

# 2012 Annual Report

## St. Clair County Health Department

A trusted local expert in population and preventive health practices; encouraging effective community partnerships, eliminating barriers to health resources, protecting the community from health threats, and encouraging stewardship of the environment.

Accredited by:  
Michigan Public Health Accreditation Commission

Greetings Citizens and Community Partners,

On behalf of the St. Clair County (SCC) Board of Commissioners and the Advisory Board of Health, the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) is pleased to present you with our *2012 Annual Report*. This year has provided us many challenges and opportunities, and we acknowledge the support and collaboration we have received from the many citizens, agencies, businesses, and elected officials who care about the health and well-being of our people and environment.



Medical Health Officer

In June, the SCCHD issued an "Imminent Danger Order" (*Emergency Order 2012-01*) in St. Clair County that prohibited the sale and distribution of synthetic marijuana (a.k.a., K2, Spice, etc.) and Bath Salts (a.k.a., White Rush, Vanilla Sky, etc.). These dangerous drugs were being sold at various stores to our youth. Medical and law enforcement personnel were also reporting horrific outcomes as a result of consuming these drugs. Public Health Code allows such orders to be issued from local or state Public Health authorities to ensure the health and safety of the public while more permanent legislative actions can be taken. Thank you *St. Clair County Sheriff's Department* for assisting us with this event and getting these dangerous drugs off the shelves.

With the help of many people (the families, Judd Gilbert and the Michigan House of Representatives, SCC Board of Commissioners, MSU School of Public Health, Michigan Department of Community Health, and the CDC), we finalized and released an investigative study report on an elevated rate of pediatric Nephroblastoma (Wilms' tumor) a rare form of kidney cancer that occurred between 2000-2011. Although we were unable to determine any underlying cause (environmental or otherwise), it examined many factors that have been associated with this cancer, and attempts to clarify what we know and don't know about the event. The investigation allowed us to develop a deeper understanding of the concerns within our community, our environmental health and weaknesses, and a more robust relationship with the academic and governmental program that regulate and study these events. As a result we have been instrumental in preserving our Drinking Water Monitoring System and strengthening advocacy for strong stewardship of the environment.

We remain committed to improving our county's immunization rates to prevent the unfortunate occurrence of Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs). Our immunization rates for both children and adults remain far below the recommended levels for adequate protections, and below our neighboring and comparable counties. A large outbreak of chickenpox in one SCC school district resulted in lost school days for many children (as they were excluded for the safety and protection of others), as well as serious illness in some. The SCCHD has made several changes in internal policy to increase immunization rates in our own staff (such as mandatory flu vaccinations) and integrating vaccinations with other services offered in the SCCHD such as WIC and Clinic Services. We also continue to monitor VPDs and address high waiver rates, as well as educating the community about the safety and proper use of vaccines.

Finally, the SCCHD has embarked on a 5-year Strategic Plan with the help of the SCC Metropolitan Planning Department. This plan will clarify and formalize the goals and objectives we need to accomplish in order to assure the health and well-being of the county. Many issues remain foremost in our minds including high rates of: prescription drug abuse, obesity, smoking rates, low birth weight infants, poverty, poor rates of healthcare access, and inadequate physical activity. These issues cannot be improved without the efforts of everyone who lives, works, and plays here. The SCCHD will continue to monitor, promote, and advocate for the changes needed to make the Blue Water Area everything it can be!

Yours in Health,

*Annette Mercatante*

# Agency Highlights



Administrator

January 2012 began with me, Greg Brown, leaving my role as the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD), Environmental Health Director and taking over as Administrator of SCCHD. Steve Demick, Environmental Health Coordinator was promoted to Environmental Health Director.

New faces at SCCHD included Andrew Ekelund, Cindy Koepf, Terry Rhody, and Shannon Spezia. Andrew was selected to fill the newly created position of Network/Database Specialist, a collaborative position with Information Technology. With the addition of Andrew, the Health Department hoped to gain much needed on-site support of network applications and hardware. Cindy, Terry, and Shannon were all hired to positions within our Public Health Nursing team as a result of a number of retirements in 2011.

In May, SCCHD saw the retirement of Susan Amato, our long time Health Education Director. Susan's 22-years of service to public health are to be commended, and her experience will surely be missed.

One key initiative at SCCHD included the formation of a Health Education "team". Jennifer Michaluk, Health Educator, was promoted to Health Education Director. The team also included Amy Bishop, Nursing Outreach Coordinator, and Sheri Faust, Environmental Health Educator. The team will gain even more capacity in 2013 with the hiring of a new Health Educator.

The year ended with the Local Health Department Cycle 5 Accreditation Review by Michigan Department of Community Health, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Michigan Department of Agriculture. State agency staff met with SCCHD program staff and administration to determine our compliance with 167 essential indicators. Following the intensive 5-day process the reviewers only found two indicators requiring corrections.

Looking forward to what lays ahead in 2013!

*Greg Brown*

# Vision

St. Clair County will be a healthy community that is self reliant and prepared for the future, allowing it to achieve the highest potential and wellbeing of its' residents.

# Mission

St. Clair County Health Department will be the trusted local expert in population and preventive health practices; encouraging effective community partnerships, eliminating barriers to health resources, protecting the community from health threats, and encouraging stewardship of the environment.

# County Board of Health

Local authority and control is provided to the Health Department by the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners. An appointed six member Board of Health meets monthly, serves in an advisory capacity, and acts as a review board for department activities and policies. Board of Health members include:

- Barbara Britz, Secretary (Member since 5/05)  
Term Expires: 12/31/14
- John Jones, Vice Chair (Member since 06/10)  
Term Expires: 12/31/13
- Scott A McPhilimy, D.O. (Member since 4/10)  
Term Expires: 12/31/14
- Marie J. Muller, Chair (Member since 2/98)  
Term Expires: 12/31/13
- Jon B. Parsons (Member since 1/11)  
Term Expires: 12/31/14
- BOC Member  
Terry London, Commissioner (Member since 1/10)



Pictured (L to R): John Jones, Jon B. Parsons, Annette Mercatante, Barbara Britz, Marie J. Muller, Scott McPhilimy, and Terry London (not pictured)

# ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

WILLIAM KAUFFMAN, AICP  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER

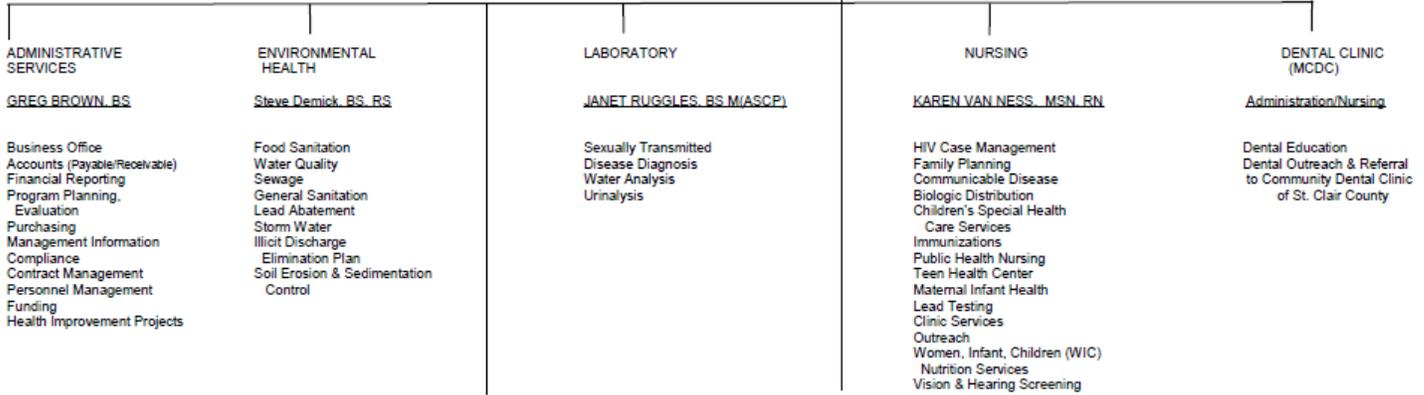
ANNETTE MERCATANTE, MD, MPH  
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

GREG BROWN, B.S.  
HEALTH DEPT ADMINISTRATOR

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



HEALTH EDUCATION AND PLANNING

JENNIFER MICHALUK, M. Ed

- Health Promotion
- Community/Staff/School Education
- Media Relations
- Staff/Community Audio-Visual/Educational Materials Library
- Community Health Assessment/Planning
- Public Information Officer

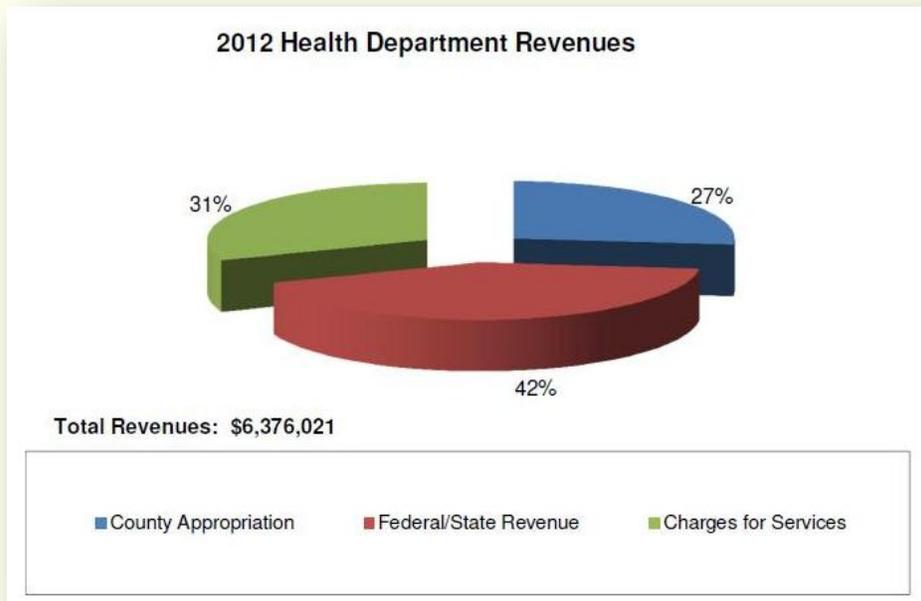
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

DIANE FORYS, BS, RS

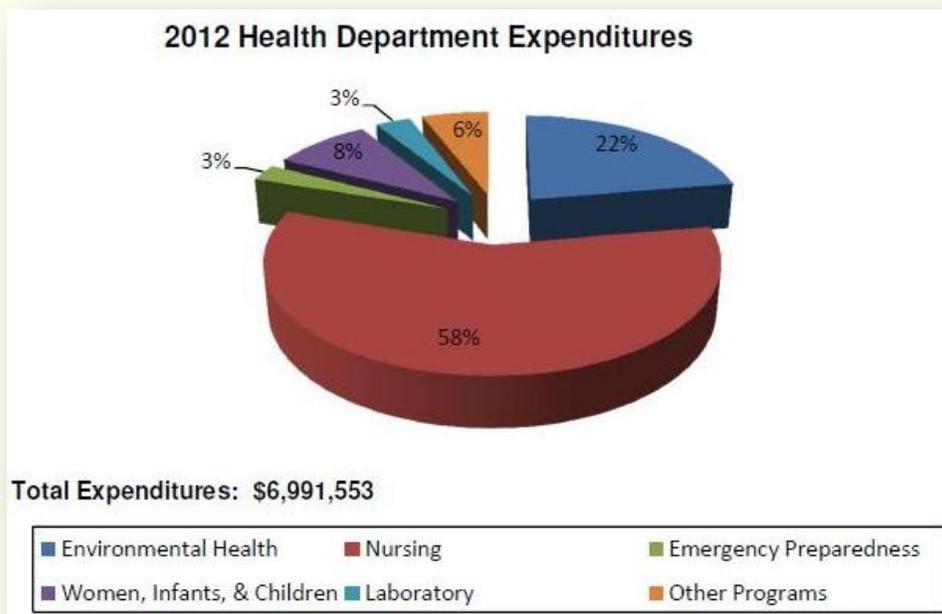
- Emergency Planner & Liaison
- Preparedness & Response Plans
- Inter-Agency Communications
- Risk, Needs and Threat Assessment
- Training and Exercise
- Health Alert Network
- Mobile Response

Revised: 8/21/2012

# Health Department Revenue and Expenditures



The St. Clair County Health Department's (SCCHD) total revenue for 2012 was \$6,376,021. The revenue was supported by three funding sources: Federal and State (42%), Charges for Services (31%), and County Appropriation (27%).



SCCHD's total expenditures for 2012 was \$6,991,553. Expenditures included Nursing (58%), Environmental Health (22%), Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) (8%), Other Programs (6%), Emergency Preparedness (3%), and Laboratory (3%).

# Community Dental Clinic

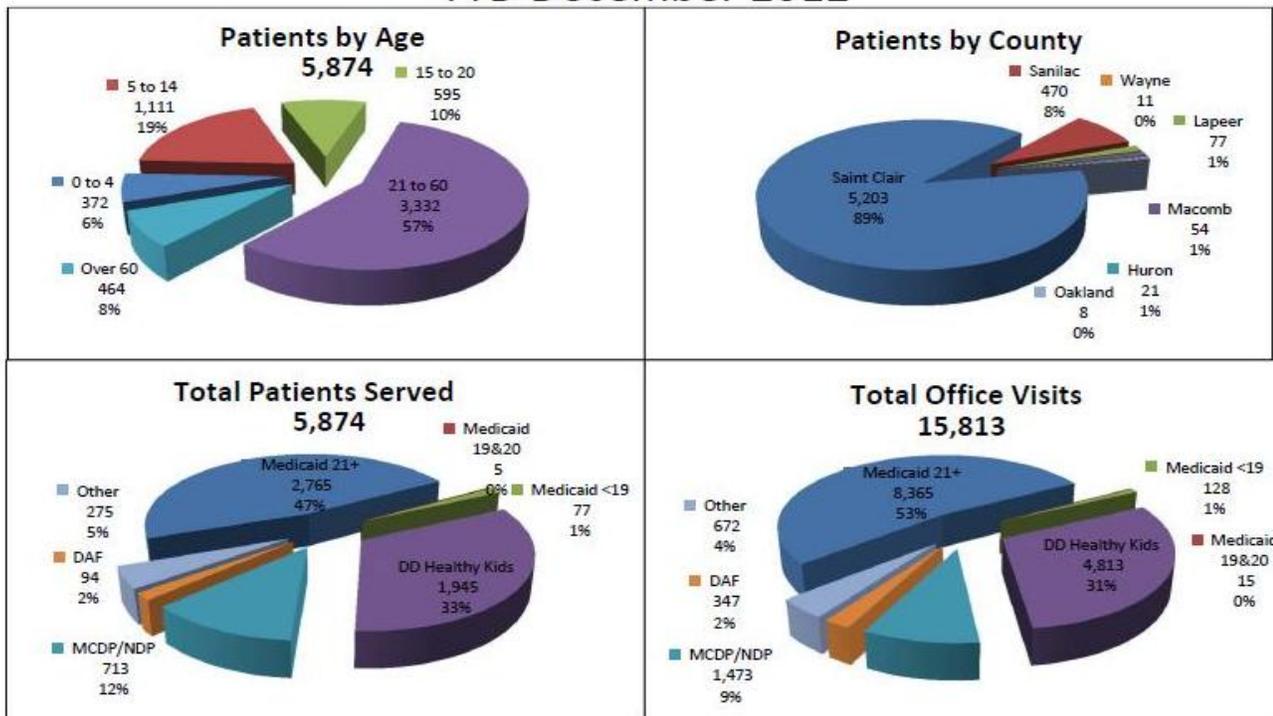
The St. Clair County Health Department provides dental services for county residents at the Community Dental Clinic through a contract with Michigan Community Dental Clinics, Inc., (MCDC). Discounted dental services are available to non-Medicaid, low-income individuals and families through membership in the Michigan Community Dental Plan (MCDP).



There are two membership levels. The MCDP includes an exam, x-rays and treatment plan at reduced rates, while MCDP Plus includes a cleaning at the initial visit in addition to other services. The cost of a lifetime membership is either \$50 or \$75 per person. MCDC also offers services to individuals who have Medicaid (adult and children), Delta Dental Healthy Kids and MICHild insurances.

As noted below on the Practice Statistics YTD December 2012 graphs, 57% of the clinic's patient base is 21-60 years old and 47% of those patients are Medicaid recipients. The clinic continues to participate in outreach activities in an effort to increase the patient base.

## Practice Statistics Port Huron YTD December 2012



# Emergency Preparedness Division

The Emergency Preparedness Division is directed:

- To develop the St. Clair County Health Department's (SCCHD's) capacity and capability to effectively recognize and respond to (suspect or actual) public health threats;
- Address events of public health concern that may be naturally occurring, criminal or terrorism, disease outbreaks, and/or biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological emergencies.
- Plan, exercise and coordinate preparedness and response activities with external partner agencies and stakeholders;
- Develop, provide, and assure public health core competency training for staff.



Staff Dispensing Site "Activation Exercise"

The SCCHD's plans are constructed to meet the demands of constant change in the nature and severity of public health threats to this community, with the ability to coordinate effective and efficient response across political or jurisdictional boundaries.

Furthermore, SCCHD is a part of a federal program entitled "Cities Readiness Initiative" or CRI, with 6 other Southeast Michigan public health jurisdictions. This group is tasked with developing plans for quick distribution of medications to the entire population of the county *within 48 hours of the decision to do so*.

SCCHD's "Emergency Operation Plan" (EOP) is reviewed, exercised and revised annually, as needed, to meet stringent requirements from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH's) Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP). An EOP annex includes:

- Rapidly Emergent and/or Pandemic Event Plan
- Control of Communicable Disease Plan
- Crisis, Emergency and Risk Communications Plan
- Medical Countermeasures Plan
- Environmental Health and Natural Disasters Response
- Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan



SCCHD Mobile Units

## Division Highlights

- ❖ Continued identification and correction of failing septic systems; four corrections removing over 10 million gallons of sewage from waterways annually.
- ❖ Provided environmental inspections for child care centers, foster care facilities, pre-school programs and camps.
- ❖ Monitored and investigated foodborne illness alerts and outbreaks.
- ❖ Provided in-service training at food service establishments, instructing proper sanitizing procedures, safe food temperatures.
- ❖ Conducted consultations for new and remodeled food service facilities.
- ❖ Launched beach monitoring campaign with Beach Manager's training workshop and public education materials, including a new Facebook page, website and 24 hour hotline.
- ❖ Coordinated events like the Earth Fair, River Day, rain barrel and native plant sale which all reached over 10,000 people with environmental education messages.
- ❖ Provided assistance with storm water activities needed for compliance with federal and state storm water regulations to all county departments, 11 local municipalities, and 6 educational institutions.
- ❖ Implemented an EPA grant allowing for continued E. coli sampling at storm water outfalls at Chrysler Beach, continued goose round up at Chrysler Beach resulting in over 150 geese being removed over a 2-year period.
- ❖ Continued management implementation of Belle River Watershed planning project grant, with intensive E. coli monitoring and mussel surveys completed across the entire watershed.

# Environmental Health Division

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, residential lead testing, public and private on-site sewage disposal, body art facilities, public swimming pools, campgrounds and public bathing beaches, and offers customized presentations to community and school groups on a variety of topics.



Stream monitoring in Bunce Creek in Marysville

Our Environmental Health Division is also responsible for non-traditional programs including enforcement of the Michigan Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Rules and Michigan's Smoke Free Law, coordination of the St. Clair County Phase II Storm Water Permit, and the Belle River Watershed Grant.

2012 Program Statistics	
Restaurant inspections	1,328
Temporary food inspections	241
Plan review for new or remodeled food establishments	50
Food complaint investigations	88
Bacterial surface water testing samples	1,620
On-site wastewater services	832
Drinking water analysis	2,123
Water well services	350
Soil Erosion/Sedimentation Control Inspections	383
Freedom of Information Requests processed	400+
Public campground and swimming pool inspections	107
Lead based paint inspections/Abatement Indoor Air/Asbestos inspections	99

# Health Education Division

The Health Education Division promotes healthy lifestyle behaviors among St. Clair County residents through programing, presentations, community assessment activities and the provision of resources. Nearly 145 presentations were provided to 4,200 participants during 2012 on health promotion and communicable disease prevention topics.

2012 Division Highlights include:

- Susan Amato, Health Education Division Director retired May 31, 2012, after more than 22 years of service. Her dedication and commitment to health education was instrumental throughout St. Clair County. In December 2012, Jennifer Michaluk was hired as Director. Jennifer had worked with Susan for over 17 years. Amy Bishop, R.N., Outreach Coordinator also began assisting with health education programming with support from Sheri Faust, Environmental Health Educator.
- Advocating for smoke free beaches and parks was the main focus of this year's tobacco work plan. Health Education staff and tobacco coalition members concentrated their efforts on Marine City. Thanks to the champion of the cause, Commissioner Dianne Lovett and other commissioners, a smoke free ordinance was adopted. Marine City became host to the county's first smoke free beach. In other tobacco news, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission member was designate to have smoke free playgrounds and splash pad areas at the county parks. Signage for the beach and playgrounds was provided through funding SCCHD received from the Michigan Department of Community Health's Tobacco Reduction Program. Funding provided by MDCH over the years for tobacco activities ended in September 2012.
- Health Education and Partners at Heart continued providing free blood pressure, body mass index screenings at the Birchwood Mall, Vantage Point, and YMCA (Body Recall participants). In 2012, over 600 participants received services.
- Assisted two county school districts' Sex Education Advisory Boards (SEAB) in their efforts to move toward an improved comprehensive reproductive health curriculum. The Health Department has representation on most boards and will continue to strive toward membership in every district. Michigan Department of Education staff commended the Health Department's involvement with SEABs and our efforts to support sex education.
- Participation in community workgroups continued. Port Huron Hospital Helmet Safety Committee, Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, Suicide Prevention Committee, Parent University, and new to 2012, the Prescription Drug Abuse Community Education Workgroup. The first Prescription Drug Abuse Symposium was held in Port Huron to bring awareness to this major public health concern.
- 2012 Hot topics included synthetic marijuana, bath salts, fungal meningitis outbreak, chicken pox, Super Storm Sandy, flu and the Lake Huron oil spill.



Smoke Free Play Areas  
Goodells County Park  
Splash Pad



Marine City Smoke Free Beach  
(L to R): Grace Halpin (Lifeguard Supervisor); Dianne Lovett (Marine City Commissioner); and Lynn Zyrowski (Marine City Recreation Director)

# Nursing Division

Change continued for the Nursing Division in 2012. The Family Planning Program ended for the division December 31, 2012, due to reduced funding. Much cross training occurred with nurses learning Women, Infants, & Children's Supplemental Food Program (WIC) and Immunization service delivery. Three part-time nurses were hired to fill vacancies that were created by retirements and reassignments.

In addition to the challenge of departing staff and the learning curve involved with new assignments, Nursing Division prepared for accreditation in November of 2012. Children's Special Health Care Services underwent their first Accreditation and received stellar reviews! Additionally, STI/HIV, Immunizations, Communicable Disease, Family Planning and Vision & Hearing programs met all indicators!

2012 Nursing Division Statistics	
Adolescent Health Clients	1,553
Children's Special Health Care Clients	488
Family Planning Clients	1,159
HIV Case Management Clients	62
HIV Tests	282
Vision and Hearing Screening Program	19,035
Immunizations (Child, Adult, Flu & Travel Vaccines)	10,063
Lead Tests	1,190
Maternal Infant Health Clients	935
Outreach Encounters	3,001
Public Health Nurse Visits	2,123
STI Tests & Treatment	2,013
TB Skin Tests	348



MIHP Staff with pregnant mother and her child



Vision & Hearing Staff at Kid's Fest at Vantage Point



Flu Clinic Administering FluMist to a Child

In April of 2012, the Nursing Division provided nurses to vaccinate clients during the WIC service encounter. The first month, 32 vaccines were provided increasing volume by October to 637 vaccines administered. By the end of 2012, a total of 3,838 vaccines had been administered to 1,640 WIC clients, a 377% increase from 2011 when WIC clients were only referred by WIC to the Nursing Immunization Program. Parents appreciated the convenience of taking care of their child's Immunizations before leaving WIC.

Additionally, 1,190 lead tests were provided for at-risk children the same time a WIC required Hemoglobin test was provided. Nurses were also placed in WIC to enroll eligible pregnant women in both WIC and Maternal Infant Health services. This collaboration provides education beyond nutrition so women can learn about their pregnancy.

# Nursing Division: *Teen Health Center*

For the past 27 years, Teen Health Center (THC) has provided friendly, adolescent-focused services for client's ages 10 - 21. THC services includes acute and chronic medical care, well-child physicals, STI diagnosis and treatment, HIV testing, counseling and referral, mental health counseling and referral, pregnancy testing and related care, and immunizations. Services are provided by a full-time Nurse Practitioner, a Physician who is a primary care provider for Health Plan of Michigan, and Registered Nurses. THC provides enrollment assistance for state health insurance programs like Healthy Kids and MICHild. In 2012, the THC had 2,793 different types of visits by 1,216 adolescents.



Pictured (Left to Right): Tracy Drummond, Stacey Wright, Dr. Mercatante, Sandra Mangan, NP and Julie Walding

2012 TEEN HEALTH CENTER SERVICES PROVIDED	
Immunizations	2,085
General Medical Visits (including sick)	1,225
Mental Health	69
Physical Exams	410
Family Planning Referrals	274
STI Diagnosis and Treatment	470
Substance Abuse Referrals	16

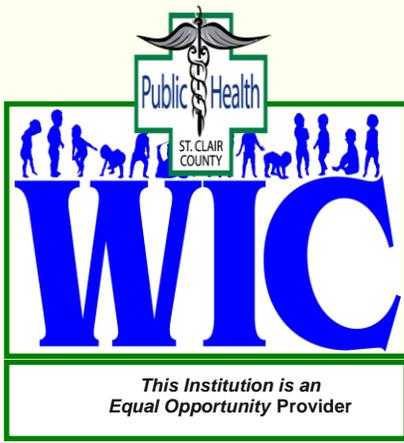
## *Teen Health Center's Lifestyles Program*

A nutrition and exercise program designed specifically for teens, targeting behavioral changes that may result in a lifetime of improved health. This program includes medical management, dietary counseling and interactive exercise and nutrition classes.

*Lifestyles* empowers today's teens to make healthier choices by providing interactive, youth friendly learning environments, and features community guest speakers, YMCA exercise specialists, and other incentives.

In 2012, the *Lifestyles* after school programming had a total of 13 sessions provided with 29 participants completing the program with pre and post-tests.





# Nursing Division: Women, Infants, & Children's Supplemental Food Program (WIC)

The WIC Program provides nutrition counseling, education and food benefits to income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children under age 5 who have a medical or nutritional need.

- In 2012, the WIC program provided for the purchase of over \$2,647,919.01 worth of nutritious food and dairy products by St. Clair County WIC program enrollees.
- From January through December of 2012, the average WIC monthly enrollments of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children were 4,105.
- Coordination of WIC and Maternal Infant Health Program services resulted in 446 pregnant women being enrolled in both programs during one appointment.
- Collaborative efforts with *MSU Extension*, the Breastfeeding Initiative Program and MSUE peer counselor provided nutrition education at the WIC office and enrolled pregnant and breastfeeding women for home services.
- Breastfeeding promotion and support efforts resulted in an initiation rate of 86%.
- 1,190 children were Lead tested during the WIC encounter.
- 1,984 clients received 3,838 vaccines following their WIC encounters.



Breastfeeding Support Group



WIC Staff – Well Child Visit



Lead Testing



Water Sample Testing

# Laboratory Services

The laboratory serves as support for the various clinics of the Health Department, including the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Clinic, Preventive Health Services, Environmental Health and Teen Health Center.

The majority of testing from the laboratory in 2012 was for Sexually Transmitted Infections and Water Samples.

As of December 31, 2012, the laboratory will no longer serve as support to various clinics due to funding.

2012 Laboratory Tests Performed	
Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing	11,613
Water Samples (Wells, pools, spas beaches and other surface waters)	3,576
Nitrate Testing for Wells	188



## Other Laboratory Services were provided by:

- Selected chemistries for intra-department support service
  - Pregnancy testing (serum)
  - Throat – Strep A
  - Urinalysis
- Department of Agriculture (Tick identification)
- Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp)
- Saginaw County Health Department
- Michigan Department of Community Health, Lansing (Hepatitis, HIV and other specialized testing)

*Elaine M. Kempf*  
*6/19/1952 – 7/20/2012*



***YOU TOUCHED OUR LIVES...***

*with your inspiration, dedication and supportive ways.*

*We will continue our public health work and with remembrance of you as an exquisite, elegant, brave hearted woman who was strong, trustworthy, compassionate, understanding, motherly, and extraordinary.*

*We miss your smiling face more than words can say.*



***St. Clair County Health Department  
Administrator***