



TUSCOLA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2020-2021 Annual Report

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Personal Health

- Breastfeeding
- Children's Special Healthcare
- Communicable Disease
- Family Planning
- Geriatrics
- Hearing & Vision
- Immunizations
- Maternal Infant Health
- MI Bridges Navigation Partner
- Sexual Risk Avoidance
- STI/HIV
- WIC

Environmental Health

Emergency Preparedness

Veterans Affairs

The Tuscola County Health Department actively strives to enhance our community's quality of life by disease prevention, health protection, and healthy lifestyle promotion.



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Health Officer Clinical Report

I'm pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report for the Tuscola County Public Health Department. Within this report we outline the activities for the past year, although 2021 was not a typical year for us. A global pandemic had severe impacts on all aspects of health in our county and state.

Our department was tasked with the COVID-19 pandemic response beginning in 2021. As the year progressed, we adapted to meet the demands and challenges of the pandemic, while continuing to meet the mission of the department. The way that public health staff, health and human services staff and county government as a whole, rose up to meet this challenge and dedicated all available resources to the COVID-19 response was an amazing example of how the public health system can work in an emergency.

Tuscola County worked very closely with all key partners, including healthcare, first responders, long-term care facilities, schools, and community organizations to ensure that those who live, work and play in our county were informed to keep as safe as possible. We look forward to continuing to foster these relationships to better serve our county.

I would like to end this message by saying how proud I am to be part of an organization of dedicated professionals who go the extra mile to serve county residents; which I truly believe has taken on a significantly more important meaning this past year.



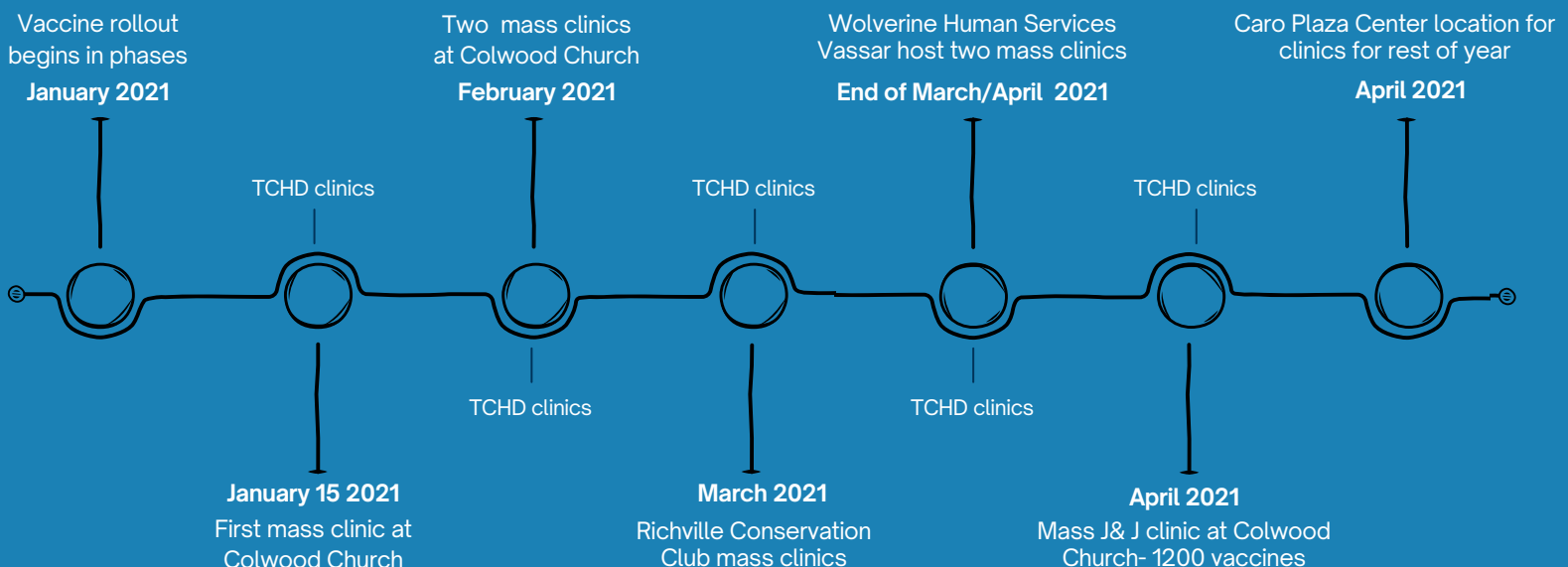
Vaccinations

COVID vaccine administration began primarily in January 2021 with rollout in phases. We arranged the health department to create a vaccination site that could accommodate large amounts of people efficiently and safely. We partnered with Colwood Church and held our first mass vaccine clinic on January 15 for those 65 years and older. We followed that with two additional Colwood mass clinics in February, mostly to educators; and in between mass clinics we vaccinated at the health department regularly. In March we partnered with Richville Conservation Club and were able to utilize their facility daily for the entire month, which saved travel and set-up time, and accommodated

large numbers of clients. Wolverine Human Services in Vassar hosted two mass clinics in their gymnasium at the end of both March and April. We returned to Colwood in April for a mass J & J specific clinic where we administered over 1200 vaccines. In April we moved from RCC to a new leased location at the Caro Center Plaza which remained our full-time vaccine location throughout the rest of the year.

Testing

In the Fall of 2020, we partnered with Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement to utilize their garage as a drive-through test site. We tested weekly through the end of March 2021; and there were few occasions that a state vendor, HONU, was utilized to provide testing to free up staff for other COVID priorities.



The Nursing Division of the Tuscola County Health Department was faced with an extreme challenge to maintain public health services, battle the COVID-19 pandemic, and keep ourselves safe. Our personal and preventative health programs routinely monitored data and determined how they could best provide services based on case counts, community spread, positivity rates, and the ability to use mitigation strategies. Surges came not only at certain times of the year, such as events and holidays, but also with each new variant. The first B.1.1.7 variant was detected in Tuscola County in March, and the Delta variant was first detected in Tuscola county in August 2021. All staff took on additional roles to assist in combating the pandemic such as providing preventative education, supporting the community, fielding calls, assisting with mass vaccination clinics, etc. We continued to provide COVID-19 testing; shifting from the health department parking lot to the Mosquito Abatement building in late October through April 2021. December 2020 brought the emergency use authorization of COVID-19 vaccine and with it the planning and implementation of mass vaccination clinics. We partnered with large community venues for mass clinics while simultaneously holding smaller scale clinics at the health department. In April 2021, we were able to lease the Caro Center Plaza to hold scheduled and walk-in clinics at that location throughout the rest of the fiscal year. We hired contractual staff to assist with contact tracing, case investigation and vaccinations. We also recruited several volunteers to help with the vaccination clinics for such roles as directing people, traffic, monitoring client's status post-vaccination, assisting in parking lots, disinfecting surfaces, and a variety of other tasks.

Challenges this year were numerous. Supply chain issues made it difficult to order and receive needed personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves, as well as needles for vaccinations. Products that we were able to procure often were of low quality. Staff turnover was yet another challenge. Although we hired contractual staff, they often left during COVID lulls and then we were left short-handed when the next surge would hit. Fulltime staff also left either for retirement or new job opportunities. During FY 2020-2021, eighteen staff left our agency; 9 fulltime and 9 contractual. Security concerns became an issue at the health department as well. Some individuals were not in agreement with governmental mandates and recommendations concerning the pandemic regardless that TCHD did not issue any county orders but only followed recommendations provided by MDHHS. Staff endured verbal attacks via the telephone and social media.

Vaccine itself was a challenge. Vaccines that were manufactured by different companies, for different age groups and had different storage requirements (i.e. ultra-cold storage) complicated and slowed down the administration of vaccinations.

This was an unprecedented time for our **Immunization program**, which continued to provide vaccination services across the lifespan with multiple mitigation efforts in place. Appointment availability was increased over the course of the year in order to increase declining coverage levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An effort was made to resume off-site clinics, however, with the increase in COVID-19 cases and level of transmission, the clinics in Vassar and Cass City were again suspended. Numerous mass vaccination clinics were held at various locations to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, including Colwood Church, Richville Conservation Club and Wolverine Human Services; where thousands of residents were able to receive their vaccine. Clinics were also held at various locations for high-risk individuals including long-term care, assisted living facilities, adult foster care homes, senior housing complexes and county jail. We continued to work with our schools to ensure required coverage levels were met, and offered additional evening and Saturday clinic hours to do so.

Although redistribution of vaccines is a common practice at the health department, for our Vaccine for Children (VFC) providers it reached a level of burden during the Pandemic. The health department had to expand its role to redistribute COVID vaccines to pharmacies, facilities and providers. This included ancillary supplies, transport, storage, documentation, and ultimate responsibility and oversight.

18,175
Vaccines Administered

176
Tuberculin Skin Tests

218
Avg. Monthly Enrollment in CSHCS

97
MIHP Enrollments

10
Pack & Plays distributed

60
Extended MIHP Visits w/
Safe Sleep Intervention

858
MIHP Professional
Visits Conducted

Our **Maternal Child Health** programs focus on reducing maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates by addressing the issues that impact women and children. The guiding principles of understanding how to impact population health assists us in making decisions for programming and services that are relevant for Tuscola County moms, babies and families. COVID-19 presented significant challenges on how we were able to safely provide these services, but staff quickly adjusted to the changes and moms, babies, and families received programming and resources during the pandemic through telehealth services, and implementing mitigation efforts while providing in-person home visits.

Our Local Maternal Child Health Grant provided additional education, support and resources in the area of infant safe sleep and mood and anxiety disorders to those we serve. TCHD was able to provide tangible safe sleep resources including new pack & plays, fitted sheets, and sleep sacks to ensure that Tuscola County families with limited resources can have a safe sleep environment for their infant.

Tuscola County Health Department remains actively involved, and a leader in supporting the Child Advocacy Center and our local Child Abuse & Neglect prevention council by serving on the multi-agency workgroup, board, and providing safe sleep resources and community education.



Our **Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP)** is the largest home visiting program in Tuscola County. MIHP uses a population health model providing evidence-based interventions to Medicaid eligible pregnant women and infants. By utilizing telehealth services, our MIHP continued to provide services without pause during COVID-19. When we were able to transition back to home visiting, we quickly did so by incorporating safety measures. In June 2021, our MIHP was rated 100% on our MDHHS MIHP certification review which occurs every 18 months.

TCHD remains a trusted advisor to Great Start Tuscola through the collaboration of distributing Welcome Baby Bags to parents of newborns in Tuscola County. Welcome Baby Bags provide gifts, resources, and educational information on home visiting services, parenting classes/resources, safe sleep, postpartum and newborn care.

Tuscola County Health Department remains the leadership team for the Region 6 Perinatal Quality Collaborative, focusing on the statewide effort of eliminating all preventable maternal & infant deaths through the Maternal Infant Health & Equity Improvement Plan. We continue to work with regional partners to offer universal substance use & emotional health screening to women entering into Family Planning or OB care to assist them in making positive choices that can impact their health and wellbeing.

Our Medicaid Outreach program assists the community with MI Bridges Navigation application assistance and needed referrals. Even though COVID-19 changed the types of outreach we were able to do, TCHD remained an available and accessible resource to the entire community through phone assistance and safe office appointments.

Communicable Disease staff worked tirelessly to meet the MDHHS case investigation requirements and metrics set for COVID-19 cases during the pandemic; and staff coverage continued to be required 7 days a week. As this was a novel virus, new information and guidelines were changing, and staff were required to pivot and adjust accordingly. Communicable Disease staff were also striving to provide timely case investigation to limit the spread of non-COVID-19 illness, and proactively pursue prevention of disease. The program worked closely with community organizations and entities including schools, long-term care facilities, and healthcare providers in efforts to prevent illness, protect the community, and promote health.

Although schools returned to in-person learning in the fall we only intermittently did **Hearing & Vision** screenings. We monitored COVID-19 community data to determine when it was safe to have Techs in the schools and when not to. We were able to offer appointments for screening at the health department where we could control the environment better. This allowed parents/guardians to choose to have their child screened without waiting for our presence back in the schools or for those that may have been experiencing an issue. When not providing Hearing and Vision services, the techs were utilized as COVID staff to schedule appointments, field calls, work vaccine clinics, etc.

7,702
CD Completed Cases

121
STI Cases

203
Unduplicated Family
Planning Visits

1,286 1,875
Hearing Vision
Screenings Screenings

1,222
Avg. Monthly WIC
Client Case Load

The TCHD **Empowering Youth Today** program was the only grantee in the state of Michigan to implement in-person learning, with 8 cohorts totaling 149 7th and 9th graders receiving the curriculum. Thirty-nine 7th graders participated in a Service Learning Project handing out resource/hygiene packs to the community. A successful Parent Program was held virtually with a keynote speaker and panel of local experts on the impact of easily accessible adult content on the adolescent brain. For outreach, 200 backpacks were purchased and stuffed with back to school supplies and other miscellaneous items to hand out at health fairs, schools, and local agencies.

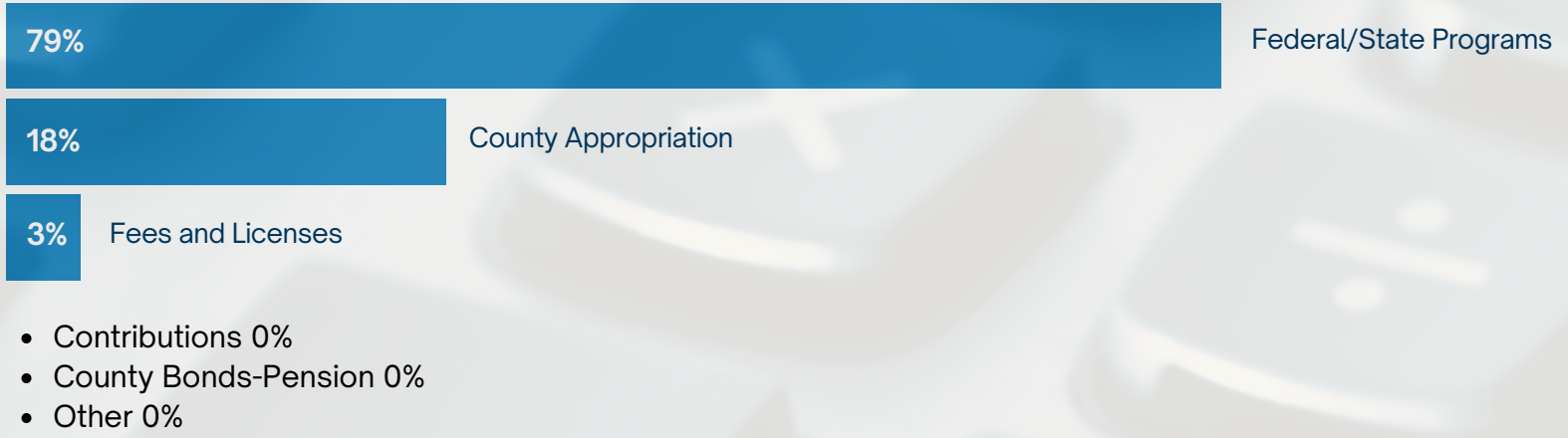
WIC did provide services via telephone per the approval of a waiver. We did on a few occasions, do in-person visits at TCHD and offsite clinics in Vassar based on safety and need. We were able to conduct drive-thru Project Fresh distribution; however Project Fresh redemption rates did drop again this year. Breast Feeding support services were offered via virtual options. Although we didn't see many in-person WIC clients, lead testing was provided when needed until approximately May 2021 when the Leadcare II point of care testing had a recall of kits that lasted the rest of the fiscal year. Nurse case management remained available for elevated lead levels.

TCHD provided a variety of **Family Planning** services including contraception, pregnancy testing, and STI testing. We did continue to provide telehealth services throughout the year due to the continued COVID-19 community spread, as well as continued our in-person visits utilizing mitigation strategies for safety. Our caseload decreased but we did continue to see new enrollments. Our **STI** program also saw a decrease in clients, but we continued to provide testing, education, and treatment services both in-person and via telehealth. New STI Treatment Guidelines were published; and we made area providers aware and provided resources to obtain copies of the new guidelines. We utilized Alere Rapid **HIV** tests for client testing with same day results; however there was a decline in individuals requesting testing.

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
HIV/AIDS	0	0	2	0	0
Food Borne Illness	24	41	29	15	20
Meningitis-Aseptic*	2	9	2	1	1
Meningitis-Bacterial/Other*	1	2	0	0	1
Pneumoniae Invasive	11	5	9	3	1
Cryptococcosis	2	0	0	0	0
Flu Like Illness	210	2,364	1,685	1,862	805
Guillain-Barre	0	0	0	2	2
Kawasaki	0	0	0	1	0
Legionellosis	2	1	5	1	0
Rabies-Animal	0	0	1	0	0
Chickenpox*	1	4	3	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	1	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	1	1	0
Hepatitis B Chronic	6	4	2	1	1
Hepatitis Perinatal	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B Acute	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Acute	3	0	1	1	0
Hepatitis C Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Chronic*	20	35	13	14	5
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	1	2	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0
Staphylococcus Aureus Infections	1	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	3	0	4	0	0
Histoplasmosis*	3	1	0	2	0
Q Fever	0	0	0	1	0
Streptococcus, Group A	2	4	2	2	0
Influenza-Confirmed	135	194	69	185	2
Toxic Shock	0	0	0	0	0
Novel Coronavirus COVID 19	0	0	0	571	6,269
MIS-C	0	0	0	1	1

Note: * Indicates that total includes confirmed and probable.

Revenue by Source



Expenses



Environmental Health

Adverse environmental factors have a direct influence on humans. Impacts can be disease transmission through exposure to pathogenic organisms, or by exposure to toxins having a physiological effect on humans. Lesser environmental factors such as living conditions in a home can effect the overall well-being of the persons subjected to the given environment. As a member of the public health team, Environmental Health advocates and promotes disease prevention. Goals are met through enforcement of regulations and programs developed to not only protect public health, but to also control adverse environmental factors. Programs and regulations are grouped into categories of: Water, Shelter, Food, Waste and Community Health. The following statistics falling under these categories reflect the services provided in fiscal year 2020/2021.

FOOD:

Regular inspections are conducted in all food service establishments in Tuscola County. Efforts in this program are key elements in assuring that meals consumed outside of the home are safe.



146	Fixed Food Service Establishments
294	Fixed Food Service Inspections
72	Temporary Food Inspections
11	Transitory Food Inspections
5	Foodborne Illness Investigations

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY:

Additional activities important to health protection cover a range of programs such as: Shelter, Public Swimming Pools, Mobile Home Parks, Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste, Indoor and Outdoor Air, and Campgrounds.



16	Campground Inspections
7	Public Swimming Pool Inspections
1	Solid Waste
9	Indoor/Outdoor Air
0	Ground Water Quality
0	Mosquito/Insect Control
0	Surface Water
61	Adult/Child Care Facility Inspections
0	Hazardous Waste
0	Animal Control
6	Body Art
0	Residential Dwellings/Lead Paint
3	Septage Inspections
0	Radon

WASTEWATER:

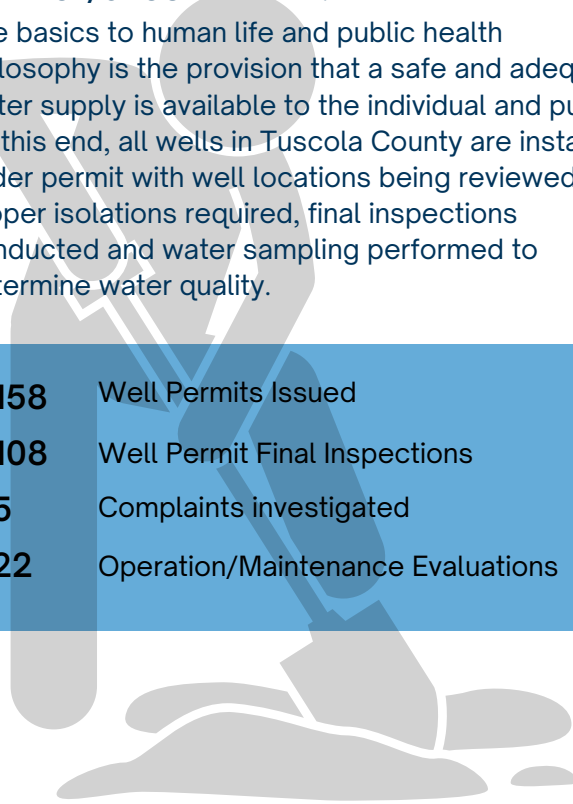
Contact with raw or improperly treated sewage is the major method by which diseases are spread. Proper disposal and treatment of sewage is a critical aspect of protecting public health. Under State and Local Code Enforcement, this division evaluates and issues permits for the installation of all onsite sewage systems in Tuscola County.



122	Onsite Sewage Disposal Permits Issued
16	Onsite Sewage Permits (Commercial)
20	Operation/Maintenance Evaluations
262	Onsite Sewage Disposal Inspections
23	Onsite Sewage Inspections (Commercial)
12	Complaints Investigated

SURFACE/GROUNDWATER:

The basics to human life and public health philosophy is the provision that a safe and adequate water supply is available to the individual and public. To this end, all wells in Tuscola County are installed under permit with well locations being reviewed, proper isolations required, final inspections conducted and water sampling performed to determine water quality.



158	Well Permits Issued
108	Well Permit Final Inspections
5	Complaints investigated
22	Operation/Maintenance Evaluations

Veterans Affairs

The County Veterans Affairs handles federal, state, and county programs that are available to veterans, widows, and dependent children seeking assistance. Federal Programs from the Department of Veterans Affairs include: compensation, pension, survivors benefits, education benefits for veteran and dependents, medical coverage, home loans, life insurance, and burial benefits. State programs include: Michigan Veteran Trust Fund, employment, education benefits, nursing home care, as well as other benefits. County level programs include: Veterans Assistance Program/ Sailor Relief Fund (SSRF), burial benefits, Tuscola County Veterans Affairs Office, food banks, transition housing, and other agencies such as Department of Health and Human Services and Human Development Commission.

FY 20-21 Statistics

Assistance

MVTF Applications_____0
 MVTF Granted_____ \$0.00
 SSRF Applications_____22
 SSRF Granted_____ \$34,948.49
 Burial Applications_____84
 Burial Granted_____ \$6,900.00

Office

Office Visits_____1,072
 Home Visits_____2
 Claims Submitted_____775

DAV Van

Vets Transported_____274
 Miles Logged (Volunteer)___29,111
 Hours Logged (Volunteer)___1,152.50



Department of Veterans Affairs County Statistics FY 19-20 vs FY 20-21

