



Green Lake County
Health Department

2025 Annual Report



Prepared by:

Green Lake
County Health
Department Staff

Presented by: Rachel Prellwitz, Health Officer



Green Lake
County Health Department

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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Message from the Health Officer

Reflecting on the past year, I am very proud to present this annual report. Our department has made progress in meeting the needs of Green Lake County residents by carrying out the 10 essential foundations of public health and addressing our top 3 health priorities as identified in our Community Health Assessment: Access to Care (Medical and Dental), Mental Health and Substance Misuse.

We are a very small department where all staff need to wear multiple hats. With Green Lake County being rural with limited resources, staff often need to think outside of the box and be creative when addressing health needs. Unstable, and inconsistent funding is also a huge challenge for our department.

A few highlights from this past year include:

- Holding our first annual Community Day and Sports Camp at Princeton School on July 17th. In partnership with Terrace Shores Church, middle school and high school students had the opportunity to attend a ½ day sports camp choosing from 5 different sports options. We also held a resource fair which included free haircuts, diaper giveaway, sports physicals, numerous local vendors and a free community meal. It was very well attended, and we look forward to an even more successful 2nd year!
- Growth of our Green Lake County United for Prevention Coalition. The coalition has continued to have consistent attendance at meetings, chosen a name, developed a vision statement and logo, and held several trainings. See page 20 for more information.
- Our Diabetes Prevention Program. Late in 2025 Nancy and Lisa started their 10th cohort of this year-long program. They have worked tirelessly to ensure the sustainability of this program by collecting over \$10,000 in insurance claims through Medicare. In 2025, 32 new participants (in 3 separate cohorts) joined the Diabetes Prevention Program. One group completed their year-long program with a total of 147 pounds lost collectively!

We have a lot to be proud of this year but also can't forget to thank all of our new and continued partners that help support the work we do. Please enjoy this summary of our programs and activities we have accomplished throughout 2025.

Sincerely,

Rachel Prellwitz, RN



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).

Highlight of 2025: Building a strong substance use prevention coalition, Green Lake County United for Prevention. It's exciting to see all the partners that come together to work on these efforts to prevent and reduce substance use within Green Lake County.



ALLISON MEYER PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Allison's focus is primarily on investigating all communicable diseases, updating 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 a Certified CPR Instructor and Stop the Bleed trained.

Highlight of 2025: Held 24 CPR classes with 158 participants throughout the county. Participants included law enforcement, teachers, 7th and 8th graders, daycare staff, and general residents who want to learn CPR.



NANCY GIMENEZ PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Nancy is primarily responsible for the following areas at Green Lake County Health Department: Managing the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), coordinating the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, and providing outreach to all postpartum moms/families following the birth of a baby to assure families have the needed resources and services to succeed. She also provides 1:1 advance care planning, and assists the other PH staff with vaccinations, community events and more.

Highlight of 2025: Hosted the tenth cohort of the Green Lake County DPP, with a milestone of over 1,000 collective pounds lost!

Meet Our Team



LISA ROLLIN
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Lisa maintains close collaboration and engagement in the Diabetes Prevention Program as a Lifestyle Coach. She also participates in ongoing efforts of our Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan as a facilitator of our substance use prevention coalition, Green Lake County United for Prevention. As a part time employee, she assists in other areas of focus as needed by the team.

Highlight of 2025: Facilitating the Diabetes Prevention Program and co-facilitating Green Lake County United for Prevention. It is just amazing seeing people work together for common goals in our community!



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."

Highlight of 2025: Successful transition to Rural Environmental Health Alliance.

Our Organization

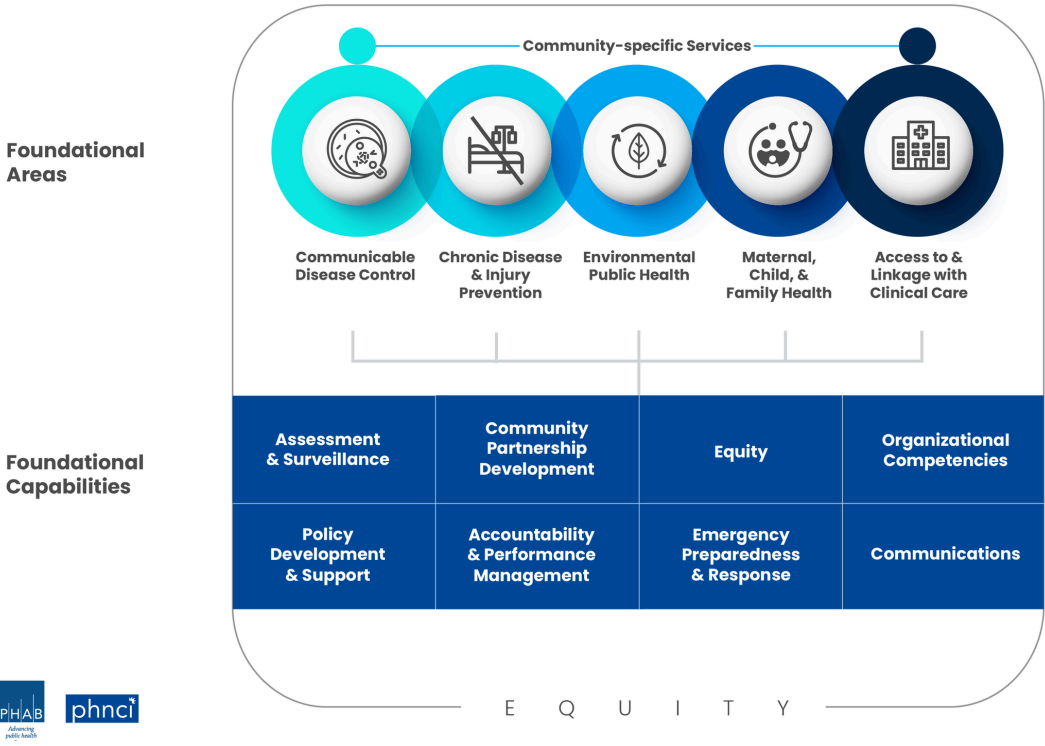


Mission

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 year two.



Access to Care-Medical

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

- Distribution of 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.

- Continued to pursue possible opportunities, through various organizations and agencies, for bringing mobile dental care for those on Medicaid/BadgerCare in Green Lake County.



Substance Misuse

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

- New Narcan distribution outreach efforts have been made to make it more accessible to residents.
- Through our Central WI Health Partnership consortium, efforts are being focused on supporting those in recovery and building a recovery community.

*See page 20 for more information related to Green Lake County United for Prevention, our substance use prevention coalition.

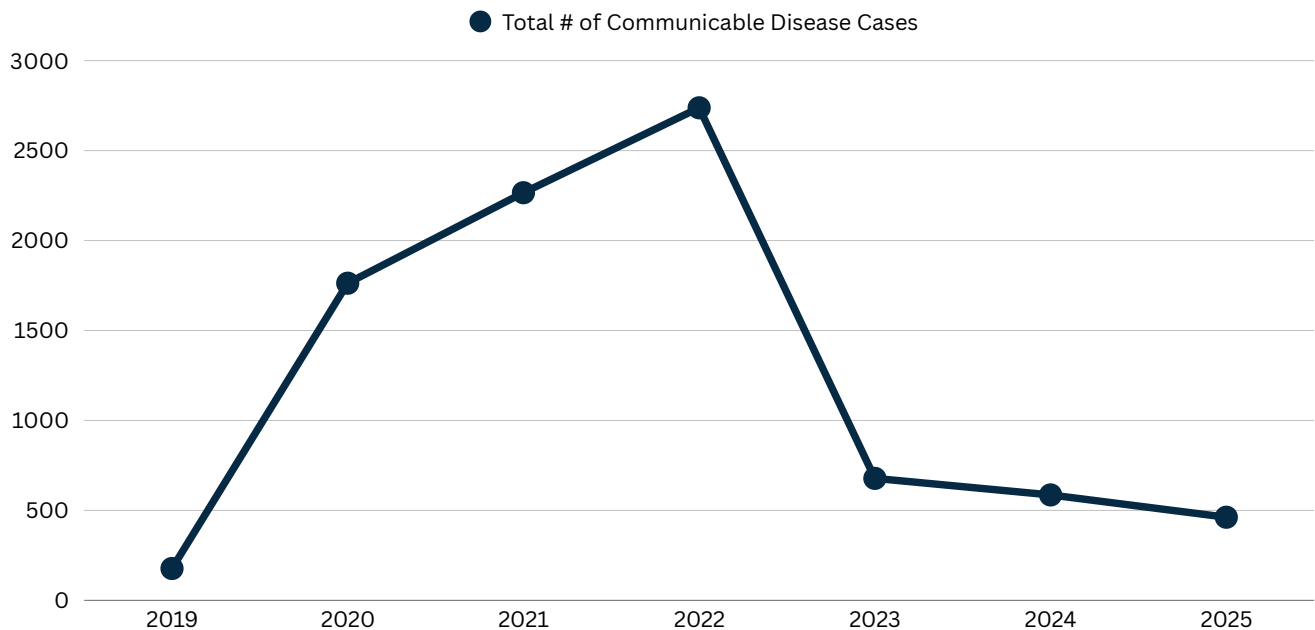


Mental Health

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 and promoting resources available.
- Working with all school districts to support youth groups within the schools to work on positive mental health efforts and sharing resources.

Disease Control and Prevention



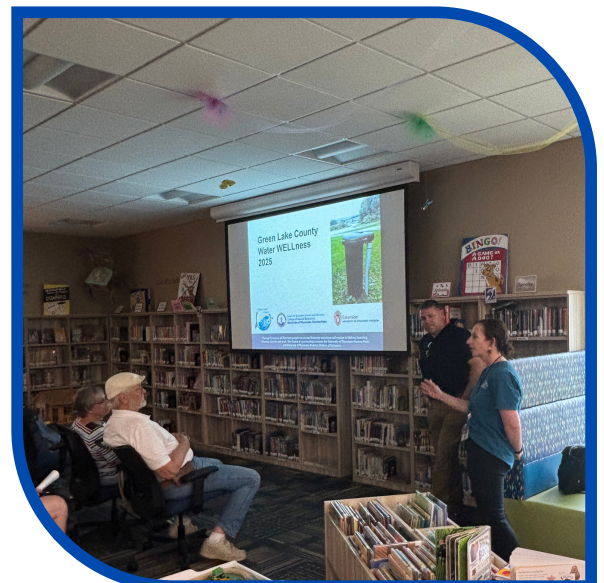
Public Health is required by state statute to follow up on acute and communicable diseases. Using the WI Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), we are able to monitor trends and track outbreaks as they occur. The above graph shows total number of cases reported to Green Lake County Health Department over the last 7 years.

Respiratory illnesses continue to be Green Lake County's most reported communicable disease with Influenza being the highest. COVID-19 and RSV remained high in 2025. However, Pertussis was down from 26 cases in 2024 to 11 in 2025.

Other diseases that remain high were Lyme disease and Chlamydia. One disease that was higher than typical for Green Lake County was Latent Tuberculosis (LTBI). LTBI is not contagious to others but does need to be investigated and treatment provided. Based on some DHS WI requirements, some clients on treatment need to be observed weekly taking their medications. This is called Directed Observed Therapy (DOT). LTBI with treatment and LTBI is not a disease reported frequently in Green Lake County. However, in 2025 there were 7 LTBI cases investigated. 3 of those 7 clients needed treatment with 1 of them requiring DOT for 12 weeks.

The Health Unit continues to partner 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, six beach advisories/closures were issued. Once conditions improved, beach closures were lifted. We also partnered with UW Stevens Point and GLC Land Conservation to hold our annual well water testing program.

Pictured: Todd Morris (GLC Land Conservation Dept) and Rachel Prellwitz (GLC Health Dept.) at June 11th GLC Water WELLness presentation at Princeton Library



Public Health Preparedness



Allison Meyer 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 in emergency preparedness, Allison has been working with the All Saints Regional Catholic School and Law Enforcement to develop an emergency action plan for them. In August, Allison held a table top exercise for the staff at the school. The focus of this exercise was to prepare staff for an active shooter within the school.

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.

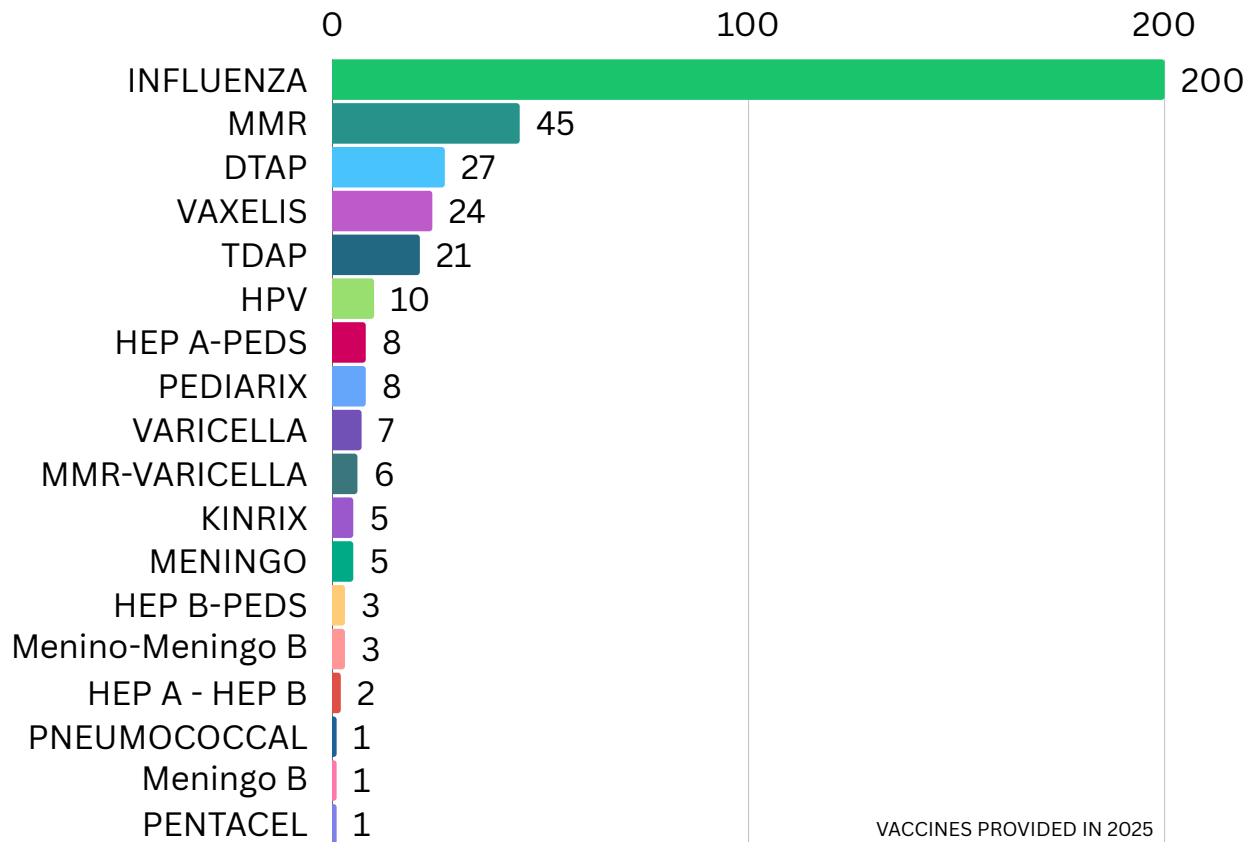
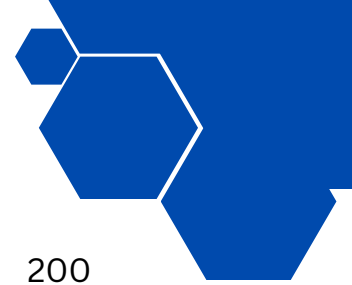
Measles Table Top Exercise

In May, the Health Department hosted a Measles Table Top Exercise for the staff and board members of the Care4U Clinic in Dalton. Members attending included the Care4U volunteer nurses, physicians and Amish Community members from Green Lake County, Marquette County and Columbia County. Public Health staff from the previous three counties also attended.

The focus of the exercise was to refresh the staff's knowledge of measles and develop a plan of action if a suspect measles patient presented to the clinic.



Immunizations



In 2025, we have provided 377 vaccines throughout the year. We have continued our home visitation program to provide immunizations to the Amish community and have observed an uptake in vaccine acceptance particularly with the MMR vaccine. The Health Department is also focusing efforts to increase vaccination rates in all communities with adding new locations for vaccination and this fall we provided vaccinations at a Saturday clinic.

44%

of Green Lake County children who turned 2 years old in 2025 are fully vaccinated per DHS recommendations



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

Dental

Dental services to Prairie View Head Start children in Green Lake County for the end of school year 24-25 were provided by Carrie Knurowski, Dental Hygienist. At the start of school year 25-26, Prairie View transitioned to having services provided by Bridging Brighter Smiles, which also serves students in all 4 school districts within Green Lake County. Going forward, Bridging Brighter Smiles will provide dental cleanings, sealants, and fluoride treatments to all school-aged children in Green Lake County.

319

Total number of children who were screened and provided fluoride treatments

272

Total number of children that had prophylactic cleanings performed

282

Total number of children that had sealants placed

6

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.

**Please note that previous annual reports included data from Marquette County

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.

2025 WIC Participation

All served by Noble Community Clinics formerly Family Health La Clinica

924

Total number of individuals served

46

Pregnant women served

178

Infants under 12 months

198

Postpartum women

502

Children ages 1-4

\$3,800 **Impacted by budget delays/cuts

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. This temporary waiver is expected to expire in September 2026. 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 extremely understaffed for all of 2025 and were not able to implement any new programs or initiatives. They were able to offer their Dental Day in 2025, but this has cancelled for 2026 due to lack of interest.

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.



Childhood Lead

Lead assessment and education is a service provided by Green Lake County Health Department. It is an important service provided through a partnership of a Public Health Nurse and a shared Environmental Health Specialist with Marquette County.

*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 to have lead poisoning.

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.

In 2024 Wisconsin DHS recommended universal lead testing for:

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

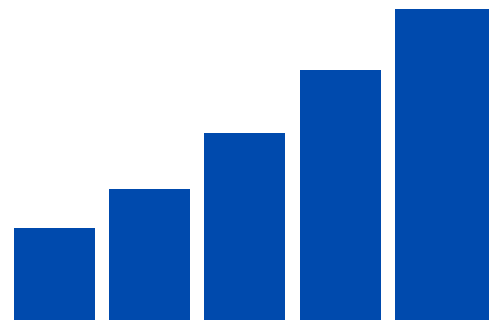


206

Total blood lead level tests completed for children residing in Green Lake County in 2025

4

Children with elevated confirmatory venous blood lead levels (VBLL) ranging from 3.5- 8.8 mcg/dL



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.

 **209**
Births in 2025
vs. 207 in 2024

3.35%
Smoked during pregnancy
vs. 4.83% in 2024

6.22%
Babies born low birthweight
vs. 4.83% in 2024

61.24%
Women received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester vs. 61.35% in 2024

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.

“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 booster 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.



2025 ACTIVITIES/OUTREACH

- Both Certified Car Seat Technicians attended the Car Seat Conference to earn their CEUs needed for their bi-annual recertification.
- Car seat education and outreach through social media reached over 4000 people!

38
Total number of car seats were given to families along with education.

95%
Of those who had a car seat installation check reported having a significant or moderate increase in knowledge of proper car seat use.

Mother, Child and Family

PLAIN COMMUNITY HOME VISITING

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.

While many Amish groups actively prohibit tobacco and alcohol, it was brought to our attention this year that the nation-wide youth vaping epidemic had hit our local Amish families. Through our bi-monthly mailings, we devoted a month to sending vaping and nicotine education and awareness to families. We worked with a local retailer to help with signage to discourage purchasing products for underage youth. We also worked with our local Amish Liaison, with our Sheriff's Office to meet with the Amish School Board Representative to discuss the possibility of education in the schools or to parents. We continue to have conversations with families that reach out seeking assistance with this issue.

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.

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.

67

Home Visits

111

Immunizations

13

Water Tests

13

Carseats

5

Carbon Monoxide
Detectors

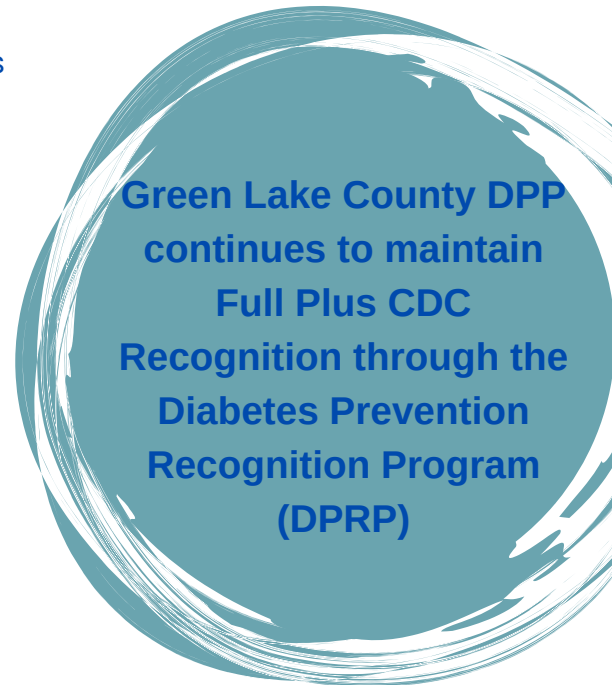


Diabetes Prevention Program



Diabetes and prediabetes remain overwhelming problems in our county like the rest of the country. It is estimated that more than 1 of every 3 adults now has prediabetes, yet most aren't aware.

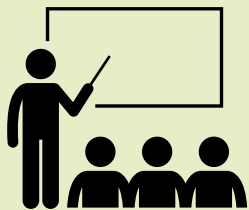
When left unaddressed, prediabetes generally becomes diabetes within 5 years. It is well known that when diabetes is not well controlled, it can lead to serious complications including heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, limb amputation, blindness and more. The best strategy is prevention. In 2022, Green Lake County Health Department initiated a CDC recognized diabetes prevention program (DPP), which has positively impacted **102 individuals!**



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



Continue to be a Medicare supplier which supports sustainability of the program!



2025 Program Highlights



Testimonial from a participant who lost 30 pounds in the program:

"I have learned so much. The class was a judgement free zone. There is a great sense of accomplishment when you start feeling better and stronger, and moving into smaller sizes wasn't bad either!"- Anonymous



In 2025 the Green Lake County DPP saw a few important milestones: The program held its 10th cohort and surpassed a combined weight loss of **1,000 pounds!**

Average weight loss per participant is 10 pounds, but some have lost over 50 pounds in the program!

Rural Environmental Health Alliance



The Rural Environmental Health Alliance 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 in partnership with other organizations 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 2025, the following was completed in Green Lake County:

FACILITY INSPECTIONS

34

Pre-inspections

247

Routine inspections

7

Re-inspections

6

Complaint investigations

OTHER ACTIVITIES

40

Animals Quarantined

6

Number of animal samples processed

0

Housing Abatements

6

Nuisance/Other Abatements

2

Well water concerns/investigations

65

Water test kits distributed

40

Radon 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.

Radon Test Kits Available

Why test for radon?

- Radon is an odorless, invisible gas
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers
- Radon is present in 10% of Wisconsin homes

Short term test kits are available for purchase at the Green Lake County Health Department for: **\$7**

Visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon to learn more!

JANUARY IS RADON ACTION MONTH

TEST KITS AVAILABLE

Green Lake County Health Department
571 County Road A, Green Lake
Questions? Call 920-294-4070

Available during normal business hours
Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

Short-term test **Only \$5**
January 1 Through January 31, 2024

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 Kingston. A community meeting was held on June 11th to go over results and provide education/resources on remediation for wells that tested over public health standards.



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 2025: 6

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 worked with a community member to present to Berlin City Park & Rec Committee to educate and discuss having smoke free parks. It was approved through Park & Rec as a recommendation to the city. Education and awareness of smoke free parks continues to happen.



94%

Tobacco compliance rate for retailers checked.

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.

VAPING PREVENTION EDUCATION

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. Starting in September we transitioned to the Stanford University program, You and Me Together Vape Free, which is also an evidence-based program including elementary to high school programs.

156

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



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.

Articles published in local newspapers totaled **32** in 2025.

Content published on Facebook reached **307,858** accounts in 2025.

FLU VACCINE CLINIC
 Hosted by the Green Lake County Health Department

Tuesday, October 14, 2025
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
 Green Lake County Government Center,
 571 County Road A, Green Lake, WI
 NO registration. Walk-in only

FIGHT THE FLU!

Adults on Medicare or Medical Assistance can receive their vaccine with no upfront cost. You MUST bring your Medicare card & Supplement Card or Forward Card. Adults with private insurance can receive the vaccine for a cost of \$40.00. Adults with no insurance, please call our office to discuss eligibility. **ALL school aged children (3-19) are eligible to receive their flu vaccine for no cost.**

High Dose flu vaccine available for those age 65 and over.

Flu Vaccine is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older.

May is

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

→ The best way to prevent lyme disease is to prevent tick bites.

Summer FOOD Safety

Food should not sit out long than **2 hours**, or **1 hour** if the outdoor temperature is **above 90°F**.

Toss perishable foods if left out longer to be safe.



www.facebook.com/glcdhhs

Community Health and Prevention

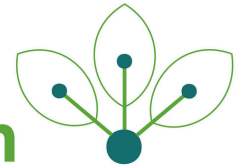


SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

COALITION WORK

Health Department staff continue to lead efforts of Green Lake County United for Prevention, a county substance use prevention coalition which has been active since August 2024. The coalition hosts regular meetings with individuals from various organizations and agencies that serve within Green Lake County.

GREEN LAKE COUNTY
**united for
prevention**



LANGUAGE MATTERS EVENT

With grant funding that the coalition received, an event titled, “Unraveling Stigma Through Language and Prevention,” was held in September. This event aimed to spotlight that how we speak about substance misuse and mental health matters to those that it affects. This event included separate presentations for professionals and the general public.



120

People attended the Language Matters event.



100 Deterra drug deactivation kits were distributed to participants of Meals on Wheels in Green Lake County to prevent substance misuse.

104lbs Of expired or unused prescription and over the counter medications were collected through the permanent drop boxes located throughout the county. Grant funding received through the coalition helps to support law enforcement to maintain the drop boxes.

Contact Us



920-294-4070



<https://www.greenlakecountywi.gov/departments/health-human-services-health-unit/>

