

# Annual Report

# 2016

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Grand Traverse County Health Department  
An Accredited Local Health Department

# mission statement

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 statement

The Grand Traverse County Health Department envisions 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.

**Board of Health: Carol Crawford, Ronald Clous, Dr. Bob Johnson, Alisa Kroupa, Dr. Dan Lathrop, Christine Maxbauer, and Addison "Sonny" Wheelock Jr.**

# **"In It Together - working to improve public health and protect you!"**

Local health departments are on the front lines of public health- protecting, promoting and preventing. The public may not always see the work we do, but our communities are safer and healthier because of it. Local health departments work to ensure the safety of the water you drink, the food you eat, and the air you breathe. We respond to emergencies that threaten health and safety and educate the public about how to be healthy. Every day, we respond to and track outbreaks of infectious diseases like influenza and foodborne illnesses, test for and treat infectious diseases like sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis, inspect restaurants and make sure restaurant staff follow safe food handling practices, and prepare communities for disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism. During a public health emergency, your local health department provides important alerts and warnings to protect your health.

We provide healthy solutions for everyone including the preventive care you need to avoid chronic disease and to help maintain your health, flu shots for residents of all ages, and help mothers obtain prenatal care that gives their babies a healthy start. We also help provide children with regular check-ups, immunizations, and good nutrition to help them grow and learn. Skilled public health professionals help families navigate children's special health care service needs and link people without health insurance to programs to receive healthcare services. Public health involves advocacy and action to promote healthy lifestyles, reduce health inequalities, prevent disease, protect health and improve healthcare services for all.

We do all of this, and much more, to improve health and well-being at a population and community level. We are an innovative performance and results-based organization. We leverage our funding through collaborations and partnerships to maximize our public health resources. Accreditation, quality assurance, and increasing efficiency are all essential in our culture of continual improvement. We value our role in the community as public health experts. On behalf of the hardworking, passionate public health staff, I present to you the activities and achievements of 2016.

**Wendy S. (Trute) Hirschenberger, MPH, CPHA**  
**Health Officer**

# program highlights

## disease control & prevention services

Feedback from the state highlighted how well we served our community in 2016, especially the "priority" populations targeted by Title X (teens, males, and low-income/uninsured). We had 832 unduplicated clients, of which 28% were teens (program aim is a 20% teen base). Men were 19% of all clients served (program aim is 3% male base). 78% of our client caseload was "low-income" (at or below 150% of poverty). The beginning of 2016 also saw the end of a chicken pox outbreak.



## maternal & child health services

All clinicians participated in the Perinatal Summit, with emphasis on substance use, hosted by Munson Healthcare. Staff also participated in Psychiatric Grand Rounds learning more about Bipolar Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorders.

Childrens Special Health Care Services assisted with the National Cherry Festival Special Kids Day, hosting 798 registered children and youth with special health care needs, as well as, special needs adults in our community.

## adolescent health services

K-Town Youth Health Center - held a very successful immunization clinic at Interlochen Arts Academy for students needing to be updated according to Michigan Department of Education requirements. They also participated in the The Rock of Kingsley Health Fair.



Youth Health & Wellness Center - participated in their annual career and resource fair allowing staff to interact with approximately 400-500 students.

# program highlights

## emergency management & public health emergency preparedness

Emergency Manager, Gregg Bird, was appointed the 2nd Vice President of the Michigan Emergency Management Association (MEMA). Also, the 2016 Prepare Fair was a huge success.

Northern Michigan Public Health Emergency Preparedness (NMPHEP) Director, Mike Lahey, was awarded the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Professional of the year through Michigan Emergency Management Association. In addition, a potential HEP A outbreak was managed with state officials.



## environmental health services

Environmental Health staff issued a Public Health Advisory in June in response to a spill of approximately 3,000 gallons of raw sewage into Kids Creek, Boardman River, and into West Grand Traverse Bay. The public was advised against body contact at four (4) public beaches near the mouth of the Boardman River where it empties into West Grand Traverse Bay. This precautionary advisory was lifted after bacteriological water samples showed that E.coli levels met Michigan Department of Environmental Quality standards for full body contact.

## office of the medical examiner

The Office of the Medical Examiner was awarded a Health Innovation Grant from the State of Michigan for a proposal that would assist with comprehensive medical examiner investigator training and development of a telemedicine model for assessing certain medical examiner deaths.

In addition, a new partnership with Western Michigan Styker School of Medicine (WMed) resulted in three month pilot program to enhance medical examiner operations to include forensic pathologists serving as medical and deputy medical examiners for Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.

# accolades and collaborations

## director's award for excellence in local public health

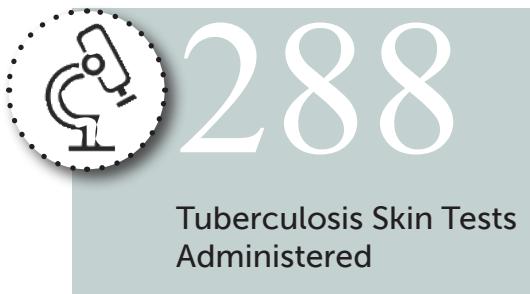
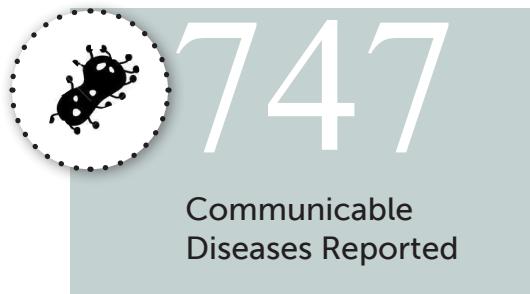
The Northern Michigan Public Health Emergency Preparedness (NMPHEP) Team received the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Director's Award for Excellence in Local Public Health. The multi-jurisdictional team of emergency preparedness professionals, led by Grand Traverse County Health Department and in partnership with Benzie Leelanau District Health Department and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, is one of a kind in Michigan. By pooling state grants to create efficiencies and reduce duplication, the team enabled each health department to increase resources at the local level for developing and exercising plans with community partners. Mike Lahey, the NMPHEP Regional Director, was individually awarded the 2016 Public Health Preparedness Professional of the year for his leadership of the collaborative program.



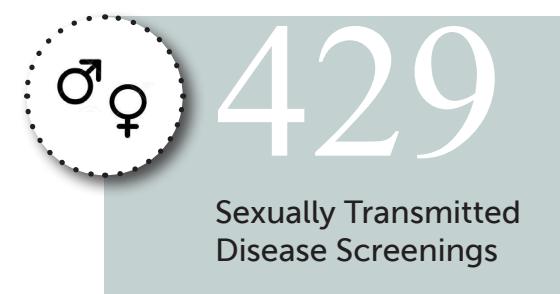
## northern michigan public health alliance

2016 was the second year in a row the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance health departments have been recognized for their innovation and excellence. The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance is a collaborative effort through cross jurisdictional sharing arrangements and partnerships between six regional local health departments in Northern Lower Michigan. The six local health departments completed a common community health assessment for their 25-county region in partnership with hospitals and other community partners. Priorities were ranked by cross-sector groups across the region, identifying access to healthcare, chronic disease prevention, and substance use as top priorities. The Alliance partners were awarded over \$3M in grants to address top-ranked priorities across the entire region in 2016.

# disease control and prevention data



Protecting the population of Grand Traverse County from communicable disease is one of the top priorities of our Community Health Division. This includes monitoring the seasonal flu and other diseases such as, Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, Foodborne illnesses, zoonnotical and vector-borne diseases. Our nurses do this through testing, investigations and surveillance.



# maternal & child health services

## data



2180

MIHP Baby Visits



856

Healthy Futures Case Load



298

Children's Special Health Care Services Home Visits



7760

WIC Program Appointments



3015

Hearing Screenings



6463

Vision Screenings

Maternal and infant health programs are offered to improve the health outcomes of pregnant women, mothers, children and their families. A team of nurses, social workers, registered dieticians, in the office and/or through a home visiting service, provide parenting education, breastfeeding education, counseling on healthy behavior and activities, coordination of care, smoking cessation and community referrals for other needs.



# immunizations & adolescent health clinics data



## 4698

Total Immunizations Administered

Babies, children, teens, college students, adults, and even seniors need to be immunized in order to protect themselves from serious diseases. GTCHD provides anyone that is insured, on Medicaid, uninsured, or underinsured with needed immunizations. We also provide seasonal flu shots.



## 1270

Immunization Walk-Ins Accommodated



## 1266

Youth Health & Wellness Center Client Visits

Our adolescent health clinics offer a variety of services to keep the adolescents (age 10-21) in our community healthy and in school. Services range from vaccinations, minor acute illness/injury, education and support, STIs and HIV testing and counseling, and mental health counseling.



## 1256

K-Town Youth Health Center Client Visits

# environmental health data



560

Restaurant Inspections



95

Temporary Food Inspections



163

Total Beach Monitoring Samples



334

Total Well Permits Issued



399

Total Septic Permits Issued



Our Environmental Health Division inspects restaurants, food service facilities, public pools, area beaches, and local campgrounds. They also investigate foodborne illness complaints, provided well and septic system permits, and provide education through classes like ServSafe.

# emergency management & public health emergency preparedness data



400

Active Shooter Trainings

In the event of an emergency in our area, the Grand Traverse County Emergency Management & Homeland Security agency plans and coordinates response activities. Additionally, the program coordinates safety plans for county residents, employees, and visitors to Grand Traverse County.



12

Point of Distribution "Go Kits" were established for the entire Northern lower Michigan region.

Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Division ensures we are prepared for public health emergencies by responding to infectious, occupational, or environmental incidents that affect the public's health in Grand Traverse County.

# office of the medical examiner & dental clinics north

## data



12

Drug Related Fatalities



148

Medical Examiner  
Cases Requiring  
Investigations



954

Cremation Permits  
Authorized

The Office of the Medical Examiner investigates deaths that are of concern to the public health, safety, and welfare of the community. Deaths reported to our office are investigated and in many cases include a post-mortem examination. The postmortem examination is usually a complete autopsy; however in some cases the examination may be limited to the external surfaces. \*Numbers shown are for Grand Traverse County only.



4302

Dental Clinics North  
Total Clients Served

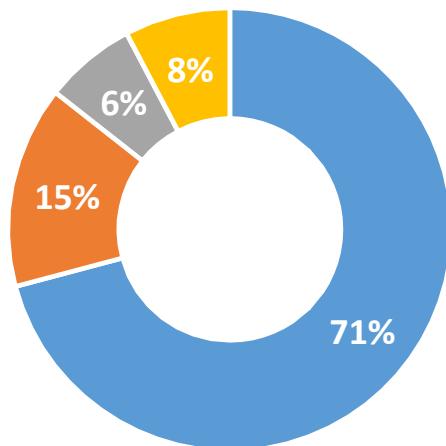
The Grand Traverse County Health Department is one of the ten locations for Dental Clinics North, where dental health services are provided to children and adults who have Medicaid, Delta Dental, (Health Kids Dental/MICchild) and/or the Northern Michigan Dental Plan.

# financial data

2016  
operational  
budget  
\$6,273,922

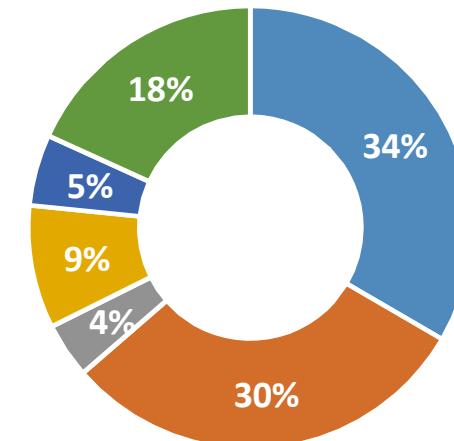


## 2016 Expenses



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

## 2016 Revenues



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



# locations

[www.gtchd.org](http://www.gtchd.org)



[facebook.com/GTCHHealthDept/](https://facebook.com/GTCHHealthDept/)



@GTCHD



Grand Traverse County  
Health Department  
2600 LaFranier Rd., Ste. A  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
231-995-6111



K-Town Youth Health Center  
112 S Brownson Avenue  
PO Box 117  
Kingsley, MI 49649  
231-263-5895



Youth Health & Wellness Center  
TBAISD Career-Tech Center  
880 Parsons Rd  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
231-922-6416



Grand Traverse County  
Environmental Health  
2650 LaFranier Rd  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
231-995-6051