



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Your Input Needed: A Matter of Life and Health

What issues impact the health of you and your loved ones? What can our community do to make it easier to have good health? The Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance wants to know what you think! Your input will help the health departments of the Thumb understand how to address two very important issues: Cardiovascular Disease and Preventable Injuries. To provide input, you can participate in an online survey at the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ThumbHealth

You can also pick up a paper survey at the Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, or Tuscola County Health Departments. The survey has four sections, for each section you complete your name will be entered into a drawing for one of four \$100 visa gift cards. One gift card will be given away in each county! Deadline to complete the survey is September 21, 2018.

This survey is part of a project to identify priority health issues and work with the community to address those issues. Over the past year, the health departments in the Thumb have reviewed data about many important health issues. By reviewing data, cardiovascular disease and preventable injuries were identified as top issues. Heart Disease and Stroke accounted for one out of three deaths in the Thumb in 2016 and 24% of deaths for those under age 65.

Preventable injuries are also taking a toll on residents in our community. Accidents for those over age 65, are the second leading cause of hospitalizations (after heart disease). Falls and auto accidents are two of the top causes of fatal injuries for those over 65. We also know that impaired driving contributes to auto accidents. From 2012-2016, 30-36% of auto accidents in the thumb were alcohol related. Community conversations were held in June to obtain input from key stakeholders across the Thumb. This survey will provide community input about health issues.

Funding for the health assessment project has been provided through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Cross Jurisdictional Sharing grant program. The mission of the Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance is to develop, implement, and sustain models of shared public health services to more effectively impact health outcomes. For more information about the Michigan Thumb Public Health Alliance and its members, visit www.MiThumbPHA.org or contact the local health department in Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, or Tuscola Counties.

We need your help!

We want to help you and your love ones live a long and happy life!