



2021 Health Unit Annual Report

Mission:

The mission of the Green Lake County Health Department is to promote and protect health and prevent disease.

Vision:

We will become the leader in Public Health in Green Lake County promoting healthy people, thriving communities, and safe environments.

Core Values:

- **Prevention**
- **Professionalism**
- **Evidence-based Practices**
- **Collaboration**
- **Good Stewardship of All Resources**
- **Responsive**
- **Performance Improvement**
- **Health Equity**



A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Kathy Munsey on June 24, 2021 by Chris Culotta from WI Department of Health Services. Kathy retired from her position as Health Officer after 32 years of serving the community of Green Lake County. Others in attendance were Julia McCarroll, Renee Peters, Rachel Prellwitz, Kathy, Chris Culotta, Jayme Sopha, Jason Jerome, Cathy Schmit and Harley Reabe.

Rachel Prellwitz was chosen as Kathy's successor and officially took over the role as Green Lake County's Health Officer on July 2, 2021.

The COVID-19 Pandemic again took center stage in 2021. The pandemic continued to cause much uncertainty, hardships, illness and deaths due to the virus. Vaccination was the main goal of 2021's response to the pandemic. Vaccine officially arrived to Green Lake County on January 13th, 2021. Multiple vaccine clinics were held, including several mass clinics at the Armory in Berlin. Clinics continued throughout 2021 and will continue into 2022. Health Unit staff also continued to perform disease investigations and contact tracing for those affected by COVID-19.



Allison Davey, PHN, receives the first delivery of COVID-19 vaccine on 01/13/2021.

Delivered by WI State Patrol

December 31, 2021



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Our 2021 Programs and Services

Disease Control and Prevention

Public Health is required by statute to follow up on acute and communicable diseases. Using the WI Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), we are able to monitor trends and track outbreaks as they occur. Below are some of the diseases we followed in 2021, including COVID 19 cases, along with data from previous years for comparison.

Frequency of Reported Diseases in Green Lake County	2018	2019	2020	2021
Babesiosis	-	1	-	-
Campylobacteriosis	16	11	3	6
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning *New in 2019	-	2	-	-
Chlamydia	46	52	27	35
COVID 19 Confirmed	-	-	1399	1729
COVID 19 Probable	-	-	301	407
Cyclosporiasis	7	-	-	-
Cryptosporidiosis	2	2	-	5
E-Coli	25	15	8	10
Ehrlichiosis	1	-	-	-
Foodborne Disease	-	7	-	12
Giardiasis	2	-	1	1
Gonorrhea	6	3	5	5
Haemophilus Influenza	-	-	1	1
Hepatitis B	-	1	-	3
Hepatitis C	4	8	3	5
Histoplasmosis	-	-	1	-
Influenza (hospitalized)	19	7	1	-
Legionellosis	1	-	-	1
Lyme Disease	9	18	2	35
Measles (Rubeola)	1	-	-	-
Mycobacterium (non-tuberculosis)	4	6	-	5
Norovirus Outbreak	-	9	1	-
Pesticide related disease	-	2	-	-
Pertussis (whooping cough)	4	20	3	-
Salmonellosis	4	3	5	1
Syphilis	-	1	-	2
Invasive Strep Disease	2	7	1	1
Latent TB infection	3	0	-	2
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	156	177	1763	2,266

The pandemic continued to be extremely challenging to staff as cases of COVID-19 continued to ebb and flow, although we did get a slight reprieve in the summer when case activity was low. Green Lake County has consistently been in the Very High or Critically High category for case activity and High for community transmission. In addition to the 1729 confirmed cases and 407 probable cases, we had hundreds of community contacts to provide clarification of guidance and answer questions. We also had an additional 32 confirmed deaths from COVID, which brings the cumulative total to 49 deaths in Green Lake County due to COVID-19.

Immunizations for Children and Adults

We normally have monthly immunization clinics in Green Lake and a home visitation program with Allison Davey and Julia McCarroll to provide immunizations to the Amish community. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we discontinued home visits and our regularly scheduled monthly clinic numbers were greatly reduced. In June, we were able to provide 2 days of home visits to the Amish Community with a total of 37 immunizations given.

Our immunization rates fell to 38% for our cohort who are completely vaccinated by age 2. That is down 27% from last year. We have 48% of all 2 year olds considered “late up to date” which means they are fully vaccinated but not by their 2nd birthday. If we remove the Amish children from the report, 48% of all Green Lake County children meet the benchmark criteria. We encourage families to call and set up an appointment to come in for vaccinations and send out letters to all families that are behind the recommended schedule. Not having WIC clinic in person has also drastically reduced the number of vaccines given as we would normally have been able to connect with families there. We continue to see a decrease in the number of families seeking vaccinations since families are not going in for regular wellness visits.



Dental

We contract with Carrie Knurowski, Dental Hygienist to provide services to Head Start and school age children for cleanings. Carrie also provides sealants for school aged children through the Seal-A-Smile program. In 2021, she was able to bill over \$55,000 to MA and BadgerCare for dental services. This program provides dental needs in our county that are greatly unmet due to providers not accepting patients with MA/Badgercare.

Childhood Lead Testing

Allison McCormick resigned from her positions as our Environmental Health Specialist and Lead Risk Assessor. Jessica Jungenberg with the Tri-County Consortium, home office located in Marquette County, has passed her Lead Risk Assessor test and will be our contact going forward. In 2021 we had 1 child with an elevated blood lead level (EBLL). That family received comprehensive follow-up services, which included a nurse home visit and an environmental lead hazard investigation. We had 10 children with EBLL between 5-9.9 mcg/dL. These families were all notified and provided education by the public health nurse as well as our environmental health specialist. Families were monitored until the lead levels reached acceptable levels. All children in WIC get tested for lead, but since this program continues to be virtual, the numbers of children tested was reduced this year also.

Mother, Child and Family

There were 199 births in Green Lake County in 2021 compared to 180 in 2020. In 2018 and 2019, we had 181 and 187 births respectively. We had no births to women less than age 18, which is the same as last year. Previously a data collection system called SPHERE was able to collect data on birth weight and other birth outcomes. This system is no longer functioning and the new system only has data through 2020 at this time.

Rachel Prellwitz did 11 car seat checks and was able to provide 4 free car seats due to a grant we

received. One hundred percent of those who had car seat installation checks reported an increase in knowledge regarding proper use of a car seat. At the end of 2021, the Health Unit received \$1500.00 from Thedacare to be used to purchase car seats. Car seat education continues to be a high priority as proper car seat installation only occurs about 25% of the time and correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71%.

Nutrition WIC

WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. In Green Lake County, WIC helped many income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children ages 1-4. In addition, breastfeeding education was available to all WIC clients. WIC provides a breastfeeding peer mentor, which is an invaluable resource to new mothers. Due to the continued pandemic, in person visits have still been cancelled and replaced with phone calls and vouchers were mailed. WIC staff did receive a new mobile unit in November which will be used in the future to conduct face-to-face appointments. Staff also reinstated the Mommy and Me group in Green Lake County, requiring masking and other prevention efforts against COVID-19. WIC staff applied for and were awarded the THIS WIC Telehealth Grant through Tufts University. The grant is to test a new platform for conducting remote WIC services and making nutrition education more valuable. The majority of grant activity is slated for 2022. For the year, 50 pregnant women were served, 49 infants <12 months and 171 children age 1-4 years old.

Birth to 3

Birth to 3 is Wisconsin's early intervention program for families of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. The Green Lake County Health Unit has been designated by the county board to be the administrative agency in our county for this mandated program. The county is required to maintain a base level of funding for



this program and a yearly allocation is provided with state and federal funds. Medicaid and Private Insurance are billed for services when available with parental permission.

In 2021, twelve new children were enrolled into the Program. The total number of children served through an Individualized Family Service Plan in 2021 was 25.

Renee Peters is the Program and Service Coordinator/Educator. Contracted service providers included Tara McPeak, Occupational Therapist from NEW Rehab in New London. Hannah Lehocky provides Speech and Language therapy via a new contract with Elite Therapy Company, LLC out of Oshkosh. Jody Streeter is the Physical Therapist from Therapeutic Advantage in Oakfield.

Children's Community Options Program (CCOP)

Eligible children can use this special funding available through the state to meet the needs of children who have severe disabilities. A majority of the children are now primarily being served with funding through the Children's Long Term Support Waiver, however, there are some unique services/goods that are not allowed to be paid for by the waiver which CCOP funds can support. In addition, families who do not access Medicaid are able to utilize this program. The Coordinator for this program is Renee Peters.

Tri-County Environmental Health Environmental Issues Addressed

For the licensing period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, there were 138 facility inspections completed.

Other Activities:

Animal Bites—25
Well Water Concerns—1
Meth House Placards—None
Housing Inspection Cases—8

Nuisance/Other—2
Radon Kits Distributed—17
Water Kits Distributed—56

The Health Unit also received a \$5,500 grant for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning prevention. The Health Unit will use funding to perform the following activities:

- Provide carbon monoxide detectors to those who are at highest risk for carbon monoxide related illness through various avenues such as community events, home visits, and through partnership with local fire departments and other such agencies.
- Implement a media campaign via local media outlets and on social media to educate community members about the dangers of carbon monoxide, the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, and action steps to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Provide two educational sessions to local healthcare providers regarding carbon monoxide poisoning as a condition reportable to the local health department.

Prevention Activities

Prevention activities were greatly affected by the continued pandemic. A portion of Prevention grant funds were redirected for COVID-19 response activities.

The Health Unit was able to use a portion of funding to host an interactive booth at our local county fair. The theme of the booth was adolescent suicide prevention. The booth was well received and we were able to provide giveaways that help to support mental health and provide resources in times of need.

Staff attended National Night Out hosted by the Princeton police department on July 27, 2021. Staff provided education on bike safety to parents and

children. They were also able to give out 120 helmets that were fitted to each child for correct fit.



Health Equity

Green Lake County continues to be a partner in the Central WI Health Partnership (CWHP). Our group is focusing on Health Equity in the six counties to improve health outcomes. Our group completed a Strategic Plan in 2021 and has developed some a shared Mission and Vision for the group going forward. As a result of the strategic planning process, a transportation sub-committee was developed and will begin focusing work on that area in the next year. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we continue to participate in regular Zoom meetings with the group and will continue our efforts in 2022.

Opioid Prevention Activities

We continue to be a member of the Alliance for WI Youth (AWY). We receive a stipend from attending meetings which is used to do prevention activities to reduce youth access to drugs and alcohol. We also continue to distribute lock boxes to keep opioids locked up in homes. The distribution was slowed due to the pandemic, but we have provided them to folks in need who have come into our office.

Green Lake County continues to be a part of the Tri-County Opioid Fatality Review team with

Marquette and Waushara counties. The goal of this team is to review opioid deaths and determine if there are community interventions that we can implement in order to reduce these premature deaths. In 2021, we completed four death reviews. This project is in collaboration with DOJ and DHS and it is an annual grant cycle that runs from September through August annually. The state is in year 3 of this task force.

Staffing Update

We did have a few staffing changes this year. The biggest change is that, after 32 years with Green Lake County, Kathy Munsey retired as Health Officer on July 1, 2021. Kathy was instrumental in our success throughout the COVID-19 response. Rachel Prellwitz, Public Health Nurse, officially took over Kathy's role as Health Officer on July 2, 2021.

Other staff changes include the resignation of Allison McCormick as our Environmental Health Specialist in August of 2021. Kyle Alt replaced her in November of 2021.

Using COVID-19 grant funds, we were able to hire 3 additional contact tracers to assist us with COVID-19 case investigations and follow-up. Naomi Pulvermacher, Nick Duer and Katlyn Grohall started as limited-term employees on October 5th, 2021. The additional contact tracers have greatly helped to reduce the workload on staff. The contact tracers will stay on as workload warrants and grant funding is available.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

COVID-19 Vaccine first arrived in Green Lake County on January 13, 2021. COVID-19 vaccine efforts were a priority throughout all of 2021. Multiple mass vaccine clinics were held at the Armory in Berlin. Through planning with emergency management, sheriff's office and staff from all of Health and Human Services, our mass vaccine clinics ran incredibly smooth and were very

well attended. **6,012 COVID-19 vaccines were administered** by Health Unit staff in 2021. Besides the mass vaccine sites, clinics were also held at the Green Lake County Government building. The clinics are held, at a minimum, every week and will continue to run far into 2022.

Below are pictures taken of our mass vaccination clinic site and at the clinics held at the County Government building.



Members of the COVID-19 Response Team



EM Gary Podoll, Health Officer Kathy Munsey, and Armory Staff



Sgt. Holdorf and Deputy Huber providing security at mass clinic



Mass clinic held at the Berlin Armory. Staff able to provide 400+ vaccines in a single day. Clinics held on multiple dates.



DHHS staff manning the registration table



Nancy Gimenez and Lisa Rollin administering vaccine



Allison Davey performing Disease Investigation at Mass Clinic



Julia McCarroll, Rachel Prellwitz and UWO student administering vaccine



Renee Peters manning registration table at County building



Health Officer Kathy Munsey after receiving her COVID-19 vaccine