



The Hearing and Vision Programs are required by the Michigan Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978, Part 93. The programs exist to screen children for deficiencies in hearing or vision and refer them to a doctor, if necessary. As children have no basis for comparison, they do not know when they cannot see or hear adequately. All children should have complete hearing and vision exams by a doctor during the preschool years and throughout school life. Such an ideal situation is not being achieved; therefore, the Hearing and Vision Programs do the screening.

Of highlight for 2011, the Hearing and Vision programs continued to assist uninsured and under insured children with obtaining eye exams and/or glassed through a grant from the Julia Hackley Committee of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. The grant was originally received in fiscal year 2010 to support follow-up vision care. Through the grant, 42 children had assistance with their vision needs. Of these, 36 children were provided eye exams and glasses, 1 additional child received an eye exam, 4 replacement glasses were provided and the co-pay was covered for 1 child to receive an eye exam and glasses.

Laurel Sproul, BS, CLC
Maternal & Child Services Supervisor

Staff and Roles

Public Health Technicians must successfully complete extensive State-sponsored training prior to screening children. Once they passed both the written and experiential parts of their training, they are observed and evaluated bi-annually for effectiveness by Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) staff.

Maternal & Child Services Supervisor
Laurel Sproul, BS, CLC

Public Health Technicians
Laurel Griffin
Grace Park

Basis for Program

The Michigan Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978, Part 93, requires that every child be screened for possible hearing and vision problems once between the ages of 3-5 before entering school. Local public health ensures that these children receive hearing and vision screening every other year through ninth grade, with the inclusion of vision screening for driver’s education.

Purpose of the Program

The purpose of the Hearing and Vision program is to find hearing or vision impairments in children and facilitate treatment. Public Health Technicians provide screening services in the schools and at the public health department. If a child fails the screening, further services may be necessary. Parents will receive notification of this by mail or in person. The Hearing and Vision program follows the State of Michigan’s schedule:

Vision Screening	Hearing Screening
Before School, Ages 3-5	Before school, ages 3-5
Grade 1	Kindergarten
Grade 3	Grade 2
Grade 5	Grade 4
Grade 7	Any child that has previously failed
Grade 9	Any teacher/school/parent request
Driver’s Education	
Any teacher/school/parent request	

Hearing Screens

Stage I (commonly referred to as preliminary screen)

- When: Initial visit to the school
- Process: student wears headphones, technician presents tones, child raises hand when tone is heard
- Six of six tones heard is a pass, just one missed is a re-screen

Stage II (commonly referred to as re-screen or sweep)

- When: 3-4 weeks after original screen
- Process: same as with Stage I
- Twelve of twelve tones heard is a pass, when one is missed the technician performs a Stage III screen

Stage III (commonly referred to as an audio or threshold)

- When: as soon as 1 tone is missed on Stage II screen
- Process: technician presents tones until the lowest tone the student can hear is confirmed
- Three criteria used to determine pass, if one of the three are not met, the student is referred to an Ear, Nose, and Throat physician specialist

Vision Screens

Preschool age

- Process: Acuity test, phoria test, cover/uncover test, corneal reflection test
- If any of the tests indicate a potential problem, the child is referred to an eye doctor.

School age

- Process: acuity test, phoria test
- If any of the tests indicate a potential problem, the child is referred to an eye doctor.

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program at MDCH works with hospitals and clinics to identify newborns and infants with a hearing loss. While the hospitals do the hearing screens on the newborns, the program works with community providers and develops information for families. MDCH sends reports to the public health department for assistance in locating the families to ensure that their infant has received a follow-up hearing test when necessary. The Public Health Technician will often assist the family with provider contacts. Public Health Muskegon County will then report the results back to MDCH.

Community Data

The Public Health Technicians screened a total of 18,551 Muskegon County children during the fiscal year.

Fiscal Year 2010-2011		Fiscal Year 2010-2011	
Hearing Screens		Vision Screens	
School-age		Preschool	
Pass	5,863	Pass	7,681
Referred	895	Referred	2,057
Total	6,758	Total	9,738
Follow-up Received	123	Follow-up Received	599
Preschool		Preschool	
Pass	909	Pass	893
Referred	110	Referred	143
Total	1,019	Total	1,036
Follow-up Received	41	Follow-up Received	44
Total Hearing Screens	7,777	Total Vision Screens	10,774

Community Value

There are approximately 3 million children residing in the State of Michigan. Some 10,000 of these children are entering school each year with inadequate vision. Children under age five learn through their senses, with vision accounting for 80% of that learning. Over one million children will need eye care by the time they graduate from high school.

It is imperative that children with hearing and vision issues receive intervention as soon as possible so the learning process is not disrupted or harmed due to improper sensory input. Children that have vision and/or hearing problems are at risk for learning delays, developmental delays and behavioral problems.

Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Information (Unaudited)

Revenues:	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2011 Percentage
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$62,688	45.62%
Medicaid	\$0	0.00%
Fees	\$4,528	3.30%
Access Health	\$0	0.00%
Transfers In	\$70,188	51.08%
Total Revenues	\$137,404	100.00%
Expenditures		
Program Salaries/Fringes	\$93,023	67.70%
Other Program Expenditures	\$44,381	32.30%
Total Expenditures	\$137,404	100.00%

