



Board of Health
 Wednesday, April 24, 2024
 4:00 PM
 Health & Human Services Center
 Community Room
 303 West Chapel Street
 Dodgeville, Wisconsin

Iowa
 County,
 Wisconsin

Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89942367786?pwd=Qy9xY3dENkdxK1ZHS3VycVozWkZlZz09>
 Meeting ID: 899 4236 7786

For information regarding access for the disabled, please call 608.935.0399

Any subject on this agenda may become an action item

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Call to Order and Welcome |
| 2 | Roll Call and Introductions |
| 3 | Approve the agenda for this meeting |
| 4 | Approval of the minutes from the February 14, 2024 prior meeting |
| 5 | Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Committee. No action will be taken. |
| 6 | <i>Presentation:</i> Troy Moris, RS, Environmental Health Coordinator – Environmental Health Program Updates |
| 7 | <i>Presentation:</i> Healthy Iowa County Community Health Improvement Plan; Healthy Iowa County website and community calendar: Geana Shemak PhD, ATC, Community Coordinator/Health Educator |
| 8 | Public Health Vending Machine – application opportunity |
| 9 | 2023 Annual Report of the Iowa County Health Department |
| 10 | <i>Public Health Program Updates:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Immunization Organizational Champion Award from Immunize Wisconsin • Communicable Disease activity including Tuberculosis; Measles • Administrative (policy approvals complete, job descriptions, 2023 Year-end Budget Summary) • Public Health Week promotional activities; Invisible Shield docuseries (PBS); Public Health Law Series • Grant application updates (Environmental Health Literacy; Immunization Outreach) |
| 11 | Monthly report (programmatic stats) |
| 12 | Next meeting date |
| 13 | Adjournment |

Posting Verified by: Debbie Siegenthaler, Director/Health Officer; Joan Davis, Chair

Date: 4.17.2024

Initials: DS



UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Board of Health
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 @ 4:00 PM
Health & Human Services Building – Community Room
303 West Chapel Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

**Iowa
County
Wisconsin**

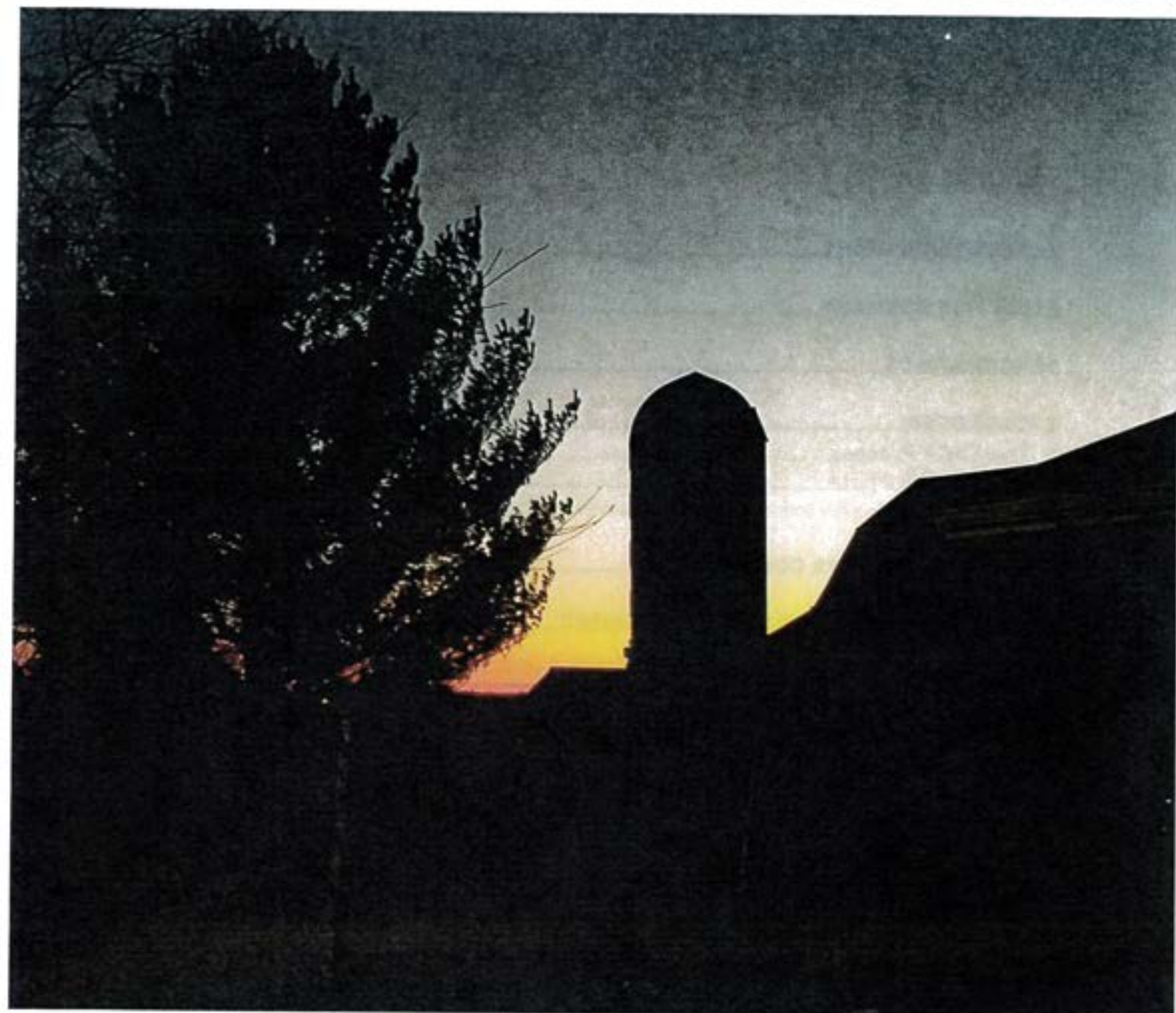
For information regarding zoom or access for the disabled, please call 935-0399

- 1 **Meeting was called to order** by Chairperson Joan Davis at 4:00 PM.
- 2 **Roll Call and Introductions:** Committee members present: Joan Davis, Tom Howard, Justin O'Brien, Gerald Galle, Dody Cockeram, Vickie Stangel and Sue Steudel. Others Present: Iowa County Health Department Director Debbie Siegenthaler, Medical Advisor Dr. Peter Mullin, Bruce Paull (via zoom), Joe Larsen, RN (Southern Region Director, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHS)
- 3 **Approve the agenda for this meeting:** Cockeram moved to approve the agenda for this February 14, 2024 meeting with the correction that Geana Shemak of the Iowa County Health Department would not be available to address the board as noted on the agenda, thus item 8 on the 2/14/2024 agenda should be removed. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4 **Approval of the minutes from the November 8, 2023 prior meeting:** O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2023 meeting. Stangel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5 **Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Committee. No action will be taken.** No reports/addresses.
- 6 **Board of Health Community Lay Member Term: Sue Steudel.** Director Siegenthaler explained that state statute requires that three lay community members be appointed to Wisconsin County Boards of Health and that at least one community member have nursing or public health background. Siegenthaler explained that Steudel's term is up in March. She noted that County Administrator Director Bierke had reached out to Steudel to ascertain whether she would be willing to serve on the board for another term but was unable to connect. Sue was asked if she had an interest in another three-year appointment. Steudel indicated that she would be willing to serve one more three-year term on the board, if asked. After this next term, Sue indicated it then time for another person to be appointed. Siegenthaler and the Board thanked Sue. Siegenthaler will update Bierke as the appointment is completed by the County Board.
- 7 **Presentation: Level II Re-certification as a result of successful 140 review/audit: Joe Larson, BSN, RN, Southern Region Director, Division of Public Health Wisconsin Department of Health Services.** Siegenthaler introduced Joe Larson to the Board and explained that he was a member of the Chapter 140 Review team that completed the Iowa County Health Department's review in May 2023. She stated that a review was conducted at least once every five years to ensure that Health Departments are in compliance with statutory requirements and to provide an opportunity for a Health Department's quality improvement. The Review team provides recommendations to the state Health Department regarding certification as a level I, II, or III Health Department.
Larson stated that Wisconsin was unique among states in providing this opportunity for review. He stated that the result of the review was that **Iowa County has met the requirements of a Level II Health Department.** He shared with the Board of Health what the review found to be three major strengths of the Iowa County Health Department:
 - 1) Community partnership and collaboration; Iowa County Health Department is a trusted partner in the community
 - 2) The Iowa County Health Department exhibits informed Policy that leads to action. He provided examples such as water testing lab development, collaboration with other counties' Health Departments, activities such as Health Department open house, etc.

	3) The support and engagement of the Board of Health and the County Board of Supervisors with the Iowa County Health Department was exceptional. Larson commended the Health Department staff for their leadership and commitment, then presented the certification certificate (on a display plaque) as a level II County plaque to Director Siegenthaler.
8	Presentation: Healthy Iowa County Community Health Improvement Plan, Health Iowa County website: Geana Shemak PhD, ATC, Community Coordinator/Health Educator. This item on the agenda has been deferred until a future Board of Health Meeting as Shemak was unable to attend to present at this February 14, 2024 meeting.
9	Public Health Program Updates: • Microbiology Water Lab: Groundwater Awareness Week promotional activities: Director Siegenthaler explained that Groundwater Awareness Week is March 10-16 and that the Health Department is planning several promotional activities. Public outreach measures include a press release being sent out regarding discounts of \$24 to 24 people on the cost of a water test kit, a drawing for a free well water test kit, radio spot(s), and social media announcements. Galle asked about the lead situation in the City of Mineral Point. She said that the Health Department had recently met with DNR and the city of Mineral Point to hear an update and advocate for funding opportunities for remedial work, timelines for action, and windows of opportunity. • Communicable Disease activity including Tuberculosis cases: Director Siegenthaler informed the Board that Iowa County currently has two active cases of tuberculosis (in 2021 Iowa County had one active case). Active cases of tuberculosis constitute a public health emergency as it is a class 1 communicable disease. This situation has resulted in a significant increase in Health Department work as intensive involvement is required in dealing with these symptomless cases (testing traced contacts for latent TB, follow-up work on medication surveillance, transportation and translation issues, laboratory work, etc.). Siegenthaler thanked many partners for their assistance and support. • Administrative Updates (policy revisions, job descriptions): Health Department employee position job descriptions are one result of the recent level II review; they are being revised currently. Several policy revisions will be discussed in the agenda item following Public Health Program Updates. • Grant application updates (Immunization Outreach, Vaping, Opioid): The Health Department was successful in writing and receiving an immunization outreach grant approved for \$35,000. A grant application to address vaping education and prevention was <u>not</u> approved. The Health Department was also awarded grant funds from the Opioid Settlement for \$700/year for 3 years to create the Healthy Iowa County website with community calendar, on behalf of Healthy Iowa County. • Public Health Week: Public Health Week will occur in April. The Health Department is currently in the planning process for promotional activities. Chair Davis asked how the Board of Health can support and/or be involved. Siegenthaler thanked her for that inquiry/offer and will follow-up.
10	Policy review and approval: edits to four existing policies and addition of a rabies control policy. Immunization Policy; Volunteer Medical Advisor Policy; Environmental Health Policy, Communicable Disease Control Policy; Rabies Control Policy – review/approval: Director Siegenthaler explained that each county Department has policies that give direction to their activities. In the case of the Health Department, the policies are Immunization Program, Volunteer Medical Advisor Program, Environmental Health Program, and Communicable Disease Program. As a note: a fifth policy for the Well Water Testing Lab was approved in September 2023. Siegenthaler had distributed copies of these policies (note: each policy has a companion procedure document each) and had asked the Board members to review them as well as a recently drafted fifth policy to address the Rabies Control Program.

	The date of the most recent modifications/edits of each policy was adjusted to March of 2024 and after minor editing changes as suggested by Board members, the following motion was made by O'Brien: Motion to accept the revisions to Policy number 601, Policy 602, Policy 603, Policy 604, and Policy 606 as made by this Board, to approve these policies as so revised, and to forward them to the Iowa County Board's Executive Committee for consideration. Motion was seconded by Galle. Motion unanimously approved.
11	Monthly Report (programmatic stats): Health Department 2024 stats through January were previously distributed to Board members. Siegenthaler stated that the Communicable Disease category includes <u>all</u> communicable diseases as well as Covid (covid included only in cases of hospitalization involvement). She stated that the TB category included both latent and active cases. Of note were increases overall in communicable disease, TB and animal bite investigations. The Health Department has been very busy.
12	Next Meeting Date: The next meeting of the Iowa County Board of Health is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 4:00 PM.
13	Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Stangel and seconded by Cockeram. Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Tom Howard, Iowa County Board of Health secretary



2023-2025 IOWA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

NOVEMBER 2023



Prepared by:
Iowa County
Health Department

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Acknowledgements

Iowa County Community Health Improvement Partners

The Iowa County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was completed because of significant input, discussion, collaboration, and participation from a broad array of stakeholders. Contributions as members of *Healthy Iowa County* included representation from community members, board members, elected officials, public health partners, city and county departments, governmental agencies, schools, medical providers and many more. Their contributions and advocacy to make Iowa County a healthier place brought great value to the process. A huge thank you to all of the individuals and organizations involved in *Healthy Iowa County* for providing input and feedback in the development of the CHIP and dedicating their time and expertise to implement goals and objectives listed in the plans.

- Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
- Community Members
- Dodgeville EMS
- Dodgeville Police Department
- Dodgeville School District
- Faith-based Organizations
- Habitat for Humanity
- Iowa County Board
- Iowa County Board of Health
- Iowa County Drug Treatment Court
- Iowa County Emergency Management
- Iowa County Health Department
- Iowa County Sheriff's Department
- Iowa County Social Services
- Public Libraries
- Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP)
- Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Unified Community Services
- Upland Hills Hospital & Clinics
- UW-Extension



Executive Summary

Community health is impacted by so many different factors within a community. The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) describes the current state of health of a specific community. The process involves hearing from stakeholders and community members about their community strengths, resources, gaps, and health needs. The CHNA informs programs and services developed to improve the health of the community.

In 2022, the Iowa County Health Department, Upland Hills Hospital, Aging and Disability Resource Center, and community partners engaged in a collaborative community health needs assessment process. The CHNA aims to prioritize needs, eliminate duplicate efforts, leverage resources, and enable collaborative efforts in implementing and tracking improvement activities. The CHNA identified the community's strengths and areas for improvement. Findings from the assessment served to promote collaboration and innovation, align expertise and partner resources towards developing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

In August of 2022, the community partners and stakeholders convened to review the CHNA data and developed a set of four broad priority areas to address the health issues the data revealed. These four areas were prioritized from the CHNA, with consideration for factors such as the scope of the issue, urgency, economic feasibility, potential for impact, availability of community assets, and value to the community.

Debbie Siegenthaler MS, RN
Director/Health Officer

Demographics of Iowa County

This Community Health Improvement Plan is about improving the health of all community members in the geographic area of Iowa County, which is located in Southwest Wisconsin.

Iowa County Public Health Region Community Profile

Arena Avoca Barneveld Blanchardville Cobb Dodgeville
Edmund Highland Hollandale Linden Livingston Mineral Point
Montfort Muscoda Rewey Ridgeway Spring Green

Population

23,560

2022 U.S.
Census Bureau



- 1 Aging Concerns
- 2 Behavioral Health (MH/SUD)
- 3 Healthy Living (Nutrition/PA)
- 4 Transportation

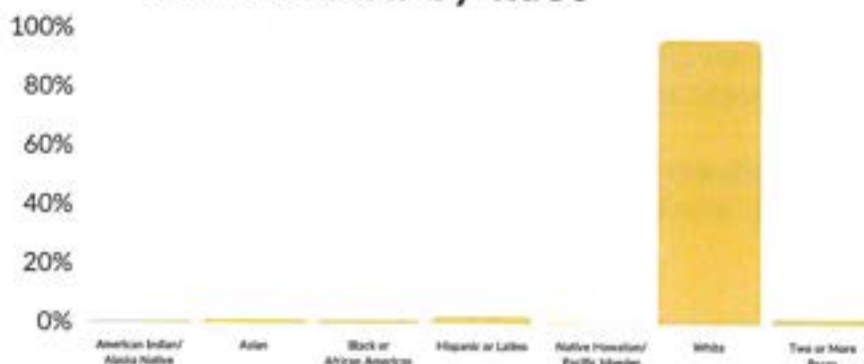
From the 2022 Iowa County Community Survey



43% of Iowa County adults
rated their health
as somewhat healthy,
unhealthy, or very
unhealthy in 2022.



Distribution by Race



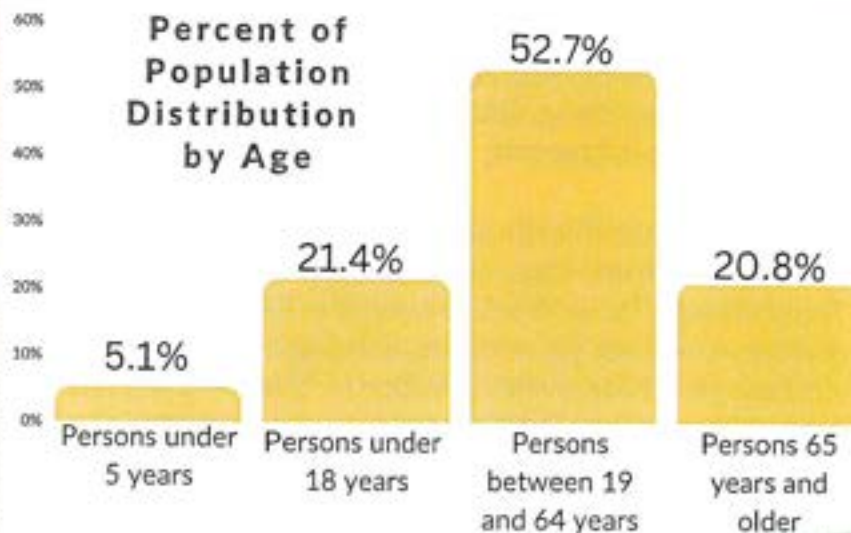
7.5%
of residents live in
poverty

8.1%
of residents (under age
65) have a disability

2.3%
of households speak
a language besides
English at home

5.4%
of persons (under
age 65) do not have
health insurance

Percent of Population Distribution by Age



The CHIP Process

Iowa County's 2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a community wide, systemic plan to improve the health in Iowa County. The plan addresses findings from the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The CHIP process involved many stakeholders including the Iowa County Health Department and Upland Hills Hospital and took place over a series of meetings throughout 2023. The plan describes how the Healthy Iowa County stakeholder committee and community partners will work to improve the health in the county. The CHIP includes goals, objectives, strategies, and resources to help improve health in Iowa County in the prioritized focus areas identified through the CHNA including:

- Aging Concerns
- Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Use)
- Healthy Living (Physical Activity and Nutrition)
- Transportation Concerns

The Iowa County Health Department and Upland Hills Hospital have conducted joint CHNAs since 2016 to measure and better understand community health in the county. The CHIP is an extension of the work and represents the ongoing efforts of Iowa County's community partners to create and implement a shared vision for providing and maintaining quality healthcare for all Iowa County residents. The 2022-2024 CHIP planning process included participation from a broad set of community partners from sectors including behavioral health, housing, those serving older adult populations, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. Findings from the most recent CHNA were carefully considered to help identify strategies that can help improve the health and advance healthy equity in Iowa County.

The Healthy Iowa County Partnership hopes that agencies and collaboratives serving Iowa County can utilize the CHIP to assist in aligning agency and community plans.

The CHIP Purpose

The purpose of this CHIP is to identify goals, objectives, and strategies for prioritized health areas identified in the most recent CHNA:

- 1) Aging Concerns
- 2) Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Use)
- 3) Healthy Living (Physical Activity and Nutrition)
- 4) Transportation Concerns

For each prioritized health area, overarching goals and community-level indicators were developed to ensure alignment and consistency across collaborative partner organizations. The plans were thoughtfully developed to leverage current community assets, mobilize partners to address the priorities, and prepare a community-wide health improvement strategic plan that provides direction for the whole community and not just a single agency. A series of in-person and virtual meetings were conducted to gather consensus on goals, objectives and strategies documented in this plan.



The two guiding principles of the process were:

1) priorities and strategies would be determined based upon the findings of the community health assessment, and

2) the process would be community driven with significant involvement from a broad set of stakeholders and partners from a variety of community agencies.

A collaborative planning process fosters a shared sense of ownership and responsibility for the plan's implementation. Collaboration to address community health priorities provides unique perspectives and additional expertise. Other community agencies and stakeholders bring valuable perspectives to the planning process and may have access to useful resources. Collaboration provides the opportunity to leverage resources, coordinate activities, and employ community assets in new and effective ways. Collaboration includes engagement with community members so that they are participants in the process and feel connected to the decisions made and actions taken. The community health improvement process is a vehicle for developing partnerships and for understanding roles and responsibilities.

Community Health Improvement Framework

Iowa County Health Department reviewed several models, tools, and framework for guidance in developing a planning process. The following were incorporated and/or adapted and used in an approach that works for Iowa County: University of North Dakota-Center for Rural Health Community Engagement Toolkit, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP), County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: Roadmaps to Health Action Center, Healthy People 2030, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) CHIP Resource Center. With guiding principles from these resources in mind, a CHIP work plan was developed outlining the framework.

The county's community health improvement initiative was named Healthy Iowa County. Healthy Iowa County unites diverse partners to collectively work to improve the health of all who live, work, worship, and play in Iowa County.



About Healthy Iowa County

Vision: Every person, family and community in Iowa County experiencing lifelong health and well-being.

Mission: Healthy Iowa County will work to engage community members and organizations to focus resources and develop and strengthen partnerships to establish sustainable, safe and healthy communities.

Kickoff Meeting

The purpose of the first CHIP meeting was to provide an overview of the purpose of the Community Health Improvement Plan, review community health needs assessment data and begin to discuss the identified priorities for action.

Community partners and stakeholders were invited to participate in a CHIP kickoff meeting on February 8, 2023. During the stakeholder meeting, participants were introduced to the CHIP planning process and informed about the Healthy Iowa County Initiative. This was an opportunity to establish a foundation of engaged stakeholders and invigorate community partners invested in creating a healthier Iowa County.

Community Action Teams (CATs)

Healthy Iowa County is comprised of four community action teams. Each action team includes diverse membership, and is focused on implementing specific strategies outlined in the CHIP. The action teams each have a specific focus and meet monthly to plan, discuss, and share progress on implementation.

The teams discussed findings from the CHNA specific to the prioritized health areas, identified root causes of health needs and disparities, current activities, and potential activities to be included in the CHIP. Group members explored the current services and gaps in the core areas of work selected for the CHIP and outlined priority strategies. During the subsequent meetings, participants refined goals, strategies, objectives, and resources within the context of the CHIP framework.

Get Involved

Visit healthyiowacounty.org to learn more about our community health improvement initiatives. Email healthinfo@iowacounty.org to sign up to join one of the community action teams.

Health Assets, Resources, and Barriers

Assets and Resources

- Engaged nonprofits
- Active coalitions for behavioral health
- Community Partnerships
- Primary Care Access
- Active Civic Groups/Social Clubs
- Food Pantries throughout the county



Barriers

- Lack of behavioral health services, especially for crises
- Lack of volunteers
- Lack of affordable childcare and early childhood activities and education
- Difficulty reaching underserved communities
- Erosion of trust and social cohesion

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

AGING CONCERNS

GOAL Reduce Falls by Increasing Awareness – Help us Help You Stay Safe in Your Home

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) By December 31, 2024, decrease the number of repeat emergency response calls to clients who continue to fall and call 911 by 10%.
- 2) By November 1, 2023, determine data we currently collect and data we desire collecting to facilitate the identification of the contributors to falls and associated process improvements.
- 3) By December 15, 2023, define a plan to address gaps in the referral process to connect those in need to resources.
- 4) By December 31, 2024, increase the number of events, posts, awareness opportunities to provide information and awareness regarding falls prevention.

STRATEGIES:

- *Identify our baseline number of emergency response calls through exploring/specifying who is (or could) track statistics. Measure the impact of the program and help determine where adjustments need to be made.*
- *Investigate and determine a tool to streamline the referral process (explore options such as a referral app or JotForm).*
- *Develop a referral form/system between EMS and ADRC.*
- *Identify numbers and brainstorm on the specific events and awareness opportunities.*

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE)

GOAL

The Mental Health Matters, Iowa County Coalition is formed for the betterment of communication, education, and the implementation of programs with a common goal of creating a healthier Iowa County for all residents.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Create and maintain a coalition of Iowa County residents that work together to improve mental/behavioral health opportunities in Iowa County.
- 2) Bring awareness to and educate on mental/behavioral health needs of Iowa County residents to reduce the stigma of mental health.
- 3) Support efforts of agencies, organizations and groups with a focus on improving mental/behavioral health in Iowa County.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

HEALTHY LIVING

GOALS Increase community awareness of resources, services and programs in Iowa County.
Increase and support safe and healthy spaces/events.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) By October 1, 2023, define and assemble an action plan for building an inventory of existing resources and services.
- 2) By November 1, 2023, assemble a plan to partner with community organizations to support events and infuse wellness to in the community.

STRATEGIES:

- *Build the Healthy Iowa County website which will include an inventory of existing resources, services, and programs.*
- *Identify partners we wish to explore opportunities with and the wellness topics/habits we wish to infuse.*

TRANSPORTATION

GOAL Increase access to community services by reducing transportation barriers.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) By the end of quarter two of 2024, we will recruit 3-5 additional volunteer drivers.

STRATEGIES:

- *Explore opportunities for volunteerism.*
- *Create a brochure to recruit volunteers.*
- *Increase visibility by attending community events.*
- *Develop a video promoting volunteerism.*

Alignment with National and State Initiatives

Alignment with Healthy People 2023

Priorities and strategies identified in the 2022-2024 Iowa County CHIP aligns with national initiatives including Healthy People 2030. Figure 1 shows alignment between Iowa County CHIP and Healthy People 2030 goals.

Figure 1: Iowa County CHIP Alignment with Healthy People 2030

2022-2024 Iowa County CHIP	Healthy People 2030 Goals
Aging Concerns	• Improve health and well-being for older adults. • Reduce fall-related deaths among older adults. • Reduce the rate of emergency department visits due to falls among older adults.
Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Use)	• Improve mental health. • Reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol.
Healthy Living (Nutrition and Physical Activity)	• Improve health, fitness, and quality of life through regular physical activity. • Improve health by promoting healthy eating and making nutritious foods available.
Transportation Issues	• Promote safe and active transportation. • Increase access to comprehensive, high-quality health care services.

Alignment with State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

Priorities and strategies identified in the 2022-2024 Iowa County CHIP aligns with the Wisconsin State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Figure 2 shows alignment between Iowa County CHIP and Wisconsin SHIP goals.

Figure 2: Iowa County CHIP Alignment with SHIP

2022-2024 Iowa County CHIP	SHIP
Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Use)	• Improve mental health. • Reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol.

Wisconsin's local and tribal health departments are essential partners who understand the health and well-being, hopes, and concerns of their communities, as well as how the SHIP may be most useful to their work and that of local partners. In a series of Community of Practice conversations, intended to promote collective learning and improvement, local and tribal health departments considered how the priorities described by statewide community members aligned with the issues they've heard expressed by their own local community members. They also shared opportunities for how the SHIP may best be framed to support the development of their own community health improvement plans to address root causes of health related to their own priorities.

Figure 2: Wisconsin State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)



Source: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01791-2023.pdf>

Aging Concerns

Fall prevention programming is a health priority in Iowa County because falls are the leading cause of injury and death in Wisconsin. In 2022, EMS responded to over 130,000 falls in WI and 412 in Iowa County. (Source: Wisconsin EMS and Falls Report) Wisconsin has the highest fall death rate among older adults in the US. In Wisconsin from 2016-2020, there were 7,742 fall-related deaths. That's an average of 1,548 deaths per year and more than 2.5x the number of unintentional motor vehicle deaths for all age groups during the same time period. (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Older Adult Falls Data) In addition to fatal injuries, falls can cause long-term health conditions stemming from injuries.

Private residences are the most common place that EMS respond to falls or fall-related injuries while nursing homes are also common locations. In 2022, private residences were the location of 68% of all fall calls and nursing home locations, 14.4% of all fall calls. (Source: Wisconsin EMS and Falls Report) Efforts to prevent falls at home could have the largest impact on reducing the number of fall injuries and the number of ambulance runs for falls.

In 2022, Iowa County EMS responded to 240 falls per 10,000 residents. In 2021, Iowa County's age adjusted emergency department visits for fall injuries was 14.8 (per 10,000 residents). (Source: Wisconsin EMS and Falls Report) The average cost of falls per person for emergency department visits in Iowa County from 2020-2021 was \$1,758 and for hospitalizations the cost per person was \$18,628. (Source: Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Hospital Discharge Data)

EMS often respond to the same addresses for repeated injuries or emergencies. Repeat calls indicate that an individual may not have access to the resources to prevent their falls or to address the underlying cause behind their fall, or they are not using the resources available to them. These repeated calls are not only an indicator of poor access to prevention systems and unique events that could result in injury or death for the patient but they also can create strain on EMS and health care resources in the community. In 2022, 13.8 private addresses had repeated fall ambulance runs per 10,000 Iowa County residents. (Source: Wisconsin EMS and Falls Report)

There are a variety of steps that people can take to reduce their chance of falling. These include improving lighting, reducing clutter, and making commonly used items easily accessible. People should also consider working with an occupational therapist, their local aging and disability resource center, or other specialists for more advice.

Aging Concerns Community Action Team Goals

Members of the Aging Concerns Community Action Team identified the following goals and objectives based on root causes, evidence, assets and partner capacity. This action team will work to; reduce the number of falls by increasing awareness and education of evidence-based programs and resources, decrease the number of repeat emergency response calls, address gaps in the referral process to connect those in need to resources, and review data collection methods to investigate contributors to falls.

Aging Concerns

Goal 1: Reduce Falls by Increasing Awareness – Help us Help You Stay Safe in Your Home

Objectives:

1. By December 31, 2024, decrease the number of repeat emergency response calls to clients who continue to fall and call 911 by 10%.
2. By November 1, 2023, determine data we currently collect and data we desire collecting to facilitate the identification of the contributors to falls and associated process improvements.
3. By December 15, 2023, define a plan to address gaps in the referral process to connect those in need to resources.
4. By December 31, 2024, increase the number of events, posts, awareness opportunities to provide information and awareness regarding falls prevention.

Strategies:

- Identify our baseline number of emergency response calls through exploring/specifying who is (or could) track statistics. Measure the impact of the program and help determine where adjustments need to be made.
- Investigate and determine a tool to streamline the referral process (explore options such as a referral app or JotForm).
- Develop a referral form/system between EMS and ADRC.
- Identify numbers and brainstorm on the specific events and awareness opportunities.

Possible Evaluation Metrics:

- number of fall calls EMS responds to
- number of repeat fall calls EMS responds to
- number of referrals from EMS to ADRC
- number of referrals to Habitat for Humanity for safety assessments



Behavioral Health (Mental Health/Alcohol/Drug Use)

Behavioral Health is a health priority in Iowa County because 13% of adults report that they consider themselves in fair or poor health. Adults report that their mental health was not good on 4.3 of the previous 30 days and 14% of adults report experiencing poor mental health for 14 or more of the last 30 days. There were 11 deaths by suicide per 100,000 people between 2016-2020. In addition, there is only one mental health provider per 1,310 people in Iowa County. Twenty-seven percent of adults report binge or heavy drinking and 19% of motor vehicle crash deaths involved alcohol. (Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2023. www.countyhealthrankings.org.)

According to the Youth Behavior Risk Survey (YRBS), 2% of all high school students and 6% of high school seniors drove after drinking and 3% of high school students attended school under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Furthermore, 4% of high school students were offered, sold, or given drugs on school property. Eight percent of high school students reported binge drinking in the past 30 days and 21% have had at least one drink in the past 30 days. In addition, 4% of middle school students and 9% of high school students report misusing over-the-counter and/or prescription pain medicines.

Bullying is also a concern for area youth as 20% of middle school students and 18% of high school students experienced bullying at school. In addition, 15% of middle school students and 16% of high school students were bullied through electronic means. Twenty-seven percent of middle school students and 32% of high school students agree that bullying is a problem at their school. Anxiety and depression are also concerns in our youth as 50% of middle school students and 48% of high school students experienced significant problems with anxiety of the past year, and 22% of middle school students and 26% of high school students experienced prolonged, disruptive sadness. (Source: YRBS)

Suicidal ideation and self-harm statistics in Iowa County are alarming, as 19% of middle school students and 15% of high school students have intentionally engaged in self-harming measures. Thirteen percent of middle school students have seriously considered suicide in the past year, while 9% have made a plan for a suicide attempt, and 4% have attempted suicide. Fifteen percent of high school students have seriously considered suicide in the past year, while 10% have made a plan for a suicide attempt, and 5% have attempted suicide. (Source: YRBS)

Behavioral Health Community Action Team Goals

Members of the Behavioral Health Community Action Team will work to support the Mental Health Matters Iowa County Coalition and the Substance Use Prevention Committee in their efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of all Iowa County residents.

An Iowa County Mental Health AODA Stakeholder meeting was held on October 24, 2023 to discuss what challenges our community is facing and how we can work as a community to combat these challenges. Representatives from Unified, Iowa County Sheriff's Office, Iowa County Health Department, SWCAP, and Iowa County Criminal Justice Collaboration Council were in attendance. Some issues identified were the need for the individual to engage in services, need for continued follow-up, facilities not accepting those in mental health crisis who will not go voluntarily, consequently falling on law enforcement, and need for connecting more people to drug treatment court.

Healthy Living (Nutrition and Physical Activity)

Healthy Living is a health priority in Iowa County because 35% of adults are considered obese and 22% of adults do not engage in any leisure-time physical activity. In addition, 13% of adults consider themselves in fair or poor health and 8% are living with a diagnosis of diabetes. (Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2023. www.countyhealthrankings.org.)

According to the Youth Behavior Risk Survey (YRBS), 9% of high school students and 2% of middle school students do not engage in any physical activity. In addition, only 35% of high school students eat breakfast daily and 41% eat breakfast less than half the time (0-3 days per week). While 38% of middle school students eat breakfast daily and 32% eat breakfast less than half the time (0-3 days per week). Furthermore less than half of high school students eat fruits and vegetables every day. Only 44% of students reported eating fruit every day the past week and only 41% reported eating vegetables every day the past week.

While missing breakfast may be a choice for some of these students, lack of food is also an issue for a number of these students. Fourteen percent of high school students experience food insecurity (students who experience hunger due to lack of food in the home in the past 30 days) and 2% report being hungry most of the time or always; while 28% of middle school students experience food insecurity and 1% report being hungry most of the time or always. (Source: YRBS)

Inadequate level of physical activity contributes to obesity, one of the largest causes of preventative chronic disease. Unhealthy eating habits lead to obesity, which leads to chronic disease and premature death.

Healthy Living Community Action Team Goals

Members of the Healthy Living Community Action Team identified the following goals and objectives based on root causes, evidence, assets and partner capacity. This action team will work to; define and assemble an action plan for building an inventory of existing resources and services and assemble a plan to partner with community organizations to support events and infuse wellness into the community.



Healthy Living

Goal 1: Increase community awareness of resources, services and programs in Iowa County.

Goal 2: Increase and support safe and healthy spaces/events.

Objectives:

1. By October 1, 2023, define and assemble an action plan for building an inventory of existing resources and services.
2. By November 1, 2023, assemble a plan to partner with community organization to support events and infuse wellness into the community.

Strategies:

- Build the Healthy Iowa County website which will include an inventory of existing resources, services, and programs.
- Identify partners we wish to explore opportunities with and the wellness topics/habits we wish to infuse.

Possible Evaluation Metrics:

- completion of website
- analytic data tracking number of views on the website
- number of community events attended



Access to Transportation

Access to transportation is a health priority in Iowa County because transportation services throughout Iowa County are limited, especially outside of traditional business hours (nights and weekends).

According to the Healthy Aging in Rural Towns (HeART) Coalition Community Survey (2018), about 10% of older adults need transportation services and 5.4% have missed appointments or have experienced unmet needs because of transportation issues.

The ADRC and Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program-Lift (SWCAP-Lift) are the agencies that provide transportation services within the county and both have had to turn down services to potential customers due to a lack of volunteer drivers.

Rural communities have few options for public transportation. Rural residents often have issues in accessing health services due to the lack of transportation.

Transportation Community Action Team Goals

Members of the Transportation Community Action Team identified the following goals and objectives based on root causes, evidence, assets and partner capacity. This action team will work to; define and assemble an action plan for building an inventory of existing resources and services and assemble a plan to partner with community organizations to support events and infuse wellness into the community.

Goal 1: Increase access to community services by reducing transportation barriers.

Objectives:

1. By the end of quarter two of 2024, we will recruit 3-5 additional volunteer drivers.

Strategies:

- Explore opportunities for volunteerism.
- Create a brochure to recruit volunteers.
- Increase visibility by attending community events.
- Develop as video promoting volunteerism.

Possible Evaluation Metrics:

- number of recruited volunteer drivers
- number of community events attended to promote program
- number of brochures distributed
- location where video is shown

To learn more about Healthy Iowa County, visit

<https://healthyiowacounty.org/>

What can you do as a resident of Iowa County?

Communicate: Share the information in this document with your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers. Share the top health issues and social determinants of health. Challenge yourself to learn more about these issues and how they impact the health of our community.

Get Involved: Think about ways you can become part of the solution, whether they are small or big changes. Every bit counts, and everyone should be inspired to be part of the conversation. Encourage others to work together to improve the health of our community.

What can you do as an organizational partner?

Align: Reflect on how much of your strategic planning efforts align with the needs of the community you serve.

Innovate: Challenge your organization to think about how they can come up with innovative solutions to improve the health of our community.

Partner: Work done together is more impactful, and often reduces duplication. Find others that are willing to work together in new or different ways!

Advocate: Lead your peers in advocating for actions that will improve the health of our community.





2022-2024 IOWA COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Public Health Vending Machines 2024

DHS is seeking applications from government and nonprofit agencies in Wisconsin for funding to purchase, install, and operate public health vending machines.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. May 10, 2024.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/contracts/public-health-vending-machines-2024.htm>

From: Geana Shemak <Geana.Shemak@iowacounty.org>

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:41 PM

To: Sheriff Mike Peterson <Mike.Peterson@iowacounty.org>; Drug Treatment Court - Melissa Peterson <DTC@iowacounty.org>; Sheryl Brokopp <s.brokopp@swcap.org>; Christie Johnston <c.johnston@swcap.org>; Andrea Kinch <kincha@uplandhillshealth.org>; Barbara Kolb <kolbb@uplandhillshealth.org>; Barry Hottmann <barry.hottmann@wisc.edu>; Brian Cushman <daaschief@dodgevillewi.gov>; Joan Davis <supervisor8@iowacounty.org>; Joe Pepper <jpepper@draschools.org>; Susan Mahaney <smahaney@unifiedservices.org>; Larry Bierke <Larry.Bierke@iowacounty.org>; Tim Collins <Tim.Collins@iowacounty.org>

Cc: Debbie Siegenthaler <Debbie.Siegenthaler@iowacounty.org>; Carly Tibbits <Carly.Tibbits@iowacounty.org>; Leah Walrack <Leah.Walrack@iowacounty.org>; Carmen Carpenter <Carmen.Carpenter@iowacounty.org>

Subject: Public Health Vending Machine-Funding Opportunity

Greetings,

I am emailing you all as valued stakeholders and community partners, asking for your support and collaboration as we continue to identify strategies to address the opioid epidemic in our communities. We have the opportunity to write for a grant to support purchasing a Public Health Vending Machine (PHVM) and naloxone and fentanyl test strips to stock the machine. These PHVM are part of the harm reduction approach to combating the drug overdose epidemic, locally and across the nation. This would expand these efforts into our county and complement the intervention and recovery efforts already underway. Harm reduction, as you know, is a targeted effort to save lives. We cannot provide support and services for individuals who have passed from this disease. So, adding another step, the crucial initial step in helping people is to save their lives.

The health department as well as other local agencies are part of the Narcan Direct Program, another harm reduction program through DHS, providing opioid awareness and Narcan administration education for anyone interested in the training. Although we have successfully trained and distributed 64 NARCAN kits, we are missing the population that could benefit the most from these efforts, people who use drugs. Unfortunately, because of the self and perceived stigma, especially in our rural communities, individuals are reluctant to attend these community trainings to receive free NARCAN. We have also offered one-on-one training, in hopes of addressing some of these barriers, but people are still fearful of being judged or arrested. Public Health Vending Machines provide an opportunity to protect and promote the health of people who use drugs. They provide a safe option for people to obtain free, lifesaving supplies.

We are inviting you to a meeting to discuss the logistics of PHVM placement, supplies, and other considerations regarding the grant application and sustainability once the grant funding is expended. The grant application is due May 10th. Please indicate your interest in supporting and coordinating these

efforts as well as your availability to attend a meeting during the proposed times listed below. If you are not the individual from your respective agency who is most appropriate or interested in attending a meeting or being involved with this initiative, please feel free to pass along to anyone in your organization who may be interested.

Best regards,

Geana Shemak PhD, ATC
Community Coordinator/Health Educator
Iowa County Health Department





HOW TO ACCESS

The Public Health Vending Machines work just like regular vending machines, except all of the items are free!

INSTRUCTIONS
This panel is the vending machine's user interface. To get an item, press the number corresponding to the item you want. Always use the correct PIN code.

INSTRUCCIONES
Este panel es la interfaz de usuario de la máquina expendedora. Para obtener un artículo, presione el número correspondiente al artículo que desea. Siempre use el código PIN correcto.





All machines have Narcan (naloxone), the medication that reverses an opioid overdose. No PIN code is needed to access the Narcan in the machines. In the event of an emergency dial 911.

Sauk PH started one in February: The vending machine has FREE Narcan Nasal Spray, Detera medication disposal kits, and listings of local mental health and substance use resources that are available to all community members 24/7/365.





Iowa County Health Department

303 W. Chapel St.

Suite 2200

Dodgeville, WI 53533

Phone: (608) 930-9870

Fax: (608) 937-0501

<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/HealthDepartment>

Board of Health Update

April 2024

- Iowa County Health Department is recipient of the 2024 Immunization Organizational Champion Award from Immunize Wisconsin. Pictured below are Carly Tibbits and Leah Walrack, PH RNs from the ICHD, at the Immunize WI conference Wisconsin Dells in March to accept the award.



The Iowa County Health Department (ICHD) is the recipient of the Immunize WI 2024 Organizational Champion Award. This small, rural health department successfully administered 1,195 vaccines in 2023. In a significant development, the ICHD established a partnership with the Community Connections Free Clinic to provide vaccinations to uninsured patients from surrounding counties, a service previously unavailable at the free clinic. Additionally, the department extended its vaccination services to the local food pantry, offering vaccines on select days.

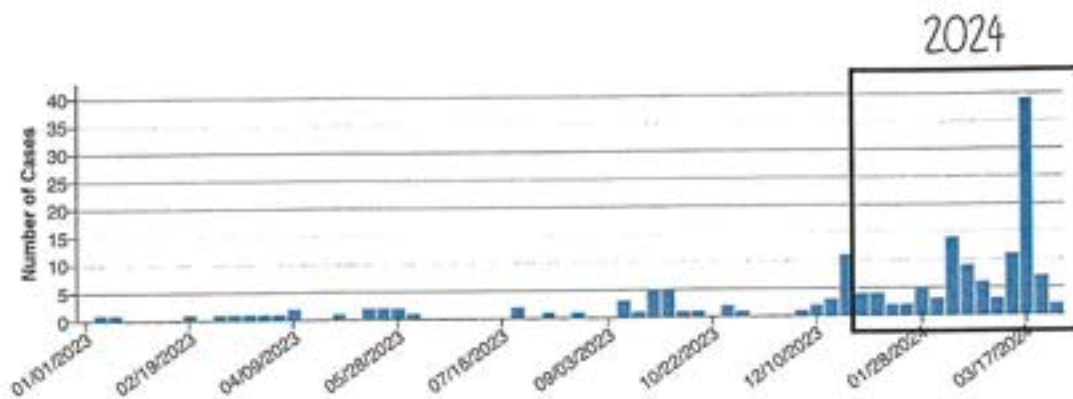
In an effort to broaden immunization coverage, the ICHD conducted visits to all schools within Iowa County, administering tetanus and influenza vaccines to both staff and students, with billing procedures in place for staff receiving the influenza vaccine.

A comprehensive strategy to increase vaccination rates and raise awareness about the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) and Vaccines for Children (VFC) programs has been a priority. This strategy encompasses a variety of outreach efforts, including direct mail, phone calls, and the engagement of trusted community members to connect with targeted groups. Furthermore, the ICHD has invested in a range of advertising methods, such as billboards, radio and newspaper ads, and social media campaigns, in addition to organizing more mobile clinics, fostering new partnerships, and emphasizing equity to lower vaccination barriers.

The department has taken the lead in convening community vaccine stakeholder meetings to identify and address any gaps in vaccine accessibility within Iowa County. It has also been instrumental in forming and maintaining crucial partnerships with various local entities, including the free clinic, hospital, clinics, pharmacies, and multicultural outreach and support programs like the SUN program, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), and the food pantry, among others.

- Tuberculosis** – two active cases of TB early in 2024. Extremely time consuming and several state partner agencies involved plus local partners (medical advisor, Community Connections Free Clinic, health care providers). Contact Investigation and interviews, screening, lab draws, sputum collections, directly observed therapy in the field. Some expenses are billable through the state TB Dispensary, not all expenses recouped.

- **Measles:** March was very active. U.S is up to [119 cases](#), more than double last year's total.



Number of measles cases, United States (Source: [CDC](#))

CDC [data](#) on the severity of these cases:

- 95% of cases are among unvaccinated or under-vaccinated (only 1 MMR vaccine) people. This tells us that the vaccines are working.
- 58% of cases are hospitalized. This is high, as typically 1 in 5 cases are hospitalized. This may be inflated due to mandatory isolation, which can be done at a hospital.
- The majority of cases and hospitalizations are among those under 5 years old.

MMR vaccination rates by Wisconsin counties – Iowa County has strong MMR vaccination rates making us less vulnerable to outbreaks. Vaccination is critical!!!

- [By 24 months of age, P-02420](#) (PDF)
- [5–6 years of age, P-02420A](#) (PDF)
- [5–18 years of age, P-02420B](#) (PDF)

- **Job descriptions** updated to incorporate the foundational areas/capabilities (an area of improvement noted in our 140 review). Review by Employee Relations in process.
- **Policy and Procedure review** process started in September 2023 resulting in edits to our four existing policies and addition of a Rabies Control policy ultimately approved at the March 2024 County Board meeting. The Water Lab Testing policy was approved in September 2023.

Iowa County Policy Manual 600 - Health Dept.

Immunization Policy
 Volunteer Medical Advisor Policy
 Environmental Health Policy
 Communicable Disease Control Policy
 Microbiology Water Testing Laboratory Policy
 Rabies Control Policy

- **2023 Year-end financial summary**
 Total Expenses = 594,035
 Total Revenue = 267,376
 Levy need = 326,659 / Original budget request 306,102

Overage of \$20,557

*\$21,636 extra in salary and fringe (regular PH budget) – salary increases not budgeted for
 \$3008 expenses (mileage, meals, training, communicable disease expenses – shipping specimens, etc)
 \$8324 less in consolidated contracts DHS (nearly all of our state contracts were less than budgeted)*

- **Grant applications update:** much time has been spent the past few months writing grant applications. We received an Immunization Outreach 2.0 grant and submitted application for the Immunization Outreach 3.0 grant, Opioid grant funds awarded for the community calendar, Awarded Environmental Health Healthy Literacy Grant. Also supported Upland Hills Health in a grant application for Transportation (Social Isolation and Loneliness/Livable Communities).

[The Invisible Shield](#) is a 4-part docuseries about the public health system. This invisible shield (a.k.a. local health departments) works its hardest every single day and many people don't realize or appreciate how it keeps you healthy and safe. This invisible shield is the foundation to our county, state, nation and world's house of wellness and it is undervalued, misunderstood and has suffered from decades of being under resourced.

Check it out at [The Invisible Shield | PBS](#).

['The Invisible Shield' Makes Public Health More Visible \(forbes.com\)](#)

Bloomberg
Philanthropies

Who We Are -

What We Do -

Our Approach -

News -

Q

R



Watch The Invisible Shield

The Invisible Shield is a four-part docuseries that examines how public health makes modern life possible, but it is underfunded, undervalued, and misunderstood – putting our health at risk.

Stream it now on [PBS.org](#) and the PBS app.

[Learn more](#)

Webinar Series: Wisconsin's Public Health Laws in Preventing and Controlling Communicable Diseases [WALHDAB Public Health Law Series - WALHDAB](#)

"Why do public health laws exist and how do they protect the health and safety of individuals, families, and communities."

This public health law training series provides an overview of the background for why public health laws are in place to prevent and control communicable disease; the benefit to individuals, families and communities; and what measures may be taken to prevent and control communicable diseases. In addition, this three-part series will cover the role legal counsel, administrator, elected officials, law enforcement, judges, and community organizations/businesses play in supporting health officer's duty to prevent and control communicable diseases.

Partners: Organizations who have collaborated in the development of the webinar series include:

- League of Wisconsin Municipalities
- Wisconsin Counties Association
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services/Division of Public Health

Session One: Public Health Communicable Disease Laws: Over a Century Protecting Wisconsin's Communities

Description: This session will provide background for why public health laws exist and their benefits to our society. In addition, this session will do an overview of local health officer's duties and powers to prevent and control communicable diseases.

Intended Audience: Health Officers, Health Department Managers, Legal Counsel, Administrators, Boards of Health, Health & Human Services Committees, County Board, City Council, Law Enforcement, District Attorney, Medical Advisor, Infection Control Practitioners, and others.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion, participants will be able to:

1. State two benefits of public health laws to prevent and control communicable diseases.
2. Provide an example of health officer duties for the prevention and control of communicable diseases.
3. Provide an example of who is responsible for reporting a known or suspect communicable diseases.
4. State what a health department does when investigating and controlling a communicable diseases.

[Video recording available by clicking here.](#)

Session Two: Local Health Officers Statutory Authority: Preventing and Controlling Communicable Diseases for the Common Good While Protecting Individual Rights

Description: Building on session one, session two will provide an overview of the measures local health officers' may carry out to prevent and control communicable diseases within their jurisdiction. In

addition, this session will cover the role of governmental officials, childcare, schools, and workplaces in supporting the control of communicable diseases.

Intended Audience: Health Officers, Health Department Managers, Legal Counsel, Administrators, Boards of Health, Health & Human Services Committees, County Board, City Council, Law Enforcement, District Attorney, Medical Advisor, Infection Control Practitioners, and other partners who could benefit from an overview.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion, participants will be able to:

1. Provide an example of how prevention and control measures may look for a person, persons, and for the general public.
2. State the role of health care, child care, schools, workplaces, legal counsel, administrator, boards/councils, law enforcement, and judges play in supporting health officer's duty to prevent and control communicable diseases.

[Video Recording available by clicking here.](#)

Session Three: Preventing and Controlling Communicable Diseases: A Partnership Among Community and Government Entities

Description: Session three will cover what actions are involved in carrying out health officer orders for a person, persons, and general public. In addition, this session will provide an overview of the role of legal counsel, judges, administrators, law enforcement, district attorney in supporting health officer orders.

Intended Audience: Health Officers, Legal Counsel, Health Department Managers, Legal Counsel, Administrators, Boards of Health, Health & Human Services Committees, County Board, City Council, Law Enforcement, District Attorney, Medical Advisor, Infection Control Practitioners, others

Learning Objectives: Upon completion, individual will be able to:

1. State the steps involved in issuing a) voluntary health officer orders/directives, b) health officer orders, and c) petitioning the court when there is failure to comply with health officer directive for a person or persons.
2. State the purpose in having an enforcement ordinance in place when carrying out health officer orders at general population level.
3. State the role of legal counsel, judges, administrators, law enforcement, district attorney in enforcement of health officer orders.
4. State available public health law state and national resources.

[View recording available by clicking here.](#)

Annual County Health Rankings Released

[County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#) (CHR&R), a program of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, draws attention to why there are differences in health within and across communities. The program highlights policies and practices that can help everyone be as healthy as possible. CHR&R aims to grow a shared understanding of health, equity and the power of communities to improve health for all. This work is rooted in a long-term vision where all people and places have what they need to thrive.

Each year in March, CHR&R provides a snapshot of the health of nearly every county in the nation. A wide range of factors influence how long and how well we live, including: opportunities for education, income and wealth, safe housing and the right to shape policies and practices that impact our lives and futures.

We all know that Iowa County is a great place to live, work and play which is consistently the case when we look at health outcome related data and factors that contribute to health. **Check out specific data for IC Iowa.** [Wisconsin | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#). You can view data about any county you are interested in [Wisconsin | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)



**County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps**

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Iowa County
Health Department

Published April 2024



Iowa County Health Department Annual Report 2023

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A Message from the Health Officer

Two thousand twenty-three finally saw the pandemic shift to endemic status as COVID-19 was officially no longer classified as a Category 1 disease. Other significant changes also occurred; namely the disease surveillance aspects of reporting individual cases as well as the privatization of the COVID-19 vaccine. Our role shifted back to vaccination of the uninsured or underinsured.

With COVID-19 becoming less intense, our efforts in 2023 focused on returning to regular programs. We have many other statutory requirements in the areas of communicable disease, maternal and child health, injury and chronic disease prevention, environmental health and access to care. Challenges brought on with the pandemic brought the need for us to spend significant time reinvigorating partnerships and forging new collaborative efforts. One super exciting new project was starting up our DATCP certified Microbiology Water Lab. Leah Walrack, Public Health RN, led this impressive effort and timing worked out so that this important resource was available to assist in facilitating water testing in the city of Mineral Point in the fall of 2023.

Below are just a handful of highlights for us in 2023 representing thousands of hours of work:

- Started a DATCAP certified water lab in record time
- Administered 1,195 total vaccines (2022, 2,377 were administered by us & 2021, 13,321)
- Handed out 99 radon test kits (nearly double what we've given out in past years)
- Followed up on a total of 110 animal bite/rabies investigations (80 in Iowa County and 30 in Richland County)
- Focused effort in increasing blood lead screenings on children
- Followed up on 7 suspected TB cases (normally have 1-2 a year)
- 64 more people trained in administering NARCAN to save a life
- Conducted 36 RN home visits for MCH, communicable disease, and environmental situations
- Awarded \$35,000 RICE Grant through the CDC and DHS for immunization outreach efforts
- Participated in several events including: Health and Wellness Expo, Rural Safety Day, fall school flu clinics, car seat safety events and back-to-school "back-pack" events
- We hosted two fantastic students, a fourth year UW-Madison Nursing student as well as a UW-Madison Master of Public Health student.

We continued our organizational review which included a continued operational review of all programs and infrastructure, including completion of DHS costing and capacity, and workforce surveys to help us in quantifying infrastructure and workforce gaps and needs. The organizational review also included the continued review and editing of policies and procedures as well as job descriptions. In May, we were visited by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health for the 140-Audit Review – an audit we are required to undergo every five years. We were officially recertified as Level II Health Department.

One very large and ongoing activity continuing into 2023 was our Healthy Iowa County Initiative. Four priority areas were identified in 2022 from the Community Health Needs Assessment. We led the formation of four Community Action Teams in each of the priority areas and spent many months facilitating and leading community meetings to define aims, goals and activities in order to assemble the Community Health Improvement Plan. This process is never linear and not without challenges, but we are proud of the community voices lifted up and the success achieved!

In November, Iowa County wished Emergency Management Director Keith Hurlbert many well wishes in his retirement, recognizing him for his unwavering, selfless and stellar service. The Health Department is exceptionally sad to see Keith leave this important position, as with him leaves an immense amount of knowledge and experience. Keith has not only been exceptionally competent, but he has also been an unmatched colleague and candidly a true hero. He was with us on bright, successful days as well as the very dark days through the pandemic and beyond. We will miss him so but wish him all the best in his new chapter.

Let me finish by expressing my sincere pride and appreciation for the team I get to work alongside each day. The challenges continue and the perseverance, positivity, dedication and enthusiasm my team displays in serving their community is unmatched – Iowa County is incredibly lucky to have these individuals working diligently and competently every day to keep us safe and healthy;

they are all rock stars!

Debbie Siegenthaler
Debbie Siegenthaler MS, RN
Director/Health Officer



Staff and Board of Health

The Iowa County Health Department (ICHD) is the official agency of the county responsible for the promotion of wellness, prevention of disease and provision of a healthful environment. This is achieved through activities involving assessment of the community, policy development, and evaluation of programs.

Health Department Team

Health Officer/Director

Debbie Siegenthaler, MSN, RN

LTE Public Health Nurse

Kelly Deterding, BSN, RN

Public Health Nurse Lead

Carly Tibbits, BSN, RN

Community Coordinator/Educator

Geana Shemak, PhD, ATC

Public Health Nurse

Leah Walrack, BSN, RN

Environmental Health Coordinator

Troy Morris, RS

Public Health Project Nurse

Carmen Carpenter, BSN, RN

Administrative Assistant

Marylee Oleson

Board of Health

Joan Davis, Chair

Dody Cockeram, Elected Official

Gerald Galle, Elected Official

Justin O'Brien, Elected Official

Tom Howard, Community Member

Vickie Stangle, Community Member

Sue Steudel, Community Member

Medical Advisor

Dr. Peter Mullin



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Our Organization

Our Mission

Maximizing quality of life across the lifespan.

Our Vision

Lifelong health and well-being for every person, family, and community in Iowa County.

Our Core Values

Prevention and Promotion: Providing strategies that prevent disease and promote healthy living in healthy environments. Empowering citizens to take responsibility for their health and well-being.

Collaboration and Partnership: Working together to provide the best solutions that address health priorities of the community and support a strong public health system.

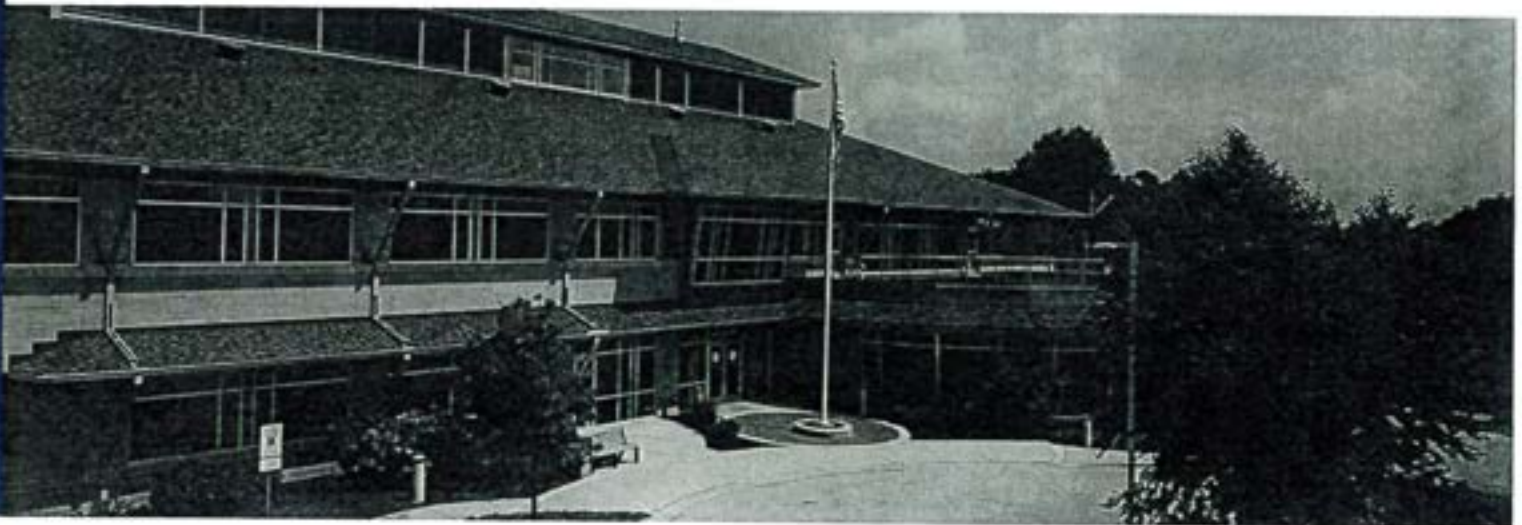
Evidence-Based: Practicing science-based strategies and using best practices that improve population health.

Respect: Approaching all people with significance, understanding, compassion and dignity.

Social Justice and Health Equity: Promoting equal rights and opportunities and advocating wellness for everyone regardless of social, economic, or cultural factors. Fostering policies and programs that are respectful of our diverse communities, considering the social determinants of health, and incorporating practices that reduce health disparities.

Integrity: Practicing commitment to honesty, fairness, professionalism, and accountability in all of our decisions and actions

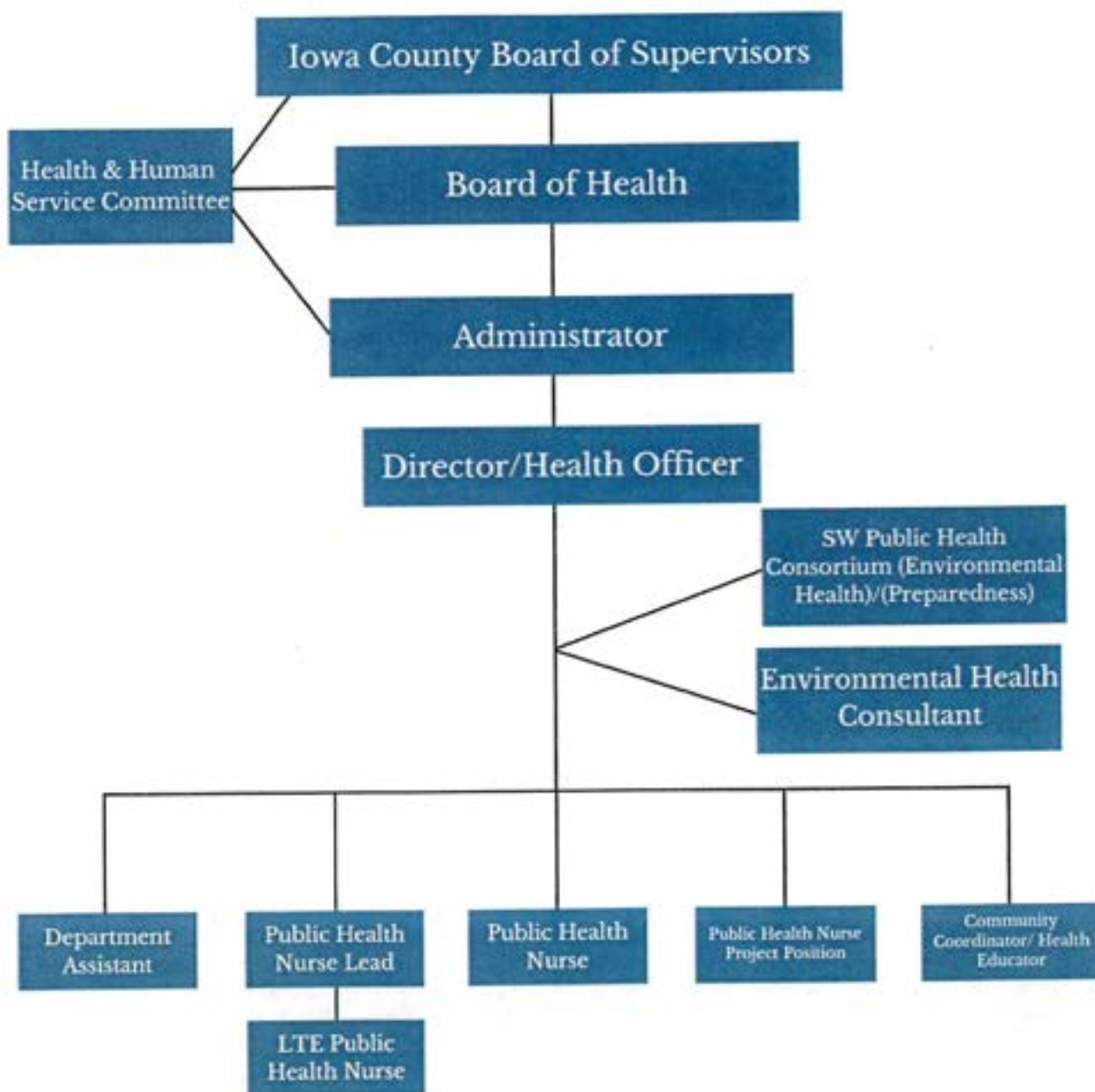
Teamwork: Contributing, learning, supporting, and energizing team members while embracing each other's differences and abilities.



Organization Chart

Iowa County Health Department

ORGANIZATION CHART



Welcome to Iowa County, Wisconsin



23,865

Total Population



50.9%
Female



49.1%
Male



20.1%
Urban



79.9%
Rural

**OVERALL
HEALTH
RANKING**

11

**OUT OF 72 WI
COUNTIES**

Median Age: 43.5

Average Life Expectancy: 81.1



11%

**Children in
Poverty**

\$79,226

**Median Household
Income**

8.7%

**Persons in
Poverty**

9%



of households spent
half or more of their
income on housing



27.8 % of residents age 25
and older have a
Bachelor's degree
or higher

11%

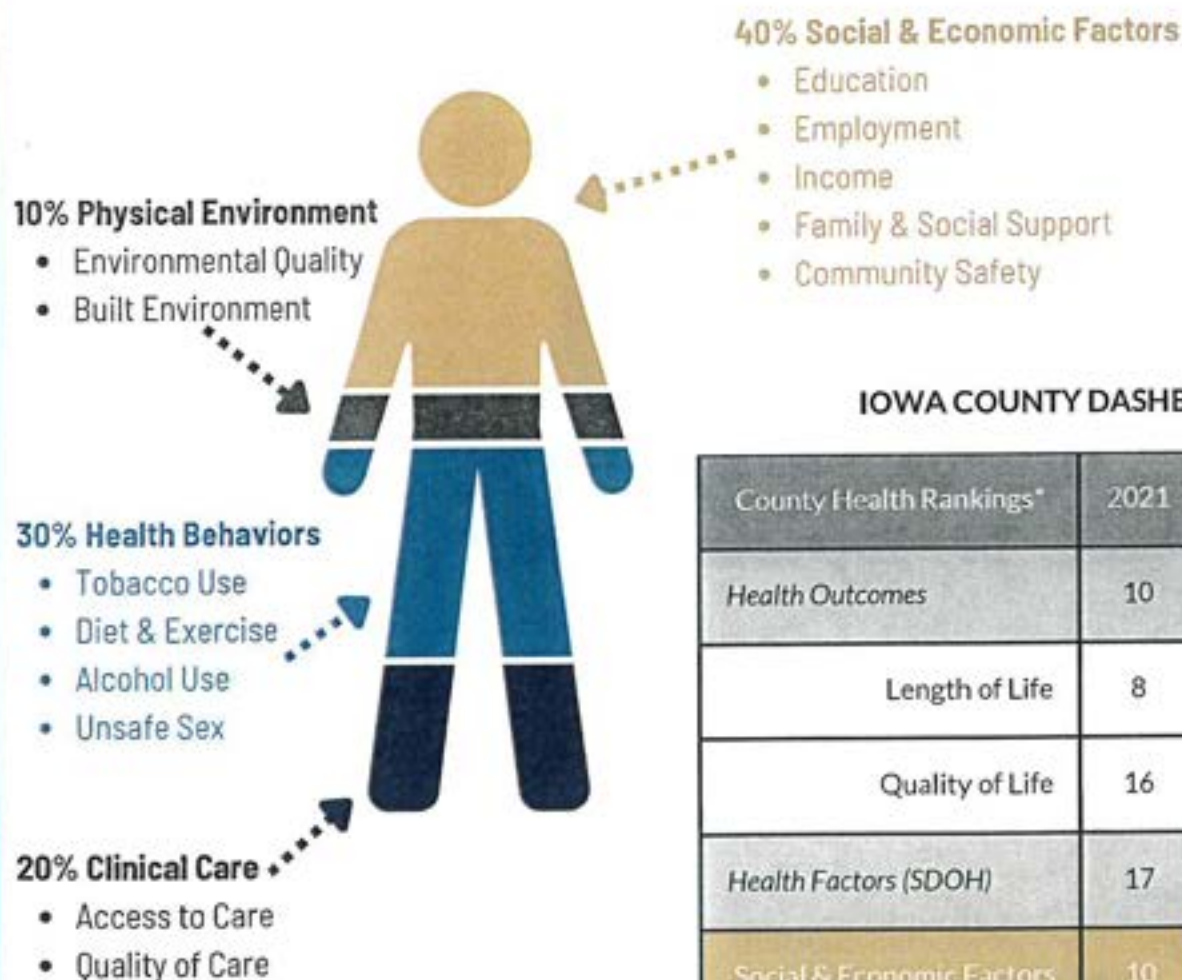
of households
experience severe
housing problems

5%

of people under 65
do not have health
insurance

What Determines our Health?

Health is determined by more than just the choices we make at the individual level. The conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work, and age all contribute to a wide-range of health, functionality, and quality-of-life outcomes. About 70% of our overall health is influenced by factors beyond our individual choices. Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. These factors include: healthcare access and quality, education access and quality, social and community context, economic stability, and neighborhood and built environment.



IOWA COUNTY DASHBOARD

County Health Rankings*	2021	2022	2023
Health Outcomes	10	8	11
Length of Life	8	6	6
Quality of Life	16	16	21
Health Factors (SDOH)	17	23	21
Social & Economic Factors	10	15	15
Health Behaviors	12	15	9
Clinical Care	57	55	61
Physical Environment	40	56	57

*Numerical value based on 72 counties in WI; Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2021, 2022, 2023)

Aligning Our Services to Foundational Public Health Services

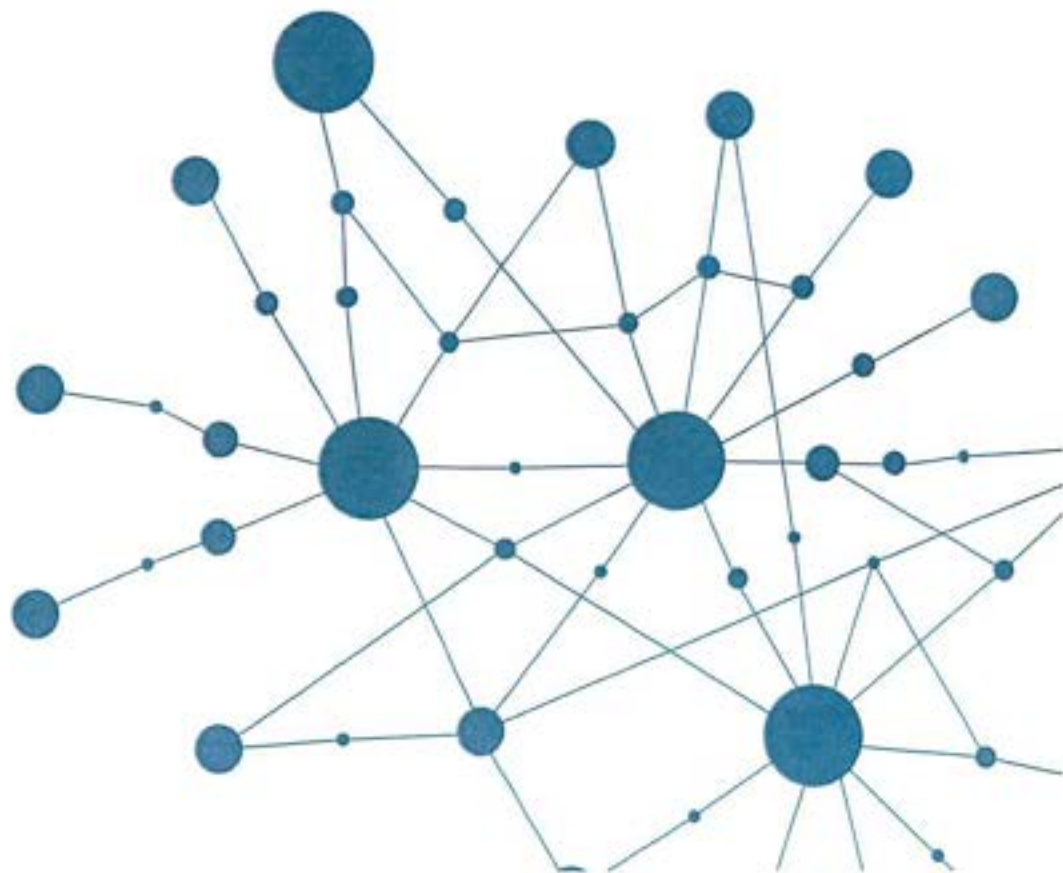
The **Foundational Public Health Services** framework outlines the unique responsibilities of governmental public health and defines a minimum set of **Foundational Capabilities** and **Foundational Areas** that must be available in every community.



Foundational Capabilities

Public health infrastructure consists of Foundational Capabilities which are the cross-cutting skills and capacities needed to support basic public health protections, programs, and activities key to ensuring community health, wellbeing and achieving equitable outcomes. There are eight Foundational Capabilities that are needed in Public Health Infrastructure:

1. Assessment & Surveillance
2. Community Partnership Development
3. Equity
4. Organizational Administrative Competencies
5. Policy Development & Support
6. Accountability & Performance Management
7. Emergency Preparedness & Response
8. Communications



Assessment & Surveillance

The Iowa County Health Department actively **assesses and monitors communicable disease activity and health hazards** in the community using available surveillance tools. This includes timely reporting, investigation, and response to infectious disease outbreaks. This data informs the health department of emerging concerns and guides community outreach efforts and public health intervention.

Diseases in Iowa County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Anaplasmosis, <i>A. phagocytophilum</i>	3	1	5	8	5
Arboviral Illness, Jamestown Canyon	0	0	0	1	0
Arboviral Illness, West Nile Virus	3	1	0	0	0
Babesiosis	0	0	0	1	1
Blastomycosis	0	0	0	1	0
Campylobacteriosis	20	11	18	13	16
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	0	2	2	3	1
Chlamydia Trachomatis	44	36	41	29	55
Coccidioidomycosis	0	1	0	0	0
COVID Hospitalizations	--	--	--	--	22
Cryptosporidiosis	6	3	9	5	12
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	1	0	0
E-Coli	7	2	5	9	15
Ehrlichiosis, <i>E. Chaffeensis</i>	1	0	0	3	1
Giardiasis	1	2	3	1	0
Gonorrhea	6	7	10	3	7
Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive Disease	1	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis B	3	1	0	2	0
Hepatitis C	9	5	2	1	2
Histoplasmosis	1	0	0	1	0
Influenza (Hospitalizations)	18	15	0	8	7

Diseases in Iowa County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Legionellosis	1	1	3	0	1
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	1	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	9	2	2	0	0
Lyme Disease, Erythema Migrans Rash	0	0	0	3	1
Lyme Lab Report	37	21	69	83	48
Malaria	0	0	0	1	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis, Bacterial	1	0	0	0	0
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children	--	1	0	0	0
Mumps	0	1	0	0	0
Mycobacterial Disease (Non-Tuberculosis)	2	2	3	3	4
Orthopoxvirus, Monkeypox	--	--	--	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	0	1	0
Q fever, Unspecified	2	0	0	1	0
Respiratory Syncytial Virus Hospitalizations	--	--	--	--	3
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	3	2	7	7	7
Shigellosis	0	1	2	3	0
Spotted Fever Group	1	0	0	0	0
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group A/Other	2	1	1	2	3
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group B	0	6	2	1	6
Streptococcus Pneumoniae, Invasive Disease	0	1	1	2	3
Syphilis	1	1	0	1	3
Toxoplasmosis	3	1	0	2	0
Tuberculosis	1	1	0	1	2
Tuberculosis, Latent	3	0	1	2	4
Varicella	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	190	129	187	204	230

Data Source: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System

Community Partnership Development

The ICHD is proud of our reputation as a trusted and valuable collaborative partner. As a small department with finite resources, the ICHD is creative with how we connect with others to help meet community needs. Throughout the COVID-19 response, for example, the ICHD worked closely and successfully with local emergency management to coordinate leadership of county response efforts. We continue this deep partnership with trainings and ongoing preparedness planning and response to local events such as weather and structure fires. We collaborate with our Sheriff's Department, municipal police departments, veterinarians and our local Humane Society for rabies case investigation and management. Our partnership with legal expertise is also exceptionally strong and effective. Our Corporation Counsel is a critical partner in situations where we are issuing orders or helping mitigate liability concerns. The ICHD does not allow their small size and limited resources to be a barrier, but instead uses partnership and collaboration to accomplish more as a community.

Aging Network (I-TEAM)

Community Connections Free Clinic

Emergency Management/Public Health Planning Meetings

Family Resource Center of Iowa County Board

Healthy Aging in Rural Towns (HeART) Coalition, Facilitate

Healthy Iowa County Community Action Teams, Facilitate

Infection Prevention Committee

Iowa County Board of Health

Iowa County Homeless Prevention Task Force

Iowa County Mental Health Matters

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Local PHN Network Meetings, Facilitate

Public Health Emergency Preparedness meetings

Salvation Army

SNAPS Committee

South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC)

Southern Region Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA), Chair

Southern Wisconsin Immunization Coalition

Southwest Alliance for Tobacco Prevention (SWATP)

Southwest Community Action Program (SWCAP): Health and Family Service

Advisory Committee

Southwest Wisconsin Emergency Preparedness Consortium

Southwest Wisconsin Environmental Health Consortium

Southwest Wisconsin Homeless Coalition

Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition

Sunshine Committee

Traffic Safety Commission

Upland Hills Health Infection Prevention Council

Upland Hills Health OB/ICHHD Meetings

Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services PHN Meeting

Healthy Iowa County (HIC)

Throughout 2023, the ICHD coordinated the Healthy Iowa County collaboration in the implementation of the **2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan**. This plan is created every three years in conjunction with Upland Hills Hospital System and other community partners and serves as an actionable guide for improving the health of the community. Through the assessment process, four areas were identified and determined to be the focus for the cycle. The four health priority areas include: (1) **Aging Concerns**, (2) **Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder**, (3) **Healthy Living (nutrition & physical activity)**, and (4) **Transportation Issues**.

The Iowa County Health Department coordinates the Healthy Iowa County collaborative which is committed to **engaging community members and organizations to focus resources, and develop and strengthen partnerships to establish sustainable, safe, and healthy communities.**



In early 2023, we held a CHIP stakeholder convening meeting to leverage existing partners as well as create new partnerships to ensure we had a representative group to address the priority areas. Healthy Iowa County is comprised of individuals from more than 20 organizations from various sectors including business, education, government, health care, law enforcement, not-for-profit, nutrition, public health, services for older adults, and wellness. Action Teams were established for each priority area, made up of community partners who are committed to help build on community strengths and advocate for a healthier community. Throughout 2023, HIC partners collaborated on various planning and outreach activities to address priority areas identified in the 2022 Iowa County Community Health Assessment.



Aging Concerns



Goal: Reduce Falls by Increasing Awareness – Help us Help You Stay Safe in Your Home.

- **Strategy 1:** Identify the baseline number of emergency response calls through exploring/specifying who is (or could) track statistics.
- **Strategy 2:** Investigate and determine a tool to streamline the referral process.
- **Strategy 3:** Develop a referral form/system between EMS and ADRC.
- **Strategy 4:** Identify numbers and brainstorm on specific events and awareness opportunities.

Behavioral Health & Substance Use



Goal: Support the Mental Health Matters, Iowa County Coalition to improve communication, education, and implement programs to create a healthier Iowa County for all residents.

- **Strategy 1:** Create and maintain a coalition of Iowa County residents that work together to improve mental/behavioral health opportunities in Iowa County.
- **Strategy 2:** Increase awareness and education on behavioral health needs of Iowa County residents to reduce the stigma associated with mental health.
- **Strategy 3:** Support efforts of agencies, organizations, and groups with a focus on improving mental/behavioral health in Iowa County.

Healthy Living



Goal: Increase community awareness of resources, services, and programs in Iowa County and increase and support safe and healthy events.

- **Strategy 1:** Build the Healthy Iowa County website which will include an inventory of existing resources, services, and programs.
- **Strategy 2:** Identify partners we wish to explore opportunities with and the wellness topics/habits we wish to infuse.

Transportation



Goal: Increase access to community services by reducing transportation barriers.

- **Strategy 1:** Explore opportunities for volunteerism.
- **Strategy 2:** Create a brochure to recruit volunteers.
- **Strategy 3:** Increase visibility by attending community events.
- **Strategy 4:** Develop a video promoting volunteerism.

Equity

In 2023, we initiated a focused effort on health equity due to an identified need to intentionally embed health equity discussions when reviewing or planning programs and services, including how they are designed, the intended audience, program implementation, data collection, and evaluation.

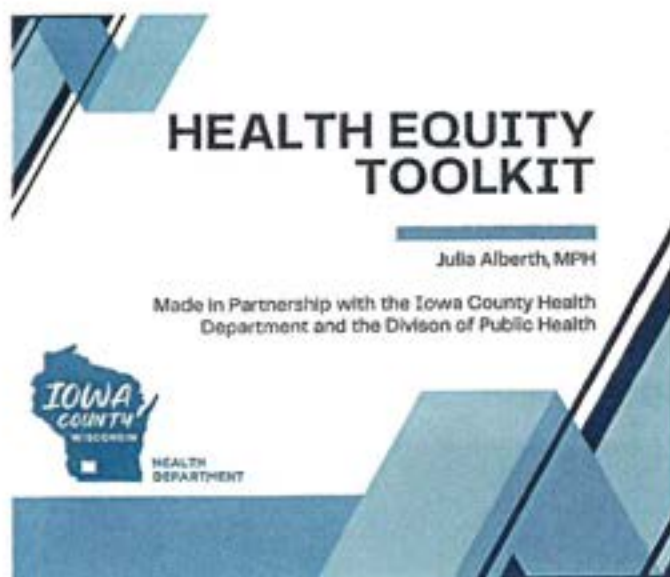
We accomplished this in two ways:

1. A Health Equity toolkit was created with the assistance of UW-Madison Masters of Public Health (MPH) student, Julia Alberth. The toolkit contains discussion questions organized into categories that include bias training, staff organization and capacity, community partnership development & engagement, and program development and evaluation. The questions in each section guide discussion through each process with an intentional health equity focus. The purpose is to promote and enhance health equity conversations in all health department practices by making the process more accessible.
2. A twelve-month "strategic plan for equity" specifically for the health department's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program. This plan was developed with assistance from Kirsten Gundersen, Health Equity Strategist with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and our MPH student, Julia, in a facilitated strategic planning session on September 14, 2023. This program-specific plan came as a result of choosing our MCH program as one for staff to focus on. The MCH Strategic Plan for Health Equity outlines goals and activities tied to improving equity in our MCH Program around 3 priority areas:

Health
outcomes for
low-income
families

Healthcare
access

Data
capabilities



Equity Analysis & Strategic Plan for Equity

Iowa County

MCH Program

9/14/2023

Part A - Equity Analysis

Step 1 - Main Goals of MCH Program

- Connect all families to resources
- Educate caregivers
- Healthy birth outcomes, healthy families, healthy infants and kids, healthy pregnant moms
- Partnerships (external)

Step 2 & 3 - How Does Each Goal Connect to Equity? What are the inequities that you're seeing in each goal?

Main Goals of MCH program	Connection to Equity	Inequities Identified
(1) Connect All families to resources	• Equal access care • Kids can't thrive without this • Support those who are most vulnerable	• Insurance to insurance • Access to affordable care • Knowing what services exist • Lack of trust • Capacity and funding • Goals Internally

In addition, as part of our Maternal & Child Health (MCH) objective around physical activity and nutrition, the ICHD completed coursework in System Approaches for Healthy Communities. These modules **addressed social determinants of health, identifying barriers to accessing MCH programs and services, and using a health equity lens in programming.** We also connected with UW-Extension FoodWise staff to learn about their programming and the challenges and barriers they have experienced in delivering their programs.

Systems Approaches for Healthy Communities

[Home](#) > [Customized education](#) > [Nutrition education](#) > [Systems Approaches for Healthy Communities](#)



We want to ensure that health equity considerations are incorporated into all decision making related to policies, services, and programs offered at the ICHD. By adopting this approach, we can help **advance health by tackling the root causes of poor health outcomes** – the social, economic and environmental conditions that adversely affect the health of our residents.

EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same—regardless if it's needed or right for them.



EQUITY:

Everyone gets what they need—understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



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Organizational Administrative Competencies

Supporting and promoting a strong future public health workforce is very important to the Iowa County Health Department. We are committed to helping students and interns develop the knowledge and skills required for them to gain entry into their desired professional fields. In 2023, the Public Health Nurses served as preceptors/mentors for UW-Madison BSN nursing students. The health department hosted two nursing students for their community health clinical rotation. Each student was assigned an official preceptor (Lead Public Health Nurse) who provided daily guidance and assignments and served as the liaison to the nursing department at UW-Madison. Other health department staff mentored and guided the student's learning experience during their semester rotation.

Iowa County Health Department offers students a rich, fully immersive experience allowing them to get a comprehensive look at how a local health department serves its community. Our students were involved in the following activities during their clinical experience in our department:

- Assisted with the administration of tetanus vaccines and blood pressure checks at the ADRC Wellness Expo
- Administered flu and Tdap vaccines at our mass vaccination school-based clinics
- Observed and administered tuberculosis skin tests at the Health Department
- Shadowed staff on maternal-child health home visits
- Shadowed animal bite investigations and communicable disease follow-up
- Completed research on the vaccine rates in Iowa County over the past 5 years and vaccine hesitancy
- Submitted articles to the ADRC News and Views on various topics such as NARCAN and well water testing advertisements.
- Completed student modules on Public Health
- Spent time at a local school under the supervision of the school nurse



The Wisconsin Public Health Workforce Assessment

We completed a comprehensive statewide survey including critical workforce related data in late 2023 and await the statewide/regional and our jurisdictional results. This assessment will provide insight and data around the composition, background, needs, interests, and experiences of the governmental public health workforce in Wisconsin. **It will assist in identifying the resources and investments needed to achieve a strong, competent public health workforce in Wisconsin.** Debbie Siegenthaler, our Director/Health Officer was a member of the statewide advisory committee that assembled this survey.

Foundational Public Health Costing and Capacity Assessment

We completed a comprehensive statewide survey including financial and workforce data in September 2023 and await the statewide, regional and local jurisdictional results. **This assessment is critical to understanding the current state of the entire public health system in Wisconsin.** It will assist in identifying the resources, investments, and capacities needed to fully implement a robust public health infrastructure to benefit all Wisconsin communities.

Routine Immunization through Community Engagement (RICE)

In August of 2023, **we applied for and were awarded \$35,000** with a goal of increasing routine vaccine uptake, particularly focusing on adults. A main objective was to decrease barriers and increase vaccinations to our target group, which includes elderly, homebound, Latinx/Hispanic, low income, migrant workers, farm workers, houseless, individuals with disabilities, and rural populations. Other objectives included increasing mobile clinics across Iowa County, increasing diverse vaccine advertisements, outreaching target groups, creating and maintaining partnerships related to vaccine missions, and increasing staff training.

We were able to fund 4 billboards in English and Spanish across Iowa County to promote vaccination, especially for the uninsured and underinsured with the intent to connect them to our VFA/VFC program. Additionally, we have partnered with the Community Connections Free Clinic, allowing us to provide vaccines to their uninsured population. Funding also covered additional staff time allowing us to offer influenza and tetanus vaccines to staff and students in Iowa County schools. This grant cycle runs from September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.



Fiscal Summary

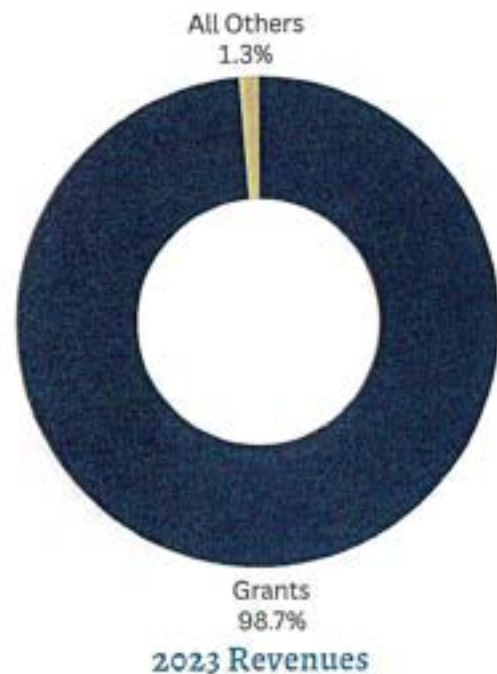
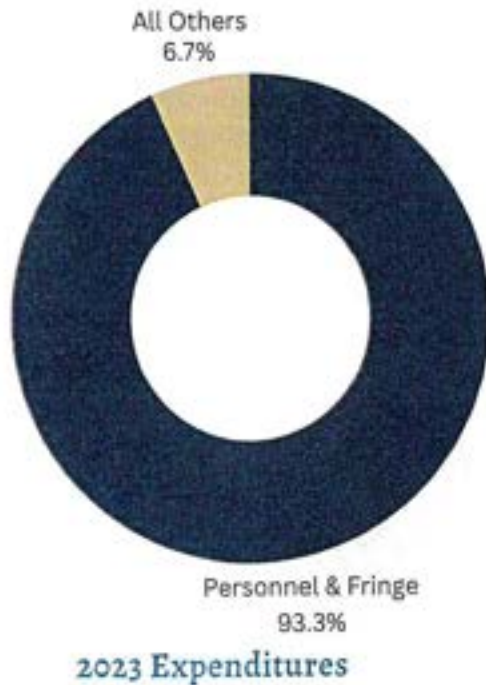
Expenses	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Personnel & Fringe	348,542	569,773	692,167	569,703	553,954
All others	59,172	76,554	178,733	63,448	40,081
SCWIHERC*	355,592	216,637	38,414	-	-
Total:	\$763,307	862,964	909,314	633,151	594,035

Revenue

Grants	135,934	435,789	404,922	329,313	263,856
All others	10,558	1,230	2,772	10,764	3,520
SCWIHERC*	360,912	237,593	173,598	-	-
Covid-19 Testing	-	-	23,120	20,700	-
Total:	\$507,404	674,612	604,412	360,777	267,376

Tax Levy	\$255,903	188,352	304,902	272,374	326,659
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*Fiscal Agent for the South Central Wisconsin Health Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC) ended 6/30/2021.



Policy Development & Support

Public health policies are intended to improve the physical, environmental, social, and economic conditions affecting health in our community.

The Health Department was involved in discussions on the development of a county Public Nuisance ordinance with several partners including county administration, Corporation Counsel, law enforcement, and Planning and Development. Due to gaps in law enforcement's ability to address several nuisance related concerns, partners agreed the development of this ordinance would fill a need. **Our feedback and input helped shape an ordinance to compliment the current county Public Health Nuisance ordinance.**

The Health Department exhibited another example of informed policy that leads to action which includes the development and implementation of our DATCP certified water testing lab. The impetus for bringing on the water lab was the Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology (SWIGG) study – a UW-Madison water quality study completed in May 2022. In partnership with the Iowa County Land Conservation Department, who provided the start-up funds and staffing capacity to plan and implement, the water lab was brought on in a record six month timeline and provides a critical, local resource to residents to test and understand the quality of their private well water.

Accountability & Performance Management

140 Review

In late May 2023, the Health Department was reviewed as part of the DHS 140 Review/Audit process. This review ensures local health departments meet minimum requirements set out in state statute and administrative rule. This is a quality improvement identification process that occurs every five years. The Iowa County Health Department was successful in maintaining our Level II designation. Several areas of strength were noted in the formal report to include:

Community partnership and collaboration; Iowa County Health Department is a valued and trusted partner in the community.

The Iowa County Health Department exhibits informed policy that leads to action. Examples cited: water testing lab development as a result of the water quality study, collaboration with other counties' Health Departments through our environmental health consortium and the COVID-19 pandemic response.

The support and engagement of the Board of Health and the County Board of Supervisors with the Iowa County Health Department was cited as exceptional. Evidence included the resolution unanimously passed in support of the Health Department's pandemic response.

Throughout 2023, the Iowa County Health Department continually incorporated quality improvement processes in our efforts to protect and promote the overall health and well-being of the county.

One area we continue to improve upon is related to the 140 Review and our job descriptions. Current Health Department job descriptions do not outline roles related to foundational competencies. We spent significant time in 2023 reviewing, reorganizing and revising our job descriptions to reflect how these competencies are addressed and carried out in the work our team engages in.

Staff Training Day

In 2023 the Health Department planned and executed a "Staff Training Day". A blended learning approach was utilized with some of the mandated training being completed independently by staff members prior to the scheduled training day. The remaining topics were presented in a group setting at the Health Department. The training day utilized multiple presenters and included our student nurse researching a topic and preparing a presentation as part of her Health Department clinical experience.

Procedure Review

The Health Department staff meets monthly to review and update departmental procedures and County policies pertaining to the Health Department. In 2023, under the direction of the Health Officer and the County Administrator, a number of departmental policies were transitioned to County policies and many departmental policies were transitioned to departmental procedures. Each month, the staff reviews a selected group of policies/procedures, researches and discusses any necessary updates and updates the Policy and Procedure manual.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Iowa County is a member of a six-county public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) consortium. The ICHD maintains updated PHEP and continuity of operations plans (COOP) that are shared with local emergency management. We are also a member of the Southcentral Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition. This membership affords us access to training and exercise opportunities as well as a multitude of regional collaborations. Training and exercising continue to focus preparedness on considering and protecting vulnerable populations, specifically those that are socially or physically isolated. All staff completed Incident Command Systems (ICS) Trainings. Strategies to address disparities include vaccination clinics to reach hard-to-reach populations with Community Connections Free Clinic, and in-home immunizations when needed. The ICHD also works with partners such as the ADRC and LIFT for transportation needs and Community Connections Free Clinic for translation and interpretation.

Communications

586 Facebook posts to share latest public health INFORMATION.

The ICHD understands its critical role in providing proactive health education and health prevention messages as well as keeping the community informed about public health information. Information is shared in a timely manner through various avenues including social media, email listserves, press releases, community events, and community partners.



Public Health Connections

Health Department Happenings:

Spread the word about the health department's newest environmental health program -- Well Water Testing!
 Dugitea is a multi-line well with a faulty headwater unit required to conduct biweekly groundwater testing. We are back up and running! We conduct biweekly and a full testing in future with an additional laboratory that conducts our lead, arsenic, and nitrate testing.

Test your well today! Follow us on social media for updates or stop in to pick up your testing kit anytime Monday-Friday between 8:00-4:30.

**Phone for urgent or field requests: We are closed Friday, December 22nd, Monday December 25th, and Monday January 1st.



Foundational Areas

Public health programs, or Foundational Areas, are basic public health, topic specific programs and services aimed at improving the health of the community. There are five Foundational Areas, also known as Public Health Programs:

1. Communicable Disease Control
2. Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention
3. Environmental Public Health
4. Maternal, Child, & Family Health
5. Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care



Communicable Disease Control

Communicable disease management requires timely and detailed follow-up to ensure protection of the public. Managing communicable disease may involve investigation, inspection, laboratory collection, isolation and/or the provision of medications or vaccines.

Disease Reporting Changes

As of November 2023, reporting of COVID-19 cases to public health is no longer required in Wisconsin, unless a confirmed or probable case is associated with a hospitalization or pediatric death. Additionally, RSV-associated hospitalizations and RSV-associated pediatric deaths among Wisconsin residents became reportable to public health.

- COVID-19-associated hospitalizations, defined as a patient who is hospitalized (>24 hours) as a result of a COVID-19 compatible illness and with laboratory evidence for COVID-19.
- COVID-19-associated pediatric mortality, defined as a death in a person <18 years old as a result of a COVID-19 compatible illness with laboratory evidence for COVID-19 OR a death in a person <18 years old meeting vital records criteria with no confirmatory or presumptive laboratory evidence for COVID-19.
- RSV-associated hospitalizations, defined as a patient who is hospitalized (>24 hours) as a result of a RSV compatible illness and with laboratory evidence for RSV.
- RSV-associated pediatric mortality, defined as a death of a person <18 years as a result of RSV compatible illness and with laboratory evidence for RSV.



230

Communicable Disease Cases managed.
Including COVID-19, Influenza, STIs,
Tuberculosis, and E-coli.

Antigen Tests and Mask Distribution

AT-HOME COVID-19 ANTIGEN TESTS



ICHD disbursed
4,843 free at-home
COVID-19 antigen tests to the
public.

N95 MASK DISTRIBUTION



ICHD disbursed **868**
free N95 masks to the public.

COVID-19 IN 2023

January

END OF THE FEDERAL COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

- Vaccines remain available.
- COVID-19 at-home tests may not be covered by insurance.
- Treatment to prevent severe COVID-19 remain available while supplies last.

August

MONOVALENT VACCINE

September 12, 2023 CDC recommended use of the updated 2023-2024 monovalent vaccine for all individuals ages 6 months or older.

December



ICHD continued to document COVID-19 outbreaks in local long-term care facilities and provided regular updates on infection prevention, vaccines, and best practices.

VACCINES

December 2022- April 2023 CDC made recommendations for a single bivalent vaccine dose for most persons aged ≥ 6 years.

May

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION GUIDELINES UPDATED

September

ANTIGEN TESTS AND N95 MASKS

Throughout all of 2023, the ICHD has provided free at-home antigen COVID tests and free N-95 masks. This offering will cease when the current supply of tests/masks is depleted.

Ongoing...

Tuberculosis

Public Health nurses administered 23 Mantoux tuberculin skin tests in 2023. Nurses followed up on 7 suspect cases of latent tuberculosis infections (LTBI), 4 were confirmed LTBI cases, 2 were confirmed active-TBI, and one was not a case.

Two individuals were successfully treated for latent tuberculosis by receiving medications administered by the nurses weekly for 3-9 months and 4 individuals will receive treatment in 2024.

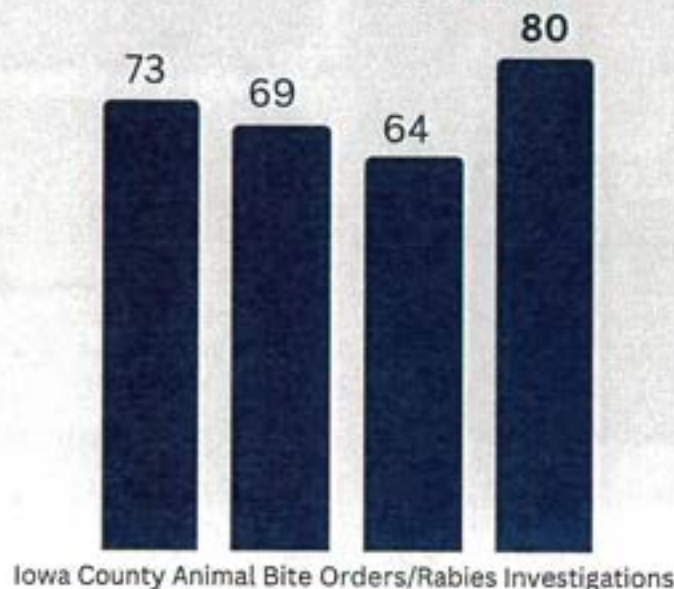
Animal Bites and Rabies Follow-Up

ICHD nurses provided follow-up and education on 80 total animal bite orders or rabies investigations.

Animal bites occurred from 46 dogs, 20 cats, and 1 pig. A total of 11 bats were sent to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene to be tested for rabies resulting in 9 negatives and 2 indeterminates. Additionally, 1 rabbit and 1 raccoon were sent to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene to be tested for rabies and both came back negative.

Beginning in 2023, ICHD began packaging and shipping bats for Iowa County residents. Of the 66 domestic animals, 21 were not vaccinated for rabies. Additionally, ICHD nurses provided follow-up on a total of 30 animal bite orders from May 1- October 1, for Richland County, due to staff shortages.

In 2023, there was a 25% increase in animal bite orders and rabies investigations



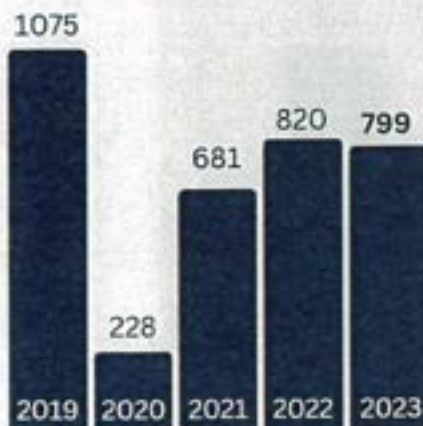
Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

Appropriate administration of safe and effective vaccines is one of the most successful and cost effective public health tools for preventing disease.

In 2023, 1,173 total immunizations were administered by Health Department nurses, down from 2,339 total immunizations administered in 2022. The Health Department is a provider of the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), which allows vaccines to be administered to children through age 18 years with Medicaid, BadgerCare, or no insurance. The VFC Program added COVID-19 vaccines and RSV vaccines to the vaccine schedule this year. In July, DHS site monitors conducted a VFC Compliance Check and issues were identified. Additionally, Health Department staff completed annual VFC training requirements. Current VFC vaccines offered include: COVID-19, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hib, HPV, Influenza (school-based), Meningitis, MMR, Pneumonia, Polio, Rotavirus, RSV, Tetanus, and Varicella.

The Health Department is also a provider of the Vaccines for Adults Program (VFA), which allows vaccination of those aged 19 years and older at no cost based on specific guidelines set forth by the program. Currently, the ICHD is able to give out free Tdap vaccines regardless of insurance status. In August, ICHD offered free Tdap vaccinations to all Fire Departments in Iowa County. In 2023, COVID-19 vaccine was commercialized so the ICHD is able to offer the COVID-19 vaccine through the Bridge Access Program for free to adults who are uninsured or underinsured. Current VFA vaccines offered include: COVID-19, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, HPV, Influenza (limited), MMR, Mpox, Tetanus, and Varicella.

In 2023, ICHD administered 799 flu shots through in-house and school-based vaccine clinics.



ICHD administered 72 COVID-19 vaccines in 2023.



2023 School-based Vaccination Clinics

Total number of vaccines
administered = 728

October
10

HIGHLAND SCHOOL
Student and Staff Flu - 101
Student and Staff Tdap - 12
TOTAL 113

October
11

MINERAL POINT SCHOOLS
Student and Staff Flu - 218
Student and Staff Tdap - 7
TOTAL 225

October
12

IOWA-GRANT SCHOOLS
Student and Staff Flu - 125
Student and Staff Tdap - 2
TOTAL 127

October
17

DODGEVILLE SCHOOLS
Student and Staff Flu - 189
Student and Staff Tdap - 9
TOTAL 198

October
18

BARNEVELD SCHOOL
Student and Staff Flu - 60
Student and Staff Tdap - 5
TOTAL 65

The ICHD works collaboratively with community partners to coordinate and implement chronic disease and injury prevention programs and services.



Leah Walrack, PHN, helping to install a car seat during the event.

The ICHD PH nurses collaborated with the Family Resource Center and Upland Hills Health to offer our first drive-through car seat check event which resulted in 10 children's car seats being checked over for expiration and recalls. The car seat was re-installed correctly while the parents were educated on their specific car seat and the installation process.

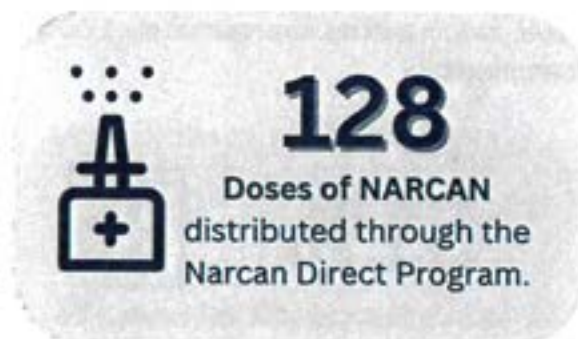
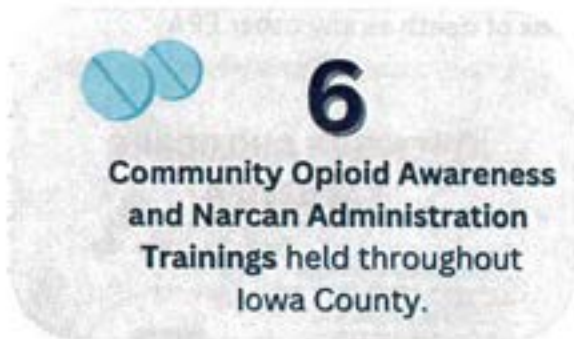
UW-Extension coordinated the 2023 Rural Safety Day and all Iowa County 5th graders were invited to the Iowa County Fairgrounds where there were numerous educational sessions related to safety and prevention. The ICHD staff provided education on the harmful effects of vaping, ticks, poisonous plants, and first aid.



The ICHD serves on the Family Resource Center Board and partners with them during events. One being the Back to School Event. At the Back to School Event, all school grade children could receive a backpack and supplies for free. An array of vendors, offering services to families in Iowa County, provided education and resources. The ICHD provided education on vaccines, played a dice game to reiterate the importance of physical activity, and helped facilitate the event.

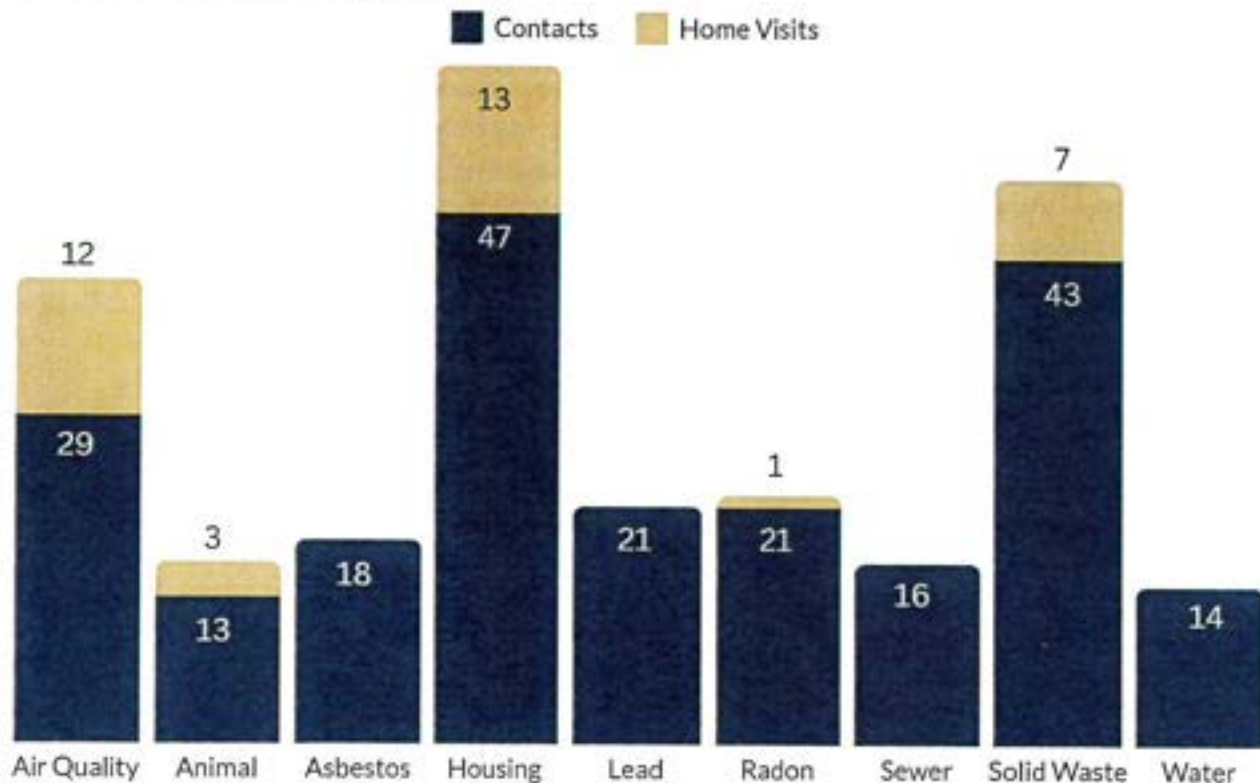
Opioid Awareness and Narcan Training

The ICHD is part of the Narcan Direct Program through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS). This is a harm reduction program with the intent to reduce the number of opioid related overdose deaths and help combat the opioid crisis across the country. We offered community trainings to increase awareness and knowledge of opioid use and educate about NARCAN, a drug available to reverse an opioid overdose.



Environmental Public Health

The ICHD is a member of the Southwest Wisconsin Environmental Health Consortium, including Iowa, Grant, and Lafayette County Health Departments. The consortium allows for an Environmental Health Coordinator to monitor and investigate human health hazard complaints in collaboration with local agents. There were 222 contacts and 37 home visits, for environmental concerns, in 2023.



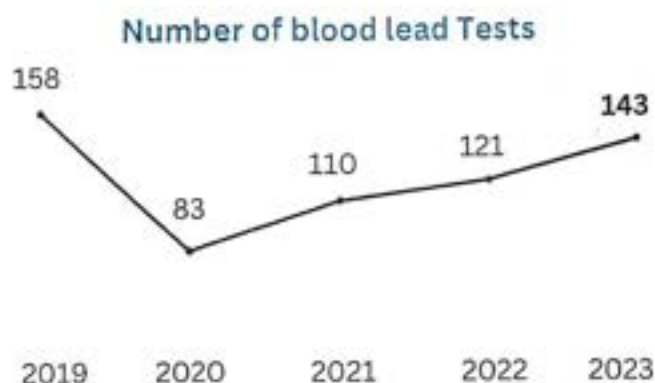
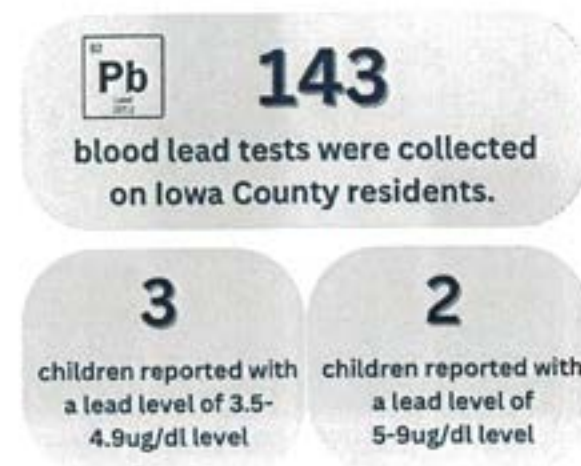
Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that is radioactive and is the second leading cause of lung cancer. To raise awareness and help residents ensure their homes are free of radon, we distributed 99 free radon test kits. Around 65% of tests were completed and sent to the lab for analysis. This is up from 2022, as 48 radon test kits were distributed with a return rate of 58%. Follow-up guidance was completed for all clients with levels above 4 pCi/L. The risk of death for radon at 4pCi/L is approximately 1 in 100. At the 4 pCi/L EPA action guideline level, radon carries approximately 1,000 times the risk of death as any other EPA carcinogen.



Lead

There is no safe level of lead in the human body. Even very low levels of lead can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health, especially for those individuals between 6 months and 6 years of age. Many lead hazards still exist in homes, especially those built prior to 1978. In October 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) adopted the recommendation from the Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee (LEPAC) to lower the Blood Lead Reference Value to 3.5 ug/dL from the previous 5 ug/dL reference value. In 2023, 1.4% of children tested had a blood lead level greater than or equal to 5 ug/dL. In Iowa County, families with children with a blood lead level of 3.5ug/dL or greater are offered follow-up care and lead poisoning education. The goal is to reduce and eliminate environmental lead exposure and lead poisoning.



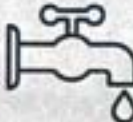
Well Water Lab

Safe, clean water is one of the most important substances in people's lives for drinking, cooking, bathing, and cleaning. Municipal water systems regularly test to ensure water safety, but it's up to private well owners to test their well water. Public health, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends private wells be tested annually for nitrates and bacteria as well as every 5 years for arsenic and lead. Since well water plays such a large role in the health of Iowa County residents, ICHD started a Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) certified bacteria well water testing program towards the end of 2023. We offer private well water test kits and information year-round for the public. We also utilize the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for free well water testing kits for pregnant mothers or families with a child under the age of 1.

21 free WSLH well water test kits distributed



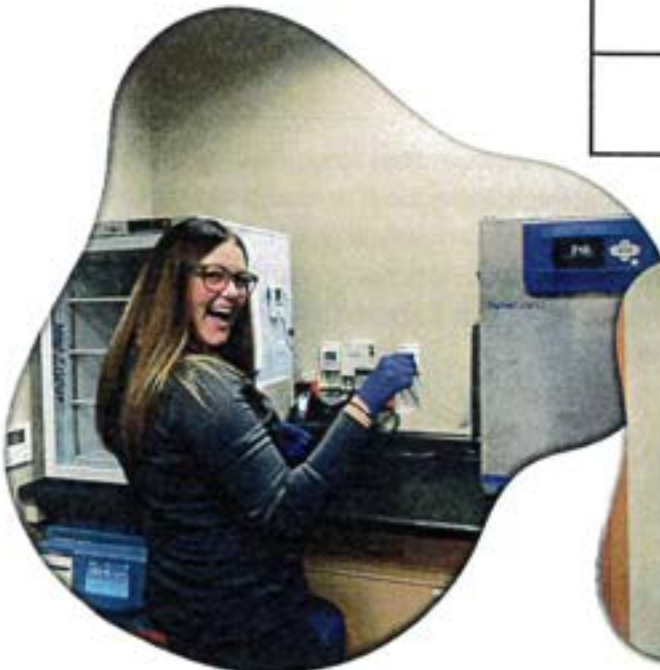
18 ICHD well water test kits distributed

8 
wells tested

1 
positive with coliform bacteria

Percent of Nitrate test results above EPA standard of 10 mg/L

Iowa County	13.1%
Wisconsin	10.9%



Maternal, Child, and Family Health

Ensuring the health and well-being of mothers, infants and children through awareness, prevention education, and sharing resources.

Maternal Child Health Program

The Public Health nurses received 38 prenatal or postpartum referrals from Upland Hills Health providers. Our staff then reached out to the individuals to offer resource connection, education, free home visits, infant weight checks, connection to infant necessities, and much more. The Health Department is a partner of Cribs for Kids which is a nonprofit organization that provides safe sleep education and cribs at discounted prices for those in need.

The nurses send letters to first and second time mothers which include information on program and services, community resources including local mental health services, food pantries and community meals, licensed daycares, emergency shelters, as well as educational information on different topics such as vaccination, safe sleep, and developmental milestones.

In August of 2023, SWCAP-WIC began offering in-person appointments for Iowa County Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) recipients at the Iowa County Health Department. These clinics help ICHD nurses connect mothers and children to resources, offer vaccination, and encourage blood lead testing.

Home Visits

The Public Health nurses went on a total of 36 home visits across Iowa County this year. They went on 10 visits to provide support, education, connection to resources, and infant weight checks to Iowa County mothers with infants who requested public health follow-up. Two visits were to provide education and administer vaccinations to homebound individuals, 20 visits were to provide environmental health hazard follow-up and 4 visits were to follow-up on communicable diseases.



2023 Birth Record Data

Health Indicator	Iowa County
Percent Low Birth Weight (under 5 lbs 7 oz)	6.3%
Percent of infants born before 35 weeks gestation	5.4%
Percent of women breastfeeding at time of discharge	87.4%
Percent of births to a woman less than 18 years old	0.4%
Percent of women who received late (3rd trimester) or no prenatal care	2.1%
Percent of women who smoked while pregnant	4.6%
Percent of home births	5.4%

Access to & Linkage with Care

PH nurses partner with the Community Connections Free Clinic and offer Vaccines for Children vaccines to their uninsured patients on select Tuesday afternoons.

PH Nurses partner with the Iowa County SWCAP food pantry and thrift store on select days to offer vaccinations, radon test kits, and connection to resources.

Iowa County Health Department staff attended the 2023 Health and Wellness Expo and offered blood pressure checks, Tdap vaccines, and advertised the CHIP Community Action Teams.



Annual Report:

For additional copies, call 608-930-9870 or visit our website at

<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/HealthDepartment/health-resource-links>

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**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

