



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph
Community Health Agency

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency Promotes Cancer Control and Prevention in October

Coldwater, Michigan, October 1, 2008 – Local health departments across the state have designated October as Cancer Prevention and Control Month.

“Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans, exceeded only by heart disease,” said Mary Proctor Community Outreach Worker. “While breast cancer awareness is typically promoted in October, we need to take this opportunity to educate Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph County residents about other cancer screening services and resources available to them, as we are always working to promote healthy lifestyles.”

Regular screening and examinations by a health care provider can result in the prevention of cervical and colorectal cancers through the discovery and removal of precursor lesions. Screening can detect cancers of the breast, colon, rectum, cervix, prostate, and oral cavity, and skin at earlier stages when treatment is more likely to be successful. Cancers that can be prevented or detected earlier by screening account for about half of all new cancer cases.

In 2006, the American Cancer Society estimated that 48,250 new cancer cases in Michigan were diagnosed with 19,470 cancer deaths occurring in our state.

Michigan’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to underserved women in Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph County. Since the program began in 1991, over 114,000 women have been screened through the BCCCP with over 1,900 breast cancers and 2,000 cervical cancers diagnosed statewide.

For more information about the local BCCCP, call 800-922-6266.

Smoking is the leading risk factor for lung cancer. The best way to prevent lung cancer is not to smoke and to avoid people who do. The Michigan Tobacco Quit Line (1-800-480-QUIT) provides free tobacco cessation counseling services to all Michigan residents. In addition, tobacco cessation resources, including the Michigan Smoker’s Quit Kit, are available through the Michigan Department of Community Health’s Clearinghouse at www.hpcclearinghouse.org or by calling 1-800-537-5666.

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, your local health department is committed to promoting wellness, preventing disease, providing health care and protecting the environment. For information locally on how to quit smoking contact our Tobacco Reduction Action Coordinator, Kelley Mapes at 517-279-9561 ext. 103. Or www.bhsj.org

For more information about cancer prevention and control resources, please contact www.michigan.gov/cancer, www.michigancancer.org, www.cancer.org, or www.cancer.gov.

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