

COMMUNITY UPDATE 2018



Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) employees work every day in collaboration with partners to protect the community through health promotion, disease prevention, and the protection of the environment. Our 2018 Community Update highlights how public health efforts positively affect the people and places within our communities. I invite you to learn about the accomplishments of some of our quality public health programs, read stories about Health Division staff making a difference, and how clients were impacted by our services.

Throughout 2018, the Health Division enhanced our community health approach by strategically engaging partners, fostering increased teamwork among Health Division programs, and addressing social determinants of health (conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect health outcomes) such as access to healthcare. We strive to continue to be an innovative leader in preventing epidemics and the spread of disease, protecting the public against environmental hazards, promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors, increasing accessibility to health services, and responding to natural and man-made disasters.

Our Strategic Plan continues to provide direction to achieve an equitable and healthy community, enhance customer service, engage residents, and tackle emerging public health issues using new strategies. The Health Division's strong commitment to improving quality of life will continue making Oakland County the healthiest place to live, work, and play.

I hope you enjoy reading this update and learning how we are providing services in the community.



In good health,

Leigh-Anne Stafford

Leigh-Anne Stafford
Oakland County Health Division
Health Officer

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The stories in this book are real. Some images have been changed to protect privacy.

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We remember Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who passed away at the age of 80 on August 3, 2019. Brooks was one of the Health Division's biggest supporters and a true leader in helping make Oakland County the healthiest place to live, work, and play. He believed in public health and was a champion for the many Health Division programs and services offered to improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community. He will be missed.



FAST FACTS: PROVIDING ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES



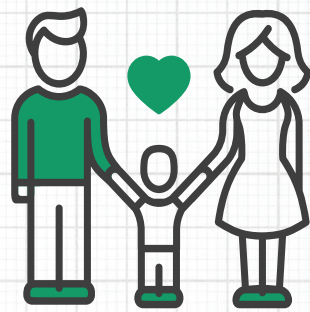
NURSE ON CALL
.... HOTLINE
ANSWERED
14,927 CALLS

453 RESIDENTS
RECEIVED
DENTAL EXAMINATIONS



15,364 CHILDREN NEEDED
FURTHER EVALUATION AFTER

132,245
HEARING & VISION SCREENINGS



**CHILDREN'S
SPECIAL HEALTH CARE**
.... SERVICES
SUPPORTED
2,913 CLIENTS


FAST FACTS: ENSURING A SAFE & CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

CONDUCTED
19,883
INSPECTIONS AT

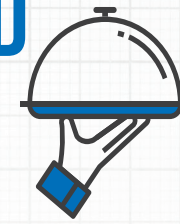
4,432
..... LICENSED.....

**FOOD
SERVICE
ESTABLISHMENTS**



3,924  **1,934**
INSPECTIONS ON WATER WELLS

INVESTIGATED
878 **FOOD
SERVICE**
COMPLAINTS



816 WELL
..... AND

801 SEPTIC
INSTALLATION

**PERMITS
ISSUED**
.....
**RESIDENTIAL
AND NON-RESIDENTIAL**





SPOTLIGHT

In October 2018, OCHD Public Health Nurse, Nadia Bataresh, and Public Health Senior Sanitarian, Richard Peresky, discovered lead in plastic jars of Baraka curry powder and hot curry powder at the home of a child with high lead levels. The discovery and further investigation resulted in a voluntary national recall of this product and successful reduction of the child's blood lead level.

NO. 1

LEAD PREVENTION EFFORTS TARGET HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The Health Division has steadily worked to increase the number of children screened for lead, identify and confirm high-risk areas of lead exposure, and prevent complications resulting from childhood lead exposure. This is an important initiative because even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect IQ, ability to pay attention, and academic achievement in children. Many efforts facilitated by the Health Division were introduced or expanded, including:

- Convening a Lead Prevention Partnership and utilizing grant funds from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service (MDHHS), on behalf of Michigan's Child Lead Exposure Elimination Commission, to accomplish the following activities:
 - Develop a physician toolkit to support that all children are screened for lead
 - Increase testing in targeted populations such as Medicaid-eligible children
 - Provide lead hazard reduction recommendations to municipalities
- Expanding a partnership between the Health Division's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Public Health Nursing programs to implement lead testing of children under 5 years old.
 - Lead tests were given to 345 WIC clients in 2018
- Providing case management services to children with an elevated blood lead level. This includes:
 - In-home nursing and developmental assessments to gain an understanding of needs
 - Education about sources of a child lead exposure and steps to minimize exposure
 - Creating a personalized plan to reduce a child's blood lead level
 - An environmental investigation of the family's home to identify risks
 - Referrals for services, including home lead abatement services
 - Follow-up testing until a child's blood lead level is within a healthy range

40.7% OF CHILDREN ON MEDICAID IN OAKLAND COUNTY WERE SCREENED FOR LEAD 

SPOTLIGHT

During her pregnancy, Chelsea Z. enrolled in WIC and participated in a Breastfeeding Class, giving her knowledge to breastfeed upon delivery. She continues receiving educational materials, one-on-one encouragement, and extra food from WIC every month while she is breastfeeding. Chelsea says, “I successfully breastfed from the start. WIC is great for women who need support. The staff are nice, thorough, and I received good resources.”



NO. 2

WIC BREASTFEEDING PROGRAM GIVES INFANTS A HEALTHY START

Getting ready for a new baby is an exciting time. Whether a first time or experienced mom, Oakland County Health Division Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program lends essential support to income eligible parents, guardians, and children under age 5 to eat well and live healthy.

One of the most important initial decisions families make is how to feed the baby. WIC mothers are strongly encouraged to breastfeed infants. WIC staff provide the necessary support needed for success and offers breastfeeding participants:

- Guidance, counseling and educational materials
- Classes and events
- Greater food quantity and variety monthly
- Longer participation in WIC (up to 1 year post-partum)
- Aids such as breast pumps, breast shells, etc.
- Mother-to-mother support from Breastfeeding Peer Counselors and Certified Lactation Specialists

Our multi-lingual peer counselors are a special asset for WIC's breastfeeding mothers providing tailored, one-on-one basic breastfeeding information and timely help when difficulties occur. They are mothers themselves who have successfully breastfed a child for over six months and are readily able to offer encouragement and support. WIC's Certified Lactation Specialists are also available to help participants address their most complex breastfeeding situations.



IN 2018, OAKLAND COUNTY WIC SERVED

1,670 BREASTFEEDING WOMEN



NO. 3

TESTING TARGETS EMERGING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION


The Health Division is leading prevention efforts against *Mycoplasma genitalium* (MGen), a sexually transmitted infection (STI) identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the fall of 2015 as emerging. MGen symptoms are similar to other STIs but can often show no symptoms. Even when no symptoms are present, MGen can lead to premature birth in pregnant women; doubles the likelihood of getting HIV for both men and women; and is a cause of pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility.

With the recognition of this emerging STI, Health Division nurses identified patients returning to our clinics multiple times, receiving appropriate treatment based on symptoms, yet testing negative for standard STIs such as Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Syphilis. OCHD staff suspected that MGen could be present given that the patients had common STI symptoms, but negative STI test results. This led OCHD Laboratory to become the first certified laboratory in Michigan and third Public Health Lab in the country to become CDC-validated to test for MGen. Following laboratory certification, the Health Division conducted two pilot studies and found that MGen was the most prevalent STI in Oakland County clinic patients.

The Health Division now routinely tests all STI clinic patients for MGen and serves as a resource to help establish MGen testing at laboratories throughout the country. OCHD actively contributes to MGen research, and is now able to better identify, treat, and educate patients to provide the best standard of care possible.

SPOTLIGHT

Barbara Weberman, Laboratory Supervisor, played a lead role at local and national levels to increase the availability of MGen testing, education, and research. She is a member of the CDC's Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Sexually Transmitted Diseases subcommittee and led development of an MGen fact sheet that has been published by the APHL.

OF OCHD CLINIC CLIENTS TESTED IN 2018
12% WERE POSITIVE FOR MGEN 

SPOTLIGHT

Stephen, an adult participant in the dental program, was grateful OCHD connected him to a dentist that provided him with new dentures. He said “After going through the program, I can speak and eat better! They not only help you have healthy teeth, but leave you in overall better health.”

NO. 4

PROGRAM IMPROVES ORAL HEALTH AND DENTAL SERVICE ACCESS

Good oral health plays a vital role in your overall health and well-being by reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, stroke, and bacterial pneumonia. The Oakland County Dental Program contracts with private dental offices to provide exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, and full and partial dentures. These services are available to income-eligible Oakland County residents that do not have dental insurance and youth at Children’s Village.

In 2018, the program provided 458 dental examinations, 284 dentures, and 430 dental fillings to 225 Oakland County residents. Residents at Children’s Village received 196 exams, 187 cleanings, and 768 x-rays. Lisa Dobias, OCHD dental hygienist, said, “By providing dental care to these children, we are keeping them out of pain, in school, and educating them on how to keep their beautiful smiles for a lifetime.”



COMPARED TO STATE & NATIONAL DATA
MORE OAKLAND COUNTY RESIDENTS
---- RECEIVED DENTAL CARE IN 2018 ----

76.4%
OAKLAND COUNTY

69.3%
MICHIGAN

64.4%
UNITED STATES



NO. 5

HEALTH DIVISION TACKLES EMERGING ISSUES

Public health is an evolving field, often tackling relevant issues of today. In 2018, the Health Division addressed several new issues ranging from environmental threats to a rare medical condition. Impacting many counties throughout the state, partnerships with state officials and various local governments were necessary to effectively address the following:

- **Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):** Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are part of a group of chemicals used globally in manufacturing, firefighting, and thousands of common household products. In recent years, experts have grown increasingly concerned about the potential health effects. In 2018 Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), formerly known as the Department of Environmental Quality, created a plan to test Michigan's public water supplies, including schools and day care centers served by wells. In August 2018, the State issued a Do Not Eat Fish Advisory for the Huron River due to high PFAS levels in fish. The Health Division worked collaboratively with EGLE, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Huron River Watershed Council to share timely messaging to local communities through media, social media, educational materials, and signs.
- **Vapor Intrusion:** Michigan has thousands of sites of groundwater contamination containing chemicals that may produce vapors. These vapors can rise through the soil and enter buildings via basements and cracks in the foundations and produce very elevated levels of chemicals in the air. This is known as vapor intrusion. In 2018, EGLE conducted air sampling at known contamination sites in Oakland County. Health Division staff worked with MDHHS and EGLE to address elevated levels and communicate a mandatory evacuation of a small shopping complex in the Village of Franklin that posed potential harm to residents.
- **Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM):** Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) is a rare but serious medical condition, potentially related to viral illnesses, mostly diagnosed in children. AFM affects the nervous system, which causes the muscles and reflexes in the body to become weak. This condition is not new; however, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began surveillance of the disease in 2014 and 942 cases have been reported to date. Although it is still considered rare, Oakland County had one confirmed AFM case in 2018. The Health Division shared information about the disease; encouraged residents to know the signs and symptoms; and provided guidance for assessment and diagnosis to healthcare providers.

FAST FACTS: PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DISEASE

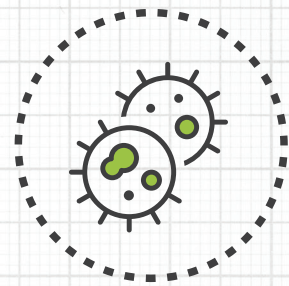


54,505
IMMUNIZATIONS TO
15,257
CHILDREN AND
..... ADULTS

102,069 STI TESTS
PERFORMED



9,275 HIV TESTS
ADMINISTERED



17,835
COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE CASES
REPORTED
..... AND


INVESTIGATED

ASSISTED
12,521
..... WIC

CLIENTS
TO EAT WELL
EACH MONTH



FAST FACTS: ENCOURAGING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

408 INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED
EVIDENCE-BASED 
SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

..... **781 YOUTH**

RECEIVED SUBSTANCE
ABUSE AND VIOLENCE
PREVENTION TRAINING

.... VISITED
3,032
RESIDENTS
WITH HIGH-RISK
NUTRITION
NEEDS



2018 HEALTH DIVISION ACHIEVEMENTS

Project Public Health Ready

OCHD achieved recognition by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) program for its ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. The Health Division has demonstrated these capabilities by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by PPHR, a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. OCHD joins a cohort of more than 500 local health departments across the country distinguished for excellence in preparedness through PPHR, either individually or as part of a region.

PPHR recognition confirms that OCHD has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place and that staff have the training to protect the health of the community during an emergency. Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a rigorous evaluation by peer review to assess their ability to meet a set of national standards for public health preparedness. These standards align with federal government requirements and other national best practices.

Graphic Design USA - 2018 American Inhouse Design Award

for 2016 Health Division Community Update

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

2018 Directors Award for Public Health Certificate of Recognition

Improving Identification, Testing, and Treatment of Mycoplasma genitalium

NACCHO Certificate of Promising Practice

Expanded STI Testing Emerging Bacterium Mycoplasma genitalium

NACCHO Certificate of Promising Practice

Oakland County's Emergency Preparedness Best Practices Program for Healthcare Partner Engagement

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

No single agency can move the needle on health alone. Thank you to the many organizations and individuals who participate in our partnerships making Oakland County a healthier place to live, work, and play. Working together, sharing resources, and combining talents enhance the opportunities and likelihood for achieving positive health outcomes.

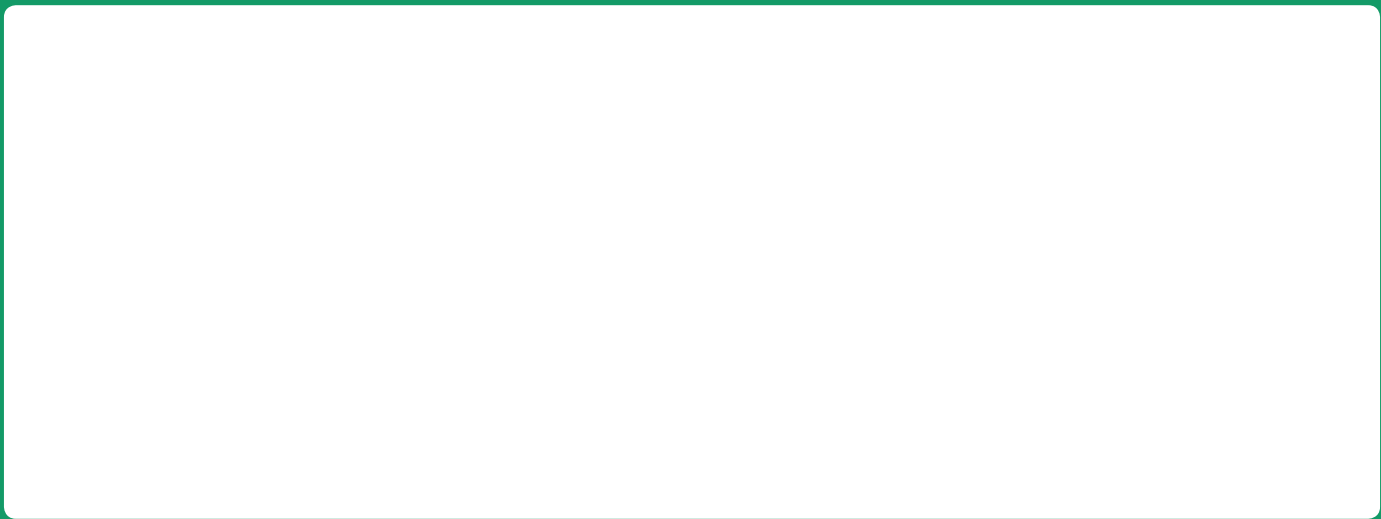
Representatives from hospitals, human services, behavioral health, education, businesses, parks and recreation, economic development, emergency response, community organizations, elected officials, community members and more are engaged in the following collaboratives:

- **Best Start for Babies**
- **Energizing Connections for Healthier Oakland (ECHO)**
Access to Care Workgroup, Food Policy Council, Active Living Network
- **Healthy Oakland Partnership (HOP)**
Farmers Market Team, Youth Team
- **Healthy Pontiac, We Can!**
- **Homeless Healthcare Collaboration**
Hospital Discharge Taskforce, ID Task Force, Transportation Task Force
- **Hospital Partnership**
- **Long-term Care Partnership**
- **Prescription Drug Abuse Partnership**
- **Senior Advisory Council**
- **Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force**



1200 N. Telegraph 34E
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North Oakland Health Center • 248.858.1280
1200 N. Telegraph • 34E • Pontiac, MI 48341

South Oakland Health Center • 248.424.7000
27725 Greenfield Road • Southfield, MI 48076

Nurse On Call • 800.848.5533 • noc@oakgov.com



@PUBLICHEALTHOC