

# HURON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2020 - 2021 Annual Report



1142 S. Van Dyke, Bad Axe, MI 48413

989-269-9521 - [www.hchd.us](http://www.hchd.us)

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER



**Ann Hepfer, RN, BSN**  
**Health Officer**

Public Health continues to face the daily challenge of managing the pandemic of COVID19. We continued to work together as a team and in January 2021, we geared up to roll out mass vaccination clinics within the community, reaching thousands of people over a short period of time. Staff quickly adapted, learning the almost weekly changes to the State mandates and safety protocols, working closely with the news outlets and social media to make sure our community was always kept informed.

Staff worked tirelessly with school administrators, long-term care facilities and assisted livings, doing all we could do to keep our students in school and our most compromised senior population, safe and well. As employees of your local health department, it fell on our shoulders to provide not only COVID19 vaccinations but also education, case investigation and data collection, and personal protective supplies.

We recognized that COVID19 was not going away, and needed to be part of our daily and routine jobs. The health department stayed open and continued to provide our other valuable services, including WIC, MIHP, Family Planning and Environmental Health. Nothing was easy for any public health employee this past fiscal year, but the staff of HCHD stood focused and stood together, to do what needed to be done for the health and safety of Huron County. I am forever grateful for the team surrounding me, the work we accomplished and the lives we saved as a result of our efforts.

As I think back over my past over 33 years in public health, I never thought I would see a pandemic such as what we are facing now. But, I will retire knowing that we were part of something amazing! Together, we faced tough challenges that changed every one of us in some way, shape or form. How we do things now may look very different, but we will forever stay committed to protecting the health of every individual. Thank you for all your continued support!

All my best, Ann Hepfer



**Mark Hamed, MD, MBA, MPH**  
**Huron County Medical Director**



### **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.**

## HURON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Our Huron County Board of Health is made up of 5 community members, who all give of their time and talents in supporting HCHD and our vision to sustain partnerships with the community and other stakeholders, to provide an innovative approach to health promotion and protection. We thank our members for their commitment to Huron County.



**Robert Siver**  
Chairman

Robert Siver, Chairman of the Huron County Board of Health, has been on our Board since November of 2006. He is currently employed as a Registered Nurse. Mr. Siver provides valuable health care experience, and is very dedicated to the health of our community and our goals as a health department.

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**Lisa Pridnia**  
Vice-Chair

Lisa Pridnia, our Board of Health Vice-Chair, has been with us since April of 2009. Lisa spent many years with the Michigan Department of Community Health and was the former Executive Director of the Thumb Rural Health Care Network. She is also a member of the Human Development Commission Board and a co-developer of the Farmer's Market in Port Austin. Lisa is extremely passionate about serving the needs of our community and sustaining the health and well-being of our residents.

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**Vicki Koglin**  
Secretary

Vicki Koglin, Secretary of the Board of Health, joined us in June 2018. She retired from the HCHD after more than 26 years of service in various agency programs. Vicki is a strong advocate for the health department, its employees and the many families we provide services for; giving them the tools they need to be healthy and raise their young families as best they can.

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**Joseph Murphy**  
Member

Joseph Murphy is the newest member on the Huron County Board of Health. Joe replaced John Bodis in April 2021, who retired from our Board after serving for over 10 years. Joe is a current member of the Huron County Board of Commissioners and was a past Superintendent at the Huron Intermediate School District. His extensive education and experiences will be a huge asset to our Board of Health.

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**Carol Majeski**  
Member

Carol Majeski has been a member of our HCHD Board of Health since November 2006. She is employed at McLaren Thumb Region Hospital in Bad Axe. A life-long resident of Huron County, Carol desires to let the community know how valuable the health department is and about the many services we provide families.

# HCHD FINANCE DIVISION



**DeLilah Sheldon**  
Finance Director

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.

	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>State/Federal Grants</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Fees</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>County Appropriations</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Expenditures (% of Budget)</b>			
<b>Health Services</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>

## Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan

Huron County Health Department, in collaboration with the Thumb Community Health Partnership, has completed another 3-year Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHA consists of the collection of hard data, which includes morbidity and mortality, maternal and child health, and population information.



The Thumb Community Health Partnership encompasses Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola and the rural portion of Lapeer Counties. Made up of about 20 members, agencies include public mental health authorities, a private mental health agency, public health departments, hospitals and a human service agency. The Mission of the Partnership is to provide an integrated approach to identify key issues and establish a coordinated response to regional community needs. Their Vision is to provide a coordinated regional effort to identify, plan for and provide interventions that will lead to a healthier community.

The staff of the Huron County Health Department works closely with the TCHP. Our top priorities include Obesity-related chronic diseases and behavioral health issues. Untreated and uncontrolled, these conditions are compounded by limited services and barriers to accessing services. These circumstances interfere with the health and wellbeing of our rural community. By working together, we can inform the community of the many resources available to them and their loved ones. Since the multi-sector partnership began in 2019, we have embraced the opportunity to work with our neighboring agencies, family and friends to journey to optimal health and a healthier community. Different health topics are focused on each month, with in-person and online sessions and projects. They have also created an extensive list of health and human service careers open across the Thumb, through its' Workforce Development activities.

This network is the current recipient of a Network Development Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$900,000 with 0% financed with other resources. More information is available at [www.thumbhealth.org](http://www.thumbhealth.org)

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## Food Service Program

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 U.S. is a major cause of personal distress, preventable death and avoidable economic burden.

This past year saw the Environmental Health team playing a critical role in the County's response to COVID-19, including educating businesses and restaurants on how to protect their employees and customers during the pandemic. Staff also become part of the frontline during mass vaccination clinics by directing traffic, helping clients in and out of their cars and into the clinics; pitching in wherever they were needed.



**Tip MacGuire**  
Environmental  
Health Director



**Huron County completed 329 inspections of Food Service Establishments this past year. This includes temporary food service inspections.**

## Beach Testing

County beaches are tested beginning around Memorial Day, through about Labor Day. At each beach, the Beach Technician will take 3 samples and collect them in a small plastic jar. A total of 100 milliliters of water is collected in each jar for testing. Should a beach show a composite of the 3 samples exceeding 300 E.coli colonies per the 100 ml. of water, the beach is deemed unsafe for swimming and is closed. The beach must be retested until the bacteria counts improve to acceptable limits.

### Summer 2021 Beach Testing:

- ◆ **Number of Samples Collected - 495**
- ◆ **Number of Beach Closures - 9**



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## On-Site Sewage Disposal

Commonly called septic systems, they are a significant component of the State's wastewater infrastructure.

On-Site sewage systems can be an effective option for protecting 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 of the design, construction, performance and the operation of the 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.



**Huron County issued 109 On-Site Sewage System permits this past year.**

## Private Groundwater Supplies

- ◆ 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 ground surface using water wells.
- ◆ Michigan has more wells in service than any other state.
- ◆ The location, construction, testing and abandonment of water wells are regulated through the State Well Obstruction 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.



**Huron County issued 71 Well Permits this past year.**

It is very easy to see that Environmental Health affects everyone, everyday. It starts with the water you use to make your coffee in the morning, to the burger you eat at dinner. It is a major part of Public Health, and a mandated program which will always need to be funded.

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

## Childhood Lead Education and Screening

The Lead Prevention and Intervention Program seeks to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by increasing awareness regarding the hazards and sources of lead. MDHHS recommends all children less than 6 years of age be tested for lead exposure. This can be completed at the health department or at a primary care provider's office. The health department performs lead screening with a capillary (finger stick) sample. If the capillary result is 5mcg/dl or greater, a venous (blood draw) sample for confirmatory testing is completed. The Huron County Health Department provides this service for all children beginning after 1 year of age and annually until age 5 if enrolled in our Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program.



Elevated lab results conducted by primary care physicians are reported to the health department. A public health nurse provides education and follow-up testing. If the venous result is 5mcg/dl or greater, the nurse will offer case management services and work with environmental health staff as needed.



**Mitzi Koroleski**  
Health Services Director



**Cindy Rochefort**  
Health Services Director

## Hearing and Vision Program

The HCHD provides free hearing and vision screenings for all public, rural and parochial schools, as well as Head Start, Pre-Schools and Day Care Programs. This is done by certified technicians and meets requirement for kindergarten entry. The goal of the program is to prevent permanent repercussions of vision and hearing impairment by providing age-appropriate screenings and follow-up. If a child cannot see or hear well, this can affect them educationally, emotionally and socially. During the past year, the pandemic impacted the program's ability to provide the maximum number of screenings to children, but staff worked to provide as many screenings as possible despite schools being closed down.



	VISION		HEARING	
	2019/2020	2020/2021	2019/2020	2020/2021
<b>PRESCHOOL (CHILDREN 3-5)</b>	385	328	369	331
<b>SCHOOL AGE (GRADES K-12)</b>	1405	864	977	855
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1790</b>	<b>1192</b>	<b>1346</b>	<b>1186</b>

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

## Maternal Infant Health Program

Maternal Infant Health Program is a home visiting program that provides evidence-based interventions to Medicaid eligible, pregnant women and infants through a team approach. This team includes a public health nurse, social worker and a registered dietician. The purpose of the MIHP program is to promote healthy pregnancies for positive birth outcomes and healthy infant development.



MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM DATA	2019/2020	2020/2021
NUMBER OF NEW MATERNAL ENROLLEES	66	24
NUMBER OF NEW INFANT ENROLLEES	46	45

## Breastfeeding Program



*Breastfeeding support groups and classes are offered at the Huron County Health Department.*

The Huron County Breastfeeding Program provides free support and assistance for all women who are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed in Huron County, regardless of insurance status or income. A referral is made for families who are identified as WIC eligible during a breastfeeding contact and not on WIC. Clients are not required to have WIC or Medicaid to receive services for breastfeeding support and assistance from the WIC trained Peer Counselor (PC) or International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) nurse. Clients may self-refer or primary care physicians may refer to the program. Clients may contact the program via the Breastfeeding Warm Line (989-269-2140) or by texting the Peer Counselor or Lactation Consultant, who are available every day, including weekends, holidays and extended hours. Hospital visits to McLaren Thumb Region are offered to women in the OB unit. Breastfeeding support groups and classes are offered at the Huron County Health Department.

## Children’s Special Health Care Services

The Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Program provides case management and care coordination to children from birth to age 21 who have a qualifying medical diagnosis. This program helps families and children get medical care and equipment without the worry of how they will be able to pay for it. Referrals are made for specialty care and/or other community resources.



CHILDREN’S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM DATA	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
NUMBER OF FAMILIES ENROLLED	118	119	113



# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

## Women, Infants and Children

WIC is a federally funded program that provides nutritious food, nutrition education and assistance with community referrals for pregnant women, infants and children under the age of five. Eligibility is at or below 185% of poverty, which services low to moderate income families. Families receive nutrition counseling, as well as access to other support services offered through the Health Department and local community agencies.

Amidst the pandemic, the WIC program pivoted its in-person clinic services to remote, and its outreach activities to virtual to ensure client health and safety. Additionally, WIC families benefited from the USDA's expansion of WIC food options and increase in the monthly allocation for fresh fruits and vegetables.



WIC PROGRAM DATA	2020/2021	2021/2022
CLOSE OUT PARTICIPATION	655	573
INITIAL PARTICIPATION	641	554
ENROLLMENT	688	592
ACTUAL MONTHLY PARTICIPATION (YEAR TO DATE)	559	573

## Snap shot of enrollees for WIC on average for:

	OCTOBER 2020	OCTOBER 2021
NUMBER OF PARTIALLY BREASTFED (BF) INFANTS	14	14
FORMULA FED INFANTS	105	91
EXCLUSIVE BF INFANTS	31	25
POSTPARTUM NON-BREASTFED	45	33
EXCLUSIVE BREASTFED WOMEN	28	22
PARTIALLY BREASTFED WOMEN	16	15
PREGNANT WOMEN	51	34
CHILDREN 1 YEAR TO AGE 5	443	367
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>601</b>



*Huron County WIC provided \$335,430 food dollars to the local community in 2020, and \$365,074 food dollars in 2019.*

# PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

## Empowering Youth Today (EYT)

HCHD is a subcontractor of Tuscola County Health Department in providing abstinence education at Laker School district. Staff provide in-school curriculum as well as work with students to facilitate service learning projects in the community. They also provide, as a parent component, an educational opportunity/speaking event.

## Substance Use Prevention

HCHD offers in-school programming to Huron County students on Substance Use Prevention, including alcohol tobacco and other drugs. This program also provides education to tobacco vendor personnel on laws regarding tobacco sales to minors. Annually, a random sample of vendors is selected to provide compliance checks, as required by Mid-State Health Network. These checks are conducted to monitor adherence. Results are reported out to MSHN.



## Immunization Program

The Immunization Clinic provides immunizations to individuals in the community with an emphasis on the pediatric population. The Immunization Clinic puts in considerable time and effort to ensure that children in Huron County are vaccinated according to schedules developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



VACCINES PROVIDED IN FY21			
DTap	1	IPV Dose	18
DTaP/IPV	96	Meningococcal Conjugate	240
DTaP-Hep B-IPV	0	MMR	64
DTaP-Hib-IPV	132	MMRV	105
Hep A (Adult)	76	Pneumococcal Conjugate PCV 13	147
Hep A (Pediatric)	111	Pneumococcal Polysaccharide PPSV23	44
Hep A/Hep B	54	Rotavirus	56
Hep B (Adult)	21	TB Testing tuberculin skin test	147
Hep B (Pediatric)	84	Td Adult Only	3
Hib-ActHib	11	Tdap	249
HPV	234	Varicella	75
Influenza (seasonal)	1240	Zoster	278
Men B-4c (Bexsero)	159	Rabies	0
Men B-FHbp Trumemba	17		

# PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

## Family Planning

The Huron County Health Department offers Family Planning services, including contraception, and pregnancy testing. We provide rapid (same day results) HIV testing as well as STI testing, education and treatment. Our STI testing includes chlamydia, gonorrhea and/or syphilis.

Our staff follow-up on all positive STI reports to confirm the individual and their partner(s) are educated and treated.

Unduplicated Clients Served	
CY2020	CY2021
186	168



## Breast and Cervical Cancer Control and Navigation Program (BC3NP)

The BC3NP program offers breast and cervical cancer screening services to women age 40-64, based on insurance and income eligibility. Those clients aged 25-39 can also be referred for follow-up of an abnormal breast exam and ages 21-39 for follow-up of abnormal cervical findings. Those diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer are able to be enrolled into Medicaid for treatment coverage.

The Huron County Health Department coordinates services for this program for residents in Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola, Bay, Saginaw and St. Clair Counties.

FY19/20	FY20/21
231	195

## Geriatrics

HCHD is represented on the Senior Coalition, which is comprised of human service agencies who collaborate on activities for the senior population. We are also represented on the Senior Fair and Senior Ball committees to help plan these events for the seniors.

Senior Project Fresh coupons are ordered and distributed by our office annually. These coupons allow seniors to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from the local farmer's markets.

We also provide blood pressure screenings and educational presentations to participants at our Huron County Senior Meal Sites as well.



## Emergency Preparedness



The goal of our Emergency Preparedness program is to prepare the health department staff and our surrounding community partners in the event of an emergency. Currently, we are working on ensuring our policies and plans are current and effective in utilizing the lessons learned from recent events.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROGRAM

The Communicable Disease program is responsible for conducting disease investigation and surveillance activities for residents of Huron County. We provide case management and guidance to prevent disease transmission and/or to minimize further transmission of disease. The Huron County Health Department also monitors school reports of disease/illness. We also provide education and resources to the community.

<b>Communicable Disease</b>	<b>2016- 2017</b>	<b>2017- 2018</b>	<b>2018- 2019</b>	<b>2019- 2020</b>	<b>2020- 2021</b>
Campylobacter	9	7	6	3	3
Giardiasis	1	1	0	1	3
Listeriosis	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	2	4	3	3	1
<b>MENINGITIS DISEASE GROUP</b>					
Aseptic Meningitis	3	2	1	0	1
Bacterial Meningitis	1	0	0	1	0
<b>OTHER DISEASE GROUP</b>					
Animal Bite—Rabies—Potential Exposure PEP	0	0	0	0	14
Botulism—Infant	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis, Post other	0	0	0	0	0
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	22	33	7	23	1
Legionellosis	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0	1
Norovirus	0	0	0	0	0
Shigatoxin producing E-coli 0157	0	0	0	0	2
Shigellosis	1	0	0	0	1
Streptococcal Dis. Inv. Group A	0	0	0	0	2
Streptococcus pneumonia, Drug Resistant	0	0	0	0	0
Streptococcus Pneumoniae INV	4	2	1	0	2
<b>STD GROUP</b>					
Chlamydia	61	58	57	58	61
Gonorrhea	7	5	2	11	9
Syphilis	0	0	0	0	0
<b>VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASE GROUP</b>					
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	5	0	0
Shingles	1	0	0	0	1
Varicella	0	0	0	0	1
<b>VIRAL HEPATITIS</b>					
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B (Acute)	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	0	1	1	1	1
Hepatitis C (Acute)	0	1	1	0	2
Hepatitis C (Chronic)	12	6	7	8	3
<b>OTHER</b>					
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	2	1	0
Novel Coronavirus COVID-19	-	-	-	199	3,214