

ANNUAL REPORT



2018

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685
231-995-6100
WWW.GTCHD.ORG

Board of Health

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Carol Crawford
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Dr. Bob Johnson
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Tom Mair
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Health Officer: Wendy Hirschenberger

Mission

The Grand Traverse County Health Department is committed to providing professional, preventable health services. We are entrusted to provide a compassionate and efficient approach to a progressive, comprehensive, holistic health goal accessible to individuals, families and the community.

Vision

We, the Grand Traverse County Health Department, envision a consummately healthy community in which to live, where health refers to "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (World Health Organization). We remain dedicated to the promotion of this vision and all its contributing elements.

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From The Health Officer

2018 was an important year for local public health response, coordination, and evaluation. A statewide outbreak of hepatitis A, PFAS identified in Grand Traverse County, and public health accreditation review, kept staff busy! Each challenge emphasized the public health core functions. Local public health staff touched the lives of nearly every resident within Grand Traverse County through a variety of health programs. Staff worked to provide services that prevented disease, enforced public health laws and regulations, and promoted health for all residents. In addition to these core public health services, the health department provided services to the adolescent population through school-based health programs, animal control, medical examiner, soil erosion, emergency preparedness, and emergency management. Our breadth and scope of services is broad, but all founded in protecting the public health of Grand Traverse County.

The Health Department has over 70 staff who work in five diverse divisions. In 2018, the Community Health division staff provided 600 STD screenings, almost 5300 immunizations, over 7200 WIC appointments, and completed 740 reportable disease investigations, 11,650 hearing and vision screenings, and 3050 home visits to families with babies, special medical or other needs. The Environmental Health division performed 1400 permit inspections of food establishments, wells, septic systems, swimming pools, campgrounds and beaches and investigated 800 animal control complaints. The Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Management division regularly convened community response partners for planning and monitoring of local events such as Cherry Festival, Bayshore Marathon, New Year's Eve, school lockdown drills and other weather related or emergent incidents throughout the county. Finally, the Medical Examiner division investigated over 400 unexpected deaths and authorized 1240 cremations in Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties combined.

Public Health serves a critical role of "Chief Health Strategist" in our community convening and participating in many cross-sector groups who focus on the social determinants of health: housing, transportation, social cohesion, active living, and food security, all of which impact residents within Grand Traverse County. These basic needs have a direct effect upon a person's well-being and are essential to the overall health of the individual and family. This information helps to direct services offered by local public health and to the public by other organizations to ensure access for all. Participation in the 10 county Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region has lead this transformational effort in Northern Michigan. The Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region impacts residents' health status in a 10-county region through significant improvement in public health, exceptional innovation, innovative program development, and research.

Assessments were highlighted this year by participation in MiThrive, a 31 county community health needs assessment process that began in 2018. In addition, a comprehensive substance use assessment of Grand Traverse County, which included essential data on youth through the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth survey was conducted with the participation of both TCAPS and Kingsley school districts. The data collected from 7th, 9th, and 11th graders, allowed us to strengthen our collaboration with schools and inform key community partners for prevention efforts. This full report, and others, can be viewed at <http://www.gtchd.org/519/Reports>.

Finally, the health department was reviewed and evaluated during the 2018 Michigan Public Health Accreditation process and received an exceptional initial compliance rating for all applicable essential indicators meaning that there were ZERO MISSED INDICATORS for the 2018 accreditation cycle, which is the 2nd time in a row, the health department has achieved a perfect score of 100% compliance.

The Grand Traverse County Health Department is dedicated to protecting and promoting the health and wellness of the citizens of Grand Traverse County and protecting the public's health by providing important services and that help make Grand Traverse County one of the best places to live, work and play. I am grateful for a staff of dedicated professionals who serve our families and communities each day. On behalf of the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners and Health Department, I am proud to present the 2018 Annual Report.

Wendy Hirschenberger, MPH, CPHA, Health Officer

2018 Accreditation



Michigan Public Health Accreditation identifies and promotes public health standards for local public health departments. It assures local health departments protect and improve people's health in their communities by focusing on prevention efforts focused on ensuring:

- Drinking water is safe
- Air is clean
- Sewage is contained
- Restaurants serve safe, untainted food
- Children are vaccinated against disease
- Health care emergency response plans are in place for natural and human-made disasters
- Services are available to educate on reproductive choices & to reduce the number of maternal & infant illness & death
- Screening programs are available to identify possible health risks
- Diseases are investigated to reduce illness for those at risk & prevent the spread of infections
- Access to health services for all

These stringent standards were developed in 11 program areas that, if met, ensure programs and personnel are in place to provide, in an efficient and capable manner, a number of critical health care services. Grand Traverse County Health Department completed the mandatory self-assessment of statutory powers and duties, local public health operations in July of 2018 which was followed by intense one week review in August 2018 that reviews three years' worth of program policies, data, direct observation of programs and clinics providing day to day services.

Of the 151 important and essential indicators upon which the Health Department was reviewed and evaluated, the department received an exceptional initial compliance rating for all applicable essential indicators meaning that there were ZERO MISSED INDICATORS for the 2018 accreditation cycle which is the 2nd time in a row the health department has achieved a perfect score of 100% compliance.

ALL 151 indicators were MET and numerous Special Recognitions were received. The achievement included perfect results for two reviews in a row. Congratulations to the staff of Grand Traverse County Health Department for excellence in providing quality services to the residents of Grand Traverse County!

Disease Control and Prevention

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

In 2018, the Communicable Disease program investigated over 700 reportable communicable diseases. Through increased education and outreach at community events, local provider offices, and taskforce meetings, surveillance efforts were enhanced, with an emphasis on pertussis, hepatitis A and influenza. Special recognitions received during state accreditation include the quality and completeness of data submitted to the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS), internal quality improvement procedures and audit process, and external partner relationship development.

TUBERCULIN SKIN TESTS ADMINISTERED

357

up 69 from
previous year.

HIV SCREENINGS

225

up 93 from
previous year.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED

736

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

With the addition of a second mid-level provider and expanded clinic days, the Reproductive Health Clinic achieved a 10% increase in the number of unduplicated, or first-time clients, seen in 2018. Birth control options available onsite now include both intrauterine device (IUD) and Nexplanon arm implant, which allowed for the number of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) insertions to more than double in 2018. Special recognitions received during state accreditation include the availability of same day LARC insertion, exceeding the state program aim for chlamydia screening, and for the development and use of an Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) policy.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE DISEASE SCREENINGS

599

up 154 from
previous year.

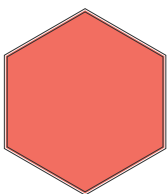
FAMILY PLANNING CLIENT VISITS

1139

up 78 from
previous year.



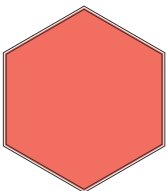
IMMUNIZATIONS



1279

FLU VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED

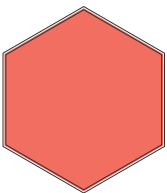
up 226 from
previous year.



1728

IMMUNIZATION WALK-INS ACCOMMODATED

up 440 from
previous year.



5282

TOTAL IMMUNIZATIONS ADMINISTERED

up 1324 from
previous year.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Amid the hepatitis A outbreak in the summer of 2018, the Grand Traverse County Health Department implemented early and extended clinic hours. In addition, promotion of vaccination at off-site clinics for high-risk populations, amounted to 900 hepatitis A vaccinations provided to these populations. Along with state accreditation, the immunization program received special recognition for implementing pre-employment immunity assessments, and a mandatory flu vaccination policy for all employees. They were also recognized for achieving a 100% rate of submitting immunizations to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MICR) within a 72 hour timeframe.

Maternal & Child Health

MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM

The Maternal and Infant Health Program (MIHP) completed nearly 2600 home visits to pregnant, postpartum women and infants by public health nurses, social workers, and dietitians that make up the evidence-based Medicaid program.

HEALTHY FUTURES

The Healthy Futures program met a milestone in 2018, celebrating 20 years of serving parents of all incomes living in participating northern Michigan counties. The program, which is a collaborative partnership of local health departments, including Grand Traverse County Health Department and Munson Healthcare System, provides one to two postpartum home visits, breastfeeding support, immunization promotion, immunizations, and improved access to healthcare services to its clients. The 2018 average monthly enrollment of Grand Traverse County remained steady at 950 moms and babies. There was however, a 36% increase in non-Medicaid billable home visits by Board Certified Lactation Consultants and Clinicians, equating to 250 more than 2017.

**MIHP HOME
VISITS**

2567

**HEALTHY
FUTURES
AVERAGE
MONTHLY
CASE LOAD**

938

**WIC CLINIC
APPOINTMENTS**

7217



CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The Children's Special Health Care Services program, which aids children with special needs and support to their families, continued its growth in 2018. The total caseload increased from 313 clients in 2017 to 320 clients in 2018. The program also maintained its presence with outreach activities at the National Cherry Festival and Northwest Michigan Fair, where they engaged and connected with many potential and existing clients.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

Registered dietitians and public health nurses provided support, amounting to over 7,000 clinic appointments in the Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Program. Through the program, certified clients were awarded a total of over one million dollars in WIC benefit, which were spent at local retail businesses in Grand Traverse County. In 2018, WIC participated in Project Fresh and Hoophouses for Health, programs that partners with local farms, offering fresh produce to certified WIC clients in addition to their regular monthly food allowance. Between the two additional supplemental programs, over thirteen thousand dollars were cashed in, helping to benefit clients and local business.

HEARING AND VISION

In 2018, a combined total of over eleven thousand hearing and vision screenings were given to school-aged children across 35 schools in Grand Traverse County by our Certified Vision & Hearing Technicians. Of the total, over 600 children were referred to specialists for further testing and care. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services acclaimed that the Grand Traverse County Health Department's program is among "the best in the state".

**CHILDREN'S
SPECIAL HEALTH
CARE SERVICES
HOME VISITS**

190

**VISION
SCREENINGS**

6560

up 97 from
the previous year.

**HEARING
SCREENINGS**

5085

up 575 from
the previous year.



Environmental Health, SESC & Animal Control

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

In June of 2018, Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination was found at the Carl's Retreading site, the location of a large tire fire where fire fighting foam was used in 1995/1996. Further testing of private wells in the area found that some of the residents southeast of the Carl's site were being exposed to low levels of PFAS. The site was added to the statewide list of PFAS contaminated sites on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website. GTCHD responded to the situation by offering those affected, bottled water and later a point-of-use filter to eliminate exposure until the extent of the contamination could be studied by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and toxicologists from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Throughout the crisis, GTCHD worked closely with MDHHS, MDEQ, and Blair Township to ensure that affected residents received up to date information and understood the health concerns associated with PFAS.

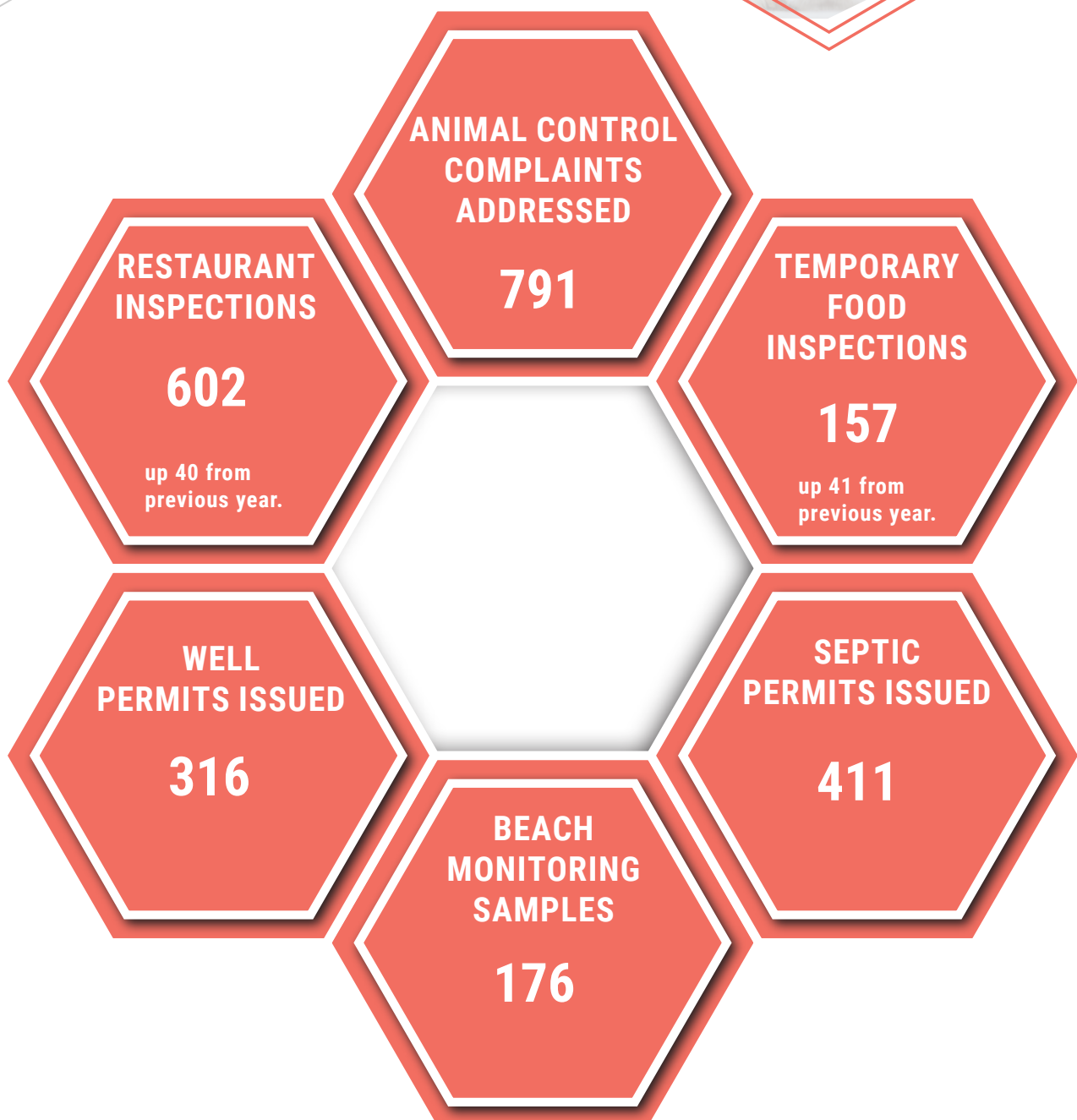
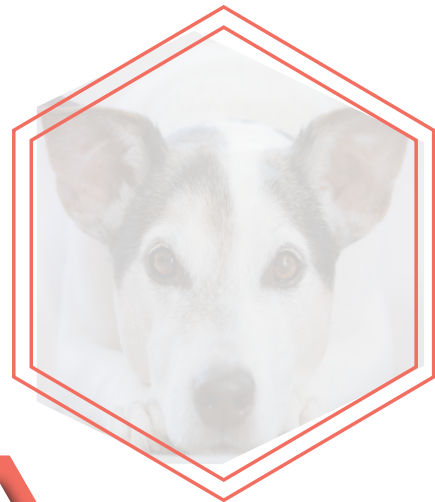


SOIL EROSION & SEDIMENTATION CONTROL (SESC)

On April 9th, 2018, Grand Traverse County Health Department became the official County Enforcing Agency (CEA) to administer Part 91 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act which regulates soil erosion and sedimentation control (SESC). Environmental Sanitarians issue SESC permits and conduct inspections on sites where earth change activities occur within 500 feet of the waters of the State or the inlet of a county drain and sites that have 20% slopes. The SESC program was completely overhauled to comply with Department of Environmental Quality standards. From April 9th to the end of 2018, Environmental Health staff issued 295 SESC permits and conducted 2,485 site inspections.

ANIMAL CONTROL

In early 2018, the Board of Commissioners voted to increase funding for Animal control to hire an additional full-time officer and a working supervisor. Additionally, approval was granted to ask the public for a three year millage to fund the same staffing level. In August of 2018, voters overwhelmingly approved the millage and the program now has stable funding through 2021.



Adolescent Health

YOUTH HEALTH CLINICS

Youth Health & Wellness Center saw over 500 children and adolescents during the 2018 fiscal year with nearly 1,250 appointments total. All but one of the quality measures were met including: clients up-to-date on comprehensive physical exams, risk assessments and depression screenings, positive chlamydia cases treated on site, assistance with tobacco cessation, asthma care plans for diagnosed clients and BMI screenings and counseling for those in the 85th percentile and above.

It was a busy and successful year at K-Town Youth Health Center. The facility served over 255 children and adolescents in the 2018 fiscal year. Those 255 clients represent almost 800 visits, which averaged over three visits per client. Mental health users exceeded goals with over eight visits per client and depression screenings improving from 92% to 100% from 2017 to 2018. Like the Youth Health and Wellness Center, K-Town met all but one of the quality measures.

**YOUTH HEALTH
& WELLNESS
CENTER
CLIENT VISITS**

1293

up 35 from
previous year.

**K-TOWN YOUTH
HEALTH
CENTER
CLIENT VISITS**

759

**TEEN
VACCINATIONS
ADMINISTERED**

320

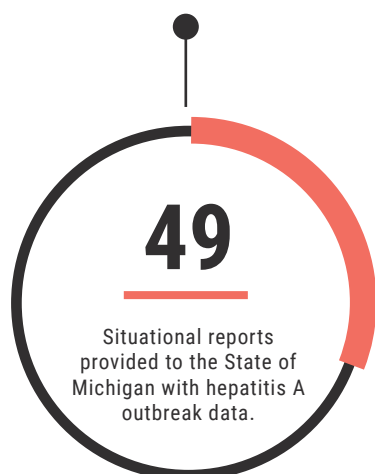
**MENTAL
HEALTH CLINIC
CLIENT VISITS**

551



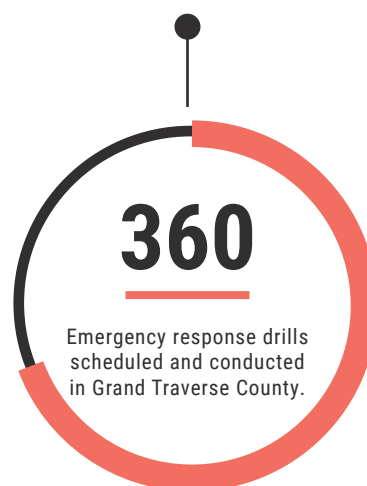
Emergency Management and Public Health Emergency Preparedness

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Emergency Preparedness supported the local health department during the ongoing Michigan hepatitis A outbreak and with the PFAS contamination response that consisted of small number of private wells requiring distribution of bottled water. Additionally, an intern working at GTCHD, was hired on as the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Moreover, this same intern continued to spend two days a week at GTCHD to help advance the overall preparedness collaborative locally and throughout the region.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Emergency Management (EM) provided planning and operational coordination for over 12 events and festivals during 2018. Additionally, Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Office, delivered a robust active shooter workshop to many businesses in the county. EM also conducted four table top exercises for various PreK-12 school districts, with the largest being a full day comprised of all 16 schools principals, support staff and Superintendents for Traverse City Public School district. Staff also responded to and provided on scene coordination for a large hazardous materials spill that led to the muliple day closure of Garfield Road. Finally, in August, Emergency Management Coordinator Gregg Bird graduated from the FEMA Emergency Management Executive Leadership Academy after a two year cohort collaboration. Gregg is one of only 265 emergency management professionals in the world to have completed this prestigious training program.

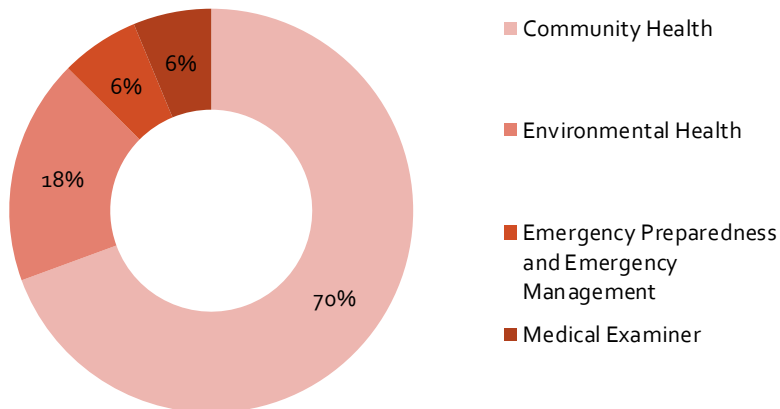
Office of the Medical Examiner

The Office of the Medical Examiner maintained full National Association of Medical Examiners Accreditation in 2018. Turn-around-time for post mortem examinations was 85% within 30 days and 99% within 60 days. In 2018, the Office of the Medical examiner also piloted the Swift Toxicology for Opioid-Related Mortalities (STORM) project. Participation with this project will assist the State of Michigan with rapid tracking data to public health and laws enforcement, identifying which drugs are in each county within days.

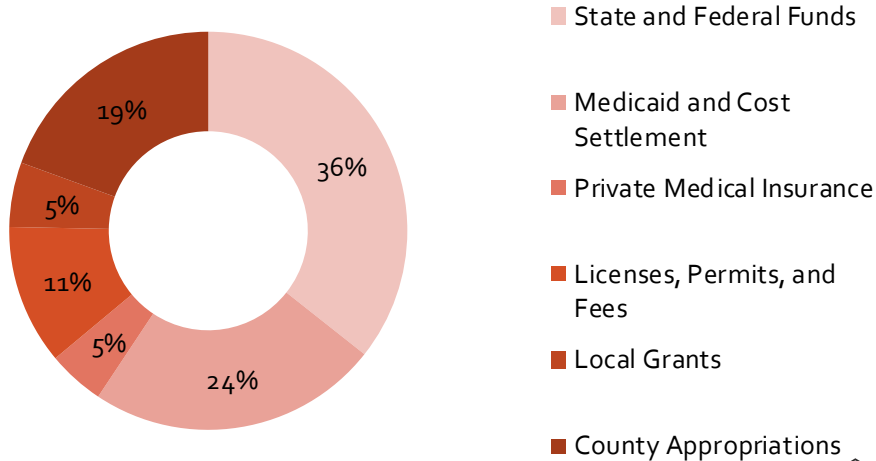


Financial Data

2018 REVENUES



2018 EXPENSES



**OPERATIONAL
BUDGET**

\$6,954,661

Dental Clinics North

The mission of Dental Clinics North is to ensure optimal oral health and well-being of Northern Michigan communities through partnerships, innovation, and excellence in public health dental practices.

DENTAL CLINICS NORTH

1-877-321-7070
www.nwhealth.org/dcntc

**TOTAL CLIENTS
SERVED**

6663

Find GTCHD on Social Media!



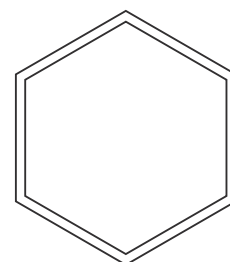
@GTCHHealthDept, @youthhealthtc, @KtownClinic,
@GTCemergency



@GTCHD, @YouthHealthWC, @KTownYouthCare,
@GTC_EMA



GTCHD



Locations

Environmental Health

2650 LaFranier Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6051
www.gtchd.org/781

Grand Traverse County Health Department

2600 LaFranier Rd., Ste. A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6111
www.gtchd.org

Youth Health & Wellness Center

TBAISD Career-Tech Center
80 Parsons Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-922-6461
www.gtchd.org/742

K-Town Youth Health Center

112 S Brownson Ave
Kingsley, MI 49649
231-263-5895
www.gtchd.org/725



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