

# GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



2019  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

## PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION

## a message from the **HEALTH OFFICER**

It is my pleasure to present the Grand Traverse County Health Department's 2019 Annual Report to the community. In the following pages, you will find many examples of how we help to ensure all of Grand Traverse County residents receive needed professional and preventative health services.

Built on the framework of the 10 essential Public Health Services (image below), from investigating health hazards, to championing policies and enabling equitable access, we protect and promote the health of ALL people in Grand Traverse County. This framework, combined with our Mission, Vision and Values, also helps to remove obstacles and barriers that can result in health inequalities. Everyone should have equal opportunities to achieve good health and well-being, and it is our duty to help provide that.

With our skilled staff, leadership and support of the County and Board of Health, we strive to make this beautiful place in Northern Michigan one of the healthiest places to live.



**Administration & Finance**

**Community Health**

**Emergency Management & Public Health Preparedness**

**2600 LaFranier Road, Ste. A**

**Traverse City, MI 49686**

**231-995-6100**

**Environmental Health**

**2650 LaFranier Road**

**Traverse City, MI 49686**

**231-995-6051**

**Animal Control**

**2650 LaFranier Road**

**Traverse City, MI 49686**

**231-995-6080**

**Youth Health & Wellness Center**

**880 Parsons Road**

**Traverse City, MI 49686**

**231-922-6416**

**K-Town Youth Health Center**  
**112 South Brownson Ave.**  
**P.O. Box 117**  
**Kingsley, MI 49649**  
**231-263-5895**

# 2019 Board of Health

Ron Clous

Betsy Coffia

Rob Hentschel

Bryce Hundley

Brad Jewett

Gordie LaPoint

Addison "Sonny" Wheelock, Jr.

Health Officer: Wendy S. Hirschenberger, MPH, CPHA

## MISSION:

The Grand Traverse County Health Department is committed to providing professional, preventive 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:

The Grand Traverse County Health Department envisions a consummately healthy community in which to live, where health refers to a "state of 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.

## VALUES:

- To Serve with Integrity
- To Be Innovative
- To Be Accountable
- To Engage the Team
- To Provide Service
- To Be Transparent

# COMMUNITY HEALTH

**Our Community Health programs provide services to protect the health of Grand Traverse County residents. We offer many different health clinics and provide health education, as well as referrals to other assistance organizations or for additional medical care.**

**Our Community programs include: Immunizations, Reproductive Health, Women Infant & Children (WIC), Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP), Childrens Special Health Care Services, Healthy Futures, Hearing & Vision, the Blood Lead program, and two youth health clinics.**

**“** An outbreak of hepatitis A greatly affected the efforts of many of the Community Health programs in 2019.”

## Immunizations

In 2019, The Immunizations program experienced a 22% increase in scheduled appointments requested by community members as compared to 2018. In an effort to vaccinate clients during the ongoing hepatitis A outbreak in Michigan and surrounding states, this program provided 150 off-site vaccinations through outreach clinics to high-risk populations. They served 237 walk-in hepatitis A vaccination requests and 222 specific appointments for hepatitis A vaccinations. They were also able to use dedicated funding from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for billboards and bus wraps.



## Reproductive Health

The Reproductive Health clinicians trained and adjusted to the mandate for offering Fertility-Awareness Based Methods. They also saw an increase in STD testing on all of our Family Planning clients, including HIV and chlamydia screenings. They assisted in providing personal health kits for the homeless/low income populations.

The nurses continue to offer Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) methods and accommodate "same-day" to avoid unnecessary extra visits. They also assisted administering HPV, HEP A, and Influenza vaccinations to clients to avoid unnecessary additional client trips to the health department.

## WIC Women Infant & Children

The WIC program had a total of 1825 participants in the program for the year. Nearly 1600 contacts that were made through the outreach program partnership with Munson Medical Center resulted in 421 WIC certifications/recertifications at the hospital. We had a successful breastfeeding site visit in April 2019 by our regional breastfeeding coordinator, and received several special recognitions. The annual food costs for GTCHD WIC program for fiscal year 2019 were \$930,397. GTCHD WIC program also participated in the Project Fresh program, which provides coupons for WIC clients to spend on Michigan grown, fresh fruits and vegetables at the local farmers market. In 2019, \$10,000 was distributed in clinics and \$6,185 was spent by clients.

## MIHP Maternal Infant Health Programs

The Maternal Infant Health Program Staff provided nearly 2300 home visits to pregnant, postpartum, and infants by public health nurses, social workers and dietitians. The program also participated in Mom Power, a theory-driven treatment engagement program and therapeutic intervention, specifically designed to target trauma-induced, psychological barriers to engagement and facilitate linkage to mental health treatment. Mom Power embraces evidence-based theory and practice including attachment theory, behavioral modification, as well as cognitive-behavioral and dialectic behavioral strategies. Ten mothers attended the Mom Power engagement program.



## CSHCS Children's Special Health Care Services

The Children's Special Health Care Services program increased efforts in 2019 to provide assistance to special needs children and families as they navigate through the health care services from birth through age 20, or over 21 for those with cystic fibrosis or hemophilia. The total caseload for 2019 was 319 with nearly 1200 client encounters, a 44% increase from 2018. Home visits increased by 26%. Additionally, public health nurses provided clinic nursing services and CSHCS enrollment referrals and navigation to the specialty cardiac clinic serving 158 client appointments, both children and adults. Aside from providing support for each case, CSHCS participated in Special Kids Day at both the National Cherry Festival and Northwest Michigan Fair to offer outreach to this special population.

# HEALTHY FUTURES

**Healthy Futures, a program that provides an avenue to support and affect both breast feeding initiation and duration, saw a total enrollment caseload for 2019 of 705. Approximately half of these clients were postpartum moms who delivered at a Munson facility and qualified for one to two postpartum home visits focused on breastfeeding challenges, promotion of immunization, and improving access to health care services. Our Healthy Futures International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and Certified Lactation Consultant clinicians increased home visits by 9.0% in 2019 from the previous year. An additional 314 total home visits were provided to Healthy Futures postpartum mothers who were not enrolled in the Maternal Infant Health Program in 2019.**

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Communicable Disease team investigated nearly 800 confirmed, probable, and suspect reported communicable diseases, a 7% increase from 2018 with an emphasis on enhanced surveillance and educational efforts on pertussis, influenza, hepatitis A, B, and C. New and emerging risks and diseases included vaping, acute flaccid myelitis, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The communicable disease public health nurses also provided 18 community presentations throughout the year to physician offices, schools, outreach health fairs, and organizations related to prevention and mitigation interventions.

## K-TOWN K-Town Youth Health Center

In 2019, K-Town saw 225 clients, with just under 700 visits. With all of the changes in the Kingsley school district, K-Town made it a priority to connect with the new middle school principal. In late September 2019, a site offering only mental health services was opened inside Kingsley Middle School (KMS), providing direct access to vital mental health services, as well as social/emotional education support to school staff. From September to December of 2019, 21 Kingsley Middle School students were seen for a total of 64 visits. Additionally, in an effort to combat vaping at KMS, first-time users are now being offered vaping education through K-Town in lieu of suspension.



## YH&WC Youth Health and Wellness Center

Seeing 399 unique clients for a total of 931 visits, YHWC had several successes over the last fiscal year. In September 2019, a mental health only site was opened inside Traverse City West Senior High. This site provided an in-school option for adolescents to have direct access to vital mental health services and provided social/emotional education support to school staff. In addition, the Student Advisory Committee planned and put on a "Peace of Mind Makeup Day." This day featured breakout sessions on Toxic Relationships, Yoga, Mindfulness, and Safe Driving choices. Forty Career Tech Center students attended the day and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

# HEARING & VISION

In partnership with Northwest Community Action Agency, Hearing and Vision provided an orientation Head Start clinic inclusive of health screenings and physical assessments, hearing and vision screenings, as well as referrals for immunization updates, WIC services, and dental care for child enrollments into the Fall Head Start program. This partnership resulted in 100% compliance with health assessment entry requirements. GTCHD also partnered with area schools to provide in-school hearing and vision screenings during the school year, Kindergarten Round-Up, and Middle School Orientation sessions.

## 2019 Program Numbers

- Participating Schools / Programs: 35
- Hearing Services: 4300
- Children Screened Hearing: 4205
- Children Referred: 95
- Vision Services: 5993
- Children Screened Vision: 5502
- Children Referred: 491

“

We partner with the community to help children get their best possible start.”



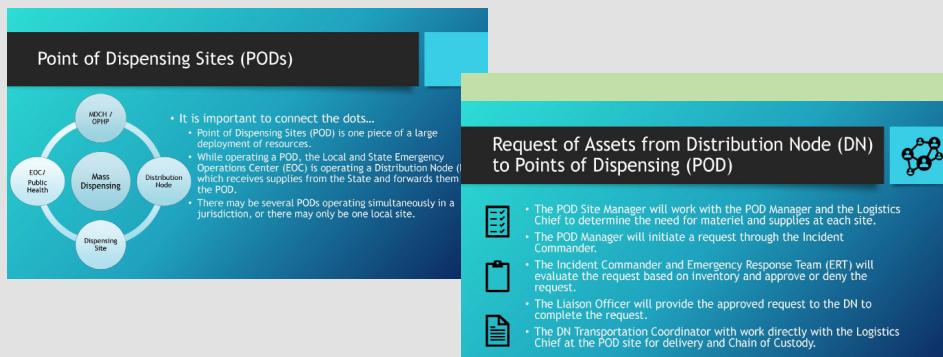
# BLOOD LEAD PROGRAM

The Blood Lead program continues to participate with the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) grant. The regional CLPPP grant workgroup develops an annual work plan which identifies future blood lead testing strategies & educational outreach goals. This CLPPP's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of Michigan citizens by promoting safe and healthy home environments through comprehensive home-based intervention programs, lead certifications and regulations, public education and outreach, and statewide partnerships. For the 2019 year, the program completed 128 follow-up phone calls, a 30% increase from 2018.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**In 2019, our Emergency Preparedness team continued to respond to the hepatitis A outbreak across the State of Michigan, as well as monitor and report important outbreak data through the Statewide Situation Report.**

The Emergency Preparedness team also focused on developing future preparedness plans with regional partners. Planning included a large scale exercise which focused on establishing Points of Dispensing (POD) locations and implementing Distribution Nodes across northwestern lower Michigan. Partners during the exercise included additional regional health departments, Grand Traverse Industries, Goodwill, Northwest Michigan Food Resuce and culminated in REAL donations of canned foods that were packaged and distributed to area residents experiencing food insecurity.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**Emergency Management (EM) provided planning and operational coordination for over 15 events and festivals during 2019. Additionally, Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Office, delivered a robust active shooter workshop to businesses and non-profits in the county. EM also conducted three table top exercises and 2 functional exercises for various PreK-12 school districts, the Cherry Capital Airport, and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness division of the Health Department. Emergency Management staff also responded to and provided on the scene coordination for multiple incidents and provided logistics and incident command support to Grand Traverse County public safety agencies. Finally, on December 31, 2019, Gregg Bird completed a 2-year term as the President of Michigan Emergency Management Association (MEMA).**

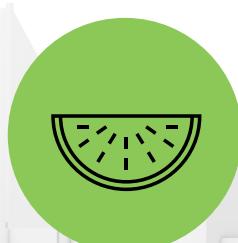
# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## 2019 Program Number Totals



Restaurant  
Inspections

616



Temporary  
Food  
Inspections

136



Beach  
Monitoring  
Samples

198



Well Permits  
Issued

287



Septic Permits  
Issued

398



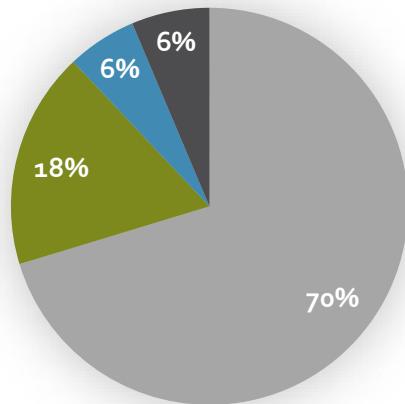
Animal Control  
Complaints  
Addressed

959

# 2019 FINANCIALS

## EXPENDITURES

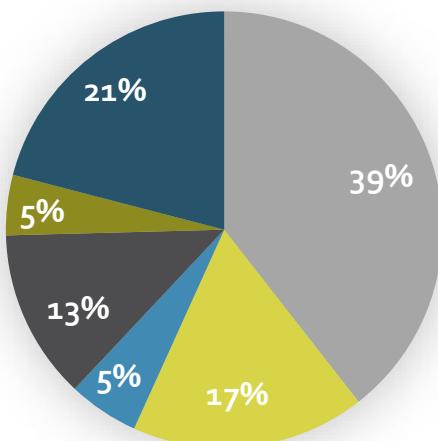
COMMUNITY HEALTH	\$4,105,653
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	\$784,162
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT	\$265,400
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$216,820
MEDICAL EXAMINER	\$180,386
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,552,421</b>



- Community Health
- Environmental Health
- Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Management
- Medical Examiner

## REVENUES

STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS	\$1,877,211
MEDICAID AND COST SETTLEMENT	\$1,313,415
PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE	\$222,922
LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES	\$505,036
LOCAL GRANTS	\$160,609
COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS	\$1,299,907
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,379,088</b>



- State and Federal Funds
- Private Medical Insurance
- Local Grants
- Medicaid and Cost Settlement
- Licenses, Permits, and Fees
- County Appropriations

# LOCATIONS

**Grand Traverse County Health Department**  
**2600 LaFranier Rd., Suite A**  
**Traverse City, MI 49686**

**Emergency Management and Public Health Preparedness**  
**2600 LaFranier Rd.**  
**Traverse City, MI 49686**

**Grand Traverse County Health Department**  
**Environmental Health**  
**2650 LaFranier Rd.**  
**Traverse City, MI 49686**

**K-Town Youth Health Center**  
**PO Box 117**  
**112 S. Brownson Ave.**  
**Kingsley, MI 49649**

- **Grand Traverse County Health Department**  
**Office of The Medical Examiner**  
**2600 LaFranier Rd., Suite A**  
**Traverse City, MI 49686**

- **Dental Clinics North**  
**2600 LaFranier Rd., Suite B**  
**Traverse City, MI 49686**

- **Grand Traverse County Health Department**  
**Animal Control**  
**2650 LaFranier Rd.**  
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- **Youth Health & Wellness Center**  
**TBAISD Career-Tech Center**  
**880 Parsons Road,**  
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