

# KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2016 Annual Report

*To serve, protect and promote a healthy  
community for all.*



HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

*Caring today for a healthy tomorrow*

# A Message from the Health Officer of Kent County

It is very common to hear organizations talk about the value of collaboration. In fact, collaboration, done properly, is hard work. It requires joint labor by various entities focused on common objectives and it is often done in spite of credit or accolades. To truly collaborate upon community health priorities requires selfless dedication to purpose and a deep concern for the wellbeing of others.

As your Kent County Health Officer, I could not be more pleased to inform you that your community does a tremendous job collaborating in order to serve, protect and promote a healthy community for all.

Within this 2016 Annual Report, you will find numbers and facts related to your Kent County Health Department's actions during the year. These outputs combined with the outputs and collaboration of many other local entities, are responsible for making Kent County a healthier place.

Consider for example that dozens of organizations and individuals are working together on the four priorities of the Community Health Needs Assessment: mental health, obesity & nutrition, substance use disorder and violence. Also consider that, once again, Kent County ranked in the top five counties for influenza vaccination rates due to the extraordinary network of vaccine providers.

Furthermore, throughout most of 2016 this department worked with hospitals, first responders, the airport and other authorities to monitor and plan for the Ebola virus. There are many other examples of collaborative successes – early detection and treatment of cancer, improved birth outcomes, enhanced access to dental care, fewer vaccine waivers, more animal adoptions and much more. This annual report will summarize some of these successes, but please remember that these accomplishments would not be possible without the contributions of so many in this community.

In closing, I would like to tell you about a number that you won't see anywhere else in this report: 268. This department has 268 employees who live and breathe public health. 268 employees who also happen to be your neighbors, family and friends. 268 amazing people that I am honored to serve alongside. Kent County is fortunate and blessed to have countless collaborators working together for the common good and 268 outstanding public servants at the Kent County Health Department.



Adam London, MPA, RS, DAAS  
Health Officer  
Kent County Health  
Department



***The four divisions of the Kent County Health Department provide different services with common goals: preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting the health of the community.***

# Where to Find Us

KCHD's Main Clinic and Administrative Offices are centrally-located in Kent County, at 700 Fuller Avenue NE, Grand Rapids. This location near I-196 serves as headquarters for most of our public health workers. On the same campus, you will find our state-of-the-art animal shelter. Three satellite clinics provide easy access to many clinical services for residents county-wide.

**(616) 632-7100**

**[www.accessKent.com/Health](http://www.accessKent.com/Health)**



**1. Main Clinic**  
700 Fuller Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



**2. Animal Shelter**  
740 Fuller Avenue NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



**3. Sheldon Clinic**  
121 Franklin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507



**4. North County Clinic**  
4388 14 Mile Road NE  
Rockford, MI 49341



**5. South Clinic\***  
4700 Kalamazoo Avenue SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Toll-free from 616 or 231 area codes  
Administration/Director's Office  
Animal Shelter  
Community Clinical Services  
Community Wellness  
Environmental Health  
Kent County Medical Examiner's Office  
Communicable Disease/Epidemiology  
Personal Health Services  
WIC/Vaccines

(616) 632-7100  
(888) 515-1300  
(616) 632-7280  
(616) 632-7300  
(616) 632-7203  
(616) 632-7058  
(616) 632-6900  
(616) 632-7247  
(616) 632-7228  
(616) 632-7171  
(616) 632-7200

# Health Department Leadership

**Administrative Health Officer: Adam London, RS, MPA**

**Deputy Administrative Health Officer: Teresa Branson, MHA**

**Medical Director: Mark Hall, MD**

**Finance Director: Gail Brink, CPA**

**Community Clinical Services Director: Christopher Bendekgey**

**Community Wellness Director: Joann Hoganson, RN, MSN**

**Environmental Health Director: Eric Pessell**

## 2016 Community Health Advisory Committee

**Commissioner Shana Shroll (Chairper**

**Commissioner Emily Brieve**

**Steve Alsum**

**Nicolas Fletcher**

**Paul Haan**

**Dr. Michael Kramer**

**Ron Koehler**

**Nola Norton**

**Dr. Lori Pearl-Kraus**

**Savator Seldon-Johnson**

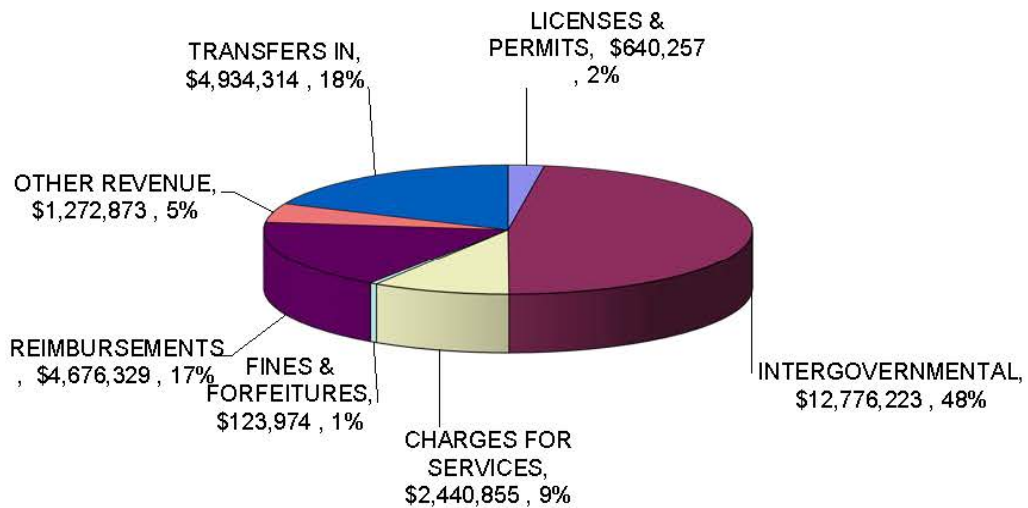
**Dr. Mark Swan**



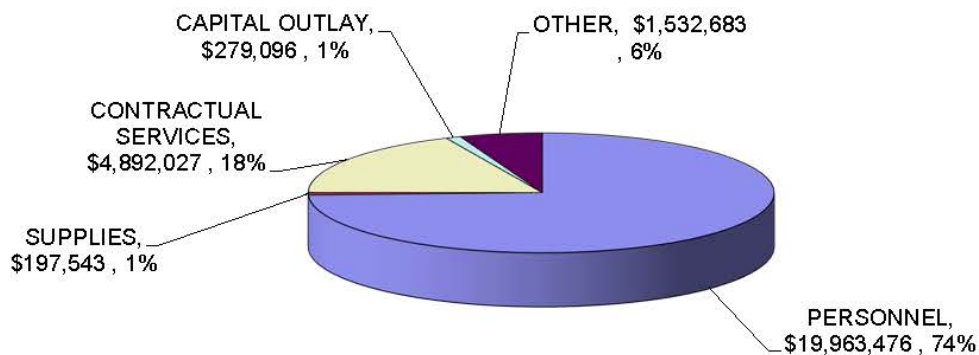
## 2016 Community Outreach Maranda Park Party

# 2016 Budget

## 2016 KCHD REVENUES 12 months



## 2016 KCHD EXPENSES 12 months



# Administration

Administration of Department  
Academic Health Department  
Central Supply  
Emergency Preparedness  
Epidemiology and Communicable  
Disease

Health Equity and Social Justice  
Healthy Kent  
Finance/Information Technology  
Quality Improvement and  
Performance Management  
School Illness Reporting

Oversight and planning starts in Administration. Epidemiologists, program managers, communications, emergency preparedness, finance and information technology make up this division. Administration sets quality improvement goals and establishes the overall direction and vision of the Kent County Health Department.



In 2016 The CD/Epi Unit and KCHD Environmental Health Division investigated an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness among football players and coaches of a local high school. 81 individuals were interviewed and KCHD staff was able to determine that the likely cause of the illness was exposure to river water and mud during a pre-season team camping trip. Subsequent testing proved positive for the parasite *Cryptosporidium*.

# Administration

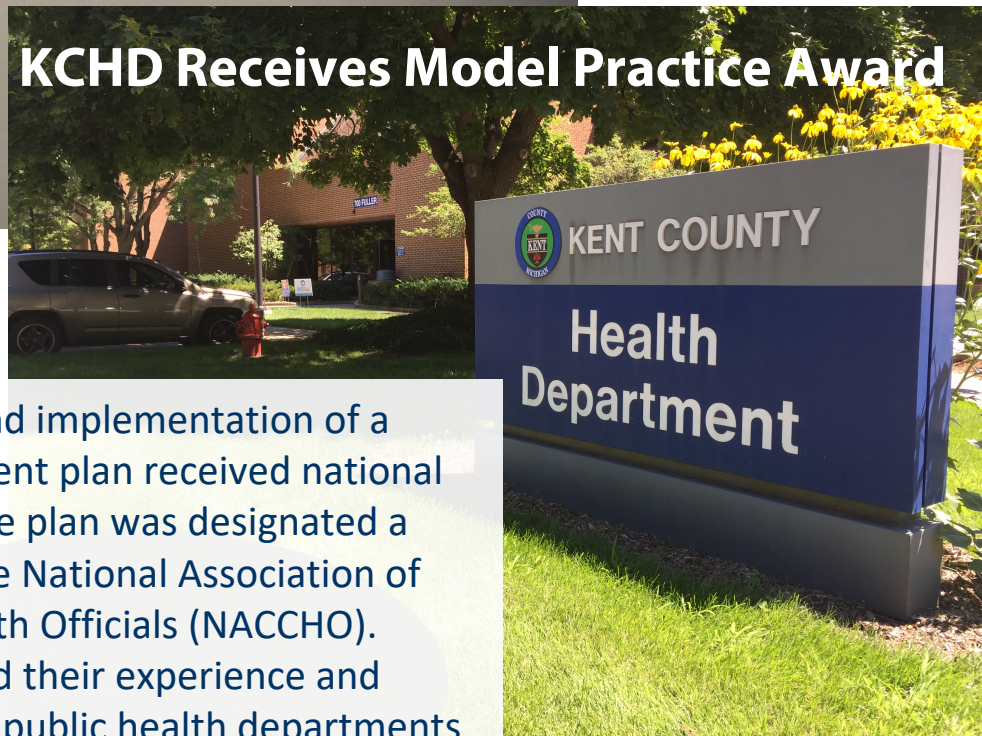


## Material Review Committee

As a recommendation from the Cultural Competency Policy, KCHD established the Material Review Committee (MRC). The MRC ensures that all materials form KCHD are cuturally sensitive, relevant and maintain an appropriate level of health literacy. In 2016 the MRC reviewed over 50 various documents.

## KCHD Receives Model Practice Award

The establishment and implementation of a workforce development plan received national attention in 2016. The plan was designated a Model Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). KCHD staff has shared their experience and strategies with other public health departments through conferences, presentations and by publishing in the NACCHO Exchange Newsletter. The Model Practice is being shared nationally by NACCHO on the organizations website where the plan is available in its entirety.



# Community Clinical Services

School Immunization Reporting

Immunization Nurse Educator  
In-services

Immunization Services

Public Health Clinics

Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV  
Clinic

Tuberculosis Control and Prevention

Vaccines For Children Program

WIC (Special Supplemental Food Program  
for Women, Infants, and Children

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program

Travel Immunizations

Lead Screening

Community Clinical Services provides immunizations, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), breastfeeding education, nutrition education, sexually-transmitted infection (STI) testing and much more. Counseling and assistance from a variety of programs are designed to prevent disease and promote good health.



2016 was the second year of a Michigan rule requiring parents/guardians to obtain a non-medical waiver for required school/childcare immunizations from a local health department. Those seeking the waiver are also required to attend a mandatory counseling session with a public health nurse.

**Kent County Immunization Rates  
increase in 2016**

**More children are being  
vaccinated and protected from  
vaccine-preventable diseases.**

82% of the children in Kent County between the ages of 19 months and 17 years were fully vaccinated in 2016.



# Community Clinical Services

## Immunizations

The Kent County Health Department administered 20,477 vaccines in 2016. Vaccine preventable diseases like pertussis (whooping cough) and measles are commonly thought to be a thing of the past. Unfortunately that is not true and the need to continue to immunize continues. Safe and effective vaccines are available to protect against meningitis, mumps, pertussis, measles, influenza and hepatitis A & B. Children who are not immunized are at risk for diseases which can sometimes be fatal. While most people think immunizations are just for kids, adults need to pay attention to their immunization history as well. Adults should receive a booster shot of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) every ten years.



## Personal Health Services

4,608 people sought services from the Personal Health Services Division at KCHD in 2016. The division provides confidential testing and counseling for sexually transmitted infections. KCHD also provides referrals for further care.

# Community Wellness

## Maternal Infant Health Program

Strong Beginnings

Nurse Family Partnership

## Children's Special Health Care Services

Vision & Hearing Screening

Infant & Child Death Counseling

NICU Follow-up Visits

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Refugee Health

## Medicaid Enrollment and Coordination

Interconception Care Program

Community Nutrition

Life Skills

Obesity Initiative

Sexual Violence Prevention

Substance Use Disorders and Prevention

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Women's Health Network

Community Wellness builds healthy foundations for youth and families in Kent County. Nurses, dietitians, social workers, clerks, community health workers, public health educators and vision and hearing technicians provide services to a diverse population throughout Kent County. Staff members work with parents and children, often in their homes, to make sure they are leading healthy lives.

## Women's Health Network

The Kent County Breast and Cervical Cancer Control and Navigation Program provided prompt and accurate follow up for 100% of the women who received services and were diagnosed with cancer. The program received a perfect score from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services audit of services.



# Community Wellness



## Helping Our Children

Strong Beginnings received the American Hospital Association's NOVA award. The honor is bestowed on collaborative programs that demonstrate a positive impact on community-level health.

Strong Beginnings earned the award for its work to improve maternal and infant health among African American and Latino populations in Kent County. In collaboration with other maternal/child programs in the county, infant mortality rates among African Americans in Kent County have been cut in half in the last decade.

The Kent County Health Department conducted 93,010 hearing and vision screenings in 2016. Screenings are scheduled in schools with individual screenings available by appointment for children starting at age three and continuing through high school

## Health Equity & Social Justice Dialogue Workshops

In 2016 KCHD extended its two-day workshops to include employees in Friend of the Court, Housing and Community Development, Legal Assistance Center and the 63rd District Court.

More than 120 employees attended the workshops which have now reached over 600 people since the beginning of the program.

# Environmental Health

Animal Shelter  
Body Art Facility Inspections  
Campground Inspections  
Child Care/Adult Foster Care Facility Inspections  
Food Service Sanitation  
Housing Program  
Laboratory Services  
Land Development (Subdivisions and Site Condominiums)

Nuisance Control Program  
Private Water Supply  
Public Swimming Pools  
Public Water Supply  
Radon Testing  
Sanitary Facility Evaluation  
Sewage Disposal System Regulation  
Toxic Substance Control  
Vacant Land Evaluation

Environmental Health programs cover a wide spectrum. This division protects people from illness and injury by assuring the quality of regulated environments. This division also oversees a lab and the Kent County Animal Shelter.

## Vapor Intrusion



In May KCHD was notified by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality of a severe vapor intrusion problem in several Grand Rapids homes and businesses. KCHD was forced to order people out of their homes and places of work until the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) was able to remediate the area. KCHD worked to provide social services to the people displaced by the emergency. KCHD obtained blood samples and urine samples from exposed individuals and turned them over to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. KCHD also provided clinical guidance for physicians for those individuals.

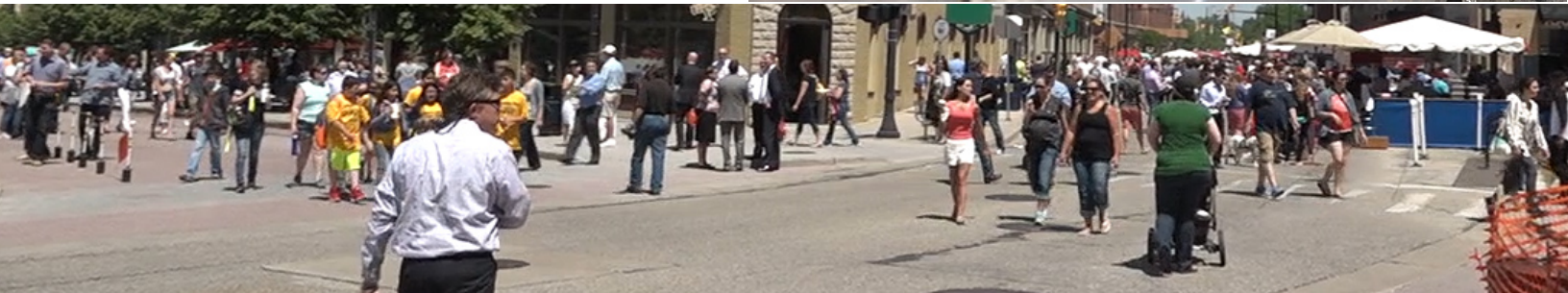
# KCHD Sanitarians Work to Ensure Healthy Food Practices

**"It is our busiest day of the year," says KCHD Supervising Sanitarian Randy Hill. In less than three hours, 10 KCHD sanitarians have to inspect and license the 27 food booths that will become the 47th Annual Festival of the Arts in downtown Grand Rapids.**

**The pace is hectic and the pressure intense but it is just a snapshot in time of what KCHD sanitarians face all year long.**

**4,600 inspections happen in 2,300 restaurants every year in Kent County and the number continues to grow.**

**Now in it's fourth year, KCHD gave out more than 550 Food Safety Awards in 2016. 1,750 restaurants are eligible for the award that is given to those who display an exceptional dedication to food safety issues.**



# Kent County Animal Shelter

The Kent County Animal Shelter set its all time record for live release rates in 2016. 55% of the dogs and cats that came into the shelter found new homes. This is a seven percent increase over the previous record. The live release rate for dogs rose to 62%. For cats the live release rate was 47% in 2016.



579 dogs and 451 cats from the Kent County Animal Shelter found new forever homes in Kent County in 2016. Shelter management credits much of the success to a growing volunteer program. Volunteers tackle a variety of tasks at the shelter from feeding to cleaning and even photography. Volunteer and professional photographer Nidal Kanan contributes his talents to photograph animals that are available for adoption. These photos are then posted on the shelter's Facebook page which has grown from 7700 followers to more than 15,000 in 2016.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MATTER

**Education**

Refugee Health Services

**Violence Prevention**

OPPORTUNITIES

Housing Regulations & Sanitation

Children's Special Health Care Services

**Development**

COMMUNITY NURSING

**Immunizations**

Health Equity

Public Laboratory



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

*Caring today for a healthy tomorrow*

**Prevention**

**Animal Control**

Well Water Testing

MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM

**WIC**

Food Facility Inspections

**Emergency Preparedness**

**Communicable Disease**

Personal Health Services

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**Ground Water Protection**

Nurse Family Partnership

Community Clinical Services

**Exceptional Public Service**

*Making a positive contribution*

IMPROVING LIVES

**And More....**

*...a look at our efforts to keep Kent County Healthy!*



700 Fuller Ave. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
[accessKent.com/Health](http://accessKent.com/Health)