



Waukesha County Public Health Annual Report 2024



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Waukesha County Public Health



Waukesha County Public Health is a division of Health and Human Services.

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The mission of the Waukesha County Public Health Division is to champion innovative programs and partnerships to foster optimal health and well-being for our community.



COVER PICTURES:

EFFICIENCY- March 14, 2024 CHIP Launch Event

Pictured: County Executive Paul Farrow, Secretary Designee Kirsten Johnson, Terri Phillips-CHIP Facilitator, Frances Thomas- Strategy Supervisor and Amanda Huber-CHIP Mental Health Action Team

COMMUNITY SAFETY- 2024 Healthy Brain Initiative

Pictured: Kristin Beilfuss-Disease Intervention Specialist & Virginia Zerpa-Alzheimer's Association

WELL-BEING- Celebrated 50 Years of WIC, Staff & Health Officer in the WIC Clinic

Pictured: MaryJo Hamman-WIC Supervisor, Regina Lou, Margaret Deau, Dayanna Jacob & Margot Cantrell. Benjamin Jones-WCPH Health Officer & Manager

PARTNERS- Overdose Fatality Launch 1-18-2024

Pictured: Amy Parry-Med College of WI, Stephanie Engle-OFR Social Worker, Dr. Hillary Tamar-Community Medical Services

A Letter From the Health Officer



Ben Jones, 2024

Benjamin Jones
Public Health Manager, Health Officer

Efficiency. Community Safety. Well-being. Partnerships.

These four priorities have driven our work in 2024, shaping how we strengthen public health in Waukesha County. Guided by our strategic vision, we've not only tackled challenges but also created new opportunities for a healthier, more connected community.

Stepping into our role as the chief health strategist for Waukesha County, we embraced our unique responsibility to advance population health. This year, we sharpened our focus on tackling complex community challenges—strengthening data-driven initiatives like the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR). With the support of ARPA funding, we empowered local organizations to drive impactful solutions, reinforcing our commitment to a healthier future. At the same time, we balanced our statutory responsibilities and unfunded mandates with strategic, intentional efforts that maximize efficiency and community impact.

Public health is constantly evolving, and we are adapting to meet emerging needs. Through the Healthy Brain Initiative grant, we introduced memory screenings, providing residents with proactive tools for cognitive health. Recognizing the increasing importance of social connections, we collaborated with the ADRC to reduce isolation and strengthen community ties. These initiatives, alongside our CHIP Action Teams, reflect our commitment to addressing not just immediate health

concerns but also the broader factors that shape well-being.

Collaboration remains at the core of our success. In 2024, we expanded our reach—bringing public health into libraries, National Night Out, and the Waukesha County Fair. Through our partnership with the Elmbrook School District Launch Program, we worked alongside students to enhance the accessibility of our resources. And through powerful storytelling, we created videos that highlight not just what we do, but why it matters.

These successes are a testament to the dedication of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and our community's commitment to progress. As we look ahead, we remain focused on innovation, collaboration, and the shared goal of a healthier Waukesha County.

Sincerely,

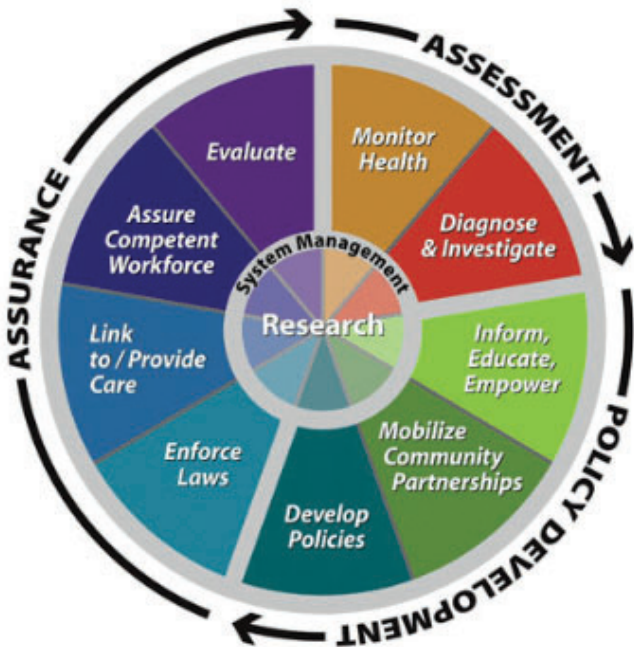
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BJ', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Benjamin Jones
Health Officer & Public Health Manager
Waukesha County Public Health



About Us

Public health is everywhere—it’s the clean water from your tap, the seatbelt that saves a life, the programs that support families, and the efforts that prevent illness before it starts. It’s not just about doctor visits; it’s about prevention, protection, and partnerships that keep Waukesha County safe and healthy. At Waukesha County Public Health, we use a evidence based approach to guide our work, but at the heart of it all, public health is simply this: helping people live their healthiest lives, every day.



What does Public Health Do?

Public health focuses on improving the health of entire populations. As a public health division, our goal is to prevent poor health outcomes and enhance well-being for those living in Waukesha County. To achieve this, we follow the 10 Essential Public Health Services, a nationally recognized framework that ensures we assess community needs, develop effective policies, and provide essential health services in a coordinated and sustainable way. Our approach is guided by the core public health model:

Assessment – Monitor the health of the community and identify priority health issues.

Policy Development – Inform and educate partners and key stakeholders to build support for policies and systems that improve population health.

Assurance – Ensure that policies and systems are sustainable, effective, and enforced to protect public health.

Our team works together to provide health education, prevention services, and community support to keep Waukesha County healthy.

2025 Health & Human Services Board Mission & Members

HHS Board Mission:		Health & Human Services Board	
In partnership with our community, we provide, purchase, and coordinate a wide range of high-quality prevention, intervention and protective services. We are committed to making the best use of resources available to promote health, self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life. We honor the dignity of individuals and families in all of our work.			

Elizabeth Aldred HHS Director	Lisa Roberts HHS Deputy Director
	

Organizational Chart

As of 1/2025

Benjamin Jones
Public Health Manager, Health Officer
Length of Service: 17 Years



Sarah Ward
Environmental Health Manager
Length of Service: 24 Years

Elizabeth Laatsch
Public Health Coordinator
Length of Service: 23 Years



Community Health



Theresa Imp & Gabby Manders

Program Areas

Category 1 & 2 Diseases
Outbreaks and Complaint Investigations
Tuberculosis
Immunizations & Travel
Maternal Child Health
Lead Program
Screening Clinic
HIV Partner Services

Team Composition

(13.56 FTE)
2 Supervisors
8 Public Health Nurses
3 Disease Intervention Specialists
2 LTE Public Health Nurses

Strategy



Frances Thomas

Program Areas

Data Analytics
Performance Mgmt
Community Health Education
Marketing & Communication
CHIP
Opioid Prevention

Team Composition

(6 FTE)
1 Supervisor
1 Epidemiologist
1 Health Educator
1 Communication Coordinator
1 Social Worker
1 Strategist

WIC



MaryJo Hamman

Program Areas

Nutrition Education & Services
Breastfeeding Programs
Farmers Market Program
Vendor Mgmt
Fit Families
Lead Testing

Team Composition

(4.88 FTE)
1 Supervisor
2 Nutritionists
1 Dietetic Technician
2 LTE Nutritionists
3 LTE Public Health Techs

Preparedness



Michelle Jones

Program Areas

Public Health Preparedness
Building Safety & Security
HHS Business Continuity
Mass Care Preparedness
Mental Health Center
Preparedness

Team Composition

(2 FTE)
1 Preparedness Coordinator
1 Health Educator

Admin Support*



Stephanie Brunner

Program Areas

Supports all program needs administratively.

Team Composition

(6.0 FTE)
1 Supervisor
6 Admin Staff

**Does not directly report to Public Health Management*

2025 Public Health Advisory Committee

Voting Members

Sarah Butz (Chair), ProHealth Care Community Benefit
Andrew Dresang, Froedtert Health
Abby Gorecki, Sixteenth Street Community Health Ctr
Betty Koepsel, RN, Citizen Member
Jessica Kadow, RN, ProHealth Care & Hispanic Resource Ctr
Jim Holmberg, MD, Aurora Medical Center
Luann Ladwig, NP, Citizen Member
Mary Reich, RN, Lake Area Free Clinic

Non-Voting Members

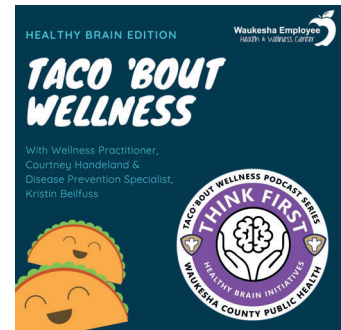
Mary Baer, Health & Human Services Board Member
Jenny Wrucke, Health & Human Services, ADRC Manager
Sarah Ward, Health & Human Services, Environmental Health Manager
Benjamin Jones, Health & Human Services, PH Manager, Health Officer
Michelle Jones, Health & Human Services, Preparedness Coordinator
Mary Jo Hamman, Health & Human Services, WIC Supervisor
Debbie Heinowski, Health & Human Services, PH Administrative Specialist
Theresa Imp, Health & Human Services, PH Supervisor
Elizabeth Laatsch, Health & Human Services, PH Preparedness Coordinator
Gabrielle Manders, Health & Human Services, PH Supervisor
Frances Thomas, Health & Human Services, PH Strategy Supervisor

Community Health Team

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH STATISTICS	2022	2023	2024
Number of children tested in the Division for lead poisoning	59	146	178
Number of lead-poisoned children case managed	106	151	151
Number of children-at-risk (medical/physical neglect) case managed	14	14	13
Number of women case managed	15	17	17
Number of chronic disease screenings	29	35	193

Public health is more than just services—it’s about real people making a difference every day.

This year, our Community Health Team tackled health challenges head-on while strengthening partnerships and bringing innovative solutions to Waukesha County. From responding to the recent pertussis outbreak to launching new initiatives, our team worked well together and with our partners to protect community health.



The Waukesha County Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) Grant expanded awareness of cognitive health, ensuring residents have access to memory screenings and brain wellness resources. Thanks to the grant, we created informative videos and reels, contributed to a local podcast, and partnered with the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to further engage the community. Additionally, our nurses shared their expertise on maternal health at the Fulfilling the Promise Conference, highlighting how Waukesha County Public Health



Kristin, a disease intervention specialist, earned well-deserved recognition as an Age-Friendly Public Health Champion by **Trust for America's Health** for her work with the Healthy Brain Initiatives grant.

Nilijah Moore (right) helps represent Waukesha County Public Health at a 2024 Breastfeeding Coalition event.



Every day, we fight disease, promote wellness, and build healthier futures—not just in clinics, but in libraries, workplaces, and across the community. Because when public health thrives, so does Waukesha County.

Community Health in Action: Empowering, Educating & Engaging

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	2022	2023	2024
Number of communicable disease referrals investigated*	4,362	5,007	7,702
- Number of Category 1 communicable diseases investigated*	388	363	2,105
- Number of communicable disease identified*	2,417	2,629	3,785
Number of communicable disease outbreaks/complaints investigated*	68	87	100
Number of TB Directly Observed Therapy visits	669	393	759
Number of TB skin tests	83	118	138
Number of vaccines administered	1,519	808	713
- Children Immunized	212	122	91
- Adults Immunized	564	256	232
Number of International Travel Clients	235	161	155
Number of clients screened in STD clinic	96	59	27

and the Waukesha County Breastfeeding Coalition collaborated to improve lactation spaces in local libraries.

Beyond immediate health responses, the Community Health Team actively contributed to shaping the future of public health. Their involvement in both internal and external committees drove strategic initiatives forward, fostering collaboration across departments and with community partners. Whether responding to outbreaks, expanding preventive services, or championing innovative programs, their dedication continues to shape a healthier Waukesha County.

Public health is always evolving, and our team remains committed to meeting the community's needs—whatever challenges come our way.



The nursing staff is always eager to support public health efforts by participating in videos and sharing valuable education about resources, ensuring our community stays informed and empowered.

*Starting in 2024, COVID-19 data is integrated into the overall communicable disease counts only if associated with hospitalizations, reflecting a change in reporting requirements effective from November 1, 2023. Historical data from previous years have been adjusted to include only COVID-19 cases that resulted in hospitalizations to maintain consistency with this new reporting approach.

The communicable disease data comes from the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). Due to reporting changes or backlog adjustments, some data may be retroactively added, which could result in slight discrepancies in numbers year over year.

Public Health Strategy

Strengthening Public Health Through Strategic Collaboration and Data-Driven Solutions

The Strategy Team at Waukesha County Public Health drives innovation and collaboration to advance community health. In 2024, we added a *strategist* to the team, enhancing our strategic direction and supporting department development. The team serves as internal consultants and often spearheads solutions that are implemented across the HHS department.



Community Education: In 2024, Community Education expanded its offerings and reach, delivering health education at more locations and covering a broader range of topics. From the New Berlin Library to the Waukesha Schuetze Recreation Center, we continue to engage with the community, offering vital resources. In addition to heart disease and stroke prevention, our team now addresses mental health awareness, nutrition, and preparedness to help individuals take control of their health.



Communications: Strategic communication has been essential in fulfilling state-mandated public health outreach, ensuring critical information reaches our community. Our outreach efforts strengthened public health infrastructure by improving access to information and enhancing expanding engagement with key public health partners. Through our CHIP, Healthy Brain Initiative and OFR, we have demonstrated that effective communication is not just valuable—but necessary—to meet public health mandates and sustain engagement.



Epidemiology: In 2024, Epidemiology has been focused on creating dynamic dashboards that track key public health data. These dashboards are continually reviewed and refined to improve data collection and

foster partnerships with departments and community organizations. By modernizing data systems and utilizing strategic data collection for performance management, epidemiology plays a pivotal role in evidence-based decision-making, helping identify trends, assess needs, and tailor interventions for maximum impact.

Public health continues to evolve with an emphasis on data-driven decision-making. A key tool we're utilizing is **Essence**, which allows us to track and analyze emergency department data in real-time. This tool plays a crucial role in helping the team make evidence-based decisions, strengthen interventions, and ensure that our strategies are aligned with the goal of improving health outcomes across Waukesha County.



Overdose Fatality Review (OFR)

Program: The OFR program launched in 2024, orienting a team of 70 professionals to the shared goal of preventing substance related deaths across the community. Together, the multidisciplinary team proposed 78 thoughtful recommendations following fatality reviews. 51 families were supported by a social worker extending a stigma free bereavement outreach service and a personalized watercolor card designed by community members. A proud moment for the year was having Waukesha County's OFR highlighted in the *WI Counties Magazine*. Tune in next year to learn about recommendation priorities and the local, state and national impacts from this team!



Strategy at the Core of Public Health:

Strategy remains at the heart of public health,

and with the addition of the new strategist role in 2024, our team has gained even more support in driving data-driven decision-making. Regular meetings and close collaboration have empowered the team to align efforts toward shared goals, contributing to the continued success of our public health initiatives.



Dan Michaels: Community Educator
Lisa Kwiat: Communications Coordinator
Dhruvi Shah: Epidemiologist

Stephanie Engle: Overdose Fatality Review Social Worker
Frances Thomas: Public Health Strategy Supervisor
Courtney Nathan: Public Health Strategist

In 2024, the Strategy Team Turned 2!

Started in 2023



Overdose Fatality Review
WAUKESHA COUNTY
Year 1

2024

10 Next of Kin Interview Outreach

7 Cases Reviewed

51 Bereavement Outreach



**Comprehensive Public Health
Education & Outreach Events***

48

(2022)

81

(2023)

113

(2024)



**Public Health Articles &
Publications**

3

(2022)

8

(2023)

59

(2024)



**Partnerships to Advance
toward Public Health 3.0**

30

(2022)

35

(2023)

106

(2024)

**Current Public Health
Relationships**

186

Relationship Definition:

The contact we use at an identified partnering organization that we build rapport with and look to for guidance in our initiatives, projects, and activities.



CHIP Partnerships

46

External

7

Internal

(2022-2026 CHIP Cycle)

*A structured presentation using slides or other tools to form the public, partners, or stakeholders about health issues, policies, or prevention. These events focus on awareness and engagement, not internal staff training.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

Celebrating a Year of Excellence

Waukesha County WIC Team Earns Top Marks in State Evaluation

Waukesha County Public Health's WIC Team is excited to share that our recent Management Evaluation with the State WIC Office was a huge success! We received high praise with no improvement suggestions—only commendations!

Our team continues to lead the way in Wisconsin, with several staff members invited to **mentor other WIC teams** across the state. This achievement highlights our dedication to providing top-quality services and building a healthier community.



A strong WIC program means healthier families and a stronger community. Our team's dedication and leadership continue to set the standard across Wisconsin, and we are proud to support other WIC programs in their success.

– Mary Jo Hamman



The WIC Team, in collaboration with the Waukesha County Breastfeeding Coalition, hosts an annual event featuring prizes, partner spotlights, and valuable community resources to support and celebrate local families.

WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN) PROGRAM	2022	2023	2024
WIC Program Clients	2,375	2,537	2,668
Number of appointments completed	2,235	2,646	3,437
Number of high-risk follow-up visits completed	1,944	2,144	2,252
Breastfeeding initiation rates	80%	83%	85%
WIC Grocer revenue	\$ 2,505,106	\$ 2,882,100	\$3,193,751
Farmers market revenue	\$ 10,188	\$ 13,524	\$19,136
Homeless participants served	26	24	39

Expanding Our Reach: In 2024, we served 2,668 unduplicated participants, up from 2,537 in 2023 and 2,375 in 2022. Appointment numbers also rose significantly, reaching 3,437 in 2024, compared to 2,646 in 2023 and 2,235 in 2022.

Breastfeeding Success: Our breastfeeding initiation rates have grown from 73% in 2019 to 85.3% in 2024, consistently surpassing the state average.

Economic Impact: Increased caseloads have driven local economic growth, with WIC-related grocery revenues rising and Farmers Market revenue climbing from \$13,524 in 2023 to \$19,136 in 2024. More families are enrolling and redeeming their farmers market checks, supporting local businesses.

Innovation & Community Impact: 2024 also marked WIC's 50th anniversary, celebrated statewide with the Governor declaring October 30th as Wisconsin WIC Day. Our team led several initiatives to enhance access:

Secure Remote Services: The launch of a secure document-sharing platform has reduced barriers for families facing transportation and childcare challenges.

Literacy & Learning: Through a partnership with Book Ahead, Inc., we distributed books to promote early literacy among WIC families.

Health & Wellness Programs: The Fit Families program successfully enrolled 52 participants, while container gardening events encouraged healthy eating habits.

Looking Ahead: Our WIC Team's commitment to excellence and innovation continues to make a difference in the lives of families across Waukesha County. We are proud of our dedicated staff and look forward to building on this success in the coming year!



Fit Families Gardening Event 2024

Emergency Preparedness

Strengthening Community Preparedness in Waukesha County

In 2024, the HHS Emergency Preparedness team focused on enhancing readiness for emergencies and natural disasters, ensuring the health and safety of residents and visitors.

Key Achievements

Emergency Response: A severe winter storm in January left thousands without power. Our team, alongside community partners, provided resources and shelter to support affected residents.

Training & Drills: Conducted multiple exercises to strengthen response plans for biological, radiological, and other public health threats.

Collaboration: Partnered with local organizations and agencies to improve emergency coordination and streamline crisis communication.

New Preparedness Structure: Integrated preparedness initiatives across the Department of Health and Human Services, increasing internal capabilities and response efficiency.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to proactive planning and community engagement to build a safer, more resilient Waukesha County.



Jamie P. hosts a training with a Test POD Game for Regional Partners at Waukesha County HHS



New Preparedness Coordinator: Michelle Jones

We're excited to welcome Michelle Jones as the new Preparedness Coordinator for Waukesha County Health and Human Services! In public health, a Preparedness Coordinator plays a vital role in ensuring the community is ready to respond to emergencies, from natural disasters to public health threats. This includes planning and training for crisis situations, coordinating with local and state partners, and enhancing response efforts to keep residents safe. We look forward to the expertise and leadership Michelle brings to this critical work!

Environmental Health

We promote the health, safety, and quality of life of citizens while fostering an economically vibrant community. The Environmental Health Division is located in the Parks and Land Use Department of Waukesha County. Public Health has a Memorandum of Understanding with Environmental Health to fulfill statutory requirements, and protect our community.

Food & Recreation: Protect public health and safety through education, licensing, and inspection activities at food and recreational facilities.

- Issued licenses to **229** new food and **35** new recreational businesses / facilities.
- Conducted a total of **2661** health and safety inspections in **2270** licensed food and recreational facilities
- Followed up on **178** complaints received from the public related to licensed establishments.

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

(POWTS) – Ensure septic systems are properly designed, installed, and maintained to protect our ground and surface waters.

- Reviewed & approved **256** plans for new POWTS
- Issued **409 POWTS** permits
- Conducted **651** Preliminary Site Evaluations (PSE) to assure property improvements do not adversely affect the existing POWTS

Drinking / Ground Water - Private well water safety and quality

- **1372** water samples from residential wells were tested for one or more of the following safety and quality parameters: bacteria, nitrate, hardness, fluoride, iron, and chloride.
 - **279** wells tested positive for bacterial contamination
 - **5** wells had nitrate results above the EPA maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L
- Tested water samples from **382** Transient Non-Community (TNC) water systems for nitrate, coliform, and E. coli bacteria. Sanitary surveys were conducted at **78** (20%) of the TNC water systems.
 - **14** systems returned to compliance after repeated bacteria positive tests
 - **9** systems have ongoing challenges with bacteria that are in process of being addressed
 - **3** systems have nitrate concerns
- Implemented use of Microsoft To Do & Planner to create mechanism for tracking deliverables & deadlines for the water systems in the County's TNC program.



2024 Environmental Health Staff

Home / Community Health and Safety

- Followed up on **791** animal bite reports:
 - **557** quarantines
 - **2** positive and **10** inconclusive rabies test results (treated as positive) out of 156 submittals
 - **128** dogs were unvaccinated
 - **8** dogs were declared Dangerous or Prohibited Dangerous due to severity and/or history of biting
- Conducted **2** lead investigations at residential properties as part of the Childhood Lead Program



- Sold **1105** radon kits to the public and **285** to local health departments as the Radon Information Center (RIC) serving Waukesha, Milwaukee, and Racine Counties
 - **1070** test returns - 45% of the test results showed results at or above the EPA action level of 4.0 pCi/L
- Had contact with **608** individuals by phone, email, or walk-in as part of the radon program
- Provided guidance on over **40** human health hazard/nuisance complaints from the public
- Completed the Lead-in-Water Testing and Remediation Initiative which was started in 2023.
 - Reached out to over **100** childcare facilities, **16** facilities enrolled, **5** facilities were found to have elevated lead levels and took appropriate follow-up sampling and/or mitigation measures.
- County liaison & assistance for **2** legionella investigations at long term care facilities & provided consultation to a third facility experiencing legionella positive water samples.

Public Health Budget

Budget is \$ 3,677,026



Actual

The number reported after full reconciliation of the budget, from the previous year.



Budget

The budget number represents the planned allocated funds for each of the line items listed below.



Estimate

The divisions best estimation of what the ACTUAL will be before reconciliation.

PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET
Staffing (FTE)	29.26	27.62	28.44
General Government	\$1,154,863	\$1,404,157	\$1,215,250
Fine/Licenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Charges for Services	\$68,069	\$79,605	\$161,150
Interdepartmental Revenue	\$280	\$0	\$0
Other Revenue	\$2,730	\$38,273	\$0
Appr. Fund Balance	\$62,875	\$15,229	\$187,720
County Tax Levy	\$1,938,260	\$1,914,613	\$2,112,906
TOTAL REVENUES	\$3,227,077	\$3,451,877	\$3,677,026
Personnel Costs	\$2,621,073	\$2,961,366	\$3,132,929
Operating Expenses	\$306,175	\$346,382	\$344,388
Interdepartmental Charges	\$204,974	\$208,343	\$199,709
Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,132,222	\$3,516,091	\$3,677,026
REVENUE OVER / (UNDER)	\$94,855	(\$64,214)	\$0

Public Health Revenues

GRANTS THAT SUPPORT OPERATIONS	2025
Communicable Disease	\$20,110
Immunization	\$59,932
Maternal/Child Health	\$69,422
Lead	\$15,484
HIV / Partner Services	\$16,447
WIC	\$470,928
Preparedness	\$280,516
Prevention	\$19,628
Infrastructure	\$262,783
TOTAL	\$1,215,250

ESTIMATED CHARGES FOR SERVICES	2025
Immunization Services	\$118,000
Tuberculosis Services	\$24,200
Maternal & Child Health	\$12,900
Lead Testing	\$4,000
Screenings	\$2,050
TOTAL	\$161,150

FUND BALANCE	2025
Opioid Settlement Funds	\$187,720

ADMINISTRATION	2022	2023	2024
Number of telephone calls for information/ triage or referral	3,471	3,271	3,312
Number of walk-in clients	1,135	724	918

Our administrative staff plays a crucial role in keeping public health operations running smoothly, ensuring that programs, services, and outreach efforts effectively reach the community. Their behind-the-scenes work supports everything from scheduling and data management to resource coordination, making a lasting impact on the health and well-being of Waukesha County residents.

Public Health Partnerships 2024

Building Stronger Partnerships: A Framework for Lasting Impact

In 2024, Waukesha County Public Health made a significant commitment to strengthening partnerships by developing a clear, structured framework for collaboration. Recognizing that successful partnerships require more than just connections, we took an in-depth approach to define what true partnership means, how to measure it, and how to enhance its impact.

Through extensive discussions and analysis, we created a partnership model that establishes a transparent way to build relationships, receive feedback, and ensure that every collaboration aligns with our shared public health goals. This model allows us to categorize partners based on engagement levels, define the roles and expectations within each relationship, and measure the effectiveness of our joint efforts.

At the heart of this initiative is a simple but powerful idea: partnerships are most effective when they are intentional, structured, and mutually beneficial. With our new framework in place, we can:

- **Track and quantify the strength of our partnerships, ensuring they align with our mission.**
- **Foster deeper collaboration, creating more opportunities for shared resources and collective impact.**
- **Expand our reach, improving access to public health initiatives for the communities we serve.**

By laying this foundation, we are positioning Waukesha County Public Health as a leader in strategic collaboration. This work ensures that every partnership—whether with government agencies, healthcare providers, businesses, or nonprofits—contributes to a healthier, stronger community.



Elmbrook students tour the Public Health Clinic.



Erin Rachwal (with microphone) of the Love Logan Foundation was an integral partner in the Fentanyl Crisis Video Series Launch of 2024.

Elmbrook High School students working with Public Health through the "Launch" program.

As part of the ongoing Website Redesign Implementation Project at Waukesha County, these talented students reviewed our website pages and provided invaluable feedback to help improve user experience.

We thank these future leaders for their input and creativity! In early 2025, we launched a website that better serves our community.

Public Health at the Table: How Community Involvement Drives Change



Public health is more than data, immunizations, and awareness campaigns — it's relationships, trust, and showing up. In Waukesha County, our public health team is proud to do exactly that by serving on over 25 committees, councils, and coalitions throughout the community.

These aren't just meetings on calendars — they're spaces where real change takes shape. Whether we're helping shape emergency preparedness efforts, addressing substance use, improving maternal and child health, or partnering with schools and hospitals, we're working side-by-side with the people and organizations that make our county stronger.

Here's where you'll find us:

Health Systems & Hospitals: Aurora Summit Community Steering Council, ProHealth Care Advisory Committee, Froedtert Community Outreach Steering Committee

Education & Workforce: Carroll Nursing Advisory Board, Carroll Public Health Advisory Committee

Emergency Preparedness & Response: BioWatch, Local Emergency Planning Committee, SE WI Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition

Community & Social Services: CHIP Steering Committee, Hispanic Health Collaborative Network, Safe Kids Coalition, Water Safety Work Group, Waukesha County Breastfeeding Coalition

Behavioral Health & Substance Use: Heroin Task Force (HTF), Substance Use Advisory Committee (SUAC), Suicide Prevention Initiative, Coordinated Services Treatment (CST), Children's Community Options Program (CCOP), Child Fatality Review

Public Health Collaboration: PHN Network Meeting, Southeastern WI Association of Local Health Departments & Boards, Public Health Generalist meetings

Why it matters:

Being involved means we're not just responding to health needs — we're shaping how services are delivered, how prevention is prioritized, and how our communities are heard. It's about partnering with those doing the work on the ground — educators, first responders, nonprofit leaders, hospital staff, and fellow public health advocates. Together, we're driving forward shared goals: healthier families, safer communities, and a more connected future.





CHIP 2022-2026

Community Health Improvement Plan

2024 Was The Third Year of a 5 Year Process

STRATEGIC HEALTH PRIORITIES FOR WAUKESHA COUNTY | 2022-2026 CHIP CYCLE

HEALTHY AGING

MENTAL HEALTH

SUBSTANCE USE



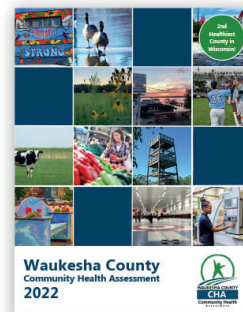
About CHIP

Every 5 years, Waukesha County Public Health conducts a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Waukesha County. This is a national, comprehensive approach to assess community health, develop and implement action plans to improve community well-being, and monitor results. In a CHIP, "health" is defined broadly and includes physical health, mental health, environmental health, and other factors that contribute to overall quality of life.

A Community Health Improvement Plan involves key community members in systematically collecting and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative health-related data from various sources. The findings help guide community decision-making, prioritize health issues, and shape the development and implementation of community health improvement plans.

The process includes the participation of a CHIP Steering Committee for Waukesha County, which represents key sectors of the community, including healthcare, government, nonprofits, business, education, faith-based organizations, and consumers. The steering committee provides essential leadership throughout the five-year process. The linked documents to the right may be helpful in gaining a better understanding of our community's health status.

Find out more about CHIP (and view our ScoreCard) here: WaukeshaCounty.Gov/CHIP



WHAT WAS NEW WITH CHIP IN 2024?



Investing in Community Well-Being: ARPA Funds at Work Distributed \$300,000

In 2024, Waukesha County leveraged ARPA funds to support programs that enhance falls prevention, social connections, mental health, and stigma reduction. These initiatives are making a direct impact across the community:

City of Waukesha – Expanding Ballroom Basics to reduce falls and foster social engagement.

Eras Senior Network – Strengthening social ties for seniors 60+ through outreach calls and intergenerational programs.

University of Wisconsin System – Expanding StrongBodies to help prevent falls.

La Casa de Esperanza – Connecting middle schoolers and seniors through the Seniors and Scholars Program.

Aurora Health Care – Supporting the Falls Prevention Coalition in education and prevention efforts.

WCS – Reducing stigma and promoting peer support using evidence-based practices.

NAMI – Expanding youth mental health education and access through Ending the Silence, the Lighthouse Project, and 9-8-8 awareness.

Through these initiatives, we're building a safer, healthier, and more connected Waukesha County.

LinkedIn monthly Newsletter Showcasing CHIP Updates

In 2024, we launched a LinkedIn newsletter dedicated to all things Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)-related, providing updates, partner highlights, and progress on key initiatives. In just a few months, we've built a growing audience of nearly **400 subscribers**, reflecting strong community interest and engagement in our work to improve public health across Waukesha County.



CHIP Partnerships helped our Action Team Launch

THANK YOU, KINDLY

Venue & food provided by



Signage & notepad printed in-kind by



Programs printed in-kind by



Over 150 people attended the launch on March 14th at the Ingleside Hotel. We had 6 speakers, a published action plan publication and an online scorecard.



Public Health
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Social Media Resources:

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Overdose Fatality Review
WAUKESHA COUNTY

In 2024, Waukesha County launched their Overdose Fatality Review initiative, led by social worker Stephanie Engle, uniting 60+ local experts to combat the overdose crisis and enhance community safety.

