



HEALTH
Department

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 HEALTH OFFICER LETTER

02 PUBLIC HEALTH ADMIN

03 AS A DEPARTMENT

04 A YEAR IN REVIEW

05 COVID-19 RESPONSE

06 COVID-19 VACCINE TIMELINE

07 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

09 PERSONAL HEALTH

11 PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

12 RESOURCE RECOVERY,
ANIMAL SHELTER, MY
COMMUNITY DENTAL CENTER

13 GUN LAKE TRIBE

14 THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

15 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

16 COVID-19 FUNDING SUMMARY

17 GOVERNANCE

A LETTER FROM OUR HEALTH OFFICER



Dear Board of Commissioners and Community,

The year 2021 proved to be a challenging yet rewarding time. Similar to 2020, Public Health was at the forefront of conversations and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. In our 2020 Public Health Annual Report, we focused on how important partnerships and community cooperation were to mitigating the spread of COVID-19. This carried into 2021 as the largest deployment of a vaccine in our history occurred. We had a goal of vaccinating 70% of our population, in hopes of reaching levels of herd immunity and putting the pandemic behind us. However, as the year progressed, it became clear that the goal would not be met despite deploying mobile vaccine clinics in less vaccinated areas and working with providers to become COVID-19 vaccine-approved providers.

We might not have met our goal to vaccinate 70% of our community, and had to work with challenges early on in the deployment with vaccine supply and demand issues, but we were still able to fully vaccinate 54.2% of our community. It took a village to accomplish this huge deployment. Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Allegan County Volunteers provided resources for the COVID-19 mass vaccine events located throughout the County. The help they provided was crucial in this historic public health victory as we were able to administer as many as 1,500 doses at each mass vaccination clinic once the supply was adequate. I want to thank every person that played a part in these events; you are appreciated and saved lives.

An economically vibrant community is a healthy community. There were dedicated resources to provide technical assistance, risk mitigation assessments, and guidance to keep businesses that had cases from developing into outbreaks, and kept schools in session.

It was also important that our community had safe water and housing so we ensured all services including permits for septic, water, and soil erosion were issued throughout the 2021 year.

ACHD held routine meetings with community leaders and superintendents in order to maintain clear communication and work together as continued changes in guidance came from the Centers for Disease Control for Prevention and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. At these meetings, local data was presented along with guidance and an opportunity to provide feedback or ask questions. A newsletter was launched that included local public health topics to update our community members. We engaged businesses and medical providers to provide COVID-19 vaccines and testing to improve access and convenience.

This past year has reaffirmed my belief that it takes a village, but also brought up the need for civil and respectful discussions to effectively move forward in our goal of improving the quality of life and health for our Allegan County community. We all can learn from each other's perspectives but it needs to be done civilly and with respect, I hope you will join me in these future discussions as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and together build resilience within our community.

yours in health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN
Health Officer

THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN
Health Officer

Randy Rapp, RS
Environmental Health Manager

Lisa Letts, BSN, RN
Personal Health Manager

Rik Tooker, MD, MPH
Medical Director

Lindsay Maunz, MPH, CHES, CPH
Public Health Planning and
Preparedness Manager



Pictured (left to right):
Randy Rapp, Lisa Letts, Angelique Joynes, Dr. Rik Tooker

THE 4 DIVISIONS OF ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (ACHD):
Administration, Environmental Health, Personal Health, and Planning & Preparedness



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

PURPOSE: *Together; Striving for a Healthier Allegan County.*

Our strategic framework influences community health outcomes, while improving community health outcomes that align with the Organization's vision and purpose of the Department.

See Allegan County's Strategic Map [here](#).

AS A HEALTH DEPARTMENT

THROUGHOUT 2021



Pictured above - Personal Health Manager Lisa Letts and Communicable Disease nurse Erin Radke set up a mobile vaccination clinic.

ALL-STAR STAFF

With the main priority still the COVID-19 response, staff from all divisions assisted the personal health team with contact tracing and case investigation on top of their other public health responsibilities. Staff assisted throughout the year with COVID-19 vaccination deployment at clinics and testing events provided for Allegan County residents. We are extremely proud and thankful for our team of "all-stars" working at ACHD.

BUSINESSES & SCHOOLS

Throughout the year, ACHD made assisting businesses and schools a main priority. We provided the tools and resources they needed to promote health and safety, so they could stay open. ACHD attended weekly meetings with school Superintendents to maintain a constant flow of communication and work together through COVID-19 challenges. We also worked with over 300 businesses to provide mitigation assessments and technical assistance they needed.



Allegan Public Schools (APS) honored the ACHD team with their annual "School Bell" award in 2021. This award typically goes to an outstanding teacher in the district that has gone above and beyond for the school community. APS wanted to instead recognize ACHD for the efforts put forth to the school community related to COVID-19.

The Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce awarded ACHD with their 2021 President's Award in July of 2021. This award goes to "An individual, business, or organization that has been a champion in their industry, a champion of the Allegan community, and a champion of the Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce."



Pictured above - ACHD and community partners at a mass vaccination clinic at Plainwell Middle School in March 2021.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ACHD was able to provide a record number of outreach clinics and events in 2021. These outreach events were made possible through the donation of our mobile health unit from the Gun Lake Tribe, and assistance received from volunteers, contract staff, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), HONU Management Group, the Michigan National Guard (MING), local schools, local businesses, and Allegan County Emergency Management. This outreach was mainly successful from all of the support we received.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADMINISTRATION



Participated in COVID Court Planning Task force for public health expertise and guidance

93 Inquiries received



Implemented the mobile health clinic with donation from Gun Lake Tribe



Met weekly with Superintendents for school discussions

223 Customer Satisfaction Surveys received



Updated plans & worked with MPHI on developing a strategic plan visual

33,190 recommendations and advisories issued

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Field team met the 14 business day turn-around time 96.2% of the time while assisting with COVID-19 response



Worked with Hydrosimulatics to complete a comprehensive Ground Water Study of Allegan County



Provided a total of 8,998 services, a 1.4% increase from 2020

2 Sanitarians became Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS)

RESOURCE RECOVERY

OVER **1,700** Tons of comingled recycling were collected through 11 curbside recycling routes, 3 township drop-sites, and 3 regional collection sites



Implemented a new social media campaign promoting recycling education

3 Household hazardous waste and electronics collection events held



Scrap tire collection events held

Essential services like TB, HIV/STI, immunizations, hearing and vision, communicable disease investigation, and CSHCS continued during COVID-19 response

Improved STI/HIV case management with new database



5,677 Hearing and Vision screenings conducted



Implemented email newsletter for providers and long-term care facility updates, sent 11 newsletters to 46 emails

Built community relationships through vaccine and testing events, health updates, and community involvement



PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

172,055 Individuals reached* on Facebook



*The number of people who saw any content from the ACHD page.



Implemented an email Newsletter to update the community on public health news, sent 30 public health updates to over 27,000 subscribers

Community Health Survey developed for 2022 data collection



COVID-19 RESPONSE

2021 AT A GLANCE

BY THE NUMBERS:

13,819

total COVID-19 cases

7,445

total COVID-19 close contacts

319

total COVID-19 hospitalizations

171

total COVID-19 related deaths



total vaccination clinics held



mobile vaccination clinics held



testing events held with collaboration from HONU and MING



vaccines administered at ACHD events

26

COVID-19 vaccine providers approved

29

Community Leader Updates Provided

52

Weekly Situational Reports submitted

30

Vaccinations given to homebound individuals

118

Vaccine reallocations completed

over 250

Individuals vetted through Allegan County's volunteer process

ACHD WORKED HARD TO:

Coordinate a local Communications task force for vaccine

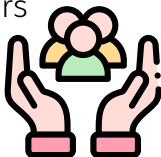


provide mitigation assessments and technical assistance to **376 businesses**



connect with **35** care facilities on **Monoclonal Antibody Therapies (MAB)** toolkit, and influenced to adopt MAB protocols

Assess local communities for gaps in needs, and barriers to resources and deploy/connect to resources.



Deploy a business reporting form for **case investigation** and management



Implement a Sign-up Genius for **volunteer** deployment



Implement a **scheduling tool** for vaccination appointments



Deploy **PEG** (technology system) to reach individuals for contact tracing and case investigation

COVID-19 VACCINE TIMELINE

LARGEST VACCINATION DEPLOYMENT IN HISTORY

JANUARY 2021

- Assisted Meijer in providing their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in West MI
- **8,758** residents received first doses of vaccine to eligible priority phase groups

MARCH 2021

- ACHD holds first JBS vaccination clinic (vulnerable population)
- ACHD unveils **Mobile Health Clinic** to help with vaccination efforts across the County, from the donation by the Gun Lake Tribe
- **March 29** provided Perrigo technical assistance and logistic support to become a provider as closed pod and reallocated vaccine

MAY 2021

- Individuals **12 years and older** eligible to receive Pfizer vaccine

JULY 2021

- **53,530** residents **12 years and older** vaccinated with at least one dose of vaccine

SEPTEMBER 2021

- COVID-19 **booster doses** available for those 18 years and older
- Provided vaccine at Senior's Day and Ladies Day during Allegan County Fair

NOVEMBER 2021

- **5-11 year olds** now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine



FEBRUARY 2021

- ACHD held **2-3** mass vaccination clinics each week
- **16,363** residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

APRIL 2021

- ACHD held **3-4** mass vaccination clinics each week
- **42,364** residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine

JUNE 2021

- Demand for the vaccine has decreased in clinic locations. ACHD shifts focus to **mobile vaccination clinics** to reach more people and ensure accessibility
- Provided assistance to Allegan County Correctional Facility as a vaccine provider

AUGUST 2021

- ACHD provided third doses to **immunocompromised** individuals
- Attended **4** School Open House events for vaccine administration

OCTOBER 2021

- **59,627** residents **12 years and older** have received at least one dose of vaccine
- Provided vaccine at Veteran's Stand Down event

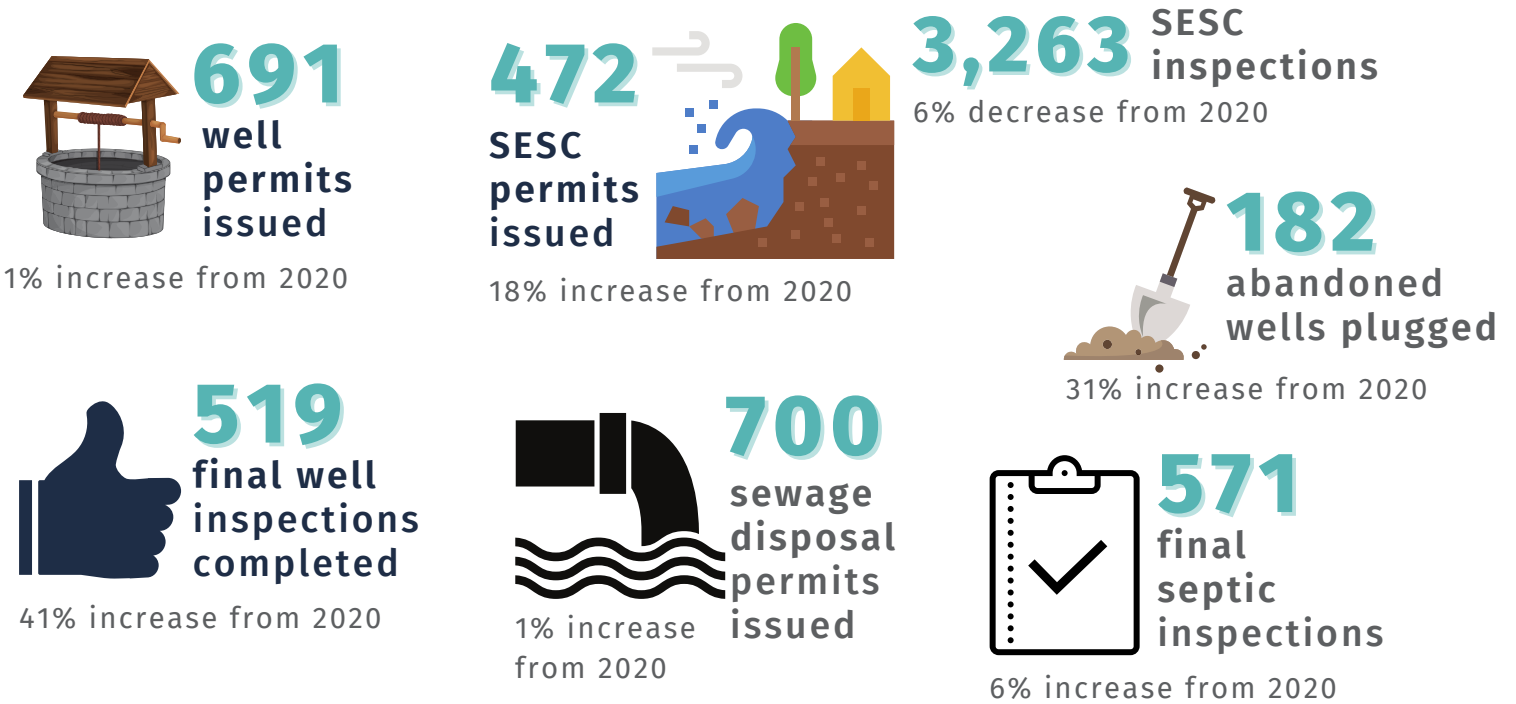
DECEMBER 2021

- COVID-19 **booster doses** available for those **16 years and older**
- **64.7%** of residents aged 16 years and older have received at least one dose of vaccine

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

AT A GLANCE

FIELD



FOOD



OTHER SERVICES



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

HIGHLIGHTS

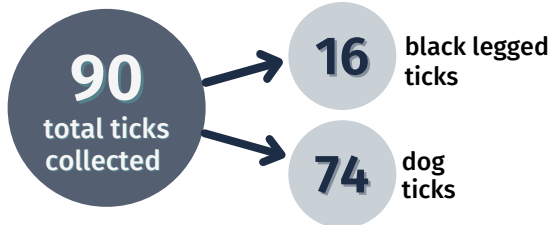
CYANOBACTERIA ALGAE BLOOM IN SWAN LAKE

In August of 2021, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) notified ACHD that sampling from Swan Lake in Allegan showed the algal toxin microcystin was present. EGLE also reported that the cyanobacteria bloom was present in all parts of the lake to varying degrees. ACHD issued an advisory and provided information to the community. Advisory signs were posted near the campground and boat launch urging people and pets to stay out of the water. The Advisory continued for Swan Lake until November 2021, when sampling conducted found no further signs of cyanobacteria bloom in the water. ACHD lifted the advisory and provided further education to the community.

VECTOR BORNE SURVEY GRANT

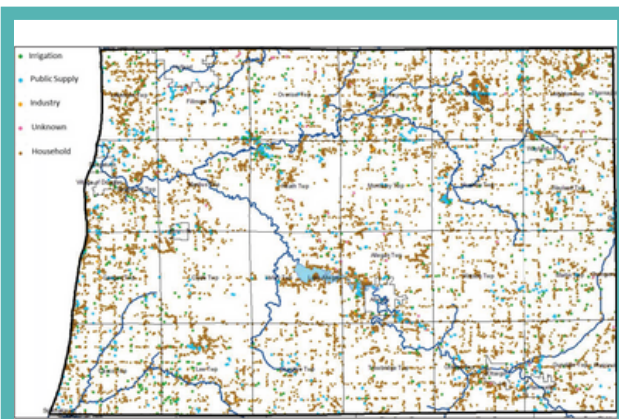
ACHD participated in the MDHHS Vector-Borne Survey grant again in 2021, continuing work from 2020, as vector-borne viruses continue to be emerging diseases. No invasive mosquito or tick species were found during the sampling season. Mosquitos were collected using BG-Sentinel Traps. These traps use pheromones and a fan to trap mosquitos in a small mesh net. In 2022, ACHD will be adding traps that use light and water to attract a wider and more representative sample.

433
total
mosquitos
collected



- The ticks collected in the 2021 sampling season were mostly found to be dog ticks (*Dermacentor variabilis*).
- All black legged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) were sent to the State for Lyme disease testing.
- Results are not expected back until late 2022 - early 2023.

GROUNDWATER STUDY OF ALLEGAN COUNTY



Pictured above - Map from the groundwater study of Allegan County, showing groundwater location by usage type

Hydrosimulatics completed their comprehensive study of groundwater in Allegan County in early 2021. In preliminary findings of the study, Hydrosimulatics does not believe that Allegan County has reached the groundwater resource crisis found in Ottawa County. Some issues discovered in the report of Allegan County include significantly elevated nitrate concentrations in shallow groundwater, significantly elevated chloride concentrations in groundwater discharge areas, many sites of contamination, and “hints” of systematic decline in groundwater levels related to use trends. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) has put together a Water Study Workgroup comprised of many different stakeholders, that will dig deeper into the report to discern the current quantity and quality of Allegan County’s water sources and what this may mean for the future. The groundwater study can be found [here](#).

PERSONAL HEALTH

AT A GLANCE

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

provided to children and adults with qualified medical diagnosis.



0.3% decrease from 2020



75% decrease from 2020

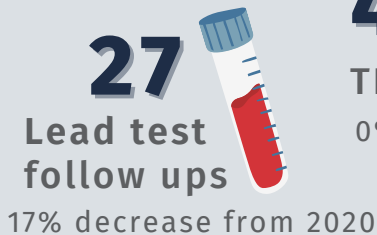


9% decrease from 2020

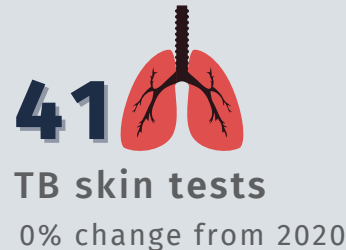
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



112% increase from 2020



17% decrease from 2020

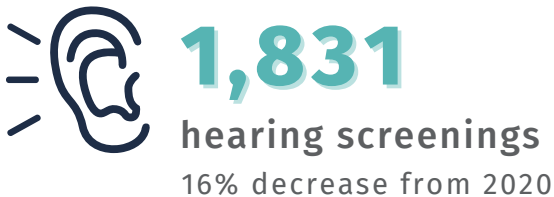


0% change from 2020

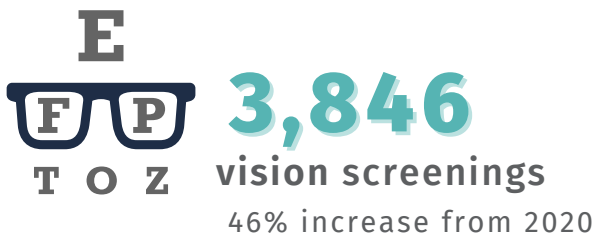


0.9% decrease from 2020

HEARING AND VISION

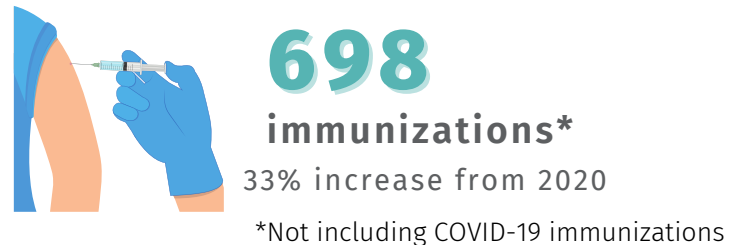


16% decrease from 2020



46% increase from 2020

IMMUNIZATIONS



33% increase from 2020

*Not including COVID-19 immunizations

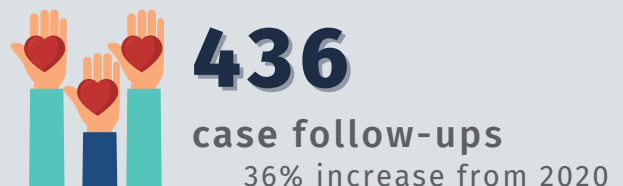


93% increase from 2020

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES



9% increase from 2020



36% increase from 2020

PERSONAL HEALTH

HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EDUCATION



ACHD has routinely shared best practices with the community during the COVID-19 pandemic related to slowing the spread of the virus.

These practices include:

- Wearing face masks
- Frequent hand washing
- Sanitizing commonly touched surfaces
- Coughing or sneezing into elbows/tissues
- Staying home when you feel sick
- Socially distancing from others when possible

Not only have these practices helped residents add another layer of protection against COVID-19, but they also have helped prevent other communicable diseases like influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and other respiratory viral infections that are commonly spread from person to person.

NEW STI/HIV PROGRAM TOOLS

In 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) implemented a new system called SHOARS (STI/HIV Operations and Resource System). This new system now serves as a "home base" for the state's STI/HIV programs where ACHD can request certain supplies and materials, get grant information, host training events, and more.



Another improvement MDHHS implemented in 2021 is a new system for ordering and keeping inventory of all of our state funded 340B medications called SGRX340BFlex. This allows our STI/HIV staff to keep an up-to-date and fluid log of all medications within the program, and MDHHS can view this information as well. These improvements have greatly aided the program's case management and organization.

VACCINATION SCHEDULING TOOL

When the COVID-19 vaccine first became available to the public in early 2021, ACHD had many residents eager to get their vaccine for added protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. As the demand for vaccination grew, it became hard for ACHD to schedule appointments. A short-term solution was implemented using online vaccination scheduling tools, SolvHealth and Patagonia, where residents could view upcoming clinics held by ACHD and schedule their vaccine appointments. Over 7,000 appointments were made using these tools for individuals to get their COVID-19 vaccine.



PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

The ACHD Public Health Planning & Preparedness (PHPP) Division coordinates the public health response to natural or human-caused emergencies. These emergencies include actual or potential public health hazards, such as:

- Communicable disease outbreaks
- Environmental sanitation hazards
- Emergencies involving toxic and hazardous materials
- And other chemicals, biological and radiological incidents

The main area of focus in 2021 was the ongoing COVID-19 response, and providing educational materials and resources for the general public, businesses, and schools.



COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community Health Assessment cycles happen around every 3 years. Ascension Borgess Allegan published the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment, and Healthy Allegan County Coalition published the [2019 Allegan County Community Health Implementation Plan](#). Goals and objectives were developed for the Allegan County Community using this published data to identify priorities. Due to the pandemic, assessments have been delayed and we recognize that many lives have been impacted.



HEALTH
Department



In 2021, ACHD worked with Ascension Borgess Allegan and Allegan County United Way on developing the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) survey with plans to distribute it to residents in early 2022. The purpose of the CHNA for Allegan County is to identify community health issues and needs, understand the strengths of the community, and determine where resources need to go. The feedback received will be analyzed and used in the 2022 Community Health Improvement Plan.

ALLEGAN COUNTY

COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY

ACHD NEWSLETTER DEVELOPMENT

With new information and guidance constantly being updated and shared during COVID-19, ACHD recognized a need for a direct flow of information communicated from ACHD to community members regarding public health news. ACHD implemented an email newsletter through a service called Mailchimp, that helped us send monthly public health updates to over 27,000 emails on our subscriber list each time.

What started as just COVID-19 updates now includes other public health topics and news for the public to learn about. Over 30 public health updates were sent out throughout 2021, and PHPP plans to continue providing future updates in 2022. To subscribe to the newsletter [click here](#).

RESOURCE RECOVERY



In 2021, participants voted to increase funding in many municipalities, and service delivery continued with new health and safety measures in place. The Resource Recovery Program serves 18 communities in Allegheny County. Find more information on Resource Recovery, by visiting www.allegancounty.org/health.

3,513,560 LBS



of single stream recycling collected

4% increase from 2020

39,073 LBS



of household hazardous waste collected

15% increase from 2020

67,888 LBS



of e-waste recycled

21% decrease from 2020



10,897 scrap tires collected

69% increase from 2020



254

dogs adopted

3% decrease from 2020



258

cats adopted

17% decrease from 2020

1,616 total services provided

ANIMAL SHELTER

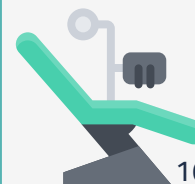
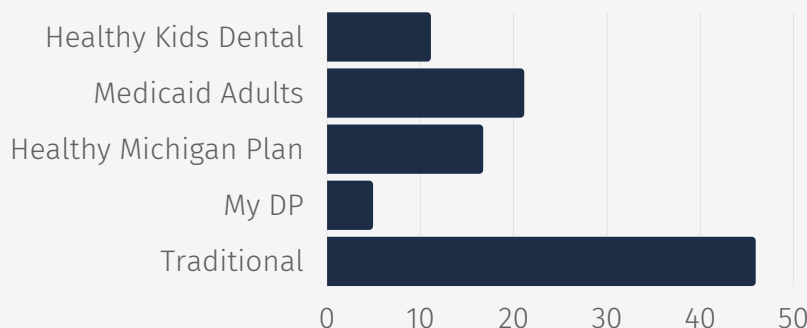
Public Health and Animal Control partner with Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance and operate the Animal Shelter. Wishbone offers pet adoption services, education about the importance of safe animal care and housing, and reuniting strays with their families through the Animal Shelter.



MY COMMUNITY DENTAL CENTER

My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, that established a partnership with Public Health to provide dental services to Medicaid enrollees and low-income, uninsured residents.

Average Type of Patient Coverage (%), 2021



6,122

patients served

166% increase from 2020

GUN LAKE TRIBE

MOBILE HEALTH UNIT DONATION



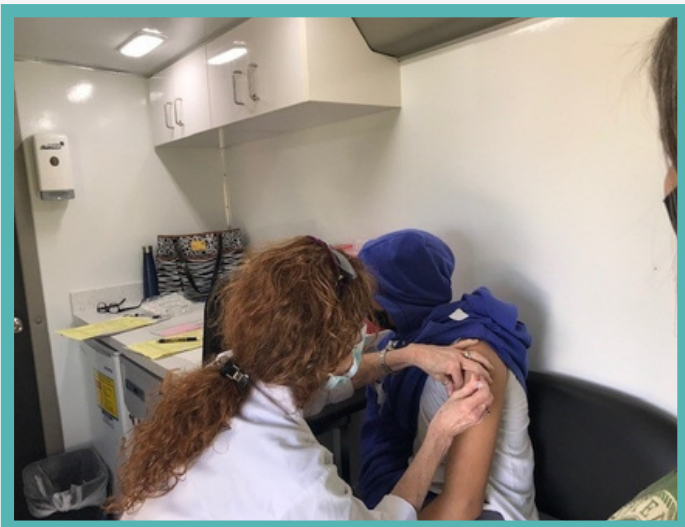
UNVEILING CEREMONY



In October of 2020, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) donated the CARES Act dollars they received to ACHD, to go toward an Allegan County Mobile Vaccination Unit. ACHD and the Gun Lake Tribe held a Donation Ceremony at Gun Lake Tribe's Public Safety Building in March 2021 to unveil the Mobile Unit. Transportation had been identified as a barrier for residents accessing care in our 2019 Community Needs Assessment, and the mobile unit will help bring our services to residents throughout the County. ACHD is extremely grateful for Gun Lake Tribe's generous donation and looks forward to all the use the mobile clinic will get!

MOBILE VACCINE CLINICS

With the mobile health unit in 2021, ACHD was able to hold over 70 pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinics. By holding these mobile clinics, ACHD was able to vaccinate residents that may have had a harder time accessing care or traveling to other clinics. ACHD was able to build community partnerships with organizations and locations where the mobile clinics were held such as businesses, churches, schools, and community events such as the Allegan County Fair.



BIG PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As the demand for COVID-19 vaccination clinics has decreased, ACHD is planning other outreach events in the next year where the mobile unit can be utilized such as hearing and vision screenings, STD/HIV outreach, other immunization clinics, and more! The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the importance and need for community outreach events for vulnerable populations and increasing access to care for Allegan County residents.

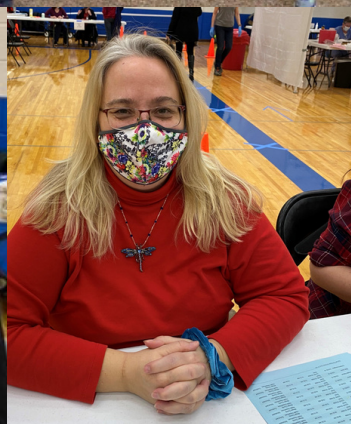
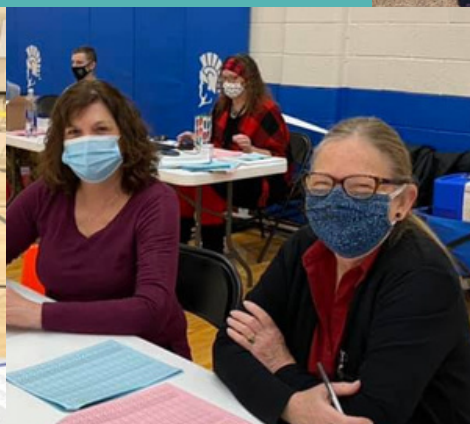
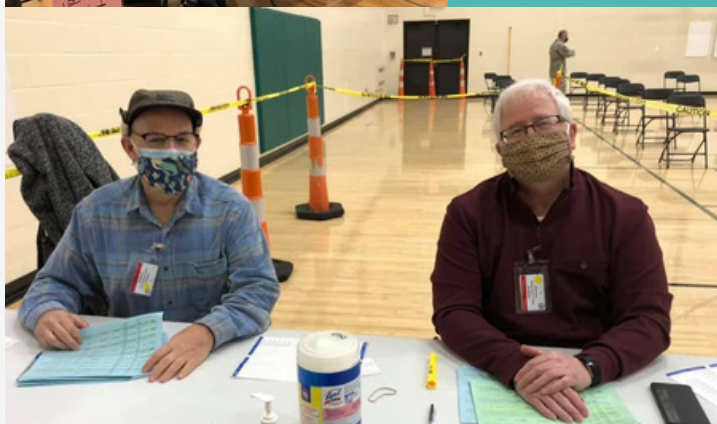
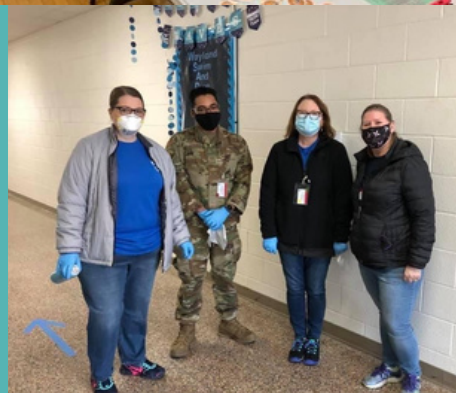
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

ACHD is thankful for all volunteers who have helped assist us with our COVID-19 response since March of 2020. In 2021, Allegan County vetted over 200 volunteers through our volunteer program and we implemented a volunteer sign-up genius to help assist us with the many applicants willing to volunteer with us.

Our volunteers are members of Allegan County who wanted to do whatever they could to help their fellow community members during the pandemic. Our volunteers helped provide testing resources, sign up community members for vaccination, work at vaccination clinics across the County, and so much more! ACHD appreciates every person who signed up to volunteer with us - You are amazing! Below are a few pictures of some of volunteers in action at events throughout 2021.



**THANK
YOU!**



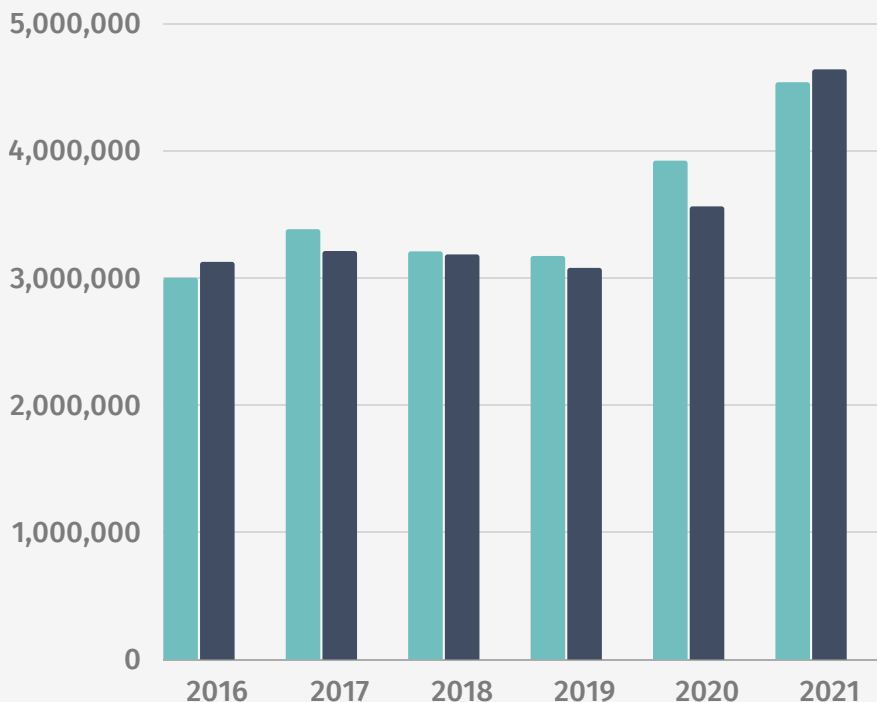
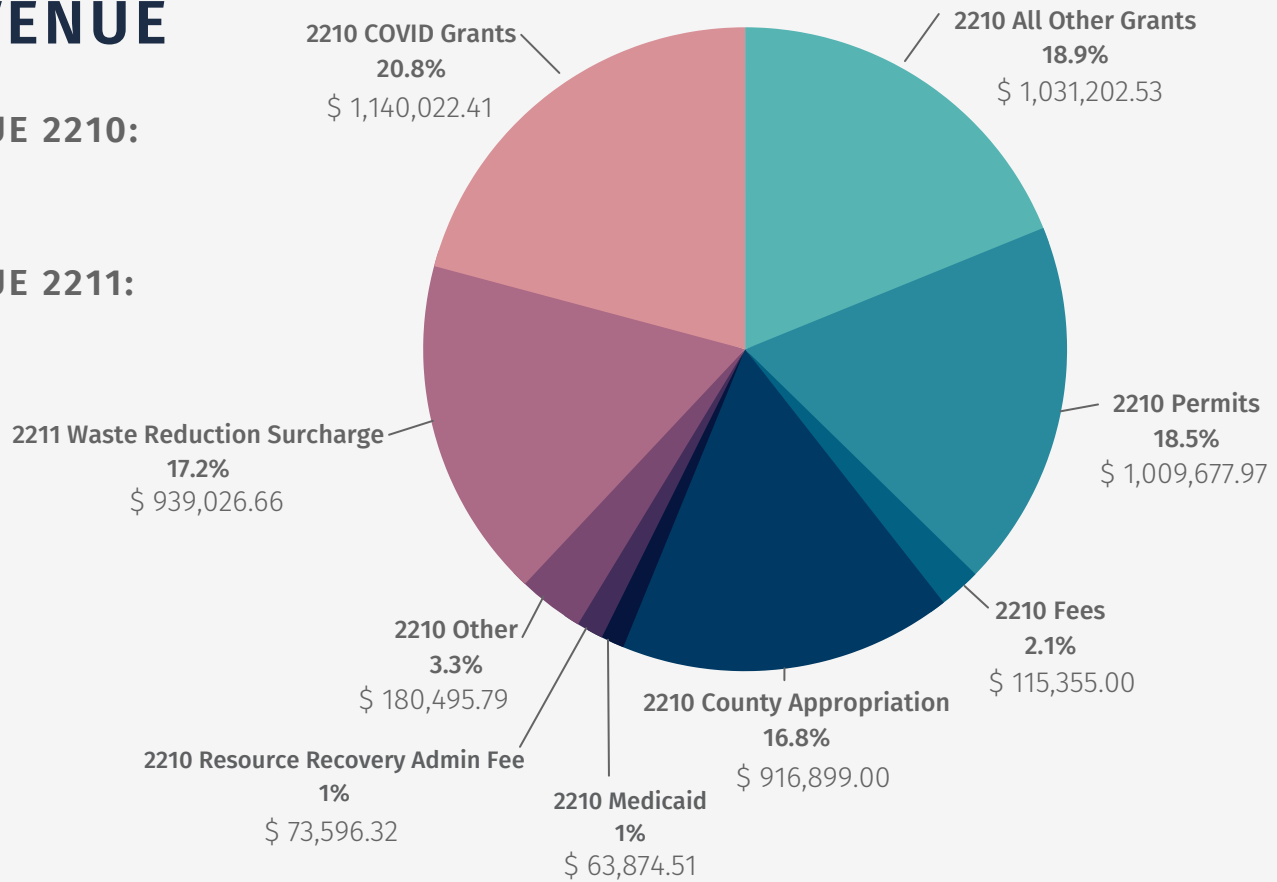
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Public Health oversees two funds. Fund 2211 supports all recycling activities. The primary revenue for recycling is the recycling surcharge. Fund 2210 supports all Public Health operations. Revenue in Fund 2210 generally includes the County General Fund allocation, State funding, grants, permits, fees, and Medicaid reimbursement.

2021 REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE 2210:
\$4,531,123.53

TOTAL REVENUE 2211:
\$939,026.66



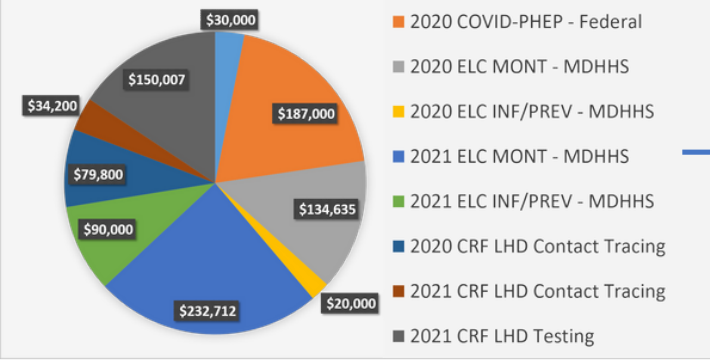
REVENUE & EXPENDITURES BY YEAR

- Revenue
- Expenditures

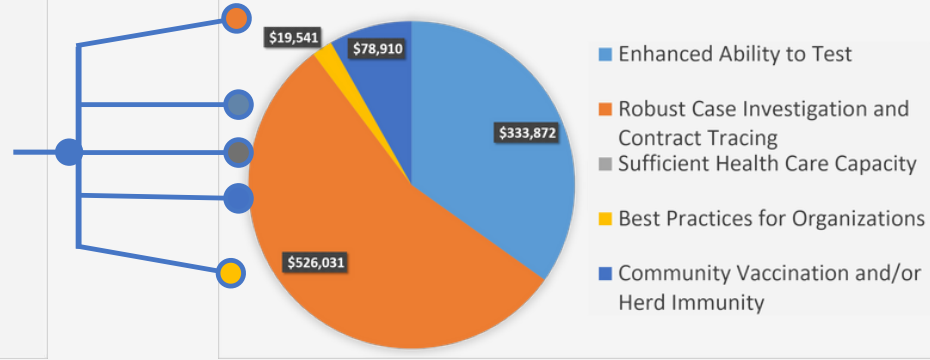
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2210:
\$4,632,251.47

COVID-19 FUNDING SUMMARY

COVID-19 2020-2021 FUNDING

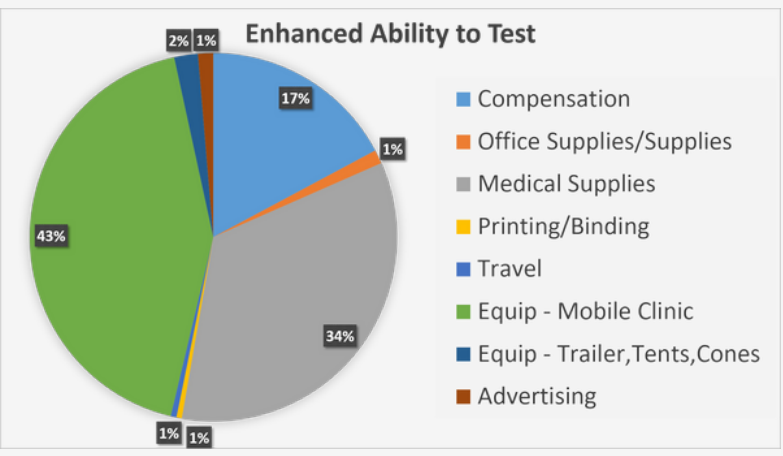


COVID-19 Mitigation Components

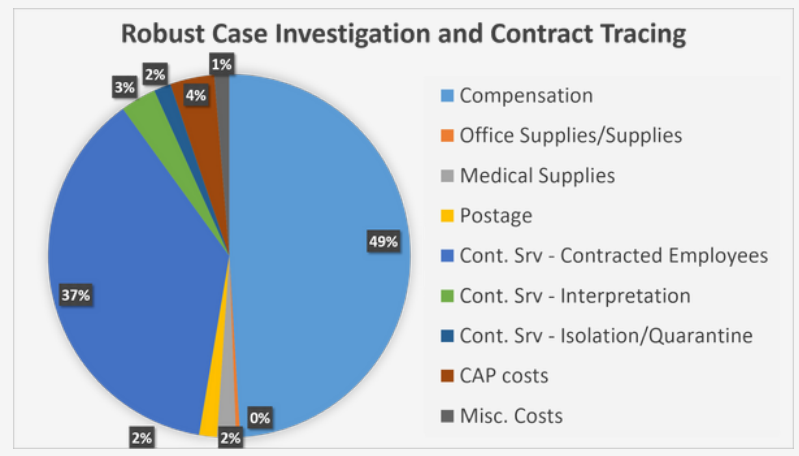


TOTAL BUDGET* FOR COVID: \$958,354 *2020 funding carried over to 2021 FY

MITIGATION COMPONENTS



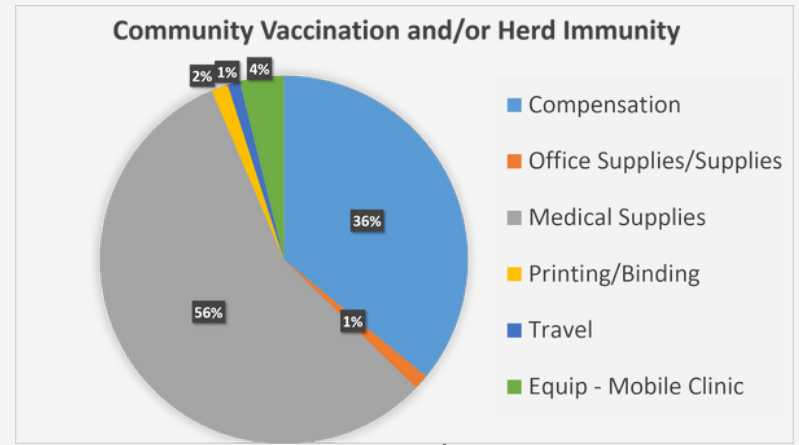
TOTAL: \$333,872



TOTAL: \$541,790



TOTAL: \$19,541

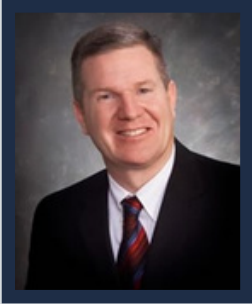


TOTAL: \$78,910*

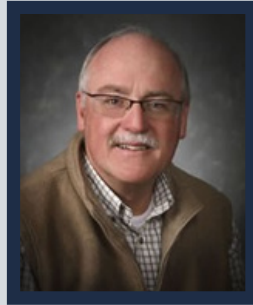
*Allegan County Volunteers helped ACHD save over \$1.3 million in their time assisting with vaccination efforts. We are thankful for their selflessness and generosity to fellow community members.

GOVERNANCE

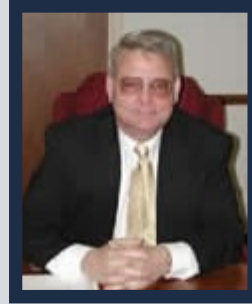
The Allegan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) is the governing board of the Public Health Department. The BOC employs a County Administrator who is recognized as the Chief Administrative Officer of the County. Representatives are below. For more information on our BOC, visit www.allegancounty.org



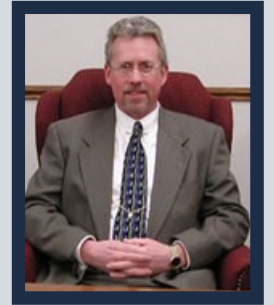
Dean Kapenga,
District 1



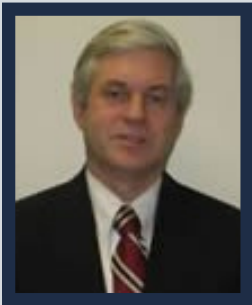
Jim Storey,
District 2



Max R. Thiele,
District 3



Mark DeYoung,
District 4



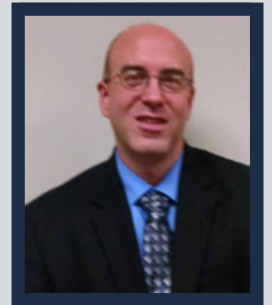
Tom Jessup,
District 5



Gale Dugan,
District 6



Rick Cain,
District 7



Robert J. Sarro,
County Administrator

MISSION

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper.



VISION



The Allegan County Board of Commissioners is committed to providing our citizens superior and innovative services, being judicious and efficient in the expenditure of resources, and promoting a safe, clean and healthy environment in which to live, work and play.



HEALTH
Department



Submit an inquiry form



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