

2022 Annual Report



**KALAMAZOO
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**
Health & Community Services Department



269-373-5200



www.kalcounty.com/hcs



311 E. Alcott St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Table Of Contents



**KALAMAZOO
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**
Health & Community Services Department

Letter from the Health Officer.....	3
Special Recognition and Awards.....	4
Leadership	6
Advisory Councils.....	7
Internal Committees.....	8
Financial Information.....	10
Division & Programmatic Reports.....	11
Area Agency on Aging	11
Environmental Health	14
Maternal & Child Health.....	20
Personal Health	24
Public Information Office.....	30
Veterans Service Office	32
Community Statistics.....	34
Impact of Place on Health.....	39





Letter From the Health Officer

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our Annual Report for the year 2022. This report is a comprehensive overview of our department's endeavors, achievements, and contributions towards ensuring the well-being of our community.

Over the past year, our team has been diligently engaged in a range of initiatives aimed at promoting public health, preventing disease, and enhancing the overall quality of life for the residents of Kalamazoo County. The information presented in this report highlights the various programs, projects and services we have undertaken, all of which have been designed to align with our mission of fostering a healthier and safer environment.

Some of the key highlights of the report include:

Community Health Outreach: Our department continued its commitment to engaging with the community through health awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars. These efforts aimed to educate residents about healthy lifestyles, disease prevention, and the importance of routine health screenings.

Health Surveillance and Data Analysis: Our dedicated team diligently collected and analyzed health data throughout the year. This information has been instrumental in identifying trends, patterns, and potential health risks, enabling us to formulate evidence-based interventions.

Environmental Health Director Retirement: After almost 30 years of service to the county, Vern Johnson retired from his position of Environmental Health Director. Vern was such a strong leader at both the local level and the state level. While we were sad to see him go, we wished him the very best on his next endeavor.

New County Administration: We were excited to see the change in leadership within the County Administration Department and look forward to developing strong relationships with Newly Appointed County Administrator Kevin Catlin and his Leadership Team.

Family Planning Clinic: Our Department was awarded a Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Grant, (MDHHS) to create a Family Planning Clinic within Kalamazoo County. With the support of the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, we are excited to be able to provide quality Family Planning Services to our residents in Kalamazoo County.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusions Committee, (DEI): Our department established the Health & Community Services Department DEI Committee which has been tasked with advising leadership on all matters related to DEI. Leadership anticipates that insight gained from this group will assure that a DEI lens is utilized within all the programs that we provide, thus assuring that the programs and services provided by our programs are accessible and equitable to all of the residents that we serve.

The Annual Report also includes statistical data and success metrics that exemplify the positive impact of our programs. It is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the support of the community, and the commitment of our partners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Rutherford". The signature is fluid and cursive.

James A. Rutherford, MPA
Health Officer

Special Recognition and Awards



In January, the Department received a certificate of appreciation from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for its dedication to the State of Michigan SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology - Wastewater Evaluation and Reporting Network. The project enables COVID-19 wastewater surveillance through locally coordinated projects at Hope College involving six local health departments in nine counties.

Environmental Health Division Manager Vern Johnson received the Michigan Environmental Health Association LaRue L Miller Life Achievement Award. The award honored his contributions to MEHA and the Environmental Health Profession. He was nominated by staff with support from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recognized Dr. Nettleton for his excellent work in government. He was commended for his clear vision, integrity, belief in measurable results, reliability, accountability, and commitment to achieving team results.

Miranda Pearson received the 2022 Regional Coordinator of the Year award from the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program for her exceptional management of a program amid significant changes, including staff turnover, transitions to county government, budget adjustments, and COVID-related challenges. She also gained the support of volunteer staff and established strong relationships with Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program personnel.



Leadership

Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners is the legislative policy-making branch of Kalamazoo County Government. The Board is responsible to the citizens for developing and administering policies and the annual budget. The Board has nine members elected to office for a term of two years from districts selected according to population.



District 1
Tami Rey (D)
Vice Chairperson



District 2
Jen Strebs (D)



District 3
Monteze Morales (D)



District 4
Abigail Wheeler (D)



District 5
John Taylor (D)
Chairperson



District 6
John H. Gisler (R)



District 7
Jeff Heppler (R)
Vice Chair Pro Tem



District 8
Wendy Mazer (R)



District 9
Dale Deleeuw (D)

Kalamazoo County Administrative Services



Lyndi Smith
Deputy County
Administrator for
External Services



Kevin Catlin
County
Administrator/
Controller



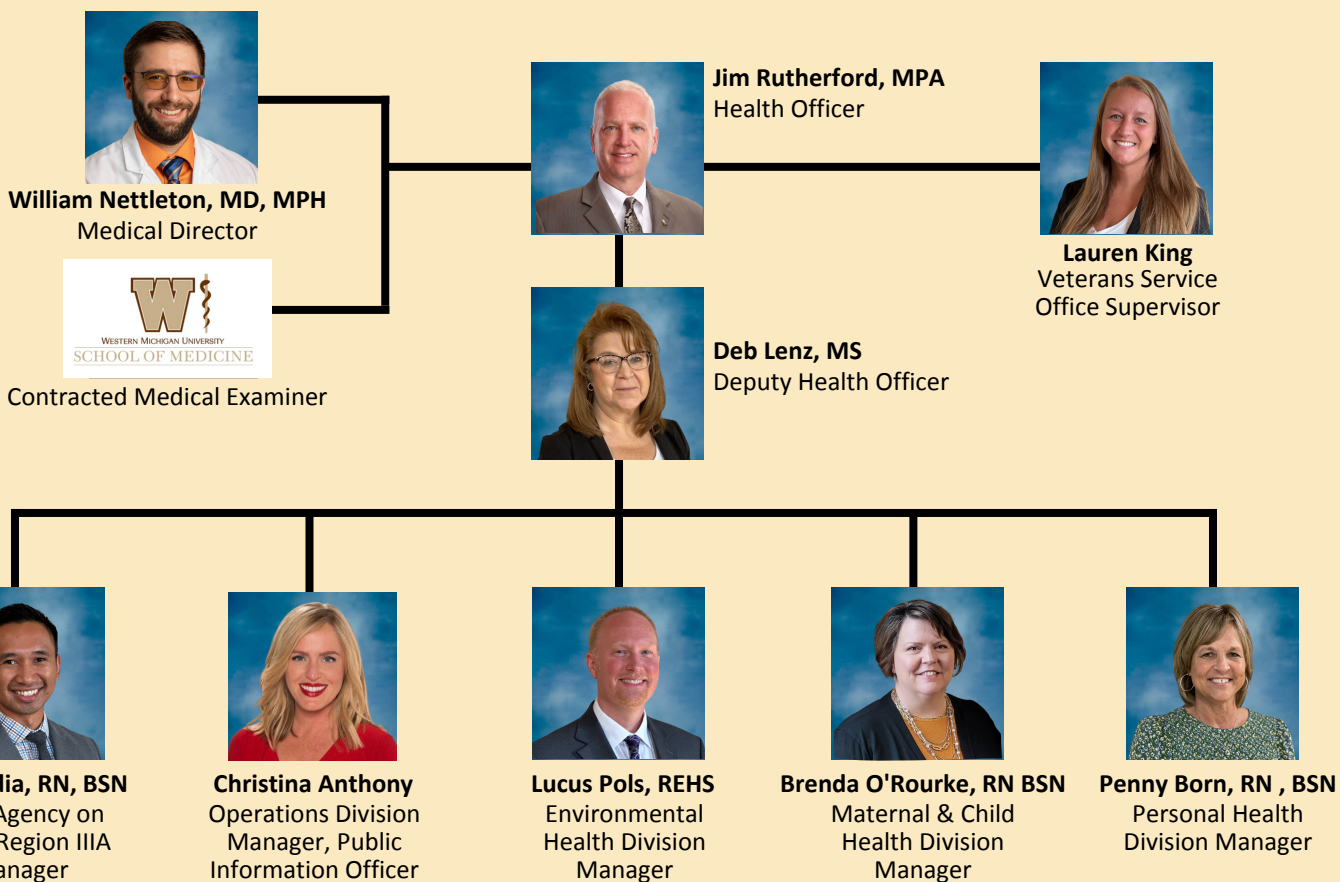
Terrell Cole
Deputy County
Administrator for
Internal Services

The County Administrator/Controller and the Administrative Services Department coordinate and perform strategic planning for the overall mission of the County. The Department serves as the principal advisor to the Board and acts as a liaison between the Board and other county departments. The County Administrator/Controller supervises the actions of all appointed department heads and ensures that, whenever possible, departments work together to provide the best possible service to residents.

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department staff work hard, every day, in unison with partners and the public to prevent disease, promote health, and protect over 265,000 residents. This work includes addressing the health needs impacted at both the social and community level with department programs and services. This is done through innovative and collaborative community goals, direct services, community health monitoring, and policy development, implementation, and advocacy.

- ***Our mission is to improve health for all residents of Kalamazoo County.***
- ***Our vision is a community where equity in social, mental, physical, and environmental health is achieved for all County residents.***
- ***Our values include equity, leadership, professionalism, quality, and respect.***



Advisory Councils

The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners maintains several advisory boards and committees that make recommendations to the County Board regarding specific interest areas. The Health & Community Services Department facilitates three councils related to the provision of its services. Minutes, and additional information, available at www.kalcounty.com/board/advisoryboards/.



Environmental Health Advisory Council

The Environmental Health Advisory Council (EHAC) serves as an informed advocacy body and sounding board for policy matters affecting citizens who need environmental health services.

- Francis Bell
- Michael Boersma
- Lisa Braytin
- Malissa Drzick
- Fred Sellers
- Jeff Heppler (Alternate)
- Kristi Lloyd
- Tracy Lynn
- Louis Parker III
- Julie Pioch
- Elizabeth Rochow
- Jeff Sorensen
- Bionca Stewart
- Jen Strebs, Commissioner
- Jason Wiersma
- Dan Wood

Older Adult Services Advisory Council

The Older Adult Services Advisory Council (OASAC) serves in an advisory capacity for the Area Agency on Aging within the Health & Community Services Department to assist in implementing the Older Americans Act (OAA).

- ReElla Burrell
- Ruth Bates-Hill
- Ann Brissette
- Tim Charron
- Danna Downing
- Angela Groves
- Abigail Finn
- Margaret Hale-Smith
- Daniel Braunner
- Kimberly Middleton
- Kelly Quardokus
- Stan Runyon
- Mike Quinn, Commissioner
- Fran Bruder Melger, Alternate

Veterans Affairs Committee

The Veterans Affairs Committee is responsible for administering the County Veterans Service Office, which coordinates and administers benefits to veterans. Appointments are made for four-year terms of office.

- Waverly Bell
- Mike Quinn, Commissioner
- Michael Fry
- Arthur Harris
- Robert Henken
- James Jeakle
- Toni Kennedy
- Luke Schrader

Internal Committees

Community Education and Outreach Committee

The Community Education and Outreach Committee is a multi-divisional effort to efficiently plan and coordinate education and outreach activities that promote our programs and services. The committee attended a variety of events in 2022, including Western Michigan University's Bronco Bash and the Veterans Stand Down.



Maternal & Child Health Division

- Tierene Inuolaji
- Carol Lassitter
- Julie Beam

Environmental Health Division

- Rachel Wonders
- Cynthia Foster

Area Agency on Aging

- Don Saldia

Veterans Service Office

- Lauren King

Personal Health Division

- Lindsay Merling
- Penny Born
- Nicole Wilson
- Nathan Reed
- Alannie Hester
- Britney Johnson
- Patty Kirsch
- Garrie Smith
- LouKisia Heady
- Autumn Hopkins

Operations Division

- Lisa James-Novak
- Christina Anthony

Outbreak Response Team

The internal Outbreak Response Team brings together department staff and leadership to help foster effective communication among team members. This team is activated to coordinate the investigation of suspected or confirmed outbreaks involving county residents and/or facilities.

- Health Officer
- Deputy Health Officer
- Medical Director
- Epidemiologist
- EH Division Manager
- Food Safety & Facilities Specialist
- Land & Wastewater EH Supervisor
- Laboratory Manager
- Public Information Officer
- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- PH Division Manager
- Clinical Services Supervisors
- Disease Surveillance Nurses
- Family Planning Physician Assistant
- MCH Division Manager
- AAA Division Manager

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Established in November 2022, the department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee has been tasked with advising leadership and driving the implementation of committee objectives. Committee members serve for one term, with appointments expiring annually.

- Brenda O'Rourke – Maternal Child Health
- Nicole Wilson – Clinical Services
- Peter Green – Veterans Service Office
- Miranda Pearson – Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program
- Kaitlin Burton – Operations
- Alex Scholten – Land Water & Wastewater
- Irma Gonzalez - Healthy Families America
- Natelie Swailes - Food Safety
- Jasmine Alcocer - Clinical Services
- Ana M. Diaz – Area Agency on Aging
- Jim Rutherford – Health Officer (ad hoc)
- Kim Kutzko – Epidemiologist (ad hoc)

Top 3 Department Priorities Identified by the HCS Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee

Enhance Language Support for Programs & Clients

- documents, social media posts, & handouts in multiple languages
- process for accessing field translation

Accessible & Inclusive Public Spaces & Services

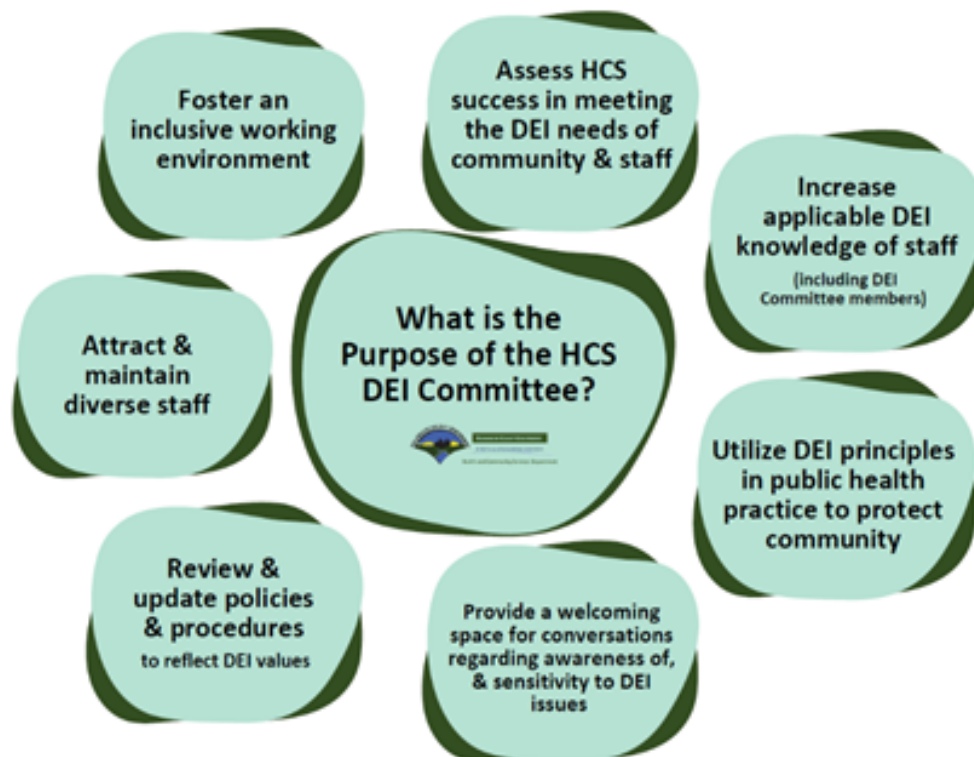
- Ensuring that our building is ADA compliant
- Establishing a public gender neutral/family bathroom

Increase DEI Educational Opportunities

- Workshops and implicit learning opportunities covering topics such as bias, microaggressions, race/ethnicity, disability, pronouns, etc.
- Specific programmatic feedback

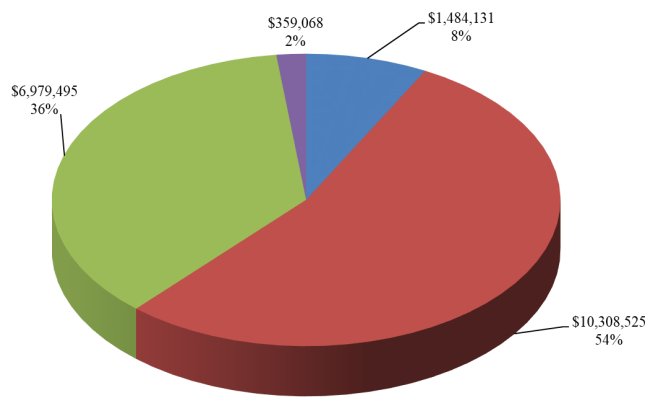
Next Meeting: Action Plan Formation of Objectives

Developed **objective plans** will be **specific** (who, what), **measurable**, **achievable** (with available resources), **realistic** and **time-phased**



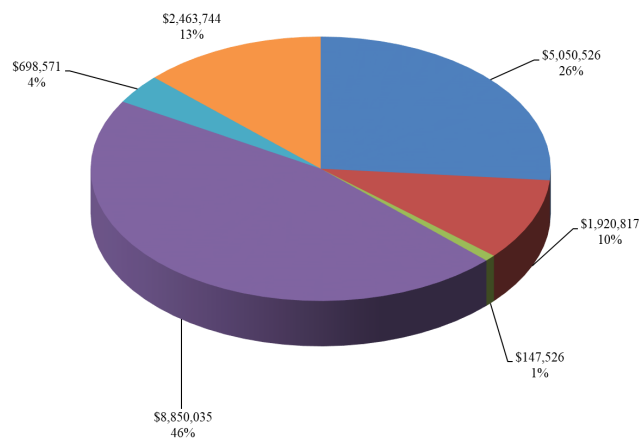
Financial Information

2022 HCS Expenditures by Division
Total - \$19,131,219



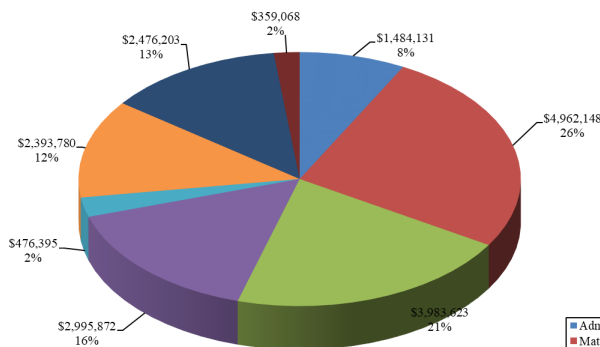
- Administration (includes Medical Examiner)
- Community Services
- Health Services
- Covid 19 / Emerging Threats

2022 HCS Revenue by Type
Total - \$19,131,219



- County General Fund
- Fees
- Medicoid/Commercial Ins
- State/Federal Grants
- Other
- AAA-Millage

2022 HCS Expenses by Program
Total - \$19,131,219



- Administration (includes Medical Examiner)
- Maternal & Child Health
- Clinical Services
- Environmental Health (includes Lab & HHW)
- Veterans Services
- Area Agency on Aging - Federal/State
- Area Agency on Aging - Millage
- Covid 19 / Emerging Threats

Division and Programmatic Reports

Area Agency on Aging Region 3A

Area Agencies on Aging are a nationwide network of entities promoting older adults' health and independence. They serve as a "one-stop shop" with expertise in aging and long-term care. Created by the Older Americans Act in 1973, they work to create a system of home and community-based services to maximize the independence and dignity of older adults and provide alternatives to long-term care facilities. Area Agency on Aging Region 3A serves Kalamazoo County and is housed within Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department



In 2022, CIP facilitated:

Homemaking	14,324 Hours
In-Home Respite	15,755 Hours
Personal Care	3,628 Hours
Adult Day Services	3,628 Hours
Medication Management	320 Hours
Assisted Transportation	16,738 Miles
Assistive Devices	136 Items

Choices for Independence Programs

The Choices for Independence Program in Kalamazoo County offers specialized case management to residents over 60, led by a team of social workers and nurses. They provide six key services, including Care Management, Community Living, and Veteran Directed Care, aimed at ensuring dignity and independence for the elderly. Funded by both state and federal grants as well as Kalamazoo's senior millage, the program's goal is to enhance the living conditions of older adults in their homes. In 2022, the programs served 320 clients.



Caregiver Day

In September 2022, the Area Agency on Aging debuted its inaugural Caregiver Day to honor the vital role caregivers play in our community. This event was an expression of deep appreciation for these dedicated individuals. Caregiver Day engaged 32 caregivers with diverse workshops and activities, from motivational talks to art therapy and massages.

Holiday Baskets

Generous donations from community partners and department staff made Area Agency on Aging's 2022 Holiday Baskets an overwhelming success. A special thank you to Jean Whaley and Kalamazoo's Log Cabin Quilters Club for the beautifully crafted handmade quilts, and to Kalamazoo's Loaves & Fishes for the meal items provided. The community's generosity brought smiles and warm wishes into the



hearts of over 60 older adults throughout Kalamazoo! Baskets contained a quilt, household items, winter hats, gloves and scarves, warm socks, personal care items, meal items, pet food, activity and coloring books, puzzles, and masks.

Information & Assistance

Area Agency on Aging provides a free and confidential service for individuals of all ages, caregivers, and adults with disabilities. Licensed social workers assess needs and guide users to appropriate resources, including referrals to Federal, State, and local programs. In 2022, our Information & Assistance team assisted 1,406 unique clients and made 1,879 referrals.

Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program

The Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program is a free service that educates, counsels, and empowers Michigan's older adults, individuals living with

disabilities, and those who serve them so they can make informed health benefit decisions. Program volunteers are trained and certified in Medicare and Medicaid health, benefits, and fraud counseling.

In 2022, the program served 1,066 beneficiaries and provided \$315,772 in savings to beneficiaries.

In the fiscal year (October 2021 to September 2022), ombudsman completed:	
Case Investigations	92
Facility Visits (Non-Routine & Routine)	169
Information & Assistance Provided to Facilities	123
Information & Assistance Provided to Individuals	901



Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Area Agency on Aging oversees the regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, serving Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties. Ombudsmen monitor care quality in licensed long-term facilities, addressing and resolving complaints from or for residents. Their duties also encompass community education, facility consultations, routine visits to licensed establishments, and 24/7 availability for emergencies. Typically, an ombudsman handles over 20 phone inquiries daily. The program is funded by state and federal grants, in addition to Kalamazoo County’s local senior millage.

Kalamazoo County Senior Millage

The Kalamazoo County Senior Millage is a local fund dedicated to offering education, safety, and home services programs promoting dignity, independence, and healthy living for residents aged 60 and over. These services are delivered in collaboration with contracted community organizations. Voters approved the Senior Millage on December 1, 2018, and it's set for renewal in 2024.



In 2022, the Kalamazoo County Senior Millage funded:	
Home Delivered Meals	61,120 Deliveries
Home Safety, Repair, Wheelchair Ramps	204,809 Projects
Adult Day Care	23,170 Hours
Senior Center Support	5,269 Hours
Legal Assistance	67 Hours
Healthy Living Programs	Classes Attended 14,772 Times
Assisted Transportation	1,971 Trips

Area Agency on Aging Contracts and Partners

The Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging utilizes state, federal, and local millage funding to contract out essential services. The following community organizations received funding in 2022:

- A+ Nursing, Inc.
- ADT, LLC
- Advantage Private Nursing
- Centrica Care Navigators
- Connect America
- Critical Signal Technologies, Inc.
- Ecumenical Senior Center
- Fresh Perspective Home Care, LLC
- Guardian Finance & Advocacy Services
- Guardian Medical Monitoring
- Home Sweet Home
- HomeJoy of Kalamazoo
- Legal Aid of Western Michigan
- Medical Care Alert (American Response Technologies)
- Milestone Senior Services
- Mom’s Meals (PurFoods)
- Portage Zhang Community Senior Center
- PRAC Holdings, Inc. / Arcadia Home Care & Staffing
- Right at Home
- South County Community Services
- Stay Home Companions, Inc.
- Valued Relations, Inc.
- Vicksburg Family Home Care
- WMU Center for Disability Service

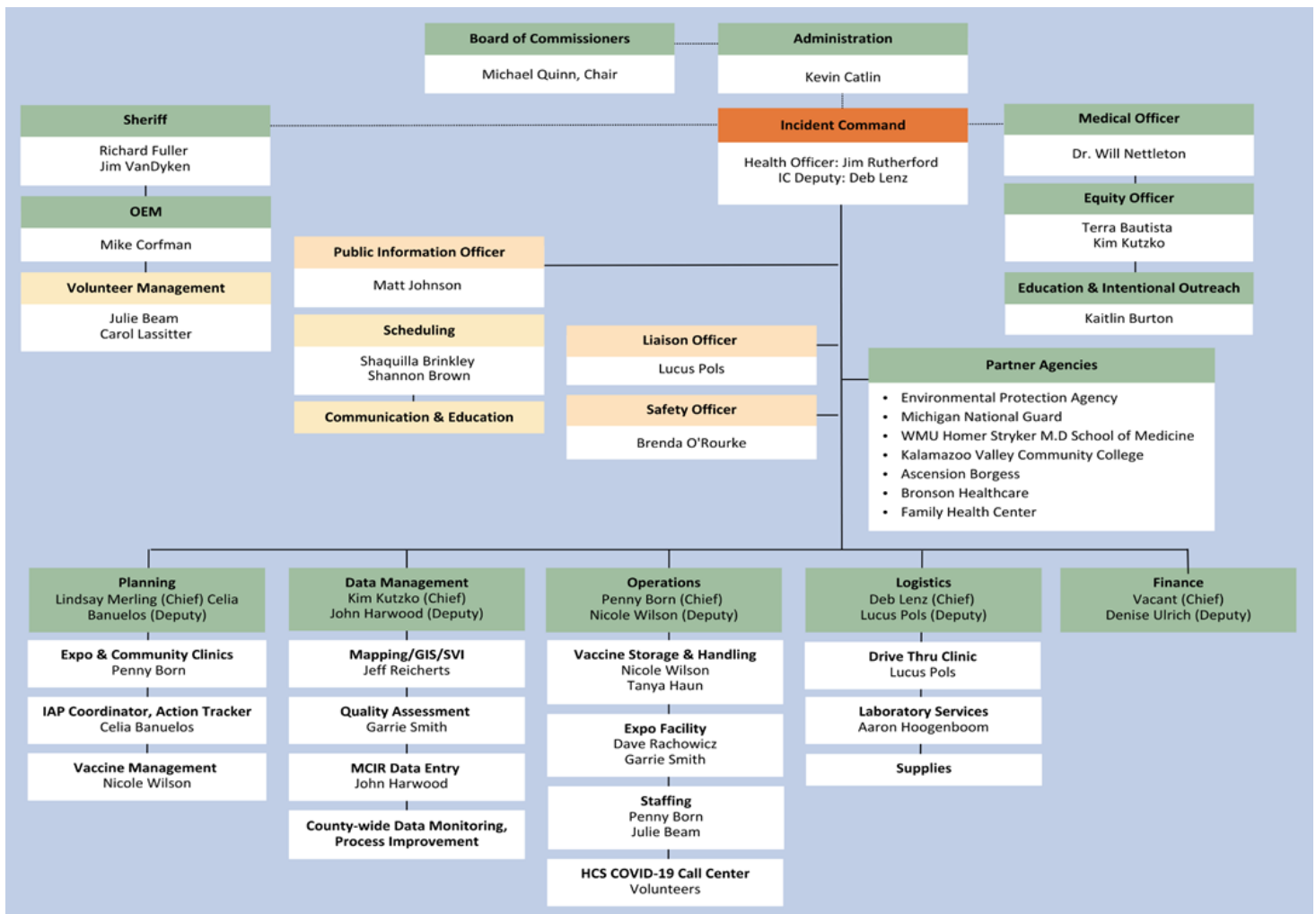
Environmental Health

Environmental Health seeks to protect public health through the application of regional surveillance of public health risk factors, risk reduction programs, inspection/evaluations and issuance of licensing/construction permits in the areas of food service, sewage disposal, drinking water, campgrounds, swimming pools, body art facilities, surface water, vector monitoring and Household Hazardous Waste reduction/education activities.



Emergency Preparedness

Kalamazoo County's Public Health Emergency Preparedness is dedicated to safeguarding the community from public health emergencies and disasters through proactive prevention, responsive action, and swift recovery. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department implemented an Incident Command Structure (below), which remained active until late 2022.





Throughout this period, Multi-Agency Coordination Meetings, featuring both internal and external community partners, were regularly held. During these sessions, the epidemiologist shared biweekly updates on COVID-19 cases and vaccination statistics. The concluding meeting in this series took place on November 22, 2022. The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator served as the deputy of the planning sections during 2022 when the focus was on the vaccination initiative.

The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator coordinated the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment and COVID-19 over-the-counter testing kits to various entities, including county departments, long-term care facilities, local shelters, schools, daycares, local churches, and community organizations. **65,350 masks and 736 testing kits were distributed throughout the community in 2022.**

As the key contact, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator also facilitated coordination between Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, the CDC, and eTrueNorth to establish a COVID-19 surge testing site at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center in February 2022.

Food Safety and Facilities

The Food Safety and Facilities Team assesses a variety of establishments, ranging from restaurants to mobile operations and one-off events. Additionally, they inspect body art facilities, both adult and child care facilities, as well as public swimming pools and spas. **A total of 925 food licenses were issued in 2022, including: 778**

fixed establishments, 58 seasonal establishments, and 89 transient/mobile operations.

Most Frequently Cited Violations in 2022 from Food Code and Food Law

FC 4-601.11 – Food/Non-Food Contact Clean to Sight and Touch	120
FC 6-501.12 – Facility Clean to Sight and Touch/Proper Frequency	97
FC 3-501.16 – Hot/Cold Holding Temperatures	93
MFL 289.2129 – Certified Food Manager	77
FC 6-501.11 – Facility Maintained in Good Repair	57
FC 4-501.114 – Ware washing Machine Sanitizer Concentration	54

2,219 food inspections were conducted in 2022, including:

- 1,772 routine inspections
- 208 follow-up inspections
- 116 complaint-based inspections (both illness and non-illness related)
- 86 pre-opening inspections for new facilities and facility remodels
- 37 "other" inspections, covering miscellaneous situations such as fire, power outage, etc.

Food establishment evaluation reports are available at

www.swordsolutions.com/Inspections

In addition to food inspections, other types of inspections performed in 2022 included 328 pool inspections, 103 inspections for childcare and foster care facilities, and 36 inspections for body art establishments such as tattoos and piercings.



Household Hazardous Waste Center

Household Hazardous Waste has been in operation since 1997. Hazardous waste materials are safely collected, packed, and shipped for recycling or proper disposal. The program's goals are to reduce unintentional poisonings in the home, prevent contaminants from entering our groundwater, and reduce hazardous materials sent to landfills. While a large



variety of items are accepted at the facility,

a complete list of items that the facility does take and does not take are available on Kalamazoo County Health & Community Service's website. In 2022, HHW collected 511,842 pounds of hazardous waste.

Pounds of Waste Processed in 2022

Chemical waste*	128,343
Electronic waste	233,098
Antifreeze	21,350
Copper wire	5,359
Fire extinguishers	2,797
Oil filters	1,680
Pesticides	19,546
Rechargeable batteries	22,180
Scrap metal	2,889
Used motor oil	74,600
Total pounds collected	511,842
*Acids, aerosols, ammunition, bases, batteries (alkaline & lithium), cleaners, flammable liquids, fusees, fluorescent bulbs, mercury, oil-based paint, organic peroxides, oxidizers, PCB ballasts, poisons/toxins, 1-lb cylinders	

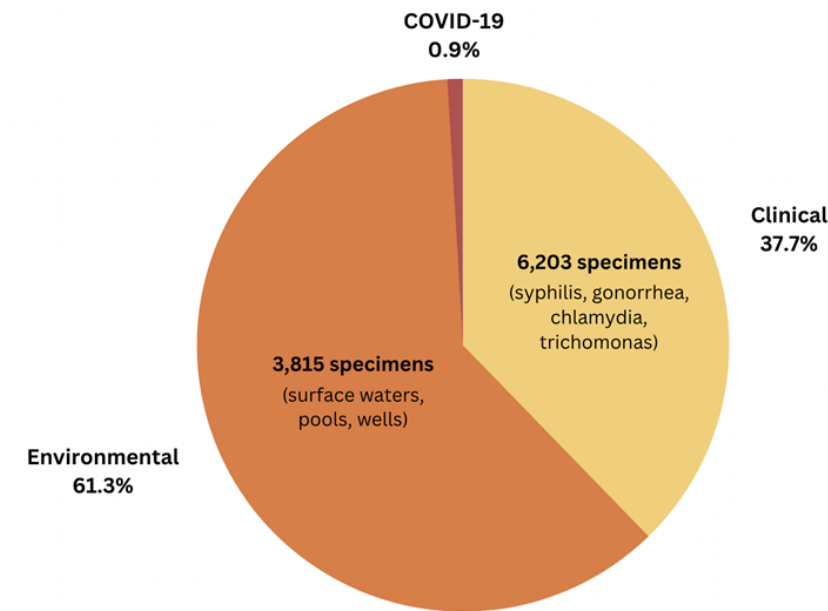
One of the waste streams collected at the facility falls into the category of flares. This includes marine flares, road flares, and unused fireworks. In 2022, 185 pounds of these materials were collected. While usually stable, great care is taken to keep these items from accidentally igniting in storage or shipping by soaking them in water. A typical flare can burn at over 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit and ignite other materials.

In addition to its primary duties, Household Hazardous Waste collaborates with police departments through the Red Med Box Program. Initiated in 2011, this program has enabled Household Hazardous Waste to safely dispose of over 75,000 pounds of unused or outdated medication, thereby safeguarding both the environment and the community. Learn more about this free program at www.redmedboxes.com.

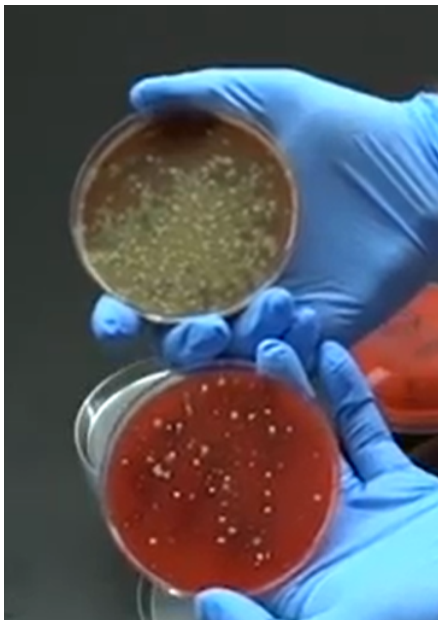


Laboratory

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department Laboratory handles environmental and clinical testing, and analyzing drinking, well, and surface water sources. The Lab also offers specialized testing for private wells and businesses, checking for elements like Nitrate, Coliform bacteria, and E. coli, in addition to managing clinical tests for HCS clinics. In 2022, the lab tested 10,113 specimens.



Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is one of few local health departments across the state of Michigan to have an in house laboratory. This allows the department to respond to communicable diseases in a timely manner while also being at the forefront of emerging disease detection and prevention.



Land Water and Wastewater

The Land Water and Wastewater team ensures the health and safety of Kalamazoo County citizens by maintaining a safe onsite water supply, providing tools for the management of onsite wastewater treatment systems, and providing resources for residents to maintain healthy and safe environments.

In 2022, the Vector-Borne Disease Surveillance Program engaged in several activities to monitor and control diseases, including trapping mosquitoes known to carry Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Zika Virus, and West Nile Virus. 3,865 mosquitos were collected in

Lyme disease	Borrelia burgdorferi	Fever, headache, fatigue, skin rash	22
Hard Tick Relapsing Fever	Borrelia miyamotoi	Fever, chills, headache	2
Non-Human Anaplasmosis	Anaplasma phagocytophilum (non-human active strain)	Harmful to Animals	2

Kalamazoo County in 2022, although no target species for the Zika virus were captured. All tested mosquitos were negative for Jamestown Canyon Virus, EEE, La Crosse Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, and West Nile Virus. During 2022, tick surveillance was conducted for ticks known to transmit Lyme Disease. Test results from black- legged ticks submitted to the CDC in October 2022 indicated that out of the 76

black-legged ticks captured and identified, 22 tested positive for Lyme Disease—which can spread to the heart, nervous system, and joints if left untreated. A Lone Star Tick was identified during a routine tick drag on May 20, 2022. While this tick is not known to be a vector of Lyme disease, it is a vector of human ehrlichiosis, tularemia, Heartland virus, Bourbon virus, and Southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI). This tick is also known to cause AlphaGal syndrome, an allergic reaction associated with red (mammalian) meat consumption.



307	Sewage Treatment System Permits
455	Sewage Treatment System Inspections
276	Residential Water Well Permits
693	Residential Water Well Samples
385	Residential Water Well Inspections
160	Bathing Beach Inspections
423	Bathing Beach Samples
87	Type II Public Water Wells Inspections
104	Type II Public Water Well Samples
8	Campground Inspections
656	Complaint Inspections
60	Childcare/Adult Group Home Inspections



After many decades, activities around the West KL Avenue landfill continue. The West KL Avenue landfill is a former sanitary landfill in Oshtemo Township that was closed in 1979, after contaminants were found in residential wells. In 2022, staff collaborated with local, state, and federal agencies regarding site and monitoring activities. To prevent future contamination of our drinking water supply, staff works closely with home and business owners to ensure abandoned water wells are properly plugged. Unused water wells that remain unplugged are a direct conduit and threat to Kalamazoo County's groundwater resources. 189 water wells were properly plugged in 2022.

In 2022, the program continued to work with multiple local and state agencies and communities where drinking water has been impacted by PFAS contamination. Investigation areas included Alamo, Cooper, Richland, and Ross Townships. Environmental Health staff provided updates to residents, answered their questions, and provided point-of-use PFAS filters for those impacted residents.



Maternal & Child Health

The Maternal & Child Health division provides programs for women and their families with a main goal of helping these families live independently, with purpose and dignity in our community.

Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program

The Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program, coordinated by LCA #15, operates across a 12-county region in southwest and mid-Michigan. The program collaborates with contracted providers, including federally qualified

During the 2022 fiscal year, the program's work led to the diagnoses of 23 cases of breast cancer and one pre-cervical/cervical cancer case.

health centers, health departments, hospital/radiology sites, and family planning clinics, to offer breast and cervical screening, diagnostic testing, and treatment services.

In fiscal year 2022, the program served 610 individuals out of a possible 640, achieving a 95% capacity rate. The program's Medicaid client list grew to 150 individuals as restrictions on Medicaid closures eased, ensuring more individuals had access to the necessary healthcare services.



In early summer 2022, the program resumed outreach activities which had been hampered by the pandemic and conducted a major marketing push from May to July. Brochures and posters were updated and distributed to enrollment sites in 9 counties.

Healthy Babies Healthy Start & 4Dad Fatherhood Program

Healthy Babies Healthy Start offers a tailored home visitation program for families in "high-risk" zip codes, known for adverse birth outcomes. Beginning during pregnancy and extending till the child reaches 18 months, clients are provided with individualized support based on each family's comfort and needs. These home visits are adaptable to families' schedules, offering them the opportunity to freely discuss and gain insights related to pregnancy, labor preparation, and community resources.

In 2022, HBHS served:

143 pregnant individuals
• 110 newly enrolled

194 individuals with children ages 0-18 months
• 137 newly enrolled



In 2022, as part of its safe sleep initiative, Healthy Babies Healthy Start distributed 31 Pack-N-Plays. Each Pack-N-Play included infant safe sleep essentials: a sleep sack, pacifier, safe sleep board book, memory book, and a comprehensive guide to safe sleep for parents.



The 4Dad Fatherhood Program works with Healthy Babies Healthy Start to address the community's gap in resources for parenting fathers. The program offers guidance and support, empowering participants with information to support parenting. In 2022, 37 new men were enrolled.

Healthy Babies Healthy Start and 4Dad Fatherhood program extends services to everyone in the community through free educational classes that support health promotion. Classes included parenting support, pregnancy health, family health, men's health, financial literacy, postpartum depression support, and more. In 2022, 32 free educational classes were provided to the community virtually and in person.

Children's Special Health Care Services



Children's Special Health Care Services is a state initiative that offers medical assistance to children and specific adults with severe, chronic health disabilities. Beyond medical care payment, the program provides a holistic approach by coordinating services tailored to the needs of the child and family. This includes advocacy, respite nursing, family support, and more. Additionally, the program directs individuals to medical specialists for diagnostic evaluations when a medical condition is suspected and connects them to relevant community services.



In 2022, Children's Special Health Care Services served 1,007 individuals. There were 33 case management participants, and 461 instances of care coordination took place, Registered nurses created 70 care plans, predominantly over the phone. Furthermore, an application was made to a fund aimed at helping families offset costs for equipment or care that insurance doesn't cover. Impressively, even with two nurse positions unfilled for half the year, the team met client needs efficiently.

Client Feedback

- *"Thank you so very much-so helpful-such a blessing to have caring, helpful staff while going through a new diagnosis!"*
- *"We are grateful for all of the support and guidance this program provides!"*
- *"Very professional staff, always trying to do their best to be here."*
- *"You guys have been amazing. Thank you!"*

Healthy Families America

2022 Enrollment Statistics

- **38%** of families were enrolled prenatally
- **75%** of enrolled families reported unemployment
- **17%** of families identified Spanish as their primary language
- **20%** of families indicated that substance abuse affected them
- **15%** of families grappled with domestic violence
- **40%** of families indicated mental health concerns

Healthy Families America is an evidence-based initiative dedicated to nurturing and educating families in our community. The program enrolls families from pregnancy until their child is 3-months-old and supports them until the child transitions into preschool age. The program maintains an inclusive approach, ensuring that enrollment is not based on income, thereby making it accessible to all families.

Developmental screenings are emphasized during a child's formative years for early detection of potential concerns. In 2022, 61 families were served, with nearly a third referred by the Child Welfare System. Of the 84 referrals received in 2022, 59 families were enrolled in the program.



Client Feedback

- *"My home visitor is always available and able to help me with my child's doctor appointments. She helps me to ask questions I was too afraid to ask before."*
- *"She listens to me when I just need someone to talk to."*
- *"I was finally able to find a place of my own to live! Finally, a place of my own!"*

Nurse-Family Partnership

Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, community health program that provides a personal registered nurse to eligible women who are pregnant with their first child. This partnership between a first-time mom and a registered nurse begins early in pregnancy and continues until the child is 2-years-old. Nurse Family Partnership model goals include:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes
- Improve child health & development
- Improve economic self-sufficiency



In 2022, a total of 151 mothers and 124 babies were enrolled in the program. The team consisted of seven dedicated registered nurses, six of whom were nurse home visitors with Bachelor's Degrees, and one supervisor overseeing their work. These nurses possess diverse experiences including labor and delivery, outpatient OB, pediatrics, mental health, reproductive health, and social work expertise. Nurse Family Partnership actively participates in

the CRADLE Kalamazoo collaborative, particularly in the care coordination sub-committee, contributing to a strong network of support for mothers and babies in the community. Within the team, three registered nurses are certified lactation consultants, adding valuable support for new mothers in their breastfeeding journey. The Nurse Family Partnership team boasts an impressive 100+ years of collective nursing experience.

During the same year, Nurse Family Partnership welcomed parent leaders to the team, enhancing the program's ability to connect with parents.

Client Feedback

- *"Absolutely everything about NFP has helped me become a better mother. I've learned so much about my kids and myself and feel prepared for every obstacle ahead."*
- *"Maggie & Kris have been my legs when I couldn't stand emotionally, a listening ear when I needed to vent, and the mother figures I never had when I had questions about how to do anything from dealing with a sick baby to finding myself a doctor."*
- *"I love being able to have emotional connection & support. They are never anything but patient & loving towards my son & I."*
- *"I love my nurse. She has done a fantastic job being there for me and my child."*
- *"[They are] always there for me to answer my questions and make no-so-normal things feel very normal"*
- *"I have learned how to deal with different situations. I am so much happy and feel blessed to have a beautiful baby boy."*

Personal Health

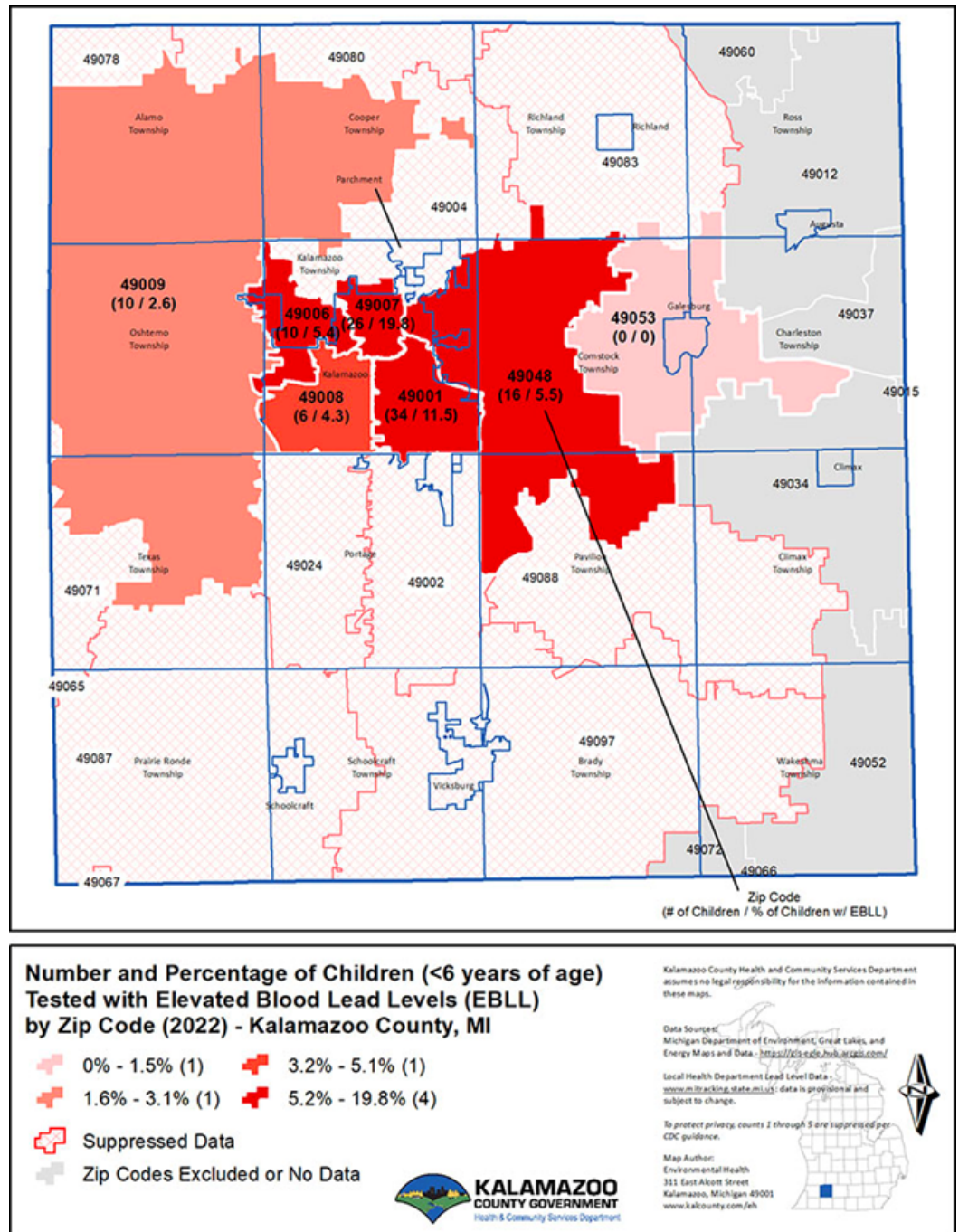
The Personal Health Division provides direct clinic services and education for individuals and families.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program strives to eliminate childhood lead poisoning. By enhancing blood lead testing and surveillance in Kalamazoo County, the program offers case management, community education, and awareness campaigns. Much of the lead exposure here comes from deteriorating paint in older homes, leading to ingestion of lead-filled dust and chips by children.

Lead, a once-common ingredient in paint, gasoline, and plumbing, is toxic. The CDC asserts that no level of childhood lead exposure is safe. Its detrimental effects include lowered IQ, academic challenges, behavioral issues, and compromised hearing and kidney function. Particularly concerning is its irreversible impact when exposed during pregnancy and early childhood.

In 2022, the program enrolled 121 new clients, made five educational home visits, and held bi-weekly walk-in lead screening clinics.



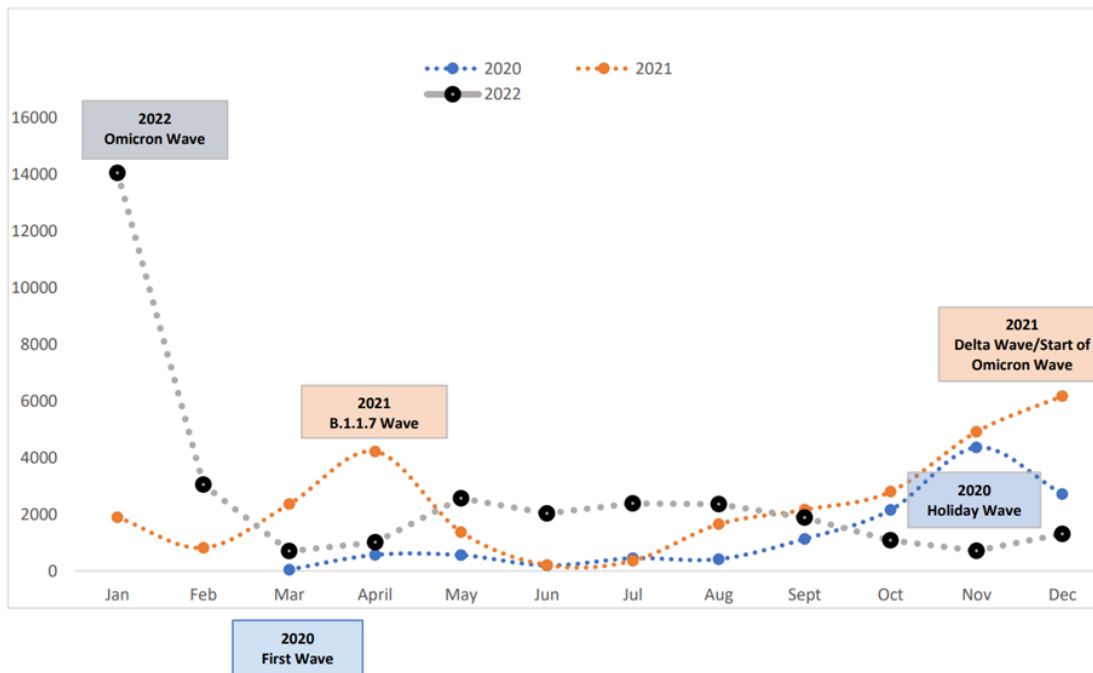
Communicable Disease

A communicable disease is an illness spread from one person to another, from an animal to a person, or from a surface or food. The Communicable Disease team monitors infectious diseases, including reportable diseases and outbreaks within Kalamazoo County. The team also provides control measures and education to prevent further transmission.

In 2022, the communicable disease team investigated a total of **40,465** cases!



In 2022, there were 243 foodborne illnesses, 35 vaccine-preventable diseases, 122 vector-borne diseases, and 112 Hepatitis cases. There were 19 Covid-related outbreaks and six other disease outbreaks. An "outbreak" signifies an unexpected increase in disease cases for a given location or season. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, several waves with increased case counts have occurred. The largest wave was in January 2022 following the introduction of the Omicron subvariant into the community in December 2021. The timing of these 'waves' differed by year due in part to home testing, disease mitigation strategies, transmissibility of the circulating COVID variants, and the introduction of the COVID vaccine. The graph below shows the number of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases reported each month in Kalamazoo County.



Throughout 2022, the team responded to 181 animal bite incidents and offered advice and education on rabies prevention. In terms of diagnostic measures, Kalamazoo county recorded 97 vaccine-preventable titer blood tests, 72 QuantiFERON TB tests, and 477 TB skin tests. Additionally, a positive Tuberculosis case was identified, with two dedicated nurses providing 121 doses of directly observed therapy over 210 days!

An outbreak of mpox occurred in the U.S. and other countries in 2022. In Kalamazoo County, fewer than five cases were identified in county residents. The County case rate remained below the Michigan case rate for the year.

Hearing & Vision

The Hearing and Vision team offers free screenings in collaboration with local schools and pre-schools to identify early hearing and/or vision issues. In 2022, the technicians performed 18,386 screenings, including 8,299 vision screens and 10,087 hearing screens. Of this testing, 1,526 doctor referrals were made for children to seek further care for their hearing/vision deficits.



Immunization Action Plan

The Immunization Action Plan Program is dedicated to offering quality education and immunizations to individuals of all ages, including international travelers. In 2022, the program distributed a cumulative 7,226 vaccines, including 3,608 COVID-19 vaccines and 470 mpox vaccines.



Furthermore, throughout 2022, the Immunization Action Plan Program played a pivotal role as a central distributor or "Hub" for the COVID-19 vaccine in Kalamazoo County and neighboring regions. The program ensured that community partners, supplied with COVID-19 vaccines through the Kalamazoo County Hub, were well-informed about the vaccine's storage, handling, and any updates to its administration protocols.



In a similar capacity, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services designated the Immunization Action Plan Program to distribute the mpox vaccine, aligning with the same distribution standards set for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Beyond these responsibilities, the Immunization Action Plan Program also manages the Vaccines for Children Program across 22 physician offices in Kalamazoo County. Annual audits are conducted for each of these offices to guarantee adherence to Vaccine for Children policies and proper vaccine storage and handling.

STI & HIV Testing & Counseling

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is committed to fostering healthy sexual behaviors and mitigating the prevalence of STIs through initiatives including:

- Monitoring disease patterns and conducting investigations to pinpoint risk factors, detect outbreaks, and observe trends
- Providing both community-wide and school-based confidential screenings/tests for STIs
- Offering comprehensive, private care and preventative services for STIs
- Engaging in community outreach and education about sexual health and STI prevention
- Participating in the "Wear One" campaign, specifically targeting individuals between 18 to 24 years.
 - Since its inception in 2019, over 8,000 condom packets have been distributed through community partners.



In 2022, the program completed 2,468 STI visits for 2,023 individuals. These tests identified 244 Chlamydia cases and 212 Gonorrhea cases. 1,094 HIV tests were also carried out

Furthermore, the HIV testing initiative carried out 125 HIV and 142 additional STI tests at the Gilmore Treatment Facility and Victory Methadone Clinic. The Department also connected with the community through 21 group educational sessions, impacting 243 participants. At the local jail, 9 court-mandated tests were performed.



Chlamydia

The number of CT cases reported in the county has steadily decreased since 2019. The number of cases decreased in 2022, by 11.5% compared to the previous year (1902 cases to 1683 cases).



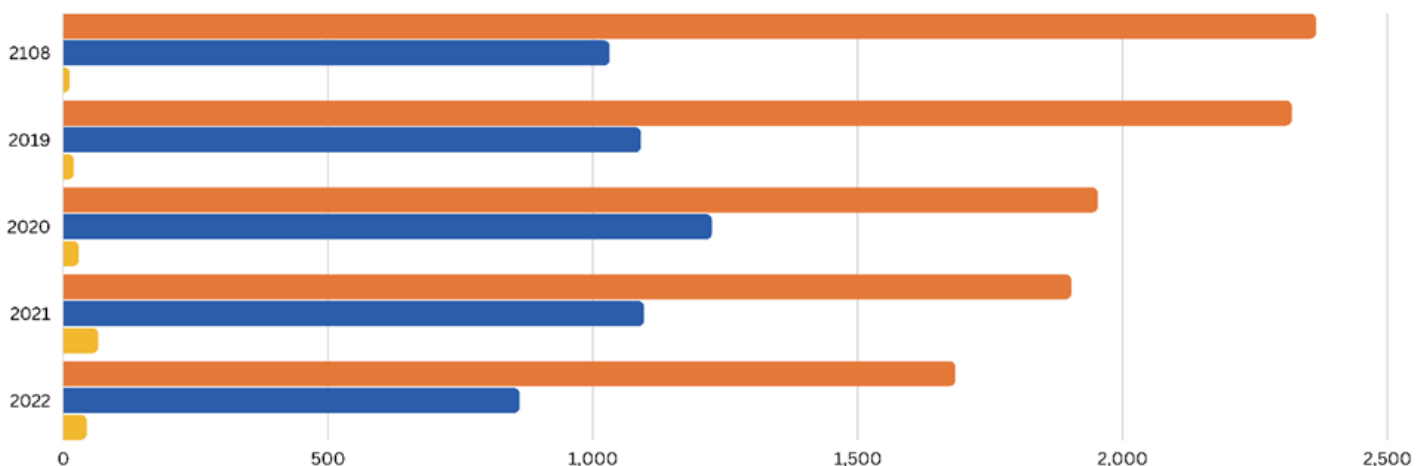
Gonorrhea

The number of GC cases reported in the county has steadily decreased since 2020. In 2022, the number of cases decreased by 21% compared to 2021 (1906 cases to 861 cases).



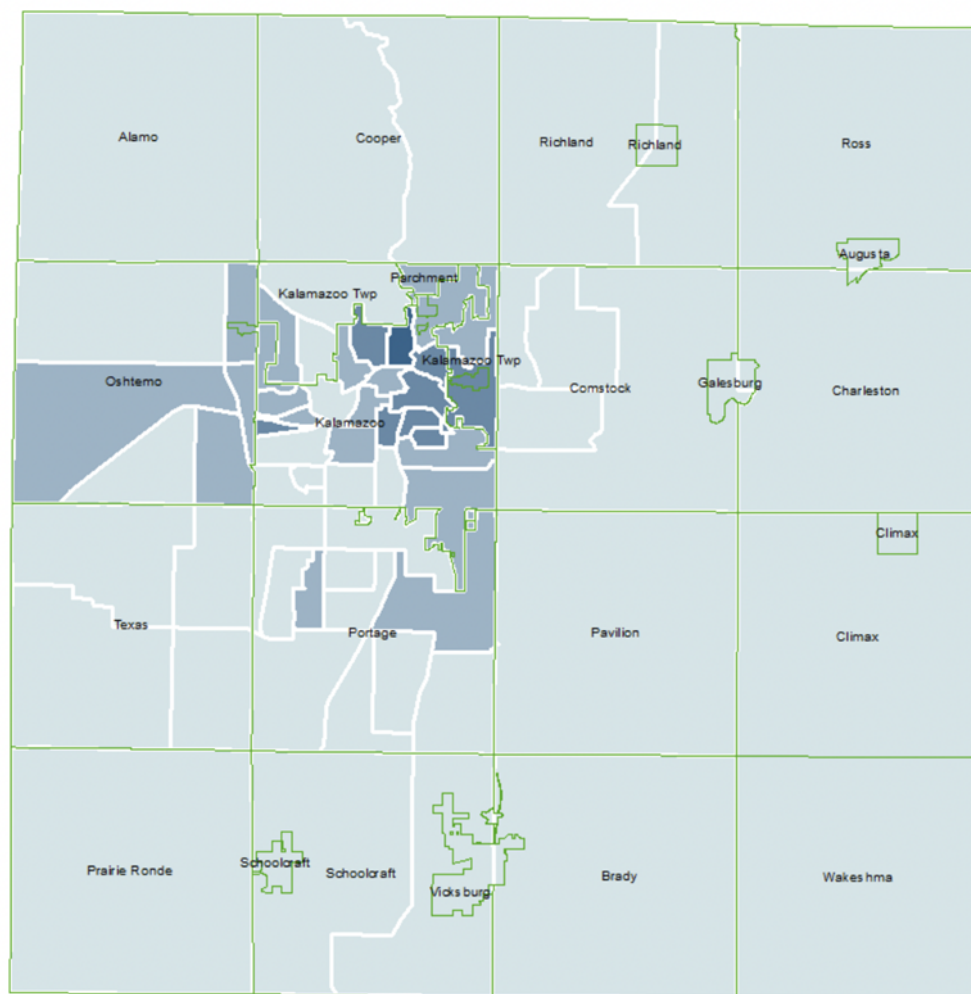
Syphilis

In 2022, the number of Primary & Secondary Syphilis cases reported in the county decreased by 33% compared to the previous year (66 cases to 44 cases). However, the number of cases reported in 2022 is higher compared to the 5 year average.



Notably, Kalamazoo County has previously ranked among the regions in Michigan with the highest Chlamydia rates. However, the number of Chlamydia cases reported in Kalamazoo County has steadily decreased since 2018. In 2022, fewer cases were reported compared to 2020 and 2021. From 2021 to 2022 there was a 12% decrease in the number of cases reported.

The map to the right shows the Chlamydia case rate per 100,000 population for 2022 by census tract for Kalamazoo County. During this time period, the census tracts with the highest rates were located within the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Township, followed by Parchment, Oshtemo, and areas within Comstock and Portage.



**Chlamydia case rates by census tract (per 100,000)
Kalamazoo County, MI - January - December 2022**

101 - 617 (40) 618 - 1382 (19) 1383 - 2818 (8) 2819 - 5636 (1)

Data Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System - Created By: Jeff Reicherts, MA (2023-01-09)

WIC

A special nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, provides:

- Nutrition education
- One-on-one counseling about nutrition
- Monthly food benefits
- Support and help with breastfeeding
- Referrals to health care, immunizations, and other programs

In 2022, the WIC program provided over **\$3 million** in food assistance, supporting 5,000+ clients and local businesses.

In 2022, Kalamazoo County's WIC program granted over \$3,012,859 in food aid. Additionally, we distributed over 900 Project Fresh vouchers to WIC families, enabling them to access fresh fruits and vegetables at the Farmers Market. 71% of WIC mothers chose to initiate breastfeeding upon their baby's birth.



In 2022, the WIC program grappled with a significant nationwide formula shortage resulting from a recall of specific powdered infant formulas by Abbott Nutrition from its Sturgis facility in southwest

Michigan. Triggered by complaints of *cronobacter sakazakii* or *salmonella newport* infections, this recall considerably affected many families we serve.

To address this, the WIC team immediately sent mass text alerts and initiated direct communication with all impacted families about the recall. Working hand-in-hand with the State, the team ensured timely and clear communication at the local level. Additionally, the received permission to offer alternative formulas, a decision it quickly relayed to community partners and medical professionals. Dedicated staff also visited local stores, ensuring they were informed about the recall and understood the protocol for assisting WIC clients.



THE AVERAGE
HOUSEHOLD INCOME
OF WIC FAMILIES IS
\$18,626.⁵

53% OF ALL INFANTS
BORN IN THE US ARE ON
WIC.⁶

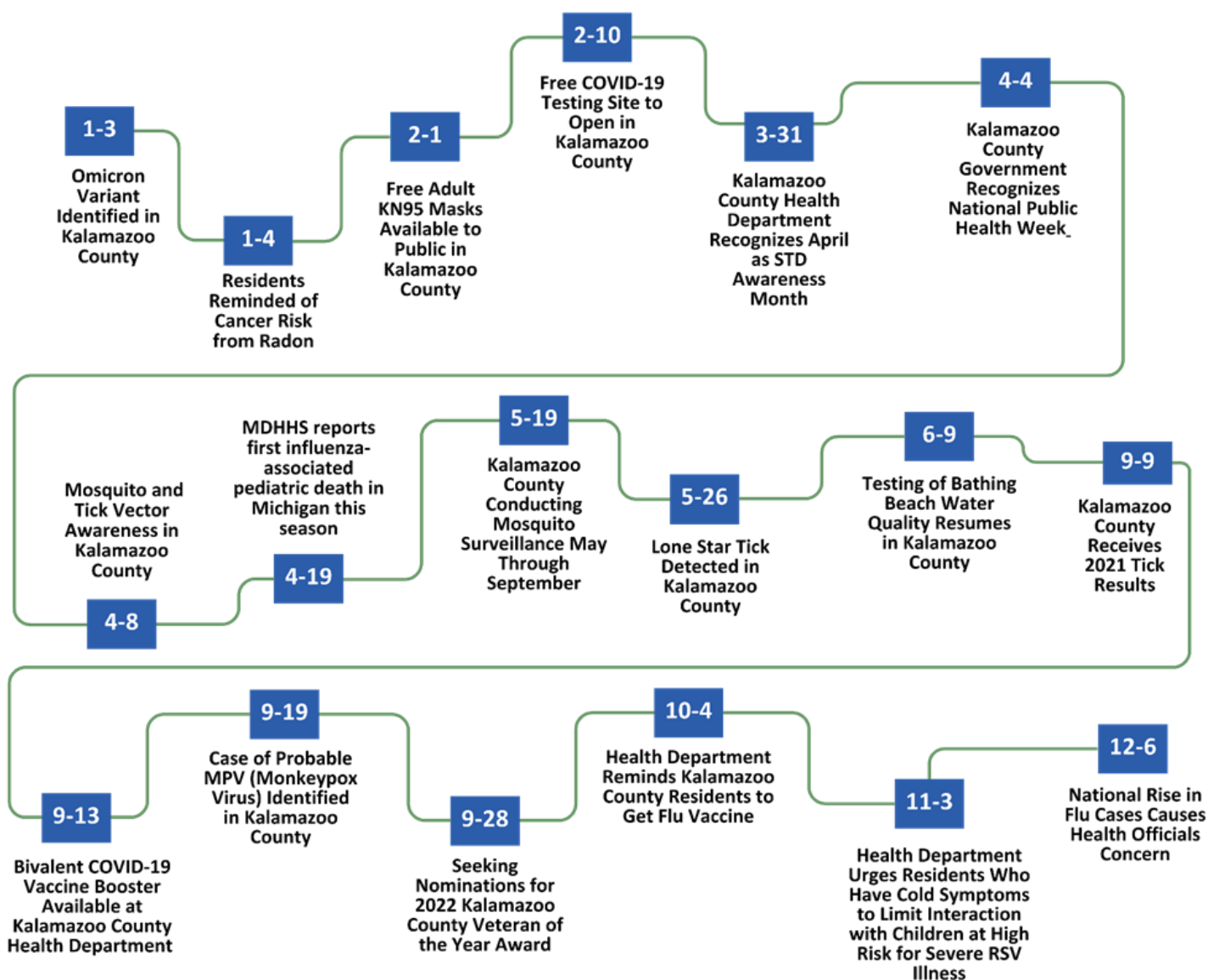
NATIONWIDE,
APPROXIMATELY 10% OF
WIC'S BUDGET IS SPENT ON
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.⁷



Public Information Office

The office disseminates public health information, promotes the many programs and services available, and advocates for healthy practices that improve the overall well-being of Kalamazoo County residents. In 2022, the office released 18 press releases.

2022 Press Release Timeline



In 2022, the office utilized social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter. Facebook was the most utilized platform. In 2022, the department reached 391,192 Facebook users and 45,365 Instagram users. The best performing Instagram reel was posted on June 14th, 2022, by the office's intern, featuring a stuffed otter. Focused on keeping pet's paws safe on pavement, it reached 8,775 accounts, 9193 plays, and 572 likes. View this and more at the departments Instagram @Kalcountyhcs.

2022 Facebook Highlights

Free Adult KN95 Masks Available at Our Community Partners!

Comstock Community Center
6330 King Hwy
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
269-345-8556

Edison Neighborhood Association
816 Washington Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
269-382-0916

Portage Senior Center
320 Library Lane
Portage, MI 49002
269-329-4555

Portage Community Center
325 E. Centre Ave
Portage, MI 49002
269-323-1942

El Concilio
930 Lake St Ste A
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
269-385-6279

Northside Association (NACD)
612 N Park St
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-344-5490

South County Community Center
606 Spruce St
Vicksburg, MI 49097
269-649-2901

59 reactions
1 comment 71 shares

to:
from:

we make a great PEAR

COVID Vaccine **Flu Vaccine**

Drop-In COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00

53 reactions
34 comments 3 shares

KNOW THE SIGNS

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Fast, weak pulse
- Dizziness
- Fainting (passing out)
- Excessive sweating
- Cold, pale, & clammy skin
- Tiredness or weakness
- Muscle cramps

WHAT TO DO

- Move to a cool place
- Loosen your clothes
- Apply wet, cool cloths
- Get medical help if you are throwing up, symptoms worsen or last more than one hour

HEAT STROKE

- Fast, strong pulse
- Dizziness & Confusion
- Losing consciousness
- No sweating
- Hot, red, dry, or damp skin
- High body temperature
- Agitation, slurred speech, or seizures

WHAT TO DO

- Move to a cooler place
- Do NOT have anything to drink
- Apply wet, cool cloths
- Call 911 right away - heat stroke is a medical emergency!

37 reactions
3 comments 432 shares

Norovirus: TRUE or FALSE

Norovirus is the leading cause of vomiting and diarrhea in the US.

Only a few norovirus particles are needed to make someone sick.

Alcohol based hand sanitizers do NOT work against norovirus.

Infected people should not prepare food while symptomatic and for 3 days after recovery.

TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE

40 reactions
17 comments 46 shares

KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 26, 2022

Long Star Tick Detected in Kalamazoo County

Kalamazoo, MI — During a routine tick drag on May 20, 2022, a Long Star Tick was identified in Kalamazoo County. These tick drags are being performed this summer by Environmental Health to capture and identify blacklegged ticks (Ixodes scapularis) which are known to transmit Lyme disease.

Long Star Ticks (Amblyomma americanum) are a tick that has a distinctive white "Long Star" marking on its back. This tick is typically found in the eastern, southeastern, and southwestern portions of the United States but is known to occur in southern Michigan and has also been identified in the past few years in other counties throughout Michigan. It will readily bite people and animals and is a vector of human ehrlichiosis, tularemia, hepatitis virus, Bourbon virus, and Southern tick associated rash illness (STARI). This tick is not known to be a vector of Lyme disease. This tick is also known to cause Alpha-Gal syndrome which is an allergic reaction associated with the consumption of red (mammalian) meat.

"Presenting tick bites is essential to preventing tick-borne disease, including using insect repellent with DEET and performing tick checks on yourself, children, and pets," says Susan Pals, Environmental Health Division Chief.

Environmental Health will continue to perform vector-borne disease surveillance in Kalamazoo County, including tick drags and mosquito trapping.

What You Can Do To Prevent Mosquito-Borne And Tick Borne Diseases:

- Empty and wash all outdoor containers that collect water (small pools, feeding bowls, open rain collection barrels, buckets, birdbaths, etc.) at least once a week.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants with insect repellent on the exposed skin.

87 reactions
65 comments 1k shares

Kalamazoo County HCS COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Ages 6 Months to 4 years

Wednesday, June 29th

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

41 reactions
6 comments 37 shares

Cool Off in Kalamazoo County

Open Fire Hydrants
Daily - 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
City of Kalamazoo
• Back of Interfaith (Building 1030) far NW corner
• Berrett & Lawrence
• Arcos & Clay
• Washington & March
• Sherwood at Roosevelt Apartments
• Clarence & Jackson
• Hays Park & March
• Hays Park & Jones
• Charlotte & Sherwood
• Northway & Princeton
• Fairbanks & Center
• Church & Norway

Cooling Centers
Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
• 9 am - 4:30 pm
614, 615, 616
• Water available
Kalamazoo Public Libraries
• All KPL locations 6/14 & 6/15. Visit their website for location & hours.
Call or Text 211 for other cooling center locations!

Beaches
City of Kalamazoo
• Woods Lake Park
• Martin Glen Park (handicap access)
Comstock
• Robert Morris Park
Portage
• Ramona Park
Texas Township
• Eagle Lake
Vicksburg
• Prairie View Park
• Sunset Lake Park
Climax
• Cold Brook Park
Gull Lake
• Ross Township park

Splash Pads
City of Kalamazoo
• Florence Street
• LaCrosse Park
• Kibb Pool at Ujehin Park
Texas Township
• Maple 17th
Galesburg
• River Oaks County Park

Check with the individual location for hours & availability.

28 reactions
1 comment 68 shares

MPV TRANSMISSION RISK BY ACTIVITY (MONKEYPOX) Based on What We Know So Far

MPV is spread through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact. Use this chart to determine your risk!

RISK LEVEL	ACTIVITY
MOST RISKY	• Direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids • Sexual or intimate contact
MORE RISKY	• Kissing • Cuddling • Dancing at a crowded party <u>inside</u> with non-fully clothed people
POSSIBLE	• Sharing drinks, vapes, or cigarettes • Sharing a bed, towels, or personal toiletry items • Dancing at a crowded party <u>outside</u> with fully clothed people
UNLIKELY	• Dancing at a party <u>outside</u> with mostly clothed people • All a grocery store, restaurant or coffee shop • Trying on clothing at a store • In a swimming pool, hot tub, or body of water • Coworker-to-coworker transmission • Flying in a plane or using public transportation • Using a public restroom

Adapted from materials created by Washington County Health Department and @quarantines300

Updated 8/5/22
Learn more at www.kalamazoohealth.com/monkeypox

35 reactions
7 comments 43 shares

Symptoms of COVID-19, RSV & Flu

	COVID-19	RSV	Influenza
Onset of Symptoms	Gradual	Gradual	Sudden
Cough or Sore throat	Common	Common	Common
Diarrhea & Vomiting	Sometimes	Rare	Sometimes
Fatigue	Common	Sometimes	Common
Headache	Sometimes	Common	Common
Loss of Taste & Smell	Common	Rare	Rare
Muscle & Body Aches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
Runny Nose & Sneezing	Common	Common	Common
Shortness of Breath	Common	Sometimes	Rare
Fever	Common	Common	Common
Wheezing	Rare	Sometimes	Rare

70 reactions
1 comment 202 shares

Veterans Service Office

The Kalamazoo County Veterans Service Office is dedicated to enhancing the health and quality of life of local military veterans and their families. The program achieves this by facilitating access to a range of benefits, healthcare services, and vital emergency resources such as financial assistance, housing, and food.

In 2022, the office processed 232 compensation claims, 115 pension claims (including aid and attendance and survivors), and 56 records requests.

The Veterans Service Office also continued an ad campaign that

In 2022, **\$128,190,000** Veterans Affairs dollars were distributed within Kalamazoo County

kicked off in late 2021. This promotional push, executed through various vendors, prominently featured the program across the community through billboards and bus ads.

Campaign results were

overwhelmingly positive, with the office witnessing a significant surge in claims and services provided. By April, the Soldiers and Sailors budget had been entirely expended, prompting the infusion of supplemental funds through grants. These grants endowed the office with an additional \$200,000, earmarked for food vouchers, utility assistance, and housing support.



Food Vouchers
for Kalamazoo County Veterans

Who Qualifies?

- Any veteran who served in the military (regular, Reserves, & National Guard) or their surviving spouse
- Received a discharge that was not dishonorable
- Is at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level

Must show discharge document, all household income, & proof of Kalamazoo County residency

How Much Are the Vouchers?

- \$150
- Additional \$75 for each verified dependent

How Often Can I get Vouchers?

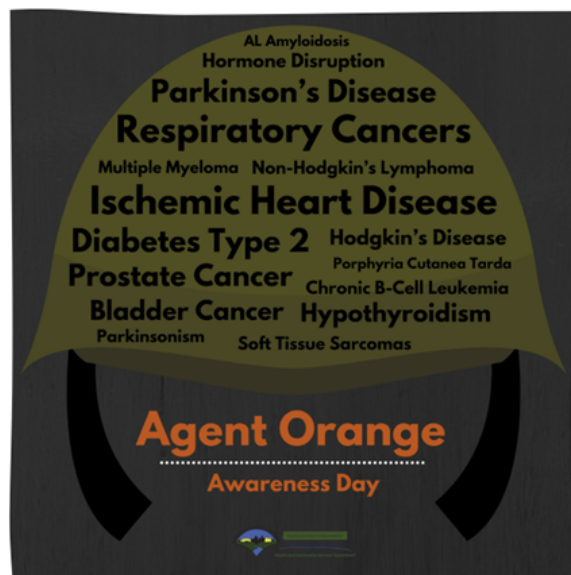
- Veterans & their surviving spouse's can apply four times annually

Who Do I Contact for More Information?

- Contact the Kalamazoo County Veterans Service Office at 269-373-5361

KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Health & Community Services Department

The food voucher initiative stood out in its success for the year, with distributions totaling \$140,275 - a nearly \$100,000 jump from the previous year. Several factors contributed to the 2022 spike in food voucher requests. Among these were the Veterans Service Office's advertising efforts, the pandemic-induced discontinuation of some prior resources, and rising food costs.



Passed into law on August 10, 2022, the PACT Act, which expanded VA healthcare and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that are presumed to be caused by exposure to these substances. This law helped the team provide generations of veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they deserve.

This year's veteran picnics were a resounding success, with four events held during the summer. These gatherings brought together over 200 Kalamazoo veterans and their families, offering them a chance to bond with fellow veterans and soak in the beauty of county parks.



Another noteworthy event organized by the office was the Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Providing essential services and support, this event catered to veterans facing financial, physical, or emotional homelessness, providing essential services and support. Community organizations collaborated to offer medical care, dental assessments, clothing, food, and counseling, emphasizing the community's commitment to supporting those who have served.

One of the later highlights of the year was the



Kalamazoo County Veterans Day Ceremony, held at the prestigious Robert L. Cook Veterans Memorial Plaza at Rose Park. The Rotary Club of Kalamazoo Sunrise chapter and the Veterans Service Office jointly organized this touching tribute. Honor guards from the United States Marine Corps and Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety attended the event. The Kalamazoo Pipe Band, Scott Thornburg, and Grace Kalafut provided stirring musical performances, while Zaneta Adams, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director, delivered an inspiring speech as the guest speaker. The event culminated in a heartwarming moment when Donald Jarzambek was presented with the esteemed Kalamazoo County Veteran of the Year award, acknowledging his exceptional service and dedication.



Community Statistics

The department uses a variety of data sources to monitor the health and well-being of Kalamazoo County residents. Maintained by the epidemiologist, its data hub website brings these data sources together to make this information more accessible to the community. The data is organized by determinants of health (clinical care, health behaviors, and social determinants of health) and health outcomes (morbidity and mortality). The site also contains special reports and publications.

2022 Heart Disease age-adjusted rates per 100,000 People*

	Kalamazoo Co.		Michigan	
	# of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate	# of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate
Q1	610	208	27055	213.1
Q2	584	199.2	27307	215
Q3	578	198.2	27226	214.4
Q4	576	196.9	27125	213.2

2022 All-Cause Mortality Age-adjusted rates per 100,000 People*

	Kalamazoo Co.		Michigan	
	# of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate	# of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate
Q1	2643	881.8	110416	885.4
Q2	2620	909.3	116693	936.7
Q3	2650	922.5	117855	944.2
Q4	2692	935.6	120223	963.1

2022 Cancer mortality age-adjusted rates per 100,000 People*

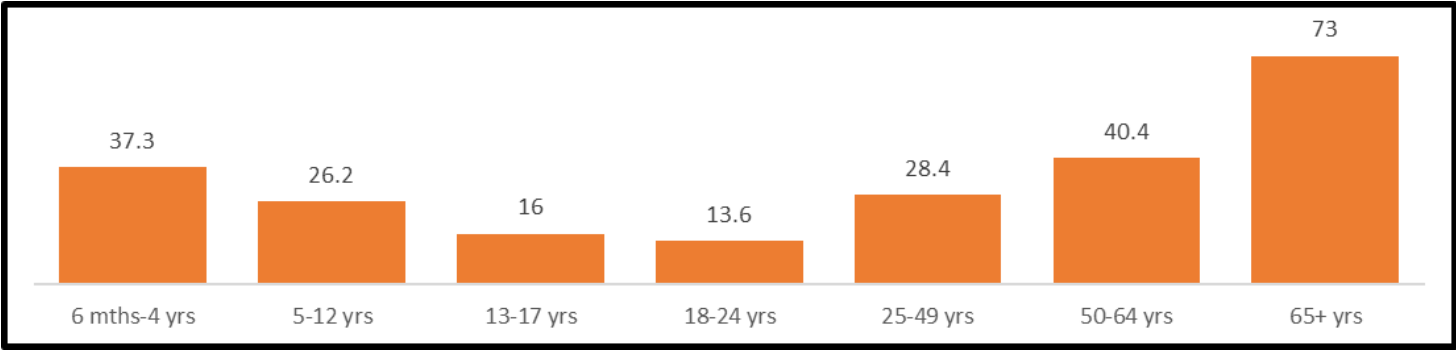
	Kalamazoo Co.		Michigan	
	# of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate	# of Deaths	Age-adjusted Rate
Q1	466	155	21016	158.9
Q2	468	155.2	21181	160.5
Q3	464	155.5	21354	161.6
Q4	446	149.7	21354	160.9

2022 Infant Deaths, Live Births and Infant Death Rates*

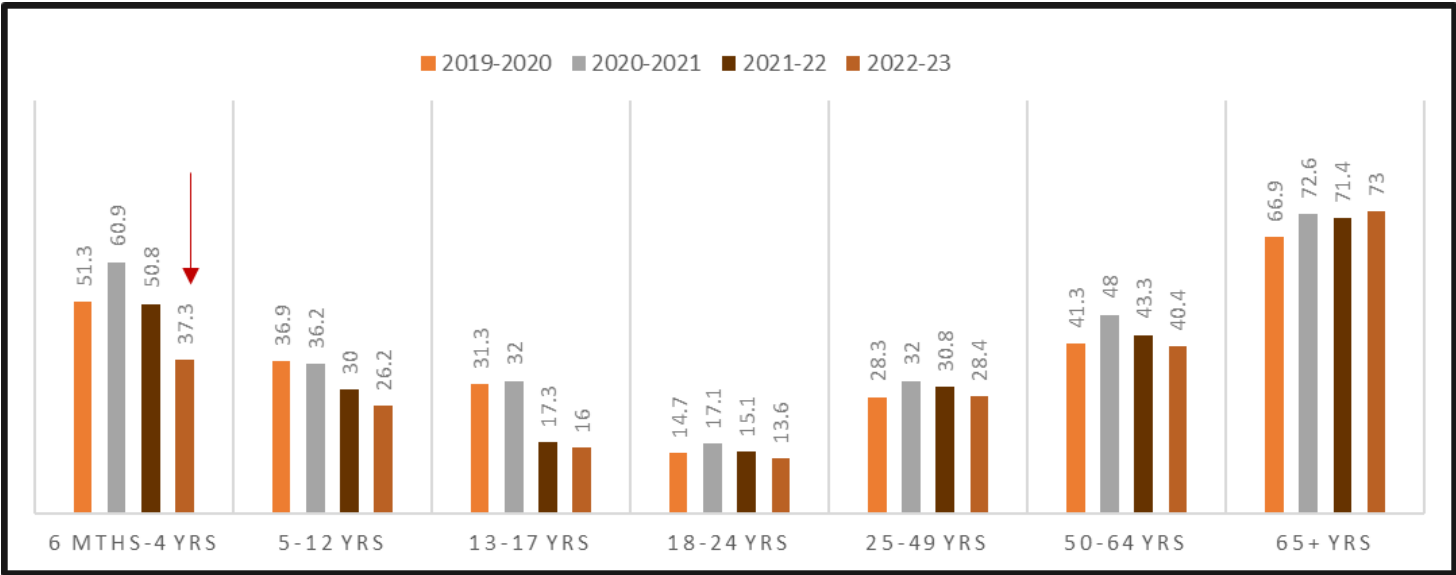
Infant Deaths	Live Births	Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births
15	2643	5.7

*Data is provisional and subject to change

2022-23 Season Coverage by Age Group



The county coverage rate was highest among those age 65+ (73%) followed by the 50-64 year old group (40.4%) and 6 mths-4 yrs (37.3%) age groups. The lowest coverage rates were in the 18-24 year old group (13.6%) followed by the 13-17 year old group (16%).

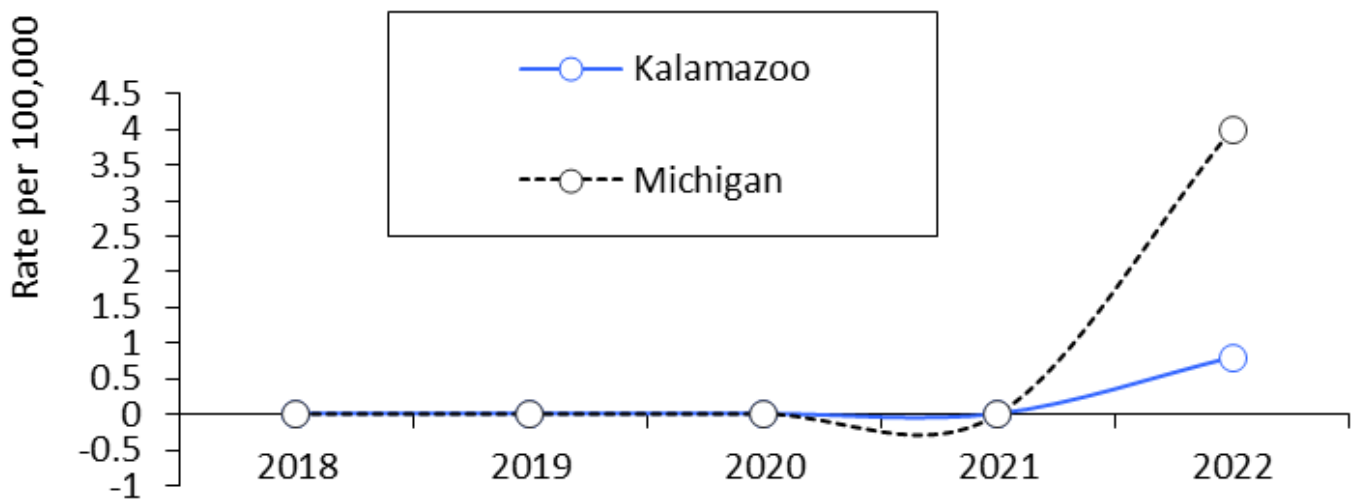


County coverage rates for the 18+ year and older age groups have remained fairly steady for the past four flu seasons. However, rates in the younger age groups have steadily decreased. The 13-17 year old age group coverage rate decreased during the 2021-22 season and did not return to pre-pandemic levels during the 2022-23 flu season. Rates in the 5-12 year old group showed a similar pattern and further decreased during the 2022-23 season. The rate in the 6 month-4 year old group fell dramatically from the 2021-22 season (50.8% to 37.3%). The vaccine coverage rate for this age group fell statewide compared to the previous flu season; 41.4% during the 2021-22 season to 31.6% during the 2022-23 flu season. Uptake rates in counties that typically had high coverage rates in this age group also decreased during the most recent flu season: Washtenaw 63.1% to 52.4%, Kent 56.8% to 43.7%, and Grand Traverse 57.8% to 42.9%. In Kalamazoo County rates fell from 50.8% to 37.5%; however, the county ranked #11 for vaccine uptake in this age group.

Mpox Outbreak

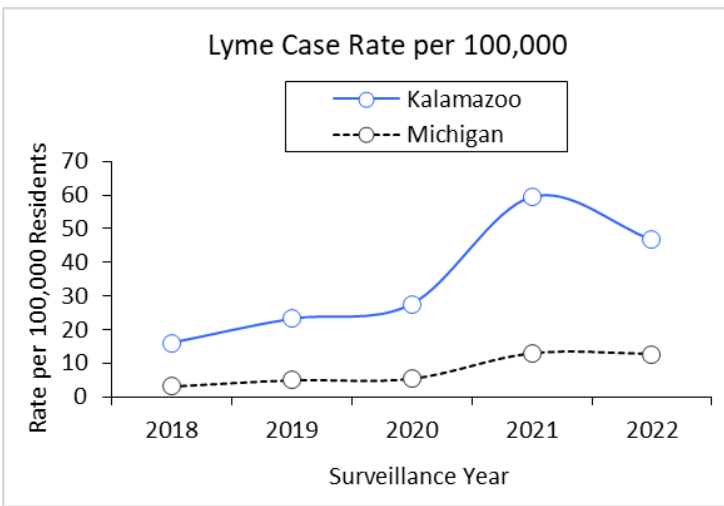
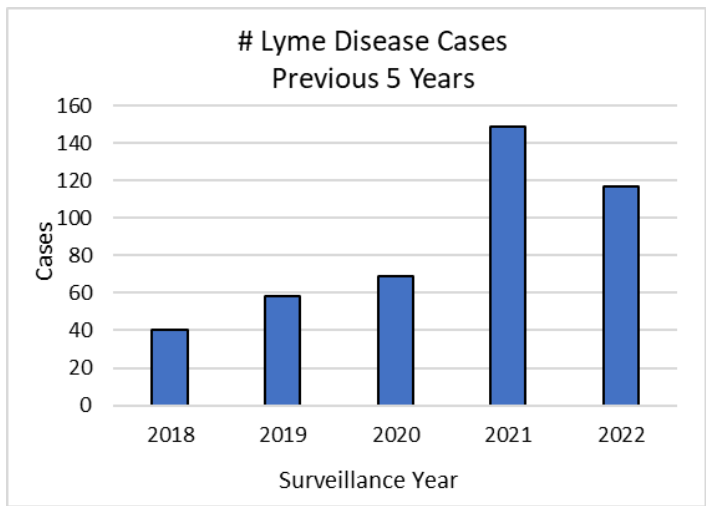
An outbreak of mpox occurred in the U.S. and other countries during 2022. In Kalamazoo county fewer than five cases were identified in residents. The county case rate remained below the Michigan case rate for the year. A total of 271 residents received their first dose of the mpox vaccine, 202 received their second dose (data as of 1/30/23). The majority of those receiving the vaccine were male (90%, sex assigned at birth) and between the ages of 20-39 years (62%).

Mpox Cases per 100,000



Lyme Disease

After a statewide increase in Lyme disease cases reported during 2021, the number of cases reported in Kalamazoo County residents decreased in 2022. The county case rate has been higher compared to Michigan since 2018. Cases are reported by county of residence, not location of exposure to the tick vector (blacklegged tick). This tick vector is endemic in Michigan in portions of the Upper Peninsula and in the western Lower Peninsula. However, the tick is now expanding into other areas across the state.



Summary of Reportable Diseases by Year

Disease Group	Reportable Condition	County Cases Reported**					Michigan Cases Reported				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Foodborne	Botulism - Foodborne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Campylobacter	90	64	47	36	31	1,716	1,719	1,229	1,495	1,370
	Cryptosporidiosis	19	27	15	12	9	386	423	248	247	310
	Giardiasis	28	41	27	17	20	468	420	389	435	359
	Listeriosis *	-	-	-	-	-	24	29	29	36	36
	Norovirus	19	148	43	101	127	985	1,458	567	555	1,318
	Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	1	2
	Salmonellosis	51	44	18	23	29	1,137	1,078	908	869	848
	Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli --(STEC) *	17	16	11	12	12	302	298	206	259	404
	Shigellosis	5	2	3	8	7	205	219	153	167	173
	Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	1	8	10	1	3	14
	Yersinia enteritis	14	11	5	3	5	80	80	78	87	178
	Foodborne Subtotal	243	353	171	212	243	5,314	5,747	3,819	4,161	5,021
Influenza	Flu Like Disease*	12,415	5,268	3,633	1,888	6,628	360,585	321,339	191,014	82,577	216,591
	Influenza	2,427	1,063	1,613	9	967	45,273	30,069	30,309	2,892	45,219
	Influenza, Novel	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
	Influenza Subtotal	14,842	6,331	5,246	1,897	7,595	405,861	351,409	221,323	85,514	262,960
COVID19/MIS	Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	71	157	100
	Novel Coronavirus COVID-19	-	-	12,555	28,900	33,852	3	3	530,844	1,224,899	1,289,483
	COVID19/MIS Subtotal	-	-	12,555	28,904	33,853	3	3	530,915	1,225,056	1,289,583
Meningitis	Cronobacter (infant)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Meningitis - Aseptic	30	8	11	12	9	824	460	255	248	271
	Meningitis - Bacterial Other	2	6	1	6	7	143	123	95	122	134
	Meningococcal Disease	-	-	-	1	-	4	7	3	6	5
	Streptococcus pneumoniae, Inv	29	23	18	16	25	796	929	531	462	708
	Meningitis Subtotal	61	37	30	35	41	1,767	1,519	884	838	1,118
Other	Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM)	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	5	-	3
	Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Blastomycosis	-	-	-	-	1	16	26	26	26	36
	Botulism - Infant	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1
	Brucellosis	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	3	-	8
	CP-CRE *	-	-	-	1	4	176	159	214	205	287
	Candida auris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	132
	Cholera *	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1
	Coccidioidomycosis	1	-	1	2	-	43	50	53	79	51
	Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	11	7	13
	Cyclosporiasis *	7	10	1	4	3	30	130	22	51	58
	Encephalitis, Post Chickenpox	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
	Encephalitis, Post Mumps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Encephalitis, Post Other	-	-	-	1	1	10	14	10	16	15
	Encephalitis, Primary	-	2	3	-	2	17	15	15	12	7
	Guillain-Barre Syndrome	-	1	4	3	2	46	61	54	54	67
	Hantavirus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hantavirus, Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Hantavirus, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome *	-	-	-	-	-	11	8	5	3	17
	Hemorrhagic Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Histoplasmosis	3	6	6	9	4	154	233	205	262	327
	Kawasaki	-	-	-	1	-	36	56	60	43	55
	Legionellosis	11	9	6	6	8	631	559	386	583	340
	Leprosy	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
	Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	1	2
	Melioidosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Monkeypox	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	395
	Novel Coronavirus SARS/MERS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Psittacosis	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	2	3
	Q Fever Acute	1	-	-	-	-	4	4	5	4	1
	Q Fever Chronic	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1
	Rheumatic Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Rubella - Congenital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	Streptococcus pneumoniae, Drug Resistant	1	3	4	5	-	101	77	38	37	59

Disease Group	Reportable Condition	County Cases Reported**					Michigan Cases Reported				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Other	Streptococcal Dis, Inv, Grp A	8	11	3	12	23	428	447	346	257	381
	Streptococcal Toxic Shock	2	-	-	-	-	5	5	4	2	2
	Toxic Shock	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	3	4	3
	Trachoma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
	Trichinosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tularemia	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	3
	Vibrios-non Cholera *	2	2	3	-	2	44	41	26	36	40
	VISA	-	-	-	-	-	8	11	-	4	3
	VRSA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Other Subtotal	36	44	31	44	52	1,798	1,923	1,501	1,695	2,321
Rabies	Rabies Animal	1	2	1	-	2	76	58	54	48	51
	Rabies: Potential Exposure & PEP *	2	43	111	20	35	6,471	5,960	3,454	3,646	3,626
	Rabies Subtotal	3	45	112	20	37	6,547	6,018	3,508	3,694	3,677
STD	Chancroid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	Chlamydia (Genital)	2,364	2,318	1,949	1,902	1,684	51,673	50,152	45,180	46,481	37,362
	Gonorrhea	1,030	1,090	1,221	1,095	860	17,046	18,137	23,518	22,265	15,789
	Granuloma Inguinale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Lymphogranuloma venereum	-	-	-	-	-	19	6	8	3	3
	Syphilis - Congenital	-	-	2	3	2	15	14	30	42	38
	Syphilis - Early Latent	8	14	11	30	22	405	560	559	745	745
	Syphilis - Unknown Duration or Late	14	13	21	37	41	627	642	671	931	1,053
	Syphilis - To Be Determined	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
	Syphilis - Primary	2	9	16	31	15	225	271	319	356	406
	Syphilis - Secondary	10	11	13	35	28	425	408	472	623	555
	STD Subtotal	3,428	3,455	3,233	3,133	2,652	70,441	70,190	70,757	71,448	55,952
Tuberculosis	Latent Tuberculosis Infection	21	76	52	126	121	602	914	464	649	651
	Nontuberculous Mycobacterium	21	18	21	21	18	840	855	686	769	829
	Tuberculosis	-	1	4	2	1	113	129	105	137	121
	Tuberculosis Subtotal	42	95	77	149	140	1,555	1,898	1,255	1,555	1,601
VPD	Chickenpox (Varicella)	12	10	3	5	3	433	424	186	179	229
	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	H. influenzae Disease - Inv.	5	6	5	1	3	174	215	108	152	197
	Measles	-	-	-	-	-	19	46	-	2	5
	Mumps	-	-	-	-	-	42	25	5	4	13
	Pertussis	16	7	2	1	1	656	540	154	72	86
	Polio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rubella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7
	Shingles	9	10	22	37	28	1,248	1,225	819	630	736
	Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-
	VZ Infection, Unspecified	1	1	2	-	-	212	228	198	326	307
	VPD Subtotal	43	34	34	44	35	2,786	2,704	1,471	1,371	1,580
Vectorborne	Babesiosis	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4	16
	Chikungunya *	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	1
	Dengue Fever *	-	1	-	-	-	10	21	3	5	10
	Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasma phagocytophilum *	-	-	-	-	-	14	13	18	57	70
	Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis Undetermined	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	Ehrlichiosis, Ehrlichia chaffeensis *	-	1	-	-	-	7	6	1	3	10
	Ehrlichiosis, Ehrlichia ewingii *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Encephalitis, California Serogroup *	-	-	1	2	-	2	3	4	8	5
	Encephalitis, Eastern Equine *	-	3	-	-	-	1	10	4	1	-
	Encephalitis, Powassan *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Encephalitis, St. Louis *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Encephalitis, Western Equine *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Lyme Disease	40	58	69	149	117	272	412	472	860	732
	Malaria	-	1	-	1	4	30	23	16	13	33
	Rickettsial Disease - Spotted Fever *	1	-	-	-	-	17	10	5	5	10
	Rickettsial Disease - Typhus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	West Nile Virus *	1	-	-	-	-	17	8	-	-	1
	Yellow Fever *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Zika *	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Vectorborne Subtotal	42	65	70	152	122	464	512	555	1,007	902
Viral Hepatitis	Hepatitis A	4	1	1	-	-	358	78	21	26	23
	Hepatitis B, Acute	-	2	-	1	-	78	66	45	36	35
	Hepatitis B, Chronic	21	28	18	6	14	1,065	1,006	681	624	682
	Hepatitis B, Perinatal	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Disease Group	Reportable Condition	County Cases Reported**					Michigan Cases Reported				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Viral Hepatitis	Hepatitis C, Acute	7	2	1	4	4	178	129	142	129	128
	Hepatitis C, Chronic	234	115	90	59	94	9,843	5,696	4,109	3,863	3,685
	Hepatitis C, Perinatal	-	-	-	-	-	11	10	7	10	7
	Viral Hepatitis Subtotal	266	148	110	70	112	11,546	7,019	5,020	4,698	4,576
Total		19,006	10,607	21,669	34,660	44,882	508,082	448,942	841,008	1,401,037	1,629,291

* Indicates includes historic and current forms in MDSS

** Data for cases reported is based on week case was referred to the health department

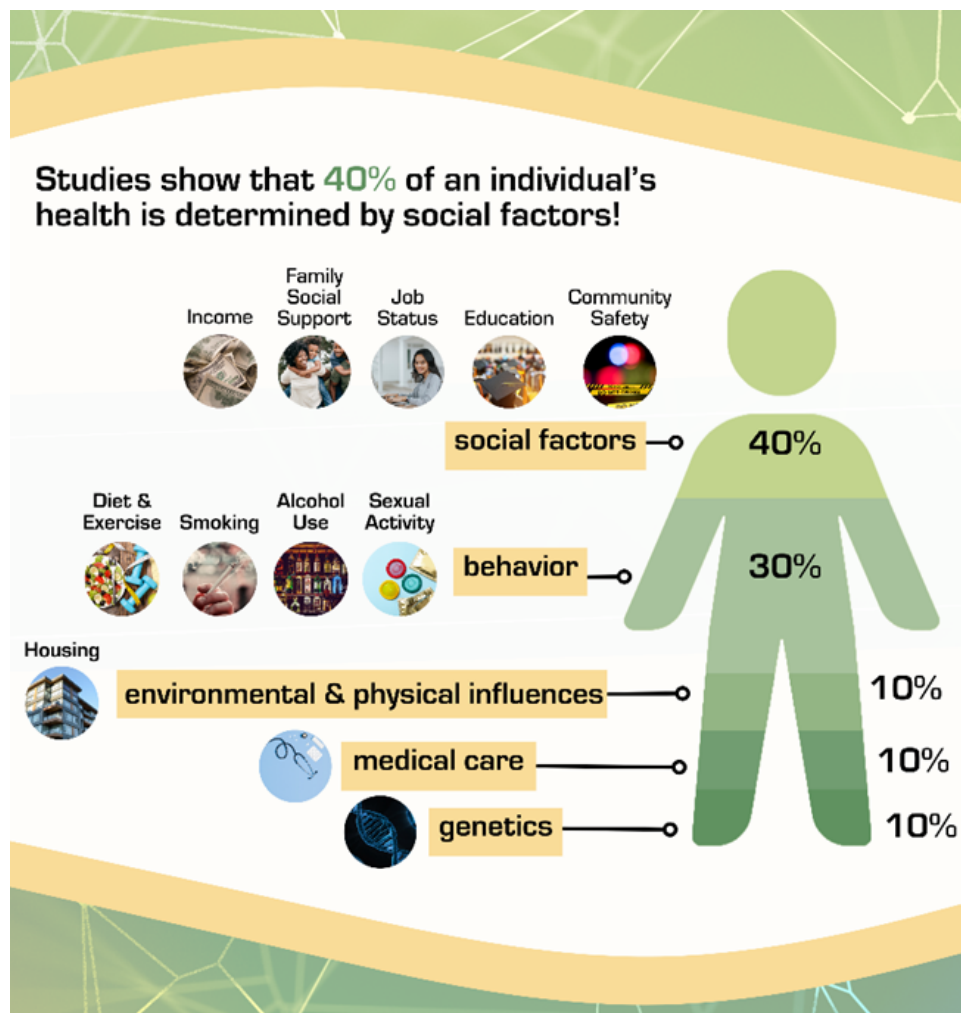
Where we Live Influences Our Health

Where we live matters when it comes to our health. Our health is influenced by many factors, which can be organized into five broad categories known as determinants of health including genetics, behavior, environmental and physical influences, medical care, and social factors. These five categories are interconnected. Social determinants of health are the environmental conditions that affect health, well-being, and quality of life. Examples of social determinants of health include:

- Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
- Racism, discrimination, and violence
- Education, job opportunities, and income
- Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
- Polluted air and water
- Language and literacy skills

Social determinants of health also contribute to wide health disparities and inequities. For example, people who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. That raises their risk of health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity — and even lowers life expectancy relative to people who do have access to healthy foods. For some people, the essential elements for a healthy life are readily available;

for others, the opportunities are significantly limited due to power imbalances in decision-making and resource allocation. Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department monitors the health and well-being of its residents. The department strives to take into consideration disparities and inequities in Kalamazoo County when planning or enacting its services.



2022 County Health Rankings Report

To gain a broad sense of ‘how healthy’ Kalamazoo County residents were in 2022, we can look to the County Health Rankings, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The County Health Rankings provide a starting point for investigating and discussing ways to improve health. In 2022, Kalamazoo County ranked the 20th healthiest county out of 83 in Michigan. Counties are ranked on two primary measures: health outcomes and health factors.

Health outcomes represent how healthy a county is regarding the length of life and quality of life. In 2022, Kalamazoo County ranked 20th in the state for health outcomes.

Health Factors represent things we can modify to improve residents' length and quality of life. In 2022, the county ranked 17th for health factors in Michigan. Learn more at www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Health Outcomes

(how healthy a county is right now)

Quality of Life

- low birth weight
- those who rated their physical or mental health as poor

Length of Life

- premature death
- life expectancy

Health Factors

(measures that impact the future health of our community)

Social & Economic Factors

- education
- employment
- income
- family & social support
- community safety

Clinical Care

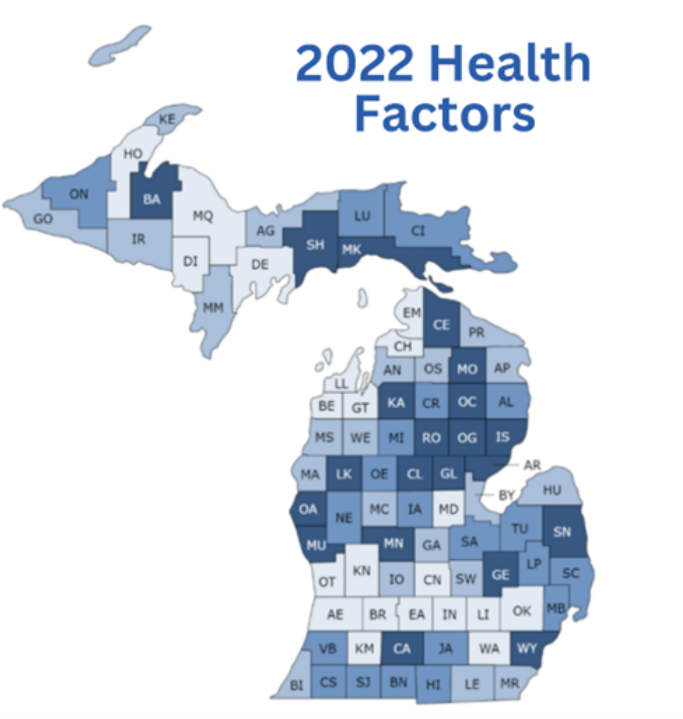
- access to & quality of health care

Health Behaviors

- alcohol & drug use
- diet & exercise
- sexual activity
- tobacco use

Physical Environment

- air & water quality
- housing
- transit



Health Factor Ranks 1 to 21 22 to 42 43 to 62 63 to 83



Health Outcome Ranks 1 to 21 22 to 42 43 to 62 63 to 83



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is committed to providing equitable, culturally competent care to all individuals served, regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.



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