Nebraska Office of Women’s and Men’s Health
Lifespan Health Services
ANNUAL REPORT
2009-2010

IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF
WOMEN’S HEALTH INITIATIVE STATUTE
LAWS 2000, LB480; LAWS 2005, LB301; LAWS 2007, LB296;
LAWS 2009, LB84; AND LAWS 2009, LB154
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

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status of women’s health in nebraska
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Collaboration and partnerships are two powerful words that describe how the Office of Women's and Men's Health and the Women's Health Advisory Council accomplish our missions. The vast majority of our accomplishments happen because other organizations and individuals work with us to fulfill a common purpose. A few of the joint ventures during 2009-2010 included:

- A consortium of Omaha medical, public health, and social service agencies determined barriers to services for women with perinatal depression and began seeking resources to address them.
- The WISEWOMAN Program partnered with the Nebraska Games and Parks Commission to promote physical activity and state parks.
- The Nebraska Colon Cancer Program continued and expanded a partnership entitled Stay in the Game to increase awareness and screening for colon cancer.
- A stakeholder group sponsored by Every Woman Matters is developing a breast cancer plan with the vision of making our mortality rates the lowest in the nation.
- The American Heart Association, Olson Center for Women’s Health, and the Nebraska Cardiovascular Health Program partnered with libraries across the state to educate women on heart disease prevention.
- A partnership with the St. Louis Prevention Research Center will soon result in a web-based training course on evidence-based public health.
- The Men’s Health Task Force and the University of Nebraska Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences created an educational men’s health cookbook that received national attention from the Associated Press and MSNBC.

Within the organizational unit of Lifespan Health, the Office of Women’s and Men’s Health collaborated with other programs on a successful Lifespan Health Conference in Kearney. The May conference featured many speakers from the Women’s Health Advisory Council and a large variety of topics in women’s and men’s health.

Partnerships create progress in women’s and men’s health, and the collaborative work of Nebraskans has resulted in significant health improvements. Over the last five years, mortality in Nebraska has decreased for breast, cervical, and colon cancer, as well as for heart disease. In part this has occurred because of increases in screening and early detection. Over the last ten years, mammography use in Nebraska has increased by nearly 7%, colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy use has increased by nearly 74%, and cholesterol testing for Nebraska women has increased by more than 12%.

Nebraska has many reasons to be proud of the work we have all accomplished in women’s and men’s health. Through partnerships we will continue to fulfill the mission of helping Nebraskans of all ages lead healthier lives.

Submitted by,

Kathy Ward, Administrator of the Office of Women’s and Men’s Health

Kathy Ward, Administrator of the Office of Women’s and Men’s Health
DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender & Age. According to the United States Census Bureau (2009), women represent 51% of Nebraska’s population. Women represent 58% of Nebraska’s 65 and older population. These percentages reflect current U.S. population trends. The following table summarizes overall population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>1,796,619</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>904,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>891,652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By Age

- Under 18 years: 220,424
- 18 to 44: 316,359
- 45 to 64: 229,764
- 65 and older: 138,420

Race & Ethnicity. The racial and ethnic make-up of Nebraska remained virtually unchanged in 2009.

The following table summarizes race demographics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population By Race</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Percent of Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White*</td>
<td>761,366</td>
<td>737,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino**</td>
<td>69,678</td>
<td>80,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black*</td>
<td>39,067</td>
<td>39,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>15,271</td>
<td>14,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American*</td>
<td>8,055</td>
<td>7,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races*</td>
<td>10,906</td>
<td>10,631</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* not of Hispanic ethnicity **includes all races

Education. The National Women’s Law Center reports educational attainment for Nebraska women as follows: Nebraska’s high school graduation rates rank 4th in the nation.

The following table summarizes high school graduation rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Status</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Women, All Races</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latina</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marital Status. Of the 702,293 households in Nebraska, 368,774 (52.5%) are married couples. The U.S. Census Bureau (2006-08) estimates that 53.3% of Nebraska women are married. Marriage rates for women and men are highest among 35 to 54 year olds.

The following table summarizes marital status:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population 15+ Years</td>
<td>713,916</td>
<td>688,659</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never Married</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residence. As of 2007, 70.3% of Nebraska women reside in urban areas, and 29.7% live in rural areas, according to the National Women’s Law Center.

ECONOMIC STATUS

Poverty. The National Women’s Law Center (2007) reports that 9.4% of all Nebraska women had incomes at or below federal poverty guidelines.

The following tables reflect distribution of poverty levels for Nebraska women by family structure, and racial/ethnic background.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Status for Nebraska Women</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All U.S. Women</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Nebraska Women</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Race/Ethnicity (NE only) 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
economic status continued...

Earnings. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the median, annual full-time earnings for Nebraska women in 2006 were $29,467 compared to $37,828 for Nebraska men.³

Uninsured. In 2009, 14.4% of women 18-64 were uninsured in Nebraska, (15.7% of men were uninsured). Nationally, 15% of non-elderly women were uninsured.⁸

MATERNAL HEALTH

Total Births: According to Nebraska DHHS provisional data, there were 26,992 live births in 2008.⁵

Age of Mother. Although Nebraska women today are having children later than earlier generations, the vast majority of all births still occur among women in their twenties. In 2008, women 20-29 accounted for 57.5% of all live births, compared to 31.8% for women 30-39, 8.6% for teenaged women, and 2.1% for women 40 and older.⁵

Birthweight. Nebraska’s low birth weight (babies weighing less than 5 ½ pounds) rate for 2008 was 70.7 per 1,000 live births which is a decrease from 72.02 in 2005. Nebraska’s annual low birth weight rate had increased steadily since declining to an all-time low of 52.8 in 1990. Babies born with very low birth weights (babies weighing less than 3.3 pounds) decreased to 12.1, per 1,000 babies, from 13.0 per 1,000 babies in 2007.⁵

Prenatal Care. In 2008, 14.6% of Nebraska’s live births occurred among women who did not receive adequate prenatal care, compared to 14.2% in 2007.⁵

Unmarried Rates. Since 2006, live births among unmarried women have increased from 8,617 births to 9,140 births.⁵ The following tables detail live births by race and maternal age:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NE Live Births by Race ²</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>20,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Unknown</td>
<td>3,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Origin (may be any race)</td>
<td>4,268</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NE Age of Mother /All Races ²</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 20</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 and Over</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MORTALITY

Life expectancies (2008) for Nebraska women and in the United States are described in the following two tables⁴:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Expectancy for Women ²</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>78.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leading Causes of Death for NE Women ²⁸ | Number of Deaths |
----------------------------------------|-------------------|
Heart Disease                         | 1,776             |
Cancer                                 | 1,645             |
Cerebrovascular                       | 485               |
Alzheimer’s                            | 444               |
Chronic Lung Disease                   | 435               |
Accidents                              | 283               |
Diabetes                               | 254               |
Pneumonia                              | 176               |

status of women’s health in nebraska
**CHRONIC DISEASE**

**Arthritis.** Women in both Nebraska and the United States are more likely to be diagnosed with arthritis than men. In Nebraska, 28.9% of women report having arthritis, compared to 22.8% of men, in 2009.8

**Asthma.** In 2009, a higher percentage of Nebraska women currently have asthma (8.8%), compared to Nebraska men (6.4%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diabetes</th>
<th>Cholesterol</th>
<th>Hypertension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults who have ever been diagnosed with diabetes in 2009</td>
<td>Adults who have ever been diagnosed with high cholesterol in 2009</td>
<td>Adults who have ever been diagnosed with high blood pressure in 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HIV and AIDS.** In 2005 the rate of AIDS for Nebraska women was 1.91 per 100,000 women,* compared to 9.1 per 100,000 women in the United States. The following table reflects reported cases of AIDS & HIV for the last 2 years.

*Rates cannot be calculated for HIV because the number of HIV cases reported is incomplete and represents only the number of persons found to be HIV-infected by confidential HIV-antibody testing. These numbers do not include HIV-infected persons who have tested anonymously or who have not sought testing.

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases.** In Nebraska, the overall STD incident rate has decreased from 458.7 (per 100,000 people) in 2006 to 430.4 (per 100,000) in 2007. This is a -6.2% rate change. Overall STD incidence rates remain low compared to the rest of the United States.

---

*status of women's health in nebraska*
BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS

Binge Drinking 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fruits and Vegetables. In 2009, 25.8% of Nebraska women reported eating fruits and vegetables five or more times per day.

Exercise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>73.7%</td>
<td>74.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overweight/Obesity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overweight (BMI 25-29.9)</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Obese (BMI 30.0-99.8)</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tobacco Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Smoke everyday</th>
<th>Smoke some days</th>
<th>Former smoker</th>
<th>Never smoked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PREVENTION

Cancer Screening Prevalence. Health screenings can prevent disease or detect it in its earliest possible stages. Women in Nebraska report lower cancer screening rates compared to the rest of the nation.

Mammography. In 2008, 37 states ranked higher than Nebraska in the percentage of women 40+ who had a mammogram within the past two years. The following table illustrates mammography rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pap Smears. In 2008, 83.8% of Nebraska women 18+ received Pap smears within the past three years, ranking Nebraska 19th in the nation for testing percentages. The following table illustrates test rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes (NE)</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>No (NE)</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oral Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>74.1%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sigmoidoscopy/Colonoscopy. Nebraska’s screening rates continue to increase from 51.4% in 2006, to 58.6% in 2008, placing Nebraska 36th among all states for colon cancer screening.

The following table illustrates screening prevalence by gender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Blood Stool Tests. Nebraska’s ranking has fallen from 12th to 31st among adults age 50+ who have had a blood stool test within the past two years.
Every Woman Matters

Every Woman Matters (EWM) is a federally funded program that provides breast and cervical cancer screening to medically underserved women between the ages of 40 and 64. The program began 19 years ago with a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Nebraska was one of the first twelve participating states in the Early Detection of Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. Today, all 50 states, 9 tribal organizations and several U.S. territories are funded for breast and cervical cancer screening through the CDC. Program functions include screening and diagnostic tests, public education, professional education, surveillance, evaluation and quality assurance.

The WISEWOMAN Program was added to EWM in 2001 to provide cardiovascular and diabetes prevention and risk factor detection services for clients. Nebraska’s WISEWOMAN Program was one of the first twelve to be funded and one of twenty-one to be selected under a new competitive grant process in 2008. The WISEWOMAN section of this report provides additional information.

The newest addition to EWM services is colon cancer screening. Nebraska received one of five demonstration grants to be funded in 2005 by the CDC. This was the first Office of Women’s and Men’s Health grant to provide services for men as well as women. In 2009, Nebraska successfully competed for a new five-year colon cancer screening grant from the CDC. The new grant has two primary goals: to provide direct screening services to populations at greatest need, and to increase screening rates for the entire population of persons fifty years and older.

The Nebraska Colon Cancer Program (NCP) recruits participants through the Every Woman Matters Program, but has a separate identity. Men and women who qualify by income and age are recruited for colon cancer screening, regardless of whether they have a connection to the Every Woman Matters Program. The NCP section of this report provides additional information.

Program Highlights

Every Woman Matters has 800 clinical service sites, and approximately 95% of primary care providers in Nebraska participate in the program. This includes 100% of all hospitals and laboratories in the state, numerous private clinics and providers, all Community Health Centers, family planning agencies, and the two local health departments that provide screening services.

• Since its inception, EWM has enrolled 70,743 women and diagnosed 856 breast cancers and 60 invasive cervical cancers.

• During this fiscal period, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program has screened over 12,725 individual women, of whom 56% are at or below 100% of the Federal poverty guidelines.

• In the last fiscal year 79% of women screened had no insurance or health coverage, compared to a state rate of 15% uninsured. Approximately 24% were non-white and 25% Hispanic, compared to Nebraska’s population of 84% white non-Hispanic. Clients newly enrolled this year were more likely to be at or below 100% of the Federal poverty guidelines (56%), more likely to be uninsured (79%), a higher percent non-white (24%), and a higher percent Hispanic (25%).

• On April 8, 2009, LB 403 (Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 4-108 through 4-114) was signed into law, requiring verification of lawful presence in the United States for those who apply for public benefits. Persons who apply for the Every Woman Matters Program (EWM) and Nebraska Colon Cancer Program...
(NCP) are included under this law. The programs have incorporated the attestation of citizenship or qualified alien status into their enrollment forms. The Lifespan Health Unit has access to the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program, which provides the means to verify immigration status.

- Every Woman Matters received a grant of $100,000 from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to assist with reimbursement for diagnostic screening services for women under the age of 40 and to assist in reimbursement for breast biopsy hospital fees. The Susan G. Komen Foundation has provided grants to Every Woman Matters for 16 years.

- EWM has received a grant from the American Cancer Society for $125,000 for each of the last six years.

- Through a contract with Bluestem Interactive, Inc., EWM has begun to develop a statewide breast cancer control plan to serve all Nebraska women with quality breast cancer education, screening, follow up, treatment, and support. The process and finished plan will help decrease duplication of efforts, utilize strengths, streamline resources, identify gaps and needs, and improve the quality of services. The draft plan is to be presented for public input at a town hall meeting held during the Annual Cancer Conference in North Platte on October 14-15, 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009-2010 Every Woman Matters Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Screened:</strong> 12,725 Women 18+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Performed:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,480 Mammograms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,376 Pap Smears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,415 Clinical Breast Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diagnosed:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73 Breast Cancers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Cervical Cancers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In preparation for changing roles under the new Health Care Reform Law, EWM (including the WISEWOMAN Program) and the Nebraska Colon Cancer Program are seeking to broaden their role from paying for screening for individuals to helping to assure screening across the entire population. New contractual collaborations are under way with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska to implement preventive services registries and quality improvement initiatives for all the screening programs, with Wayne State College to determine barriers to preventive services for persons who have health care coverage, and with WorkWell and the Wellness Council of the Midlands to increase preventive services through workplace policies and interventions.

- Margarita Allen, RN, BSN, attended training at Stanford University in order to provide the Stanford Chronic Disease Self Management Course in Spanish. The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is a workshop given two and a half hours, once a week, for six weeks, in community settings such as senior centers, churches, libraries and hospitals. People with different chronic health problems attend together. Subjects covered include: 1) techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation, 2) appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance, 3) appropriate use of medications, 4) communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals, 5) nutrition, and, 6) how to evaluate new treatments.
EWM continued...

• EWM issued a request for proposals to Nebraska non-profit clinics to fund equipment purchases for diagnosis or treatment of cervical dysplasia and cervical cancer. Twelve clinics received funding.

• Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff became the new contractor for Outreach/Recall Services in the Western Region.

• The curriculum training for Recall Contractors was updated.

• EWM switched to a new customized web-based data system called Med-It. Among its advantages are enhanced security and the availability of a summary screen for each client so all information can be viewed at once.

• The Urban Indian Health Institute/Seattle Indian Health Board met with EWM, WISEWOMAN, and Nebraska Colon Cancer staff and partners, including the Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity and the Urban Indian Medical Center on May 5, 2010. The purpose was to discuss the Weaving Project, an initiative to increase screening for Native Americans in urban settings.

**WISEWOMAN**

Since the addition of the WISEWOMAN (Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation) grant in 2001, the EWM Program has been providing clients with a comprehensive array of prevention and screening services. These services address chronic disease risk factors such as elevated cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity, sedentary lifestyle, diabetes, and smoking. The WISEWOMAN program provides screening for cardiovascular disease and diabetes and provides intervention, referral and follow-up as appropriate. Like the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, it is aimed at low-income uninsured or underinsured women from ages 40 through 64. Special attention is given to populations of women at higher risk for cardiovascular disease—Black, Hispanic, and Native American women.

**Program Highlights**

• Long-time WISEWOMAN Community Health Educator, Cathy Dillon, was promoted in November to lead the WISEWOMAN Program.

• With the new Med-It web-based data system, the WISEWOMAN program has the capability of running newer, more condensed versions of reports related to those clients who present as “alerts.” “Alerts” are clients with very high results in either or all of the following: blood pressure, cholesterol, or blood glucose. These clients are then followed by the WISEWOMAN cardiovascular disease nurse to assure provider follow up with office visits, medications, or lifestyle changes.

• A new partnership with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission was developed to increase physical activity, decrease risk factors for chronic diseases, and improve overall health outcomes of women in Nebraska. The program, “A Walk in the Park,” links Nebraska women enrolled in the WISEWOMAN lifestyle interventions with close to home points of recreation, including parks across the state. This innovative partnership allows for the promotion of Nebraska parks as well as a creative way to become and stay physically active. Women will be provided with park passes as a low cost alternative for physical activity, all the while exploring the variety of options that parks have to offer for being physically active.
• The WISEWOMAN program is developing a tool kit to reduce sodium intake based on the Institute of Medicine’s report on sodium. The toolkit is a collaboration with the Breast/Cervical and the Colon Cancer programs, as those programs will also offer their own tool kits in 2011. The tool kit is designed to increase both provider and client awareness of excessive sodium intake and the associated health risks. The preliminary goals are to offer a webinar that details the risks of sodium, provide continuing education units, and produce a promotional tool for providers.

• The WISEWOMAN Program collaborated with the Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health to offer case managers, outreach workers, lifestyle interventionists, and staff a “Mental Health First Aid Kit.” This first aid kit is akin to CPR in that it provides vital tools to help deal with a mental health crisis, including depression and anxiety disorders. Participants who complete the course are certified for three years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2009-2010 WISEWOMAN Data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screened: 4,446 Women 40+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnosed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134 new cases of high cholesterol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 new cases of hypertension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 new cases of diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 48% of all women screened have high blood pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 48% of all women screened have high cholesterol</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 24% of all women screened have high glucose</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 30% of those screened have 3-5 risk factors for CVD</td>
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• A radio spot promoting the WISEWOMAN program and the importance of heart disease screening ran throughout summer 2010. Hosted by the Nebraska Radio Network, the spot targeted nine priority counties (Cass, Dakota, Dixon, Douglas, Lancaster, Otoe, Sarpy, Wayne, and Washington). The sixty second spot featured a client whose life was significantly changed because of the program and the lifestyle interventions curriculum on nutrition and physical activity. The spot also concluded with an evaluation component completed by Wiese Research Associates.

• A new endeavor to reach Spanish-speaking clients has been formed in partnership with WISEWOMAN and the East Central District Health Department. The purpose of this partnership is to provide CDC required tailored-education and community-based support for women who have been screened for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Women with abnormal values in these screenings will receive lifestyle interventions aimed at improving health behaviors. This partnership will also help to identify best practices for reaching the Spanish speaking population and will allow the WISEWOMAN program to best maximize the intervention efforts for this population.

• WISEWOMAN is also collaborating with the Nebraska Cardiovascular Health Program on a campaign entitled “What If?” The campaign has been designed and is being analyzed by focus groups across the state. Examples of campaign slogans include: “What if I would have taken my medication?” “What if I would have called 9-1-1?” “What if I would have paid more attention to the amount of salt in my food?” All of the questions focus on engaging consumers to really think about lifestyle choices and the effects on their own lives and the lives of those around them.

status of women’s health in nebraska
WISEWOMEN continued...

• In August 2010, staff, case managers, outreach workers, and lifestyle interventionists attended “Strategies for Providing Consumer-Friendly Information, Service, and Care.” The two day seminar provided information on how to make language, concepts, and systems more accessible to Every Woman Matters consumers across varying literacy levels, languages, cultures, and perspectives. Janet Ohene-Frempong, MS from Clear Language Group Consortium conducted the seminar.

Colon Cancer Screening Program

The Nebraska Colon Cancer Program (NCP) has evolved through a series of grants. It began in 2001 with a grant from Tobacco Settlement Funds. The EWM infrastructure was utilized to distribute fecal occult blood testing kits through providers. In 2005, Nebraska received one of five national colon cancer screening demonstration grants from the CDC. The demonstration project ended in 2009, and Nebraska successfully competed for a new five year cycle of CDC funds. Through the newest grant, Nebraska is now one of 29 states and tribes that comprise the national Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP). The CRCCP’s goal is to increase colorectal (colon) cancer screening rates among men and women aged 50 years and older from about 64% to 80% in the funded states by 2014.

Program Highlights

• Receipt of the new colon cancer grant allowed the program to add two new full-time positions, including a program manager and a staff assistant. Michelle Heffelfinger now manages the program on a full-time basis after several years of splitting her time between the colon cancer and WISEWOMAN grants.

• A contract has been signed with the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) WorkWell Program for a worksite wellness project in Lincoln and Omaha on colon cancer and cardiovascular screening and on physical activity and nutrition education. LLCHD will subcontract with the Wellness Council of the Midlands for the Omaha component.

• Grants have been awarded to 13 local health departments for community based coalitions to promote colon cancer screening awareness and distribute fecal occult blood testing kits.

• A direct mail informational campaign on the NCP was implemented in June, 2010. All EWM clients who have not enrolled in the program were sent information urging them to enroll and to encourage their husbands or other males age 50 and over to apply for the program. The campaign was highly effective in motivating women to enroll for colon cancer screening.

• The two methods of screening through NCP are fecal occult blood testing through Hemoccult II® Sensa® and colonoscopy. The NCP is researching another option, Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT). This option is supported by CDC and has the advantage of better return rates due to fewer restrictions on diet and medication prior to use. It also offers a more accurate means of detecting hidden blood. Review of this option by the program’s Medical Advisory Committee is needed prior to adoption.

• A Toolbox to improve access and increase screenings is in development. Components include Client/Consumer Messages and Calls to Action, Provider/Clinician Messages and Outcomes, and continuing education unit Webinar Training and Evaluation. The American Cancer Society has developed a
“Colorectal Cancer Clinicians Toolbox and Guide” which will be used to develop webinars and tools to promote screening.

• To date, the NCP has paid for 2,707 screening encounters, including 1,959 fecal occult blood tests (FOBT), and 775 colonoscopy referrals. Four high-grade Polyps were removed, and 6 cases of colorectal cancer were found. According to the National Cancer Institute, Nebraska has the 3rd highest colon cancer incidence and the 15th highest colon cancer mortality in the nation.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2009-2010 CRC Data</th>
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<tr>
<td>Screened: 445 Men and Women 50+ (9% male)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals: 103 Colonoscopy Referrals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Found: 2 High Grade Polyps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributed: 3,933 FOBT kits (including those distributed by community coalitions)</td>
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• Dan Whitney, known as “Larry the Cable Guy” recorded radio spots to encourage colon cancer screening and to promote the NCP. The spots were recorded at no charge to the program. Contracts were written with Three Eagles and Clear Channel radio networks to air the spots from April through June, 2010.

• The NCP was promoted through an exhibit at the 2009 Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island.

The largest promotional campaign for the NCP is Stay in the Game. This campaign utilizes Husker sports and a number of other sports venues to raise awareness of the need for colon cancer screening and the availability of the NCP. The campaign has many partners, including the Comprehensive Cancer Program and the Nebraska Medical Association. Stay in the Game activities during the previous year included:

~ A kick-off event at the Champions Club with a presentation by campaign spokesperson, Jerry Tagge, quarterback of the 1970 and 1971 national championship teams.
~ Sponsorship of the cover wrap of Huskers Illustrated for the week of October 13, 2010.
~ Calendars produced by Husker Sports Network featuring vintage Husker pictures and messages to promote colon cancer screening.
~ Promotion of the Nebraska Colon Cancer Program at Husker football games on ribbon boards and instant replays.
~ Appearances by Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers at two Lincoln Hy-Vee stores to promote Stay in the Game and the Nebraska Colon Cancer Program. On the same day Medical Advisory Committee Member Dr. Matthew Hrnicek spoke to a celiac support group on the importance of colon cancer screening at another Lincoln Hy-Vee store. Dr. Hrnicek is a Lincoln gastroenterologist.
~ Promotion of the Stay in the Game campaign and the importance of colon cancer screening in the “Huskers Illustrated 2010 Yearbook” and all subsequent 19 publications printed by “Huskers Illustrated” for one year.
~ Development of a process for mobile marketing at games.
~ Omaha Royals owner and colon cancer survivor Alan Stein shared his story in a 30-second
commercial that aired during home games on the stadium’s closed circuit television system.
~ Promotion of the Nebraska Colon Cancer Program at the Cox Classic Golf Tournament in Omaha.
~ Omaha Royals and Lincoln Saltdogs baseball games, and horse races at the Lincoln Race Course.
~ Trading cards are under development featuring physical activity as a primary prevention strategy for colon cancer.

EDUCATION

Public Education

The Public Education component of Every Woman Matters (EWM) and the Nebraska Office of Women’s and Men’s Health (OWMH) researches, develops and disseminates public health information and education.

Program Highlights

• In Spring 2010, the American Heart Association, the Olson Center for Women’s Health, The Nebraska Cardiovascular Health Program, and the OWMH sponsored a women and heart disease education program with 45 libraries across the state. Libraries set up displays during February’s National Heart Disease Awareness Month with books and educational materials on women and heart disease and women’s health in general. The partners in this project provided them with educational materials, red dress pins, registration cards for an American Heart Association initiative, and a book list.

• The OWMH collaborated with the American Heart Association and the Nebraska Cardiovascular Health Program on a variety of other awareness activities during Heart Disease Awareness Month. The events included a heart disease display at the State Capitol which paid tribute to Nebraskans who survived or died as a result of heart disease, the lighting of the exterior of the Capitol building in red, and learning sessions on cardiovascular disease, second hand smoke and sodium reduction.

• A DVD entitled “Every Story Matters” has been produced and includes stories told by EWM and Nebraska Colon Cancer Program clients. The DVD will be included in the OWMH portfolio to market the screening programs, as well as on the OWMH websites.

• Public Health Division Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joann Schaefer and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) CEO Kerry Winterer, both appeared in a video promoting Women’s and Men’s Health Weeks. The video appeared on both the DHHS Public website and the Department Intranet.

• Women’s and Men’s Health Week campaign materials were developed and made available on the Health Week websites, and promoted through local health departments and outreach agencies. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, through the assistance of Cyndi Margritz, donated 2,000 health tracker cards to use for the campaign.

• Members of the Public Education team presented displays and information on OWMH programs at the KFOR Lifelong Living Festival, the Lifespan Health Conference, and a health fair for employees of Cook’s Ham.
The Professional Education component of Every Woman Matters continued to be active in providing educational opportunities to clinical providers throughout the state in 2009-2010.

**Program Highlights**

- Long-time Professional Education Coordinator, Victoria Schwab, retired in January and her duties were assumed by Jane Green, RN.

- In the spring of 2009, a no-cost cytology teleconference and podcast were offered by the Iowa Society of Cytology to the 26 laboratories that participate in the Every Woman Matters Program. The one-hour seminar presented gynecology and non-gynecology cases to cytotechnologists and pathologists. Joy E. Trueblood, MD, Cytopathologist and Medical Director at The Iowa Clinic Pathology Laboratory, and Carolyn Woon, MD, Cytopathologist at Mercy Medical Center & Des Moines Pathology Laboratory, were the presenters.

- At the annual Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioner conferences held in February and April 2010, the Every Woman Matters Program sponsored a presentation on “Mindless Eating” by Alice Henneman, R.D. MammaCare specialists, Marilyn Kile, APRN AOCN and Patti Higginbotham, APRN conducted Clinical Breast Exam workshops at both of these conferences. These workshops were also coordinated by the EWM program.

- Program exhibit booths were displayed at the annual Family Practice Conference, the Physicians Assistants conference, the Nurse Practitioner conference, and the Radiologic Technologists Mammography Symposium. Jeanette Joyce was the sponsored speaker at the Mammography Symposium.

- In cooperation with Tobacco Free Nebraska, legal sized clipboards with appropriate provider/client education messages are now available to providers across the state. This project is promoted by the Case Managers. The order form will also be available on the EWM Website.

- All mammography facilities in Nebraska received the annual mammography survey in March 2010 to determine mammography utilization. Professional educational materials were included in the mailing.

- A successful partnership with the Nebraska Comprehensive Cancer Program, (CARES), has financed the publication of the revised 4th edition of *Straight Talk about Breast Cancer*. This new edition is now available to those women in Nebraska who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Online submission forms to order copies of the 4th Edition of *Straight Talk about Breast Cancer* will be available on the Every Woman Matters website in the near future.

- A plan to contract with Paul Smith, MD for a Health Literacy presentation is in progress for the 2011 Physician Assistants conference. Proposals have also been written to the Nurse Practitioner Education Committee to offer this presentation at the 2011 Nurse Practitioner conference. A proposal has also been submitted to the Family Practice Physicians to offer a presentation on the Medical Management of Obesity at the Family Practice Conference.

- Educational articles on breast/cervical, colon health, and cardiovascular health/diabetes topics were provided to regional case managers. The case managers continue to complete an evaluation of the articles for submission to the Professional Education Coordinator.
SURVEILLANCE

• Cancer cases have been linked between the Breast and Cervical and Colon Cancer Programs and the Nebraska Cancer Registry to help assure the accuracy and completeness of records.

• Several members of the Office of Women’s and Men’s Health staff participated in the Lifespan Health Unit Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment efforts. This workgroup identified priorities for the next five years for maternal and child health needs.

• Jianping Daniels, Office of Women’s and Men’s Health Surveillance Coordinator, provided consultation to Medicaid’s Medical Home Project on determination of sample size.

• Special surveillance projects included analysis on screening for American Indian and African American women in the Every Woman Matters Program, analysis on WISEWOMAN clients with existing or newly diagnosed diabetes, and needs assessments to help develop a patient navigation system.

HEALTHY WEIGHTS GRANT

The Healthy Weights grant funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration received a one-year no-cost extension so that all classes can be completed at the Crete and Omaha sites. For the past three years, these sites have presented twelve-week courses on healthy lifestyles for women, with an emphasis on recruiting Hispanic and African American women.

The grant has served 92 low income minority women between the ages of 19 and 64. After the twelve-week healthy lifestyles program, results showed that systolic blood pressure was significantly decreased, the average weight loss was 3-7 pounds, and average waist circumference decreased about one inch. There was also significant improvement in health behavior as reported on questionnaires. These included using nutrition facts labels and being physically active on four or more days a week, using healthier options when feeding themselves and their families, and lowering salt intake. Vitamin A, calcium, and potassium intake significantly increased.

Advisory Committees were formed in both Omaha and Crete to help support community changes that would continue after the grant has ended. In Crete, one of the barriers to healthy behaviors was the absence of a place to exercise during bad weather. In part because of the grant, the community is converting an old armory into a wellness facility. In Omaha one of the barriers was lack of support to continue physical activity and healthy eating. The “alumni” of the twelve-week classes are now meeting to continue encouraging each other.

Poster sessions have been presented on the project at the National Hispanic Medical Association Conference and the Society of Nutrition Education Conference. A presentation on the program was made at the National Community Action Conference in Boston.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

• In May 2010, 264 people attended the Lifespan Health Conference in Kearney. Office of Women’s and Men’s Health (OWMH) staff member Patti Schumann co-chaired the conference planning committee.

In addition to the speakers described in the Men’s Health and Women’s Health Advisory Committee sections of this report, the OWMH also arranged the following speakers: Mary Pipher (“The Shelter of Each Other”); Sharon Cheney (“Aging Gracefully: The Journey of Life”) and (“The Role of Resilience in the Aging Process”); Dr. Alan Thorson and Melissa Leypoldt (“Stay in the Game - Using Nebraska’s Love of Sports to Increase Colon Cancer Screening”); Dr. Steven Lemon (“Ten
• To raise awareness and transport people to the 5th annual Cancer Conference, the Breast and Cervical and Colon Cancer Programs hosted, “Bus Trek Across Nebraska” on October 1-2, 2009. Buses were wrapped as travelling billboards and travelled from Omaha to Scottsbluff, picking up people along the way. Dr. Alan Thorson, a colorectal cancer surgeon and chair of the Colon Cancer Subgroup of the Office of Women’s and Men’s Health Medical Advisory Committee; Dr. Jackie Miller, DHHS Chief Administrator; Jim Rose from Husker Sports Network; and several cancer survivors hosted rallies and news conferences at several hospital stops throughout Nebraska. Participants on the buses also engaged in strategic planning discussions as they drove across the state.

• The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Omaha was attended by staff on Sunday, October 4, 2009. As “Cure Leaders" staff were in charge of mingling through the crowd to raise awareness of breast cancer facts and myths. Staff also participated in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer sponsored by the American Cancer Society (ACS) in Lincoln on October 18.

• The OWMH sponsored a luncheon on October 28 for breast cancer survivors in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The luncheon was attended by 27 people, including 16 breast cancer survivors. Several survivors shared their stories, which were included in a booklet, an article in Connections (the Department newsletter) and on the web: http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/cancersurvivorstories/.

• Kathy Ward served as Planning Chief for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Emergency Coordination Center for H1N1, and attended a week-long course on the Incident Command System in Lincoln from November 30-December 4, 2009.

• Kathy Ward coordinated the writing of the Public Health Division section of the DHHS Annual Report. The report can be found at: http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/AnnualReport/

• Kathy Ward participated on a panel to review applications for the Nebraska Hospital Association’s Quest for Excellence Awards.

• Kathy Ward gave a presentation on women’s and men’s health for the Nebraska Department of Education Office Professional’s Association.

Website

The Nebraska OWMH websites continued to expand in 2009-2010, and now include the following sites:
Office of Women’s Health: www.dhhs.ne.gov/womenshealth/
Office of Men’s Health: www.dhhs.ne.gov/menshealth/
Information Network: www.dhhs.ne.gov/womenshealth/Information_Network.htm
Community Coalition Resources: www.dhhs.ne.gov/crc/CommunityCoalition/
Colon Cancer: www.dhhs.ne.gov/crc/
Stay In The Game: www.stayinthegamene.com/index.php
MEN'S HEALTH

Two men's health breakout sessions were offered at the 2010 Lifespan Health Conference in Kearney: “Do Fathers Experience Peripartum Depression - and Does it Matter?” by Dr. Les Veskrna; and “The 2, 3, 4, 5 Principle of Men's Health” by Dr. Robert Rhodes.

The Men's Health Task Force, in collaboration with the Nebraska Beef Council sponsored a lunch and learn on Healthy Grilling. The presentation was attended by 85 persons, including a reporter for the Lincoln Journal Star (LJS). The LJS used information from the session for a cooking column with tips on healthy grilling.

In collaboration with the University of Nebraska Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences and the Men's Health Task Force, the OWMH created a cookbook by men and for men entitled, Kitchen Quarterbacks. The cookbook features 51 recipes submitted by men in the DHHS, along with nutrition analyses and tips for making the recipes healthier. The introduction also provides education on portion control and healthier eating. An article about the cookbook appeared in the July 19, 2010 edition of Lincoln Journal Star, and was picked up by the AP and featured on the MSNBC website.

PARTNERSHIPS and COMMITTEES

Medical Advisory Committee. The Every Woman Matters Program and Colon Cancer Screening Program receive consultation from a distinguished group of medical care providers. Specialties include cytology, radiology, general surgery, family practice, bone metabolism, obstetrics/gynecology, oncology, pathology, cardiology, endocrinology, internal medicine, rheumatology, gastroenterology, and colorectal surgery. Representation is provided for the following health professions: physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, dietitians, pharmacists, biostatisticians and epidemiologists, clinic nurses, radiological technicians, cytotechnologists, and social workers. Subgroups were formed around the following topics: Cervical Cancer Issues, Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes, Colorectal Cancer Issues, and Breast Cancer Issues. Members of the Medical Advisory Committee are listed in Appendix Three.

Collaborations With Other DHHS Programs.

• The OWMH and the Women's Health Advisory Council (WHAC) are collaborating with the Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity to bring the Public Broadcast System's documentary, Unnatural Causes, to communities in Nebraska. A series of up to fifteen forums will be held throughout the summer to discuss social determinants of health and their impact on persons in Nebraska.

• Melissa Leypoldt and Cathy Dillon continue to participate in the Division of Public Health Media/Education Workgroup. The group is tasked with the development of a plan to improve both internal and external communications for the benefit of providing a better understanding and appreciation for the wide range of public health programs and activities that take place within DHHS Division of Public Health.

Women's and Men's Health Week. For the sixth year, the Office of Women's and Men's Health partnered with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) on a campaign to encourage healthy living during...
the months of May and June. Activities included:

~ Public Health Division Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joann Schaefer and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) CEO Kerry Winterer, both appeared in a video promoting Women's and Men's Health Weeks. The video appeared on both the DHHS Public website and the Department Intranet.

~ A website was created to mark the 2010 Women's Health Week and Men’s Health Week observances. The site included information on the National Office’s WOMAN Challenge, and Fitness Tracker, downloads, materials, resources, and instruction on how individuals and organizations can create and implement their own Health Week activity.

~ The site included order forms for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield “know your numbers” health tracker cards, which were donated through the assistance of Women’s Health Advisory Council member Cyndi Margritz.

~ The National Office encouraged women to register events to receive free healthy living materials.

• A postcard detailing how to use the site was sent to 2,000 places of worship and other potential partners via snail mail and email.

**NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

• In January 2010, Kathy Ward co-taught a Program Consultation Certificate Training at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. The purpose of the training is to enhance CDC staff effectiveness as program consultants working with state partners.

• Margarita Allen and Kathy Ward visited the ACS Patient Service Center in Austin, Texas to learn more about designing enhanced patient navigation programs for EWM and NCP clients that will complement the wide range of services provided by the American Cancer Society.

• In March 2010, members of the Clinical Education Team attended a CDC conference in Atlanta, on quality assurance, case management and professional education.

• In June, Lifestyle Interventions Coordinator, Clarissa Christensen, attended a training on Social Marketing in Public Health.

• Tracey Bonneau attended a Public Education and Recruitment Training in Atlanta sponsored by the CDC. She gave a presentation on the *Stay in the Game* campaign

• Cathy Dillon and Jane Green attended the Annual CDC Division of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Meeting in conjunction with the annual WISEWOMAN grantee meeting held this past September in Atlanta.
In 2008, after undergoing a strategic planning process, the Women’s Health Advisory Council selected four priority areas. Work groups were formed around each of the priorities. They are as follows:

**Behavioral Health**: This work group is initially focusing on perinatal depression.
- Susan Feyen, Chair of the Task Force, hosted several meetings on perinatal depression with Omaha stakeholders. Representatives from a wide variety of local and state organizations were in attendance. The group reviewed the resources available to women with perinatal depression and systems for accessing them. Guests were invited to describe the services available through the Boys Town Helpline, Lutheran Family Services, Region VI Behavioral Health, and Douglas County. Future collaboration efforts discussed include grant applications, provider conferences, and/or education provided directly to provider offices. One grant application has already been submitted, to the U.S. Office on Women’s Health. The submission was a partnership between the Visiting Nurses Association of Omaha, the Women’s Health Advisory Council, the Office of Women’s and Men’s Health, the Douglas County Health Department, Omni Behavioral Health, and other Omaha organizations.
- One of the Council and work group members, Dr. Sharon Hammer, gave a presentation on “Motherhood and Mood” at the 2010 Lifespan Health Conference in Kearney. This presentation focused on perinatal depression in mothers. Another presentation, given by Dr. Les Veskrna, focused on perinatal depression in fathers.
- Other behavioral health presentations given at the Lifespan Health Conference by Women’s Health Council members included Susan Feyen’s, entitled, “Your Body is Beautiful—It’s Your Jeans that are Out of Proportion” and Dr. Joann Schaefer’s, entitled, “Keeping a Positive Attitude with Chronic Illness”.

**Workplace Wellness**: The work group focused on this topic is working to locate and/or develop resources that can be useful to individual women and to small workplaces that cannot afford a comprehensive employee wellness program. The group arranged a presentation to the Council from the Director of the Wellness Council of the Midlands. A directory of resources has been developed for the Office of Women’s and Men’s Health website at http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/womenshealth/workplace_wellness.htm. Information on Women’s Health Week was disseminated through the worksite at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.

**Life Course Perspective**: The life course model is an approach to health that recognizes a complex interplay of biological, behavioral, psychological, and social protective and risk factors that contribute to health outcomes across the span of a person’s life. The work group for this topic has concentrated on helping the Council understand the meaning and implications of this model. A number of presentations on the Life Course Model were presented at the 2010 Lifespan Health Conference.

**Health Disparities**: An important activity under both this topic and the Life Course Perspective is the sponsorship of 15 forums across the state on the social determinants of health. The forums are based on the Public Broadcast System’s documentary, Unnatural Causes. The project is a collaboration between the Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity, the Women’s Health Advisory Committee, the Minority Health Advisory Committee, the Public Health Association of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Minority Public Health Association. The Women’s Health Advisory Council and the Minority Health Advisory Council held a joint meeting in March of 2010 to plan the forums.
- A presentation on health disparities was given at the Lifespan Health Conference by Council member Dr. Raponzil Drake, entitled, “Nebraska DHHS Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity Cultural Competency Curricula: An Overview.” The work group for this topic is also developing a data report on racial/ethnic status of women’s health in Nebraska.
disparities and social determinants of health.

• A web-based health information network has been created to provide a means to disseminate information for all the work groups.

• The following Women’s Health Advisory Council members presented at the Lifespan Health Conference in Kearney: Dr. Sharon Hammer (“Motherhood and Mood”); Susan Feyen (“Your Body is Beautiful - It’s Your Jeans that are Out of Proportion”); Dr. Raponzil Drake (“Nebraska DHHS Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity Cultural Competency Curricula: An Overview”); Dr. Joann Schaefer (“Keeping a Positive Attitude with Chronic Illness”), and Teresa Anderson participated on a panel that gave a presentation on “H1N1: The Nebraska Vaccine Response.”

Legislation Monitored by the Women’s Health Council

In the 2010 legislative session, the Women’s Health Council took a position on only one bill. The Council supported LB 1110, a bill to change provisions relating to coverage for certain children under the Medical Assistance Program. The purpose of the bill was to continue to offer prenatal services to unborn children of low-income women. A letter regarding this bill was signed by the Council Chair and sent to members of the Legislature during the legislative session.

WOMEN’S HEALTH INITIATIVE STATUTE 71-701 TO 71-707

“The Women’s Health Initiative of Nebraska is created within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Women’s Health Initiative of Nebraska shall strive to improve the health of women in Nebraska by fostering the development of a comprehensive system of coordinated services, policy development, advocacy, and education.” Initiative Objectives:

1. Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding women’s health issues;
2. Conduct department-wide policy analysis on specific issues related to women’s health;
3. Coordinate pilot projects and planning projects funded by the state that are related to women’s health;
4. Communicate and disseminate information and perform liaison functions;
5. Provide technical assistance to communities, other public entities, and private entities;
6. Encourage innovative responses by private and public entities

DUTIES OF THE WOMEN’S HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

• Advise the Office of Women’s Health in carrying out its duties;
• Explore other sources of funding which may be used to support the Office of Women’s Health and its initiatives to improve the health of the women of Nebraska;
• Bring new information to the attention of the Council and the Administrator of the Office of Women’s Health;
• Provide guidance and recommend action to the Administrator of the Office of Women’s Health and the Nebraska Health and Human Services System on issues pertaining to women’s health;
• Interpret and apply scientific and/or technical information to issues pertaining to women’s health;
• Disseminate information in accordance with the current communication plan;
• Adhere to the Mission and Vision as the primary guidance in establishing direction through the Strategic Plan and in forming recommendations for action to the Administrator.
ANNUAL REPORT

“The Department of Health and Human Services shall issue an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on September 1 for the preceding fiscal year’s activities of the Women’s Health Initiative of Nebraska. The report shall include progress reports on any programs, activities, or educational promotions that were undertaken by the initiative. The report shall also include a status report on women’s health in Nebraska and any results achieved by the initiative.”

FUNDING

The Nebraska Office of Women’s and Men’s Health has total funding of 6.9 million dollars. The funding sources are as follows:

- General Funds 10%
- Federal Funds from Grants 86%
- Cash Funds, including fees and private grants 4%

OFFICERS and COUNCIL MEMBERS

APPENDIX 1

Women’s Health Advisory Council
September 2009-August 2010

Chair: Cyndi Margritz, RN, Omaha
Vice Chair: Brandi Holys Tumbleson, MA, Omaha
Secretary/Treasurer: Martha Gentry Nielsen, PhD, Omaha

Liliana Bronner, MHSA, Omaha
Jacquelyn Brugman, PA-C, Albion
Joni Cover, JD, Lincoln
Cecelia Creighton, MA, Omaha
Sarena Dacus, BA, Omaha
Raponzil Drake, D.Min, Lincoln
Paula Eurek, BS, Lincoln
Susan Feyen, LCSW, Omaha
Senator Tim Gay, Lincoln
Mary Jo Gillespie, MPA, RD, LMNT, Lincoln
Brandi Holys Tumbleson, MA, Omaha
Senator Gwen Howard, Omaha

Octa Keen, MSN, Omaha
Joy King, BS, Omaha
Lina Lander, PhD, Omaha
Lana Molczyk, MA, Omaha
Donna Narber, Grand Island
Michelle Nielson, BSW, Omaha
Joann Schaefer, MD, Omaha
Amy Schuett, MD, Omaha
Patricia Sullivan, PhD, Omaha
Marcia Wallen, MS, RD, Lincoln

APPENDIX 2

Breast & Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee
September 2009-August 2010

Jennifer Dreibelbis, Omaha
Janice A. Larson, Omaha
Rita McClure, LPN, Lincoln
Joyce Morgan, Lincoln
Lynne Olson, Lincoln
Carna Pfeil, Lincoln

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APPENDIX 3

Every Woman Matters Medical Advisory Committee  
September 2009-August 2010

Chair: William Minier, MD  
Sam Augustine, RP  
Camille Brewer, APRN  
Jodi Chewakin, PA-C  
Carolyn Cody, MD  
Priscilla Moran Correa, MD  
Mary Ann Curtis, MD  
Mary Davey, MD  
Charlene Dorcey, RD, LMNT, CDE  
Stephen Dreyer, MD  
James Edney, MD  
Heather Elton, RN  
Robert Faulk, MD  
J. Christopher Gallagher, MD  
Donald Gibbens, MD  
Janet Grange, MD  
Jean Grem, MD  
David Hilger, MD  
David Hoelting, MD  
David Holdt, MD  
Matthew Hrnicek, MD  
Mark Hutchins, MD  
Mia Hyde, PA-C  
Milton Johnson, MD  
Sonja Kinney, MD  
Suzanne Kraus, LPN  
David Lee, MD  

Family Medicine  
Pharmacology  
Family Medicine  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Surgery  
Family Medicine  
Radiology  
Radiology  
Dietary  
General Surgery  
Surgical Oncology  
Nursing  
Radiology  
Bone Metabolism  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
General Surgery  
Internal Medicine  
Radiology  
Family Medicine  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Gastroenterology  
Hematology/oncology  
Family Medicine  
Family Medicine  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Nursing  
Gastroenterology  

Stephen Lemon, MD  
Karen Linder, SCT (ASCP)  
Bruce Lovejoy, APRN  
Henry Lynch, MD  
Lynn R. Mack-Shipman, MD  
Michelle Malcom, BSRT  
Tim McGuire, FCCP, Pharm.D.  
Kris McVea, MD  
Ted R. Mikuls, MD  
Syed Mohiuddin, MD  
Anne K. Morse, MD  
Sherrill Murphy, MD  
Amy Neumeister, MD  
Diana Nevins, MD  
Cheryl Obermire, RN  
Mary Petersen, RN  
Steven Remmenga, MD  
Lisa Rice, MD  
Aina Silenieks, MD  
Edibaldo Silva, MD  
Debra Spence, RN  
Susan Stensland, LCSW  
Jo Swartz, RT  
Alan Thorson, MD  
Marian Wehr, LPN  
Suzette Woodward, MD  

Oncology  
Cytotechnology  
Family Medicine  
Oncology  
Endocrinology  
Radiology  
Pharmacology  
Internal Medicine  
Rheumatology  
Cardiology  
Internal Medicine  
Cardiology  
Endocrinology  
Pathology  
Nursing  
Nursing  
Gynecology/Oncology  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Pathology  
Surgical Oncology  
Nursing  
Social Work  
Radiology  
Colorectal Surgery  
Nursing  
Pathology
MISSION
The mission of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Office of Women's and Men's Health is to help women and men of all ages in Nebraska lead healthier lives.

VISION
The vision for the Office of Women's and Men's Health is to work toward healthy people throughout Nebraska; supported by a comprehensive system of coordinated services, policy development, advocacy, & education.

STRUCTURE
Organizational Chart for the Office of Women's and Men's Health:
APPENDIX 5

sources

1. Annual Census Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/

http://www.nwlc.org/

http://factfinder.census.gov

http://statehealthfacts.kff.org

http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/ced/vs.htm


http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/std/stdindex.html#data

8. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss

9. National STD Surveillance
http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats

10. National Vital Statistics Reports, September

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