MIHP Homepage

MIHP Biweekly Update

June 15, 2026

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Maternal Infant Health Program

- Meet the Team: Ilene Hogan
- Mark Your Calendar: June COP
- Update to MIHP Lactation Visit Telehealth Guidance
- REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! 2026 Michigan Home Visiting Conference
- Rx Kids: Supporting Michigan Families Through Direct Cash Assistance
- Rx Kids Materials for Print and Distribution
- RSoc Newcomer Home Visiting Community of Practice KF June 8 2026
- The Michigan Maternal Infant Health Program Highlighted as a Strong Model for Postpartum Support
- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Michigan overdose death rate declines by 47 percent since 2021
- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Michigan releases 2026 Eat Safe Fish Guides about local fish consumption
- Upcoming State of Michigan (SOM) Holidays
- Previously Released MIHP Updates
- Biweekly Update Topic Submission
- MDHHS Publications
- Coordinator Directory

Meet the Team: Ilene Hogan

Hi, I am Ilene! While I have spent the last two years as a Privacy Specialist in the MDHHS Compliance & Data Governance Bureau, I spent 30 years before that working at First Step, a domestic and sexual violence non-profit serving Wayne County. I started there as an MSW intern and never left. At first, I worked with assailants in the Batterers Intervention Program but soon transitioned to working directly with survivors. After years of direct service and 24-hour program coordination, I realized that my passion was helping those providing the direct services navigate the complicated rules and regulations that often provide barriers to getting survivors what they need. As Director of Grants & Compliance I wrote for and administered all the federal and state grants First Step used to keep the doors open. I currently sit on their Board of Directors. I also spent many years as a Peer Reviewer for the MDHHS Division of Victim Services. In that role I was part of a team conducting quality assurance reviews for domestic and sexual violence organizations across the state.

I grew up in New Jersey and came to Michigan for graduate school, never intending to stay, but met my husband whose work led us to make Ann Arbor our home. We have two adult sons. One just graduated from MSU with a degree in Social Relations & Policy. The other is currently in Brazil studying Brazilian jazz on a Fulbright award. I am one proud mom! We also have an 11-year-old goldendoodle named Stevie (after Stevie Nicks).

In my free time I enjoy music (especially when it is my kid playing – shameless mom plug – he will be playing at the Blue Llama in Ann Arbor on Friday July 10th😊), people-watching, traveling, and spending rainy days binge-watching crime dramas.

I am very excited to work with all of you to help MIHP providers navigate the contract process so they can serve families in Michigan. I hope to meet you (at least virtually) soon.

Mark Your Calendar: June COP

The July Community of Practice webinar will be on Tuesday, June 9 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Topic: Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) and MIHP Care Coordination Tips, presented by Danielle Pitchford, CSHCS Outreach & Engagement Analyst, Children's Special Health Care Services Division, Bureau of Medicaid Care & Customer Service.

CLICK HERE to register for the July COP Webinar!

Update to MIHP Lactation Visit Telehealth Guidance

To align MIHP program requirements with current Medicaid policy, a programmatic change has been made regarding how lactation visits conducted by International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) may be provided and billed within MIHP.

Previous Operational Guidance:

- Lactation visits may be provided via telehealth (audiovisual) and **telephone-only.**

Updated Operational Guidance (as of June 1, 2026):

- Lactation visits may be provided via telehealth (audiovisual).

When provided remotely, IBCLC lactation visits must be conducted via audiovisual telehealth. Telephone-only contacts are not considered billable lactation visits. This update aligns MIHP policy language with existing Medicaid requirements.

Thank you for your continued commitment to providing high-quality services to MIHP families.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! 2026 Michigan Home Visiting Conference

2026 Michigan Home Visiting Conference

Please visit the conference website to review the registration brochure.

The brochure includes the agenda, keynote speakers, breakout session selections, facility information and the link to register.

Please note, Early Bird pricing for the conference will end on **June 18th**. Standard fees will take effect on June 19th and registration is slated to close on July 22nd or when capacity is reached.

Please click here to register for the 2026 Michigan Home Visiting Conference.2026 Michigan Home Visiting Conference.

Rx Kids: Supporting Michigan Families Through Direct Cash Assistance

Rx Kids is an innovative Michigan-based program designed to support pregnant people, infants, and families through unconditional cash assistance during pregnancy and early infancy. Launched in Flint, Michigan, Rx Kids is the first community-wide prenatal and infant cash prescription program in the United States. The program was created to address the financial stress many families experience during pregnancy and a child's first year of life, recognizing that economic stability is closely tied to maternal and infant health outcomes (Rx Kids, n.d.-a). Links to Rx Kids can also be located on the MIHP website on the Community Resources page and the Other Programs and Services for Families page.

Rx Kids Materials for Print and Distribution

Rx Kids have tangible materials like posters and rack cards (flyers) that can be printed and used to distribute to families. These materials can be obtained by visiting the Contact Rx Kids | Get Enrollment or Payment Support page and scrolling to the bottom of the page to select these materials in either English, Spanish, or Arabic.

RSoc Newcomer Home Visiting Community of Practice KF June 8 2026

The Refugee Systems of Care (RSoC) Project is continuing its Newcomer Home Visiting Community of Practice series, a facilitated and interactive space for home visitors and supervisors to connect, reflect, and problem solve together while strengthening support for immigrant, refugee, and newcomer families across Michigan.
This Community of Practice is intentionally designed to be interactive. Participants should expect to actively engage in discussions, participate in breakout rooms, and use microphones and cameras throughout the session whenever possible to help foster connection and collaborative learning.

Capacity is limited to 50 participants to support meaningful discussion, breakout room conversations, and active engagement.

💬 What to expect:

- Guided discussion grounded in real-world experiences supporting immigrant, refugee, and newcomer families
- Interactive breakout room conversations with fellow home visiting professionals
- Opportunities to exchange strategies, discuss real-world problems, and navigate challenges together
- Reflection on supporting families as they adapt to new systems, languages, and communities
- Practical ideas and resources you can apply right away in your home visiting work

Who can participate?
This Community of Practice is open to home visiting professionals from Michigan's eight evidence-based home visiting models listed below. If interest exceeds the 50-participant capacity, additional registrants will be placed on a waitlist, with priority given to individuals from these models:

- Early Head Start Home Based (EHS)
- Family Spirit
- Healthy Families America (HFA)
- Infant Mental Health (IMH)
- Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP)
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)
- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- Play and Learning Strategies (PALS)

📅 **Community of Practice Details!**
When: Wednesday, June 17, 2026
Time: 2:00–3:30 pm EST
Where: Virtual via Zoom
Cost: Free

📝 **Register now!**
Capacity is limited to ensure a high-quality, interactive experience. We kindly ask that participants register only if they are able to attend the entire session and actively engage in conversation.
👉 bit.ly/rsoc61726

Questions?
Contact Stormie Drake at sdrake@mphi.org or call/text 269-675-0443
We hope you'll join this gathering to connect with peers, share what's working, and walk away with new ideas and support for your work with newcomer families!

The Michigan Maternal Infant Health Program Highlighted as a Strong Model for Postpartum Support

According to the March 2026 issue of the Heartland Forward Maternal & Child Health Center for Policy & Practice (p. 9), “States can look to the Family Connects program or Michigan’s Maternal Infant Health program as strong state-run models for individualized and in-home postpartum support. Michigan’s program—which conducts over 100,000 home visits each year—is open to all Medicaid families and provides home visiting services during pregnancy and throughout the first year after birth.” The report, titled "A Call-to-Action Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies America,” discusses strategies that provide evidence for actions to reduce U.S. maternal mortality by 50% within five years if their framework was to be implemented. Our very own MIHP program was highlighted under Pillar II: Strengthening Postpartum Care in this framework.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Michigan overdose death rate declines by 47 percent since 2021

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2026

CONTACT: Lynn Sutfin, 517-241-2112, Sutfinl1@michigan.gov

Michigan overdose death rate declines by 47 percent since 2021 *Preliminary 2025 data projects decrease in overdose deaths for fourth year in a row*

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announces that Michigan’s overdose death rate has declined by 47% since 2021.

Preliminary data for 2025 is projecting a lower rate of 16.4 deaths per 100,000 residents compared to a rate of 30.8 in 2021. This suggests overdose deaths have continued to decline for the fourth year in a row. In 2021, there were 3,096 overdose deaths compared to fewer than 1,800 deaths projected for 2025.

“MDHHS remains committed to continuing programs and partnerships that help reduce overdose deaths, expand treatment options and support long-term recovery,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “This decrease represents real progress and reflects the impact of sustained, data-driven investments of opioid settlement dollars across Michigan.”

This progress reflects Michigan's continued statewide strategy and efforts to address substance use disorder through the pillars of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery services.

In 2019, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer established the Michigan Opioids Task Force to create a coordinated approach to reduce overdose deaths. The state's response focuses on those four main pillars ensuring programs are aligned toward one goal – saving lives.

"Michigan's progress did not happen by accident," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive and chair of the Michigan Opioids Task Force. "It is the result of years of work to expand naloxone access, strengthen harm reduction services, improve real-time data, remove barriers to treatment and support people throughout recovery. These are not just statistics. These are parents, children, siblings, friends and neighbors who are alive today because life-saving tools and services were available when they were needed."

While the overall overdose death rate has declined significantly, MDHHS continues to focus on addressing persistent racial and geographic disparities in both overdose deaths and access to care. Urban counties and regions continue to experience disproportionately higher overdose rates than the rest of the state – 24% higher than the total state rate in 2024 – and Black overdose death rates are more than twice that of all other residents. The Michigan Opioids Task Force will continue to use data, community partnerships and targeted investments to better understand where disparities remain and strengthen services in communities most affected.

"While this decline is encouraging, our work is not done," said Hertel. "Substance use disorder continues to affect families and communities across Michigan. MDHHS will work with providers, local partners, community organizations and people with lived experience to build on this progress and ensure residents can access the services and support they need."

Harm reduction expansion has been a key component of Michigan's overdose response. Since 2019, Michigan has expanded from five agencies offering harm reduction services to 115 community-based sites. The Naloxone Direct Portal was also launched in 2020 to provide free naloxone for community distribution. Since then, more than 1.8 million naloxone kits have been distributed statewide, with nearly 34,000 reported uses to reverse overdoses and help save lives.

An MDHHS modeling study released in 2025 found that harm reduction programs have saved lives, reduced hospitalizations and emergency department visits and prevented hepatitis C cases in Michigan. Investments in these programs have primarily been supported through opioid settlement dollars.

Improvements have also been made in data collection and response. Today, the state can identify changes to overdoses due to the drug supply more quickly, alert communities and coordinate public health responses.

MDHHS and the Michigan Opioids Task Force have worked to expand access to treatment and recovery services by:

- Removing prior authorization barriers for medications used to treat opioid use disorder.
- Supporting telehealth options to improve access to care.
- Expanding the Substance Use Disorder Health Home model, a service and payment model through Medicaid for providing coordinated care for SUD-related services.
- Incentivizing more than 200 providers to expand access to substance use disorder care for more than 12,000 clients.
- Expanding access to medications to treat opioid use disorder in 25 county jails.
- Supporting service delivery expansion for 32 recovery community organizations.
- Adding more than 250 recovery housing beds in the last two years.

Prevention efforts continue to be a core part of the state's response. MDHHS has supported prevention and family preservation services for more than 400 families involved in the child welfare system, with at least 95% of families remaining together. The department has also launched public awareness campaigns using research and polling to tailor messaging and measure effectiveness.

Funding for substance use disorder services in Michigan is coordinated through several sources, including Medicaid, federal grants and opioid settlement funding. The state is slated to receive more than $1.8 billion from national opioid settlements by 2040, with half distributed to the State of Michigan Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund and the other half distributed directly to county, city and township governments

Continued investment remains critical as Michigan monitors an increasingly complex and changing drug supply, including contamination involving fentanyl, xylazine and medetomidine, as well as renewed concerns about carfentanil. MDHHS is also working to address emerging substances sold in convenience stores, smoke shops and online, including products containing 7-hydroxymitragynine, commonly known as 7-OH, and nitrous oxide. These evolving risks underscore the need to sustain prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery and surveillance efforts that can quickly respond to emerging threats and help protect residents.

For more information about substance use disorder resources and the state's opioid settlement investments, visit Michigan.gov/opioids.

- 2025 overdose death reduction NR.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Michigan releases 2026 Eat Safe Fish Guides about local fish consumption

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 8, 2026

CONTACT: Lynn Sutfin, 517-241-2112, Sutfinl1@michigan.gov

Michigan releases 2026 Eat Safe Fish Guides about local fish consumption

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has released the 2026 Eat Safe Fish Guides *to help Michigan residents* choose fish that are best for them and their families to eat.

The Eat Safe Fish Guides provide consumption guidelines for eating locally caught fish. Guidelines are based on levels of chemicals found in the portions of fish people eat, typically the filets. Test results from the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories are used to determine what can be safe for people to eat over the long term.

“There are many health benefits to eating fish and the Eat Safe Fish Guides provide consumption recommendations based on the levels of certain chemicals found in fish in waterbodies across the state,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “Michigan families can use these guidelines to help make healthy choices about the fish they eat.”

In total, the guides provide consumption guidelines for 696 Michigan waterbodies. This year, there were 59 guidelines that were relaxed and 65 that became more protective than previous years.

MDHHS *Eat Safe Fish Guides* are not laws or regulations. They provide free guidance to help people choose fish that are safe to eat and less likely to affect their health due to harmful chemicals. The *Eat Safe Fish Guides* use lab test results to provide specific fish and waterbody consumption guidelines in an easy-to-use format. The guidelines are set to be protective of all individuals, including children, pregnant or breastfeeding women and people with health issues including cancer and diabetes.

MDHHS also produces the *Buy Safe Fish Guide* to help residents choose seafood lower in mercury from local grocery stores, fish markets and restaurants. The Eat Safe Fish Guides and Buy Safe Fish Guide are available at Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish.

For more information on how to buy, eat or prepare safe fish, or to get the 2026 *Eat Safe Fish Guide* for your region, visit Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish and select Find Your Area or call the MDHHS Environmental Health Bureau at 800-648-6942.

- 2026 ESF NR.pdf

Upcoming State of Michigan (SOM) Holidays

June 19
July 3
September 7
November 3
November 11
November 26 and 27
December 24 and 25
December 31

Previously Released MIHP Updates

To review any previously released MIHP Biweekly Updates, they can be found by visiting the MIHP webpage Michigan.gov/MIHP

Biweekly Update Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MIHP Biweekly Update, please submit your ideas here.

MDHHS Publications

Sign up here to receive program updates and communications.

Coordinator Directory

Please click here to access the most recent Coordinator Directory. MIHP Coordinator Directory

Our communication for the Maternal Infant Health Program has been streamlined to a single email address and phone number. Please forward all email to MIHP@michigan.gov. For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447).** Thank you.