

Canton City Health Department Promoting and Protecting Health since 1849

# Health Commissioner's Report

Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has been auoted as saying, "Approximately 95% of the 1.4 trillion dollars that we spend as a nation on health goes to direct medical care services, while an estimated 5% is allocated to preventing disease and promoting health." As you will see from this annual report, the Board of Health of the Canton City Health District is primarily spending its human and fiscal resources on preventing disease and promoting healthy lifestyles.



**Robert E. Pattison** Health Commissioner

The cooperation that we receive from the Canton Mayor's office, Canton City Council and other local officials and organizations is integral to a healthy community and is greatly appreciated.

The number of prevention programs continues to grow, many by unfunded mandates from State and Federal law and others from recognition of a need to protect the community's health from specific hazards.

The way we conduct prevention programs has also been changed by State and

Federal laws. These changes have had an impact on our budget needs, but have come without additional revenue sources.

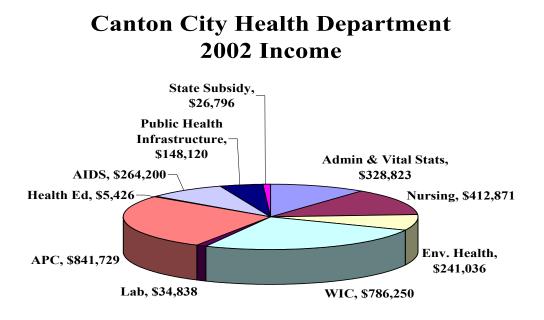
The thousands of tests run by our laboratory, inspections made by field staff, clinic our services provided by our medical staff, births and deaths registered by our vital staff, investigations statistics conducted by our environmental staff, nutrition services provided by our WIC staff and health education services provided by our Public Information Office, have all been provided to our community for less than five million dollars. Less than

two million dollars comes from Canton's tax base. The remainder comes from contracts, grants, and fees for services. This funding is greatly appreciated and we pledge to continue providing comprehensive public health services in a cost effective manner.

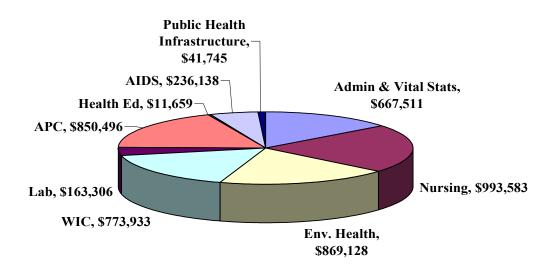
If you have questions concerning any part of this report, or if you would like additional information concerning our activities and programs, please do not hesitate to contact any of our divisions or myself. You can also visit us on our website at *www.cantonhealth.org*.

If we are serious about improving the health and quality of life of Americans AND keeping our health care budget under control... ...we cannot afford to ignore the power of prevention.

> Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



# Canton City Health Department 2002 Expenses



Of the total expenses for 2002, approximately \$1,763,294 was provided by the City of Canton from the City's General Tax Base. The remaining \$2,844,205 was provided by local, state, and federal grants, fees for services, and contracts for services.

## Laboratory Division

The two full-time and one part-time laboratory staff hit the ground running in 2002. Microbiological analyses included clinical as well as environmental testing. Sexually transmitted diseases continued to make up the bulk of the clinical testina. Potable water was analyzed for bacterial pathogens. Fecal coliform analyses off sludge samples were performed for several area wastewater treatment facilities.

The blood of young children in Canton was tested for lead content, a new program initiated by the Environmental Health Division. New equipment for this procedure was purchased with funding from an Ohio Department of Health arant. It has been a useful addition to our test menu and is another area in which we can serve the people of Canton.

The pollen sampling program reflected

the year's atypical weather: getting off to a later start in April because of cooler temperatures, yet persisting into mid-October due to mild fall weather. As in the eleven previous seasons, our primary audience was local allergists who rely on this data in treating their patients.

The West Nile Virus in

Canton provided yet another opportunity to assist the Environmental Department in their surveillance activities. Sanitarians trapped mosquitoes throughout Canton. The laboratory staff counted and characterized the mosquitoes for specie. This helped the Department to determine areas of West Nile potential and thereby better schedule prevention methods. This more scientific surveillance provided a more efficient use of Department resources.

Laboratory staff was actively involved in community outreach and educational efforts. Tours, with talks and demonstrations, educated students from high schools and nursing schools. Future physicians from the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine benefited from the understanding of public health as an important partner in a community's medical care of its residents.

2002 was the year of the survey. Personnel from both the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (water) and the Ohio

The Canton City Health Department Laboratory provided 12,176 examinations in 2002.

concerns.

Department of Health (clinical) visited the Laboratory to assess its ability and conformance with regulations.



The Canton City Health Department once again achieved a designation as "Certified for the Microbiological Analysis of Water" and was classified as able to perform highly complex analyses the Clinical Laboratory under Improvement Act.

Microbiological organisms continue to pose a threat to the health and safety of Canton's residents. Environmental toxins, such as lead, also put our children at risk for learning and behavioral well-trained difficulties. А laboratory staff is a critical part of public health's response to these Having a local CLIA certified laboratory serving the public's interest is a point of pride for the City of Canton.

Looking into 2003, the Laboratory plans to maintain the level of performance it has developed in its current programs. No changes to Laboratory personnel are anticipated. The State of Ohio has offered to help replace several items of equipment which are over thirty years old.

A new year is ahead, and the Laboratory is eager to face it.

The Laboratory has an important role in Homeland Security. Its expertise is essential to public safety.

## Vital Statistics Division

The Vital Statistics Division maintains the birth and death records for the City of Canton. Along with managing nearly 6,000 new records in 2002, the department issued over 31,500 certified copies of records on file. The records held by this department date back to 1908.

Managing the death records includes tracking the leading causes of death for city

residents and non-city residents. Some of these statistics are also used by the Stark County Child Fatality Review Board, which was organized by the State of Ohio, to review deaths of children 18 and under.

Statistics are maintained on births to single parents and birth to teens (11-19). These statistics provide valuable information for other agencies as well as our own Nursing and Women, Infants, Children Divisions.

Cause	2001	2002
Heart	280	253
Cancer	116	139
Pneumonia-flu	93	73
Cerebral-vascular disease	37	39
Emphysema and other chronic obstructive		
pulmonary disease	25	17
Nephritis-nephrosis	38	17
Liver disease and other digestive disease	21	26
Accidents	2	2
Suicide	3	2
Other	164	147

## Leading Causes of Death, 2001 and 2002 Canton City Residents

## Births and Deaths Recorded in Canton, 2001 and 2002

## **Total Residents and Nonresidents**

	2001	2002
Births	4,345	3,903
Deaths	2,059	2,064
Single mother births	1,417	1,199
Teen (age 11-19) births	471	424

## **City of Canton Residents**

	2001	2002
Births	1,244	1,131
Deaths	799	724
Single mother births	703	621
Teen (age 11-19)	240	191
births		

In 2002, the Vital Statistics Division provided 31,573 certified copies of birth and death certificates.

## Nursing Division

The Nursing Clinic of the Canton City Health Department continues to be a busy, involved asset of the Canton community. Prevention of disease remains the main mission of this department, as evidenced by the large numbers of free immunizations provided and the many home visits made by our public health nurses.

A total of 5,305 immunizations were provided to children in 2002. 95 persons received the three shot series of

Hepatitis B vaccine. Influenza remains a killer in Canton. Therefore 1,996 flu vaccinations were provided, primarily to high risk persons. Finally, 93 people received education and immunizations prior to traveling to foreign countries where infectious diseases presented a danger to them.

In 2002, the Canton Health Department Nursing Division provided 20,591 direct services to residents of our community.

Testing also is a priority for the Canton Health Department Clinic. On Monday mornings, 1,108 people obtained Mantoux Tuberculin skin testing. TB was once a major killer in Canton, and remains a threat as newer strains resistant to traditional antibiotic treatment are emerging around the world.

Two days of the week will find our clinic nurses and physicians performing tests for Sexually Transmitted Diseases. 1,906 persons were seen for testing. Many are able to receive treatment at the clinic, as well. Counseling and education play an important role in preventing the spread of these diseases.

Children in Canton City Schools are protected from tooth decay with dental sealants administered by three staff members. This year the staff, along with Canton City School nurses, provided 2,835 screenings and dental sealant placements.



Surveillance of infectious disease outbreaks requires many hours of public health time. The clinic nurses followed up on 1,270 cases of infectious disease. In addition, nurses coordinate reportable diseases with other health departments and continually make reports to the Ohio Department of Health. The two Canton hospitals infectious disease staffs cooperate with our clinic in this important tracking effort.

Aside from the traditional role of combating infectious disease, the clinic nurses work diligently to facilitate a coordination of health services for families in Canton. For example, 649 families with newborn children were visited. The trained public health nurse is sometimes the first to recognize a need for health or social services in these families. Health promotion visits were made to 2,480 families. Families are also visited for Bureau for Children with Medical

Handicaps service coordination. 203 of these visits were made. In addition, the clinic staff assisted 1.172 persons with applications for Healthy Start, enabling them to receive the benefits of this Medicaid health assistance program low-income for families

The Clinic feels a strong responsibility to provide educational opportunities for physicians and student nurses. 58 students experienced public health clinical care in 2002. Other education classes were provided for pregnant teens in the GRADS program. 1,376 persons attended classes about STD's.

The infrastructure of the HIV prevention program remained the same in 2002. The clinic continues to provide HIV counseling and testing during the STD clinics, as a freestanding clinic, and outreach testing in the community. The rate of HIV and STD infections remains about the same, although an increase in new infections is seen for women and minorities.

This Department, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, began working on two exciting new programs at the local level. Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) services will move from a state level to the local level. This program enables contact tracing, partner referral, and follow-up to persons infected with HIV or syphilis. Planning also began to integrate hepatitis C testing into the existing HIV testing structure. Hep. C testing will begin in 2003.

Finally, this Department in collaboration with the Stark Regional HIV Prevention Community Advisory Group released a Request for Proposal based on the updated Community HIV Prevention Plan. More than 100 copies of the RFP were distributed. Applications will be reviewed by an outside committee who will make recommendations to the Board of Health regarding which projects to fund.

## "Prevention is the right cause, the right issue, the right time."

**Tommy G. Thompson**, Secretary U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

# 2002 Public Health

"The key to recognizing new or emerging infectious diseases, and to tracking the prevalence of more established infectious diseases, is surveillance." - Institute of Medicine, 1992 Between 1999 and the end of 2002, the number of cases attributed to the newly emerging West Nile virus in the U.S. increased from 139 cases in a handful of states to more than 4,000 cases and almost 300 deaths in forty states."

-Association of Public Health Laboratories

"The specter of biological weapons use is an ugly one. We need to be prepared to detect, diagnose, characterize epidemiologically, and respond appropriately to biological weapons use. We need at international, state, and local levels a greater capacity of surveillance; a far better network of laboratories and better diagnostic instruments; and a more adequate cadre of trained epidemiologists, clinicians, and researchers." D.A. Henderson, The Johns Hopkins University

# **Challenges and Issues**

- Nearly 400,000 Americans die prematurely each year because of their tobacco habits.
- Since 1993, cigar use in the U.S. has increased nearly 50%.
- Purchase of snuff and other spit tobacco products in the U.S. tripled from 1972 through 1991.

The percentage of children and adolescents who are defined as overweight has more than doubled since the early 1970's. In 2002, 30% of Americans aged 18-24 had no health insurance. -CDC, 2002

"Every 18 minutes someone dies by suicide. Every 43 seconds someone attempts suicide." National Vital Statistics

## Environmental Health Division

The public health status of any community depends in great measure upon the level of sanitation maintained by its residents. The Division of Environmental Health has the responsibility to protect the health of people by the evaluation and control of health hazards in

our community environment. Areas of activity include the evaluation of unhealthy housing conditions, control of nuisance conditions in the neighborhood, control of animal and insect vectors, licensing and inspection of food operations, and other environmental activities. The division has a dedicated staff of public health professionals, well

trained and certified to perform their duties. This staff consists of nine registered sanitarians and a public health clerk.

#### COMMUNITY

Nuisance control within Canton provides the greatest challenge for environmental health. Response must be made in the areas of housing, nuisance abatement, animal waste, garbage and trash, lead paint, rodent and insect infestation, and other environmental hazards. In 2002, the divisions responded to 1,536 complaints and worked on over 1,253 environmental cases. Over 4,835 inspections were made.

#### FOOD PROTECTION

Regulating the healthy preparation and serving methods of food in the community has long been a priority of public health. Locations that prepare food for the public such as restaurants, temporary food stands, mobile food stands, vending locations, and grocery stores require a Health Department issued license. In

Over 6,104 inspection activities were conducted in 2002 to protect the environmental health of Canton.

2002, there were 724 licenses issued in Canton. Over 1,453 food protection inspections were In addition, 14 plans for new or made. significantly remodeled operations were reviewed.

### VECTOR CONTROL

The control of animal bites, mosquitoes, and other vectors is important to disease

prevention in the community. All animal bites must be reported to Health Department and the investigated to insure rabies is not a concern. 307 animal bites were reported in 2002 with no cases on rabies found.

Mosquito control became a priority in 2002 as West Nile Virus cases emerged in the community. Surveillance and targeted control

measures sharply increased. Staff devoted over 305 hours conducting mosquito control activities and community education efforts.

#### FACILITY INSPECTIONS

The Division of Environmental Health is responsible for conducting inspections in a wide variety of areas. Inspections are made for solid waste facilities such as land fills and infectious waste facilities such as hospitals and blood collection sites. Swimming pools are inspected for health and safety. Schools are inspected at least twice a year for health and safety regulations. Tattoo and body piercing parlor inspections are newer responsibilities for our division.

#### ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement activities include Board of Health orders and criminal prosecution when necessary. In 2002, the Board of Health initiated 260 Board 122 Environmental Division cases actions. resulted in criminal court actions.

## License/Facility Inspections, 2002

Program Area	Inspections
Food Service	1,068
Food Vending	141
Food Establishment	244
Schools and Public Buildings	87
Public Swimming Pools	97
Tattoo and Body Piercing	8
Solid Waste Transfer	46
Other Solid Waste	14
Infectious Waste	49

## Nuisance Statistics, 2002

Program Area	Complaints Reported	Cases Opened	Inspections
Garbage and Rubbish	1,049	856	3,647
Rodent and insect Infestation	91	78	224
Animal Waste	106	88	252
Housing Sanitation	66	46	165
Open Dumping	36	28	130
Weeds and High Grass	111	93	162
Lead Paint	14	16	123
Indoor Air	5	6	8
Other	58	42	130

## Rabies Control Activities, 2002

Animal	Reports	Inspections	<b>Rabies Samples</b>
Dog	255	282	0
Cat	25	25	2
Bat	4	0	2
Other Wild Animal	1	0	1

## **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention**

Childhood Lead Poisoning remains the number one environmental threat to children in America. Canton's industrial economy and older housing contribute to this threat. The CDC has named our city "at high risk" for lead poisoning.

Recent research has poisoning to be a far greater danger than thought in the past. Low levels of lead in a child's body are now known to put the child at risk for brain damage. Learning and behavioral problems caused by lead poisoning create a concern for the child, its family and community.

The Canton City Health Department has responded to this environmental threat by obtaining a grant from the Ohio Department of Health. This additional funding allows for expanded laboratory testing for elevated blood lead levels for children ages 5 and under. In addition, the grant provides for greater educational outreach. Parents and medical providers are learning the necessity of early lead testing. Educational programs for parents also include lead specific cleaning methods, proper nutrition as a prevention to lead damage, and safe abatement steps.

> 14 homes were investigated where high lead levels were found in children. 70 additional homes were investigated for compliance to federally funded rehabilitation. The Canton Health Department Lead Prevention Team includes a licensed lead risk assessor,

laboratory staff, nurse, a clerk, and a health educator.

Working together with housing authorities and the medical community, the Lead Prevention Team will continue to protect children from lead poisoning in Canton.

shown lead

In 2002, the Lead Prevention

Team provided 227 children

with blood tests. 84 homes

were investigated for lead

hazards.

# Air Pollution Control Division

The primary purpose of the Air Pollution Control Division of the Canton City Health Department is to protect Stark County citizens from the adverse effects of air pollution. The APC Division is one of nine local agencies funded by the State of Ohio and has jurisdiction for all of Stark County with the responsibility to provide management and protection of outside air quality.

This protection is accomplished through monitoring levels of surrounding air pollutants,

implementing Ohio's industrial permit program, and enforcing state and federal clean air The Air Pollution regulations. Control staff is composed of twelve employees: engineers, technicians. chemist, field inspectors, administrator, and clerks.

Work activities include

monitoring air pollution levels in Stark County. A network of air quality monitoring instruments are operated throughout the county for the purpose of capturing and analyzing air samples which are representative of the quality of air to which area residents are exposed. 652 air samples and analyses were conducted in 2002. Sampling for ozone levels in the community is a continuous process. Fifteen times in 2002 the ozone levels exceeded healthy standards. This large number of unhealthy events was triggered by hot, dry, summer weather patterns which allowed pollutants to build up in the air. Alerts were issued by the Health Department allowing for caution, especially for residents with respiratory illness.

Each facility in the County which has the potential for air pollution must obtain an approved Ohio air pollution permit. The qualifications for this permit require demonstration of compliance of all rules regulating the emission of air contaminants. New sources of potential air pollution require a Permit

"If you want to learn about the health of a population, look at the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the places where they live."

Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, in the Fifth Century BC. to Install to ensure only "Best Available Technology" is used in construction. 113 permit recommendations have been processed in 2002.

The Federal 1990 Clean Air Act now requires that major industrial sources of pollution (those over 100 tons of actual emissions) obtain comprehensive Title V permits. Canton APCD currently has 31 Title V facilities located within its jurisdiction.

One of the major ways to monitor permit compliance is by performing periodic facility inspections. Many inspections are unannounced

> to ensure the sources are routinely meeting their permit conditions. The priority and frequency of inspections depend upon complaints received, the size and type of facility, and the type and severity of the pollution problems. During 2002, APCD conducted 161 inspections, 20 of which were high priority facilities. Beginning in 2003, the inspections will meet the

requirements of the new, more comprehensive federal Compliance Monitoring Strategy. This will result in full compliance evaluations being conducted for Title V and other high priority facilities every two years.

The APCD performs duties for state and federal regulations governing the removal, handling and disposal of asbestos as it relates to renovation and demolition of buildings, emissions of perchloroethylene from dry cleaners, emissions from gas stations and vehicle emission tampering.

Enforcement is an important duty of the APCD. During 2002, 301 warning letters and/or notices were issued to those sources found to be in violation of permit terms and/ or air regulations. 13 cases were sent to the Ohio EPA for further enforcement action. Enforcement actions have resulted in fines and other penalties.



In 2002, the APC Division conducted 2,132 activities in order to monitor, permit, inspect, and enforce safe air quality.

## Women, Infants, and Children

For twenty-six years the Canton City Health Department has provided WIC services to eligible families in Canton. WIC is a federally funded program that provides healthy supplemental foods, nutrition counseling, and breastfeeding support.

Families are eligible if the mother is pregnant or breastfeeding, the children are under five years old, and there is nutritional risk as evaluated by a health

professional. Income eligibility must also be established. In 2002, Canton WIC served 1,800 participants.

Numerous studies have shown that pregnant women who participate in WIC have longer pregnancies leading to fewer premature births; have fewer low birth-weight babies; experience fewer fetal and infant deaths ; seek

prenatal care earlier in pregnancy and consume more of such key nutrients as iron, protein, calcium and vitamin C.

Low income children enrolled in WIC have a lower prevalence of anemia than those who are not enrolled. Studies have found that four and five year olds whose mothers participated in WIC during pregnancy had better vocabulary test scores than children whose mothers had not received WIC benefits.

WIC provides nutrition education as well as supplemental foods. Education is provided individually with a Licensed Dietician or lactation specialist, or in group format. In addition, the Canton

LaVerne Gillis WIC Director City Health Department Health Educator provides monthly education programs concerning nutrition's role in preventing lead poisoning.

During February's Dental Health Month, Dr. Michael Bernard, DDS spoke to WIC participants about nutrition and dental health. Kathy Meneses of the Cooperative Extension Program presented various monthly nutrition programs. She plans to initiate classes for our growing Hispanic population.

Breastfeeding is an important aspect of WIC

nutrition counseling. Numerous studies have shown the role of breastfeeding in nourishing healthy infants. During World Breastfeeding Month in August, a special celebration was held to honor our breastfeeding mothers.

Because WIC is an adjunct to ongoing healthcare,

we coordinate with and make referrals to others health and community services. 254 WIC participants received immunizations through the Health Department's Clinic. Stark County's WIC participant immunization rate of 48% surpassed the state's average immunization rates.

To increase the number of low income children who are tested for lead exposure, the WIC nurse includes a finger-stick blood sample of WIC children. In 2002, 259 children participated in this free service. Children who are identified with high lead levels are referred to physicians and the Environmental Health Division for follow-up.

> The function of protecting and developing health must rank even above that of restoring it when it is impaired.

Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, in the Fifth Century, BC

The WIC Program assisted 1,800 persons with nutritional needs in 2002.

## Health Education Division

Seventy-five years ago the people of Canton suffered and died far too young, primarily from infectious diseases. Good medical research and care, improved hygiene, and miracle immunizations have greatly reduced these deaths.

Now, Cantonians reflect the rest of the country in facing a new deadly concern, their own behaviors. While Public Health continues to battle threats of infectious diseases through sanitation, immunization and surveillance, health education must also grapple with changing destructive health behaviors.

It is now recognized that at least 50% of early deaths are attributable to unhealthy behaviors. These behaviors are risk factors for many chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. Public Health educators are focusing on several behaviors which contribute to shortened life spans:

- tobacco use
- unhealthy diet
- lack of exercise
- substance abuse, including alcohol
- unintentional injuries, especially traffic related
- neglect of prevention practices

As public health demands in our community increased, and available public dollars decreased, the health education effort required finding opportunities to share community resources. Teamwork became necessary to provide health education and awareness in Canton.

Collaboration with other organizations has yielded the means to reach new audiences for wellness and safety messages. The Health Educator works as a team member with several organizations such as: Stark County Safe Kids Coalition; Stark County Tobacco Prevention Task Force; the Suicide Prevention Task Force; Safe Communities of Greater Canton; Stark County Sheriff; and Goodwill Industries. By working together and sharing valuable resources of time and materials, the huge job of educating the public is more within our sight. In 2002, the Health Education Division has received funding from three grants. The Ohio Department of Health provides funding for childhood lead poisoning prevention. The Ohio Department of Public Safety funds a Safe Communities Coalition which allows for traffic safety programming. Finally, the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation Grant funds tobacco prevention education in Stark County schools.

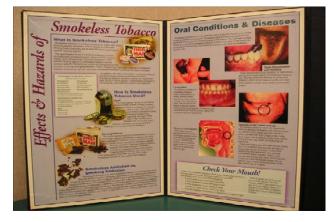
These three grants provide for health education activities without having to utilize Canton City tax base funds.

The Safe Communities grant emphasizes traffic safety in the community. Careful traffic crash data gathering is the first essential step. DUI related crashes and seat belt non-use are two issues studied. Working with several law enforcement agencies and community

businesses, the Coalition addresses these dangerous behaviors.

With many families in Canton living in homes painted with lead based paint, a huge education effort was needed to increase lead testing of these children. Physicians and other health care professionals attended training sessions about their role in testing and treating lead poisoning.

High school athletes are a target for tobacco advertising, especially smokeless tobacco like snuff and chewing tobacco. To reach this group of at risk population, grant funding was rewarded to train Stark County coaches of the dangers to their students and team members. They in turn are provided with resources and support to take the health message back to their respective schools. Smokeless tobacco is the main cause of deadly oral cancer. Activities will continue through 2003 in the effort to combat this public health menace.



Canton Health Department was successful in receiving three health education grants in 2002.



# **2002 Board of Health and Personnel**

#### CANTON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH

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#### CANTON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 330-489-3231

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Jim Ames, B.S., Bacteriologist Carol Burger, C.M.A., Lab Technician Heather MacDonald, M.L.T., A.S.C.P., PT Lab Technician

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Joni Shaffer, Administrative Assistant & Controller Cindy Wilson, Deputy Registrar Debbie Mazzocca, Public Health Clerk Diana McCallum, Public Health Clerk Kim Smith, Public Health Clerk

# W.I.C. DIVISION 330-489-3326

LaVerne Gillis, Community Dietitian Janet Frank, W.I.C. Dietitian Terri Kocab, W.I.C. Dietitian Carol Frient, W.I.C. PT Clinic Assistant Sue Parr, L.P.N., W.I.C. Clinic Assistant Cheryl Bradley, Public Health Clerk Kathy Murphy, Public Health Clerk Karen Moulin, PT Public Health Clerk

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