

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER

We are pleased to present the Grand Traverse County Health Department's (GTCHD) 2023 annual report. Throughout this report, you will find statistics and data detailing this year's accomplishments, summaries demonstrating various programs, program achievements, and dedicated public health staff's contributions toward a healthier community for all.

In August, GTCHD passed Cycle 8 of the Accreditation process with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The Michigan Public Health Accreditation review process identifies and promotes public health standards for local public health departments; Assures local health departments protect and improve people's health in their communities and is a process to routinely assess performance and improve quality. Our agency participated in a weeklong on-site review and evaluated 11 core services for essential program indicators, which was about 150 total. Our teams here at the health department are committed to the delivery of quality public health services to our community members. This hard work and dedication are exemplified during these accreditation process.

The health department also became aware of the rise in Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) within our communities. Analysis of HIV cases revealed a significant increase in prevalence in the Northwest region of our state, which includes Grand Traverse County. This uptick was determined by comparing data collected from 2019 to 2023 with data from 2014 to 2018. Over that period, HIV diagnoses surged 2.5 times the average from 14 positive cases in the region to 44 total cases. To address this increase, our teams at the health department collaborated with MDHHS, key community partners, and neighboring health departments. Together, we focus on raising awareness, providing education, and improving access to care within our communities.

The 2021 GTCHD Community Health Needs Assessment report was published in 2023 and serves as a portion of the MiThrive full report and identifies the most pressing health-related issues in our county. The compilation of this expansive work helps us at the local health department determine health vulnerabilities and what more can be done to improve the overall health of our community. Our agency plays a critical role in this partnership that spans a 31-county regional approach to developing a Community Health Needs Assessment to better inform partnerships across Northern Michigan. The goal of this Community Health Needs Assessment is to create a greater impact by leveraging key partnerships while focusing on addressing issues that are collectively identified.

Our teams here at GTCHD have much to be proud of regarding the quality of services that we provide to our residents. The year brought great accomplishments, but we also know the great challenges our community faces regarding the tedious work of continuously improving our public and community health. We as a team are here to serve and to help where we can. Thank you to our teams for their commitment to that service and thank you to our community for working together with us to help make this community a healthy and happy place for us to be a part of.

Sincerely,
Mike Lahey, MPH, Deputy Health Officer

LEADERSHIP, MISSION, AND VISION

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brian McAllister, District 1
Lauren Flynn, District 2
Ashlea Walter, District 3
Brad Jewett - Vice Chair, District 4
Rob Hentschel - Chair, District 5
Darryl Nelson, District 6
TJ Andrews, District 7
Scott Sieffert, District 8
Penny Morris, District 9

OUR MISSION

To protect and advance the health of our community and environment through partnerships, innovations, and excellent public health practices.

OUR VISION

A healthy community and safe environment for all.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health Division of the Grand Traverse County Health Department protects public health through programs established by the Public Health Code and local Sanitary Ordinances. These programs are aimed at preventing diseases and exposure to pollutants by educating people, inspecting facilities, and enforcing laws related to environmental protection.

Well Program:

- Well Permits Issued: 332

Septic Program:

- Septic Permits Issued: 409

Additional Services:

- Campground Inspections: 21
- Public Swimming Pool Inspections: 74
- Beach Monitoring Samples: 152
- Body Art Inspections: 22

Food Service:

- Food Service Inspections: 762
- Food Service Follow-up Restaurant Inspections: 52

Soil Erosion Program:

- Soil Erosion Permits Issued: 344
- Soil Erosion Site Inspections: 6,020

ANIMAL CONTROL

Our Grand Traverse County Animal Control (GTCAC) Division offers our community services such as reuniting dogs with their owners, animal welfare checks, kennel inspections, picking up stray dogs, and dog licensing. We also work with area rescues, fosters, and the Cherryland Humane Society to find dogs their forever home.

28

Dogs adopted

124

Dogs reunited with owners

274

Dogs impounded

853

Community complaints responded to



Lady was with Otsego County Animal Control for about nine months before GTCAC accepted her for transfer. After a month she was adopted and found her family.



Boulder was with GTCAC for a month before being adopted! He now has an older sister and is a big cuddle bug.



Zara was with GTCAC for nearly 30 days before moving into her forever home and becoming a sheepdog.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

MATERNAL, CHILD, AND FAMILY

The **Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP)** team continued to provide care for our community through phone calls, home, office, community, and telehealth visits. Despite the statewide decline in MIHP enrollment in recent years, there has been a slight increase in enrollment rates in our county. In the past year, MIHP staff conducted a total of 1,454 visits including 1,090 infant visits and 364 maternal visits.

Children's Special Health Care Services Program:

- 295 clients and families supported
- 35 home visits

Women, Infants, and Children Program:

- Average caseload was 1,625 clients

In partnership with District Health Department #10, in July we introduced a new program called **Healthy Families America** for residents in our county. This program offers relationship-based home visiting services to families with children from prenatal to age four who are facing maternal substance use issues within the county. In six months we had 56 family visits.

Vision and Hearing Program:

- Hearing: 2,569 total hearing screenings
 - School-Aged: 1,733
 - Pre-School: 836
- Vision: 4,255 total vision screenings
 - School-Aged: 3,392
 - Pre-School: 863

The **Healthy Futures Program** team enrolled 430 expectant mothers, provided 272 home visits to families following the birth of a baby, and 186 people reached out for postpartum breastfeeding support. Between October of 2022 to September of 2023, nurses provided "just-in-time" services to an additional 235 postpartum people.

Blood Lead:

- Caseload: 5
- Home Visits: 4
- Phone Follow-Ups: 163

COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICAL

Immunizations Administered at GTCHD:

- Immunizations: 2,832
- COVID-19: 405
- Influenza: 77

Nurse Elf visited our immunization clinic throughout the month of December to help those who might be nervous about getting vaccinated.



Our public health nurses conducted nine **Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program** exams, which was the same amount as in 2022.

Reproductive Health:

- Family Planning Client Visits: 677
- Sexually Transmitted Infection Screenings: 405
- HIV Screenings: 212
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Treated: 76
- Condoms distributed (K-Town and GTCHD): 9,206



Communicable Disease and Prevention:

- Communicable Disease Reported: 1,701
- Tuberculosis Skin Tests Administered: 261
- Animal Bites and Bat Exposures Investigated: 286
- Food Borne Illness Investigations: 2

MORE REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

DISEASE	2021	2022	2023
Animal Bites/Bat Exposures	192	230	286
COVID-19			
Novel Coronavirus COVID-19	9,320	8,790	1,305
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)	1	0	0
Foodborne:			
Campylobacter	12	20	32
Cryptosporidiosis	6	9	5
Giardiasis	8	2	12
Listeriosis	0	1	0
Salmonellosis	7	11	7
Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	7	7	16
Shigellosis	2	2	2
Yersinia enterocolitica	2	8	9
HIV	2	2	5
Meningitis:			
Aseptic Meningitis	2	4	4
Bacterial Meningitis (not caused by Neisseria meningitidis)	0	1	2
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	5	6	7
Other:			
Cyclosporiasis	3	4	3
Group A Streptococcal Disease, Invasive	2	5	10
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	1	0	0
Histoplasmosis	3	4	3
Legionellosis	1	3	0
STD:			
Chlamydia	235	276	202
Gonorrhea	50	27	22
Syphilis: Primary, Secondary, Latent, Tertiary/Late	4	7 1-Primary/Secondary 6-Latent	3 Latent
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Vaccine Preventable Diseases:			
Chickenpox (Varicella)	1	6	2
H. influenzae Disease, Invasive	0	4	2
Measles	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	3
Vectorborne:			
Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasma phagocytophilum	3	0	0
Lyme Disease	6	9	11
Rickettsial Disease - Spotted Fever	1	0	0
West Nile	0	0	0
Viral Hepatitis:			
Hepatitis A	0	0	0
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	1	0
Hepatitis B, Chronic	2	2	1
Hepatitis C, Acute	8	6	1
Hepatitis C, Chronic	28	21	28
Other Reportable Diseases			
2021: 1 Lymphogranuloma venereum, 1 Vibriosis - Non Cholera, 1 Coccidioidomycosis, 2 Blastomycosis			
2022: 1 Cryptococcosis, 1 Mpox, 2 Vibriosis - Non Cholera			
2023: 1 Coccidioidomycosis, 1 Amebiasis, 1 Blastomycosis, 1 Malaria			

ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Our two adolescent health clinics are conveniently located in or near local schools. These clinics offer easily accessible and high-quality healthcare services to young people while accommodating school schedules and parents' work schedules. The services include general medical, health education, and mental health, and are available to youth between the ages of 10 and 21 years old.

K-TOWN YOUTH HEALTH CENTER

- Counseling Sessions: 342
- Immunizations Administered: 53
- Clinical Visits: 336
- Physical Examinations: 120

YOUTH HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

- Counseling Sessions: 388
- Immunizations Administered: 105
- Clinical Visits: 529
- Physical Examinations: 249

Our Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health (E3) Program is available at two local high schools. It offers comprehensive on-site mental health services for students with mental health needs, provided by a licensed Masters level mental health provider.

TRAVERSE CITY WEST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Counseling Sessions - 240

TRAVERSE CITY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

- Counseling Sessions - 454

**OUR ADOLESCENT HEALTH SITES
HAD NEARLY 460 MORE MENTAL
HEALTH SESSIONS THAN IN 2022.**



K-Town Youth Health Center



Youth Health & Wellness Center



Traverse City West Senior
High School



Traverse City Central
High School

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In 2023, our organization hosted a Regional Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications Training in the Emergency Operations Center. Our Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Cortney Brown, and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Cara Eule, actively participated with 16 other health leaders in this training. The class equipped our team with important strategies and tools for effective communication during emergencies, ensuring timely and accurate distribution of information to the public and stakeholders.

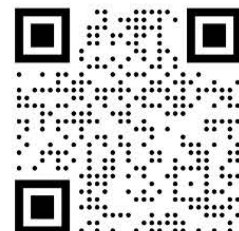


OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

The Office of the Medical Examiner investigates deaths that are a concern to the public health, safety, and welfare of our community. Our county contracts with Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine for these services. Deaths reported to our office are investigated and in many cases, the investigation includes an autopsy.

The extent of the examination is determined by the Medical Examiner according to standards established by the National Association of Medical Examiners. All examinations are conducted by board-certified forensic pathologists who have completed advanced training in their area of expertise.

The most recent medical examiner annual report can be found by the QR code or visiting <https://mimedicalexaminer.com/node/27>.

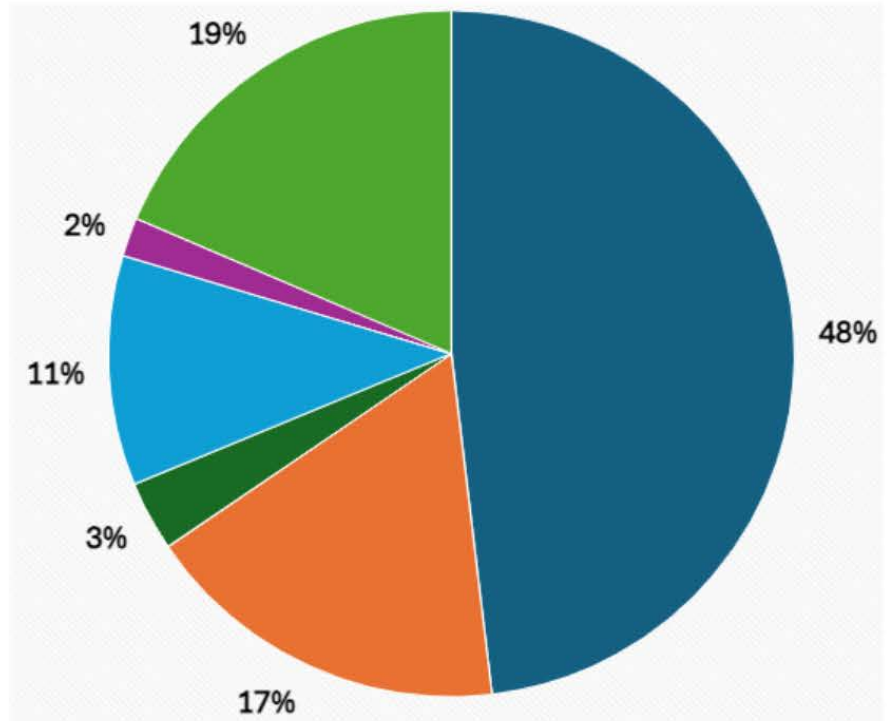


FINANCIAL DATA

Revenues

Revenues	
State & Federal Grants	\$3,897,773.89
Medicaid & Cost Settlement	\$1,407,830.53
Private Medical Insurance	\$ 267,202.22
Licenses, Permits, Fees	\$ 877,864.47
Local Grants	\$ 148,156.64
County Appropriations	\$1,503,151.00
TOTAL	\$8,101,978.75

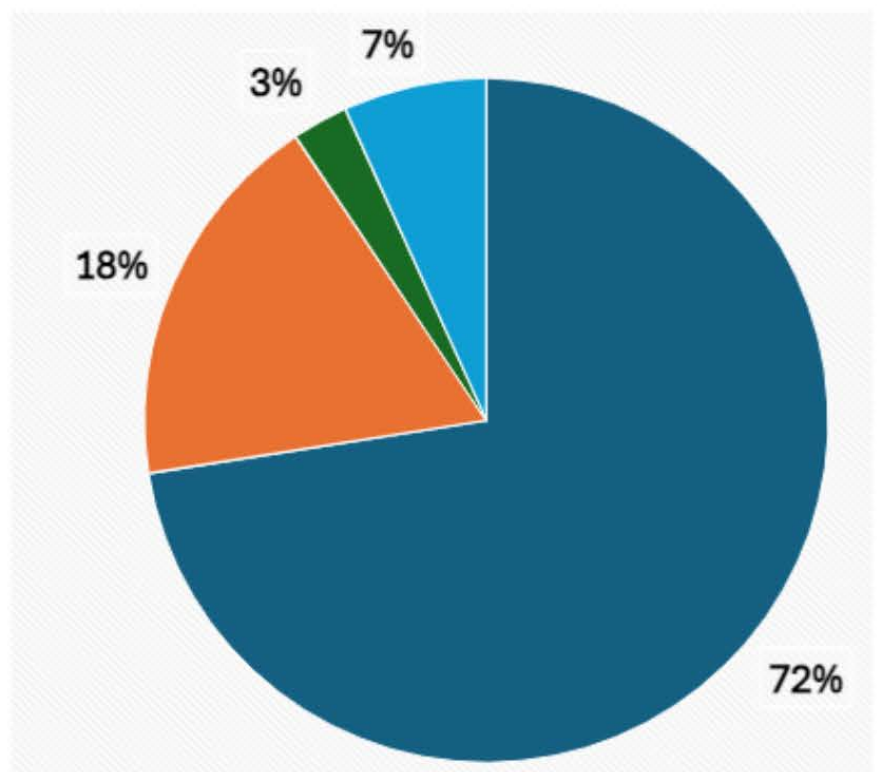
- State & Federal Grants
- Medicaid & Cost Settlement
- Private Medical Insurance
- Licenses, Permits, Fees
- Local Grants
- County Appropriations



Expenditures

Expenditures	
Community Health	\$6,082,500.49
Environmental Health	\$1,513,252.32
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 222,407.50
Medical Examiner	\$ 568,319.52
TOTAL	\$8,386,479.83

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



LOCATIONS

Grand Traverse County Health Department

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

Environmental Health

2650 LaFranier Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6051

Animal Control

2650 LaFranier Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6080

K-Town Youth Health Center

112 S. Brownson Ave.
Kingsley, MI 49649
231-263-5895

Youth Health and Wellness Center

880 Parsons Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49686

Traverse City Central High School

1150 Milliken Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49686

Traverse City West Senior High School

5376 N Long Lake Rd.
Traverse City, MI 49685

SOCIAL MEDIA



New account: @gtchealth