

Public Health—Muskegon County

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

**Always Working
for a Safer...**



**...and Healthier
Muskegon County**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Muskegon County

Inside of Front Cover
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A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

A message from the Director...

Eight Services...

In Michigan we have 8 essential public health services that are needed in each community. All 45 of Michigan's local public health departments assure that these services are met so that the basic foundations on which to build safer and healthier communities are in place.

Six of these essential services deal with aspects of infectious and communicable diseases that no one person or small group can protect against alone.

The food service sanitation program monitors restaurants, bars, and temporary food establishments to assure that those who prepare and serve food understand and practice critical procedures to prevent food poisoning, pathogens or toxins from entering the food being served.

The on-site water supply program is tasked with working to prevent pathogens and contaminants from entering the drinking water aquifers in private and small public wells.

The on-site sewage management program assures that septic systems are constructed to prevent pathogens and other harmful materials from water, food and people.

Immunization programs monitor and enhance rates of immunization in the population, moving the community toward the 90% full protection against vaccine preventable diseases needed to prevent outbreaks.

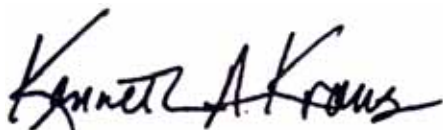
Sexually transmitted disease control follows up on and assures treatment for individuals and their partners from those infections with the most serious health consequences.

And communicable disease control monitors and responds to reports of all infectious and communicable diseases, taking action in outbreaks and limiting the impact on people.

Two other programs – hearing screening and visions screening – check for and find problems with the ability to hear or see properly in every preschool and elementary child, so that the problem does not interfere with the child's ability to learn.

As you will see in this report, we work on much more than the basics needed for healthy people. But it is critical that these essential programs are in place to prevent disease, promote healthy living, and protect against environmental health hazards.

Public Health – Muskegon County continues to be accredited by the Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program to assure that all of these essential public health services are firmly in place. We are always working for a safer and healthier Muskegon County.



Kenneth A. Kraus, MPA
Health Officer / Director of Public Health

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A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

2009 Annual Report: Fiscal Year October 1, 2008—September 30, 2009

Table of Contents

Start Small, Think Big	1
Snapshot 2010: Muskegon County	2
Public Health in Our Homes.....	3
Public Health in Our Communities	4
Public Health in Our Schools	5
Public Health in Our Workplaces	6
Public Health Program Statistics.....	7
Public Health Financial Summary	9

Public Health— Muskegon County

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Mission

Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, &
Environmental Health Protection

Vision

Healthy People in a Healthy Community

Roles of Public Health

1. Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease.
2. Protect against environmental health hazards.
3. Prevent injuries.
4. Promote and encourage healthy behaviors.
5. Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery.
6. Ensure the quality and accessibility of health services.

Essential Public Health Services

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

A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

Start Small, Think Big

It's hard to lead a healthy life if you don't live in a healthy community, and our county's health is in poor shape. Muskegon County ranks low on overall health. Out of Michigan's 84 counties, Muskegon County ranks 64th for health outcomes and 70th for health factors.¹ Health outcomes represent how healthy a county is while health factors are what influences the health of a county.

The health of a county depends on multiple factors – ranging from the quality of clinical care, to individual behavior, to education and jobs, to the environment. The good news is that Muskegon County has considerable strength in the area of clinical care. However, the bad news is that Muskegon County has significant weakness in the areas of health behaviors, social and economic factors and physical environment.

Having a strong clinical care presence is important. It improves access to and availability of clinical care services. It works to help us live longer and improve our quality of life. However, clinical care is primarily reactive and focuses on diagnosing and treating the illness of an individual. Having quality clinical care does not equate to having a healthy population.

To have a healthy population, we need a strong public health system. Public health is mostly proactive and focuses on the health of the entire population. Public health emphasizes the prevention of disease, promotion of healthy living, and protection from threats to our wellbeing.

To improve our county's health, we need to prioritize and adequately invest in public health efforts. To achieve success, disease prevention and health promotion and protection activities must be funded, supported and competently staffed. They must have a long-term commitment and they need to be evidence-based.

Health is everyone's responsibility. People from public health and health care, business, education and government sectors must recognize what factors beyond clinical care influence the health of Muskegon County so they can work together to remove barriers to health and to create programs and policies to help people lead healthier lives.

A strong, healthy community is dependent on a strong public health system, and that begins with all of us. The solution is to start small, think big to create a healthier Muskegon County.

Despite the current climate of limited funding and under staffing, the employees at your public health department remain committed to maintaining a public health safety net for you. Their dedication and passion for public health has made it possible to accomplish some remarkable tasks during the past fiscal year.



¹ County Health Rankings, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, February 2010

A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

Snapshot 2010: Muskegon County

	Muskegon County	Error Margin	Target Value*	Michigan	Rank (of 82)
Health Outcomes					64
Mortality					47
Premature death	7,313	6,884-7,743	5,497	7,390	
Morbidity					73
Poor or fair health	15%	12-18%	11%	14%	
Poor physical health days	3.9	3.3-4.5	2.9	3.6	
Poor mental health days	4.7	3.8-5.7	2.8	3.7	
Low birth weight	8.4%	8.0-8.9%	5.8%	8.1%	
Health Factors					70
Health Behaviors					80
Adult smoking	31%	26-35%	18%	23%	
Adult obesity	31%	27-35%	28%	28%	
Binge drinking	21%	17-25%	12%	18%	
Motor vehicle crash death rate	16	14-18	12	13	
Chlamydia rate	632		50	370	
Teen birth rate	55	53-57	21	36	
Clinical Care					3
Uninsured adults	9%	7-10%	10%	12%	
Primary care provider rate	86		152	113	
Preventable hospital stays	48	46-50	50	76	
Diabetic screening	86%	85-88%	88%	82%	
Hospice use	40%	37-45%	45%	38%	
Social & Economic Factors					63
High school graduation	71%	16-19%	88%	72%	
College degrees	17%		30%	24%	
Unemployment	9%	9-9%	7%	8%	
Children in poverty	20%	17-23%	11%	19%	
Income inequality	42		39	45	
Inadequate social support	23%	19-28%	12%	19%	
Single-parent households	11%	9-12%	7%	10%	
Violent crime rate	536		128	550	
Physical Environment					74
Air pollution-particulate matter days	9		0	3	
Air pollution-ozone days	20		0	4	
Access to healthy foods	53%		71%	51%	
Liquor store density	0.4		0.0	1.1	

* 90th percentile, i.e., only 10% are better

Note: Blank values reflect unreliable or missing data

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. *County Health Rankings* 2010.

A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

Public Health in Our Homes

A strong, healthy community is dependent on a strong public health system, and that includes your home. From the time we're born, and even before, public health is working to protect our families across generations. Whether it's receiving immunizations and other preventive services, living in lead-free homes, or eating safe foods, public health is a part of every aspect of our lives.

Did you know?

- Your public health department houses and oversees the WIC program locally. WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition counseling, and referrals to health care and social services. Research has shown that WIC plays an important role in improving birth outcomes and containing health care costs. WIC enrollment was at the highest level ever in Muskegon County during fiscal year 2009, serving an average of 7,226 participants per month. In addition, the WIC program began offering services at Muskegon Family Care Center and Hackley Community Care Center bringing the total number of offsite locations to six. WIC also underwent a major upgrade by switching to the Michigan WIC computerized paperless system. Participants now receive benefits loaded onto an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card instead of coupons.
- Your public health department is the only agency in Muskegon County that offers an anger management program at no cost to participants. The program helps people develop the skills needed to manage anger in ways that are not destructive. Participants learn about personal anger triggers, stress management, how to cool down, how to be assertive, time management and planning, and how to improve communication. They also learn how stress and anger affect their well-being and how to use proven techniques to address these difficulties. During fiscal year 2009, 325 adults participated in the program. A youth version of the program is also available; 75 youth participated.
- Your public health department coordinates the immunization of children against vaccine-preventable illnesses. A nationwide shortage of Hib (haemophilus influenzae type b) vaccine and a suspension on booster doses that started in December 2007 continued to cause the rate of fully immunized 19-35 month old children to decline. The overall local immunization rate needed to assure population level protection is 90%. The local rate for fiscal year 2009 was 75%, down from 83% in fiscal year 2008. Fortunately, Hib vaccine supply has been increasing since January 2010 and your public health department and area medical offices are working hard to bring our children back up-to-date with their immunizations.
- Your public health department investigated the first local cases of H1N1 (swine) flu in May 2009. At the time, very little information was available to determine the impact this virus would have on the population. Because it was a new virus, most people had little or no protection and vaccine was not available. Public health staff activated the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan. The plan was used to conduct disease surveillance and epidemiology, provide education, risk communication, and clinical guidelines, and manage disease (antiviral distribution). The plan was also used to prepare measures for responding to an increase in illness severity and to prepare for the availability and distribution of vaccine later in the year.

A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

Public Health in Our Communities

A strong, healthy community is dependent on a strong public health system, and that includes your community. Everyone in your community has a role to play in improving public health. We must use community health improvement planning tools and public health system assessments to determine what is – or is not – being done well in our community and how things can be improved.

Did you know?

- Your public health department leads a Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) program. FIMR is a process of identifying and studying the factors that contribute to fetal and infant deaths and using the information to reduce infant mortality. During fiscal year 2009, public health staff analyzed the results from interviews with Muskegon County families who have experienced a fetal or infant death. The results were presented to the Community Coordinating Council of Muskegon County. The report, *Infant Mortality Reduction in Muskegon County: Putting Preliminary FIMR Data into Action*, identified five major contributing factors: violence against women and girls, sexually transmitted infections, criminal justice issues, family planning and access to services. It also provided recommendations for intervention and prevention actions.
- Your public health department was awarded funds to implement community-planned improvements in Nelson Neighborhood through the State of Michigan Building Healthy Communities program. Projects for 2009 included the improvement of Love Garden, an existing community garden in Nelson Neighborhood; the ground breaking of Nelson Community Garden, a second community garden for residents residing on the north end of the neighborhood; the improvement of St Joe Park, which included the installation of ground cover material for playground equipment, new picnic tables, and grills for family gatherings; as well as the installation of lighting for Clara Shepherd Park, a popular basketball court for youth in and around Nelson Neighborhood. Plans were to continue building upon successes in adjoining neighborhoods in 2010; however, funding for the Building Healthy Communities project in Muskegon was eliminated by the Michigan Department of Community Health.
- Your public health department assisted the Health Committee of the White Lake Public Advisory Council in conducting a cancer mapping project in the White Lake area. The committee is creating a list and gathering information from people who have lived or worked in the White Lake area and have had cancer. Public health staff assisted by providing a summary of superfund sites in the White Lake area including the known discharges and pathways of exposure of the pollutants associated with the sites. Staff also organized and pulled all files pertaining to contamination in the White Lake area for the committee to use to strategically plan their activities. In the future, public health staff will be analyzing the data collected by the committee to determine whether or not the White Lake area has a larger than expected cancer incidence.
- Your public health department participated in a nationwide project focused on improving the quality and efficiency of public health services. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the MLC-3 project is designed to prepare local and state health departments for national accreditation and to build the capacity of these organizations to engage in quality improvement activities. By participating in this project, your public health department has been able to begin the process of institutionalizing quality improvement techniques in many public health programs, which has resulted in a greater understanding of current processes, employment of best practices, and finding solutions to program inefficiencies and ineffectiveness.

A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

Public Health in Our Schools

A strong, healthy community is dependent on a strong public health system, and that includes schools. We will do anything to protect our children, especially their health. Since they spend most of their time at school and around other children, they too rely on public health so they can do their job – learning, growing, and playing.

Did you know?

- Your public health department investigates outbreaks of communicable disease by interviewing patients, looking for links between cases, and providing education to prevent additional illness. During fiscal year 2009, Muskegon County experienced the worst outbreak of shigella illness in the state. A total of 100 confirmed cases were reported by area physicians. Most of the cases were children under the age of 10 years old. An organized effort to promote careful hand washing with soap and water is the most important control measure to reduce the spread of this illness. Therefore, public health staff and volunteers visited all elementary schools and some day care centers throughout Muskegon County to demonstrate and practice hand washing with students and staff for the duration of the outbreak. The American Red Cross, Access Health, and Volunteer Muskegon, through the Medical Reserve Corps, provided volunteers to help achieve this task.
- Your public health department was selected by the Michigan Department of Community Health to participate in an Expanded Screening Initiative to focus efforts on identifying and treating chlamydia and gonorrhea infection in the highest risk populations. During calendar year 2009, a total of 1,351 cases of chlamydia and 397 cases of gonorrhea were diagnosed in Muskegon County. The populations most impacted by these diseases are African American teens and young adults, age 15-24. The public health department partnered with the Muskegon Medical Reserve Corps and Muskegon Public Schools to conduct chlamydia and gonorrhea testing in the school setting. Of the 136 students who voluntarily participated, 13 were found to have chlamydia. The 10 percent positive rate held true for all 202 young people who were screened during the special screening initiative targeted at people between the ages of 15 and 24. Overall, 21 were positive for chlamydia, and none tested positive for gonorrhea.
- Your public health department assisted with the administration of the fourth Muskegon County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) during fiscal year 2009. The survey, conducted every four years, is a countywide, school-based, confidential survey that measures behaviors and attitudes amongst 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. It asks questions regarding unintentional injuries, tobacco use, sexual behaviors, alcohol and other drug use, nutrition, physical activity and weight. All of the county public school districts including an alternative education center and one charter school participated. Public health staff also provided technical expertise in cleaning and analyzing the data from the 5,142 student surveys by examining differences in risk behavior by demographic variables and determined trends in risk behaviors that have occurred over time. The Community Coordinating Council of Muskegon County estimates that over \$3 million in funds for area agency programming require data that is made available from the YRBS.
- Your public health department provides Second Step®, an award winning evidence-based violence prevention program for elementary and middle school age students. During the 2008/2009 school year, the program helped 602 students develop life skills such as empathy, emotion management, impulse control, and anger management. Public health educators have been providing Second Step® since 2004.

A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

Public Health in Our Workplaces

A strong, healthy community is dependent on a strong public health system, and that includes workplaces. We spend just as much time in workplaces as at home, and health and safety on the job are just as important. Having healthy employees, and customers, is an important part of doing good business.

Did you know?

- Your public health department advocated for tobacco-free air in your workplace to protect you from the dangers of secondhand smoke. In August 2009, the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners responded by voting unanimously to adopt the Muskegon County Clean Indoor Air Regulation. The regulation prohibits smoking within closed areas at public and private workplaces, other than bars, restaurants, and tobacco specialty stores. At the time, Muskegon County joined over 20 other counties and municipalities in protecting more than half of Michigan's population from secondhand smoke in the workplace. This achievement helped fuel the momentum for creating a statewide ban on smoking in workplaces which later become known as the Michigan Smoke-free Air Law which took effect May 1, 2010 and includes bars and restaurants.
- By the end of June 2009, most food service establishments were required to employ a minimum of one managerial employee certified in food protection. Your public health department provides ServSafe® training which meets this requirement for food service providers. ServSafe® is a nationally recognized certification program. It provides information for all levels of employees on all aspects of handling food, from receiving and storing to preparing and serving. During fiscal year 2009, 163 people were trained and 132 of those earned ServSafe® certification status.
- Your public health department investigated 40% fewer consumer food related complaints and found fewer critical violations while out inspecting food service establishments during fiscal year 2009. Critical violations are those that are more likely to cause food contamination or illness. This downward trend can be attributed to an increased emphasis on risk-based inspections, a new requirement for every food service establishment to have a managerial employee certified in food safety, and an improved, pro-active enforcement policy for correcting violations.
- Your public health department houses and oversees the WIC program locally. WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition counseling, and referrals to health care and social services. Research has shown that WIC plays an important role in improving birth outcomes and containing health care costs. WIC enrollment was at the highest level ever in Muskegon County during fiscal year 2009, bringing Muskegon County grocery retailers over \$4.6 million in revenue.
- Your public health department provides quality continuing education opportunities for dental professionals in West Michigan. During fiscal year 2009, 224 dental professionals earned a total of 728 continuing education credits through our office. By providing a local opportunity for continuing education, your public health department was able to keep \$11,705 in revenue in Muskegon County while making it convenient for dental workplaces.

A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

Public Health Program Statistics

Chronic Disease		FY 2008	FY 2009
Breast & Cervical Cancer Control	Number of women screened	675	733
	Number of women detected with cancer	11	19
	Number of women screened - Family Planning (FP) Project	93	121
	Number of women detected with cancer (FP Project)	27	28
Lead Poisoning Screening	Number of blood lead levels assessed (Muskegon County)	4,237	4,926
	Number of children with confirmed BLL above 10 ug/dl	137	114
Communicable Disease		FY 2008	FY 2009
Communicable Disease (CD) *Data from MDSS	Number of confirmed CD cases reported*	290	424
	Number of CD cases investigated by staff	373	507
	Percentage of physicians in compliance with CD reporting	91%	96%
	Percentage of schools in compliance with CD reporting	100%	100%
Sexually Transmitted Disease *Data from MDSS	Number of STD cases diagnosed in Muskegon County*	1,660	1,731
	Number of STD cases investigated by staff	1,595	1,512
	Percentage of physicians in compliance with STD reporting	96%	100%
HIV Counseling & Testing	Number of HIV cases diagnosed	10	8
Tuberculosis Treatment	Number of persons treated (preventive or active)	61	48
Rabies Investigations	Number of animal bites and exposures investigated	564	447
	Number of animals submitted for rabies testing	12	44
	Number of animals that tested positive for rabies	0	4
Immunization	Number of vaccines administered (all ages)	7,019	6,354
	Number of vaccines distributed	42,605	36,936
	Percentage of 19-35 month-olds fully immunized	83%	75%
Maternal & Child Health		FY 2008	FY 2009
Children's Special Health Care Services	Number of persons served	647	612
Hearing Screening	Number of children screened for hearing impairment	6,661	8,448
	Number of children referred for hearing testing	313	658
Vision Screening	Number of children screened for vision impairment	8,479	10,513
	Number of children referred for vision testing	944	1,714
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	Average monthly participation	6,768	7,267
	Food dollars generated locally	\$4,692,483	\$4,607,490
Fluoride Rinse Program	Number of students that participated	1,059	1,062
Dental Health Education for the Public	Number of persons that received dental health education	5,228	3,599

A Healthier Michigan: One Community at a Time

Public Health Program Statistics

Food Service		FY 2008	FY 2009
Inspections Conducted	Number of fixed food establishment inspections	1,004	1,086
	Number of mobile, vending and seasonal inspections	133	135
	Number of temporary food establishment inspections	205	224
	Number of follow-up inspections	509	495
	Total number of inspections conducted	1,851	1,940
New Food Service Establishments	Number of plans reviewed	35	48
	Number of plans approved	35	47
Food Related Complaints	Number of consumer complaints investigated	131	73
Environmental Quality		FY 2008	FY 2009
Beach Water Monitoring	Number of beach water testing locations	31	22
	Number of beach water advisories issued	5	4
Burning Permits	Number of permits issued	981	932
Campground Inspections	Number of fixed campgrounds inspected	20	21
	Number of temporary campgrounds inspected	11	10
DHS Facility Inspections	Number of inspections conducted	59	89
Nuisance Complaints	Number of complaints received	174	180
Onsite Sewage	Number of parcels evaluated	308	205
	Number of permits issued	256	203
Onsite Sewage & Water	Number of existing systems inspected	523	334
Public Swimming Pool Inspections	Number of pools inspected (calendar year)	100	99
Vacant Land Evaluations	Number of evaluations conducted	20	14
Well Permits Issued	Domestic and type III	310	201
Health Education		FY 2008	FY 2009
Anger Management	Number of adults served	350	325
	Number of youth served	87	75
Second Step® Violence Prevention	Number of schools that participated	2	4
	Number of students served	165	602
ServSafe® Food Safety Training	Number of persons trained	114	163
	Number of persons certified	91	132
Tobacco Cessation	Number of persons served	150	150
	Percent that reduced the amount of cigarettes smoked	50%	58%
	Percent that quit smoking completely	20%	13%

Fiscal Year 2009 Financial Summary

Revenue		FY 2008	FY 2009
Sources of Revenue	State & Federal Funding	\$2,982,454	\$3,016,617
	Federal Pass Thru*	\$1,378,274	\$388,995
	County General Fund	\$1,677,815	\$1,745,662
	Service, Licenses & Misc. Fees	\$1,279,864	\$1,249,148
	Other Funding Sources	\$294,446	\$331,256
	Cigarette & Liquor Tax	\$315,712	\$369,756
	Medicaid	\$68,678	\$65,788
Total Revenue		\$7,997,243	\$7,167,222
*Value of vaccines received and passed on to private physicians for Immunizations' Vaccine for Children (VFC) program			
Expenditure		FY 2008	FY 2009
Required Activities	Communicable Disease Control	\$442,121	\$479,705
	Environmental Quality	\$788,487	\$738,450
	Food Service Sanitation	\$520,384	\$546,729
	Hearing & Vision	\$81,453	\$98,033
	Immunizations—Clinical Services	\$501,206	\$458,522
	Immunizations—Community Compliance	\$80,281	\$82,000
	STD Prevention/Follow-up	\$303,098	\$340,319
Core Functions	Community Assessment & Improvement	\$44,399	\$64,161
	Emergency Preparedness	\$179,116	\$162,287
	Pandemic Flu	\$72,181	\$17,802
	Public Health Education	\$260,470	\$280,943
	Public Health Nursing	\$94,901	\$72,489
Allowable Activities	Breast & Cervical Cancer Control	\$70,770	\$110,552
	Breast & Cervical Cancer Control—Family Planning	\$8,100	\$11,881
	Children's Special Health Care Services	\$118,287	\$114,484
	Dental Health	\$93,780	\$96,359
	Healthy Communities	\$20,397	\$55,000
	HIV/AIDS Prevention	\$100,067	\$100,052
	Immunizations—Vaccine for Children (VFC)	\$31,933	\$24,300
	Immunizations—VFC Federal Pass Thru	\$1,378,274	\$388,995
	Infant Mortality Reduction	\$160,017	\$161,832
	Lead Abatement	\$13,500	\$96,593
	Lead Poisoning Prevention	\$70,908	\$74,403
	Medicaid Outreach	\$14,846	\$18,326
	Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR)	\$62,922	\$62,922
	Multi-State Learning Collaborative	\$0	\$12,345
	Prescription Discount	\$8,714	\$515
	Safe Routes to Schools	\$0	\$5,310
	Sharps Disposal & Exchange Program	\$2,433	\$3,064
	STD Testing—Clinical Services	\$70,929	\$70,979
	STD—Expanded Screening Initiative	\$0	\$17,266
	Substance Abuse Prevention	\$387,753	\$476,271
	Tobacco Cessation	\$30,000	\$30,000
	Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	\$923,121	\$1,015,494
Additional Activities	Medical Examiner	\$347,694	\$288,337
	Vector Control	\$714,701	\$590,502
Total Expenditure		\$7,997,243	\$7,167,222

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FY 2009 Board of Commissioners

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For more information visit:

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