Core Function and Mission

The Genomics Unit provides assessment, policy development and assurance related to birth defects, genetic disorders, and the use of genomics in public health programs. Program activities help to:

♦ Coordinate educational activities that increase genetic literacy
♦ Facilitate early identification and treatment of individuals with birth defects, heritable disorders and genetic susceptibilities
♦ Foster collaboration to integrate advances in genomic science throughout public health and other systems of care

Key Program Activities

Public Health Genomics

♦ Coordinate the use of genomics in core public health activities across chronic disease, laboratory and environmental health programs
♦ Expand the use and evaluation of targeted risk assessment strategies based on genomic tools such as family health history
♦ Utilize public health databases and surveillance systems to better understand and address the genetic burden of common chronic diseases
♦ Assess the feasibility of population genetic studies using dried newborn blood spots

Birth Defects Prevention and Follow-up

♦ Foster awareness of preconceptional health, folic acid and other birth defect prevention strategies
♦ Promote integration of a genetics component within child health programs
♦ Collaborate with the Birth Defects Registry to assure that children with birth defects and their families are linked with available services including a medical home

Genetics Education and Resource Center

♦ Michigan-specific information on topics relating to birth defects and genetics available at: www.MIGeneticsConnection.org
♦ Presentations, workshops and exhibits to educate the health workforce, policy makers and the public about the role of family history and genetic risk factors
♦ Partner in Michigan’s Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Center

Clinical Genetic Services

♦ Partnership with Newborn Screening, Children’s Special Health Care Services, and chronic disease programs to assure statewide availability and accessibility of risk assessment and genetic services through public health systems and a network of genetic centers and outreach sites
Special Projects

♦ Birth Defects and Genetic Conditions Toolkit: Resources for Michigan Families and Professionals
♦ Birth Defects Prevention Month
♦ Diabetes and Genomics Education Modules
♦ Dried Blood Spot BioTrust initiative
♦ Early On® Genetics Education curriculum and CD-ROM
♦ Family History Resource Kit for Health Care Providers
♦ “Genetics to Genomics” Teacher Workshops
♦ Michigan Cancer Genetics Alliance
♦ Multivitamin Distribution (March of Dimes grant)
♦ Neural tube defect family history and folic acid follow-up study
♦ Region 4 Genetics Collaborative
♦ State Genetics Plan
♦ Sudden Cardiac Death Surveillance Program

Pamphlets and Informational Materials
3. Family health history fact cards (6)
4. “Family History and Your Health” newsletters
5. Genetic syndrome fact sheets (15)
6. Guide to Genetics Referral
7. Informed Consent for Genetic Testing
8. It’s time…know your family’s health history poster
9. Look and Feel Your Best with Folic Acid
10. Michigan Genetic Counseling Services
12. Preventing Birth Defects: Important Information for Michigan Families
13. Resources for Families of Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs

Publications/ Poster Presentations
♦ Family History of Premature Heart Attack or Stroke, Michigan WISEWOMAN Program. CDC National Health Promotion Conference, 2006.
♦ Incorporating Genomics into Existing State Level Cancer Surveillance System. CDC National Health Promotion Conference, 2006.

Contact Us
Call the offices of the state genetics coordinator toll free at 1-866-852-1247 or (517) 335-8887. Please e-mail genetics@michigan.gov with questions pertaining to genetics and genomics; or BDRFollowup@michigan.gov for birth defects information.