



2023 COMMUNITY UPDATE

There is a term in Public Health we call “Forces of Change.” Forces are trends, events, and factors that impact how public health systems operate and deliver services. The pandemic validated that community engagement is critical for the access to quality healthcare for so many, especially vulnerable communities. In 2023, we returned to our pre-pandemic work roles with resiliency, adaptability, and a renewed focus on community-based service delivery.

We have a greater opportunity of supporting healthy behaviors if we can connect with people in their “real world” — within their home, neighborhood, or at the places they regularly visit. We are working hard to increase access to our services in this way aiming to further improve the health of families, neighbors, and friends.

This 2023 Community Update showcases various Health Division programs that are delivered where people are vs. in one of our buildings. Our amazing staff organize local health events, conduct home visits, and provide culturally competent services and education at community locations.

Whether it is ensuring easier, more affordable access to healthy food or providing medical services right at the corner clinic or in a mobile services van, we are committed to supporting the overall well-being of all. Join me in recognizing the stellar programs highlighted on these pages and learn more at OakGov.com/health.



In good health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leigh-Anne Stafford".

Leigh-Anne Stafford
Director, Health & Human Services

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The stories and photos (excluding cover image) in this book are real.

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Expanding access to affordable and quality physical and mental health care for our residents is one of our top priorities in Oakland County. Our Health and Human Services department is dedicated to that goal with services such as public health clinics, vaccinations, maternal and child-centered care and Nurse-on-Call.
~ Oakland County Executive, Dave Coulter



FAST FACTS: PROVIDING ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES



NURSE ON CALL
.... HOTLINE
ANSWERED
18,803 CALLS
AND EMAILS

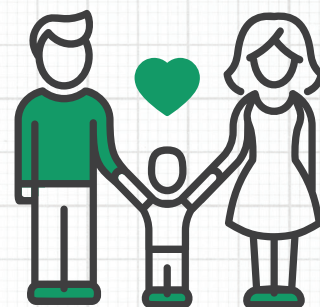
1,005 RESIDENTS
RECEIVED
DENTAL EXAMINATIONS



13,712 CHILDREN NEEDED
FURTHER EVALUATION AFTER



108,309
HEARING & VISION SCREENINGS



CHILDREN'S
SPECIAL HEALTH
CARE SERVICES
SUPPORTED
3,343 CLIENTS

FAST FACTS: ENSURING A SAFE & CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

CONDUCTED
15,541

INSPECTIONS AT

4,724

.....
LICENSED



**FOOD
SERVICE**

ESTABLISHMENTS

2,151  **1,232**
INSPECTIONS ON WATER WELLS

.....
INVESTIGATED

957 **FOOD** 
..... SERVICE
COMPLAINTS

694 WELL
..... AND

624 SEPTIC

INSTALLATION



**PERMITS
ISSUED**

.....
**RESIDENTIAL AND
NON-RESIDENTIAL**



TURNING THE CURVE ON VACCINATION RATES

Preventing illness through vaccines save people's lives and protects against preventable diseases. Our Immunization Action Plan (IAP) team strives to improve vaccine rates in Oakland County through the federally funded Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The program allows children to get vaccinated if their caregiver cannot afford the cost. IAP works with VFC providers, the State of Michigan, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The team:

- Supports providers to meet program requirements through onsite inspections, education, guidance about childcare and school vaccine reporting
- Orders and distributes vaccines
- Makes referrals to vaccine providers and communicates availability
- Supports our non-medical vaccine waiver team with education and administration

The IAP team worked closely with OCHD's late health officer Dr. Calandra Green to launch the 'Turn the Curve' initiative increase vaccination rates among children aged 19-36 months. This is attributed to limited healthcare access and a surge of disinformation about vaccine safety and efficacy during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of 'Turn the Curve', we have:

- Increased availability of community vaccination clinics
- Employed Vaccination Community Navigators to address vaccine hesitancy
- Set 'fast-track' services for our Women, Infant and Children (WIC) and non-medical waiver clients to be vaccinated at existing appointments
- Developed a waiver education video for vaccine hesitant caregivers
- Created a virtual toolkit to assist healthcare providers, childcare and schools

These efforts have resulted in an increase in vaccination rates among the target population thanks to OCHD staff and the collaboration with our community partners.



**ROUTINE VACCINATION RATES
FOR CHILDREN 19 - 36
MO. OLDS
INCREASED FROM 69% TO 72.5%**





BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT SERVICES GIVE BABIES A HEALTHY START

Breastfeeding is a major decision for families to consider when choosing how to feed their babies. The Health Division, in collaboration with community partners, promotes healthy nutrition for babies while emphasizing the benefits of breastfeeding through a variety of efforts:

- Onsite breastfeeding counseling and home visit care from International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) and Certified Lactation Counselors (CLCs) for families enrolled in our WIC, Nutrition or Public Health Nursing programs
- Breastfeeding Peer Counselors who provide one-on-one support and resources for WIC families including after-hour hotlines
- Classes, support groups and special events
- Availability of breast pumps and lactation aids for clients when available
- Breastfeeding support materials and toolkits to assist organizations in creating breastfeeding spaces for clients and employees.

In 2023, the Health Division increased accessibility to breastfeeding classes and events by hosting hybrid WIC classes and support groups. In addition, the annual 'Bridging the Breastfeeding Gap' community event was held inviting the public to be more invested in breastfeeding and connecting breastfeeding individuals with resources.

Abigail Petoskey, one of our WIC clients received breastfeeding support from Tiffany, one of WIC's Breastfeeding Peer Counselors. Abigail's daughter was born at 32 weeks and spent 6 weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Her daughter was having difficulty latching which prevented breastfeeding. Abigail reached out to WIC for help and worked with Tiffany to find a solution. They met 12 times over one month and provided her an electric breast pump. Abigail said, "It was important to me that I breastfed my baby. Tiffany was amazing! She gave me the motivation to not give up."



**WIC PEERS INTERACTED WITH
OAKLAND COUNTY FAMILIES 7,600 TIMES
TO IDENTIFY & SUPPORT THEIR
BREASTFEEDING NEEDS**





FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM KEEPS LOCAL EATERIES SAFE

The Health Division's Food Safety Program inspect and licenses over 4,700 food service establishments and over 1,100 temporary food service establishments each year. The program ensures proper handling of food served to the public by:

- Conducting inspections of restaurants, festival food booths, and mobile food vehicles
- Investigating foodborne illness complaints and outbreaks
- Providing food safety education for food service managers, staff, and others

Our food program staff conducts critical education in the community during inspections and planned trainings throughout the year. OCHD's Sanitary Code requires that all food service businesses operating within Oakland County have at least one staff member per business site successfully complete a State of Michigan approved Food Service Manager Certification exam. The OCHD Food Safety Program enrolled 168 students in Food Service Certified Manager and recertification courses with 85% of students passing the exam - the highest passing rate over the last 5 years.

Basic Food Safety Classes teach basic food safety fundamentals to non-management food service personnel. In 2023, 224 students completed a course further expanding food safety knowledge across our food establishments.

In addition to providing community education, Food Safety Program staff receive training on a variety of processes and procedures for preparing food items that reflect Oakland County's diversity. Some cultures bring with them an enduring heritage often containing unique practices for preparing food items. Training ensures that staff are comfortable with identifying these practices so they can better work with restaurant staff during inspections to ask necessary questions.



258 **FOODBORNE** 
ILLNESS COMPLAINTS
INVESTIGATED





OLDER ADULT PROGRAMMING THRIVES IN OAKLAND COUNTY

By 2030, the number of Americans 60 years of age and over will have more than doubled with one in every five Americans in this age group. The Health Division offers various initiatives and resources to help older adults stay healthy throughout their life. Our programs aim to:

- **Increase access to fresh produce.** Two Health Division programs, Senior Market Fresh and Senior Market Days, help older adults eat healthier as they age by providing coupons for fresh produce and nutrition education. The coupons are seasonally available to eligible seniors to help them purchase fresh fruits and vegetables sold at participating farmers markets and/or roadside stands.
- **Educate older adults to make healthier food choices.** Knowledge is key to making positive health changes. Through a grant received by the Health Division, educational classes are offered to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligible older adults in the City of Pontiac. Residents participate in evidence-based programming that helps them gain knowledge of and access to resources that support healthier eating. In 2023, 28 older adults completed a 10-week nutrition intervention that targeted behaviors known to reduce chronic disease burden and promote healthy aging. One participant reported losing 6 pounds over the course of the program and was able to walk a half mile without stopping. She attributed her success to the weekly goal setting, class content, and the encouragement from fellow participants.
- **Enhance awareness about issues & concerns of older adults.** Oakland County Senior Advisory Council is a convening group formed to communicate older adult needs to their corresponding county commissioners and relay information in their respective communities. In 2023, the Council welcomed new members and continued to advocate for and be a voice of older adults in Oakland County. Working with Senior Expo USA, the county hosted two large Senior Expos that provided information and health services to hundreds of older residents.



1,092 OLDER ADULTS RECEIVED
COUPONS TO PURCHASE
VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

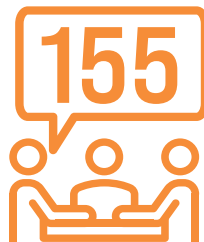


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS MAKE BIG IMPACT

Having access to public health programs encourages individuals to consistently make positive health choices which can bolster a community's ability to improve overall health. Often, people face barriers such as lack of transportation, stigma surrounding certain health concerns, potential financial burden or lack of awareness of available resources. Our community engagement efforts cut across many Health Division offerings and work to serve populations that are less likely to use preventive health services and have a higher disease burden compared to the general population. One shining example of this work is our home vaccination effort.

Chriss Diatto, Community Outreach Coordinator, has provided home vaccination services since 2020 to Damien who has a prosthetic leg limiting his mobility. Damien disclosed to Chriss that he had only left his home twice in the last year because of his fear of falling due to his condo complex not installing a railing for his front porch step. Chriss knew how detrimental a fall could be as Damien is on blood thinners, so she contacted Disability Rights Michigan and a railing was installed shortly after. Damien now plays the keyboard in Church every Sunday and is able to go to therapy and appointments without hesitation.

Together, Chriss and Damien also played pivotal roles in expanding our homebound vaccination program, which was only providing flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the time. Damien's wife became ill with the shingles virus and her doctor recommended the shingles vaccine for both her and Damien once she recovered. Chriss sought approval to bring other vaccines to home visits and now when administering vaccines to homebound individuals, Health Division staff review a client's vaccine history to determine what is needed.



**COMMUNITY EVENTS ATTENDED
BY STAFF TO EDUCATE ABOUT
HEALTH DIVISION SERVICES**

FAST FACTS: PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE



35,468

IMMUNIZATIONS TO

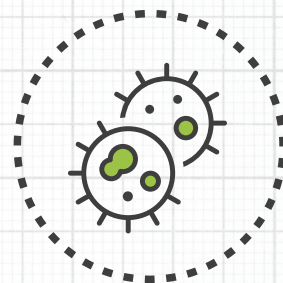
17,838

CHILDREN AND
..... ADULTS

40,514 STI TESTS
PERFORMED



5,003 HIV TESTS
ADMINISTERED



5,588

COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE CASES
REPORTED
..... AND
INVESTIGATED

FAST FACTS: ENCOURAGING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

ASSISTED
8,417
..... **WIC**

CLIENTS
TO EAT WELL
EACH MONTH



2,492 RESIDENTS
RECEIVED
NUTRITION EDUCATION
& PRODUCE VOUCHERS



1,642 RESIDENTS
RECEIVED SUBSTANCE
ABUSE AND VIOLENCE
PREVENTION TRAINING

.... VISITED

2,454

RESIDENTS
WITH HIGH-RISK
NUTRITION
NEEDS



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We are grateful to the organizations and individuals who partner with us to make Oakland County healthier. Through collaboration, we coordinate resources and are committed to listening to community voices, responding to their needs, and linking to culturally appropriate resources. Representatives from many sectors including healthcare, human services, behavioral health, education, businesses, faith-based organizations, emergency response, elected officials, and community members are active public health partners.

In 2023, several standout projects were a result of community partnerships.

- **1. Increasing access to free Narcan**

The availability of Narcan to help rapidly reverse opioid overdoses can help save lives. Together with the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities and Oakland Community Health Network, we launched a new, interactive map that pinpoints free Narcan vending machines and the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities' 'Save a Life' stations in Oakland County. The vending machines and 'Save a Life' stations are barrier free and easy to use. Anyone is welcome to take what they need for themselves or others at no cost.

- **2. Integrating primary and mental health care through 'Health 360'**

In 2023, we fully realized the multi-year plan to offer primary care, mental health and resource connection during a client's clinic visit. Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency began working at the Southfield Health Division office to offer resource navigation support to complement the primary and mental health care services Honor Community Health provides. This partnership allows for a more comprehensive set of services in one location for the community to use.

- **3. Responding to Mpox**

A group of local and regional partners worked together on the Oakland County Mpox Task Force to understand how Mpox was impacting people and to address specific needs to prevent the spread of disease. The group coordinated efforts to distribute vaccines to target populations at clinics and community events. They also shared emerging information with each other to ensure the community received cohesive messaging about a new, relatively unfamiliar disease.

- **4. Salud y Bienestar**

Oakland County Health Division and Centro Multicultural La Familia (CMLF) have a longstanding partnership that was strengthened during the COVID-19 pandemic. To help increase COVID-19 vaccine accessibility for the Hispanic community, the organizations joined forces in hosting vaccine clinics and providing community education. In 2021 Radio Centro (CMLF's online radio station) invited OCHD to promote COVID vaccination clinics live on the radio, and that has evolved into a weekly segment focused on healthy living. "Salud y Bienestar" (Health and Wellness) broadcasts in both Spanish and English every Tuesday at noon, with a listener base of over 13,000 people from all 50 states and 55 different countries.



Pictured: Partners, collaborators, and OCHD staff at various 2023 community events.



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