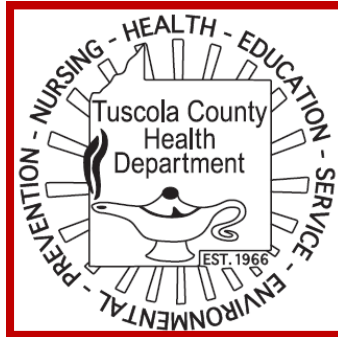


# **Tuscola County Health Department**



**MEDICAL DIRECTOR**  
**Russell L. Bush, M.D., M.P.H.**

**HEALTH OFFICER**  
**Gretchen Tenbusch, R.N., M.S.A.**

**1309 Cleaver Road, Suite B**  
**Caro, Michigan 48723**

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**[www.tchd.us](http://www.tchd.us)**

**FAX: 989-673-7490**

**ANNUAL REPORT - FY 2014-2015**



## Tuscola County Health Department Employee List - FY 2014/15

NAME	TITLE	HIRE DATE
Amend, Ron	Veteran Affairs Director	10/01/07
Anthes, Beth	PHN II	11/13/00
Bellsky, Sally	PHN II	07/08/92
Brinkman, Marcy	PHN II	02/23/98
Bush, Russell M.D.	Medical Director	01/01/08
Caverly, Doraine	Account Clerk	07/10/78
Cook, Deb	Fiscal Manager	03/12/14
Dickinson, Janelle	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	07/05/89
Dunham, Patty	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II/H & V Technician	10/27/75
Harrington, Lorraine	Registered Dietitian	05/07/86
Hepfer, Ann	Nursing Administrator	10/31/88
Johnson, Sue	Program Clerk II	01/07/91
Louis, Julie	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	03/11/13
Luedtke, Sheila	Health Educator - Abstinence	01/17/12
MacGuire, Tip	Environmental Health Director	07/12/93
Middaugh, Kris	Billing Clerk	05/27/09
Montei, Susan	Certified Nurse Practitioner	08/22/05
O'Dell, Kathy	Administrative Services Coordinator	04/05/10
Palmer, Debbie	PHN II	11/13/12
Peters, Lugene	Program Clerk II	08/06/90
Pokorski, Kathy	PHN II/E. P. Department Coordinator	07/21/03
Singer, Kent	Registered Sanitarian III	06/07/95
Suber, Christina	Social Worker (LMSW)	03/11/98
Suber, Jon	MIS Manager	09/20/10
Tenbusch, Gretchen	Health Officer	02/01/88
Urban, Kelly	PHN II/Program Coordinator	05/28/91
VanOchten, Jessica	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II/H & V Technician	02/27/06
Villalobos, Kristi	PHN II/Department Coordinator	09/28/98
White, Jerry	Registered Sanitarian III	05/15/91
Williams, Karen	Clinic Assistant/Clerk II	05/08/00
Zmierski, Mark	Veteran Affairs Director	05/26/15

## **Tuscola County Health Department Mission, Vision Statement and Guiding Principles**

### **Mission**

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

### **Vision**

The Tuscola County Health Department will be recognized as a valuable asset to our community.

### **Guiding Principles/Value Statement**

Quality of Life for our residents.

**Health Officer  
Gretchen Tenbusch, R.N., M.S.A.**

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 was a year of transition, planning and metamorphosis from the State level to the local level in public health.

The Michigan Department of Community Health and the Department of Human Services merged to become the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). This resulted in a total reorganization of the State functions and reporting hierarchies. The MDHHS wanted to see regional activities and alliances. As a result the Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance was created. This is an Alliance between the Tuscola County Health Department and it's neighboring Health Departments in Huron, Lapeer and Sanilac. The mission of the Alliance is to develop, implement and sustain models of shared public health services that increase capacity, contain costs, maximize assets and more effectively impact health outcomes.

The role or functions of several public health programs changed. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) shifted from a direct service program to one of healthcare navigation. Legislation was also passed that required parents to meet with Health Department personnel before they signed immunization waivers to be educated regarding the value of immunizations.

An Ebola outbreak in Africa resulted in agency and community planning regarding how to deal with individuals returning to the United States who may have been exposed to Ebola. Surveillance of Enterovirus D68 came to the forefront as the virus moved through the United States. As part of this planning and surveillance, partnerships continued with area hospitals, schools, and human service agencies to meet the needs of our residents.

In July 2015, the Health Department had an Accreditation site visit with excellent reviews throughout the agency. Audit reviews discussed high quality services as a result of the dedicated staff working in the Health Department programs and their innovative ideas, as well as the strong support received from our Board of Health and Board of Commissioners. On behalf of the Tuscola County Health Department staff, I am pleased to present the Annual Report which highlights the accomplishments for fiscal year 2014-2015. We hope you find it informative.

**Medical Director**  
**Russell L. Bush, M.D., M.P.H.**

Funding cuts continue. Periodic outbreaks of food and waterborne diseases occur. Animal diseases are apparent in many locations around the State. Most people do not think routinely about Public Health and the job they do in preventing disease, promoting wellness and wellbeing, and advocating for safety in the public domain. Despite that, your Health Department is working around the clock, seven days a week, and 365 days each year in doing just that...surveilling, vaccinating, providing services to both adults and children that will assist in keeping them and keeping the community safe and healthy. Tuscola County Health Department has had many changes in our provision of care to clients and the community. We have continued to provide quality care and services to those residents in the department's programs despite the stress of budget cuts. The Tuscola County Health Department continues to monitor, provide educational information and services, and intervene whenever issues related to communicable disease, environmental contamination, food-borne illness, and commercial product recalls occur. Recently, another new threat has emerged. Your Health Department is up-to-date on the most current information regarding the Zika virus and keeps abreast of new developments in this and any other emerging infectious/communicable disease that threatens the health of this community.

As Medical Director, I am responsible for the medical/health oversight of and participation in these programs. Problems arising may be either anticipated or unanticipated and be related to communicable/infectious diseases; all forms of environmental contamination, food/water-borne illnesses, and commercial products posing a threat to human health and wellbeing, and animal health issues that have the potential for negatively impacting human health.

As you read this report, bear in mind that we all are doing more with less. This is a challenge for your local government decision and policy makers and for the businesses and individuals in this community. Realize that your Health Department continues to watch over the community through surveillance, health policy, and assurance that the public's health is continuing to be protected.

**Health Services Division**  
**Ann Hepfer, R.N., Nursing Administrator**

**Tuscola County Community Health Profile** please visit [www.tchd.us](http://www.tchd.us). Select the report tab for the most recent Community Health Profile (CHP). The purpose of the CHP is to assess the health status of the community and analyze state and federal research in order to identify the top priority goals to focus future strategic planning, funding and provision of care to address the top health care needs. In 2016 we will be working with a regional community health assessment with our local hospitals, Huron and Sanilac County Health Departments. Once the survey data is completed it will be used to update the current plan.

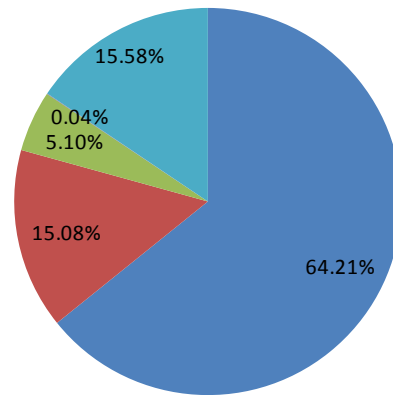
## Fiscal Division Deb Cook, Fiscal Manager

Tuscola County Health Department's Fiscal Division performs all general accounting functions, including accounts receivable, accounts payable, budgeting, payroll, financial reporting and internal control. The accounting policies of the Tuscola County Health Department conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to government units.

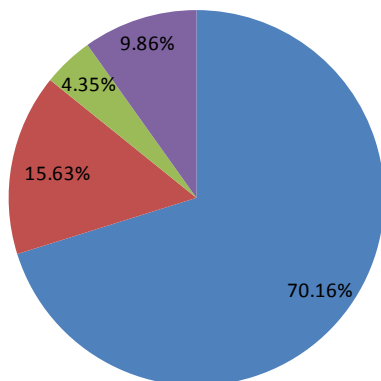
### 2014 - 2015 BUDGET

#### REVENUES

Intergovernmental	64.21%
PH Fees	15.08%
EH License/Permit Fees	5.10%
Contributions	0.04%
Other Sources	15.58%



■ Intergovernmental    ■ PH Fees  
■ EH License/Permit Fees    ■ Contributions  
■ Other Sources



■ Personal Health    ■ Environmental Health  
■ Administration    ■ Other

#### EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT

Personal Health	70.16%
Environmental Health	15.63%
Administration	4.35%
Other	9.86%

## Management Information Systems

### Jon Suber, MIS Manager

The MIS department is using current technology to engage the residents of Tuscola County. First, we created a Facebook page to educate the community on issues that effect public health. We also post information on the programs and services we offer in Caro and at our outreach clinics.

We held workshops for residents to enroll in the Insurance Marketplace under the Affordable Care Act. We had a representative onsite to help with questions regarding the various health insurance plans, how to get coverage and computer assistance. We provided laptops and public internet access for our clients to use.

We currently assist residents that would like to apply for services using the MI Bridges portal. With this State of Michigan website, you can apply for the Healthy Michigan Plan, Medicaid and MiChild healthcare plans. We have a private office with a public computer, printer and scanner for our clients to use. Our staff have been trained on the application process and can answer questions as needed.

Tuscola County Health Department has a long standing relationship with Saginaw Valley State University and their Nursing Program. We host nursing students and educate them on public health and what our role is in the community. This year we started training them on electronic medical records. Each student received a username and password that allowed them to chart directly into our clients medical record under proper supervision of a Public Health Nurse. This allowed the students to give immunizations, chart them in our EMR and in the state registry.

Tuscola County joined a Public Health Department alliance with Huron, Sanilac and Lapeer counties. The goal of the MIS departments is collaboration as a group to make advances in Public Health systems in the Thumb.

Our first task was for the alliance to develop a common platform for electronic medical records and environmental health protection systems. We felt it was important that if we were going to collaborate on projects, that every health department should be using the same software platform.

The second item the IT group accomplished is setting up our electronic medical records software package to report hearing test results on the State of Michigan forms. We were able to accomplish this goal by creating an interface between our EMR and a web reporting server using ASP.Net. This interface has a front-end that a user can search for tests by name, client number, test number or by data range. Test results are pulled from the database on the backend and results are displayed in a printer friendly version. Our Hearing and Vision technician can enter a child's results into our database while onsite at schools using an iPad.

The Tuscola County Health Department is excited on the direction we are heading with technology. We are starting to utilize telehealth as a means to provide services to clients from any health department in the Thumb.

I look forward to another year of growth as technology evolves and ideas are turned into new, efficient, cost saving systems that enhance public health in Tuscola County.

**Office of Veteran Affairs**  
**Mark Zmierski, Director**

The County Veteran Affairs Director handles Federal, State and County Programs that are available to veterans, widows and dependent children seeking assistance. Federal Programs are VA benefits either in Compensation, Dependence and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Pension and Retirement Pay, Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Hospitalization, Home loans, Insurance and burial benefits. State programs include: Veteran Trust Fund, Employment, Education, two State operated nursing homes and other programs. County Programs include: Veteran Assistance Program, Veteran Burial Assistance Program, The Veteran Affairs Office, food banks, and other agencies such as the Human Development Commission.

TUSCOLA COUNTY VA STATISTICS 2014/15			
Office Visits	681	Written communication received	143
Phone Calls Received	1510	Written communication sent	242
Phone Calls Placed	1486	D.A.V. Van used to transport Vets to V.A. Hospitals	208
Home Visits to Veterans/	5		
Trust Fund Applications (MVTF)	1		
MVTF Amount Grant-	<b>\$1,284.00</b>	Hours logged by DAV Van Volun-	1135
Veteran Assistance Program	101	Veteran Burial Assistance Allow-	<b>\$7,800.00</b>
Vet Assist. Prog. Amount Grant-	<b>\$28,947.28</b>		



## **Environmental Health Division Tip MacGuire, R.S., Director**

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 2014-15.

### **FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM**

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.

Fixed Food Service Establishments	135	Transitory Food Inspections	9
Fixed Food Service Inspections	331	Vending Location Inspections	6
Temporary Food Inspections	144	Foodborne Illness Investigations	5

### **WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**

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 on-site sewage systems in Tuscola County.

On-site Sewage Disposal Permits Issued	108	On-site Sewage Disposal Inspections	185
On-site Sewage Permits (Commercial)	3	On-site Sewage Inspections (Commercial)	4

## SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER CONTROL

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.

Well Permits Issued	108	Well Permit Final Inspections	85
Complaints Investigated	8	Operation/Maintenance Evaluations	44

## 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.

Campground Inspection	11	Adult/Child Care Facility Inspection	38
Public Swimming Pool Inspection	7	Hazardous Waste	0
Solid Waste	11	Animal Control	0
Indoor/Outdoor Air	30	Body Art	12
Ground Water Quality	72	Residential Dwellings/Lead Paint	0
Mosquito/Insect Control	0	Septage Inspections	3
Surface Water	0	Radon	20

## **Public Health Emergency Preparedness**

### **Kathy Pokorski, Department Coordinator**

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program is the local health department's subject matter expert in public health emergency preparedness and response. The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (EPC) is responsible for the development and maintenance of emergency response plans, as well as the training of health department staff, and community partners, in those plans and procedures. Emergency response plans are tested during the year by planning and performing a variety of drills and exercises in collaboration with numerous state, local and regional partners. Additionally, the EPC develops and maintains relationships with local, regional, and state level organizations to ensure a more effective response to an emergency.

The Tuscola County Health Department EPC is responsible for updating the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan, and several other emergency plans, on an annual basis. The SNS plan, which details the Health Department's response to a mass vaccination or prophylaxis clinic, was submitted to the State of Michigan Department of Emergency Preparedness and Response (DEPR) for review and received a score of 100%.

The EPC participated in the Saginaw Spills and Thrills Tabletop and Functional Scale Exercises held in April and May, 2015, respectively. The exercise scenario focused on a train derailment in downtown Saginaw with disbursement of Styrene and Chlorine into the Saginaw River and in the air. The exercise was instrumental in testing the response capabilities of local, regional and state partners, as well as the ability of partner organizations to prepare for and respond to a major incident. All exercises and drills maintain a system for continued quality improvement and corrective actions based on After Action Reports (AAR) and Corrective Action Plans (CAP).

The Ebola outbreak presented many challenges for local public health as new plans and policies had to be written and revised as circumstances changed, ongoing conference calls, trainings with staff and response partners, as well as staying up to date with the situation at global, national, state and local levels.

The EPC attended the mandatory Strategic National Stockpile Preparedness course in May and the Mass Antibiotic Dispensing Train-the-Trainer in September.

The EPC is required to update and revise plans according to the annual work plan requirements set by DEPR, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Homeland Security, participate in monthly required meetings and conference calls, attend trainings and meet monthly with local partners to protect the public in Tuscola County.

## MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

**Women, Infant and Children (WIC):** Services children from birth to age 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women who meet the income guidelines. WIC is not only a supplemental food program, it also provides for nutritional information and breastfeeding promotion and support.

**Maternal/Infant Health Program (MIHP):** Provides home visits and/or office visits to pregnant women and their infants who are on Medicaid. This program is aimed at healthier outcomes for both the pregnant woman and the infant. A team made up of a Registered Nurse, Dietician and Social Worker take a multidisciplinary approach in working with the family.

**Children Special Health Care Services (CSHCS):** Provides financial support and case management services for children ages birth to 21 with chronic health problems or disabilities.

**Hearing and Vision Program:** Provides Hearing and Vision screenings in the schools throughout the year and in the summer at the Health Department by trained technicians.

MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS—2014/15	
Women, Infant and Children Program—Monthly average	1670
Maternal Infant Support Services Unduplicated Services	142
Children Special Health Care Services—Families Enrolled	212
Hearing Services Preschool/School Age	4243
Vision Services Preschool/School Age	3311

## FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

The Tuscola County Health Department's Family Planning Program philosophy is consistent with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Title X. Family planning is a preventive health measure which impacts positively on the health and well-being of men, women, children and families. Effective family planning programs are essential health care delivery interventions that correlate with decreased high-risk pregnancy and maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Services provided through family planning clinics allow men and women to make well informed reproductive health choices. The family planning clinic addresses the unmet family planning needs of women and men at or below, and those slightly above, the poverty level, but still considered low income, and provides access to those with special needs (such as teens and high-risk women). No one is denied services because of an inability to pay.

## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION SERVICES

The mission of the Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Program is to reduce the number of STIs through diagnosis, treatment and education. The program operates on an "as needed" basis. Authority is given to the Public Health Department according to Public Health Act 368 of 1978 (revised, October 1993). Although STI/HIV education and information are made generally available to everyone, funding levels are not sufficient to provide medical STI services to all who seek them. Our priority is to service clients without financial resources to pay for testing and treatment. Our rate of STIs has remained relatively consistent over the past 5 years; the majority of our infections are either Chlamydia or Gonorrhea related.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION—3 YEAR COMPARISON			
	2013	2014	2015
Chlamydia	118	114	128
Gonorrhea	15	8	8
Syphilis Primary	0	0	0

## IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Immunizations are a very important component of Public Health. The current immunization schedule for adults and children protects against sixteen diseases. Special priority projects included outreach clinics to the Amish community and an outreach clinic in Vassar once a month.

IMMUNIZATIONS	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Vaccines administered	7742	6666	6654
Percent of 19-35 month old children fully immunized in the County	73%	73%	74%
Adult Influenza Vaccine administered	592	623	595
Pneumococcal Vaccine administered	46	64	54
Prevnar 13 Vaccine	—	—	40
Zostavax (Shingles) Vaccine	—	—	72

## GERIATRIC HEALTH SERVICES (65+)

Flu Vaccines Administered	264
Pneumonia Vaccines Administered	94

Other Senior Services in 2014/15 included: Senior Ball, Senior Fair and membership in the Senior Alliance Committee.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

State of Michigan's Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) is a Web-based communicable disease reporting and tracking system. The purpose of this system is to facilitate coordination among local, State and Federal Public Health agencies to provide secure transfer and analysis of communicable disease patterns. All area laboratories and hospitals report all allowable and reportable infections to the local health departments via MDSS.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS—3 YEAR COMPARISON			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
AIDS	1	0	0
Food Borne Illness	29	40	24
Meningitis-Aseptic	3	4	1
Meningitis-Bacterial/other	0	1	0
Pneumoniae Invasive	7	3	11
Cryptococcosis	0	1	0
Flu Like Illness	478	544	78
Guillain-Barre'	0	0	0
Kawasaki	0	0	0
Legionellosis	1	0	0
Rabies-Animal	1	0	0
Chickenpox	3	6	0
Tuberculosis	2	2	1
Hepatitis A	1	1	0
Hepatitis B Chronic	1	3	8
Hepatitis B Perinatal	0	0	0
Hepatitis B Acute	0	2	1
Hepatitis C Acute	8	5	0
Hepatitis C Unknown	0	0	0
Hepatitis C Chronic	29	28	19
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	2	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	0
Staphylococcus Aureus Infections	1	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0
Pertussis	2	5	0
Histoplasmosis	1	2	3
Q Fever	0	2	0
Streptococcus, Group A	1	4	2
Influenza—confirmed	8	28	103
Toxic Shock	0	0	0