

Michigan's Local Public Health System

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February 2, 2023



Common Questions

- ✓ Who does my local health department report to?
- ✓ Where do they get the authority to do what they do?
- ✓ Why aren't local health departments run by doctors?
- ✓ What do local health departments actually do?
- ✓ Is local public health prepared for the future?
- ✓ What could make it stronger?

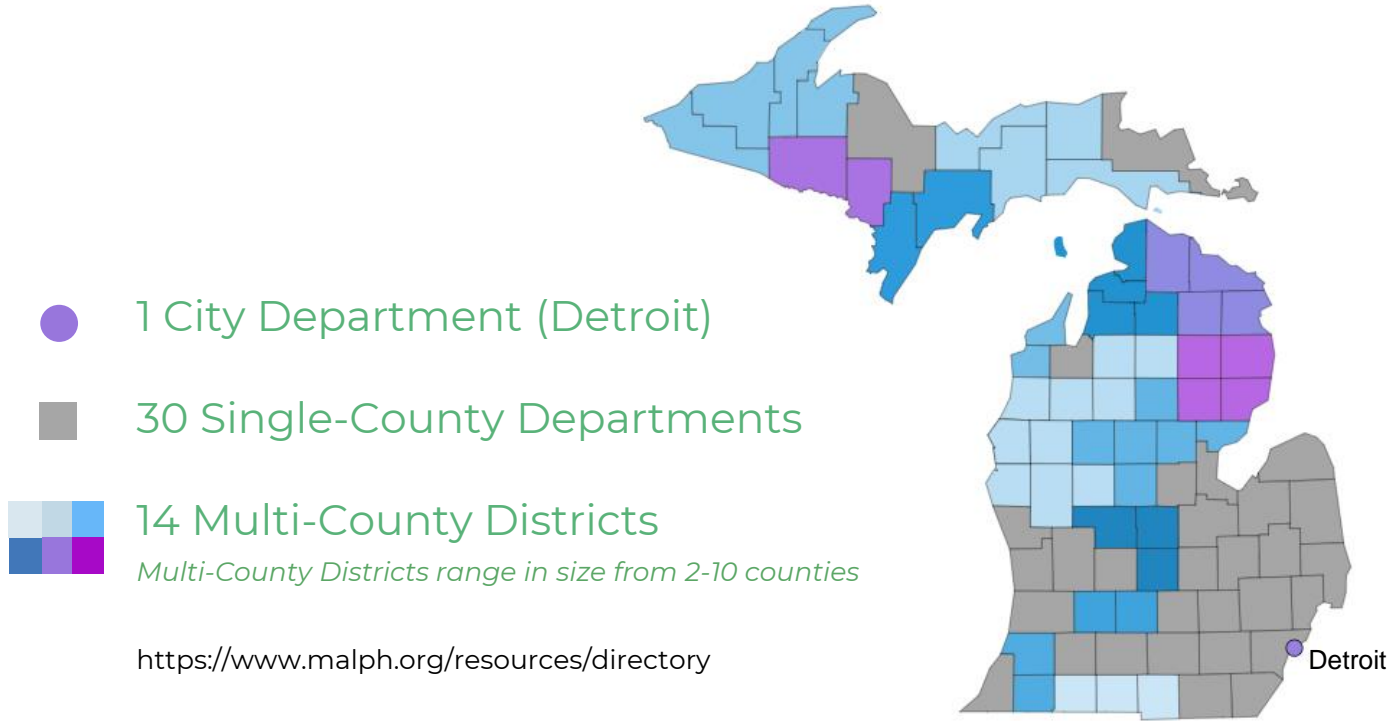
Living Better, Longer

From 1900-1999, life expectancy in the United States increased by 30 years, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), public health interventions account for 25 of those years.



Ruth J. Katz, Maureen Byrnes, and Brian C. Castrucci, Introduction in *Talking Health: A New Way to Communicate about Public Health*. Edited by Mark R. Miller, Brian C. Castrucci, Rachel Locke, Julia Haskins, and Grace A. Castillo, Oxford University Press. de Beaumont Foundation 2022.

Michigan's Local Health Departments



Essential Services – MI and CDC

Michigan - ELPHS (1978)

- Infectious Disease Control
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Control and Prevention
- Immunization
- Hearing Screening & Vision Services
- Public and Private Ground Water Supply
- Onsite Sewage Management
- Food Protection

Essential Local Public Health Services (ELPHS) are mandated and are subject to 50/50 cost share per P.A. Act 368 of 1978.

CDC – 10 Essential Services (1994)

- **Assess** and **monitor** population health status....
- **Investigate, diagnose,** and **address** health problems and hazards....
- **Communicate** effectively to inform and educate people about health....
- **Strengthen, support,** and **mobilize** communities and partnerships....
- **Create, champion,** and **implement** policies, plans, and laws that impact health
- **Utilize legal and regulatory actions** designed to improve and protect the public's health
- **Assure** an effective system that enables **equitable access** to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
- **Build and support** a diverse and skilled public health workforce
- **Improve and innovate** public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
- **Build and maintain** a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Local Public Health Services

Environmental Health	Personal & Clinical	Health Education & Promotion	Emergency Preparedness	Administration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Service• Well & Septic• Vapor Intrusion• Water Quality• Air Quality• Hazardous Waste• Solid Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immunizations• STI/HIV Services• Women, Infants & Children• Cancer Screening• Lead Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Assessment• Chronic Disease Mgt.• SUD Prevention• Breastfeeding Support• Tobacco Cessation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education• Planning• Partnerships• Communication• Exercises/Drills• Outbreaks• Chemical Spills• Natural Disaster	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy Development• Emergency Orders• Partnerships• Grants & Financial Management• Public Information

Examples, not an exhaustive list of programs and services.

Local Health Dept. Leadership

Health Officer

- Training and expertise in public health
- Oversees operations
- Investigates health issues and hazards
- Encourages community partnerships
- Notifies, educates, directs and empowers people when health issues arise



Medical Director

- Licensed physicians trained in public health
- Oversees the development and evaluation of standards of medical care
- Advises the health officer in matters of medical policy
- Provides medical direction to the department's staff

(Section 333.2428 assigns powers and duties of local health department to administrative health officer)

Current Challenges



Public Perception

Residents are divided in their opinions of public health



Workforce Shortages

Critical needs for public health nurses and sanitarians, need to train new leadership



Funding

Essential services, infrastructure, existing programs

Questions



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