

# Annual Report 2013

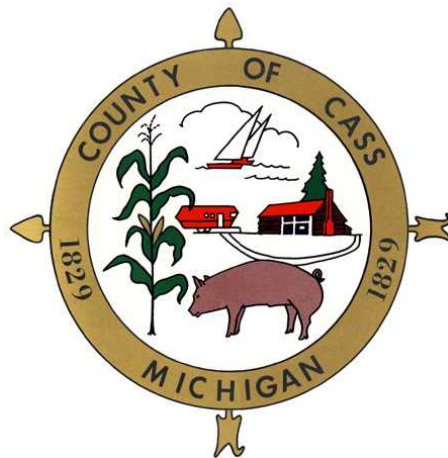
## VAN BUREN/ CASS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Serving the  
Residents of  
Van Buren &  
Cass Counties**

**Hartford  
57418 CR 681  
Hartford, MI 49057  
(269) 621-3143**

**Cassopolis  
201 M-62 North  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
(269) 445-5280**

**Dowagiac  
520 Main St.  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
(269) 782-0064**



**[www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org)**

The **MISSION** of Van Buren/Cass District Health Department is to promote AND contribute to the highest level of health possible for the people of Van Buren and Cass County by:

- Identifying & reducing health risks in the community,
- Detecting, investigating & preventing the spread of disease,
- Promoting healthy lifestyles,
- Promoting a safe & healthful environment,
- Promoting the availability of accessible quality health care services through the private sector, and
- Providing quality health care services to those with limited resources and access.

Our **VISION** is to be responsive to a dynamic and diverse environment. In addition to the programs and services provided to our residents, we serve as a catalyst for improving health and quality of life by collaborating with other health care providers and agencies.

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department believes in the following core **VALUES**:

- All people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- All people should have access to needed services that achieve optimal outcomes.
- All people should be empowered to exercise informed choices.
- Continually improve both organizational management and service delivery.
- Diversity and cultural competence is integrated into all service activities.
- Enhance the involvement of persons served in all of our service activities.

In support of our mission, vision and values, the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's **PURPOSES** are:

- Develop and maintain current, field-driven operations to improve the value and responsiveness of the programs and services we provide.
- Reduce disease and better the health of the whole public.
- Seek input and be responsive to the individuals we serve.
- Provide information and education, as needed, to the public.
- Provide health services where they are not otherwise available.
- Be committed to the improvement of our programs and services with a focus on the needs and outcomes of the clients we serve by continually learning about and improving health and linking to other institutions and organizations.
- Prepare to respond to a public health emergency or disaster.
- Provide leadership when needed.
- Providing health care options that are efficient and cost effective.
- Partnering to provide best solutions to complex health issues.

## **District Board of Health Members**

Don Hanson Chairperson, Van Buren County Commissioner  
Dwight Dyes “Skip”, Vice-Chairperson, Cass County Commissioner  
Richard Firestone, Van Buren County Commissioner  
Vicki Vaughn, Cass County Member at Large  
Annie File, Cass County Commissioner  
Bradley Randall, DDS, Paw Paw Member at Large  
Robert Linderman, South Haven Member at Large



Front: Vice-Chairperson Skip Dyes, Chairperson Don Hanson Back: Robert Linderman, Vicki Vaughn, Richard Freestone & Dr. Brad Randall. Missing: Annie File

## **Directors**

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Medical Director 269-621-3143 ext 318

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Deputy Medical Director 269-657-2171 or 657-8519  
VBC Jail Health Director & Chief Medical Examiner

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Dental Lab 269-621-3143 ext 389

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STD/HIV 269-621-3143 ext 360

Mick McGuire RS  
Public Water Supply 269-621-3143 ext 315

Cary Hindley  
Food Service 269-621-3143 ext 377

## **The 10 Essential Public Health Services**

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assures the provision of healthcare when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

## **Substance Abuse Services**

### **2012-2013 Annual Report Substance Abuse Services**

During FY2012/2013 Van Buren/Cass District Health Department Substance Abuse Services provided a variety of treatment and prevention services to residents of Van Buren and Cass County.

#### **Treatment**

##### **Outpatient Treatment Referrals:**

- Total Referrals (**508**) for FY2012/2013. Referrals are coming from a variety of sources. The referrals are coming from the court system, New Directions, DHS, CMH, SARF, self, family and others.

##### **Outpatient Services:**

- At this time, 1.5 hour outpatient Men's Relapse Prevention Group and Women's Living in Balance Groups are being offered to clientele. 1443 outpatient groups were held in FY 2012/2013. This is an increase from the 1409 groups that were held in FY2011/2012. This is the third consecutive year in which outpatient group numbers have increased.
- A total of 1,118 outpatient individual sessions were conducted during the FY2012/2013. This is an increase from 744 individual sessions conducted in FY2011/2012.

**New Direction Criminal Justice Drug Treatment Program:** During FY2012/2013, approximately 117 individuals participated in New Directions. 25 individuals graduated from the program, saving approximately 3,087 jail bed days. This is an increase from 113 individuals participating, 19 graduating, and saving approximately 2,468 jail bed days in FY2011/2012.

## **Prevention**

*Van Buren Substance Abuse Task Force:* The Substance Abuse Task Force has formed subcommittees to address methamphetamine, alcohol abuse, prescription medicine abuse, and judicial/law enforcement. The Substance Abuse Task Force meets monthly with the committees meeting as needed. During FY2012/2013, the Substance Abuse Task Force hosted Ken Stecker, who presented on the Medical Marijuana Law to numerous Van Buren and Cass County agencies.

*Drug Treatment Court/Law Enforcement Committee:* A partnership continues between the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department and the Van Buren County Drug Treatment Court to provide substance abuse treatment services to the program participants during the FY2012/2013. During FY2012/2013, the Substance Abuse Department provided 587 outpatient groups for Auricular Detoxification Acupuncture, Trauma, Relapse Prevention, and Parenting for Drug Treatment Court participants. This is an increase from 549 outpatient groups provided for Drug Treatment Court participants in FY2011/12.

*Towards No Drug Abuse (TND):* TND is a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration) model program. The program consists of an educational curriculum that addresses adolescent alcohol and other drug use. The program can be conducted in both the school and community settings.

*TND Small Group:* Conducts 6 (2 hour) sessions to a class of 5-10 students referred by schools, the court system, and concerned parents. Class participants are facing penalties for lesser drug use and do not meet criteria for treatment.

*Classroom Speaking Engagements:* Prevention workers participated with various schools to educate health classes regarding alcohol and other drugs, chemical dependency, family dynamics, and tobacco, and drug advertising. Prevention workers presented to South Haven, Gobles, and Paw Paw schools.



*Professional Speaking Engagements:* Prevention workers provided a variety of professional in-services during the fiscal year.



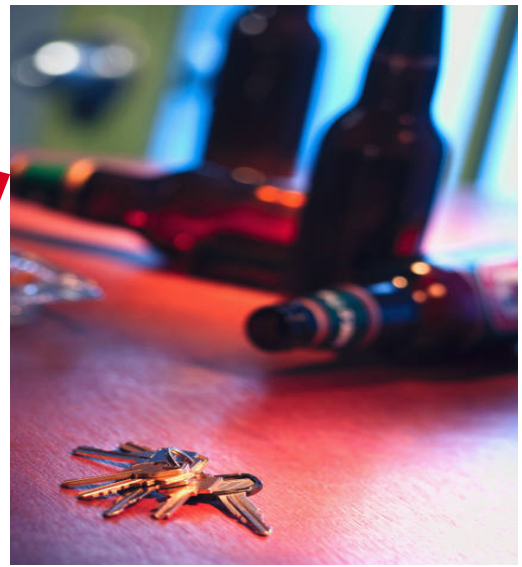
*Van Buren/Cass County Girls on the Run:* Girls on the Run is a non-profit prevention program that encourages preteen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. The goals of the program are to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and physical development. During FY 2012/2013, Girls on the Run reached and changed the lives of 319 girls and their families during the 2013 season representing 14 schools from Van Buren County and 6 schools from Cass County. During FY 2012/2013, there were 54 girls participating with Girls on Track (Middle School) consisting of 4 schools in Van Buren County and one school in Cass County.

*Van Buren Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking:* The Van Buren Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking consists of teens from around Van Buren County who get together monthly to address underage drinking issues in the community. Annually they sponsor Prom/Graduation Rally which is held at the Paw Paw Performing Arts Center at Paw Paw High School. This is a daylong event that addresses the risks of underage drinking at prom and graduation. Over 50 students from Van Buren County attended. The teens also



volunteered to help out at the Van Buren County Youth Fair Kids Day event handing out underage drinking literature to the parents and youth that attend.

*Keep A Clear Mind:* Keep A Clear Mind (KACM) is a take-home drug education program for fifth grade students and their parents. The take-home material consists of four weekly sets of activities to be completed by parents and their children together. The program also uses parent newsletters and incentives. KACM lessons are based on a social skills training model and designed to help children develop specific skills to refuse and avoid the use of “gateway” drugs. This unique, early intervention program has been shown to positively influence known risk factors for later substance use. This program was implemented in Bloomingdale, Decatur, Covert, Gobles, Lawton, Paw Paw, and South Haven schools during the 2012/13 school year, serving approximately 607 students.



## Dental Health

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Community Dental Clinics provide quality dental care at an affordable price for adults and children covered by Medicaid, MIChild, Healthy Kids Dental and the uninsured.

Dental Services include but are not limited to: Preventive Services (education, brushing techniques, flossing techniques, changing detrimental habits, fluoride applications, cleanings, sealants, space maintainers); Restorative Services (amalgams, composites, pulpotomies, stainless steel crowns); Prosthetic Services (partials, dentures); Surgical Services (extractions). In addition we provide Outreach/Prevention Programs to local Head Start Programs, Public Schools, and other community programs as requested. We have two (2) locations that serve the community; Dowagiac which has 10 operatories and Hartford which has 9. Plans are in place to open a 3<sup>rd</sup> location in Mattawan in January 2014.

In 2013 the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Community Dental Clinics employed 7 full and/or part-time Dentists, 6 full and/or part-time Hygienists, and 14 Support Staff which include, (Registered Dental Assistants with extended privileges). Additionally a Dental Laboratory with the capability to make full mouth dentures and partials on site continues to be a success.

Currently, our dental program has approximately 20,000 patients utilizing our oral health services.



## Health Promotions

The Health Promotions Department provides health education, resources and public information. Services include the coordination of classroom presentations, community presentations, health fairs, and partnerships with other local agencies.

Van Buren/Cass District Health Department partnered with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department to host a Child Passenger Safety event and car seat check on September 21, 2013. The event was held at the Van Buren Technology Center. Participants had their current car seat checked and if necessary received a new car seat that was installed by certified car seat technicians. Additional information on passenger safety was also distributed. To find a certified tech to check your seat, visit [cert.safekids.org](http://cert.safekids.org).



Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of unintentional injury related death among children ages 14 and under. Each year in the United States, nearly 1,600 child occupants ages 14 and under die in motor vehicle crashes and close to 228,000 are injured as occupants in motor vehicles. Improperly restrained children are more likely to be injured, to suffer more severe injuries and to die in motor vehicle crashes than children who are restrained properly. The Child Death Review Team and The Health Department work to help each child ride safely. The Health Department continues to work in conjunction with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department who now facilitate the Car Seat Voucher Program. Car seats should be replaced whenever a seat has been in an accident, has been recalled, damaged, or if it is no longer the right fit for the child. Parents and/or caregivers that could not afford a car seat were referred to the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department.



Once again, the public health department partnered with the ISD Early Childhood Development to sponsor the Back to School Bonanza in August. It was estimated that 1,200 children received a new backpack as well as 345 families from 11 school districts were present and over 30 community agencies and/or programs were available to distribute program materials and additional school supplies. Van Buren/Cass District Health Department started this event 9 years ago and continues to work with the VBISD to provide children with school supplies and information to start the school year.

The Van Buren Substance Abuse Task Force partnered with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department to secure and place 9 Red Med Boxes in Van Buren County. The Red Med Box is an easy way to dispose of your unused or expired medications. This helps protect our community against prescription abuse, addiction, and accidental or intentional overdose. A total of 563.6 pounds of prescriptions were collected in 2013 alone. To find a list of locations of these boxes in Van Buren County please visit [www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org).



## **Environmental Health**

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Environmental Health Division is compliant with a broad set of issues affecting public health in Van Buren and Cass Counties, including septic system design and inspection, well construction code compliance, body art licensing, raw land evaluations, campgrounds and swimming pool inspections, non-community public water supply oversight, subdivision development, housing complaint investigations, water supply monitoring in areas of contamination and public beach monitoring along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

#Well Inspections- 275	#Well Permits- 630	#Septic Permits- 471
#Home Loan Evaluations- 115	#Active Non-Community facilities-260	
#Public Pools-87	#Body Art Facilities-2	

## **Food Service**

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Food Service Program identifies food handling issues associated with the preparation, processing and serving of food and beverages within our district. This includes (1) licensing and inspecting fixed mobile and transitory food establishments, (2) issuing temporary permits to transient vendors that provide food at our summer festivals and special events, (3) performing plan reviews which is an essential part of establishment development and operator training, and (4) providing educational and training opportunities to food service operators, and (5) when food related illnesses do occur, effectively track and reduce those risks.

#Licensed Establishments- 410
#Temporary Licenses- 144
#Plan Reviews-4
#Foodborne Illnesses-1
#Foodborne Outbreaks-0
#New/Change Ownership-10
#Smoking Related Complaints-2







## **2013 Emergency Preparedness Report**

2013 marked a milestone in emergency planning and preparation for the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department. Our agency was involved in a regional radiological accident exercise series entitled “MI-RAD React”. This regional effort was only the second of its kind attempted in the United States. The Emergency Preparedness Program worked with regional partners to provide emergency planning support as well as participate in regional exercise and training programs. In September of 2013 the 5<sup>th</sup> District Medical Response Coalition concluded its planning and participated in a radiological training, and exercise program with a week-long series of full scale exercises encompassing over 300 total participants. The week of September 16, 2013 began testing the operational components of a Regional Public Reception and Decontamination Center. This large exercise utilized Public Health staff, Human Service agencies, Emergency Management, Schools, the American Red Cross, 5<sup>th</sup> District Medical Response Coalition, EMS, Police, Fire officials and many other groups within the 5<sup>th</sup> District. The Public Reception and Decontamination Center was staffed by individuals who received Just-In-Time Training at the site and proceeded to run the center until a second shift arrived. Although the transition to new staff was not perfect, the exercise was a grand success. It was proven through this exercise that staff from non-nuclear counties can be trained in, and perform the duties of a Public Reception and Decontamination Center effectively once trained. The remainder

of the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>, the District participated in a variety of other full-scale exercises including a regional EOC activation, and multiple simultaneous hospital decontamination exercises. In the end, it was a successful series of events and exercises that gained Federal recognition of FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The planning of this exercise series was featured as an educational session at the 2013 Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference and will present the exercise results at the NACCHO's 2014 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, Georgia.

The program continues to update plans, policies and procedures per state and federal guidelines of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant. During 2013, updated plans were submitted to the Office of Public Health Preparedness at the Michigan Department of Community Health. Partnerships with groups such as Van Buren and Cass County Local Emergency Planning Teams, schools, hospitals and other community programs continue to be a great benefit to the Health Department. The Emergency Preparedness Program continues to be an influential partner across the State of Michigan as it successfully completes all requirements of the Office of Public Health Preparedness.



## **Public Health Nursing services**

Public Health Nursing is focused on the prevention and control of disease; assessment of individual, family and community health needs; education; referral and coordination with other community service providers. Nursing staff work in the community and in agency clinics. Specific programs include:

### **Communicable Disease Control:**

Michigan law requires that all suspect and confirmed cases of communicable disease be reported to the local health department by all area health providers, laboratories, and school and daycare centers. Additionally, reports are received from the community. Agency staff is trained in disease investigation, treatment, case management, and contact follow up and operate under protocols established by the Michigan Department of Community Health according to Michigan Law. Staff work to educate the public about the dangers of communicable diseases and how to protect themselves, their families and the community. Services are provided to individuals in agency clinics, and to others within the community.

### **Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Services:**

STD clinical services and quality community education is essential to prevent sexually transmitted diseases from being spread. The program provides treatment and follow up of sex partners of persons with STD's to prevent further transmission of diseases. Individual and group education is provided in schools and at various community sites and communication is ongoing with local medical providers to assure appropriate treatment standards are upheld.

# STD Clinic Visits – 609

# HIV education (group) School & community – 504

# HIV education to individuals – 3114

# HIV counseling & testing of individuals – 670

## **Children's Special Health Care Services Program - (CSHCS)**

This program is provided in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Community Health and the federal government under Title V of the Social Security Act. The CSHCS program mission is “to enable individuals with special health care needs to have improved health outcomes and an enhanced quality of life.” The staff of this program help families’ access specialty health care services that are “family centered, community based, coordinated and culturally competent.”

CSHCS serves people under 21 years of age (and people over 21 for cystic fibrosis and hemophilia) who have one of the over 2,600 medically qualifying conditions. The program helps pay for medical care, transportation, copays and deductibles and helps to keep private insurance. The program is free to most families but based on income, some families may pay a monthly fee to participate.

Local Health Department responsibilities include:

- Maintain trained staff who will carry out the program according to State designated policies and procedures
- Promote and publicize the program to the public with outreach and case findings explaining program benefits and services
- Assist families as needed with application, obtaining medical records, finding specialty care and making needed referrals
- Provide care coordination and case management

**Children receiving CSHCS services in 2013: 510**







## **Immunization Program**

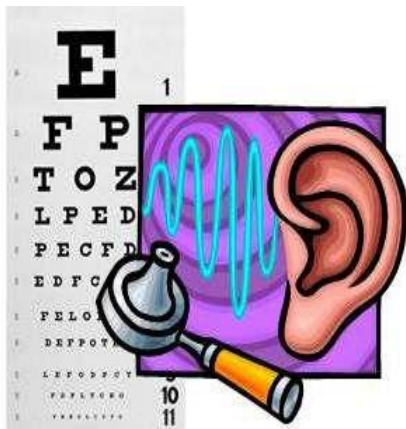
Local immunization efforts serve to protect the public from epidemics or threatened epidemics of vaccine preventable diseases as well as protecting individuals from avoidable diseases and their complications. The local immunization program is based upon State immunization program guidelines and monitored for its' effectiveness, compliance with State program guidelines and adherence to professional standards of practice as detailed by the Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization and the Standards for Adult Immunization Practices. The local program must maintain highly trained staff to:

- Conduct immunization clinics for residents to dispense publically funded vaccines according to program qualifications
- Educate staff of local schools to assure they understand school immunization requirements and accurately report to MDCH and the Department of Education about the immunization status of their students
- Provide site visits for quality assurance and compliance with federal requirements of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program entitlement in health department clinics and local medical providers offices
- Monitor for fraud and abuse of publically funded vaccine
- Assure accessibility to vaccines, improve local immunization rates, provide immunization education for local medical providers and the public, and develop private and public partnerships to promote immunization rates within the community

### **2013 Program Statistics:**

- Health Department Immunization Clinic Visits: 1051
- Vaccines administered by at Health Department clinics: 3583
- Children 19-35 months of age in Van Buren and Cass County fully immunized and entered into the State Immunization Registry: 77%





## **Childhood Vision and Hearing Screening program**

Michigan's childhood vision and hearing screening program has been serving children and families for over 60 years. Statewide over 1.1 million children are screened annually and over 87,000 children are referred for follow up care. Children are screened for both vision and hearing once before entering kindergarten and then vision is screened in grades 1,3,5,7, and in conjunction with drivers education or in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Hearing is screened every other year through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. These screenings are FREE of charge and offered in collaboration with Michigan schools and preschools including public, private, parochial, and charter schools. Children not in a formal program can be screened at the local health department by appointment.

Health Department technicians provide objective hearing and vision screenings using State approved protocols and equipment. Parents of children who fail the screenings are notified so they can seek medical intervention, diagnosis, and treatment and recommendations for care. Vision and hearing technicians complete and pass a comprehensive four week educational training with practicum, are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure compliance with program policies and protocols and must attend continuing education workshops. All training and evaluation is provided by audiologists and vision specialists at the Michigan Department of Community Health.

### **2013 Screenings done:**

Vision – 12,462

Hearing -- 8982

## **Reproductive Health Program (Family Planning)**

Family Planning services provide opportunities for individuals to receive baseline medical care and education promoting healthy decision making in regards to planning a pregnancy. Comprehensive contraceptive methods are available to men and women. All services are confidential, received voluntarily and fees are based on family size and income level. Services will not be denied based on inability to pay. High risk populations, such as teens, are a priority focus in an attempt to provide assistance in avoiding unintended pregnancy.



### **Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP)**

Another component of the Reproductive Health service is the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) for women ages 40-64. This service provides medical screening and early detection of breast and cervical cancer for uninsured and underinsured women in Van Buren and Cass counties.

## 2013 Program Highlights

<b>Fiscal Year 2013</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Actualized</b>	<b>Contract Compliance</b>
<b>Title X Funded</b>	613	495	<b>81%</b>
Plan First	200	147	
Total Users	813	642	

- Encounters: 613 (FY) 770 (CY)
- Pregnancy tests provided: 183 (CY) Total Positive 27 (CY) 6 were teens.
- Chlamydia tests provided: 106 tested (CY) 3 tested Positive
- BCCCP Services: 109 (CY)
- Mammogram Screenings: 114 (CY)
- Referrals: 558 made to other services

### **Pink Saturdays;**

# client referrals received: 81

# clients in follow-up: 0

# clients completed: 81

Findings: BR I – 67, BR II = 8, BR III = 5, BR IV = 1, BR 0 = 9

Biopsy=3 CA Neg=0 CA Pos = 0



## Information Technology Services

Servers: The Information Technology group is committed to improve all systems throughout Van Buren/Cass District Health Department. We successfully replaced end-of-life servers with more powerful servers, created redundancy, and gained efficiencies with the implementation of a virtual platform. The Internet connection has been upgraded to high speeds for all our locations, with site-to-site connectivity.

Departmental Applications: Our Accounting and Environmental Health departments have new software that replaced an old legacy system. Our Dental department has new x-ray software, and an upgraded version of the charting software. We continue to modify, upgrade, and create reports for the Insight application. The Insight application serves our Substance Abuse and Public Health Services, which include Immunizations, STD, Vision and Hearing, and Children's Special Health Care.

Security: We strive to maintain a high level of security to ensure the integrity of our data. Our laptops are encrypted, workstations and servers have firewalls turned on, and policies are set to enforce the locking of workstations and automatic logoff. The latest version of antivirus software is installed, and we enforce Microsoft updates. Workstations do not have administrator rights, and our wireless passwords are not given out to users.

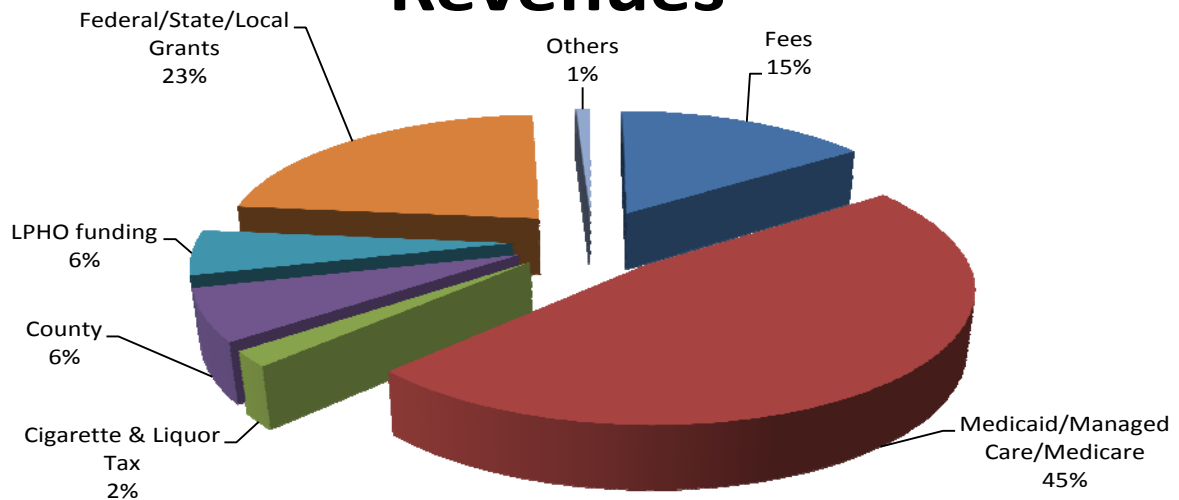
Website: A new Online Payment option for our Environment Health Department has been created. We are currently working on an Online Payment option for Dental. Our employee intranet portal (where employees access policies, training, etc.) has been revamped to provide security, ease of administration, and website editing. We plan to redesign our website to provide a more attractive and friendlier interface for the public.



# FISCAL YEAR 2013

## BUDGET \$6,950,399

### Revenues



### Expenditures

