



# LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

1930 Ninth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601  
PH: 406.4HEALTH or 406.443.2584  
Fax: 406.457.8990

## Press Release For Immediate Release: June 18, 2009

**Contact:** MELANIE REYNOLDS, Health Officer, 457-8910, mreynolds@co.lewis-clark.mt.us

### **Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department Releases 2009 Leading Public Health Indicators Report**

**Helena** – How healthy are people in Lewis and Clark County? What are the leading causes of death? What communicable diseases are on the rise in the county? Is the air clean? How healthy is the community?

To answer these questions, Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department has recently released the new 2009 Leading Public Health Indicators Report. The report, which in some form has been published since the early 1990s, takes look at a variety of public health indicators, including communicable disease control, chronic disease, and environmental quality.

“Some of the most important work we do in public health is to monitor the health of our community,” says Melanie Reynolds, Health Officer, “This report provides the citizens of our county with a summary of information so that we - together with other community stakeholders - can look at ways to address these issues.”

An electronic version of the report can be found on [www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/health](http://www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/health).

Highlights from the report include:

- We are living longer in Lewis and Clark County and Montana. The average life expectancy in the county is 75 years for men and 81 for women.
- In the year 2030, population projections indicate residents 65 and older will make up 25% of the population in Lewis and Clark County.
- Cancer and heart disease continue to remain the leading causes of death in the county.
- The county was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> highest in Montana for the number of traffic fatalities.
- In Lewis and Clark County, 44% of pregnant teens under the age of 17 smoked during their pregnancy.
- The two most prevalent substance abuse activities among county youth are drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana.
- Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection in Lewis and Clark County.
- In 2008, there were 350 “Good” air quality days in the Helena Valley.
- Childhood blood lead levels have been dropping for the past 20 years in East Helena.

Most of the major causes of premature death, as well as much disease and most injuries in Lewis and Clark County are preventable. The Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department will continue to monitor ongoing and emerging health concerns facing our county, and in doing so, identify strategies, programs and policies for addressing them. For more information call 457-8910 or visit [www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/health](http://www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/health).

*The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department’s mission is to improve and protect the health of all  
Lewis & Clark County residents.*

#####