Our Mission

To assure, in partnership with the community, the conditions necessary for people to live healthy lives through prevention and protection programs.

Our Vision

A healthy community in which every resident enjoys the best possible state of health and well-being.

Our Core Values

• We will emphasize prevention to keep our community healthy and safe
• We will lead the development of effective public health interventions in partnership with the community
• We will promote social justice and reduce inequities affecting the health of all in Washtenaw County
• We will abide by ethical principles, take responsibility for our commitments, and use our resources wisely

Our Strategic Directions

• Improve the health of all Washtenaw County residents
• Center equity in decision-making
• Advocate for policies and resources
• Support staff and build a strong foundation

Our Board

The Washtenaw County Board of Health oversees our programs and services and advises the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners on health issues, health priorities, and potential solutions. In 2018, they took action to support raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age, to oppose Medicaid work requirements and public charge rule changes, and to frame gun violence as a public health issue.
2018

Health Department Impact

1,734
Maternal Infant Health Program Home Visits
to support healthy pregnancies and a healthy first year for babies.

1,309
Children’s Special Health Care Services Clients

4,897
WIC Clients Each Month
received food and nutrition education. WIC clients include pregnant women, infants and children up to age five.
WIC families spent 2.5 million WIC food dollars at Washtenaw County stores.

741
HIV Screenings

1,163
STD Screenings

3,578
Immunizations

690
Immunization Waiver Education Sessions

250
Blood Lead Tests

631
TB Skin and Blood Tests

44,008
Hearing and Vision Screenings
+ 2,928 referrals

2,345
Dental Clinic Patients
+ 5,696 Washtenaw County Dental Clinic office visits

149
Michigan Tobacco Quitline Calls
by Washtenaw County residents. The Health Department promoted the Quitline frequently.

74
Wise Choices Clients
Received free health screenings and/or coaching

950
Investigations of Reportable Diseases
Epidemiologists and nurses followed up on every disease cluster and case of reportable disease.

362
Animal Bite Investigations
117 animals were tested for rabies. 6 bats tested positive.

$65,000
Distributed in Healthy Food and Farmers Market Coupons through Community Health Promotion Programs
Healthy food distributions in partnership with Food Gatherers provided an average of 78 households with free, healthy groceries each month (equivalent of over $30,000 worth of food and nearly 16,000 meals).
Over $28,000 was spent on fruits and vegetables at farmers markets by 438 patients from 13 local health clinics and agencies serving low-income individuals through Prescription for Health.
400 Senior Project Fresh participants spent nearly $6,500 of farmers market coupons.
Environmental Health Impact

- **3,011** Restaurant Inspections
  - 6,998 Food Code Violations
  - 266 Temporary Food Inspections
  - 185 Food-Related Complaints
  - 69 Foodborne Illness Investigations
  - 405 restaurant inspections with ZERO violations

- **240** Pollution Prevention Inspections

- **35** Body Art Facility Inspections

- **1,161** Radon Test Kits Distributed

- **205** Housing Complaints

- **458** Swimming Pool Inspections

- **109** Day Care Inspections

- **42** Homes with Arsenic Mitigated

- **477** Sewage Permits

- **477** Well Permits

- **1,051** Property Water Supplies & Wastewater Disposal Systems Evaluated
  - through our property transfer regulation (Time of Sale) program.

- **1,500** Onsite Wastewater Systems Evaluated / Permitted
  - This equals 136,875,000 gallons
  - of wastewater properly managed over the course of a single year.

- **260** Soil Evaluations
  - to determine soil suitability for future septic system installation.

- **6,000** Drinking Water Tests
Our emergency preparedness team works to understand and prepare for potential emergencies, especially disease outbreaks. This includes planning to prevent illness or injury during a crisis and working with community partners and health care providers on response roles, capabilities and responsibilities.

In 2018, we started a Whole Community Inclusion planning process to make sure everyone can access information and resources during a health emergency or outbreak.

**PFAS**
Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are part of a group of chemicals used globally during the past century in manufacturing, firefighting and thousands of common household and other consumer products. In recent years, experts have become increasingly concerned by the potential effects of PFAS on human health.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) tested all of the public water supplies, as well as schools and day care centers served by wells, in Michigan. One Washtenaw County school was found to have detectable levels of PFAS. Although the levels were below action levels, the school is providing bottled water to students.

The State also issued a Do Not Eat Fish Advisory for the Huron River in Washtenaw County due to high PFAS levels in fish.

The Health Department partnered with DEQ, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the City of Ann Arbor, and the Huron River Watershed Council to share information with residents. The partnership hosted a community-focused townhall in December to discuss the emerging threat of PFAS to the Huron River.

Our Environmental Health staff also provided personalized information and guidance to residents concerned about their well water.

More information and alerts can be found at [www.washtenaw.org/PFAS](http://www.washtenaw.org/PFAS).

**Hepatitis A**
A statewide hepatitis A outbreak persisted in 2018. The Washtenaw County Health Department nursing staff provided nearly 950 adult vaccinations to stop the spread of the virus, especially for those at high risk.

Additionally, the Health Department’s communications staff launched a #StopHepA educational campaign. The campaign encouraged residents to get vaccinated and wash their hands through prevention messages on billboards, inside buses, at movie theaters, and through handouts, videos, and social media posts. Because the virus is spread through the feces (poop) of people with hepatitis A, a poop emoji was chosen as a symbol of the campaign, which seemed to stick with residents.

Over 16,000 doses of hepatitis A vaccine were given across the healthcare system to Washtenaw County adults in 2018, giving Washtenaw County the best hepatitis A vaccination rate in Michigan by the end of the year.

Washtenaw County saw seven cases of hepatitis A in 2018, compared to 12 the year prior.

**Measles**
Measles was imported into Washtenaw County three separate times in 2018 through individuals who were exposed outside of the country and returned to Michigan through international flights. No spread of measles occurred beyond the unvaccinated household members of one of these cases. Lack of community spread is likely due to the high rate of vaccination and immunity in the local population. There was a total of nine cases, compared to one case total in the 10 years prior.

**Preparing Together**
Our emergency preparedness team works to understand and prepare for potential emergencies, especially disease outbreaks. This includes planning to prevent illness or injury during a crisis and working with community partners and health care providers on response roles, capabilities and responsibilities.

In 2018, we started a Whole Community Inclusion planning process to make sure everyone can access information and resources during a health emergency or outbreak.
Food Gatherers is now providing food distributions in the community room, and Superior Township has recently made improvements to nearby parks.

“The Sycamore Meadows tenants Association has been very beneficial to residents and the surrounding community because it has given the tenants a common ground where every and all concerns can be heard and handled in an appropriate way,” says Marcy Schwab, Sycamore Meadows resident and community organizer.

In August 2018, MacArthur residents worked with the Health Department to hold a Summer Fun Day with food, resources, and games to strengthen connections between neighbors. Over 100 neighbors came out to enjoy the day. In December, SMTA organized a holiday party to celebrate the accomplishments over the past year. There are now 75 residents on SMTA’s contact list.

The allies partnership has grown too and now includes the Washtenaw County Sheriff Office and Community Mental Health. Staff from The Sheriff Office’s Sisters United Resilient and Empowered Moms program have started a new support group for women who live at Sycamore Meadows, and Community Mental Health has shared resources and information to help children and adults who have experienced trauma.

“My hope is that Sycamore Meadows continues to grow strong together as a community and a neighborhood,” says Schwab. “The most important thing that I would like for the Sycamore Meadows community is for the people and the children to be able to LIVE in the community and not just try to SURVIVE.”
Financials

Our operating budget was $13,876,452 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. These charts reflect audited figures. “Other programs” include agreements for the Washtenaw County Dental Clinic, Washtenaw County Medical Examiner, Washtenaw Health Plan, State Innovation Model, Indigent Transport, and Medicaid Outreach and Advocacy.

Our Building Healthy Communities program awarded over $160,000 in grant funding to 13 community projects that are helping build foundations for residents to live healthy lifestyles.

“Our projects have created lasting changes throughout the year, from park and food pantry improvements to connections to local farmers markets and bike sharing,” says Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, program administrator with the Washtenaw County Health Department.

Charter Township of Ypsilanti Recreation Department partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley and the New West Willow Neighborhood Association for their grant project. They built upon efforts to make West Willow Park a safe, accessible space to be active and gather as a community.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services funds Building Healthy Communities as part of Getting to the Heart of the Matter in Michigan.
Contact Us

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Connect With Us

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