



IONIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission: We empower residents to live long and healthy lives by protecting the environment, providing health services, and educating the public to achieve positive outcomes.

Vision: Improve the overall health of our community through positive interactions and services.

Ken Bowen, REHS, MS	Health Officer	Tori Nethercott, RN	Public Health Nurse
Laurie Brinks, RN, CLC	Public Health Nurse	Mark Novak, REHS, RS	Environmental Sanitarian
Brittni Brummette, RN	Public Health Nurse	Jason Petersen, BS	Environmental Sanitarian
April Doezeema	Hearing & Vision Technician	Yolanda Rivera, RN	Public Health Nurse
Dave Eady	Outreach Worker	Chad Shaw, BBA	Health Officer
Trisha Eady	Breastfeeding Peer Counselor	Adenike Shoyinka, MD	Medical Director
Aimee Feehan, RN	Personal Health Director	Toni Simmons	Administrative Secretary
Mandy Germain	Administrative Secretary	Karah Smith, RN	Public Health Nurse
Diane Gross	Outreach Worker	Danna Spedoske, RN	Public Health Nurse
Charlean Hemminger	Health Educator	Kelli Steffen, RD	Registered Dietitian
Sue Hengesbach	Outreach Worker	Sarah Tahvonen, MSW, RAC, RCS	Social Worker
Brenda Ingersoll	Office Manager	Deb Thalison, MA, CCS-M, ICCJP, CPC-M	Community Health Supervisor
Alexis Jones	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Melinda Theisen	Outreach Worker
Chloe Jordan, MPH	Environmental Health Sanitarian	Logan VanDerBos, BS	Environmental Sanitarian
Chris May, RN	Public Health Nurse	Ashley Varice	Program Technician

Personal Health Services



WIC – Women Infants and Children’s Program. WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program that is federally funded, managed by the State of Michigan and serves low to moderate income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women as well as their infants and children to age five. Nutritional guidance is available from a Registered Dietitian or from an International Certified Lactation Counselor (IBCLC). Other referrals to additional medical specialists or to social services for family needs can be made. Activities and accomplishments in 2022 included the following:

- Continue with a hybrid model of some in-person/some telephone visits - in-person encouraged, but State is still allowing telephone.
- Client caseload decreased from 1496 to 1230 – working with community partners (Great Start, Early On, EightCap) to increase numbers as need is still present.
- Continue Project Fresh- coupons for farmer’s markets, fresh produce (runs Jun-Oct)
- Dealt with a recall of LeadCare II Blood Lead testing kits, then when resupplied with new kits, began testing again for all 1 & 2 yr olds- working on getting any kids missed during COVID caught up as well, so doing any 1-5 yr olds that have not been tested twice.
- Dealt with a WIC formula brand change from Enfamil to Similac products, followed then by the formula shortage & recall
- Continue to operate a small food pantry at ICHD in cooperation with Feeding America
- Worked through a change to the WIC cards (the State changed them to look different from Bridge EBT cards) and distribute to our whole caseload.
- Changes to staff and workflow
- Successfully passed State WIC Management Evaluation in March
- Staff participated in Kid’s Day at the Ionia Free Fair

MIHP – Maternal Infant Health Program. MIHP is a home visiting, care coordination program provided to pregnant women on Medicaid and their babies, up to 18 months old. The purpose of MIHP is to promote healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes and healthy infant growth and development and decreased infant deaths. Clients are seen by both an RN and a Social Worker. Activities and accomplishments in 2022 included the following:

- Continue to do hybrid model of some in-home/some telehealth visits- encouraging more in-home visits.
- Began U of M pilot, “Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies” studying the effectiveness and benefits of home visiting programs such as MIHP and need for increase in revenue due to increase in complexity of clients/families
- Looking at ways to increase our caseload numbers- pre-COVID was around 60-70, since has been around 45-50.
- Staffing changes- lost an RN to Management position, hired new RN, adjustment of RN & SW FTEs
- Preparing for MIHP State Review (Nov 2022) - updating policies & procedures, documents, forms, and QA
- Staff participated in Kid’s Day at the Ionia Free Fair

CSHCS - Children’s Health Care Services. CSHCS is program for children and some adults with special health care needs. All Michigan residents are eligible for this program as long as certain medical criteria are met. There are over 2700 physical conditions that are covered and children must be under the age of 21 years of age. Cystic fibrosis, certain hereditary clotting disorders, and Sickle Cell disease now qualify for lifetime coverage. Services that benefit the child and family are coverage of medical expenses, referrals to specialty services, transportation or caregiver support services, e.g., direct care modalities for activities of daily living. ICHD has about 320 CSHCS clients currently. This program recommends a plan of care (POC) be developed that addresses physical needs, offers support, and connects families to other community or national resources. Activities and accomplishments in 2022 included the following:

- Continue to use a hybrid model of some in-person/some telehealth visits- encouraging more in person. Staff is working to do more POCs in-person, current plan is to do all clients’ initial POC (when new to CSHCS) as in-person, with subsequent annual POC to be telehealth or in-person whenever possible or allowed (POCs are not required and family can opt out of having a POC done).
- CSHCS received a grant and is utilizing it to help promote getting our CSHCS clients up to date on regular childhood immunizations that may be behind due to the pandemic. Staff worked with Immunization staff to hold a Immunization clinic to help get children caught up on Immunizations that are behind due to COVID.
- Adjustment of staff FTEs
- Staff working to increase visits for POCs and associated billing.
- Staff participated in Kid’s Day at the Ionia Free Fair



2022 Ionia County Board of Commissioners:

David Hodges * Larry Tiejema * Karen L Banks * Ally Cook *

*** Scott Wirtz * Jack Shattuck * Georgia Sharp**



Environmental Health Division

Personal Health continued

School Nurse - Due to a grant from the Michigan Community Rural Health program, we were able to hire an RN for Saranac Community Schools. The grant was for 2 RNs, and the plan was to also have an RN at Belding Public Schools, but have been unable to hire for that position. Our nurse, Karah Smith is a Saranac resident and has flourished in her position, she started in August 2022. Activities and accomplishments in 2022 included the following:

- She has been instrumental in helping the schools create their health programs, documentation, and communication.
- She has worked on protocols, updated school health letters that go out to parents, does education in health classes.
- Created emergency “Go Bags” to be accessible to staff to assist with minor emergencies while awaiting EMS
- Has become a CPR Instructor and will help with a plan at the HS to CPR certify students this spring
- Seeing and treating students for minor illnesses and accidents and many, many other things.
- Handles the school Communicable Disease reporting and reviews and updates student MCIR records for immunizations.
- Maintains the schools AEDs.
- Manages, maintains, and disperses medications and educating school staff with medication dispensing.

Plans for FY 2023 - There are lots of things on the horizon for ICHD. We are beginning to plan for an Oral Health program to be compliant with the State mandate for all Kindergarteners to have an oral health screening prior to starting school. We are getting a new Medical Director. Planning and preparing for our State Accreditation visit (scheduled for June 2025). Updating policies and procedures and all program manuals and so on. I am sure I have missed something but will try to update as we go along for FY 2023.



- Attended MDARD Procedures for Enhancing Emergency Responses (PEER) for Field Investigators Training
- Numerous virtual trainings with EGLE to learn how to use their numerous reporting forms
- Started the annual Level 2 Assessments Public Water Supplies type 2
- Type 2 treatment surveillance reports completed-Public Water supplies
- Approved seventeen foodservice establishment plan reviews
- Held a Food Manager Certification training class and proctored the exam for 12 students
- Processed annual foodservice licensing
- Attended a pool training webinar
- Completed annual campground/spa/pool inspections
- Continued PFAS filter monitoring
- Assisted trouble shooting for elevated lead test results in water sample at a school
- Attended multiple Solid Waste meetings, including a meeting for Pitch landfill
- State of Michigan using Ionia County for a pilot program in replacing type 2 public water supply “watertrack” program for all data entry to the States new program
- Working with a type 2 public water supply with an arsenic potable supply
- With the resignation of Lacey Bull after over 15 years in EH, we welcomed new sanitarians Chloe Jordan and Logan Van-DerBos
- Assisted in lead exceedance water sample for type 2 public water supply
- Brought a new type 2 facility on-line in Belding pre-opening inspection
- Attended Hazwoper annual refresher class
- Passed our quarterly public water supply audit with EGLE
- Worked on two commercial septic system failures
- EGLE in office for field audit review
- New proposed subdivision soil work in Otisco Township
- Attended multiple Well head protection meetings throughout the county
- Completed our Type III and Residential water supply audit with the State, passed all required program requirements
- Assisted in trouble shooting positive coliform bacteria water samples, residential and public supplies Assisted with a positive coliform bacteria water issue for Spectrum Health in Odessa Township, Assisted with coliform bacteria positive water sample for type 2 public water supply
- Type 2 public water supplies, 2022 was the year for all non-transients to test for SOC’s, VOC’s, PFAS, Cyanides and complete Metals. Some are required every 3 years, 6 years or 9 years. All PFAS is required on an annual basis-unless there are hits, we had some hits.

Complaints Received (All)	51	Septic Permits Issued	127
Food Complaints Investigated	13	Well Permits Issued	142
Routine Food Inspections	241	Vacant Land Evaluations	92
Temporary Food Inspections	44	Radon Test Kits Distributed	86
Water Samples Collected	229	Campground Inspections	12
Public Swimming Pools Inspected	11		

Hearing Screenings	2567	Animal Bites	208
Vision Screenings	3899	Immunizations (includes Flu)	1268
CD Cases (includes STD)	631	COVID Vaccine (includes 2nd doses)	841
WIC Average Monthly Participants	1217	Average Monthly Active Lead Cases	12



Emergency Preparedness

I was hired in July 2022. Since then, I have taken numerous training courses to become acquainted with my role as Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and the skills required for the position. The trainings have included Incident Command System courses, Basic Disaster Life Support, PFAS, and MICIMS, just to name a few. I have also been involved in the monitoring of several illnesses, including COVID, Mpox, Ebola, RSV and influenza. Additionally, I collaborated with the other EPCs from Region 6 to work on our regional Whole Community Inclusion plan, which focuses on improving services for vulnerable populations, and a regional best practice guideline for special pathogens communication. Finally, I developed an Action Plan to make improvements based on what we learned from the COVID pandemic, which will play out this upcoming year.

Community Health

The Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative (ICSAI) Coalition transitioned into year two of the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Grant. The grant has helped reach more youth in our community and schools, funding a full-time grant coordinator. The grant coordinator has been working very close with our Youth Advisory Councils (YAC) in conjunction with the ICSAI Coalition.

The ICSAI earned a Graduate Certificate for completing the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Coalition Academy (NCA) on January 31, 2022. The award was presented during the ceremony at the CADCA's National Leadership Forum in Washington, DC.

We were very pleased to get back into the schools this year, post the pandemic. A total of ten (10) classrooms participated in our Too Good for Drugs Program in FY 2021-2022.

Our Teen Intervene Program continues to receive referrals from our local schools and court officials.

We continue to partner with B Safe Driving School, providing educational opportunities related to underage drinking, impaired driving and distracted driving prevention. A total of 128 students went through the program this year. We were very energized to be providing the program face to face again, post the pandemic.

We continued offering Naloxone/Narcan training and opioid overdose education throughout our community. This educational engagement provides opportunities to meet new community members and leaders. A total of nine (9) community presentations were held on prescription drug prevention.

We were enthusiastic to showcase our Hidden in Plain Sight Trailer (HIPS) this year, as the last two years have been difficult due to the pandemic. The HIPS trailer is recognized throughout Ionia County, and several organizations are requesting to have it available at various events for the spring and summer of FY 2023.

We continued providing virtual Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART) support meetings weekly (twice a week). A total of 221 hours were dedicated to this program, with over 100+ meetings being held. This continues to be a very strong resource for our recovery community.

The State Opioid Response (SOR) grant was awarded later in the year, allowing an opportunity for the coalition to brainstorm and get creative. We requested to use the SOR funding to purchase a vending machine for Narcan/Naloxone distribution. Due to limited time in getting our project approved, this request will be carried into FY 2023.

We partnered with our local Law Enforcement officials to assist during the fall and spring DEA National Medication Take Back Events. A total of 147.8 pounds of unused medications was collected during these two events.

The Coalition took on a new initiative this year, hosting a Youth Drug Conference for Junior High students. An enormous amount of collaboration and networking with stake holders took place throughout the spring and summer months in preparation for the conference. The goal is to offer the Youth Drug Conference annually, rotating throughout Ionia County Jr/Sr. High Schools.

In collaboration with the YAC students the ICSAI presented (#thunkndunk); an interactive presentation on the risk and harm of alcohol, marijuana, vaping, and nicotine use during the adolescence brain development years.

With the coalition discretionary funds, the coalition classrooms in Saranac Community Schools Ionia County Youth Survey.



tion supported purchasing first aid kits for all to express our appreciation for helping with the



CD - Communicable Disease. ICHD works to minimize the incidence of preventable and controllable communicable diseases in the community. This is done by gathering information, investigating cases of disease, and providing treatment or referral to control or eliminate the occurrence of disease within the community. All levels of disease investigation are provided by qualified staff that follow protocols and guideline developed by the CDC and in collaboration with the regional epidemiologist. In years past, the collection, investigation, focused on diseases that require reporting to the State of Michigan, e.g., HIV, Viral Hepatitis, diseases from bat and animal bites and Sexually Transmitted Diseases- this list has greatly expanded. Activities and accomplishments in 2022 included the following::



- CD Staff continue to actively work all COVID cases- cases trending down, will eventually be managed the same as all other communicable diseases
- COVID Mass vaccination clinics ended 2nd Qtr FY22 May 2022 (Over 15-20,000 doses given since Dec 2020)
- Received staffing assistance from the CDC Foundation that helped with case investigation, contact tracing, and epidemiology
- Began to see an increase in TB in Ionia Co.- sent staff to National TB Conference in May 2022 with financial assist from the State. Staff have assisted/managed 5 TB clients in some way- direct observed medication treatment, video monitoring, obtaining lab work etc.
- Staff have continued to run our STD Clinic primarily by appointment but will see clients as walk-in on a case-by-case basis. 75 clients were seen FY22 and Staff working to increase the usage of the ICHD STD Clinic. (There were 178 total cases of Chlamydia and 31 cases of Gonorrhea in Ionia Co. FY22, not all seen at ICHD).
- Staff deliver (at least quarterly), Wear One campaign items- condoms, STD education and more to 21 local healthcare providers and community partners in Ionia Co.
- Continue to monitor and investigate bats and any animal bites.
- Ionia Co. had 1 documented Monkeypox case that was found and managed by ICHD staff.
- Monitor all elevated Lead cases in Ionia Co. Acceptable lead level was decreased to 3.5 mg/dl. This has led to more cases needing to be looked at and followed up on. Looking in FY23 to possibly begin doing some lead case management.
- Staff also work in conjunction with Environmental Health to track and follow any foodborne illness and/or outbreak.

Immunizations - ICHD provides an Immunization Clinic for free and low-cost vaccines to all ages with special emphasis on young children. Although our emphasis has been on administering pediatric vaccine for years that was not possible during the pandemic. Like the rest of the health care systems, ICHD experienced severe disruption to our ability to provide routine preventative and other nonemergency care. Activities and accomplishments in 2022 included the following:

- Several changes in our clinic days and hours due to staffing changes and budget cuts- staff maternity leaves, Loss of FT RN, replaced with PT RN, adjusted other staff FTEs to accommodate, decreased clinic hours to 3 days/week.
- Actively worked to increase children's vaccination rates (down since COVID)- various events, vaccination clinics, social media campaign, raffles
- Staff working with local providers to improve vaccination rates and overall vaccine programs. We have 9 Vaccines For Children (VFC) providers (low or no cost vaccines) in Ionia Co. and we are responsible for monitoring them and providing them assistance as needed. Due to issues with State staffing and our staffing changes, our staff are not currently trained fully to accomplish this goal. This will be done in FY23.
- Restarted our Fluoride Varnish program in April 2022- working to develop it more and increase its use- is available to all children from 6 mo-5 yr old and can be applied up to 4x/year.



Hearing and Vision Services. - ICHD performs hearing and vision screening exams, free of charge, to all preschool and school-age children at the following intervals:

- Hearing: Preschool, Developmental Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 2nd and 4th grade
- Vision: Preschool, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th grades

If a hearing or vision problem is identified, through the screening process, children are referred to specialists for a diagnostic exam. This involves an Audiologist or Ear Nose, and Throat medical specialist for hearing and an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist for vision. Most screenings are done in collaboration with school officials and during regular school hours and in the classroom. Additional day and evening hours are available by calling ICHD and scheduling an appt. Activities and accomplishments in 2022 included the following:

- New Vision screening machine- now have 2 different machines, can immediately re-test a "fail" with 2nd machine before making an ophthalmology referral
- Staff has developed a good rapport with schools of Ionia Co. and actively works with them during Kindergarten roundups as well as throughout the school year to get all required screenings done.