



# Annual Report

## 2017

Grand Traverse County  
Health Department

2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
231-995-6100  
[www.gtchd.org](http://www.gtchd.org)

# Board of Health

**Ronald Clous, Carol Crawford, Cheryl Gore Follette, Dr. Bob Johnson, Dr. Dan Lathrop, Tom Mair, and Addison "Sonny" Wheelock Jr.**



## Our 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.**

## Our Vision

**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.**

**Wendy  
Hirschenberger  
Health  
Officer**



## Public Health as Chief Health Strategist

Health departments have a vital role in providing traditional direct services such as immunizations, family planning, preventive screenings, and ensuring safe drinking water and food through inspections. An evolving role has emerged to further improve public health. Health departments are now serving as "chief health strategists" for communities by convening diverse partners to carry out broad plans for improving population health at many levels. As the community chief health strategist in their communities, local health departments advance current roles to prevent death, disease, and disability; address emerging threats to health, security, and equity; and eliminate the social and structural injustices that result in health disparities by addressing the growing gap between the expansion of healthcare services and the achievement of health among individuals and communities. Local health departments are uniquely positioned to fill this role through their experience in providing essential services and leadership, engaging communities to identify and support policy solutions, and collecting, analyzing, and sharing data.

Two key partnerships that have embraced this role are the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance and the Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region. The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance is a partnership of seven local health departments dedicated to increasing capacity, maximizing assets, and containing costs to improve public health. The Alliance has been recognized for its successful strategies in regionalizing our public health emergency preparedness efforts and leading a community health needs assessment coordinated with health departments and hospitals across a 25-county region.

One of the most significant Alliance accomplishments was the implementation of the Community Health Innovation Region, which is currently underway and testing innovative methods of health care delivery and billing across the region. Community Health Innovation Regions are a broad partnership of community organizations, local government agencies, business entities, health care providers, payers, and community members that come together to identify and implement strategies that address community priorities. The goal is to achieve the "Triple Aim": better health at lower cost with improved satisfaction. The Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region (NMCHIR) serves ten counties: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford. The Alliance serves as Chief Health Strategist for the region, by aligning interventions from across the community at individual, community, and policy levels. Both of these regional efforts directly benefit the citizens of Grand Traverse County.

# Recognitions

The Northern Michigan Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team was awarded the National Health Security Award at the 2017 National Association of County and City Health Officials' Annual Meeting for Ensuring Comprehensive Health Situational Awareness. Grand Traverse County Health Department serves as the lead agency that coordinates this collaboration with two neighboring health departments. Local health departments' day-to-day operations impact National Health Security across the country. When local health departments run a vaccination clinic, spearhead a disease prevention campaign, or deliver lifesaving provisions to disaster survivors, their work directly contributes to advancing the nation's health security. Everything local health departments do aims to improve the health of people in their community, and healthier people are more likely to survive a disaster and make a faster recovery. Health security is all about creating a resilient nation through sustained health outcomes as a result of effective prevention, preparedness, and response efforts.

## National Health Security Award



## Ensuring Comprehensive Health Situational Awareness

# Disease Control and Prevention



## 288

Tuberculin Skin Tests  
Administered



## 445

Sexually Transmitted  
Disease Screenings



## 799

Communicable  
Diseases Reported



## 132

HIV Screenings



## 1061

Family Planning Client Visits

## Reproductive Health

In 2017, Grand Traverse County Health Department extended Family Planning clinic days to include Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, as an additional part-time Physician's Assistant joined the team of providers. Reproductive Health participated in two key regional projects: one aimed to reduce smoking rates in the pre-conception period and the Wear-One Condom Campaign to reduce unintended pregnancies and reduce rates of sexually transmitted infections.

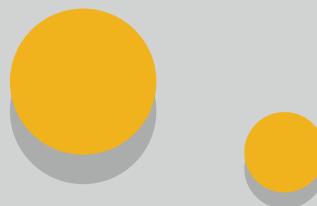
**Protecting the population of Grand Traverse County from communicable disease is one of the top priorities for the Community Health Division. The program monitors the occurrence of infectious or contagious diseases in Grand Traverse County, such as seasonal flu, Hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, foodborne illnesses, and zoonotic and vector-borne diseases through surveillance, disease investigation, and detection of pathogens in order to treat and prevent the further spread, and educate the public.**

## Communicable Disease

In 2017, Grand Traverse County Health Department Communicable Disease program continued to depend on the collaborative relationships with health care providers, schools, and residents to effectively reduce disease rates and prevent outbreaks. The public health nurses provided 15 Community Educational presentations covering topics such as CD Basics, ZIKA, Bed Bugs, Ticks, Seasonal Flu, and Hepatitis A.

# Maternal & Child Health Services

**Maternal, infant and child health programs are offered to improve the health outcomes of pregnant women, mothers, children and their families. A team of nurses, social workers, registered dietitians, 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.**



The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP), an evidenced-based Medicaid home-visiting program, which starts during pregnancy and extends until the infant reaches 18 months of age, continued focus on infant health and development, immunizations, safe sleep, nutrition, breastfeeding, and addressed health risks such as depression, smoking, substance use, infant mental health implications, transportation and access to health care. In 2017, the MIHP supported an average client caseload of just over 250 Moms and Babies.

The Healthy Futures program is a partnership of area health care providers, health departments, and Munson Healthcare, dating back to 1995. The program continued to commit toward addressing access to health care concerns and social determinants of health through public health nursing case management. In 2017, Grand Traverse County Health Department experienced a 46% increase in moms accepting the post-partum home visit and a 27% increase in phone connections with pregnant and post-partum women Healthy Futures enrollees. The addition of International Board Certified Lactation Consultants contributed to increased breastfeeding duration rates for Healthy Futures moms.

The WIC Food and Nutrition program provided registered dietitians and public health nurses, along with technicians to assess, educate, and provide benefits to eligible pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children to age 5. This program brought in over 1 million dollars in 2017 for moms and families to buy food locally. We participated in Project Fresh, which brought in additional dollars to local farmers. We served up to 2000 low income clients, processed over 900 calls each month; provided nutrition education, assessments, and referrals. In 2017, the fluoride varnish program launched with success, as well as resumed blood lead testing initiative for those children not yet tested.

## Maternal and Child Health Services continued

The Children's Special Health Care Services case management program, staffed with public health nurses and a representative, provided assistance to special needs children and families as they navigated through their health care services from birth to age 20 or over 21 with Cystic Fibrosis or Hemophilia. In 2017, targeted outreach to this population at the National Cherry Festival and the Northwest Michigan Fair was highly successful to engage and connect. In 2017, the emphasis on case management home visiting for a caseload of 313 resulted in an 8% increase.

Vision and hearing screening programs for school age, preschool, and Head Start students, staffed with trained technicians and a coordinator, offered a great service to identify issues early & refer to physicians for hearing aids or to evaluate for other medical issues. The 761 referrals made in 2017, a 35% increase, made a huge difference to those children's success through school. This program provided targeted successful outreach activities for Head Start and Kindergarten Round Up to help meet required health assessments, vision and hearing screenings, and up to date immunizations.



**2932** MIHP Home Visits - Medicaid



**953** Healthy Futures Average Monthly Case Load



**7940** WIC Clinic Appointments



**209** Children's Special Health Care Services Home Visits



**5893** Vision Screenings



**4510** Hearing Screenings

# Immunizations



**Grand Traverse County Health Department provides immunizations for vaccine-preventable diseases to the entire community with special emphasis on pediatric and susceptible populations. Babies, children, teens, college students, adults, and seniors need to be immunized in order to protect themselves from serious and sometimes life-threatening diseases.**

In 2017, Grand Traverse County experienced increases in teen and adult vaccination rates, ranking the County as #1 in the State of Michigan for Adult Flu Vaccinations. In addition, Grand Traverse County Health Department Immunization program targeted continuing daily walk-in availability to improve access, Kindergarten Round Up and Head Start orientation participation to assure childhood vaccinations are up-to-date and compliant, increasing community outreach for Hepatitis A vaccinations to the Safe Harbors population in response to the Michigan evolving Hepatitis A Outbreak, and the commitment to strong partnership with the Northern Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Task Force.



**1053** Flu Vaccinations Administered



**1288**

Immunizations Walk-Ins Accommodated



**3958**

Total Immunizations Administered

# Adolescent Health

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, as well as mental health counseling.



 **524** Teen Vaccinations Administered

 **645** Mental Health Clinic Client Visits

 **1258** Youth Health & Wellness Center Client Visits

 **921** K-Town Youth Health Center Client Visits

Both Adolescent Health Centers, K-Town Health Center and Youth Health & Wellness Center, staffed with nurse practitioners/physician's assistant, mental health counselors, and public health technicians participated in the 2017 Maternal and Child Health Community Needs Assessment to garner input from the adolescent population. The Youth Health & Wellness Center's target population for clinic services continued commitments to the students at the Career Tech Center, while the K-Town target population remained Kingsley Middle and High School students. Both sites have seen excellent show rates for clinic appointments, validating the value the Grand Traverse area teens have in their overall health.

# Environmental Health

**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.**



2017 was a year of change in Environmental Health. Tom Buss, Environmental Health Director of 20 years, and County employee of 42 years, retired in June. Dan Thorell, Environmental Health Coordinator and 21 year veteran of public health, accepted the challenge and became the Environmental Health Director beginning June 4th. Dan's promotion opened up the Environmental Health Coordinator position which was filled by Sanitarian, Mike Kolbusz. In addition to leadership change, County Administration began the process of transitioning the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program from Planning and Codes to the Health Department. The transition planning was ongoing throughout the second half of 2017 which included budgeting, staffing, and steps to adopt a new Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance.

## Environmental Health continued



**562** Restaurant Inspections



**116** Temporary Food Inspections



**454** Total Septic Permits Issued



**196** Total Beach Monitoring Samples



**380** Total Well Permits Issued

# Emergency Management and Public Health Emergency Preparedness

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.



## 22

### Threats and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (THIRA)

Emergency Management lead unified command centers for planning and managing large events such as the National Cherry Festival. Coordinating expertise from law enforcement, fire, emergency responders, health, 911, Coast Guard and more, the events run more smoothly and security is more effective. The City, County, State and Federal partners are able to monitor and manage every kind of crisis or incidents and respond sooner due to the extensive planning. Other local events such as the Traverse City Film Festival, Great Lakes Equestrian Festival, Bayshore Marathon, 4th of July Fireworks, New Year's Eve and many more events also have incident action plans in place and benefit from the coordinated response efforts.

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.



## 40%

### Increase in Closed Points of Dispensing locations from 2016

Grand Traverse County Health Department hosted the Northern Michigan Public Health Emergency Preparedness (NMPHEP) Strategic Planning Session. Public Health Preparedness leadership from the local health departments Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, Grand Traverse County Health Department, and Health Department Northwest Michigan set the short and long-term objectives of public health preparedness in the jurisdiction while discussing and sharing best practice techniques in the three health department collaboration. In addition, NMPHEP partners have established a Public Health Internship position available to masters level public health students. This internship position will open the door to young public health professionals in Northwest Michigan to gain hands on experience in a local health department while achieving valuable production for public health emergency preparedness.

# Office of the Medical Examiner

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 postmortem examination. The postmortem examination is usually a complete autopsy; however in some cases the examination may be limited to the external surfaces.



**23** Drug Related Fatalities  
(a 92% increase)



**1005** Cremation Permits  
Authorized



**76%** Cremation Rate



**1314** Deaths in Grand  
Traverse County



**249** Medical Examiner Cases  
Requiring Investigations

# Dental Clinics North

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/MIChild) and/or the Northern Michigan Dental Plan.



**5684** Dental Clinics North  
Total Clients Served



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/dcnc.html](http://www.nwhealth.org/dcnc.html)

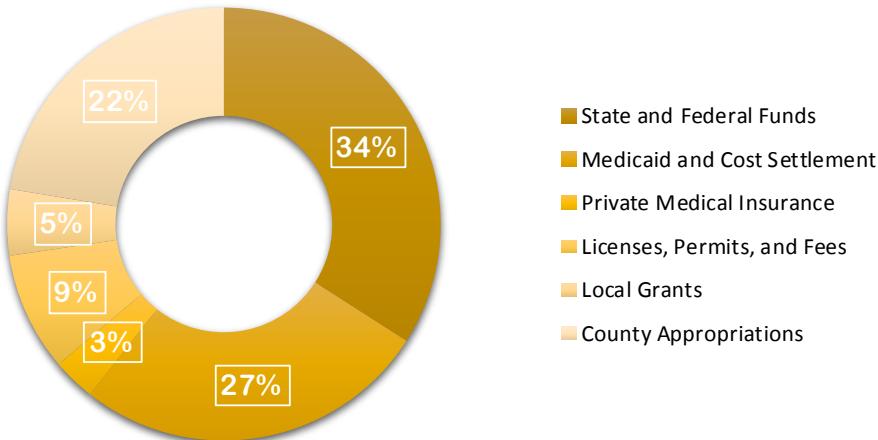
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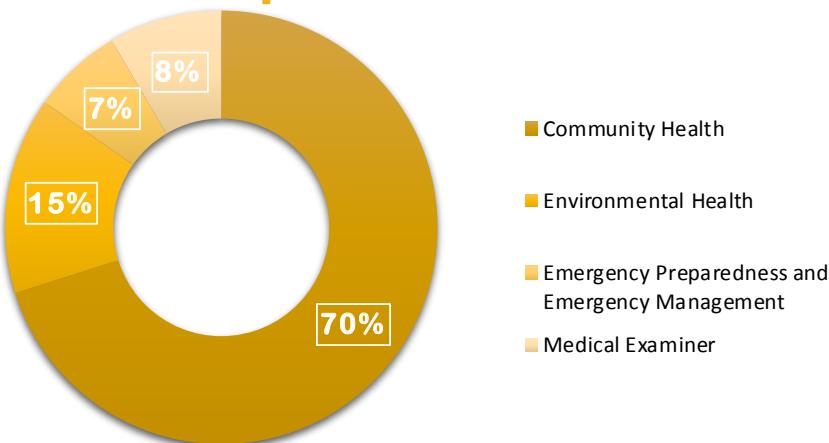
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# Financial Data

## ● 2017 Revenues



## ● 2017 Expenses



2017  
Operational  
Budget  
\$6,696,928

# Locations



## Grand Traverse County Health Department

2600 LaFranier Rd., Ste. A

Traverse City, MI 49686

231-995-6111

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

@GTCHHealthDept

@GTCHD



## K-Town Youth Health Center

112 S Brownson Avenue

PO BOX 117

Kingsley, MI 49649

231-263-5895

[www.gtchd.org/725/K-Town-Youth-Health-Center](http://www.gtchd.org/725/K-Town-Youth-Health-Center)



## Youth Health & Wellness Center

TBAISD Career-Tech Center

80 Parsons Road

Traverse City, MI 49686

231-922-6416

[www.gtchd.org/742/Youth-Health-Wellness-Center](http://www.gtchd.org/742/Youth-Health-Wellness-Center)



## Environmental Health

2650 LaFranier Road

Traverse City, MI 49686

231-995-6051

[www.gtchd.org/781/Environmental-Health](http://www.gtchd.org/781/Environmental-Health)

email: [eh@grandtraverse.org](mailto:eh@grandtraverse.org)