

June 2012

# Connecting Point

A MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



## Community Health Assessment

Community Health Assessment projects are moving forward in all three counties of MMDHD. Here is a snapshot of what is happening around the district.

### **Healthy! Capital Counties**

MMDHD is partnering with the Ingham and Barry-Eaton Health Departments, regional hospitals and health system partners in a Healthy! Capital Counties assessment and improvement planning process. Clinton, Ingham and Eaton Counties are involved in this initiative. Currently, a Community Health Profile is being developed and is scheduled for release in early June of 2012. The Health Profile will be used to identify and prioritize health concerns from community members during seven community dialogues scheduled to be conducted throughout the three counties in June 2012. Following these dialogues, a Community Health Improvement Plan is anticipated to be developed by September of 2012. More information about this initiative can be found on the project website, which is: [www.healthycapitalcounties.org](http://www.healthycapitalcounties.org)

### **Live Well Gratiot**

*Live Well Gratiot* is the name recently adopted for the community health assessment initiative in Gratiot County. A vision statement, "Gratiot County, united in a culture of healthy living," was also developed by the steering and advisory committees leading this endeavor. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from MMDHD, MidMichigan Medical Center—Gratiot, Alma College, Gratiot County Administration, GIRESD: M-TEC, Gratiot County Community Mental Health and United Way. The broader based Advisory Committee includes members from education, business, health care, the faith community, county and local government, civic organizations, and community agencies. In May of 2012, 1500 community surveys were mailed to county residents, asking for their thoughts and opinions on personal health, as well as their perceptions on the health needs of Gratiot County residents. The responses from this survey, as well as surveys distributed through local agencies and grocery stores, will be reviewed and analyzed this summer, with a Community Health Profile to be completed by the Fall. More information about Live Well Gratiot can be found at: [www.mmdhd.org](http://www.mmdhd.org)

### **Healthy Montcalm**

MMDHD, in collaboration with Spectrum Health-United Memorial, Carson City Hospital, Sheridan Hospital, Montcalm Area Health Center, Montcalm Community College and the Montcalm Human Services Coalition, has lead a community health assessment process in Montcalm County that was begun in March 2011. Through a community wide survey that was mailed to 1500 households, a health care provider survey and community meetings, a Community Health Profile was developed and made available to the public in March of 2012. Members of Healthy Montcalm's steering and advisory committees continue to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan, which is anticipated to be completed in July of 2012. A network of health care leaders is currently in development to oversee the future success of this initiative. To view the Community Health Profile and learn more about Healthy Montcalm, visit MMDHD's website at [www.mmdhd.org](http://www.mmdhd.org)



### Healthy Living Recommendations

For the month of June, the Board of Health offers this recommendation: *Avoid using the dangerous designer drugs Bath Salts and synthetic marijuana (“K2” and “Spice”).*

- Both are sold online, at convenience stores, gas stations and on the street.
- Bath Salts are sold under a variety of names, including Ivory Wave, Aurora, Comic Blast, Blow, Cloud 9, and Hurricane.
- Synthetic marijuana is sold under a variety of names including K2, Spice, Genie, Yucatan Fire, and Bliss.
- Using these drugs can lead to hospitalization and even death.
- Side effects may include increased heart rate and blood pressure, agitation, hallucinations, paranoia, tremors, seizures and loss of physical control.

### WIC Addresses Immunization Needs

MMDHD’s Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) not only provides nutrition education and food benefits, but also works to ensure that young children receive the immunizations they need. A new goal of 90% compliance was recently established to help boost the number of children protected from communicable disease. The current rates of immunization for WIC clients are:

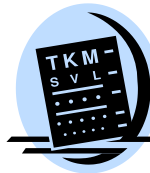
	<b>April 2012</b>	<b>May 2012</b>
All Clinics	83%	83%
Stanton	84%	85%
Howard City	85%	86%
Greenville	84%	84%
Ithaca	85%	86%
Alma	86%	85%
St. Johns	79%	77%

Visit [www.mmdhd.org](http://www.mmdhd.org) for information on programs, services and health issues including :

- Clinic Schedules
- Emergency Preparedness
- MMDHD’s Facebook Link
- Community Health Assessment



### Hearing and Vision Program



MMDHD’s Hearing and Vision Program provides screenings for individuals from ages 3 to 21. Certified hearing and vision technicians provide school year screenings in accordance with Michigan Law, and at no cost to families. The annual schedule is as follows:

<b>Hearing and Vision Screening Requirements</b>	<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Vision</b>
Pre-School	X	X
Kindergarten	X	
1st Grade		X
2nd Grade	X	
3rd Grade		X
4th Grade	X	
5th Grade		X
7th Grade		X
9th Grade		X

Parents of children who do not pass their screening are notified by letter, so that follow-ups can be made through their health care provider.

During the 2010-2011 school year, 12,583 vision screenings and 8,535 hearing screenings were conducted district-wide. For more information on hearing and vision screenings, contact the following technicians:

- Mary Wallen, Clinton County, 989-224-2195, x3125
- Lisa Smith, Gratiot County, 989-875-3681, x1027
- Shaw Senn, Montcalm County, 989-831-3644

*For more information about these and other Health Department programs, contact:*

Marcus Cheatham, Health Officer  
 Mid-Michigan District Health Department  
 615 N. State Road, Suite 2  
 Stanton, MI 48888  
 (989) 831-5237, ext. 3614



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