

# 2013 Annual Report

## St. Clair County Health Department

*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.*

*Accredited By: Michigan Public Health Accreditation Commission*

Greetings Citizens and Community Partners,

The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD), together with the Board of Health is pleased to present you with our *2013 Annual Report*. This year stood out with the release of the first SCCHD *2013-2017 Strategic Plan*. With the expert contributions and support of the SCC Metropolitan Planning Department, the Strategic Plan outlines an ambitious, yet realistic, approach to transformational and sustainable public health services and programs for our community. As a direct result of the prioritization outlined in the plan, opportunities to collaborate with many community stakeholders have been initiated.



Medical Health  
Officer

One of the foremost priorities is the stabilization, training, and morale of our staff. Changes in many aspects of public health funding and purpose have created the need for better communications, training and policy. Individual meetings between Administration and employees are scheduled weekly until everyone has an opportunity to share their ideas and feelings. It has been a pleasure getting to know everyone in a more direct and personal way. Cross-training for most of our staff has become expected and better collaboration is already being noted amongst co-workers. Management practices for evaluations, training, and work expectations have been improved and standardized. We are confident this will be an asset for an already exemplary workforce!

The Strategic Plan also highlights the need and opportunity for stronger collaborative efforts with “non-traditional” public health entities. Pretty much anyone who works, lives, or plays in our county has an impact on the health of the population. We have worked hard this year to establish strong relationships with healthcare providers, community service agencies, educational systems, local businesses and environmental services and programs (including parks and recreation, water treatment facilities, etc.).

The following are only a few of the exciting initiatives we have embarked on in 2013:

- *Maternal, infant and early childhood health and support:* We know that the foundation of a healthy start in life begins with a healthy mother and strong supportive services for at-risk infants and children. Our community has excellent programs that provide evidence-based services for better outcomes; however the process for referral and intake has been fragmented and inconsistent between programs. We have convened a local leadership group to address these issues and initiate collaborative and community-based interventions.
- *Prescription Drug Abuse issues remain epidemic and rampant:* With the help of SCC Community Mental Health (CMH) Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency (CA) we obtained a Substance Abuse Prevention License that allows us to be reimbursed for prevention work, including education and data collection/assessment. This work is critical, not only to raise awareness of the problem and to formulate meaningful changes to reduce the burden of this problem.
- *“Integrated Care” opportunity that provided us a shared nursing position by CMH:* A public health nurse fully interacts with CMH caseworkers and private healthcare providers. This invaluable work will lay the groundwork for future communications and improvements between mental and physical health. Our belief is that the unique skill and training of a public health nurse makes this type of “crossover” more meaningful.

Yours in Health,

*Annette Mercatante*

# Agency Highlights



Administrator

2013 was a very productive year despite ongoing departmental changes due to budget cuts and staffing losses.

The year began by securing other entities to provide Laboratory and Family Planning services after losing those two programs to budget cuts in 2012. The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) was able to secure an agreement with the City of Marysville Water Plant to perform water testing at a savings over operating an in-house laboratory. In 2013, the Marysville Water Plant performed 1,330 water samples for the SCCHD, including wells and public swimming pool water.

In February, another successful agreement was executed with Downriver Community Services to provide Title X Family Planning services to our community.

In June, the SCCHD staff participated in the *Public Health Emergency Bio-Watch / SNS Full-Scale Statewide Exercise*. The SCCHD formally activated its Emergency Operation Plans and Strategic National Stockpile Plans in response to an intentional biological incident scenario. This was the largest exercise of this type in the SCCHD's 10 years of planning for such an event.

In July 2013, the SCCHD's long time Nursing Director, Karen Van Ness retired after 22 years of dedicated service to the department and the community. Karen came to the department in 1991, and became the Nursing Director in 1996. Over that time she was a consistent, effective force in providing high quality nursing services for the community.

Another transition came about when our Storm Water Coordinator, Kristen O'Reilly left the SCCHD after 11 years of service. The Storm Water program's transition included hiring Spicer Group, Incorporated to provide storm water permit support services for St. Clair County at a budget savings to the department. This contract allows for the department to continue as the lead applicant of the Storm Water permit for St. Clair County which includes 18 other entities.

To end the year, SCCHD was recognized by a national immunization leader, the "Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)" for outstanding vaccination efforts in healthcare settings and was added to their honor roll for its stellar examples of influenza vaccination mandates in a healthcare setting.

Looking forward to what lays ahead in 2014!

*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.

# About Us

In October, 1942, the St. Clair County Board of Supervisors established the City and County Coordinated Health Department. Since that beginning, the present day St. Clair County Health Department has evolved with the mission reflected in Michigan's Public Health Code to continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health through organized programs, including:

- prevention and control of environmental health hazards,
- prevention and control of diseases,
- prevention and control of health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups,
- development of health care facilities and health delivery systems and
- regulation of health care facilities and health services delivery systems to the extent provided by law.

To this end, the St. Clair County Health Department will assure the accessibility of appropriate, and quality personal, public, and environmental health services to St. Clair County residents and their families.

# 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, Vice Chair** (Member since 5/05)  
Term Expires: 12/31/14
- **John Jones, Secretary** (Member since 6/10)  
Term Expires: 12/31/13
- **Scott 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
- **Howard Heidemann, Commissioner** (Member since 1/13)



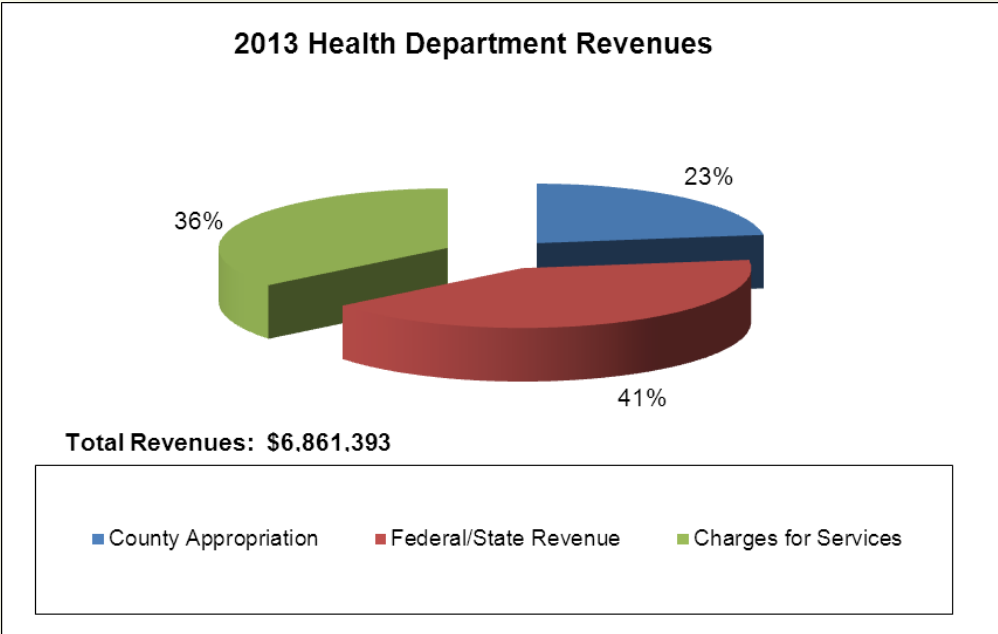
**Pictured (L to R): John Jones, Jon B. Parsons, Annette Mercatante, Barbara Britz, Marie J. Muller, Scott McPhilimy, and Howard Heidemann (not pictured)**



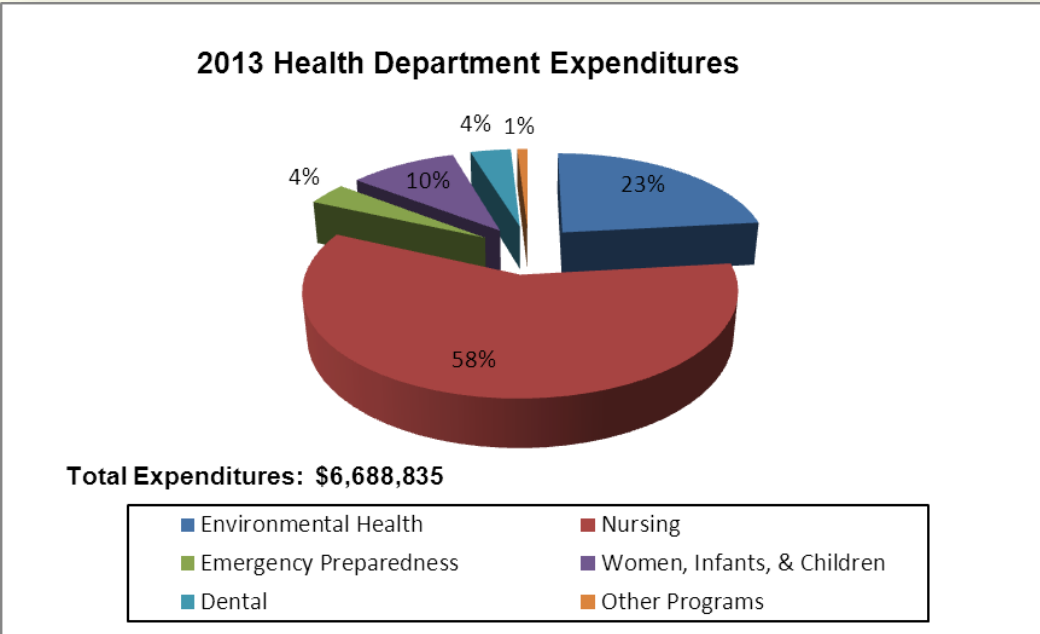
Michigan Department of Community Health  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

- ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**  
Greg Brown, BS
  - Business Office
  - Accounts Payable/Receivable
  - Financial Reporting
  - Program Planning/Evaluation
  - Purchasing and Funding
  - Management Information
  - Compliance
  - Contract Management
  - Personnel Management
  - Health Improvement Projects
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**  
Steve Demick, BS RS
  - Food Service Sanitation
  - Sewage Disposal Systems
  - Drinking Water Wells
  - Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
  - Storm Water Program
  - Illicit Discharge Elimination
  - Beaching Beach Monitoring
  - Lead/Asbestos Assessment
  - Public Swimming Pools
  - Campgrounds
  - Body Art Facilities
  - Environmental Education
- HEALTH EDUCATION AND PLANNING**  
Jensifer Michalski, M.Ed
  - Health Promotion
  - Community, Staff, and School Education
  - Media Relations
  - Staff and Community Audio Visual
  - Educational Materials Library
  - Community Health Assessment
  - Planning
  - Community Outreach
  - Website Management
  - Public Information Officer
- EMERGENCY/PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**  
Diane Foyry, BS RS
  - Emergency Preparedness Liaison
  - Preparedness and Response Plans
  - Emergency Coord. Center Operations
  - Risk and Tactical Communications
  - Readiness Assessments
  - Training, Drills, and Exercises
  - SNS Subject Matter Expert
  - MVVolunteer and NCPHAN Administrator
  - Mobile Field Units
- NURSING**  
Karen Vanness, MSN RN
  - HR Case Management
  - Clinic Services
  - Communicable Disease
  - Biologic Distribution
  - Childrens Special Health Care Services
  - Adult and Child Immunizations
  - Tenn Health Center
  - Maternal Infant Health Care
  - Lead Testing
  - Women, Infant, Children (WIC)
  - Vision and Hearing Screening
- DENTAL CLINIC**  
M.D.C. Administration / Nursing
  - Dental Education
  - Dental Outreach
  - Referrals to Community
  - Dental Clinic of St. Clair County.

# Health Department Revenue and Expenditures



The St. Clair County Health Department’s (SCCHD) total revenue for 2013 was \$6,861,393. The revenue was supported by three funding sources: Federal and State (41%), Charges for Services (36%), and County Appropriation (23%).



SCCHD’s total expenditures for 2013 was \$6,688,835. Expenditures included Nursing (58%), Environmental Health (23%), Women, Infants & Children (WIC) (10%), Emergency Preparedness (4%), Dental (4%) and Other Programs (1%).

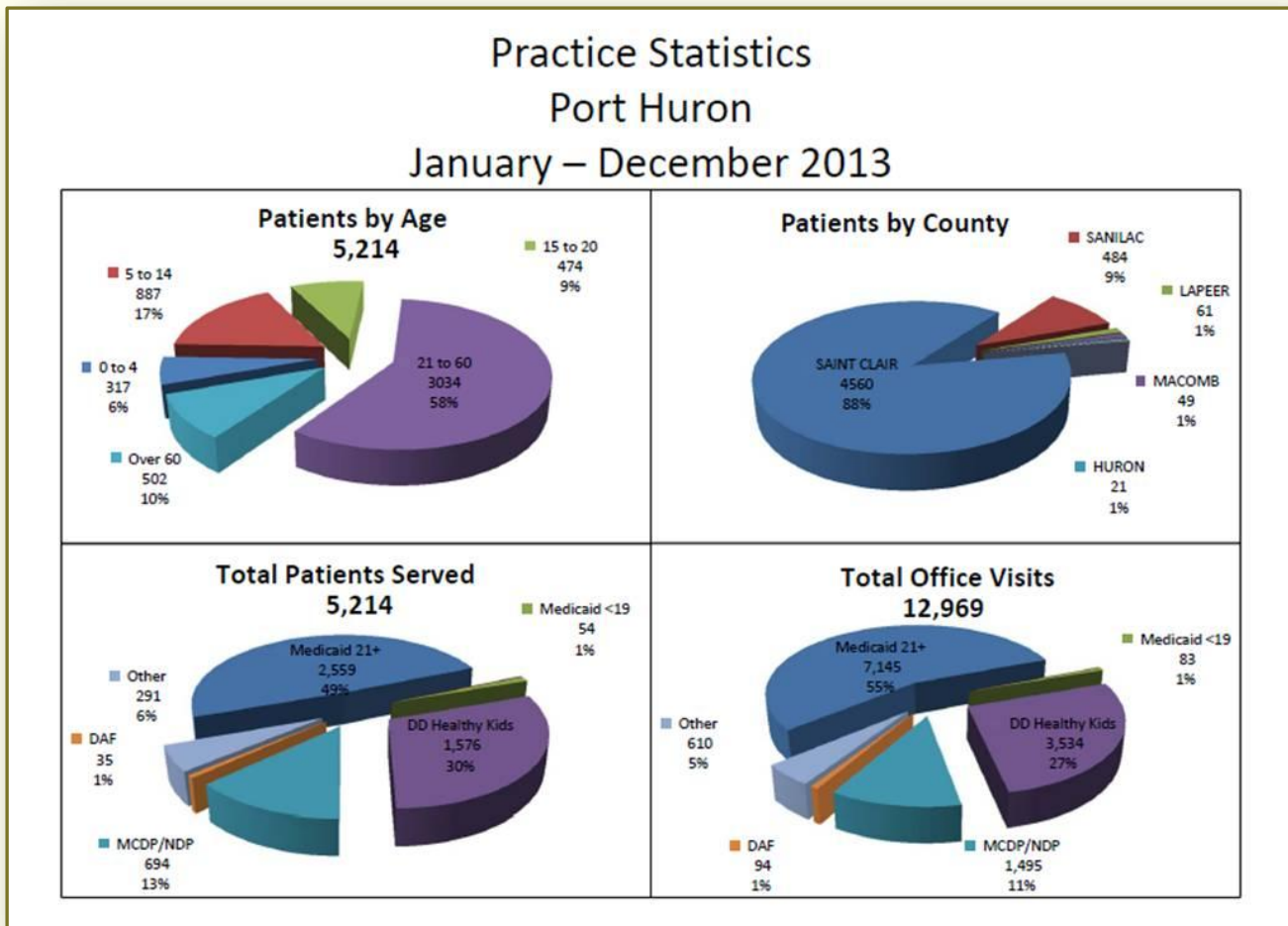
# Community Dental Clinic

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, Incorporated (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 Year-To-Date January - December 2013* graphs, 58% of the clinic's patient base is 21-60 years old and 49% of those patients are Medicaid recipients. The Clinic continues to participate in outreach activities in an effort to increase the patient base.



# Emergency Preparedness

## The Emergency Preparedness Division:

- Develops, implements and maintains the St. Clair County Health Department's capacity and capability to effectively recognize and respond to (suspect or actual) threats to public health.
- Events of public health concern include naturally occurring or weather related events, criminal or acts of terrorism, novel or large scale disease outbreaks, and/or biological, chemical, and radiological exposure events or emergencies.
- Plans, exercises and coordinates preparedness and response activities with local regional, state and federal partners.
- Researches, develops, and provides public health staff core competency training. Test, drill and exercise to established public health capability requirements.
- Constructs plans to meet the demands of constant changes in the nature and severity of public health threats to this community.
- Develops, tests and maintains plans for rapid distribution of life-saving medications to the *entire* population of the county within 48 hours of the decision to do so.



Staff Dispensing Site "Activation Exercise"



Staff Reviewing Emergency Operations Plan

St. Clair County Health Department's "Emergency Operations Plan" (EOP) is reviewed, revised and tested at least annually, to meet stringent requirements from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH's) and the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP).



## Division Highlights

- ❖ Continued identification and correction of failing septic systems; removing millions of 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 and safe food handling.
- ❖ Conducted consultations for new and remodeled food service facilities.
- ❖ Coordinated events such as Earth Fair, River Day, and the Sturgeon Festival which reached over 10,000 people with environmental education messages.
- ❖ Provided assistance with water quality activities needed for compliance with federal and state storm water regulations to all county departments, 12 local municipalities, and 6 educational institutions.
- ❖ Monitored water quality at fifteen Great Lakes and five inland beaches. The SCCHD Beaches Facebook page has reached hundreds of followers and is generating around 1,000 views per post.
- ❖ The Environmental Health Division's discovery of a cluster of septic tanks that were improperly connected to the storm sewer in the small town of Berville has led to a major correction project. Berlin Township obtained a USDA grant to construct a wastewater sewage lagoon to properly treat sewage from over fifty homes and businesses. The elimination of this sewage illicit discharge will significantly improve water quality by removing a substantial long-term public health threat.

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



Children have the opportunity to hold a threatened Lake Sturgeon from the St. Clair River at the Blue Water Sturgeon Festival

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.

### 2013 Program Statistics

Restaurant inspections	1,317
Temporary food inspections	230
Plan review for new or remodeled food establishments	31
Food complaint investigations	62
Bacterial surface water testing samples	1,229
On-site wastewater inspections/services	830
Drinking water analysis	1,749
Water well inspections/services	343
Soil Erosion/Sedimentation Control Inspections	379
Freedom of Information Requests processed	600+
Public campground and swimming pool inspections	88
Lead based paint inspections/Abatement Indoor Air/Asbestos inspections	87

# Community Health Education & Outreach

The Health Education team provides quality support, education and prevention programming to children, teens and adults throughout St. Clair County. The team provides collaborative community project development, direction and leadership in the areas of health education, communicable disease prevention, chronic disease prevention, assessment activities and consultation.

2013 Community Health Education highlights include:

- Nancy Deising, Health Educator was hired in February 2013 to serve in a unique capacity between two county departments. In an effort to maximize shrinking financial resources, this position was designed to benefit both the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) and the Department of Veteran Affairs offices. The partnership has proved to be a successful collaboration. Nancy brings in a wide array of public health experience from her various roles at Michigan Department of Community Health and is an excellent addition to the team.
- The Outreach program, traditionally inclusive of the Nursing division, was strategically placed in partnership under the Health Education umbrella as a natural fit in the services the two programs provide. The Community Health Education and Outreach division now consists of Jennifer Michaluk, M.Ed, Director; Nancy Deising, B.S, Health Educator; Amy Bishop, RN, Outreach Coordinator and Rose Palmateer, Clerical Support.
- The Health Education team played a pivotal role in obtaining the SCCHD's Substance Abuse Prevention License (SAPL). The SAPL opened up a new funding opportunity that allowed the department to contract for oversight of two coalitions that addressed substance abuse prevention. The Prescription Drug Abuse Workgroup and St. Clair County Smoke Free Team (tobacco coalition) were funded through the St. Clair County CMH Authority's Coordinating Agency (CA) and allowed for reimbursement for staff time and prevention efforts/activities specific to the contract. Funding opportunities also arose through the CA contract to provide communicable disease prevention education sessions for at-risk populations.
- Nearly 160 health education presentations were provided to 4,300 participants during 2013 ranging from communicable disease prevention education, reproductive health, public health services, nutrition; and relationship safety.
- Health Education and Partners at Heart staff continued providing free blood pressure, body mass index screenings at the Birchwood Mall, Vantage Point, YMCA (Body Recall participants) and Senior Power Day. In 2013, over 700 participants received screenings.
- A monthly, SCCHD "Points of Interest" publication was developed as a mechanism to keep local public health on the radar of the Board of Commissioners (BOC) and the general public. Each month the information is included in the BOC meeting packets and posted on the SCCHD website.
- Health Education staff continue to serve as public health consultants on most county school districts' Sex Education Advisory Boards (SEAB). To date, the majority of districts in St. Clair County implement an abstinence-based curriculum at the high school level. Efforts continue to assist SEABs in strengthening their sex education/reproductive health curriculum in other grade levels.



# Community Health Education & Outreach (*continued*)

The Outreach Program specializes in linking individuals and their families to community resources. Including, help with accessing health and resource agency services including:

- Health insurance benefits
- Preventive health screenings
- Medicaid services
- Prescription discount programs
- Urgent, acute and chronic medical, dental and mental health care needs
- Establishing a Primary Care Provider (PCP)/Medical Home
- Shelter, clothing, nutrition/food referrals
- Health education programming



The Outreach Program also provides application assistance to help ensure that qualifying families receive state health insurance benefits. Michigan offers *MIChild* and *Healthy Kids* for qualifying children up to their 19th birthday at little or no cost. The *MOMs* program provides insurance to qualifying pregnant mothers and the *Healthy Michigan Plan* provides health care coverage to low-income, eligible Michigan residents ages 19-64.



## 2013 Outreach Program Statistics

Informed Individuals/Families about Medicaid and Medicaid Services	4,619
Distributed Medicaid Outreach Materials	17,725
Participated in Community Events Promoting Medicaid and Medicaid Services	60
Provided Medicaid Eligibility/Application/Verification Services	22,204
Referrals for Individuals/Families to Other Community Resources	20,883

# Nursing

2013 began the process of redefining public health nursing at SCCHD to parallel local community's needs and significant changes at the state level while continuing to meet budgetary challenges. There were both staffing and programmatic changes implemented to achieve restructured goals.



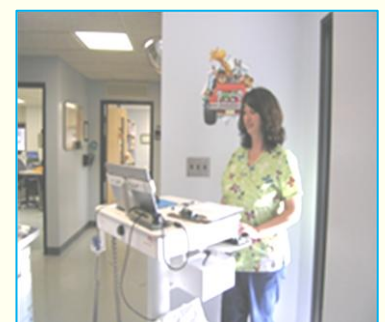
Staffing changes included clerk techs orientating to expanded roles at Teen Health Center and Main offices, as well as continued cross training to provide depth and quality of care by clerical and nursing staff. Nursing Supervisors experienced movement of programs and staff for which they provided management and oversight to as a new organizational structure within nursing was achieved. July 2013 marked the retirement of long time Nursing Director Karen Van Ness, RN, MSN.

Programmatic changes in the Nursing Division included the conclusion of the Case Management Program in October 2013. Clients who utilized this service were transitioned to another outreach/community partner who managed similar clients within neighboring counties. Not all modifications in 2013 were marked by loss in fact more new endeavors and program efficiencies began than ended. Highlights included:

- A joint partnership with Community Mental Health created an Integrated Care Coordinator position, which was filled by a public health nurse from SCCHD. The goal of this position was to improve healthcare coordination among mental health agencies and primary care providers.



- Grant funding allowed nursing staff continued ability to collaborate with local home visiting partners to promote continuity of home visiting service delivery to pregnant woman and children under 5 years of age.
- WIC building renovations were completed to support breastfeeding mothers and an improved family friendly atmosphere.
- WIC staff began utilizing “computers on wheels” in the clinic rooms to increase efficiencies and decreased the movement among clinic rooms for families by bringing the provider to them.



# Nursing *(Continued)*

- Received grant funding in support of outstanding immunization billing procedures, work flow, and creative use of programs to assist uninsured clients in payment of costly vaccines.
- SCCHD was recognized by National Immunization leader, “Immunization Action Coalition” (IAC) for outstanding vaccination efforts in healthcare settings and added to their “Honor Roll”.
- By October 2013 the Immunization department celebrated as St. Clair County (SCC) reached its highest immunization coverage rate (for children 19-36 months of age) in St. Clair County (75%) and exceeded the state average (74%). SCC also ranked highest among the region for adolescent immunization coverage rates in 2013.



## 2013 Nursing Division Statistics

Adolescent Health Clients	1,864
CD Investigations (Suspect & Actual)	270
Children’s Special Health Care Clients	491
HIV Case Management Clients	60
HIV Tests	327
Vision and Hearing Screening Program	15,812
Immunizations (Child, Adult, Flu & Travel Vaccines)	10,161
Lead Tests	1,416
Maternal Infant Health Clients	955
Outreach Encounters	3,001
Public Health Nurse Visits	2,295
STI Tests & Treatment	2,039
TB Skin Tests	227

# Nursing: *Teen Health Center*

For the past 28 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 2013, the THC had 1,886 different types of visits by 1,864 adolescents.



Pictured (L to R): Melissa Kivel, Sandra Mangan, NP, Dr. Mercatante, and Julie Walding, RN

2013 TEEN HEALTH CENTER SERVICES PROVIDED	
Immunizations	2,363
General Medical Visits (including sick)	961
Mental Health	45
Physical Exams	481
Family Planning Referrals	61
STI Diagnosis and Treatment	444
Substance Abuse Referrals	11

## *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 2013, the *Lifestyles* after school programming had a total of 10 sessions provided with 18 participants completing the program with pre and post-tests.



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Equal Opportunity  
Provider and employer

## Nursing:

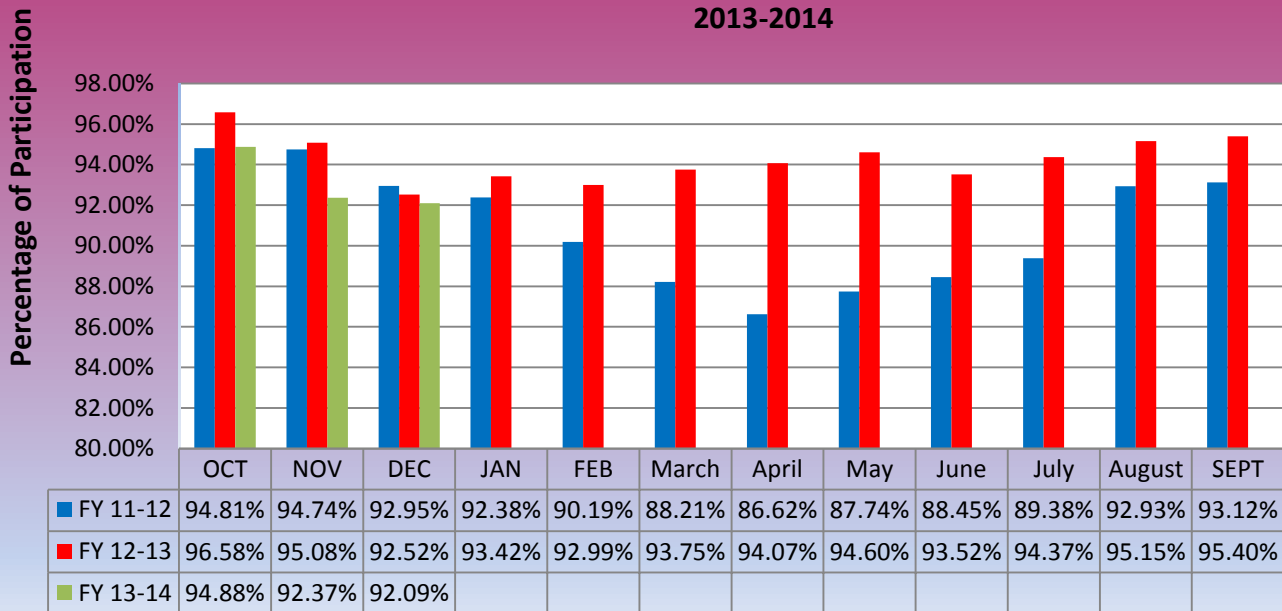
# Women, Infants & Children's Supplemental Food Program (WIC)

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. The program provides a combination of nutrition education, supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care. WIC foods are selected to meet nutrient needs such as calcium, iron, folic acid, vitamins A & C. Participants exchange WIC food benefits at approved retail grocery stores and pharmacies.

- WIC saves health care dollars. Every WIC dollar spent on a pregnant woman saves over \$3.50 in federal, state, local and private health care costs.
- WIC participation significantly increases the number of women receiving adequate prenatal care.
- WIC participation dramatically lowers infant mortality among Medicaid beneficiaries.
- WIC participation lowers the rate of anemia among children ages 6 months to 5 years.
- WIC significantly improves children's dietary intake of vitamins and nutrients such as iron, vitamin C, vitamin A, thiamine, protein, niacin, and vitamin B6.
- 4- and 5-year-olds who participated in WIC in early childhood have better vocabularies and digit memory scores than comparable children who did not participate in WIC.

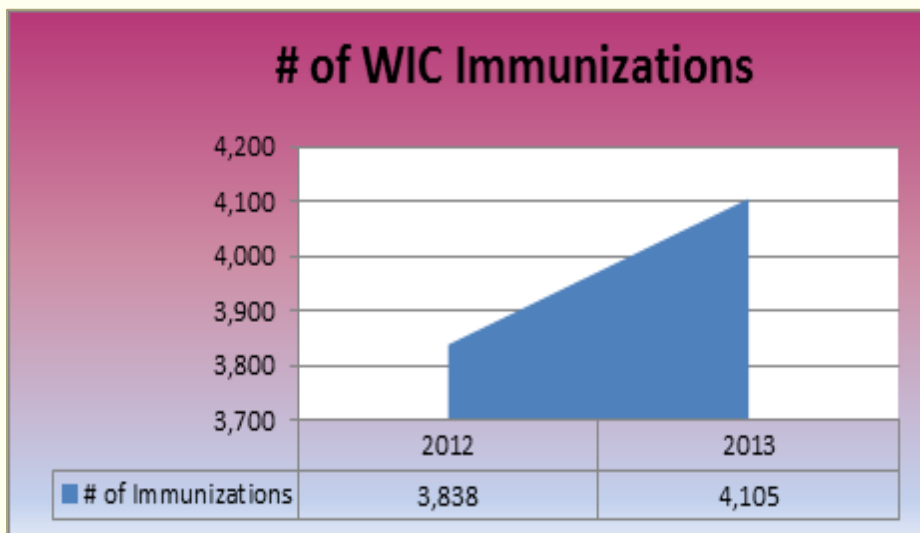
### WIC Caseload Participation Comparison

Goal= 97% of caseload is participation compliant  
2013-2014



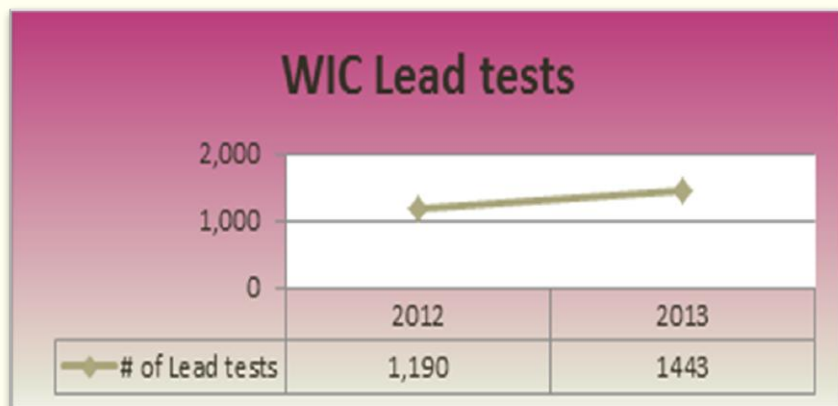
A goal of increased program participation of enrolled WIC clients was achieved. Participation improved as much as 8% (April 2013) compared to 2012 data. Modifying nutritional outcomes are achieved through high enrollment in the community and active client participation.

# Nursing: WIC (Continued)



1,964 WIC clients received 4,105 vaccines during their WIC appointment from January – December in 2013. This represents a 6.95% increase in 2013.

1,443 children were lead tested during their WIC encounter from January – December 2013. This represents an increase of 21.2% from 2012 data.



From January through December 2013, the average WIC monthly enrollment of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children was 4,014.

Clients enrolled in the SCCHD Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) spent a total local dollar amount of \$2,617,928.96 for nutritious food and dairy products in FY 2013.

Coordination of WIC and Maternal Infant Health Program services resulted in 471 pregnant women being enrolled in both programs during one appointment from January through December 2013.



# Your Health Protection Team St. Clair County Health Department



2013