

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

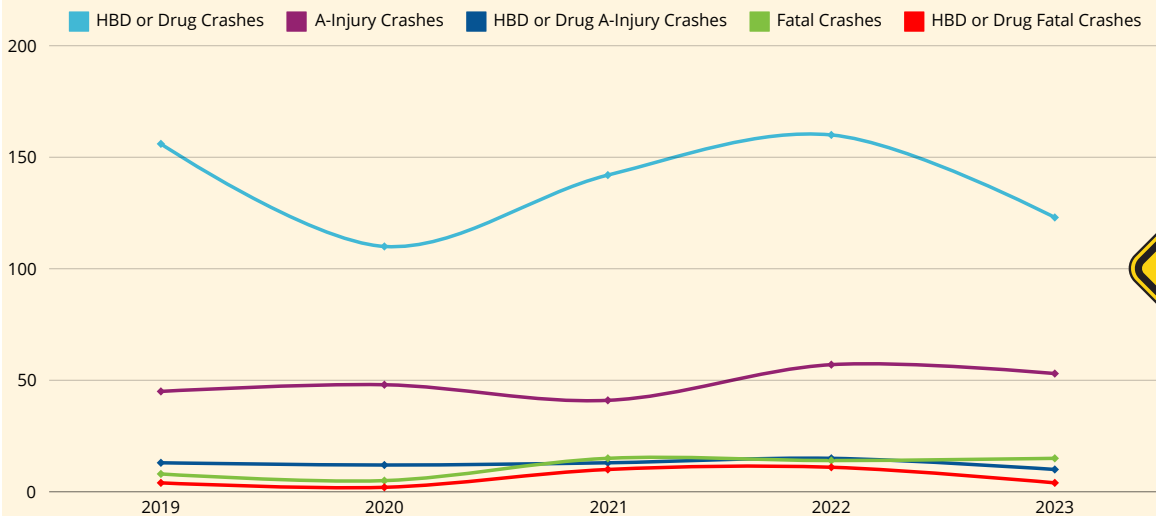
December is a time to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This issue focuses on impaired driving statistics, prevention tips, and local resources available to keep Grand Traverse County safe this holiday season.

Overview

- Across the U.S., 37 people die every day due to drunk driving crashes—one death every 39 minutes ([NHTSA](#)).
- Over 13,000 lives were lost to impaired driving in 2022, accounting for 31% of all traffic fatalities.
- Drugged driving incidents are on the rise, with marijuana and prescription medications being common substances.
- In 2023, 30% of Michigan's fatal car crashes involved alcohol.
- Over 18,000 drivers were arrested for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) last year.
- In Grand Traverse County, alcohol and drug impairment played a role in 27% of fatal and serious injury crashes.
- In 2023, Grand Traverse County reported a 9% increase in OWI arrests.



Grand Traverse County Crashes Involving Alcohol or Drugs



Source: Michigan Traffic Crash Facts

Notes: HBD means "Had Been Drinking"

A-Injury refers to suspected serious injury



In 2023, for Grand Traverse County drivers involved in a crash:

- 23.8% occurred between 3 and 5:59PM.
- 40.0% of fatal crashes occurred between noon and 2:59PM.
- Most crashes occurred in November.
- Those aged 18-24 had the highest crash rate of 1,046.6 per 10,000 population.

Source: Michigan Traffic Crash Facts

Take Action: Prevention is Key

- Choose a reliable friend or family member to stay sober and drive.
- Use rideshare or Public Transit: See [BATA](#) for more information.
- Don't drive if you're under the influence of marijuana or prescription medications or alcohol.
- If you're hosting a holiday event, encourage guests to plan safe rides home.
- Remember to be a defensive driver, especially during high traffic volume and weather events.



Monthly Epi Report

Respiratory Illness Season

It's time for the holidays! Unfortunately, that change comes with more respiratory illness as people move inside, viruses mutate, and social networks change.

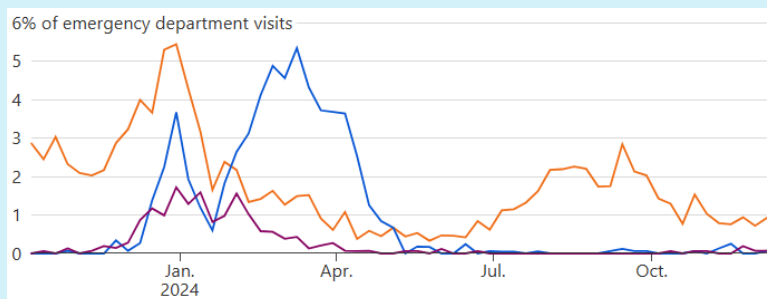
In Grand Traverse County, respiratory illnesses are at a moderate level, but expected to rise. Make sure to take precautions as many respiratory illnesses have similar symptoms.

Make a plan to get your seasonal vaccines! Schedule an in-person appointment at GTCHD by calling 231-995-6131. Call your healthcare provider or visit www.vaccines.gov to find a vaccine near you.

Respiratory Illness Emergency Department Visits for Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee Counties

COVID-19	Flu	RSV
Low No Change	Minimal No Change	Low No Change

● COVID-19 ● Influenza ● RSV



Source: CDC (Data as of 12/7/24)

Stop the Spread of Respiratory Infections

GET VACCINES
for flu, COVID-19, and pneumococcal disease.

WEAR A MASK.

STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK.

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN.
Use hand sanitizer when handwashing is not available.

STAY 6 FEET APART, if possible. Avoid large crowds or groups of people.

RUN YOUR HVAC SYSTEM OFTEN.
Change air filters every 3 months.

Other Common Respiratory Illnesses

Is that runny nose or cough hanging around? It may be other respiratory illnesses that share common "flu-like" symptoms. They include:

- [Mycoplasma Pneumonia](#)
- [Human Rhinovirus](#)
- [Enterovirus](#)
- [Adenovirus](#)
- [Parainfluenza](#)

One wash at a time: The everyday habit that slashes respiratory infection risks



Lead & Toy Safety

This holiday season, keep in mind that not all toys are created the same. Some unsafe toys can lead to injuries or expose children to harmful substances like lead. In 2022, an estimated 209,500 toy-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments ([U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)).

Make sure to choose safe and age-appropriate gifts and follow these safety tips:

- Follow manufacturer age recommendations to prevent choking hazards/injuries.
- Inspect for small parts and detachable pieces that can be dangerous to children under 3.
- Avoid magnets and batteries, as these can be toxic if ingested.
- Check for lead and avoid toys with old paint or those made outside the U.S. Even small amounts of lead can harm a child's development.



Blood Lead Test Results

Lead can be found in many places in the environment, and there may be multiple sources of lead in a child's home. A blood lead test is the only way to determine a child's blood lead level (BLL). Results below are for all children under six years, where one test is counted per child per year.

1,111

Children Tested

7

Children with Elevated BLL

0.6%

Percent of Children Tested with Elevated BLL

Source: MiLead

In 2020, 1,111 children <6 years old had at least one blood lead test in Grand Traverse County. There were 7 children with an elevated blood lead level (4.5 ug/dL or higher), which qualifies them for services to identify and remove lead at this level.

*note in 2021, elevated blood lead level was reduced from 4.5 ug/dL to 3.5 ug/dL

Grand Traverse County Health Department offers these services:

- Free Nurse Care Management for any child residing in Grand Traverse County with a confirmed blood lead test result of ≥ 3.5 ug/dL.
- Free blood lead screenings for children enrolled in Women, Infants, and Children.
- Visit [here](#) for more information or call us at 231-995-6111.

2024 Communicable Disease Report

Disease	Nov 2024	Year To Date	5-Year Median (2019-2023)
Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 (tested at medical facilities)	36	579	2,152
Campylobacter	1	29	11
Cryptosporidiosis	0	12	6
Giardiasis	3	13	5
Salmonellosis	2	12	7
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli -(STEC)	1	7	6
Shigellosis	0	4	2
Yersinia enteritis	1	6	2
Meningitis -Aseptic	0	3	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae, Invasive	1	8	6
Cyclosporiasis	0	1	3
Blastomycosis	0	1	1
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	0	1	0
Histoplasmosis	0	3	3
Legionellosis	1	2	1
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group A	0	12	3
Vibriosis -Non Cholera	0	2	0
Bat and Animal Bite Exposure	18	242	185
Chlamydia (Genital)	10	131	231
Gonorrhea	2	18	38
Syphilis -Early Latent	0	4	2
Syphilis -Secondary	0	1	1
Syphilis -Unknown Duration or Late	1	3	1
Latent Tuberculosis Infection	0	6	1
Nontuberculous Mycobacterium	0	2	5
Chickenpox (Varicella)	0	1	3
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	3	37	2
Dengue Fever	0	1	0
Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasma phagocytophilum	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	11	9
Malaria	0	1	0
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	1	1
Hepatitis B, Chronic	0	2	2
Hepatitis C, Chronic	1	18	26
Total	80	1,174	

*Year to date includes Confirmed and Probable case counts from 1/1/2024-12/18/2024

Note: The median reflects 5-year YTD cumulative totals by month, summing cases from January to each month annually