

2009

Sanilac County Health Department Annual Report



Sanilac County Health Department

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Dianna L. Schafer, M.P.A.
Health Officer

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Medical Director

Public Health Matters!

H_{Health} O_{fficer} P_{erspective}

On behalf of the staff and the Board of Health, I am pleased to present the Sanilac County Health Department's 2009 Annual Report.

As our communities continue to experience financial difficulties, we have clearly seen an increase in the number of families accessing and utilizing public health programs. Therefore, the need to maintain high quality cost effective programs and services for county residents is a priority.

Why you ask.....because Public Health Matters.

Through our immunization programs, we vaccinate children and adults to protect them from serious communicable diseases. We inspect our restaurants to ensure food safety and handling which in turn reduces the risk for food borne illnesses. We screen thousands of school age children to ensure they can see and hear and be successful in school. We work with the school districts to provide education and counseling services for adolescents on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse. Our nurses make hundreds of home visits to high risk pregnant moms and babies. We inspect wells and septic systems to safeguard our water supplies and we educate, test and counsel individuals about sexually transmitted diseases.

Why you ask.....because Public Health Matters

The work of public health generally goes unnoticed. However, every day public health is working to protect our communities to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote healthy behaviors.

Public Health programs and services have a significant return on investment in the community and have direct impact on economic development, business, education and tourism. Cost savings result because kids who are immunized are in school on "count" days. Moms and dads don't miss work because the entire family was vaccinated against the flu. Tourists come to the area because the hotdog stands at our summer festivals are safe and people don't get sick because our beach water is tested and determined safe for swimming. A thorough understanding and continued support of essential public health services are critical to the future health, well-being, and the economy of our small communities. **Why you ask.....because Public Health Matters.**

We appreciate the collaborative support we receive from our community partners and the financial commitment of the Board of Commissioners and look forward to making Sanilac County a healthier community to live, work and play.

I invite you to read through this report to gain a better understanding of **why Public Health Matters.....**I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at the number of ways Public Health contributes to our everyday living.

To Your Good Health.....

Dianna L. Schafer, M.P.A.
Health Officer

M_{edical} D_{irector} P_{erspective}

As the economy goes, so seems to go public health. Without a day passing, every resident of Sanilac County utilizes, knowingly or not, services provided by the Sanilac County Health Department. From the water used in drinking, cooking, and bathing to water safety of public pools, inland lakes, and rivers used for recreation are all assessed for safety and monitored. The food you eat, the automobiles and other motorized vehicles you drive, your health and that of your children and parents have elements of surveillance **assessing** the health of the community. The Sanilac County Health Department works through its Board of Health, the Sanilac Board of Commissioners, Michigan Department of Community Health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and a myriad of local partners addressing public policy issues. The primary purpose of public health work is **assurance** that the public's health, safety, and welfare are a high priority when funding gets tight.

The Sanilac County Health Department, like nearly all other local Michigan Health Departments, is necessarily examining what they do and how they do it. Unfortunately, public health has done so much with so little for so long, some may think we should be able to do anything with nothing. Mandated programs, much provided as unfunded mandates, currently are threatened and some non-mandated programs and services may need to be cut back or eliminated. It will, indeed, make safety assurance more tenuous.

Personnel are most times where organizations spend the most money from their budgets. In Public Health, it takes people and particular levels of expertise in specific areas and disciplines to seek out and write grants, develop, implement, and evaluate interventions. It takes people to enter data, perform inspections, provide information and education, and deliver health services to the community. It takes people to monitor health and disease trends,

interview individuals exposed and/or suffering from communicable diseases, provide prophylaxis, and make required reports to administrative, regulatory, and professional oversight agencies. Each of these also require specific equipment and supplies and all professional personnel require regular periodic updating in their own education, which often requires travel, accommodations, food, and other expenses associated with didactic and experiential learning.

Currently, the major focus the Sanilac County Health Department is addressing is the quality improvement of processes. This requires process mapping and other techniques that address streamlining to eliminate systematic waste of time, supplies, and steps while being able to better measure outcomes more efficiently and cost-effectively. One means of reducing waste in the system is acquisition of in-house education capabilities, such as equipment used for group video conferencing, large group and community audiovisual presentations, education materials development, reproduction and delivery. Using this quality improvement process will help to decrease clinic errors that may be related to less professional provider availability and provide our clients with a safer service-delivery environment. Another improvement that requires significant financial resources is a move to fully electronic client records and system-wide interconnectivity between divisions so paper supplies could be minimized, data entry would not be redundant, the software could pre-populate fields used in all divisions, especially for demographic information that currently may require the same data entered into multiple systems using time of multiple people doing the same job over and over.

Client education takes an inordinate amount of personnel time. Clients waiting for services in our waiting areas could be provided audiovisual education providing appropriate and adequate equipment is available. An area where clients may be seated privately to view audiovisual materials on an individual basis would help

provide pre- or post-service provision answers to the most frequently asked questions to decrease personnel time in one-on-one face-to-face encounters and more clients could be served with the fewer personnel we have available.

Much gets done despite the needs of inadequate available resources. The Sanilac County Health Department prides its self on the multiple collaborative ventures it enters. Unfortunately, there can be duplication of services, which if consolidated, would be available to a wider constituency and become more efficient and cost-effective.

We do much with little and expect to do more with less currently. Unfortunately, the less we are able to do, the less safe Sanilac County becomes. Most people know little about what the Health Department does unless they need services or there is a major threat to the health and safety that emerges, such as beach closings, food-borne illness outbreaks, or the emergence of a communicable disease that threatens the public.

We do good work!

Russell L. Bush, MD, MPH

Board of Health Members

Mrs. Jamie Daws:	Chairperson
Mr. John Merriman:	Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Pam Willis:	Secretary
Mrs. Pam Surbrook:	Board Member
Mr. Brad Apsey:	Board Member:

Financials

FY 2007-2008 FY 2008-2009

Agency Budget	\$2,005,207	\$1,908,840
Revenues (% of budget)		
State/Federal Grants	55%	47%
Fees	29%	34%
County Appropriations	8%	10%
Other	8%	9%
Expenditures (% of budget)		
Health Services	64%	61%
Environmental Health	16%	18%
Substance Abuse	13%	14%
Other	7%	7%

SANILAC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF



Back Row: John Armstrong, Lisa Warden, Debbie Clinansmith, Ellen Goshorn, Heather Kohn, Debra Cook, Judy VanEeno, Holly Harrison, Andrea Long, Carol Johnston, Yvonne Darlington, Crystal Bell, Janet Wilkins, Diane Williams
Middle Row: Nina Green, JoAnn Wrubel, Carla Mitchell, Carol Tarzwell, Linda McConnachie, Barb Simpson, Michelle McDonald
First Row: Dianna Schafer, Angie Weber, George Mariutza, Lisa Bachman

Staff not present in photo: Steven Aguinaga, Charlene Biessel, Sue VanDyke, Dr. Russell Bush

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sanilac County Health Department is to provide all county residents with services to aid in preventing and protecting against disease and disability, to enhance the quality of life, and to promote health and well-being through an organized community effort.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Sanilac County Health Department is to collaborate with the community and each other to provide an innovative approach to health promotion and protection.

Guiding Principles

Accountability: We believe best practices are essential to the successful operation of our agency. Therefore we will strive to deliver our services in the most cost effective efficient manner possible to ensure that local, state, and federal funds are utilized appropriately.

Customer-Centered Service: We believe the public should be treated with respect and receive the highest quality of services available. Therefore we will deliver programs and services that are both essential and value added to best meet the public health needs of our communities.

Collaboration/Community Involvement: We believe the key to achieving optimal population-based health is done through successful partnerships with other agencies and organizations. Therefore we will continue to build upon established partnerships and create new ones to continually improve and provide coordinated health services.

Innovation: We believe during these financially challenging times it is necessary to think “outside the box” to better position ourselves to capture additional funding resources. Therefore we will actively pursue creative opportunities to improve our financial position and seek mutually beneficial partnerships to achieve financial sustainability.

Fun: We believe that we should make our time spent at work as much fun as possible. Sponsoring activities that promote a positive work environment is beneficial to staff, the agency, and the public. Therefore we will continue to support our work family through birthday and holiday celebrations, popcorn Thursday, and food fest staff meetings.



Ten Essential Public Health Services

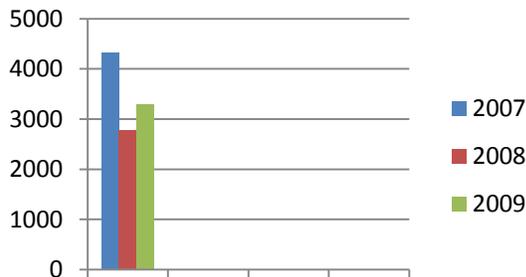
- **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems.
- **Diagnose** and investigate health problems and health issues.
- **Inform**, educate, and empower people about health issues.
- **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- **Develop** policies and plans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

Public Health

Immunizations

The immunization program is a mandated service that prevents and protects children and adults from a variety of diseases such as measles, influenza, meningitis, diphtheria, rubella, chickenpox, polio, TB, and tetanus. In 2009, our nurses administered **2406** doses of vaccine and provided 1335 doses of vaccine to local private physicians. Local private physicians recently transitioned to an online vaccine ordering system so the health department no longer provides vaccine to these offices. Our nurses also work closely with local physicians in the VFC (Vaccine for Children) program to insure vaccine is stored and administered properly.

Doses of Vaccine Administered

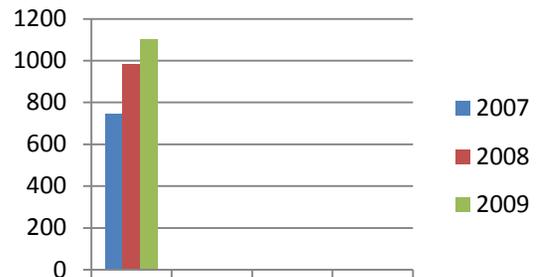


Women, Infants and Children

This program is for pregnant women and infants who are at or below 185% of the poverty level as well as children up to the age of five who are at nutritional risk. WIC provides a combination of nutrition education, supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion, and referrals to healthcare services. WIC food packages range from \$40.00-\$300.00 per month and include milk, formula, juice, cereal, rice, cheese, whole grains, fresh fruit and vegetables. In 2009, we served a caseload of **1102** families in this program. Children are also immunized as well as tested for lead poisoning during their WIC appointment. There was a total of **\$698,352.09** food dollars spent in Sanilac County through this program.

In 2009, this program transitioned to a completely computerized on-line program making WIC visits more efficient.

Number of Families Served

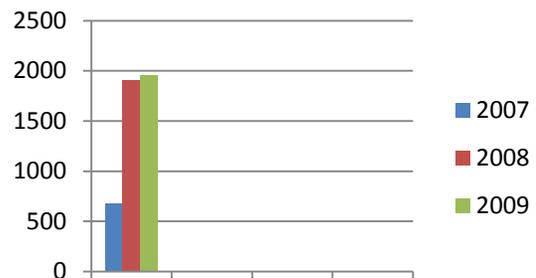


Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP)

Our nurses, social worker, and dietician make home and clinic visits to high risk women and infants and assist them by providing information on pregnancy, how to prepare for childbirth, referral to other health services, childbirth education, transportation to medical appointments, and infant care and parenting. In 2009, the MIHP program made **1955** home and office visits to moms and babies who were considered high risk for complications during or after childbirth.

The average caseload of mothers and babies for the year was 140.

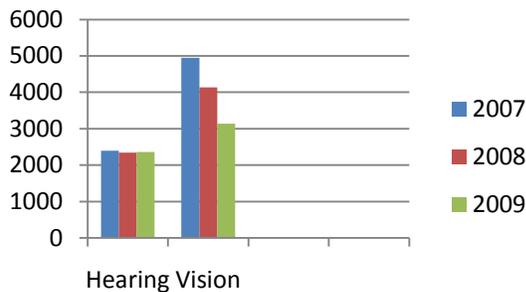
Number of Home and Office Visits



Hearing and Vision

The Hearing and Vision Program is a vital and mandated service provided by the health department in the schools. This program identifies childhood hearing and vision problems which might go undetected if not caught early. In 2009, our professionally trained hearing and vision technician screened **2365** children for hearing and **3138** for vision. There were **472** children who were referred for further medical evaluation.

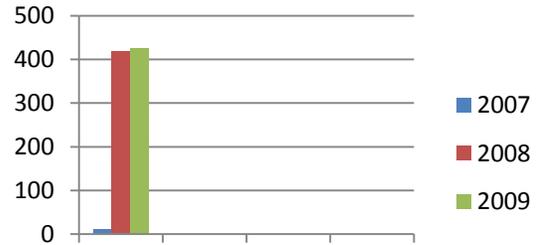
Number of Children Tested



Blood Lead Level Screening

Lead exposure is one of the most preventable poisonings of childhood. Children who are exposed to high levels of lead may develop brain damage, developmental delays, learning disabilities, and hearing loss. Early identification and treatment of lead poisoning reduces the risk that children will suffer permanent damage. The most common forms of lead are lead based paint and lead contaminated water and soil. All children who are on Medicaid are required to be tested for lead. In 2009, we screened **426** children for lead.

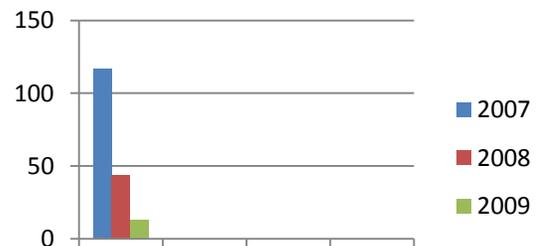
Number of Children Tested



Children's Special Health Care Services

This program provides nursing care management to families who have children with a chronic health condition by covering the expenses for specialty medical services, care and equipment. The program also assists with medical appointments and travel expenses. In 2009, **160** families were provided services in this program.

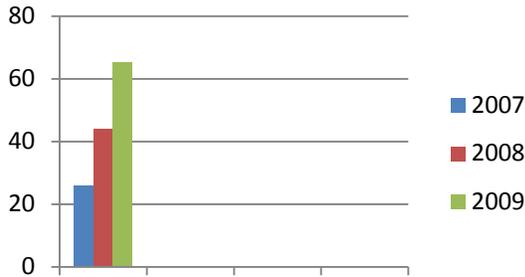
Number of Families Served through CSHCS



MI Child/Healthy Kids Insurance Assistance

MI Child and Healthy Kids are statewide programs that provide healthcare insurance to low income, Medicaid, and uninsured children under the age of 19. The programs offer regular check-ups, immunizations, dental and hospital care, pre-natal, vision, and hearing screening, substance abuse services and prescription coverage. We assisted **65** families with the application process in order to quickly get them insured under this program.

Applications Processed



Infectious and Communicable Disease Control and Investigation

Mandated under the Public Health Code, our nurses investigate communicable diseases reported in the county such as TB, Hepatitis, HIV, Norovirus, Lyme disease, Giardia, Pertussis, Salmonella, and Rabies. The public health system depends on reports of diseases to monitor the health status of the community to provide the basis for prevention and to identify outbreaks and epidemics. Our nurses also investigate animal bites to insure all domesticated animals are free from rabies. Wild animal bite reports are investigated and victims are assisted in receiving rabies vaccine if needed. In 2009, 52 animal bites were reported and investigated and 2 animals tested positive for rabies; a bat and skunk.

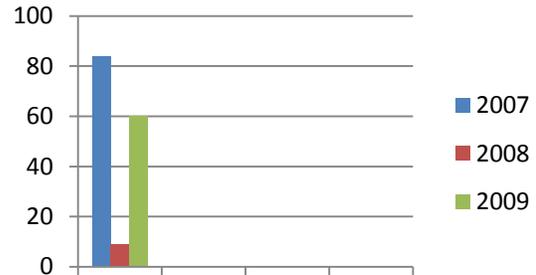
Our nurses work closely with the area schools who report communicable disease cases. These cases are monitored for trends and early intervention is provided to prevent spread of disease.

In 2009, our nursing staff investigated 56 communicable diseases.

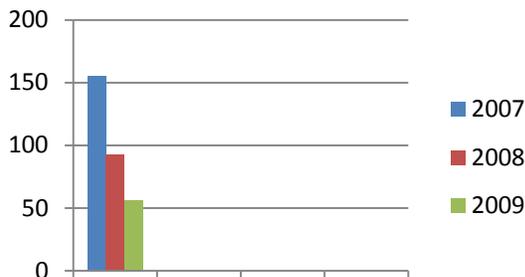
Sexually Transmitted Diseases

A mandated service under the Public Health Code, this program offers individuals who may have been exposed to a sexually transmitted infection such as Chlamydia, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and/or HIV infection education, testing, counseling and referrals. In 2009, 60 STD cases were reported to the health department.

Number STD Cases Reported



Number of Disease Reports

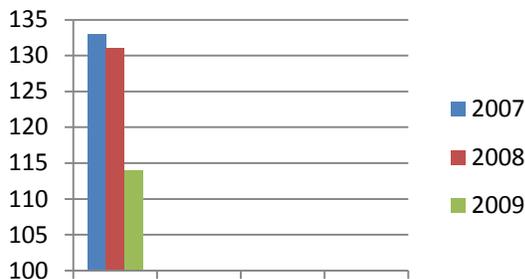


E nvironmental Health

O n-Site Sewage Program

This program protects the public's health by overseeing the permitting and construction of new and replacement on-site sewage treatment/disposal systems. Sewage contains many viral and bacterial pathogens, such as E coli, clostridium, and salmonella which can cause disease in both humans and animals. Proper treatment and disposal of sewage is critical to human health and the health of the environment. This program also provides contractor continuing education and registration to area septic installers. In 2009, the EH program issued **114** sewage permits.

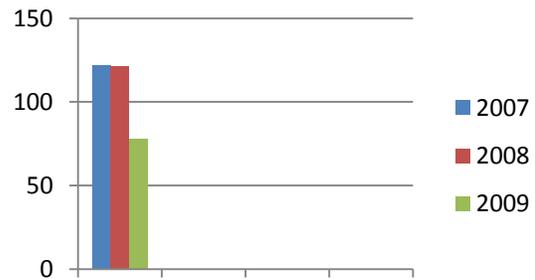
Number of Sewage Permits Issued



T ype III Water Well Program

This program protects the public's health by overseeing the permitting and construction of water wells for both small business and private homes. This program includes tracking of well logs, water sample results, and providing information for people with water quality concerns. EH staff also works with well drillers and other industry representatives to address problems specific to Sanilac County, including arsenic, salt content in the aquifers, and the lack of potable water near the lakeshore. Proper well construction, grouting, isolation, from contamination sources and sampling of water quality is important to ensure a safe water supply for cooking and drinking. This program also provides recommendations and oversight for the proper abandonment of unused wells, which is a critical step in protecting drinking water resources. In 2009, the EH program issued **74** well permits.

Number of Well Permits Issued



T ype II Non-community Water Supply Program

This program protects the public health by working with restaurants, schools, and other facilities that serve 25 people or more to ensure the water they provide is safe for drinking. This program involves conducting surveys of the wells and plumbing systems at the facilities and checking cross-connections as well as monitoring water sample results, treatment systems, and operational reports. Oversight is also provided in the permitting and construction process for new public well installations. Proper construction of the well, maintenance of the well system, and isolation from contamination sources is critical in maintaining a safe, clean water supply. There are approximately 110 non-community systems in Sanilac County.

F ood Program

This program protects the public health by conducting inspections of food service facilities such as restaurants, school cafeterias, and food booths at community events. Facilities are evaluated in many areas, such as food storage and handling, food sources, cleanliness, and the maintenance of proper food temperatures; all of which are critical steps in preventing food illness. This program also involves plan reviews and education and training for restaurant staff. In 2009, there were **340** food inspection completed throughout the county.

Sanilac County Services

The Sanilac Alcohol and Other Drug Program has been providing quality substance abuse counseling services to area residents for more than 35 years. In addition to substance abuse counseling, this program also offers domestic violence, anger management, and psychological evaluations all in a manner that endeavors to treat clients with respect and dignity.

Outpatient Treatment

Individual, group, family counseling, relapse prevention, and early recovery treatment are offered for persons seeking to make improvement in their lives by gaining the tools necessary to change old habits, flawed thinking patterns, deal with issues of physical/sexual/verbal abuse all of which frequently lead to substance use as a means to cope.

Domestic Violence/Anger Management

Batterers Accountability Training and Building Anger Management Skills primarily target court referred individuals. Alcohol and drugs are often involved in these cases. Clients are also screened for substance abuse problems and referred for other counseling as needed.

Alcohol Highway Safety Education

This program is for first offense impaired drivers. It is aimed at the education of the participant to aid them in making better decisions regarding their drinking as well as for them to make an honest evaluation of their use including its effects on family and society.

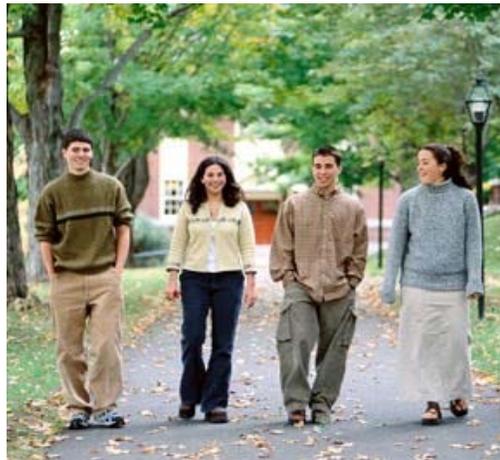
Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Program

This program's objective is to create safer neighborhoods and better citizens. MPRI involves planning for successful Re-Entry for parolees into their home community from well before the prison release date.

The Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative has proven to reduce recidivism.

School Programs

This program is grateful for the consistent support received from the Sanilac County Drug Task Force to provide individual counseling in all seven of the high school districts within Sanilac County. This unique program reaches adolescents in the early stages of problems with alcohol and other drug use or who are affected by the use of family and/or friends.

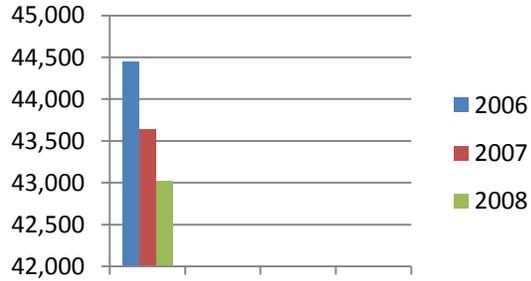


Emergency Preparedness

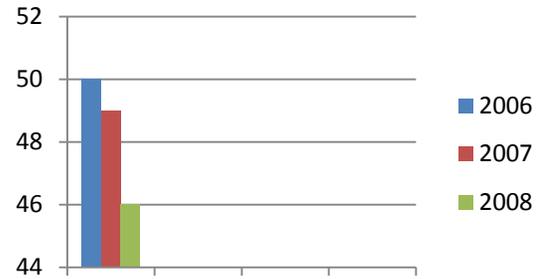
Many are unaware of the vital role that the public health department plays in emergency preparedness efforts. Working alongside emergency management, hospitals, law enforcement, and other first responder agencies, the public health department is responsible for protecting the public's health from communicable disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and acts of bioterrorism. Local, regional, state, and federal agencies work collaboratively with the local health department in responding to emergencies where medical supplies, materials, and resources can become scarce. Consistent training, conferences, and drills are an integral part of emergency preparedness planning in order to remain current and ready to deal with unforeseeable events.

Sanilac County Statistics - 2009

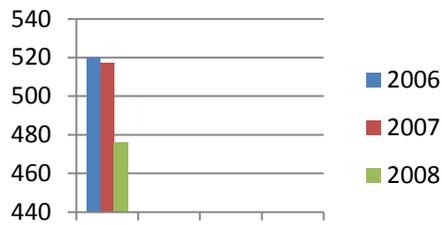
Population



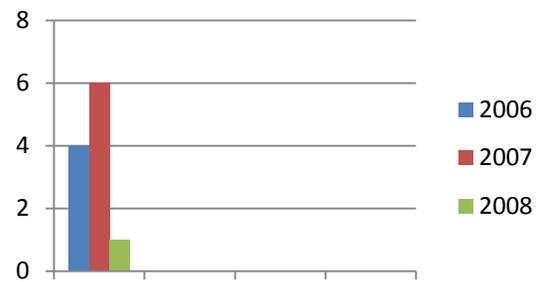
Births to Teens under Age 20



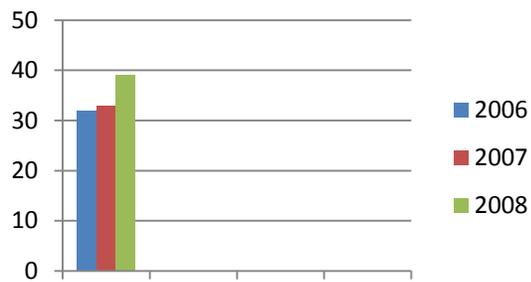
Total Births



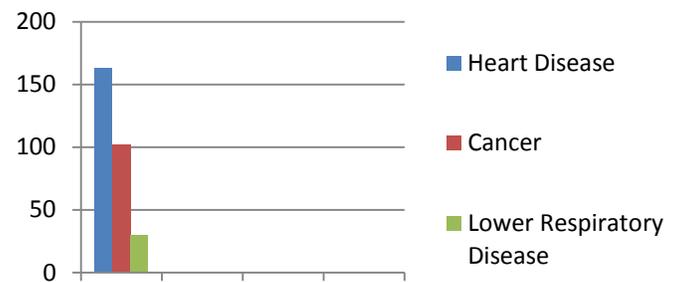
Infant Deaths



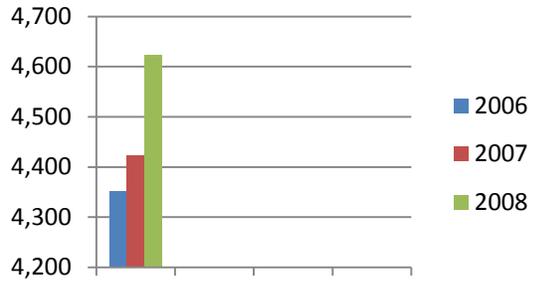
Low Birth Weight Babies



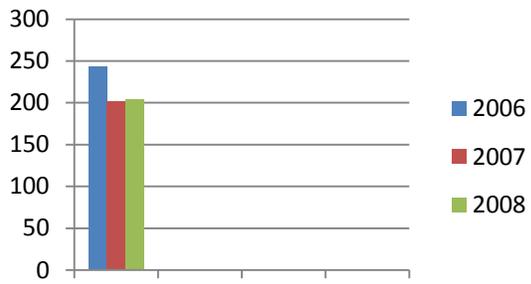
Leading Causes of Death



Children Ages 0-18 Insured by Medicaid



Children Ages 0-18 Insured by MI Child



Students Receiving Free or Reduced Priced Lunch

