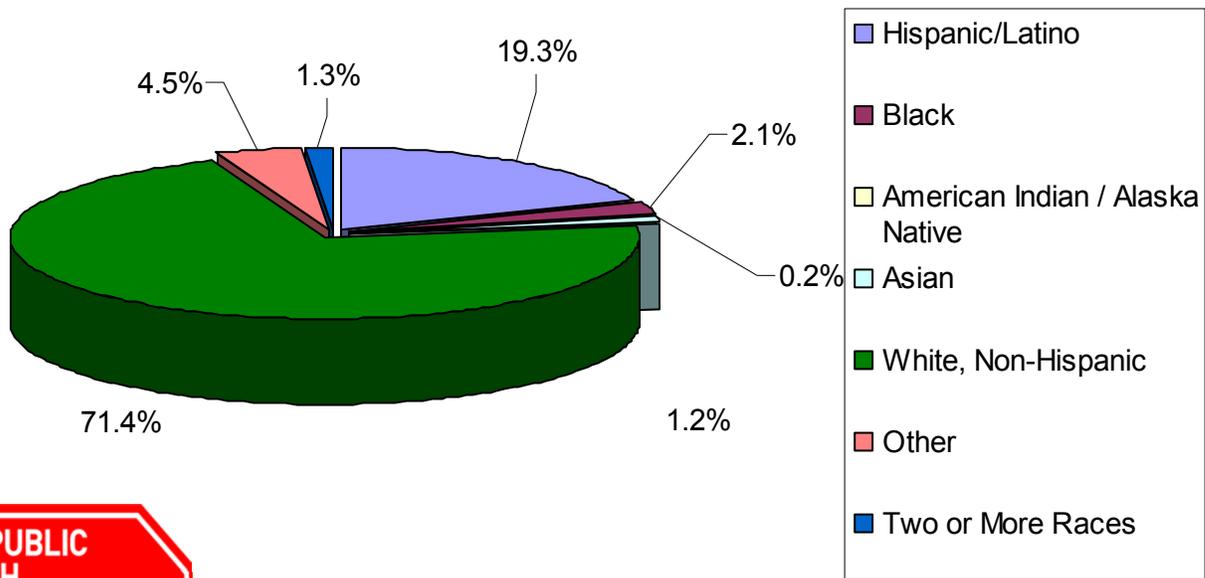
(U.S. Census Bureau)

RACE / ETHNICITY	Number	Percent
Hispanic/Latino	10,449	19.30%
Black	1,137	2.10%
American Indian / Alaska Native	108	0.20%
Asian	651	1.20%
White, Non-Hispanic	38,657	71.40%
Other	2,436	4.50%
Two or More Races	704	1.30%
Total Population	54,142	100.00%

Male	27450	50.70%
Female	26692	49.30%

Median Age 33.2

Race/Ethnicity 2008 Estimate (U.S. Census Bureau)



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Lead poisoning in children can cause irreversible brain damage, and even at very low levels can cause learning disabilities, such as speech and language disorders. 237 lead tests were provided through our WIC and FCM programs. Any child with a high lead result received a home visit to determine the source of exposure.

Birth Statistics - Illinois Department of Public Health

Year	Births	To Teens	% Teen Births Boone County	% Teen Births State of Illinois
2000	587	61	10.4	11.4
2001	629	68	10.8	10.9
2002	629	60	9.5	10.3
2003	668	55	8.2	9.7
2004	646	52	8	9.9
2005	744	64	8.6	9.7
2006	737	59	8	10
2007	736	76	10.3	10.1

“People have not connected the dots between what public health does for their well-being and what they do every day. It impacts your life every moment.”

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director
American Public Health Association



Boone County
Department
of Public Health

1204 Logan Ave. • Belvidere, Illinois 61008
Phone: 815-544-2951 • Fax: 815-544-2050
Email: info@boonehealth.org

Visit us on the web
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2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic Response

Like all local and state health departments, BCHD also has a detailed emergency response plan in place to deal with public health emergencies. Our pandemic influenza plan is constantly updated and drilled. This year public health had the opportunity to put those emergency plans into action in responding to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic.

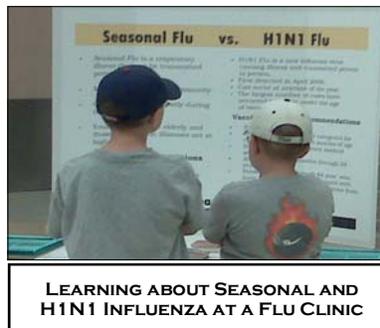
We activated our response plan in April 2009 when local H1N1 activity began. Boone County was one of the first Illinois counties to have a confirmed H1N1 case. Since this case had a school connection, we immediately began discussions with area public and private schools and daycares, to address important issues such as flu-related closing procedures and parent education on the H1N1 virus. Schools and daycares collaborated with nursing and emergency response teams to determine parameters for closures. Ultimately, using CDC and IDPH guidelines, one school district did suspend classes.

The Health Department also activated its Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan and

took delivery of medications and personal protective equipment during the deployment of the state SNS supply. The first H1N1 wave peaked quickly, and staff began planning for a Fall 2009 H1N1 immunization campaign. Staff spent countless hours developing educational messaging, responding to questions from the community, and

through sixth grade students at five local schools.

Once H1N1 vaccine was available in early October, we immediately began our vaccination campaign in schools and daycares, and during our weekly immunization clinics. In addition, the Health Department conducted over 30 off-site vaccination clinics to offer H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccine to the public. In the first five weeks of the vaccine campaign, we provided over 5,100 H1N1 vaccinations in these clinics. We accomplished this using only our five nurses and one volunteer nurse. This massive effort generated a mountain of paperwork that required staff to develop a data entry system to meticulously track all vaccines administered and allow easy and timely retrieval of information, especially for those under nine years of age who required second doses. Two interns helped with the data entry, but a majority of the record keeping was handled by staff.



presenting to various local service organizations to provide information and updates on the H1N1 situation in Boone County.

Since prevention is the first line of defense, we targeted children for a “Present and Prevent” campaign that reached Kindergarten

The lessons we learned from 2009 will be integrated into our plans, helping us respond to future public health emergencies.