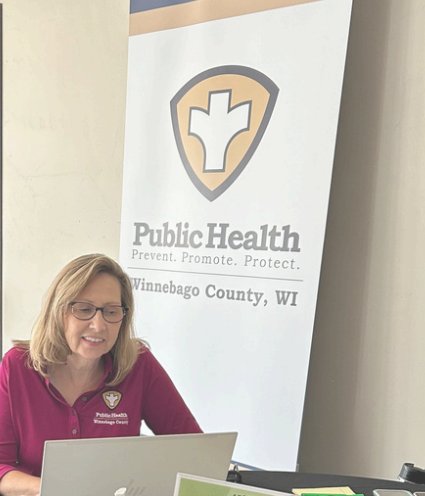






Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Winnebago County, WI

2024 Annual Report



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Scan here for a digital copy of the report, or visit: www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health/about-us

OUR DEPARTMENT



MISSION

Winnebago County Public Health protects and promotes health through services, partnerships, and equitable practices and policies so all can live their best life.

VISION

Healthy people building thriving communities.

Health Officer:

Doug Gieryn



Division Supervisors:

Administration

Julia Salomón



Communicable Disease

Jaci Grignon



Community Health & Prevention

Ashlee Rahmlow



Environmental Health

Anne Boyce



Healthy Lifespan

Alana Erickson

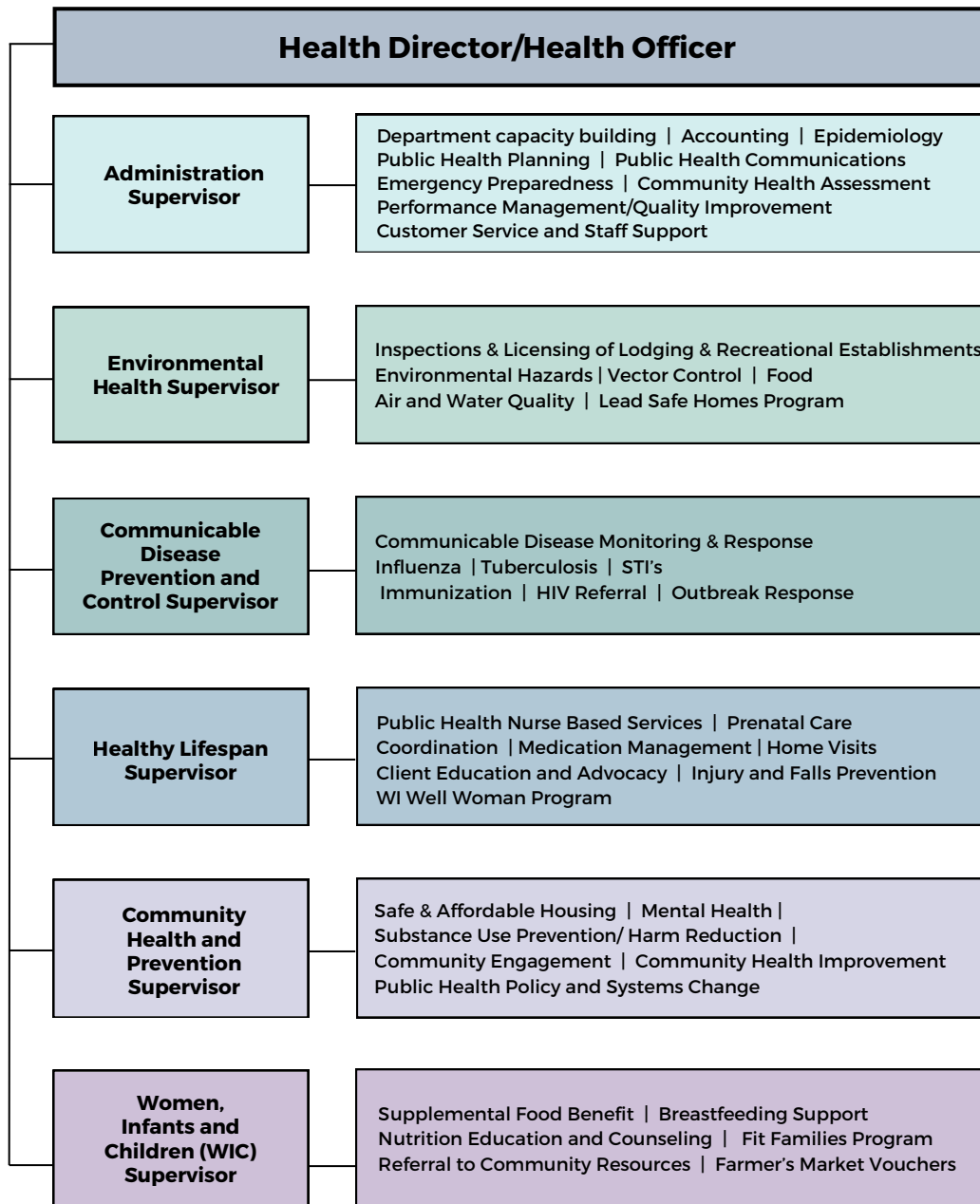


Women, Infants & Children

Belinda DeGoey



OUR DEPARTMENT



Administrative Support

Administrative support to all programs and Divisions is provided by our Administrative Assistants. In 2024 the Administrative Assistants routed over 2,000 calls through the public health main number.

Our Environmental Health Division received the most calls in 2024, followed by Communicable Disease.

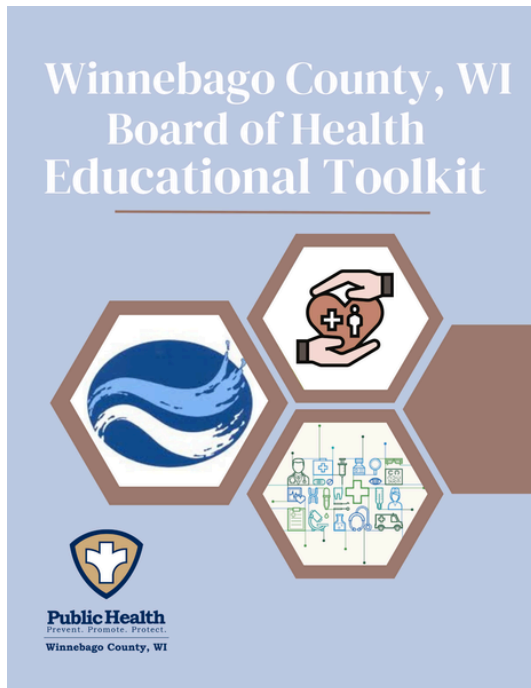
Note: Our WIC offices have separate, direct phone numbers.

Division	Percentage of Calls
Environmental Health	52.1%
Communicable Disease	31.9%
Healthy Lifespan	7.6%
Administration	6.0%
Community Health & Prevention	2.3%

OUR DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Winnebago County Board of Health (BOH) is a nine member board, appointed by the County Executive, with both elected County Board Supervisor and citizen representation. The Board is advisory to the public health department and advocates for the provision of reasonable and required public health services.



In 2024 a Public Health graduate student, Maddie Hill, developed a Board of Health Educational toolkit for Winnebago County Public Health. This online resource is meant for Winnebago County BOH members to utilize at the beginning of and throughout their term to learn more about public health.

The toolkit contains information on department functions, board member roles, public health knowledge across various topics, and more.

View the toolkit here:



www.winnebagocountywi.gov/health/about-us/board-health

The 2024 Winnebago County Board of Health Members:

Chair:

Ralph Harrison
Supervisor District 31

Vice-Chair:

Joshua Belville
Supervisor District 19

County Board Supervisors:

Bryan Stafford
Supervisor District 10

Kate Hancock-Cooke
Supervisor District 7

Koby Schellenger
Supervisor District 23

Community Members:

Denise Prehn, MD

Katherine (Kay) Horan

Kimberly Malouf
St. Elizabeth Hospital, Director
of Clinical Programs

Toby Vanden Heuvel

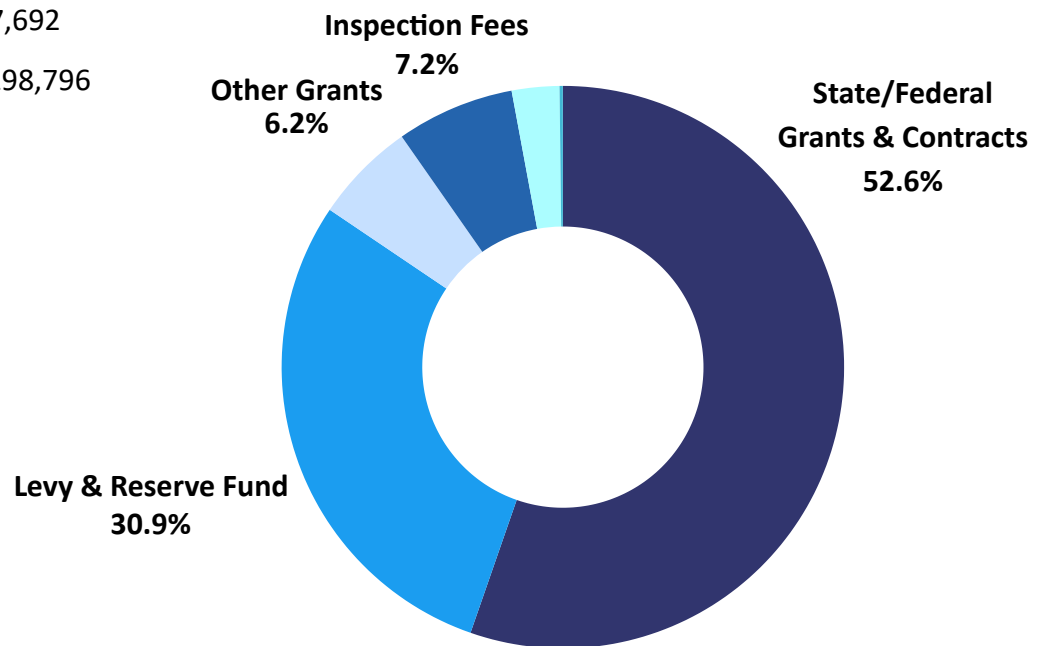
Thank you to our 2024 Board of Health for your service!

OUR DEPARTMENT

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE

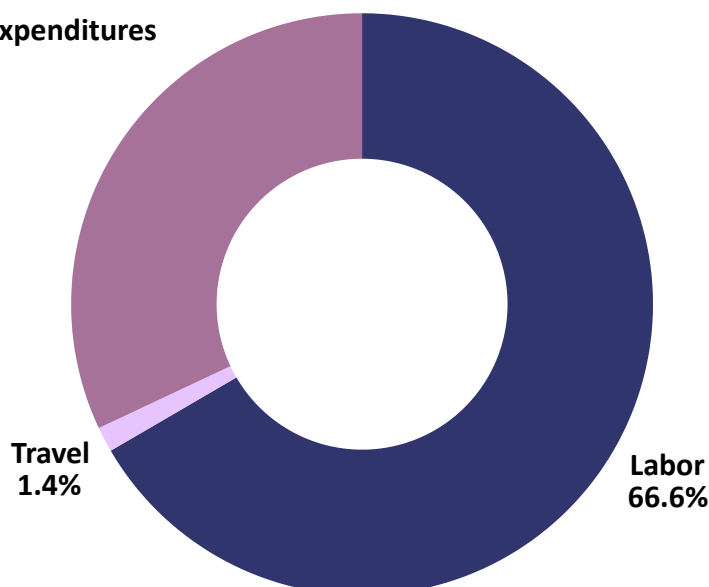
State/Federal
Grants & Contracts: \$3,737,692
Levy & Reserve Fund: \$2,198,796
Other Grants: \$439,252
Inspection Fees: \$513,161
Other: \$205,037
Medicaid: \$16,700
Total: \$7,110,638



EXPENSES

Labor: \$4,738,159
Travel/Training: \$57,183
Other Operating
Expenditures: \$2,315,296
Total: \$7,110,638

Other Operating Expenditures
32%



OUR DEPARTMENT

IN THE COMMUNITY

Our health department is made up of talented, skilled individuals who take great pride in serving our neighbors and residents. We are deeply, and personally, committed to the success, growth and future of our community. Throughout 2024 Winnebago County Public Health staff:

- Provided nine affordable housing presentations to community groups
- Conducted a data walk for the Childhood Trauma Task Force
- Installed two outdoor Public Health Vending Machines
- Tabled at 12 community events
- Assisted with planning & attended the annual Wheelchair Wash Event
- Presented to the Oshkosh Neighborhood Alliance
- Attended two Farmers Markets
- Served in 33 Board Positions supporting local and state-wide committees, non-profits, and organizations
- Provided two health presentations for women at the local literacy council
- Presented to Leadership Oshkosh class of 2024
- Transportation Group Focus Report for Partnership Health
- Assisted with six Oshkosh Area School District Events
- Hosted a three day Housing Policy Training for community partners
- Hosted four offsite Immunization Clinics
- Presented to the Neenah Public Service & Safety Committee
- Provided 12 community Narcan trainings
- Presented to two college level classes
- Assisted with planning & attended the annual Leaf No One Behind Event
- Presented at one High School level class
- Served as facilitator for Badger State Housing Alliance Webinar
- Hosted two immunization table talks
- Two WCPH employees were elected to Wisconsin Public Health Association Board Positions
- Presented our Parents in Recovery Report findings at five conferences
- Hosted one Presentation on Cultural Humility
- Presented to Oshkosh Area Community Pantry participants three times.
- Our Health Officer was nominated to the State of Wisconsin Public Health Council
- Presented at the Wisconsin Perinatal Conference
- Provided six community presentations on healthy aging & wellbeing
- Served as panelists at five different conferences



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured, L to R: Korey, Wanda, Doug, Danielle, Ashlee, Maddie, Marissa, Hannah, Jesse, Susan

Public Health Vending Machines

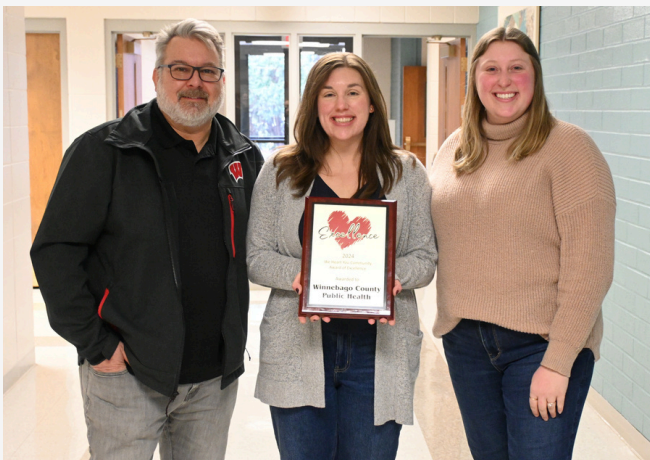
In 2024 Winnebago County Public health installed two outdoor Public Health Vending Machines. These machines provide 24/7 access to free community resources such as Narcan, Fentanyl testing strips, gun locks, Detera drug deactivation bags, basic needs kits, menstrual products, hygiene kits, and more.



Pictured, L to R: Jayne, Ashley

RICE Grant

The Routine Immunization Community Engagement (RICE) Grant provides funds to improve routine vaccination uptake through community outreach to children and adolescents. WCPH held two offsite vaccination clinics in 2024. A total of **584 routine vaccinations** were provided to children and adolescents compared to 262 in 2023.



Pictured, L to R: Doug, Ashlee, Maddie

We Heart You Award of Excellence

WCPH was honored with the 2024 We Heart You Community Award of Excellence. This award is given to a person or organizations serving the residents of Winnebago County who go above and beyond to increase access to substance and mental health-related resources for all community members.



Pictured: Amanda

Spirit of Public Health Award

Amanda Tennyson was awarded the Wisconsin Public Health Association "Spirt of Public Health" for her work with our Harm Reduction program and dedication to clients.

PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW

Public health is based on the idea that everyone should have an equal chance to be as healthy and safe as possible. To accomplish that public health focuses primarily on the community level, while our partners in healthcare focus on individuals. The goal of public health is to prevent illness and injury before they occur. Clean air, pure water, safe food preparation in local restaurants, and more - it is our mission to make sure our communities have what they need to stay healthy.

Public health professionals are trained to diagnose the health of a community. To do that we listen to people who know our community best - local healthcare providers, residents, nonprofit organizations, community partners, and local employers. We also use science and data to identify patterns and challenges. The work of a local public health department - such as ours - is to use all of this information to understand and solve challenges right here in Winnebago County.

This annual report is organized according to the Foundational Public Health Services Model, which outlines the protections and services public health is required to provide in every community.

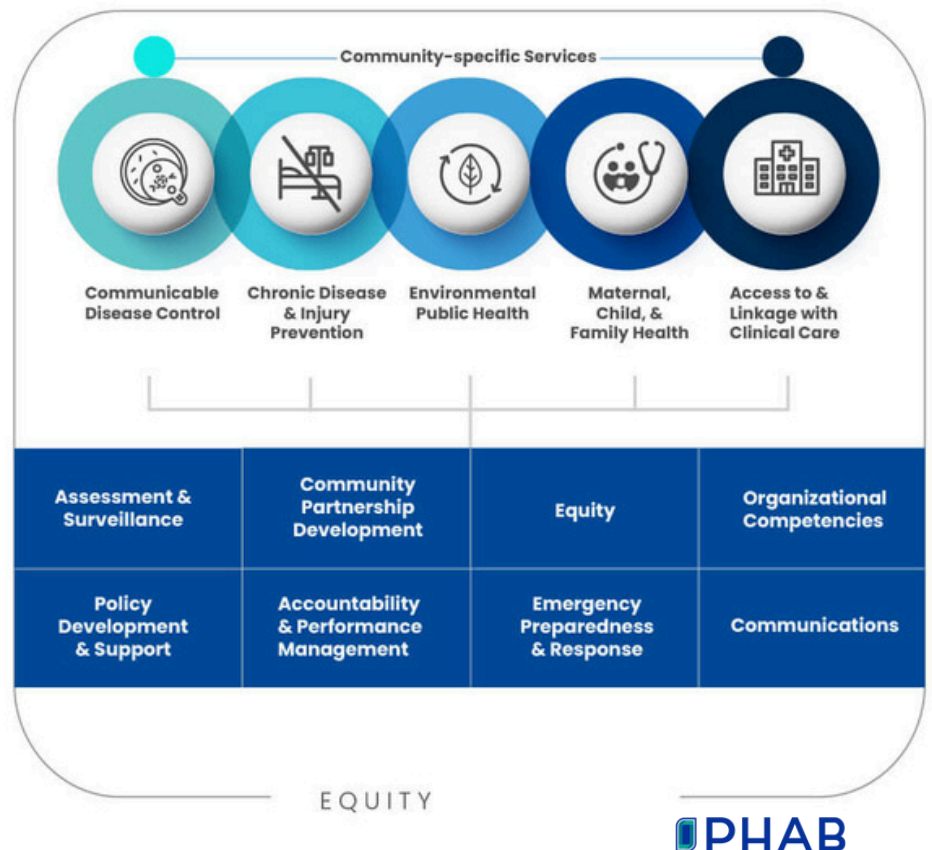
Foundational Public Health Services Framework

Foundational Areas

Public health programs, or Foundational Areas, are basic programs and services aimed at improving the health of the community.

Foundational Capabilities

Public health must always be ready to serve their community. The infrastructure - or foundation - needed for this level of readiness is represented in the eight foundational capabilities. These are the crosscutting skills and capacities needed to support basic public health protections. These protections ensure community health, well-being and achieving healthy outcomes for all.



Scan here to learn more about the Foundational Public Health Services Model, or visit:
www.phaboard.org/center-for-innovation/public-health-frameworks/the-foundational-public-health-services/

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE (CD) CONTROL

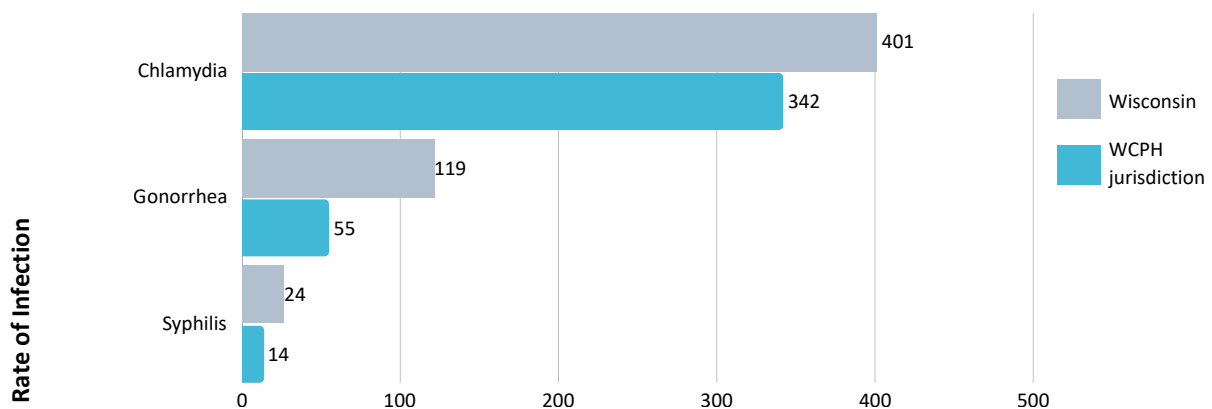
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

- Pertussis is a reportable disease, requiring CD nurses to follow up promptly once they are notified that testing has been completed by healthcare providers.
- In 2024 WCPH communicable disease nurses followed up on **a total of 586 possible cases of pertussis**.
- Pertussis is a reportable disease due to the increased risk it poses for severe illness and death in infants under one year old and pregnant women. While vaccinated individuals can still contract pertussis, their symptoms are generally mild.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

- Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis are reportable diseases monitored by WCPH as directed by the state. **Chlamydia continues to be the most common reportable STI in Winnebago County.**
- Individuals 20-24 years old continue to be the most frequently affected group in Winnebago County.
- STI are monitored by public health because they can be easily transmitted from person to person and, if left untreated, can lead to serious conditions such as infertility and certain types of cancer.

Chlamydia is the most common reportable STI with 401 cases per 100,000 people in Wisconsin and 342 cases per 100,000 people in the Winnebago County Health Department jurisdiction.



Tuberculosis (TB)

- CD staff follow up with those at risk for tuberculosis (TB) and treat those with latent and active TB disease to reduce the rates of spread and infection. TB is preventable and curable.
- Latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) treatment requires public health staff to provide daily observation and therapy for at least three months, and up to 9 months.
- In 2024 WCPH monitored **two active TB infections and 79 latent TB infections (LTBI)**.
- TB is rare, but cases have been rising globally and here in the United States for the past few years. Globally TB is the leading infectious cause of death, killing about 1.25 million people in 2023.

Definition: Latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) occurs when a person is infected with tuberculosis causing bacteria, but does not have active tuberculosis. People with LTBI cannot spread it to others. Treatment for LTBI helps prevent the development of active TB.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE (CD) CONTROL

Immunizations

RICE Grant

In 2024 WCPH accepted the Routine Immunization Community Engagement (RICE) grant to facilitate routine vaccination uptake through community outreach for children and adolescents, particularly in medically underserved and marginalized communities. Despite vaccines being safe and effective, the rates of childhood routine vaccination are declining nationwide, and here in Winnebago County. WCPH implemented a routine immunization billboard campaign, digital and print materials in several languages, offered off-site childhood immunization clinics, and routine childhood immunization educational sessions throughout Winnebago County.

In 2024 WCPH provided **584 routine vaccinations to children and adolescents compared to 262 in 2023**, indicating that outreach efforts are effective in reaching more people.



Vaccines For Children

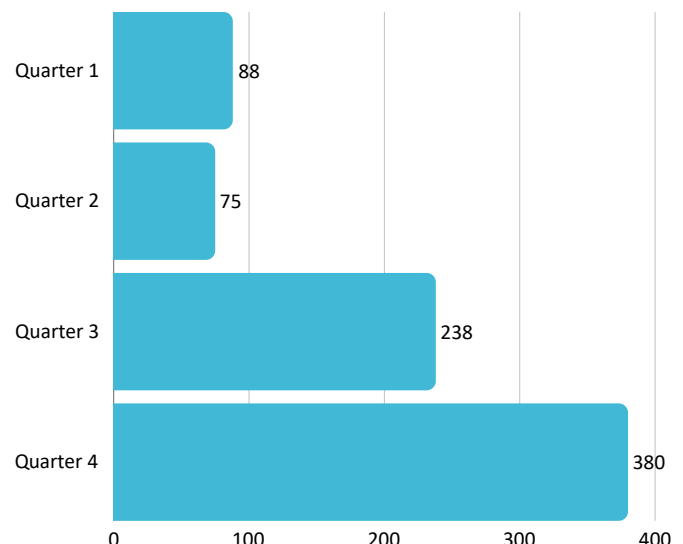
Free vaccines are provided for children under age 19 who qualify for the Wisconsin Vaccines for Children Program.

This program includes vaccinations for: **influenza, COVID, and routine childhood vaccinations** such as polio and Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR).

The RICE Grant funding was received in Quarter 2. Beginning in Quarter 3, WCPH experienced an increase in immunization clinic appointment requests. Our regularly scheduled immunization clinics were full from August through the end of the year, which lead us to add additional clinics in the months of October and November.

781 vaccines were provided to **193 children and adolescents** under this program in 2024.

In 2024, there was an increase in the number of immunizations administered through the Vaccines For Children Program in quarters 3 and 4.



CHRONIC DISEASE & INJURY PREVENTION

Wellness Plus Classes

Wellness Plus classes are designed to help participants be active, manage chronic conditions and prevent falls. All classes are researched and proven to help participants self-manage their health.

388 participants attended WCPH Wellness Plus Classes in 2024

Strong Bodies

A simple scripted, evidence-based program that improves bone density, balance, and strength for participants 55+.

Tai Chi

Tai chi offers serenity and strength through gentle, flowing poses and movements. Tai Chi has been proven to reduce falls, enhance balance, improve stability, and more.

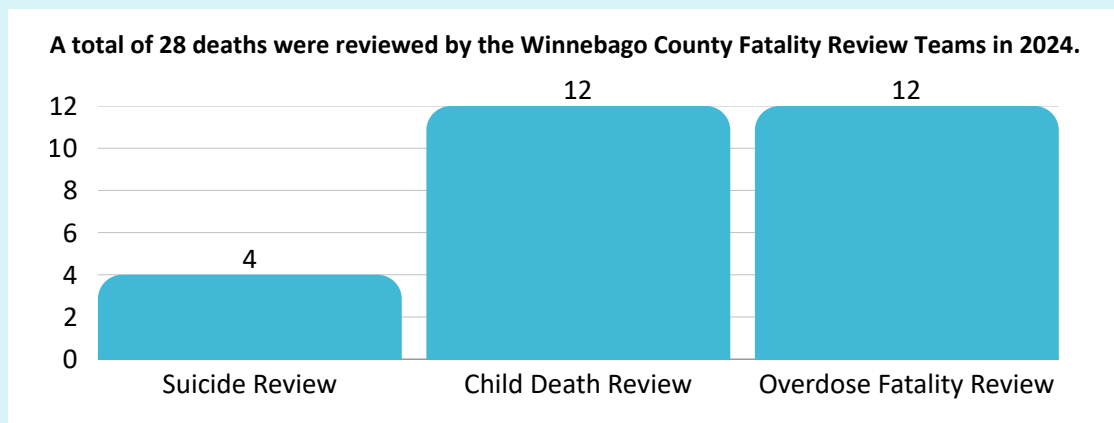
Stepping On

A community-based falls prevention program aimed at educating participants and building confidence to reduce and eliminate falls.



Fatality Review Teams

Winnebago County Fatality Review Teams exist to create a better understanding of the risk factors and circumstances that surround preventable deaths. These teams also improve how organizations can work together to improve function, coordination, service delivery, and **ultimately reduce or eliminate future preventable deaths from occurring**. WCPH collaborates with over 45 community partners on these fatality review teams.



CHRONIC DISEASE & INJURY PREVENTION

Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction is about saving lives. It is a public health approach that focuses on prevention of injury, transmission of infectious disease, and overdose.

Public Health Vending Machines

WCPH installed two outdoor Public Health Vending Machines in September 2024, providing 24/7 access to lifesaving harm reduction supplies, as well as basic needs and hygiene items.

Hygiene/Basic Needs Kits were the top item distributed through the Public Health Vending Machines (September - December 2024).

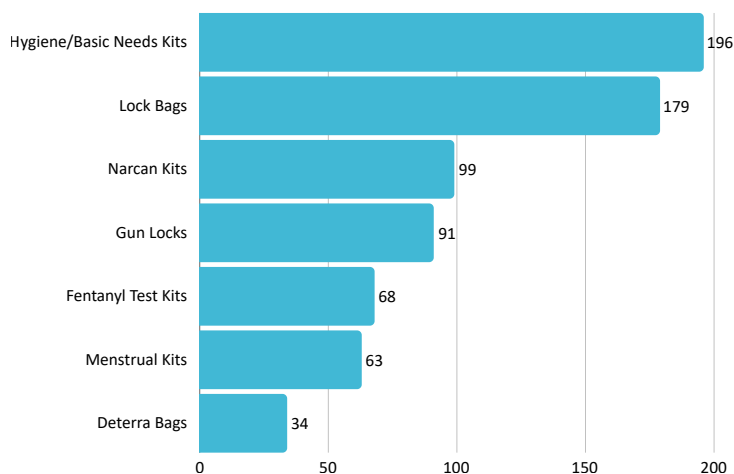


Photo of Public Health Vending Machines Design:
Left: “One step at a time” designed by Kelly Reyer, Center: “You are never alone” by Beth Staton (artist not pictured),
Right: “Different Word Each Time” by Tracy Miller

Community Design Contest

To promote community involvement in the public health vending machine project, WCPH organized a design contest with the theme “Harm Reduction Saves Lives”. Three of the winning designs were selected to be featured on the wraps of the machines, shown above.

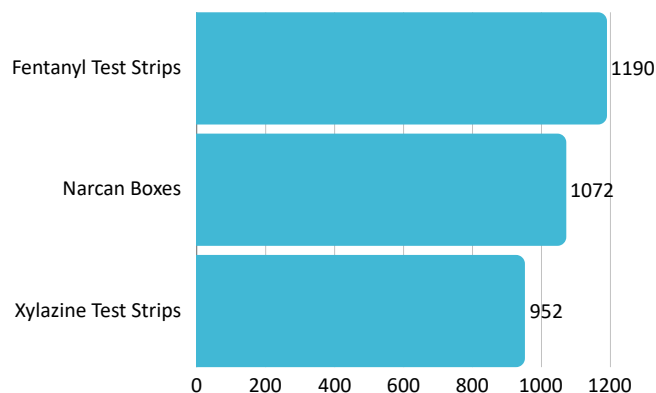
LifePoint Program

The purpose of the LifePoint program is to reduce the transmission of HIV and Hepatitis C and other potential harms associated with injection drug use. LifePoint seeks to reduce overdoses as well as provide information and referrals to treatment.

In 2024 LifePoint had a total of **1,172 client visits**.

HIV tests were provided to 19 clients and Hepatitis C tests were provided to 23 clients.

In 2024, 1,190 Fentanyl Test Strips were distributed through the LifePoint Program.



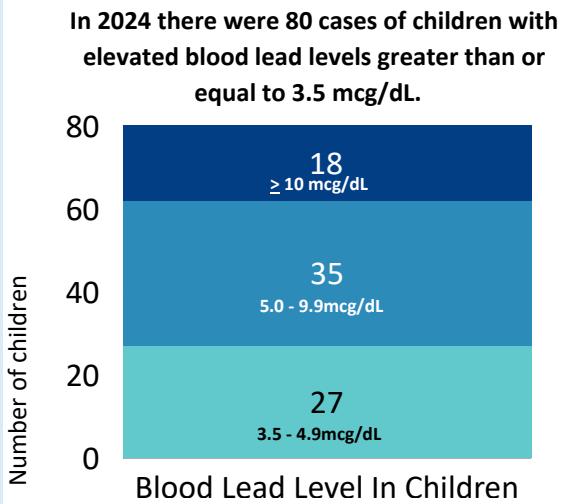
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Lead

Lead-Safe Homes Program (LSHP)

The Lead-Safe Homes Program is a grant funded program that coordinates and pays for the safe removal of lead hazards from homes - privately owned and rental properties - in Winnebago County. The goal is to prevent childhood lead poisoning. In 2024 the WCPH Lead-Safe Homes program utilized \$970,113 from LSHP grant reimbursement and \$205,589 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to **remediate 22 homes in Winnebago County to be lead safe for children and families.**

The Winnebago County Lead-Safe Homes Program is accepting applicants for 2025. For more information on how to apply, scan the QR code or visit: wchd.pub/LeadSafe



Lead Testing, Consultation & Assessment

Exposure to lead damages the brain, body, and nervous system; children under six are at greatest risk for harm. No safe level of lead in children's blood has been identified.

Of the **80 cases of children with elevated blood lead levels**, 59 families received in-home lead education by a Winnebago County Public Health Nurse. 11 properties were investigated for lead hazards, and orders were placed for lead hazard correction.

Definition: mcg/dL stands for micrograms per deciliter.

Environmental Health Inspections

Establishments Open To The Public

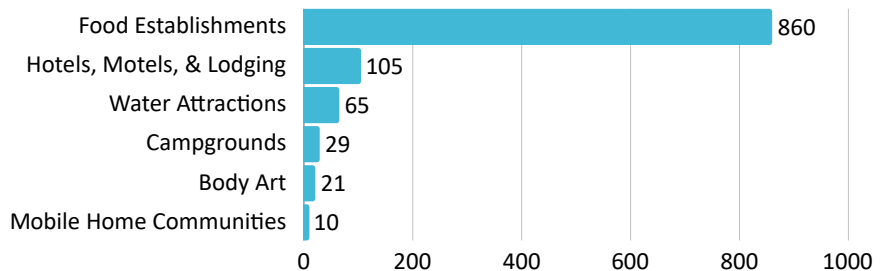
Inspections and licensing of establishments helps assure safe operation and service to the public, preventing disease and illness.

Transient Non-Community Water

In 2024 staff **tested 124 wells** for bacteria and nitrate. Six tested positive for unsafe bacterial levels. Subsequent chlorination treatment was recommended. Nitrate tests in water are important because high levels can pose health risks, especially to infants, and indicate potential contamination from sources such as fertilizer, animal waste, or sewage.

Definition: Transient non-community refers to water systems that provide water to 25 or more people for at least 60 days/year, but not to the same people and not regularly. (Examples: gas stations and campgrounds)

WCPH staff conducted a total of 1,090 inspections with Food Establishments accounting for the majority of inspections.



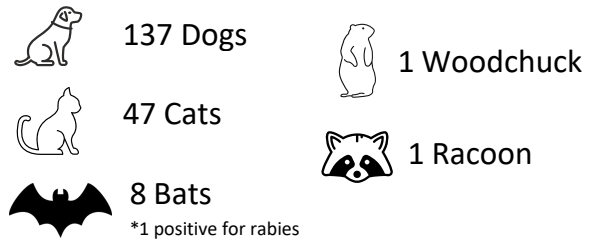
*These numbers do not include re-inspection. The inspection period is from July 2023 through July 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Animal Bite Investigations

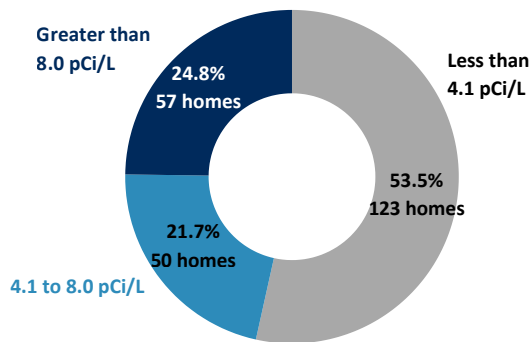
Staff worked with law enforcement, veterinarians, physicians, and state officials to investigate and provide guidance when a person or animal may have been exposed to rabies. Staff investigated **193 total animal bites** in 2024. There was one positive rabies case in a bat that resulted in preventative treatment.

Types of animal bite investigations in 2024



Radon Testing

In 2024 a total of 230 homes were tested for Radon with 46.5% of homes having high radon levels (over 4pCi/L).



To learn more scan the QR code or visit: wchd.pub/radon

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. It is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water. Routine radon testing is recommended in Winnebago County due to higher-than-average gas levels in the soil.

342 radon kits were sold to customers in 2024. 175 of those kits were sold during our January Radon month promotion. A total of 230 kits were tested.

The EPA recommends remediating homes with levels above 4.0 pCi/L:

- Levels between 4.1 to 8.0 pCi/L: Perform an additional long-term radon test.
- Levels greater than 8.0 pCi/L: Consult a professional for a radon-reduction system.

Definition: pCi/L = picocurie radiation per liter of air

Beach and Boat Launch Water Testing

In partnership with ERIC LAB at UW Oshkosh several locations throughout Lake Winnebago and the Fox River basin are tested weekly for the presence of E. coli bacteria throughout the swimming season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Beaches may be open, under advisory, or closed based on the level of bacteria identified. If a water test is concerning, the beach will close for swimming until levels of E. coli bacteria drop. E. coli levels are an indication of fecal contamination, some of which cause illness. E. coli levels often increase after a rain event. Guidelines are established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2024:

- 204 samples were taken from 11 locations
- 32 advisories were issued
- 12 closures were issued.



MATERNAL, CHILD & FAMILY HEALTH

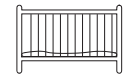
Family Child Health (FCH)

This program allows WCPH staff to **serve parents, caregivers, and children** by promoting developmental screenings, child passenger safety, sleep safety, breastfeeding support, vaccines, lead poisoning prevention, and support navigating community resources. **In 2024 the FCH program served 619 clients.**

Parent Resource Hours

WCPH provides access to services once a month at the Fox Crossing Fire Department and the Oshkosh WCPH office in addition to providing in-home appointments.

Provided to Winnebago County families in 2024:



24 cribs



123 car seats



Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for children younger than age five and people who are pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, supplemental nutritious foods and connections to other community services. WIC operates within the Winnebago County Public Health offices in Oshkosh and Neenah.

WIC Supports Breastfeeding Mothers

On-staff breastfeeding specialists, peer counseling, breastfeeding classes and supplies, and referrals to breastfeeding specialists in the community are some of the ways mothers receive **one-on-one support** from WIC staff.

79.4%

of WCPH WIC Mom's
breastfed their babies
at birth in 2024

73.1%

of WCPH WIC Mom's
breastfed their babies at 3
months old in 2024.

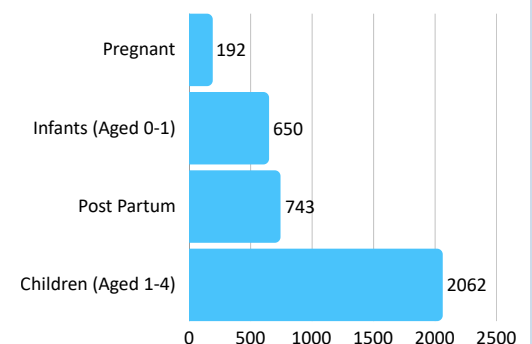
In 2024 WIC participants redeemed benefits worth over **\$1.8 million dollars** within Winnebago County at local retailers.



WIC participants redeemed **\$25,856 in Farmers Markets Nutrition Program vouchers** at local markets in 2024.



In 2024 we served 3,647 WIC Participants.



Milk Bank

In 2024, 36 breastmilk donors provided a total of 34,000 ounces of breastmilk, a 45% increase in milk donations over last year. (34,000 ounces = 265.6 gallons) 20,000 of those ounces were dropped off and routed through our Milk Bank location. The other 14,000 ounces were routed through the Mothers' Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes courier system.

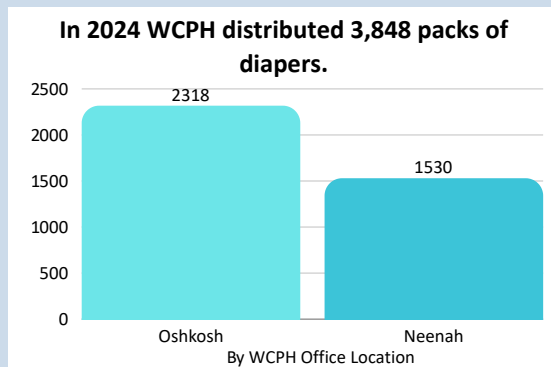
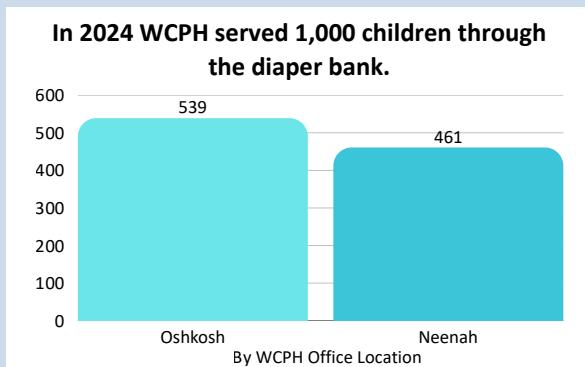
FUN FACT: The 2024 top Winnebago County Donor provided 3,498 ounces! That's over 27 gallons!

MATERNAL, CHILD & FAMILY HEALTH

Diaper Bank

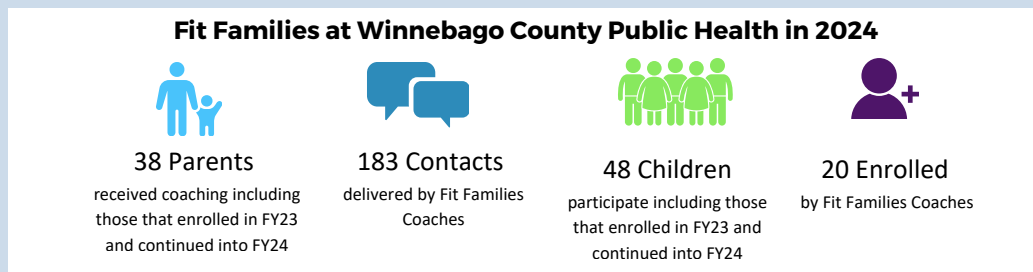
Winnebago County Public Health supports families with diaper banks at both office locations. These supplies are supported by our partnership with Jake's Network of Hope and Oshkosh Area United Way. In 2024, 3,848 packs of diapers were provided to Winnebago County families.

Reference: Each pack of diapers includes 25 diapers. A total of 96,200 diapers were distributed for 1,000 children.



Fit Families

Fit Families is a 13-month nutrition education program serving families of 2 to 4-year-old children enrolled in the WIC Program. Fit Families strives to prevent child obesity by empowering families to adopt healthy eating and physical activity behaviors through in-person and phone/text coaching.



Childhood Trauma

Over the past six years, the Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team has consistently identified childhood trauma as a prevailing theme in its findings. Given the persistence and impact of these issues, reducing childhood trauma has been prioritized by the team and our department.

In 2024 WCPH:

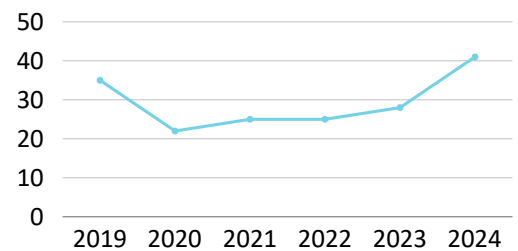
- Organized a data walk to help community partners understand childhood trauma. Data was showcased about the common places that children interact and can experience trauma, such as: home, school, community, access to and interactions with services, and healthcare.
- Small groups were developed to focus on six key areas that can help prevent childhood trauma: Affordable Before and After- School- Care, McKinney-Vento Homeless and Transition Support, Community School Model, Addressing Basic Needs including food and hygiene, Transportation Policies, and Addressing Systemic Barriers.
- WCPH findings and plans were brought to the community for input and to increase motivation and support for the work to be continued in 2025. To get more information on this initiative, or to get involved, email health@winnebagoountywi.gov or call us at 920-232-3000.

ACCESS TO & LINKAGE WITH CLINICAL CARE

Healthy Aging Program

In 2024 our department received a total of **41 referrals** for our Healthy Aging program. This program provides in-home assessments to evaluate risks and make recommendations that will allow clients to age at home as long as possible. Our Healthy Aging program can temporarily assist with medication management and connect clients to long-term care solutions.

In 2024, WCPH received 41 referrals for the Healthy Aging Program.



Falls are the most frequent call to Emergency Medical Services in Winnebago County. Falls are also the leading cause of serious injuries in the aging population, and can be preventable. In addition to our internal Health Aging program, WCPH partners with the Aging, Disability and Resource Center (ADRC) and the Finding Balance Together Falls Prevention Coalition to collaboratively reduce falls by raising awareness of fall prevention strategies, proven fall prevention programs, and providing education.



In April of 2024 WCPH Staff appeared on Eye On Oshkosh to talk about healthy aging, the Nymbi app, falls prevention and wellness plus classes. View the episode by scanning the QR code, or visit:

wchd.pub/EyeOnOshkosh_WCPHStaff



HIV Services

HIV testing is important because it is the only way to confirm whether you have the virus, and knowing your status is key in preventing spread to others. Early treatment of HIV can help individuals live a long and healthy life. Winnebago County Public Health serves three counties (Winnebago, Marquette, and Waushara) with two programs focused on HIV:

HIV Counseling and Testing

This program provides HIV testing, referral services and counseling by trained public health nurses. **In 2024 WCPH provided rapid HIV screening tests for 34 individuals.** Rapid HIV screening provides results in 20 minutes. If the test result is reactive, nurses draw blood and send the sample to the State Laboratory of Hygiene for confirmatory testing. Our public health nurses also provide risk assessment, education around how to reduce your risk, and if needed, a referral for medical and other support services.

HIV Partner Services

HIV Partner Services helps people with HIV or AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) and HIV in notifying others who may have been exposed to the virus. Trained staff members can let your partners know of a possible exposure without telling them who you are. Everything is confidential, free, and voluntary.

ACCESS TO & LINKAGE WITH CLINICAL CARE

Wisconsin Well Woman Program

Winnebago County Public Health coordinates the Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP) across 9 counties. WWWP provides preventive breast and cervical cancer screenings to individuals with little or no health insurance.

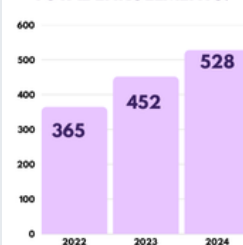
2024 saw an increase of total enrollments into the Wisconsin Well Woman Program, with 528 enrollments compared to 452 in 2023. In 2024 Well Woman program clients received **256** breast screenings and **23** cervical cancer screenings.

Early detection of breast cancer and cervical cancer may reduce the need for more invasive treatment.

WISCONSIN WELL WOMAN PROGRAM YEAR IN REVIEW 2024



TOTAL ENROLLMENTS:



ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY:

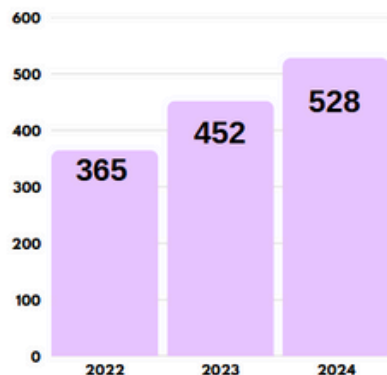
Calumet: 52
Fond Du Lac: 77
Green Lake: 13
Marquette: 5
Outagamie: 157
Sheboygan: 60
Waupaca: 18
Waushara: 30
Winnebago: 115

Wisconsin
Well Woman
Program



THE WISCONSIN WELL WOMAN PROGRAM HELPS WOMEN WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO HEALTH INSURANCE GET SCREENING FOR BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCERS.

9 COUNTY REGION ANNUAL REPORT 2024



ENROLLMENT NUMBERS CONTINUE TO INCREASE FOR OUR REGION THANKS TO PROVIDER EDUCATION AND REFERRALS, OUTREACH EVENTS, IMPROVED DATABASE, AND EXPANDING THE AGE RANGE FOR ELIGIBILITY IN 2024 (ELIGIBLE AGES: 40- 64) .

	2022	2023	2024
BREAST SCREENINGS	193	223	256
CERVICAL SCREENINGS	16	10	23

Hyde Community Center

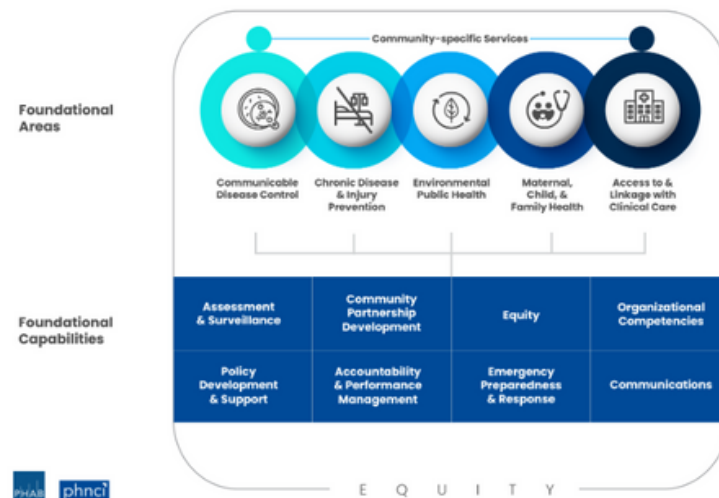
WCPH partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh to support a new Community Center. By renting out two office spaces within the center we are better able to collaborate with partners to deliver services in a one-stop-shop style. Besides providing direct health services such as immunizations, we can provide safe meeting space for our partners, nutrition education through the learning kitchen, and help sustain the capacity of the center through collaborative partnerships.



Foundational Capabilities

The Public Health Foundational Capabilities outlined on page nine are the core functions that are needed to support basic public health protections. They include cross-cutting skills in administration, organization, and operation. They also include the resources needed to identify community public health needs, create and assess plans to meet those needs, and manage resources and community partnerships required to carry out those plans.

Foundational Public Health Services



The Foundational Capabilities align with the Winnebago County Public Health Administration Division Specialist Positions:

- Accountant
- Emergency Preparedness
- Epidemiologist
- Multimedia and Public Relations Coordinator
- Planner

The Specialists work across the department with all divisions to support their specific areas of work.

Assessment & Surveillance



Assessment and surveillance is a cornerstone of public health. It involves:

- A continuous and systematic approach to monitoring the **health of our population**.
- Working with partners to **collect and analyze local data**.
 - At WCPH our epidemiologist works with all divisions, responding to data requests, interpretation of data into understandable reports, and utilizing data to identify local, regional and state public health priorities.
- **Sharing the results** with the community.

2024 Highlights Include:

- Infection Prevention meetings with local healthcare systems.
- Quarterly meetings with University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Health Center.
- Monthly meetings with Health Coordinators at World Relief.
- Collaborating with other local health departments, healthcare systems, and community partners in a new Tri-County community health assessment.
- K-12 school surveillance reports.
- Quarterly communicable disease newsletter to subscribers.

Quarterly Communicable Disease Reports

Or go online: wchd.pub/cdreports

Scan Me!
To review CD Reports



School Surveillance Reports

- Data is collected when students are absent due to influenza-like illness, gastrointestinal illness, COVID-19, or other.
- WCPH contacts the school if the number of students ill in a certain category reach a threshold to discuss preventive strategies and problem solve how transmission may be occurring to decrease the spread of illness.

Foundational Capabilities

Community Partnership Development

Developing strong community partnerships involves building trust, listening to community members, and identifying populations most impacted by health disparities. To improve the health of the community, different organizations have to work together--schools, businesses, governmental agencies, and more. Non-governmental organizations are vital service providers, and working together creates access to diverse perspectives, enhanced outreach, and community engagement. All WCPH divisions work with community partners.

2024 Highlights Include:

- Established a community partner **Community Health Advisory Team (CoHAT)** to advise on our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process and identify our top three priorities. (Housing For All, Basic Needs, Comprehensive Approach to Well-Being)
- Collaborated with community partners to provide a **Housing Policy Institute**: a three day policy training on housing to increase the skill and comfort of people who have experienced housing insecurity to advocate for housing policy that meets their needs.
- Collaborated with community partners to bring **Victim Crisis Response (VCR)** services into the City of Oshkosh and expand the scope of services throughout the County. VCR is a team of highly trained volunteers that provide on-scene crisis intervention services and follow-up victim services.
- Partnered with Winnebago County (WC) Human Services Connect program to develop a resource guide to help strengthen support and understanding of the **CONNECT program**. The Connect Program philosophy is a “no wrong door” approach that allows people struggling with substance use to receive services and support focused on recovery and mental health.
- Provided grant writing services for the Winnebago County Jail and Human Services that allowed for the departments to add a **case manager focused on discharge planning** to the jail. Case management is crucial in bridging the services received inside the jail facility and those received after release in the community.
- Partnered with Advancing Healthier Wisconsin and Ebb & Flow Connections Collaborative, LLC to bring **Community Living Rooms** to Winnebago County. This is a free, non-clinical space for people seeking support and connection to support community mental health. Efforts focused on facilitating partnerships with Day by Day, Solutions Recovery, Inc., Tiny Homes and Oshkosh Pride to host regular Community Living Room events and offer **eCPR (Emotional CPR)** trainings for free to those that work or live in Winnebago County.
- Participated in, support, and/or lead community **coalitions** such as:

March 18 - 22, 2024
57 attendees

13 one-on-ones
70 partners

April 12 - 14, 2024
47 attendees

**Several Attendees
Actively Unsheltered**

- Breakwater (Youth Substance Use Prevention)
- Community Health Action Team (CHAT)
- Coordinated Entry (Housing)
- Three fatality death review teams: Suicide Death Review, Child Death Review, and Overdose Fatality Death Review
- Finding Balance Together (Falls Prevention)
- Help Me Grow (Parent Resource Navigator)
- First 5 Fox Valley (Parent Resource Navigator)
- N.E.W Mental Health Connection
- Fox Valley Data Exchange

Foundational Capabilities

Equity (Thriving for all)

Public health is based on the foundation that **everyone should have an equal opportunity to be as healthy and safe as possible**. Public health workers support the entire community by working to reduce disparities in health outcomes across all populations. Having a shared understanding around what creates health, including historical factors that contribute to health disparities, is an important step.

2024 Highlights Include:

- Prioritized safe and affordable access to Housing, Basic Needs, and Holistic Approach to Well-Being in the 2024 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- Holding offsite immunization clinics to improve accessibility for families.
- Increased staff capacity to work with multilingual populations by translating communications materials in various languages, and expanding interpretation resources.
- Held Unconscious Bias training for all staff.
- Partnered with WinnebagoLand and Fox Cities Housing Coalition to offer trainings to local elected officials on the impacts of policies that criminalize the homeless.
- Worked to convene and support community partners to provide educational resources about Title IX policies with the Oshkosh Area School District.

Organizational Competencies

Organizational competencies encompass leadership, governance, financial management, and operational abilities that are crucial for any organization, including public health. From human resource services, access to legal council, modernizing IT infrastructure to workforce development, organizational competencies are **essential for assuring public health services**.

2024 Highlights Include:

- Added Community Health Worker (CHW) roles to more effectively reach the population we serve.
- Developed a three year public health department strategic plan.
- Established a branding strategy for outreach to define our organization to the public we serve.
- Implemented an updated onboarding process for new team members.
- Contributed to the workforce by hosting 35 Nurses from UW Oshkosh College of Nursing Accelerated Program for three days of public health presentations and informational sessions.
- Provided internships for two Public Health Graduate students.

Policy Development & Support

WCPH is able to provide sound public health policy recommendations that are **evidence-based and grounded in law**. Public health policy development skills include the ability to translate science into appropriate policy, inform how policies can impact health, promote policies to improve community conditions, and ensure compliance with public health regulations.

2024 Highlights Include:

- WCPH provided resources and support for communicable disease events, such as Pertussis.
- Provided oversight to various facilities around the county to promote public health regulations.
- Provided evidence-informed information to municipalities to limit alcohol outlet density.
- Supported actions to de-criminalize homelessness and identify solutions that promote dignity.

Foundational Capabilities

Accountability & Performance Management

Public health departments rely on a structured, data-driven approach to **identify and prioritize opportunities for improvement** - both in our organization, and in the health of our community. WCPH utilizes a performance management system to facilitate a continuous learning environment and transparent communication.

2024 Highlights Include:

- Completed the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) 140 review process and demonstrated compliance with all required statutes and rules.
- WCPH had a 100% staff completion rate of the Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS), a national survey that collects demographics of the public health workforce.
- We continue to implement and refine our Performance Management system and report out on key performance indicators.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) is a full range of activities that includes: prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and recovery, with **the goal of building a resilient community** that is ready to deal with, and rapidly recover from, emergencies that affect our residents.

2024 Highlights Include:

- Development, printing and distribution of a Emergency Preparedness guide.
- Cybersecurity training for public health staff members.
- Developed an extreme Heat & Cooling Center Guide for community partners.
- Partnered with emergency shelters.

Communications

WCPH uses a variety of communication methods to reach the public effectively with timely, evidence-based information. The goal of WCPH communications is to **improve health literacy**: to help people understand our services, programs, and to provide timely information on a variety of public health topics in language that's easy to understand.

2024 Highlights Include:

- Distributed a monthly e-newsletter to educate and inform on a variety of public health topics.
- Regularly posting on Facebook to share public health information and education.
- Provided updated information and resources on our department website.
- Utilized billboards and flyers to increase awareness about routine vaccinations.
- Sent out 9 press releases to alert the public of timely public health alerts via the media.
- Held two in person trainings (Oshkosh and Neenah) to update pool operators on changes to pool code.

STAY IN TOUCH!

OUR OFFICES

Oshkosh

David W. Albrecht Administrative Building
112 Otter Avenue, PO Box 2808
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808
920-232-3000

Neenah

Winnebago County Human Services
211 N Commercial Street
Neenah, WI 54956
920-727-2894

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Receive updates on services and programs provided by Winnebago County Public Health delivered to your inbox! We send out a monthly newsletter, quarterly Communicable Disease Report, and periodic press releases. To subscribe, visit wchd.pub/newsletter or scan the QR code to the right.



Public Health Happenings

Visit wchd.pub/publichealthhappenings or scan the QR code to see our current and previous monthly newsletter.



Communicable Disease Reports

Visit wchd.pub/QuarterlyDiseaseReports or scan the QR code to see our current and previous quarterly reports.



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