

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

*"A YEAR OF PUBLIC
HEALTH PROGRESS"*



From Our Health Officer

Dear Community Members,

Public health often captures attention during times of crisis, but the work of public health professionals extends far beyond emergencies. Every day, our team at the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) works to protect and promote the health and safety of our community. From dropping off a child at daycare or school, to dining at a local restaurant, welcoming a new baby, swimming, camping, or even getting a tattoo—local public health staff are involved in each of these settings to help ensure your well-being.

Prevention is a central focus of our work. Our staff provides hearing and vision screenings and oral health assessments in schools, while our dedicated nursing team offers childhood and seasonal vaccinations and shares the latest guidance with families. These services help keep our children healthy and ready to learn. This summer, our team participated in Back-to-School events alongside local human service organizations to help children and families prepare for the upcoming school year. By working together to provide essential items such as backpacks, socks, and hygiene kits, we helped set students up for success while easing the financial pressures many families face.



This commitment to prevention and preparedness was evident during a recent measles outbreak in Montcalm County. Through trusted, common-sense, community-based strategies, our communicable disease nurses successfully reduced the risk of further transmission across the region. Clear communication, careful planning, and expanded access to vaccines—through extended clinic hours, along with dedicated phone lines, and public awareness outreach were key to protecting our community.

Our Environmental Health programs also play a critical role in disease prevention. Environmental Health Specialists conduct inspections and testing to reduce food and water related illnesses, monitor recreational water sites for contamination, and collect tick and mosquito samples to increase awareness of vector-borne diseases.

We support household harm reduction initiatives by providing cannabis lock bags for safe storage and reduce accidental ingestion of cannabis, we offer gun locks to promote safe storage in the home, radon test kits to reduce lung cancer risk, and lead filtering kits for families.

Equally important is caring for ourselves as we care for others. Small habits—such as practicing mindfulness, increasing physical activity, staying hydrated, and prioritizing sleep—can strengthen mental health and help us better serve the community.

I am grateful for the continued support of the Board of Health, particularly during a year marked by financial uncertainty due to paused and rescinded federal funding. This past year also marked the successful completion of Community Health Needs Assessments in all three counties—an achievement made possible through strong partnerships and collaboration to develop data-driven solutions.

As the agency approaches the 65th year of serving Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm counties, our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our residents remains unwavering. I am truly honored to lead such a dedicated and passionate public health team. If you haven't already, I encourage you to visit our website at www.mmdhd.org and sign up for our monthly newsletter to stay informed about our programs and services.

Warm Regards,

Liz Braddock
Health Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Braddock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

About MMDHD

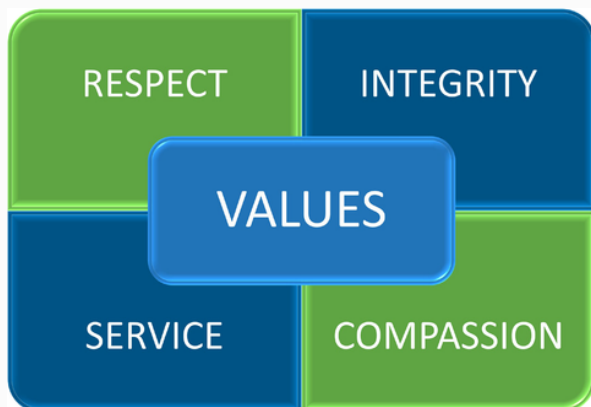
The Mid-Michigan District Health Department has proudly served the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties since 1966. In that time, there have been challenges and new goals met, but our commitment to the health of our residents and environment has remained strong. We offer a wide range of clinical and environmental services to meet the needs of our residents and collaborate with community partners to broaden and strengthen our programs. We strive to provide our clients with exceptional customer service and believe in our mission, vision and values.

Our Mission

We take action to protect, maintain, and improve the health of our community.

Our Vision

Advancing personal & community-based solutions to achieve healthier outcomes.



Public Health[®]
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

MMDHD Leadership

Administrative Staff

Liz Braddock, MS, RS
Health Officer

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Medical Director

Melissa Selby
Administrative Service Division
Director

Sarah Doak, BS, RN, CPH
Community Health and Education
Division Director

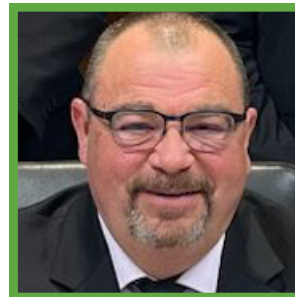
Lonnie Smith, RS
Environmental Health Division
Director

Mid-Michigan District
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CLINTON • GRATIOT • MONTCALM

2025 Board of Health

MMDHD is governed by a six member Board of Health, which is made up of two appointed commissioners from each of our three counties (Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm). The Board of Health approves budgets and staffing updates and has a broad oversight of program development.

Clinton County

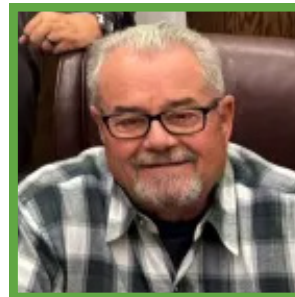


Bruce DeLong



Nicole Fickes

Gratiot County



George Bailey



Steven Sopocy

Montcalm County



Adam Petersen



Matt Murray

A Letter From Our Medical Director

The health of our families in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm counties cannot be separated from the health of our pets, animals, songbirds, pollinators, and the woods and waters around us. Public health professionals call this idea One Health — the recognition that human, animal, and environmental health are one interconnected system. In a rural Mid-Michigan district where dairy barns, deer trails, and family backyards sit side by side, One Health is not an abstract concept. It is how we work every day.

The most visible One Health story we have seen recently was Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or HPAI. Montcalm County was the site of Michigan's first affected dairy in March 2024, and our team was at the center of the national response. In 2024, alongside our partners at the state and federal level, MMDHD staff monitored the health of hundreds of exposed dairy and poultry workers, hosted free farmworker flu vaccination clinics, and contributed to peer-reviewed publications in the New England Journal of Medicine, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), and Nature Medicine documenting the only dairy-associated human cases and spillovers into household cats in Michigan. I am deeply proud of the public health team who carried this work with patience and respect for our farming neighbors.

Closer to the ground, our vector-borne surveillance and prevention program matured. With state grant funding, we expanded mosquito and tick surveillance in Clinton and Montcalm counties, refreshed our seasonal Mosquitoes & West Nile and Ticks & Lyme Disease press releases, and promoted Michigan's free "Got a Tick? Submit a Pic!" identification service. We also kept rabies in front of mind, following up on many bat exposures and animal bites. We send bats to MDHHS lab for rabies testing and give guidance to the public and healthcare professionals about rabies prevention shots.

There are many other examples of One Health work we have done over the years. Given that most new and emerging illnesses are zoonotic, or of animal origin, our One Health work will only continue to grow. I am grateful for the consistent work of our nurses, environmental health specialists, and public health representatives who bridge animal, human, and environmental health every single day. We will keep showing up — together — in 2026 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Morse
MD, MPH, FAAFP
Medical Director

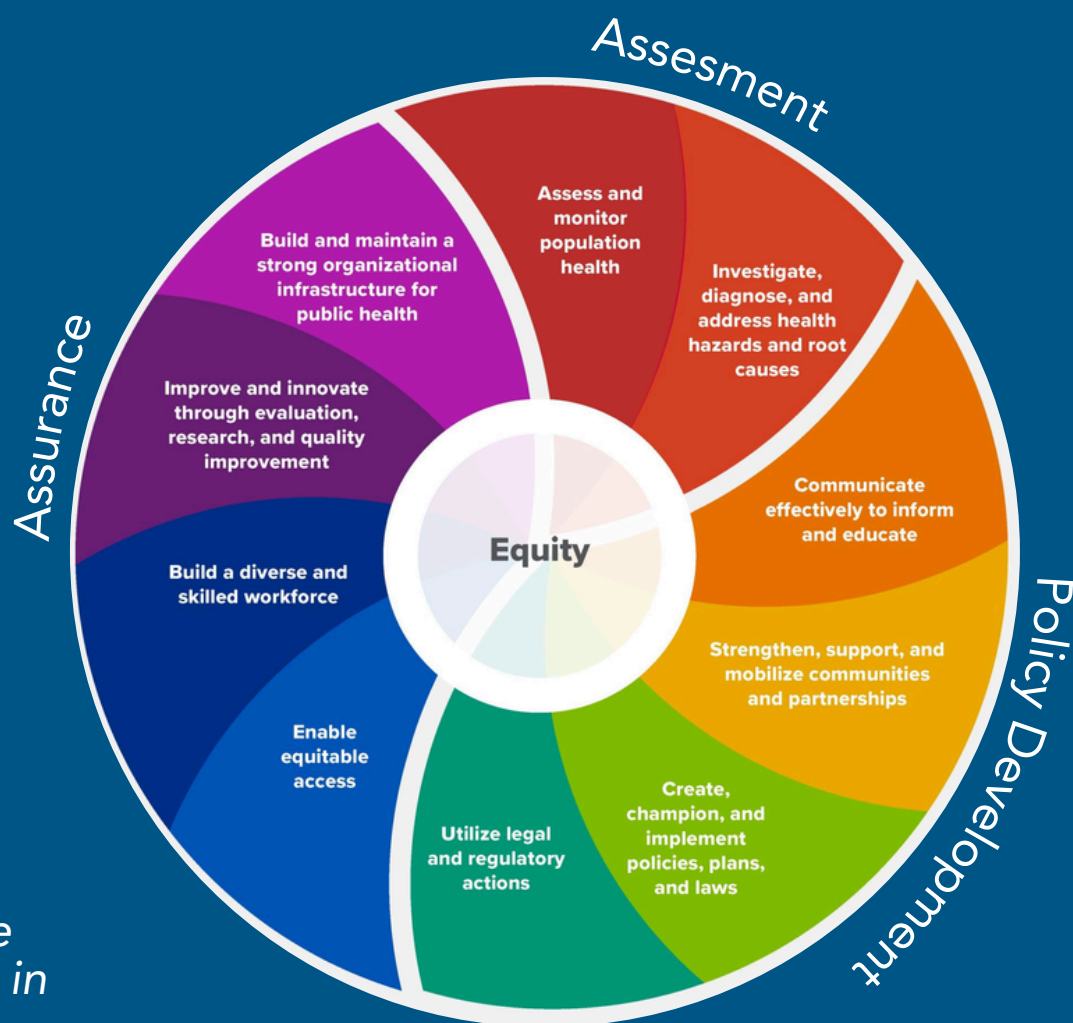


Essential Public Health Services

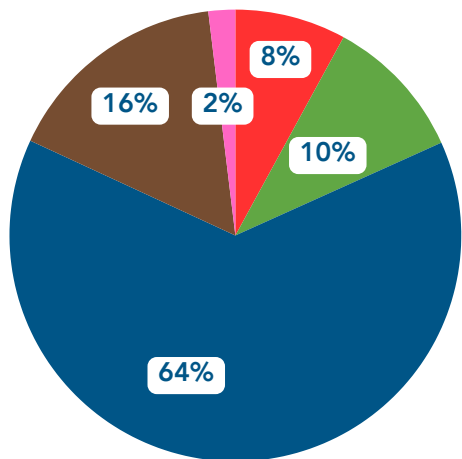
The 10 Essential Public Health Services (EPHS) describe the public health activities that all communities should undertake. To make access to health fair for everyone, the EPHS support rules, systems, and community changes that help all people be as healthy as possible. They also work to reduce challenges that may make it harder for some people to stay healthy.

10 THE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities.

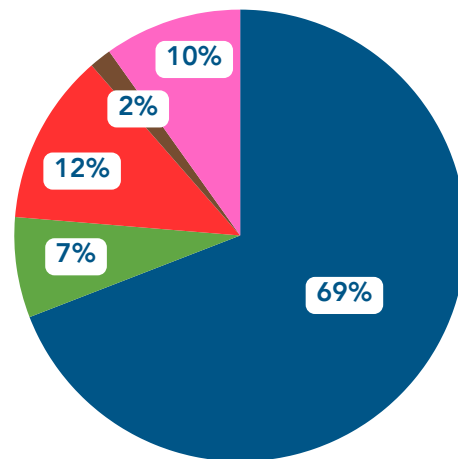


Finance Report



- LICENSES AND PERMITS
- CHARGES FOR SERVICE
- FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING
- APPROPRIATIONS & COUNT...
- OTHER FUNDING

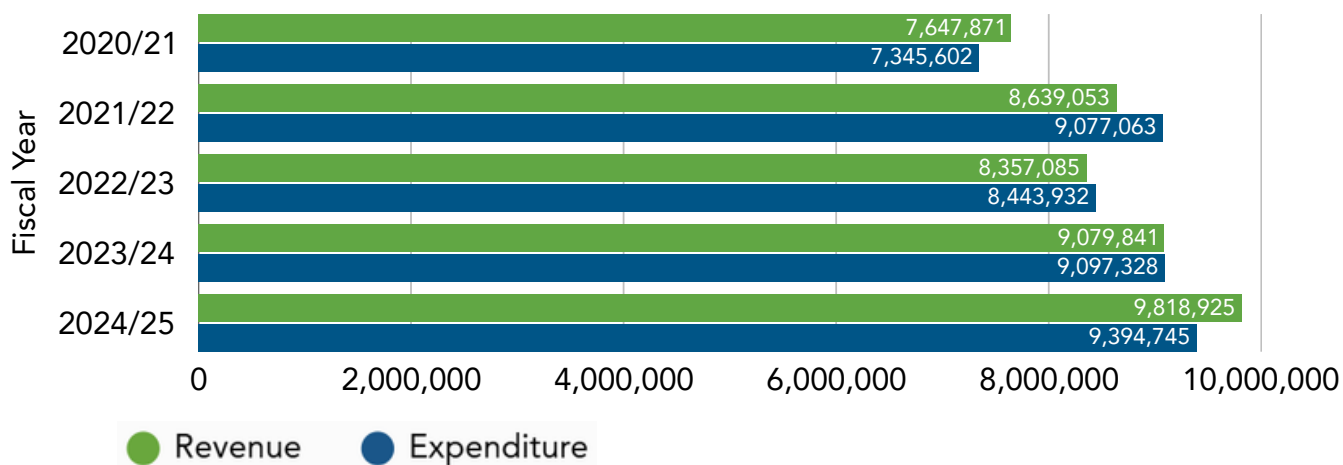
Revenues	
LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$780,867.00
CHARGES FOR SERVICE	\$1,012,230.00
FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING	\$6,247,760.00
APPROPRIATIONS & COUNTY FUNDING	\$1,589,541.00
OTHER FUNDING	\$188,527.00
TOTAL	\$9,818,925.00



- SALARIES/BENEFITS
- SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT
- CONTRACTUAL
- TRAVEL AND TRAINING
- OTHER FUNDING

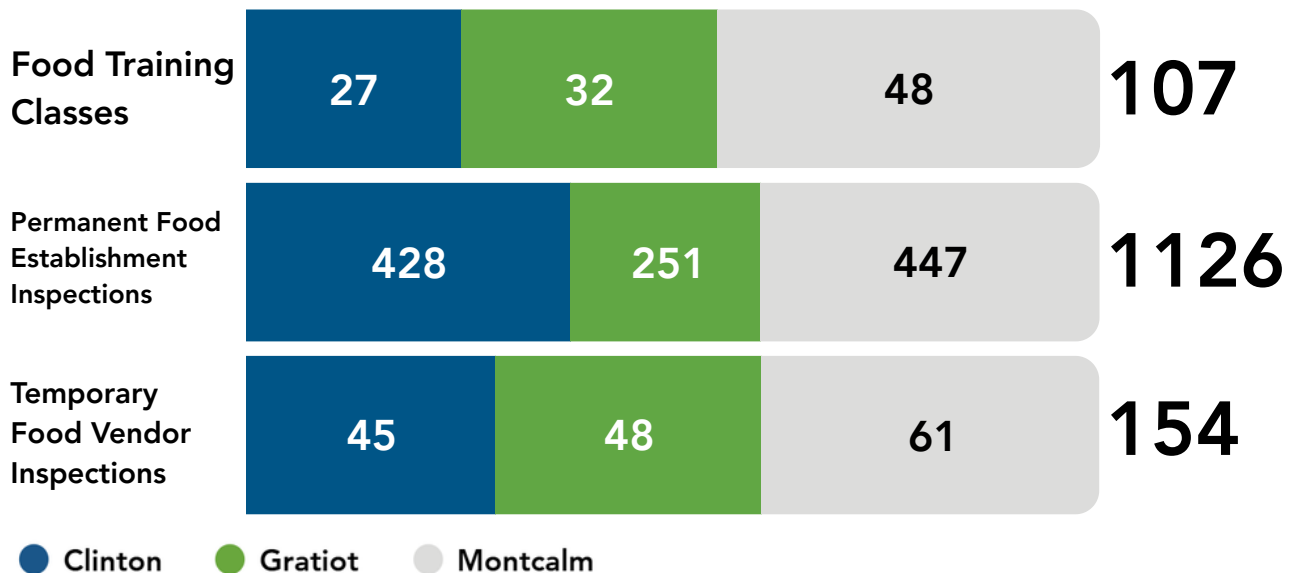
Expenditures	
SALARIES/BENEFITS	\$6,493,209.00
SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT	\$675,517.00
CONTRACTUAL	\$1,152,008.00
TRAVEL AND TRAINING	\$149,124.00
OTHER FUNDING	\$924,887.00
TOTAL	\$9,394,745.00

MMDHD Revenues and Expenditures, Five-Year Trend (FY 2020/21-2024/25)

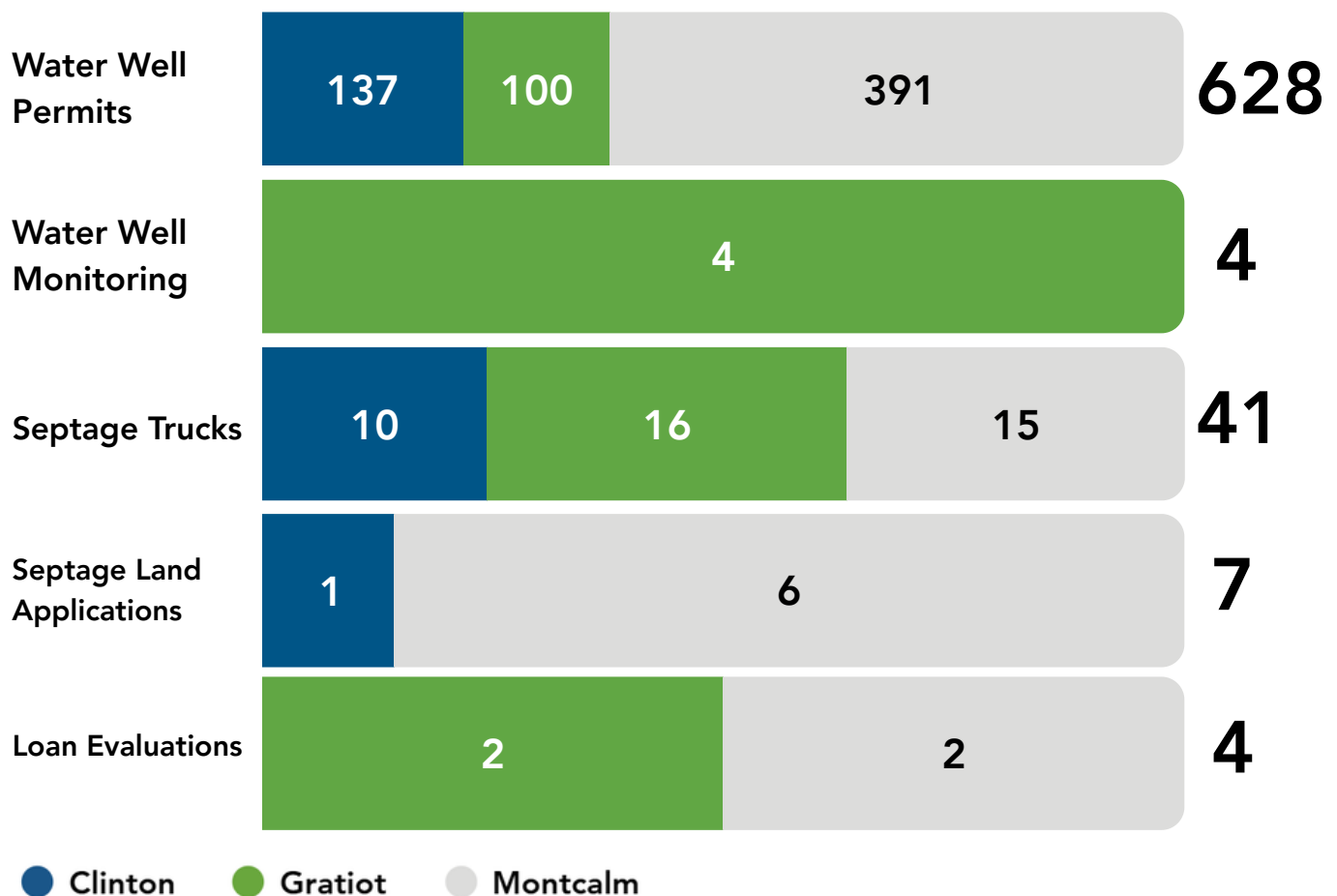


Environmental Health (EH)

Food Program

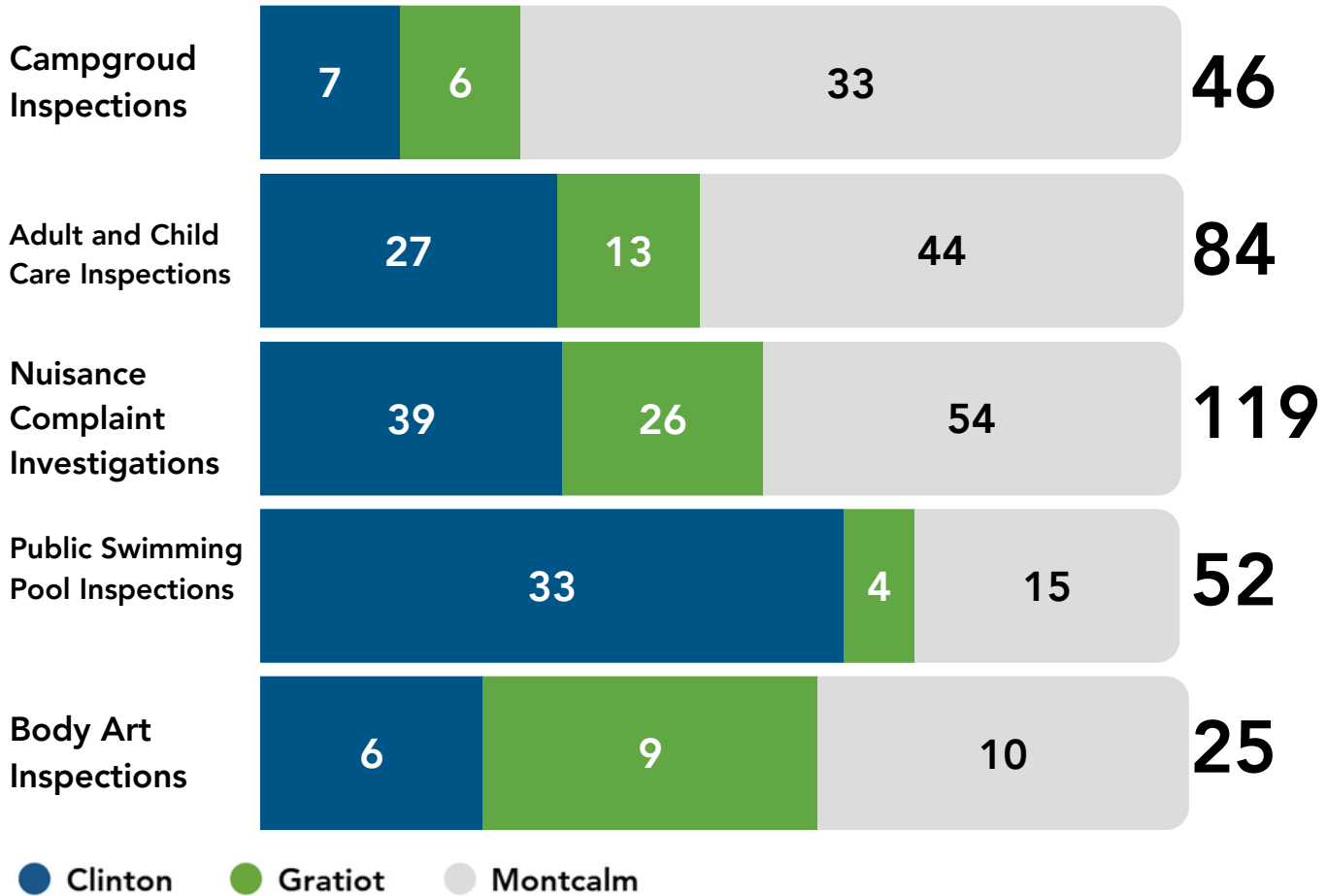


Surface/Ground Water Control

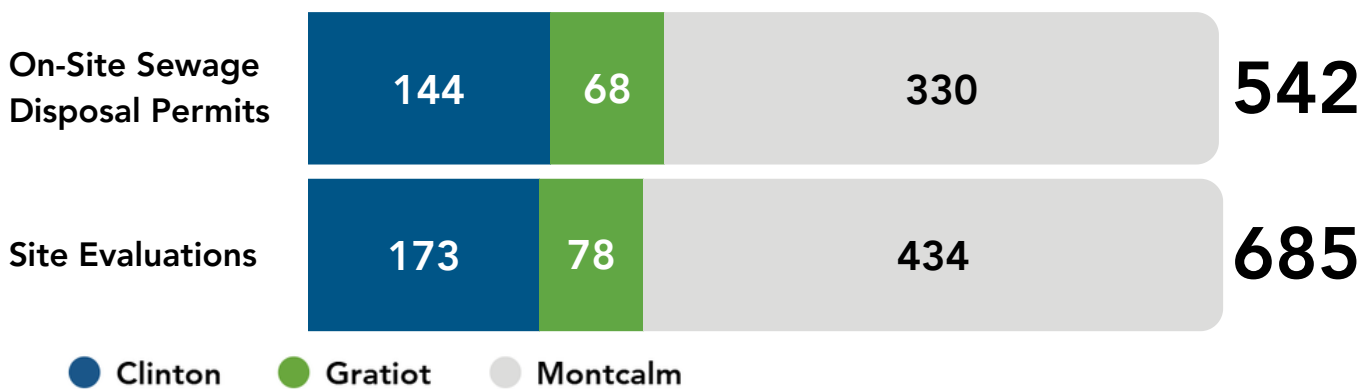


Our EH Division conducts inspections and issue permits to protect the health of all who live, work, and play in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties.

Environmental Quality



Wastewater Management



Community Health & Education Division (CHED)

Communicable Disease (CD) Programs

Communicable Disease Investigations

Our communicable disease staff investigated **4,754** cases of various diseases, working with our school districts, nursing homes, and residents.

Immunizations

Our immunization program served **2,107** residents administering **4,524** vaccinations, and issuing 507 waivers.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Our staff tested **178** clients while also ensuring proper treatment for all STIs reported in the jurisdiction.

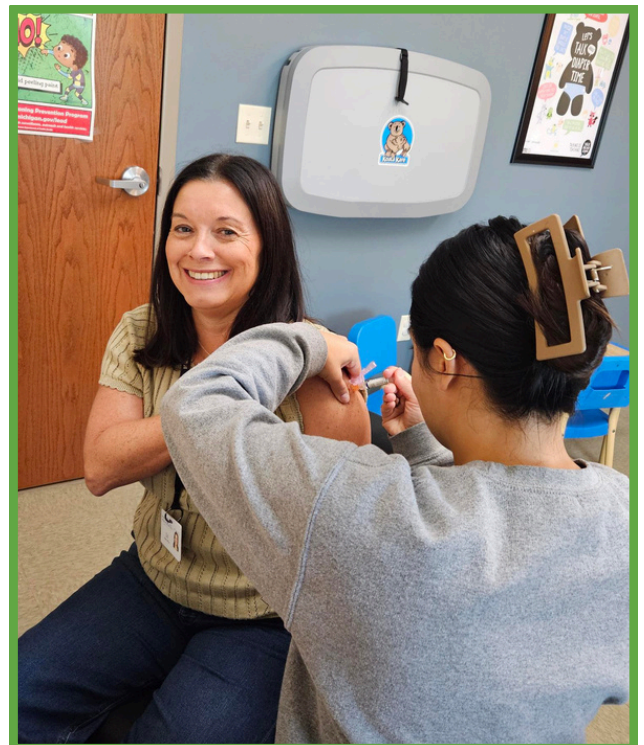
Chronic Health Programs

Blood Lead Testing

879 children were tested for lead and **131** were referred for case management.

Community Engagement

Our education staff attended **96** community events to promote and educate the public on services provided at MMDHD.



▲ MMDHD Health Officer, Liz Braddock receiving her annual flu shot with Nurse Ashley.

Our CHED Division offers a wide variety of health services to promote wellness, reduce the spread of disease, and provide education and outreach to the residents of Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties.

Maternal Child Health Programs

Family Planning Clinical Services

Our staff met with **444** clients.

Hearing & Vision Screenings

Our trained technicians screened **9,060** children for hearing deficits, and **14,067** children for vision issues.

Children's Special Health Care Services

Our nursing and support staff worked with **2,608** families with children and adults with special health care needs.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Over **10,571** visits, **2,699** clients enrolled in WIC to learn about nutritious food choices for their families, and proper growth of their infants and children.

Breastfeeding Support

Our staff of Peer Counselors and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant were assisting over **300** infants enrolled in our Breastfeeding Program.



▲ Our CHED Staff!

Oral Health Programs

Fluoride Varnish

300 Fluoride Varnish applications were completed by our Registered Dental Hygienist.

Oral Health Screenings

Our Registered Dental Hygienist performed **1,769** screenings on children starting school (including students from Shiawassee County.)



▲ Our dental van, purchased with a grant from the Delta Dental Foundation.

Substance Use Prevention

Substance use affects individuals and families in every community, including rural counties. Harm reduction approaches recognize that while recovery is the long-term goal, access to support and safety services is important at every stage. These strategies help improve safety and support positive change within communities. Addressing challenges openly and continuing to move forward reflects resilience, determination, and strength.

Research from organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) consistently shows that harm reduction strategies save lives, reduce healthcare costs, and increase the likelihood that individuals will engage in treatment and recovery services.

In rural areas, barriers can delay access to care for substance use disorders. Harm reduction services help bridge these gaps while strengthening collaboration among providers, agencies, and organizations.



▲ Anna, one of our Health Educators!

Harm Reduction
Efforts in Montcalm
County

Distributed Items:

1742
Cannabis
Bags

309
Sharps
Containers

1123
First Aid Kits Containing
Narcan

400 Fentanyl Test Strips

100 Xylazine Test Strips

Collected Items:

131
Sharps Containers
for Incineration

100 lbs*
of Medications for Incineration
*approximately

Harm reduction is focused on reducing preventable deaths, protecting families, limiting the spread of infectious diseases, and creating pathways to resilience, recovery, and long-term stability. Resilience is demonstrated by the continued effort to make safer, healthier choices despite difficult circumstances. Through the implementation of harm reduction initiatives, communities have made meaningful progress in reducing risk, improving stability, and enhancing overall well-being. Programs such as naloxone distribution, overdose prevention education, syringe service programs, and infectious disease testing contribute to fewer preventable deaths and improved long-term health outcomes.

In our district, having continued collaboration among local leaders, health officials, and community stakeholders will ensure that harm reduction strategies remain responsive to community needs.

Christa Merritt, CPS
Health Educator

Recognizing Harm Reduction Efforts in Montcalm County

PROMOTION

In 2025, Mid-Michigan District Health Department staff participated in community events across the three-county district to raise awareness about substance use disorders, including health fairs, naloxone distribution events, pride events, family events, and Montcalm Prevention Collaborative's A Day of ACCEPT event.

MMDHD also hosted informational sessions for Senior Meal Programs on Narcan, its importance in the community, and the risks of combining cannabis with prescription medications without consulting a physician or pharmacist.

PREVENTION (EDUCATION)

Health Educators provided free Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug prevention education to more than 313 middle and high school students across three local schools in 2025, totaling 144 instructional hours and over 1,100 student contact hours. Project SUCCESS pre- and post-tests showed increased knowledge related to health, wellness, substance use, and addiction.

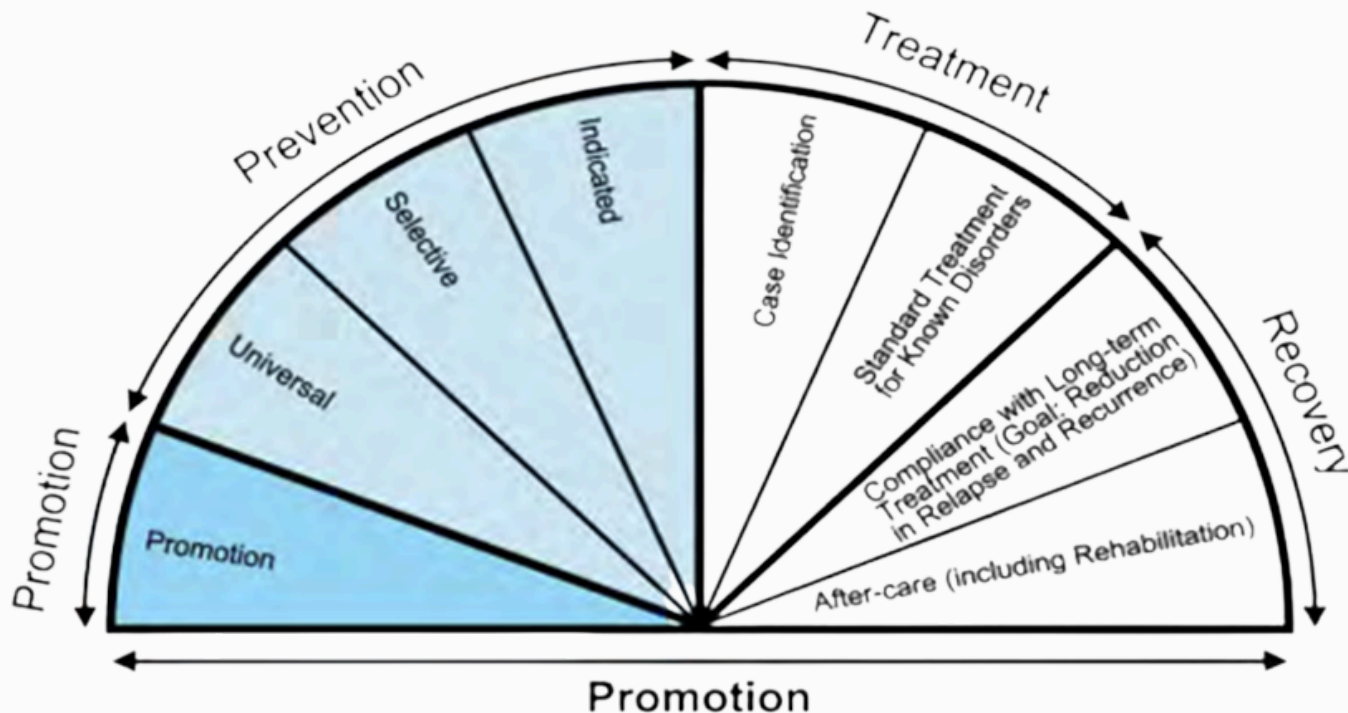
Staff also participated in the Retail Alcohol Data Collection survey in Montcalm and Gratiot counties, which found that 73 of 78 retailers sold high-alcohol-by-volume ready-to-drink beverages, most priced lower than a 20 oz bottle of Coca-Cola.

TREATMENT

Health Educators provided over 100 hours of Prevention-Focused Insight to the Adult Recovery Court. Staff provide informational resources to those wanting to enter treatment – partnerships with local Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Facilities helps bridge the gap between active-addiction and recovery.

RECOVERY

MMDHD, through funding from Mid-State Health Network, provided financial and staffing support for the Recovery Integrated Services of Care Spring Recovery Symposium that was hosted on April 5, at the Greenville Community Center with Gary Kimball presenting on The Healing Talk: Neurology of a Miracle. Over 70 individuals attended this event and received lunch provided by Sober Eats.



Employee Recognition

Our A.C.E. (Achievement, Character, Excellence) Award is given quarterly to employees who have gone above and beyond what is expected, while demonstrating achievement, character, and excellence in their work.

We also give our Year-End Awards, which reflect our 4 core values: Respect, Integrity, Service, and Compassion. Each award is given to the staff member who has demonstrated each value in the workplace.



Alexis
ACE Award Quarter 1



Alexandria
Respect Award



Jeanne
ACE Award Quarter 2



Ashley
Integrity Award



Krishna
ACE Award Quarter 3



Andrew
Service Award



Diane
ACE Award Quarter 4



Jennifer
Compassion Award

Connect With Us!



Clinton County

1307 E. Townsend Road
St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-2195 | Fax: 989-224-4300



Gratiot County

151 Commerce Drive
Ithaca, MI 48847

Phone: 989-875-3681 | Fax: 989-875-3747



Montcalm County

615 N. State Street
Stanton, MI 48888

Phone: 989-831-5237 | Fax: 989-831-5522



mmdhealthdepartment



Mid Michigan District Health Dpartment



@MMDHD2



www.mmdhd.org

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MMDHD E-Newsletter List!





Mid-Michigan District HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CLINTON • GRATIOT • MONTCALM

