

Washtenaw
County
**Public
Health**
Annual Report
2016

This is public health



WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH HELPING YOU STAY HEALTHY FOR 75 YEARS

1941-2016

1941

Washtenaw County Public Health, originally called the Washtenaw County Health Department, was established with six employees and an annual budget of \$18,750



Washtenaw County received its first shipment of Salk polio vaccine for first and second graders; by 1966, there were no new cases of polio reported in the county

1955

Rules and regulations for the disposal of sewage were approved

1961

1970

Washtenaw became the first county in Michigan to have a communications network between ambulances and hospitals



RADON

Testing for radon in residential homes began

1987

1995



The first Health Improvement Plan (HIP) survey was completed. HIP improves health in Washtenaw County by facilitating partnerships, providing data, and developing strategies

Washtenaw County passed the Clean Indoor Air Regulation to prevent smoking at work sites and public places

2003

Washtenaw County Public Health was awarded national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board

2015



our mission

To assure, in partnership with the community, the conditions necessary for people to live healthy lives through prevention and protection programs

our core values

- We will emphasize prevention to keep our community healthy and safe
- We will lead the development of effective public health interventions in partnership with the community
- We will promote social justice and reduce inequities affecting the health of all in Washtenaw County
- We will abide by ethical principles, take responsibility for our commitments, and use our resources wisely

our board

The [Washtenaw County Board of Health](#) oversees our programs and services and advises the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners on health issues, health priorities, and potential solutions. In 2016, they took action to support equity in the county, LGBTQ safe and supportive learning environments, Tobacco 21, the Affordable Care Act, and preserving local public health authorities and powers.

HEALTH EQUITY AND COMMUNITY VOICE

Where we live, our access to health care and healthy food, and our educational and employment opportunities affect how healthy we are. These "social determinants of health" are not fairly distributed within our communities. We are working to expand the definition of health to address these social, economic, and environmental inequities in order to support health for everyone in Washtenaw County.

During the summer of 2016, we used our own [Health Improvement Plan \(HIP\)](#) and Encuesta Buenos Vecinos data, in addition to other quantitative and qualitative resources, to identify communities that experience systemic, avoidable, and unjust differences in health status and mortality rates. In community conversations, Washtenaw County Public Health staff and community members built relationships while discussing local data and health priorities. Thanks to a partnership with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, mini-grants were provided for residents to implement projects that will make their communities healthier places to live, work, and play.



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Community leaders led conversations in the Latino community, the South of Michigan Avenue neighborhood in Ypsilanti, West Willow, and Whitmore Lake. Left to Right: Felipe Riaño, Cherisa Allen, Jo Ann McCollum, and Marta Larson.

THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH

Washtenaw County Dental Clinic

2,538 patients  6,579 patient visits

Thanks to our partners, My Community Dental Centers, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, the Washtenaw Health Plan, and Washtenaw County!

299 Animal Bite Investigations

80 Animals Tested for Rabies
2 tested positive (1 bat, 1 skunk)



45,911 Hearing and Vision Screenings + 2,870 Referrals



5,725 pregnant women, infants, and children up to age five received food and nutrition education each month through WIC. 81% of moms started breastfeeding.

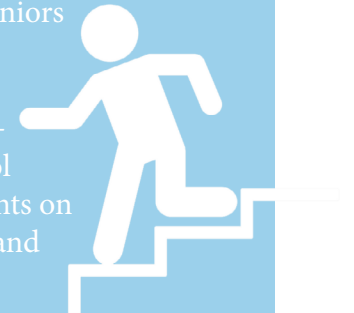
1,875 Maternal Infant Health Program home visits done to support healthy pregnancies and a healthy first year for babies.

1,042 Children's Special Health Care Services enrollees were assisted with case management, care coordination, and support.



Emergency Preparedness

We tested the continuity of operation plans and a new antibiotic dispensing model, worked with seniors to promote individual preparedness, and partnered with University of Michigan School of Public Health students on environmental health and climate change.



2,967 Immunizations

600 TB Tests

641 HIV Screenings for 585 patients



189 Lead Tests

We started lead blood testing in April 2016. No children tested had lead poisoning.

1,044 STD Visits for 741 patients

38 households, on average, were provided with free, healthy groceries every month during Healthy Food Distributions done in partnership with Food Gatherers.

\$2,958 of coupons were redeemed at farmers markets by 179 Senior Project FRESH participants.

Building Healthy Communities supported healthy food changes at 8 city and county parks, 9 pantries in partnership with Food Gatherers, and at the Washtenaw County Children's Services



\$21,385 was spent on fruits and vegetables at farmers markets by 336 Prescription for Health participants thanks to our partnerships with 12 health clinics and social service organizations and funding from Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and other partners.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IS PUBLIC HEALTH

18
Body Art
Facility
Inspections

169 Housing
Complaints
(mold, bed bugs, unsanitary
conditions, standing water, trash)
343 Soil
Evaluations
Soil evaluations are done for new
and replacement septic systems.

5
2
7
Radon
Test Kits
We distributed 527
home radon test kits in
2016. 30% of tests
conducted in the
county had elevated
radon results.

458
Swimming
Pool
Inspections

234
Pollution
Prevention
Inspections

421 Sewage
Permits
1,000+ Sewage
Inspections
500+ Well
Permits
1,100 Well and Septic
Evaluations

6,000
Water
Tests

3,245 Restaurant
Inspections
8,104 Food Code
Violations
281 Temporary
Food Licenses
221 Food-Related
Complaints
89 Foodborne
Illnesses
Food service establishments are inspected once
every six months. Search for the inspection
reports of your favorite restaurants anytime
[on our website.](#)
3
9
9
Restaurant
Inspections
with Zero
Violations
Cited

URGENT AND EMERGENT ISSUES



We worked actively to resolve a well contamination case at a county elementary school.

Lyme Disease

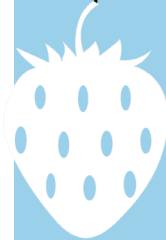
During the summer of 2016, a Washtenaw resident who had not traveled outside of the county was diagnosed with Lyme disease. Until then, local cases of Lyme disease had been attributed to travel to west Michigan or other states. Of the 17 cases of Lyme in Washtenaw residents in 2016, four were likely exposed within the county.



Opioid Surveillance

We published five opioid reports in 2016, providing timely information on opioid-related overdoses and deaths. There were 59 opioid-related deaths in Washtenaw County residents in 2016, a two-fold increase since 2011. The median age of opioid-related death among females dropped by 14 years during these same five years. All law enforcement agencies in the county are now trained to carry naloxone, a medication that rapidly reverses opioid overdoses.

Hepatitis A



Food sanitarians assisted the state in identifying food service establishments that may have received strawberries contaminated with Hepatitis A and ensured the berries were no longer available for consumption.

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We worked closely with homeowners in a new housing development to track, assess, and address an elevated arsenic issue in well water.

We worked with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to investigate and mitigate a food manufacturer that had elevated lead levels in the water they used to prepare food.

Followed up on over **600** cases of Reportable Diseases and **35** Disease Clusters



MEASLES CONTROL

On the evening of October 13, 2016, a case of measles was reported to Washtenaw County Public Health. Our nurses, epidemiology team and communications team worked relentlessly for weeks to contain the local measles outbreak to a single patient.

In coordination with Michigan Medicine, we confirmed the case of measles, identified and notified individuals at risk of exposure, secured access to the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine and immunoglobulin therapy, and provided information to the public and the media. Our nurses contacted and monitored over 50 individuals who were potentially exposed to the case. This case, and our vaccination messages, received a large amount of coverage from local and regional news outlets. Thankfully, no new cases of measles were identified. If Washtenaw County Public Health had not responded so quickly and aggressively to this local measles case, a deadly outbreak could have occurred.

[Local data on reportable diseases is available on our website.](#)

1,4-DIOXANE

Since the 1,4-dioxane groundwater plume under parts of Scio Township and western Ann Arbor was discovered over 30 years ago, Washtenaw County Public Health (WCPH) has assisted state authorities with monitoring the plume and providing information to the public. In 2016, 1,4-dioxane was found in shallow groundwater in Ann Arbor, highlighting a potential new exposure pathway if contaminated groundwater were to enter resident basements. WCPH continued to support monitoring of the situation and provide information to residents. We also took legal action.

Our Environmental Health Division started off the year by providing updates about the contamination to our Board of Health and residents who occupy or own properties in Washtenaw County with drinking water wells that have had a past detection of 1,4-dioxane. Information was also shared at town hall meetings organized by State Representative Jeff Irwin and Ann Arbor Council Member Chuck Warpehoski.

We also worked with local partners to take legal steps toward protecting the health of residents. Ann Arbor Township, Scio Township, and the Sierra Club of Huron Valley petitioned to make the contamination an EPA SuperFund site. Governor Snyder signed an emergency order lowering the residential drinking water cleanup criterion from 85 parts per billion (ppb) to 7.2 ppb. Finally, WCPH, along with the City of Ann Arbor, Scio Township and the Huron River Watershed Council, filed motions to join the lawsuit between the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Gelman Sciences Inc., the responsible party for the contamination. The motions were granted, allowing us the opportunity to intervene in court to better protect the health of Washtenaw County residents.

"As the local public health authority, we feel it's critical for us to be involved in these decisions moving forward. We have new rules in place in Michigan with regard to 1,4-dioxane, and we're looking forward to seeing these used to clean up the contamination and to fully protect our residents' health."

-Ellen Rabinowitz, Health Officer

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH

Zika Virus outbreaks occurred in multiple countries. We coordinated 113 Zika tests in Washtenaw. Three travel-associated cases were discovered. There were no locally-acquired cases. We conducted surveillance and found no evidence of the type of mosquito that carries Zika in Washtenaw County.



Tobacco 21 was passed in Ann Arbor, increasing the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products from 18 to 21. We worked with community partners to share information, support, and testify for the legislation. Needham, MA was the first city to pass a Tobacco 21 policy and saw the prevalence of youth smoking cut in half in five years.

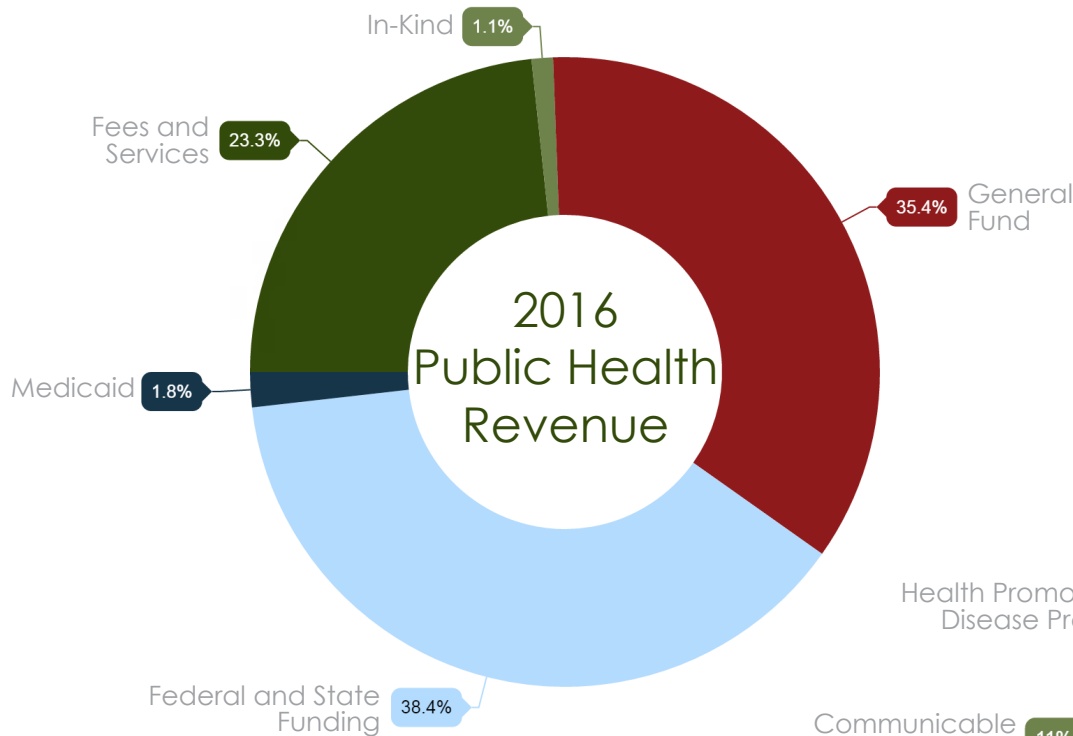


Intentional Food Contamination occurred in several grocery stores in Ann Arbor when a man sprayed diluted rat poison on ready-to-eat foods. State and federal partners, including the FBI, were involved in the investigation. Washtenaw County Public Health provided public information, answered questions from the public, and reviewed foodborne illness reports for possible connections. Fortunately, no negative health impacts were discovered.



We worked with local, state and federal officials to investigate **Vapor Intrusion** of dry cleaning chemicals from groundwater to indoor air in an Ann Arbor neighborhood next to Armen Dry Cleaners. A vapor mitigation system was installed in one building to reduce resident exposure to the chemicals.

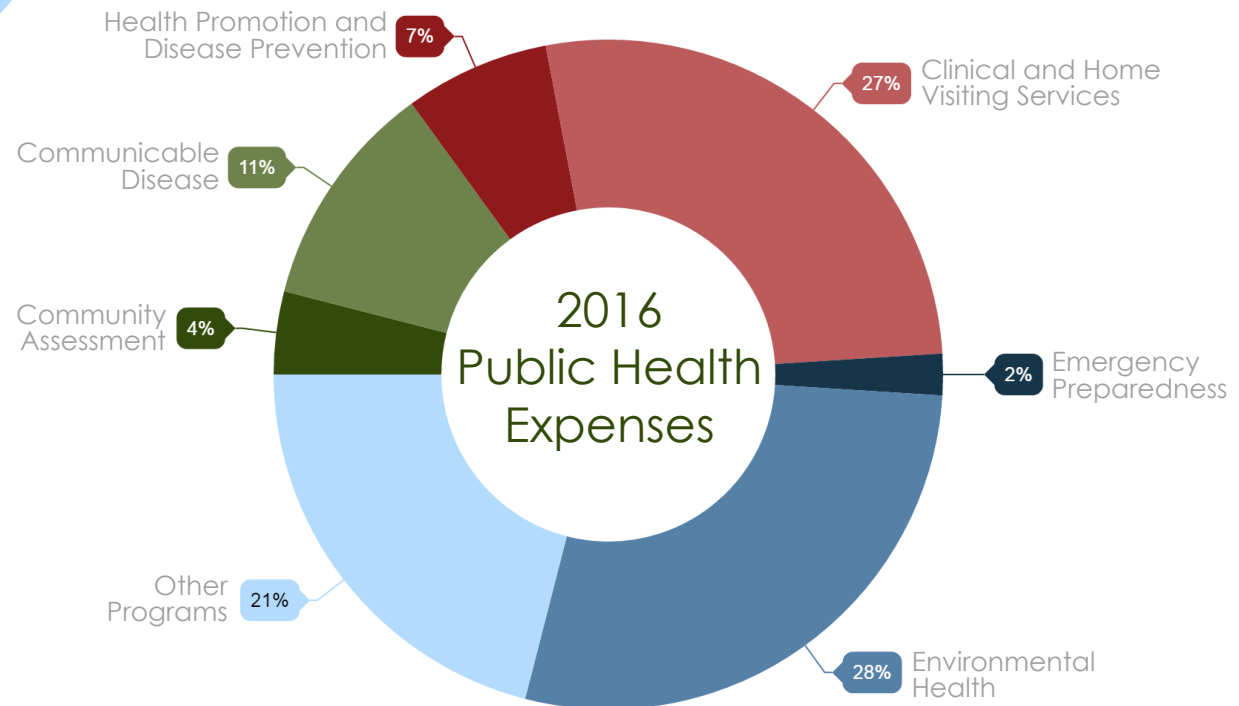
FINANCIALS



"I finally feel like I have someone who truly cares about my children's medical needs. It can be stressful dealing with chronic illness when you have questions, or have trouble getting prescriptions filled or medical supplies. Having informed, caring people involved makes it a little easier."

- Parent of a Children's Special Health Care Services enrollee

Our operating budget was \$12,410,358 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. These charts reflect audited figures. The "other" category in the expense chart includes agreements for the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner, Washtenaw Health Plan, Washtenaw County Dental Clinic, and Medicaid Outreach and Advocacy.



PARTNERING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

We are grateful for strong partnerships and community leaders who make Washtenaw County a healthier place to live, work, and play.



WE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH



CONTACT US



Washtenaw County Dental Clinic

Saint Joseph Mercy Haab Health Building
111 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Phone: 734-480-4250
Registration/after hours: 877-313-6232
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Washtenaw County Public Health

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Environmental Health Division

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