

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE**



# Table of Contents

Letter from Medical Director and Health Officer	3
Leadership	4
Personal Health	5
Environmental Health	8
Emergency Preparedness	10
Financial Statement	11

# Letter from Medical Director and Health Officer

As we have been reflecting on the past year and thinking about all the changes in 2022, we must celebrate our growth and dedication. We have come a long way over the course of the year and if one common theme could be pointed out, it would be the ability to rise above. The health department staff and the community share a collective resiliency which guided them through uncertain and difficult times to do important public health work as professionals and caring team members.

2022 has been a year of transition after 2 years of unprecedented response to a public health crisis. The beginning of the year started with some uncertainty, but as time passed it was clear that the health department was moving from emergency response to disease management which has allowed the focus to shift back to core public health programs serving the community.

We continue to adapt and move forward to revitalize public health programs and services in Benzie and Leelanau Counties. We are passionate about our clients, and we embrace the challenges they face as they are welcomed back to the important services they expect and deserve. Leadership and staff recognize the overall importance of providing the best public health services possible to enable individuals the opportunity to thrive in their community.

To put it in the simplest terms, we are community members serving community members and our staff are the agency's greatest assets! Our dedicated team of public health professionals strive for excellence each day to meet the needs in the community from a wide array of individual and family services to protecting the environment, food, and drinking water. In this report, you will see all the hard work our team has done over the last year to enhance and expand programs to better meet the needs of the people we serve.

This team inspires us to be the best we can be and work hard to help move this agency in the right direction. As a public agency, all the important public health work could not be possible without the support of our Board of Health and our many fantastic community partners. We are looking forward to working with all of you in 2023 and beyond!



**JOSHUA MEYERSON, MD, MPH**

*Medical Director*



**DANIEL R. THORELL, MS, RS**

*Health Officer*

# Leadership

## Administration Team

Medical Director: Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH

Health Officer: Daniel R. Thorell, MS, RS

Director of Administrative Services: Dodie Putney, BS

Director of Environmental Health: Eric Johnston, RS

Director of Personal Health: Michelle Klein, RN, MA, PH-C

Assistant Director of Personal Health: Debbie Aldridge, RN

Personal Health Supervisor: Autumn Jurek, RN IBCLC

Personal Health Supervisor: Betsy Hardy, MSN, RN

Public Health Technician Supervisor: Kerry Turner, MBA

## Board of Health

Chairperson: Dr. Barbara Conley

Vice Chairperson: Gary Sauer

Members:

Patricia Soutas-Little

Dr. Mark Kuiper

Rhonda Nye

William Bunek- ended April 2022

Ty Wessell- started May 2022

# Personal Health

## Personal Health Program Numbers

### **Immunizations (non-COVID):**

2,010 immunizations were administered

### **Hearing Screening:**

737 screenings were completed

### **Vision Screening:**

774 screenings were completed

### **Infection Disease Control:**

2,556 cases investigations were conducted (2,397 COVID-19 cases, 159 other diseases)

### **Healthy Futures:**

323 contacts with 151 families

49 home visits to 151 families

### **Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP):**

154 MIHP clients were served for a total of 718 visits.

### **Reproductive Health:**

91 clients were served for a total of 128 visits, and 10 Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) visits were completed

### **Women, Infant, and Children (WIC):**

819 clients enrolled in WIC, 85 fluoride varnish applied, and 83 lead tests were completed

### **Community Connections:**

861 referrals, 3,077 Medicaid managed health plan referrals, and 2,074 contacts

### **Children's Special Health Care Services:**

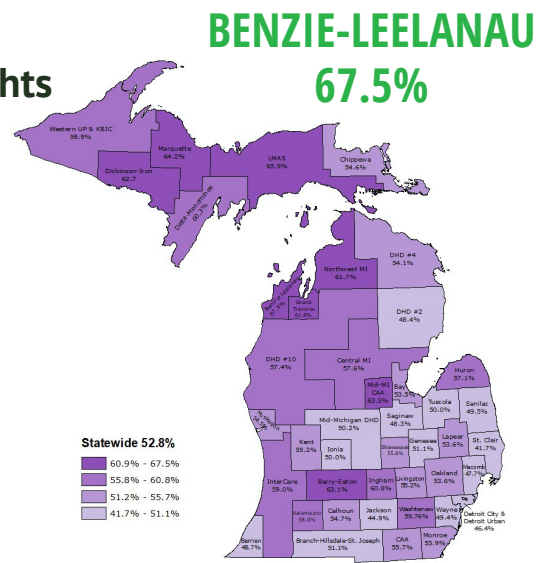
84 clients were served and 40 plans of care were completed

# Personal Health

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) highlights

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department's WIC program had the highest percentage of babies in the state still breastfeeding at 2 months of age, at 67.5%. This rate reflects the support and expertise that BLDHD staff offer breastfeeding women in our communities.

In addition, BLDHD is third in the state for highest percentage of babies in the state still breastfeeding at 6 months of age, at 36.4%.



## Health Department expands to school-based health services



Pictured (L-R) Stephanie Burns, RN, Carolyn Seabury, BSN, RN, and Leslie Grappin, BSN, RN

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department added school-based health services in Benzie Central School District, Frankfort Elberta Area Schools, Northport Public School, Leland Public School, and Suttons Bay Public Schools. Five nurses and two social workers are supporting students' physical and mental health needs throughout both counties.

These services impact the health and well-being of individual students and the school population as a whole.

## Health Department and Harm Reduction offers free Narcan

Through a collaboration between Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and Harm Reduction Michigan a free community Narcan pick up box is available in Benzie County. The box is located outside the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department- Benzie Office.

Since the box was installed in September 2022, approximately 72 Narcan kits have been distributed through the pick-up box.



# Reportable Communicable Diseases- 5-year Report

Disease	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Brucellosis	0	1	0	0	1
Campylobacter	7	11	3	3	7
Chickenpox	0	1	0	1	1
Chikungunya	0	0	0	0	0
Chlamydia	46	71	42	66	80
Coccidiomycosis	0	3	0	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0	4	2	3	0
E. Coli	0	0	0	0	0
Erlchiosis Anaplasma Phagocytophillum	4	0	0	0	1
Giardiasis	1	2	0	2	4
Gonorrhea	11	17	6	7	7
Haemophilus Influenza	3	2	1	0	2
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	4	21	11	8	6
Hepatitis C*	9	61	4	23	38
Histoplasmosis	1	3	0	0	2
Legionellosis	0	1	2	2	1
Lyme Disease	29	51	23	6	0
Meningitis-Aseptic	2	2	3	0	7
Meningitis-Bacterial	2	1	0	0	3
Meningitis-Strep Pneumo	0	0	6	0	3
Mycobacterium-NonTB	4	1	2	3	10
Mycobacterium-TB	0	0	1		
Novel Coronavirus-COVID 19	2397	4094	1409	0	0
Pertussis	0	1	0	18	1
Rickettsial-Spotted Fever	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	5	6	6	6	2
Shigellosis	1	2	0	0	0
Streptococcal Disease, Grp A	1	0	1	2	0
Syphilis	0	1	3	1	2
Vibriosis	0	0	0	1	0
VZ infection	1	6	1	9	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>4,372</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>1,094</b>

# Environmental Health

## Environmental Health numbers

Restaurant Inspections: 530  
Food License: 261  
Temporary Food License: 75  
Foodborne Illness Report Follow up: 7  
Well Permits Issued: 455  
Septic Permits Issued: 528  
Vacant Land Evaluations: 162  
Existing Well and Septic System Inspections: 375  
Swimming Pool and Spas Inspections: 36  
Swimming Beach Monitoring: 8  
Campground Inspections: 29  
Septage Hauling Vehicle Inspections: 21  
Septage Receiving Facility Inspections: 4  
Tattoo Parlor Inspections: 2

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## Environmental Health applications compared to last year

Overall, the number of requests for land use services (septic and water well permits, evaluations, etc.) during FY 2022 were down by 13.39% from FY 2021.

- Leelanau County requests were down 14.69%
- Benzie County requests were down 11.92%

Even though the number of Land Use Service requests were down across most of our district compared to FY 2021, they are still up approximately 28% compared to FY 2019 & approximately 31% compared to FY 2020.



# Environmental Health

## Environmental Health launches on-line applications

The Environmental Health Division launched new on-line applications for the public to more easily access our services. The public can now apply and pay on-line for septic and/or well permits, water well and/or septic system evaluations, vacant land evaluations, remodel reviews of their septic and/or water well, temporary food permits, and special transitory food units (i.e. food truck) owners can inform the department of their intent to operate at a local event.

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## Environmental Health Portal

All Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department's Environmental Health property file records for both Benzie and Leelanau County were made available to the public via our public portal.

“The benefits of the portal were to improve public access to information, add natural disaster protection, and allow staff, homeowners, realtors, septic pumps, and contractors to get convenient access to important information anywhere that has internet access” said Eric Johnston, Environmental Health Director.

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## Eric Johnston - EH Director, won the Laserfiche Government Impact Award.

“The Government Impact Award recognizes leaders in the Laserfiche community for reimagining business processes, modernizing the customer experience and empowering communities to transform their organizations into a thriving digital workplace. Government Impact Award recipients are individuals that have been instrumental in creating a community of practice where leaders share ideas and make a positive impact in their organizations. This encourages tech innovation and enables users to create transformative solutions for their organizations.”

“Thanks to your leadership and expertise, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department was able to transform processes across two counties, reducing the reporting time by 75-80% without loss of accuracy. In addition, your success has inspired other Michigan Counties to start the process of digital transformation.”

- Linda Ding, Senior Director of Strategic Marketing, Laserfiche



# Emergency Preparedness

## Coronavirus Outbreak Response

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department continued a robust response to the COVID-19 pandemic through case management, vaccine clinics, at-home test kits, and collaborations with Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital and the Honu Management Group.

Throughout 2022 the response to the pandemic was ever changing with the needs of the community. We started out the year vaccinating residents at mass vaccination clinics. Our relationships with community partners remained strong, and temporary staff and volunteers continued to be a big part of our success. As the demand for vaccination waned, we were able to transition clinics into the local offices. In total, we gave 4,726 COVID-19 vaccines in 2022.

Long-term Care Facilities and Adult Foster Care homes received support in mitigating outbreaks from our public health nurses, and in collaboration with Honu Management Group, provided vaccines to the residents and staff of these facilities.

A team of temporary nurses supported the public by assisting individuals with understanding and following CDC guidance and recommendations and with accessing treatment for COVID-19.



A Nurse Hot Line was established to efficiently answer questions related to COVID-19 testing or vaccines, and to offer employer support as we continue to navigate the pandemic. BLDHD, Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital and the Honu Management Group collaborated to provide FREE walk-in COVID-19 testing in both Benzie and Leelanau Counties, multiple days per week. In Benzie County 1,747 tests were administered and in Leelanau County 1,246 tests were administered, for a total of 3,595 tests administered in 2022.

Rapid at-home test kits continue to be an important resource in our fight against COVID-19. Test kits were distributed through both the Lake Leelanau and Benzie offices for free, with thousands of kits distributed.

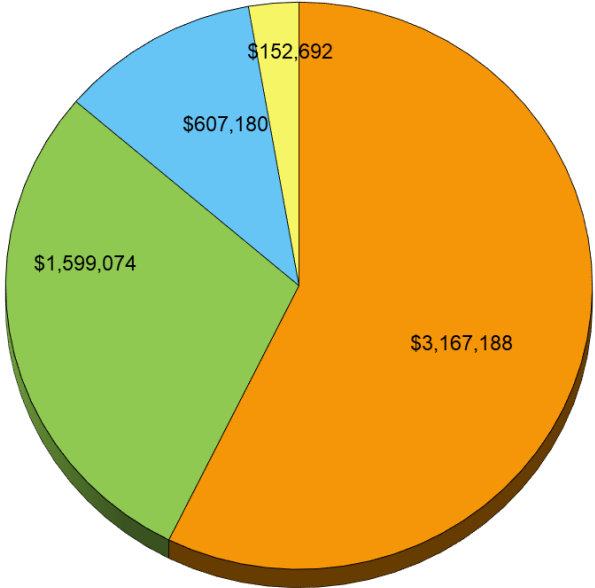
Our dedicated team of school nurses continued to support our youth through the pandemic. With nurses in Suttons Bay, Northport, Leland, Benzie County Central and Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools the school nurses assisted with testing, provided advice and information to families, and assisted the schools in mitigating outbreaks.

## Mpox Response

BLDHD collaborated with MDHHS and Grand Traverse County Health Department administered 14 Mpox vaccines to jurisdiction residents.

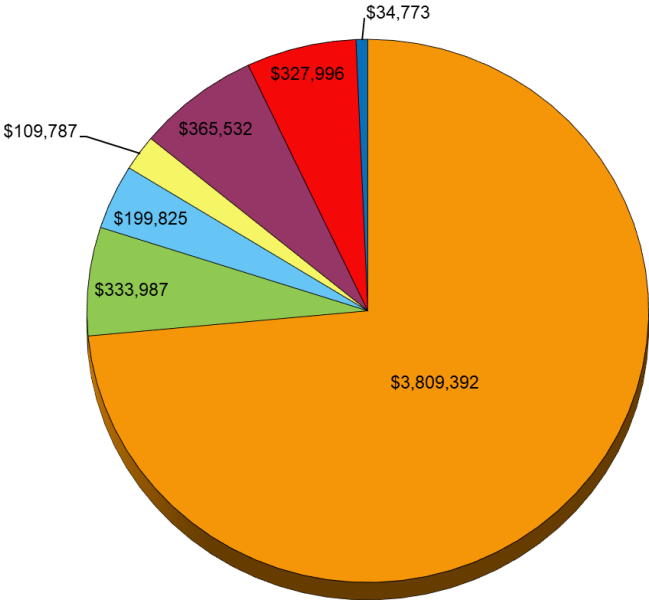
# Financial Statement

## FY 21/22 Revenues \$5,526,134



- Federal & State Grants - 57%
- Fees & Collections - 29%
- Local Funds - 11%
- Other - 3%

## FY 21/22 Expenditures \$5,181,292



- Personnel - 74%
- Space Costs - 6%
- Other - 4%
- Travel - 2%
- Supplies - 7%
- Professional Services - 6%
- Communications - 1%