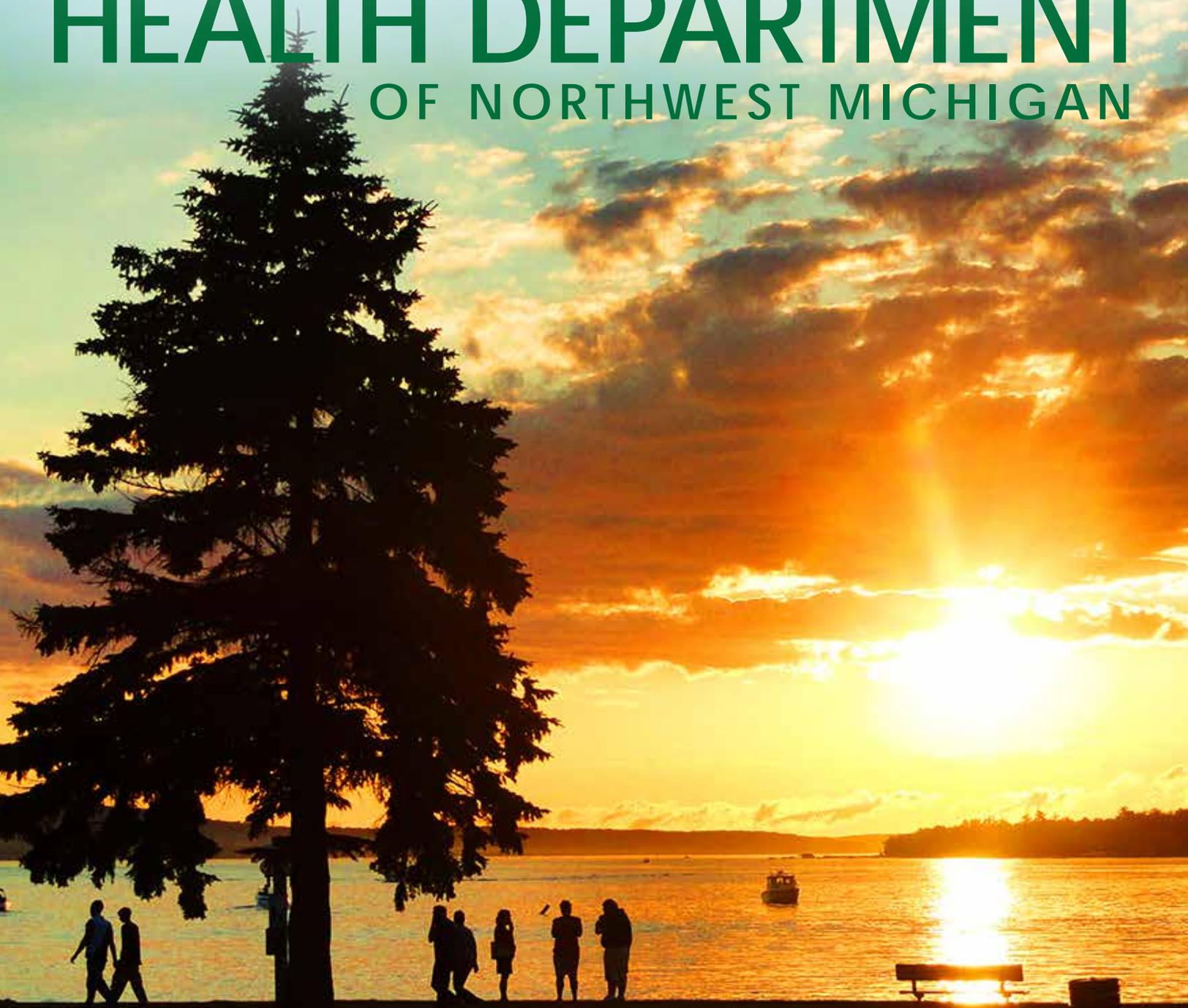


2014 | REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN



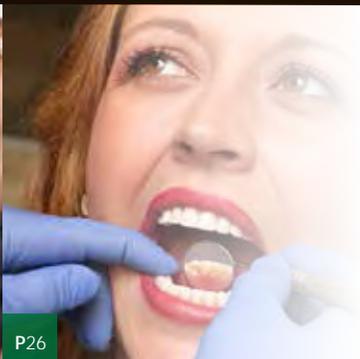
ANTRIM | CHARLEVOIX | EMMET | OTSEGO



P18



P6



P26



HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN 2014/15 BOARD OF HEALTH

ANTRIM COUNTY



KAREN BARGY
Kewadin, Michigan
Program & Evaluation Committee



DAVID HOWELMAN, VICE CHAIR
Bellaire, Michigan
Personnel & Finance Committee

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY



RONALD REINHARDT
Boyne City, Michigan
Program & Evaluation Committee



LARRY SULLIVAN
Charlevoix, Michigan
Personnel & Finance Committee

EMMET COUNTY



LARRY CASSIDY
Brutus, Michigan
Personnel & Finance Committee

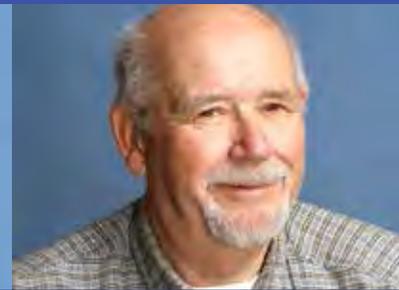


LES ATCHISON, CHAIR
Petoskey, Michigan
Program & Evaluation Committee

OTSEGO COUNTY



DOUG JOHNSON
Gaylord, Michigan
Personnel & Finance Committee



RICHARD SUMERIX
Gaylord, Michigan
Program & Evaluation Committee

WELCOME NEW 2015 BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS



ROBERT WILSON
Antrim County—Central Lake, MI
Personnel & Finance Committee



SHIRLEY ROLOFF
Charlevoix County—Charlevoix, MI
Personnel & Finance Committee



NANCY FERGUSON
Charlevoix County—Charlevoix, MI
Program & Evaluation Committee



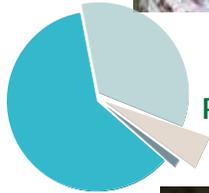
JULIE POWERS-GEHMAN
Otsego County—Gaylord, MI
Program & Evaluation Committee



TABLE OF CONTENTS



P6



P20



P22



P14



P26

4 2014 in Review

6 Family & Community Health

18 Home Care & Hospice

20 Expenses & Revenues

21 Grants & Community Support

22 Environmental Health

26 Dental Clinics North

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photography..... M. Chris Leese (except as noted)

Graphic Design Jennifer Halsey

<http://jenhalsey95.wix.com/graphicdesign>

On the cover: An evening along the shores of Veteran's Park in Boyne City.
Photo by Megan Robinson.

85



YEARS

1930 • 2015

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.



2014 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 provide, thanks to your support.

Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH
Medical Director

Linda Yaroch, RN, MPH
Health Officer

These are exciting and challenging times for local public health, in many ways—notably in the controversial realm of health insurance coverage. The April 2014 rollout of the Healthy Michigan Plan, which came on the heels of the Health Insurance Marketplace debut, has revolutionized the way we think about health insurance coverage in Northern Michigan.

Since its inception, the Healthy Michigan Plan has provided access to care for more than 600,000 Michigan residents statewide, between the ages of 19 and 64, who previously had no way of getting affordable coverage. Access to Care remains a top priority of all Community Health Assessments across Northern Michigan. In partnership with the Northern Health Plan, our Health Department enrollment counselors have assisted hundreds of individuals and their families with Healthy Michigan Plan enrollment. These counselors have seen firsthand the needs of clients who have been elated to finally have essential health insurance. They are benefitting from the medications they can now afford, the dental care that had been neglected previously due to cost, and the important substance abuse and mental health services that used to be beyond their reach. Where we once heard story after heartbreaking story of untreated health issues, lost employment and despair, we now see newfound hope and joy with every enrollment.

At the outset of our Enroll Northern Michigan initiative, we estimated that there were 20,000 uninsured individuals living in the eight Tip of the Mitt counties served by our Health Department and by District Health Department #4. Connecting that many people with the coverage they need is a tall order. But as 2014 drew to a close, we confirmed that more than 18,750 residents across Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties had been enrolled in the Health Insurance Marketplace and Healthy Michigan Plan. While much work remains to be done, we're pleased to report that the majority of our previously uninsured population now has access to affordable care.

This exceptional leap forward has also made favorable changes in our Dental Clinics North services and client funding needs. It has reduced the burden on our Dental Assistance Fund, providing much-needed coverage for thousands of DCN patients who may not have been able to get essential dental services otherwise.

Meanwhile, additional Health Department staff have become certified as Navigators and Application Counselors under the Affordable Care Act. This has streamlined year-round Healthy Michigan Plan client support and Health Insurance Marketplace enrollment assistance. Because of our strong working relationship with fellow public health departments, federally-qualified health centers, hospitals and other health partners, Northern Michigan residents can always find qualified assistance that is close to home.

As we join our clients in celebrating improved access to care, we remain vigilant against the ever-present threat of communicable illnesses. We continue to educate and inform the public about the efficacy of vaccines that prevent the spread of potentially fatal diseases, to make those vaccines available to our entire population, and to be prepared to respond in the event of a disastrous outbreak. In addition to widespread influenza, other serious vaccine-preventable diseases, like whooping cough and the measles, hit close to home in Northern Michigan during 2014. We were also faced with the possibility of travelers returning to Northern Michigan from Ebola-stricken countries. As these threats emerged, we activated our Incident Command Team and engaged local hospitals, first-responders and emergency managers in a collaborative preparedness effort.

Immunization waiver rates among school-age children—especially those in Northwest Michigan counties—remained high during 2014. As a result, in December, the State of Michigan announced new statewide requirements for parents seeking nonmedical waivers for their children. Effective January 1, 2015, any parent or guardian who wants to claim a nonmedical waiver must receive education regarding the benefits of vaccination, and risks or communicable disease, from their local public health department. This applies to children entering Kindergarten or 7th grade, and to all children entering a new school. It is an opportunity for parents and guardians to speak with trained health educators and get answers to any questions they may have about vaccination. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan has partnered with area school districts to assist with this important step in school enrollment.

The Health Department also led the organization of a new and innovative partnership of local health departments with grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The **Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance** is comprised of the 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. There are many regional projects underway to increase public health capacity, contain costs, maximize assets and more effectively impact health outcomes in a 25-county region. Specifically, the Alliance is working on community health assessment, marketing and workforce initiatives, as well as piloting a new Board of Health training program and sharing information technology resources. The Alliance partners are also working together to prepare for national public health accreditation.

Stay tuned!



CELEBRATING FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

PROFESSIONALS LIKE THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S CINDY KLOSS GIVE NEW MEANING TO "ABOVE AND BEYOND."

Public Health Nurses make a difference in the lives of their clients every day. But sometimes, they find themselves responding to a desperate need when no one else can.

Cindy Kloss works as a Public Health Nurse in the Health Department's Emmet County clinic. A registered nurse for the past 37 years, Cindy was enjoying dinner at a local Petoskey restaurant on a summer evening, when tragedy struck: Another patron suddenly fell unconscious and was unresponsive.

When first responders arrived on the scene a few minutes later, they found Cindy already performing CPR on the victim. According to Petoskey Department of Public Safety Director John Calabrese, her rapid CPR efforts sustained perfusion long enough for EMS and public safety personnel to respond and transport the victim to the hospital. The victim survived, thanks to Cindy's quick and capable response.

Lifesaving Awards were presented to Cindy and to the EMS and public safety personnel involved in saving the victim's life. Cindy recalls feeling surprised that she was the only person in the busy restaurant who stepped up to perform CPR before the first responders arrived. She said she hopes the story will raise awareness of the importance of lifesaving techniques in everyday situations. "If anything, I hope this story inspires others to receive CPR training," she said. All Health Department of Northwest Michigan clinics employ staff who are trained in CPR.

Through the Health Department, Cindy and her colleagues are also trained to provide other essential community services, such as helping people navigate the complexities of the new Health Insurance Marketplace and the Healthy Michigan Plan. To be certified as Navigators under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), health professionals must undergo an intensive training regimen that prepares them to assist individuals, families and small businesses with insurance coverage applications and Marketplace enrollment. People can receive this assistance by scheduling a free appointment with any of the Health Department's trained Navigators or Certified Application Counselors.

Client Feedback: What did you like most about the services you received?

"It was with a smile."

"Very prompt and helpful."

"Quick for how busy they were."

"Helpful resources."

"Smiling faces & helpful hands."

"Valuable nutrition information."

"I was very well informed on what services were involved."

"Thanks for the services you provide, nice job!"

"Always friendly staff who know my family."

"Everyone was smiling and being helpful with kids."



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.

“I think if people feel confident about their care, they are more likely to seek help in the future.”

**Cindy Kloss,
Public Health Nurse**

Cindy recalled working with a woman in the WISEWOMAN program who had been without health coverage for more than 10 years. She had multiple health concerns, including severe psoriasis that was visible on her hands and forearms. When Cindy asked her to roll up her sleeve so her blood pressure could be checked, the woman became embarrassed and distraught. She told Cindy that her condition was causing her to be turned down for job opportunities, and the frustration was overwhelming.

The woman’s frustration turned to joy as she realized for the first time that, through enrollment in the Healthy Michigan Plan, she could receive the health coverage she desperately needed to begin her recovery.

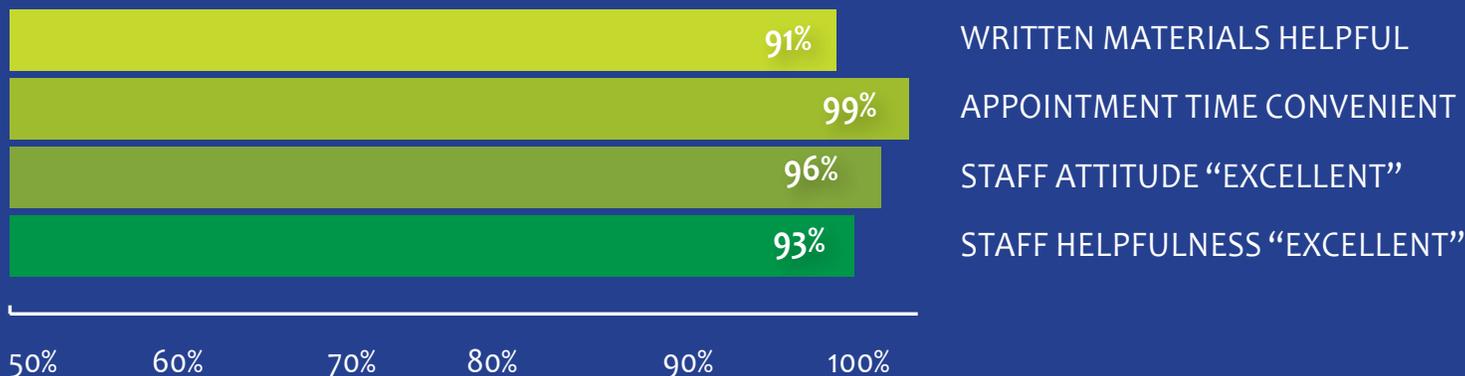
“It was heartwarming to make her feel better,” Cindy said. “She was so happy about it! It was a great ‘Aha!’ moment for her.” Not only was the woman finally connected with the health insurance coverage she needed, Cindy was also able to refer her to several local and online support groups.

Cindy’s breadth of experience includes assessing newborns, assisting women with prenatal care, and providing “millions of vaccinations and millions of gallons of baby formula” to clients.

“I think if people feel confident about their care, they are more likely to seek help in the future,” she said. “Let me help you take care of you.”



PATIENTS RATE THEIR CLINIC EXPERIENCE





CELEBRATING FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

THE BLISS BUNCH

HELPING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT GIVE WARMTH AND CARE WHEN EXPECTANT MOMS NEED IT MOST

Pregnancy can be terrifying and difficult, especially to a first-time mom or to a woman who has to endure it alone. Just ask the public health nursing staff at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, who work with soon-to-be moms every day and are trained to provide compassionate, supportive care.

Meanwhile, at the quaint old Carp Lake Township Hall in northern Emmet County, you can see the first stitches of a quilt that will help give comfort and reassurance to an expectant mom. This is where we meet the Bliss Bunch: A gathering of about a dozen women with skilled hands and a desire to give something meaningful to those in need. For years, this friendly “bunch” has met up during fall and winter months to handcraft unique quilts. Their one-of-a-kind handmade creations are then donated to organizations like the Women’s Resource Center and the Health Department for clients who “need a little extra TLC.”

“We meet here at the Hall, every other Monday, those who can,” says Dorothy Krueger, 75, of Mackinaw City. “Everyone here knows how to quilt, or comes here to learn... We solve each other’s problems, troubles, frustrations.”

Members of the group range in age between their mid-50s and mid-90s, and they acknowledge with some regret that few younger people get into quilting anymore. Still, they remain connected to the younger women in the community by offering them something special that will be treasured.

Nan Graham, RN, a public health nurse for the Health Department, understands what such a gift can mean to a person.



MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM AND NEWBORN HOME VISITS

9,153 HOME AND OFFICE VISITS

6,263 NEWSLETTERS SENT TO FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

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. Families that participate in MIHP are less likely to have low birth-weight infants. 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.



Members of the Bliss Bunch Quilters (L to R): Wanetah Teike, GiGi English, Fran Litzner, Dorothy Krueger and Donna Watkins.

"Pregnancy can sometimes be a very emotional time for women that don't have supportive family, friends or partners," she says. "Simply giving a handcrafted gift to a woman can help her engage in her pregnancy, while building a trusting relationship with someone that can provide positive guidance and support."



Bliss resident Donna Watkins, 89, says the Bliss Bunch Quilters are happy just to respond whenever there's a need. "There are no plans," says Donna. "It's just a friendly get-together." The group has offered to make burp cloths, bibs, washcloths, anything that might help a struggling mom. As for the quilts, they can take a few days or a few weeks to create.

"I usually cut one day, then I will sew one day, and then it will take me one day just to quilt, and then I will stitch it," says Fran Litzner, 56, of Levering. "It will take me a week or two just to pick out the colors."

The Health Department and its staff are proud to share the gifts of the Bliss Bunch, whose selfless generosity strengthens the fabric of our Northern Michigan community. "The quilts are special," says nurse Nan Graham. "They are made by women right here in the communities we support."

Photos by Megan Robinson



WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) NUTRITION PROGRAM

3,220 WIC PARTICIPANTS

MORE THAN \$1.9 MILLION IN FOOD DOLLARS REDEEMED IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The WIC Program protects 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.





Photo courtesy of Liane Hagerman

EARLY CHILDHOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

28 FAMILIES SERVED

236 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

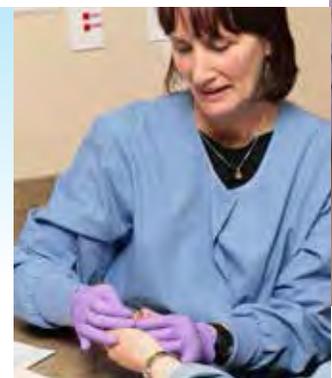
2,388 APPLICATIONS 1,123 CARIAS ASSESSMENTS

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 1,245 children in 2014.

BLOOD LEAD SCREENING

1,071 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 fetuses and 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

10,497 SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN SCREENED

1,693 PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN SCREENED

842 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.



CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

504 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.



BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM

790 WOMEN SCREENED, INCLUDING 528 FROM FOUR-COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

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



WISEWOMAN PROGRAM

369 PARTICIPANTS

Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation, or WISE-WOMAN, screens low-income, uninsured or under-insured 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 HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAM

106 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 then analyzed at the Health Department's Northern Michigan Regional Laboratory, and with free colonoscopies if program criteria are met.

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

900 PARTICIPANTS

The Health Department's Family Planning services help men and women make well-informed reproductive health choices, so they can plan for a healthy pregnancy or prevent an unwanted pregnancy. Services include a health history, physical exam, counseling on birth control methods, dispensing of contraceptives such as pills, depo shots, IUDs and nuva rings, and medical follow-up when abnormalities are discovered in the reproductive system.



HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN, MICHILD, AND HEALTHY KIDS

754 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 Blue Cross/Blue Shield 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

195 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

204 SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

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

11,355 DOSES ADMINISTERED

13,529 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.



HELPING OTHERS EAT WELL

Peter Brower, 4;
Mary Brower, Aaron Brower,
Nora Brower, 1.



Mary and Aaron Brower know the value of good, nutritious food. As the owners of Bluestem Farm in East Jordan, they're passionate about providing their Northern Michigan neighbors with fresh produce—and making it available to those in need.

"We believe very strongly that good food is fundamental to public health," said Mary Brower. "We also believe there's a definite value in looking someone in the eye and knowing they did their level best to grow the safest, healthiest food they could for your family."

These basic principles, and the Browsers' backgrounds in public service, led to the creation of the Help Others Eat Well Fund. This fund provides Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares to disadvantaged families, who otherwise wouldn't have access to such a variety of locally-grown, organic food. Shares may include vegetables, eggs, and sometimes even pork and chicken.

Erika Van Dam, Director of Community Health at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, is a CSA member with Bluestem Farm. When she learned about the Browsers' Help Others Eat Well Fund, she volunteered the Health Department's assistance.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

868 PEOPLE RECEIVED EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION EDUCATION

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 taste-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.

Now, Health Department nurses, social workers, registered dieticians, and public health technicians identify the families who would benefit most from the fund, while Bluestem Farm provides the fresh, healthy produce that makes up the CSA shares.

Fund recipients pick up their shares alongside other CSA members and are not treated any differently. "There have been some moving thank-yous," Brower noted. One individual, a father employed in construction, was temporarily unable to work due to an injury he had suffered. "He always seemed pretty reserved when picking up his shares," she said. "One evening when my husband was delivering shares, though, the man gave him a huge bear hug, pressed \$10 into his hand, and asked him to give it to the next family who needed food."

Based on Bluestem Farm's collaboration with the Health Department, Brower urges other entities to reach out to the Health Department.

"There's no question, this program wouldn't be what it is without the Health Department of Northwest Michigan," she says. "What our farm brings to the table is a plentiful amount of good, donated food. But what we don't have is the expertise—or, we feel, the right—to decide who should receive the shares and who shouldn't. Because the Health Department is in a unique position to see needs across a large area and to match people with services, we're able to make the good 'fits' that are so important with this type of initiative."

Last year, the Help Others Eat Well Fund pledged \$2,340 worth of CSA shares to seven families. These donations came from local organizations, fundraiser events, and individuals who wanted to make fresh, healthy and responsibly-grown produce available to those in need.



Photos courtesy of Mary Brower

PROGRAM EDUCATION



STAY CONNECTED
www.nwhealth.org • 800.432.4121



2014 | REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

HEALTHY HABITS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

TOBACCO PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Health Department has focused its efforts on enacting smoke-free and tobacco-free policies at local public parks and beaches, increasing the number of tobacco-free parks and beaches from just one in 2013, to ten in 2014, across five municipalities.

In addition, as of November 1, 2014, the Health Department enacted policies to help ensure that all of its own facilities, grounds and any vehicles on its premises would be 100 percent tobacco-free. These policies set a positive example for the community, and are an essential first step in changing public attitudes, habits and expectations regarding tobacco use.



Photo by Dan Reynolds



SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

HORNET HEALTH CENTER: 1,244 VISITS SERVING 384 STUDENTS AGE 5-21

IRONMEN HEALTH CENTER: 1,214 VISITS SERVING 507 STUDENTS AGE 10-21

BOYNE CITY RAMBLER WELLNESS PROGRAM: 1,845 VISITS SERVING 493 STUDENTS

The Health Department's Child and Adolescent Health Centers, which include the Hornet Health Center in Pellston and the Ironmen Health Center in Mancelona, provide primary care and mental health services on public school campuses. The Boyne City Rambler Wellness Program, launched in 2011, includes nursing services, group and individual health education, school staff training, and mental health services for Boyne City school students.

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

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 2014, Mancelona and Petoskey Schools joined Pellston, Boyne City and East Jordan as program participants.

City leaders, school administrators, parents and students participated in planning meetings to review existing infrastructure and create action plans for improvement. The action plans were used by city officials, schools and the Health Department to write federal grant applications supporting safe, walkable and bikable communities for students. As a result, Boyne City and East Jordan Schools were awarded federal grants of approximately \$400,000 each during 2014.

TRANSFORMATIONAL ADOLESCENT HEALTH CARE

The Health Department is transforming school-based health care by redesigning the way services are delivered. Two models are being implemented—Integration of physical health and mental health services and the Pathways Community HUB Model, called THE HUB: Community Connections in our region.

THE HUB: Community Connections Program:

- Improves family independence
- Improves overall child and adolescent health indicators
- Improves school connectedness and engagement for children and adolescents

By improving its focus on the families and adolescents with the greatest need, THE HUB: Community Connections Program is helping families break down barriers and is connecting them to resources to receive needed health care.

By integrating mental health and physical health services, the school-based health center teams are:

- Innovating a health care system in which clients are offered comprehensive care within the clinic setting
- Recognizing the unique demands of mental health and behavioral health care
- Expanding the model of integration beyond the clinic's walls, into the school building and the community

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



HOME CARE & HOSPICE

ONE OF OUR OWN

WHEN AMY WIELAND BECAME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN IN 2014, SHE DIDN'T EXPECT ONE OF THE AGENCY'S NEWEST PATIENTS TO BE A DEAR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT – HER OWN MOTHER.

Ruth McKinney was a lifelong Charlevoix resident, beloved by many – especially by her colleagues at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, where she worked for 28 years. Her work with the Health Department reflected her deep roots in the community, and she was involved in countless other community activities. Her love of music motivated her to stay active in the Charlevoix City Band, East Jordan City Band, Harbor Springs City Band and the “Geezer” Band.

“She had so many meaningful connections, people in this community and right here at the Health Department who cared deeply for her,” recalls Amy Wieland, Ruth’s daughter. Amy also worked at the Health Department for many years until, in the spring of 2014, she accepted the position of Executive Director for its charitable partner organization, Hospice of Northwest Michigan.

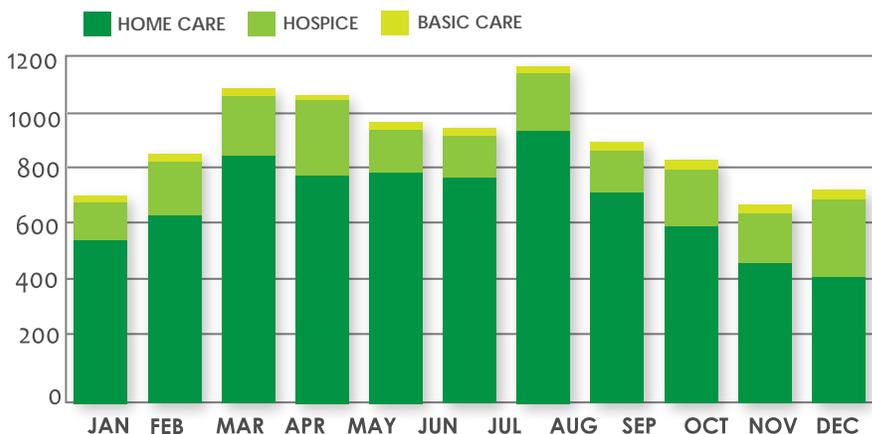
Caught up in the excitement and demands of her new role, Amy was completely unprepared for what was about to happen: Her mother, Ruth, developed a serious illness that progressed quickly. The family knew she did not have long to live. While they were all still reeling from the terminal diagnosis, Amy, her sisters and Ruth herself had to confront some major decisions in a hurry.

“My mother knew what she did and did not want,” Amy says. “And just a few weeks after starting my new position with Hospice of Northwest Michigan, I found myself supporting her decision to enter into Hospice care.”

Although she and her family were a part of the decision to choose comfort care for Ruth, Amy says she didn’t feel like she was doing enough. “Honoring her wishes was hard at first, because it was a challenge to distinguish her pain and fears from our own. But we came to understand that honoring a loved one’s wishes can bring great comfort to all of us, especially when Hospice is there to help us through the process.”

Ruth was 68 when she passed away, at home, surrounded by her family.

10,363 TOTAL HOME CARE & HOSPICE VISITS IN 2014



SPECIAL EVENTS & SERVICES HOSTED BY HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

Handling Grief & Loss: 5-week sessions offered on a quarterly basis

Annual National Bereavement Teleconference, April 10, 2014: **Living with Grief: Helping Adolescents Cope with Loss**

Annual Memorial Service, November 2, 2014

Grief Support Workshop, November 11, 2014: **Handling the Holidays**

Boyer City Remembrance Event, December 5, 2014: **Lights of Love**



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.

Ruth McKinney, center, surrounded by her daughters Jamie (left), Amy (top center) and Ellen (right), and young granddaughter Isabella.



In her devastation, Amy knew she was going through exactly what family members of other Hospice patients endure. She was getting an unwelcome crash course in every aspect of the Hospice experience, from her leadership role, to the role of the caregiver making hard decisions, to the role of the grieving family member who must carry on despite all the unanswered questions. Amy now feels that the experience reinforced her commitment to the mission of Hospice.

“My mother taught me the most important aspects of my work in Hospice care,” she explains. “I feel strongly about addressing the many misconceptions about Hospice. My family waited too long to get Hospice involved on my mother’s behalf because of those misconceptions.”

According to Amy, one key misconception is that enrolling in Hospice is the final step before one’s death. Although Hospice does specialize in care of those who may be in their last six months of life, some patients’ health does improve enough that they can “graduate” and Hospice is no longer needed. And, in many cases, getting a Hospice care team in place early can actually prolong a patient’s life, while also improving the quality of life.

“I hope to change public perceptions of Hospice for the better, to ease fears and to educate our community on what Hospice really is all about,” Amy says. “We always have a choice. Working with Hospice allows us to choose how we and our loved ones will live during one of the most important stages of our lives.”

ABOUT HOSPICE OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

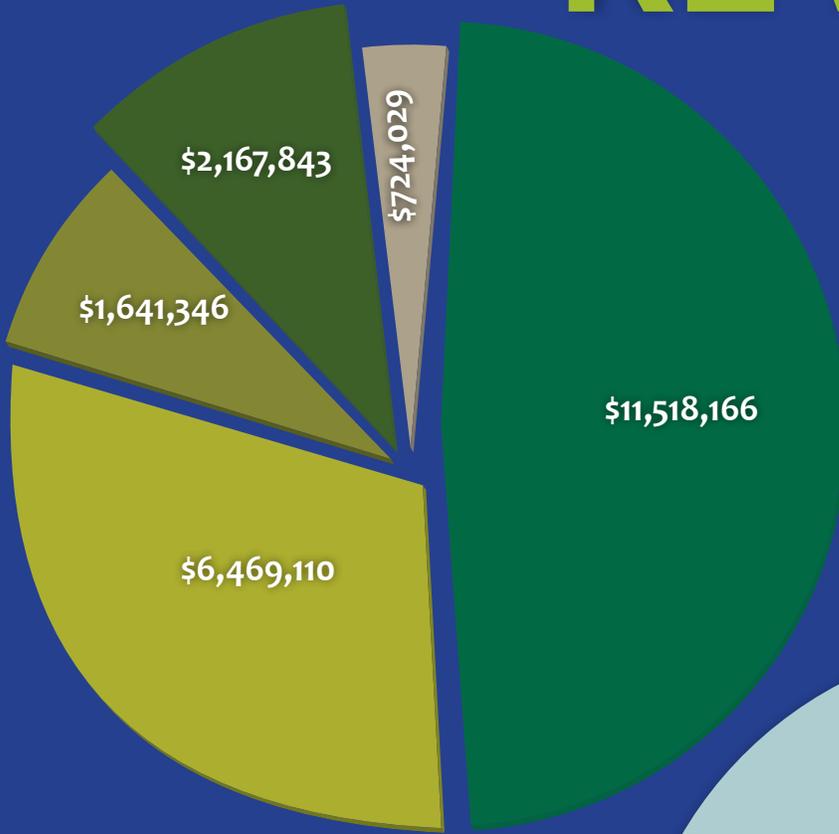
- ♥ Hospice NWM is the only independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit Hospice in the region. It is not owned by, affiliated with or financially supported by a hospital, corporation or other for-profit interest.
- ♥ Hospice NWM’s independence allows much more flexible in its ability to meet the immediate needs of its patients and their families.
- ♥ Hospice NWM’s grief support and bereavement services are open to the community, free of charge. These services support anyone suffering a loss or difficult life transition of any kind, including job loss, military deployment, relocation, divorce, or the death of a loved one or a pet.
- ♥ Hospice NWM allows patients to keep their own physicians and works with them, rather than assigning a new Hospice physician.
- ♥ Hospice NWM partners with the We Honor Veterans program. All staff, volunteers and veteran volunteers are trained to assist veterans with the unique challenges they may face at the end of life.
- ♥ Hospice NWM services are available 24/7, 365 days a year, and staff can generally respond in person within 30 minutes.
- ♥ Hospice NWM staff are cross-trained in both Home Care and Hospice. Patients can transition seamlessly between the two, as needed.
- ♥ Hospice NWM turns no one away for any reason, including lack of funds.

EXPENSES & REVENUES

EXPENSES

BY PROGRAM

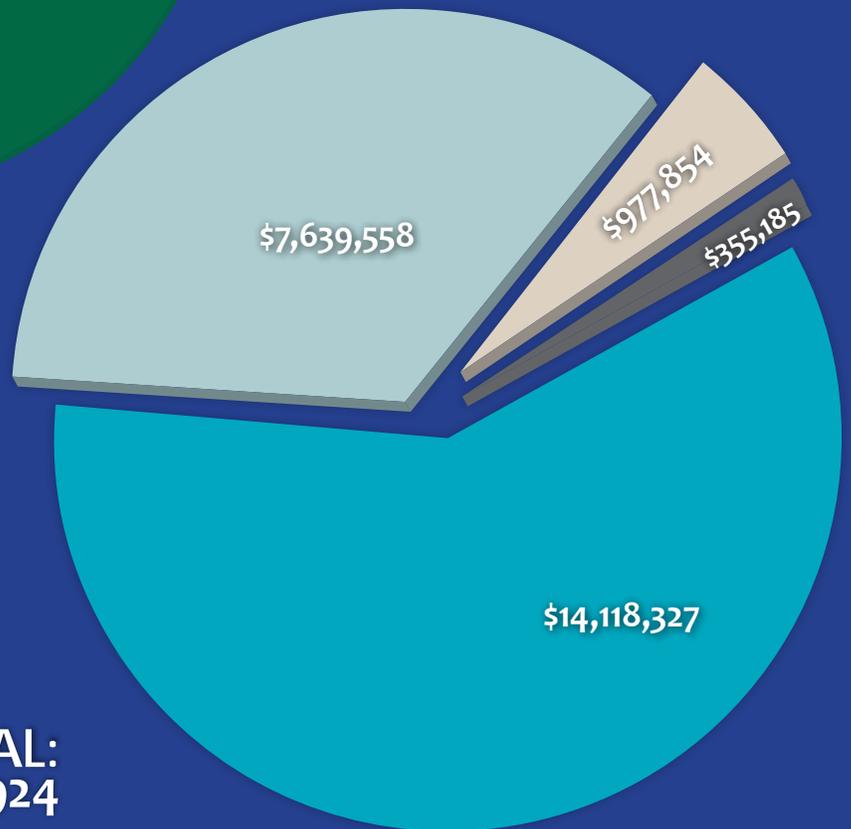
- DENTAL CLINICS NORTH
- FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- HOME CARE & AGING SERVICES
- OTHER



TOTAL:
\$22,520,494

REVENUES

- STATE & FEDERAL FUNDS
- LOCAL APPROPRIATIONS
- COMMUNITY GRANTS
- FEES & COLLECTIONS



TOTAL:
\$23,090,924



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 2014.

Alcona Health Center
 Antrim County High Tea for Breast Cancer Prevention
 Bellaire Lioness Club
 Bella Vista Landscaping
 Char-Em United Way
 Charlevoix Women's Circle
 Church in the Hills
 City of Boyne City
 Delta Dental of Michigan
 Frey Foundation

Gaylord Fraternal Order of Eagles #1825
 Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
 McLaren Northern Michigan
 Michigan Department of Community Health
 Michigan Fitness Council
 Northern Health Foundation
 Northern Health Plan
 Otsego Memorial Hospital - Gaylord
 Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation
 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 Zonta International

DENTAL CLINICS NORTH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Leelanau County Senior Services
 Benzie County COA
 Father Fred Foundation
 Salvation Army, Cheboygan
 Kalkaska Area Interfaith Resources
 Good Samaritan Family Services



PROTECTING

PARADISE

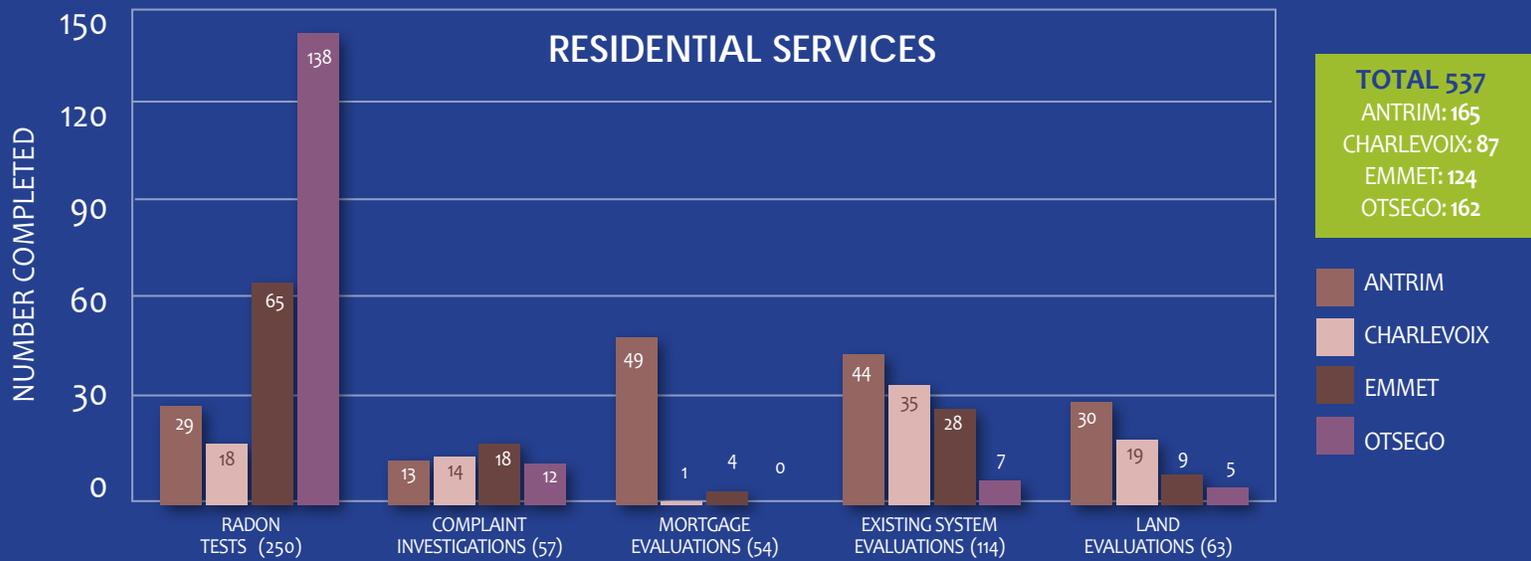
Health Department Sanitarian Casey Clement conducts field inspections to ensure wastewater and well water systems can perform as required.



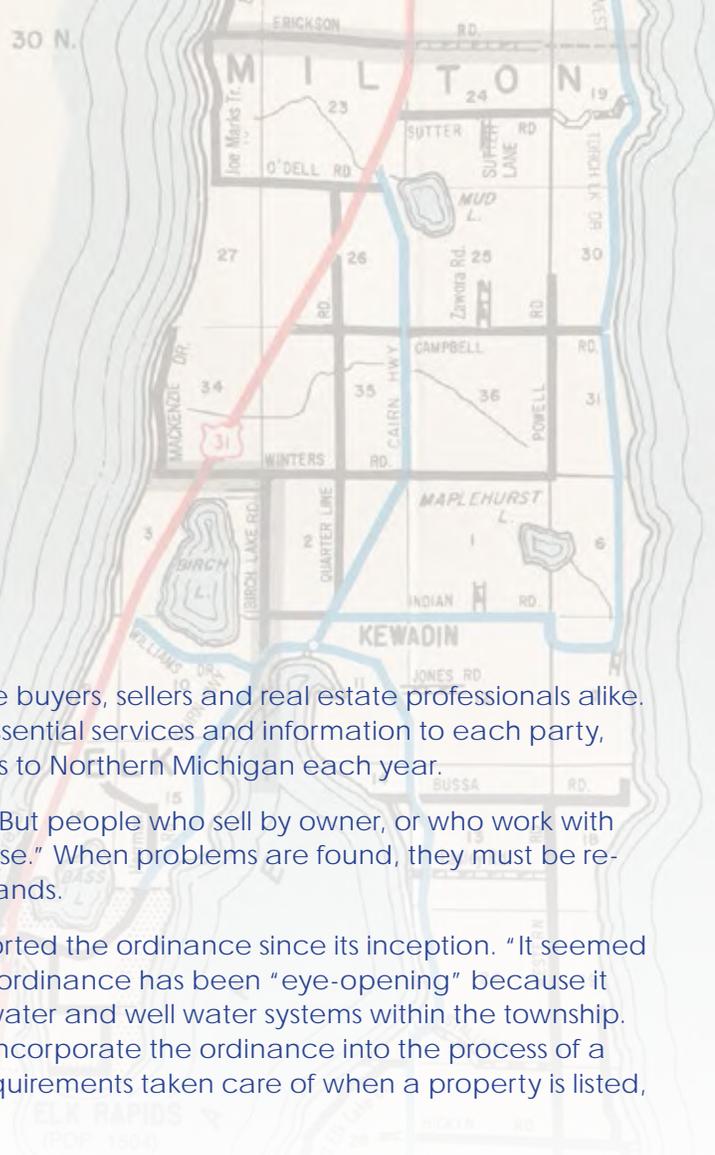
Antrim County's Milton Township is, for many, a paradise. Nestled between Lake Skegemog, Elk Lake, Torch Lake and of course Lake Michigan, the township is a much sought-after location for homes and seasonal cottages.

But with a great location comes great responsibility. Milton Township officials and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan are committed to protecting public health by maintaining the delicate balance between built water and wastewater systems and the natural environment—a balance that is especially important for a township bordered by four different lakes. That's why, in October 2012, Milton Township became the first in the four-county Health District to enact a Time-of-Transfer (TOT) Ordinance for property transactions. The ordinance is important for buyers, sellers and other stakeholders to understand.

"Sellers in Milton Township are required to have septic and well systems inspected prior to a sale," explains Casey Clement, a sanitarian with the Health Department's Antrim County office. "The sale can't close without it." Milton Township and its residents look to the Health Department to test well water through its Northern Michigan Regional Lab in Gaylord, and also to assess the function and appropriateness of on-site sewage systems. These inspections also reveal whether further development of the property, or additions to the home, might be possible for the buyer.



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 works as a supportive partner of home buyers, sellers and real estate professionals alike. The Time-of-Transfer Ordinance is an opportunity to provide essential services and information to each party, and to preserve the natural environment that draws thousands to Northern Michigan each year.

“Most local realtors know the ordinance well,” Clement says. “But people who sell by owner, or who work with realtors from outside the area, are sometimes caught by surprise.” When problems are found, they must be resolved by the seller before the property can legally change hands.

Toni Morrison, an area realtor and Elk Rapids native, has supported the ordinance since its inception. “It seemed to have a smooth implementation,” she says, adding that the ordinance has been “eye-opening” because it revealed some long-neglected problems in residential wastewater and well water systems within the township. “Real estate professionals are able to inform their clients and incorporate the ordinance into the process of a residential sale,” she says. “We try to get all time-of-transfer requirements taken care of when a property is listed, so we don’t have to do it at the last minute.”

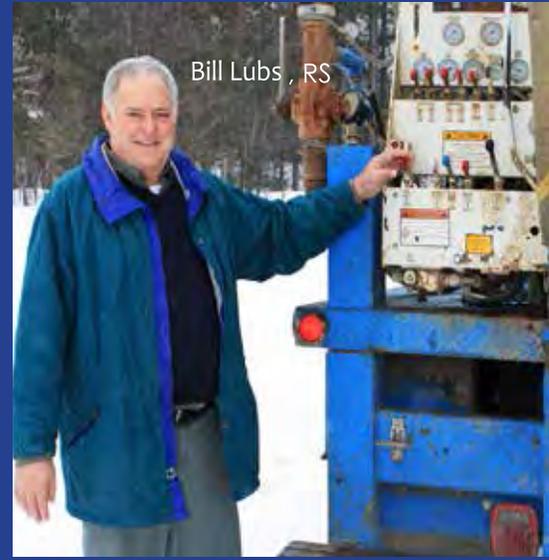
Chris Weinzapfel, Zoning Administrator for Milton Township, says the TOT ordinance protects homebuyers, as well as the Township’s precious natural environment. “If I’m a homebuyer, I would expect it,” he says. “I’d feel much more comfortable knowing the septic and well meet basic requirements.” Weinzapfel said the ordinance may serve as a model for other townships considering similar measures to protect buyers from disastrous and costly surprises.



Penney Massey, RS

- ANTRIM
- CHARLEVOIX
- EMMET
- OTSEGO





Bill Lubs, RS

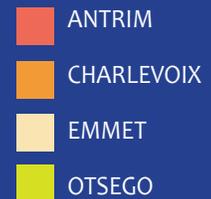
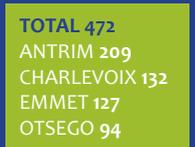
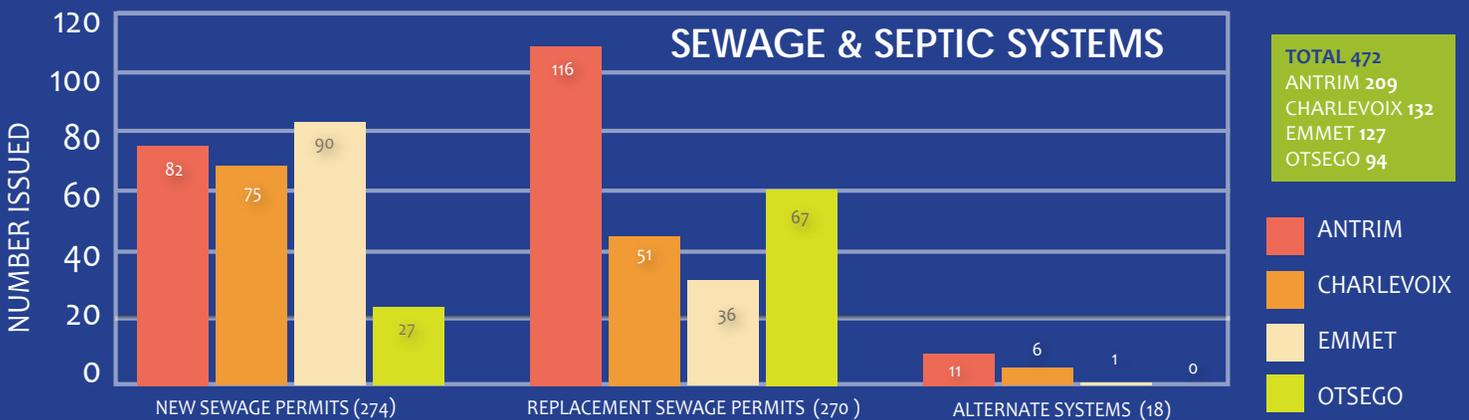
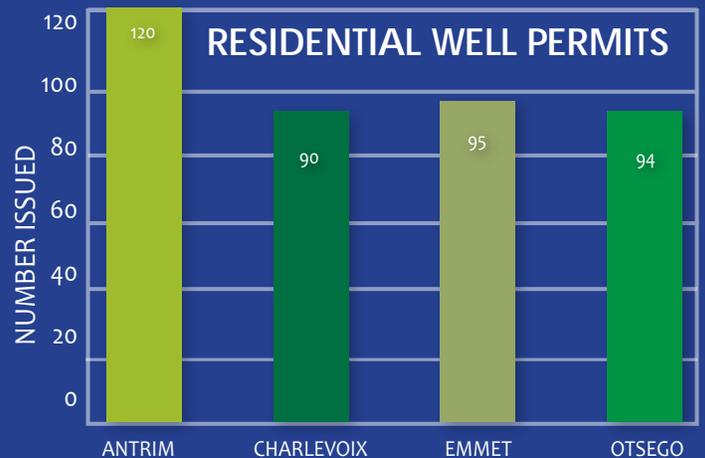
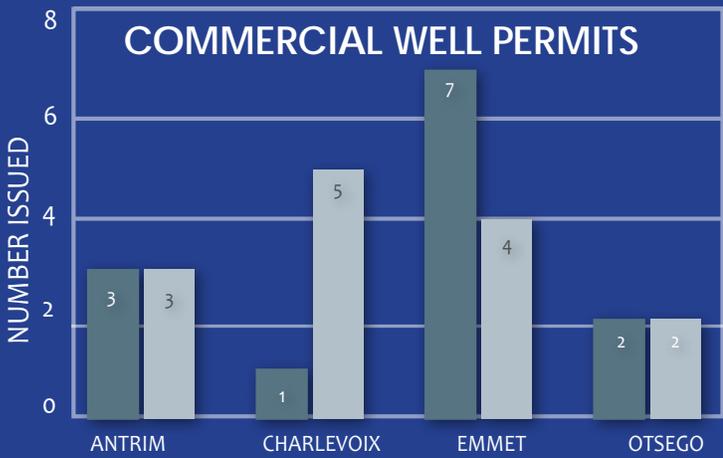
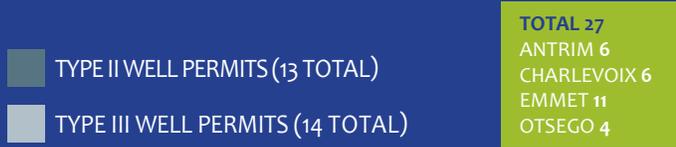
WELL AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

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 non-community systems include schools, restaurants, churches, campgrounds, industries and highway rest stops with their own water supply systems.

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 specific intervals.

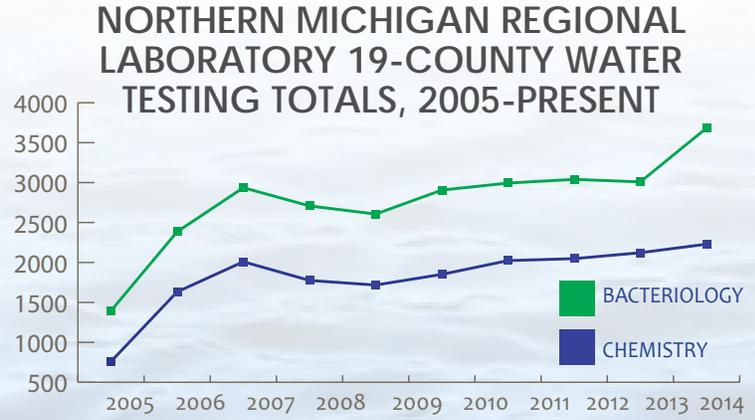
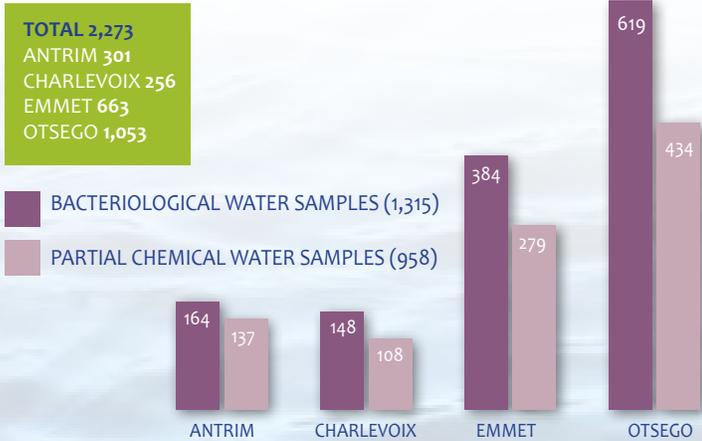
Type III water supplies are those not intended for use as drinking water. They are generally for test wells, irrigation and other industrial uses.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN REGIONAL LABORATORY

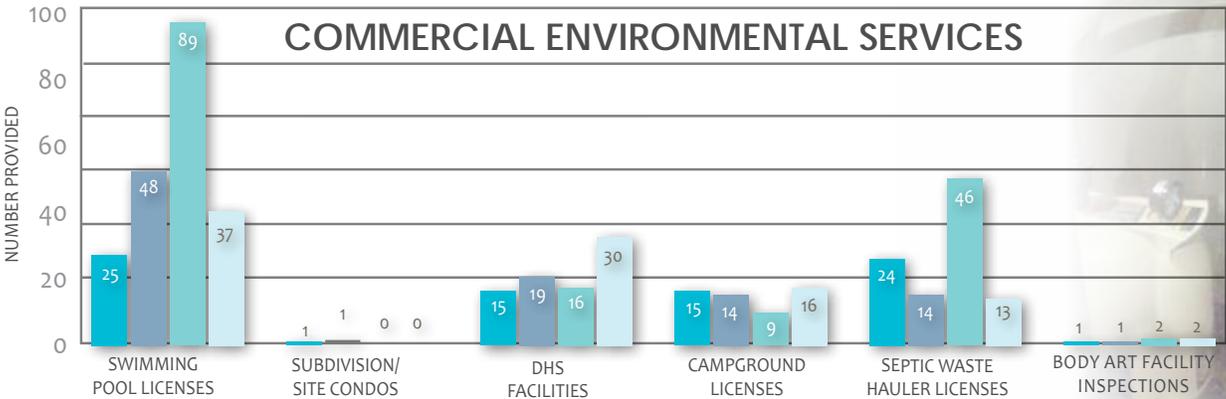
The Northern Michigan Regional Laboratory serves a 19-county region from its location at the Health Department facility in Gaylord. In partnership with the Michigan Departments of Community Health and Environmental Quality, the lab provides timely, accurate water analyses to serve public health needs.

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 28 beaches throughout Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties during 2014, and analyzed a total of 1,030 surface/bathing beach water samples.



SMILING... BECAUSE I CAN

DENTAL CLINICS NORTH CAN TRANSFORM LIVES LIKE KHATRINA'S—WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THE HEALTHY MICHIGAN PLAN.

Khatrina Baker found social situations “really difficult” —but not because she was anti-social. She suffered from severe, persistent dental problems that affected the appearance of her teeth and made her feel extremely self-conscious. As a result, she didn’t enjoy dating, and her concern for her appearance made it hard to apply for certain job openings.



“I never liked to smile,” said Khatrina, a 31-year-old Traverse City resident. On the rare occasion she did smile, it became a habit to hide her mouth with her hand.

Khatrina faced dental problems her entire life, but trying to fix one tooth at a time without insurance—at upwards of \$1,000 per tooth—was not feasible for her. When the Healthy Michigan Plan was introduced in 2014, she took action by enrolling herself online. And, when her oral health took a turn for the worse, Khatrina made her first appointment at Dental Clinics North in Traverse City.

The pain in Khatrina’s mouth had become debilitating. “My teeth were literally falling out,” she said. “It was extremely painful.”

DCN’s Traverse City dentist, Dr. Jack Williams, took on Khatrina’s case. He found infections down to the bone in several teeth, and recommended extraction with denture replacement.

“I started bawling, right there in the dental chair,” Khatrina recalled. The thought of losing all her teeth was devastating, to say the least. “But at that moment, Dr. Williams leaned over and gave me a big hug. He said, ‘I promise to make you beautiful.’”

Khatrina found the Dental Clinics North clinic very welcoming, and said that she never felt like she was being judged for needing dentures at her young age. “Everybody treated me like a real person,” she said. “I fell in love with everyone there! Dr. Williams is a great doctor, and the staff is amazing.”

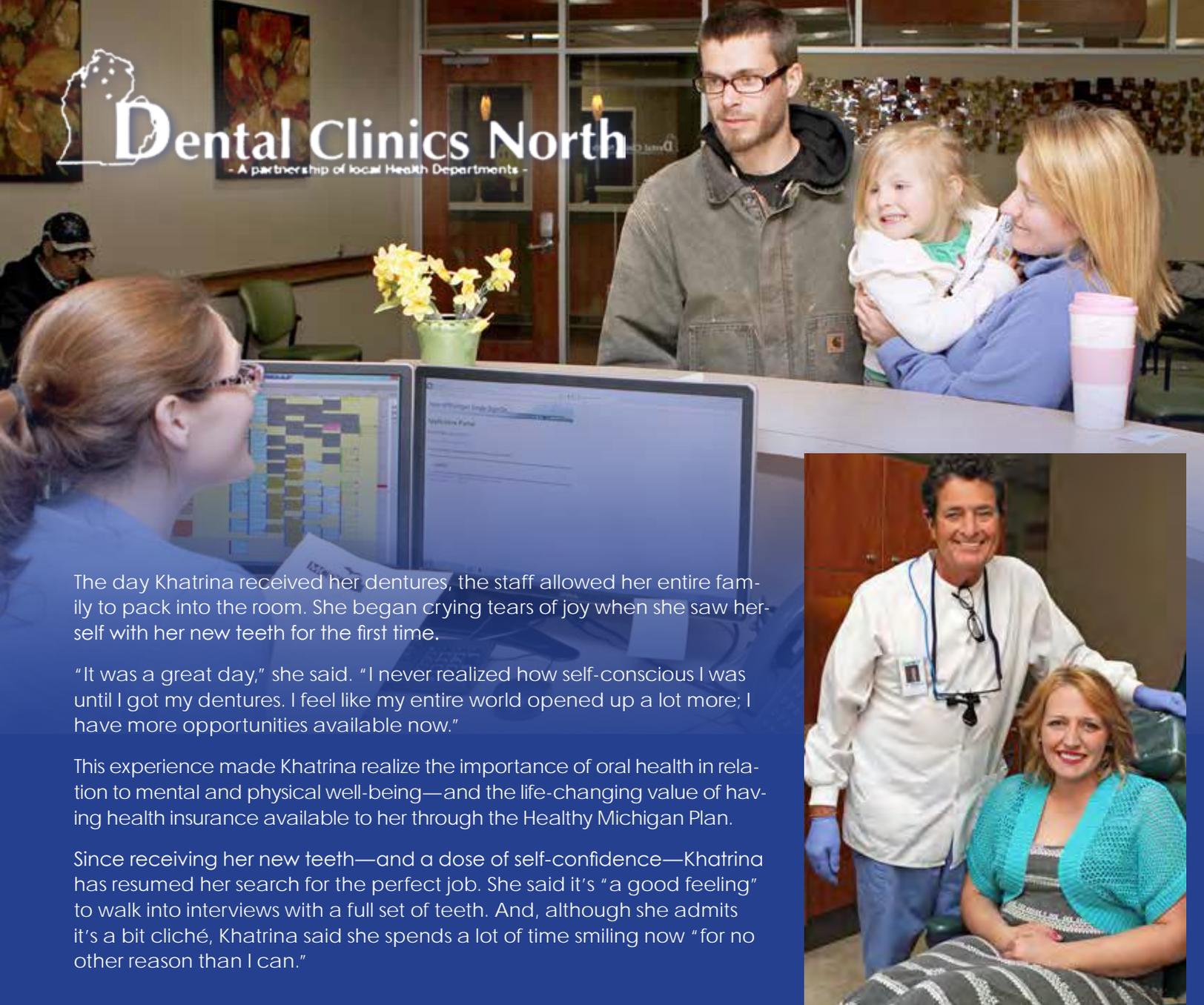
**SCHOOL-
BASED
SCREENINGS**
14 participating
schools in 2014;
3,992 children
screened.



NORTHERN DENTAL PLAN

Provided dental services at a reduced fee to **3,783** uninsured people in Northern Michigan. 

Provided **\$410,920** in financial assistance to 1,004 patients, of whom 554 were from Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties.



The day Khatrina received her dentures, the staff allowed her entire family to pack into the room. She began crying tears of joy when she saw herself with her new teeth for the first time.

"It was a great day," she said. "I never realized how self-conscious I was until I got my dentures. I feel like my entire world opened up a lot more; I have more opportunities available now."

This experience made Khatrina realize the importance of oral health in relation to mental and physical well-being—and the life-changing value of having health insurance available to her through the Healthy Michigan Plan.

Since receiving her new teeth—and a dose of self-confidence—Khatrina has resumed her search for the perfect job. She said it's "a good feeling" to walk into interviews with a full set of teeth. And, although she admits it's a bit cliché, Khatrina said she spends a lot of time smiling now "for no other reason than I can."



Dental Clinics North, a partnership of local health departments, is administered by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, with clinical services provided by Michigan Community Dental Clinics. We provide care to patients with Medicaid, Healthy Michigan Plan, Delta Healthy Kids, MIChild, Northern Dental Plan, and uninsured.



TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED

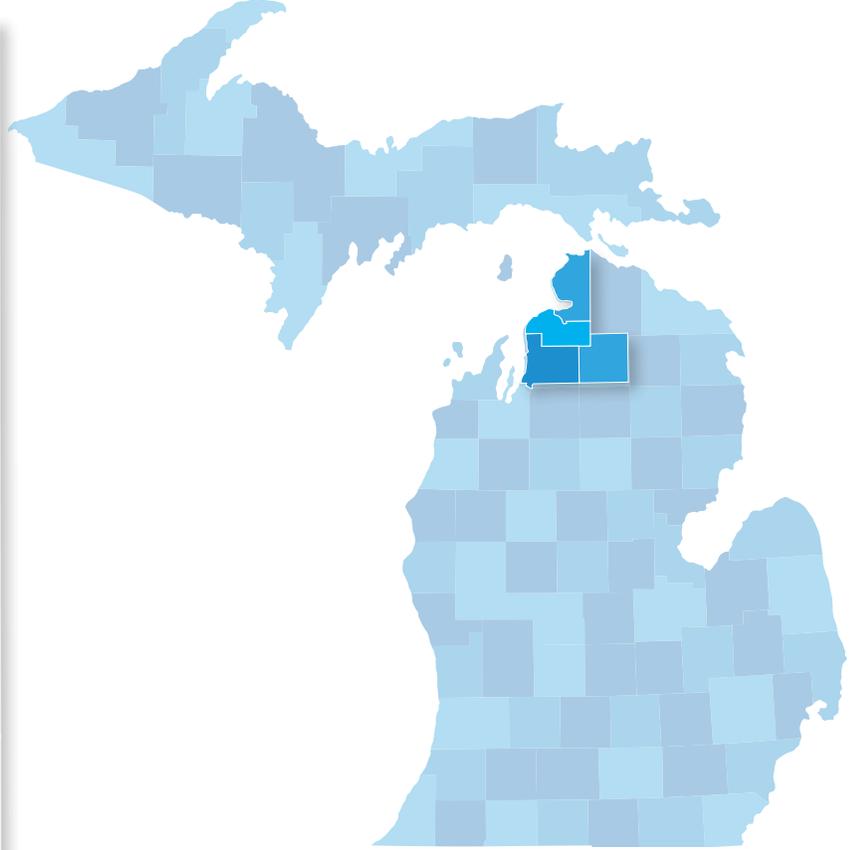
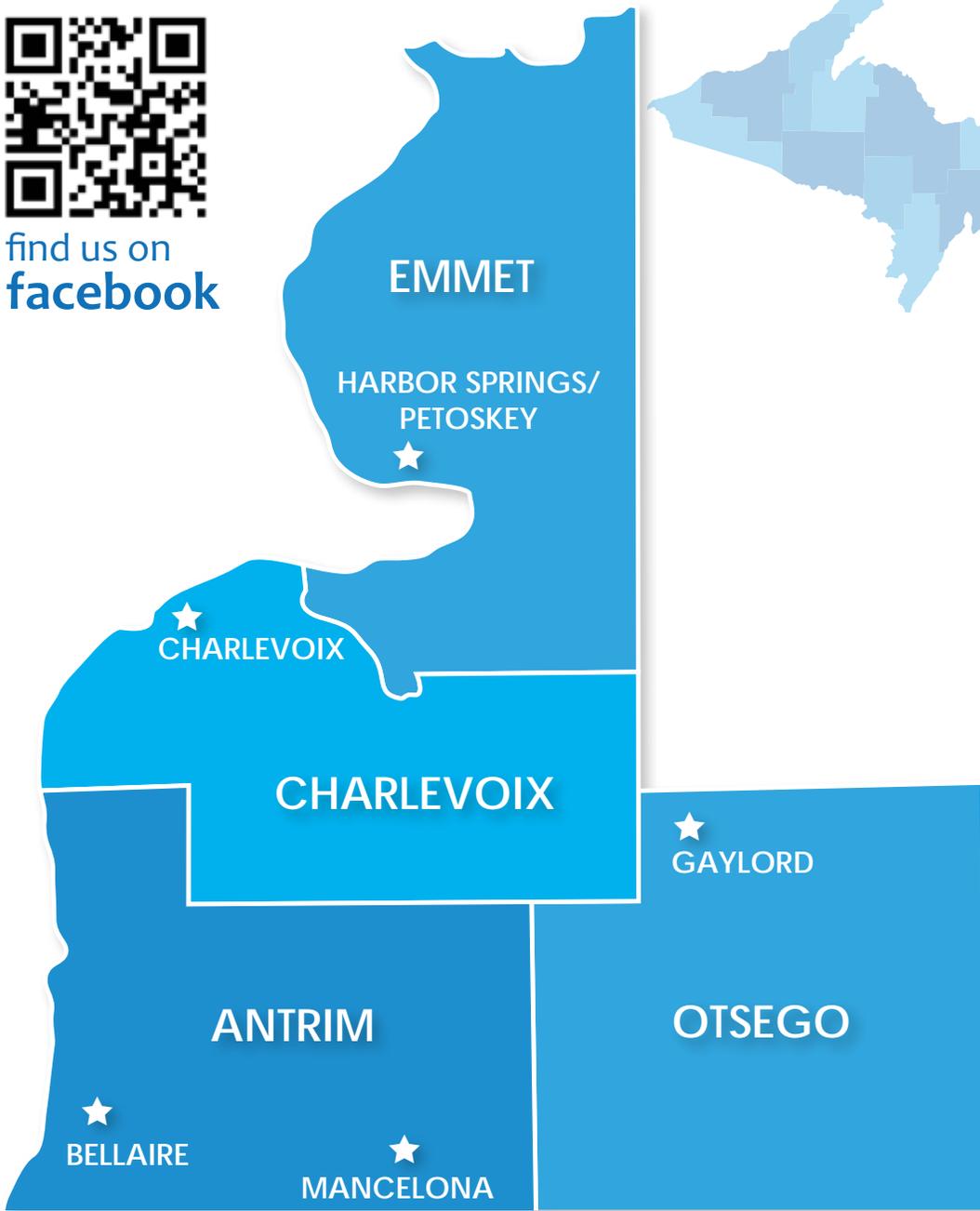
24,531, including 9,042 from Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego Counties.

CLIENTS SERVED

ALPENA	2,002
CHEBOYGAN	1,803
EAST JORDAN	1,817
GAYLORD	3,172
MANCELONA	2,512
PETOSKEY/HARBOR SPRINGS	2,474
TRAVERSE CITY	6,276
WEST BRANCH	3,066
HOSPITAL PROGRAM	164
WIC FLUORIDE VARNISH (HDNW)	1,245



find us on
facebook



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



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
of Northwest Michigan

ANTRIM | CHARLEVOIX | EMMET | OTSEGO

☎ 800.432.4121

www.nwhealth.org

Home Care & Hospice ☎ 800.551.4140

DENTAL CLINICS NORTH

☎ 877.321.7070

www.dentalclinicsnorth.com

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Alpena | Harbor Springs/Petoskey |
| Cheboygan | Mancelona |
| East Jordan | Traverse City |
| Gaylord | West Branch |