

2021

Annual Report

OTTAWA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



*mi*Ottawa Department of
Public Health

Administrative Health Officer
Lisa Stefanovsky, MEd

Deputy Health Officer
Marcia Mansaray, MSc

Medical Director
Gwendolyn Unzicker, MD

Senior Epidemiologist
Derel Glashower, MPH
miOttawa.org/HealthData

Public Health Preparedness
Jennifer Sorek, MA, MEP
miOttawa.org/Prepare

Innovation & Technology
Tony Benjamin, MSA

Clinical Services Manager
Helen Tarleton, BA

Communicable Disease Control
miOttawa.org/DiseaseInfo

Disease Reporting
miOttawa.org/DiseaseReporting

Health Insurance Enrollment
miOttawa.org/HealthInsurance

Immunizations & Travel Clinic
miOttawa.org/Immunize

Sexual Health Services
miOttawa.org/SexualHealth

Community Health Services Manager
Sandra Lake, MPH

Children's Special Health Care Services
miOttawa.org/CSHCS

Hearing & Vision Screenings
miOttawa.org/HearingVision

Maternal Infant Health Program
miOttawa.org/MIHP

Ottawa Pathways to Better Health
miOttawa.org/OPBH

Health Planning & Promotion Services

Nutrition & Wellness
miOttawa.org/Nutrition

Oral Health
miOttawa.org/Dental

Sexual Health Education
miOttawa.org/SexEd

Substance Use Disorder Prevention
miOttawa.org/SAP

Environmental Health Services Manager
Adeline Hambley, MBA, REHS

Environmental Sustainability
miOttawa.org/eco

Food Safety Program
miOttawa.org/Food

Onsite Services
miOttawa.org/EH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Health Officer's Letter
4	Medical Director
5	Clinical Health Services
7	Community Health Services
10	Health Planning & Promotion Services
12	Environmental Health Services
14	Emergency Preparedness & Response
16	Staff Awards & Retirements
17	Financial Report
18	Sources

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER



As I reflect on another year in the life of local public health, I am overwhelmed with thoughts of respect and thankfulness. A career devoted to public service and the protection of our residents is filled with rewards, but it also brings many challenges, and 2021 certainly revealed both.

COVID-19 challenged our community and our organization in unimaginable ways. Through collective wisdom, and the shared values of integrity, health equity and excellence, both our community and organization can look back with pride, and look forward with hope. I have tremendous respect for the community partners who offered their knowledge and willingness to collaborate, including Ottawa County schools, businesses, healthcare organizations, human service agencies, faith-based organizations and members of the agricultural community. I am thankful to the advocates who stepped in to help us see areas of need, and provide us with perspective so that we could work to ensure equitable health access to all. We have learned a great deal that will inform our work on COVID-19 and every future health-related issue.

It is hard to express the depth of my admiration for the dedication and expertise shown by our public health team during the past year. Every staff member went above and beyond, and met each challenge with professionalism and dignity.

While communicable disease prevention and control are core public health functions, public health is so much more. I encourage you to explore this year's annual report to learn about how we provide the other public health essential services that assure conditions that promote and protect the health of our community. In these pages, you will find examples such as how we "assess and monitor population health status to identify community needs and assets" as shown in the 2021 Migrant Health Survey; how our organization "assures equitable access to the care needed to be healthy" as in our Children's Special Health Care Services, Maternal Infant Health and Ottawa Pathways to Better Health programs; where we work to "strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health" through Ottawa Food and the Blue Envelope Initiative; and how our team "utilizes legal and regulatory actions to improve and protect the public's health" through our Environmental Health programs like food safety and onsite well and septic inspections.

Finally, I would like to thank the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners for their governance, vision and balanced action that considers the needs of all residents, as well as for the unwavering support provided to their community members through this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Stefanovsky".

Lisa Stefanovsky, MEd
Administrative Health Officer

MISSION

Working together to assure conditions that promote and protect health.

VISION
Healthy People

VALUES
Equity | Integrity | Excellence

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

OCDPH said to goodbye to longtime Medical Director, Dr. Paul Heidel, and welcomed incoming Medical Director, Dr. Gwendolyn Unzicker.



Dr. Heidel held the position of Medical Director for nearly 20 years, beginning in 2002. Prior to joining the Department, Dr. Heidel practiced family medicine, and had a long and decorated military career in the United States Air Force.

He served with the Air Force Reserve while acting as Medical Director. Notably, he held various roles as Chief of Medicine during his military service, both in the United States, and around the world. Dr. Heidel received his Medical Degree from the University of Michigan and his Master of Public Health degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University and an Associates Degree from the Air War College.

Throughout his tenure at OCDPH, Dr. Heidel provided clinical oversight to many county disease outbreaks from West Nile virus to H1N1, and finally COVID-19, before his retirement. His leadership and guidance on countless issues and initiatives was imperative to department success.

He was known for extending his love of learning to the OCDPH staff at his monthly lunch and learns, where he would coordinate a speaker, and pizza, for all. He took care to know everyone's name and always had a joke ready to tell.

Dr. Unzicker joined OCDPH in August 2021. In cooperation with the Health Officer, Dr. Unzicker will oversee the development and evaluation of standards of medical care throughout the department, provide medical direction and clinical supervision



to the department's medical staff and advise the Health Officer in matters of medical response for any county public health needs. In addition, she will advise on medical policy to be sure it aligns with the Michigan Public Health Code. She is also OCDPH's liaison to the Ottawa County medical community.

Dr. Unzicker joins OCDPH after 15 years practicing family medicine in West Michigan. She was a core faculty member at Grand Rapids Family Medicine Residency. In addition, she assisted the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) with its COVID-19 response and assisted with needs in KCHD's Personal Health Services Clinic. She has spent time as a volunteer physician with Medical Teams International in Haiti, as a small group facilitator for medical students at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and as a summer camp doctor at Camp Beechpoint in Allegan.

Dr. Unzicker is passionate about health literacy and making health information as accessible as possible to all people. Strengthening partnerships between public health and the healthcare system, and promoting health equity are some of the issues she hopes to address in her new role.

When asked what interested her in joining OCDPH, she says "as a family doctor, my focus is on the care of the whole patient as a person and a member of their family. In my new role at OCDPH, my focus can expand to helping people and families be healthy as part of an entire community, and I find that very exciting."

CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICES

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through preventive services.

Immunizations and Sexual Health Services

COVID-19 required us to think creatively about how to reach the community with our clinical health services. Clinical staff continued to provide uninterrupted immunizations, family planning and sexual health care by adopting new technologies including virtual appointments.

Ottawa County was number one in the State of Michigan for the administration of many vaccine series, as of September 2021. Notably, OCDPH administered 759 flu vaccines, a significant number considering the flu vaccine is also available at pharmacies and healthcare providers. In addition, we administered 446 HPV vaccines, an increase over previous years, signaling that education about the importance of this vaccine in the prevention of cancer has made an impact.

For residents who didn't feel comfortable coming into our Holland clinic, OCDPH immunization nurses provided curbside service and administered vaccines in their vehicles. Education about the importance of vaccination continued to be a priority for all OCDPH staff.

While some staff were deployed to COVID-19 response efforts, we were able to maintain open appointments to assure access to women's health services and sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment. These services were particularly important to maintain due to surveillance data indicating increasing cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea. High risk clients and those with known contacts and symptoms were prioritized, testing was provided using a combination of phone consultations and a self-specimen collection system and outreach in areas of the county with high case rates was restarted as soon as it was feasible.

1,916
Family Planning Visits

More than
4,800
immunizations
(excluding COVID-19)

720
STI Testing Visits

"I'm really proud of our amazing, dedicated clinical team, from the front desk staff answering countless phone calls, to the nurse going out to the car to administer an immunization. We have stood together over this year, ready to serve the public's health needs, knowing that for many, we are their only source of healthcare."

Helen Tarleton, Clinical Services Manager

CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICES

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through disease transmission monitoring and mitigation.

Communicable Disease

Communicable disease case investigation and monitoring allows us to alert the community to increased transmission and share information on preventive measures they can take to promote and protect health. OCDPH observed substantially higher than normal activity for three diseases in 2021.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea are common sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which can both be present without symptoms. If left untreated, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea can have serious and long-term health consequences for men and women. Each disease can be successfully resolved with medication and treatment.

Similar increases of both diseases have been reported nationwide and could be attributed to several reasons, including reduced availability of STI testing in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic and delays in sexual health services due to a diversion of staff to COVID-19 response.

Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. A vector-borne disease is a disease spread to humans or animals by an insect. Lyme disease is transmitted to humans through the bite of a blacklegged tick. Most infections can be successfully treated with antibiotics, if detected early.

Exact reasons for the increase in Lyme Disease incidence in more recent years is unclear, but could be partly due to the doubling of the geographic range over the past 20 years of some ticks responsible for transmission of the pathogen which causes Lyme Disease.

Chlamydia

1,004
New Cases
↑ 24% from
2020

Gonorrhea

257
New Cases
↑ 28% from
2020

Lyme Disease

28
New Cases
↑ 180% from
2020

"We continue to provide case investigation and monitoring of these important communicable diseases to inform the development of education and prevention campaigns to promote and protect the public's health."

Tamara Drake, Communicable Disease Supervisor

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through connection.

Ottawa Pathways to Better Health

Over 400 individuals were served by Ottawa Pathways to Better Health. Our Community Health Workers establish relationships and develop trust with clients so they can better address their health needs. In some cases, these needs are not immediately apparent. As they walk alongside clients, Community Health Workers can connect needs with resources in the community, leading to improved outcomes and healthier lives. Last year, 293 pathways were completed. The top completed pathway was for social service referrals, which could include things like food or financial assistance, transportation, housing or connections to medical care.

Community Health Workers were an instrumental part of the COVID-19 response. Initially, the Pathways team developed and implemented a COVID-19 Education Pathway to help clients understand COVID-19 and its outcomes. They also provided case investigation and contact tracing, with a particular focus on providing bilingual service. Pathways staff assisted at testing and vaccination clinics, supported response measures among our migrant farmworkers, assisted with appointment registration for high risk individuals and families and even provided transportation, when necessary. Finally, they assisted at one of Ottawa County's quarantine facilities, provided masks, food and supplies for isolated and quarantined individuals and responded to more than 500 requests for assistance on how to maintain isolation and quarantine.

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health for all residents.

Migrant Health Survey

OCDPH received a three-year Minority Health Community Capacity Building Initiative grant in 2021 to complete the county's first Migrant Health Needs Assessment in 20 years. The assessment was conducted with 319 migrant farmworkers and identified current health status and health disparities of the respondents.

One accomplishment during the first year of the grant cycle was the creation of an Ottawa County Migrant Task Force, made up of 21 key partners who will be involved in using the survey's findings to address the needs of the migrant community. In addition, members of the task force partnered with OCDPH to determine priorities and develop a strategic plan with the County's Department of Strategic Impact.



"Funding for this project has allowed us to move forward with a long overdue project. We look forward to addressing needs within the migrant community and appreciate the many community partners who have come together to support this important initiative."

Amy Sheele, Health Educator

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through care for chronic health conditions.

Children's Special Health Care Services

Families with children with special needs face challenges most families will never have to consider. Many of those challenges were amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic as families tried to protect their children with chronic physical health issues.

In 2021, the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) team provided assistance to more than 1,400 clients supported by the program. One of the areas the CSHCS nurses focused on throughout the pandemic was trying to provide accurate and up-to-date information and resources from the CDC, MDHHS and other trusted sources so families could make decisions about COVID-19.

A highlight for the program has been its private Facebook parent support page, with more than 1,000 members. This page is moderated by a CSHCS parent liaison and is a place where parents can share resources, recommendations and most importantly, connection with other families who are working through similar issues with their children with special needs.

CSHCS nurses also provided case management and support to 10 children with elevated blood lead levels. This case management involves education and support, as well as investigating the source of each child's lead poisoning.



Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through preventive school screenings.

Hearing and Vision Services

The number of hearing and vision screenings administered in 2021 was lower than in previous years due to COVID-19 pandemic school closures, remote learning and the additional impacts of the pandemic on schools. Although the screenings can be done by appointment at the health department, providing screenings in school removes some of the barriers families can experience in accessing these necessary and required services.

"A child's ability to see and hear are vital to learning. Screenings are an important tool to obtain information about hearing and vision loss, and can contribute to a child's overall health and well-being."

*Leslie VerDuin, BSN, RN
Hearing and Vision Services
Program Supervisor*

In the four years prior to the pandemic, OCDPH performed an average of 30,000 vision and hearing screenings per year. On average, about 9% of vision screenings and 3% of hearing screenings result in a referral to a specialist for follow-up diagnosis and care. The inability to screen children in school during the pandemic is concerning as it may have resulted in as many as 1,300 children who did not receive the vision care they needed and 400 children who did not receive the hearing care they needed in 2021.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health throughout pregnancy and infancy.

Maternal Infant Health Program

The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) is a statewide evidence-based home visiting program which promotes healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes and healthy infant growth and development to ensure that babies, families and communities in Michigan are healthy and thriving. MIHP support for Ottawa County families continued uninterrupted in 2021. Virtual and over-the-phone visits were utilized when



in-person visits were not feasible due to COVID-19 case surges in the community, which allowed the team to increase the number of overall interactions with MIHP families. MIHP providers also assisted with at-home COVID-19 vaccination among pregnant woman and their families, who sometime face child care or transportation barriers. Longstanding relationships with community partners, as well as referral relationships with other OCDPH programs, created many opportunities to connect MIHP clients to COVID-19 resources.

The MIHP program also integrated with Ottawa Pathways to Better Health to provide a dedicated Community Health Worker to clients. This integration has allowed MIHP to leverage the skills and community knowledge of a Pathways Community Health Worker for client needs that are outside of pregnancy and infant care.



MIHP clients receive important assessment and education around risk factors such as infant feeding, shaken baby syndrome, intimate partner violence and mental health. In 2021, 76% of the MIHP clients who were assessed for depression and anxiety were identified as needing mental health education services. Of those, 65% required additional case management and assistance accessing mental health treatment and care.



Breastfeeding support continues to be a top priority for MIHP. In partnership with Michigan WIC, the Michigan Public Health Institute and the Breastfeeding Center of Ann Arbor, three MIHP staff members completed Lactation Counselor and Educator training, which helped expand evidence-based strategies to promote breastfeeding.

“The physical, mental, and socioeconomic benefits of breastfeeding are extensive for mom, babies, families and communities. The Maternal Infant Health Program staff are committed to helping women meet their breastfeeding goals, and we’re better equipped to do so now that we have additional team members trained in breastfeeding counseling.”

Sandra Lake, Community Health Manager

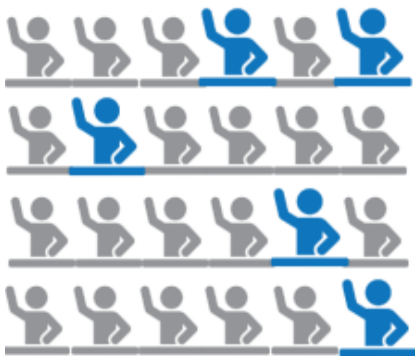
HEALTH PLANNING & PROMOTION SERVICES

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through proactive mental health intervention.

Blue Envelope Initiative

According to the 2019 Youth Assessment Survey, almost one in five teens in Ottawa County reported they “seriously thought about attempting suicide” in the twelve months prior to completing their assessment. To assist school staff in addressing this issue, the Ottawa County Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and Spectrum Health collaborated to provide employees at 29 schools with training in the Blue Envelope Initiative. The training, developed by Spectrum Health, equips school employees with tools so they know how to respond to a student who may express thoughts of suicide.

During the 2020-2021 school year, there were 415 Blue Envelope incidents in Ottawa County schools. Over 1,800 staff members who completed the training expressed increased confidence in addressing issues surrounding suicide, and over 22,000 students have been touched by the Blue Envelope Initiative.



On average, in every classroom of 13-18-year-olds almost...

5 seriously thought about taking their life

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through the creation of food security and nutrition education.

Ottawa Food



Ottawa Food exists as a collaborative of more than 45 local agencies and individuals who work together to address food insecurity and healthy eating behavior.

According to Feeding America, approximately 9%, or 25,700 Ottawa County community members, were food insecure, including 4,400 children in 2019.* The 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) found that 43.6% of adults eat less than one fruit each day and 31.8% of adults eat less than one vegetable each day. Underserved and vulnerable Ottawa County residents identify access to free or low-cost nutrition/healthy eating as a top resource that is lacking in the community.

2021 accomplishments include:

- Senior Project Fresh bolstered healthy, local food access to seniors.
- Pick for Pantries and farmers' markets produce donation and gleaning projects increased fruit and vegetable availability at food pantries.
- Meet Up Eat Up meal distribution site expansion for children ages 18 and younger; more than 497,000 meals were distributed last summer.
- Social media and Food Resource Guide distribution to link residents with food resources throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Connected food pantries with PPE resources so they could continue to operate safely.

*Source found on page 18.

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through relationships and education.

Prime for Life & Vape Education

The 2019 Youth Assessment Survey showed that the use of electronic vapor products, alcohol and marijuana continues to be an issue among Ottawa County teens, with teens having limited perception of the risk of these behaviors. Prime for Life and Vape Education grant-funded programming aims to help teens identify the consequences of high-risk substance use behaviors. Program participants are referred via the juvenile court system, and beginning in 2021, from some area schools.

Last year, the Prime for Life program was expanded, and five Ottawa County school districts began offering participation in the program as an alternative to suspension from school for substance use offenses.

Collaboration between the court system, local electronic vapor retailers, the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and the Ottawa County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition has been key to making this information available to teens across the county.

After completing the Vape Education class, 91% of students stated that they believe when an individual uses vapor products or electronic cigarettes, they are putting themselves at great risk. In addition, 80% of students said the class impacted their thoughts about vaping.

"Our classes equip students with the information they need to make informed choices and create opportunities to build bridges between students, parents and school staff."

Allison Selner, Health Educator

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through preventive care.

Oral Health Services

On average, 34 million school hours are lost each year because of unplanned, emergency dental care, and over \$45 billion in United States productivity is lost each year due to untreated dental disease.* For more than 26 years, OCDPH's Miles of Smiles program has met critical oral health care needs by providing dental services to Medicaid insured and financially qualifying uninsured children, age birth to 20.

During the 2020-2021 school year, oral health visits were reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions. Services were adapted so that hundreds of children could receive preventive and restorative care at 15 sites around Ottawa County on the Miles of Smiles mobile dental unit. The SEAL! Michigan program also used the mobile dental unit to provide services to 2nd, 6th and 7th graders at 10 area schools, and provided oral health education to more than 900 students.

More than
 **600** sealants in **10**
Ottawa County schools

 **526** appointments at **15**
sites in Ottawa County

*Source found on page 18.

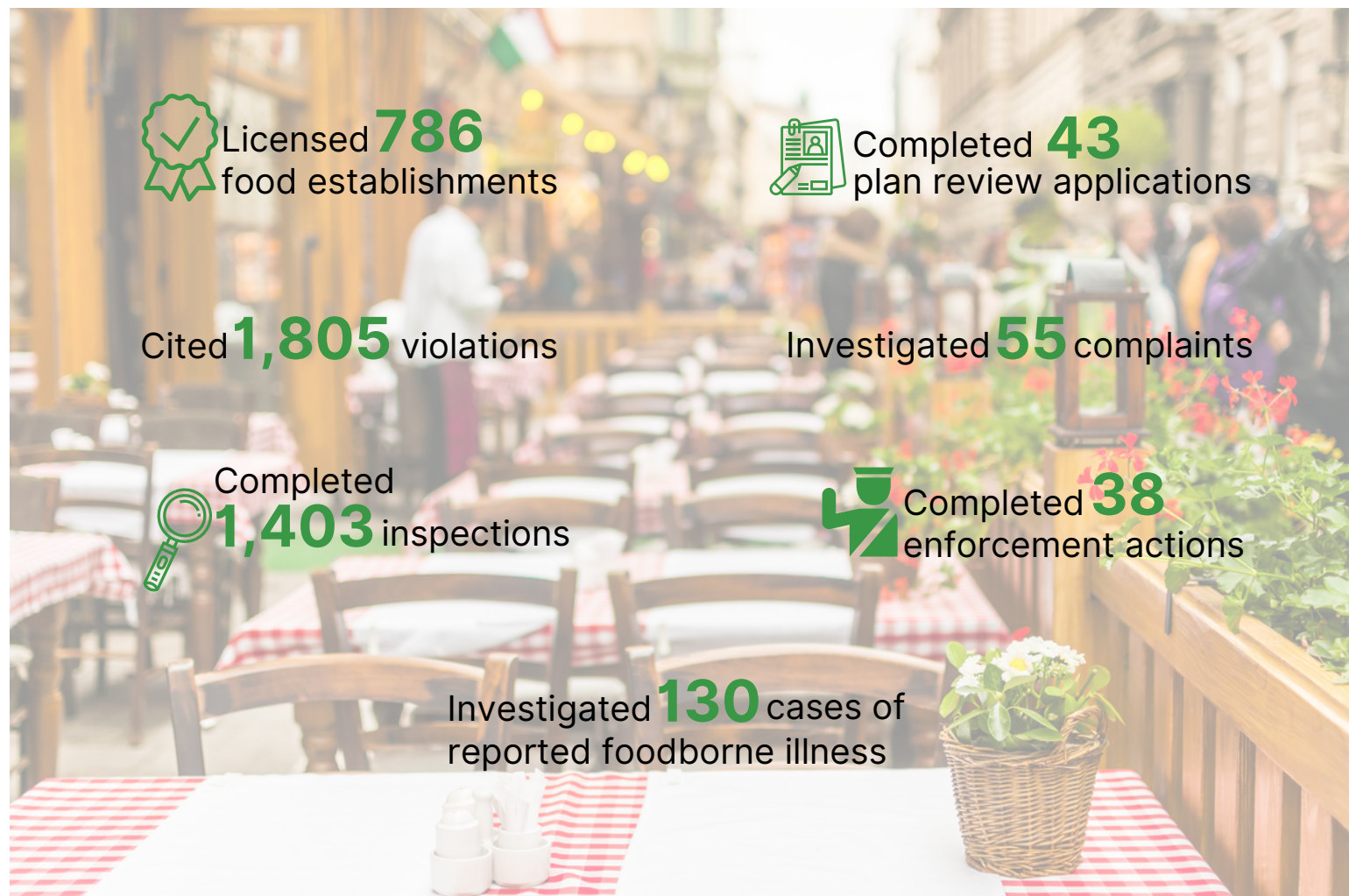
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through standards, guidelines and interventions.

Food Safety Program

It is estimated that 48 million people get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from foodborne diseases each year in the United States.* The OCDPH Food Safety Program is dedicated to educating and regulating Ottawa County food service establishments to prevent foodborne diseases in the community and limit outbreaks that can cripple a business. Almost half of all money Americans spend on food is spent in restaurants, so restaurant inspections are a critical public health intervention for the prevention of foodborne disease.*

Ottawa County restaurants were impacted by labor shortages and supply chain issues in 2021. Understaffed and inexperienced restaurant crews resulted in longer inspection times, more follow-up inspections and increased education and outreach activities by the Food Safety Team. Even with these challenges, the Ottawa County restaurant industry is growing. Plan review applications for new food establishments have continued to grow, with 43 applications received in the past year. In 2021, more food licenses were issued than in any previous year.



*Sources found on page 18.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through the reduction of environmental health hazards.

Onsite Services Program

Nearly 15% of Americans rely on water provided by private drinking water systems, and more than 20% of households rely on septic systems to process their wastewater.* However, if these systems are not properly constructed or maintained, they can significantly impact the health of the community or the environment.

The Onsite Services Program is responsible for understanding how drinking water and wastewater systems work so that safe and effective systems are installed, and existing systems can be properly assessed. For each system installed, a construction permit and a final inspection are required prior to use. The Real Estate Evaluation Program requires all homes sold in Ottawa County with a private well or sewage disposal system be inspected and evaluated. This program evaluates existing systems at the time of sale to address risks to human health or the environment.

In 2021, Onsite Services grew:

- 19.4% more overall services completed in fiscal year 2021 (4,157 services) than in fiscal year 2020 (3,481 services).
- Over 50% increase in multiple services in fiscal year 2021:
 - Irrigation Well Permits **(123.7% increase)**
 - Site Visit Evaluations **(62.1% increase)**
 - Test Well Permits **(216.7% increase)**
 - Vacant Land Evaluations **(147.6% increase)**
 - Well Replacement Permits **(60.9% increase)**

Of those mentioned above, site visit evaluations, test well permits and vacant land evaluations are closely tied to future building and development. The large increase in these services indicates an increase in new construction and applications for new well and septic permits will likely be seen in the next few years.

*Source found on page 18.

Sustainability Program

Sustainable practices help to support a healthy environment, a healthy economy and a healthy community. The Sustainability Program examines how resources are used and works to develop programs that reduce negative environmental impacts to support a healthy community. Traditional programs include recycling to reuse materials where possible, as well as the collection of household hazardous waste to ensure proper and safe disposal.

However, the Sustainability Program is not only about recovering resources and solid waste, but also collecting valuable materials to be reused, recycled or be properly disposed. The recently implemented Scrap Tire Collection Program aligns with this broadened scope by repurposing old tires into new products. Last year, 540 tires were collected through the program, which helped to conserve landfill space and prevent improper disposal that can contaminate waterways and soil.



13% increase
in customers served at Sustainability
sites over previous years
(over 17,000 served)

260+ tons
of scrap metal, e-waste,
household hazardous waste
and recycling collected

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through crisis planning and response.

The COVID-19 pandemic response was a high priority for OCDPH staff in 2021. While this past year brought hopeful developments, like widespread availability of vaccine for all but our youngest residents, it also brought deadly COVID-19 variants that presented new challenges. OCDPH staff worked to provide the community with the most accurate information, and equitable access to vaccination and testing to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the Ottawa County community.

Signs of Hope: COVID-19 Vaccine

The availability of a safe and effective vaccine brought hope to many in Ottawa County. OCDPH staff administered Ottawa County's first vaccine to Jeff Potter, First Responder and City of Zeeland Firefighter, on December 18, 2020.

 **61,627**
COVID-19 vaccines

 **326**
vaccine clinics



Pictured from left: Robin Schurman and Jeff Potter



Ottawa County Road Commission Testing Site



Holland Civic Center Vaccine Clinic



Tulip Time Testing and Vaccine Clinic

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Assuring conditions that promote and protect health through crisis planning and response.

Strategic Partnerships

OCDPH provided guidance and support to these vital sectors: businesses, local governments, faith-based and human service organizations, healthcare facilities and congregate care, agricultural and educational settings.

- Held weekly meetings to discuss local, state and federal guidance.
- Conducted outbreak and case investigation and contact tracing.
- Conducted case surveillance and data collection.
- Held vaccination and testing clinics.
- Provided infection mitigation education.
- Distributed PPE and testing supplies.
- Created and distributed infographics, signage, letters and support materials.

Strategic Communications

OCDPH engaged a variety of communications platforms, in multiple languages, to keep people informed in a rapidly changing situation.

- Assisted with the development of the regional Vaccinate West Michigan website.
- Utilized social media, including Twitter and Facebook.
- Participated in local media interviews and stories.
- Developed weekly/biweekly COVID-19 bulletins.
- Managed emergency operations center communications.
- Held community presentations, webinars and Facebook Live Q&A sessions.
- Managed COVID-19 call center.
- Developed television and radio advertising.
- Provided epidemiology updates and reports.
- Created COVID-19 response website and data dashboard.
- Sent targeted communications using electronic and phone messaging for COVID-19 cases and contacts.

Health Equity

Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to attain their full health potential. Equitable access to information, vaccine and testing was a primary goal for OCDPH.

Those in our community who could not attend a mass vaccination clinic relied on OCDPH for more personalized outreach. Partnership with the entire community was necessary to make vaccination accessible to all geographic regions, ages and abilities. More than 20 partners assisted us in reaching people from all races, ethnicities and cultures, the elderly, individuals with special needs, people with language barriers, people experiencing homelessness, working families, migrant and other farmworkers and more. By October 2021, community partners had held 124 vaccine clinics and administered 16,650 vaccines in safe and trusted environments.

These partners also challenged OCDPH to consider the ways we could make the experience of getting a vaccine easier, more accessible and available in inclusive environments. Partners helped us increase vaccine confidence, create equitable support materials and videos for non-English speaking and underserved groups, advertise clinic availability and even schedule appointments.

COVID-19 PREVENTION & RESPONSE

OCDPH's COVID-19 Response website received more than
1,000,000 views

STAFF AWARDS



Britney Brown, Ottawa Pathways to Better Health Community Health Worker, was awarded Ottawa County's **Customer Service Award** for her work with a refugee family from Iraq. Brown has been a Community Health Worker at OCDPH for five years and says her work with the refugees was some of the most rewarding she has done. Although the family was initially referred to Pathways for the father's health issues, Brown soon identified that many of his health issues stemmed from the stress he felt after being injured and unable to work, and were also complicated by affordable housing needs and the many barriers they faced in navigating the social service system. Brown walked alongside the family for three years, and along the way, the father

regained his health, which led to a fuller life for the entire family. Britney said, "I loved this family and I was not going to let them go by the wayside. There was no other agency that could address their needs in the same way Pathways could. Winning this award was affirmation that this is what I'm supposed to be doing."



Spencer Ballard was awarded the **Samuel M. Stephenson Sanitarian of the Year** award from the Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA). The award recognizes outstanding service to MEHA and the Environmental Health Profession within the past three years. The awardee is selected based on contributions and outstanding service to the practice of environmental health, activities and service that support the profession of environmental health and highly beneficial contributions and commitment on behalf of MEHA. The Food Safety Team nominated Spencer for the award to recognize his hard work and commitment to environmental health and his team. Their nomination recognized that Spencer "has always been willing to contribute in whatever way necessary", and that he "offers his time, skills and vision with steadfastness and integrity".

Spencer is dedicated to continually improving the ways he serves his team and the community to promote public health and is truly an asset to Ottawa County.



Pictured from left: Hope College President Matthew Scogin, OCDPH Administrative Health Officer Lisa Stefanovsky, Former OCDPH Medical Director Dr. Paul Heidel, & Hope College Vice President & Dean Richard Frost

OCDPH was recognized with the **Hope College Meritorious Service Award**, in recognition of "outstanding service and long term involvement" with the College. This partnership was never more fully on display than during the COVID-19 pandemic as we worked with Hope's staff to keep their students and community safe and healthy.

Congratulations and many thanks to OCDPH's 2021 retirees!

Charly Nienhuis, MIHP, 39 years
Deb Bassett, Oral Health Services, 21 years
Paul Heidel, MD, Medical Director, 19 years
Maureen Eberly, Sexual Health Services, 15 years
Michael Marlowe, Food Safety, 5 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual
Revenues					
Intergovernmental revenues	\$ 4,422,008	\$ 4,365,076	\$ 5,946,990	\$ 6,754,446	\$ 7,127,943
Charges for services	693,973	650,523	705,830	598,829	577,375
Licenses and permits	912,356	1,027,568	1,052,855	977,837	977,519
Other	44,591	81,322	135,976	550,821	223,183
Total revenues	6,072,928	6,124,489	7,841,651	8,881,933	8,906,020
Expenditures					
Current operations					
Personnel services	7,130,832	7,417,469	7,868,542	8,917,698	9,779,221
Supplies	822,831	820,367	1,072,513	940,917	1,023,905
Other services and charges	1,808,991	2,027,884	2,224,040	2,378,035	2,602,757
Debt service	-	-	-	-	-
Principal retirement	-	-	-	-	-
Interest and fiscal charges	-	-	-	-	-
Capital outlay	6,325	11,313	-	-	6,566
Total expenditures	9,768,979	10,277,033	11,165,095	12,236,650	13,412,449
Revenues over (under) expenditures	(3,696,051)	(4,152,544)	(3,323,444)	(3,354,717)	(4,506,429)
Other financing sources (uses)					
Transfers from other funds	4,330,512	3,582,994	4,610,713	4,193,078	5,201,159
Total other financing sources (uses)	4,330,512	3,582,994	4,610,713	4,193,078	5,201,159
Net change in fund balance	634,461	(569,550)	1,287,269	838,361	694,730
Fund balance, beginning of year	820,702	1,455,163	885,613	2,172,882	3,011,243
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 1,455,163	\$ 885,613	\$ 2,172,882	\$ 3,011,243	\$ 3,705,973
FTE (Employees)					
Health	88.60	91.85	91.75	99.20	98.88
Unfunded positions	0	0	0	0	0

FY 21 Preliminary unaudited

Sources

Page 10

Feeding America Map the Meal Gap map, 2019. Hunger & Poverty in Ottawa County, Michigan, feedingamerica.org.

Page 11

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2018 National Health Expenditure Data. NHE Tables; Table 12: cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/NationalHealthExpendData/NationalHealthAccountsHistoricalexternal icon.

Pages 12 and 13

USGS. (2019, March 1). Domestic (Private) Supply Wells, U.S. Geological Survey. Domestic Private Supply Wells. Retrieved February 17, 2022, usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/domestic-private-supply-wells#overview.

US EPA. (2022, January 5). Septic Systems Overview. Retrieved February 17, 2022, epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-overview.

Burden of Foodborne Illness: Findings Estimates of Foodborne Illness, CDC. (n.d.). Burden of Foodborne Illness. Retrieved February 17, 2022, cdc.gov/foodborneburden/2011-foodborne-estimates.html.

The activities of this department are brought to you by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners:
Chair Matthew Fenske | Vice-Chair Allen Dannenberg | Frank Garcia | Joe Baumann | Doug Zylstra
Randall Meppelink | Kyle Terpstra | Jim Holtvluwer | Philip Kuyers | Roger Bergman

Under the Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978, a local health department shall continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life and promote the public health through organized programs including prevention and control of environmental health hazards; prevention and control of diseases; prevention and control of health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups; development of health care facilities and health services delivery systems; and regulation of health care facilities and health services delivery systems to the extent provided by law. The Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) is required by state mandate to perform a variety of specific services. Provision of these services is reviewed through a state accreditation process. In addition to, and ideally within the mandated services, OCDPH builds programs and services around community and customer/client needs. These needs are defined through community research. The OCDPH uses a variety of collected information to guide program development. This includes the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, Youth Assessment Survey, Community Health Needs Assessment and the ongoing collection of epidemiological surveillance data and information.

12251 James Street
Holland, MI 49424
Phone 616 396-5266
Español 616 393-5780

1207 South Beechtree Street, Suite B
Grand Haven, MI 49417
616 846-8360

3100 Port Sheldon Avenue
Hudsonville, MI 49426
616 669-0040

*mi*Ottawa Department of
Public Health

[miOttawa.org/Health/OCHD](https://miottawa.org/Health/OCHD)

 @miOCDPH

 /miOttawaHealth