

# 2024 **Annual Report**



Prepared by:

County Health

Department Staff

Presented by: Rachel Prellwitz



Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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### Message from the Health Officer

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share the progress being made in safeguarding the health of our community, particularly in addressing our top 3 health priorities as identified in our Community Health Assessment in 2023. Those top 3 health priority areas include: Access to Care (Medical and Dental), Mental Health and Substance Misuse.

This year we also began to implement activities listed in our strategic plan that we developed last year as we work towards the following goals:

- Goal 1: Become the area's trusted resource for health and wellness, creating a culture of health.
- Goal 2: Strengthen, expand and diversify partnerships.
- Goal 3: Build a strong, high-functioning team.
- Goal 4: Meet people where they are.

The Health Department also completed our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) as required by WI State Statue. After compiling data from the Community Health Assessment in 2023, we prioritized the top health concerns to create the 2023-2028 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The finished plan aims to improve the health and well-being of our residents.

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. Community organizations and other stakeholders play a vital role in helping us to achieve our goals. I encourage all community members and stakeholders to actively participate in health promotion activities and to support public health initiatives.

Sincerely,

Rachel Prellwitz, RN

Rachel Fullwitz





## Meet Our Team



**LAUREN OLSON**DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER

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. Allison Is also now a Certified CPR Intructor and Stop the BLeed trained.



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."

## Our Organization

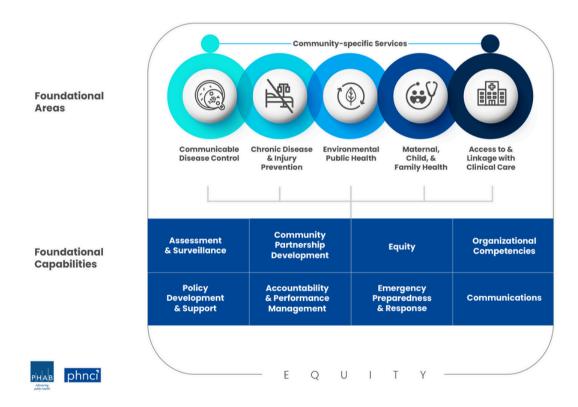


#### Mission

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.



### **Health Equity**

In order to create social and physical environments that promote good health for all we must 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, we continued to make improvements in addressing health disparities and promoting health equity through our programs, partnerships, and initiatives.



**Equality** gives us all the same resources.

**Equity** gives us what we need.

# Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Every 5 years, Green Lake County Health Department, pulls together organizations, agencies, and community members, to gather information about the health needs of our county and make a plan with strategies to address any gaps. A description of these strategies is shown below with an update of what was completed during the first year.



#### **Access to Care-Medical**

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

 Developed outreach materials aimed to bring awareness to free or discounted preventative medical services available to Green Lake County Residents.



#### **Access to Care-Dental**

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

 Partnering with Bridging Brighter Smiles to host dental clinics for postpartum or pregnant mothers and children ages 1-4 that are on Medicaid/BadgerCare.



#### **Substance Misuse**

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

- A **substance use prevention coalition** with the vision of *Green Lake County fosters a thriving and safe drug free community*, was developed. The coalition has representatives from healthcare groups, government agencies, non-profits, and community groups.
- In partnership with Berlin EMS, a Narcan Leave Behind program was implemented. This project enables EMS staff to leave naloxone on-site with patients that experience a suspected overdose and their support network.
- Through a partnership with Unity Recovery Services and Waushara SHINES, Green Lake County offers Peer Support Services, with walk-in hours, one day a week.

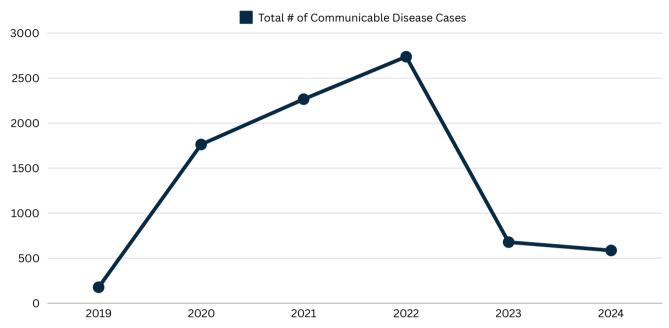


#### **Mental Health**

Build a culture of mental wellness throughout Green lake County.

- Green Lake County HHS continues its efforts of Zero Suicide and work towards system wide transformation towards suicide prevention.
- Working with schools and school-based therapists to create efforts of positive mental health and mental health awareness among youth.

### **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 6 years.

In 2023, Wisconsin had 51 confirmed cases of Pertussis. At the end of December 2024, Wisconsin has had over 2,300 confirmed cases. By comparison in 2024, Green Lake County had 66 potential cases of Pertussis with 8 of those being positive.

Other high communicable diseases for Green Lake County continue to be COVD-19, Influenza and Chlamydia.

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, five beach advisories/closures were issued. Once conditions improved, beach closures were lifted. Communicable disease funding was used to support this effort.

Pictured: Andrew Jeanetta (GL Association) Lisa Reas (GL Sanitary District), Rachel Prellwitz (GLC Health Dept.), Kyle Alt (GLC Health Dept.), Stephanie Prellwitz (GL Association)



## 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.



This year, Allison attended the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) on scholarship for a day long Rural Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) workshop in Cleveland, Ohio. Approximately, 65 PHEP coordinators from across the country in rural settings met to discuss their challenges in preparedness and how NACCHO can help coordinators with their preparedness plans. This group of coordinators still continues to meet virtually once a quarter.

Allison participates in several emergency preparedness workgroups and coalitions.

- The bi-monthly Fox Valley Healthcare Emergency Response Coalition (FVHERC) meetings, along with the Fox Valley Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) meetings.
- The Association of Public Health Nurses Emergency Preparedness & Response Committee is preparing a paper on the importance of nurses in emergency preparedness.
- The Wisconsin Public Health Emergency Management (WPHEM) advisory group. The purpose of this group is to create a Wisconsin professional certification program to be recognized as a professional field of practice among public health and emergency management.

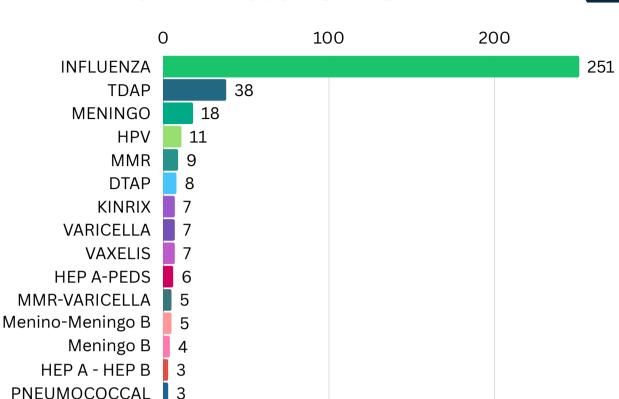
In partnership with Emergency Management and many other county partners, a full-scale preparedness exercise was held on October 15th focusing on Cybersecurity.

The purpose of this exercise was to improve the core competencies of cybersecurity, situational assessment, intelligence and information sharing.

Right: Picture of Green Lake County Cybersecurity Exercise held in October



### **Immunizations**



For 2024, we decided not to host monthly immunization clinics as our numbers each month were extremely low and have changed to accepting appointments that better meet persons' schedules. We have continued our home visitation program to provide immunizations to the Amish community and have observed an uptake in vaccine acceptance. The Health Department is also focusing efforts to increase vaccination rates in all communities with adding new locations for vaccination. This fall we provided vaccinations in a variety of locations throughout the county for both back-to-school and influenza vaccines, including a Saturday clinic.

VACCINES PROVIDED IN 2024

Green Lake County children appropriately immunized by the age of 2

**HEP B-PEDS** 

**HEP B-ADULT** 

2

1

POLIO 2

Right: Picture of Green Lake County staff providing vaccines in schools.

## **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 2024, Carrie was able to bill over \$60,000 to MA and Badgercare for dental services.

367

Total number of children who were screened and provided fluoride treatments

163

Total number of children that had prophylactic cleanings performed

86

Total number of children that had sealants placed

94

Number of referrals given for further care and treatment

This program provides dental needs in our county that are greatly unmet due to providers not accepting patients with 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.

#### **2024 WIC Participation**

All served by Noble Community Clinics formerly Family Health La Clinica

987

Total number of individuals served

**57**Pregnant women served

**211**Postpartum women

180 Infants under 12

**539** Children ages 1-4 \$10,112

Spent on fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets from June-October with the Farmers Market Nutrition Program

#### WIC CLINIC UPDATES AND OUTREACH

Green Lake County WIC has continued operating hybrid under ARPA waivers. WIC continues to have monthly clinics at the Tri County Boys and Girls Club and the Green Lake County Government Center. They also have a clinic in Princeton every other month at the library.

Unfortunately, WIC was not able to add a bilingual breastfeeding peer counselor last year. The breastfeeding peer counselor continued supporting all WIC families with breastfeeding though. She supports families from the prenatal period all the way through weaning.

WIC continues to build connections with local healthcare providers to optimize referrals and sharing of health screening data (height, weight, hemoglobin).

Lastly, WIC continues to partner with Jake's Network of Hope/The Hub/Eastern WI Diaper Bank to provide families in need with diapers or pull ups on a recurring basis.







New this year, WIC has been successfully offering dental screenings for children through the Noble mobile dental team in Wautoma. The first clinic was held in July, and held another in December. Green Lake County residents who participate in WIC are eligible to participate at no charge regardless of insurance status.

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## 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 3.5 mcg/dL (Previous value was 5mcg/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 a child with a blood lead level of 3.5 mcg/dl or over (venous or capillary),

- are contacted by phone to perform an assessment and provide education.
- followed by an e-mail containing supplemental educational handouts and county contact information.

Families that the nurse is unable to contact, have letters sent to their home, and the health care provider is notified.

For children presenting with a capillary test above 3.5 mcg/dl, parents are instructed about the need for confirmatory venous blood lead testing and instructed when to obtain this.

## In 2024 Wisconsin DHS recommended universal lead testing for:

- All children at age 1
- ALL children at age 2
- Any children between ages 3-5 without a previous test



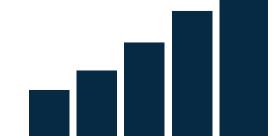
220

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

5

Children with elevated confirmatory venous blood lead levels (VBLL) ranging from 3.7-15.2 mcg/dL\*

\*One home visit was made with the nurse and environmental specialist to identify potential lead sources which resulted in a rapid reduction in the child's lead level



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# 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.



207

Births in 2024 vs. 194 in 2023 4.83%

Smoked during pregnancy vs. 4.6% in 2023

4.83%

Babies born low birthweight vs. 6.7% in 2023

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.

61.35%

Women received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester vs. 58.76% in 2023

"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.



#### 2024 ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH

- Secured Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) grant funds to help sustain the program
- Provided parents with education on car seat safety at Berlin Family Night
- Provided booster seat education to all kindergarten and first grade students at Clay Elementary in Berlin.

Total number of car seats were given to families along with education.

94%

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

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# Mother, Child and Family

#### PLAIN COMMUNITY HOME VISITING

The Green Lake County Health Department has been providing home visiting to the Plain Community since 2018. During the pandemic, home visiting was stopped until 2022. The health department has been working for the last two years to re-build a relationship with the Plain Community.

Currently, Lauren and Allison provide bi-monthly home visits to the Plain Community. They provide immunizations, free car seats, water testing, well baby checks, resource information and answer any health questions. Many times, they go to a home expecting to provide one service and end up providing others as well.

### CENTRAL WISCONSIN PUBLIC HEALTH PLAIN COMMUNITY COALITION

The Central Wisconsin Public Health Plain Community Coalition started several years ago with Green Lake County, Columbia County and Marquette County public health. All three counties provide home visiting and services in the same Plain Community. In 2024, as the Plain Community is growing, the coalition has invited Waushara County, Adams County, Juneau County, Dodge County and Fond du Lack County to join.

This coalition meets quarterly throughout the year. We coordinate education topics and share the knowledge and information we learn in the Plain Community during our home visiting.

For the last two years, the Central Wisconsin Public Health Plain Community Coalition has been invited by the Plain Community to showcase Public Health's knowledge and offered services at the Tri-County Auction in June. Each county had staff available throughout the day. Pictured is some of the information available at this event in 2024.

**53** 

Home Visits

23

Water Tests

20

**Immunizations** 

19

Carseats

9

High Nitrates

2

Bacteria positive



## 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 serious complications including heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, limb amputation, blindness and more. The best strategy is prevention. In 2022, Green Lake County Health Department initiated a CDC recognized diabetes prevention program (DPP), which has positively impacted **82 individuals!** 



Green Lake County DPP
continues to maintain
Full Plus CDC
Recognition through the
Diabetes Prevention
Recognition Program
(DPRP)

Attained Medicare supplier status in 2024, supporting sustainability of the program!



Eight, year-long cohorts have been started since 2022.
4 cohorts have completed the program with a combined weight loss of **623 pounds!** 

### 2024 Program Highlights



"I have completed the wonderful program over a year ago and I am still reaping the benefits. I've lost over 60 pounds and maintaining my weight because of the habits I've learned over the past year. My food choices, portion control and of course continuing getting 150 minutes of exercise in a week is now routine. My lifestyle coach was awesome ...understanding, informative and always there for us whenever we need additional guidance." -Cookie T.



Average weight loss per participant is 14.7 pounds!

## Tri- County Environmental Health

The Tri-County Environmental health Consortium makes sure that the food we eat, the water we drink, and the conditions of our homes are safe by:

- Inspecting and licensing establishments
- Monitoring beaches and well water testing
- Investigating home lead hazards and providing radon test kits
- Performing human health hazard and nuisance investigations
- Monitoring rabies cases

During the calendar year of 2024, the following was completed in Green Lake County:

#### **FACILITY INSPECTIONS**

27

**Pre-inspections** 

204

Routine inspections

9

Re-inspections

11

Complaint investigations

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** 

38

Animals Quarantined

5

Number of animal samples processed

4

Housing complaints

1

Sewage issue

10

Nuisance/Other

2

Well water concerns/investigations

36

Radon test kits distributed

**72** 

Water test kits distributed

To raise awareness around radon in homes, the Health Department sells home radon test kits for \$7. During Radon Action Month in January, test kits are discounted to \$5.





The Health Department again participated in the annual 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 10th to go over results and provide education/resources on remediation for wells that tested over public health standards.

EXIT NO S

# Community Health and Prevention



#### TRI-COUNTY DEATH REVIEW TEAM

Green Lake County, in partnership with Marquette and Waushara Counties, formed a joint death review team in August of 2023. The Joint Death Review Team's purpose is to examine the circumstances surrounding a death, typically focusing on preventable factors, to identify systemic issues and recommend changes in policy or practice to prevent similar deaths from occurring in the future.



Cases Reviewed in 2024: 5

#### -- ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PREVENTION ----

Green Lake County supports and promotes community-based efforts to prevent alcohol and other drug misuse.

 $\begin{tabular}{l} \textbf{189 lbs} \\ \textbf{of medication gathered from permanent drug drop box locations during spring and fall take back events.} \\ \end{tabular}$ 

Throughout the year, various outreach materials are promoted to bring awareness to substance misuse and resources in the community, including billboards.







In August, the Health Department pulled together various agencies, organizations, community groups and community members, to the "Call to Action on Substance Use Prevention." That meeting has now evolved into a substance use prevention coalition to all work towards the same goal of making Green Lake County a place that fosters a thriving and safe drug free community.



# 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.

The Tobacco Coalition
Coordinator and Lauren met
with two schools to work on
reviewing their tobacco
policies and handbook
protocols regarding tobacco
and nicotine use and
possession on school
grounds.





### 19

Tobacco Compliance Checks were completed

5

Public and media outreach activities completed

#### **WI WINS**

The Wisconsin Wins (WI Wins) campaign is a science-based, 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.

#### **CATCH MY BREATH**

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.

246

5th- and 7th grade students have received vaping prevention education.



In February, we partnered with <u>Rise Together</u>, a team of national advocates, whose mission is to educate, engage, and empower young people to use their voices for change. Their focus is on preventing substance use and promoting positive mental health.



All middle school students in Green Lake County participated in a school event and heard Rise Together's message. Over 40 community members joined Rise Together for an evening event.

# Community Health and Prevention



#### **ADVANCED CARE PLANNING (ACP)**

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.



ACP is a partnership of our Public Health Nurse, Nancy Gimenez and Kristen Dorsch in the Aging Unit, who are both certified Advance Care Planning Facilitators through Respecting Choices.

Kristen and Nancy continue to offer ACP community presentations to increase awareness and encourage creation of ACP documents before they are needed. One on one training is also available, includes all material needed, and is **FREE!** 

#### GENERAL OUTREACH ---

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

Content published on Facebook reached 44,500 accounts in 2024.

Articles published in local newspapers totaled 32 in 2024.











## **Contact Us**



920-294-4070



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