

Green Lake County Health Department

2023 Annual Report

Prepared by:

Green Lake County Health Department Staff

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Table Of Contents

Message from the Health Officer

Meet Our Team

Our Organization

Health Equity

CHA/CHIP

Disease Control and Prevention

Public Health Preparedness

Immunizations

Dental

Nutrition WIC

Childhood Lead

Mother, Child and Family

Diabetes Prevention Program

Tri-County Environmental Health

Community Health and Prevention



Message from the Health Officer

I am proud to present you with the 2023 Annual Report. The Green Lake County Health Department's Annual Report provides a snapshot of the health status of our community and the work we do to improve the overall health of Green Lake County. Our work is done in partnership with individuals, families, organizations, and the public. We focus on all factors that affect health: health behaviors, social and economic factors, clinical care, and the physical environment. The core functions of public health and the 10 essential public health services provide structure to our mission.

This year continued to be a year of resilience and recovery for our team and our communities. As we continue to step away from heavy COVID work and back into the work we are passionate about, we recognized that the pandemic changed our communities and our team. We engaged in an extensive strategic planning process to regroup, refocus, and develop a comprehensive plan to help our employees get their feet back under them and redevelop our foundation as a department. We look forward to implementing the strategies identified in our new plan throughout 2024 and beyond.

The Health Department also completed our Community Health Assessment (CHA) as required by WI State Statue. The CHA is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the health of our community. After compiling data from the CHA, we prioritized the top health concerns to create the 2023-2028 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The finished assessment and plan will be available early 2024! We look forward to working with the Green Lake County community to continue to improve the health and well-being of our residents.

Sincerely,

Rachel Pullwitz

Rachel Prellwitz, RN



Meet Our Team



LAUREN OLSON

As Deputy Health Officer and Health Educator of Green Lake County I work on a variety of health topics; from tobacco prevention, physical activity and nutrition, car seat education, substance use prevention, community outreach, education on a variety of topics, working with our schools, and our community health improvement plan (CHIP).



ALLISON KRAUSE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Allison's focus is primarily on investigating all communicable diseases, work on our emergency preparedness plans and providing immunizations to adults and children. We carry most vaccines including flu, tetanus and all childhood vaccines. She also provides home visits to the Amish and provides a variety of health education individually and in classrooms.



NANCY GIMENEZ PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

The areas that Nancy is primarily responsible for at Green Lake County are: Managing the Diabetes Prevention Program, coordinating the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, following up with new moms/families and assisting them to find resources and services to support them. She also provides 1:1 advance care planning, and assists the other PH staff with vaccinations, community events and more.



Meet Our Team



LISA ROLLIN PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Lisa's focus was supporting Public Health with the COVID pandemic. Since the needs in COVID/pandemic management has reduced, her attention has shifted to being a Diabetes Prevention Lifestyle Coach and helping with our Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.



KYLE ALT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

As the health inspector Kyle licenses and inspects food facilities, lodging facilities, campgrounds, pools and rec-ed camps. The other large part of his job is responding to human health hazards in the community. Kyle uses chapter 154, health and sanitation, of Green Lake County's code of ordinances to address these concerns."



Mission

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

Vision

We will become a leader in public health in Green Lake County promoting healthy people, thriving communities and safe environments.





As public health has evolved to address the complex health issues of today, health departments have transitioned to a Public Health 3.0 model that is population-based, focusing more on policy change, community-wide interventions, collective impact, and improving the social determinants of health (SDOH). SDOH are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and play and these conditions in part contribute to health disparities and inequities. In order to create social and physical environments that promote good health for all we must



Our communities

Access to health

Employment

Examples of Social Determinents of health

approach problems through a health equity lens.

The Green Lake County Health Department is committed to ensuring health equity for all residents. In the past year, and as we continue to move forward, we have made improvements in addressing health disparities and promoting health equity through our programs, partnerships, and initiatives.

Family income





Community Health Assessment (CHA)

Every 5 years, the Green Lake County Health Department is required to develop and implement a health plan that addresses health conditions that affect the communities. We began the process of the health assessment in the beginning of 2023. This health assessment is a collection of data through community surveys, focus group conversations, and secondary data analysis. A steering committee made up of local organizations, agencies, and citizens, helped to guide this 6-month process.



Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Continuing beyond our health assessment, we then develop an improvement plan. This is where the goals, measurable objectives, and implementation strategies are set to address the top health priorities chosen.

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Access to Care-Medical

Improve access to health care, including medical and dental services in Green Lake County.

Strategy 1: Connect and educate on preventative services to improve healthcare access and navigation in Green Lake County.

Strategy 2: Ensure residents of Green Lake County have access and knowledge of resources to support a healthy life.

Access to Care-Dental

Improve access to health care, including medical and dental services in Green Lake County.

Strategy 1: Planning and coordination of services and activities to increase awareness about dental health in Green Lake County.

Strategy 2: Coordination of prevention and education efforts to improve dental services in Green Lake County.



Substance Misuse

Prevent or reduce substance misuse among youth and adults in Green Lake County.

Strategy 1: Build collaboration and capacity of substance use prevention Strategy 2: Coordination of prevention, education and services related to Narcan Distribution Program, and alcohol and other drug misuse programs. Strategy 3: Expand the use of promising practices, evidence based or adaptive based practices to improve treatment services.



Mental Health

Build a culture of mental wellness throughout Green lake County.

Strategy 1: Support countywide collaborative efforts to reduce suicides and promote mental health prevention, and treatment services.

Strategy 2: Coordination of prevention and education related to mental health programming and services in Green Lake County. Strategy 3: Coordination of mental health prevention and education for children and adolescents.

Strategy 4: Expand the use of promising practices, evidence based or adaptive based practices to improve treatment outcomes.

Disease Control and Prevention



Public Health is required by state 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. The above graph shows total number of cases reported to Green Lake County Health Department over the last 5 years.

The Health Unit again partnered with the Green Lake Association (GLA) and Green Lake Sanitary District (GLSD) on the Blue Green Algae and E. Coli beach monitoring program. The GLA & GLSD tested water samples at locations around Green Lake for the presence of blue-green algae toxins and E. Coli. Results were used to inform the community of potential beach advisories or closures by the health department. Throughout this testing season, two beach advisories/closures were issued. Once conditions improved, beach closures were lifted. Communicable disease funding was used to support this effort.

Public Health Preparedness

Allison Krause is our Public Health Preparedness Program Coordinator for Green Lake County. We continue to be an active member in the Region 6 Healthcare Coalition attending monthly meetings and participating in various preparedness exercises throughout the year. In addition, we are also active partners in the Local Emergency Planning Committee with Emergency Management.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and a handful of other public health emergency planners, including Allison, are participating in a Public Health Emergency Plan re-writing/updating committee. This will lead to our emergency preparedness plan to be aligned with surrounding counties' plans as we update ours within the next year.

Allison attended a 3-day training for Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) at the Waupun Fire Department in April. HSEEP provides a set of guiding principles for PH Preparedness exercise and evaluation programs. The training also provides a framework for a common approach to exercise program management, design and development, in addition to conducting, evaluating, and improvement planning. Allison is now a certified HSEEP evaluator.







Immunizations



We have continued with monthly immunization clinics in Green Lake and a home visitation program to provide immunizations to the Amish community. Due to low interest in immunizations since COVID, we have started focusing efforts to increase vaccination rates in all communities with some new locations for vaccination. This fall we provided staff and vaccinations at several of the school's back to school open house events. This proved to be beneficial to parents offering required school vaccines at school.

For our cohort turning 2 years of age this year, benchmark immunization rates of having vaccines completed before their 2nd birthday decreased to 37%. That is down 2% from last year. This data does include all Amish children. Our immunization rate of all 2-year-olds meeting immunization requirements was 47% this year. Again, this is a 2% decrease from last year. We continue to encourage all 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 also are continuing to offer home visits to Amish families and other families with transportation issues. WIC has continued utilizing their new mobile unit in the parking lot during WIC instead of in the building and providing more phone visits than in person. This is continually reducing the number of children under the age of 5 that we see for appointments.



Dental

We contract with Carrie Knurowski, Dental Hygienist, to provide services to Head Start and school age children for dental 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 2023, Carrie was able to bill over \$65,000 to MA and Badgercare for dental services.



MA/Badgercare.

NUTRITION/WIC



WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children – offering nutrition education, healthy foods, breastfeeding support, and referrals for healthcare providers and community services to those participating.

2023 WIC Participation

All served by Family Health La Clinica WIC



WIC Clinic Updates

In Green Lake County, WIC helped many income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants and children ages 1-4. WIC transitioned off federal COVID waivers in August, at which time the new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) waivers began. These new waivers are active through September 2026 and require WIC staff to make concerted efforts to collect height, weight and hemoglobin through referral data from providers, or in person WIC appointments. Since the transition to hybrid services, there have been many families returning to the WIC clinic for height, weight and hemoglobin measurements (averaging 30-40 per month), and there have also been great efforts to obtain this information from doctor offices. WIC remains flexible to meet the needs of the families, and added 4 additional locations (2 of which are in Green Lake County – the Tri County Boys & Girls Club in Berlin and the Princeton Public Library) where families can come in person for appointments on the mobile unit.

WIC Outreach

WIC provides a breastfeeding peer mentor, which is an invaluable resource to new mothers. The Mommy and Me breastfeeding group was offered all year, with very low attendance causing December to be the last month of this offering. WIC will continue to explore other options to support breastfeeding mothers through the peer counseling program, including planning to add a bilingual Spanish speaking Hispanic breastfeeding peer counselor in 2024. WIC also applied for the <u>USDA Breastfeeding Gold Award of Excellence</u> in December which is a measure of the quality of the breastfeeding peer counselor programming and overall breastfeeding initiation and rates.



THIS WIC Telehealth Grant through Tufts University wrapped up mid-year. The platform being tested was deemed a success and plans are underway to roll out the Online Nutrition Education system statewide in 2024.

WIC is focusing on building stronger relationships with healthcare providers and breastfeeding professionals to increase referrals and awareness of the services offered. Staff held a diaper drive/flu clinic in partnership with medical staff at the Wautoma clinic in September with over 100 infants/children receiving diapers and 13 flu shots administered. Outreach such as WIC staff visiting with clinical and lactation staff at local hospitals and clinics to offer WIC informational presentations will continue into 2024. WIC staff also participated in various community events such as children's health day, fairs, family adventure day, touch a truck/national night out, farmers markets, parades, etc.



Childhood Lead

Lead assessment and education is a service provided by Green Lake County Health Department. A partnership of a Public Health Nurse and an Environmental Health Specialist with our Tri-County Consortium.

*In 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the blood level reference value to 3.5mch/dL (Previous value was 5mch/dL). Any child with a venous blood lead level of 3.5mcg/dL or higher is considered lead poisoned.

At Green Lake County Health Department, all families who have children with a level of, or over, 3.5ug/dl (regardless of if it is venous or capillary), are attempted to be contacted by phone to perform an assessment and provide education, which is then followed up with an e-mail containing various educational handouts and county contact information. Those families that the nurse is unable to contact, have letters sent to their home, and the health care provider is notified if there still is no response. For those children presenting with a capillary test above 3.5 ug/dl, parents are instructed of the need for confirmatory venous blood lead testing and instructed when to obtain this.

Outreach and education to retailers and the public was done during an "applesauce product recall" that was found to have elevated lead levels in it.



Green Lake County Health Department pg. 15

138

Total blood level tests completed for children residing in Green Lake County



Children with elevated confirmatory venous blood lead levels (VBLL) ranging from 3.7-6.3 ug/dL *Continue to be followed

*None of their levels were over the 10ug/dl level, so no home visits were required, however each of these 4 cases were offered a home visit and declined.



Mother, Child and Family

To help support healthy family development, Green Lake County Health Department provides outreach and education to all families when a baby is born. Outreach is done through phone support and mailings.

Births in 2023 vs. 207 in 2022

4.6% Smoked during pregnancy vs. 9.52% in 2021 **6.7%** babies born low birthweight vs. 6.19% in 2021

Programs and resources that families have been referred to because of our outreach include Children's Wisconsin Program, First Breath, Wisconsin Works, Well Badger Resource Center, various lactation consultants, dental services and WIC.

58.76%

women received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester

"Women who receive early and regular prenatal care are more likely to have healthy infants," (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Guidelines for Perinatal Care, eighth ed., 2017).

Car Seat Program

The Green Lake County Health Department offers car seat checks to anyone in Green Lake County free of charge. The Health Department has two certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) who educate caregivers on the proper selection, installation, and use of car seats and booter seats. This program allows eligible, low-income caregivers to receive car seats and booster seats for free. It is supported by local and state grant funds and/or donations.

2023 Activities/Outreach

- Secured Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) grant funds to help sustain the program
- Provided parents with education on car seat safety, including outreach with the Plain Communities
- Both Child Passenger Safety Technicians attended the Annual Governor's Conference on Highway Safety-Car Seat Track



of those who had a car seat
installation check reported having
an increase in knowledge of proper car seat use.

Green Lake County Health Department pg. 16

25 Total number of car seats were given to families along with

education.

Diabetes Prevention Program

Diabetes and prediabetes remain overwhelming problems in our county like the rest of the country. It is estimated that 1 of every 3 adults now has prediabetes.

When left unnoticed, prediabetes generally becomes diabetes within 5 years. It is well known that when diabetes is not well controlled, it 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, Green Lake County Health Department initiated a CDC recognized diabetes prevention program (DPP), which continues to positively impact many people in Green Lake County.



Attained Full Plus CDC Recognition through the Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program (DPRP), after collecting a year's worth of data from the program and meeting certain standards.

*This was the first step in becoming a Medicare supplier to allow us to start billing for this program in 2024, for long term sustainability.

2023 Program Highlights



The first cohort completed their year-long program in August 2023. Most of the participants met their weight loss and activity goals. This single group had a collective weight loss of 181 pounds!



Worked with Wisconsin DHS who helped create multiple video testimonials for Green Lake County DPP, using participants from the first two cohorts and is currently being promoted not only locally but at a state level.



An additional staff member achieved their Lifestyle Coach certification, making for 3 coaches now able to teach. Interest in the program continues to increase, as we saw starting 3 more cohorts in 2023. Total number of people who have enrolled to date is 54.

Tri- County Environmental Health



Water Kits Distributed— 84 (not including test kits distributed for land conservation well water program)

Well Water:

Concerns/Investigations: 9

The Health Department participated in a well water testing project in collaboration with the Land Conservation Dept. distributing 150 free water test kits to residents, with focus on wells located in the Townships of Princeton and Dalton. A community meeting was held on June 5th to go over results and provide education/resources on mediation for wells that tested over public health standards.

Community Health and Prevention

Opioid Fatality Review Team

Green Lake County finished the grant cycle as a Tri-County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team (in partnership with Marquette and Waushara Counties). In looking at how our team was operating, it became clear that proceeding with further grant funding would present several challenges for the Tri-County, and it was ultimately decided that each county would proceed with a joint death review team rather than the OFR format.



Overdose Awareness Event

Despite transitioning out of OFR, the team utilized grant funding to partner with the Jezwinski family to host a Tri-County overdose awareness event that was held on July 15th called **Dash for the 'Stache** in Jake Jezwinski's memory.

This event was held in Redgranite and started with a fun 1 mile or 5k walk/run, followed by live bands, presentations from Rise Together and Tree House Central. All proceeds from the run/walk, food sales, and raffles were given to the Jezwinski family, who is starting a foundation in Jake's name. From this event, Jake's legacy is continuing to impact Green Lake County!





The Jezwinski family has generously donated \$2,000 to assist in hosting a presentation for Green Lake County schools from Rise Together in 2024. Green Lake County will then continue to build connections with our schools to bring awareness, education, and hope to our youth regarding substance misuse.

Community

Narcan Trainings

offered

Opioid Overdose Awareness



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ealth and Human		
	ANYONE can be at risk of an overdose if they take prescription or non-prescription opioids.	
	Help save lives by bal	

Community Health and Prevention

Tobacco Prevention and Control

Green Lake County is a member of the East Central Alliance for Nicotine Prevention. This multi-jurisdictional coalition is made up of Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Fond du Lac Counties, with Fond du Lac being the lead.



EAST CENTRAL ALLIANCE for Nicotine Prevention

With coalition funding, Tobacco Prevention Earth Day events took place in April, with students at two parochial schools in the county.





Tobacco Compliance Checks were completed

19

WI Wins

The Wisconsin Wins (WI Wins) campaign is a sciencebased, state-level initiative designed to decrease youth access to tobacco products. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services contracts with local partners to conduct investigations to establish retailer compliance with the law. Direct outreach is done with tobacco retailers and the community throughout the year.



WYWINS

CATCH My Breath is an evidence-based youth vaping prevention program for grades 5-12 that has been proven to substantially reduce students' likelihood of vaping.

5th-8th grade students have received this education. Collaborations with more schools will happen in 2024.

General Outreach

The Health Department continues to work to educate the public through news and social media outlets.



Articles published in local newspapers totaled 35 in 2023.

Green Lake County Health Department pg. 20



accounts in 2023.



www.facebook.com/glcdhhs

Community Health and Prevention

Advanced Care Planning

Advance Care Planning helps adults at any age or stage of health understand and share their personal values and preferences regarding future medical care. It is a gift you give your loved ones to help them make choices about your care. A partnership of our Public Health Nurse, Nancy Gimenez and Kristen Dorsch in the Aging Unit, who are both certified Advance Care Planning Facilitators.



3

Informational Sessions People participated in the informational

sessions

42

These sessions focused on increasing awareness about the importance of ACP, promoted discussion of the topic and provided all supportive material necessary to begin having advance care planning talks with loved ones. The facilitators also offered State of Wisconsin appropriate advance directive documents to those ready to complete such forms.

Coverdell Stroke Prevention

care plan

At the end of 2022 Green Lake County became a Coverdell Community Stroke Partner, to help address the issue of stroke throughout our county. The benefits of participating as a Coverdell Community Partner include: •Free stroke community education materials •Networking and community of practice opportunities with other Coverdell Community Partners •Technical assistance to answer questions regarding stroke and stroke prevention

Invitations to stroke education opportunities
 Recognition on the state stroke program website





Contact Us



920-294-4070



https://www.greenlakecountywi. gov/departments/health-humanservices-health-unit/

