



2006

Annual Report

Responding to Virginia's  
Public Health Needs

## VDH Goals

- Provide strong leadership and operational support for Virginia's public health system.
- Prevent and control the transmission of communicable diseases.
- Collaborate with partners in the health care and human services system to assure access to quality health care and human services.
- Promote systems, policies and practices that facilitate improved health for all Virginians.
- Collect, maintain and disseminate accurate, timely, and understandable public health information.
- Respond in a timely manner to any emergency impacting public health through preparation, collaboration, education and rapid intervention.
- Maintain an effective and efficient system for the investigation of unexplained or suspicious deaths of public interest.
- Assure provision of clean and safe drinking water supplies.
- Assure provision of safe food at restaurants and other places where food is served to the public.
- Prevent and control exposure to toxic substances and radiation.

## From the State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H.

The devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita serves as a stark reminder of the importance of our public health system to ensuring the health and safety of all residents. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) prepares for hurricanes and other public health threats, and leads and coordinates efforts to protect public health throughout the Commonwealth. VDH is dedicated to protecting and promoting the health of all Virginians, with special emphasis on those who have limited access to care and are at increased risk during disasters. Our goal is a Commonwealth with healthy people in healthy communities. VDH offers an array of programs designed to keep Virginians of all ages safe and healthy.



Children admire and emulate their parents. Your way of life significantly affects your child's development. Poor diet, physical inactivity, obesity and tobacco use are preventable risk factors that can contribute to the development of many chronic diseases. That is why it is crucial that parents adopt healthy lifestyles. Bring your child along on your evening walk, prepare nutritious meals together and have regularly scheduled family meetings to discuss your plans in the case of an emergency.

You can give your child a head start to a long and healthy life by ensuring he or she has the correct vaccinations before school starts each year. Keep a copy of your child's immunization record, review it with your physician and keep it up-to-date.

Virginia's 119 local health departments are on the front lines of VDH's efforts to protect the health of every citizen. Nurses, epidemiologists, environmental health experts and other health department staff provide care in every area of the state. Low-income families and at-risk populations receive services including immunizations, family planning and women's and infants' care. Health department staff also promote healthy lifestyle decisions, protect drinking water and food supplies and respond to disease outbreaks and other public health events.

In the following pages, you'll read about a few examples of these programs. To learn more about VDH or any of our programs and activities, I invite you to visit [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Stroube". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

**From the Chairman of the  
State Board of Health  
Jack O. Lanier, Dr. P.H.,  
MHA, FACHE**



The Virginia Board of Health provides leadership in public health planning and policy development for the Commonwealth and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Board members are appointed by the governor and represent professions including medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine. Members also represent constituencies such as local government, hospitals, nursing homes, managed care health insurance plans, consumers and corporate purchasers of health care.

The board is committed to serve the best interest of all Virginia residents. The programmatic initiatives of VDH and its local health departments are continually assessed to ensure that the health and well-being of Virginians is protected. Of primary interest to the Board are the public health and healthcare-related issues identified annually by the executive branch and General Assembly. The board supports VDH's goals by promoting systems, policies and practices that facilitate the improved health of all Virginians.

The board is committed to advancing the quality of life through improved health. It implements organized, prevention-oriented programs that promote and protect the health of all Virginians. The board also serves as the primary advocate and representative of the citizens of the Commonwealth in achieving optimal health.

Chronic disease prevention and control, health promotion and primary care assurance including access to dental care. The board seeks to establish public/private partnerships to accomplish its priorities are some of the board's top priorities.

Chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes are among the leading causes of death and disability in the United States. They carry a heavy economic cost as well. Risk factors associated with chronic disease include obesity and physical inactivity, poor nutrition and tobacco use. Reducing these risk factors is up to each individual, but public and private organizations can help.

Board members are dedicated to working with government and community partners in addressing the root causes of chronic disease and developing purposeful and strategic initiatives for meeting our goals. I look forward to working closely with my fellow Board of Health colleagues as we strive to protect, promote, and enhance the well-being of all Virginians.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack O. Lanier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

*State Board of Health Members - 2006*

Jack O. Lanier, Dr. P.H., MHA, FACHE  
Chairman  
Consumer  
Richmond

Craig A. Reed, D.V.M.  
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association  
Marshall

Barbara A. Favola  
Local Government  
Arlington

Bennie Marshall, R.N., Ed.D.  
Virginia Nurses' Association  
Chesapeake

David M. Summers  
Managed Care Health Insurance Plans  
Chesterfield

W. Scott Burnette  
Hospital Industry  
South Hill

Ed D. Spearbeck  
Virginia Pharmacists Association  
Arlington

Bhushan Pandya, M.D.  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Danville

Katherine Elliott  
Nursing Home Industry  
Roanoke

Charles K. Johnson, D.D.S.  
Virginia Dental Association  
Richmond

James H. Edmondson, Jr.  
Consumer  
McLean

Julie L. Beales, M.D.  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Richmond

Frederick J. Hannett  
Corporate Purchaser of Health Care  
Arlington

## Administration

The Office of Administration (OA) provides strong leadership and operational support for Virginia's public health system through administrative policy development, business process improvement and standards of business practice. OA effectively and efficiently manages VDH's financial, procurement and human resource systems while collaborating with its service providers to meet their business needs. Through the leadership and efforts of dedicated administrators working behind the scenes, OA continues to support the agency's mission of protecting and promoting the health of Virginians through quality customer service, compliance with mandates, continuous improvement of business systems and innovations in business practice.

## Office of Human Resources

The VDH Office of Human Resources (OHR) is actively engaged in planning for the future of the Commonwealth's public health workforce. It is essential that the agency maintain an adequate and well trained workforce to be responsive to the ever evolving demands on the public health system. OHR systematically reviews workforce and labor market data to identify shifts in workforce demographics that may impact specific occupational areas or the workforce in its entirety. For example, a retirement intent survey was conducted with all VDH employees this year. The results will continue to influence strategic decisions regarding recruitment and retention policies and practices. OHR also partners with VDH work units regarding succession strategies, support of program startups, development of occupational career paths and implications of public health issues (such as pandemic influenza) on public health workers.

VDH Office of Health Policy and Planning developed the Cultural and Linguistic Appropriate Health Care Services for Virginians (CLAS Act) Web site that provides resources so health care providers can deliver culturally competent care for their limited English proficient patients. Some of the site resources include:

- Culturally appropriate health care
- Model programs and best practices
- Training/Education of health care professionals
- Multicultural Health & Human Service programs in Virginia
- Language & translation tools
- Research tools

Visit <http://CLASActVirginia.vdh.virginia.gov>

## Office of Health Policy & Planning

The mission of the VDH Office of Health Policy and Planning (OHPP) is to improve access to quality health care for all Virginians. OHPP contributes to the development of health policy in the Commonwealth with research and analysis of issues affecting the cost, quality and accessibility of health care; helps rural and medically underserved communities recruit health care professionals and improve healthcare systems; and develops and administers programs to increase and strengthen the health care workforce, thereby improving health care accessibility for Virginia residents.

During the past fiscal year OHPP developed new systems to help address medical needs throughout the Commonwealth. Among these is a comprehensive data-driven process and system for identifying emerging needs and, when possible, addressing those needs through the use of technology. Another significant activity the OHPP engaged in was the development of a first of its kind state specific health workforce study.

OHPP developed a Rational Service Area Plan for primary care. The plan identifies potential primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) using Primary Care Service Area (PCSA) analysis. This process has helped identify small areas of the Commonwealth where a shortage of primary care physicians may exist and enables the OHPP to assess HPSA designation potential.

The OHPP also integrated its existing statewide database of primary care physicians, general dentists, psychiatrists and statewide demographic and health statistics data with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. This comprehensive data system facilitates the HPSA designation process with a much higher level of accuracy and efficiency.

The primary goal of OHPP is to increase access to primary health care services in medically underserved areas of the Commonwealth. Specifically, the office quantifies the following:

- The number of entities requesting assistance or information on OHPP's recruitment and retention products.
- Efforts to collaborate on telemedicine initiatives.
- The number of medically underserved counties, census tracts and minor civil divisions that are newly designated or re-designated as medically underserved areas or health professional shortage areas.

The medically underserved continue to face barriers to access to quality health care services. The Office of Health Policy and Planning's programs strive to remove those barriers so that access to health care can be realized by all Virginia residents.

***“I appreciate your setting up a Web site for those of us who provide service to those who do not speak English as a primary language.”***

*An e-mail from an Emergency Communications Supervisor at James City County's Emergency Communications Center following the launch of the Web site.*

## Office of Environmental Health Services

The Office of Environmental Health Services (OEHS) is dedicated to preventing diseases caused by contamination of food, water and the general environment. OEHS provides leadership to local health departments by directing the operation of environmental health programs including food and shellfish safety, lead poisoning investigation, safe drinking water from private wells, and safe on-site wastewater treatment and disposal. Environmental health staff also develop policy, analyze local, state and federal legislation, evaluate public health programs and work closely with OEHS partners to offer scientific and technical expertise.

VDH coordinated with the Southside Virginia Community College last year to establish a training center for VDH employees, Authorized Onsite Soil Evaluators, professional engineers, and contractors that offers continuing education in the onsite sewage and water supply program. The training focuses on the study of onsite and decentralized wastewater treatment and disposal systems.

The VDH restaurant inspection Web site ([www.healthspace.ca/vdh](http://www.healthspace.ca/vdh)) was launched in April 2003 and continues to be one of VDH's most popular sites. In FY 05, the Web site recorded approximately 55,000 visits per month. In FY 06, the number increased to more than 80,000 per month.

Both print and broadcast media have routinely publicized the site as a useful resource of information. Last March, a front page article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch commended the Web site as an exemplar of open government practice. Health officials noticed a spike in interest after the article ran in the newspaper's Sunshine Week series. In March 2006, the Web site received almost 3.5 million hits (over 112,409 visits), nearly double the average hits per month for the preceding year. Richmond area television station NBC 12 continues to reference the restaurant site each week on its "Restaurant Report" which praises restaurants that are listed as having no critical violations and exposing those that show excessive critical violations.

***"I have been studying some of the local restaurant reports for Middlesex County and I wish to commend you and your staff on a job well done and to the Webmaster for making this site both informative and user friendly. Thank you all very much"***

*From a resident who saw the NBC12 "Restaurant Report" and visited the restaurant inspections Web site.*



**The Office of Environmental Health's restaurant inspection Web site is one of VDH's most popular sites. In FY 06 the number of monthly Web site visits increased to more than 80,000.**

## Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs

The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) programs collaborate with their partners at all levels of government, the health care community, businesses, educators and others to plan for and respond to all public health emergencies.

EPR programs involve partnerships with offices within VDH, as well as other state agencies. Activities include planning, disease surveillance, and laboratory testing and response for biologic, chemical and radiological agents. To communicate urgent public health messages immediately, EPR uses a Web-based, statewide emergency alerting/communications system called the Health Alert Network. EPR also conducts training and education, and public information campaigns.

Over the past year, EPR has continued to focus its planning for a possible pandemic of influenza, or flu. VDH's pandemic flu plan has been in place since 2002, and was updated in early 2006 to reflect recommendations of the November 2005 federal pandemic flu plan. The plan will continue to be updated as more information becomes available. The VDH Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee comprises representation from the fields of public health, private industry, law enforcement, government and the private health care industry to lead the Commonwealth's preparedness efforts. This team meets quarterly to advise VDH on pandemic influenza planning activities. VDH also works closely with national and other state partners to coordinate planning efforts.

EPR also organized the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Summit, which was held in March 2006 and attended by more than 1,000 people. Featured speakers included U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt, Governor Timothy M. Kaine, Secretary of Health and Human Resources Marilyn B. Tavenner and Tom Lockwood of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Afternoon breakout sessions facilitated planning and discussion for various sectors, including government, business, health care and education. VDH also produced a widely successful pandemic flu video for use as a tool for attendees to raise awareness about pandemic flu in their communities.

EPR continues to plan for a broad range of emergency events, including man-made and natural disasters. For three consecutive years Virginia has received the highest ranking for management of the Strategic National Stockpile. Virginia has conducted extensive testing of local and state mass dispensing plans, and led a multi-state exercise of response to two biologic events in October, 2005, with West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. After Hurricane Katrina, VDH was responsible for establishment of the public health and medical response teams and efforts for Town Pickett. The comprehensive shelter and recovery center was set up at Fort Pickett Army National Guard Base in Blackstone as preparation to accommodate up to 1,400 evacuees.

EPR has played a leading role in the establishment of Terrorism and Security Awareness training for all state employees. In addition, hundreds of VDH employees have been trained in incident management and command, as well as in the operations of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the VDH Emergency Coordination Center.



**Governor Timothy M. Kaine and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt speak at the Virginia Pandemic Flu Summit, held in March 2006.**

*“The Pandemic Flu Summit was well received. Sec. Leavitt later told Gov. Kaine that it was the best state summit he had attended.”*

- For three consecutive years Virginia has received the highest ranking of green for management of the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Virginia received the highest ranking for state preparedness for health emergencies in a recent study by The Trust for America's health, one of only three states to do so.

## Office of Emergency Medical Services

Every person living in or traveling through the Commonwealth of Virginia is a potential recipient of emergency medical care. The first few minutes of an emergency are critical, and for the injured or sick, the care they receive can be a matter of life or death. The first responders who provide this care need proper plans, training and resources. The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) provides those resources through the oversight of one of the largest EMS systems in the nation.

The Emergency Operations division of OEMS oversees the Health and Medical Emergency Response Teams (HMERT). The HMERT include 16 disaster task forces throughout the state that will bring specialized emergency response teams and equipment to a community that need assistance as a result of man-made or natural disasters. These teams also respond to critical incident stress management (CISM) needs and provide on-site massage therapy and dog therapy to tired emergency response workers.

Virginia is one of the few states with a state-wide system of CISM teams. Currently Virginia has 16 CISM teams that are available 24/7. A Virginia CISM team was sent to the Gulf Coast after hurricane Katrina to support rescue workers. OEMS is working with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to provide resources to law enforcement officials. The CISM teams have also been working with military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Accredited 911 Dispatch Centers

The OEMS implemented an accreditation program to help local 911 centers promote and employ emergency medical dispatch (EMD) protocols. This allows EMD dispatchers to give citizens calling 911 guidelines for rendering aid to the sick or injured until EMS resources arrive on scene.

### Trauma System Evaluation and Planning Tool

Virginia was selected as the first of three states to pilot the Health Resources and Services Administration's Benchmark, Indicators, and Scoring (BIS) tool. BIS is designed to help states and all stakeholders within the trauma system to perform comprehensive evaluation and planning for trauma system improvement.



**Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is one of the 719 licensed EMS agencies in Virginia. The Office of Emergency Medical Services provides plans, training and resources through the oversight of one of the largest EMS systems in the nation.**

### *Virginia's EMS system*

- 33,569 certified EMS providers
- 840 EMS instructors
- 719 licensed EMS agencies
- 3,788 permitted EMS vehicles
- 11 regional councils
- \$6.6 million in Rescue Squad Assistance Fund grants awarded to 207 non-profit EMS agencies and organizations, primarily volunteer rescue squads
- \$5.6 million returned to Virginia localities for training of EMS providers and the purchase of EMS equipment and supplies
- 14 Virginia designated Trauma Centers
- \$1.2 million provided for Advance Life Support training

## Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) investigates and examines deaths of public interest, including those that are sudden, unexpected and violent, as well as other deaths that present a risk to public health. Forensic pathologists perform medicolegal death investigations and autopsies to determine the cause and manner of death and recover medical and forensic evidence. The OCME provides its findings to families, law enforcement, criminal and civil courts, insurers, public health review and surveillance teams, and others who have a legitimate need for accurate death information.

The OCME has created guidance documents to help local authorities plan how to manage an increase in natural deaths due to a pandemic influenza event in the Commonwealth. A pandemic would likely result in mass casualties across the state. Local medical facilities, first responders, funeral directors and others need to prepare for managing the potentially high numbers of additional deaths during a pandemic. The brochure “Managing Pandemic Influenza Fatality Events” contains an overview of what localities need to plan for before a pandemic including signing and filing out death certificates, handling human remains and storage considerations. Pandemic flu deaths would be natural deaths, and the protocol for pronouncing the death, signing the death certificate and handling the remains would not differ from those of seasonal flu, except that there would be more deaths. The documents include estimates of the possible increase in the number of deaths by county and planning district as predicted from the study of previous pandemics. A forensic epidemiologist on the OCME staff serves as a liaison between the OCME and other public health professionals, state laboratories, law enforcement and other professionals who need timely information on deaths suspicious for emerging infections or bioterrorism as well as those who utilize death data generated by OCME investigations and autopsies. Documents are available at [www.vdh.state.va.us/medexam/mass.asp](http://www.vdh.state.va.us/medexam/mass.asp).

A main goal of the OCME is to maintain a high standard of medicolegal death investigation and accreditation. Daily collaboration with law enforcement ensures accurate medical evaluation in the interest of justice and public health. During the 2006 General Assembly session, the reimbursement for local medical examiner services was raised to retain and recruit licensed physicians in the Commonwealth to serve as local medical examiners.

OCME investigates approximately one in 10 Virginia deaths each year (5800 deaths). The most current information can be found in the OCME annual report, which details analyses of OCME cases. The report documents that death from accidents (40 percent) and natural causes (37 percent) constituted the majority of deaths accepted for investigation by OCME. Suicides (14 percent) and homicides (7 percent) were less common. The report also documents additional details of violent, suspicious and sudden deaths. It is available online at [www.vdh.virginia.gov/medexam/OCMEAnRpt05.pdf](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medexam/OCMEAnRpt05.pdf).



**Forensic pathologists perform medical and legal autopsies to determine the cause and manner of death and to recover medical and forensic evidence.**

### Deaths Investigated by OCME in 2004

- 40 % – Accidents
- 37 % – Natural Causes
- 14 % – Suicides
- 7 % – Homicides



## Communications

The Office of Communications supports the Virginia Department of Health's mission of promoting and protecting the health of all Virginians by effectively communicating accurate and timely health information. Through media relations, communications training, promotion of health programs and public education/awareness, the Office of Communications educates people about their health and the health of their communities. The general public, legislators and health care partners represent key audiences. Top communications outreach initiatives include promoting emergency preparedness and chronic disease prevention.

The communications team has implemented a number of outreach activities to help educate the public and partners about preparing for a global outbreak, or pandemic, of influenza. In January 2006, communications staff developed and launched the state pandemic flu Web site, [www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu). The site provides Virginians with a single resource for comprehensive information about Avian Flu and preparing for the possibility of a flu pandemic. VDH also produced a video for the public on avian and pandemic influenza issues, with the assistance of Governor Timothy M. Kaine, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs and the business community. This video has been very well received by the public and remains in high demand. Communications staff coordinated media relations during the Virginia Pandemic Flu Summit held in March, 2006. More than a dozen news organizations covered the summit.

Throughout the year, the Office of Communications participates in emergency exercises which help prepare VDH to respond during natural or man-made disasters and other public health threats. That training was put into practice in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. VDH communications staff took the lead in coordinating communications response efforts at Town Pickett, a shelter and recovery center set up to accommodate up to 1,400 evacuees within Fort Pickett Army National Guard Base in Blackstone. A member of the communications team was deployed as a Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesperson during hurricane recovery efforts at a shelter in Texas.

VDH's booth at the State Fair of Virginia in September 2005 featured interactive games related to preparing for an emergency and avoiding illness. VDH and Governor Timothy M. Kaine teamed up to encourage exercise and nutrition in children with public service announcements and outreach at a Henrico County school. Staff also coordinated a press conference at which Gov. Kaine announced a new VDH Web site offering resources for culturally and linguistically sensitive health care.



**State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube speaks to a reporter during the Virginia Pandemic Flu Summit. Communications staff coordinated media relations surrounding the event, which drew more than a dozen news organizations.**

## Office of Epidemiology

Epidemiology is a key component of preventing disease transmission. The Office of Epidemiology works to protect the health of all Virginians by controlling communicable disease and environmental health hazards. The office comprises six divisions including Disease Prevention, Immunization, Public Health Toxicology, Radiological Health, Surveillance and Investigation and Zoonotic and Environmental Epidemiology.

Epidemiology uses surveillance and investigation to assess health and illness in order to prevent disease. Specifically, epidemiology staff study disease patterns and populations to gain a better understanding of the risk factors for disease. This knowledge is used to provide community-level interventions to prevent the spread of disease.

Epidemiology's primary function is service. Staff respond to health events and outbreaks, in order to assist local health departments with meeting the needs of the public.

This year, the Division of Disease Prevention supported the Suffolk Health Department in addressing an increase in syphilis infections in Suffolk. The division deployed its Virginia Emergency Response Team to assist the local health department with conducting community syphilis screenings and partner notification. The team also was responsible for heightening awareness and education in the local community about the risk factors for syphilis. This resource enabled the Suffolk Health Department to monitor infections, counsel clients on testing and treatment services and strengthen community involvement and partnerships. Additionally, the division hosted a community forum to devise ways of educating citizens and health care providers about the increase in syphilis infections in Suffolk. The division helped establish a Suffolk task force designed to bring community members together to increase syphilis awareness and address the overall health care needs of the community.

In September 2005, the Division of Surveillance and Investigation was notified that routine air sampling testing sites near the National Mall in Washington, D.C. showed an indication of bacteria that can cause tularemia, a potentially serious illness. Epidemiology staff worked closely with the National Capitol Region, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Virginia Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and other state agencies on the investigation. Several cases of suspected illnesses were reported, including five in Virginia residents. All of these cases were investigated by public health epidemiologists in concert with the primary care physicians caring for the individuals. Clinical testing did not confirm tularemia.

Simply put, without The Office of Epidemiology there would be a lack of accurate documentation and measurement of disease. There would also be more uncontrolled outbreaks of illness in Virginia. The Office of Epidemiology anticipates and responds to new and different situations and issues each year. Staff think quickly and adapt to address public health needs.



**The Office of Epidemiology works to protect the health of all Virginians by controlling communicable disease. One way of preventing disease is through immunizations like annual flu shots.**

## Office of Licensure and Certification

The Office of Licensure and Certification (OLC) administers the state licensing programs for hospitals, outpatient surgical hospitals, nursing facilities, home care organizations and hospice programs. The OLC also administers the certification and registration programs for managed care health insurance plans, licensees, private review agents and the Certificate of Public Need (COPN) program. In addition to state programs, the OLC is the state survey agency for the federal reimbursement programs under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The OLC conducts inspections and complaint surveys assuring compliance with federal regulations for 16 classifications of medical care providers and services receiving federal reimbursement from CMS.

During the past fiscal year, the OLC updated its Web site ([www.vdh.virginia.gov/olc](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/olc)) providing easier access and additional information. The office also produced a CD to assist nursing facilities with evaluating resident care. Eighty-three new medical care facility projects totaling \$700,038,198 were approved for Certificates of Public Need during the past fiscal year.

***“The material was clear - the explanations were good, examples given were relative -- I really believe they will help the new person get a good understanding of the MDS [minimum data set] process.”***

*From a nursing home administrator in response to a CD produced by OLC to assist nursing facilities with resident care.*

In 2006, the OLC completed and implemented rules and regulations governing licensure of home care and hospice organizations. The new regulations protect people served by home care and hospice providers whose services are rendered in a patient's residence and are not subject to the same public scrutiny as are those of health care institutions.

Working in collaboration with a long-term care constituent group, OLC is focusing efforts on reducing the occurrence of pressure ulcers in nursing facility residents. While there has been a significant reduction in the rate of this debilitating condition, from 13 percent to 10.5 percent in 2006, Virginia remains above the national average of 10 percent. In addition, the OLC provides focused training via on-site and electronic training methods.

State and federal regulatory programs guard the health, safety and welfare of the public by establishing and enforcing standards to assure quality health care. Inspections are used to satisfy both state licensure requirements and federal certification requirements. The OLC also investigates consumer complaints regarding quality of health care services. In 2006, the OLC Center conducted 1,959 inspections. The COPN program seeks to assure the geographic dispersion and availability of medical facilities and proven medical technologies across Virginia, and promotes the development of and access to services by every person who needs them regardless of their ability to pay. In 2005, the program authorized 83 project certificates totaling \$700,038,198 and denied 23 projects totaling \$151,946,497.



**The Office of Licensure and Certification administers the state licensing programs for hospitals, outpatient surgical hospitals, nursing facilities, home care organizations and hospice programs.**

### *State Licensed Facilities and Programs*

- 150 Home care organizations
- 90 Hospice programs
- 97 Hospitals
- 88 Managed care health insurance plans
- 272 Nursing facilities
- 51 Outpatient surgical hospitals
- 78 Private review agents

## Office of Drinking Water

ODW is committed to protecting public health by ensuring that the people of Virginia have access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water. ODW ensures safe drinking water for the Commonwealth by effectively regulating waterworks under the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In September 2005, the town of Big Stone Gap in Wise County experienced a severe shortage of water in its mountain-top raw water supply. The shortage left the town with only 30 million gallons of water in its 622 million gallon reservoir. Continued dry weather and failure to secure additional sources of potable water would have had severe consequences for the town and its water customers.

Through technical support provided by ODW's Abingdon Field Office, the leadership of the Lenowisco Health District director, and financial assistance from the Governor's office, Big Stone Gap purchased two portable membrane filter water treatment plants and began treating water from the Powell River to replenish the town's reservoir. To fully meet the demand, pumps and waterlines were installed to deliver water from surrounding waterworks into the Big Stone Gap system.

With the efforts of Big Stone Gap, the cooperation of surrounding localities, and the assistance from ODW and the local health department, a public health crisis was avoided. In support of long-term reliability, a \$1.2 million interconnection project was funded by Virginia's State Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The project established water connections, further enhancing the quality of life of the residents of Big Stone Gap and surrounding areas.

State and federal funds are awarded through a combination of loans and grants provided by the DWSRF to water supplies through the state program. VDH is designated by the federal government to administer and distribute the funds. ODW staff manage the funding for these projects, and coordinate with other organizations to help communities expand and upgrade their water systems.

Since the DWSRF program's first award in 1998, the Virginia Department of Health has awarded nearly \$130 million for 121 drinking water improvement projects through the end of fiscal year 2005. Since 2002, the fund has been used to connect nearly 70,000 Virginians to sanitary, reliable water supplies.

In May 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a report on the DWSRF's accomplishments, which stated:

*"EPA commends VDH for continuing to manage the DWSRF program effectively and efficiently. In particular, we commend the State for its outstanding record of providing assistance to small and disadvantaged drinking water systems. As of June 30, 2005, Virginia had the highest percentage (95 percent) of loan funds provided to small communities and highest percentage (88 percent) of loans to disadvantaged systems in the country. EPA recognizes that focusing the loan program on small and disadvantaged systems may pose special challenges."*



ODW protects public health by ensuring that the people of Virginia have access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

### *Waterworks Statistics/Accomplishments*

- 215 waterworks operation permits issued
- 140 drinking water complaints investigated
- 11,660 technical assistance contacts
- 3,734 notices of violation issued
- 1,855 sanitary surveys at waterworks
- 17 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund projects \$16.83 million
- 15 Water Supply Assistance Grant Fund projects \$2.26 million

## Community Health Services

Community Health Services form the front line in the daily battle to prevent and control the spread of disease. The 35 health districts and 119 local health departments provide an array of services that protect the health of citizens in every city and county in the state. The highly professional and dedicated staffs inspect restaurants, private wells and on-site sewage disposal systems and investigate communicable disease outbreaks to protect residents. They also provide numerous clinical services including immunizations, family planning and WIC nutrition services that protect the health of women and children. They also maintain vital records and respond to natural and man-made disasters.

Operations of the local health departments are funded jointly by the state and local governments. Together in FY 2006 they provided \$171 million to provide public health services to Virginia's 7.3 million residents.

Approximately 70 percent of the districts provide dental services to children. Support from the Governor's Office and the General Assembly provided state-of-the-art equipment to dental clinics including new operatories, hand pieces and panoramic X-ray equipment and film processors.

In addition to directing clinical care for patients, staff worked closely with community partners to develop realistic, coordinated plans to protect the public health in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak. They also monitored mosquito populations to prevent and control the threat of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Despite best efforts, disease outbreaks do occur that require immediate and concentrated efforts. This year disease control specialists investigated outbreaks of diseases such as campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, listeriosis, tuberculosis, rabies and sexually transmitted diseases.

Preventing disease plays a key role in a healthy life for individuals, families and communities. Day in and day out local health department staff deliver fundamental health protection and provide a safety net of medical services to uninsured and underinsured residents. They give children - our most vulnerable citizens - the best possible start in life. They help adults prevent and control the effects of chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes, and they ensure safe drinking water and clean restaurants for everyone.



**Local health departments provide numerous clinical services, including oral health programs.**

- Conducted 59,000 restaurant inspections
- Received 39,057 on-site sewage system applications and 28,858 applications to build private wells
- Clinic patients served: 368,261
- Clinic Visits: 814,635

## Office of Family Health Services

The Office of Family Health Services (OFHS) provides the leadership, expertise and resources that assist all Virginia residents in reaching and maintaining their optimum level of health and well-being throughout their lives. The focus of the Office's preventive health programs is to protect the health of women and give children the best start in life. Recent efforts have reduced teen pregnancy and created exciting new initiatives.

### Improving the Health of Women

Recently compiled data revealed that pregnancy rates among 15-19 year-olds in Virginia dropped by 30 percent between 1995 and 2004, preventing approximately 29,000 pregnancies. Significant contributors were the 24 local teen pregnancy projects and other programs that promote abstinence and work with teen mothers and their siblings to prevent further pregnancies. These efforts have helped avoid countless more children having children and have decreased economic burdens on health, education and welfare systems.

An award of new state funds will enable VDH to serve approximately 1,000 more women in *Every Woman's Life*, its breast and cervical cancer program, which saw 5,794 uninsured and underinsured women in 23 sites around the state. Women diagnosed through the program may be eligible for treatment through the Medicaid Program.

***“It's good to know there are places like Every Woman's Life that I can go to because without health insurance, I would not be able to get screened.”***

*Client of VDH's Every Woman's Life program.*

As many as 14,000 women in Virginia experience depression during or following pregnancy, yet more than half the health providers surveyed said they lacked the skills to identify and treat depression. To fill this gap, Virginia developed the nation's first Web-based course where providers can improve their ability to help women overcome pregnancy's most common complication. Since March, almost 1,500 providers have registered for the training.

### Improving the Health of Children

OFHS launched the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) to study the behaviors, attitudes and experiences of pregnant women. PRAMS data identify women and infants at high risk for health problems, monitor changes and measure progress toward improved health. VDH will use the data to assess and plan perinatal health programs designed to reduce infant death and maternal illness.

Nationally, up to 40 percent of children are not ready to succeed in school. Lifelong success is linked directly to factors in early childhood that foster strong family involvement and improve school readiness. The Virginia Early Childhood Comprehensive System project sought public and private input to develop a state plan to coordinate Virginia's fragmented early childhood system. Leaders have come together to implement the plan and improve governance structures, integrate care, provide financing and increase family involvement. Uniform performance measures and a data warehouse are being developed to aid in the plan's evaluation.



The focus of the Office of Family Health's preventive health programs is to protect the health of women and give children the best start in life.

### OFHS Data Highlights For 2006

- Taught 57,224 Virginians to prevent sexual violence
- Provided 67,862 mammograms and Pap tests
- Helped 70,000 uninsured women plan their families and prevented 18,000 unintended pregnancies
- Served 141,941 WIC clients per month
- Protected 5.9 million Virginians against tooth decay by fluoridating public drinking water

## Division of Vital Records

The Division of Vital Records (DVR) issues birth, death, marriage and divorce records for Virginians. The Division processes requests for individuals, local, state and federal agencies and research facilities. It issues more than 410,000 vital records annually. A vital record is a person's first and last identity document. Without it, an individual would be unable to enroll in school or obtain a social security card, driver's license, passport or employment.

Last year, the DVR helped many Virginia-born people who lived in Louisiana and who needed to evacuate due to Hurricane Katrina obtain copies of their birth certificates at no cost. The Division also helped Louisiana-born evacuees who came to Virginia apply for a birth certificate with their home state.

The DVR reduced the time responding to citizens requests for vital records from five business days to four. Also, as a member of the Virginia Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness, DVR designed a Supplementary Data Sheet which meets the identification requirement for obtaining a birth certificate.

## Division of Health Statistics

The Division of Health Statistics (DHS) collects, compiles and reports vital statistics data. This includes data on births, deaths, natural fetal deaths and induced terminations of pregnancies. DHS also formats population data from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Census Bureau into reports by age, race, sex and ethnicity. The statistics are widely used by federal, state and local government as well as the private sector to analyze current and historical patterns and to forecast future needs.

Government officials also use the data collected by DHS to establish baselines and to evaluate the effectiveness of programs they administer. These measurements help officials judge how well they are meeting their strategic plan.

The DHS collaborated with the office of the Chief Medical Examiner to complete the Virginia pilot participation in the National Violent Death Reporting System, which is administered by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A module containing extensive cancer mortality data was added to the DHS Web site to meet the needs of the Office of Family Health Services Cancer Registry. This improvement in communication of data was recommended by the Virginia Cancer Plan Advisory Committee, of which VDH is a partner.

### 2005 data from Health Statistics\*

Resident Births .....	104,488
Resident Deaths .....	57,643
2005 Population.....	7,567,465

\* All figures are preliminary estimates

## Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Expenditures


### Services to Individuals (50.27%)

Family Planning.....	\$24,087,239
Maternal and Child Health .....	72,030,015
Support to Individuals .....	149,797,552
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$245,914,806</b>



### Services to Communities (44%)

Control of Communicable Disease/ Environmental Health.....	\$130,432,524
Health Education and Information ...	9,635,857
Planning and Regulation of EMS, Hospitals and Nursing Homes .....	32,009,992
Regulation of Materials and Toxic Substances .....	1,779,437
Vital Records and Health Statistics...	5,312,812
Scholarships and Pilot/ Demonstration Projects .....	8,769,528
Water Supply and Sewage/ Wastewater Services.....	27,659,302
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$215,599,452</b>



### Support Services (2.19%)

Health Planning and Certificate of Public Need .....	\$4,081,058
Investigation of Accidental and Suspicious Deaths by Medical Examiner .....	6,653,729
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$10,734,787</b>



### Administration (3.46%)

Administration Costs.....	\$16,927,120
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$489,176,165</b>



## Local Health Districts

Alexandria Health District  
Charles Konigsberg, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
4480 King Street.  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
(703) 838-4400

Alleghany Health District  
Stephanie L. Harper, M.D.  
District Director  
Academy Street, PO Box 220  
Fincastle, VA 24090  
(540) 473-8240

Arlington Health District  
Reuben Varghese, M.D.  
District Director  
800 S. Walter Reed Drive  
Arlington, VA 22204  
(703) 228-5580

Central Shenandoah Health District  
G. Douglas Larsen, M.D.  
District Director  
1414 North Augusta Street  
Staunton, VA 24402-2126  
(540) 332-7830

Central Virginia Health District  
Katherine V. Nichols, M.D.  
District Director  
1900 Thomson Drive  
Lynchburg, VA 24505  
(434) 947-6777

Chesapeake Health District  
Nancy Welch, M.D., M.H.A.,  
M.B.A.  
District Director  
748 Battlefield Blvd., North  
Chesapeake, VA 23320  
(757) 382-8600

Chesterfield Health District  
William R. Nelson, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
9501 Lucy Corr Circle  
Chesterfield, VA 23832  
(804) 748-1743

Chickahominy Health District  
W. Ted Tweel, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
12312 Washington Hwy.  
Ashland, VA 23005  
(804) 365-4313

Crater Health District  
Michael O. Royster, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
301 Halifax Street  
Petersburg, VA 23804  
(804) 863-1652

Cumberland Plateau Health District  
John J. Dreyzehner, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
155 Rogers Street  
Lebanon, VA 24266  
(276) 889-7621

Eastern Shore Health District  
Michael Margolius, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
23191 Front Street  
Accomac, VA 23301-0177  
(757) 787-5880

Fairfax Health District  
Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
10777 Main Street, Ste. 203  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703) 246-2479

Hampton Health District  
S. William Berg, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
3130 Victoria Blvd.  
Hampton, VA 23661-1588  
(757) 727-1172

Henrico Health District  
Mark J. Levine, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
8600 Dixon Powers Drive  
Richmond, VA 23228  
(804) 501-4522

Lenowisco Health District  
John J. Dreyzehner, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting District Director  
134 Roberts Street, S.W.  
Wise, VA 24293  
(276) 328-8000

Lord Fairfax Health District  
Diana R. Helentjaris, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
107 N. Kent St., Suite 201  
Winchester, VA 22601  
(540) 722-3480

Loudoun Health District  
David Goodfriend, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
1 Harrison Street, S.E.  
Leesburg, VA 20177  
(703) 777-0234

Mount Rogers Health District  
D. Craig Smith, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
201 Francis Marion Lane  
Marion, VA 24354-4227  
(276) 781-7450

New River Health District  
Jody H. Hershey, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
210 South Pepper Street, Suite A  
Christiansburg, VA 24073  
(540) 381-7100

Norfolk City Health District  
Valerie Stallings, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
830 Southampton Ave. Ste. 200  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(757) 683-2796

Peninsula Health District  
David Trump, M.D.  
District Director  
416 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard  
Newport News, VA 23601  
(757) 594-7305

Piedmont Health District  
Kathryn Rankin, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
111 South Street, 1st Floor  
Farmville, VA 23901  
(434) 392-3984

Pittsylvania/Danville Health District  
M. Geoffrey Smith, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
326 Taylor Drive  
Danville, VA 24541  
(434) 799-5190

Portsmouth Health District  
Demetria Lindsay, M.D.  
District Director  
1701 High Street, Suite 102  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(757) 393-8585

Prince William Health District  
Alison Ansher, M.D.  
District Director  
9301 Lee Avenue  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 792-6300

Rappahannock Health District  
Donald R. Stern, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
608 Jackson Street  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
(540) 899-4797

Rappahannock/Rapidan Health District  
Lilian Peake, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting District Director  
410 N. Main Street  
Madison, VA 22727  
(540) 948-5481

Richmond City Health District  
W. Ted Tweel, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting District Director  
900 E. Marshall Street, 3rd floor  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 646-3143

Roanoke City Health District  
Stephanie L. Harper, M.D.  
District Director  
515 Eighth Street, SW  
Roanoke, VA 24016  
(540) 857-7600

Southside Health District  
Charles J. Devine, M.D.  
District Director  
434 Washington Street  
Boydton, VA 23917  
(434) 738-6815

Thomas Jefferson Health District  
Lilian Peake, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
1138 Rose Hill Drive-22903  
Charlottesville, VA 22906  
(434) 972-6219

Three Rivers Health District  
Thomas Irungu, M.D., M.P.H.  
District Director  
2780 Puller Hwy  
Saluda, VA 23149  
(804) 758-2381

Virginia Beach Health District  
Venita Newby-Owens, M.D.,  
M.P.H.  
District Director  
Pembroke Corporate Center III  
4452 Corporation Lane  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
(757) 518-2700

Western Tidewater Health District  
Demetria Lindsay, M.D.  
Acting District Director  
1217 North Main Street  
Suffolk, VA 23439-1587  
(757) 686-4900

West Piedmont Health District  
M. Geoffrey Smith, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting District Director  
295 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Martinsville, VA 24114  
(276) 638-2311