

Southwestern District Health Unit Serving Southwest ND Since 1945 Sherry Adams



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

What is Public Health?

“The activities that ensure conditions in which people can be healthy. These activities include community wide efforts to identify, prevent, and combat threats to the health of the public. “

–Institute of Medicine Definition of Public Health



Public Health: Past, Present and Future

Achievements of the 20th century:

- ▶ Vaccinations
- ▶ Improved sanitation
- ▶ Fewer deaths from heart disease and stroke
- ▶ Healthier mothers and babies
- ▶ Reduction in tobacco use

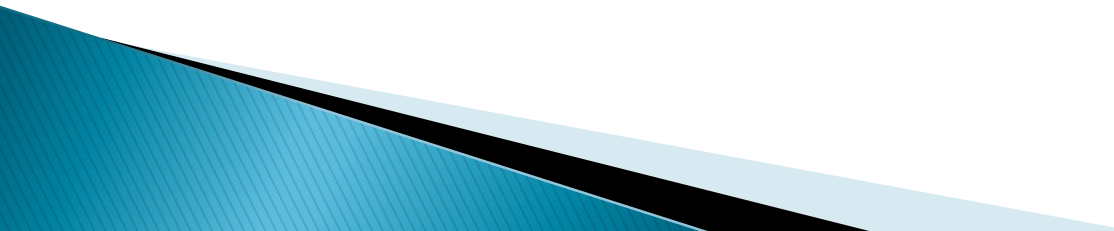


▶ Emerging threats of the 21st century:

- Chronic diseases
- H1N1
- New and re-emerging infectious diseases
- Natural disasters



The 10 Essential Public Health Services

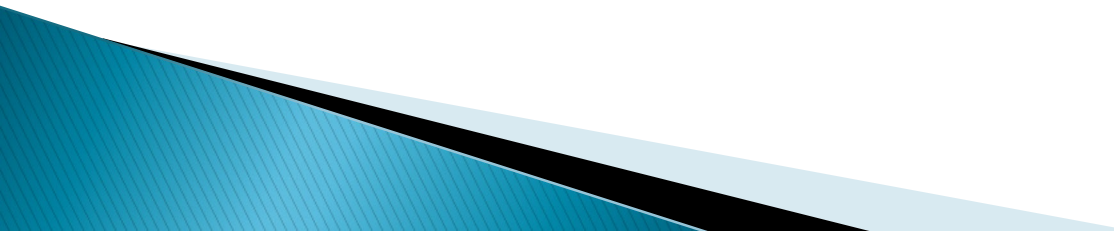
1. Monitor the health status of the community.
 2. Investigate and diagnose health problems and hazards.
 3. Inform and educate people regarding health issues.
 4. Mobilize partnerships to solve community problems.
 5. Support policies and plans to achieve health goals.
 6. Enforce laws and regulations to protect health and safety.
 7. Link people to needed personal health services.
 8. Ensure a skilled, competent public health workforce.
 9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of health services.
 10. Research and apply innovative solutions.
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Service Area

SWDHU is a District Health Unit

- Population of about 48,000
- Serves 8 Counties in the SW
 - Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope and Stark
- Main Office In Dickinson
 - County Health Nurses in outlying Counties

What Services Does SWDHU Provide?

- ▶ Environmental Health
 - ▶ Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
 - ▶ Emergency Preparedness
 - ▶ Tobacco Prevention and Control
 - ▶ Behavioral Health
 - ▶ Nursing Programs for all ages
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Emergency Preparedness

- ▶ Planning, preparedness and response for public health emergencies
 - PODS—Points of Dispensing
 - Ebola Training
 - PPE Training
 - Exercises on Disasters
 - Coalitions
 - Disaster, Behavioral Health, Utilities, Influenza, Homeless, Ethics
 - Real Response
 - 2009 and 2011 Floods
 - 2009 Dickinson F3 Tornado
 - 2009 H1N1 Mass Vaccination Clinics
 - 2012 UMDHU Mass Vaccination Clinics
 - Move Dickinson and Bowman Hospitals
 - Oil Spills
 - DAPL

COVID 19

Challenges...

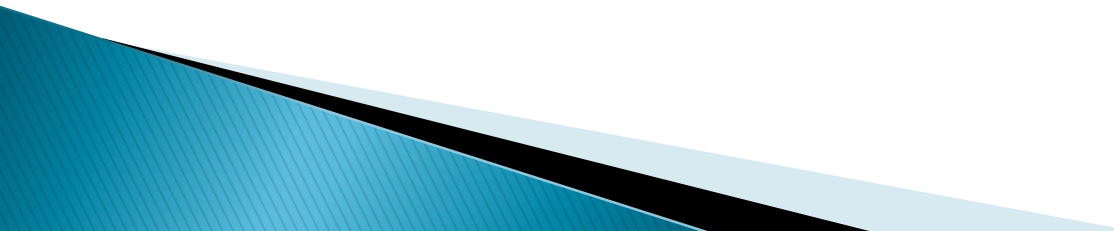
Accomplishments...

- ▶ Sampling for COVID
 - Contact Tracing
 - Isolation and Quarantine
- ▶ Education
 - Partner Collaboration
 - Keeping communities up to date
- ▶ Vaccination
 - Mass Clinics
 - Ethical issues

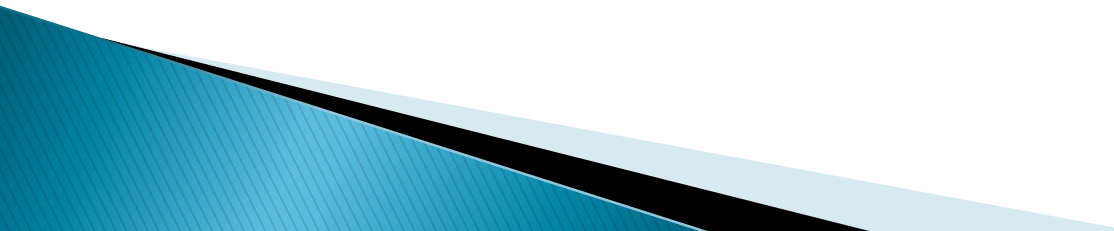
Environmental Health

- ▶ Food Service Inspections: Bars, Restaurants, Schools, Daycares, and Preschool Inspections
 - ▶ Water Testing Lab: Public and Private Drinking Water Supplies, Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, Wells
 - ▶ Sewer System Inspections
 - ▶ Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections
 - ▶ Tattoo Parlors
 - ▶ Tanning Beds
 - ▶ Nuisance Complaints
 - ▶ Mosquito Monitoring/West Nile Virus Education
 - ▶ Radon Information/Education
 - ▶ General Environmental Health Education
 - ▶ Institution Inspections
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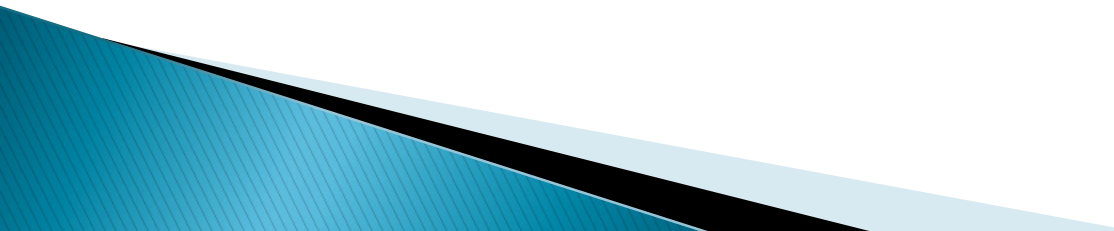
WIC

- ▶ Nutritional Information and Food Program for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women, new moms, and infants and children to age 5.
 - ▶ Funded by the USDA
 - ▶ Provide Nutrition, Health and Diet Assessment
 - ▶ Food Vouchers
 - ▶ Dietician for High Risk Infants /Children/ Pregnant Women
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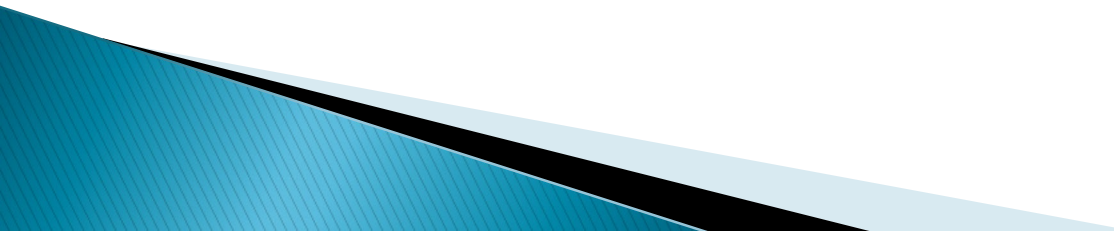
Tobacco Prevention and Control

- ▶ Public Education—all ages
 - ▶ Promotion for Policy Change to Tobacco Free Environments
 - ▶ Cessation Programs
 - ▶ Tobacco Cessation Specialists
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Behavioral Health

- ▶ Suicide Prevention Screening on all Clients
 - ▶ Alcohol Prevention Program
 - ▶ Opioid/Narcan Training
 - ▶ Coordination with Psychiatrists for In House services
 - ▶ Chaplaincy program
 - ▶ Disaster Behavioral Health Team
 - ▶ Emotional Health Toolkits
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Nursing Programs

- ▶ Immunizations
 - ▶ TB
 - ▶ HIV/AIDS/Ryan White
 - ▶ Postpartum Visits
 - ▶ School Nursing
 - ▶ Health Tracks
 - ▶ Million Hearts BP Screenings
 - ▶ Health Maintenance
 - ▶ Women's Way
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Think Outside the Box

- ▶ All About Collaboration, Partnerships, and Networking



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