



Public Health Newsletter

A quarterly update from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Administration.



Welcome to the **MDHHS Public Health Newsletter**, a quarterly Michigan [public health](#) update for public health professionals, academics, health care providers and anyone interested in population health in the state of Michigan. (Issue 1.2. Distributed 04/26/2025).

WINS for MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH

Michigan Public Health Data Dashboards



In March, [MDHHS launched](#) the new [Michigan Public Health Data Dashboards](#), providing lawmakers, local officials, advocacy groups and the public with data-driven snapshots of public health trends across the state (at the Michigan House and Senate district-levels).

The dashboards display key health metrics on health outcomes, health behavior trends, social and economic factors, physical environment trends and clinical trends.

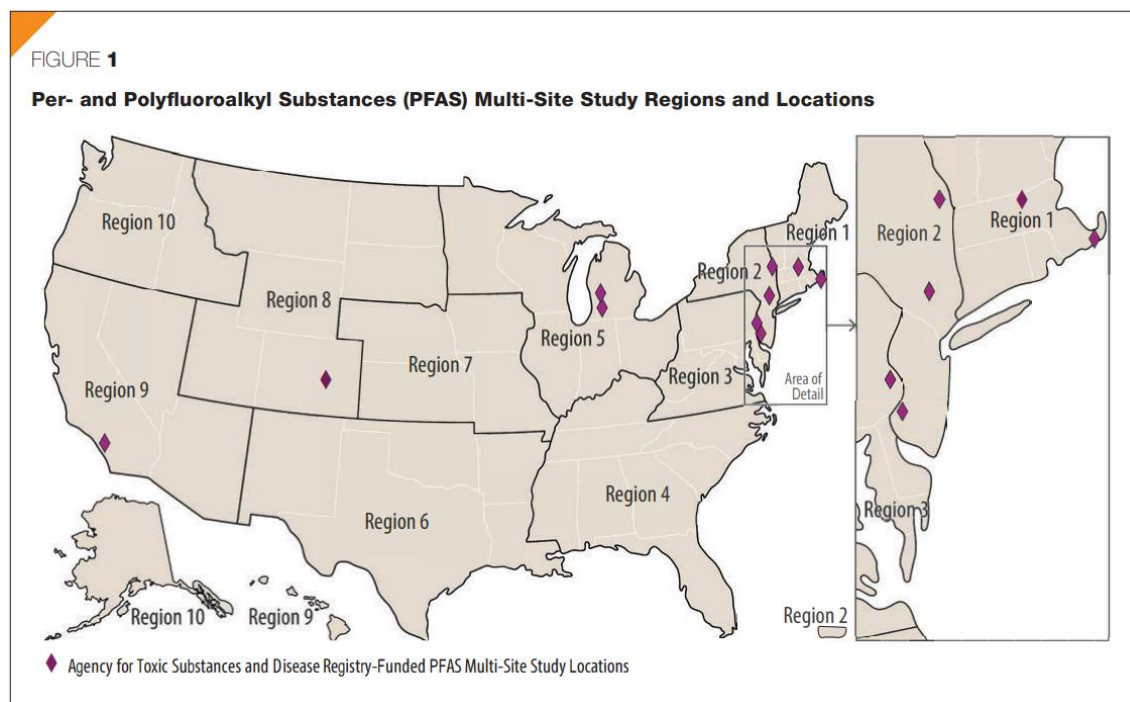
MDHHS Helps Conduct CDC Study, Informing National Conversations on The Health Hazards of PFAS

A recently completed [multi-site health study \(MSS\)](#) examined the health effects from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) exposure and created a new nationwide dataset on PFAS and health outcomes.

MDHHS was one of seven organizations across the county that conducted [this study](#) locally. In doing so, [MDHHS worked with](#) participants in the city of Parchment in Cooper Township in Kalamazoo County, and in the Belmont and Rockford communities in Kent County. This study was funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MSS data collection is complete and the Michigan participants have received reports detailing their personal PFAS blood levels and other MSS blood test results. Researchers are now using this nationwide dataset to prepare research articles and other reports **to help inform the national conversation on the health hazards of PFAS.**

Health care providers encountering patients with PFAS exposure questions can refer to the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's clinical guidance](#) or contact MDHHS at 800-648-6942.



PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS and UPDATES

Measles

As of Tuesday, April 22, eight cases of measles have been confirmed in Michigan residents. The first case impacted an individual in [Oakland County](#). Then subsequent cases were confirmed in residents of [Kent](#), [Macomb](#), [Montcalm](#) and [Ingham](#) counties. Most individuals recently travelled internationally to areas with known measles activity.

On April 16, a [measles outbreak](#) – defined as three or more related cases – was confirmed in Montcalm County. This is the first confirmed measles outbreak in Michigan since 2019. This outbreak is linked to the ongoing outbreak in [Ontario, Canada](#) (as of April 24, there were [1,020 cases](#) in Ontario).

[Measles](#) is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that is spread by direct person-to-person contact and through the air. MDHHS recommends unvaccinated individuals ages 1 year and older receive the [measles, mumps and rubella \(MMR\)](#) vaccination to protect themselves and those around them. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are about 97% effective at preventing measles and one dose is about 93% effective.

For more information, visit [Measles Information for the Public](#) and [Measles Quick Resources for Health Care](#), or view our new educational measles vaccination [video](#).



Dengue Virus

CDC recently issued a health update to inform health care providers, public health professionals and the public about the ongoing risk of [dengue virus](#) in the U.S.

[Dengue](#) is a mosquito-borne illness that occurs in tropical and subtropical [areas of the world](#). It is caused by the bite of mosquitoes infected with one of the dengue viruses. Symptoms include high fever, flu-like symptoms and in severe cases, bleeding, shock and death.

In Michigan, there have been five cases this year. We had 48 cases in 2024, 25 cases in 2023 and 17 cases in 2022. Almost all cases reported in the U.S. and Michigan are travel-associated.

STI Awareness Week Observed April 13-19



As we reflect on STI Awareness Week, which occurred earlier this month, MDHHS reminds Michigan residents to **advocate for their sexual health** and get tested regularly for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). To help STI rates decline, people are additionally encouraged to use condoms, reduce the number of sexual partners and get vaccinations for hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV).

In Michigan, those diagnosed with an STI can receive [expedited partner therapy](#), which allows providers to streamline the process of treating their patients' partners in select cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomoniasis. Additionally, [doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis](#) can be used to reduce the chance of getting bacterial STIs specifically chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. For more information and resources, visit [HIV & STIs in Michigan](#) or the [CDC's website](#).

The Emergence of Two HIV Networks in Southeast Michigan

In recent months, the MDHHS [Shared HIV Networks](#) program identified two rapidly growing HIV networks comprised of individuals diagnosed and/or living with HIV.

One in Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland and Jackson counties (this network is also connected to people living with HIV in Ohio). The presence of injection drug use, methamphetamine use and the number of acute HIV diagnoses are significant points of interest. Then another shared HIV network was identified among people who use drugs (PWUD) in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, where new HIV diagnoses increased by **21%** from 2023 to 2024. This increase is centered in Detroit - the number of HIV diagnoses among PWUD increased by 200% in Detroit during this time period.

While most individuals are engaged in care, **expanded HIV testing** and outreach remain essential to identify additional cases and prevent transmission. HIV and STI services are available locally, visit our website to find services [near you](#) and visit [MDHHS Brochures & Materials](#) for additional resources.

Medetomidine-Related Overdoses in Michigan

Medetomidine, a highly potent veterinary sedative, has been detected in multiple overdose deaths across Michigan, raising concerns about its role in the evolving overdose crisis. In January, MDHHS confirmed the presence of medetomidine in an individual who died in Wayne County. Since March 2024, nine cases were linked to medetomidine across Ingham, Berrien, Muskegon and Wayne counties.

Medetomidine is in the same drug class as xylazine but is more potent. Like xylazine, it is not an opioid and does not respond to naloxone, increasing the risk of fatal overdose when mixed with fentanyl.

We encourage public health professionals and health care providers to continue to raise awareness about the risks of polysubstance use, including the dangers of unknowingly consuming fentanyl, xylazine and medetomidine. Additionally, please continue to promote [harm reduction strategies](#) and access to treatment and recovery services for individuals at risk of substance use disorder and overdose.

NEW RESOURCES, DASHBOARDS and REPORTS

- New [report](#) finds drug overdoses disproportionately impact Black men in Michigan.
- Updated Michigan Overdose Data to Action [Dashboard](#) – New features focus on the intersections of health equity, social determinants of health, substance use and overdoses.
- New MDHHS naloxone flyers – available in [digital](#) and [print](#) versions.

- New mapping tool – the [MiSUD Locator](#) is a statewide substance use disorder treatment services locator.
- Check out the new [Michigan Health Communications Initiative](#), sponsored by the [Michigan Association for Local Public Health](#), for timely and evidence-based health messaging materials and resources.

UPCOMING TRAININGS and EVENTS

- **May 8** at 10 a.m., EST, Lung Cancer Education and Quality Improvement [webinar](#): Improving Communications Between Providers and Patients around Lung Cancer Screening. [Register today](#).
- **On-demand MI-Train course**: Building Workforce Resilience through the Practice of Psychological First Aid: A Course for Leaders and Teams.

MDHHS PROJECT and PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

Take Control of Your Birth Control Expands Access to Family Planning Resources



The [Take Control of Your Birth Control](#) initiative continues to provide free emergency contraception, oral contraceptive pills, condoms and essential information on Medicaid and low-cost family planning services to Michigan residents. These resources are distributed by participating organizations across the state.

Organizations interested in distributing free family planning resource kits can submit a [request form](#). For more details or to request additional supplies, email MDHHS-FamilyPlanning@michigan.gov. Visit [Take Control of Your Birth Control](#) for outreach materials and a map of locations

distributing supplies.

Michigan Stroke Program Partners with Oakland University

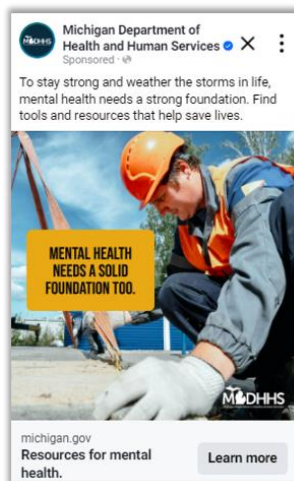
In March, the MDHHS [Michigan Stroke Program](#) (MiSP) began a partnership with Oakland University (OU) Nursing School to create hands-on community health experiences for senior level students.

In addition to their community health nursing curriculum, which includes lessons on prevention and health promotion, these OU students now have an opportunity to learn through health screening events in Flint and Detroit. The events occur in neighborhoods locations selected by the MiSP team and Flint and Detroit Stroke Coalitions (such as senior centers, mass transit terminals and other sites) providing blood pressure checks, additional stroke risk factor screenings and education on hypertension and stroke recognition and prevention. If needed, referrals to area resources are initiated through the Community Health Access Program.



The students say this is one of their favorite clinical experiences. "You don't know how people live or what people need until you get the opportunity to talk with people like this" said one OU nursing student.

New Campaign Promotes Men's Mental Health



The Preventing Suicide in Michigan Men Program launched a new media campaign on men's mental health called '[Speak Up, Man.](#)' The campaign aims to reduce stigma associated with mental health and increase help-seeking behaviors in adult males. To learn more, visit our website: [Speak up. The life you save could be your own.](#)

Reminding Public Health Laboratory Professionals of Specimen Temperature Requirements

The proper collection and shipment of clinical diagnostic specimens to a testing laboratory is a critical component of ensuring a quality test result. In alignment with accreditation requirements and clinical testing quality standards, the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories monitors specimen temperature upon receipt in the laboratory. Laboratory professionals, learn more about [ensuring samples arrive in proper testing conditions.](#)

Thanks for reading the MDHHS Public Health Newsletter. For more information on state and local public health visit [Michigan.gov/publichealth](https://www.michigan.gov/publichealth).

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