



2019 - 2021

Annual Report



A Letter from the Health Officer



On behalf of the Bay County Health Department, I am pleased to share our 2019 - 2021 Annual Report.

Although 2020 and 2021 were the most challenging years in the history of the Bay County Health Department, we never stopped serving our community and continued to offer our essential programs and services in innovative ways. Bay County, like many other communities with COVID-19, witnessed disruption of our personal and professional lives, experienced illness, and grieved loss on a scale we had never encountered before. Our mission has always been our overriding principle: to serve our community and protect the health and wellbeing of all Bay County residents.

During this unprecedented time, we worked extensively throughout the community in response actions that protected our citizens and saved lives, such as:

- Investigating nearly 20,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and helping thousands of Bay County residents with assistance and education
- Working extensively and diligently with local schools and businesses to reopen and stay open. Implementing innovative mitigation measures such as testing and support to slow outbreaks in communities and facilities.
- Vaccinating, with our community partners, over 61,000 Bay County residents in less than 12 months.
- Opening the My Community Dental Centers in Bay City, bringing dental services to populations in need.
- Fully implementing the ground-breaking geographic information systems project that works with local homeowners to classify and map all existing and future septic systems and wells in Bay County. This new database identified areas for remediation and provides homeowners with the relevant information to maintain and improve their systems. Additionally, the Health Department was able to secure funding for a limited time to assist homeowners with necessary remediation and repair.

Our accomplishments above and throughout this report highlight what we do as a Department with our partners in the community despite responding to unexpected challenges. We hope this multi-year report provides insight to the dedicated and tireless work of the staff and partners of the Bay County Health Department in fulfilling its mission. Should you want to learn more about our programs and services, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Yours in Good Health,

Joel R. Strasz, MPA
Health Officer

A Message from Bay County Administration



Bay County Mission Statement

Bay County will provide efficient, customer and taxpayer-focused, public services that improve the quality of life for Bay County residents.

During a difficult 2020 and 2021, Bay County continued to serve the public at full capacity in all of our departments. The Bay County Health Department served as the lead agency during this emergency and informed our residents on ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The health department also met the challenge of distributing a limited supply of vaccines with a high demand then pivoting to rolling out vaccination clinics to hundreds of our community members. I want to express my gratitude to the health department administration and staff for their passion and dedication to helping our residents through this pandemic.

Jim Barcia
Bay County Executive



Bay County Vision Statement

The vision of Bay County Government is to provide a continuously improving quality of life in our community through leadership and services.

These past few years were truly unprecedented times, but I can confidently say that the response of the health department has been incredible. The leadership and coordination demonstrated is remarkable as well as the genuine and compassionate care day in and day out for the community we serve. The staff and its many partners worked tirelessly to protect the vulnerable and move our lives back to normal. On behalf of the Bay County Board of Commissioners, we will continue to promote the health and well-being of all who live, work, and play in Bay County.

Tom Herek, Chair
Bay County Board of Commissioners



Our Mission

To protect and promote a healthy community and safe environment by providing quality services through all stages of life

Guiding Principals

- Accountability
- Kindness
- Commitment
- Positivity
- Communication
- Professionalism
- Dependability
- Respect
- Empowerment
- Teamwork

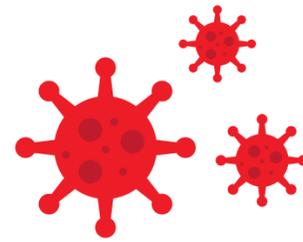
Our Vision

To be the leading public health agency meeting the needs of your community

Vision Priorities

- Create a safe, friendly, confidential, and professional environment
- Create an environment that values and respects all customers and employees
- Promote our programs and services in the community
- Partner with community organizations
- Provide responsible fiscal management
- Utilize the latest technology to reach a broader audience

COVID-19 Response



While planning for the COVID-19 pandemic started in January 2020, the work became nearly all-encompassing when the first cases were identified in March. It was truly a department-wide effort to respond to this pandemic, with our efforts evolving as the scientific knowledge grew, testing supplies became more available, and the utility of a vaccine helped to contain the spread of the virus.

Initial Containment

- Created a dedicated COVID telephone hotline for resident questions
- Conducted contact tracing and case investigations
- Issued Emergency Public Health Orders to contain the spread
- Reassigned staff to learn new roles to support the response
- Developed an online case investigation survey
- Informed residents of everyday preventive actions (masks, hand-washing, etc.) to mitigate the spread of the virus

Expanding our Reach

- Hired temporary part-time and full-time staff
- Worked with Bay County Emergency Management to request, inventory, store, and distribute PPE supplies to community agencies
- Issued press releases and conducted media interviews
- Communicated with residents to share updates and health guidance
- Utilized social media to answer questions and concerns directly

Preparing for the Vaccine

- Updated vaccine cold storage and temperature monitoring system
- Created a Vaccine Task Force to coordinate distribution
- Organized and conducted multiple mass vaccination clinics
- Educated residents on the importance of getting vaccinated



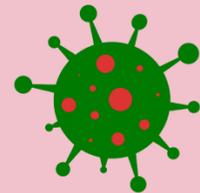
Vaccinations & Beyond

- Administered vaccines to eligible age groups as they were approved
- Sponsored campaigns to promote vaccination of more residents
- Piloted and implemented the Test-to-Stay Program for area schools
- Partnered with the National Guard to assist with vaccination clinics
- Continued to communicate updates and guidance with residents

BCHD collaborated with IT to develop a dashboard on the department website to publish county-level data on the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 by the Numbers

During 2019 through 2021:



19,496

Confirmed and Probable
COVID-19 Cases

252 Vaccine Clinics



54.6%

Percentage of
Residents Fully
Vaccinated



199

Total Outbreaks
of COVID-19
in facilities throughout
Bay County

59.8%

Percentage of
Residents Partially
Vaccinated



250+*

Community volunteers
assisted with vaccination clinics



15,791*

PPE supplies
distributed

in partnership with Bay County
Emergency Management



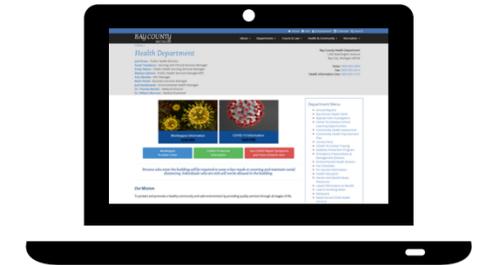
Communication Efforts



Responded to
2,000*
resident inquires

2,896,989*

Website Page Views



289,245*

Website Unique Visitors



3,841,022

Facebook Page Reach

28,312

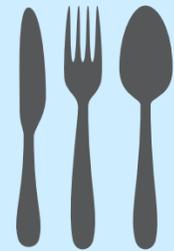
Facebook Page Visits

+4,000* New Followers on
Facebook

*Approximations

Environmental Health Programs Impact

During 2019 through 2021:



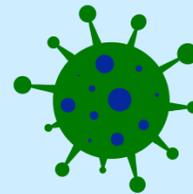
1,864

Restaurant Inspections

19 Plans Received
15 Plans Approved
182 Mobile, Vending, STFU, Temporary Inspections
43 Food-Related Complaints

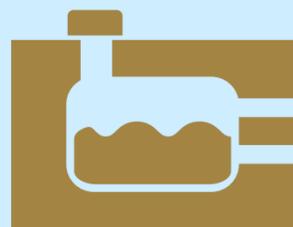
20

Foodborne Illness Investigations



324

Sewage Permits



110

Abandoned Wells Plugged

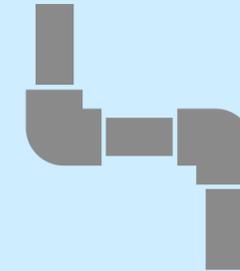


150

Well Permits

142

Final Inspections with Well Construction



353

Wastewater Systems Evaluated



27

Wastewater Complaints Investigated

162

Field Pre-drilling Site Evaluations



Public Health Programs Impact

During 2019 through 2021:

1,148

Families Enrolled
in Children's
Special Health
Care Services



306

New Maternal and
Infant Enrollees

Maternal Infant Health Program
is a home visiting program,
focusing on the maternal infant
dyad to promote healthy
pregnancies.



14

Children Receiving Nurse
Case Management Services

1,203

Children Under 6
Tested for Lead

21

Home Visits for
Elevated Blood
Lead Levels

If the capillary results is
5mcg/dl or greater, a
venous (blood draw)
sample for confirmatory
testing is completed.



2,287

Preschool (children 3-5)
Hearing & Vision Tests



10,070

School Age (grades K-9)
Hearing & Vision Tests



1,361

Clients Receiving
Personal Health
Services

2,806 total encounters with
Personal Health Services' staff



70%

Children Ages 1-2 Enrolled
in Medicaid Tested for Lead

WIC Programs Impact

During 2019 through 2021:



10,854

WIC Clients

served who received food and nutrition education. WIC clients include pregnant women, infants, and children up to age five.

17,489

WIC Appointments

Unduplicated visits among pregnant women, infants, and children up to age five.



\$12,825

Project Fresh

coupons redeemed at Farmers Markets



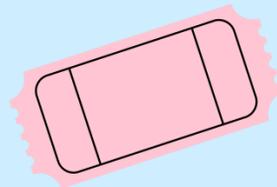
\$3,956,451

Food Dollars

spent at Bay County Grocery Stores.



724 **Lead Screenings**



2,565

Project Fresh

coupons issued to eligible participants



Women, Infants, and Children program is a federally funded program that provides nutritious food, nutrition education and assistance with community referrals for pregnant women, infants, and children under the age of five. Eligibility is at or below 185% of poverty, which serves low-to-moderate-income families who meet income requirements. Families receive nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support and access to other support services offered through the health department and local community agencies.

Public Health Clinical Disease Data

During 2019 through 2021, the total number of diseases investigated was **12,746**, specific diseases are listed below:

1,149
Influenza

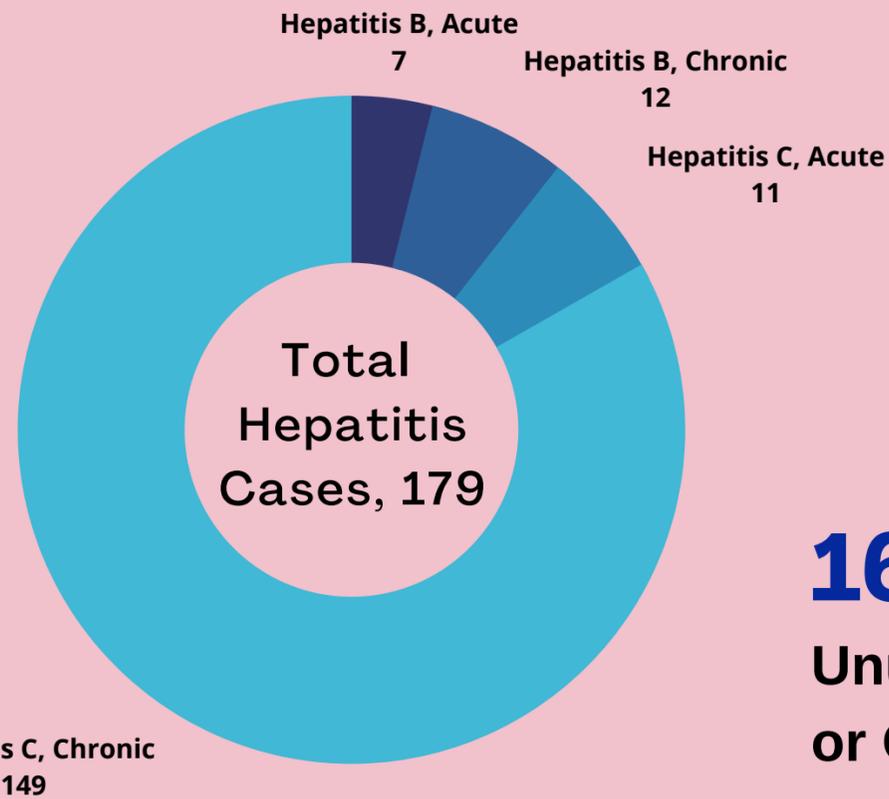
8 Shingles

4 Tuberculosis

6 Rabies - Animal

1
West Nile Virus

6 Legionellosis



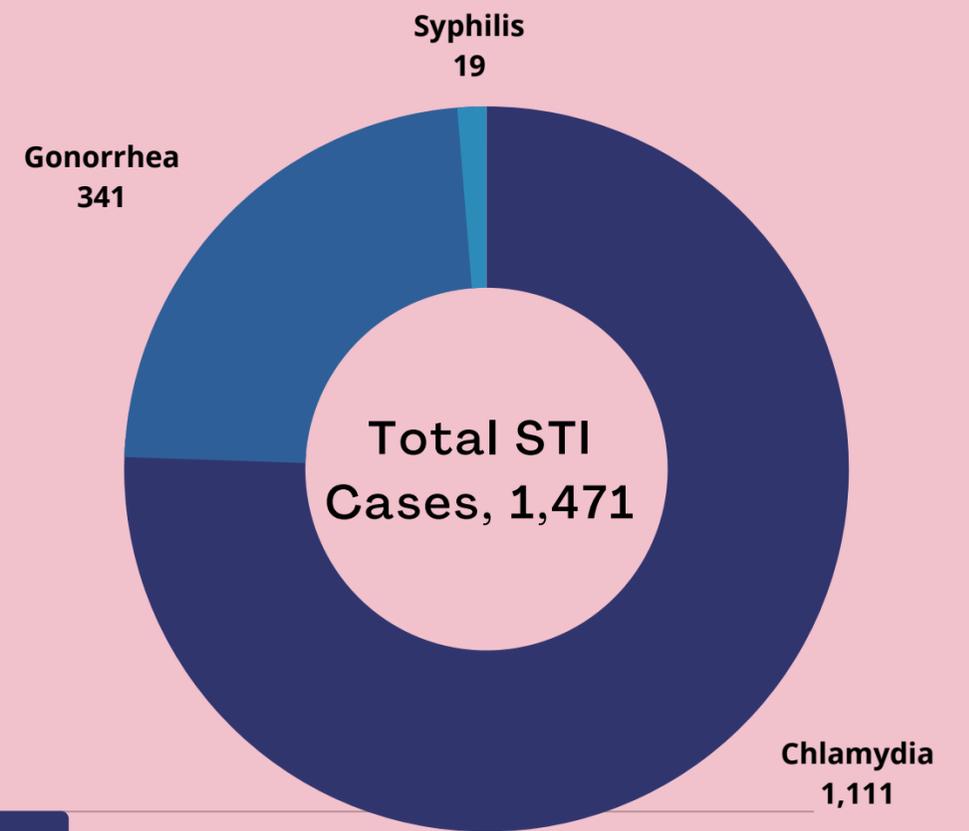
167
Unusual Outbreak or Occurrence

8 Meningitis, Bacterial

16 Meningitis, Aseptic

17 Streptococcus pneumoniae, INV

2 Kawasaki



Immunizations Program Impact

During 2019 through 2021, the total number of vaccines administered was **46,848**, with specific vaccines listed below:

1,467

Seasonal Influenza

153

IPV
(polio)

663

TB Skin
Testing

704

HPV

249

Varicella



369

MMR

929

TDaP

334

Zoster RZV

10

Rabies

37,809

COVID-19



135

Rotavirus

Vaccine	Number Administered
DTaP	226
DTaP-Hep B-IPV	252
DTaP-IPV	167
Hep A (Adult)	521
Hep A (Pediatric)	432
Hep B (Adult)	292
Hep B (Pediatric)	28
Hib (PedvaxHIB)	328
Meningococcal Conjugate	842
Meningitis B	258
MMRV	242
Pneumococcal Conjugate PCV13	399
Pneumococcal PPSV23	39

Health Education Program Impact

**EAT
SAFE
FISH**

During 2019 through 2021:

95 Community Outreach Events



36 events promoted services of the health department
59 events were specific to the Eat Safe Fish program

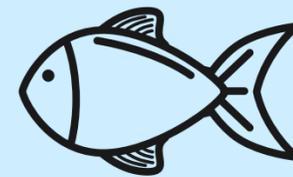
29 Specialized Events Attended

15 were Breastfeeding classes
14 were Infant-feeding classes

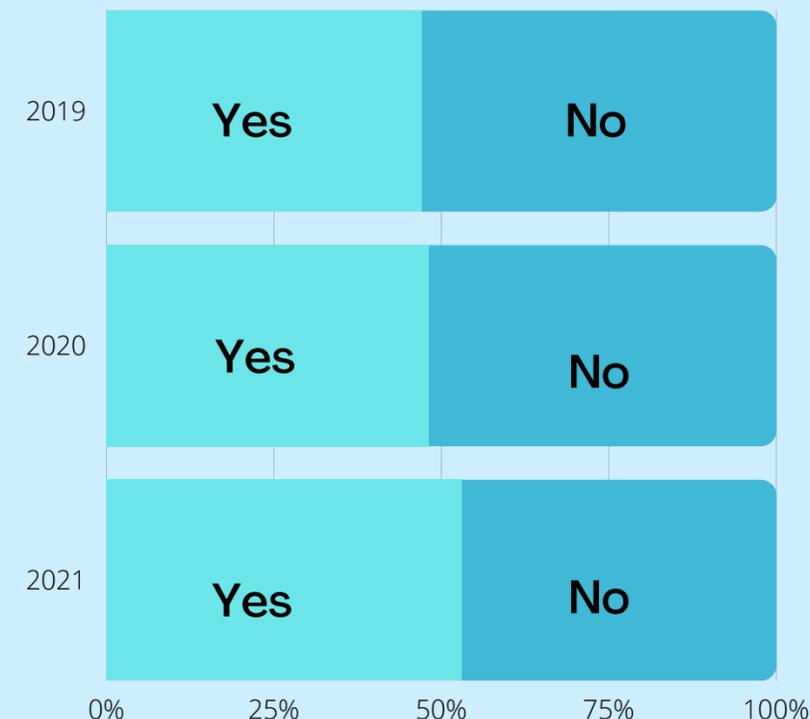


26,699 Eat Safe Fish

brochures distributed to businesses
+9,965 to physicians
+2,081 by Riverwalkers



% of Anglers who either consume or do not consume fish



6,206 Wild Game

brochures to businesses
+2,425 to physicians

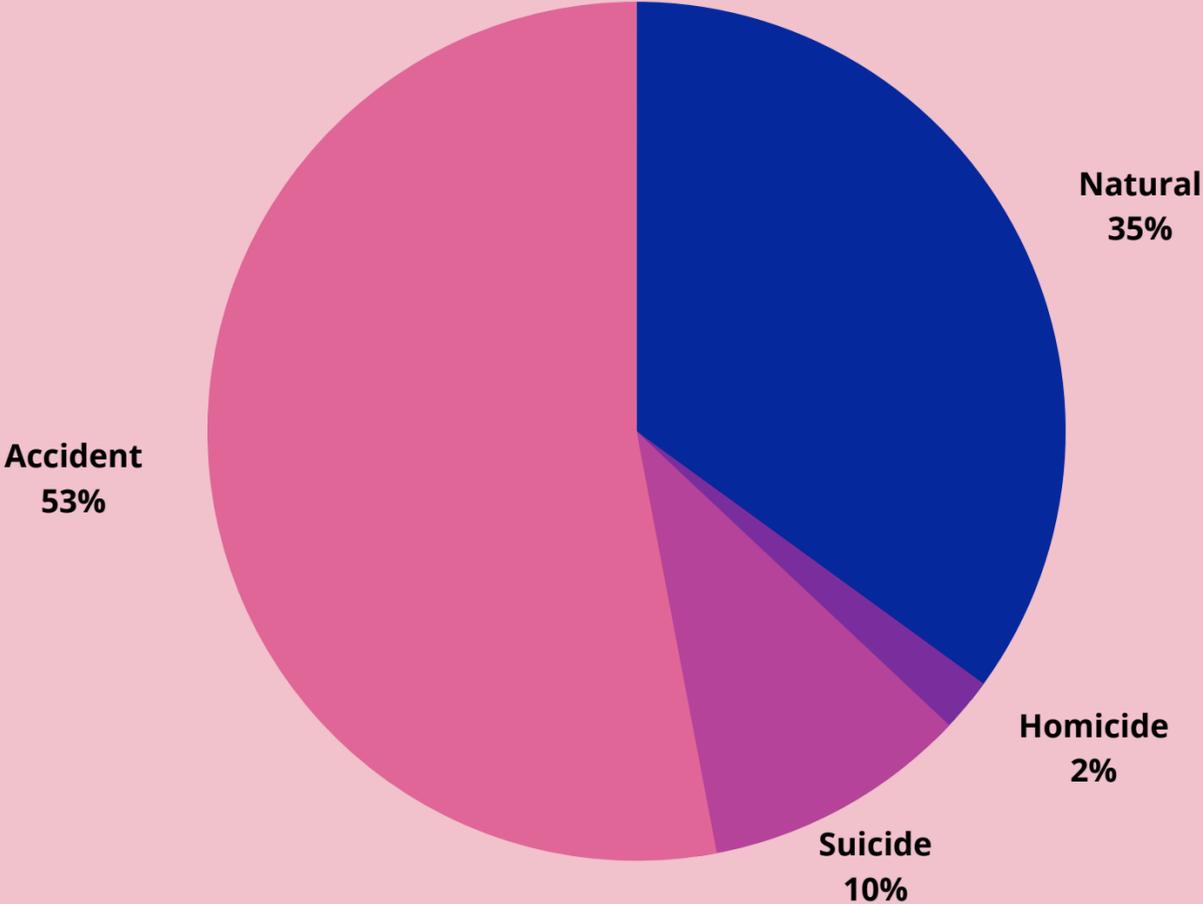
7,383 Anglers

were spoken to about the Eat Safe Fish Program by a Riverwalker.

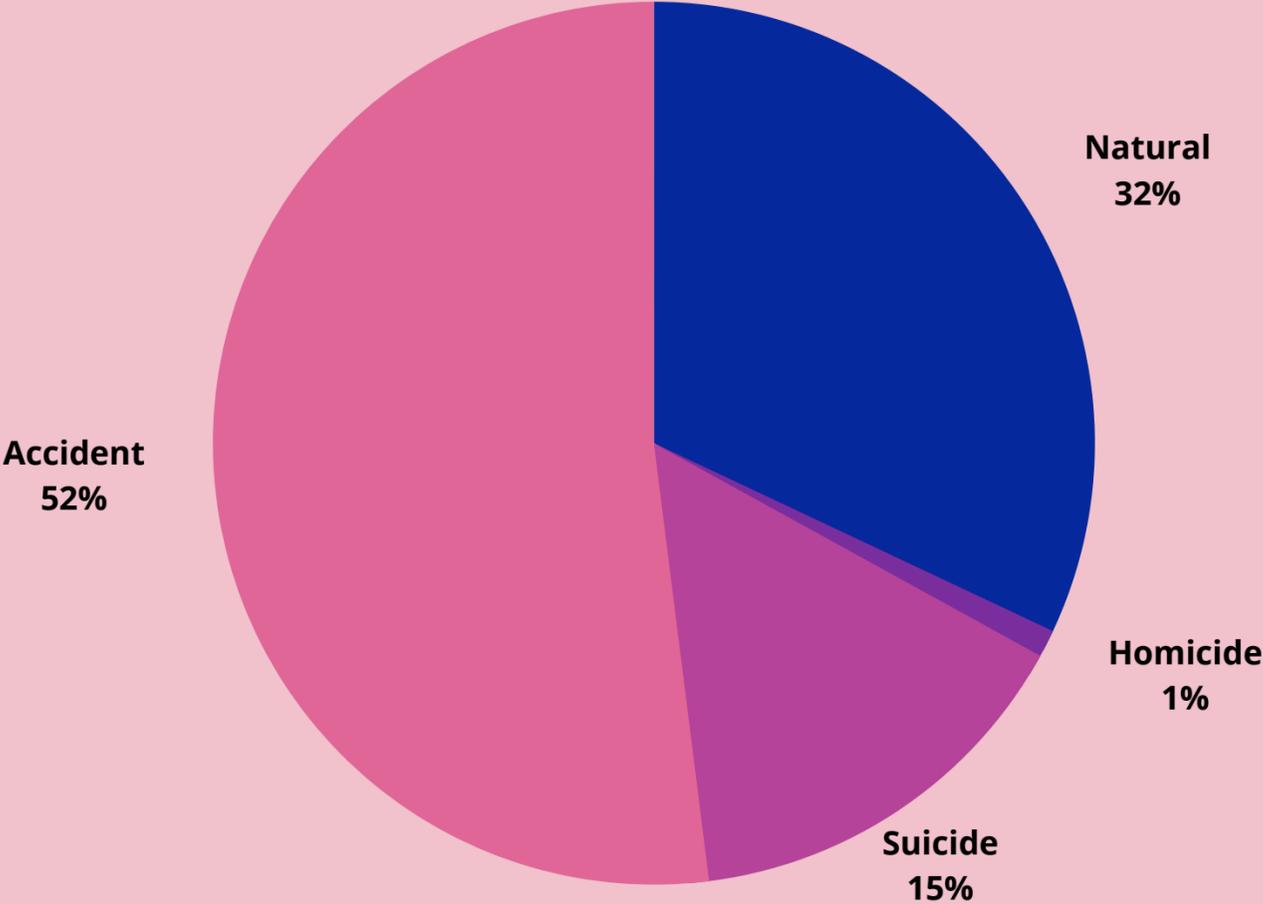
Bay County Health Department is partnering with Michigan Department of Health and Human services and the Environmental Protection Agency through the Saginaw Bay Cooperative Agreement grant on the Eat Safe Fish program. The purpose of the program is to create awareness of toxic persistent chemicals in local fish from Tittabawassee River, Saginaw River, and Saginaw Bay through the fish advisory education in the form of presentations, community events, and informational brochures distributed to local businesses and physicians.

Medical Examiner Summary

Manner of Deaths Investigated in Bay County, 2020



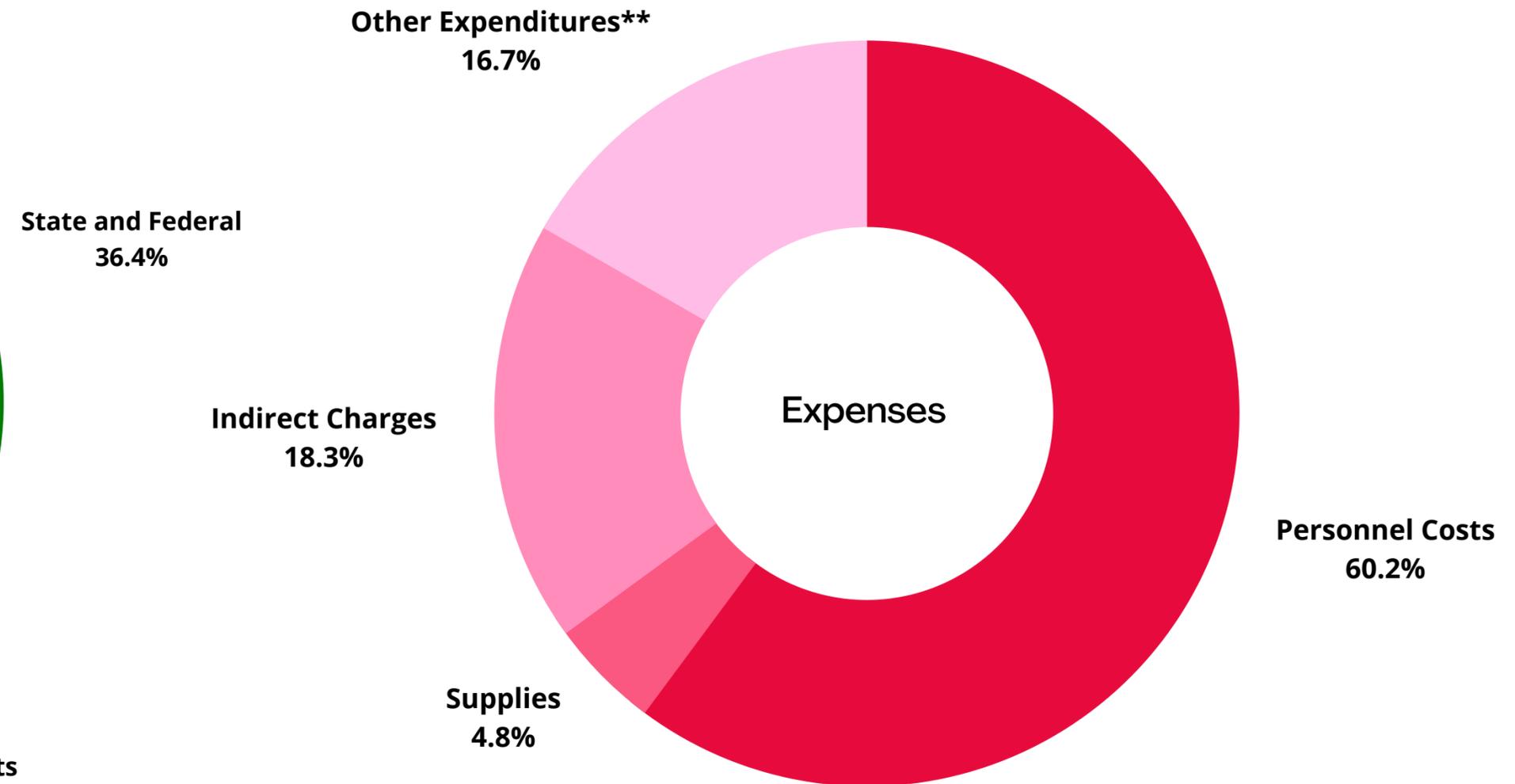
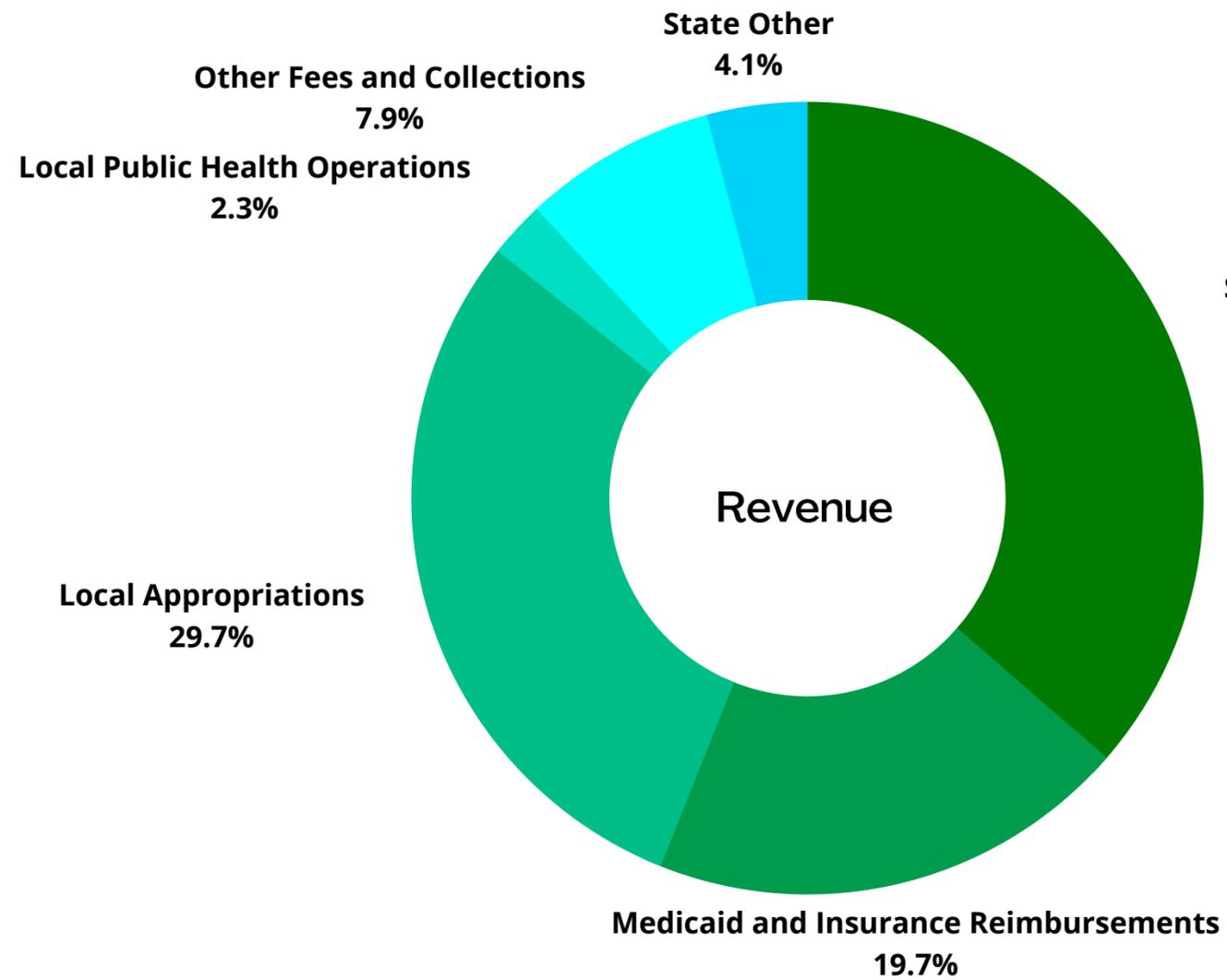
Manner of Deaths Investigated in Bay County, 2021



To access the full Medical Examiner's report, click [here](#).

Financials - 2019

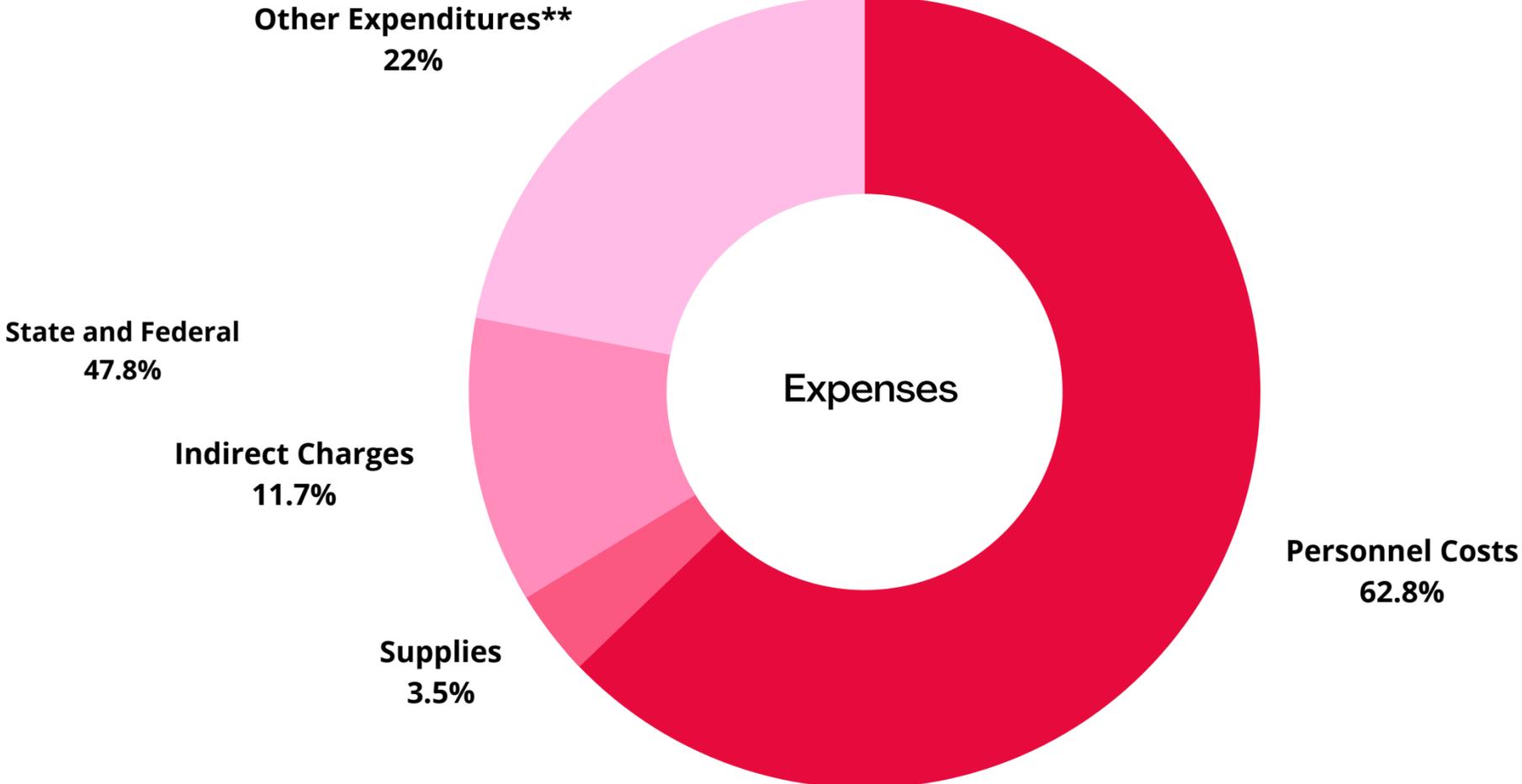
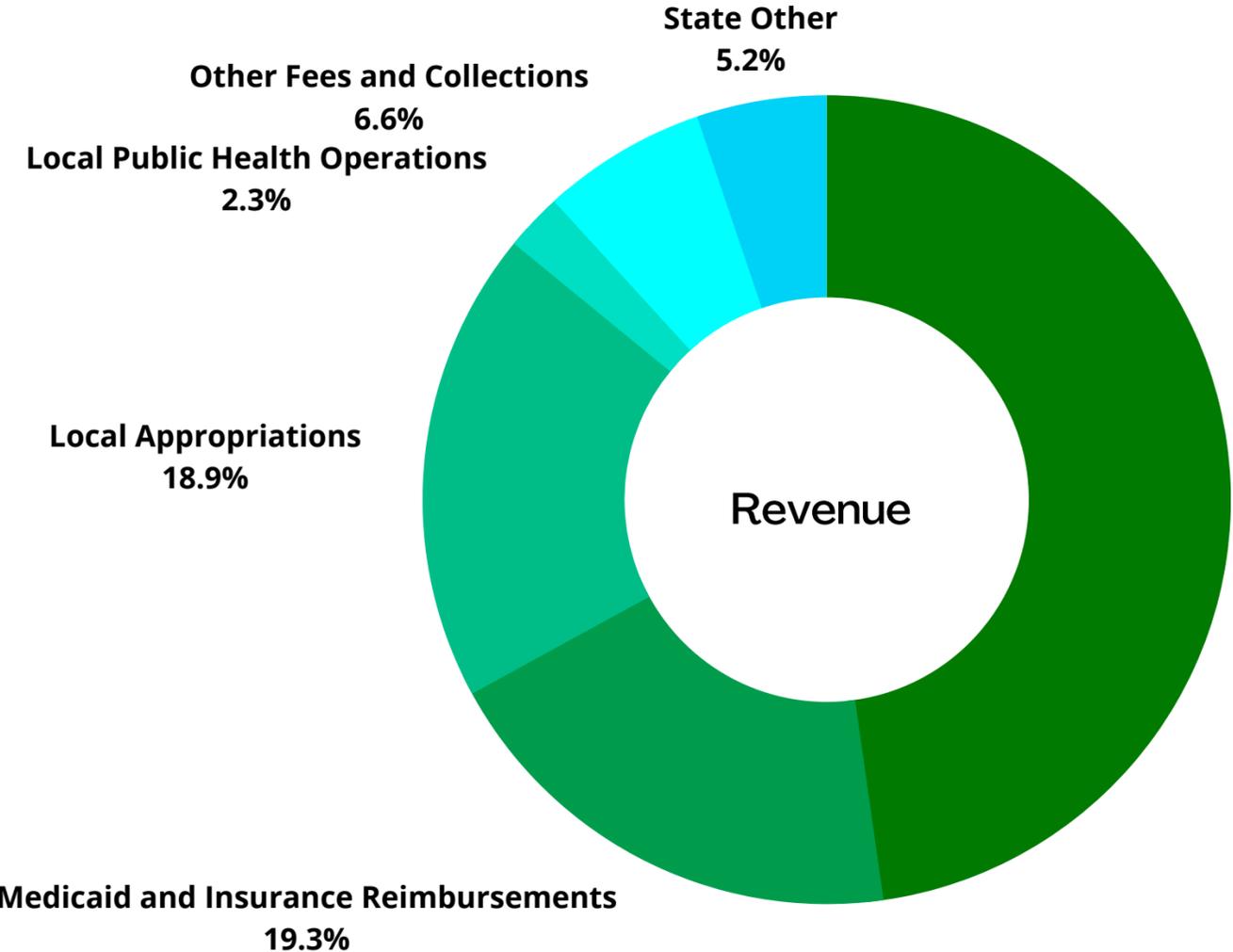
Our operating budget was \$4,547,575 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.



**Other Expenditures include: travel, communications, and contractual

Financials - 2020

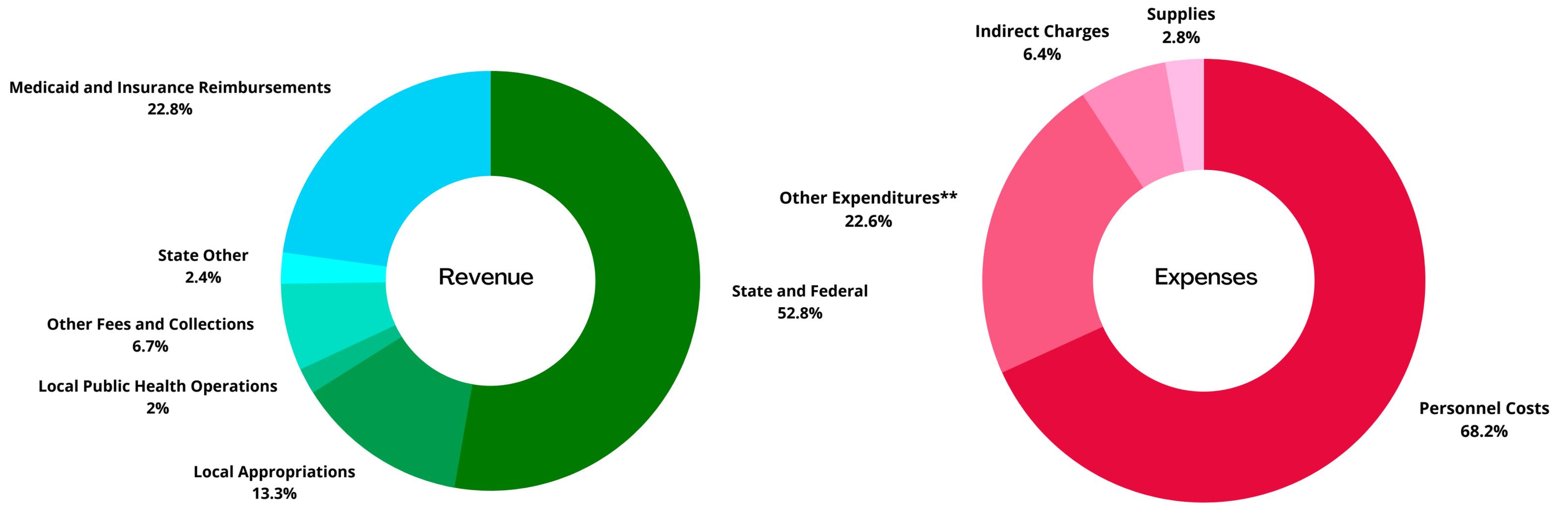
Our operating budget was \$4,804,702 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.



**Other Expenditures include: travel, communications, and contractual

Financials - 2021

Our operating budget was \$5,337,209 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.



**Other Expenditures include: travel, communications, and contractual

Contact & Connect With Us



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Bay County Pinconning Clinic

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facebook.com/BayCountyHD/