

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



A LETTER FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

“On behalf of the Bay
County Health
Department, I am
pleased to share our
2024 Annual report.



On behalf of the Bay County Health Department (BCHD), I am proud to present the 2024 Annual Report to the residents of Bay County. This report shares the story of our continued work to promote, protect, and preserve the health and well-being of all who live, work, and play in the County of Bay.

2024 was a crucial year for local public health departments across the United States. State and federal funding sources decreased investments in core public health services. However, in Bay County, we continue to focus on utilizing our resources to strengthen our sustainability, reach, partnerships, and programming. This commitment provides us with new opportunities to deepen our impact.

Starting in 2024 and continuing in 2025, we committed to continue providing breast feeding and parenting education programming for nearly all moms and newborns in the county, launched diabetic education services so that newly diagnosed persons can effectively manage their conditions, and supported and provided resources to community efforts that addressed food insecurity during the government shutdown. We also worked to prevent youth engaging in cannabis by engaging teens and their families through targeted education, facilitated access to care services for uninsured and underinsured residents, and enhanced our efforts and increased staff training to better support the needs of our community.

Most importantly, we have worked diligently to ensure the completion of Bay County's investment of eleven million dollars in the Health and Human Services Center is completed on time and we look forward to unveiling the new facility in June of 2026. Our team continues to lead in many areas of public health, both statewide and nationally. Our team leads at local, state, and national levels, serving on boards and advising on legislation to ensure Bay County's health needs are prioritized. This leadership keeps us aligned with the highest standards of care. We remain committed to innovation and excellence, and we thank you for your continued trust as we build a healthier future together.

Yours in health,
Joel R. Strasz, MPA
Health Officer

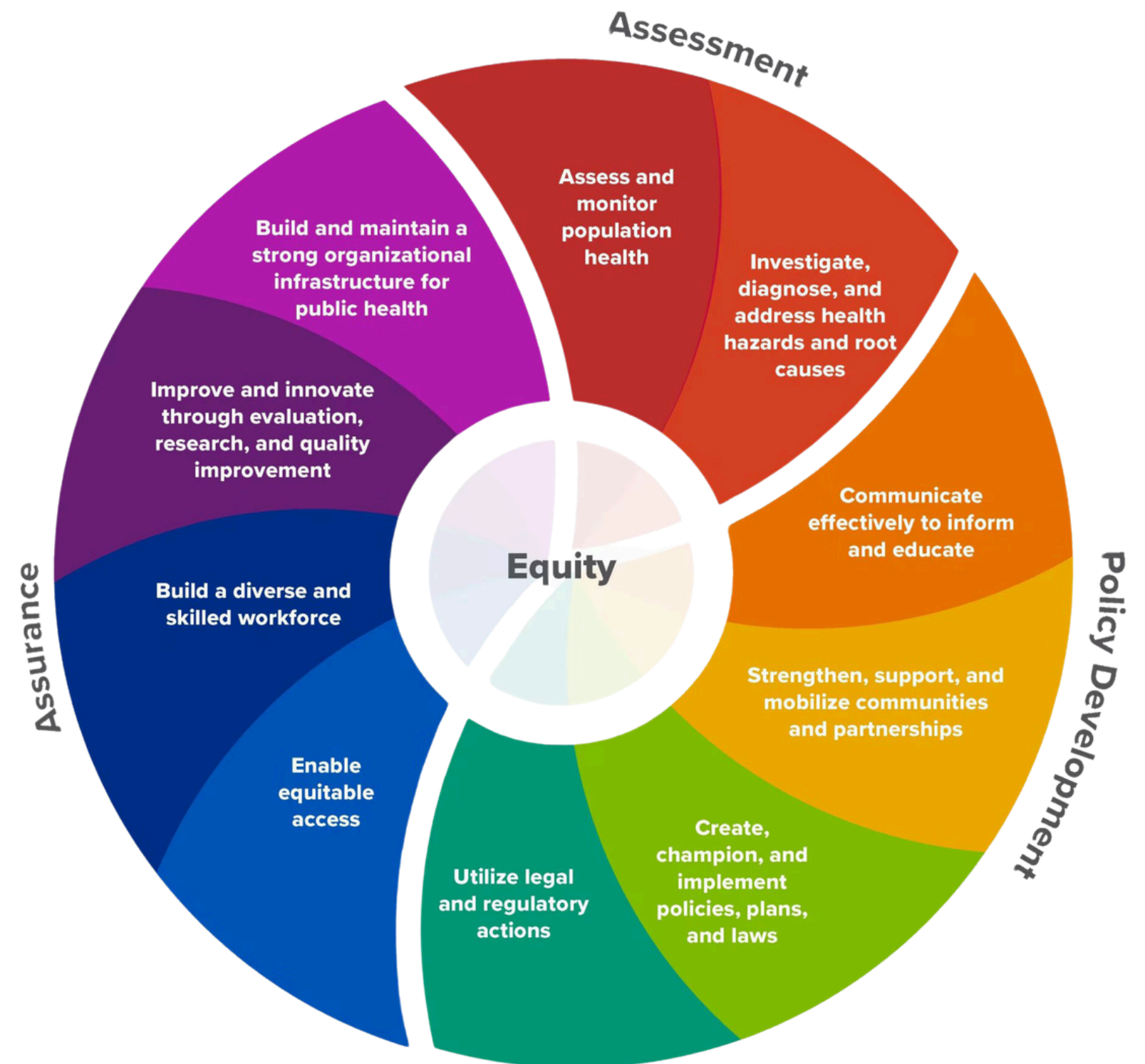


Administrative Staff

Joel Strasz, MPA | Public Health Officer
 Andre Reed, MSHAL | Deputy Health Officer
 Dr. Thomas Bender, MD, PhD, FACOEM | Medical Director
 Dr. William Morrone, DO, MPH, MS | Medical Examiner
 Erica Rettelle, MSN, RN | Public Health Nursing Service Manager
 Melissa Opheim, MA | Public Health Services Manager/EPC
 Amy Revette, RD | WIC Manager
 Amy Yakich | Business Service Manager
 Joel Kwiatkowski | Environmental Health Manager

The 10 essential Public Health Services (EPHS) describes the public health activities that all communities should undertake. To achieve equity, the EPHS actively promotes policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities.

THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES



Our Mission



To protect and promote a healthy community and safe environment by providing quality services through all stages of life.

Our Vision



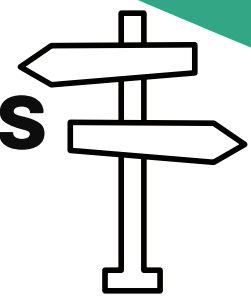
To be leading public health agency meeting the needs of your community

Vision Priorities



- Create a safe, friendly, confidential, and professional environment
- Create an environment that values and respects all customers and employees
- Promote our programs and services in the community
- Partner with community organizations
- Provide responsible fiscal management
- Utilize the latest technology to reach a proper audience

Our Guiding Principles



Accountability

Dependability

Positivity

Commitment

Empowerment

Professionalism

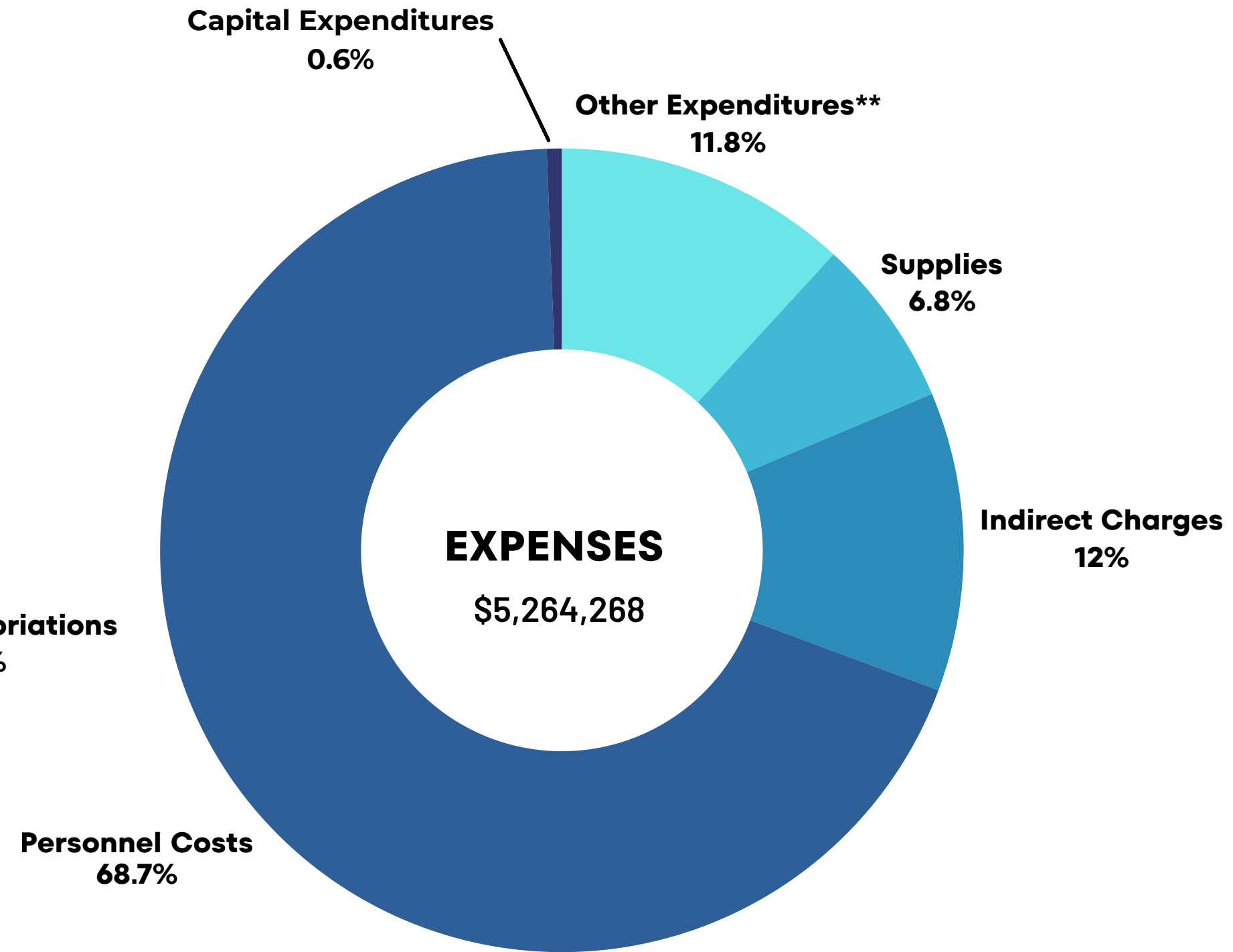
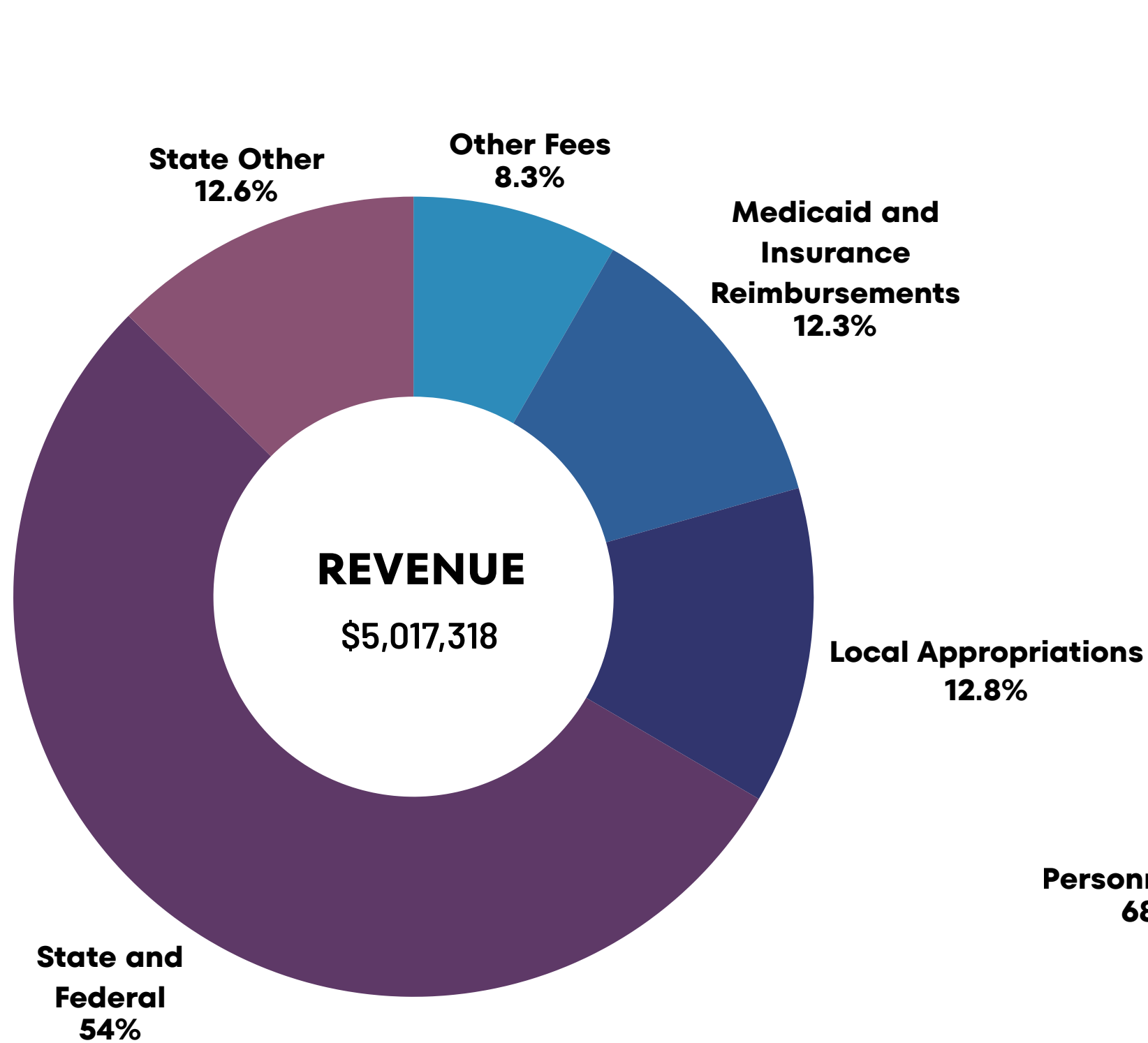
Teamwork

Kindness

Communication

Respect

OUR OPERATING BUDGET WAS \$6,511,216 FOR THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR



**Other Expenditures include: travel, communications, and contractual

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESTMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In a strategic partnership with McLaren Bay Region, Bay County has launched the most comprehensive and current health dashboard to date. Utilizing the MySidewalk platform, we have developed an in-depth Community Health Assessment (CHA) that provides actionable insights into our region's wellbeing. View the full dashboard here: <https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/bay-county-cha/our-health-tells-a-story>.



BAY AREA HUMAN SERVICES COLLABAORTIVE COUNCIL

Since 2017, the Bay HSCC has served as a strategic alliance between the Bay County Health Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. By bringing together executive leaders from local health organizations, we coordinate resources to better serve our citizens. Together, we work to improve the lives of Bay County residents by implementing proactive prevention and comprehensive human care services.



Our cannabis Education and Prevention Program is funded by the Cannabis Regulatory Agency's Medical Marijuana Operations and Oversight Grant. The purpose of this program in 2024 was to educate Bay County residents on three topics:

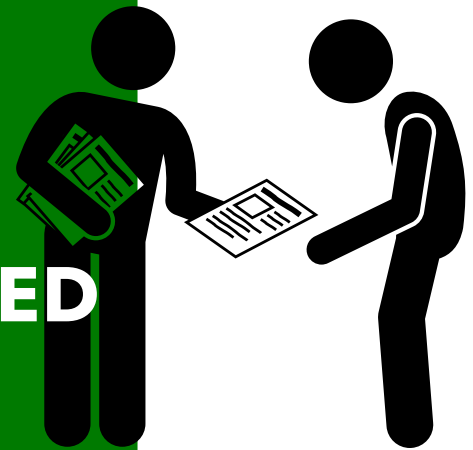
- Safe storage of cannabis products
- The risks of cannabis use when pregnant
- The risk of breastfeeding while using cannabis
- The risk of youth use

In 2024, our staff attended many community events. Using funds from the Medical Marijuana Operations and Oversight Grant, cannabis lock bags were able to be purchased and distributed to the community where applicable.

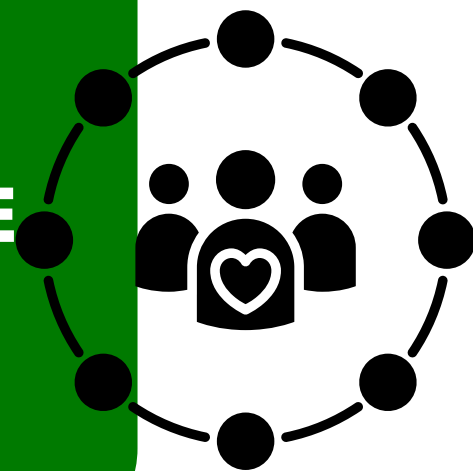
**360
LOCKBAGS DISTRIBUTED**



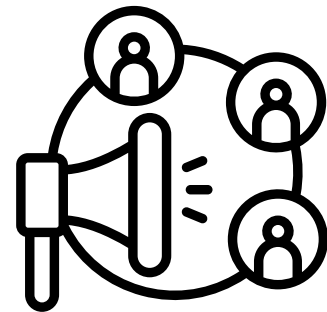
**415
OUTREACH CARDS DISTRIBUTED**



**12+
LOCKBAG DELIVERIES WERE
MADE TO COMMUNITY
PARTNERS**



35+



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Events that the BCHD attended and conducted community health education

4,000+ EAT SAFE FISH

brochures distributed to businesses
+ to physicians
+ by river walkers



1,500+ WILD GAME

brochures to businesses



2,500+ ANGLERS

were spoken to about the Eat Safe Fish Program by a river walker from May through September.



Bay County Health Department partners with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency through the Saginaw Bay Cooperative Agreement grant on the eat safe Fish program. The purpose of this program is to create awareness of toxic persistent chemicals in local fish from the Tittabawassee River, Saginaw river, and Saginaw Bay through fish advisory education in the form of presentations, community events, and informational brochures distributed to local businesses and physicians.



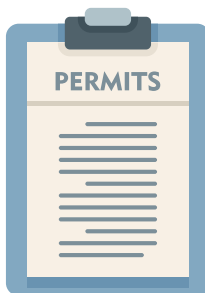


36

FINAL INSPECTIONS WITH WELL CONSTRUCTION

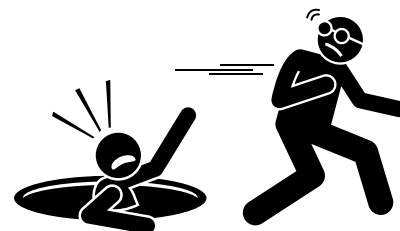
44

WELL PERMITS



27

ABANDON WELLS PLUGGED



GIS SEPTIC SYSTEM MAP



NEW

GIS SEPTIC SYSTEM MAP

Look up:

- Tank Size
- Drain field type
- Tank age
- Permit number
- Install date
- And much more!

<https://app.fetchgis.com/bayEHpublic>



Questions? Call: (989) 895-4006

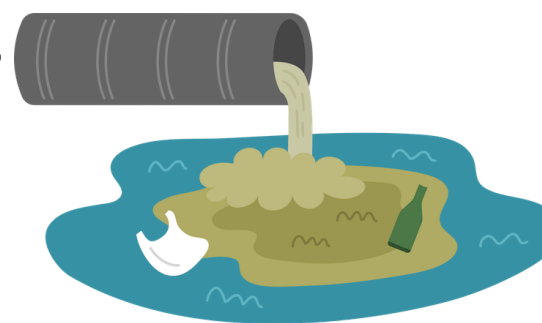


127 WASTEWATER SYSTEMS EVALUATED



75

SEWAGE PERMITS



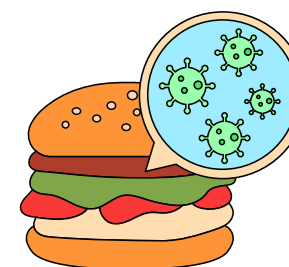
520

RESTURANTS INSPECTED



3

FOODBORNE ILLNESS INVESTIGATIONS



8 WASTEWATER COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED

46

FIELD PRE-DRILLING SITE EVALUATIONS



379
FAMILIES ENROLLED IN
CHILDRENS SPECIAL
HEALTH CARE SERVICES



1,684
CLIENTS RECEIVING
PERSONAL HEALTH
SERVICES

12 HOME VISITS FOR
ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD
LEVELS



if the capillary results is 3.5 mcg/dl or greater, a venous (blood draw) sample for confirmatory testing is completed.

92 NEW MATERNAL AND
INFANT ENROLLEES

Maternal Infant Health Program is a home visiting program, focusing on the maternal infant dyad to promote healthy pregnancies.

707
PRESCHOOL AND
SCHOOLAGE HEARING
TESTS COMPLETED



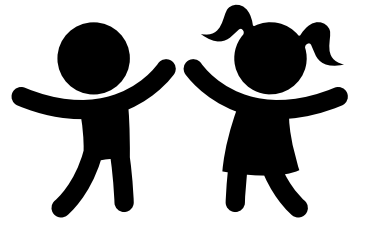
5,294
VISION TESTS COMPLETED
FOR PRESCHOOL &
SCHOOLAGE CHILDREN



1,430
INDIVIDUALS TESTED FOR
LEAD

7 CHILDREN RECEIVING
NURSE CASE
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1,031
CHILDREN AGES 1-2
ENROLLED IN MEDICAID
TESTED FOR LEAD



3,199
TOTAL WIC CLIENTS IN 2024

served who received food and nutrition education. WIC clients include pregnant women, infants, and children up to age five.



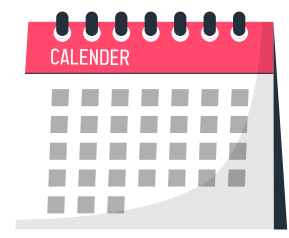
\$1,667,708.00

FOOD DOLLARS

spent at Bay County grocery stores.



Women, Infants, and Children program is a federally funded program that provides nutritious food, nutrition education and assistance with community referrals for pregnant women, infants, and children under five. Eligibility is at or below 185% of poverty, which serves low-to-moderate-income families who meet income requirements. Families receive nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, and access to other support services offered (in-person and/or remotely) through the health department and local community agencies.



6,627

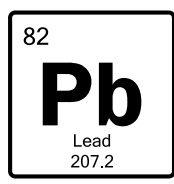
WIC APPOINTMENTS

656 Registered Dietitian Appointments

\$6,125

PRODUCE CONNECTIONS

worth of coupons redeemed at local growers



532

LEAD SCREENINGS



190

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT APPOINTMENTS

190 BREASTFEEDING EDUCATION SESSIONS

277 Registered Dietitians sessions

During 2024, the total number of diseases* reported was 1,143 and the specific diseases are listed below:
 *Does not include COVID-19

- 20** LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTIONS
- 1** CHICKENPOX CASE
- 630** INFLUENZA CASES
- 4** RABIES CASES-ANIMAL
- 3** CARBAPENEMASE-PRODUCING ORGANISMS
- 1** CANDIDA AURIS
- 2** GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME
- 1** NOROVIRUS
- 2** STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE, INV
- 6** LYME DISEASE CASES
- 40** RABIES: POTENTIAL EXPOSURE & PEP
- 1** MENINGITIS, ASEPTIC CASES
- 4** HISTOPLASMOSIS
- 2** HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE
- 2** NONTUBERCULOSIS MYCOBACTERIUM
- 1956** NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 CASES
- 1** SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING E. COLI (STEC)
- 4** SHINGLES CASES
- 12** STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE, GROUP A
- 4** STREPTOCOCCAL PNEUMONIAE, DRUG RESISTANT
- 10** STREPTOCOCCAL PNEUMONIAE
- 2** SYPHILLIS - EARLY LATENT
- 2** SYPHILLIS - PRIMARY
- 2** SYPHILLIS - SECONDARY
- 4** SYPHILLIS - UNKNOWN DURATION OR LATE
- 1** TUBERCULOSIS
- 1** VARICELLA ZOSTER INFECTION (UNSPECIFIED)
- 1** WEST NILE VIRUS
- 1** YERSINIA ENTERITIS
- 12** GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE, INV 8

During **2024**, the total number of vaccines administered was **2,316**, with specific vaccines administered listed below:

517 SEASONAL INFLUENZA

427 COVID-19

49 VARICELLA

2 SMALLPOX/MPOX

46 IPV (POLIO)

110 ZOSTER RZV

23 ROTAVIRUS

67 MMR

61 DTAP

178 HPV

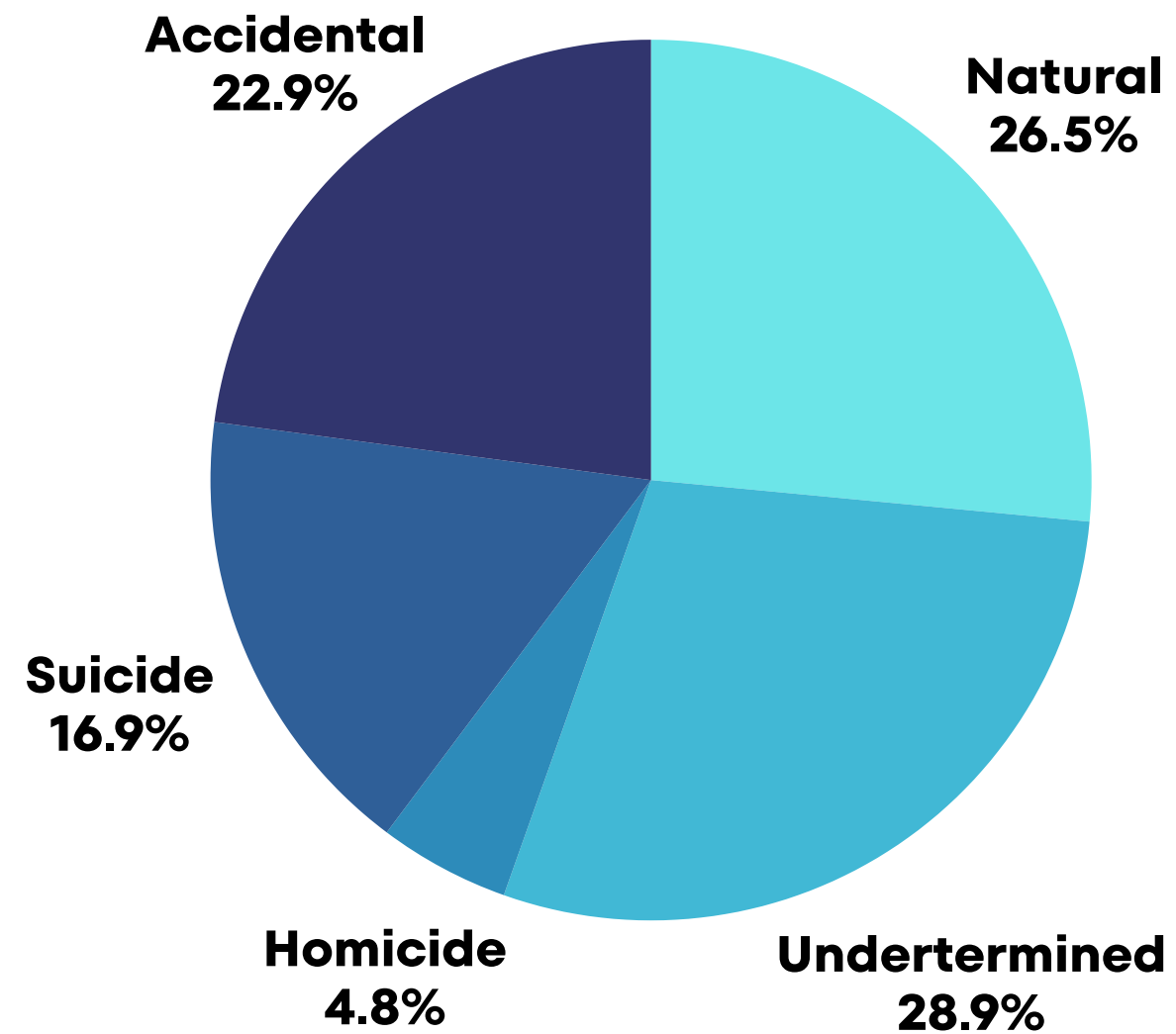
56 DTAP-IPV

54 DTAP-HEPB-IPV

The Immunization Clinic provides immunizations to individuals in the community with an emphasis on the pediatric population. The Immunization Clinic puts considerable time and effort to ensure that children in Bay County are vaccinated according to schedules developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Vaccine	Number Administered
Hep A (Adult & Pediatric)	165
Hep B (Adult & Pediatric)	84
Hib (PedvaxHIB)	31
Meningococcal Conjugate	152
Meningitis B	55
MMRV	88
RSV	110
Pneumococcal Conjugate PCV13	7
Pneumococcal Conjugate PCV120	135
Pneumococcal Conjugate PCV23	0
DTaP-HepB-IPV-Hib (Vaxelis)	54

MANNER OF DEATH INVESTIGATED IN BAY COUNTY, 2024



THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS IN 2024 INVESTIGATED BY THE MEDICAL EXAMINER IN BAY COUNTY WAS 83.

TO ACCESS THE FULL MEDICAL EXAMINERS REPORT, VISIT THE BAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE OR [CLICK HERE.](#)

BAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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BAYCOUNTY-MI.GOV/HEALTH

BAY COUNTY PINCONNING CLINIC



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