



Michigan Department of Community Health Bureau of Laboratories 2008 Annual Report



Our Mission: We are dedicated to continuing leadership in providing quality laboratory science for healthier people and communities through partnerships, communication, and technical innovation.

Our Vision: The Bureau of Laboratories is a stronger, more diverse team within an integrated public health system. We utilize advanced technology and innovative leadership to provide comprehensive public health services in our dynamic global community.



Note from our Director

For our partners, this is a synopsis of our progress in the fourth year of our strategic plan. The Bureau Mission is being adhered to, as evidenced by staff polls and interviews. The Bureau Vision Statement is not a point to arrive at, but a continuum that could always be improved upon. We have created vision priorities that if made true, would move us towards the actualization of our vision. We have also created vision priority teams whose function is to be the champions that help make the vision priorities real. These teams continue to be robust, self-directed engines that instill our plan with vitality and adaptability.

Frances Pouch Downes, Dr.P.H.

2008 Accomplishments

- On March 21, 2008, the MDCH lab conducted an internal surge drill to assess the Trace Metal Section's ability to process and test ninety-nine specimens. While completing the internal surge exercise, a CDC Surge Capacity Drill Began. The Analytical Chemistry and Trace Metal Sections displayed excellent teamwork and were able to complete two surge capacity exercises in the same week!
- We worked closely with our partners in the Food Emergency Response Network by participating in the Food Defense Surveillance Assignment national convention. The Section shared a \$444,000 grant with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to assist with the development of triage procedures to handle food samples containing unknown biological agents and to develop laboratory capacity for food testing in Michigan.
- The Upper Peninsula lab is now ready to test samples for rabies. Adding rabies testing to the UP lab will decrease the time specimens remain in transit and, hopefully, decrease the number of samples from the UP tested in the Lansing lab.
- Staff is working on establishing a PCR method for screening respiratory clinical samples. This assay is capable of detecting Influenza A, Influenza B, H1, H3, Adenovirus, RSVa, RSVb, Parainfluenza 1-3, hMNV, and Rhinovirus. The PCR will increase throughput and decrease turn-around-time for positive samples plus detection of viruses we cannot culture.
- Our Laboratory Information Systems group is preparing to move the entire BOL to a new platform, StarLims, which is Public Health Information Network (PHIN) compliant.
- The MDCH lab is taking simple but meaningful steps to decrease the waste streams and energy use. The Green Team was formed to increase recycling, reduce wastes and energy use, and increase use of reusable and renewable materials.

Vision Priority Teams

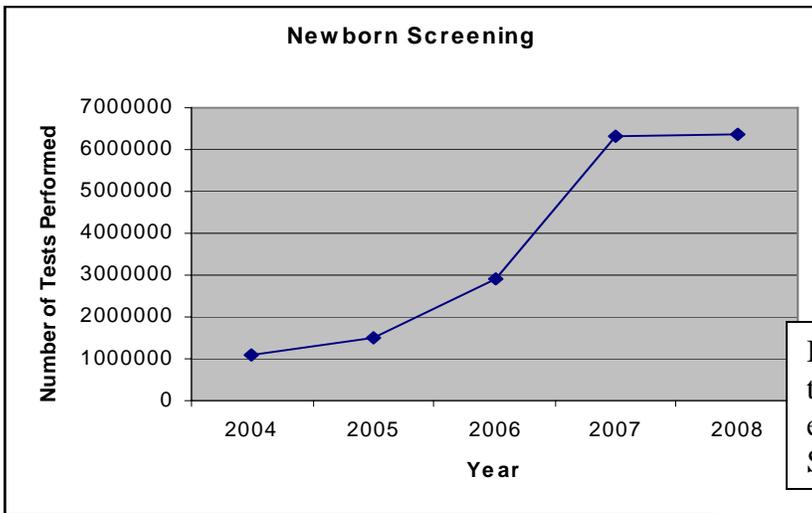
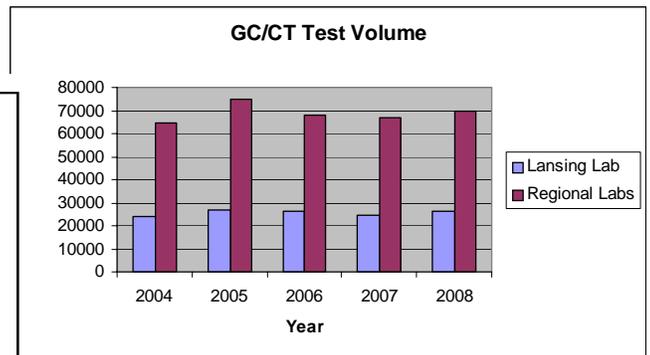
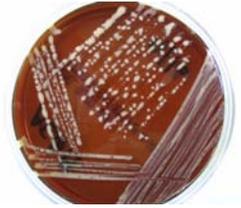
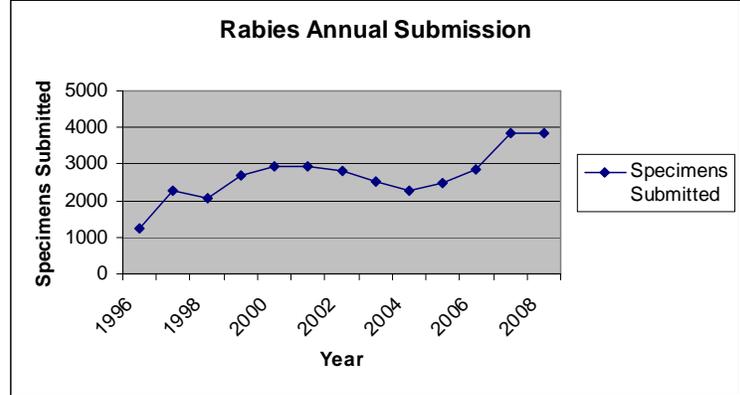
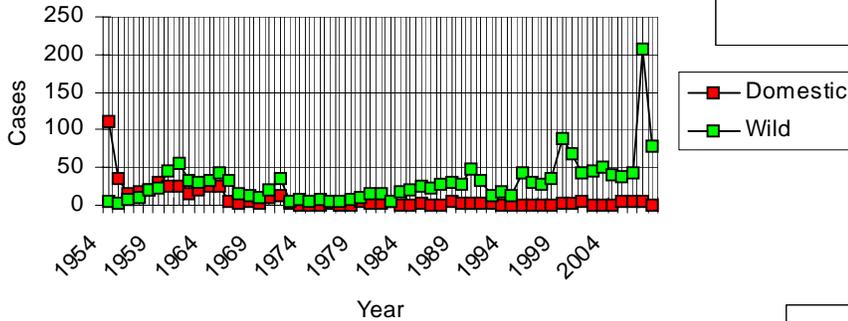
- VP 1: We are a motivated, dedicated, diverse team that values each individual.
- VP 2: We are a recognized leader in public health at the local, state, and national levels.
- VP 3: We are a laboratory with the capacity to respond to unanticipated needs and events and the ability to apply technology to address changing health trends.
- VP 4: We establish and maintain strong collaborative relationships with all our partners.
- VP 5: We use innovative strategies to secure adequate resources to support Bureau projects.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Bureau of Labs culminated its centennial celebration with a symposium and public forum. The symposium entitled, "The Evolution of Public Health Laboratories," examined the past and future roles of public health labs. Nationally and internationally recognized public health experts discussed a variety of topics. An evening panel discussion, "Meeting Future Challenges Facing Public Health: Multiple Perspectives" was open to the public.

By The Numbers

Cases of Animal Rabies, Michigan 1954 - 2008



Increase in Newborn Screening tests performed is due to expansion of Mass Spectrometry analysis.

