

# Benton County Health Department Annual Report 2007

## Your Health Department...

- *investigates disease outbreaks*
- *records birth & death certificates*
- *conducts substance abuse prevention*
- *evaluates local ambulance service*
- *evaluates & monitors county landfill*
- *inspects and licenses restaurants*
- *provides mental health crisis intervention*
- *visits homes of high-risk infants*
- *provides travel immunizations*
- *conducts community-wide health promotion*

Benton County Health Department  
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## Public Health



The Public Health Division of Benton County Health Department provides a variety of services including Maternal and Child Health, School Nursing, Immunizations, and Oral Health, plus Health Promotion / Disease Prevention Programs such as: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Abuse Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Case Management. It manages Disease Outbreak Response and Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

**PUBLIC HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS:** *Benton County Health Department investigated more than 393 communicable disease reports in 2007. Health Department nurses administered immunizations against contagious diseases to 672 children and 90 adults, plus over 480 Flu shots, helping to assure that those at greatest risk for the flu received their vaccinations first. Public Health Nurses made multiple home visits to 95 at-risk pregnant women and their infants; provided nutritional counseling and food vouchers to 2,231 low-income, pregnant women and their children; and contributed over \$679,000 in food vouchers and over \$6,800 in farmers' market coupons to the local economy.*

## Mental Health

The Mental Health Division of the Benton County Health Department coordinates a county-wide system of prevention and treatment services for individuals with mental health issues, alcohol and drug additions, and/or developmental disabilities.

Benton County programs promote independence and recovery by providing assessment, support, education, skills training, therapy, medical assistance, and comprehensive case management through individual care plans.



**MENTAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS:** *In 2007, 887 adults with serious and persistent mental illness received case management, counseling, and psychiatric services. In addition: 243 clients received services for addiction, 79 children received family mental health care (over 400 additional children received care through subcontractors), and 420 individuals with developmental disabilities were served.*

## **Environmental Public Health**

The department's Environmental Health Division works to keep our community safe by ensuring that restaurants and other food establishments serve safe food; that small public water systems continue to provide safe drinking water; that homes and businesses have safe, functioning septic systems, which do not pose a health risk to neighbors or the community; and that the county has an effective solid waste collection program that also supports your recycling and sustainability goals.

The Environmental Health Division offers classes on food safety, investigates animal bites, monitors for emerging diseases such as West Nile Virus, and investigates food-borne and water-borne disease outbreaks. The Division also monitors the Coffin Butte landfill with the help of a citizen's advisory committee.



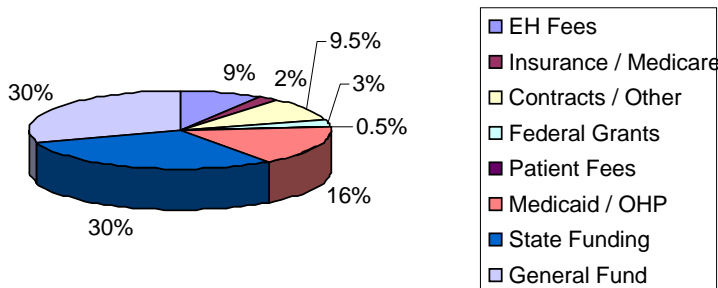
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS:** *In 2007 the Environmental Health Division: inspected 324 licensed or contract food facilities, 72 swimming pools/spas, processed 262 septic system applications, responded to 311 requests for investigations, monitored 76 public water systems, inspected 306 temporary food vendors, and processed 357 food handler's cards.*

## **Integrated Public Health Services**

Benton County is a leader in service delivery innovation. County health services are based on the philosophy that clients are best served through a medical home that integrates our public health, community mental health and primary care (family medicine) centers through multidisciplinary care teams. County public health and mental health workers collaborate to conduct individual and population-wide substance abuse prevention. Together, public health and environmental health manage communicable disease outbreaks and respond to health emergencies. Environmental Health Specialists work hand in hand with prevention workers and providers to create and maintain a community in which people can be healthy. The Health Department also works closely with community-based organizations, City and County agencies, local medical practices, Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center and Oregon State University.

## **Public Health Funding**

About \$10 million of the Health Department's approximate \$18 million annual budget is distributed to community service programs. The department operates on about \$8 million to provide direct services. Funding sources are outlined below:



## **Grants, Fees Round Out Health Department Budget**

Public health in Oregon is funded primarily by federal and county dollars. Oregon spends less than \$1.20 per person from state general funds on public health. That's just a fourth of the estimated need. Benton County Health Department actively seeks grant funding from a variety of sources to enhance local public health services.