

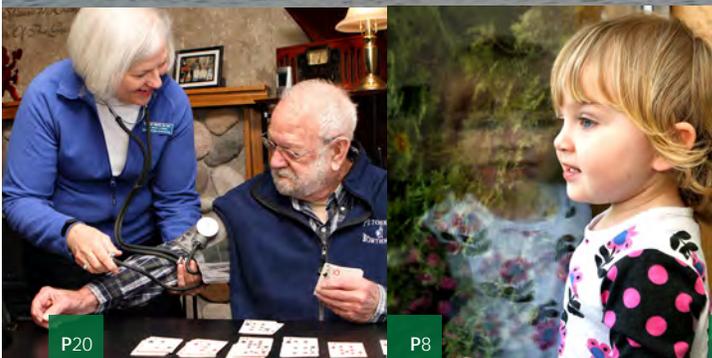
2015 | REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN



ANTRIM | CHARLEVOIX | EMMET | OTSEGO



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HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
of Northwest Michigan

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN 2015/16
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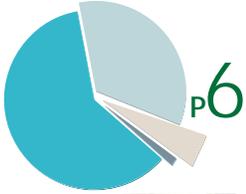
JULIE POWERS-GEHMAN
Gaylord, Michigan
Program & Evaluation
Committee

OTSEGO COUNTY



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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<http://jenhalsey95.wix.com/graphicdesign> | [facebook.com/jennifer Halsey Graphic Design](https://www.facebook.com/jennifer.halsey)

On the cover: Floating in the Petoskey marina, athletes await the start of a triathlon that begins with one mile of paddling. Photo by Megan Robinson.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT of Northwest Michigan

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

is mandated by the Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality health care, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties.

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2015 | REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2015 IN REVIEW



On behalf of the Board of Health and our many dedicated staff members across Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is pleased to submit this Report to the Community to you – our residents, community partners, fellow agencies, state and local leaders, charitable contributors, grantors and volunteers. You are all stakeholders in our mission, and we hope this Report reflects the tremendous community benefit we are able to provide, thanks to your support.

Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH
Medical Director

Linda Yaroch, RN, MPH
Health Officer

During our recent State of Michigan accreditation visit, the reviewer noted that the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is “improving public health through collaboration and partnerships.” We are extremely proud that these efforts have resulted in better outcomes for residents throughout our region.

A key example of our collaborative work is the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance. In the Alliance, we’ve initiated some major projects involving resource sharing. We formed a Northern Michigan Public Health Emergency Preparedness Team with Grand Traverse County Health Department and Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. Additionally, we’ve coordinated Health Officer sharing arrangements with District Health Department #4 and Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. Our Health Department is leading a regional project among four local health departments in the Alliance to implement MyInsight, a new software platform for our Family Health and Community Health programs. This project has relied on the strong presence of our Information Technology team to guide it forward. We are looking forward to rolling out MyInsight within the next year.

We’ve secured over \$3 million in grant funding to address community health priorities such as access to health care (including primary care, maternal and child health care, behavioral health care and oral health care), chronic disease prevention, and substance use and tobacco use across the Alliance’s 25-county region. This funding includes a major project called Healthy Families Northern Michigan. This initiative is brand-new to the area, serving families in 10 counties in partnership with three local health departments in the Alliance, with leadership from our Family Health Services division. Public Health Nurses work intensively with families during pregnancy and continue these visits until the child’s fourth birthday. The program’s goals of valuing children, strengthening families, and engaging communities make Healthy Families Northern Michigan an exciting addition to the community.

And, for breaking news, the Alliance was selected as the backbone organization of the Community Health Innovation Region for Northern Michigan, a component of the State Innovation Model. The State Innovation Model (SIM) focuses on the development and testing of multi-payer health care payment and service delivery models in order to achieve better care coordination, lower costs, and improved health outcomes for Michiganders.

Uniting eight counties in Northern Michigan with support from the Northern Health Plan, we’ve partnered with hospitals, health centers, Michigan State University, and other health departments to develop the Chronic Disease Coordinating Network. The Network was launched to determine the best strategies to manage chronic disease through policy, system and environmental change, health system change strategies, and community linkages.



In addition to the Alliance, great strides have been made regionally in the arena of behavioral health, thanks to our Community Health division. We've extended more services to school-age children, hosted Mental Health First Aid courses for community members, and expanded SAFE in Northern Michigan, a youth substance use prevention initiative.

Our Family Health division has also been busy upholding new state laws. Last January, the State of Michigan passed new legislation regarding waiver requirements for school children whose parents do not want them immunized. While medical waivers may be issued by physicians, those who want to claim a nonmedical waiver for their child must receive education regarding vaccination and disease through their local health department. For 2015, this resulted in a 39% reduction of waiver rates; thousands of children in the state who previously opted out of immunizations are now fully protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Our Public Health Nurses dedicated many hours of their time to educating families and administering vaccines.

When it comes to conserving our natural resources, our Environmental Health division continues to be a leader. To protect the lakes and waterways of Antrim County, the Milton Township Time-of-Transfer Ordinance requires home sellers to arrange a well and septic inspection before the property is sold. As noted in our accreditation report, the success of this initiative is impressive. After three years and counting, the Health Department's cooperation with township and county officials has made an impression—other townships are considering similar requirements.

As you can see by the exciting progress in 2015, each division in the Health Department has been proudly forging ahead to best serve our communities in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties. We can't wait to see what 2016 has in store for the Health Department!

DIRECTOR'S AWARD

Within a year of its first meeting, the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance was awarded the 2015 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director's Award for Excellence in Local Public Health. The prestigious Director's Award recognizes agencies that contribute to a positive outcome in the health status of community residents, demonstrate a spirit of resource sharing and integration, demonstrate the use of best available evidence in making informed public health decisions to ensure the effectiveness of processes, programs and interventions, are sustainable and replicable in other communities, and demonstrate a new and innovative public health initiative.

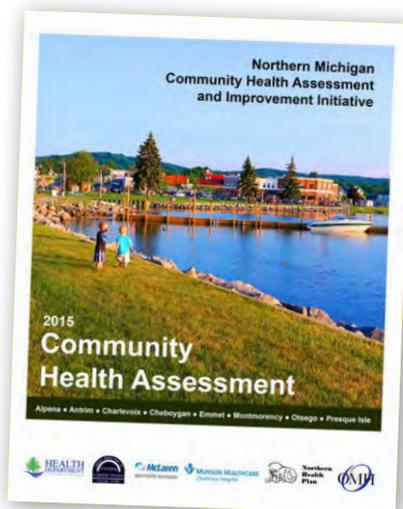
For the first time, the Director's Award was presented to multiple agencies instead of one local health department, recognizing the unique partnership of the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance: Benzie Leelanau District Health Department, District Health Department #2, District Health Department #4, District Health Department #10, Grand Traverse County Health Department, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.



COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

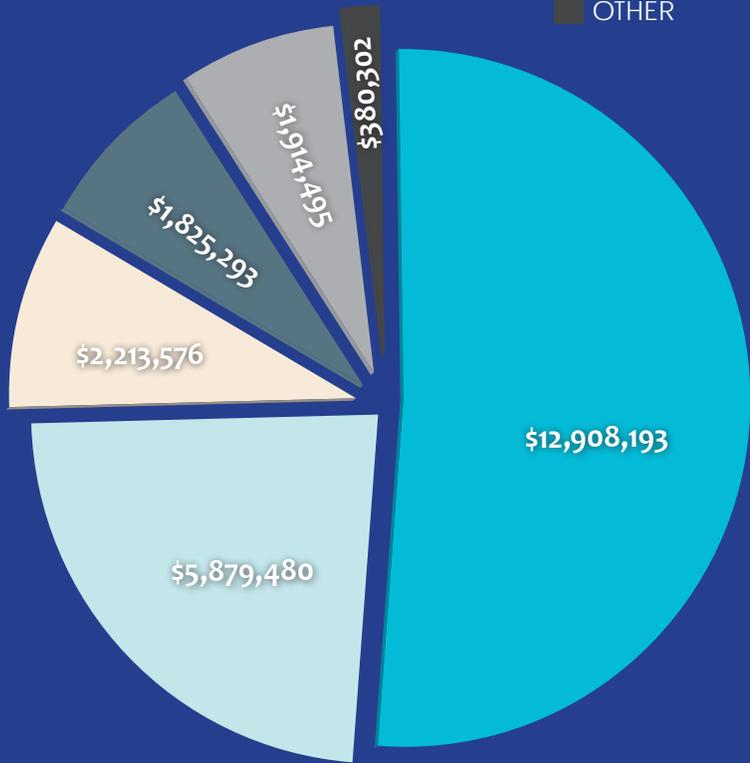
The Northern Michigan Community Health Assessment and Improvement Initiative, led by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, completed a robust community health assessment in 2015. In a remarkable partnership, the Northern Health Plan provided funding for the community health assessment, which was a collaboration between District Health Department #4, Health Department of Northwest Michigan, McLaren Northern Michigan, Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital, and Otsego Memorial Hospital.

To assess the health of the eight-county region, we conducted community surveys, physician surveys, and focus groups which were hosted by the county-level collaborative body; additionally, we compiled over 120 demographic, community health and quality indicators by county. A group of stakeholders met late in 2015 to review data and rank priorities, which determined the following as high-priority needs to be met: Access to Care, including primary care, maternal and child health care, behavioral health care, and oral health care; Chronic Disease Prevention; and Substance Use and Tobacco Use. For additional information on the assessment, visit www.nwhealth.org/healthinfo.



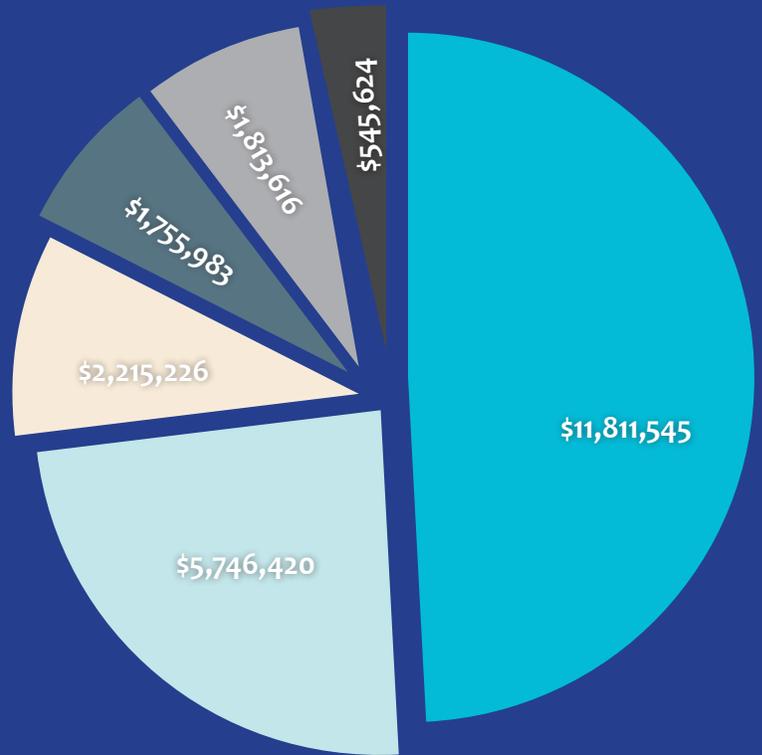
2015 REVENUES & EXPENSES

- DENTAL CLINICS NORTH
- FAMILY HEALTH
- COMMUNITY HEALTH
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- HOME CARE & AGING SERVICES
- OTHER



REVENUES BY DIVISION

TOTAL:
\$25,121,339



EXPENSES BY DIVISION

TOTAL:
\$23,888,414

FUNDING SOURCE:

TOTAL:
\$25,121,339

FEES & COLLECTIONS	\$14,671,484
STATE AND LOCAL FUNDS	\$9,148,109
LOCAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$962,328
COMMUNITY GRANTS	\$339,418



The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality health care, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties.



The Health Department invests carefully in services that benefit every part of your community.

GRANTS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVED
FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND
OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS DURING 2015.

Amazon Smile Foundation
Antrim County High Tea for Breast Cancer Prevention
Bay Harbor Foundation
Bellaire Lions Club
Boyne Valley Lions Club
Bryan Roloff Memorial Fund
Char-Em United Way
Charlevoix County Community Foundation
Charlevoix Elks Lodge #2856
Charlevoix Knights of Columbus
Charlevoix Lions Club
Charlevoix Street Legends
Charlevoix Women's Circle
The Clorox Foundation

Delta Dental of Michigan
Elk Rapids Lions Club
Emmet County Senior Millage
Frey Foundation
Heart of West Michigan United Way
Ken & Shirley Polakowski Family Fund
The Malpass Family Fund
McLaren Northern Michigan
Michigan Department of Health
& Human Services
Michigan Fitness Foundation
Michigan Public Health Institute
Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital
Munson Medical Center

Northern Health Plan
Otsego County Community Foundation
Otsego County United Way
Otsego Memorial Hospital
Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area
Community Foundation
Rally for the Cure-Gaylord
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Tobacco Free Michigan
Traverse Regional Community Foundation
U.P. and Northern Michigan Area
Combined Federal Campaign
Ward & Eis
William E. & Mary S. Malpass Fund

DENTAL CLINICS NORTH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Benzie County COA
Char-Em United Way
Charlevoix County Community Foundation
Emmet County Senior Grant
Father Fred Foundation

Leelanau County Senior Services
Northern Health Plan
Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area
Community Foundation
Rotary Charities of Traverse City
Salvation Army, Cheboygan



FAMILY HEALTH

FOR THE LOVE OF A CHILD



The Christ Child Society believes, in the words of its founder, that nothing is ever too much to do for a child.

That's why members of the Christ Child Society provide layettes—brightly-colored diaper bags, fully stocked with essential care items—as special gifts to Health Department clients who desperately need assistance with a newborn or infant.

This gift is given out of Love, in the name of the Christ Child and through the generosity of the:

Christ Child Society
OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Post Office Box 132 - Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740
231-526-7271
www.christchildsoctyofnorthernmichigan.com

"Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."
Mary Virginia Merrick, National Christ Child Society Founder, 1887

"It's our signature project," says Kim Jones, First Vice President of the Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan, in Harbor Springs. "Last year alone, we did 455 layettes that were distributed to five different agencies," including the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

Kim has chaired the layette project for the past two years. "There are a huge amount of supplies that come in for us," she explains, thanking the Birchwood Country Club for its generosity in storing the supplies and making its facility available for the layettes to be assembled. "We take two days, spread everything out and form an assembly line."



MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM AND NEWBORN HOME VISITS

7,253 HOME AND OFFICE VISITS

The Health Department's Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) assists families with pregnant women or infants by providing information on pregnancy, preparing for the baby, infant care, infant feeding and parenting through a team that includes nurses, social workers and registered dietitians. During Newborn Home Visits, Health Department nurses check the baby's weight, provide breastfeeding support, answer questions and provide important information on caring for a new baby.

- MIHP participation means lower chances of pre-term births.
- MIHP participants are at a lower risk of having low birth-weight infants.
- Through MIHP, infants are more likely to receive well-child visits.
- For every \$1 spent on MIHP, Medicaid saves \$1.38 in the infant's first month of life.

The result? Hundreds of layettes stuffed with a special children's book, a blanket, a SleepSack, a couple of outfits, onesies, booties, bibs—all ready for parents needing help with a new baby.

"We always try to include something hand-knitted or crocheted," Kim adds. "But we're running out of people who can knit or crochet anymore!"

Cindy Kloss, a public health nurse who retired this year from the Health Department's Emmet County office, worked

closely with the clients who receive the layettes as a gift. She feels it is a "nurturing" gesture that means a lot to new parents.

"They are so happy to have new baby items to bring the baby home in," Cindy says, adding that they especially appreciate the SleepSack that is included in each layette. She says it helps new parents maintain a safe sleeping position for their infants. "We can't thank Christ Child Society enough for their generosity."

Local mom Rebecca McRae received one of the layettes at the birth of her infant daughter, Neviah. Although not a first-time mom, Rebecca says she was deeply grateful for the gift when Neviah arrived. Plus, she adds, "It really was a blessing to have something in pink after having three boys!"

To learn more about the mission and activities of the Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan, visit www.christchildsocietynorthernmichigan.com or call (231) 526-7271.



A new supply of layettes delivered to the Health Department by Randy and Kathy Hagerman of Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan.



WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) NUTRITION PROGRAM

3,160 WIC PARTICIPANTS

MORE THAN \$1.7 MILLION IN FOOD DOLLARS REDEEMED IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The WIC Program promotes the health of low-income pregnant women, as well as their infants and children up to age 5, who would otherwise be at nutritional risk. The program provides nutritious foods, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health services within the community. WIC food packages are valued at more than \$60 per month, and include infant formula, cereal, milk, eggs, cheese, juice, fresh fruits and vegetables, and peanut butter. Breastfeeding peer support is also available.

- Every dollar spent on WIC saves more than \$3.50 in subsequent health care costs.
- Pregnant women served by WIC enter prenatal care earlier.
- Women enrolled in WIC deliver fewer low birth-weight infants.
- Children served by WIC are less likely to be anemic, and are more likely to receive proper health care and immunizations.

FAMILY HEALTH

EARLY CHILDHOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

932 DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENERS

30 FAMILIES SERVED

280 PARTICIPANTS IN PARENT NETWORKING NIGHTS

The Early Childhood Behavioral Health Initiative seeks to establish and sustain a supportive family network to promote social and emotional development, and to enhance behavioral health services for young children age 0-5 in Charlevoix, Emmet and northern Antrim Counties. Parent Networking Nights provide parents of young children with a free evening of dinner and child care, while meeting other parents and learning about parenting and child development resources. Ages & Stages developmental screening was added to the Health Department's web site at www.nwhealth.org/agesandstages. The initiative offers support to all parents, regardless of income or insurance status.

FLUORIDE VARNISH APPLICATIONS

2,215 APPLICATIONS 1,248 CARIAS ASSESSMENTS

Fluoride varnish is a protective coating that fights tooth decay, one of the most common and preventable diseases in children. The coating is painted on teeth to help prevent new cavities, and to stop cavities that have already begun to form. The coating attaches easily to the teeth, and makes tooth enamel harder. Fluoride varnish applications are available to children participating in WIC, which included 2,215 children in 2015.



BLOOD LEAD SCREENING

985 CHILDREN SCREENED

The Health Department screens children for exposure to lead, which can damage the nervous system, kidneys and blood, and is particularly harmful to the developing nervous systems in children under six years of age. Common sources of lead exposure in children are house dust contaminated by lead-based paint, and soil contaminated by leaded paint or decades of industrial and motor vehicle emissions.

HEARING AND VISION SCREENING

10,529 SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN SCREENED

1,852 PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN SCREENED

758 CHILD REFERRALS FOR TREATMENT

The Health Department provides childhood hearing and vision screening to help prevent delays in the development of speech, language and social skills, which can impact academic performance. Hearing and vision screening identifies problems that would otherwise go undetected, and connects children with essential health care resources before further hearing or vision loss can occur.

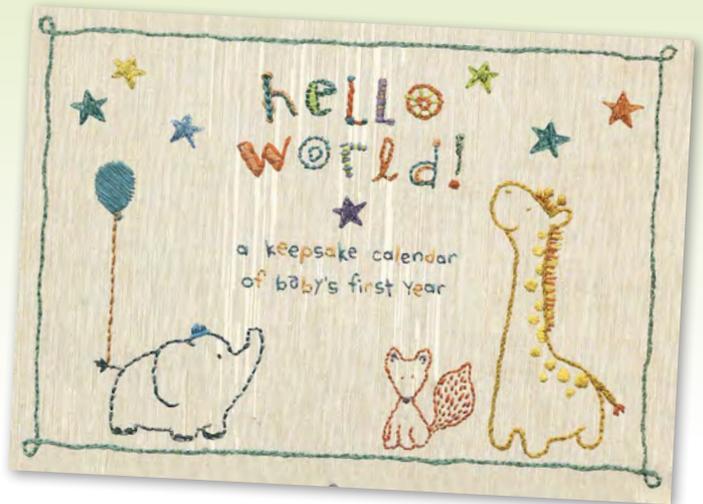


HEALTHY FAMILIES NORTHERN MICHIGAN

49 FAMILIES SERVED

464 HOME VISITS

Healthy Families Northern Michigan (HFNM) is a voluntary, non-income based, free home visiting program that offers personalized, family-focused guidance, information, and support to help parents prepare for their baby's birth and raise a healthy family. HFNM home visitors provide support to families on their parenting journey; help families learn about brain development; focus on the importance of bonding and attachment; provide activities to promote growth and development; work with families on identifying values and setting goals; and connect families with community resources. Families can receive HFNM support from pregnancy up until the child's fourth birthday.



CENTRAL INTAKE & SCHEDULING

29,539 CIAS CALLS TAKEN

6,241 NEWSLETTERS SENT TO FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

As the first point of contact for community members seeking services from the Health Department or Dental Clinics North, the Central Intake staff is vital to the operations of the Health Department. The staff's call volume and outreach initiatives are impressive. Not only do they answer client phone calls in a professional and caring manner, but their extensive knowledge of all Health Department programs allows them to assist callers efficiently and effectively. This customer service sets the tone for the client's entire Health Department or Dental Clinic experience, so the role these employees play is essential to the agency's success. "Our Central Intake staff goes above and beyond to provide outstanding customer service, ensuring that callers receive a 'no wrong door' experience by providing information for Health Department and Dental Clinic services and other community resources that may be helpful." said Pat Fralick, Director of Family Health Services.

Krystal Weber
CIAS Operator



Meghann Vincent
CIAS Lead



Anne Behling
CIAS Operator



Bri Stokes
CIAS Operator

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2015 | REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

FAMILY HEALTH

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES (CSHCS)

481 PARTICIPANTS

The Children's Special Health Care Services program covers specialty medical care and equipment costs for families with a child who has a chronic health condition. Nurses and program representatives also connect families with community services, medical equipment, a parent hotline, and travel and lodging assistance for medical appointments.

GENEVIEVE'S JOURNEY

A LETTER FROM A GRATEFUL FAMILY

To the Health Department,

I'm not usually one to write letters, but this one is important—I would like to recognize Amy Parish, RN, BSN, for her excellence in nursing and for the outstanding care she has provided to my family.

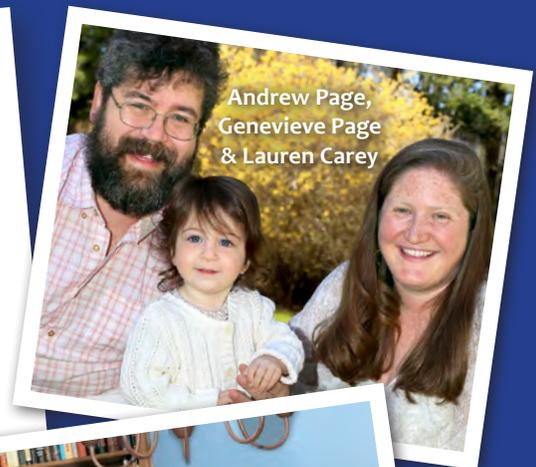
Two years ago, my daughter was born 11 weeks early, and spent months in intensive care before finally coming home. Since then, we have made countless trips to see medical specialists all over Michigan. We have had home visits from nursing, physical therapy, speech therapy, and educational specialists. My daughter has been cared for in several hospitals and numerous outpatient settings, by some of the most highly qualified and talented healthcare professionals in the state.

Today, my precious girl is healthy and thriving. This is due in no small part to the excellent care she has received at nearly every stop along her journey. Our family is so thankful for every individual who has helped us to reach this point. One provider who stands out among the rest is Amy Parish.

From the time Amy first visited our home, her professionalism and care were obvious. Every day we have an appointment scheduled with her, I can count on receiving a reminder text that morning. This may seem a small detail, but to a busy and overwhelmed mom it's an invaluable one. Amy never misses an appointment, and is so thorough in her assessments. I'm sure that she has a busy schedule with other families to see, but I have never once felt rushed through a visit. She is so respectful of our home and concerns—even small details like taking her shoes off at the door or washing her hands before holding the baby are tremendously appreciated. When issues have come up with CSHCS that I was not sure how to handle, a quick call to Amy was all that I usually needed to resolve the situation. Above all, Amy has provided reassurance and guidance at a time when our family needed it the most. I am so grateful for her ongoing efforts and dedication. Amy is an honor to her profession and we are lucky to have a nurse of her caliber here in Northern Michigan.

Thanks,

Lauren Carey



Andrew Page,
Genevieve Page
& Lauren Carey



HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN, MICHILD, AND HEALTHY KIDS & MARKETPLACE

497 CLIENTS ASSISTED

The **Healthy Michigan Plan** was launched on April 1, 2014 to provide essential health benefits for adults ages 19 through 64 who are not currently enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare, and who are within certain income criteria.

MiChild and **Healthy Kids** provide State of Michigan health insurance coverage to pregnant women and to children and adolescents under age 19. MiChild provides a health insurance policy for just \$10 per family per month, while Healthy Kids provides free health insurance for those who qualify. Enrolling in these highly beneficial resources can sometimes be complex and challenging, which is why the Health Department guides clients through each step of the process and ensures they receive the greatest possible benefit.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATION

188 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

209 SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

29 CASES OF VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES INVESTIGATED

The Health Department investigates all reportable communicable diseases in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties. These include such diseases as hepatitis, giardiasis, meningitis, salmonellosis, pertussis, measles, and sexually-transmitted diseases. Interviews are conducted with infected individuals, and also with family, friends, co-workers and others who may have been in contact and are at risk. Health education and treatment is provided, if needed, to prevent the disease from spreading. The Health Department also works with federal, state and local officials to monitor inbound travelers who have been identified as being at risk of possible Ebola exposure.

IMMUNIZATIONS

10,981 DOSES ADMINISTERED

13,501 DOSES DISTRIBUTED

Immunizations prevent diseases that can be dangerous—even deadly—by helping the body safely develop immunity to disease. The Health Department administers and distributes vaccines to prevent the spread of polio, measles, mumps, rubella, influenza, tetanus, diphtheria, chicken pox, meningitis, whooping cough and other

communicable diseases. Immunizations are provided in the WIC Program and at the Hornet Health Center, Ironmen Health Center, Health Department office clinics, or in other community locations, such as schools.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

HEALTHIER STUDENTS, BETTER LEARNERS

GAYLORD BLUE DEVIL WELLNESS CENTER



In August, the Health Department introduced its newest Child and Adolescent Health Center—the Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center.

“We received a very warm welcome and positive response from our community partners and Gaylord families,” said Erika Van Dam, Director of Community Health Services. “The community truly came together for a successful launch of the Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center.”

The clinic, which is based out of Gaylord High School, is a collaboration between the Health Department and Gaylord Community Schools. A full renovation of school space was required to accommodate the new health center. Gaylord Community Schools put forth half of the funding for the renovation, with the other half covered by three grants from: Northern Health Plan, Otsego County United Way, and the Youth Fund at the Otsego County Community Foundation.

The Health Department’s Child and Adolescent Health Program has a motto:

“Healthier kids learn better, better learners graduate, and students that graduate go on to lead healthier lives.”

We bring health care services directly to our clients—at school. The Ironmen Health Center in Mancelona and the Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center provide primary care services from a Nurse Practitioner and behavioral health services from licensed, masters-prepared mental health professionals. The Hornet Health Center in Pellston and Rambler Wellness in Boyne City provide school nursing services and behavioral health services. In addition to providing high quality health care services to youth, all four programs provide health education in the clinic and in the classroom, partner with their schools to provide trainings for school staff, and make a concerted effort to work in their communities to improve the culture of wellness for their clients and their families. Each center has a unique work plan; here are a couple of highlights from their work in 2015.

IRONMEN HEALTH CENTER: SCHOOL-LINKED CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH CENTER IN MANCELONA

1206 VISITS SERVING 462 YOUTH AGE 5 THROUGH 21

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Through another grant opportunity, Transformational Adolescent Health Care, the Ironmen Health Center partnered with Communities in Schools of Mancelona to link clients with THE HUB: Community Connections. A Community Health Worker is available to receive referrals directly from the Ironmen Health Center to provide assistance to youth in navigating the circumstances that influence their long term health and wellness.
- The Ironmen Health Center received a grant to train a group of eleven Mancelona High School students as “Peer Leaders.” This was a collaborative effort between THE HUB Community Health Worker, the Ironmen Health Center, Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan, and Mancelona High School. Following an intense training, these Peer Leaders have accomplished great projects to promote health and wellness among their peers, and they are recognized leaders that their fellow students can approach with questions and concerns about their health.





A Community Advisory Committee met several times to plan, organize, carry out the logistics of opening the clinic. This committee consisted of parents, community partners, stakeholders, local residents, hospital representatives, Gaylord Community Schools faculty and Health Department staff.

One of those community partners and strong advocates is Otsego County United Way. “The Health Department and Gaylord Community Schools are doing something really special—they’re making physical health and behavioral health services available and accessible to all youth... and they have recognized that youth

who are healthier physically and emotionally learn better in school,” said Keith Moore, Executive Director at Otsego County United Way. “We wanted to be a part of their vision.”

The Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center provides primary health care and behavioral health services year-round for youth ages 10 through 21 from Otsego County and surrounding communities. In addition to these physical and mental health services, the center offers information for parents and guardians on nearly any topic related to adolescent health. The health center links youth and their families to primary care providers in the area and supplements their care while youth are in school.



HORNET HEALTH CENTER: SCHOOL WELLNESS PROGRAM IN PELLSTON

1483 VISITS SERVING 398 YOUTH AGE 5 THROUGH 21

HIGHLIGHTS:

- In 2015, the Hornet Health Center introduced telemedicine services to our clients. With telemedicine capability, the School Nurse is able to meet face-to-face with youth in Pellston and connect with video and audio technology to a Nurse Practitioner at one of our Child & Adolescent Health Centers in Gaylord or Mancelona. This has allowed the Hornet Health Center to offer additional services not otherwise available in a typical school nurse visit.
- Pellston Public Schools expanded their offering of Career and Technical Education (CTE) to begin a Health Occupations course in partnership with the Hornet Health Center. The Hornet Health Center School Nurse is teaching the Health Occupations course to high school students and leading the effort for Pellston Public Schools to achieve state certification. This has been a valuable collaboration to support the workforce needs of our region!

RAMBLER WELLNESS: SCHOOL WELLNESS PROGRAM IN BOYNE CITY

1816 VISITS SERVING 536 YOUTH IN THE ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

HIGHLIGHTS:

- In the spring, Rambler Wellness organized a Bike to School Day for the Elementary and Middle School students. Students were encouraged to learn the benefits of activity by biking to school. The Boyne City Police Department led over a hundred students and many more parents, teachers and community members from Avalanche Preserve Recreation Area to the schools. The kids had a great time and learned how easy it is to increase your activity level by riding to school!
- Rambler Wellness worked in partnership with MSU Extension to offer the Show Me Nutrition Program to all students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Participants engaged in age appropriate, interactive, hands-on activities that promote good eating habits, positive body image, physical activity and food safety. Through each interesting and fun nutrition class, students gain the skills necessary to make healthy lifestyle choices.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

CHRONIC DISEASE COORDINATING NETWORK

In 2015, the Health Department brought together stakeholders from the eight counties across the tip of the mitt, including four hospitals, three federally qualified health centers, the two health departments, and Michigan State University, to form a partnership called the Chronic Disease Coordinating Network. The Chronic Disease Coordinating Network established a work plan that addresses many levels of the Social Ecological Model to improve the quality of healthcare delivered to populations with chronic disease and to ultimately prevent chronic disease through policy, systems and environmental change strategies and health system change strategies. The Network's work plan aligns with the State Innovation Model (SIM) Blueprint, including the functions of the Community Health Innovation Region (CHIR) and Accountable System of Care (ASC).



Photo courtesy of Sue McCloskey

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Walking and bicycling to school—rather than riding in a bus or car—can offer significant health benefits to children and adolescents. Through the Safe Routes to School program, the Health Department partners with area school districts, citizens and community leaders to ensure there are safe, barrier-free routes for pedestrians and bikes to reach school buildings. During 2015, participating municipalities include Boyne City, East Jordan, Mancelona, Pellston, and Petoskey.

City leaders, school administrators, parents and students participate in planning meetings to review existing infrastructure and create action plans for improvement. The action plans are used by city officials, schools and the Health Department to work toward writing federal grant applications supporting safe, walkable and bikable communities for students.

SNAP-ED

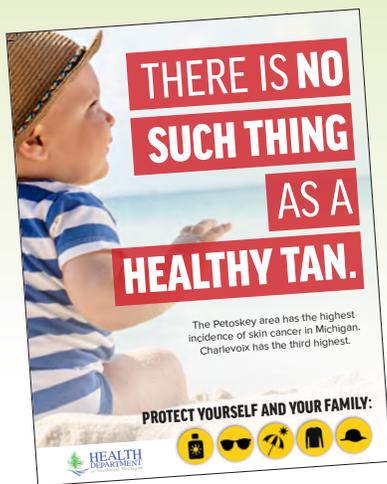
662 PEOPLE RECEIVED EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION EDUCATION
2 SCHOOL DISTRICTS MADE COMPREHENSIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED
CHANGES IN THEIR POLICIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Nutrition education was delivered to kids with the Kids in the Kitchen program, to older adults with the Eat Smart Live Strong program, and to hundreds of community members with the Health Department's cooking demonstrations and test-testing program. The Health Department works with a multitude of partners throughout the four-county district, including schools, emergency food distributors, farmers' markets, and commissions on aging, to schedule classes that teach cooking skills and introduce ways to eat healthy on a budget. Through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), people of all ages are learning new recipes, trying new foods, and practicing cooking skills to help them eat more fruits and vegetables and improve their nutrition.

School systems are strengthening their school wellness policies to support healthy food, physical activity and a culture of wellness throughout the schools. School wellness committees are forming to support school staff, PTO, parents and their communities to engage in school taste tests of local produce, healthy alternatives to fund-raising, and emphasizing lifetime physical activities.



Photo courtesy of Nichole Flickema



SKIN CANCER PREVENTION

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and it is on the rise. In Emmet County, annual melanoma incidence is 50.6 per 100,000, ranking it first in the State. Charlevoix County is close behind, ranking third, with annual melanoma incidence of 36.1 per 100,000. (For comparison, the State rate is 19.2 per 100,000). Our skin cancer prevention program is a partnership with McLaren Northern Michigan and Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital to engage and educate many different groups in the community, including children, parents, school professionals, outdoor workers, and daycare centers on evidence-based strategies to prevent skin cancer.

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

The Health Department's substance use prevention programs are research-based, and are considered best practices for preventing the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances. Preventing use among adolescents means preventing a lifetime of health and social problems. Substance use may lead to suicide, early and unsafe sexual activity, and motor vehicle accidents. The Health Department educates students within the classroom and adults throughout the community on the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs and other drugs.

Substance abuse prevention activities include:

- School-based prevention education
- Presentations to adults on prescription drug abuse
- Press releases to regional TV, radio and print media
- Participation in, and promotion of, safe disposal of prescription drugs
- Education of alcohol retailers to prevent intoxication, drunk driving and, especially, underage drinking
- Establishment of coalitions that support the prevention of youth substance use, through policy, system and environmental change



Drug-Free Communities: In 2015, the Health Department worked in collaboration with the SAFE in Northern Michigan coalition to secure a 5-year federal grant opportunity called Drug Free Communities. The coalition is made up of youth and adults from Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet counties and will use the funding to greatly increase the capacity of the coalition to increase community collaboration and prevent and reduce youth substance use. The coalition is focusing its efforts on evidence-based interventions to work across all levels of the Social-Ecological Model.

TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAM

In 2015, the Health Department focused its efforts on working with municipalities and public campuses around Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties to implement tobacco-free policies at recreational areas. Tremendous progress was made, increasing the number of parks and beaches from 10 in 2014 to 17 municipalities and recreation areas in 2015.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Health Department has made great strides in the field of behavioral health, securing funding to launch new programs to provide health education specific to behavioral health, to formalize community partnerships, and to increase access to behavioral health care, especially for children.

RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

The Rural Health Network Development grant is a partnership with the MI-Connect Network comprised locally of partnerships with North Country Community Mental Health, McLaren Northern Michigan, and Alcona Health Center. It is funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration and aims to improve the link between primary care and access to behavioral health services.

PROJECT AWARE

Through Project AWARE, the Health Department is training adults in Youth Mental Health First Aid. The trainings have reached teachers, parents, law enforcement, faith-based leaders, and other adults who interface with youth. Implementation of the trainings is expected to increase the mental health literacy among youth-serving adults, policy-makers, and administrators of programs serving youth. Project AWARE also provides staff and support to the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Collaborative, a multi-sector coalition aimed at increasing access to behavioral health resources for youth and their families.

The Collaborative, pictured below, is an invaluable resource for our communities, says Diane Heinzelman, Collaborative member and Director of Special Education for Char-Em Intermediate School District. “While the Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings are increasing the ability of adults to respond directly to youth in need, at the Collaborative level we’re also working to identify and eliminate system and policy issues that may be barriers to connecting youth with appropriate resources.”



BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER CONTROL NAVIGATION PROGRAM

577 WOMEN SCREENED, INCLUDING 386 FROM FOUR-COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

The Health Department provides low-income women with free breast and cervical cancer screening, including mammograms and pap tests. This provides an opportunity to identify cancer at the earliest possible stage, when it is most treatable. Community partnerships are enlisted for follow-up services. If a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, enrollment in the Medicaid Treatment Act covers costs related to treatment.

WISEWOMAN

234 PARTICIPANTS

Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation, or WISEWOMAN, screens low-income women age 40-64 for heart disease and stroke risk factors, such as nutrition, physical activity, stress and tobacco use. The Health Department's Public Health Nurses provide counseling and referrals to help clients meet health improvement goals.



COLORECTAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM

41 CLIENTS SCREENED

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. It is also a cancer that is fully preventable with screening. That's why the Health Department provides uninsured or under-insured women and men, age 50-64, with an at-home screening test that is analyzed at the Health Department's Northern Michigan Regional Laboratory or a free colonoscopy at area facilities if program criteria are met.

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

763 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

The Health Department's Family Planning Program assists men and women make to well-informed reproductive health choices, so they can plan for a healthy pregnancy or prevent an unplanned pregnancy. Services incorporate all of the "Quality Family Planning Guidelines" recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These services include: Contraception (counseling and provision of birth control methods including pills, Depo, Nexplanon, Nuva-Ring, and IUD's), Achieving a Healthy Pregnancy, Basic Infertility Services, Pregnancy Counseling and Testing, STD/HIV Counseling and Testing, Pre-Conception Health Care, and Related Screening Services such as Pap and Breast screening. Since the Family Planning clinic is a major source of health care for adults of reproductive age, we are incorporating other health services to assist clients to achieve good health prior to becoming pregnant. Some of these initiatives include a regional Health Systems Change for Tobacco Cessation project as well as offering the "Wisechoices" program, which screens for cardiovascular disease risk and offers connection to health coaching and ongoing health care. Our hope is that through this focus on pre-conception health we will ultimately see an impact across the region in improved maternal-child health outcomes!

HOME CARE & HOSPICE

HER OWN PERSONAL PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM

Petoskey resident Eileen Adams had supported her husband, Elmer, through his difficult battle with Alzheimer’s Disease. When he passed in 2014, Eileen didn’t realize she’d be facing another battle—this time, to gain the benefits to which she was entitled as Elmer’s widow.

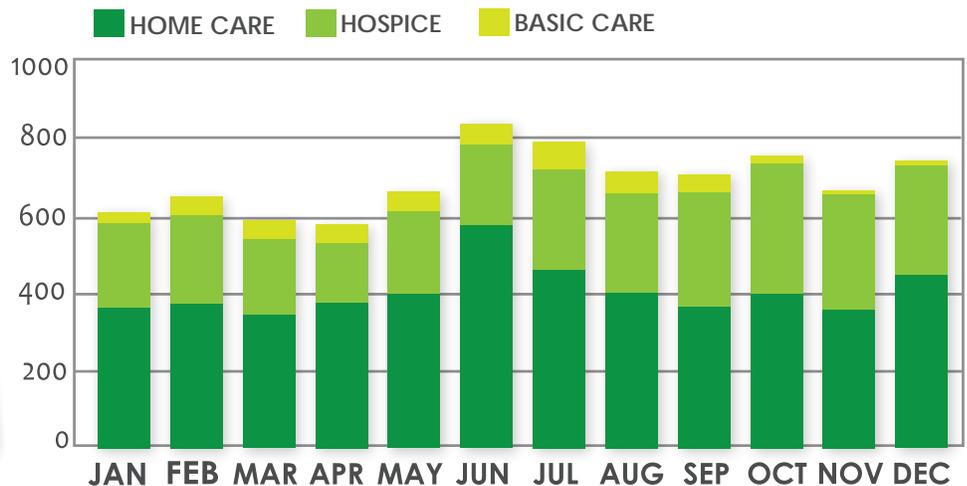
After Elmer’s death, Eileen was informed that her health insurance benefits were immediately terminated. The insurance company did not recognize her as a legitimate beneficiary. “I made 21 trips to the Social Security office” trying to get problems resolved, said Eileen. As hard as she tried, she was not able to find the answers she needed. Her situation seemed hopeless.

Now, more than ever, Eileen needed a support system of her own. She sought comfort in a local bereavement support group, which was facilitated by Rev. David Behling. David heard her story and immediately took a special interest. As a part-time spiritual advisor with the Health Department’s Home Care and Aging division, David knew she could depend on the resources—and compassion—of the Health Department staff.

David contacted the Home Care and Aging division on Eileen’s behalf, where he soon joined forces with Julie Spencer, MSW. Julie met with Eileen multiple times and became her devoted advocate—all free of charge.



8,029 TOTAL HOME CARE & HOSPICE VISITS IN 2015



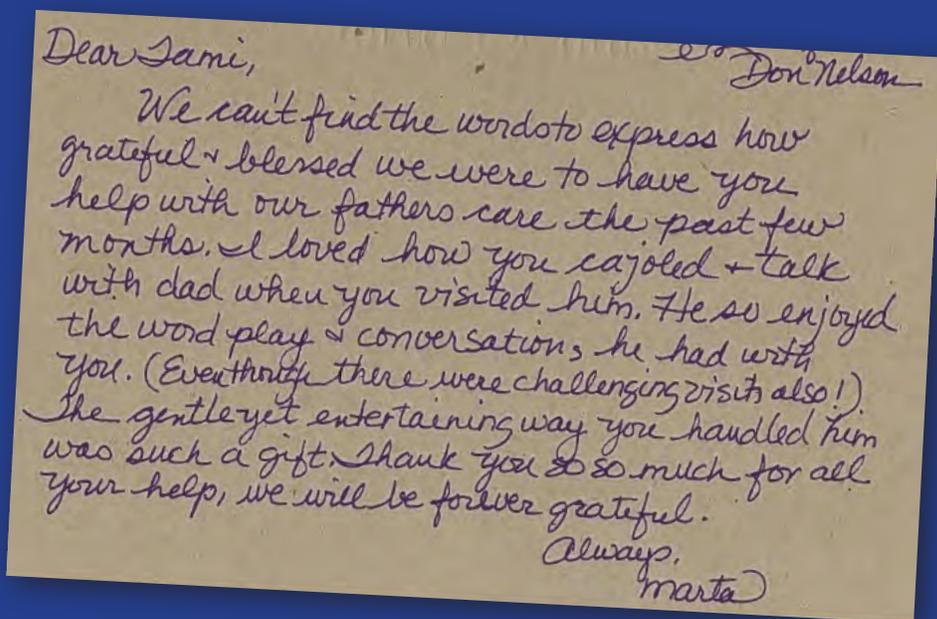
"Julie was tremendously helpful. She was a godsend," said Eileen. "Without her help, I don't even think I would have tried [to resolve the benefit problem]. I would have given up."

Julie spent the next eight months working tirelessly for Eileen's cause. "It was just the right thing to do," said Julie. "The Health Department has a unique position in the community, and it allows for a tremendous amount of resources at our disposal."

After dozens of phone calls to insurance companies, Medicare, Elmer's employers, and even congress members, Julie's persistence paid off. A solution was found, and Eileen's health coverage benefits were fully reinstated.

Eileen's story brought together different agencies, looking to achieve the same goal. "It turned into a collaboration of different officials and agencies, and it was great to see Eileen get a 'public health team' to support her in this journey," said Julie. "And it was all for the best outcome for Eileen."

"Really, this story—which seemed hopeless at the start—ended in the best way imaginable. It was a privilege to watch all the moving parts come together for the best-possible result: Eileen received her benefits, and our adult public health team is stronger because of it."



To learn more about Home Care & Hospice programs at the Health Department, call **800-551-4140**.

HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN



WE HONOR VETERANS

HONORS:

We Honor Veterans Partnership - Level 3

FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS:

Scovie's Dinner & a Movie
"Patch Adams" and Silent Auction
Mother's Day Non-Event
Art Van Charity Challenge
Charlevoix Marathon Water Station

Hops for Hospice Boat Cruise
MSU vs. UofM Ticket & Gift Card Raffle
Quintin Walker Golf Classic
Helen Open Golf Tournament

Annual Appeal
Veteran Appreciation Event
#GivingTuesday Social Media Event
Lights of Love - Boyne City
CharEm Alternative Gifts Event

BEREAVEMENT PROGRAM EVENTS:

The Longest Loss: Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia Teleconference

Annual Memorial Service & Butterfly Release

Handling the Holidays Workshop

Journey Through Grief Program

Monthly Adult Grief Support Group

Monthly Teen Grief Support Group

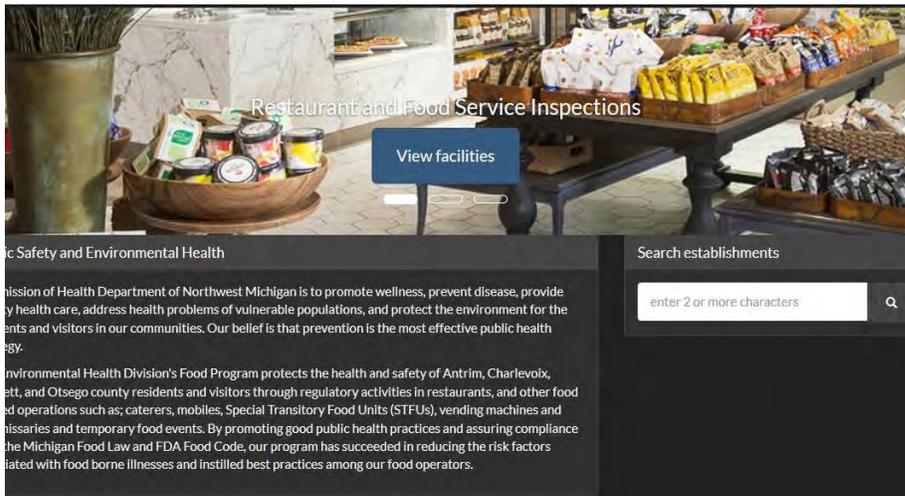
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2015 | REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH GOES DIGITAL



In 2015, the Environmental Health Division made several significant changes to its programs driven by the transition from an outdated software platform to an innovative web-based software program—Healthspace.

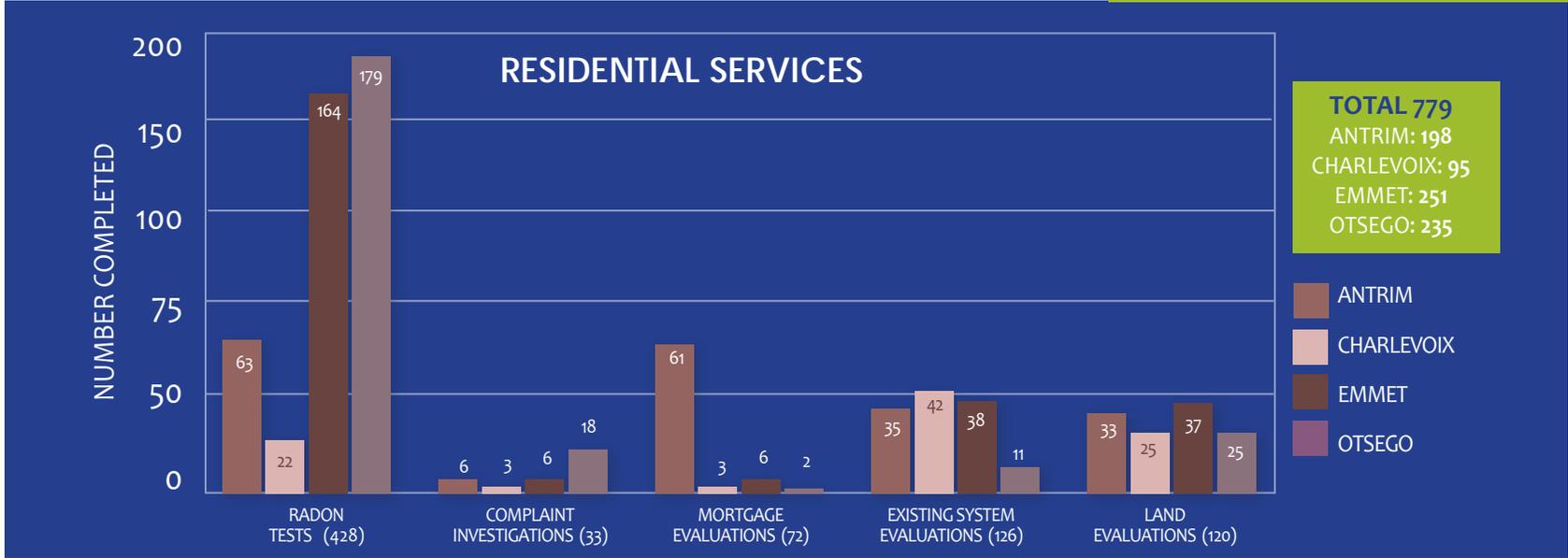
HealthSpace is a computer program built specifically for Environmental Health services, explains Scott Kendzierski, MS, REHS, Director of Environmental Health. “This program integrates all of our services to one platform, increasing the efficiency of our staff, creating professional looking reports and permits and making information easily accessible to the public.”

“The ability to share, analyze, and access the same data is a huge benefit for our sanitarians—especially since we cover... four separate counties.”

Scott Kendzierski, MS, REHS,
Director of Environmental Health

HealthSpace has made other significant changes for Environmental Health staff. Not only are all documents in one place, but they can be accessed by every sanitarian and front office staff member from a computer, laptop, or tablet.

Instead of carrying paperwork to and from the worksite, sanitarians can use laptops and tablets to gather and plug in real-time information in ways that were not possible before. Additionally, using HealthSpace allows for sanitarians to work across county boundaries more effectively than in the past. “The ability to share, analyze, and access the same data is a huge benefit for our sanitarians—especially since we cover a large geographic area, consisting of four separate counties,” Scott explains. “In the end, this means better service to the public.”



The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality health care, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties.

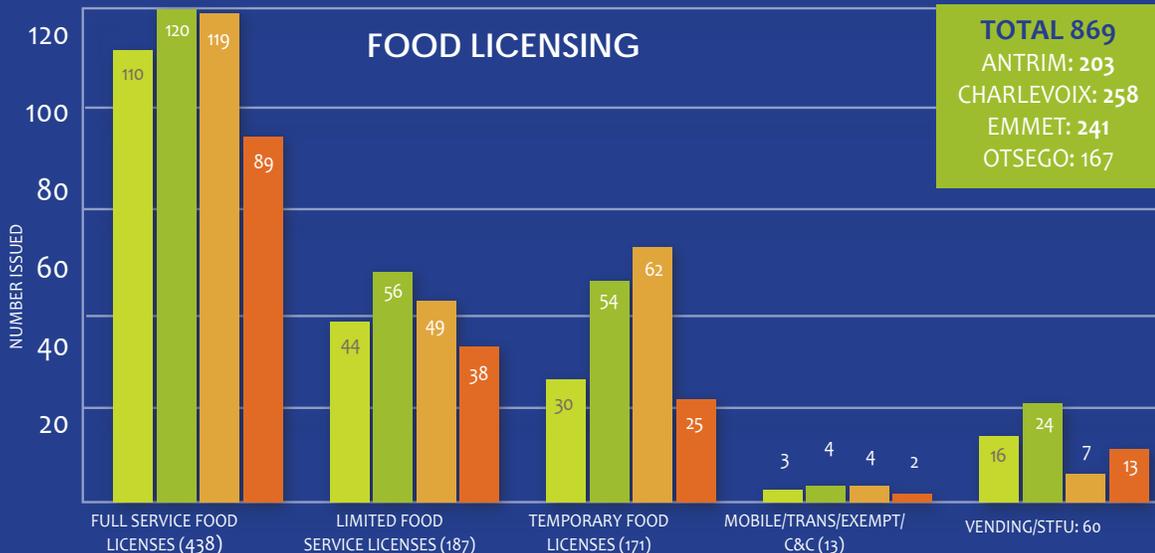
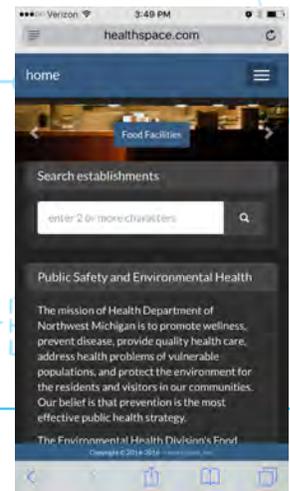
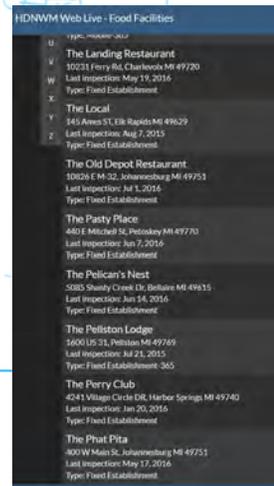


Food Sanitarians now record inspection findings while still in the field, using HealthSpace on their mobile tablets. The inspection reports can be emailed from the site or when connected to the office network. This information is uploaded to a website where the public can browse restaurants and inspections from a PC or mobile device. Now, patrons can visit www.nwhealth.org before choosing their restaurant destination to read up on the food establishment's inspection history.

Well and septic permits are saved digitally in HealthSpace, alongside scanned site drawings and relevant correspondence. "All documentation for a particular property is readily available," says Scott. "The goal is the longer we use HealthSpace, the more robust our digital archive grows. Eventually, we'd like to scan in all paper files and have our entire collection available digitally."

Countless hours by many people were involved in the implementation of HealthSpace: transferring data, customizing the software, troubleshooting problems, training staff on new processes, and solidifying financial procedures. It was a challenge to switch over to the new system, Scott notes, but the bottom line is a more efficient model for our staff and a better experience for Environmental Health customers. This success was made possible thanks to a concerted group effort. The HealthSpace platform will result in a division that can efficiently address clients' needs, questions, and concerns.

FINAL INSPECTION DRAWING - AS INSTALLED



- ANTRIM
- CHARLEVOIX
- EMMET
- OTSEGO

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

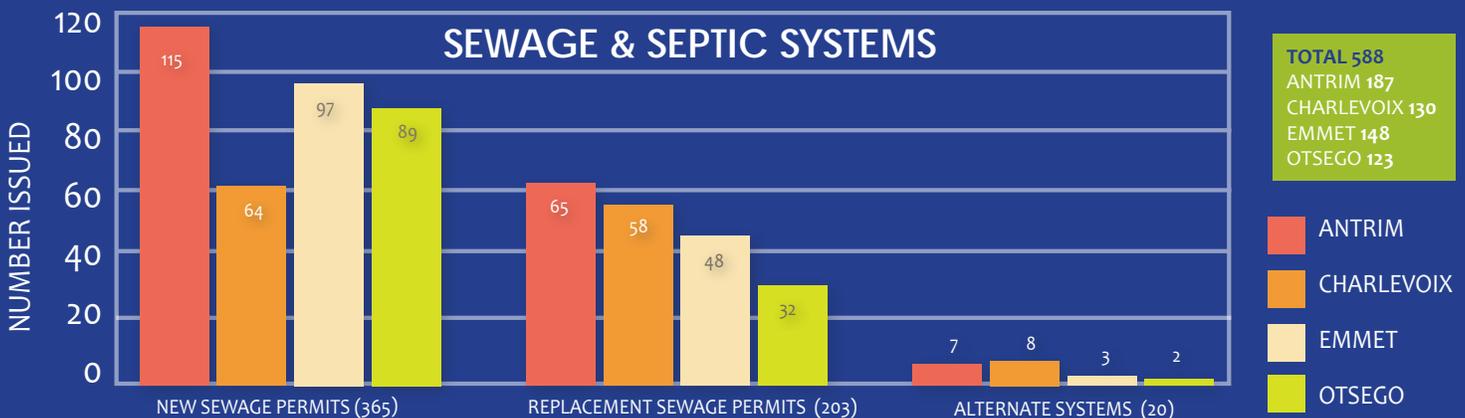
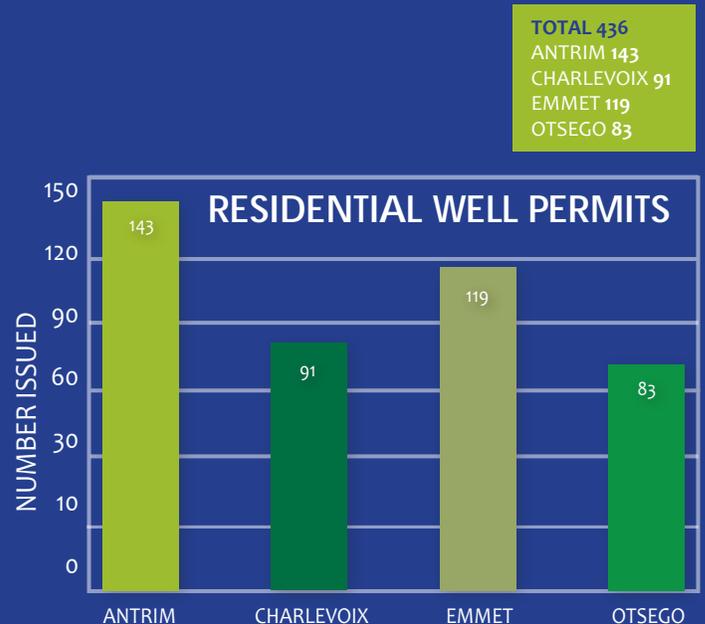
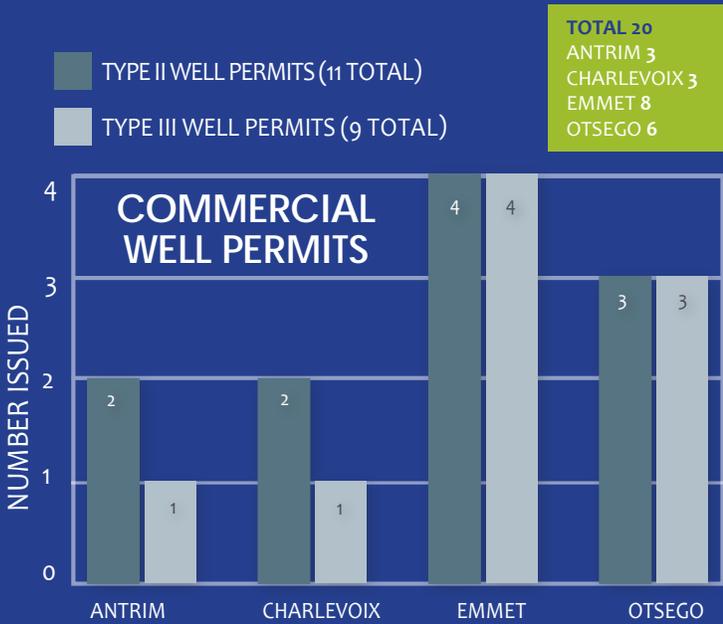
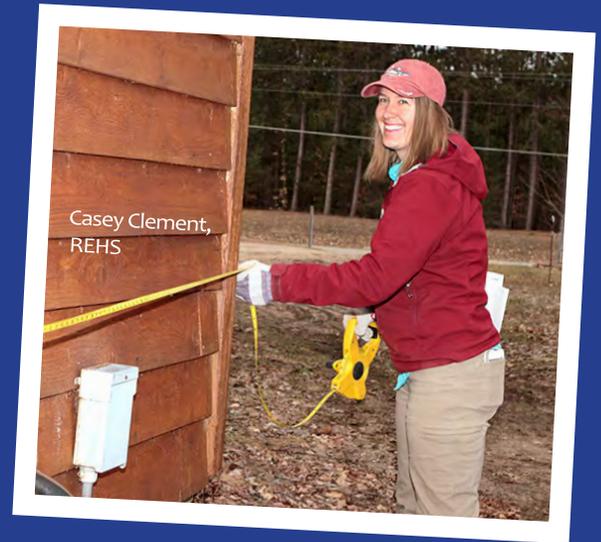
WELL AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

The Health Department holds primary responsibility for the surveillance, investigation and prevention of waterborne illness in Northwest Michigan, and is committed to the protection of ground and surface waters. It is also responsible for inspecting, permitting and conducting investigations of public and private wastewater systems.

A Noncommunity or "Type II" Water Supply is a water system that provides water for drinking or household purposes to 25 or more persons at least 60 days per year, or has 15 or more service connections. Examples of noncommunity systems include schools, restaurants, churches, campgrounds, industries and highway rest stops with their own water supply systems. The EH division regulates over 470 Type II supplies in our four-county district.

In 1974, out of concern for the quality of water we drink, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act, which gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responsibility for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards nationwide. The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (Act 399) was enacted in 1976, and requires all Type II facilities to collect water samples for specific parameters, and at regular intervals.

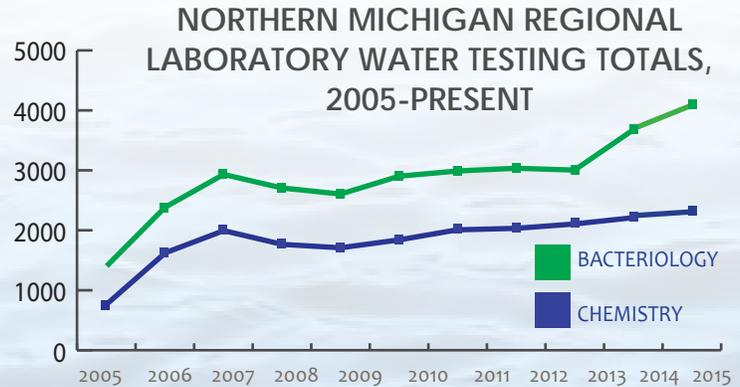
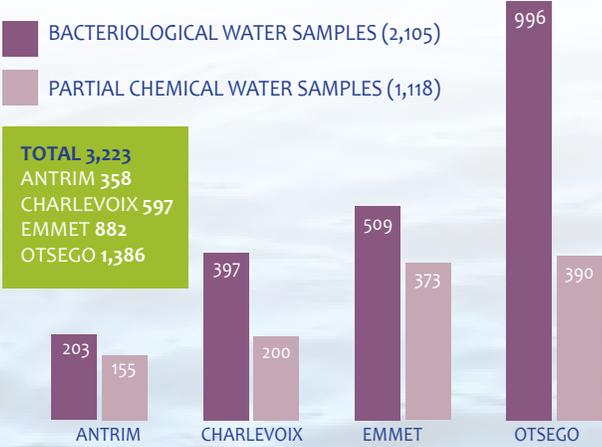
Type III water supplies are those not intended for use as drinking water. They are generally for test wells, irrigation and other industrial uses.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL LABORATORY

The Northern Michigan Regional Laboratory serves a 19-county region from its location at the Health Department facility in Gaylord. In partnership with the Michigan Departments of Community Health and Environmental Quality, the lab provides timely, accurate water analyses to serve public health needs.

Water samples for testing can be dropped off at the Health Department's facilities in Bellaire, Charlevoix, Gaylord and Harbor Springs.

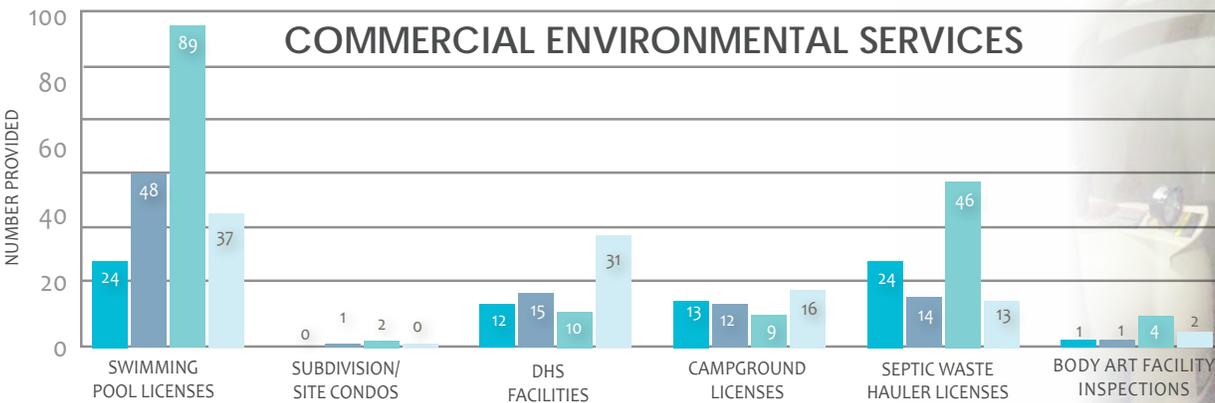


PUBLIC BATHING BEACH SAFETY MONITORING

The Health Department's Bathing Beach Safety Monitoring Program monitored the water quality at 49 beaches throughout Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties during 2015, and analyzed a total of 511 surface/bathing beach water samples.



TOTAL: 49 BEACHES, INCLUDING 31 GREAT LAKES & 18 INLAND LAKES BEACHES



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2015 | REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

DENTAL CLINICS NORTH

PARTNERSHIP

FOR ORAL HEALTH

Access to care is a unique challenge for those who live in Northern Michigan. Our region is many thousands of square miles, dotted with only a handful of cities and towns where essential services may or may not be available. Residents may be 30, 40, even 50 miles away from the nearest medical or dental care and, even if they can travel to town, those services may still be out of reach for financial reasons.



That's where the story of Dental Clinics North begins. In an effort to increase access to oral health care, especially for children and adults with Medicaid, several health departments opened dental clinics in the 1990s to meet this need in their communities—only to discover the complexities of managing dental clinics. That struggle prompted the six local health departments across Northern Michigan to join together in building a sustainable model for the provision of oral health care and expansion of dental services. The result of their collaboration was Dental Clinics North, formed in 1999 and administered by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan ever since. At that time, HDNW received a large grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health and several smaller community grants, totaling more than \$1 million, to operate five existing dental clinics and to start up five additional sites for a total of 10 clinics.

Linda Yaroch, Health Officer of the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, and Gerry Chase, its former Health Officer, were instrumental in forging this unprecedented partnership among local public health departments. The Dental Clinics North model proved successful and, in 2005, Thomas Veryser, DDS was recruited from the University of Michigan to join the team as its Dental Director. Together, they formed Michigan Community Dental Clinics, Inc. to operate Dental Clinics North and other dental clinics on behalf of local health departments statewide.

My Community Dental Clinics (MCDC), as it is known today, evolved from the team that was assembled by the Health Department to provide dental staffing to Dental Clinics North. It grew to become its own separate entity, and has since opened nearly 30 MCDC clinics serving more than 80,000 clients throughout Michigan and beyond, while continuing to provide the staffing and dental expertise for the eight Dental Clinics North locations across Northern Michigan. Dr. Veryser served as the CEO of MCDC through July 2015, and Dr. Gregory Heintschel, who had served as the organization's Chief Operating Officer since its inception, became CEO upon Dr. Veryser's retirement.

Through its partnership with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, **Dental Clinics North** served a total of **8,794** clients from Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties, including **367** who received funding through the Dental Assistance fund.

NORTHERN DENTAL PLAN

§ Provided dental services at a reduced fee to **3,391** uninsured people in Northern Michigan

§ Provided **\$171,899** in financial assistance to **643** patients

COUNTY	CLIENTS SEEN AT DENTAL CLINICS NORTH	CLIENTS WITH DENTAL ASSISTANCE FUND
ALPENA	2,074	73
CHARLEVOIX	1,844	108
EMMET	2,569	114
OTSEGO	2,307	72
TOTAL	8,794	367



Dental Clinics North

- A partnership of local Health Departments -

Today, Dental Clinics North remains a strong partnership of six local public health departments: District Health Department Nos. 2, 4 and 10, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, Grand Traverse County Health Department and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, the latter continuing to provide administrative leadership and support. Through its eight clinics across eight different counties, Dental Clinics North has a proud history of connecting those in need with oral health services they could not have received otherwise.

“Oral health is pivotal to the overall health of individuals and families,” notes Linda Yaroch. “Access to care is a major concern in our region, and oral health care is no exception. Dental Clinics North exists to provide access to dental services for the entire family, but especially for people who have Medicaid, uninsured or under-insured, or who need dental services that might not be covered.”

While the many names and agencies involved may be confusing, Yaroch reminds us that this multi-agency partnership is the real strength behind Dental Clinics North. “The regional partnership among local health departments means every health department client in the region has nearby access to oral health care,” she says. “And our partnership with MCDC ensures every Dental Clinics North client will receive the best quality care, no matter which clinic they visit.”

For more information, find Dental Clinics North on Facebook or visit www.dentalclinicsnorth.org.

**“Partnership
is the real
strength behind
Dental Clinics
North.”**

Linda Yaroch,
Health Officer

**SCHOOL-
BASED
SCREENINGS**
14 participating
schools in 2014;
3,992 children
screened.



CLIENTS SERVED | 25,199

ALPENA	1,980
CHEBOYGAN	2,112
EAST JORDAN	1,654
GAYLORD	3,310
MANCERLONA	2,568
PETOSKEY/HARBOR SPRINGS	2,531
TRAVERSE CITY	6,378
WEST BRANCH	3,353
HOSPITAL PROGRAM	125
WIC FLUORIDE VARNISH (HDNW)	1,188

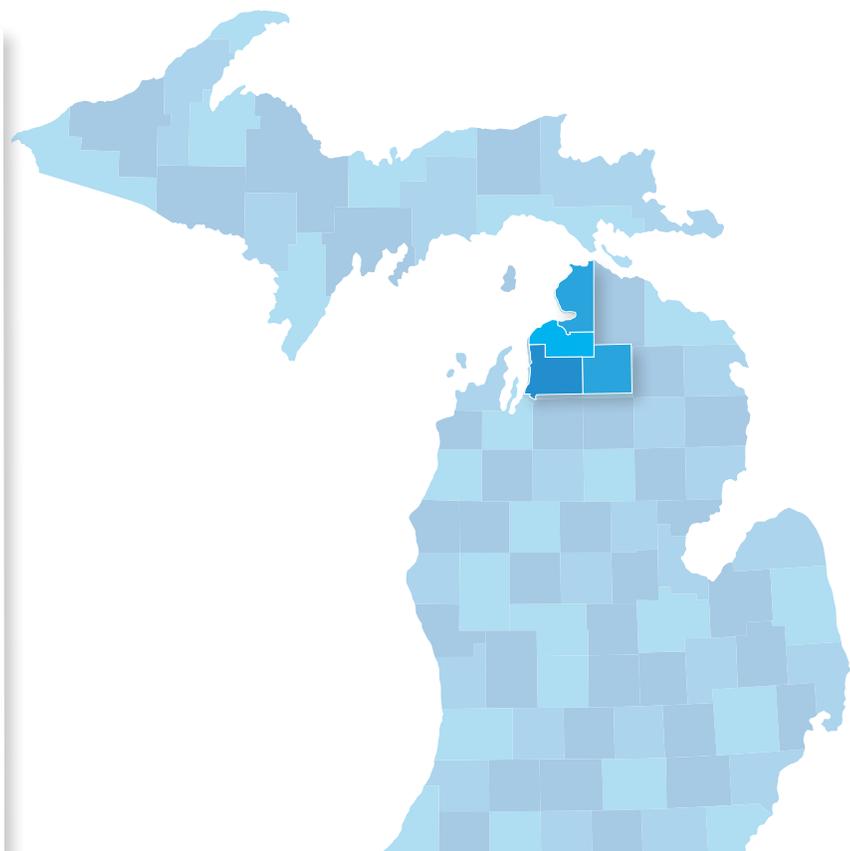
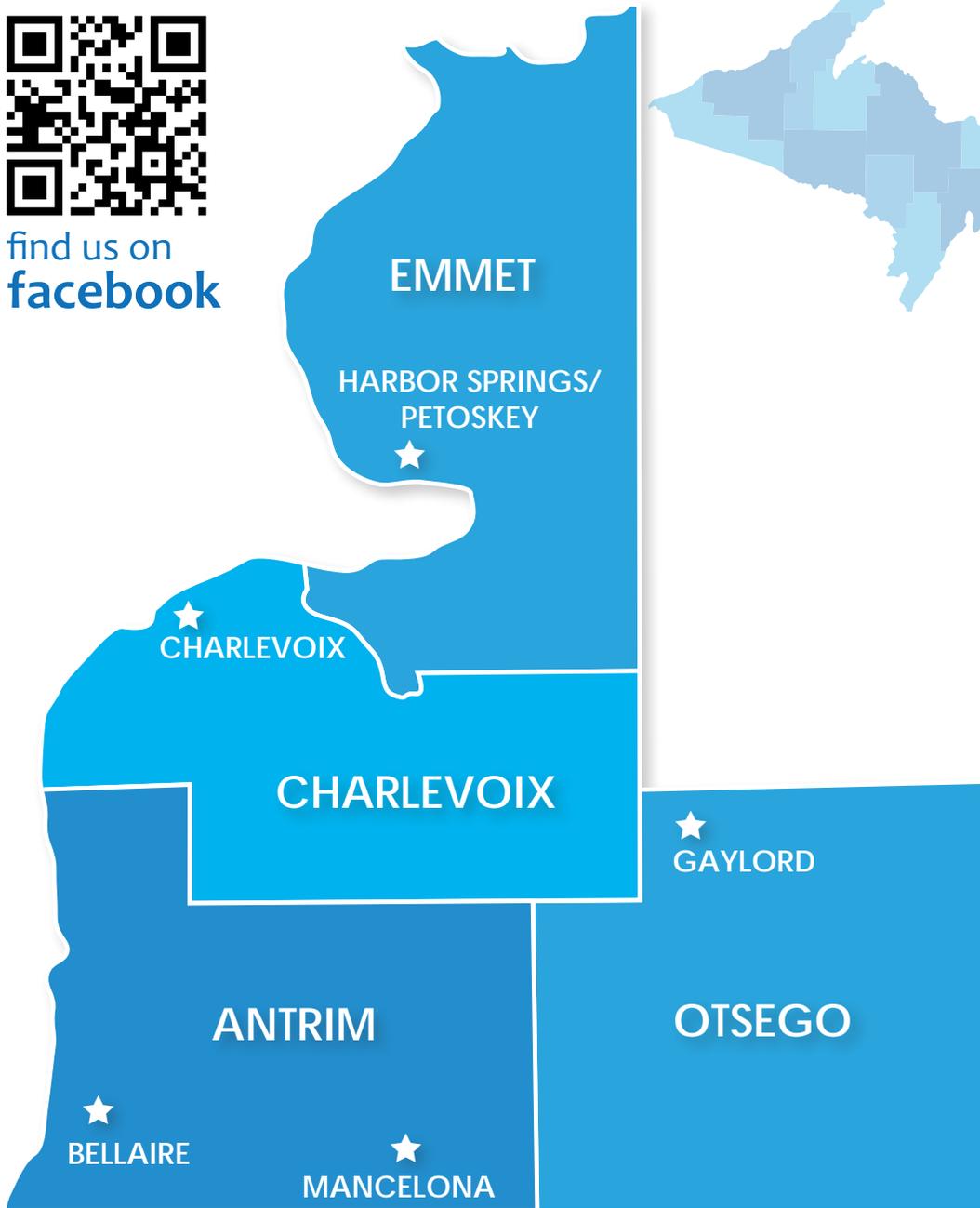
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EMMET COUNTY

3434 Harbor-Petoskey Rd., Suite A
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Hornet Health Center

Pellston High School
172 Park St. • Pellston, MI 49769

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

220 W. Garfield • Charlevoix, MI 49720

ANTRIM COUNTY

209 Portage Dr. • Bellaire, MI 49615

**Mancelona Family
Resource Center/Ironmen
Health Center**

205 Grove St. • Mancelona, MI 49659

OTSEGO COUNTY

95 Livingston Blvd. • Gaylord, MI 49735

Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center

Gaylord High School
90 Livingston Blvd. • Gaylord, MI 49735



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
of Northwest Michigan

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Cheboygan Mancelona
East Jordan Traverse City
Gaylord West Branch