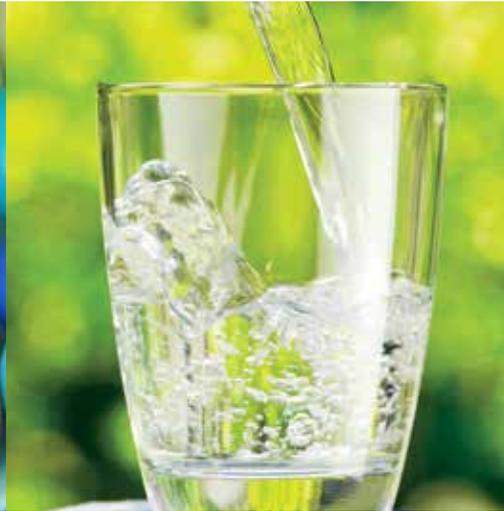




**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Grand Forks Public Health**



# 2015 Annual Report

HEALTHY PEOPLE

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

HEALTHY COMMUNITY



## The Grand Forks Public Health Department is committed to:

- promoting healthy environments and lifestyles
- preventing disease
- building community resilience through preparedness
- assuring access to health services



The Health Department actively uses social media and our website to communicate health messages to the public. Check us out at [www.grandforksgov.com/publichealth](http://www.grandforksgov.com/publichealth) on Facebook and Twitter.

## Sources of Funding



- City & County 33%
- State Grants 17%
- Federal Grants 14%

- Mosquito Control 24%
- Fees 11%
- Other 1%



Dr. Joel Walz was appointed Grand Forks Health Officer in August and joined Dr. Grant Korsmo, Dr. Sally Pyle, Cynthia Pic and Jeannie Mock on the Grand Forks Board of Health.



# Breastfeeding

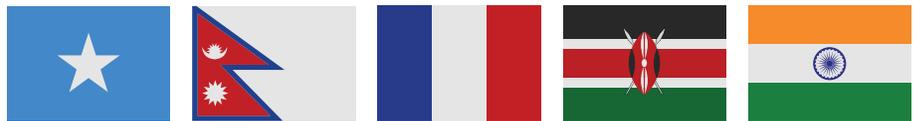


Seven local businesses adopted breastfeeding policies for their employees as a result of consultation with experts at the Health Department. Breastfeeding promotes healthier mothers and infants and is a proven strategy to reduce obesity.

## Vision Screenings



Forty referrals for vision follow-up resulted from the 305 children screened in rural Grand Forks County Schools.



## Interpreter Training Course

In an effort to increase cultural competence among area health and human service organizations, the Health Department sponsored an interpreter training program with funding from a variety of agencies. Twenty three individuals attended and are now providing interpreter services in the following languages: Arabic, Somali, Nepali, Malaysian, French, Khran, Oromo, Amarick, Swahili and Hindi.



# Women's Way

Women's Way provides patient navigation for breast and cervical cancer preventative screenings along with a way to pay for most breast and cervical cancer

screenings to eligible North Dakota women. Women's Way's mission is to promote early detection of breast and cervical cancer for the women of North Dakota through provision of screening services to eligible women.

>> 394 women received assistance for breast and cervical cancer screenings

>> 342 women enrolled in Women's Way Program

>> 315 women received screening services paid by Women's Way

>> 2 women diagnosed with breast cancer

>> 1 woman diagnosed with moderate cervical dysplasia



## HIV/HCV Prevention and Counseling

The integrated HIV and viral hepatitis program provided HIV testing for 118 area residents and Hepatitis C testing for 103 residents. This program seeks to identify individuals in need of treatment and other services. As part of this program, 19 individuals received preventative vaccinations for Hepatitis A & B.



## Health Tracks

The North Dakota Health Tracks program serves children from birth to age 21 on Medicaid insurance through screening, early intervention and preventive services provided by a public health nurse and social worker. During 2015, 404 children were served through the Health Tracks program, which resulted in 308 community referrals for vision, nutrition, dental, and physical and behavioral health services.

# 404



The Grand Forks Public Health Department was honored with the Model Practice Award at the 2015 Annual Conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The award celebrates local health departments for developing programs that demonstrate exemplary and replicable best practice in response to a critical local public health need.



The Tobacco Prevention Program provided education on the health benefits of a Comprehensive Tobacco Free Policy to the Grand Forks Park Board Commissioners, resulting in a strengthened policy protecting the public and creating the social norm of tobacco free parks and recreation.

**Grand Forks Public Health enhanced its ability to provide services to additional community members by expanding the list of accepted health insurances to include Sanford Health Plans.**

**HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

**Grand Forks Public Health established and implemented a department-wide employee influenza vaccination policy which resulted in 100% compliance during the 2015-2016 flu season. 729 doses of state-provided vaccines and 1,935 doses of privately-purchased vaccines were administered to community members to reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases.**





Partners for a Healthy Community was launched this year in an effort to reduce obesity through promotion of healthy environments and policies in workplaces. Eight agencies partnered to make Grand Forks healthier by establishing walking programs, healthy meeting refreshment policies, supportive environments for breastfeeding, and health and fitness incentives for workers.

8

500

The 4th Street Farmer's Market, held at the County Office Building in July and August, was a huge success with more than 500 community members, including city and county employees, purchasing locally grown produce. Each week the market included a healthy recipe, cooking tip or demonstration so participants could learn new ways to include fruits and vegetables in their meals.



# Environmental Health

## ...by the Numbers

- >> 15 septic system evaluations
- >> 111 pool facility inspections
- >> 139 environmental evaluations (indoor air quality, mold, chemical spill)
- >> 441 nuisance evaluations
- >> 515 food facility inspections



Environmental health personnel worked with local area veterinarians and residents to update the City of Grand Forks rabies ordinance. The new ordinance reflects evidence-based practice for newer vaccines that are available. Rabies vaccinations are recommended for cats and dogs to prevent the spread of disease to humans.



The implementation of electronic health records and data collection systems has made our work more efficient and responsive. Community members are now able to report environmental concerns online and track the progress of complaints.

Personnel from the Health Department collaborated with local, state, and federal agencies to investigate and abate a mercury spill in the Near North Neighborhood in Grand Forks. Mercury contamination impacted one elementary school, one business and ten residences. The abatement included extensive cleanup measures to protect both the community and the environment.

Our involvement with the Northeast Public Health Collaborative led to the adoption of model policy language for septic systems in a neighboring county.

# HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



# Mosquito Control

The Mosquito Control Program applied larvicide to more than 2,300 acres of wetlands and applied adulticide to almost 200,000 acres. The surveillance division collected and tested 235 sampling pools of mosquitoes for West Nile Virus, and 37 tested positive. During mosquito season 2015, 14 city-wide ground sprays were conducted.

2,300

In response to the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, the Health Department organized the Ebola Healthcare Coordination Committee which served as a conduit of information from the CDC. This group shared information about local plans to contain any cases of Ebola in the region and created awareness of control measures among health care facilities within Grand Forks County.

The Grand Forks Public Health Chemical Response Annex Plan was revised and updated to increase the speed and efficiency in responding to chemical incidents, such as train derailments, anhydrous release, road accidents, failed chemical equipment or chemical spills.



## Grand Forks Public Health Giving Back

Health Department personnel donated nearly \$600.00 to eight local charities through contributions made to the Care Day Fund, a program that allows employees to wear casual attire on Fridays throughout the year in exchange for a small donation. The Health Department has also contributed to sponsoring toys for a holiday toy drive and items for the food cupboard.