



Huron County Health Department



2016-2017 Annual Report

1142 S. Van Dyke - Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

989.269.9721 - www.hchd.us



Ann Hepfer, RN, BS
Health Officer

Health Officer Report

On behalf of the Huron County Health Department, I am pleased to provide this report to the residents of Huron County. We have been providing public health services since 1966. As an accredited health department it is our privilege and honor to promote the health of everyone.

We work diligently to protect our residents and visitors from health threats, provide community education and work collectively with our community partners to ensure a comprehensive approach to the health of our community. The contents contained in this report are only a small reflection of the work being done by the employees, Board of Health and Board of Commissioners to protect, promote, and provide for health and safety.

Below is a small sample of the projects that your local health department worked on over the past year.

1. We learned that the county was not exempt from the Opioid crisis. We experienced deaths, and an increase in the number of residents seeking care at the Emergency Rooms, as a result of overdoses. As a result, the Family Against Narcotics (FAN) group was started by key stakeholders in the county and families affected by this crisis. The health department continues to provide substance education in the schools and also for the public.
2. Recognizing there was a lack of resources for Breastfeeding Moms, we enhanced our breastfeeding services. We now also offer support services and resources at McLaren Thumb Region (formerly Huron Medical Center) for any mother who would like to breastfeed.
3. We continue to reach across county lines to work with our neighbors through our work with the Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance (MTPHA). The members of the Alliance include the health departments of Huron, Lapeer, Tuscola and Sanilac Counties. This year's accomplishments include 1) Surveying and collecting data for a comprehensive Community Health Assessment 2) Implemented and installed a Telecommunication plan. We installed Poly Com systems that bridge to each county, along with the Medical Director. These connections allow the Alliance partners to work across county lines without leaving our offices. The system is HIPPA and Privacy compliant with the current regulations.

I would like to thank the Huron County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Health for their continued commitment to the health and well-being of our residents. I would also like to thank all of our community collaborative partners, schools, hospitals, townships, physicians, mental health, nonprofit organizations, businesses, law enforcement, and restaurants who work diligently beside us to promote a healthy living environment in Huron County.

Sincerely, Ann Hepfer, RN, BSN

View all our programs on our website at www.hchd.us



HCHD is now on Facebook!

Like us to get the most up to date program information and updates!

Huron County Board of Health

The Huron County Health Department was formally established on April 12, 1965. Currently, the Board of Health is comprised of five members.

Lisa Pridnia, Chairperson, has been a member since April 2009. She was employed by the Michigan Department of Community Health and was the former executive Director of the Thumb Rural Health Network. She is a member of the Human Development Commission Board and is a co-developer of the Farmers Market in Port Austin.

John Bodis, Vice-Chairperson, has been a member since 2011. He is retired from Law Enforcement, and a current member of the Huron County Board of Commissioners.

Robert Witherspoon, Secretary, has been a member since April 1988. He is a retired farmer and former member of the Huron County Board of Commissioners.

Robert Siver, Member, has been a member since November 2006. Mr. Siver is currently employed as a Registered Nurse.

Carol Majeski, Member, has been a member since November 2006. Mrs. Majeski is currently employed with McLaren Thumb Region Hospital, formerly Huron Medical Center in Bad Axe.



**Lisa Pridnia
Chairperson**



John Bodis

Vice-Chairperson



Robert Witherspoon

Secretary



Robert Siver

Member



Carol Majeski

Member



Russell L. Bush,
MD, MPH
Huron County
Medical Director

Medical Director Update

Your health department continues to keep the public safe by such activities as water testing, monitoring beach water safety and surveilling ground water; surveilling the incidence and prevalence of vaccine-preventable diseases and providing the disease-preventing immunizations that keep our citizens healthy, such as Hepatitis A, which is a current outbreak in Michigan; promoting State, Federal and local services that our citizens qualify to receive; working with our local Veteran's Affairs office to assure our county's veterans receive the benefits they deserve; work collaboratively with the Huron County Medical Examiner office, local Opioid Task Force and a host of other local officials, individuals, agencies, organizations, and institutions to address the opioid epidemic in the State and nation; and making ourselves available to assist where we can in accessing the services they need.

As the Medical Director, I am responsible for the medical/health oversight of/participation in these many programs. Problems arising may be anticipated or unanticipated and may require Homeland Security/Local, State and/or Federal collaboration in addressing communicable/infectious diseases, all forms of environmental contamination, food/water-borne illnesses, commercial products posing a threat to the human and animal health, bioterrorism, and/or the safety and wellbeing issues that have the potential for negatively impacting human and/or animal health.

MISSION:

We are dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of individuals in our service jurisdiction by providing a wide range of quality health, human and environmental services.

Please realize that despite the likelihood that most will never have significant direct contact with the Huron County Health Department, that we stand ready and able, through surveillance, policy, assurance, and enforcement continue striving to watch over the community. Our mission is one that "**is dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of individuals in our service jurisdiction by providing a wide range of quality health, human and environmental services.**"

Finance Division

The Finance Division of the HCHD performs all general accounting functions, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, budgeting, purchasing, payroll, and financial reporting. The financial operation of this agency conforms to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Budget	\$2,728,042	\$2,728,042	\$2,728,042
Revenues (% of Budget)			
State/Federal Grants	48%	47%	49%
Fees	35%	37%	35%
County Appropriations	17%	16%	16%
Expenditures (% of Budget)			
Health Services	79%	74%	75%
Environmental Health	14%	14%	13%
Other	7%	12%	12%

HCHD is an Innovative State Leader

"The Huron County Health Department is an innovative state leader", states an official with the Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Orlando Todd, director of local health services at MDHHS, commended the Huron County Health Department for meeting accreditation standards. Todd says the local department leads the state in areas like personnel sharing and quality care for clients. And it's one of the top health departments in the state, he said. "A lot of times when you're dealing with health departments, you're dealing with people who are most vulnerable," Todd said. "They don't often get the best care. They come to this health department and they care with dignity, and I really like that."



Environmental Health Services



Tip MacGuire
Environmental
Health
Director

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, WHY WE NEED IT?

What is Environmental Health and what does Environmental Health do? Environmental Health is the improvement of health through the management of the environment. Adverse environmental factors have a direct influence on humans. Impacts can be disease transmission through exposure to pathogenic organisms, or by exposure to toxins having a physiological effect on humans. Lesser environmental factors such as living conditions can affect the overall well-being of the persons subjected to a given environment.

The Environmental Health Division has the task of protecting the environment in Huron County through administering and regulating approximately 30 programs. The four main programs include On-Site Sewage Disposal, Private Groundwater Supplies, Type 3/ Type 2 Public Water Supplies (Restaurants, Schools, Churches, Day Care...etc.) and the Food Service Program.

The Private Groundwater program's main objective is to protect groundwater. Safe drinking water is the most important element to sustain life. Groundwater is extracted from aquifers beneath the grounds surface using water wells. Michigan has more wells in service than any other state and 5.8 million residents rely on groundwater for their drinking supply. The location, construction, testing, and abandonment of water wells are regulated through the state well construction code (Part 127, 1978 PA 368, as amended).



These services help ensure that water wells remain a safe and reliable source of drinking water for future generations.

Environmental Health Services, continued

On-site sewage systems (commonly called septic systems) are a significant component of the State's wastewater infrastructure. On-site sewage systems can be an effective option for protecting public health and the environment if properly designed, installed, and managed. They can be a significant threat to public health and the environment if they are not. The Environmental Health Division provides the regulatory oversight for the design, construction, performance, and the operation of on-site sewage systems. The estimated annual volume of on-site sewage in Michigan is 96 billion gallons (264 million gallons per day). The enacted standards all seek to protect the safe treatment of domestic and other non-industrial wastewater in Huron County that is not served by municipal sewage treatment.



The Food Service Program's main objective is to enforce the Food Law of 2000 as amended and the 2009 Food Code. Enforcement of the Food Law and Food Code includes inspecting licensed food establishments and completing plan reviews. Foodborne illness in the United States is a major cause of personal distress, preventable death and avoidable economic burden. It is estimated that 6.5 to 33 million people become ill from microorganisms in food, resulting in as many as 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 needless deaths every year.

From the brief summaries of services provided by the Environmental Health Division it is very easy to see that Environmental Health affects everyone everyday. It starts with the water used in your coffee, the toilet you use during break and the burger you eat at lunch. Environmental Health is a major part of public health and that is why it is a mandated program which will always need to be funded.



Beach Technician likes keeping county beaches safe



Cassidy MacGuire
Environmental Health
Summer Beach Technician

During the summer, Cassidy MacGuire spends a lot of time at the beach. It's not quite as glamorous as it sounds — she does it in chest waders. But it's not a bad gig either.

At least twice a week throughout the summer beach season, MacGuire travels up and down the Huron County shoreline, making sure all county beaches are safe for swimming. MacGuire is in her third year working as a beach technician for the Huron County Health Department.

"I like it," she said. "It's nice being out here at the beaches and dealing with all the results."

As the county's lone beach technician, MacGuire collects water samples on her own, drives them to Saginaw to be tested, compiles all the data and sends it out to all interested parties. In addition, she maintains the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Beach Guard web page.

A typical day at the beach for MacGuire means visiting five beaches up the county's eastern shoreline on one day, then the county's eight remaining beaches on the western side the next day. At each beach, she will take three samples and collect them in a small plastic jar. She splits each beach's swimming area into thirds — left, middle and right — and takes a sample from each spot in 3 to 6 feet of water. A total of 100 milliliters of water is collected in each jar for testing.

Should a Huron County beach show a composite of the three samples collected exceeding 300 Escherichia coli (E. coli) colonies per the 100 ml. of water, the beach is deemed unsafe for swimming and is closed. At that point, MacGuire must retest all closed beaches and continue testing until bacteria counts improve to acceptable limits. Sometimes this requires working into the weekend — but she doesn't mind. "If the samples come back bad, that's my job to go back and resample them," she said.

While out on the beach, MacGuire said sometimes people will approach her and ask her what she's doing — and most everyone is very friendly. Aside from that, she deals with an unruly wave or two. "It gets a little wavy out, so sometimes I get wet," she said about her biggest challenge. "But that's about it."

Summer 2017
Number of Samples
Collected - 468

Number of Beach
closures - 12

Public Health Services

Beginning in August 2016, Michigan has seen an elevated number of Hepatitis A cases. Transmission has been shown to be through direct person-to-person spread (MSM population) and illicit drug use. Huron County had one case of Hepatitis A related to this outbreak, but after 100 days of “no further cases” was no longer considered an outbreak county. We still continue to immunize those who desire to be protected as well as reach out to higher risk populations. The 5 year statistics are reported on page 13 of this report.

The philosophy of the Huron County Health Department Communicable Disease Program is to reduce the incidence of communicable disease and infections through investigation, data collection, entry and analysis, case management, education, treatment or referral for care, feedback to providers, reporting of illnesses, enforcement of laws, and prevention.

Our public health system in Huron County depends on reports of diseases to help monitor the health of our community and to help with the framework for preventative action.

- Provide education to clients, health care providers, and the public regarding the spread and control of communicable diseases/infections.
- Promote health by way of education and preventive treatment.
- Provide for collection and transport of specimens for diagnosis, when appropriate.
- In the event of certain communicable diseases or infections, we investigate, follow-up and report as required by Michigan law.

Sexually Transmitted Infections: Chlamydia remains the most commonly reported STD in Huron County. There is also a slight increase of gonorrhea cases. Expedited partner therapy (EPT) is available to treat sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea without the client being seen by the healthcare provider. HCHD continues to offer Human immunodeficiency virus court ordered testing along with testing to the general public. The Alere Rapid test is utilized to allow same day results.

HIV/AIDS/STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections)

The STI Program provides confidential testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, as well as other sexually transmitted infections.

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>
# of HIV Tests	3 (court order)	8 (court order)	4 (court order)
Number of positive STIs	69 chlamydia 2 gonorrhea	60 chlamydia 4 gonorrhea	61 chlamydia 7 gonorrhea

EDUCATE. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.



Public Health Services, continued



Mitzi Koroleski, RN
Health Services
Director



Cindy Rochefort, RN
Health Services
Director

Substance Abuse Prevention: The goal of the Substance Abuse Prevention program is to decrease underage drinking as well as tobacco and other drugs.

- Provide education in area schools on substance use
- Coordinate services with other human service agencies and community coalitions including Suicide Prevention and Recovery Roundtable
- Coordinate Everyone for Prevention (E4P) – a youth driven coalition to reduce substance use
- Collaborate with area schools for completion of MiPHY (Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth) survey
- Provide vendor education to tobacco retailers
- Conduct tobacco compliance checks in Huron County

Opioid awareness education is a primary focus due to the opioid epidemic in our country. There has been an increase of drug overdoses due to heroin use. Naloxone has become available to first responders, law enforcement, and community members to administer and help prevent these overdose deaths.

Family Planning: The mission of the Family Planning program is to provide individuals the information and means to exercise personal choice in determining the number and spacing of their children. This program offers a broad range of acceptable and effective family planning methods, including natural family planning methods, infertility services, and services to adolescents.

Services provided through family planning clinics allow men and women to make well-informed reproductive health choices. The family planning clinic addresses the unmet family planning needs of men and women at or below poverty, and those slightly above poverty, but still considered low income, and provides access to those with special needs (such as teens and high risk women). No one is denied services because of inability to pay.

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL. We received additional funding to purchase LARC's (long acting reversible contraceptives). We now have both Mirena and Kyleena IUD's available for clients. We also utilized this funding to outreach to males – we have done this through Facebook posts and flyers.

Abstinence: HCHD continues to provide abstinence education to students at the Laker School. We also co-hosted a summer day camp with the Tuscola County Health Department at Camp Fowler in Mayville, made possible each year through additional grant funding.

Public Health Services, continued

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program: Every year more than 1,320 Michigan women die from breast cancer and 160 women die from cervical cancer. If a woman is diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, she may be eligible for Medicaid insurance to cover treatment. We are still working hard to reach out to those eligible for this Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program. Due to Affordable Care Act (ACA), more people are eligible for health insurance. However, navigation services are being offered to those individuals who may present with a barrier in getting services. Those clients with insurance can also be referred into the program for services that would be applied to their deductible. We continue to work with healthcare providers and others to increase awareness of this availability for breast and cervical cancer screening.

Colorectal Cancer Program: HCHD continues to offer FIT (fecal immunochemistry test) as well as a colonoscopy to average risk men and women aged 50-64 for colorectal screening. Costs of testing, including bowel prep, anesthesia, and pathology is covered by the program.

Hearing/Vision: HCHD continues to provide free hearing and vision screening to students in the schools. We have moved into an electronic system which allows us to track clients more efficiently and also to follow up with any referrals for completion of follow up.

Geriatrics: Staff members continue to participate in the planning of the Huron County Senior Fair and Senior Ball which is held annually. We also purchase and distribute Senior Project Fresh coupons to be used for fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmer's markets.

WIC: The WIC Program of the Huron County Health Department is a supplemental food program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Community Health. WIC provides supplemental foods which promote good health for pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to the age of five.

- Nutrition education
 - Benefits for nutritious food items
 - Health history evaluations
 - Immunization screening
 - Breastfeeding education & support
 - Referrals for other health and social services
 - Blood test for anemia
 - Confidential participation
- Counseling with a registered dietitian for special needs including anemia, weight issues, etc...

Our Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program offered a Building Bridges training at Huron Medical Center with nationally recognized breastfeeding instructors. The training was well attended and feedback from participants validated the need for increased breastfeeding support in our community. Our breastfeeding team is made up of a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor and International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). Our breastfeeding support has expanded to supply breastfeeding IBCLC telehealth services to Sanilac County WIC participants. Our Breastfeeding Peer Counselor began visiting new moms and babies at HMC.

Due to a decrease in the number of residents in our county, we have struggled to maintain our WIC caseload. We do however, reach a higher percentage of WIC eligible residents than the WIC state average. We have continued to have WIC and Immunization outreach clinics in Sebewaing and Harbor Beach. We have made adjustments to the outreach schedules, to maintain or increase client attendance, overall they have been very well attended.



Public Health Services, continued



Throughout the community you will see various HCHD staff members at local health fairs, distributing educational material and program information; working as volunteers at fundraisers, sitting on planning committees for such groups as Huron County Senior Fair, Senior Ball, CA/N Council, Roof Sit, Children's Wellness Adventure, and the like. We believe in giving back, for the benefit of our clients, and the community we live in, and raise our families in too.

We have increased our immunization advertising, but have not seen a huge increase in visits to our Immunization clinics. Immunization advertising and clinic scheduling have been adjusted throughout the year. Flu clinic's were held at the health department and at outreach clinics including area senior centers throughout the county.

We held a MCIR/SIRS training for local schools to support accurate and timely vaccination reporting of new school entrants. Our waiver rate has decreased but still remains higher than the state average.

The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) is a Home Visiting program for pregnant women and infants with Medicaid insurance. MIHP provides support service to women and to parents so they have healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes and healthy infants.

Pregnant Mothers:

- Free Chidbirth Education classes
- WIC benefits provided with appointments
- Breast feeding support

Finding help for:

- Baby supplies
- Transportation assistance for medical appointments
- Mental health concerns
- Domestic violence or abuse concerns
- Housing
- Food

Infants:

- Teach you how to keep your baby safe
- How to feed your baby and assist with nutrition problems
- Monitor your baby's development with developmental screenings
- Provide parenting support
- Referrals to parenting classes

The dedicated staff at the Huron County Health Department are here to meet your needs. We strive to deliver friendly and professional customer service everyday. The programs we offer benefit newborns to geriatrics, and provide a variety of services to our community. For all our services, visit our website at: www.hchd.us



Public Health Services, continued

PUBLIC HEALTH/COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

This program provides investigation and assists with control of TB and other communicable diseases (CD) such as meningitis, hepatitis, and foodborne illnesses. Public health nurses provide health education and assist in locating appropriate resources.

The table below shows the number of investigations based on confirmed cases of the listed communicable disease:

Communicable Disease	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Bacterial Meningitis	0	1	1	0	1
Campylobacter	10	10	17	11	9
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	1	0
Drug Resistant		1	0	0	0
Giardiasis	1	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis B Chronic	0	1	1	0	0
Hepatitis C	1	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Chronic	11	12	6	13	12
Influenza	28	-	-	10	22
Meningitis - Aseptic	0	0	3	1	3
Pertussis	0	3	2	1	0
Salmonella	2	3	3	0	2
Shiga toxin E. coli non-O157	3	0	0	1	0
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	1
STEC, E. coli O157	0	1	0	0	0
Streptococcus pneumonia, invasive	3	2	1	1	4
Varicella (Chickenpox)	4	4	0	0	0



2016-2017 LIST OF HURON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>HIRE DATE</u>
Booms, Lois	Nurse Practitioner	10/30/2013*
Bush, Russell, MD, MPH	Medical Director	01/01/2008**
Carson, Cindy	Secretary II	01/02/1985
Champagne, Kayla	Health Nurse II	09/17/2012
Glass, Amy	Bookkeeper II	12/08/2010
Gosdzinski, Melinda	Nurse Practitioner	05/16/2008*
Grifka, Shelly	Family Mentor	05/11/2015
Helewski, Chad	Maintenance Technician	07/15/2016
Helewski, Kelly	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant	03/01/2014
Hepfer, Ann	Health Officer	11/18/2016
Howard, Andrea	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant	06/10/2010
Karg, Aaron	Sanitarian I	02/13/2006
Keyser, Cindy	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant; Technician	11/18/1991
Koehn, Juliann	Health Nurse II	12/08/2010
Koglin, Vicki	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant; Technician; CSHCS Representative	11/18/1991
Koroleski, Mitzi	Health Services Director	02/01/1993
Kozlowski, Kelli	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant	03/15/2010
Kubacki, Robert	Sanitarian II	05/05/2003
MacGuire, Eugene "Tip"	Environmental Health Director	11/09/2009**
Mausolf, Erinn	Social Worker II	08/07/2012*
Middaugh, Kristin	Bookkeeper II	09/13/2004**
Myers, Connie	Health Nurse II	06/27/2005
Osentoski, Judy	Secretary II/Clinic Assistant	05/04/2011
Pitts, Kristi	Prevention Educator	01/28/2000
Rochefort, Cindy	Health Services Director	11/09/1992
Sheldon, DeLilah	Finance Director	04/24/1995
Suber, Jon	MIS Manager	03/13/2014**
Vigenski, Jessica	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	10/17/2016
Wolschleger, Connie	Administrative Services Coordinator	01/03/2012

* Specially Funded Employee ** Associated Employee