



2023

Annual Report



LIVINGSTON COUNTY
Health Department

WELCOME

From the Health Officer:

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2023 Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) annual report. Contained within you will find a summary of our activities along with a few highlighted programs and responses from the year. Of note, LCHD has recently trained staff to better respond and support infection control at our congregate care facilities, we remodeled one of our exam rooms to accommodate patients who have sensory needs and provided some information about our response to harmful algal blooms in our county lakes.

During the last year there have been some significant changes in Health Department leadership due to recent retirements and staff leaving the department for other opportunities. I'm excited to share that Heather Blair was promoted in December 2022 as the Director of Environmental Health and Lindsay Kalberer was promoted in December 2023 as the Director of Personal and Preventive Health Services. Both positions also serve as Deputy Health Officers for the department and may fill in if I am not available. Heather and Lindsay bring a wealth of experience to their positions, and I am confident in their ability to help lead the department.

Our Community Health Needs Assessment process is moving forward and we expect survey data back soon. Once received, we will analyze the data to assess priorities and work with our community partners to ensure we are addressing the needs of Livingston County residents. We continue to work closely with our local health care systems in the county as we identify opportunities to partner and collaborate to meet the health needs of our residents and align our shared priorities to more effectively deliver services.

In closing, I want to recognize our talented and dedicated staff who work in our community to protect, preserve, and promote the health of our residents. We have an excellent team at LCHD and I look forward to our continued success into the future.

In good health,



Matt Bolang
Health Officer



**PERSONAL AND PREVENTIVE
HEALTH SERVICES**

- 1,417 Immunizations provided to children & adults
- 59 Tuberculin skin tests administered
- 360 Animal bites reported and investigated
- 312 Sexually transmitted disease cases investigated
- 18 HIV/AIDS tests administered
- 654 Families supported by Children’s Special Health Care Services
- 20,599 Hearing/vision screenings with 1,396 children referred for further evaluation
- 4,035 WIC clients served and 952 families

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- 1,308 Food establishments inspected
- 28 Food establishment plans reviewed
- 69 Food service complaints investigated
- 2,205 Well inspections completed
- 377 Well permits issued
- 1,466 Septic inspections completed
- 321 Septic system permits issued
- 382 Non-community public water supplies regulated
- 69 Public swimming pools regulated
- 14 Public beaches regulated
- 23 Camps inspected
- 24 Body art facilities inspected
- 77 General complaints investigated

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- 99 Hours donated by Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) (~\$4,480 in volunteer hrs)
- 419 Fifth grade students provided preparedness training by MRC
- 26 Vaccinations provided to high-risk, homebound individuals
- 11 Staff preparedness trainings held
- Participated in 22 local, state, and/or regional drills, trainings, and exercises
- Presented preparedness training project at Michigan conference
- Represented Michigan at a federal preparedness planning conference

HEALTH PROMOTION

- 125 Prescription for Health program participants spent \$16,689 worth of tokens on fruits and vegetables
- 325 Lock bags distributed
- 5 Press releases sent to local media
- 10 Media inquiry responses
- 676 Social media posts published
- 6 Webinars cohosted
- 12 Newsletters published
- 23 Outreach events hosted or attended
- Completely refreshed the LCHD website
- Assisted Trinity Health Livingston with a Community Health Needs Assessment

2023 *at a Glance*

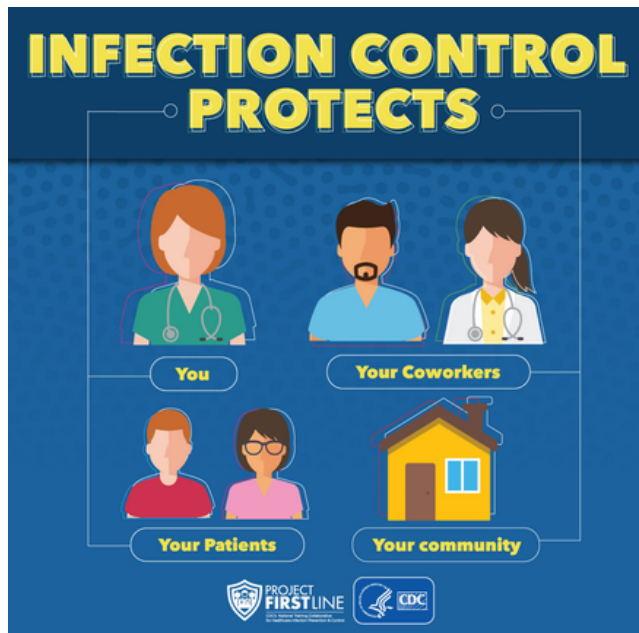
Highlights:

MI - ECHO PROGRAM

In 2023, LCHD sought to expand its expertise in infection prevention by participating in Michigan’s Infection Control – Educational Collaborative for Better Health Outcome (MI-ECHO) program through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The program empowers local health departments to provide and strengthen infection prevention practices, containment strategies, and prevention plans in congregate care settings.

LCHD regularly works with congregate care facilities, including skilled nursing facilities, to respond to respiratory outbreaks, multidrug resistant organisms (e.g., *Candida auris*, Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales), *Legionella*, Pertussis, and invasive Group A strep. Our staff also frequently provide guidance regarding enhanced barrier precautions, and cleaning/disinfection best practices.

Expanding LCHD infection prevention expertise and capacity will strengthen these collaborative relationships with congregate care settings, expedite response to facility concerns, and lead to better outcomes for some of Livingston County’s most vulnerable residents.



IMPROVING ACCESS FOR PERSONS OF ALL ABILITIES



The Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) team recognized the intimidating experience receiving vaccinations can be for children, especially young children with disabilities or sensory sensitivities. To improve client experiences for people of all abilities, the CSHCS team consulted multiple community partners to identify best practices for reducing stress during an immunization visit.

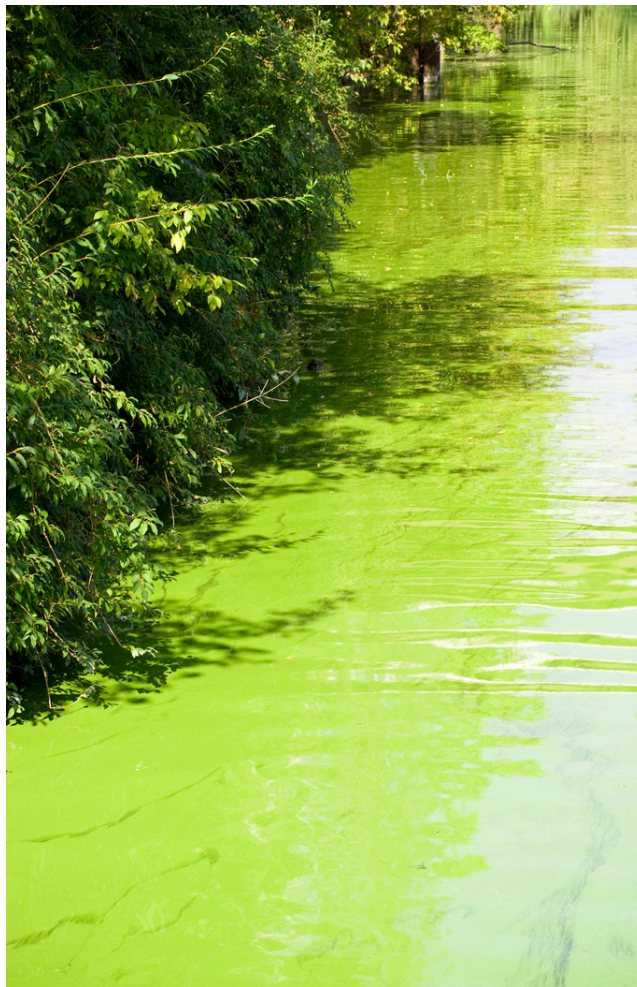
The consultation led to a redesign of the lobby and a clinic room to create a more relaxing and calming sensory experience. Through grant funding, CSHCS was able to

create a more inviting and inclusive lobby and a clinic room that features: a wheelchair accessible scale, a floor standing bubble tube with fish, brightly colored décor, multiple wall mounted toys, bean bags, light covers and fun gadgets to distribute. CSHCS was also able to research and obtain distraction devices that minimize discomfort and anxiety while receiving vaccines.

This adjusted approach and use of the redesigned rooms has proven to be an asset to our community as it has reduced the levels of stress in what is traditionally an uncomfortable situation.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

An increase in the reporting of Harmful algal blooms (HABs), particularly cyanobacteria or blue-green algae and the presence of algal toxins in these blooms, has become a significant public health concern. Blooms occur when a type of algae known as cyanobacteria grows excessively in water bodies during periods of warm temperatures, increased exposure to sunlight, and high nutrient levels.



HABs can produce cyanotoxins called microcystins that are harmful to people and pets. These toxins can cause skin irritation, respiratory problems, gastrointestinal distress, and neurological effects. It is not possible to determine whether algal blooms contain harmful toxins by looking at them. Collecting test samples is the best way to identify HABs.

LCHD works to mitigate the impact of HABs through:

- **Coordination and Collaboration** – Partnering with the Michigan Department of Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for a comprehensive response, monitoring, and public intervention.
- **Water Testing** – Testing water bodies for the presence of harmful algae and their toxins. This helps with early detection and assessment of potential risks.
- **Public Awareness and Communication** – Issuing advisories to the public when HABs are detected or suspected. This includes information on avoiding contact with affected water for people and pets, providing information on the risks of HABs, and preventive measures.

When an HAB is reported, an Environmental Health Specialist gathers data that supports a potential bloom and collects a water sample from the area

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

affected in the water body. Staff then perform water testing to determine if the toxin, microcystin, is present. If the toxin is present, an advisory is sent to impacted residents and other local entities as appropriate such as lake associations and township officials.

In 2023, LCHD investigated 15 algal blooms in Livingston County. Microcystin was detected in two water bodies. A [map depicting reported blooms and the cyanotoxin test results](#) keeps residents

informed on the location of HABs in Livingston County.

HABs present a complex challenge in identifying and collecting water samples promptly. Rain and wind can break up blooms and make it difficult to verify their presence. Therefore, by monitoring the history of HABs, educating the public, and implementing timely response strategies, LCHD strives to mitigate the risks associated with HABs and protect public health.



Disease Trends:

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

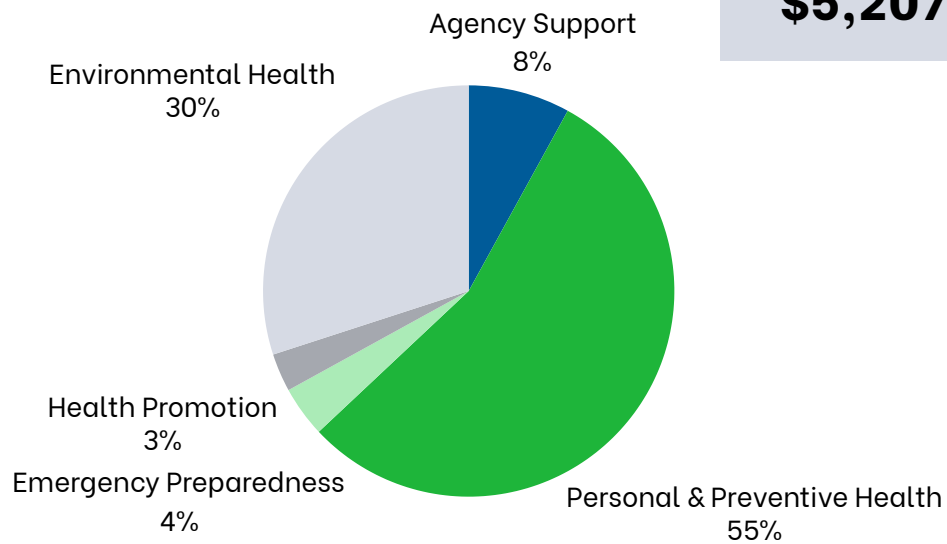
The public health system depends on communicable disease reporting to monitor community health. An effective disease surveillance system is essential to quickly detect outbreaks before they spread. Disease reporting is required by physicians, labs, schools, and daycares. LCHD performs disease surveillance, case/outbreak investigation, contact tracing, education, and immunization for over 70 reportable diseases. These public health strategies are used to understand disease transmission and implement county-level interventions to reduce the spread of diseases.

Communicable Diseases in Livingston County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Campylobacter</i>	38	15	21	27	39
Chlamydia	354	301	323	232	255
Giardiasis	3	7	10	11	10
Gonorrhea	47	67	49	42	45
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis B, acute	0	0	1	1	2
Hepatitis C, acute	1	1	1	3	3
Hepatitis C, chronic	71	59	62	48	35
Meningitis aseptic/viral	14	5	5	9	9
Meningococcal Disease	1	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	18	3	8	13	6
Salmonellosis	17	9	9	16	29
Shiga toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC)	4	3	2	10	11
Shigellosis	0	1	2	3	4
Tuberculosis	1	0	1	2	0

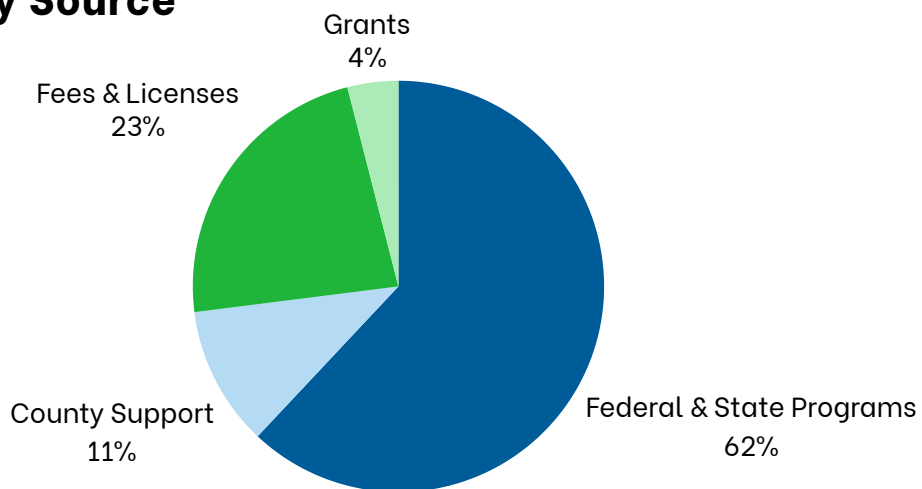
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Expenses by Division

Total operating budget:
\$5,207,488



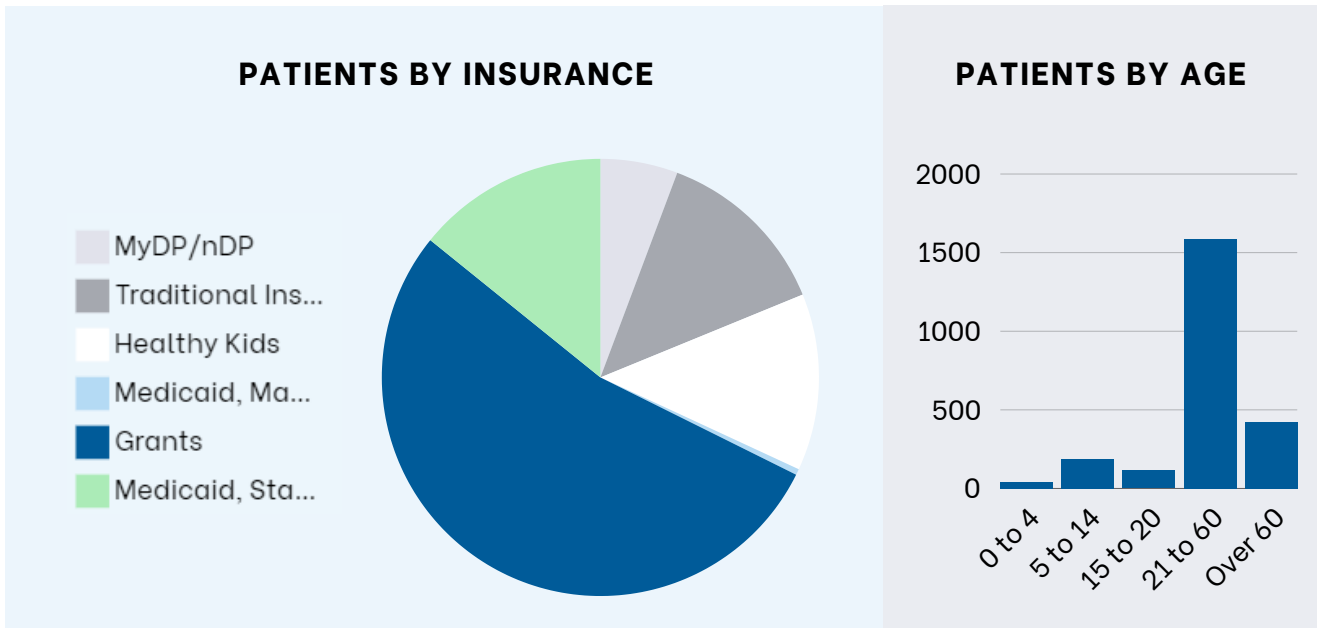
Revenues by Source



MY COMMUNITY DENTAL CENTERS



The partnership between LCHD and MCDC was formed to address the need for dental services to Medicaid enrollees and low-income, uninsured residents throughout Livingston County. MCDC provides services on behalf of LCHD, with the mission to improve the lives of patients and enhance community health by setting the highest standard of oral health care. At MCDC, it is all about the people- they strive to provide each patient with pleasant and stress-free dental care at a cost they can afford.



MCDC served 2,349 patients with 5,693 office visits in 2023.





LIVINGSTON COUNTY Health Department

Mission

Livingston County Health Department will protect, preserve, and promote the health and safety of the people of Livingston County.

Vision

Livingston County will be a safe and healthy community where all people realize their fullest health potential and live enriched and productive lives.

Matt Bolang

Director/Health Officer

Dr. Juan Marquez

Medical Director

Heather Blair

Deputy Health Officer
Director of Environmental Health

Lindsay Kalberer

Deputy Health Officer
Director of Personal & Preventive
Health Services

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