We seek to help residents live long and healthy lives through the assurance of environmental quality and the dissemination of information to make wise health decisions.
It is with great pride that the Ionia County Health Department presents our 2015 Annual Report. When you look through this report you will see the array of important services, from food safety inspections to substance abuse treatment to immunization, that ICHD provides daily to the citizens of Ionia County.

We continue to search for new services to provide and ways to improve existing services. You will see evidence of that in this report, from providing school children with education on the dangers of drugs to helping mothers ensure that their children can sleep safely.

The staff of ICHD will continue to look to the future of public health while staying firmly grounded in the present. As always, our focus will be squarely on preventing disease, protecting public health, and promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

Ken Bowen, REHS, MS
Health Officer

We are pleased to present the 2015 Ionia County Health Department Annual Report. The report describes the myriad of services available to promote the health of the citizens of Ionia County. In this report you will also read about how our dedicated staff continues to find novel ways of delivering public health services to provide a safe and healthy environment and to prevent disease and illness. We thank you for your interest.

Dr. Sugandha Lowhim, MD, MPH
Medical Director

Community Health staff are out in your community, providing substance abuse prevention education and resources. Other activities in your community include:

- Implementing the Too Good for Drugs and Too Good for Violence programs in area schools. These programs promote positive, pro-social attitudes and behavior while fostering healthy relationships and resistance to substance abuse, conflict, and negative peer pressure.
- Providing Training and Intervention Procedures (TIPS) to local alcohol vendors regarding responsible serving, sale, and consumption of alcohol.
- Providing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment to adults and adolescents. This includes assessments, outpatient counseling, case management, and detox/inpatient referrals. We work closely with the Ionia County Drug Court and other entities to ensure that our community residents are getting the best services possible for substance abuse concerns.
- Providing substance abuse prevention education to students enrolled in local driver education programs.

A healthy community supports people recovering from substance use disorder issues. Community Health/ICSAI supports recovery programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Families Anonymous, Grief After a Substance Abuse Passing (GRASP), and Ryan’s Friends – (Youth support after loss) by providing space for meetings and promoting their recovery message. The ICSAI was instrumental in bringing a new, interactive support group program called Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART) to two locations in Ionia County. The ICSAI also collaborated with the Ionia County Adult Drug Court and other community agencies to create a Families Against Narcotics (FAN) chapter in Ionia and Montcalm Counties.

The ICSAI Vision is that all Ionia County residents will be free of substance abuse and its effects.

The ICSAI Mission is to facilitate a continuum of substance abuse services in Ionia County, with a primary focus on youth, including the use and abuse of drugs in a comprehensive and long-term manner.
COMMUNITY HEALTH
Deb Thalison, Community Health Supervisor

For the past eight years, our Community Health division has guided the Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative (ICSAI) Coalition in providing high quality, evidence based substance abuse prevention and treatment services/activities in Ionia County. The ICSAI workgroup and the Advisory Board meet every other month to advise and discuss substance abuse prevention and treatment in the community. The seven member board is appointed by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, representing one member from each commissioner’s district. The ICSAI behavioral health services are fully accredited for the next three years by The Joint Commission, a national accreditation board. Our programs are fully in compliance with The Joint Commission and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Community Health treatment and prevention staff are professionals accredited through LARA as well as through the Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals (MCBAP).

The Community Health division actively works to make your community a healthier place. From handwashing activities for children in schools and community events to giving you regular press releases about various health topics, you can count on us for up-to-date information about health concerns. You can also have individualized assistance with applying for the Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP), Medicaid, and other benefits through MIBridges.

Our staff works with businesses that sell alcohol and tobacco to ensure that our youth do not have access to their products. There is zero tolerance for substance abuse by minors in Ionia County. When youth do run into problems with alcohol or drugs they can take part in “Teen Intervene”, a comprehensive, evidence-based program to help modify their behavior and mitigate substance use. Parenting Wisely and Shoulder-to-Shoulder parenting classes offer parents support and guidance. Through the Above the Influence marketing campaign youth across Ionia County and the country are targeted and reminded to be above the negative influences in their lives, including substances and bullying.

Thanks to the ICSAI, Ionia County Sheriff’s Office, Belding Police Department, Portland Police Department, and Ionia Conservation District, residents have three locations (Ionia, Belding, and Portland) where they can access medication drop boxes at no cost. One of the easiest ways to keep unused or expired prescription medication out of our children’s hands is to dispose of prescriptions properly in a drop box!

FINANCIALS

Chad Shaw, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

In 2015 we received special pathogen funding due to the Ebola outbreaks in West Africa. With this funding we have been collaborating with the other Region 6 health departments to create and host a special pathogens conference in June of 2016. This conference will be directed to special pathogen preparedness and will bring collaboration between public health, EMS, hospitals, law enforcement, and emergency management. I was also able to attend the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference in Atlanta hosted by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. This annual conference highlights trends and best practices in the public health preparedness world. At this conference the Ionia County Health Department was given an award for completing the national accreditation of Project Public Health Ready. Our Preparedness program was also awarded the 2015 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion award from the State of Michigan.

In 2015 I continued to maintain the operational programs that we have in the past through the Centers for Disease Control and the State of Michigan. The 2016 focus will be on operationalizing our mass medication dispensing capability in the event of an outbreak. I will be coordinating a full-scale medication dispensing exercise to ensure that our responders understand their roles in the event of an outbreak within Ionia County.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In 2015 REVENUE
Federal/State 13%
Fees & Collections 12%
Local/County 75%

2015 EXPENSES
Wages & Fringes 67%
Supplies 12%
Contractual 2%
Travel 2%
Other Expenses 17%
A new Director of Personal Health was appointed. Ms. Peggy Shaull agency interface. 

A central component of WIC programing is teaching and supporting breastfeeding mothers. Laurie Brinks, RN presents twice a year at Portland High School on the benefits of breast feeding. Staff sponsored an Ice Cream Social in August that was well attended by WIC participants and their children. In addition, WIC staff participated in the 2015 Ionia Free Fair Parade promoting Breastfeeding and manned a health information booth on the fair grounds. 

Communicable Disease: Chris Simon, RN attended the World TB Day Conference, Ionia High School Career Day, and the CDC sponsored conference on Foodborne Illness & Investigation. All nursing staff attended the MDHHS sponsored conference on Immunizations that focused on new guidelines and timetables for child and adult immunization administration schedules. 

Lead poisoning prevention: we currently have 65 children that are being followed for prolonged periods of time to ensure lead blood level reduction. Lead testing is available to all parents along with teaching and other informational materials to promote safe sleep and decreased risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The staff from MIHP attended the regional maternal/infant conference in September. The focus of the annual conference was on an overview of substance abuse trends within the MIHP population and techniques for working with mothers and substance exposed infants. 

Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) is currently installing a new documentation system to enhance the quality of documentation and facilitate the integration of collaborative agency interface. 

A new Director of Personal Health was appointed. Ms. Peggy Shaull-Norman RN, MSN, MBA joined the Ionia County Health Department in November 2015. Peggy comes to Public Health with over 20 years’ experience in healthcare administration. 

The State of Michigan Management Evaluations/Program Reviews for WIC, MIHP, and Children’s Special Health Care Services were all successful; next surveys will occur in 2017.

**2015 PERSONAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WIC Average Monthly Participation</td>
<td>1609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunizations (includes Flu)</td>
<td>3566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maternal Infant Health Program Site Visits</td>
<td>415</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicable Disease Cases (including STD)</td>
<td>396</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearing Screenings</td>
<td>3486</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vision Screenings</td>
<td>4227</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Bites Reported</td>
<td>161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Death Reviews</td>
<td>0</td>
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Environmental Health continued our focus on food safety and water protection. The economy continues to improve, and as such the number of well and septic system permits continues to gradually increase. The Type II water supply program was a major focus in 2015, and we expect this to continue in 2016. An improving economy and new federal guidelines have led to a great deal of additional work in the Type II program. Here are some 2015 highlights:

- Investigated mercury poisoning with MDEQ at a factory in Boston Township.
- Conducted plan review and pre-opening inspections for The Tattoo Shop in Ionia, Oakwood Lounge, Ionia Bowling Alley (Four Friars Restaurant), Steele Street Brewing Co., Wagon Wheel Restaurant, The Red Tomato, Lake House Coffee, Fabiano’s Firehouse Grill, and the new Sparrow Ionia Hospital kitchen.
- Investigated two suspected foodborne illness outbreaks, including one at the Free Fair.
- Conducted investigations at 2 public swimming pools with E. coli positive samples.
- Continued our collaboration with Heartlands by speaking to Health Occupation classes about the Health Department role in the community and different health career options.
- Evaluated foodservice establishments that were affected by the Portland tornado.
- Conducted a food safety training for meal delivery volunteers at the Commission on Aging.

**2015 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complaints Received (All)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Swimming Pools Inspected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine Investigations</td>
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<td>Septic Permits Issued</td>
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<td>Food Illness Investigations</td>
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<td>Well Permits Issued</td>
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<td>Routine Food Inspections</td>
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<td>Land Evaluations</td>
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<td>Temporary Food Inspections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radon Kits Distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Samples Taken</td>
<td>284</td>
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