



Genesee County Health Department

Healthy Genesee County 2020



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

VISION, MISSION, GOAL, VALUE & PRINCIPLES

Vision

Better Life Through Better Health

Mission

To improve the quality of life in Genesee County by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the public from environmental hazards to health.

Goal

To improve the health status of Genesee County residents, with particular attention to eliminating racial, social, and economic inequities and using prevention and intervention strategies that target underlying causes.

Value & Principles

Responsibility: To the public we serve; to the government of which we are a part; and to our staff, who carry out the mission with which we are charged.

Excellence: In all areas of work and among those we encounter and serve.

Goodwill: In our treatment of the public and each other, with dignity, cultural competency, equality, and confidentiality.

Effectiveness: Through services that are convenient, customer-oriented, quality-focused, and evidence-based, and that result in measurable improvements in the community's health.

Collaboration: In work with community members, agency partners, and each other to build trust, to ensure work is respectful and equitable, and to develop solutions that draw upon the unique strengths of all.

Positive Attitude: In approach to and expectations for our work, colleagues and community.

Social Justice: By recognizing local inequities in health status and working with others to change the social, economic, political, and environmental conditions that are among the root causes of these inequities.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Foster a Learning Organization and Academic Health Department
- Evaluate Programs and Improve Quality Continuously
- Implement Evidence-Based Practices
- Enhance Communication Internally and Externally
- Develop an Effective Media and Marketing Strategy
- Partner with Community Residents and Organizations
- Convene Public Health System Agencies
- Coordinate Across Disciplines
- Work for Health Equity and Social Justice
- Encourage Diversity and Assure Cultural Competence
- Encourage Worksite Wellness and Health Promotion
- Secure Adequate Resources



BETTER LIFE THROUGH BETTER HEALTH

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FIVE BIG RESULTS

1. **Champion healthy public policy by gathering, analyzing and disseminating information on health and the determinants of health**

Assessment and policy development are two of the three key functions of public health. Public health is a science that uses data to provide guidance for planning, delivery and evaluation of public health services.

2. **Create and sustain healthy environments and assure compliance with environmental health regulations under our authority and jurisdiction**

Improving the environments in which people live, work and play improves health outcomes. It also makes healthy choices easier. Assuring safe and healthy water, food, housing and recreational resources are at the core of good public health policy.

3. **Maximize impact on community health by encouraging healthy lifestyles**

Health outcomes can be greatly improved by avoiding exposure to toxins like tobacco smoke, eating right, moving more and maintaining a healthy weight.

4. **Create health equity and social justice**

There is disparity in the distribution of factors that contribute to health outcomes. Addressing these disparities contributes to creating health equity.

5. **Be a fully accredited local health department that embraces excellence and promotes communication, collaboration, diversity and mutual respect**

We must recruit, develop and maintain a competent and flexible workforce, promote collaboration and meet the accreditation standards for local public health in Michigan.

TOP TEN COMMUNITY PRIORITY OUTCOMES

1. Ensure all Genesee County Residents have a “medical home” - A “medical home” offers a home base for health care where a primary doctor provides culturally appropriate, consistent care and coordinates with other professionals to meet a family’s health care needs. Having a “medical home” helps ensure individuals and families get appropriate preventive care and addresses health care needs sooner thereby improving health outcomes.

2. Promote Healthy Kids becoming Healthy Adults - By providing Genesee County children a healthy start we can prevent them from developing chronic illness as adults. Healthy lifestyles learned as children promote healthy lifestyles as adults.

3. Promote Obesity Reduction – Many Genesee County residents are overweight or obese. Excess weight is a contributing factor to chronic diseases. Maintaining a healthy weight can improve health outcomes.

4. Improve Healthy Eating - Eating healthy foods can prevent disease and contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

5. Improve Active Living - Being physically active can prevent chronic disease and contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

6. Create and Support Healthy Environments - Healthy environment includes our physical environment, our built environment (infrastructure) and our social environment. It includes emergency preparedness, healthy homes, smoke free air, access to clean safe water, healthy foods and violence prevention.

7. Promote Immunizations Across the Lifespan - Immunizations are public health’s greatest tool to prevent disease in individuals and communities. By promoting proper immunization across the lifespan we can dramatically improve our community’s health.

8. Promote Healthy Sexuality - Making wise and informed choices, taking care of your reproductive health and accepting and expressing your sexual identity are all vital to staying sexually healthy throughout your life. Promoting awareness of healthy sexuality means encouraging communication about feelings and values, family planning, condom use and knowing HIV and STD status through routine testing.

9. Increase the Use of Preventive Care - Preventing disease before it occurs is a cornerstone of public health. Preventing disease through early detection, proper reporting, follow-up and treating it early improves individual and community health.

10. Improve the Social Determinants of Health - Where we live impacts our health. The social conditions in which we live impact our health. Inequity in these social conditions creates health disparity. By addressing the social conditions that contribute to poor health outcomes in our community we can create health equity.