



Greenwood, WI

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**Clark County  
Health Department**  
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Neillsville, WI 54456  
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This annual report highlights some of the programs and services the Clark County Health Department (CCHD) offers, but this is not an all-inclusive list.





## Our Vision

Safe environments, thriving communities, healthy people.



## Our Mission

It is the Mission of the Clark County Health Department to promote health, prevent disease, and protect the residents of the county through partnerships and population-based services.



## Our Values

- » Camaraderie
- » Connectivity
- » Dedication
- » Excellence
- » Ingenuity
- » Integrity

## Opening Letter

Dear Clark County Board of Health, Clark County Board of Supervisors, Community Partners, and Residents:

Along with our amazing team of dedicated Clark County Health Department (CCHD) staff, I am excited to present the Clark CCHD's 2024 annual report. The CCHD is committed to preventing illness and injury and promoting well-being throughout Clark County.

Public health is based on the idea that everyone should have an equal chance to be as healthy and safe as possible. What exactly does public health do, and why is it important to have a strong public health system?! Let me provide you with a few examples. **Public Health...**

- » Primarily Works At The Community Level, While Health Care Works At The Individual Level
- » Focuses On Preventing People From Getting Sick Or Hurt
- » Serves Our Local Communities
- » Workers Play a Variety Of Professional Roles-And Many Work Behind The Scenes
- » Benefits Everyone!

A healthy county can only be attained through the support and contributions of its residents, businesses, elected officials, coalitions, healthcare organizations, child care centers, schools, etc. We value our strong partnerships. Together, we are helping to make Clark County a healthier place to live, work, and play.

Community Partners: I can't express the amount of gratitude I have for all the partners who have worked with the CCHD in 2024 as well as in previous years. Your efforts are valued and appreciated, and we look forward to continued and new partnerships.

CCHD Staff Members: Thank you for your continued commitment, passion, and dedication to public health. You are the cornerstone for the important public health work that is being conducted in Clark County.

Board of Health Committee: Thank you for overseeing and guiding the CCHD, as well as identifying and recommending policies to ensure county residents receive necessary public health services.

We may be a small, rural county with limited resources, but with the power of collaboration, we are able to make significant improvements in the health of our communities.

We will continue to serve the county with our mission as our foundation and our values at the forefront.

To learn more about the CCHD's programs and services and/or to become involved, please outreach!



517 Court Street, Room 105 Neillsville, WI 54456



(715) 743-5105



[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)



<https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/healthdepartment>

Yours In Health,

*Brittany Mews*

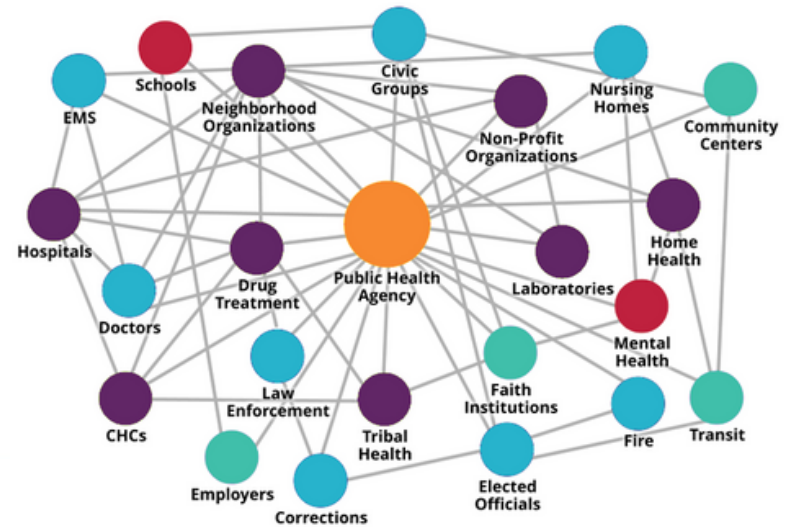
Brittany Mews, BSN, RN  
Health Officer | Director



# What Is Public Health?

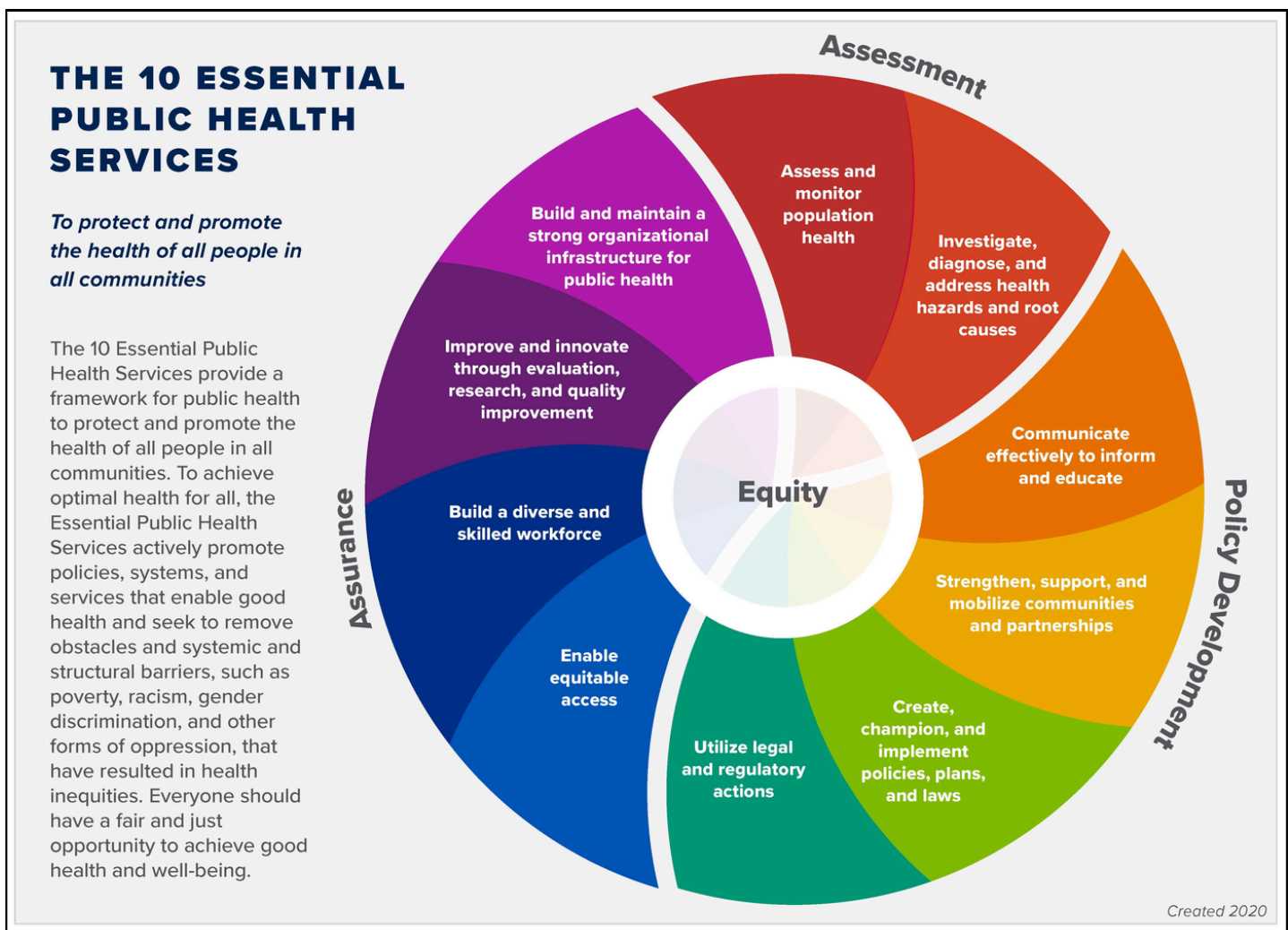
Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention, and detecting, preventing, and responding to infectious diseases.

Public health systems are commonly defined as “all public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to the delivery of essential public health services within a jurisdiction.”



## 10 Essential Public Health Services

The 10 Essential Public Health Services illustrates how the work of public health is done. The high-quality implementation of public health best practice is also required by state statute.



# Foundational Public Health Services

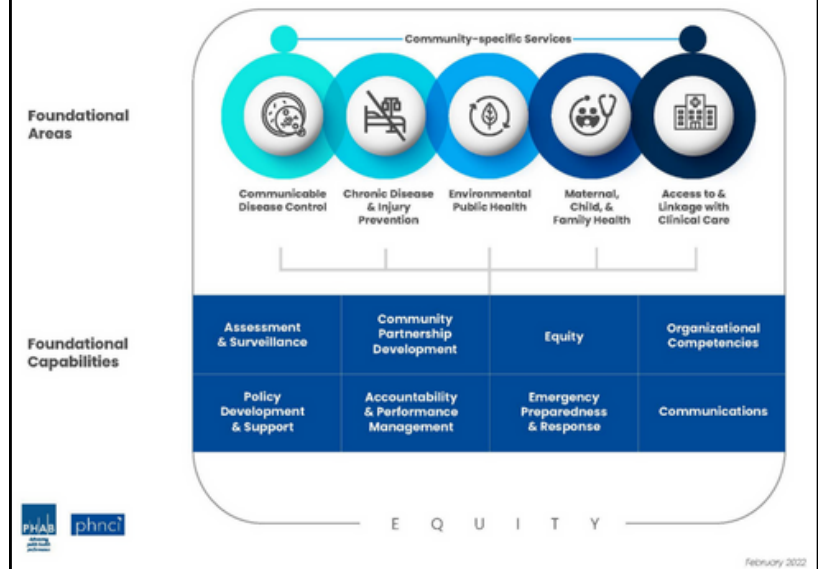
Local Health Departments (LHD) have a fundamental responsibility to provide public health protections and services in several foundational areas. The infrastructure necessary to provide these services strives to offer fair opportunities for all to be healthy and also includes eight foundational capabilities.

The Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) framework provides an overview of the responsibilities of public health and sets a standard for what should be available in every community. Although the needs of every community likely will differ, this sets the minimum level of service that should exist.

LHD's must always be ready to serve their communities. This requires access to a wide range of critical data sources, robust laboratory capacity, preparedness, policy planning capacity, and expert staff to leverage in support of public health protections and services.

Throughout the report, for each of the CCHD's programs/services, there is a reference to the corresponding FPHS foundational area and/or capability. If there is no reference to an area or capability, it can be presumed that a particular service is a community-specific service.

## Foundational Public Health Services



**Community-specific Services** are local protections and services that are unique to the needs of a community. These services are essential to that community's health and vary by jurisdiction.

### 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. The Foundational Areas reflect the minimum level of service that should be available in all communities.

### Foundational Capabilities

Public health infrastructure consists of Foundational Capabilities that are the cross-cutting skills and capacities needed to support basic public health protections, programs, and activities key to ensuring community health, well-being and achieving equitable outcomes.

## WI Public Health Statutes, Administrative Rules, & Local Ordinances

### Statutes

In Wisconsin, statutes outline the services the public can expect from a local health department. The following Wisconsin Statutes guide local health departments:

- [Chapter 95](#): Animal Health
- [Chapter 250](#): Health, Administration and Supervision
- [Chapter 251](#): Local Health Officials
- [Chapter 252](#): Communicable Diseases
- [Chapter 253](#): Maternal and Child Health
- [Chapter 254](#): Environmental Health
- [Chapter 255](#): Chronic Disease and Injuries

### Administrative Rules

Wisconsin Administrative Code ch. DHS 140 specifies the required services for Levels I, II, and III local health departments. Under Wisconsin Administrative Code Department of Health Services § DHS 140.05, the Clark County Health Department is designated as a Level II health department.

- [Chapter 140](#): Required Services of Local Health Departments
- [Chapter 142](#): Access to Vital Records
- [Chapter 144](#): Immunization of Students
- [Chapter 145](#): Control of Communicable Diseases
- [Chapter 146](#): Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

### Clark County Ordinances

Locally, the Clark County Health Department also adheres to Clark County-specific ordinances.

- [Chapter 16](#): Health & Safety



# 2024 Clark County Health Department Organizational Chart



**Clark County Board of Supervisors**

Jim Smagacz, Doris Bakker, Leonard Stoecker, Brandon Hasz, Susan Backaus, Kristin Weiler-Nytes, Jean Ketterhagen, & Kelsey Hinker, DNP

**Board of Health Committee**

Kathy Brodhagen (April -September)  
Scott Johnson (September-December)

**Health Officer/Director**  
Brittany Mews

**Medical Advisor**  
Dr. Tanya Kausch Hoerneman

**Nursing**

Kelsey Wussow-Lead Public Health Nurse

Katie Cook-Public Health Nurse

Corrine Spencer-Public Health Nurse

Megan Lindau-Public Health Nurse

Judy Crothers-Jail Health Nurse

**Environmental Health**

Dillon Brost-Environmental Health Specialist II/Sanitarian

Paige Lindner-Environmental Health Specialist II/Sanitarian

**Health Promotion & Prevention**

Rebecca Greisen-Public Health Specialist/Health Educator

Kaye Nowobielski-LTE Dental Hygienist

Deann Hanson-LTE Dental Hygienist

**Fiscal & Administrative Support**

Alyssa Suda-Financial Manager

Brianna Ciolkosz-Administrative Assistant

## Key

- Line of Authority = **————**
- Line of Coordination = **.....**
- All Staff Are Full Time Unless Noted

# Clark County Board of Health (BOH)

**Jim Smagacz**  
*Chairman*  
Supervisor District 22

**Scott Johnson**  
Supervisor District 16  
(September-December)

**Leonard Stoecker**  
Supervisor District 18

**Brandon Hasz**  
Supervisor District 21

**Doris Bakker**  
Supervisor District 26

**Katherine Brodhagen**  
Supervisor District 1  
(April-September)

**Kristin Weiler-Nytes**  
At-Large Appointed  
Community Member

**Jean Ketterhagen**  
At-Large Appointed  
Community Member

**Kelsey Hinker, DNP**  
At-Large Appointed  
Community Member,  
Advanced Practice  
Provider

**Susan Backaus**  
At-Large Appointed  
Community Member

**Dr. Tanya Kausch Hoerneman**  
Medical Advisor

## Barbara A. Lange Memorial Award Recipient

The Clark County Health Department was chosen as the recipient of the 2024 Barbara A. Lange Memorial Award which was presented at the virtual 38th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Health Education Network (WHEN) on October 3, 2024.

Colleagues nominated the department along with the WI Department of Health Services Western Regional Director and the Western WI Public Health Readiness Consortium (WWPHRC) Director.

The award recognizes a deserving organization that has furthered the advancement of regional and/or statewide health education and health promotion in Wisconsin, thereby advancing the overall population priority of prevention and health improvement through empirically based strategies and partnerships.



*Christa Cupp, Western Region  
Director-Office of Policy and Practice  
Alignment-Division of Public Health  
presents the award to the Clark  
County Health Department staff, along  
with the Clark County Board of Health  
Committee showing their support.*

# Year(s) of Service



**Brittany Mews**  
Health Officer/Director  
[brittany.mews@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:brittany.mews@co.clark.wi.us)

15 Years

**Brittany** graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 2009. She started working as a Public Health Nurse with the Clark County Health Department in 2009, became the Lead Public Health Nurse in 2011, and then transitioned to the Health Officer/Director role in 2019.

Brittany is the appointed Health Officer/Director with the responsibility to administer WI State Statutes, Administrative Rules, and local ordinances necessary to protect and preserve the health and safety of Clark County residents. Brittany directs all the health department programs and services, provides leadership and public health expertise, and promotes population health.

Being a lifelong resident of Clark County, she is truly honored to lead the Health Department, serve the residents of Clark County, and strive to make positive health impacts in local communities. Brittany is committed to and passionate about public health.

**Kelsey** obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from UW-Eau Claire in May 2015 and was hired as a Public Health Nurse for the Clark County Health Department in July 2015. Kelsey took on a new role as the Lead Public Health Nurse in February 2020. Kelsey leads the Reproductive Health Program, Co-Leads the Immunization Program, and mentors college-level students. In addition, Kelsey serves on the Wisconsin Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (WFPRHA) Board and is the Chair of the Education Committee. She has a special interest in preventing disease and the long-term health consequences associated with them; particularly vaccine-preventable & sexually transmitted diseases. Kelsey enjoys teaching from a prevention lens and supporting individuals in making informed decisions about their health.



**Kelsey Wussow**  
Lead Public Health Nurse  
[kelsey.wussow@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:kelsey.wussow@co.clark.wi.us)

9 Years



**Kathleen Cook**  
Public Health Nurse  
[kathleen.cook@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:kathleen.cook@co.clark.wi.us)

5 Years

**Katie** graduated from UW-Eau Claire with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in December 2015. After graduation, she worked as a Registered Nurse in the Operating Room specializing in orthopedic surgery at Marshfield Clinic Health System Hospital for 4 years. She then came to the Clark County Health Department in September 2019.

Katie is the Clark County Injury Prevention Coordinator and works within Maternal and Child Health, Reproductive Health, Immunization, Lead, Chronic and Communicable Disease programs. In addition, she is a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC), a Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST), and is an Instructor in CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Safe Sitter.

**Corrine** graduated from UW-Eau Claire with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in May of 2016. After graduation, she worked as a Pediatric Registered Nurse at Marshfield Children's Hospital for almost 4 years, before transitioning to the Clark County Health Department in March of 2020.

Corrine is the Clark County Seal-A-Smile Program Coordinator, Immunization Back-Up Coordinator, School District Liaison, and Plain Community Liaison. In addition, she is a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC), a Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST), and a Stop the Bleed instructor. Other areas she works in includes preparedness, lead, child death review team (CDR), maternal and child health (MCH), communicable disease, and injury prevention.



**Corrine Spencer**  
Public Health Nurse  
[corrine.spencer@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:corrine.spencer@co.clark.wi.us)

4 Years



**Megan Lindau**  
Public Health Nurse  
[megan.lindau@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:megan.lindau@co.clark.wi.us)

2 Years

**Megan** graduated from UW-Eau Claire with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in May of 2003. She previously worked at the Clark County Health Department from 2004-2011, when she left the department to start a family. Megan returned to the Clark County Health Department in March of 2020 to assist with the COVID response. In January 2023, Megan's role was expanded within the department. Megan currently works on communicable disease follow-up, immunizations, Safe Sitter classes, and in the Lead, MCH, and Preparedness programs.



## Year(s) of Service

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**Judy Crothers**

Jail Nurse

[judy.crothers@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:judy.crothers@co.clark.wi.us)

2 Years

*Judy graduated from MSTC with ADN in Nursing in 1994. She worked at Memorial Medical Center in the ER, OB, Pre-Post OP, Recovery, Med/Surg, and as a shift supervisor. She then worked at Tomah VA in UC, Contessa as a RCC, and Marshfield Clinic in the Cardiac Stress Lab. Judy stated as the Clark County Health Department's Jail Nurse in October of 2022.*

*Dillon graduated from UW-Stout with his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science in May of 2019. He stated working for the Clark County Health Department in 2019 as an Environmental Health Specialist. Dillon is involved with several programs including inspections of licensed facilities, well water sampling and analysis, beach testing, environmental concern follow up, and lead risk assessments when a child is found with an elevated lead blood level. Dillon's favorite part about working for the Health Department is the variety of work he does to service the community.*



**Dillon Brost**

Environmental Health Specialist II/  
Sanitarian

[dillon.brost@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:dillon.brost@co.clark.wi.us)

5 Years



**Paige Lindner**

Environmental Health Specialist II/  
Sanitarian

[paige.lindner@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:paige.lindner@co.clark.wi.us)

1 Year

*Paige started with the Clark County Health Department in 2023. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin- River Falls with a degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in meat animal production and a minor in Agricultural Business. Paiges' roles with the department include: inspections of restaurants, retail, and recreation facilities, beach testing, well water sampling, and animal bite follow-up.*

*Rebecca has been working at the Health Department since April 2015. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion/Wellness from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2012 and her Community Health Educator Specialist certification in 2017. Some of the projects/programs Rebecca oversees include Clark County's Community Health Assessment (CHA); Clark County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP); Narcan training; the county-wide Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); and tobacco compliance checks. She often collaborates with local school districts to assist them with their hydroponic garden operations, connect them with available resources, and facilitate presentations on vaping, puberty, and self-harm prevention. Rebecca currently serves as a member of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute Advisory Board, Clark County's Prevention Partnership, the Eat Right Be Fit Coalition, and Clark County's employee-sponsored Wellness Committee.*



**Rebecca Greisen**

Public Health Specialist/ Health  
Educator

[rebecca.greisen@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:rebecca.greisen@co.clark.wi.us)

9 Years



**Alyssa Suda**

Finance Manager

[alyssa.suda@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:alyssa.suda@co.clark.wi.us)

3 Years

*Alyssa attended Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota where she studied business administration, accounting, and human resource management. In 2018, she started her employment in Clark County for the Office of Finance and moved into the Finance Manager role for the Health Department in 2021. Her role in the Health Department is managing all financial transactions within the department and creating the budgets for the department. She is always looking for ways to improve the systems within the Health Department and enjoys finding ways to streamline processes and optimization.*

## Year(s) of Service



**Brianna Ciolkosz**  
Administrative Assistant  
[brianna.ciolkosz@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:brianna.ciolkosz@co.clark.wi.us)

2 Years

*Brianna obtained her Medical Assistant degree from Mid-State Technical College in May 2020. After graduation, she worked as a Medical Assistant (MA) in a clinical setting for 2 years before transitioning to the Clark County Health Department in June of 2022 as an Administrative Assistant.*

*Her role at the Health Department is to manage the department's social media platforms, track analytics on social media platforms, design, and format the department's annual report, perform oral health billing, assist with electronically filing and organizing client health data, assist all staff with program operations as requested and more! With a MA background, she is able to assist the RN's at clinics with ease. She has always had a passion for helping others, which drew her to this position. Her favorite part of her position is that every day is something different!*

*Kaye graduated from Northcentral Technical College in 2007 as a Registered Dental Hygienist. She started her career as a dental assistant and moved forward to hygiene school. Since then, she has been working in private practice. Kaye has been with the Seal-A-Smile program since 2020. She enjoys working with children and educating patients on dental and overall health.*



**Kaye Nowobielski**  
Registered Dental Hygienist  
[kaye.nowobielski@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:kaye.nowobielski@co.clark.wi.us)

4 Years



**Deann Hanson**  
Registered Dental Hygienist  
[deann.hanson@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:deann.hanson@co.clark.wi.us)

1 Year

*Deann graduated from Northcentral Technical College in Wausau with her degree in Dental Hygiene in 2013. After graduation she worked as a dental hygienist at the FHC Dental Center in Black River Falls for 1 year before transferring to the FHC Dental Center in Neillsville. She worked there for 4 additional years.*

*Deann is one of the dental hygienists that runs the Clark County Seal A Smile program. She has always loved working with children, so this position felt like the perfect fit for her. She is very grateful to be able to serve Clark County dental needs in a school setting.*





# HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



## Car Seats for Kids

The CCHD offers car seat checks to anyone in Clark County free of charge. The CCHD has three certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPSTs) who educate caregivers on the proper selection, installation, and use of car seats and booster seats. This program allows eligible, low-income caregivers to receive car seats and booster seats at a reduced cost. It is supported by local grant funds and/or donations.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Secured Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) grant funds to help sustain the program
- Secured the Buckle Up For Life grant in which we received 50 convertible car seats. In 2024, 27 seats were distributed.
- The CCHD provided parents with:
  - Education on car seat safety
  - Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety Law cards
  - Clark County Car Seats for Kids program business cards
- Posted Car Seat Quick Tip Clips to Facebook and website
- Partnered with Safe Kids Marathon County to provide 32 car seats to low-income families at Community Health and Resource Fairs



A total of **109** new car seats were given to families in need. Staff provided education with each installation.



*This is 37 more children in need that the CCHD helped in 2024 compared to 2023.*

## Cribs for Kids

Cribs for Kids is a safe sleep program for low-income parents, families, and caregivers to help reduce the risk of infant injury or death related to unsafe sleep environments.

Those who wish to participate in the Cribs for Kids program are first screened by the CCHD for eligibility and need. Parents and caregivers who qualify receive education on safe sleep practices along with a reduced-cost Pack 'n Play crib. A Public Health Nurse (PHN) then works with the individual to complete the Cribs for Kids intake questionnaire, presents them with materials on safe sleep, and demonstrates how to correctly assemble the Pack 'n Play.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Secured grant funding from Clark County United Way
- Secured additional funding from Aspirus Stanley Hospital
- Consistently promoted safe sleep and the Cribs for Kids program during:
  - Child Death Review meetings
  - Clark County Interagency Coordinating Coalition meetings
  - At new mom classes
  - Health fairs
  - Facebook page
  - Website



25 Pack 'n Plays were distributed to families in need

This is down from 38 last year, which is likely due to an increased demand for car seats and limited capacity at Community Health and Resource Fairs.

## Growing Together: Parent Connections

Previously called Healthy Beginnings Plus, the CCHD provides education to new parents to help expecting families get the support they need to have a healthy baby. Over the past several years, the CCHD has moved away from the traditional format of 1:1 prenatal/postnatal education.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- 10 classes offered at Abbotsford City Hall
  - 2-3 RNs and 2 interpreters present
  - 50+ families educated
    - Topics include pregnancy, labor and delivery, postpartum and newborn care
    - Resources and referral options
    - Safe sleep
    - Car seats
    - Reproductive health



Through this event alone, we have been able to educate **over 50** expectant parents on various topics to increase health and safety of their children.

CCHD RNs also go to a Plain Community midwife's home twice a year to offer the same education to a group of around 16 expectant parents. Two CCHD staff have also been trained as Certified Lactation Consultants to broaden our scope and provide clients with additional services.



The CCHD is a member of Safe Kids Wood and Clark Counties, which focuses on injury prevention.

As a member of Safe Kids Wood and Clark Counties, the CCHD collaborates with local partners and has increased access to grant opportunities. Marshfield Clinic Health System acts as the fiscal agent as well as the mediator between the two counties.

### **2024 Activities and Outputs:**

- In March, a CCHD RN presented to Clark County Sheriff's Office patrol officers
  - Taught how to spot legal vs illegal car seat use
- Attended quarterly Safe Kids Wood and Clark County coalition meetings
- Attended virtual Safe Kids Worldwide meetings to learn more about safety promotion and additional programs/campaigns available
- Utilized the CCHD's Facebook page and website to share safety/injury-prevention tips with the public
- Published safety-related articles in the CCHD's Amish/Mennonite quarterly newsletter

### **Safe Sitter 2024 Activities and Outputs:**

- 3 staff were trained to become Safe Sitter instructors, a nationally recognized program
  - Teaches adolescents the basics of safe babysitting
    - Skills such as CPR, first aid, and choking
- Held classes at four different locations across Clark County
  - 74 students educated on these topics
  - 5-6 hour long classes
  - 12:30 PM - 6 PM to accommodate summer school
  - Students were charged \$25 to cover the cost of supplies and snacks



#### **I also want you to know ...**

that the teachers did a wonderful job of explaining and going over everything.



#### **I also want you to know ...**

you guys did great; you were very clear when speaking and were overall amazing.

#### **I also want you to know ...**

that this class was amazing and educational.

## Child Death Review

### Maternal, Child, & Family Health; Community Partnership Development

The CCHD is an active member of the Clark County Child Death Review (CDR) team, which was coordinated through the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Starting in 2025, the CCHD will take over this role. This multidisciplinary team reviews and acknowledges all child deaths from a prevention standpoint. CDR teams are a community's response to a child's death (birth through age 19). Teams increase inter-agency collaboration to improve health and safety while demonstrating a commitment to keeping children and adolescents alive and preventing deaths of similar causes.

The Clark County CDR team inputs data into the National Child Death Review Case Reporting System. The National Center for the Review and Prevention of Child Deaths, in collaboration with state CDR programs, develops and manages this web-based reporting system. Users of this system can enter CDR case review data so that their findings can be tabulated at the local, state, and national levels. Findings from these reviews guide program, service, and policy efforts to keep children safe, healthy, and alive.

### **2024 Activities and Outputs:**

- 3 CDR meetings were held with three total cases reviewed
  - As a result of the CDR meetings, several prevention initiatives were implemented internally, as well as additional education given to community members based on findings from the meetings

### CCHD REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: CONFIRMED & PROBABLE CASES

#### RESPIRATORY DISEASES

	2022	2023	2024
Coronavirus-Associated Hospitalizations	*	31	61
Influenza Associated Hospitalizations	22	7	36
Legionellosis	0	0	1
Parapertussis	1	1	0
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	5	1	16
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)-Associated Hospitalizations	*	5	16
Tuberculosis (Active Disease)	1	1	0

#### ENTERIC DISEASES

	2022	2023	2024
Campylobacteriosis	19	17	25
Cryptosporidiosis	11	8	3
Salmonellosis	5	9	3
Giardiasis	4	8	2
E. Coli (All Types)	17	20	20
Yersiniosis	1	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	1

Communicable diseases (also called infectious diseases) are illnesses caused by organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and/or parasites. Infectious diseases remain one of the major causes of illness, disability, and death. Surveillance, investigation, and controlling the spread of reportable communicable diseases are statutory responsibilities of local health departments. The CCHD ensures individuals receive appropriate treatments and are provided with education to help prevent the further spread of diseases.

Please refer to the table for a list of diseases reported to the CCHD from 2022-2024. These numbers are not a complete picture of communicable diseases in Clark County, as some infections may not have been reported.

\*As of November 1, 2023, Coronavirus-associated hospitalizations and RSV-associated hospitalizations are now reportable conditions in Wisconsin.

\*\*As of November 1, 2023, individual Coronavirus cases are no longer reportable in Wisconsin.



***In 2024, the number of reported pertussis cases in the United States has been the highest in a decade. Wisconsin had the third highest number of pertussis cases in the nation.***



CCHD REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: CONFIRMED & PROBABLE CASES (Continued)			
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES			
	2022	2023	2024
Chlamydia	58	64	77
Gonorrhea	4	4	5
HIV	1	0	0
Syphilis	2	4	0
VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES			
	2022	2023	2024
Haemophilus Influenzae/Invasive	2	1	0
Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality	1	0	0
Hepatitis A	1	0	0
Streptococcus Pneumoniae, Invasive	3	5	4
Varicella (Chickenpox)	3	0	0
VECTORBORNE DISEASES			
	2022	2023	2024
Anaplasmosis	1	3	9
Babesiosis	0	3	1
Lyme Disease (All Types)	38	25	64

Case counts are from the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS)

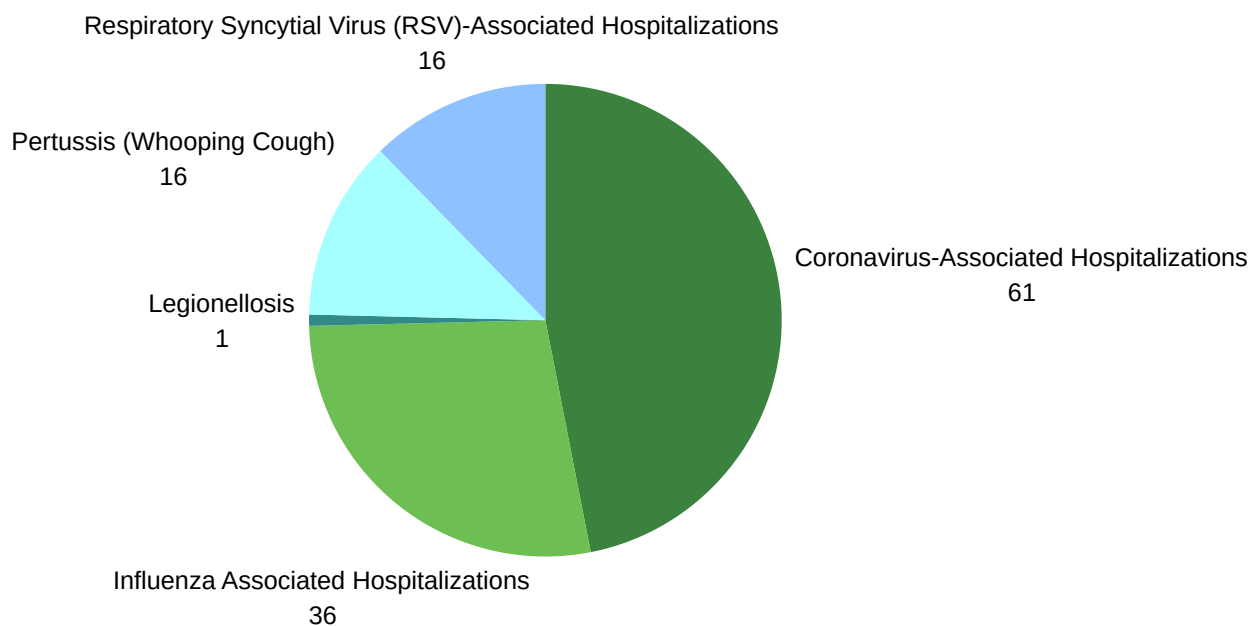


***In the United States, only about 56% of people infected with Hepatitis C are aware of their infection.***

CCHD REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: CONFIRMED & PROBABLE CASES (Continued)			
OTHER/ADDITIONAL DISEASES			
	2022	2023	2024
Blastomycosis	0	1	0
Carbon Monoxide Reporting	1	2	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	1	0
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	2	0	1
Hepatitis C (Acute & Chronic)	4	9	17
Mycobacterial Disease (Non-Tuberculosis)	5	1	2
Streptococcal Disease/Invasive/Groups A & B	7	16	3
Tuberculosis (Latent Infection-LTBI)	3	4	4
Tularemia	0	1	0

Case counts are from the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS)

## **2024 Respiratory Diseases**



The CCHD focuses on preparing for and responding to events that pose a substantial risk to the health of Clark County residents, along with providing information, resources, and expertise to community partners to help ready Clark County for health threats, emergencies, and disasters.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Completed Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) required contract deliverables
- Participated in meetings and exercises as members of:
  - North Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (NCW-HERC)
  - Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium (WWPHRC)
  - Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Participated in the 2023-2024 NCW-HERC Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)

### Top 5 NCW-HERC Hazards Identified

- 1 Staffing Crisis
- 2 Epidemic/Infectious Disease Outbreak/Seasonal Influenza/Pandemic
- 3 Inclement Weather/Temperature Extremes
- 4 Active Shooter/Act of Terrorism/Weapon
- 5 IT System Outage/Cyber Attack

- Participated in the 2024 Clark County Preparedness Exercise: Operations Coordination (WWPHRC Regional Exercise)
- Completed the 2023-2024 Clark County Health Department Mass Influenza Immunization Clinics After Action Report (AAR)/Improvement Plan

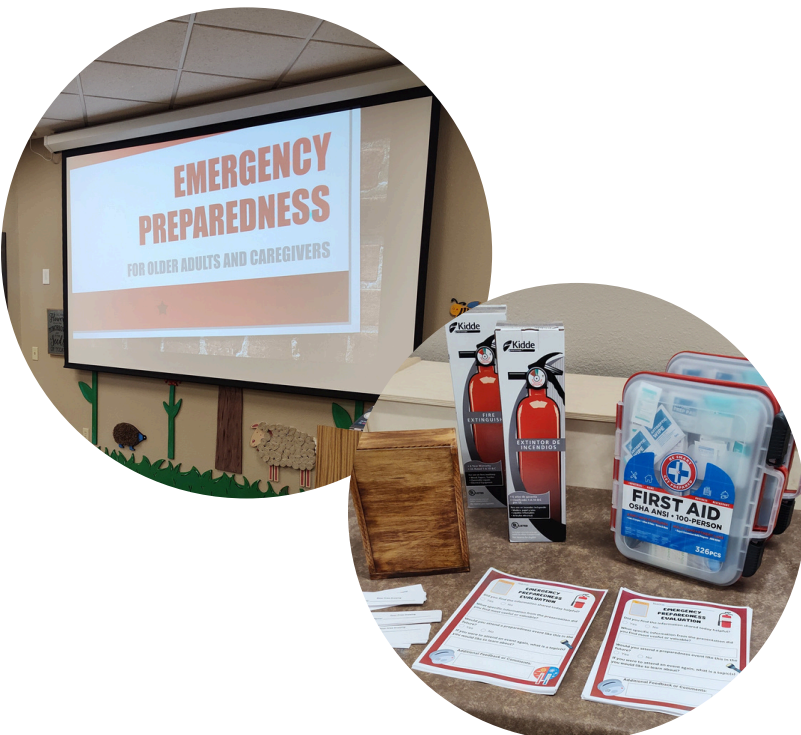
### AAR Strengths & Areas for Improvement

#### Strengths

- 1 Increased CCHD staff capacity to ensure clinics ran efficiently
- 2 Reviewed immunization history of all students the morning of each clinic
- 3 Improved equipment and immunization supply organization

#### Areas for Improvement

- 1 Assigning one staff member the role of data entry vs. live charting
- 2 Increase influenza vaccination uptake
- 3 Better promotion of influenza vaccine clinic dates, times, and locations



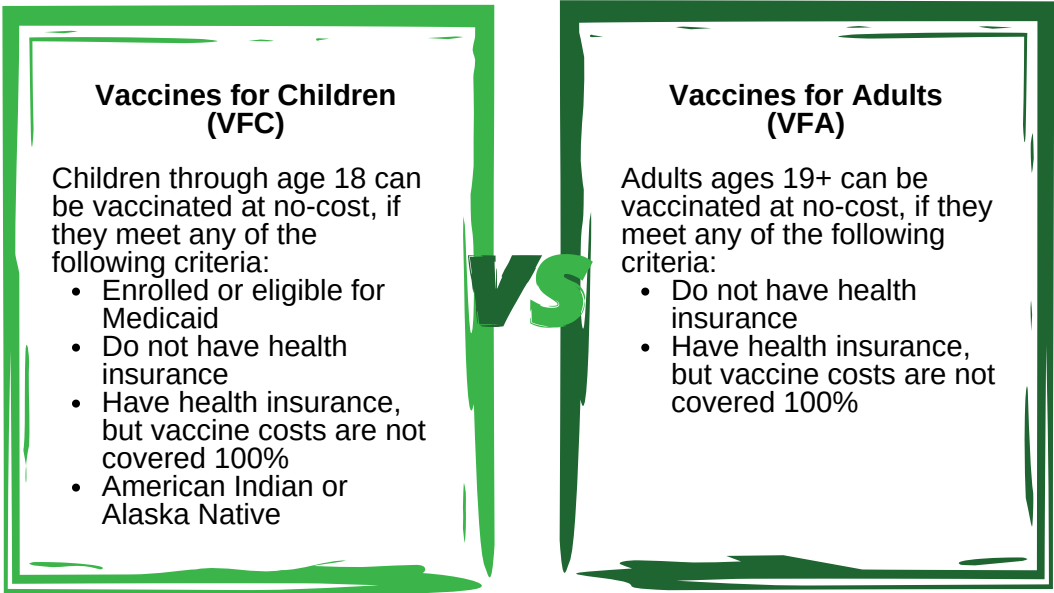
- Monitored communicable disease data for outbreaks
- Fit tested applicable Health Department staff
- Mailed quarterly Plain Community Newsletters to 150+ Plain Community leaders discussing pertinent public health topics, such as communicable diseases, ice safety, preventing burns, gun safety, air quality, cancer screening, summer safety, vaccine information, etc.
- Continued distributing "Fight the Bite Kits"
- Participated in the Neillsville High School "Trunk Junk Clean Out" event
- Collaborated with Clark County ADRC, Central Fire and EMS, Clark County Emergency Management, Clark Electric, and Marshfield Clinic Health System to host an Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults and Caregivers Event. Topics presented included fall prevention, food safety, power outages, dementia safety, when to call 911, oxygen safety, and more!
- Presented at NOAA/NWS LaCrosse on the current Plain Community population in Clark County, engagement with the community, and how to provide weather and safety information to the community



On-time vaccinations throughout a child's life is essential because it helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. Vaccines continue to be recommended through adolescence and adulthood to extend protection from all types of diseases. As individuals age, their risk of exposure to new infections increases.

2024 Activities and Outputs:

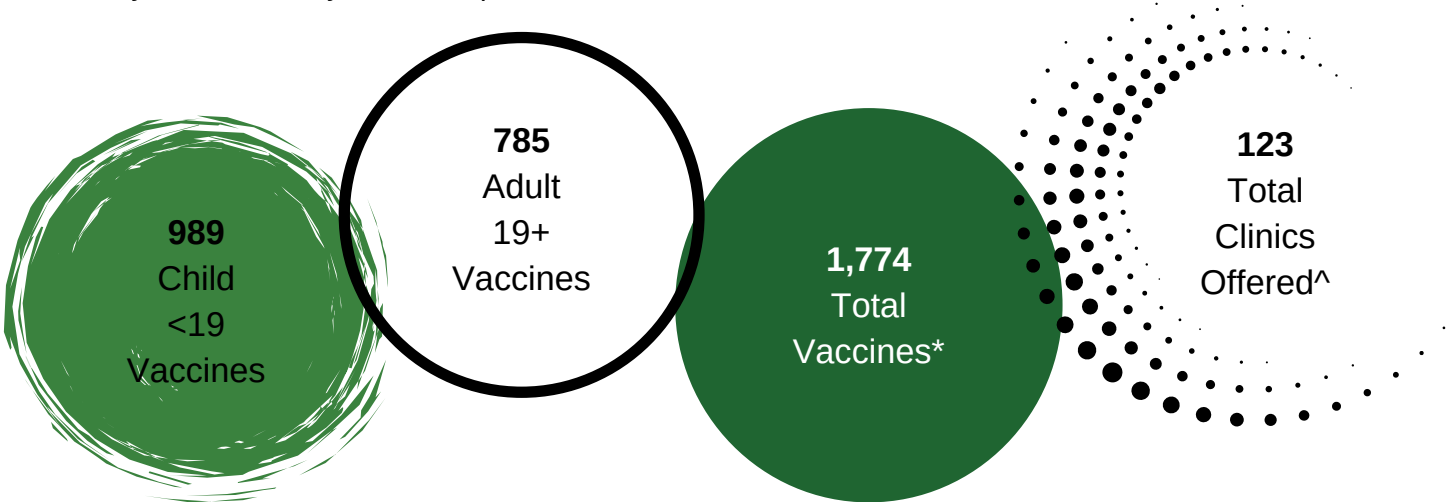
- VFC Provider
- VFA Provider



- 2024-2025 Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines available to those with certain insurance plans (private stock)



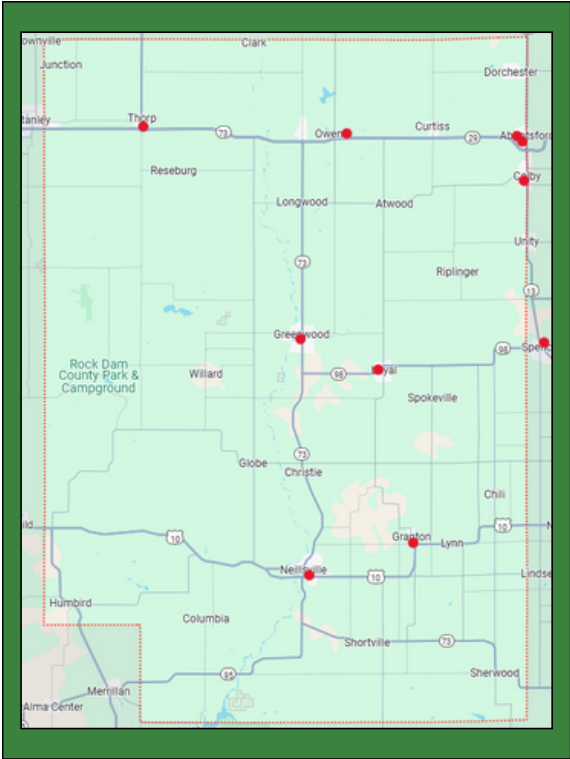
- Routine vaccine clinics
  - Every other month - St. Bernard Catholic Church (Community Health & Resource Fair) - 6 Clinics
  - Every other month - 8 Plain Community homes and schools - 48 Clinics
  - Weekly - Clark County Health Department - 51 Clinics



\*Includes influenza vaccines.  
^Does not include 1:1 vaccine appointments throughout year.

2024 Activities and Outputs (continued):

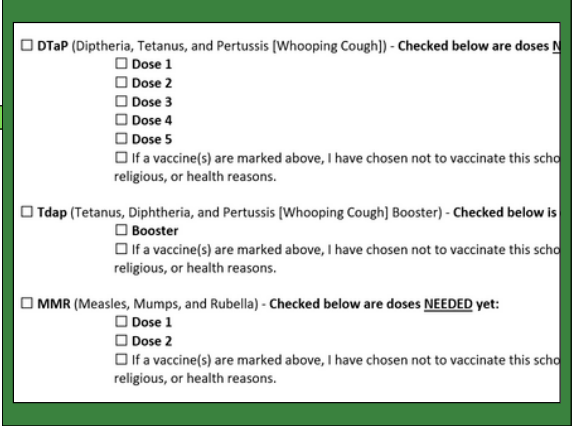
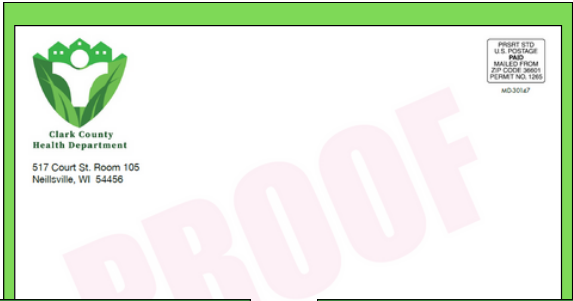
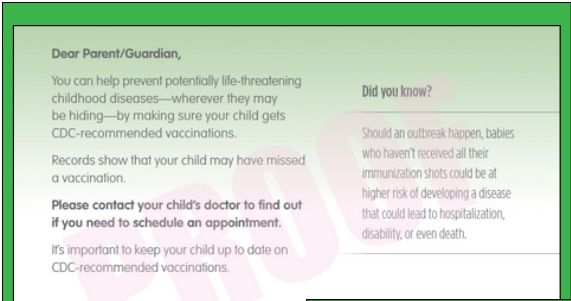
- Increase vaccination access to Clark County residents in an effort to increase immunization rates
- Additional Adult Vaccination Efforts
  - Clark County employee targeted outreach
  - Off-site adult flu vaccine clinics, including businesses, community-based sites (libraries, fire stations), schools, and assisted living facilities.
- Additional Child Vaccination Efforts
  - 11 mass influenza vaccine clinics providing no-cost flu vaccines to children <19 years old



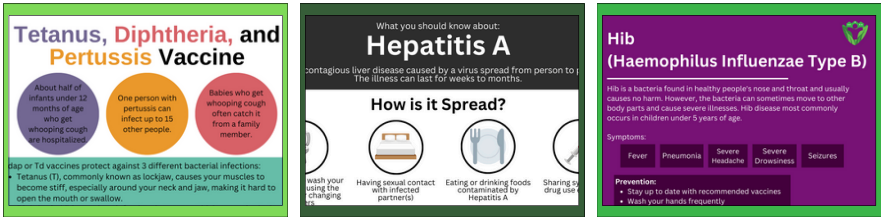
\*St. Bernard Catholic Church x2



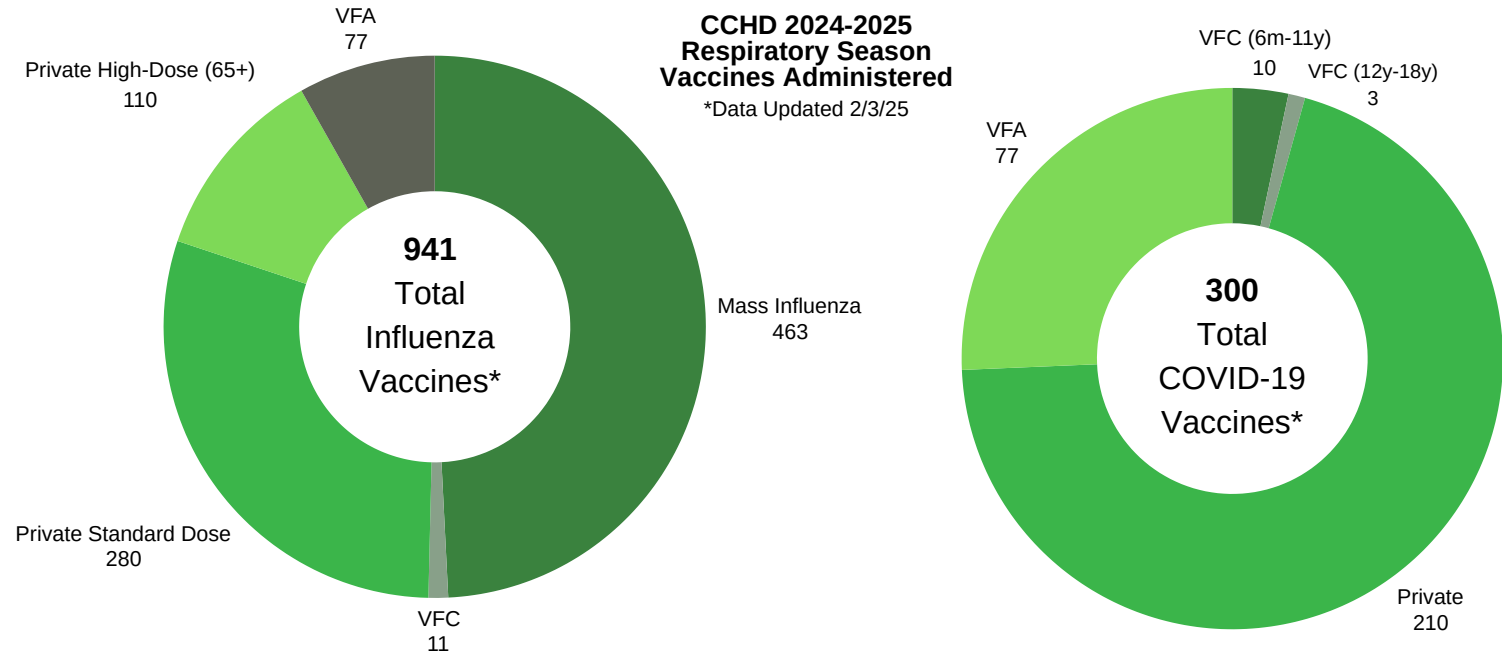
- Sent out reminder-recall notices (identifying individuals who are due or overdue for vaccines and sending them notices)
  - Phone calls/voicemails, text messages, and postcards to all community members
  - Reminder-recall letters to Plain Community school students (1st-8th) as part of school immunization requirements
    - 58 Plain Community Schools - 1,629 Immunization records reviewed



- 2024 Activities and Outputs (continued):
- Provided education on the importance of vaccinations



- Analyzed immunization rates and vaccination uptake in an effort to provide guidance for future efforts



CLARK COUNTY BENCHMARK REPORT AT 24 MONTHS								
Year	DTaP (4)	Polio (3)	MMR (1)	Hib (3)	HepB (3)	Varicella (1)	Pneumococcal (4)	4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Series
2022	50%	58%	59%	59%	52%	47%	53%	42%
2023	45%	54%	53%	57%	48%	43%	47%	35%
2024	40%	51%	50%	53%	44%	36%	43%	31%

CLARK COUNTY BENCHMARK REPORT FOR ADOLESCENTS			
Year	HPV (Complete)	Meningo (2)	Tdap (1)
	Age 9-18	Age 11-18	
2022	22%	7%	67%
2023	22%	7%	64%
2024	21%	7%	61%

2024-2025 Respiratory Season^		
	Clark	Wisconsin
Influenza	20.6%	32.5%
COVID-19	8.5%	15.8%

^Data Updated 2/4/25

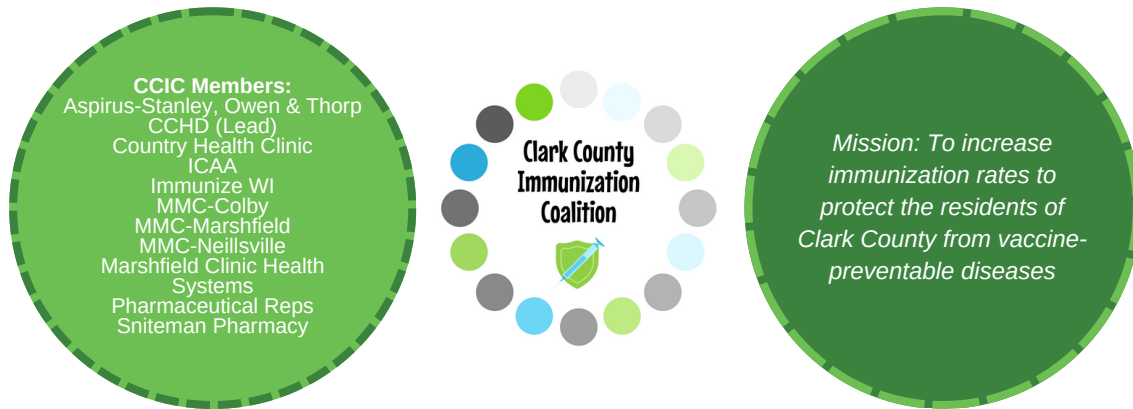
“ We forgo vaccinations for our kids at the physician’s office and choose to make the trip to the CCHD because the experience is so much less invasive. It is friendly and welcoming place for kids, and the administering nurses are great at what they do. The kids are in and out quickly, and have way fewer tears than at the physician’s office. David and Amber Bangart



## Clark County Immunization Coalition

### 2024 Activities, Discussions, & Outputs:

- Navigated immunization changes and recommendations
  - 2023-2024 COVID-19 for 65+
  - 2024-2025 COVID-19
  - 2024-2025 COVID-19 for 65+
  - DHS 144 updates - 40 day report changes in schools
  - Td
  - MenB
  - MenABCWY
  - PCV21
  - RSV
- Discussed communicable disease outbreaks in Clark County and how to work together to prevent future spread
- Vaccine promotion & education (including Spanish translations)
  - Social media posts and website updates
- Funding opportunities
- Promotion of community events
- Reviewed vaccine research studies
- Identified vaccine gap areas
- Reviewed statewide immunization data



## Jail Health and Nursing Services

The jail health program is a cooperative and coordinated effort between the CCHD, Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville, and the Clark County Sheriff's Office. The goal is to assure that each inmate has access to adequate medical care.

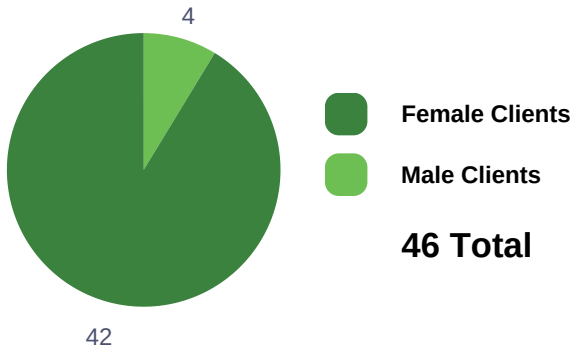
### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

OUTPUTS	2021	2022	2023	2024
Inmate TB Skin Tests	17	17	11	9
# of Positive Inmate TB Tests	0	0	0	0
Inmate Prescription Medication Setup	119	111	78	61
Inmates Seen by Jail Advanced Provider	134	151	146	144
Counselor Visits	162	194	128	115
Psychiatrist Visits	28	26	8	5
Total RN Contacts	1,552	1,368	1,242	996
Medical Health Assesments		216	252	151

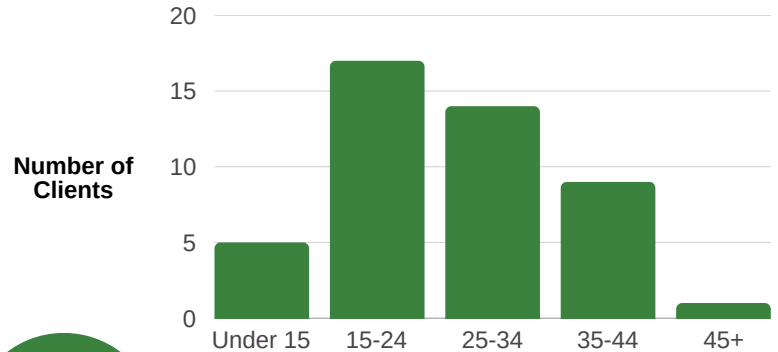
The program exists to provide reproductive health services that offer quality, accessible, affordable, and confidential family planning care. Services available include education and counseling, contraception management, pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, and referrals (as applicable). Medicaid and Family Planning Only Services (FPOS) Waiver-eligible men and women can receive free services and supplies. Individuals not meeting the eligibility criteria for the FPOS waiver can access services at reduced cost based on their individual income.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

Number of Unduplicated Clients



Clients Served by Age



### Nurse Practitioner Services

Services available to provide greater access to comprehensive reproductive health care.

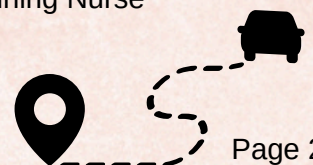
- Services include (not an all-inclusive list):
  - Annual Reproductive Health Exams to include Pelvic & Clinical Breast Exams
  - Cervical Cancer Screening, known as the Pap test; in addition to HPV (human papillomavirus) testing, as applicable.
  - Comprehensive STI Testing & Treatment Services to include HIV & Syphilis
  - Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (Intrauterine Device & Nexplanon) Insertion & Removal

Abby visited with clients on-site at the Health Department eight days and met with 14 clients. Among other services, Abby completed:

- 6** Reproductive-Focused Physical Exams
- 5** Pap Tests
- 2** Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Procedures



In an effort to reduce barriers around access to reproductive health services in Clark County, the CCHD offered an incentive program, providing fuel-only gift cards to individuals scheduling an appointment with the Family Planning Nurse Practitioner





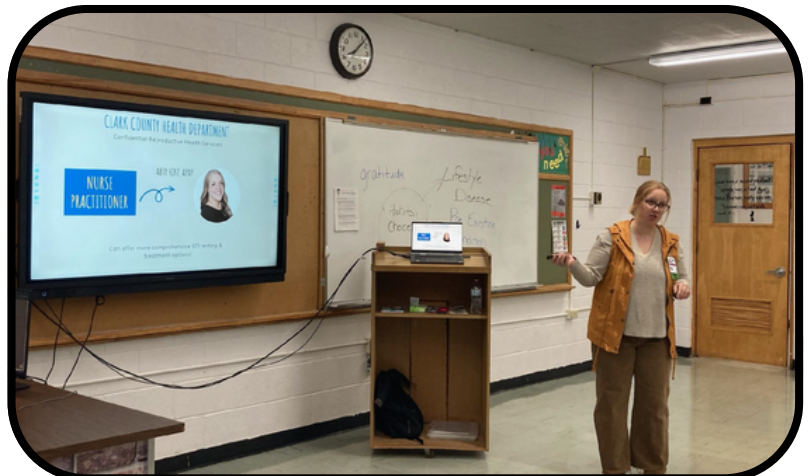
## Get Yourself Tested (GYT) Campaign - Trivia Event:

- Objective: Increase public information on the importance of STI risk awareness and testing and partner with one community organization or small business
- Partnered with Frickin A Bar & Grill in Dorchester to coordinate the 3rd Annual CCHD GYT Trivia Night event
- The event was a huge success as 18 teams of 4-6 players were in attendance
- GYT promotional “swag bags” were provided to each participant to promote CCHD’s reproductive health program
- The feedback from trivia participants, Frickin A Bar & Grill staff, and community members was overwhelmingly positive



## Comprehensive Reproductive (Sexual Health) Education:

- Presentations were available by request to the 8 public school districts. Presentations are generally applicable to students in grades 7-10 and focus on sexual activity laws, abstinence, healthy relationships, and general STI prevention. Teen pregnancy statistics are included in addition to a basic overview of contraception options.





The Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile (SAS) program is a statewide sealant program that offers grants to local school-based programs, such as Clark County SAS. Wisconsin SAS is a collaborative effort between the Wisconsin DHS, Delta Dental of Wisconsin, and the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin. The program's mission is to improve the oral health of Wisconsin children by providing school-based dental sealants (and more).

Clark County SAS provides **no-cost** oral health services for all children in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade, regardless of insurance status, in participating schools.

Oral health services are provided by a licensed dental professional on various dates throughout the school year. Oral health services include:

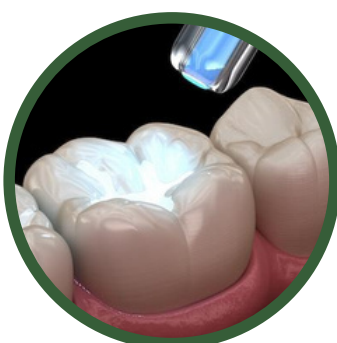
- Teeth Cleaning and Screening
- Oral Health Education
- Fluoride Treatment(s)
- Dental Sealants (If Applicable)



## 2023-2024 School Year: 984 Students Received Services



**35.46%**  
Participation  
Rate



**2,320**  
Sealants  
Applied



**1,860**  
Fluoride  
Applications



**26.93%**  
Students  
With Decay



**1.32%**  
Students With  
Urgent Needs



**\$334,524.52**  
Saved by Participants in  
Preventative Oral Health Care

### Participating Schools

Abbotsford  
Colby  
Colby St. Mary's  
Dorchester Head Start  
Granton  
Greenwood

Loyal  
Loyal St. Anthony's  
Neillsville  
Neillsville St. John's  
Thorp  
Thorp Catholic School



Staff  
Attending  
the  
Seal-A-Smile:  
2024-2025  
School Year  
Launch  
Meeting

The CCHD has strong linkages with numerous institutions of higher learning and serves as a site for student placement for observation, practice experience, and internships.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Partnered with two groups of senior-level Nursing students from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC)
- Collaborated with one group of North Central Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) students



- Mentored two groups of UWEC Nursing students (14 students total) during the fall 2024 academic semester
  - The clinical is focused on population health and leadership
- CCHD provides unique learning opportunities and “boots on the ground” experiences that most students would not be exposed to in other clinical settings or even in their future professional careers

## Educational presentations



## Prevention messaging



## Community and school immunization clinics

“

The experience will push you out of your comfort zone.

-Student



”

“

Eye opening and fun!

-Student



”

“

The students were abuzz after our visit. They had tons of follow up questions!

-Instructor



”





# NORTH CENTRAL

Wisconsin Area Health Education Center

## Plain Community Health Immersion



- Collaborated with a group of Wisconsin AHEC students in May- June 2024.
  - Wisconsin AHEC offers a variety of education and training programs designed to increase the diversity and distribution of the healthcare workforce and enhance healthcare quality and delivery in rural and medically underserved communities.
- Joined a group of health professional students on May 30, 2024, to present information on the Public Health Perspective of Clark County's Plain Community
  - The students were studying a variety of health-related disciplines, including medicine, pharmacy, nursing, social work, and public health.
- In addition to completing the presentation, CCHD coordinated a tour on June 6, 2024, with a local Amish home and business.

## Monthly School & Child Care Newsletters

Each month, a Public Health Nurse compiles pertinent school, child care, and public health-related information and inputs it into a school and child care newsletter. Newsletters are sent out to child care contacts and school staff (administration, school nurses, health aides, secretaries, guidance counselors, health teachers, school resource officers, etc.) Newsletters are also published on our website under [Resources](#).



<https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/ph-resources>

### Wisconsin Childhood Communicable Disease Chart

- Click [here](#) to view and/or print the wall chart. The wall chart includes important information about communicable diseases and/or conditions, including criteria for exclusion from school or group (such as child care). This wall chart was updated 3/2024.

### Too Sick for School?

#### DPI Infographic

DPI has a one-page infographic that can quickly help parents and school districts determine when to keep children/students home from school. The recommendations are based on guidelines provided by the CDC and state public health professionals. To view the infographic, click [here](#).

### Neffy (Epinephrine Nasal Spray) in Schools

#### No Cost to K-12 Schools

ARS Pharmaceuticals is set to launch the [neffyinSchools Program](#) in January 2025, providing eligible K-12 schools in the U.S. with two free cartons (four single-use doses) of neffy 2mg epinephrine nasal spray for emergency use. The initiative aims to address the urgent need for anaphylaxis treatment in schools, where children with food allergies have experienced accidental exposure. Neffy offers a needle-free alternative to traditional auto-injectors, which can help alleviate fears associated with needles and eliminate concerns about sharps disposal. It is current approved for individuals weighing 66 pounds or more and has a shelf life of 30 months. To learn more about [Neffy](#), click [here](#).

### New Additions to DPI School Nurse Resources Webpage

#### Resources and Publications

A new category on Nutrition was added to the Resources webpage. [Resources](#) include information on concussions, head lice, vaping, and more.

September 2024  
Page 1

CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## School & Child Care Newsletter

• Monthly Bulletin for Staff •

The dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you onto the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth.

— Dan Rather

Newsletters Topics:

- Pages 2-10: Announcements
- Page 11: Upcoming Dates
- Page 12: Reminders
- Page 13-14: CCHD Information
- Pages 15-19: CCHD Programs & Services

Find previous School & Child Care Newsletters [here!](#)

Key:

- DPI (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)
- DHS (Wisconsin Department of Health Services)
- DPH (Division of Public Health)
- CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)
- CCHD (Clark County Health Department)
- FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration)
- DCF (Department of Children and Families)
- HAN (Health Alert Network)
- ED (U.S. Department of Education)
- WIR (Wisconsin Immunization Registry)
- VFC (Vaccines for Children)
- VFA (Vaccines for Adults)





# **HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTION**



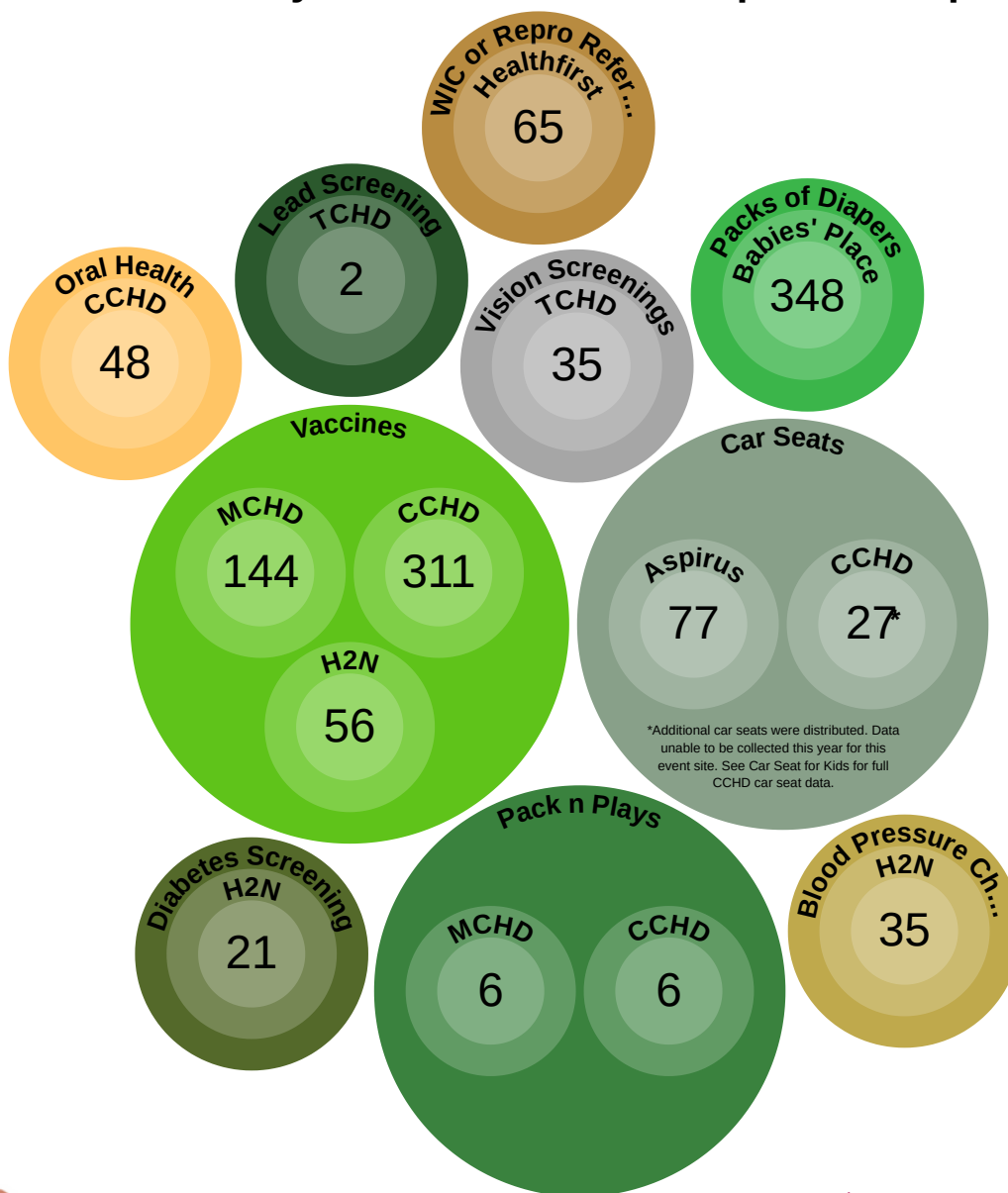
## Meeting People Where They Are

**Background:** The Abbotsford Area Collaborative Team puts on a weekly food pantry that serves 200-350 families at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Abbotsford. Community partners have identified that there are service needs in the area and that clients are hard to reach (rural central Wisconsin - transportation barriers).

**Community Health & Resource Fair:** Multiple community partners come together **six times a year** to provide services during a scheduled food pantry. The partners noted below provide services where individuals are already present, versus individuals traveling throughout central Wisconsin to receive partner services separately.

**Services:** Vaccinations, car seats, safe sleep education and/or pack-n-plays, vision screenings, lead screenings, oral health services, reproductive health services, WIC enrollment, diapers and wipes, blood pressure screenings, diabetes screenings, health education, community resources, and more!

## Communities Coming Together - Services for All 2nd Thursday - Even Months - 1:00pm to 5:00pm



Per Wisconsin Administrative Code 140.04(1)(g), local public health departments are required to facilitate or co-facilitate a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and develop a corresponding Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) every 5 years.

A CHA can be conducted at the state, county, local, tribal, or territorial level. Through a systematic data collection process, it identifies community needs, available resources, populations that may be at increased risk for poor health outcomes, and assesses how the larger environment may support/not support the public's health. When conducting a Community Health Assessment, it is absolutely vital to collect feedback from individual community members. This is done via surveys and stakeholder/focus group meetings.

The purpose of the CHA is to:

- Better understand Clark County's current health status, needs, and areas for improvement
- Collaborate with community partners to identify the top health priority areas
- Develop plans to address key health issues affecting Clark County residents

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, non-profit (tax-exempt) hospital organizations are required to conduct a CHA and develop a CHIP every 3 years.

Healthy Clark County (HCC) is a collaboration of Clark County-based organizations who have a vested interest in improving the health of Clark County and lead the county's CHA efforts. Membership includes representatives from Aspirus Stanley Hospital, the Clark County Health Department, and Marshfield Clinic Health System. To fulfill both state and federal requirements, the HCC group convenes in three-year cycles to assess the health status of Clark County, affirm or reaffirm health priority areas, and develop direction regarding future strategies.

### Clark County Community Health Improvement Plan 2023-2025 (current cycle)

In June of 2022, the CCHD received approval from Clark County's Board of Health to address the following three health priority areas in the CCHD's 2023-2025 CHIP:

1. Physical Environment and Safety
2. Communicable Disease
3. Alcohol Misuse and Drug Use

Each priority area contains specific goals as well as indicators of progress (activities).

To view the CCHD's CHA and CHIP document in its entirety, please refer to the "Publications & Data" section on the CCHD's website or click here: [A Healthier Clark County: Connecting the Dots 2023-2025](#).

#### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

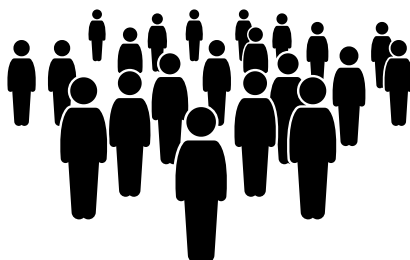
1. Maintained an internal tracking system to monitor progress within each CHIP priority area
2. Completed all Year 2 CHIP activities within the three health priority areas
3. Reported to the Board of Health on a quarterly basis

### Clark County Community Health Improvement Plan 2026-2028

In early 2024, the CCHD resumed regular meetings with partners at Aspirus Health and Marshfield Clinic Health System to initiate the Community Health Assessment process and plan for the 2024 Clark County Community Health Survey (CHS). The end product will be the 2026-2028 Clark County Community Health Improvement Plan 2026-2028.

#### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Finalized the 2024 CHS in June
- From June to August, the Healthy Clark County group conducted public outreach efforts to collect survey responses from the public
  - The survey was available both online and via hardcopy at all Clark County libraries



415 individuals who either lived in Clark County or utilized services in Clark County participated in the survey



Clark County Community Health Improvement Plan 2026-2028 (continued)

2024 Activities and Outputs (continued):

- From September to October, survey responses were reviewed and secondary data was compiled.
  - In reviewing the cumulative data, the HCC group identified *Child Health & Wellness* as an overarching health priority area in Clark County. Specific issues within this priority area included:
    - Child Care
    - Youth Mental Health
    - Access to Safe and Healthy Foods (ages 0-18)
- Partnered with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension to plan for two separate deliberative dialogue events in which key Clark County community members will be invited to the table to address potential strategies relevant to the *Child Health & Wellness* priority area. These events will take place in March 2025
- Scheduled 4 separate meetings (January 2025 - February 2025) with a group of Clark County key informants to create an issue guide relevant to the *Child Health & Wellness* priority area. This issue guide will help facilitate discussions during the March community meetings
- In December, the HCC group conducted a secondary review of the 2024 community data and identified additional Clark County health priority areas
- In 2025, each organization (Clark County Health Department, Marshfield Clinic Health System, and Aspirus Stanley Hospital) will work with their internal oversight group(s) to determine which health priority area(s) to address within their 2026-2028 CHIP plans
  - Scopes of work, internal capacity, funding limitations, community readiness, and other important criteria will likely influence priority areas

December 2024 Progress Snapshot:  
Identification of 10 Potential Clark County Health Priority Areas\*  
(Three Separate CHIPs)

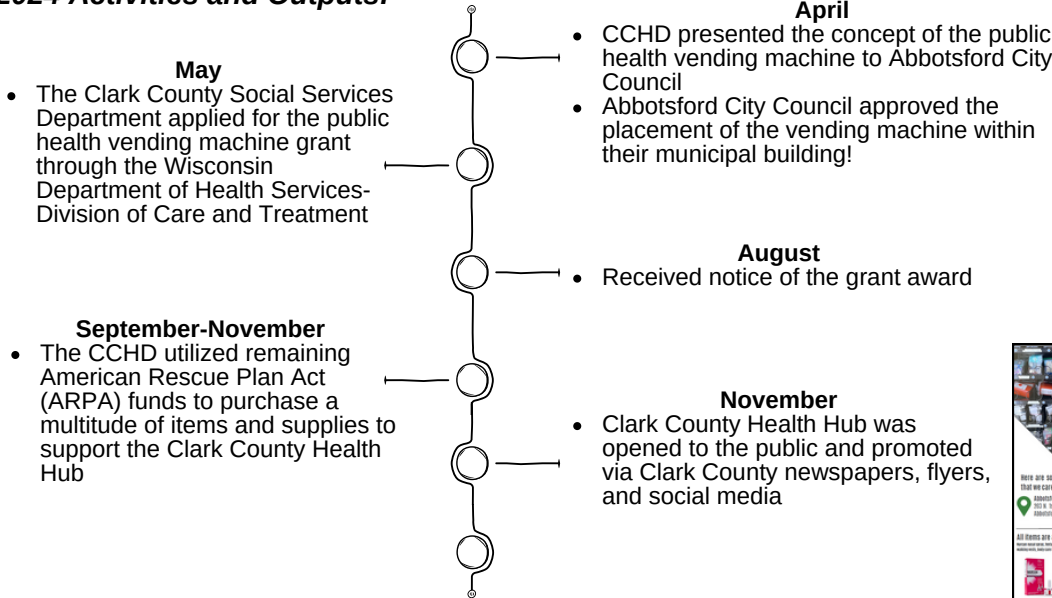
	Clark County Health Department	Marshfield Clinic Health System	Aspirus Stanley Hospital
Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse (AODA)	X		
Behavioral Health			
Capacity & Infrastructure			
Child Health & Wellness: Child Care	X		
Child Health & Wellness: Mental Health	X		
Child Health & Wellness: Access to Safe & Healthy Foods	X		
Chronic Disease	X		
Health Equity			
Mental Health (Adult)			
Physical Environment & Safety			

\*As of December 31, 2024, the CCHD selected 5 potential Clark County health priority areas to address in their 2026-2028 CHIP (pending Board of Health approval). Marshfield Clinic Health System and Aspirus Stanley Hospital have not yet determined their internal priority areas.

Over the last two years, counties and other organizations have begun utilizing vending machines to provide no cost, helpful resources to community members. These vending machines are typically located in public areas and offer a variety of items, such as opioid overdose-prevention tools, hygiene kits, and other basic needs supplies. They also fill a gap in services for when staff are unable to provide in-person assistance.

Through a coordinated joint effort between the Clark County Social Services Department, the Clark County Health Department, and the City of Abbotsford, Clark County's first public health vending machine was opened to the public in November--and was affectionately named the "Clark County Health Hub." It is located within Abbotsford's municipal building and offers items such as nasal NARCAN®, firearm locks, medication lock bags, first aid kits, winter hats for babies and young children, oral hygiene kits, and hi-visibility walking vests for children and adults. All items within the Clark County Health Hub are available at no cost and are anonymously dispensed.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:



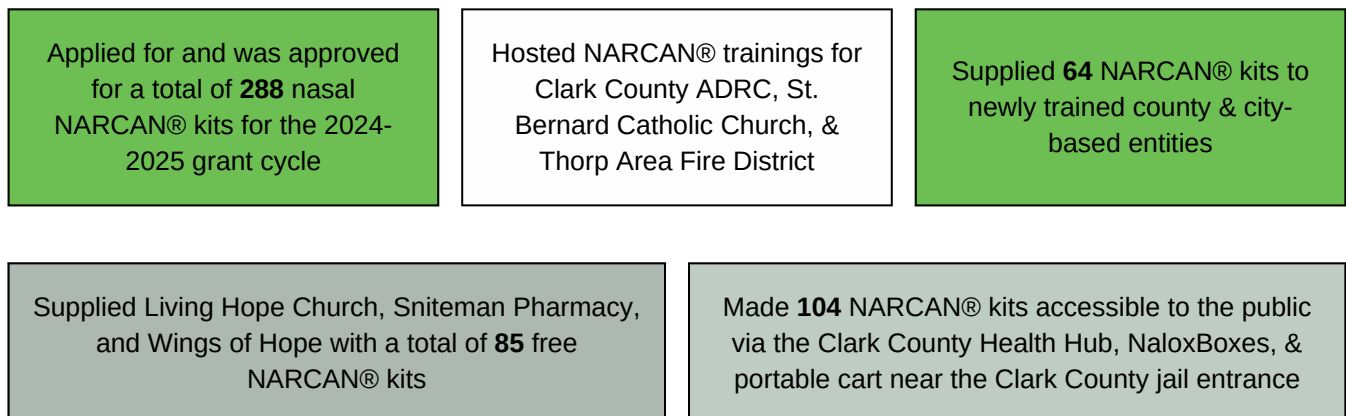
## NARCAN® Direct Program

### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Emergency Preparedness & Response

To reduce opioid-related overdose deaths in Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services (DHS) contracted with Emergent-BioSolutions to establish the NARCAN® Direct Program. This program aims to address Wisconsin's opioid epidemic by providing free NARCAN® to community agencies and citizens.

NARCAN® is the nasal spray formulation of naloxone, a drug used to reverse an opioid overdose. This program is funded by Wisconsin's share of the State Opioid Response grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:



In the spring of 2023, the CCHD was approached by a Clark County school district with concerns related to youth vaping and legal access to Delta-8 THC and Delta-9 THC (hemp and marijuana) products. The CCHD was informed that these products were having an increasingly negative impact on the learning environment, with a number of students getting high at school and in-school confiscations becoming more common. In understanding the seriousness of the matter, and its impact on youth health, the CCHD gathered resources and local partners to discuss potential strategies to address the issue.



In August 2023, the CCHD collaborated with Abbotsford School District, Colby School District, Marshfield Clinic Health System, and Wood County Heath Department to elevate the concern to Clark County's Board of Health. After listening to a presentation, the Board of Health recommended that the CCHD increase efforts to provide education to parents, the community, and the Clark County Board of Supervisors.

The Clark County Health Department, along with partners from Abbotsford and Colby school districts, facilitated a presentation titled, "THC in Clark County: A Focus on Our Youth" for the Clark County Board of Supervisors in June, 2024. The Board was educated on the differences between hemp and marijuana products, the 2018 Farm Bill, the effects of Delta (THC) products on the growing brain, how Delta is negatively impacting students at Clark County schools, and potential strategies for addressing the youth usage issue. The Clark County Board of Supervisors was receptive to the presentation.

In July 2024, the Clark County Board of Health approved the Public Health Officer/Director to collaborate with the Clark County Corporation Counsel to draft a countywide hemp-derived cannabinoid ordinance. In September 2024, the Board of Health reviewed and approved the draft document.

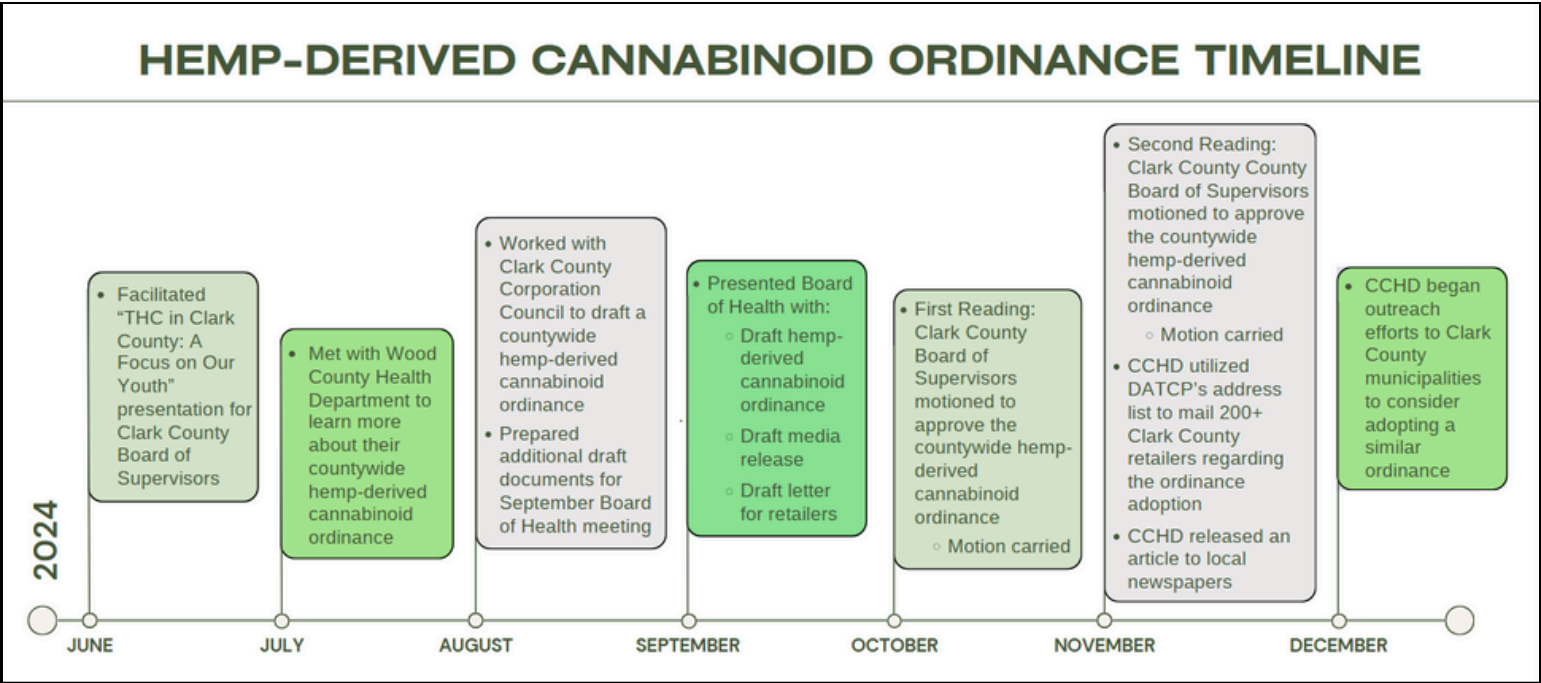
Language within the proposed *Hemp-Derived Cannabinoid and Synthetic Cannabinoid Products* ordinance included:

- 1. No person under 21 shall use or possess any amount of a hemp-derived cannabinoid
- 2. No person shall sell, distribute, deliver, or provide any hemp-derived cannabinoid to a person under age 21
- 3. Age must be verified with a valid photo ID before a person can sell, distribute, deliver, or provide any hemp-derived cannabinoid to another individual
- 4. Hemp-derived cannabinoids cannot be sold within 750 feet of hospitals, churches, or youth-serving organizations
- 5. Any person who violates this ordinance may be fined up to \$500 per violation

In November 2024, the Clark County Board of Supervisors approved the countywide hemp-derived cannabinoid ordinance. The motion carried 28 yes, 0 no, and 1 absent.

Clark County's *Hemp-Derived Cannabinoid and Synthetic Cannabinoid Products* ordinance can be found in the Clark County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26-Offenses and Nuisances. To read Chapter 26 in its entirety, please refer to <https://www.clarkcountynwi.gov/code-of-ordinances>.

2024 Activities and Outputs:

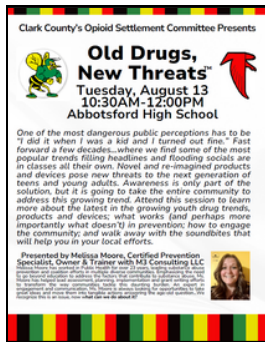




Delta-8 THC, Delta-9 THC, and Vaping (continued)

2024 Activities and Outputs (continued):

- In June, the CCHD met virtually with a representative from U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's office to discuss loopholes in the 2018 Farm Bill relevant to youth access to hemp-derived cannabinoid products
- In August, the CCHD organized presentations for staff at Colby, Abbotsford, Neillsville, and Granton school districts on youth and new drug trends
  - Funding (for the presenter) was provided by Clark County's Opioid Settlement Committee



- Facilitated multiple vaping presentations for students in grades 6-8
  - About a week after hosting a presentation for 6th grade students, the CCHD received a very positive e-mail from their teacher:

“Your presentation was thorough, engaging, & very informative. Our favorite parts were all the memorable facts you shared and use of trivia-type questions to engage students on the facts about this increasingly important phenomenon.

The powerpoint you shared was excellent and took a really tough topic and made it make sense for the 6th graders! The photo examples allowed our kids to make connections to things they have witnessed being used in their worlds and introduced what a vape was for those who had never had an experience with them.

Yesterday when Theresa and I were discussing alcohol and finishing up the tobacco/smoking unit—many of our students were able to share key facts they learned and remembered from last week; so it was very evident that they retained the information!

Furthermore, as Theresa mentioned, two of our students were able to put into action what they learned and were able to successfully spot, report, & follow up on an incident where a vape was discovered here on campus out by the practice softball field. Two sixth grade scholars immediately alerted me to a blue vape they had found when we were outside heading back from our PBIS kickball challenge. Without your presentation, I am not sure what might have happened! So thank you for having a real impact on our campus!! 🥰❤️🙌

Your humor, energy, and intelligence all made the vaping presentation a huge success! Thanks again for partnering with our District to bring about positive change!

”

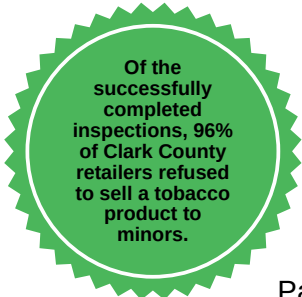
WI Wins: Youth Tobacco Prevention

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Policy Development & Support

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) contracts with the CCHD to facilitate the WI Wins program. The goal of the WI Wins program is to prevent tobacco/nicotine sales to minors in Clark County. Throughout the year, the CCHD coordinates unannounced tobacco inspections, provides training resources to retailers, and conducts public outreach activities. The CCHD thanks retailers who *do not sell* to minors and offers training resources to retailers who *do sell* to minors. Wisconsin's goal is to have a "sales to minors" rate under 10%. Through the work of WI Wins, youth access to tobacco products has greatly decreased.

2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Fulfilled all program requirements as defined in the 2023-2024 grant contract
  - Conducted 4 public outreach activities
  - Conducted 3 media outreach activities
  - Facilitated 30 tobacco compliance inspections across Clark County
    - 23 retailers refused the sale of the tobacco product to the minor
    - 1 retailer sold a tobacco product to a minor
    - 6 retailers were either closed or no longer sell tobacco products



The Clark County Prevention Partnership (CCPP) is a local group that was first organized in 2013. It consists of multiple organizations that are vested in acquiring and providing mental health resources for Clark County residents. Membership consists of the Clark County Health Department, local healthcare groups, Social and Community Services Departments, educational institutions, and community members. This group plays a significant role in fulfilling State Opioid Response grant requirements and in addressing Alcohol Misuse and Drug Use (2023-2025 CHIP priority area).

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Maintained active membership in the Northwoods Coalition
- Held 4 partner meetings
- In partnership with Clark County Community Services, the CCHD applied for the 2023-2024 State Opioid Response grant and was awarded:

400 Deterra medication deactivation pouches

225 medication lock bags

\$500 to promote medication & sharps disposal sites in Clark County

\$3,000 to purchase a new medication disposal bin



- Medication deactivation pouches and medication lock bags were distributed to the public through local libraries, the Clark County Aging & Disability Resource Center, Clark County Community Services Department, secured entrance at the Clark County Courthouse, and multiple community events
  - The purpose of this initiative was to reduce unauthorized youth access to prescription medications
- In April, Clark County's Public Property Committee approved the installation of a medication disposal kiosk within the secured entrance area of the Courthouse
  - In August, the medication disposal kiosk was opened to the public

## Community Sharps Disposal Kiosk

Environmental Public Health;  
Community Partnership Development

Wisconsin law requires sharps to be disposed of separately from other waste. This minimizes the risk of injury and prevents the potential spread of infections.

The CCHD has been an active member of the Clark County Opioid Settlement Group since 2022. This group consists of representatives from multiple county departments and determines how to best utilize funds that were allocated to Clark County through the 2021 national opioid settlement.

In early 2023, the Opioid Settlement Group approved the purchase of a large, publicly accessible outdoor sharps kiosk. Community sharps kiosks promote public safety and fill gaps in services when other sharps recycling options are not available. Through a partnership between the CCHD, the City of Owen, and Logistic Recycling, Inc., Clark County's first sharps kiosk was installed outside of Owen City Hall in September 2023.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- In August, Clark County's second publicly accessible sharps disposal kiosk was installed. It is located within the secured entrance of the Clark County Courthouse
  - It's installation represented a joint effort between the CCHD, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Opioid Settlement Group, Finance Committee, Maintenance Department, and Public Property Committee
- The CCHD issued a press release to all Clark County newspapers
- Continued to distribute personal-sized sharps containers at Abbotsford City Hall/Public Library, Colby Community Library, Loyal Public Library, Thorp Public Library, the Clark County Courthouse, and Owen City Hall
- Designed and distributed postcards and magnets to promote the locations of all medication and sharps disposal sites throughout the county





Each year, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) offers funding to local public health departments that specifically support mothers, infants, children, and youth. In 2024, the CCHD chose to address *Physical Activity and Nutrition* and *Breastfeeding* from a list of potential grant options. These selections were based on perceived community needs, staff capacity, skillset, and the CCHD's scope of work.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs - Physical Activity and Nutrition:

- Continued to offer technical assistance and support (as needed) to all existing Clark County hydroponic sites:
  - Abbotsford School District, Colby School District, Granton School District, Greenwood Elementary School, Loyal Elementary School, Neillsville Elementary School, Owen-Withee Middle/High School, St. Anthony Catholic School, Thorp Elementary School, and Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center
- Obtained one free, large-scale hydroponic garden through the CCHD's partnership with Marshfield Clinic Health System
  - Marshfield Clinic Health System provided funding to have parts of the unit completely upgraded
  - This unit was placed at Neillsville School District in September, 2024
- CCHD staff taught both the classroom teacher and students how to set up, maintain, and utilize the garden. The CCHD also offered hands-on assistance to students during their first time planting and harvesting
- Utilized \$5,000 of remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase and deliver a 1-2 year supply of growing materials to all 10 Clark County sites (9 school districts and 1 childcare center)
- Many school districts used the lettuce grown in their hydroponic garden to supplement their school lunch program's salad bar



"The hydroponic unit has positively impacted our 4th grade Thorp students as well as the entire school district. When students get to plant seeds, watch the plants grow, and harvest the vegetables, they are so excited! The students are aware that these vegetables are served at lunch which makes them more likely to eat them. I have had several 3rd graders say they want to be in my class because I have the hydroponic station. Past students also like to check out the plants to see their growth. Overall, I believe this hydroponic unit has helped Thorp students have a better understanding of the plant life cycle and the value of growing your own food.

Thank you for the supplies and continued support!"



"At Owen-Withee, the hydroponic unit has been a wonderful addition to our high school library. We placed it here to ensure that more eyes see the technology and how the lettuce can grow so quickly between harvests. The unit itself takes up very little space and is very quiet too.

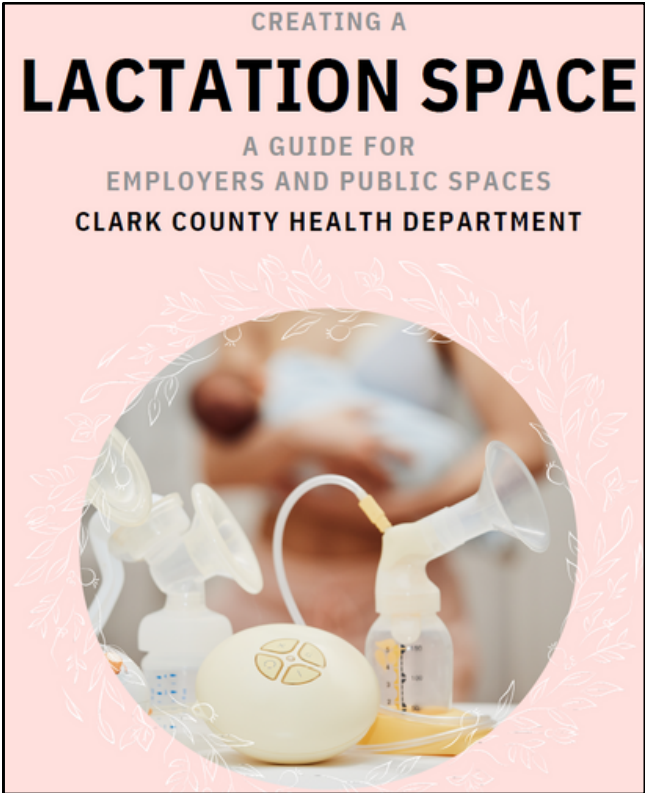
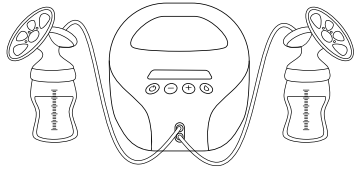
Our kitchen staff looks forward to each harvest and uses the lettuce either on the salad bar or as topping to hamburgers or chicken sandwiches. the students on the lunch line know very quickly that what they are grabbing comes from the hydroponic unit, as the lettuce is very large and a darker shade of green.

Again, the hydroponic unit has been a great addition to Owen-Withee schools, and we thank all those responsible for making it happen."



**2024 Activities and Outputs (continued) - Breastfeeding:**

- Collaborated with the Wisconsin Breastfeeding Coalition, Wood County Health Department, Marshfield Clinic Health Services Lactation Department, Clark County WIC, and the MCH team on any available resources as needed
- Integrated breastfeeding resources, as needed, as part of 1:1 already established client appointments
- Created a Lactation Services flyer in both English and Spanish
- Created a Lactation tab under the Health Department website
- Purchased models, manual breast pumps, bags, pads, coolers, and flanges for client resources and education
- Bought a stackable box containing the above resources to be mobile at clinics and Parent Connection Classes
- Staff worked on the resource: Creating a Lactation Space - A Guide for Employers and Public Spaces
- Implemented a Lactation Room for visitors to the Courthouse



# COVID-19 Relief Funds Invested Back Into Communities

## Clark County Child Care Center Grant

Utilizing COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant dollars intended to support community recovery, the CCHD was able to reallocate \$30,000 and offer grants to 6 licensed Clark County Group Child Care Centers focused on enhancing their center's outdoor playground area(s)/outdoor learning environment.

### Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center-Colby



**Ground Leveling/Chain Link Fence**



Leveling the ground is allowing the childcare center to purchase new playground equipment in the future. (Most playground surfaces cannot have more than 1% slope). The chain link fence allows the children to play safely in sight of staff.



### Granton Community Child Care Center



**New Playground Equipment**

New playground toys were purchased, including a canopy gazebo! The gazebo will protect the children from the sun, and the toys create a vibrant environment for growth and learning while also promoting physical activity.



### Backyard Friends-Stanley



**New Playground Toys and Pea Gravel**



Pea gravel was placed in the playground area to create a safer space for the children to play. New playground equipment was also purchased to replace older play equipment promoting both social interaction and creative play.

### My Little Friends Child Care Center-Thorp



**New Playground Equipment**



A new play set was installed! This creates a vibrant environment for growth and learning for children while also promoting children to be physically active.



### Firehouse Friends Child Care Center (FFCC)-Stanley



**Gazebo**

This shaded structure provides a comfortable area for children to enjoy meals and engage in various activities, promoting both social interaction and creative play. The gazebo not only protects the children from the sun but also fosters a sense of community, allowing staff, children, and families to gather and connect during outdoor events.



### Central Clark County Community Child Care Center (7C's)-Greenwood



**Chain Link Fence**

The posts are close to the building so the children cannot get out of the fence, and there are no wires sticking out of the fence allowing more safety for the children.



“Thanks to a generous grant from CCHD, Firehouse Friends Childcare Center constructed a beautiful 10x16 gazebo that enhances our outdoor space significantly. This shaded structure provides a comfortable area for children to enjoy meals and engage in various activities, promoting both social interaction and creative play. The gazebo not only protects our children from the sun but also fosters a sense of community, allowing staff, children, and families to gather and connect during outdoor events i.e. (yearly picnic). The positive impact of this grant extends beyond physical improvements; it enriches the overall experience for children and parents alike, creating a vibrant environment for growth and learning. Thank you very much to the Clark County Health Department for this amazing opportunity.”

—Owner of Firehouse Friends Childcare Center



## Traffic Calming-Physical Activity Environment Enhancements

Utilizing COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant dollars intended to support community recovery, the CCHD was able to reallocate \$50,000 and put it back into 6 of our local Clark County communities to improve the physical infrastructure, make safety improvements, and provide opportunities for physical activity.





# State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Program-Year 2

## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Community Partnership Development

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Chronic Disease Prevention Program was awarded a second year of multi-county State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The purpose of this grant is to continue to support staff time for the implementation of evidence-based nutrition and physical activity strategies that address health disparities related to poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and/or obesity. To achieve the grant objectives, the CCHD leveraged and created partnerships within various sectors (e.g., businesses, government, food pantry systems, etc.). The CCHD completed activities within the following three strategy areas: *Nutrition*, *Physical Activity*, and *Breastfeeding*. Work within these three strategy areas will continue through September 2025.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs - Nutrition

- Conducted a food pantry distribution site assessment at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Abbotsford.
- Assessed the food pantry distribution sites processes and policies related to decision-making, distribution, healthy food donations, food safety, etc.
- Met with the food distribution site leadership including clergy, Hmong & Hispanic Network (H2N), UW-Extension Food Wise, Feed My People, etc to discuss the site assessment and opportunities for improvement as well as provide resources and support to the food distribution site

### 2024 Activities and Outputs - Physical Activity

- Identified a non-SPAN funding source (COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act-ARPA) grant to support the implementation of improving the physical infrastructure, making safety improvements, and providing opportunities for physical activity
- Identified areas within six different Clark County communities that had a demonstrated need for improvement
  - Approached each municipality to gauge interest and offer fiscal support to complete the infrastructure changes
  - All six municipalities completed improvement projects
  - See [page 38](#)

### 2024 Activities and Outputs - Breastfeeding

- Breastfeeding activities and outputs are equivalent to MCH activities and outputs
- See [page 35](#)

## School Vision Screening

### Maternal, Child, & Family Health; Assessment & Surveillance

Healthy vision is important for learning and success in school. Children can have trouble seeing and may not realize they are viewing the world differently than others. If children cannot see well, it can be more difficult for them to learn in school. Vision develops and changes as the child grows and therefore it is recommended to get their vision screened multiple times during childhood.

The CCHD offers vision screenings to children in grades 1, 3, and 5 at Plain Community schools.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Continued to partner with Prevent Blindness Wisconsin, a program that provides vision screening training and resources to the CCHD
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Nursing students were trained and assisted with vision screenings at approximately half of the Plain Community Schools



58



The number of Plain Community Schools who participated

337



The total number of scholars who participated

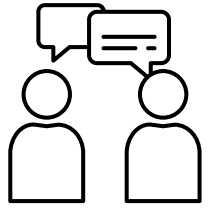
30



The number of scholars who did not pass their vision screening test

A letter was provided to strongly encourage the parents to schedule an eye doctor visit for their child

**Puberty Talks:** Each year, CCHD staff reach out to all public and private schools to offer puberty education to students. Usually, the presentations are given to 4th graders. Boys and girls are separated and given presentations on physical, emotional, and mental changes that happen during puberty.



**7** schools participated

**The Pulse on Heart Health:** In June of 2024 Katie started writing Heart Health articles that are present in 4 local newspapers throughout the county. They are also sent out in ADRC's newsletter and published on our website. To date, there have been 13 articles submitted, which are published every other week. The topics thus far:

- Heart disease/attack
- Smoking/Alcohol
- Physical Activity
- Nutrition
- Stress
- Respiratory Illness
- Cholesterol
- Winter Blues
- Holidays: Food, Drink, Stress
- Afib/Stroke
- Diabetes
- CPR
- Overview/ Suggestions

Katie also became a BLS instructor in December of 2024 allowing her to recertify co-workers for their BLS license, as well as provide community education at various events.

**HEART HEALTH**  
**Tips to Protect Your Heart**

- Don't Smoke or use Tobacco**  
Chemicals in tobacco damage heart and blood vessels. Cigarette smoke lowers oxygen and makes the heart work harder to supply the body with oxygen. Quitting smoking can improve your heart health almost immediately, and is the number one way to reduce heart attack risk.
- Know Your Numbers!**  
High Cholesterol, Blood Sugar, and Blood Pressure increase your risk of Cardiac disease.
- Exercise Daily**  
This strengthens the heart muscle, slows heart rate, controls weight, and lowers blood pressure.
- Get Vaccinated**  
Vaccine preventable illnesses can make existing heart conditions worse.
- Get at LEAST 7 Hours of Sleep**  
Not getting enough quality sleep increases risk of obesity, high blood pressure, heart attack, diabetes and depression.
- Maintain A Healthy Weight**  
This lowers blood pressure, and can lower cholesterol.
- Choose Healthy Foods**  
Fruits, Veggies, lean meat, and whole grains can decrease cholesterol. **LIMIT SALT!**
- Take Medication as Prescribed**  
Help manage your disease and prevent flare ups or stress to your body.
- Limit Alcohol**  
This means no more than one drink per day for women, and two for men. Avoid binge drinking.

It is **NEVER** too late to start making healthy choices a priority. By implementing these healthy habits, your heart will benefit almost immediately, and you will feel better too!

“Do you know how to do CPR? According to the American Heart Association, CPR – or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation – is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest. CPR keeps the blood flow active – even partially – extends the opportunity for a successful resuscitation once trained medical staff arrive on site. People need CPR if their heart stops beating, as with cardiac arrest, or if someone is poisoned, overdosed, choking, or drowning.

As a reminder, here are some warning signs of a heart attack...

-Katie Cook, BSN, RN, CLS

”



<https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/ph-health-wellness>

## Community Events and Engagements

### January

- **9th:** Courthouse blood drive
- **29th:** Neillsville School District ACP Night
- **31st:** WWPHRC Regional Preparedness Exercise

### February

- **20th:** Brittany co-presented at the WALHDAB Operations Conference
- **27th:** First Growing Together - Parent Connections class held at Abbotsford City Hall. Events held on the 4th Tuesday of each month

### March

- **14th:** Plain Community Stop the Bleed Event at Thorp Fire Hall
- **19th:** Plain Community New Mom's Class
- **21st:** Hosted WWPHRC quarterly in-person meeting

### April

- **1st-7th:** Public Health Week
- **3rd:** Pulled Pork Lunch/Dinner at Curtiss Fire Station
- **16th and 18th:** Clark County Sheriff's Office patrol officer in service. Car seat safety and EH staff presentation
- **22nd:** Hosted Narcan Training for ADRC

### May

- **6th:** Corrine presented at T1W conference
- **15th:** Rebecca & Kelsey presented to Neillsville 6th graders on the role of public health
- **16th:** Rebecca hosted a presentation for Neillsville School District's Pupil Services group on the school's 2023 YRBS results
- **21st-23rd:** Katie and Corrine presented at the annual WPHA conference
- **30th:** 1st Safe Sitter Class held in Abbotsford at the City Hall

### June

- **4th, 6th and 11th:** Greenwood, Neillsville, and Thorp Safe Sitter Classes
- **5th:** Courthouse blood drive
- **20th:** Rebecca & Brittany presented to Clark County's Board of Supervisors on *THC in Clark County-A Focus on Our Youth*
- **25th-26th:** Rebecca & Brittany attend Deliberative Inquiry workshop hosted by UW-Extension

### July

- **2nd:** Rebecca wrote & submitted a grant opportunity letter of support for the Township of Fremont and Chili-Fremont Fire and Rescue

### August

- **12th:** Colby-Abbotsford School Drug Trends presentation
- **16th:** Opelt Park ribbon cutting
- **17th:** Greenwood Multi-Generational Park ribbon cutting
- **26th:** Neillsville-Granton School Drug Trends presentation
- **28th:** Brittany and Corrine presented at La Crosse NOAA Plain Community Integrated Warning System planning meeting

### September

- **6th:** Clark County Clean Sweep
- **6th:** Granton pop-up food pantry
- **26th:** Katie & Rebecca hosted a Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Presentation for Neillsville 1st & 2nd graders
- **27th:** Plain Community New Mom's Class
- **28th:** Clark Electric Customer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

### October

- **15th:** Loos Health and Wellness Festival
- **16th:** Rebecca vaping presentation for Neillsville grade 6
- **23rd:** Rebecca vaping presentation for Neillsville grades 7-8

### November

- **4th:** Opened the Clark County Health Hub to the public in Abbotsford
- **27th:** Hosted the Get Yourself Tested trivia night event at Frickin A Bar and Grill in Dorchester

### December

- **5th:** Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults and Caregivers Event (Colby Community Library)
- **6th:** Rebecca attended Neillsville's Trunk Junk Clean Out
- **20th:** Rebecca co-facilitated Colby's mental health presentation for grades 6-8



## Community Events and Engagements Pictures



*T1W Conference  
Corrine and Other Presenters*



*Clark Electric Customer  
Appreciation Pancake Breakfast*



*Curtiss Pulled Pork Dinner*



*Annual WPHA Conference  
Katie Presented*



*Emergency Preparedness Event for  
Older Adults and Caregivers*



*Annual WPHA Conference  
Corrine Presented*



*LaCrosse NOAA  
Brittany and Corrine Presented*



*WALHDAB Operations Conference  
Brittany Co Presented With  
WWPHRC Director*



*Annual WPHA Conference*





# **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SERVICES**

The CCHD responds to environmental health concerns from the general public. The concerns are investigated if they fit the provisions of the *Clark County Code of Ordinance Chapter 16 Health and Safety*, or other Wisconsin statutes designed to protect human health and safety. Issues that clearly fit within the definition of a Human Health Hazard (HHH) are investigated in order to protect Clark County's residents from illness, injury, and/or disease related to environmental health hazards.

Many of the environmental health concerns that are filed contain more than one potential hazard. The *Environmental Health Concerns* table reflects all of the contacts that were made with the CCHD in 2024. These include environmental health-related concerns and complaints/situations that fit the definition of a HHH. Items in this table only include concerns that were not addressed under the umbrella of another environmental health program.

## 2024 Activities and Outputs:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS			
Concern	2022	2023	2024
Damaged, Dilapidated, Unsafe or Abandoned Buildings	1	4	2
Unsanitary or Unfit Conditions	9	6	2
Insect Infestation (Cockroaches, Bedbugs, etc.)	5	4	0
Animal Infestations (Rats, Mice, Cats, etc.)	3	7	4
Garbage	1	6	3
Sewage or Waste	6	2	0
Water or Plumbing	4	3	3
Air Quality Concerns	3	0	1
Lead-Based Paint (not related to lead poisoning)	0	1	1
Asbestos	0	1	0
Mold	5	4	5
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>

12 properties had environmental concerns (17, 2023)



3 of the environmental health concerns were related to disputes (3, 2023)



In April 2019, the CCHD became an agent to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) under Wisconsin Statute 97 to issue licenses for restaurant, retail, recreational, and lodging facilities. The CCHD conducts an annual inspection at every licensed facility in Clark County.

2024 Activities and Outputs:

- In 2024, there were 392 licenses in Clark County
- Each year, the CCHD inspects licensed facilities at least once during the licensing period
  - The licensing period runs from July 1st until June 30th of the following year

Table 1: Number of Licenses by Facility Type

Type of License/Facility	2022	2023	2024
Restaurant	134	152	162
Retail/Grocery Store	99	111	113
School	14	14	14
Jail	1	1	1
Lodging	45	53	68
Pool/Water Attraction	8	9	8
Campground	25	25	26
Total Number of Licenses:	326	364	392

Table 1 lists the licenses by facility type. Restaurants and grocery stores make up 70% of the entire licenses in Clark County.

Table 2: Number of Inspections by Facility Type

Type of License/Facility	2022	2023	2024
Restaurant	147	114	130
Retail/Grocery Store	115	75	101
School	28	25	29
Jail	1	1	1
Lodging	42	35	55
Pool/Water Attraction	9	7	12
Campground	22	23	23
Total Number of Inspections:	364	280	351

Table 2 shows the total number of inspections at each type of licensed facility, based on the calendar year.

**Table 3: Number of Inspections by Type of Inspection**

Type of License/Facility	2022	2023	2024
Routine Inspection	292	222	270
Pre-Licensing Inspections	46	42	57
Re-Inspections / Follow Ups	17	9	17
Complaint Investigation	2	4	4
Other Inspection Types	7	3	3
<b>Total Number of Inspections:</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>351</b>

Table 3 lists the types of inspections completed in the calendar year.

Routine inspections and pre-licensing inspections contribute to the number of inspections the CCHD is required to conduct each year. Re-inspections, or follow-up inspections, are conducted to ensure necessary corrective actions have been taken at facilities in a timely manner. Complaint investigations are completed when the CCHD receives reported concerns of licensing violations. Other inspection types may include a visit with no action or remote communication with a facility that does not require an on-site visit.

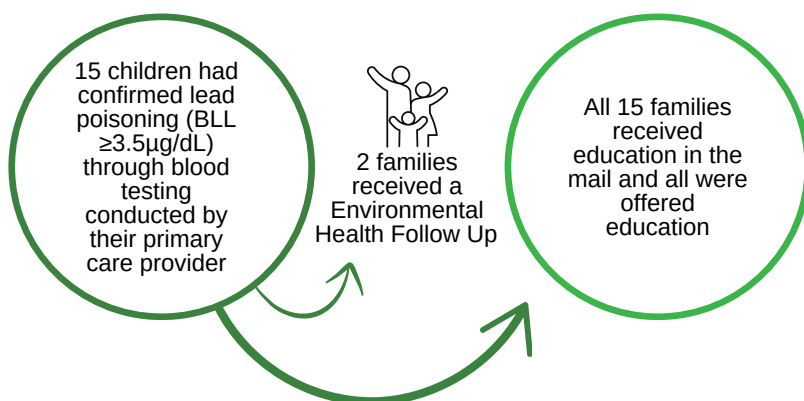
## Lead

### Environmental Public Health; Policy Development & Support

The CCHD is automatically notified by the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HHPSS) through the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program if a child's Blood Lead Level (BLL) is  $\geq 3.5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . If a child's venous BLL is  $\geq 3.5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , the CCHD provides education and case management until the child's BLL is at or below 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . Those who do not receive a confirmatory test for lead poisoning do not receive complete case management. However, they are contacted and instructed to seek confirmatory blood lead testing. This year all families were offered in-home education, with only 1 family accepting and participating in a visit with EHS staff using the XRF machine. All families are called, texted (if available), and mailed lead information.

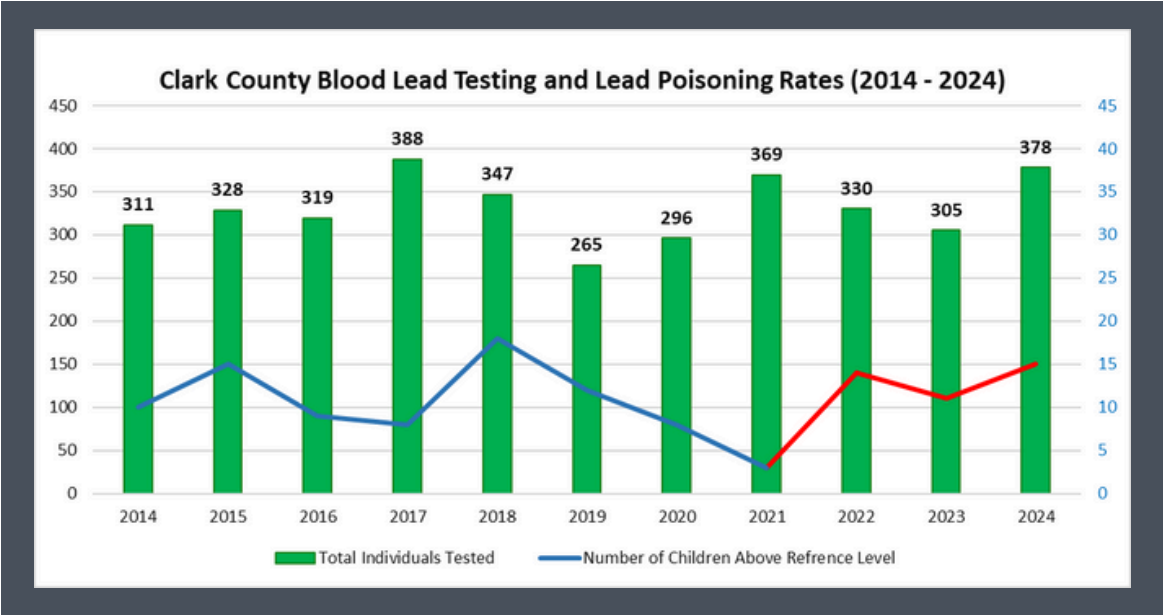
Some cases of lead poisoning persist from year to year and may cause a higher number of case counts than the actual number of individuals that tested  $\geq 3.5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  that year.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:



Clark County Blood Lead Testing Rates & Results			
	2022	2023	2024
Total Individuals Tested	330	305	378
Individuals Below Reference Level	316	293	363
Individuals Above Reference Level	14	12	15
Individuals Case Managed for Lead Poisoning Nursing Home Visit	9	1	9

The table below depicts the number of children (0-16) that had a blood lead test performed from 2014-2024 along with the number of children that had a result above the respective reference level at the time. In 2021, the CDC changed the blood level reference level from  $\geq 5 \mu\text{g/dL}$  to  $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ . The reference level could change again in the future because there is not a safe level of lead in blood. In 2022, the CCHD adopted the new reference level and followed up with all results  $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ . The graph also depicts the new reference level change in red.



## Indoor Radon Testing

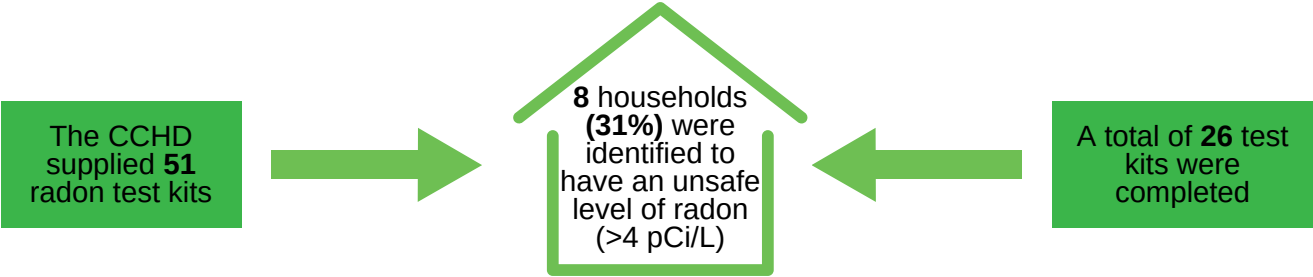
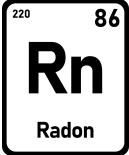
Environmental Public Health;  
Assessment & Surveillance

According to the CDC, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States (behind smoking). If an individual smokes and their home has a high radon level, their risk for developing lung cancer is almost 10 times greater than that of non-smokers. In-home testing is the only effective way to identify unsafe levels of radon gas.

Throughout the year, the CCHD offers affordable radon test kits to Clark County residents.

### 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- January Radon Awareness Month: Press release to Clark County newspapers and post to Facebook



**Clark County Health Department** 517 Court Street, Room 105 | Nellville, WI 54456  
Phone: (715) 743-5105 | Fax: (715) 743-5115 | [www.clarkcountywi.gov/health](http://www.clarkcountywi.gov/health)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 7, 2025

CONTACT: Paige Lindner, Environmental Health Specialist  
Phone: 715-743-5112  
[paige.lindner@cco.clark.wi.us](mailto:paige.lindner@cco.clark.wi.us)

**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM RADON**

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that is radioactive. You can't see or smell it, yet it is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon seeps into homes and buildings from the surrounding soil. Fortunately, the risk from radon can be reduced.

The Clark County Health Department (CCHD), along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recommends that every home and building be tested for radon levels. For more accurate testing, it is suggested to test for radon during the winter months when homes are closed up. The CCHD has short-term radon test kits available to test homes or buildings in Clark County. The test kit can be picked up at the Clark County Health Department for \$30 or mailed to you for \$30 plus a mailing fee. To receive a test kit, please call 715-743-5112 or email [paige.lindner@cco.clark.wi.us](mailto:paige.lindner@cco.clark.wi.us).

If a high level of radon gas is detected (the unsafe level of radon exposure set by the EPA is 4 pCi/L-picocuries per liter of air), simple steps can be taken to decrease the problem. A certified contractor can install a radon mitigation system to greatly reduce the radon concentration in your home. For more information about radon, including a list of certified radon mitigation contractors, visit the Clark County Health Department's website at <https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/ph-radon>.

(END)

**Do you know why it's important to test your home for radon?**

1 in 15 homes tests high for radon level

Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer, causing 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year

Among non-smokers, radon is the #1 cause of lung cancer



Homes with pregnant women and/or children ages 12 years old or younger qualify to receive fee-exempt well water test kits through the CCHD's private well water testing program. These test kits provide test results for bacteria, nitrates, inorganic chemistry, and total metals.

Not all inorganics or metals are dangerous to one's health, though some still affect the cosmetic quality of water. The health hazard of a water test result is classified into two categories: 1) Public Welfare Standard and 2) Public Health Standard. Public Welfare Standard refers to the limit above which the substance may adversely affect the cosmetic or aesthetic quality of drinking water. Public Health Standard refers to the limit above which the water should not be consumed or used for food preparation.

2024 Activities and Outputs:

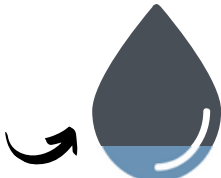
- The CCHD supplied 53 residential fee-exempt well water test kits to 44 households



test kits were completed by residents in 39 different homes

Nitrates and Bacteria:

- Nitrates: 39 households were tested for nitrates in the groundwater
  - 5 (13%) households were above 10 mg/L, the unsafe level for pregnant women and children under six months old
  - 1 household was above 20 mg/L, the unsafe level for consumption
- Bacteria: 39 households were tested for Total Coliform and E. coli bacteria in the groundwater
  - 2 households (5.40%) were identified to have the presence of Total Coliform bacteria
  - 0 households had the presence of E. coli



Inorganics and Total Metals:

- Fluoride: 39 households were tested for inorganics in the groundwater
  - 30 households (83.3%) had fluoride levels less than 0.3 mg/L, a level at which fluoride supplementation is recommended for children under 16 years to ensure healthy tooth development



- Heavy Metals: 39 households were tested for heavy metals in the drinking water
  - 2 households (5.13%) were identified to have an unsafe level of heavy metals
    - Manganese: 6 households (15.40%) had elevated levels of manganese ( $\geq 50 \mu\text{g/L}$ ) based on the Public Welfare Standard, and 0 households had an unsafe level of manganese ( $\geq 300 \mu\text{g/L}$ ) based on the Public Health Standard

Note: Elevated levels of manganese between 50  $\mu\text{g/L}$  and 300  $\mu\text{g/L}$  may adversely affect the cosmetic or aesthetic quality of drinking water, but are not expected to cause adverse health effects

- Iron: 7 households (18.0%) had elevated levels of iron ( $\geq 0.3 \text{ mg/L}$ ) based on the Public Welfare Standard
- Copper: 1 household (2.56%) had elevated levels of Copper (1300 mcg/L) based on Public Health Standard

Note: These levels may adversely affect the cosmetic or aesthetic quality of drinking water, but are not expected to cause adverse health effects

Bacteria Testing Lab

In September of 2021, the CCHD started a certified bacteria lab to test for the presence or absence of Total Coliform and E.coli in well water. The lab runs bacteria tests for the DNR-TNC program along with samples from private wells. Every year the lab completes proficiency testing to maintain certification.

2024 Activities and Outputs:

- 218 samples were analyzed for the DNR-TNC program (116 - 2023)
- 42 samples were analyzed from private wells (28 - 2023)
- 260 total samples were analyzed (144 - 2023)



# Transient Non-Community Well Water Testing Program

Environmental Public Health;  
Policy Development & Support

Since 2011, the CCHD has contracted with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to complete well water sampling and sanitary surveys through the Transient Non-Community (TNC) program. In 2024, 74 water systems throughout Clark County were sampled and analyzed for the presence of bacteria and nitrates. A portion of these systems required a sanitary survey inspection (completed once every 5 years). If collected water samples were positive for the presence of bacteria and/or elevated nitrates, CCHD staff worked with operators to post public notices and take corrective action to eliminate contamination.

## 2024 Activities and Outputs:

74 TNC well water systems were sampled



13 wells tested positive for Total Coliform bacteria



11 had confirmed (were retested for) Total Coliform bacteria



1 tested positive for E. coli



1 tested equal to or greater than 10.0 mg/L for nitrates

$\text{NO}_3^-$

13 sanitary surveys were completed



# Lead-in-Water- Child Care Centers

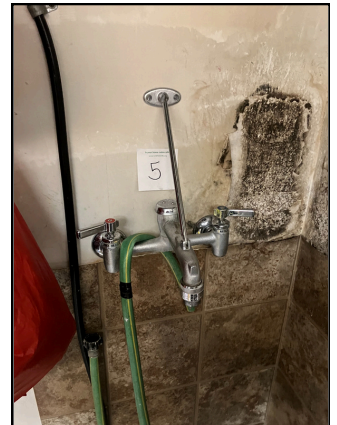
Environmental Public Health;  
Assessment & Surveillance

Older plumbing fixtures may contain lead. Over time, lead can leach into drinking water and enter the human body if contaminated water is consumed. Lead poisoning, or high blood lead levels, can cause serious health problems. Lead is toxic to many organs and tissues, including the brain, bones, and nervous system. In children, high blood lead levels can cause developmental delays, learning problems, and behavioral issues.

In 2024, the CCHD participated in a Lead-in-Water testing and remediation program through the WI Department of Health Services (DHS). This initiative was specific to licensed group child care facilities and Head Start programs in Clark County. The CCHD's role in facilitating the Lead-in-Water program was to first sample fixtures for lead and then to offer follow-up services if water lead levels came back high. In cases where water lead levels were confirmed to be high (after multiple test samples), the CCHD worked with WI DHS to offer options for lead remediation, including the replacement of plumbing fixtures, cleaning aerators, and/or supplying point-of-use filters.

## 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- 7 out of the 9 facilities we offered the program to were sampled
  - 2 out of the 7 facilities had follow-up sampling completed
    - 1 out of the 2 facilities had levels that needed remediation



Sinks located at two different licensed Clark County child care facilities that were tested for water lead levels



# Recreational Beach Testing

Environmental Public Health;  
Assessment & Surveillance

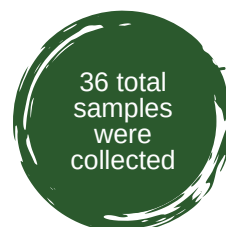
The CCHD's recreational beach testing program ensures the safety of public beaches in Clark County by sampling for the presence of E. coli.

## 2024 Activities and Outputs:

- Bi-weekly sampling (end of May to end of August)

4 beaches were monitored for E. coli

- 1 Arbutus Lake
- 2 Mead Lake
- 3 Rock Dam Lake
- 4 Sherwood Lake



6 tests came back abnormal in 2024

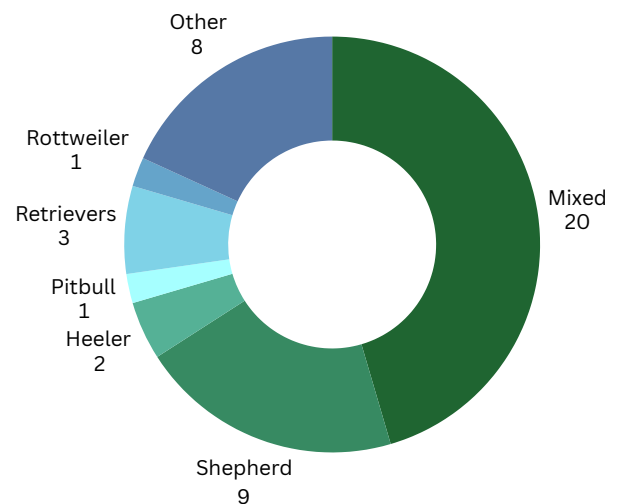
Investigation of reported animal bites for possible exposure to rabies is conducted to assure that serious illness or death from transmission of rabies is prevented. This program is designed to coordinate an effective rabies control procedure between the CCHD, Clark County Sheriff's Office, local veterinarians, physicians, cities, villages, town boards, and the general public.

Animal bites are reported to the CCHD and Sheriff's Office for follow-up. Monitoring of the animal for signs of rabies is done by a licensed veterinarian. Some animals may be sent to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for laboratory testing if they cannot be monitored. If an animal is not available for monitoring or testing, the bite victim is recommended to have a series of vaccinations that prevents the onset of the fatal rabies virus.

## Animal Bites and Possible Rabies Exposures

Animal Type	2022	2023	2024
Dog	44	41	44
Cat	10	14	12
Bat	2	0	5
Raccoon	2	0	1
Sheep	0	0	1
Beaver	0	0	1
Bobcat	1	0	0
<b>Total Number Reported to CCHD</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>57</b>

## Dog Breeds Reported in 2024



Other breeds included: Border Collie, Bernese Mountain dog, Chihuahua, Husky, Hound, Golden doodle, bulldog, Pitbull, Boxer.

1 animal out of  
9 tested  
**positive** for  
rabies in 2024



**Clark County Health Department** 517 Court Street, Room 105 | Neillsville, WI 54456

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8/23/2024  
11:00 AM

CONTACT: Paige Lindner, REHS/RS  
COMPANY: Clark County Health Department  
PHONE: 715-743-5112  
E-MAIL: [paige.lindner@co.clark.wi.us](mailto:paige.lindner@co.clark.wi.us)

### BAT TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES

The Clark County Health Department (CCHD) is alerting the public regarding a report of a bat testing positive for rabies in the Northern part of Clark County. The bat was tested after an encounter with an individual.

Rabies is a viral disease affecting the central nervous system. The rabies virus is spread from infected mammals to humans (typically via a bite) and causes fatal swelling of the brain and spinal cord. If preventative treatment is obtained quickly following a rabies exposure, most cases of rabies can be prevented.



# FUNDING AND FINANCES



# Finances

The table below represents the approved budget and actual amounts spent in 2024.

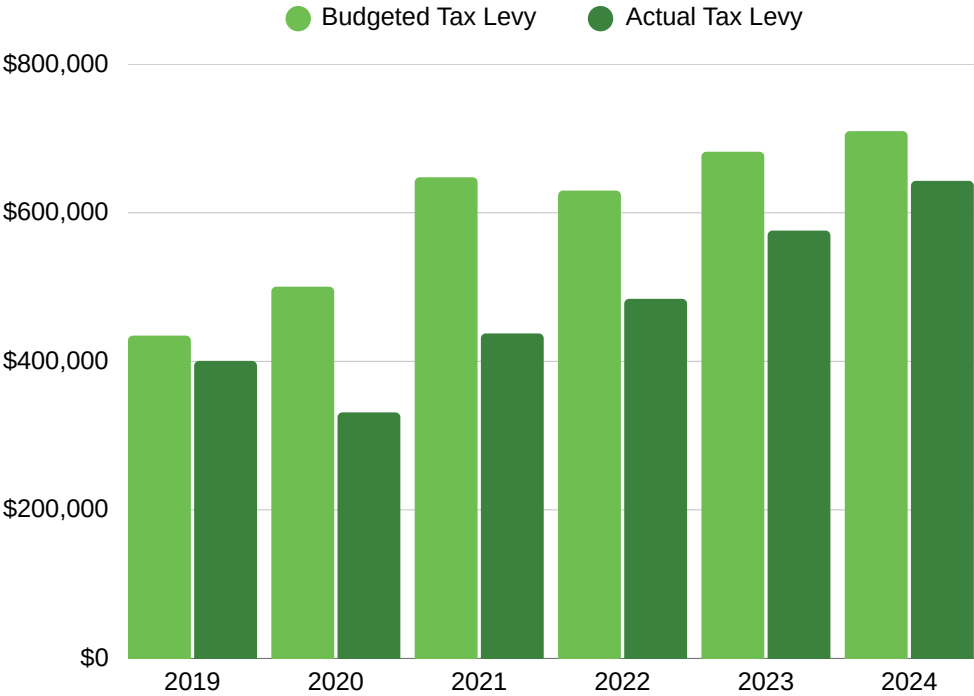
The General Fund is balanced during the budget process with county levy dollars to support the CCHD's programs. The Grant Fund is supported by a combination of local, state, and federal grant dollars, as well as the Grant Fund balance that carries over from year to year.

2024 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		
	Budgeted	Actual
100- General Fund		
Revenue	\$112,600	\$166,717
Expenditures	\$822,573	\$808,681
210- Grant Fund		
Revenue	\$485,303	\$629,075
Expenditures	\$485,303	\$617,198

The Clark County Health Department relies on state or federal grants, county levy, and other local funding sources in order to provide programs and services to the public.

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The Health Department used 90% of budgeted tax levy in 2024, returning **\$68,010** to the contingency fund.



## Grants Received

Grant Source	Program Name	Grant Timeline	Grant Amount
Aspirus Stanley Hospital	Cribs for Kids Safe Sitter MyPlates Community Oral Health	01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	\$2,500 \$2,500 \$1,500 \$5,000
Children's Health Alliance of WI	Seal-A-Smile	07/01/2023 – 06/30/2024 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025	\$23,247 \$14,338
Clark County Community Foundation	Safe Kids	01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	\$500
Health Care Education and Training	Get Yourself Tested	01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	\$1,200
Marshfield Clinic Research Institute	Northwoods Coalition Project	07/01/2024 - 05/02/2025	\$2,500
State Opioid Response	Clark County Prevention Partnership	10/01/2023 – 09/01/2024	\$3,500
United Way	Cribs for Kids and Lactation Services	01/01/2024– 12/31/2024	\$1,250
WI Department of Health Services (DHS)	ARPA	03/03/2021 – 12/31/2024	\$453,100
	Child Immunization	01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	\$15,016
	Childhood Lead	01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	\$4,056
	Communicable Disease	07/01/2023– 06/30/2024	\$4,000
		07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025	\$4,000
	COVID-19 Immunization Support	07/01/2021 – 06/30/2025	\$138,200
	Lead in Water	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$6,000
	Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health	01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024	\$89,155
	Preventive Health and Health Services	10/01/2023 – 09/30/2024	\$6,408
		10/01/2024 – 09/30/2025	\$6,650
	Public Health Emergency Preparedness	07/01/2023 – 06/30/2024	\$35,429
		07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025	\$35,429
	Routine Immunization	12/12/2023 - 06/30/2024	\$19,000
		09/01/2024 - 06/30/2025	\$15,000
	State Physical Activity & Nutrition (SPAN)	10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024	\$16,000
		10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$16,000
	WI Wins	07/01/2023 – 06/30/2024	\$2,310
		07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025	\$2,310
WI Department of Natural Resources	Transient Non-Community	01/01/2023 – 12/31/2024	\$34,544
WI Department of Transportation	Car Seats for Kids	10/01/2023 – 09/30/2024	\$5,000
		10/01/2024 – 09/30/2025	\$5,000





For copies of this report, call 715-743-5105 or visit our website at  
[www.clarkcountywi.gov/healthdepartment](http://www.clarkcountywi.gov/healthdepartment)

