

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE NEWSLETTER

A Health Newsletter from the Barry-Eaton District Health Department

Barry-Eaton District Health Department Communicable Disease

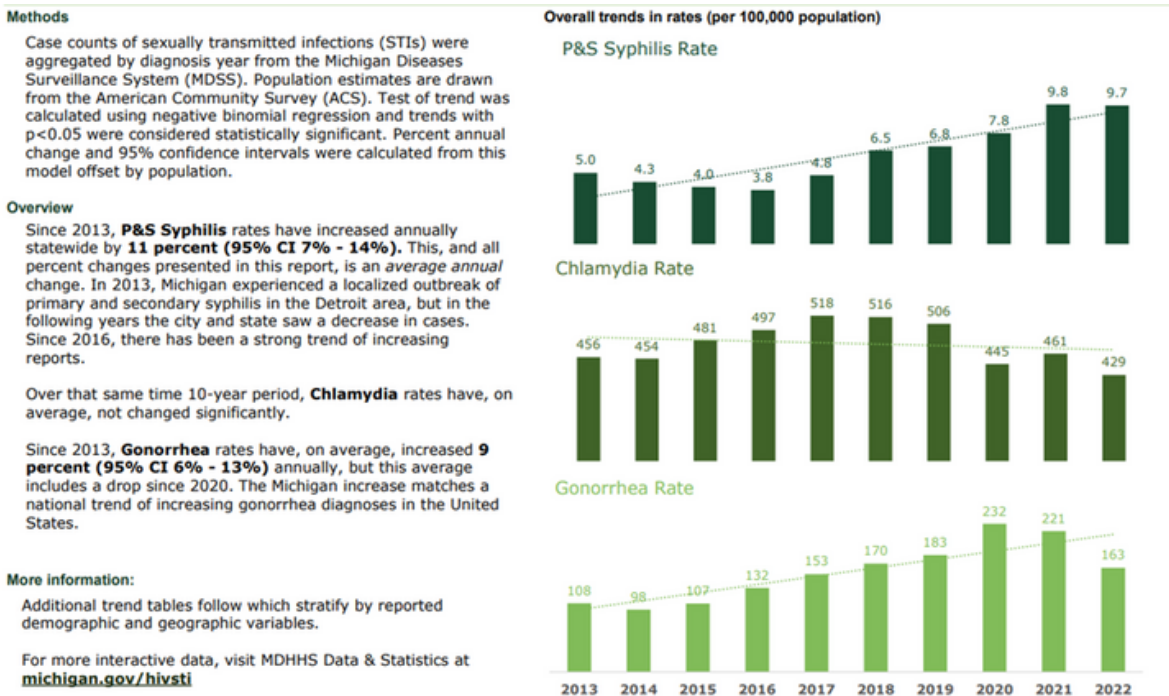
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STI AWARENESS WEEK IS APRIL 14-20, 2024

Sexually transmitted infection (STI) Awareness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness about STIs and how they impact patient's lives; reduce STI-related stigma, fear, and discrimination; and ensure people have the tools and knowledge for prevention, testing, and treatment. [CDC's toolkit](#) functions as a guide to help users apply different campaigns to their STI Awareness Week activities.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends sexually active residents [get screened](#) for STIs now and as part of their routine health care. Since 2013, primary and secondary [syphilis rates](#) have increased 10% annually in Michigan and syphilis rates continue to rise even as rates of other STIs remain stable.



Michigan is seeing more syphilis in women of childbearing age who may not know they are at risk and syphilis in pregnant individuals can be transmitted to the baby resulting in severe outcomes including miscarriage and stillbirth. Syphilis is highly treatable and congenital syphilis can be prevented if testing is performed. **While screening for all STIs is important, it is especially important to test for syphilis in women of childbearing age.**

In Michigan, those diagnosed with gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomoniasis can receive [Expedited Partner Therapy \(EPT\)](#) - an option that allows providers to streamline the process of treating the partners of their patients in select cases. EPT allows clinicians to provide treatment for partners without a separate visit, which also reduces the chance of their patients becoming reinfected.

INCREASES IN MPOX IN MICHIGAN AND THE U.S.

On April 12, 2024, the state of Michigan reported that there have been a total of 16 new **confirmed and probable mpox cases in Genesee, Kent, Macomb, Ottawa, and Oakland counties and the city of Detroit** in 2024. These are the first cases in Michigan since March of 2023. Patient characteristics are similar to those associated with the mpox outbreak in 2022: young men who primarily identify as men who have sex with men (MSM) and have a history of sexually transmitted infections, including persons with HIV (PWH). [Multiple reports](#) have indicated that PWH are more likely to experience severe symptoms related to mpox, highlighting the important role that HIV care providers serve in advocating for the two-dose mpox vaccine series among patients. With spring and summer travel and festivals starting, it is important to encourage mpox vaccine administration. **The mpox vaccine, Jynneos, is available at the Barry-Eaton District Health Department.**

MDHHS has put together a guide that includes information for public health partners and providers related to mpox vaccination recommendations, transmission, illness, case isolation, testing and treatment. [Click here to review the guide in its entirety.](#)

NEW MEASLES STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

A new [MDHHS Measles SOP](#) is available to providers. In addition, **MDHHS has created a new measles website, michigan.gov/measles, which includes the following guideline links for providers:**

- [Measles Investigation Guidelines](#)
- [MMRV Testing for Clinicians.](#)

On March 18th, the CDC distributed this health alert: [Increase in Global and Domestic Measles Cases and Outbreaks: Ensure Children in the United States and Those Traveling Internationally 6 Months and Older are Current on MMR Vaccination.](#)

On April 10th, Michigan documented another confirmed case of measles in 2024, located in the City of Detroit. This child was unvaccinated and had no history of international travel. As of April 4th, there have been 113 cases of measles in the U.S. this year in 18 jurisdictions, according to the CDC. Fifty-eight percent of the people infected with the virus nationally in 2024 have been hospitalized for isolation or for management of measles complications.

HEALTHY! CAPITAL COUNTIES COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Attention Eaton County! The Tri-County Community Health Survey is now live, and we want to hear YOUR voice. We are seeking input from community members, providers, and community partners. Topics include access to resources, barriers, health concerns, social determinants of health, and community resources. The input and perspectives you provide are crucial in shaping our understanding of local health issues and informing our strategies for improvement in Eaton, Ingham, and Clinton counties.

Scan the QR code or go to [H!CC Survey](#) to take the survey now and make a difference in your community!



HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN IONIA COUNTY FLOCK

AS WILD BIRDS COMPLETE THEIR SPRING MIGRATION, PREVENTION IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEPING MICHIGAN'S ANIMALS HEALTHY AND SAFE

Following a report to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has detected the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial poultry facility from Ionia County, [MDARD- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Ionia County Flock \(michigan.gov\)](#). HPAI is a highly contagious virus that can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds, through contact with infected poultry, by equipment, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers. To protect other facilities in Michigan, the premises is currently under quarantine, and the birds will be depopulated to prevent disease spread. These efforts also help to ensure the safety and integrity of the commercial food supply.

According to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the public health risk associated with avian influenza remains low. Also, no animals or products infected with HPAI will enter the commercial food chain. MDARD is continuing to work diligently with local, state, and federal partners to quickly respond to reports of HPAI to best mitigate the spread of the disease and provide outreach.

More information on avian influenza and how to protect flocks through preventative measures can be found on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [website](#).

REPORTABLE DISEASE PYRAMID UPDATED

The [MDHHS Reportable Diseases Pyramid](#) was recently updated - Measles and meningococcal disease moved to top-tier and CP-CRE (Carbapenemase-Producing Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacterales) changed to CPO (Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms).

BEDHD'S CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOUR PATIENTS WITH SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH NEEDS

Whether formally or informally assessing patients for their social determinants of health (SDOH) needs, having a clear picture of your patients' socioeconomic circumstances is key to improving their health outcomes. Lack of food, housing, insurance, transportation, among other challenges, can have significant downstream effects on otherwise healthy patients.

The Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) Connections Program has three Community Health Workers (CHWs) that can help meet the SDOH needs of your patients. CHWs (also known as Navigators) can be viewed as specialists at addressing SDOH. As advocates, CHWs can help teach people how to navigate the health care system and how to articulate their needs. In addition, CHWs work with people to connect them with programs and services available that can help address needs including food security, emergency home repair and weatherization services, and so much more.

To learn more about Connections or to make an online referral, visit the BEDHD website: [Connections Program](#). To find out how we can work together to provide these services for your clients, contact Lauren Metcalfe, Outreach Supervisor at LMetcalfe@bedhd.org or (517)541-2624.

To learn more about SDOH screening tools and how to incorporate one into your workflow, read this article in Family Practice Medicine: [Screening for Social Determinants of Health in Daily Practice](#).