



# MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY, DECEMBER, 2006

## HIV/STD PROGRAMS

### PROGRAM LISTING:

**Arbovirus Surveillance & Control**

**Chronic Disease Prevention**

**Communicable Disease Control**

**Community Epidemiology**

**Dental Health**

**Environmental Planning and Pollution Control**

**Food Protection**

**HIV PREVENTION**

**Immunizations**

**Institutional Inspections**

**Lead Poisoning Prevention**

**Public Health Investigations**

**Public Health Preparedness**

**Refugee Health**

**School Health**

**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CONTROL**

**Tuberculosis Control**

**Water Quality**

**Youth Health Promotion**

**Summary of Programs: Risks for contracting HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections are inextricably linked.**

**HIV Counseling and Testing:** The Manchester Health Department has provided HIV Testing and Prevention Services in the community since 1986. Currently, the HIV/STD Program offers both on-site and off-site options to individuals who desire HIV testing and are at risk for acquiring and/or transmitting the virus because of high-risk behavior. The MHD HIV Program component links individuals who test positive for the HIV virus with a community based, comprehensive system of referrals, which includes Medical Follow-up and Psycho-Social Support Services.

**STD Clinical Services:** Clinical Services for Sexually Transmitted Infections have been offered through the Manchester Health Department for over 50 years. The comprehensive model includes: testing for multiple STDs, (e.g., Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Herpes, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C), diagnosis and treatment of confirmed STD infections, vaccine administration, and follow-up services for those diagnosed with a reportable STD infection.

Funds from the NH DHHS HIV/STD Program and the City of Manchester support the testing, vaccine administration, and treatment components of the HIV/STD Programs.

The HIV/STD Program staff is almost entirely part-time and consists of a Public Health Specialist II, two Community Health Nurses (one bilingual), a full-time bilingual Disease Intervention Specialist, two Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, two HIV testing counselors, and a phlebotomist.

**Summary of Activities:** During Fiscal Year 2005, the HIV/STD Program:

- Provided HIV Testing services twice per month at : The Hillsborough County Department of Corrections, Serenity Place and The Farnum Center
- Provided STD clinical services to 986 individuals at on-site clinics
- Provided HIV Testing services to 640 individuals through both on-site and off-site testing activities
- Offered concurrent HIV/STD testing clinics twice per week (on-site appointment and walk-in options) throughout the year
- STD/HIV Program staff provided follow-up partner notification and referral services for 139 STD/HIV cases in the Manchester area.

**Program Notes and Trends:** During the upcoming year the Manchester Health Department HIV/STD Program will participate in two new exciting initiatives. Rapid HIV Testing, when an individual both tests and receives HIV test results during a one-time visit (rather than the old model requiring a return visit for results in 2 weeks) will be available at both on-site and off-site testing locations after the first of the new year. Gardisil is a new vaccine developed to protect against 4 types of the HPV virus. HPV is spread by sexual contact and is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S. The HPV virus is identified in 90% of cervical cancers. At least 50% of sexually active people will become infected with HPV at some time in their lives. The vaccine is FDA approved for administration to females 9-26 years of age. The Manchester Health Department hopes to have access to the vaccine through the NH DHHS and then make it available for administration to targeted young women during MHD clinics.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR Timothy M. Soucy, REHS, MPH

November 30, 2006 saw the end of a legacy at the Manchester Health Department. Fred Rusczek, MPH, retired after thirty-three years of exemplary service to the people of Manchester, New Hampshire. Fred's contributions can only be defined as monumental. He motivated a department to assure that the mission of the Health Department "To improve the health of individuals, families, and the community through disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats" was always being met. Fred Rusczek's retirement certainly left a "big set of shoes" to fill.

After an interview process involving several community members and the Mayor, I was nominated by Mayor Guinta and confirmed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on November 14, 2006 to succeed Fred Rusczek as the City's Public Health Director. Thus on December 1, 2006, a new era began at the Manchester Health Department.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the community. I was born and raised in Manchester and graduated from Manchester High School West. I graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, and Boston University with a Masters Degree in Public Health. I have been with the Manchester Health Department since 1990 serving as an Environmental Health Specialist, Chief of Environmental Health, and Public Health Administrator.

As I look to the future, there is much to be done. Protection of kids from lead poisoning, completing all of our plans for a public health emergency, and assuring sustainable access to health care for Manchester's residents are just a few. Fortunately, I had the best mentor possible. Thanks to the groundwork laid by Fred Rusczek, our community is committed to moving forward on these and many more public health efforts. Together we can be a healthy community.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### **Manchester's Weed & Seed Strategy**

Weed & Seed is a community-based strategy brought forth by the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) to "weed out violent crime and drug abuse while seeding in community involvement and hope", aiming to improve the quality of life for residents in a target community. This multi-agency approach, which has been in place in the City of Manchester since 2001, is truly unique in that it provides an opportunity for law enforcement, local service providers, City Departments, and community residents to come together in both a routine and responsive manner. The Weed & Seed collaboration presented to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on November 28, 2006 and highlighted the following successes: a reduction of crime in the target community, community revitalization in both visible landscape and resident empowerment, prevention and educational opportunities to address community issues and increased communication and collaboration around community policing concepts. These outcomes echo the Mayor's recommendation to expand the strategy to the West Side.

## DISEASE NOTES

Influenza vaccination continues to be the primary method for preventing flu and its severe complications.

Although the shipment of the flu vaccine was delayed for some providers this year, the supply of vaccine is adequate. As in past years, the Community Health Division assessed the supply of flu vaccine within the community to assure providers, hospitals and long-term care facilities had access to the vaccine for their high-risk patients. Throughout October and November, a total of 530 doses of flu vaccine were provided to long-term care facilities and private practices. Flu clinics have now commenced at the MHD and will continue throughout the winter months, coupled with prevention messages such as the importance of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit our website at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/HLT/Home.html>, or call 624-646