

Communicable Disease Branch Mission Statement August 2014

The mission of the North Carolina Communicable Disease Branch (CDB) is to reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from communicable diseases. The CDB achieves this goal through detection, tracking, investigation, control, education, and care activities. Improved health of North Carolinians is the result.

The CDB is a subordinate agency of the Epidemiology Section. The Epidemiology Section of the Division of Public Health is responsible for reducing morbidity and mortality resulting from communicable, occupational and environmental diseases and conditions. It is also responsible for investigating environmental risks for the population of the state of North Carolina. Additional functions for which the Section is accountable include: *investigation and surveillance activities; enforcement of control measures; coordination of activities with local health departments, private practitioners, and others; and the collection, review and analysis of data related to each of the Section program areas.*

The goal of the CDB is to conduct surveillance activities for communicable diseases, including HIV and other STDs, and other medical conditions reportable under N.C. law. Protection of the health of North Carolinians occurs through prevention and control of those medical conditions. Branch staff review case report data and assist local health directors with appropriate control measures to help prevent transmission. The Branch is also responsible for monitoring health data from hospital emergency departments, poison center calls, ambulance data, and other sources. Disease detection may result from terrorism. The CDB provides situational awareness during outbreaks and natural or manmade disasters. Raw data is submitted and examined in near real time fashion with the collaboration of public health partners. In addition, the AIDS care component of the Branch ensures that HIV-infected individuals are able to access a continuum of care services, including: *case management, medical and dental care, complicated and expensive medications regimens, housing, and a full range of ancillary services.* The Branch currently has more than 150 employees and operates with a highly diverse and complex budget in excess of \$65 million.

The organizational structure consists of five unique units: Operations, Epidemiology and Surveillance, Medical Consultation, HIV/STD Prevention and Care, and Field Services.

The Communicable Disease Surveillance Unit has responsibility for a variety of epidemiologic functions including, but not limited to: *special time-phased clinical/behavioral data analysis; routine data collection and analysis; reporting of disease trends; follow-up investigations of cases of special epidemiological significance; maintenance of patient registries; and the promotion of reporting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.*