



# 2022 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**

We started off 2022 with our highest spike in COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant, averaging 40+ cases per day in January. Our focus in the COVID-19 response remained centered on increasing vaccination rates. Data clearly shows that COVID-19 vaccines greatly reduced the risk of death and hospitalizations with COVID-19 infections. COVID-19 vaccine clinics were held every Wednesday, supported by AMI, throughout all of 2022. In addition to the weekly Wednesday clinics, staff held community clinics in partnership with schools, Tri-County Boys and Girls Club, long-term care facilities and other various locations. On Friday February 25<sup>th</sup>, CDC updated its recommended indicators for monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on communities and guiding decisions about community prevention strategies and individual behaviors. The new indicators represented a shift in focus from eliminating the spread of COVID-19 to minimizing severe illness and strain on our health care systems. This change has allowed staff to focus on prevention efforts (including vaccination) and not so much on individual case follow-up as we move forward.

The Health Unit was due for our 140 Review this year. The 140 Review happens every 5 years and is a requirement for all health departments to complete per Administrative Code DHS 140. The purpose of the review is to evaluate the operations of the health department to make sure we are meeting statutory requirements. The review was held on October 26<sup>th</sup> with health unit staff, WI DHS staff, and HHS Director Jason Jerome. The Health Unit was recertified as a Level II Health Department by State Health Officer Paula Tran on December 16, 2022.





## Our 2022 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 up with in 2022.

Frequency of Reported Diseases in Green Lake County	2019	2020	2021	2022
Babesiosis	1	-	-	1
Blastomycosis	-	-	-	1
Campylobacteriosis	11	3	6	8
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	2	-	-	2
Chlamydia	52	27	35	33
COVID 19 Confirmed	-	1399	1729	2186
COVID 19 Probable	-	301	407	218
Cyclosporiasis	-	-	-	1
Cryptosporidiosis	2	-	5	-
E-Coli	15	8	10	11
Ehrlichiosis	-	-	-	2
Foodborne Disease	7	-	12	3
Giardiasis	-	1	1	1
Gonorrhea	3	5	5	4
Haemophilus Influenza	-	1	1	1
Hepatitis B	1	-	3	17
Hepatitis C	8	3	5	17
Histoplasmosis	-	1	-	1
Influenza (hospitalized)	7	1	-	151
Legionellosis	-	-	1	2
Lyme Disease	18	2	35	41
Measles (Rubeola)	-	-	-	-
Multisystem inflamm. Syn. in Children MIS-C	-	-	-	1 *New
Mycobacterium (non-tuberculosis)	6	-	5	1
Norovirus Outbreak	9	1	-	-
Pesticide related disease	2	-	-	-
Pertussis (whooping cough)	20	3	-	18
Salmonellosis	3	5	1	4
Syphilis	1	-	2	4
Invasive Strep Disease	7	1	1	2
Latent TB infection	0	-	2	5
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	-	1	-	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1763</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>2,738</b>

In addition to the continued COVID-19 pandemic, Health Unit staff responded to the national outbreak of Monkeypox (now called Mpox). There were no confirmed cases of Mpox in Green Lake County in 2022, but several suspect cases that needed follow-up and monitoring.

The Health Unit partnered with the Green Lake Association (GLA) and Green Lake Sanitary District to pilot a new Blue Green Algae monitoring program. The GLA tested water samples at four locations around Green Lake for the presence of blue-green algae toxins. Results were used to inform the community of potential beach advisories or closures by the health department. Throughout this testing season, one potential bloom was identified, and that beach was quickly closed. Communicable disease funding was used to support this effort.

### Public Health Preparedness

We are an active member in the Region 6 Healthcare Coalition and attend monthly meetings in addition to being active partners in the Local Emergency Planning Committee. We participated in several exercises working closely with Gary Podoll, Emergency Management Director, local law enforcement, fire departments, hospitals, nursing homes, Red Cross, and surrounding counties to test our ability to handle a variety of public health issues and concerns.

### Immunizations for Children and Adults

We have monthly immunization clinics in Green Lake and a home visitation program with Allison Krause to provide immunizations to the Amish community. Due to the ongoing pandemic, home visits were on hold for the beginning of the year. In June, we were able to restart our bi-monthly home visits to the Amish Community with 4 clinics between June and December. A total of 6 immunizations given at the home visits.



Our immunization rates increased to 39% for our cohort who are completely vaccinated by age 2. That is up 1% 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. We have offered clinics this year in the community at all of the schools as well. We focus on the school aged children at the school-based clinics, but we do vaccinate younger siblings at these clinics as well if eligible. WIC has started offering in-person visits this year but they are utilizing their new mobile unit. The unit and WIC staff are in the parking lot during WIC instead of in the building. However, they are continuing to do almost all visits via phone instead of in person. This has drastically reduced the number of children under the age of 5 that we see for appointments.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

COVID-19 vaccine efforts were a priority throughout all of 2022. The company AMI started holding COVID-19 clinics in the government building in January 2022. AMI was able to hold a “Walk-in Wednesday” almost every week totaling 51 clinics providing 1,393 vaccines. In addition to the AMI clinics, **378 COVID-19 vaccines were administered** by Health Unit staff in 2022.

## Dental

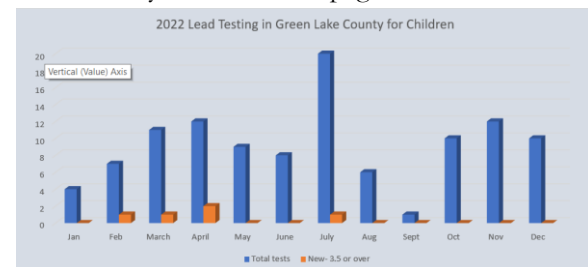
We contract with Carrie Knurowski, Dental Hygienist, to provide services to Head Start and school age children for cleanings. Carrie provides services in Marquette and Fond du Lac counties as well. Carrie also provides sealants for school aged children through the Seal-A-Smile program. In 2022, she was able to bill over \$61,000 to MA and BadgerCare for dental services. 477 children were screened and provided fluoride treatments. 41

children had sealants placed. 202 children had prophylactic cleanings performed and 151 referrals were given for further care/treatment. This program provides dental needs in our county that are greatly unmet due to providers not accepting patients with MA/Badgercare.

## Childhood Lead Testing

As of 2022 the CDC decreased the lead level of concern in children from 5 ug/dl to 3.5 ug/dl. Nancy Gimenez, RN and Jessica Jungenberg, environmental specialist with the Tri-County Consortium continue to partner to provide lead assessment and education to families with children having elevated blood lead levels. In 2022 there were a total number of 112 tests done for lead in children in Green Lake County. Out of these tests, there were 5 children with elevated capillary blood lead levels ranging from 4-12.2 (three in the 3.5-9.9 range, and 2 in the 10 and over range). All families were contacted via phone, assessed, and provided with verbal and written information via e-mail.

Two articles on the dangers of lead in children were published in the Berlin Journal in 2022 to increase awareness of the problem. The first was 5/5/22, and the second was during Lead prevention week, October 23-29. Additionally, 3 Facebook posts were also added to the Green Lake County Public Health page.



## Mother, Child and Family

**There were 207 births in Green Lake County as compared to 199 in 2021, 180 in 2020, and 187 in 2019.** All new moms receive a large manila pack with various information regarding baby care, mom's health, and home safety, along with a letter from Nancy, encouraging families to use



Green Lake County Health Department as a resource. Veteran moms receive an abbreviated version of this as well. Nancy provided follow up calls to all moms whether they are veteran or new moms. These calls help provide education and connect families to much needed resources that may help prevent a multitude of issues and strengthen families. Some of the programs that families were referred to in 2022 because of phone conversations include, Children's Wisconsin Program, First Breath, Wisconsin Works, Well Badger Resource Center, various lactation consultants, dental services, and WIC.

Nancy Gimenez also reached out to Thedacare-Berlin, Birth Unit staff to provide general education on what G.L. County nurses receive on the birth report and the outreach that we do with each mom. This helps the staff understand what we provide as a baseline service. They were encouraged to continue sending referrals for cases that may have special or more urgent needs. Rachel Prellwitz performed 12 car seat checks and was able to provide 10 free car seats due to a grant we received from Thedacare. One hundred percent of those who had car seat installation checks reported an increase in knowledge regarding proper use of a car seat. Car seat education continues to be a high priority as proper car seat use, when installed correctly, 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. New WIC Director, Michelle Burington, started in February of 2022 and new nutritionist,

Rebecca Schneider, began in March of 2022. WIC began offering in person appointments in June and averaged less than 10 in person visits per month. Families continued to prefer phone appointments. The Mommy and Me breastfeeding group was offered all year, with average monthly attendance of 4 moms. THIS-WIC Telehealth Grant through Tufts University has been underway. The grant is to test a new platform for conducting remote WIC services and making nutrition education more valuable. The state WIC office is still collecting data on surveys completed by participants to determine if this telehealth solution will continue past the research period (ends April 2023). Staff held diaper/toy drives in January, March, October, and November with over 350 families served. WIC staff also participated in various community events such as fairs, touch a truck/national night out, farmers markets, parades, etc. Annual participation for all those served by Family Health La Clinica WIC for 2022 were as follows: 58 pregnant women, 192 postpartum women, 184 infants <12 months and 524 children aged 1-4 years old.

## Diabetes Prevention Program

Diabetes and prediabetes continue to be an overwhelming problem in our county as in the rest of the country. It is estimated that 1 of every 3 adults now has prediabetes, which if left unnoticed generally turns into diabetes within 5 years.

We know that diabetes that is not well controlled can lead to many complications such as heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, limb amputation blindness and more. The best strategy is to prevent diabetes.

In 2022, we were able to start a CDC recognized diabetes prevention program and secured approximately \$100,000 in state grant funding to help. See Timeline below (on page 4) for work done up to the start of our first group.



The Green Lake County National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) opened its first class on 8/17/22 with 11 participants. To date, all participants remain in the group. Although we haven't even reached the half-way point in the first group, we are starting to see some impressive results. 6 participants have already met the weight/activity or A1C goals that the CDC sets to indicate success. In fact, 4 participants have already lost 20-30 pounds each, and another 3 have reduced their A1Cs, indicating improved glucose control. The group is very engaged, and well attended.

A second group has been identified, and 12 enrollees will begin their class on 1/11/23. This group will be held at the Berlin Senior Center to increase accessibility to more people. A third group has started to fill for the spring, with 4 people signed up so far.

Despite losing Julia McCarroll as a life coach for the NDPP program, new health educator, Lauren Olson, has agreed to be part of this program and attained her life coach certification before the end of 2022. We look forward to continued success and growing the program.

## Tri-County Environmental Health Environmental Issues Addressed

During the calendar year of 2022, the following was completed in Green Lake County:

### Facility Inspections:

Pre-inspections: 40  
Follow up pre-inspections: 13  
Routine inspections: 186  
Re-inspections: 4  
Complaint investigations: 1

### Other Activities:

#### Animal Bites—

- 30 dog bites (4 dogs euthanized for rabies testing- all negative)
- 6 cat bites/scratches (2 cats euthanized for rabies testing- both negative)
- 8 bats sent in for rabies testing (all negative)
- 1 horse sent in for rabies testing (negative)
- 1 raccoon sent in for rabies testing (negative)

#### Well Water Concerns—3

Meth House Placards—None

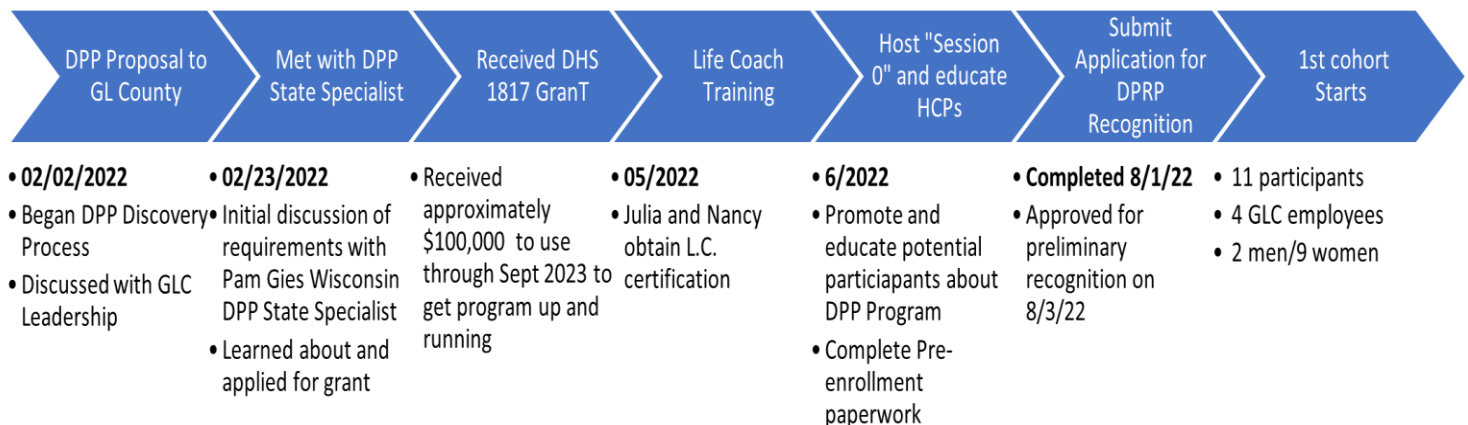
Housing Inspection Cases—6

Nuisance/Other—17

Radon Kits Distributed—88

Water Kits Distributed—58

### 2022 DPP Timeline below





The Health Unit also received a \$5,500 grant for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning prevention in 2021 to be implemented in 2022. The Health Unit used funding to perform the following activities:

Provided carbon monoxide detectors to those who are at highest risk for carbon monoxide related illness. 102 carbon monoxide detectors were distributed to a variety of community members (including all 9 local fire departments) and partner agencies. An additional 42 battery operated carbon monoxide detector remain on hand to continue to attempt to distribute to our Amish families during routine home visits by our public health nurse.

Implemented 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.

- We did two print media campaigns in our local newspaper which reaches nearly all the county's 19,000 residents.
- We also partnered with our DHHS Aging Unit to run a press release in their Senior Newsletter which also reaches around 975 county residents.
- In addition, we distributed posters to all 5 of our county's campground with information specific to CO safety while camping.
- We also partnered with a local bait shop to display the DHS fact sheet on CO Safety while boating and providing checklists for anglers to take to make sure they were taking steps to stay safe while boating.
- Finally, we partnered with a local boat dealership to distribute educational information on CO safety while boating. They included our fact sheet with all of their bill mailings for the month of July.
- In addition to print media, we also ran five different social media posts on carbon monoxide safety.

## Prevention Activities

A portion of Prevention grant funds were used to update the Health Unit's internal strategic plan. We contracted with Blue Door Consulting to facilitate the development of our new 5-year strategic plan. We have held 4 planning sessions so far and hope to have a completed plan by March of 2023.

In March 2022 Nancy Gimenez completed her Advance Care Planning (ACP) Facilitator certification (along with Kristen Dorsch from the Aging unit). Kristen and Nancy provided informational booths at several locations throughout Green Lake County during National Health Care Decisions Week in April 2022. Various information was provided about the importance of advance care planning. Nancy and Kristen offered one on one assistance to those who have more questions or need help creating documents that support ACP. An article about the importance of ACP, as well as a Facebook campaign, was completed in April of 2022.





Green Lake County reenlisted as an active member of a multi-jurisdictional tobacco coalition. This coalition, recently renamed, East Central Alliance for Nicotine Prevention, uses evidence-based strategies to prevent tobacco use by youth, educate on the hazards of new and current tobacco products including e-cigarettes, identify policies to reduce the initiation of use by youth and continue to prevent exposure of second-hand smoke, and conducts tobacco compliance checks to ensure tobacco retailers comply with tobacco laws, using the state-wide science-based program WI Wins. Throughout the year, in addition to compliance checks, contact with tobacco retailers is made through education, trainings, and mailings. Julia McCarroll worked with staff from the Behavioral Health and Children and Families Unit to develop a Vaping Prevention Program to be presented at area schools. In addition, Julia taught the “Catch My Breath”, tobacco prevention program, at Princeton Schools with School Resource Officer Keith Kiupelis.

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 “What is Public Health?”. The booth provided information and resources on all the supports and services the Health Unit provides.

Staff attended National Night Out hosted by the Berlin police department on August 2, 2022. Staff provided education on carbon monoxide poisoning prevention to parents and children. We were able to give out carbon monoxide detectors to those who needed them.

### Health Equity

Green Lake County Health Department is working to strengthen our communities by expanding opportunities to be healthy. The Health Unit wants to make sure all residents and visitors have a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Internally, our department is continually

learning more about social determinants of health and how they relate to health disparities, strategic planning has started to assist our department in addressing gaps, we continue to find and develop relationships with communities that are disproportionately impacted and will be working to assess our policies and procedures to improve health outcomes in our county.

Green Lake County Health Department continues to work alongside our partners in the Central WI Health Partnership (CWHP). CWHP is still focusing on improving health outcomes by addressing disparities. While the consortium was making progress in finding strategies to address the transportation disparity, a staffing change paused the efforts. With new staff on board the goal is to move forward in 2023 to find opportunities and strategies that would improve accessibility of transportation in our communities, across the six-county partnership.

### Opioid Prevention Activities

We continue to be a member of the Alliance for WI Youth (AWY). Our regional prevention center that brings together other groups, individuals, and resources for substance use prevention efforts and youth development work. While the alliance no longer provides stipends for attending meetings, they do offer free monthly trainings, quarterly meetings with many resources and grant opportunities to apply for funds to be used for prevention activities. Through previous funding from AWY, we continue to make available and distribute medication lock boxes to keep prescription drugs safe in our county. Funding has been requested through AWY for 2023 to provide additional support to our permanent drug drop box sites, increasing Naloxone (Narcan) education in the community, and supporting a community event in partnership with our Opioid Fatality Review Team.



Green Lake County continues to participate in the Tri-County Overdose Fatality Review team (along with Marquette and Waushara Counties). This team continues to review closed decedent cases that were due to opioid use with a lens that overdose deaths are preventable. We aim to complete 4 case reviews annually (quarterly, rotating counties). In between case reviews, we have quarterly education meetings regarding opportunities for understanding within our team or learning more about programs and challenges in our rural part of Wisconsin. We also have quarterly implementation meetings to review what we have done as a team as well as to plan, develop and execute new ideas to increase education and awareness in our communities with the hope of leading those at high risk to prevention, harm reduction and recovery services. A Tri-County Community event was held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Markesan High School to promote education and bring awareness to our rural community. This featured a keynote speaker with lived experience, a remembrance ceremony for families that have lost a loved one due to substance use, vendors of local services to promote harm reduction, recovery/community support and a call to action for our communities. The event was very well attended for our first-time hosting with plans to hold events annually going forward.

We continue to collaborate with DHS, DOJ and the Medical College of Wisconsin (along with other OFR teams throughout the state). Director, Amanda Thoma and Team Facilitator, Lisa Rollin will be attending the National OFR Summit that will be held in Washington D.C. on 1/19/23-1/20/23.

We are in the fourth and final year of the OD2A grant cycle. DHS fully anticipates a new grant opportunity to be available for OFR teams to receive ongoing funding once this year is complete.

## Staffing Update

Staffing changes this year include the resignation of Renee Peters as our Birth to 3, Children's Community Options and CLTS Coordinator as she moved out of state. It was decided in collaboration with HHS Director and Children and Families Unit to move the position to be within the Children and Families Unit instead of housed within the Health Unit.

Other staff changes include the resignation of Shari Krause as our Public Health Specialist in May of 2022. This position will potentially be combined with another to create a new position of Community Health Worker in 2023.

Julia McCarroll resigned as Deputy Health Officer/Health Educator in August of 2022. Lauren Olson is her replacement and began her role with Green Lake County on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Our 3 additional contact tracers that we hired at the end of 2021 to assist us with COVID-19 case investigations and follow-up, stayed on board with us through the height of the pandemic with employment ending in April of 2022.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



## 2022 in Pictures-



2022 Green Lake County Fair Booth: "What is Public Health?"



Nancy Gimenez, along with Kristin Dorsch in the Aging Unit, provided education on completing an advanced directive for healthcare at area libraries and senior centers the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>. Community members are able schedule appointments to complete Advance Directives with Nancy/Kristin.

Staff attended the "We Heart You: Recovery in Our Community" Conference. The purpose of the event was to break the silence of addiction, reduce stigma of recovery and save lives by connecting the community to resources.







PHN Allison Krause assisted All Saints School with Arbor Day activities.



Health Unit Retreat held on August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Green Lake Conference center. Annual mandatory trainings completed, and Emotional CPR class held.



The Health Unit partnered with the Green Lake Association (GLA) and Green Lake Sanitary District to pilot a new Blue Green Algae monitoring program.





Emergency Preparedness tabletop exercise held in the Emergency Operations Center on October 27<sup>th</sup> with Emergency Manager, Gary Podoll, and other partners.



Internal Strategic Planning sessions facilitated by Blue Door Consulting

Green Lake County Health Department's first group of participants of the Diabetes Prevention Program appearing both in person and virtually!

