



LINKING  
COMMUNITIES

TO

HEALTH PROMOTION  
SERVICES

*2008 Annual Report  
St. Clair County Health Department*

## **mission statement**

*To assure the accessibility of appropriate and quality personal, public and environmental health services to St. Clair County residents and their families.*

# service locations



1. Main Office  
3415 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
810.987.5300
2. Capac Office  
14960 Park Street  
Capac, MI 48014  
810.395.4681
3. Teen Health Center  
2215 Court Street  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
810.987.1311
4. Algonac Office  
555 St. Clair River Drive  
Algonac, MI 48001  
810.794.9327

## advisory board of health



Front (L to R): Linda Belesky, Marie Muller, secretary, Barbara Britz, William Smiley, (deceased)  
Back (L to R): Jon Parsons, Health Officer, Pam Wall, Donald Konyha, DVM, chairperson

*William “Bill” Smiley, a longtime leader and valued member of the Board of Health, passed away on July 18, 2009. Bill first joined the Board of Health in January 1983, became Chairperson in January 1985, and served in that position through December 2000. Bill continued as Board member until the time of his death. As a tribute to Bill, Jon Parsons noted “Bill’s tireless advocacy for health and human services in St. Clair County has been a great benefit to our residents. His dedication to this cause was evident throughout his many years of service in many different capacities, from County Commissioner to Board of Health Member/Chairperson.”*

September 2009

To Residents of St. Clair County:

On behalf of the St. Clair County Board of Health, the St. Clair County Health Department is pleased to present the Annual Report for the year 2008. Described in this report are personal, preventive, emergency preparedness and environmental services provided to the citizens of the County throughout the year.



I acknowledge all of the state and local agencies, as well as individuals, that have collaborated with the department and have shared in our continued commitment to protect, preserve and improve health and quality of life. The continued support of the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners, Advisory Board of Health and County Administration has been key to our success.

Implementation of health improvement activities characterized 2008. Please review the highlights of 2008 relative to the Health Department's continued efforts to improve program quality and access. Highlights include the opening of the new 8-chair Community Dental Clinic in May of 2008 and the appointment of Annette Mercatante, MD, as full-time Medical Director.

Your review of this report is encouraged and the division directors would welcome your comments relative to the programs and outcomes described.

The year 2008 marks the last full year of my 34 year tenure as St. Clair County Health Officer and Department Director. It has been my fortune and pleasure to serve in the community. I wish you the best of health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon B. Parsons".

Jon B. Parsons, MPH

September 2009

Greetings:

On behalf of the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners and the Advisory Board of Health, the St. Clair County Health Department is pleased to present the Annual Report for the year 2008. This was a landmark year for the Health Department, as Jon Parsons announced his plans to retire in early 2009. Jon guided the services and management of this department for over 34 years. He was instrumental in the development of the Michigan Community Dental Clinic that serves low income and uninsured residents and many other beneficial programs in the county. This report highlights many of the services that are provided to the community during his tenure.



With the outbreak of H1N1 Flu, I was indoctrinated into the complexities and interconnectedness of the health department and the other state and local agencies that work so hard to provide a safe, productive, and pleasant place to work and live. I feel confident that the services and agencies that are in place have the county's best interests in mind and are dedicated to provide the best services possible. As the economic future continues to cast challenges in our path, we are united in the mission to serve you, the residents of St. Clair County.

I encourage you to review this report and offer feedback as to what services have worked for you, which have not, and what needs have not been met. It is our goal to be flexible and proactive in these challenging times, so that our county can remain healthy, vibrant, and productive.

Best of Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annette Mercatante".

Annette Mercatante, MD  
Provisional Medical Director, and Health Officer  
St. Clair County Health Department

# funding sources

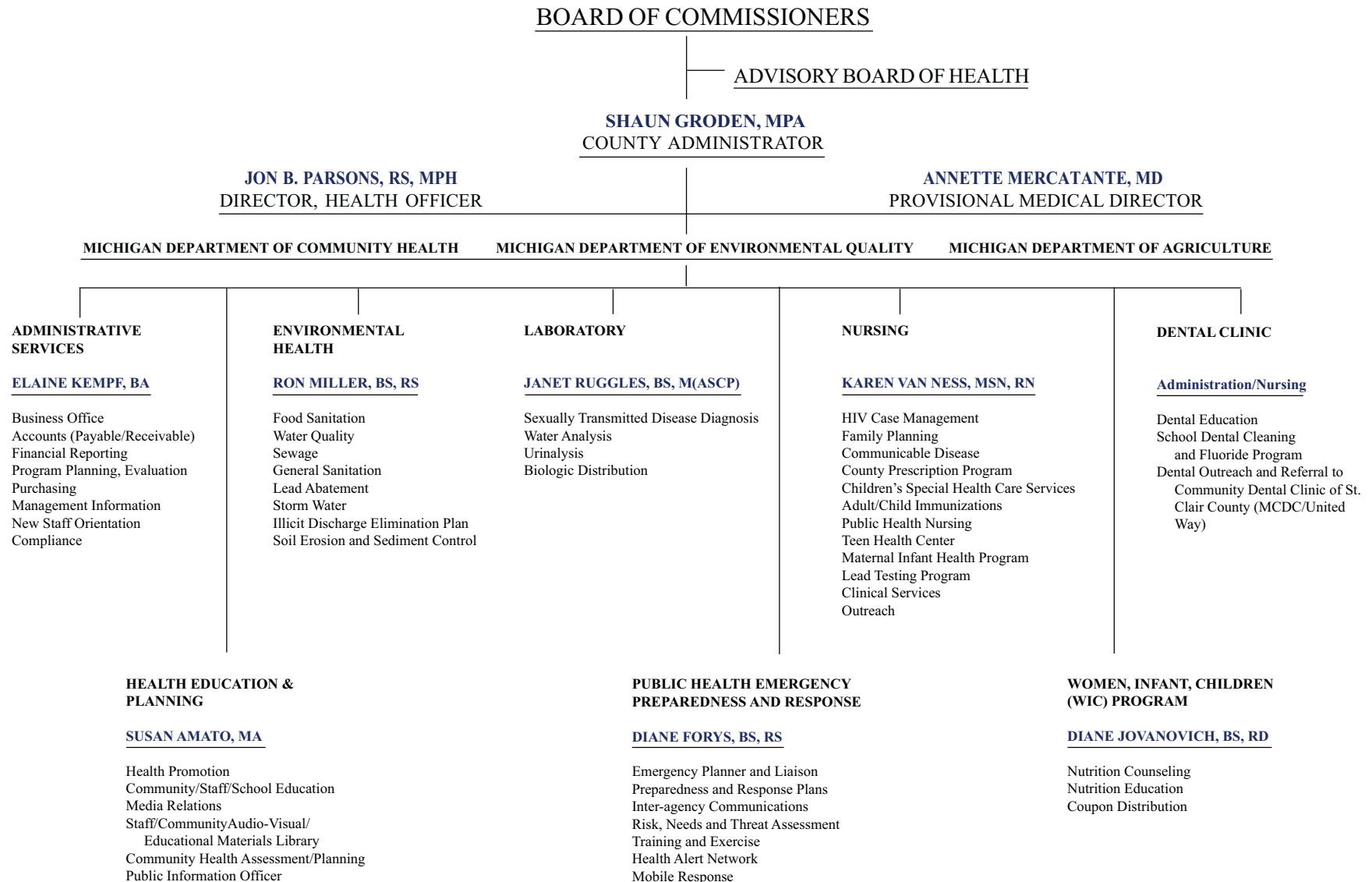
## Revenue by Category

County Appropriation	\$2,748,275	30.67%
State Revenue	2,001,978	22.34%
Charges for Service	1,364,678	15.23%
Federal Vaccine (In-kind)	1,134,928	12.66%
Medicaid Full Cost Reimbursement	846,104	9.44%
Other Grants and Revenues	579,439	6.47%
Licenses and Permits	246,051	2.75%
State Cigarette Tax	39,857	0.44%
	<b>\$8,961,310</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Expenditure by Program

Environmental Health	\$1,713,834	19.12%
Immunizations	1,398,160	15.60%
Nursing	1,295,413	14.46%
Maternal Infant Health Program	758,558	8.46%
Dental	592,058	6.61%
Women, Infants, and Children	543,025	6.06%
Family Planning	515,498	5.75%
Teen Health Center	493,962	5.51%
Emergency Preparedness	311,516	3.48%
Outreach	266,094	2.97%
Hearing and Vision	265,303	2.96%
Laboratory	194,039	2.17%
Children's Special Health Care	154,827	1.73%
Other Programs	129,539	1.45%
Immunization Field Representative	108,364	1.21%
HIV Case Management	106,138	1.18%
Substance Abuse	54,922	0.61%
Tuberculosis and Communicable Disease	21,619	0.24%
Smoke-free Worksite	21,420	0.24%
County Prescription Program	8,698	0.10%
Lead Testing	8,323	0.09%
	<b>\$8,961,310</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# organizational chart



Revised: June 17, 2008

Underlined names denote division directors

## transitions

Jon Parsons retired as Director of the Health Department in April 2009. Jon began with St. Clair County as the Director of Environmental Health and became the Health Officer and Department Director 32 years ago. Jon worked in public health for 41 years, and as SCCHD Director, served with four county administrators and 20 different Board of Health members. A valued leader in the community, Jon was known for his knowledge of border health issues and the impacts of environmental health factors on our waterways.

Jon was also active in many national, statewide and regional public health organizations including: the National Association of City and County Health Officers, the Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators, the Michigan Health Officers Association, the Michigan Association of Local Public Health and the Southeastern Michigan Health Association. Jon also served on the Michigan Board of Sanitarians.

Jon led the local efforts to secure Medicaid demonstration funding for the Seaway Clinic, develop a county-wide immunization registry and most recently the new dental clinic which serves the county's low income, Medicaid and uninsured populations. The Community Dental Clinic opened in May 2008.

Elaine Kempf, Jon's deputy administrator, states "I have worked with Jon Parsons for 32 years. Jon has never lost sight of the goals of public health. His commitment to seeking solutions and further improving public health has been a true asset within St. Clair County and Southeast Michigan."



*Jon Parsons welcomes Annette Mercatante, MD, as full-time Medical Director.*

Annette Mercatante, MD, assumed the role of Director of the Health Department in April 2009. Dr. Mercatante joined the Health Department Teen Health Center in 2005 after years of frustration at turning away so many patients in need, but without health insurance. Prior to joining the Health Department, Dr. Mercatante served in private medical practice in Detroit, St. Clair, Richmond and Marysville. Dr. Mercatante is a family practice physician, receiving her medical degree from Wayne State University with a family practice residency at St. John Hospital, Detroit. Dr. Mercatante's undergraduate studies were completed at Michigan State University.



## 2008 agency highlights

Construction on the new Community Dental Clinic was an exciting start to 2008. The St. Clair County Health Department, the United Way of St. Clair County and Michigan Community Dental Clinics worked together to see the new dental clinic built that would provide much needed dental care for the child and adult Medicaid population, low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents of St. Clair County. Construction was fast-tracked and the grand opening held in May. Equipment for the new clinic was provided by the Stebbins Family fund through the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan. The clinic opened on time in May with three dentists providing service in the modern, spacious and high-tech clinic. Client activity in the clinic has proven to be steady and has reiterated the need for expanded dental services.

In March 2008, Annette Mercatante, MD, became the Health Department's full-time Medical Director. In addition to providing medical services at the department's Teen Health Center, Dr. Mercatante is responsible for medical direction, policy and protocol for all Health Department programs and services.

The St. Clair County Smoke-free Team continued to work with local restaurants to join the campaign to go smoke-free despite the State Legislature's failed attempt to pass smoke-free legislation statewide.

In May, St. Clair County Community Mental Health recognized Jon Parsons and awarded him the 2008 Community Service Award. Parsons, who has served as the County Health Officer since 1976, was honored for his vast contributions to the health and well-being of the community.



*St. Clair County Smoke-free Team offered signs to restaurants ready to go smoke-free for one day at a time.*

He was instrumental in initiatives to enhance dental care for the developmentally disabled, health and dental care for the low income and uninsured, as well as a long time collaborator on the Community Services Coordinating Body whose role it is to identify and remove barriers to access for services.

After 35 years of service to St. Clair County residents, Ronald J. Miller, Environmental Health Director, retired in December 2008. Registered Sanitarian, Greg Brown, who has been with the Health Department since June 2004, was appointed new Environmental Health Director.

# laboratory

The laboratory serves as support for the various clinics of the Health Department, including the Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Clinic, Family Planning Program, Preventive Health Services, Environmental Health and Teen Health Center.

Having an on-site laboratory is a valuable service to the community, as it enables the clinics to have immediate diagnoses for treating their patients. Water sample testing ensures safe water throughout the county. The following is a list of tests performed in the laboratory.

*Summer Beach Intern Ashley Castello reads water samples collected from county beaches.*



Sexually transmitted infections testing includes:

- Neisseria gonorrhoeae
- Trichomonads
- Chlamydia trachomatis
- Bacterial Vaginosis
- Herpes I and II
- Nongonococcal urethritis (NGU)
- Yeast-like fungi

Other laboratory tests include:

- Selected chemistries for intra-department support service
- Pregnancy test (serum)
- Syphilis
- Throat – Strep A
- Urinalysis
- Water testing (wells, pools, spas, beaches and other surface waters)

Specimens sent to other sources through the St. Clair County Health Department Laboratory are:

- Tick identification (Department of Agriculture)
- HIV (Kent County Health Department)
- Hepatitis and other specialized testing (Michigan Department of Community Health, Lansing)

### Number of Laboratory Tests Administered

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
<b>Sexually Transmitted Infections</b>					
Syphilis nontreponemal test-VDRL	1,096	1,070	1,174	1,265	1,220
Serological titers	13	2	14	8	6
Trichomoniasis	1,921	2,084	2,053	1,881	2,069
Mycotic disease	1,846	2,125	2,098	2,106	2,081
Chlamydia	1,641	1,954	1,834	1,838	1,826
Bacterial vaginosis (formerly Gardnerella)	1,467	1,690	1,602	1,569	1,533
Herpes I & II	108	167	112	134	117
Nongonococcal urethritis (NGU)	419	434	461	479	512
<b>Gonorrhea</b>					
Positive smear or culture	77	31	64	72	50
Positive outpatient only	discontinued	46	86	93	51
Negative smears or cultures	3,608	3,834	3,980	3,657	4,020
<b>Other Communicable Disease</b>					
Streptococcal disease	21	2	5	7	8
<b>Chemistry &amp; Hematology</b>					
Glucose	6	6	7	14	12
AST (SGOT)	30	4	155	51	111
<b>Serum Pregnancy Test</b>					
	14	31	119	1,488	1,534
<b>Water</b>					
Microbiological	3,735	3,494	4,117	4,503	3,921
<b>Referral Specimens</b>					
	323	385	587	485	384

# environmental health

The Environmental Health Division continues to protect health and promote quality of life through many traditional Environmental Health programs including food service inspections, public and private on-site water supply, lead abatement, public and private on-site sewage disposal, public swimming pools, campgrounds, and public bathing beaches. The Environmental Health Division in St. Clair County is also responsible for two non-traditional programs including enforcement of Michigan Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Rules, and implementation of the St. Clair County Phase II Storm Water Permit.

*Deb Warshefski  
Registered  
Sanitarian,  
prepares to  
teach a Serv-  
Safe class for  
area restaurant  
personnel.*



During 2008 the Environmental Health Division certified 135 local food service managers through the five week Serv-Safe class in preparation for new restaurant manager certification requirements in the Michigan Food Law.

Evidence of our successful Illicit Discharge Elimination Program was demonstrated by only one of the 20 public beaches monitored by the Environmental Health Division having to be closed for one day in 2008 for unsafe *E. coli* samples.

In 2008 the Environmental Health Division completed a successful first year of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program by issuing nearly 200 permits, conducting over 500 soil erosion inspections, and passing the program review conducted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The Environmental Health Division fully met all program requirements for our non-community public water supply program during a 2008 review by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. When you visit one of our nearly 100 local businesses that utilize a well for its water supply, you can be sure that the water quality is being monitored.

During Stream Clean 2008, countless bags of trash, buckets of recyclables, wood, furniture, appliances, and over 100 tires were all removed from six local rivers by 180 volunteers organized by the Environmental Health Division.



*At the end of  
the Mill Creek  
Stream Clean in  
Yale City Park,  
volunteers roll  
tires out of their  
canoes and into  
a tractor waiting  
to dispose of  
them.*

### Numbers of Environmental Activities Recorded

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Restaurant inspections	1,202	1,490	1,233	1,201	1,270
Restaurant plan reviews	43	38	36	28	31
Temporary food licenses issued	228	228	234	213	264
MI Department of Consumer & Industry Services	59	60	52	75	78
Sewage disposal inspections	519	811	1,165	1,595	1,555
Sewage disposal permits	197	302	383	594	757
Sewage disposal parcels evaluated	197	302	400	604	797
Operations/Maintenance (evaluations of sewage system)	99	129	118	124	155
IDEP (Illicit Discharge Elimination Program):					
Total outfalls surveyed	178	47	492	1,904	223*
Total corrections	83	85	103	57	78
Bacterial water testing:					
Wells and pools	2,034	2,032	1,959	2,096	1,718
Surface water	1,340	1,210	2,158	2,407	1,277
Water well permits	136	230	299	406	530
Water well site evaluations	136	230	299	406	530
Water well inspections	162	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-community water supplies (monitored quarterly)	100	100	100	100	100
Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (SESC) permits	187				
Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (SESC) inspections	542				
Campground inspections	20	12	12	12	9
Swimming pool inspections	103	103	119	119	118
General written complaints	139	125	96	87	129
Lead clearance projects	10	44	54	36	38
Lead inspections	72	42	81	73	63
Radon test kits sold	48	86	117	55	59
Storm water outreach activities	149	114			
People participating in storm water activities	6,750	6,729			

\*Contracted program activity was completed 4/04. Activity resumed with new contract in 2005. n/a= not available

## dental clinic

For the St. Clair County Health Department Dental Clinic, 2008 was a transitional year. After 32 years of providing dental services to the 3-21 year old Medicaid population in our county, the clinic expanded its services to include the uninsured, underinsured and adult Medicaid population. A new partnership with Michigan Community Dental Clinics, as well as Community Mental Health, Visiting Nurses Association, and the United Way of St. Clair County, made access to dental services available. The new clinic is located at 3037 Electric Avenue, Port Huron and can be reached by phone at (810) 984-5197.

*The Community Dental Clinic, located at 3037 Electric Avenue in Port Huron, opened in May of 2008.*



## fluoride program

The Dental Cleaning and Fluoride Program provided teeth cleaning and fluoride applications for school children throughout St. Clair County during the 2008-2009 school year. Suzanne Anger, Registered Dental Hygienist, and Karen Schumann, Dental Assistant, traveled to 24 public and private elementary and middle schools to provide this service.

Cost is based on a sliding fee scale and the program accepts Medicaid, MICHild and Healthy Kids insurance.

School Year	Treated	Referred
Sept 2008 – May 2009	412	164
Sept 2007 – May 2008	441	182
Sept 2006 – May 2007	372	234
Sept 2005 – May 2006	472	330
Sept 2004 – May 2005	561	371

# nursing division highlights

The Nursing Division staff stepped up efforts to meet the economic downturn in 2008 by promoting state health insurance programs; Healthy Kids, MICHild and Plan First!

*St. Clair County Health Department Nursing Division strives for a healthier community through awareness, education, compassion and trust.*

Staff met increased community need by connecting residents to needed services at the Health Department as well as other community agencies. Nurses provided home visits to expectant women and their infants and toddlers. Vision and Hearing Technicians screened many children in schools and daycares around the county. Public Health nurses also provided child, adult and travel vaccinations, Family Planning and other clinic services. Nurses provided educational presentations to groups and medical practices.

*Nurses practicing CPR as a requirement for certification.*



*Nursing and EPC staff prepare for an outdoor event on the grounds of the Health Department.*

New vaccine combinations like Pentacel (DTaP/HIB/IPV) Kinrix (DTaP/IPV) and MMRV (MMR and Varicella) reduced the number of injections infants and children receive at the Health Department. There were two new vaccine recommendations in 2008; Influenza for all children 6 months through 18 years, and Hepatitis A for all children 12 months through 18 years. Due to a vaccine shortage, the booster doses of HIB were deferred for healthy children. The HIB series requirement for daycares and preschools was lifted for 2008 reporting.

In addition to the personal health services reported by the Nursing Division programs, division staff promoted health department personal health services at numerous community events.

## 2008 Nursing Division Community Events

Event	Number of Attendees	Event	Number of Attendees
<i>Winter</i>			
Adolescent Pregnancy, SCC Community College (SC4) Nursing Students	120	Health Insurance Symposium	88
STI, HIV and Family Planning Presentation, Safe Horizons	12	Safety Train, Goodells Park	850
MIHP Program Presentation, SC4 OB Students	120	2008 EOC Head Start Spring Conference, United Methodist Church	125
Head Lice Presentation, WIC Director and Staff	10	Sports Physicals, Marysville High School	260
STI, HIV and Family Planning Presentation, SC4 Nursing Students	11	Sports Physicals, Port Huron Northern High School	300
Morris J. Hood Diabetic Clinic, Physicians Health Care	24	Sports Physicals, Port Huron High School	255
Youth Resource Fair, St. Clair County Community College	100	<i>Summer</i>	
CSHCS Program Presentation, RESA Social Workers	12	Morris J. Hood Diabetic Clinic, Physicians Health Care	21
Medicaid Outreach Program Presentation, PHASD Social Workers	12	National Night Out – Town North	838
		Breastfeeding Celebration	18
		Eating Healthy 101, Birchwood Mall	31
		MIHP Program Presentation, Women’s Life Insurance Society	10
		Health Department Services Presentation, Pine River Elementary Open House	300+
		Domtar Health Fair	50
		Head Start Health Assessments	54
<i>Spring</i>			
Wellness Expo, St. Clair County Community College	170+	<i>Fall</i>	
National Immunization Week, St. Clair County Health Department	167	Morris J. Hood Diabetic Clinic, Physicians Health Care	20
River District Hospital Community Baby Shower	132	4th Annual Parent University, RESA	52
Celebrate Your Child Family Health Fair, St. Mary’s School	200	Outreach Program Presentation, Visiting Nurses Association	20
Sports Physicals, Cardinal Mooney High School	96	TB Testing Inservice, Algonac Medical Center	10
STI, HIV and Family Planning Presentation, SC4 Nursing Students	8	Bridge Builders 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Fest Block Party	3,500
Health Department Services Presentation, Community Counseling & Mentoring	15	Morris J. Hood Diabetic Clinic, Physicians Health Care	25



### Numbers of Nursing Activities Recorded

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Childhood Lead Poisoning Protection Program	314	324	324	544	48
Children's Special Health Care Services	542	572	551	546	554
Maternal Infant Health Program					
Maternal clients	523	498	481	484	480
Infants	341	334	294	259	194
Outreach Program	1,480	1,118	1,204	1,183	846
MICChild/Healthy Kids appointments	1,213	699	835	690	726
Tuberculosis					
Active TB	1	0	1	1	1
Resistant MDR-TB	0	0	0	0	0
Non-infectious treated	16	18	14	21	15
TB skin tests	499	705	600	668	793
HIV counseling and testing	376	398	530	521	527
HIV case management	47	50	45	41	38
Immunizations					
Child flu	1,198	605	540	305	224
Adult flu	417	503	490	735	1,006
Other adult immunizations	1,940	1,524	1,605	1,616	1,728
Other child immunizations	7,389	5,445	4,569	4,998	7,146
Sexually transmitted infection					
Testing and treatment	1,962	1,800	2,088	1,930	1,968
Family planning	2,245	2,444	2,455	2,618	2,699
Community health nursing					
Public health visits	3,187	3,052	3,044	2,386	1,829
Vision and hearing screening					
Pre-school vision	2,386	2,195	3,033	2,318	2,187
0-3 year olds vision	3	1	49	156	164
Pre-school hearing	2,340	2,135	2,186	2,293	2,210
0-3 year olds hearing	6	6	50	272	168
School vision	9,066	10,114	6,033	8,427	12,214
School hearing	6,133	6,853	5,750	6,945	7,976
Total screened	19,934	21,304	16,272	20,099	24,919
Head lice screening	34	29	14	52	48

## teen health center

The Teen Health Center (THC) is the Health Department's state funded adolescent health program for teens ages 10-21 located directly behind Port Huron High School. THC provides teen physical and behavioral health services as well as education and referral in a youth-friendly environment.

The Center is staffed by a physician, nurses and clerical staff and is open year round, Monday through Friday. This year, late hours were added on the first and third Monday of each month from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Insurances are accepted and fees for those without health insurance are affordable, based on family size and income. THC offers the state health insurance programs to all adolescents without health insurance coverage. Service is not denied because of inability to pay.

Asthma, a common and potentially life-threatening condition, is an important focus area for THC. All adolescents receiving a physical are evaluated for asthma. The "Power Breathers Program," an evidenced based program approved by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, is used to develop individualized Asthma Action Plans.

*Amy Bishop,  
Teen Health  
Center Coordina-  
tor (left), and Viv-  
ian Liverance,  
Teen Health  
Center RN.*



*Amy Bishop  
immunizes  
a teen at the  
center.*

The action plan is shared with educational, parental and other medical providers to provide guidelines for the teen regarding medications, treatments and important emergency actions. This program helps adolescents problem solve, exercise independence and effectively take control of their asthma.

In 2008, THC provided service to 1,356 clients during 2,841 visits. Assessment of adolescent health issues, behaviors and risk factors led to the following services or referrals:

492	physicals
579	immunizations
1,475	general medical visits
344	mental health visits
623	STD diagnoses & treatments
435	family planning referrals
69	substance abuse services

### Communicable Diseases Reported in St. Clair County

<b>Communicable Disease</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Campylobacter	8	5	11	5	19
Cryptosporidium	6	8	6	6	2
E. Coli 0157	1	1	1	1	1
Giardia	7	3	9	13	8
Guillian Barre	0	1	0	1	0
Hepatitis A	3	5	3	3	0
Hepatitis B (acute)	5	5	4	5	1
Hepatitis C (acute)	1	5	0	1	2
Hepatitis C (chronic)	126	127	128	77	83
Flu-like disease	7,158	6,274	6,459	6,702	5,321
Kawasaki	1	1	0	1	1
Histoplasmosis	0	0	1	0	0
Legionella	6	6	0	4	2
Listeriosis	0	0	0	1	0
Lyme disease	0	4	1	1	0
Meningococcal disease	0	0	0	0	1
Meningitis bacterial	0	1	3	2	1
Meningitis viral	10	9	13	17	14
Pertussis	5	1	2	3	2
Salmonella	11	16	15	16	22
Shigella	1	1	0	2	0
Streptococcus Pneumonia invasive	6	2	3	0	2
Tetanus	1	0	0	0	0
Toxic Shock Syndrome	0	1	0	1	0
Varicella	73	86	54	92	73
West Nile Virus	1	1	0	2	0
Yersinia	1	0	0	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,431</b>	<b>6,563</b>	<b>6,713</b>	<b>6,956</b>	<b>5,558</b>

## health education

Health Education had a banner year in 2008. Over 6,700 people participated in educational sessions that were delivered throughout St. Clair County. Topics ranged from communicable disease awareness and prevention, reproductive health, nutrition, heart health, tobacco prevention, physical activity promotion, injury prevention and public health recognition. Sessions were provided in venues such as the local mall, county jail, rehabilitation centers, schools, child care facilities, the county park, and a neighborhood block party. Hot topics in 2008 included MRSA, Pertussis, Tetanus, Salmonella (peanut butter) and other food recalls.

In 2008, Health Education assumed full responsibility for the St. Clair County Smoke-free Worksite Regulation. The regulation prohibits smoking in county worksites, excluding restaurants and bars. Responsibilities include answering questions, providing community education, processing complaints, along with follow-up and enforcement if necessary. A change in the regulation allowed citizens filing a complaint to do so in total anonymity. Education continued to be the major focus in 2008.

In addition, our St. Clair County Smoke-free Team continued to advocate for smoke-free air in restaurants and bars by contacting legislators asking them to support a comprehensive statewide smoke-free worksite regulation. In St. Clair County all smoke-free restaurants are published in our Smoke-free Dining Guide as well as on our website. To date, nearly 100 establishments offer smoke-free dining in St. Clair County.

The Healthy Community Coalition continued to encourage residents to eat healthier, move more and to avoid tobacco. Projects included participation in the second annual “Let’s Just Play Day” at Crull Elementary in Port Huron where students and staff participated in activities focusing on promoting healthy lifestyles.



*Crull Elementary School students learn at their health fair that smoking cigarettes is a bad idea.*

The partnership between Health Education and Partners at Heart staff continued to offer its monthly “Healthy You” program at the Birchwood Mall in Fort Gratiot. Free blood pressure and body mass index screenings are available to anyone in the community. Nutrition education and heart health literature is also included. Plans to expand to other venues are expected in 2009.

Susan Amato, lead PIO (Public Information Officer), organized efforts with other hospital, health care facility and school PIOs by developing a network that shares techniques in effectively communicating with the media and the public in case of a public health emergency. Avian flu planning had been the primary topic area in 2008.

Community collaboration efforts continued with projects such as helmet safety activities, Parent University, Safety Train, Out of the Darkness Walk, Relay for Life and St. Clair County Smoke-free Day.

# WIC (women, infants & children)

In 2008, the WIC program provided for the purchase of over \$2,689,171 worth of nutritious food and dairy products by the St. Clair County WIC program enrollees.

From January through December of 2008, there was an average monthly enrollment of 4,419 clients. Nearly 1,000 infants and 2,300 children participated in the WIC program.

There were 157 individual registered dietitian appointments for nutrition counseling and 1,340 attended nutrition education classes. The St. Clair County WIC staff also made it possible to exceed MDCH-WIC 97% caseload performance requirement. June was the highest enrollment ever reported for St. Clair County - 4,434 clients. Offering Saturday service hours facilitated this high enrollment.

Year	Visits
2008	15,018
2007	14,303
2006	14,712
2005	14,623
2004	14,787

Coordination of WIC and Maternal Infant Health Program services resulted in 283 pregnant women being enrolled in both programs during one appointment and 592 home visits that included WIC services. In addition, 1,005 children received immunizations and 207 children received blood lead testing all during their WIC visits.

*Michigan State University Extension Educator Carol Bublitz counsels a WIC client.*



*2008 WIC Staff*

## Year 2008 Collaborative Efforts

- MSU Cooperative Extension Services Breastfeeding Initiative Program: Peer counselor provided 144 nutrition classes; enrolled 56 women; provided 310 direct contacts and had 249 women who attended breastfeeding classes.
- Nutrition Education on the Internet ([www.wichealth.org](http://www.wichealth.org)) has expanded to 12 topics including: “Secrets for Feeding Picky Eaters,” “Making Meals & Snacks Simple,” “Steps to a Healthier Family” and “Support for Breastfeeding Moms.”
- PROJECT FRESH is a partnership between WIC and Michigan State University Extension to provide coupons for WIC families to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers’ markets. At a special event during World Breastfeeding month in August, 300 \$10 booklets were distributed to pregnant and breastfeeding women.

# public health emergency preparedness and response division

The mission of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division is to develop protocols, resources and provide training in the event of a public health emergency. The intent is to assure rapid and efficient public health response to threats to community health and safety.

Other division activities entail the building of specialized response networks, enhanced disease alerts/communications, and serving as liaison to first and emergency response partners.

*Dr. Mercatante and Dr. Greensmith, Medical Officer of Lambton County Community Health Services, speak at a cross-border conference.*



Activities in support of this mission include:

- Collaboration with community agencies to assure coordination of emergency management activities.
- Local administration of the “Health Alert Network” and “Michigan Disease Surveillance Systems.”
- Provisions for mass distribution of medical and pharmaceutical supplies.
- Active participation in local, regional, state and federal level exercises for public health emergencies.
- Identification and assessment of training needs.
- Development and training of “Public Health Emergency Response Teams.”



## Public Health Emergency Preparedness Division Highlights

### *Drills, Exercises and Response*

Epi-X Communication Drill  
Southeastern Michigan Public Health Communications Drills  
Michigan Health Alert Network Drills  
St. Clair County Health Department Mass Vaccination Clinic Exercise  
SCCHD Staff Call-out Exercise  
Region 2 North Exercise: Operation Safe Haven

### *Presentations, Events, and Communications to Community Partners*

Blue Water Infection Control Network  
Immunization Coalition  
RESA, School Administrators and Superintendents  
Visiting Nurses Association  
Veterinarians, Clinics, and Kennels  
Home Health Care Agencies  
SC4  
St. Clair County Sheriffs Department  
Hospitals and EMS

### *Participation in Committees, Boards and Initiatives*

Great Lakes Border Health Initiative  
Region 2 North MEMS Subcommittee  
SE Michigan Public Health “Cities Readiness Initiative”  
Region 2 North Planning and Advisory Boards  
St. Clair County Homeland Security Advisory Board  
SCCHD Public Health Protection Team  
SCC Animal Disaster Planning Subcommittee  
Region 2 North and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinators

### *Specialized Training for the Public Health Emergency Coordinator and Health Department Staff:*

COOP “Continuity of Operations” for Public Health Agencies  
FEMA Courses IS 100, IS 200, IS 700, IS 800  
Mass Casualty/Fatality Events  
MiTrain (Michigan Training Network)  
R2N “Partnerships in Preparedness” Homeland Security Conference  
Strategic National Stockpile, MDCH “Tools of the Trade”  
Public Health Emergency Planning and Response Sessions I, II, III, IV  
SE Michigan Public Health “Pandemic Preparedness” Conference  
Cross-Border Public Health Symposium (St. Clair & Lambton Counties)

# community health status

## Age-Adjusted Death Rates\* for the Ten Leading Causes of Death in St. Clair County and Michigan, 2007

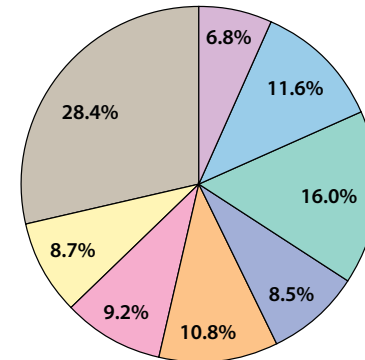
Cause of Death	St. Clair County	Michigan
	Rate	Rate
Heart Disease	256.4	222.6
Cancer	201.8	187.1
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	52.5	43.5
Diabetes Mellitus	36.8	26.3
Stroke	43.6	42.8
Unintentional Injuries	35.9	35.6
Alzheimer's Disease	14.8	22.1
Pneumonia/Influenza	14.4	14.9
Kidney Disease	15.2	14.9
Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	14.0	10.9
All Other Causes	154.4	184.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>839.5</b>	<b>805.3</b>

\*Age-adjusted death rates are based on age-specific death rate per 100,000 population in specified group. \*\*rate not calculated

Source: Michigan Department of Community Health.

- The 2007 age-adjusted death rate of 839.5 for St. Clair County residents was higher than the State rate of 805.3 per 100,000 population. The age-adjusted death rate for heart disease in St. Clair County increased slightly in 2007 to 256.4 from a rate of 254.1 in 2006, and exceeded the State rate in 2007 of 222.6 per 100,000 population.
- St. Clair County residents also recorded a death rate higher than the State for cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, diabetes mellitus, stroke, kidney disease, and intentional self-harm (suicide).

## Hospitalized Residents of St. Clair County by Major Diagnostic Category, 2007



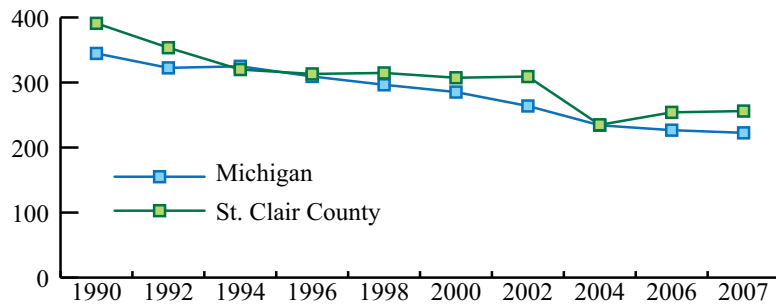
- Diseases & Disorders of the Nervous System
- Diseases & Disorders of the Respiratory System
- Diseases & Disorders of the Circulatory System
- Diseases & Disorders of the Digestive System
- Diseases & Disorders of the Musculoskeletal System Connective Tissue
- Pregnancy, Childbirth & the Puerperium
- Newborns & Other Neonates with Conditions Originating in Perinatal Period
- Other Major Diagnostic Categories

Source: MDCH, Michigan Inpatient Data Base.

- Diseases of the Circulatory System (16.0%), Respiratory System (11.6%) and Musculoskeletal System Connective Tissue (10.8%) are the leading causes of hospitalizations for residents of St. Clair County.

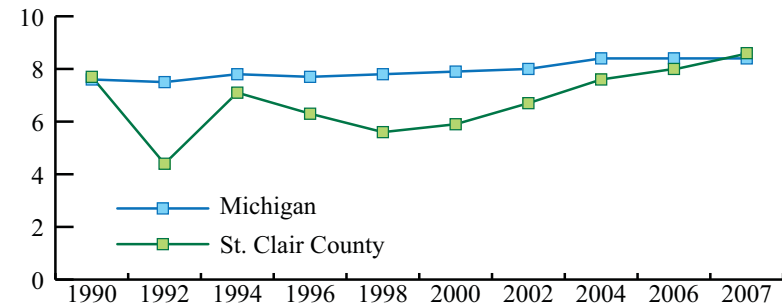


**Heart Disease Age-adjusted Death Rates per 100,000 Population, 1990-2007**



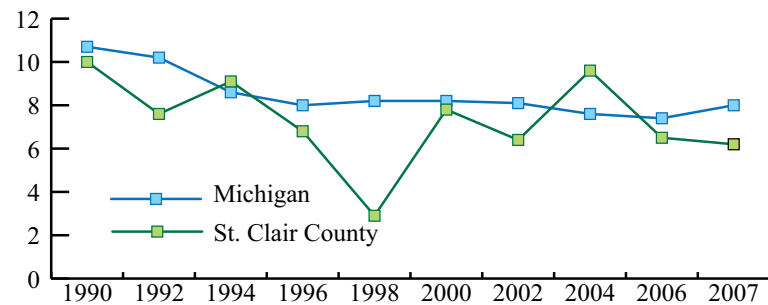
- The age-adjusted death rates for heart disease in St. Clair County have been decreasing yet remain above the statewide rate.

**Percentage of Low Birthweight Live Births per 1,000 Births, 1990-2007**



- Low birthweight births in St. Clair County had been lower than the statewide rate since 1990. However, they have been increasing since 1998, and exceeded the statewide rate slightly in 2007.

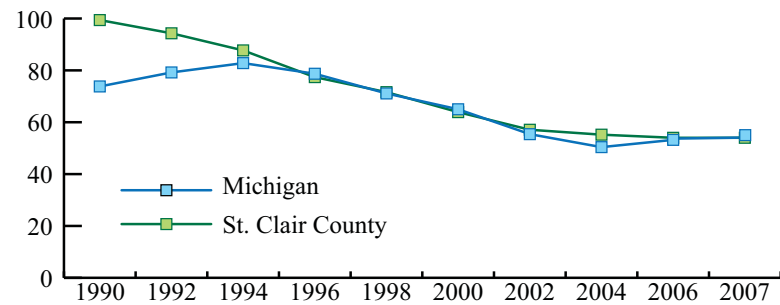
**Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births, 1990-2007**



- The infant death rates since 1990 exhibit a downward trend and have generally been at or below the statewide rate.

**Source:** Michigan Department of Community Health.

**Estimated Teenage Pregnancy Rates per 1,000 Age & Sex Specific Population, 1990-2007**



- Estimated teenage pregnancy rates have declined from 73.4 per 1,000 age and sex specific population in 1990 to 49.4 in 2005, increasing since then but consistent with the statewide experience.

# community health status

## Ten Leading Causes of Ambulatory Care Sensitive (ACS) Hospitalizations For Patients of All Ages, St. Clair County Residents, 2007

Condition	Number	Percent	St. Clair	
			County Ranking	Michigan Ranking
Bacterial Pneumonia	691	15.7	1	2
Congestive Heart Failure	628	14.3	2	1
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	585	13.3	3	3
Asthma	258	5.9	4	6
Kidney/Urinary Infections	217	4.9	5	4
Cellulitis	215	4.9	6	5
Diabetes	197	4.5	7	7
Dehydration	121	2.8	8	8
Convulsions	101	2.3	9	10
Grand Mal & Other Epileptic Conditions	92	2.1	10	9
All Others	1,295	29.4		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

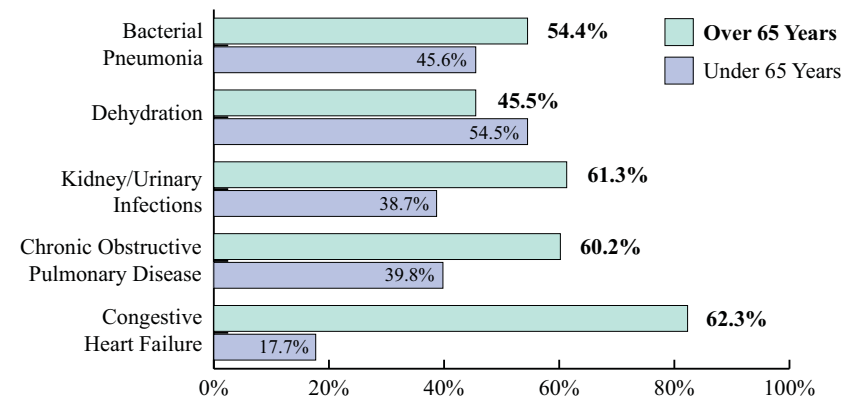
Notes: Ambulatory Care Sensitive Hospitalizations are hospitalizations for conditions where timely and effective ambulatory care can decrease hospitalizations by preventing the onset of an illness or condition, controlling an acute episode of an illness or managing a chronic disease or condition. Hospitalizations are inpatient hospital stays as measured by stays that were completed during the specified year.

Source: Michigan Department of Community Health

- One out of five hospital episodes for the residents of St. Clair County may have been prevented with more timely and effective ambulatory care.

- Treatment of bacterial pneumonia, congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and asthma accounted for nearly 50% of all preventable hospitalizations in 2007.
- The percentage of preventable hospitalizations has remained steady for the past decade, ranging between 18.5% and 20.8% of all hospitalizations.
- Persons age 65+ are responsible for 55% of all Ambulatory Care Sensitive (ACS) Hospitalizations for St. Clair County residents. The 65+ age group is more likely to experience ACS hospitalizations for congestive heart failure, kidney/urinary infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bacterial pneumonia, and dehydration.

## Leading Ambulatory Care Sensitive Hospitalizations in St. Clair County, for Residents Over and Under 65 Years of Age, 2007



Source: Michigan Department of Community Health



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