



HEALTH
Department

2023 Annual Report Highlights

Allegan County Health Department (ACHD)

2023 Accomplishments

Collaboration: ACHD worked with both internal and external partners to benefit the community. These partnerships, as spoken to in Angelique’s introductory letter, included the following:

- 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) with the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) and the Multi-Agency Collaborative Council (MACC). ACHD worked with Polco to conduct the survey, which helped us collect more community input for this survey.
- Partners and ACHD started the groundworks for the Community Information Exchange (CIE) for Allegan County to coordinate community resources to the benefit of residents.

Customer Satisfaction: Of the 322 customer satisfaction surveys returned for the health department, the overall satisfaction rate was 97.5%. This is the average of people who “agreed” or “strongly agreed” to being satisfied by ACHD services over four quarters, and speaks to the great work that ACHD staff consistently perform to meet client needs.

New Permits: ACHD’s Environmental Health Field Team met the 14-day benchmark for new permits 99% of the time. This means that they were able to turn around requests within 14 business days, even during the busy parts of the summer. The food team completed all the inspections for food vendors during the 2023 Allegan County Fair.

Audits and Operationalizing Diseases: The Personal Health team successfully operationalized COVID-19 like other communicable diseases, and passed two state audits and site visits with success. The team also worked to improve rabies reporting and investigation this past year.

Community Outreach and Education: ACHD expanded community outreach efforts by attending over 20 community events in 2023, providing health education and personal health services to residents. We have continued to consistent touch points with providers, childcares and daycares, residents, congregate care settings, and residents in the form of press releases and periodic newsletters.

Resource Recovery: In 2023, two additional local government units joined the Resource Recovery Program, coming to a total of twenty-two communities in Allegan. Such programs help keep environments cleaner and recyclable refuse out of landfills.



HEALTH
Department

ANNUAL REPORT

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ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Our Health Officer	1
Governance	2
Our Admin Team	3
Our Divisions	4
2023 in Review	5
Personal Health	6
Environmental Health	8
Resource Recovery	
Planning & Preparedness	10
My Community Dental Center	12
Financial Overview	13



A LETTER FROM OUR HEALTH OFFICER



Dear Board of Commissioners and Community,

As I reflect on 2023 and my transition out of the role of Health Officer, I wanted to write this letter to celebrate the successes we have achieved together and express my deepest gratitude to the dedicated members of the Allegan County Health Department, our community partners, and the residents of Allegan County.

When thinking about this past year, one word that comes to mind the most is “collaboration.” The collaboration and unity within our team and the support from our community partners have played a crucial role in our success. ACHD successfully operationalized COVID-19 like other communicable diseases, ensured all services delivered met standards, and worked alongside the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) and the Multi-Agency Collaborative Council (MACC) on the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) action steps to address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) of Allegan County residents.

Some action steps identified from the 2022-2025 CHIP that ACHD was able to achieve in 2023 include conducting the 2023 Community Health Survey in partnership with Polco to gain a representative sample of Allegan County residents to identify health factors that most affect residents and help us identify opportunities for improvement and prioritization of community resources. We also were able to survey local medical, dental, and mental health care providers to create the 2023 Provider Capacity Assessment that outlines wait times, insurance acceptance, acceptance of new patients, and more from our local providers. Partners and ACHD started the groundwork towards a Community Information Exchange (CIE) for Allegan County to help coordinate community resources and services so that residents can get better care and assistance.

These achievements and the many more outlined in this report would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of each member of our department and community partners. I have confidence in the capable hands of the dedicated individuals within the Allegan County Health Department. Their commitment to improving our community’s health and well-being has been inspiring. I am grateful to have worked with such a dedicated, passionate team and community. I am optimistic about the continued collaboration and the positive impact the department will continue to have on the health and well-being of our community in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN".

Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN
Former Health Officer



GOVERNANCE

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) is the governing board of the Public Health Department. The BOC employs a County Administrator who is recognized as the County's Chief Administrative Officer.

Board of Commissioners



Jim Storey
District 1



Mark DeYoung
District 2



Dean Kapenga
District 3



Scott Beltman
District 4



Gale Dugan
District 5

County Administrator



Robert J. Sarro



MISSION

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper.

VISION

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners is committed to providing our citizens superior and innovative services, being judicious and efficient in the expenditure of resources, and promoting a safe, clean and healthy environment in which to live, work and play.

OUR ADMIN TEAM



Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN
Health Officer

Randy Rapp, RS
Environmental Health Manager



Lindsay Maunz, MPH, CHES, CPH
Planning and Preparedness Manager

Lisa Letts, BSN, RN
Personal Health Manager



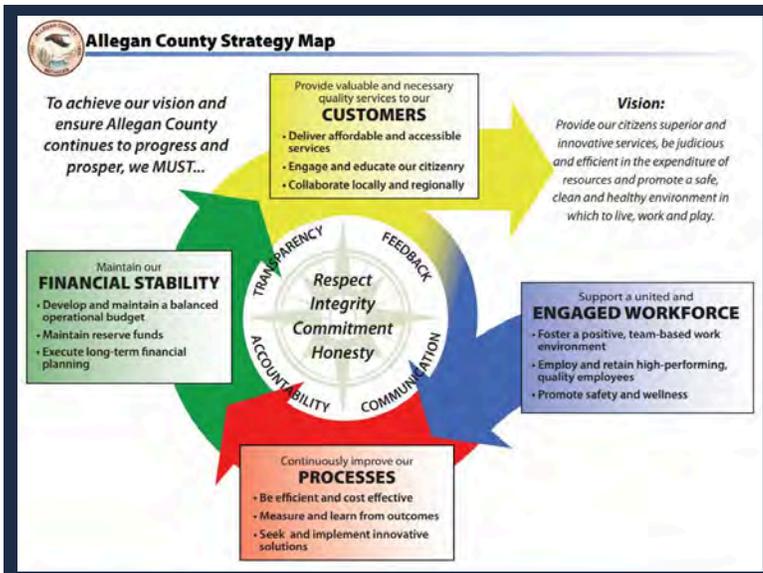
Rik Tooker, MD, MPH
Medical Director

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Together: Striving for a Healthier Allegan County

Our strategic framework influences community health outcomes while improving community health outcomes that align with the Organization's vision and purpose of the Department.

See [Allegan County's Strategy Map](#) below:



OUR DIVISIONS

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration team supports the department as a whole. They issue advisories and other official letters to protect the public's health. They work to collect and evaluate data needed to support efficient public health service delivery and share data with the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health team provides services such as well and septic permits, soil erosion and sedimentary control permits, restaurant inspections, groundwater contamination surveillance, beach sampling, vector-borne surveillance, and other activities that support these services. They also identify opportunities for environmental health education and work with the Planning and Preparedness team to develop materials.

RESOURCE RECOVERY

Resource Recovery coordinates Resource Recovery program activities for participating local units of government (LUGs) and facilitates the Solid Waste Planning Committee.

PERSONAL HEALTH

The Personal Health team provides services such as STI/HIV, Immunizations, Lead, Hearing and Vision, Communicable Diseases, and Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS). They also provide education, in-services, and on-site inspections for medical providers participating in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program and Adult Vaccine Program (AVP), providing guidance on safe storage and handling, inventory management, and patient education.

PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

The Planning & Preparedness team provides health education and communication and collaborates with community partners on community health needs assessments and community health improvement plans, outreach, and other engagement activities that contribute to improving community health and quality of life in Allegan County. They also interact with the community through social media and media releases/interviews.

2023 IN REVIEW

A FEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM EACH DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION

62,625

Total Public Health Services Provided in 2023

Overall satisfaction rate of **97.5%**



39

Health Inquiries Responded to



1,472

Advisories and Recommendation Letters issued



322

Customer Satisfaction surveys returned



Immunization team completed Vaccines For Children (VFC) training with the State and had a successful site visit for compliance



Successfully completed HIV virtual audit with the State with no corrective action needed



Implemented bedside charting and immediate rooming for clinic patients

Hired and trained a Personal Health Coordinator and Immunization Public Health Nurse



Implemented rabies reporting improvements & education



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Food Team was able to perform the required inspections on all of the Fixed Food Establishments



Field Team passed the 2023 Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) audit for private Type II and Type III water supplies



Field Team met the 14 day bench mark for new permits 99% of the time



Field Team had the Corrective Plan of Action for EGLE on-site evaluated and approved



Food Team performed all of the inspections for the food vendors at the 2023 Allegan County Fair



Hired and trained a Public Information Officer (PIO)

Contracted with Polco for an Allegan County Community Health Survey



Completed and published the 2023 Allegan County Provider Capacity Assessment



PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

Attended the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference & presented a poster about the community process for developing a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)



PERSONAL HEALTH

AT A GLANCE

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES (CSHCS)



726
Total clients



314
Level 1
Plan of Care



279
Level 2
Care
Coordination

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



29
Lead test
follow-ups



210
Animal bite
follow-ups



108
TB skin
tests



2,924
Investigations
conducted



1
Rabies positive
animal



14
TB latent
Infections

IMMUNIZATION



1,536
Immunizations
given



324
Waivers
given



60
Vaccine
Reallocations

SEXUAL HEALTH



185
STD/HIV
clinic visits



334
STD/HIV case
follow-ups

HEARING & VISION



4,862
Hearing
Screenings



9,881
Vision
Screenings

PERSONAL HEALTH

MCDC & ACHD TEAM UP FOR KINDERGARTEN SCREENINGS

Michigan created the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program (KOHA) [Public Health Code Act 368 Section 333.9316] to improve school readiness and raise awareness of the importance of good oral health. Similar to hearing and vision screenings, the oral health assessment takes no longer than 5 minutes to look for signs of tooth decay or infection by a licensed dental professional at no cost to individuals.

ACHD provides hearing and vision screenings for preschool and kindergarten entrance at no cost to individuals. In 2023, MCDC was invited to attend 12 different screening dates at ACHD to promote kindergarten readiness for children in Allegan County.



560

Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments conducted by MCDC in 2023

IMPROVING RABIES REPORTING IN ALLEGAN COUNTY

In 2023, ACHD began working on a project to increase collaboration with Allegan County Animal Control regarding following up with individuals who are potentially exposed to rabies. This ongoing project will help improve rabies reporting in Allegan County, help ACHD receive real-time animal bite reports to follow up with individuals and provide education to individuals on what to do when they have an animal bite.

Individuals who encounter an animal bite should:

- Wash the area with soap and water
- Seek medical attention
- Report the bite to ACHD by filling out our online reporting form: bit.ly/AnimalBiteReporting.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

AT A GLANCE

FIELD



383
Residential
well final
inspections



521
Residential
well permits
issued



3,032
Soil Erosion and
Sedimentary
Control (SESC)
inspections



446
Sewage
disposal final
inspections



574
Sewage
disposal
permits issued



400
SESC
permits

FOOD



761
Fixed Food
establishment
inspections



26
Complaints/
food borne
investigations



109
Temporary
food
inspections



235
Beach samples
taken



163
Abandoned
wells plugged



23
Campground
inspections



9
Body art
facilities
inspected



77
Public pool
inspections



1,006
EH Records
Requests
Processed



49
Septage Trucks
Inspected

OTHER SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE



136

Mosquitos collected and identified



12

Black-legged ticks collected



42

Dog ticks collected

12 sampling events were conducted at 5 sampling locations.

- 136 total female mosquitos were collected and identified.
- 9 unique species were identified.
- No invasive species were collected.

3 tick sampling events were conducted at Rabbit River Nature Preserve.

- 12 *Ixodes scapularis* (black-legged or deer ticks) were collected. These ticks can carry Lyme disease and were sent into the State for additional testing.
- 42 *Dermacentor variabilis* (dog ticks) were collected. These ticks are not at high risk for disease transmission.

GREAT LAKES & INLAND LAKE BEACH SAMPLING

3 Great Lakes beaches were sampled: Oval Beach, Pier Cove Beach, and Laketown Township Park Beach.

- There was 1 *E. coli* exceedance at Pier Cove beach, likely related to heavy rainfall before sampling.



13

sample days



118

samples taken



12

sample days



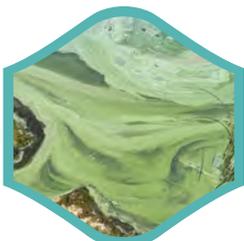
117

samples taken

4 Inland Lakes beaches were sampled: Gun Lake County Park, Dumont Lake County Park, Little John Lake, and Swan Lake.

- There were 4 *E. coli* exceedances, one at Swan Lake and three at Dumont Lake, likely due to heavy rainfall before sampling.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AT SWAN LAKE



Swan Lake had confirmed blue-green algae, known as cyanobacteria or harmful algal blooms (HABs), present in 2023. ACHD provided a press release and health education on the dangers of HABs and avoiding water-related activities when blooms were present. ACHD also created a weekly email newsletter for residents of Swan Lake to keep them informed on the latest test results and actions.

Beach Test Results, Advisories, and Closings throughout the State of Michigan are posted on the BeachGuard Website: egle.state.mi.us/beach



RESOURCE RECOVERY

AT A GLANCE



In 2023, 2 additional local government units (LGUs) joined the Resource Recovery Program. The Resource Recovery Program serves 22 communities in Allegheny County.

Scan the QR code to visit the Resource Recovery webpage:



2,876,520
pounds of single stream recycling collected



35,985
pounds of household hazardous waste collected



3
scrap tire events held



4,450
scrap tires collected



40,409
pounds of e-waste recycled

PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

AT A GLANCE

COMMUNICATIONS



281
Facebook posts



11
Press Releases



7,083
Followers on Facebook



84
Newsletters sent out



90,579
Facebook post views



3,032
Health Education Materials created

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



22
Community outreach events attended



4
Times the mobile unit was present at community events

PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

COMMUNITY LINKS PROGRAM



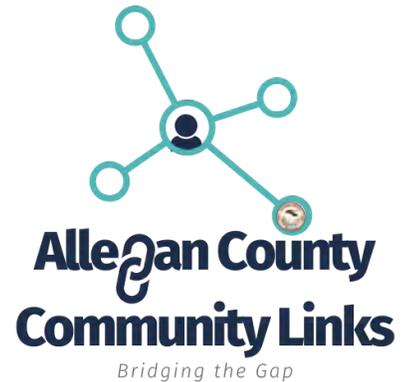
136

New referrals
in 2023



6

New
partnerships
developed



2023 COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY

In October 2023, ACHD released the 2023 Allegan County Community Health Survey (CHS) in partnership with Polco, an independent consultant and civic engagement company. This survey was first available to randomly selected residents, who received a mailed invitation to participate. Soon after, all residents were able to complete the survey by visiting the ACHD or Polco websites.

ACHD worked with the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Steering Committee and the Multi-Agency Collaborative Council (MACC) CHIP Workgroups throughout the survey development process to ensure the data collected would provide valuable community insight on health topics within Allegan County. The CHS is an identified strategy or action item throughout the 2022-2025 CHIP in the four priority areas – behavioral health, access to medical care, housing, and food security. ACHD partnered with Polco to create and implement the survey.

The information gathered from the CHS will help determine health factors that most affect Allegan County residents and help community partners identify opportunities for improvement and prioritization of community resources.

The CHS report findings are on ACHD's website (allegancounty.org/health) under the data and reports page. Scan the QR code below to view the report.



Pictured to the right: Promotional messaging shared on ACHD communication channels to spread the word about the survey.



MY COMMUNITY DENTAL CENTERS

My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, that established a partnership with ACHD to provide dental services to Medicaid enrollees and low-income, uninsured residents.



6,563

total office visits



560

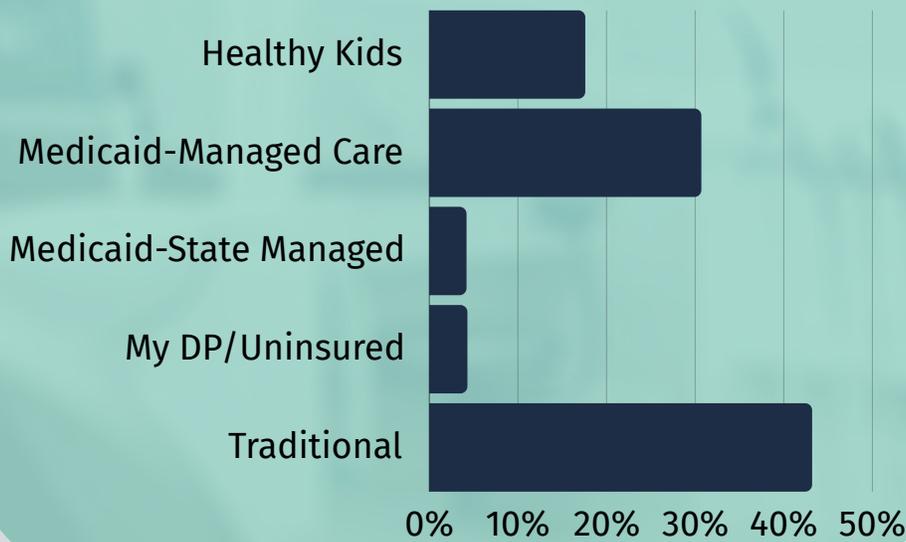
Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments conducted



3,071

unique patients served

Average Type of Patient Coverage (%), 2023



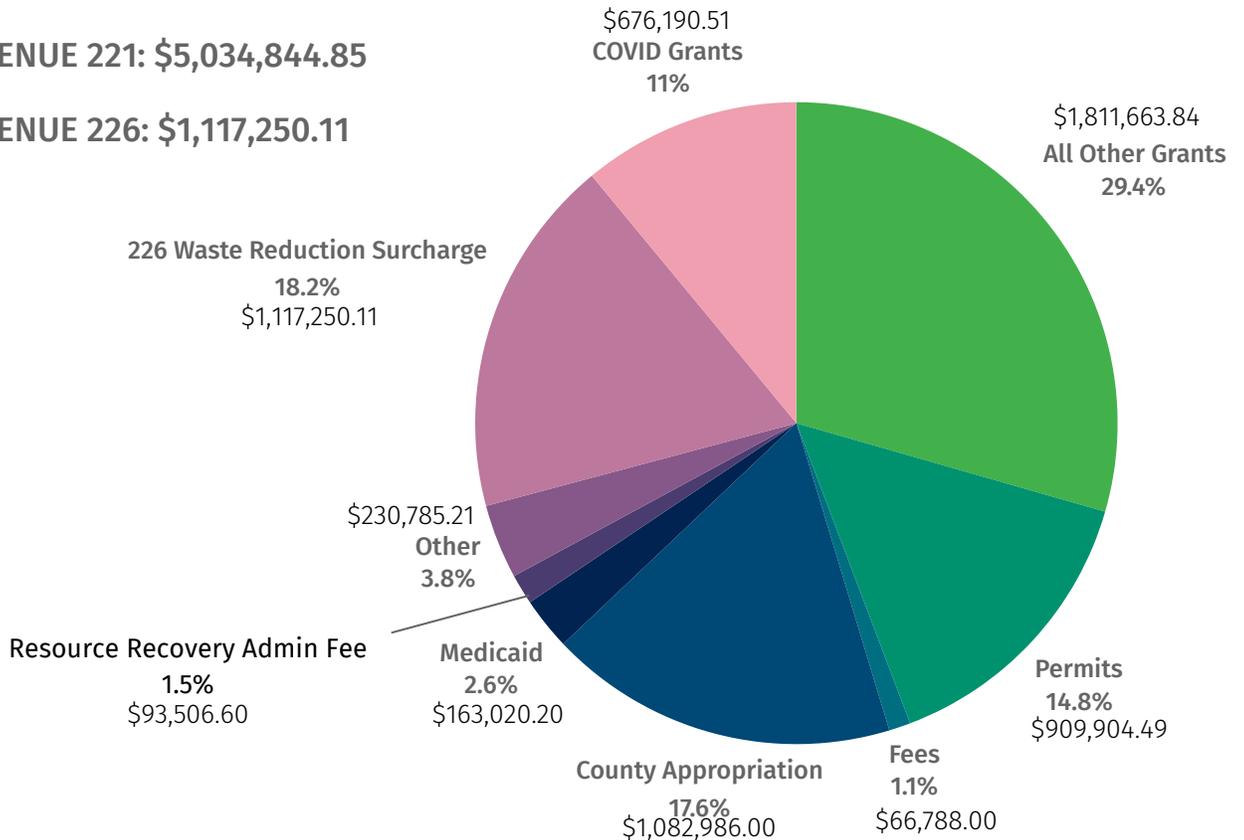
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2023 REVENUE

Public Health oversees two funds. Fund 226 supports all recycling activities. The primary revenue for recycling is the recycling surcharge. Fund 221 supports all Public Health operations. Revenue in Fund 221 generally includes the County General Fund allocation, State funding, grants, permits, fees, and Medicaid reimbursement.

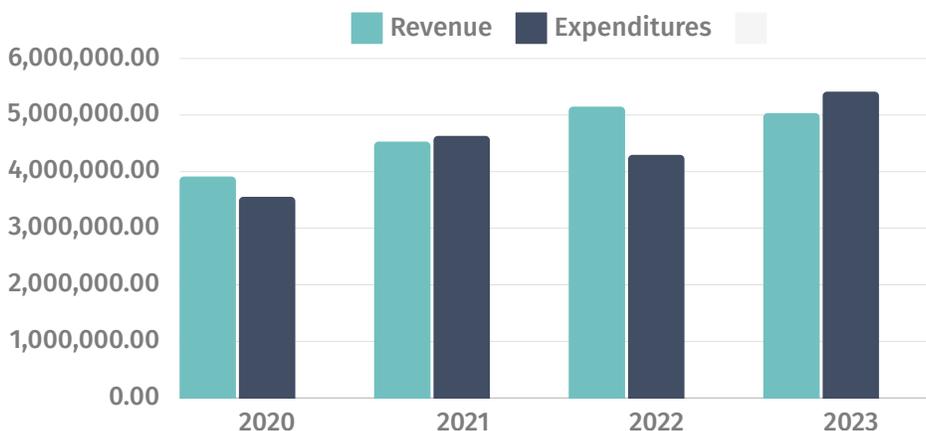
TOTAL REVENUE 221: \$5,034,844.85

TOTAL REVENUE 226: \$1,117,250.11



221 REVENUE & EXPENDITURES BY YEAR

EXCLUDING WASTE REDUCTION SURCHARGE



TOTAL 2023 EXPENDITURES 221: \$5,414,371.57



HEALTH Department



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allegancounty.org/health



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HEALTH
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Quarter 1 Board of Commissioners' Update Allegan County Health Department (ACHD)

ACHD Activities during the most recently concluded quarter (2023 Q4)

Groundwater Study Workgroup (GWSWG) consultant started and had first meeting with GWSWG:

Zoom recording - [video](#) **Next Steps:** The team will continue our research and provide a draft document to staff for initial review and comment in February. As needed revisions will be made, and the draft will be shared with the GWSWG. The consultant group will convene with the GWSWG in a draft review and workshop strategy meeting.

Updated Inquiry Form: ACHD worked with a Michigan State University Researcher to revise and improve our health department inquiry form. The aims for this project were to move this form to ACHD's Qualtrics account for data management, improve survey collections to ensure the form goes to the correct division, and allow us to map submissions related to health concerns and exposure concerns for future use. The form is now live on the ACHD website. This form was discussed during the Townhall in Otsego on May 18 as a way for residents to submit their health concerns.

Provider Capacity Assessment Report: In December 2023, ACHD published the Provider Capacity Report, an action step under both Access to Medical Care and Behavioral Health in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). This report includes oral health, mental health, and primary health care provider data regarding insurance acceptance, appointment wait times, etc., and ACHD public health recommendations. The [Report](#) can be found on ACHD's Data and Reports page. This is one of the assessments that will help stakeholders to understand the current landscape related to Access to Health Services, which is a Strategic Priority (CS.1.4) under the 2023-2027 Allegan County Strategic Plan.

Resource Recovery Materials Management Plan (MMP): The Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) released the timeline for the MMP. The group has jump-started work previously identified (see [11/21/23 Solid Waste Planning Committee \(SWPC\) Agenda Packet](#) for Timeline of activities).

Rabies Submissions Project: the team developed monthly report to track data and conduct quality audits. Rabies related public education was updated on the ACHD website.

ACHD Activities Forecast for quarter ahead (2024 Q1)

Accreditation and the Plan of Organization (in progress): The Plan of Organization (POO) is being updated and finalized, as there were some changes that needed to be made with the transition of leadership positions in the past quarter. It is available for review on the T drive.



HEALTH Department

The FETCH EH contract has been finalized, and work has started. FETCH EH will be used for Food and Field Programs.

- February 2024: Signed contract; Met with FETCH EH to identify next steps & bundle existing files
- March 2024: Load necessary EH Field files and software into FETCH EH
- Q2 activities: Train EH Field Team in FETCH EH; load necessary EH Food files and software into FETCH EH; train EH Food Team in FETCH EH

Service Level Fees/Funding Analysis: Finalizing project plans. EH Administration is working with the Finance Team on revising EH fees.

- March 2024: Meet with Finance Team; Perform a time study for possible fee revision
- April 2024: Place revised fees on the proposed 2025 budget

Electronic Health Records Lab Optimization Project is set to go live at the end of February.

Partners in this project: Patagonia, the Michigan Health Information Network (MiHIN), Altarum Consulting, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Laboratories (BOL). This connection will reduce the risk of human error related to data entry, reduce paper usage, minimize the risk of confidentiality breach, and expedite receiving the lab results to provide a more efficient experience for ACHD clients. ACHD has completed testing and refinement of the reports and process. The System Go- Live Kick-off is February 29, 2024. As we use the real-time order entry, ACHD will audit efficiency and accuracy through a verifying process.

Allegan County Community Health Survey Report: The final draft was sent to the BOC and MACC Steering Committee members for review. This survey provided a representative sample for Allegan County on perceptions and knowledge around the health and wellness in the county.

Anticipated Public Health Situations in year ahead

Hamilton PFAS - situation, current status:

- On January 30, 2024, ACHD representatives met with EGLE and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to discuss the results of the first round of PFAS sampling.
- As of February 14, 2024, total of twenty-five (25) places were sampled. Six (6) places came back with exceedances; Ten (10) had detections below the limits; Nine (9) had non-detections.
- Eleven (11) were recommended filters: seven (7) were not eligible for filters (non-residential) and seven (7) had no filter recommended.
- The canvassing was finished the week of January 30, 2024. The Hamilton Area PFAS Site will be placed on the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) website. A meeting happened on March 19th, with local government officials.



HEALTH Department

Statewide Septic Code:

- **Summary:** Establishes a statewide code for the regulation of onsite wastewater systems, including periodic inspections; creates a technical advisory committee and an onsite wastewater treatment system administration fund. The draft substitute bills were released on January 17, 2024.
- Committee hearings expected in March 2024 related to HB 4479 + 4480 and SB 299 + 300
- Depending on who you ask at the state level, there is a different response to if the bill is proceeding or dead. ACHD, along with others in the state, are monitoring the situation and will report back when there is more credible movement on this.

2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) (Planning): ACHD, Allegan County Community Foundation/MACC, and Ascension Borgess Allegan met in February to start discussing the 2025 CHNA. Ascension Borgess Allegan is contracting one to two consultants to help with primary and secondary data collection.

Measles in Michigan: MDHHS announced its first case of Measles in the state since 2019. Over the last week additional cases have been reported in multiple counties. More information can be found in the press releases:

[UPDATE Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services Press Release Measles](#)

[Michigan First Case of Measles Since 2019 MDHHS Press Release](#)

[News Flash • Health Department Alerts Public to Local Measle \(washtenaw.org\)](#)

[Public Health | Health, Human & Veterans Services \(waynecounty.com\)](#)

We are monitoring this communicable disease closely.

- **What we're currently doing:** We are compiling resources and communications for our schools, healthcare providers, and the general public.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), or H5N1: HPAI was first detected in Michigan bird flocks in the early months of 2024.

- Since there, the virus has been found in over 60 different animal species, including dairy and cattle herds.
- On May 9, ACHD received notification that we had a dairy herd that tested positive for HPAI.
- **What we are currently doing:** We are working closely with the farm to monitor the farm workers, while the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Michigan State University Extension assist with monitoring of the dairy herds.
- HPAI is considered to be low risk to the public at this time. Farm workers who work directly with dairy herds or poultry flocks are considered to be at highest risk.
- The State, ACHD, and MDARD are coordinating education for farms and the general public, as well assisting with personal protective equipment and biosecurity, which are considered to be the best preventative measures at the moment.