

Orange County Health Department



PICTURING the Past and Present



Annual Report | 2008-2009

Over 30 Years of Public Health Prevention, Promotion, and Protection

I am pleased to release the Orange County Health Department's 2008-2009 Annual Report. This report presents expenditures and performance outcomes for the fiscal year ending June 20, 2009.

The Health Department is proud of its history of excellent service to our residents for over 30 years. As in years past, the 2008-2009 year brought successes and new challenges. Celebration is in order for all residents as we see the fruits of a 6-year tobacco prevention effort with fewer youth starting tobacco use at an early age (one of the lowest in the state). Orange County still enjoys one of the lowest teen pregnancy rates and our residents have lower rates of all major chronic diseases with the exception of cancer.

Challenges were many and varied – an increased demand for primary care and immunization services as the economic stress began to be felt by our residents; obesity in children at an all time high; the emergence of the H1N1 pandemic; a persistent pertussis outbreak; and funding reductions.

Thank you for taking time to read this annual report. We hope that you are as proud as we are of the services we offer and the protections that we provide to each resident in our county. Please contact us with any comments or suggestions...we are your public health department.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Summers, MPH, DrPH
Orange County Health Director

Table of Contents

Board of Health Letter - 3 | Board of Health Acknowledgments - 4 | Financial Statement - 5
Dental Health Services - 6 | Environmental Health Services - 10 | Health Promotion Services - 14
Personal Health Services - 18 | Quality Assurance/Risk Management - 22 | Health Department Time Line - 26



A Message from the Orange County Board of Health Chair

There are many accomplishments for Orange County residents to be proud of for 2008-2009, including the award of continuing and new grant funds to address high priority health needs in the county; staff awards from professional organizations for excellence in programming or service; and re-certification of the Healthy Carolinians of Orange County program.

Health Department staff continued to hold the highest standards for services to our communities and was often at the forefront of new programs and policy developments. Environmental health staff participation in the pilot water softener study, the local rules adopted by the Board of Health requiring spot monitoring of biosolid land applications, attention to public swimming pool compliance with new federal safety regulations, and thorough investigation of the pertussis outbreak were all examples of public health protection for the entire community.

Economic stresses led to increased demand for the health department's safety net services as residents lost jobs and medical benefits in the latter half of the year. The department helps keep people healthy during the tough times, often with less resources. The economic downturn will affect staffing levels as the department faced a difficult task of balancing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Chris Harlan, RN
Orange County Board of Health Chairperson

Historical Photo: Board of Health Meeting, 1980



Orange County Board of Health Members

We would like to acknowledge the following Orange County Board of Health members for their service during the year:

Orange County Board of Commissioner Representative

Steve Yuhasz

At-Large Representatives

Christopher Cooke, MA, MS
Term Expires June 30, 2011

Anissa Vines, MS, PhD (Board Vice-Chair)
Term Expires June 30, 2011

Michael Wood, MS
Term Expires June 30, 2011

Professional Representatives

DeWana Anderson, DVM
Veterinarian Representative
Term Expires June 30, 2011

Michael Carstens, OD
Optometrist Representative
Term Expires June 30, 2012

Paul Chelminski, MD, MPH
Physician Representative
Partial Term Expires June 30, 2010

Christina Harlan, RN (Board Chair)
Nurse Representative
Term Expires June 30, 2011

Jessica Y. Lee, DDS, MPH, PhD
Dentist Representative
Term Expires June 30, 2012

Jim Stefanadis, BS
Pharmacy Representative
Term Expires June 30, 2010

Tony Whitaker, PE
Engineering Representative
Term Expires June 30, 2012

Service Ending During Fiscal Year

Timothy Carey, MD
Ernest Dodson, PE
Rev. Sharon Freeland, BA, MTS
Matthew Vizithum, OD

Orange County Board of Health members must meet certain qualifications [NCGS 130a-35(b)] and are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners from a pool of qualified applicants. Members may serve a maximum of two 3-year terms. The Board of Health is comprised of eleven members: one Orange County Board of Commissioner Representative, three At-Large Representatives, and one Professional Representative from each of the following public health fields: Engineering, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine.

Central Administration Services Division

Central Administration Services provides financial and information management services to the Orange County Health Department as it renders services to the public. Major responsibilities of the division include internal fiscal management, accounts payable, providing administrative support, and processing vital records.

Health Department Financials for FY 2008-2009

Category	Amount
County Appropriation	\$4,771,301
State and Federal Funds (Revenues)	\$704,708
Medicaid Revenues	\$769,287
Patient Fee Revenues	\$305,520
Regulatory Fees	\$341,270
Grant Funded Projects	\$456,500
Total Projects (Including Grants)	\$7,348,586

Vital Records Processing for FY 2008-2009

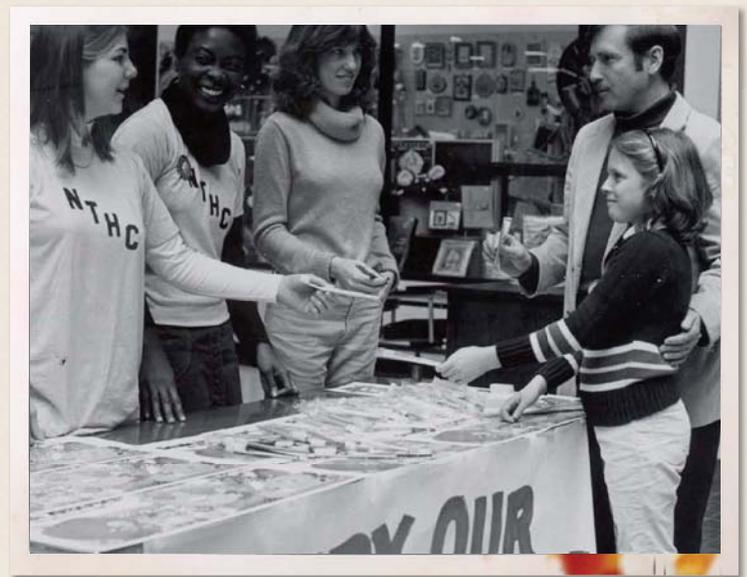
The Orange County Health Department reviews all county birth and death certificates for accuracy before they are filed with the NC Vital Statistics Branch and made available through the Orange County Register of Deeds.

Category	Outcome
Birth Certificates Processed	4,169
Death Certificates Processed	1,453



Dental Health Services Division

The Dental Health Services Division provides low-cost dental care to adults and children living in Orange County. Clinical services are available to residents during the week in our Hillsborough and Carrboro dental clinics. Screening and educational services are provided in a variety of settings including child care centers, schools, and community health events.



Toothbrush Trade-in Event, 1980

Major Outcomes

- The Dental Health Services Program had 4,165 patient visits in the dental clinics, of which 675 (16%) were new patient visits.
- Dental Health Services staff provided dental education to 2,847 pre-school children, school-age children, and adults.
- Dental health providers placed 3,403 dental sealants on teeth to prevent tooth decay for children and adults through the Dental Health Services Program (a 28% increase from the previous fiscal year).
- Dental Health Services staff treated 490 dental emergency patients during the year.
- Dental Health Services staff screened 1,291 kindergartners and 1,384 fifth graders for dental caries.
- Dental Health Services staff screened 1,681 Smart Start pre-school children for dental caries of which 110 (.06%) had dental needs.
- A total of 1,998 patient visits were on a sliding-fee pay scale. Of these visits, 316 were new dental patients.
- A total of 1,478 patient visits were covered by Medicaid and 241 were insured.

Give Kids a Smile Campaign

Give Kids a Smile is an annual dental health campaign sponsored by the American Dental Association. The purpose of Give Kids a Smile is to help families who have difficulty accessing medical and dental care due to language and financial barriers.

The health department participates in Give Kids a Smile through the Smart Start Dental Screening, Education and Referral Project funded by the Orange County Partnership for Young Children. Every year, dentists in Orange County provide screenings, education and treatment to children age 0-5 years attending child care centers. This year's effort showed collaboration among the health department, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, NC Division of Public Health, and UNC School of Dentistry.

The 2008 Give Kids a Smile campaign started in October when public health dental hygienist Wendy Schwade conducted dental screenings at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School for kindergarten, second, fourth and fifth grade students. Children with dental needs were referred to the school nurse who helped families obtain referrals for the necessary care. Sixteen children needed dental treatment. Most of the children needing care were Burmese, Karen, and Hispanic making the referral process difficult due to the need for language interpreters. Before

treatment, Frank Porter Graham Elementary's school nurse worked with interpreters to inform parents and arrange treatment.

Most of the children had dental infections and had been suffering with toothaches for a long time. Dental Health Services provided treatment at Carrboro Dental Clinic on January 30, 2009 and February 6, 2009. On January 30th, all 16 children received dental exams, X-rays, cleaning and fluoride treatment. Dental staff provided a total of \$3,299 of free dentistry. On Feb. 6th, pediatric residents from UNC School of Dentistry performed 54 dental services including fillings, extractions, and stainless steel crowns on 11 children for a total of \$2,877 of free dentistry.

The parents were so appreciative that they took time off to attend appointments. The children were also grateful and showed their appreciation through hand-drawn notes.



Success for Smart Start Dental Screening and Education Program

The Smart Start Dental Screening and Education Program promotes preventive dental health education and identify needs and barriers in accessing dental care for children age 0-5 years. The program reaches many children in day care centers and family day care homes, but also reaches children through dental screenings, dental health education sessions, tooth brushing programs, dental treatment referrals, and follow-up services for children screened in need of dental treatment.

The Dental Health Services Program began the Smart Start Dental Screening and Education Program in 1994. Outcome statistics since starting the program show an increase in the number of children screened and decrease in the number of children needing treatment. This is most likely due to the consistent offering of our

program, the education, and the follow up.

In addition to screening children, dental staff has educated many child care providers through the Smart Start program. During the 2008-2009 year, staff educated 71 providers interested in teaching dental health lessons to children. Sixty-four of these providers received the “Let’s Talk Teeth” presentation and seven received the “Give a Smile” presentation. These programs were taken to child care facilities where, at times, various child care providers met at one site enabling collaboration between providers.

Outcome	1994	2008-09
Total Screened	1400	1681
Number with Some Needs	252 (18%)	96 (5.7%)
Number with Urgent Needs	28 (2%)	14 (.83%)
Total with Dental Needs	280	110
Percent with Dental Needs	20%	6.5%



Environmental Health Services Division

Environmental Health Services has four main areas: Food and Lodging Inspections, Well Construction and Water Sampling, On-site Wastewater, and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. Food and Lodging staff permit and inspect all places that prepare food for sale to the public to identify conditions that might lead to foodborne illness. Well Construction and Water Sampling staff permit and inspect construction of wells to ensure a safe drinking water supply and protect groundwater resources. On-Site Wastewater staff oversee installation, maintenance, and operation of septic systems. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program identifies environmental sources of lead and assures removal of the hazards when children with elevated lead levels are identified.



Soil Evaluation, ca. 1980

Major Outcomes

- The On-Site Wastewater Program provided 2,085 consultative site visits, approved 147 new septic systems, and approved repair of 94 failing septic systems.
- Environmental Health Specialists conducted 575 wastewater treatment management inspections. The specialists visited residential septic systems to evaluate maintenance needs and overall operation of the system.
- The Well Construction Program provided 385 consultative visits, permitted 252 new wells, and oversaw the proper abandonment of 30 wells.
- Food and Lodging staff conducted 841 establishment inspections.
- Staff inspected and permitted all 123 public swimming pools in the county.
- The Lead Program identified a child care center with a lead hazard presented by a bookcase containing lead based paint. After removing the hazard, staff coordinated mandatory testing of all 26 children attending the center. None of the children were found to have elevated blood lead levels.
- New federal requirements for eliminating drain suction hazards in swimming pools (Virginia Graeme Baker Act) increased pool inspection activity during the year. Environmental Health staff implemented a policy requiring pool owners to prove compliance with the federal act before the permit application was acted upon. Staff made approximately 250 extra visits to pools to assure requirement compliance. Orange County was the only county in the state to ensure that each pool complied with the federal act before issuing the 2009 operating permit.

New Technology Boosts Efficiency of Environmental Health Staff

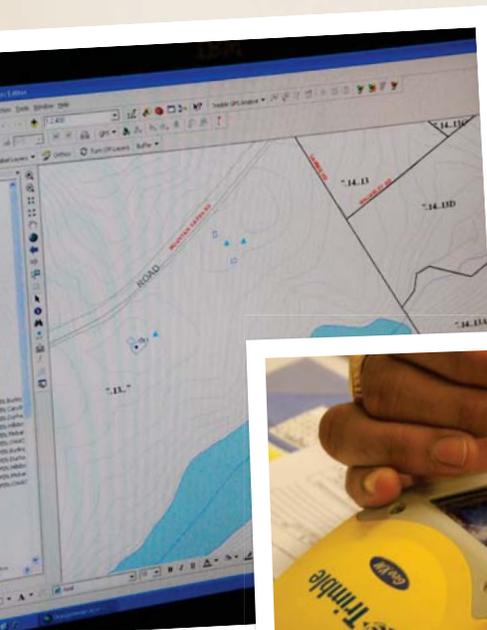
Custom Data Processing for Food and Lodging Inspections

Environmental Health Services purchased a Web-based inspection management application from Custom Data Processing to manage the Food and Lodging Program's inspection activities. Food and Lodging staff noticed significant improvements in record keeping, program monitoring, and report generation. The public can now go online for establishment inspection scores and reports. Field hardware, including tablet PCs and reliable field printers, is still needed to truly eliminate duplication of efforts; however, this advancement is a step in the right direction.



Global Positioning Systems Implemented

Environmental Health Services implemented the regular use of handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) units. Every on site staff person is now fully competent in the use of GPS units to collect well and septic system locations. The Geographic Information System (GIS) data set is expanding as new points are collected. This has greatly improved the accuracy of site plans and permits developed by Environmental Health Services staff.



Trimble Global Positioning System

Water Softener Study Update

Environmental Health Services and researchers from North Carolina State University (NCSU) initiated a pilot study in 2007 to study the effects of water softener equipment on the performance of septic tanks. In follow-up to this study, Environmental Health and NCSU researchers revisited study sites to gather more information to support data gathered from the prior year. The study and protocol were presented at a national forum in 2009.

Environmental Health is On the Move

Big things are happening in Orange County around building construction and departmental moves.

In 2007, the county finished construction on the Gateway Center, a three-story building that houses such services as the Register of Deeds and Land Records. The county soon expanded the area surrounding Gateway by adding two buildings: the Orange County Public Library and the West Campus Office Building. Environmental Health was one of several county services chosen to relocate to the West Campus Office Building.

Environmental Health's move will benefit both staff and community members. In the new facility, staff will have more space to operate, with a conference room of their own that is available at all times. The building has large meeting rooms that will help alleviate meeting space restrictions experienced in the past. There is also additional storage space for equipment and supplies. The division received new furniture to replace much older pieces that were happily left behind.

Small interview rooms will allow staff to meet with clients privately if needed. The division is now co-located with Planning and Inspections, which will prove helpful to clients who are also applying for building permits.

Environmental Health Services is now located at 131 W. Margaret Lane (Suite 100) in Hillsborough. For a map and more information about the county's expansion efforts, please visit www.orangecountygov.nc/orangeonthemove.





Health Promotion and Education Services Division

The Health Promotion and Education Services Division works with community groups and agencies throughout the county to provide health education materials, design community programs, and provide public health data for program planning and implementation efforts. The Health Promotion Division consists of the following programs: Healthy Carolinians of Orange County, Health Communication, Health Promotion, Immigrant and Refugee Health, Nutrition Services, and Orange County Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered.



Public Health Week Banner, ca. 1985

Major Outcomes

- The Health Promotion Division implemented awareness campaigns for National Preparedness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Nutrition Month, Public Health Month, and Kick Butts Day.
- The Nutrition Services Program became a member of the North Carolina Diabetes Education Recognition Program. The program can now provide reimbursable Diabetes Self Management Education services to adult residents with type 2 diabetes.
- The Orange County Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered. (TRU) Program received \$274,848 in continuation grant funding from the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund.
- Forty-two TRU Peer Educators educated 2,045 adults and youth through community and formal tobacco-use prevention activities, trainings, and presentations.
- The newly-formed Immigrant and Refugee Health (IRH) Program focused on program development and provided extensive internal technical assistance to improve the quality of health department services for immigrant and refugee clients. Efforts included staff training on language policies and working with refugees; the creation of an electronic “library” of immigrant and refugee health resources; and internal and external immigrant/refugee/language data collection.
- The IRH Program initiated the Orange County Refugee Health Coalition and provided technical assistance to local organizations regarding compliance with Limited English Proficiency policies, contract interpreter proficiency testing, and language services contracting.
- The Governor’s Task Force for Healthy Carolinians recertified Healthy Carolinians of Orange County (HCOC) for another four years. The HCOC Community Health Assessment report and prioritization process received statewide and national recognition as a model community assessment project.
- The Health Communication Specialist honored 11 internal project requests to produce such items as a youth tobacco training toolkit, pediatric obesity toolkit for health care providers, and a media kit for the Eat Smart Move More Orange County campaign.

Helping Orange County Kids Eat Smart and Move More



According to Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance data, Orange County has one of the highest percentages of overweight and obesity in the state—34% of children 2 to 4 years of age and 50% of adults in Orange County are overweight or obese. Individual and societal changes are needed to reduce overweight and obesity rates. In March 2008, Healthy Carolinians of Orange County’s Health Promotion Committee decided to tackle this problem by creating the Eat Smart, Move More Orange County Consistent Messaging Campaign.

Eat Smart, Move More Orange County was an extension of the North Carolina Eat Smart, Move More campaign. To ensure delivery of consistent information, the county campaign promoted state campaign messages. Using new and pre-developed materials, the campaign raised

awareness of the following Eat Smart, Move More NC messages:

- Choose to Move More Every Day
- Tame the Tube—and Get Moving
- Prepare More Meals at Home
- Re-Think your Drink

The campaign’s primary strategy was to engage local agencies that had access to families with children. The Health Promotion Committee partnered with 12 organizations that included schools, government, and businesses. Participating groups received a toolkit with educational materials that they could in turn provide to audience members. Partners pledged to incorporate one message per month into their communications over a four month period (May-August).

Eat Smart, Move More Orange County also used print, broadcast, and online media to promote messages. News articles written by the health director and HCOC members offered practical tips on how to adopt the desired behaviors. In addition, a group of high school students wrote and recorded the campaign’s “Healthy Hip Hop” theme song. Overall, the Eat Smart, Move More Consistent Messaging Campaign was a success. Partners did a great job promoting the messages in creative ways that were well received by their constituents.



Chapel Hill High School students record the “Healthy Hip Hop” theme song, April 2009

What's Public Health? This is Public Health...



The health department implemented the Association of Public Health's (ASPH) "This is Public Health" sticker campaign in April as an NC Public Health Month activity. The ASPH created "This is Public Health" to show the many ways that public health improves life. The campaign asks public health students and professionals to go into the community and photograph "This is Public Health" stickers on examples of public health in action. Pictures are uploaded to Flickr.com, mapped to show the location of origin, and shared with participants across the nation.

Health department staff participated by photographing stickers in personal and work spaces and at community events. We invited public health students, staff, and faculty from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health (an ASPH member) to participate and provided the school's Office of Student Affairs with stickers. Resulting photos were uploaded to Flickr to literally put Orange County "on the map." The health department, along with UNC students and faculty, shared over 100 images to become one of the top contributors to the national campaign's photo pool. To view our photos, visit www.flickr.com/groups/ochd-tiph.

The TRU Impact of Tobacco Prevention

The following letter was written by a local high school student to our Orange County Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered. (TRU) program coordinator. This letter shows the positive impact that media and outreach can have on health behaviors of Orange County youth.

Dear Ms. Diggs,

[I] was just going to tell you that I appreciate your program. [One] of my best friends [is] strong into everything that the TRU program is about and now I realize why. Also some of my peers smoke tobacco in the high school scene as you know a lot of teens do. Well what I'm emailing you about is about a month or so ago some of my peers saw the TRU commercial with the girl flipping the cards saying she always told herself she would quit before she was twenty. As they watched this commercial their heart, stomach and mind sank down to their toes because the same thing she was not able to say (without her voice box) were the excuses they used all the time. So my words are to just to reassure you that everything you do is helping. Also I would appreciate it very much if you could keep the heartfelt commercials like that one coming because it has saved many young [people's lives].



Personal Health Services Division

Personal Health Services has three sections: Clinical Services, Community Health Services, and Family Home Visiting Services. Clinical Services offers preventive and diagnostic care through its Chapel Hill and Hillsborough clinics. Major services include family planning, primary care, prenatal care, and well-child care. The Community Health Services Section provides communicable disease identification, investigation, control, and reporting. This section also manages potential human rabies exposures and provides immunizations, child care health consulting, and refugee health services. The Family Home Visiting section provides maternity care coordination and outreach, postpartum home visits for high-risk parents, and child service coordination for children who have or are at risk for developmental delays.



Public Health Nurse in Lab, ca. 1970s

Major Outcomes

- Clinical Services staff provided primary care services to 425 clients resulting in 756 clinic encounters.
- Clinical Services staff served 1,045 family planning clients of which 160 (15%) were teenagers.
- Personal Health Services increased the percentage of refugees receiving communicable disease screening within 30 days of arriving in the county from 47% (FY 2007-2008) to 62%.
- Community Health Services staff investigated and implemented control measures for all 607 reportable communicable diseases. This measure does not include HIV/STD suspects and contacts.
- Community Health Services staff managed 326 potential human rabies exposures during the fiscal year.
- Clinical Services staff performed 6,872 Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) tests of which 138 (2%) were positive. Disease testing included syphilis, Chlamydia, herpes, and gonorrhea.
- The Child Health Services Coordinator provided 2,114 encounters to assist 367 children with or at-risk for developmental delays.
- Over 90% of the clinic's prenatal clients gave birth to newborns weighing more than 2500 grams (or 5lbs and 8 ounces).
- Over 90% of parents enrolled in the Intensive Home Visiting Program reported an increase in child development knowledge and parenting skills.

Maternity Care and Child Service Coordination Programs

The Maternity Care Coordination program aims to reduce infant mortality by working with pregnant women to promote healthy pregnancy and achieve positive birth outcomes. The Child Service Coordination program works with at-risk and special needs children (from birth to age five) and their families. This is the story about one of the hundreds of women and children served in the past year.

Kimberley had just learned she was pregnant again when she first met Social Worker Donna Daniels. She had recently overcome substance abuse but was struggling financially and had no real support. “It was just me and my kids struggling, not knowing what to do – until I met Donna.” She enrolled in the Maternity Care Coordination program, and Ms. Daniels helped “ease her burden” by providing emotional support and resources for food, maternity clothes

and other pregnancy support services.

Once her baby was born, Ms. Daniels helped Kimberley enroll in the Child Service Coordination program, and work with Social Worker Betsy Knop and Maternal Outreach Worker Cathy Ferniany. Kimberley said Ms. Knop and Ms. Ferniany came to visit her and provided support, resources, and connections to community services.

To Kimberley, Ms. Knop did more than just help her with her new baby - she helped the whole family. Ms. Knop was able to locate a dentist that would accept Medicaid. When Kimberley’s 16 year old did not want to go to high school, Ms. Knop helped find an alternative school. When Kimberley suffered the loss of a close friend, Ms. Knop connected her with a bereavement support group.

Today, Kimberley says she is now on the right track. She has been clean for five and a half years and has turned her life around to the point where she is now able to help others in need. Her daughter just graduated from high school, and her other two children are also doing well.

Kimberley is the first to say, “The good that happened in my life would not have happened if I did not have MCC and CSC. They made my journey a lot easier. Now my kids don’t need to go without, and I am a better advocate for them.”



Cathy Ferniany, Betsy Knop, and Donna Daniels

Controlling Communicable Disease in Orange County

Control of Communicable Diseases, a mandated health department responsibility, remained an essential and busy service during the year. Personal Health Services staff experienced a 66% increase over the previous year in the number of reported diseases that were investigated and controlled. Major disease investigations during the year included the following:

- **Pertussis:** Pertussis (or whooping cough) is a bacterial disease characterized by uncontrollable coughing. Local cases, particularly in school and child care settings, required intense investigation and follow-up. From November 2008 through June 2009, 26 confirmed cases were reported with 900 contacts notified to receive antibiotic treatment. The case count prompted concern about the number of children who were not immunized due to religious exemptions. As a result, parents requesting a religious exemption to immunizations will now receive specific information in writing to assure that they realize school attendance implications for unimmunized children who are exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs):** Testing for STDs increased by 23%. Staff

performed 6,872 STD tests, of which 138 (2%) were positive. The number of local STD cases remained similar to past years, but the number of HIV/AIDS cases increased secondary to more routine testing and a reporting change.

- **H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu):** In the spring, Orange County began experiencing cases of H1N1 influenza. The virus continued to circulate in the community beyond the usual flu season prompting the health department to gear up for an extra busy 2009-2010 flu season.

In addition to addressing the issues above, Community Health Services staff continued providing communicable disease screening to all refugees resettling in the county. Orange County was one of the first counties to implement the North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS), which is a Web-based system for disease reporting and follow-up. Electronic disease reporting facilitates communication between providers and allows for more efficient management and reporting. The system also provides greater outbreak management and contact tracing capability in addition to serving as a central repository of public health communicable disease data.



Quality Assurance/Risk Management Unit

The Quality Assurance/Risk Management Unit coordinates internal program audits, develops and provides mandatory staff training, and ensures that employee safety programs are implemented. The unit also houses the health department's public health preparedness coordinator and emergency response volunteer programs the Orange County Public Health Reserve Corps and Orange County Community Emergency Response Team.



First OCHD Mass Vaccination Drill, 2004

Major Outcomes

- The Quality Assurance/Risk Manager audited 13 health department programs that provide clinical services to the public.
- The Quality Assurance/Risk Manager created a new online respiratory protection training presentation, post-quiz, and evaluation for all health department employees.
- Staff conducted 59 respiratory protection trainings to properly fit health department staff, Orange County School nurses, and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City school nurses for N-95 respirators. The main section picture (p. 22) shows Environmental Health Director Tom Konsler fit testing Maternal Outreach Worker Carolyn Wade for a respirator.
- The Public Health Preparedness Coordinator updated the Pandemic Influenza Plan, Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan, Antiviral Distribution Plan, N-95 Respirator Fit Testing Plan, and the SNS Local Receiving Site Plan.
- The section coordinated receipt of antiviral and respiratory protection supplies from the SNS for Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic response.
- The volunteer coordinator recruited 68 new volunteers to the Public Health Reserve Corps bringing the total number of volunteers to 296 by the end of the fiscal year.
- The Community Emergency Response Team Program provided basic disaster response training to 78 community members during the year.
- Emergency response volunteer programs received \$13,000 in grant funding to continue program development.

National Training Opportunity for Public Health Reserve Corps Volunteers

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) offered an exciting training opportunity for MRC volunteers interested in future federal deployment activities. The OCVMRC received over 270 applications for 24 available slots. Two Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers were selected to attend the all expense paid training. Fran Ventre, a Certified Nurse Midwife and Dr. Wesley Byerly, a pharmacist, represented our unit.

The 2009 OCVMRC Deployment Training took place May 18-22 in Bethesda, Maryland. The training included disaster preparedness and response related lectures and hands-on activities led by subject matter experts from the OCVMRC, Centers

for Disease Control, and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The training allowed participants to put the knowledge and skills learned into practice as they took part in a mass casualty triage exercise.

“Amanda, The workshop was fantastic and I feel so honored to have been chosen to participate. A special thank you to you for supporting me in this.”

- Fran Ventre

“MRC training in Washington was a blast, thanks for helping make it possible. I can’t wait to share the experience.”

- Wesley Byerly



*Dr. Wesley Byerly with MRC Volunteers,
MRC Training, May 2009*



*Fran Ventre, CNM with Commander Nair,
MRC Training, May 2009*

Volunteers Participate in Project Homeless Connect

Twenty-six Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers participated in the 2nd Annual Project Homeless Connect held in September 2008. The Orange County Housing and Community Development Department organizes Project Homeless Connect each year to offer a range of services to people experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) homelessness. The event brings together human service agencies from across the county.

Many of our Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers participated in Project Homeless Connect by helping to provide health screenings, dental health services, intake interviews, and more. Registered Nurse Lorraine La Pointe wrote the following letter to share her feelings about her involvement:

I volunteered at 2008 Project Homeless as an RN. I was doing glucose and cholesterol monitoring. In my 25+ years of nursing I have never been thanked more or felt more appreciated. Many participants were finding out for the first time that they have abnormal values. After I went home that night the faces and stories of some of the people who came through our station kept flooding my mind. I realized if any of the situations that befell these folks and compromised their health care could easily happen to me or my friends. I am glad to be invited to return to Project Homeless, I wish it could be more than once a year.

Orange County CERT Flourishes

The health department manages the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program in partnership with Orange County Emergency Services to teach community members how to prepare for and respond to local disasters. The program has seen much growth and success and reported the following statistics at the end of the fiscal year:

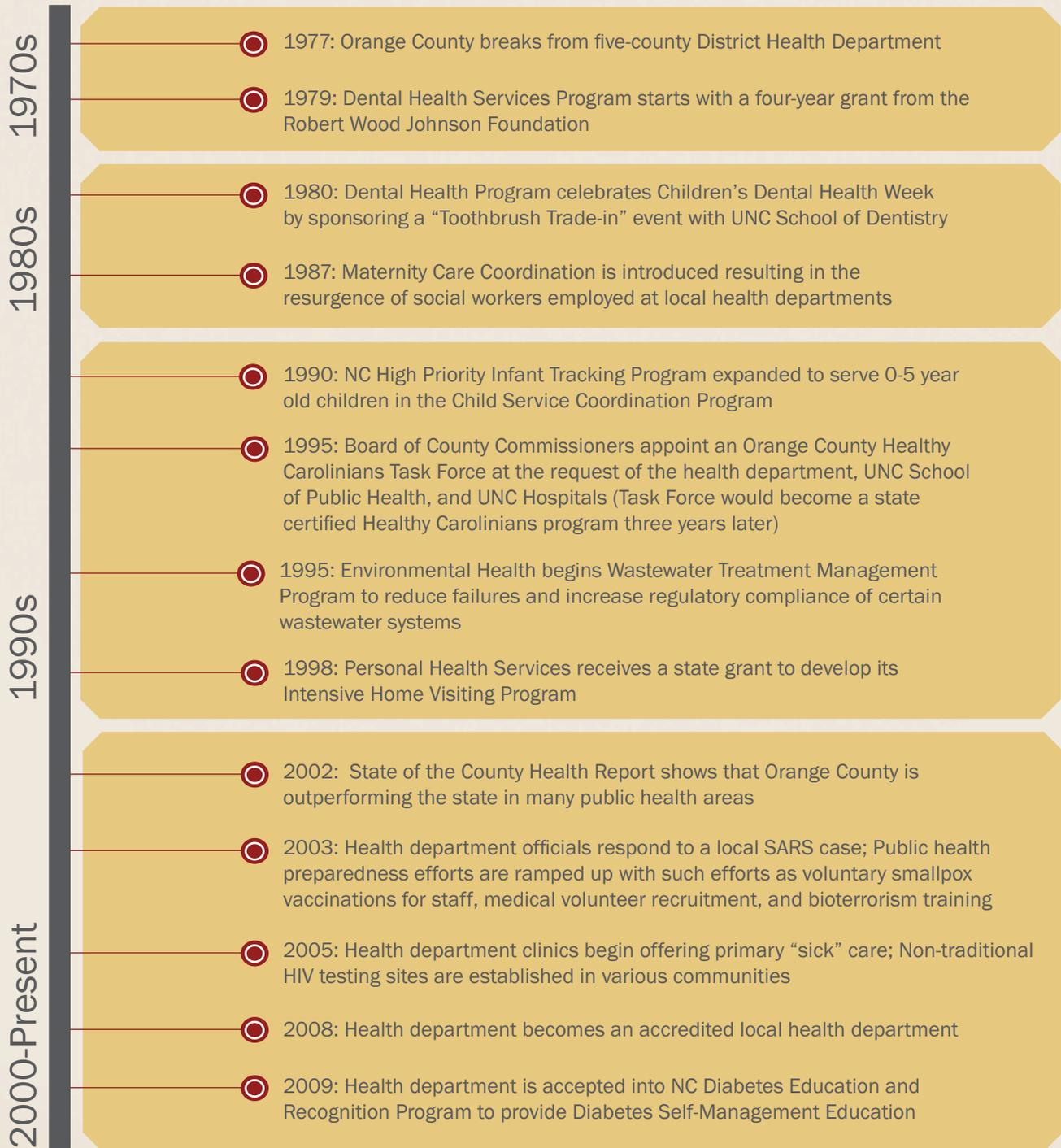
- 146 registered volunteers
- 20 instructors, most of which are first responders
- 11 community teams trained
- CERT volunteers participated in 71 activities



The Cedars of Chapel Hill CERT Training, April 2009

Tracking our Success:

A Brief Orange County Health Department Time Line



This time line provides a small sample of the health department's accomplishments in protecting the public's health.

Continued Service: Looking Forward to Another Year

Thank you for taking time to read this annual report. The Orange County Health Department looks forward to another year of serving the public health needs of Orange County residents. Our accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2008-2009 were the result of internal collaborations along with partnerships with community organizations, health care professionals, neighborhoods, and individual residents. We will build on this work throughout the 2009-2010 year and continue delivering quality services so that every resident can live in a safe and healthy community.

Acknowledgements

The following Orange County Health Department staff members deserve acknowledgement for their assistance in preparing this report:

Amanda Bartolomeo, Volunteer Coordinator
Letitia Burns, MBA, Business Officer/Central Administration Services Director
Judy Butler, RN, Community Health Services Supervisor
Susan Clifford, MSW, MPH, Immigrant and Refugee Health Coordinator
Angela Cooke, Dental Health Services Director
Pam Diggs, MPH Orange County Youth Tobacco Prevention Program Coordinator
Kathy Glasscock, RN, Clinical Nursing Supervisor
Kathleen Goodhand, MSW, Home Visiting Services Supervisor
Rebekah Hermann, RN, Family Home Visiting Coordinator
Carla Julian, RN, MPH, Quality Improvement/Risk Manager
Donna King, MPH, Health Promotion and Education Services Director
Betsy C. Knop, LCSW, Social Work Supervisor
Tom Konsler, RS, Environmental Health Services Director
Anne Miles-Cassell, Administrative Assistant
Jaymin Patel, Environmental Health Specialist
Sue Rankin, RN, Communicable Disease Coordinator
Nidhi Sachdeva, MPH, CHES, Health Promotion Coordinator
Wayne Sherman, BSN, MSPH Personal Health Services Director
Rosemary Summers, MPH, DrPH, Orange County Health Director

Orange County Health Department | 2008-2009 Annual Report

Whitted Human Services Center

300 W. Tryon Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-245-2400

Southern Human Services Center

2501 Homestead Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919-968-2022

Dental Health Services

Hillsborough Dental Clinic
300 W. Tryon Street
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-245-2435

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Carrboro, NC 27510
919-968-2025

Environmental Health Services

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Report Designed by Candice Watkins Robinson

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