

# Ottawa County Department of Public Health Services

Working together to assure conditions  
that promote and protect health

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## Vision

Healthy People

## Mission

Working together to assure conditions that promote and protect health

## Values

**Equity:** all people will be valued and treated fairly with dignity and respect.

**Integrity:** uphold the highest level of ethical standards.

**Excellence:** provide the highest quality product, service and customer experience.



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# Department Overview

## *Our Vision: Healthy People*

Recognition of the benefits of attending to whole community health needs in Ottawa County dates back to 1913, when the Board of Supervisors appointed a county nurse to do school health inspections, and teach health and hygiene to both school children and adults. In 1931, the benefits to the community led the Board to formally establish a county department dedicated to public health.

During the years that followed, the public health department continued to respond to the needs of a rapidly growing and changing community, employing the expertise of researchers, practitioners and educators to prevent disease and injury at the community and population level by identifying the causes of disease and disability, and implementing large-scale solutions.<sup>1</sup> By the time the Michigan legislature passed the Public Health Code requiring all county governing bodies to organize local health departments in 1978, leaders in Ottawa County had been considering the health and quality of life of residents for over 60 years.

### The Impact

- » Ottawa County consistently ranks as **a top county** in Michigan for healthy outcomes.<sup>2</sup>
- » The Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) **maintains full accreditation** with special commendation.<sup>3</sup>
- » OCDPH is **consistently awarded** numerous local, state and national awards for excellence.

*"The OCDPH employs numerous innovative methods to protect the population from threats to their health... The provision of education on health-related issues to the population by the OCDPH is exceptional."*  
- Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program Report, Cycle 7, 2018

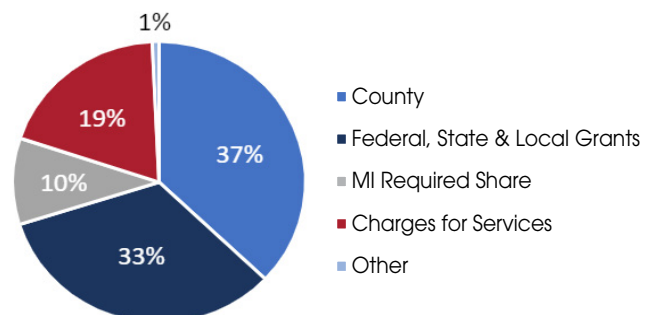
### The Foundation

The constitution of the State of Michigan, Section 51, declares the public health and general welfare of the people to be matters for which the legislature shall pass laws. The Michigan Public Health Code<sup>4</sup>, [Public Act 368 of 1978](#), establishes local health departments and their responsibilities under law.

- To investigate the causes of disease and epidemics; the causes of chronic disease and death; and the causes, prevention and control of environmental hazards and sources of illness
- To assure the provision of required services
- To have powers necessary to perform the duties and exercise the responsibilities given by law to the health officer

### The Funding

Public health services are funded through a braided funding model, combining revenue from multiple sources<sup>5</sup> toward the provision of services that benefit the entire community. The funding chart below references revenue from Fiscal Year 2022.



# Administration

## Administrative Services

Public Health Administration provides oversight and technical expertise to all public health programs as they work to mitigate numerous communicable, chronic and environmental health hazards. Many of the roles within this division are required by legislative statute as core functions. The Administration division includes:

- **Administrative Health Officer** – a mandated position, which is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and approved by the State of Michigan. Required to possess the professional qualifications required for administration of a local health department’s policies and programs, as prescribed by the Michigan Public Health Code. The Health Officer is delegated the powers and duties to protect the public and prevent disease. The Health Officer has executive oversight of over 100 employees, and mandated and required public health programs and services.
- **Medical Director** - a mandated position, which is appointed by the Board of Commissioners and approved by the State of Michigan. Required to possess the professional qualifications required for medical oversight of a local health department's policies and programs, as prescribed by the Michigan Public Health Code.
- **Communications and Public Relations** – ensures residents have access to accurate, timely and understandable information for informed decision-making. Also fulfills the required role of Public Information Officer in public health emergencies.
- **Epidemiology** – monitors, gathers and analyzes data on the community’s health to determine risks and problems. This information is used by many community organizations to drive programs and activities which improve population health.
- **Operations** – provides general operational, financial and performance management oversight.
- **Preparedness and Response** – a required capability ensuring extensive and ongoing preparation for timely response to diseases, natural disasters and acts of terrorism; serves as the network hub for area hospitals, physicians and other community partners.
- **Medical Examiner Program** - a program required by the State of Michigan to investigate and certify the manner and cause of all sudden, unexpected, violent and suspicious deaths that occur in the county.

## The Impact

- » **Nationally recognized** since 2017 for emergency response preparation and capability.<sup>1</sup>
- » OCDPH **works collaboratively** with area hospital systems, health and human service providers and funding organizations to systematically identify needs and barriers of people to achieve optimal health.<sup>2</sup>
- » **7 in 10** adult residents had a **positive opinion** of OCDPH’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup>
- » Over **2 million visits** were made to the COVID-19 Data Hub for daily status updates.<sup>4</sup>

*"I think communication was done very well, particularly from the health department; I think they were quick to respond and communicate in several different ways what they knew, what they understood and what people should do."*

- Key Stakeholder, 2020 Ottawa County Community Health Needs Assessment

## The Foundation

These statutory and legal requirements serve as the foundation of local health department administration.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 - Part 24](#)
- Rules promulgated in the [Administrative Code](#) for Public Health Administration
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) in Powers and Duties
- Emergency Management – Community Health Annex, [Public Act 349 of 2004](#) and the [Public Health Preparedness Cooperative Agreement](#) between the State of Michigan and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Michigan County Medical Examiner Law, [Public Act 181 of 1953](#) and [Public Act 368 of 1978 - Part 28](#)

# Communicable Disease Program

## Clinical Health Services

The Communicable Disease program works to investigate and control the spread of infectious diseases and the epidemics they may cause. Infectious diseases can be spread person-to-person or by a vector, such as an insect or animal. In Michigan, there are currently almost 100 reportable diseases.<sup>1</sup> Our team of nurses, epidemiologists and communicable disease investigators works with a variety of health care and laboratory partners, as well as businesses and schools, to control the spread of these diseases through testing, treatment, prevention and education. Disease surveillance is also conducted to identify changes in trends and outbreaks.

### The Impact

- » **Investigated more than 1,000 cases of reportable diseases** per year between 2015-2019. This number does not include influenza or COVID-19.<sup>2</sup>
- » In 2022, **educated and facilitated timely post-exposure treatment** to residents exposed to one of three bats that tested positive for rabies, a disease that is fatal once symptoms begin. Positive cases of rabies in Michigan bats were higher in 2022 than they had been in previous years.<sup>2,3</sup>
- » **Detected and responded to multiple cases of Shiga-toxin producing E. coli (STEC)** that were eventually determined to be part of a multi-state outbreak in 2022, in collaboration with local, state and national partners.<sup>4</sup>
- » As part of a worldwide response, OCDPH **identified and monitored 24 travelers** from Ugandan districts affected by the 2022 Ebola virus outbreak for symptoms of illness.<sup>5</sup>

*"As far as the Communicable Disease team goes, these compassionate and competent professionals take incredibly good care of our patients. They do an impeccable job with contact tracing and ongoing education for our tuberculosis patients, as well as viral and bacterial outbreaks in the community."*

- Administrator of an Ottawa County Primary Care Practice

### The Foundation

These statutory and legal requirements serve as the foundation for the investigation and control of the spread of infectious diseases and the epidemics they may cause.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 - Part 24 & Part 52](#)
- Rules promulgated in the [Administrative Code](#) for Communicable and Related Diseases
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program - Section 3](#)

# Family Planning and Women's Health Services Program

## Clinical Health Services

In July 1971, OCDPH began providing access to high quality reproductive health care services at low or no cost to Ottawa County residents. Family Planning and Women's Health Services is a public health service that includes family planning education, contraceptives and preventive services such as breast and cervical cancer screening. Family Planning services are client-centered, non-coercive, non-judgmental and voluntary. The program's education and counseling promotes healthy behaviors and links clients who have experienced abuse or neglect, human trafficking, intimate partner violence or sexual assault; or who have substance use or abuse and mental health needs to other community supports, as needed. In many cases, this program is the only regular source of health care for low-income and underinsured Ottawa County residents.

### The Impact

- » **93%** of family planning clients are women over the age of 18.<sup>1</sup>
- » Due to access to OCDPH services, **83% of clients** are using a moderately effective or better method of birth control.<sup>1</sup>
- » **35%** of clients are **uninsured** and **75%** of clients **have incomes less than 200%** of the federal poverty level.<sup>2</sup>

*"I appreciate not being judged or shamed when discussing birth control and personal matters.  
I always feel heard and reassured when I have doubts or uncertainty about things."  
- Patient comments, Family Planning program customer experience survey*

### The Foundation

These requirements serve as the foundation for the provision of Family Planning and Women's Health Services.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 - Part 91](#)
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) - Section 10
- Adheres to the policies, procedures and expectations outlined by [Title X funding](#)

# Sexually Transmitted Infection Program

## Clinical Health Services

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are passed from person-to-person through intimate contact. The STI program works to control the spread of HIV and other STIs through testing, treatment, prevention and education. Prompt testing and treatment of STIs is important to prevent serious health problems, including infertility, cancer, birth defects and even death. Program staff conduct court-ordered STI/HIV screening and prioritize the provision of low-cost services to uninsured, underinsured and other at-risk residents. As mentioned previously, staff in the program link clients who have experienced abuse or neglect, human trafficking, intimate partner violence or sexual assault; or who have substance use or abuse and mental health needs to other community supports, as needed.

### The Impact

- » **All cases** of chlamydia and gonorrhea are reviewed each year to ensure they've received appropriate treatment. When cases are found to be untreated, efforts are made to deliver the needed antibiotics, which reduce the chances of spread.<sup>1</sup>
- » In 2022, the STI program served **579** patients.
- » **456** HIV screenings and **1,247** screenings for syphilis and gonorrhea were provided.

*"The staff are respectful, informational and show concern and care for my wellbeing."  
- Patient comments, STI Program customer experience survey*

### The Foundation

The Sexually Transmitted Infection program operates under the authority of the Public Health Code to diagnose, treat and investigate HIV/AIDS and other STIs within Ottawa County.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 – Part 24 & Part 51](#)
- Rules promulgated in the [Administrative Code](#) for Communicable and Related Disease, such as STIs
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) - Section 7



# Immunizations Program

## Clinical Health Services

The Immunizations program vaccinates adults and children, provides education to the community about vaccines and vaccine preventable diseases, and is a resource to the many physician offices, schools and hospitals within Ottawa County.

The Immunizations program:

- Utilizes the federally funded Vaccines for Children program to provide vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise have access to vaccinations because of an inability to pay.
- Offers an opportunity for vaccination to adults with an inability to pay through the Michigan Adult Vaccination Program.
- Ensures mission groups, business travelers and others who are traveling to international locations are protected from serious vaccine preventable diseases, which prevents other Ottawa County residents from being exposed to illnesses not typically found in the county.
- Serves international exchange students who attend Ottawa County schools, refugees and agricultural workers and their families.
- Provides mandated immunization waiver education for those exercising their legal right to waive or delay vaccination for their children.

## The Impact

- » In 2021, OCDPH distributed 5,295 vaccine doses in the Vaccines for Children/MI Adult Vaccine Program, at a value of more than **\$346,000**, to uninsured children and adults, and children insured with Medicaid.<sup>1</sup>

In 2022:

- » The travel clinic provided immunization recommendations and illness counseling to **130** people planning to travel outside of the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- » Interpreted and evaluated the immunization records for **145** international students at beginning of the current school year.<sup>1</sup>

*"I need to express my enormous gratitude for the staff in the immunizations clinic. Not only for how they have supported my staff through every outbreak we have had in the community over the years, but also for the hands-on education they have provided. The seminars and in-services have been filled with comprehensive public health knowledge offered nowhere else!"*

*- Administrator of an Ottawa County Primary Care Practice*

## The Foundation

The Immunizations program, under the authority of the Public Health Code, aims to keep all who live in Ottawa County protected from severe disease through the administration of vaccines.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 – Part 24 & Part 92](#)
- The Revised School Code, [Public Act 451 of 1976](#)
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) - Section 5

# Children's Special Health Care Services and Childhood Elevated Blood Lead Program

## Community Health Services

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) is a program for children and some adults with special health care needs. Staff in the program assist individuals and their families with access to a broad range of medical care, health education and other supports; promote collaboration between parent and care professionals; and help remove barriers that prevent individuals with special health care needs from achieving their goals. More than 2,700 diagnoses are eligible for CSHCS coverage including asthma, cancer, cerebral palsy, cleft palate, insulin-dependent diabetes, epilepsy and many more.

In addition, public health nurses from CSHCS provide education, resources and nursing case management to children under age six whose blood lead level is less than or equal to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter, the CDC's reference value for when public health services and medical evaluation are needed.<sup>1</sup> As of May 2022, the Elevated Blood Lead Level Program also offers a community health worker visit to families most impacted by lead exposure.

### The Impact

- » As of October 2022, there are **1,439 CSHCS enrollees** in Ottawa County, the **7th highest enrollment in the State.**<sup>2</sup>
- » **63% of enrollees** have CSHCS coverage in addition to Medicaid, indicating that a majority have a serious medical condition and/or lower family income.<sup>2</sup>
- » The proportion of Ottawa County children tested for lead who have elevated blood lead levels has **steadily declined** in the past ten years from about 7% in the early 2010s to 2.2% in 2021.<sup>3</sup>

*"There is no way we could have received **the comprehensive care for our child's needs** without the program... **absolutely invaluable** in helping to improve my child's health and assure a positive future for him."*

- Parent of a child in the CSHCS Program

### The Foundation

The CSHCS program is guided by the Michigan Public Health Code and other statutes that establish the importance of providing coverage and support services for children and youth with special health care needs and their families.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 - Part 58](#)
- Federally mandated under [Title V of the Social Security Act of 1935](#)
- Rules promulgated in the [Administrative Code](#) for Blood Lead Reporting and Control
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) - Section 12

# Hearing and Vision Screening Program

## Community Health Services

The provision of school-based hearing and vision screening in Michigan dates back to 1949. The Hearing and Vision Screening program employs fully trained technicians who provide screenings, free of charge and at specified intervals in school, for the early detection of hearing and vision problems. Identification and treatment of these problems contribute to normal childhood development and can help children succeed in school. The screenings primarily take place in school settings, but are also offered at local health department locations. If a child's results indicate that more care is needed, a recommendation to seek further evaluation and care by an ear or eye professional or family doctor is provided to parents.

### The Impact

- » In 2021, of nearly 30,000 screenings, about **9%** of vision screenings and **3%** of hearing screenings **resulted in a referral for follow-up care.**<sup>1</sup>
- » Screening referrals have commonly led to glasses and hearing aids, but they have also led to the **detection of cataracts and tumors** in children.<sup>2</sup>
- » **Removes barriers** such as cost, time and transportation to children having their hearing and vision screened.<sup>2</sup>

*"Knowing if a child has a hearing or vision concern really helps teachers determine how to best help a struggling student. Can a student hear the teacher's instructions, can they see the board at school, or do they have a deficiency in their hearing or vision manifesting itself in behavioral problems? **The County technicians can help answer a lot of those questions with a simple screening, which is so valuable!**"*

*- 2nd grade teacher in Ottawa County*

### The Foundation

The Hearing and Vision Screening program provides these childhood screenings as required by Michigan law.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 – Part 24 & Part 93](#)
- The Revised School Code, [Public Act 451 of 1976](#)
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) - Section 4 & Section 8

# Maternal Infant Health Program

## Community Health Services

The Maternal Infant Health program (MIHP) nurtures health and wellness throughout pregnancy and infancy by pairing families with caring, trusted and knowledgeable home visitors who serve the goals and needs of each family. The vision of MIHP is that all babies, families and communities in Ottawa County are healthy and thriving. The program was initiated in the 1980s by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to support pregnancy and infant health, and today it is Michigan's largest evidence-based home visiting program for Medicaid-eligible pregnant women and infants. An interdisciplinary team comprised of nurses, social workers, dietitians, breastfeeding consultants, community health workers and support staff deliver high-quality, patient-centered interventions and care coordination.

### The Impact

- » Studies have found that individuals who enroll in Michigan MIHP before their third trimester and receive at least three home visits have a **23% lower risk of low birth weight** and a **26% lower risk of preterm birth**, the primary drivers of infant mortality.<sup>1</sup>
- » In 2021, MIHP staff conducted **1,666** home visits.<sup>2</sup>
- » Women of childbearing age experience mental illness at 2-3 times the rate of the rest of the population.<sup>3</sup> In 2021, **76%** of Ottawa County MIHP clients who were assessed for depression and anxiety were identified as needing mental health education services. Of these, **65%** required additional case management and assistance accessing mental health treatment and care.<sup>4</sup>

*"They were with me during some of the hardest things I've ever been through. They were **very supportive and used so much empathy**. I truly felt like they were caring for me and my family through it all."*  
- Client feedback from MIHP satisfaction surveys

### The Foundation

The Maternal Infant Health program provides these vital services in compliance with program policies, procedures and expectations outlined by Medicaid Policy and [MDHHS MIHP Policy](#). Michigan continually assesses and improves MIHP Policy to meet the needs of local families.

- County support based on community needs
- Coordination of MIHP services with the patients' health care provider and Medicaid Health Plan
- Local partners include Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Community Mental Health of Ottawa County, area nonprofit and faith-based organizations, area food pantries and more

# Ottawa Pathways to Better Health Program

## Community Health Services

Ottawa Pathways to Better Health (OPBH) was founded in 2017, after the county's first Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), completed in 2015. That year, the CHIP identified access to care, mental health and healthy behaviors as priority areas needing attention to improve the health and well-being of Ottawa County residents.<sup>1</sup> The development and funding of the OPBH program was a collaborative community effort that involved three Ottawa County hospitals, the Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland Area, the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, the Greater Ottawa County United Way, Community Mental Health of Ottawa County and the department of public health.

The community health worker (CHW) model was selected as the strategy to increase the opportunity for optimal health to at-risk adults in Ottawa County. CHWs are deployed through Ottawa County Community Mental Health, OCDPH and a countywide, multidisciplinary medical practice where they support access to health care, enhance health literacy, strengthen connections and promote improved health for adults most in need. The CHWs are trusted members of the community and are well versed in community resources, providing a bridge for their clients between medical and social services.

In its first two years, the program received more than 800 referrals. Now in its fifth year, OPBH has gained broad recognition and support from community-based organizations, health care providers and the public-at-large for helping remove barriers, such as food and housing insecurity, transportation issues, unemployment, substance abuse and poor mental health, which can all impact health.

### The Impact

- » Over **400 individuals** were served by OPBH in 2021 and **293 pathways** were completed.<sup>2</sup>

Clients report the following significant outcomes upon program completion:<sup>2</sup>

- » **24% increase** in overall health status.
- » **27% improvement** in confidence navigating the health care system.
- » **Five** fewer days per month impacted by poor physical health - a **34% improvement**.
- » **Six** fewer days per month impacted by poor mental health - a **38% improvement**.
- » An **eight** day decline in the number of days impacted by activity limitations - a **57% improvement**.

*"I was in a bad place for so long and had gotten desperate and needed a lot of help. When you came into the picture, you were able to move things forward within just a few months, and saved my life. I have hope for the first time in a long time and I can see things getting better all because of your help.*

*You definitely made a difference, a huge difference and you still are. Thank you for everything."*

*- Ottawa Pathways to Better Health Client*

### The Foundation

The Ottawa Pathways to Better Health program is an example of collaboration among many diverse community partners who researched, developed and funded a community-owned program to address priority health needs. The program has been tremendously successful and is growing.

- The Michigan Legislature grants broad authority to public health departments in the [Michigan Public Health Code](#) allowing the development of needed health services
- Exemplifies an essential public health service<sup>3</sup> to "strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health"
- County support based on community needs

# Food Safety Program

## Environmental Health Services

The Food Safety program currently licenses and inspects over 1,000 food service establishments annually. In addition, the program provides education and outreach to operators, conducts inspections, complaint and illness investigations, and provides enforcement to help keep the food served to Ottawa County residents and visitors safe.

### The Impact

A high proportion of food poisoning outbreaks occur because of poor food handling practices. Staff training, adequate resources and appropriate management are keys to preventing foodborne illness outbreaks. Each year, on average, the Food Safety program:<sup>1</sup>

- » Generates over **2,000** inspection reports.
- » Corrects an average of **3.5** violations during an inspection.
- » Investigates over **200** food-related complaints and reports of illness.
- » Conducts **25** enforcement actions at establishments with chronic issues.
- » Reviews **60** construction or remodel plans for food establishments.
- » Maintains **strong relationships** with operators: **94%** report evaluation was helpful and **90%** "strongly trust" their inspector.

*"I have thankfully never had to be present in a compliance conference meeting until today. My vision of what to expect was much more negative than it needed to be. Other than the fact that we were there to begin with, I came away feeling very positive about our plans moving forward. The way you presented yourself and the facts in our discussion really allowed me to drop my guard and take in what I needed to continue on with our plan in an even more positive way. I greatly appreciate your approach today and wanted to let you know that it is very effective and should serve other operators in the county very well."*

- Ottawa County Food Service Establishment

### The Foundation

The Food Safety program is governed by many statutes and regulations to ensure food available for immediate consumption is safe.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 - Part 24](#)
- Michigan Food Law, [Public Act 92 of 2000](#)
- 2009 U.S. FDA Food Code as adopted by the Michigan Food Law as the [Michigan Modified Food Code](#)
- [Ottawa County Environmental Health Regulations](#), as amended, July 26, 2016
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) - Section 2

# Onsite Services Program

## Environmental Health Services

The Onsite Services program works to protect the health of Ottawa County residents and visitors through programs that assure clean and safe water for drinking and swimming, proper treatment and disposal of human waste, and the prevention of conditions that promote the spread of disease through insects and animals. Identified areas of contamination in Ottawa County are routinely monitored for any changes, and complaints of illness, sanitation or other environmental hazards are investigated and corrected.

### The Impact

The Onsite Services program plans, directs and coordinates programs to prevent avoidable illness, disability and premature death caused by the environment and related factors, through proper permitting and inspection of well and septic systems, and the identification and correction of threats to human health and the environment. Each year, on average, the Onsite Services program:<sup>1</sup>

- » Conducts over **1,000** real estate transfer evaluations.
- » Issues over **1,200** septic and well permits.
- » Evaluates approximately **250** vacant parcels for suitability for development with an onsite well or septic system.

On average, inspects approximately:

- » **65** septic systems annually that are failing, discharging to the ground surface, significantly undersized or installed in the water table.
- » **15** drinking water wells that are over the maximum contaminant limit for nitrate or arsenic.
- » **100** drinking water wells that are too close to sources of contamination, are poorly constructed or are broken, exposing the aquifer to surface contamination.

*"Thank you for being so accomodating to us and redoing our septic inspection. We are so grateful you took the extra time and answered all of our questions. It gave us a deeper understanding."  
- Ottawa County Onsite Services Program Customer*

### The Foundation

There are many, sometimes overlapping, statutes, promulgated rules and accreditation standards that govern the functions of the Onsite Services program.

- The Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 - Part 121, Part 125 & Part 127](#)
- The Safe Drinking Water Act, [Public Act 399 of 1976](#)
- The Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, [Public Act 451 of 1994](#)
- Michigan Administrative Codes for Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) such as for [Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division](#), [Public Swimming Pools](#), [Campgrounds](#) and [Protection of Public Bathing Beaches](#)
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) in Powers and Duties & Section 6
- [Ottawa County Environmental Health Regulations](#), as amended, July 26, 2016

# Environmental Sustainability Program

## Environmental Health Services

In 1994, the State of Michigan passed a law requiring each county to appoint a committee to create and manage a solid waste management (trash disposal) plan. In 1999, Ottawa County completed and adopted a plan to:

- Design and oversee an effective solid waste management system to ensure trash generated within the county is properly managed.
- Actively promote pollution prevention; trash reduction; hazardous waste management; and recycling, reuse and composting programs through collaborative efforts with the private sector, residents and local units of government.

Ottawa County does not own or operate any trash disposal systems, so residents and businesses rely solely on the private sector to meet waste disposal needs. The Solid Waste Management Plan allows the county to work with the waste management industry and the community to develop innovative programs to best meet the needs of the county and prevent adverse effects to public health and the environment.

Originally called the Waste Program, in 2020 this public health program was renamed the Environmental Sustainability program to better reflect the breadth of services offered. As of 2022, there are four Environmental Sustainability Centers located in Georgetown, Coopersville, Grand Haven and Holland. These sites are staffed to help residents with various services including household recycling, household hazardous waste disposal, electronics disposal, oil disposal, scrap tire recycling and composting.

## The Impact

Each year, the Environmental Sustainability Centers:<sup>1</sup>

- » Collect an average of **273** tons of hazardous or reusable material.
- » Assist nearly **17,000** customers, an increase of more than **18%** over the last six years.
- » Collect **53** tons of household hazardous waste, a number that continues to increase annually.
- » Collect **32.5** tons of electronic waste; collection of cathode-ray tube (CRT) TVs in 2019 resulted in a **65%** increase in electronic waste that year.

*"Composting is the latest step in our journey to reduce the material our family sends to the landfill. We tried composting in our backyard, but we failed to make it work. When we learned the Environmental Sustainability Center had a program of collecting food waste for composting, we signed up. Now we have one trash bag each week for the neighborhood trash service to deliver to the landfill. The rest of our trash is recycled or composted.*

*We feel we are helping the environment."*

*- Park Township Composting Pilot Program User*

## The Foundation

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, and its Administrative Rules, requires each county to have a Solid Waste Management Plan approved by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, [Public Act 451 of 1994](#) – Part 115
- [Ottawa County Solid Waste Management Plan](#) approved by the Board of Commissioners, Ottawa County Cities and Townships, and EGLE



# Health Education Program

## Health Planning and Promotion Services

Health Education program staff serve as health strategists who use local assessment data<sup>1</sup> and other vital statistics to identify troubling trends and pressing concerns, as well as community strengths, to address health needs in innovative ways. The program staff includes a registered dietitian, community planners and health educators who form partnerships with others in the community to develop data-driven initiatives for a healthier Ottawa County. Health Education program staff facilitate many of the community coalitions highlighted below.

- Preventing youth and adult deaths by suicide through efforts like the **Ottawa Suicide Prevention Coalition**.
- Stewarding the county in its efforts to eliminate hunger, encourage healthy eating and support local farmers through facilitation of **Ottawa Food**.
- Leveraging a partnership with the Parks Department to increase physical activity and promote our local natural resources through **Step it Up!**
- Facilitating a Migrant Health Task Force, which completed the first **Migrant Farmworker Health Needs Assessment** in two decades, as well as a follow-up strategic plan implemented in 2022.
- Bringing model practice health promotion activities such as **Seal! Michigan** to neighboring counties through a cross-jurisdictional sharing grant.
- Partnering with community coalitions focused on innovative programs like **Prime for Life** and **TIPS training** to reduce and prevent the negative impacts of substance use.

## The Impact

- » Over 70% of participants reported an **improvement in their physical and mental health** because of participating in the Step it Up! program.<sup>2</sup>
- » Partnered with school districts to expand Meet Up and Eat Up, **servicing over 903,000 summer lunches to students** since 2016.<sup>2</sup>
- » From 2006-2021, the Reducing Ottawa Area Drunk Driving coalition saw a **29% drop in the rate of alcohol involved crashes** in the target age range of 18-24 years old, while alcohol involved crashes outside the target age range increased.<sup>2</sup>

"Our partnership was so important to bringing the School Blue Envelope program to 29 Ottawa County schools and their 1800 staff members this past year, *bringing lifesaving prevention and intervention training to all staff.*

We are tremendously grateful for OCDPH and the Ottawa Suicide Prevention Coalition for such an active and strong community collaborative."

- Program Manager at a local hospital system

## The Foundation

The Health Education program responds to the changing needs of Ottawa County residents through implementation of Public Health Code requirements and innovative, collaborative solutions to needs identified in local assessments.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 - Part 24](#)
- [Michigan Public Health Accreditation Program](#) in Powers and Duties
- County support based on community needs

# Oral Health Program

## Health Planning and Promotion Services

For nearly 30 years, the primary goal of the Oral Health program has been to increase access to dental care for at-risk children in Ottawa County. In the 1990s, local assessment data prompted community organizations to identify the lack of dental care for low-income and uninsured children as a pressing need in the county. Now, the department of public health partners with area schools, Head Start centers and local dentists to bring high-quality, low-cost dental screening and services to children right where they are, which reduces barriers that can delay care, such as transportation and time off of work for parents. The Oral Health program's three unique services are available at no cost to the children and families served, and more recently, the program has broadened to provide adult dental services for at-risk, uninsured or homeless adults in coordination with Holland Free Health Clinic.

The flagship Miles of Smiles 40-foot mobile dental clinic brings comprehensive dental care to schools, the jail and other locations where it is needed in the community. With prevention of dental decay and disease as a focus, the Oral Health program also offers oral health assessments to kindergartners prior to starting school, and free, long-lasting sealants on the molars of 2nd, 6th and 7th grade students in 20 Ottawa County schools through SEAL! Michigan.

### The Impact

- » Since 1995, Miles of Smiles has **provided over 36,000 encounters and placed 21,791 restorations** to reduce dental decay in children.<sup>1</sup>
- » Since 2007, Seal! Michigan has **placed sealants on 22,341 teeth and provided 5,311 fluoride applications** free of charge to Ottawa County children.<sup>1</sup>
- » Together, Miles of Smiles and SEAL! Michigan have **provided oral health education to over 45,000 children.**<sup>1</sup>

*"Miles of Smiles, thanks for making the experience of going to the dentist such a positive one.  
We really love SEAL! Michigan, it's a wonderful opportunity for the kids!"  
- Officials from two Ottawa County schools*

### The Foundation

The Oral Health program responds to the dental care needs of vulnerable Ottawa County children and adults through implementation of statutory requirements and in response to local health assessment data identifying dental care for low-income children as a pressing unmet need.

- Michigan Public Health Code, [Public Act 368 of 1978 – Part 24](#)
- Michigan [Public Act 161 of 2005](#) allows for a public health dental clinic to meet the needs of children and other vulnerable populations
- [Public Act 261 of 2020](#), as an amendment to the Public Health Code, requires oral health screening before entering kindergarten
- County support based on community needs

# Citations

## Department Overview, page 4

- <sup>1</sup> Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/about/what-is-public-health>.
- <sup>2</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) is a program of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute with support provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2010-2022. Since 2010, Ottawa County has ranked either 1st or 2nd among Michigan's 83 counties for healthy outcomes related to length of life and health-related quality of life. [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#).
- <sup>3</sup> The Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program ensures the quality of local public health in Michigan by identifying and promoting the implementation of public health standards and evaluating and accrediting local departments' ability to meet them. [Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program](#)
- <sup>4</sup> The Michigan Legislature grants broad authority to public health departments in the 1978 State Public Health Code. Parts of the Code have been revised numerous times since 1978. Administrative Rules, developed by State Departments, are authorized by enabling legislation in the [Michigan Public Health Code](#).
- <sup>5</sup> Proportions based on fiscal year 2022 audited actuals for revenue for all public health orgs combined.

## Administration, page 5

- <sup>1</sup> In 2017, as one of a select number of local public health departments in the nation, Ottawa County Department of Public Health was recognized by [Project Public Health Ready](#).
- <sup>2</sup> Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey, 2005-present, [www.OttawaCountyYouth.org](http://www.OttawaCountyYouth.org); Ottawa County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey and Community Health Needs Assessment, 2011-present, [www.HealthyOttawa.org](http://www.HealthyOttawa.org); United Way Community Assessment for Ottawa County, 2012-present, [www.oaunitedway.org/community-assessment](http://www.oaunitedway.org/community-assessment).
- <sup>3</sup> [Ottawa County Citizen Survey, August 2021](#)
- <sup>4</sup> Rapidly developed and stood up in partnership with Ottawa County GIS and IT departments, [the COVID-19 Data Hub](#) continues to evolve to meet the changing needs for local information about the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

## Communicable Disease Program, page 6

- <sup>1</sup> [2023 Reportable Diseases in Michigan by Condition](#), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- <sup>2</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Communicable Disease program.
- <sup>3</sup> [Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Disease](#)
- <sup>4</sup> [E. coli Outbreak with Unknown Food Source](#)
- <sup>5</sup> [Uganda Ebola Outbreak, September 2022](#)

## Family Planning and Women's Health Services Program, page 7

- <sup>1</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Family Planning program.
- <sup>2</sup> Family Planning Annual Report, June 30 2022.

## Sexually Transmitted Infection Program, page 8

- <sup>1</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Sexually Transmitted Infection program.

## Immunizations Program, page 9

- <sup>1</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Immunizations program.

## Children's Special Health Care Services and Childhood Elevated Blood Lead Program, page 10

- <sup>1</sup> [CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention: Recommended Actions Based on Blood Lead Level](#)
- <sup>2</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Children's Special Health Care Services program and the State of Michigan.
- <sup>3</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP).

# Citations, page 2

## Hearing and Vision Screening Program, page 11

<sup>1</sup> [Ottawa County Department of Public Health Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021](#)

<sup>2</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Hearing and Vision program.

## Maternal and Infant Health Program, page 12

<sup>1</sup> Roman, L., Raffo, J. E., Zhu, Q., & Meghea, C. I. *A statewide Medicaid enhanced prenatal care program: impact on birth outcomes.* JAMA Pediatrics, 168(3), 220-227, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Maternal and Infant Health program.

<sup>3</sup> [Ottawa County Maternal and Child Health Assessment, 2017](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Ottawa County Department of Public Health Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021](#)

## Ottawa Pathways to Better Health Program, page 13

<sup>1</sup> [2015 Ottawa County Community Health Improvement Plan](#)

<sup>2</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Ottawa Pathways to Better Health program.

<sup>3</sup> [10 Essential Public Health Services](#)

## Food Safety Program, page 13

<sup>1</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Food Safety program.

## Onsite Services Program, page 14

<sup>1</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Onsite Services program.

## Environmental Sustainability Program, page 15

<sup>1</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Environmental Sustainability program.

## Health Education Program, page 17

<sup>1</sup> Including the following assessments unique to Ottawa County and provided through partnerships and funding, such as the Ottawa County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey and Community Health Needs Assessment, 2011-present, [www.HealthyOttawa.org](http://www.HealthyOttawa.org); the United Way Community Assessment for Ottawa County, 2012-present, [www.oaunitedway.org/community-assessment](http://www.oaunitedway.org/community-assessment); the Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey, 2005-present, [www.OttawaCountyYouth.org](http://www.OttawaCountyYouth.org); and other surveys and assessments.

<sup>2</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Health Education program.

## Oral Health Program, page 18

<sup>1</sup> Program data from ongoing evaluation of the Oral Health program.