

# 2021 Annual Report



**Clark County  
Health Department**

517 Court Street, Room 105

Neillsville, WI 54456

(715) 743-5105

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

## Opening Letter

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Dear Clark County Board of Health, Clark County Board of Supervisors, colleagues, partners, and residents:

I am delighted to present the 2021 Clark County Health Department (CCHD) annual report. I invite you to read this report to learn about the positive impact that the CCHD and our community partners are making in Clark County.

Through continued partnerships and population-based services, the CCHD strives to reach our mission of promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting the residents of Clark County. Our dedicated staff continues to work efficiently and professionally to achieve the CCHD's vision of "safe environments, thriving communities, and healthy people."

Before Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), few people may have understood what the work of public health entailed because it is multifaceted and often occurs behind the scenes. Our "patient" is the entire county. We mainly focus on prevention efforts to help everyone achieve their fullest potential. We oversee programs to prevent communicable diseases, plan for and respond to public health emergencies (such as COVID-19), ensure water and food safety, prevent lead poisoning in children, and much more.

The CCHD, along with our stakeholders and partners, continued to collaborate to improve areas of health that were identified by our communities, including the priority areas of chronic disease, mental health, and alcohol and other drug abuse.

Public health connects all of us; we are all impacted by the public's health. A healthy county can only be achieved through the support, partnership, and involvement of its residents, businesses, elected officials, coalitions, healthcare organizations, schools, etc. We value our strong partnerships and hope you will become engaged in helping to improve our county's health. Together, we can make Clark County a healthier place to live.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 continued to be an extremely challenging year for health departments, communities, the state, and our nation in general. In this report, we paint a comprehensive picture of the continued impact COVID-19 has had on the CCHD's programming. However, the CCHD continued to persevere. Staff not only excelled in leading the COVID-19 response in Clark County; they simultaneously maintained the department's traditional programs and were innovative leaders in establishing new services.

I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation to Clark County Emergency Management, Board of Health Committee, EMS, Sheriff's Office, IT, healthcare partners, schools, daycares, businesses, and numerous valued community partners who continued to collaborate with the CCHD throughout 2021. We would not have been successful in our accomplishments without everyone's help. Our communities and partners are always willing to lend a hand. This speaks volumes as to why a small county health department with limited staff can collectively make a large positive impact.

In addition, I would also like to thank our passionate and dedicated health department staff for all of their hard work. Clark County Health Department staff are more than employees, they are true assets and are proud to serve our communities.

As a lifelong resident of Clark County, I am truly honored to have the opportunity to lead the health department and serve all of you. As a CCHD employee of 12+ years, I am committed to Clark County and look forward to continuing in my leadership role.

Please visit the CCHD in person, online at <https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/healthdepartment>, or like us on Facebook to learn more about our services.

With Kindest Regards,



Brittany N. Mews, BSN, RN  
Health Officer | Director

## 2021 Clark County Health Department (CCHD) Synopsis

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- ✓ In 2021, CCHD staff either led, facilitated, or collaborated on 54 programs other than COVID-19.
- ✓ Awarded external funding from Aspirus Stanley Hospital, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Clark County Community Foundation, Clark County United Way, Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, Health Care Education and Training, Listeman Foundation, National Environmental Health Association, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
- ✓ Actively outreached and encouraged all 8 of Clark County's public school districts to participate in the 2021 *Online Youth Risk Behavior Survey (OYRBS)*. 6 of the eight school districts registered.
- ✓ Ensured that 2021 project objectives continued to align with Clark County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). This document is known as *A Healthier Clark County: Connecting the Dots 2021-2022*.
- ✓ Partnered with Aspirus Stanley Hospital and Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville to develop the 2021 Community Health Survey. 464 Clark County residents and/or individuals who utilize services in Clark County participated.
- ✓ Of 591 total births in Clark County for 2021, 50.08% of babies were born to Amish or Mennonite families.
- ✓ Led local coalition efforts to increase immunization rates. Clark County ranks amongst the lowest in the state for (both childhood and adult) vaccine uptake.
- ✓ A total of 1,514 vaccines were administered by the CCHD to children and adults.
- ✓ During influenza season, the CCHD served 5 school-based and 1 community-based mass clinic sites throughout the county. A total of 462 adult and 451 child flu vaccines were given in 2021.
- ✓ 42 possible exposures to rabies were reported (53, 2020); 1 animal was confirmed to have rabies.
- ✓ 0 blood lead tests were performed by the CCHD in 2021 (14 tests among 14 individuals, 2020).
- ✓ 0 Environmental Lead Risk Assessments were completed in 2021 (0, 2020). No homes required new lead hazard-reduction activities (0 in 2020).
- ✓ With funding provided by the Wisconsin Lead Safe Homes Program (2020-2021), 1 CCHD staff member completed Lead Risk Assessor certification, 2 CCHD staff members completed Lead Abatement Supervisor certification, and 13 individuals from 5 different companies completed Lead Abatement Supervisor certification.
- ✓ 14 radon test kits were provided by the CCHD in 2021 (56 kits, 2020). Only 3 of the kits were completed (37 kits, 2020). 1 home was suspected to have an unsafe level of radon; however, it was not confirmed with a second test.
- ✓ 32 environmental health concerns were received from 23 households.
- ✓ 39 fee-exempt private well water tests were completed at 34 households with pregnant women or children under 6 months of age (62 tests at 48 homes, 2020). Elevated nitrates were identified in 3 households (3, 2020), 3 homes had confirmed Total Coliform bacteria (3, 2020), and 0 had E. coli (1, 2020).
- ✓ Kept the public informed on various health topics via community presentations, the CCHD's website and Facebook page, press releases, radio interviews, promotional flyers, and newsletter articles.
- ✓ Assisted in the coordination of Neillsville's 2021 National Walk to School Day event.
- ✓ Continued to serve on Clark County's Child Death Review (CDR).
- ✓ Partnered with Extension Clark County to mail 238 New Baby Welcome Kits to new mothers.

- ✓ Applied for and received 168 additional doses of free nasal NARCAN® through the NARCAN® Direct Program. All 8 previously trained entities received updated doses. Law enforcement saved 3 individuals using the NARCAN® provided by the CCHD. The CCHD also trained 3 community members in nasal NARCAN® administration.
- ✓ Continued to play a key role in the efforts of the multi-agency Clark County Prevention Partnership.
- ✓ Applied for and received a Hidden in Plain Sight Teen Bedroom Kit from Marshfield Clinic Health System's Center for Community Health Advancement.
- ✓ Hosted 2 evidence-based mental health trainings at Neillsville School District: Signs of Self-Injury (SOSI) and Signs of Suicide (SOS). 51 students attended SOSI and 44 students attended SOS.
- ✓ Partnered with multiple local agencies to distributed 249 medication lock boxes to Clark County community members.
- ✓ The Eat Right, Be Fit (ERBF) Coalition awarded 4 Clark County school districts with hydroponic farms, garnered community support to implement a Story Walk in Owen, raised awareness for Clark County food pantries and local farmers' markets, and continued to facilitate senior physical activity programs.
- ✓ Completed 100% of the required CDC/DHS Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) contract deliverables.
- ✓ Supported new mothers in Clark County by writing breastfeeding policy for local businesses to adopt. One of which was Abbotsford Public Library.
- ✓ Partnered with the Clark County Sheriff's Office to work toward implementing alcohol compliance checks in Clark County.
- ✓ Completed 9 outreach activities for the WI Wins (youth tobacco prevention) program.
- ✓ Conducted 299 inspections at licensed Clark County facilities.
- ✓ 77 establishments enrolled in the transient non-community (TNC) well water testing program were tested for bacteria and nitrates. Elevated nitrates were identified in 2 systems; Total Coliform bacteria was present in 2 systems.
- ✓ 4 county park beaches were monitored every other week for E. coli from Memorial Day to Labor Day. 2 samples had abnormal results (2, 2020); and 2 beach advisories were posted.
- ✓ The Jail Nurse had 1,552 contacts with inmates; 17 TB skin tests were administered.
- ✓ Through the school-based *Seal-A-Smile* program, 656 children received oral health screenings. Of those, 344 received dental sealants and 644 received topical fluoride varnish applications.
- ✓ The Prenatal Education Program enrolled and provided case management services to 5 at-risk mothers.
- ✓ The CCHD became a member of Safe Kids Wood and Clark County and piloted multiple local initiatives to reduce childhood injuries.
- ✓ To reduce the risk of injury or death among infants due to unsafe sleep environments, 15 eligible families in need received cribs and education.
- ✓ To reduce the risk of injury or death, 27 new car seats were provided to low-income families. This included education from a CCHD Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST).
- ✓ 96 unduplicated clients received reproductive health services (108, 2020).
- ✓ Provided school-based nursing services to 8 public school districts, 4 parochial schools, 22 Amish schools, and 33 Mennonite schools.
- ✓ CCHD staff attended multiple trainings and certification programs to support continuing education and workforce development needs.
- ✓ 2 CCHD staff members acted as preceptors/mentors for students from Rasmussen College (1), University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (8), and University of Wisconsin-Madison (3).

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response & Impact on Programs

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**Introduction:** The World Health Organization declared the Novel Coronavirus outbreak a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Throughout 2021, the CCHD continued to be at the center of the pandemic response in Clark County. This section is an overview of the vital role that the CCHD played in responding to the pandemic.

## Definitions

- Disease Investigation: The process of interviewing an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Close Contact: Someone who was exposed to COVID-19
- Contact Tracing: The process of identifying, notifying, and interviewing someone who was exposed to COVID-19
- DHS: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Isolation: A period of time in which a positive case separates themselves away from others
- Positive Case: An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a confirmatory test
- Probable Case: An individual who was in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case and developed COVID-19 related symptoms, or an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 via a non-confirmatory test (i.e., Antigen Rapid Test)
- Quarantine: A period of time in which a close contact separates themselves away from the general public
- WEDSS: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System

## Staff Time

In 2021, the CCHD spent a cumulative 11,026 hours on COVID-19 work. Furthermore, 46 hours were “donated” by other Clark County departments to help with the COVID-19 response.

## Disease Investigation & Contact Tracing

The CCHD became actively involved in the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020. Clark County had their first confirmatory case of COVID-19 on March 24, 2020. One of the main components of the pandemic response continued to be conducting disease and contact tracing investigations to prevent further spread.

During disease investigations, the CCHD was required to interview positive cases. When resources allowed, staff helped positive cases determine who their close contacts were. Close contacts were then reported (through WEDSS) to their appropriate local health department.

Case follow-ups were conducted in the order that they were received through WEDSS. Case surges greatly impacted the ability of CCHD staff to contact all positive cases along with their close contact(s). At a minimum, the CCHD conducted the following actions:

- All positive cases and known close contacts were either mailed or e-mailed isolation or quarantine guidance.
- Positive cases were given guidance on how to notify their own close contacts outside of the home.
- Charting was completed on all positive cases and known close contacts.

## Reporting of Positive COVID-19 Cases in WEDSS

Positive COVID-19 cases were reported to the CCHD via WEDSS. Due to the high transmissibility of COVID-19 and its potential to adversely impact vulnerable populations, it was important to notify positive cases and close contacts as soon as possible. Contact tracing staff created a rotating schedule, which included working some weekends and some holidays throughout 2021.

## COVID-19 Pandemic Response (continued)

### Testing

Frequent communication took place between the CCHD and local healthcare partners who conducted COVID-19 testing. Communication included referrals for testing, interpreting test results, appointment scheduling, etc.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, the CCHD collaborated with the following test entities:

- Marshfield Clinic Health System (Marshfield, Neillsville, Colby)
- Aspirus Health Care (Stanley, Owen, Thorp, Medford, Wausau)
- Astia Health Employers' Clinic
- Mayo Health System (Eau Claire)
- Prevea Health (Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls)
- Country Health Clinic
- Simple Traditions Family Clinic
- Wisconsin National Guard (WING)
  - The WING played an imperative role in increasing access to COVID-19 testing for Clark County residents. The CCHD partnered with WING to host a free COVID-19 testing site in Curtiss. This site ran every-other Friday through February 2021, and every-other Wednesday October-December, 2021. When needed, Clark County residents were referred to other WING COVID-19 testing sites, including locations in Marathon, Taylor, Chippewa, and Eau Claire County.

### Community Partner Outreach and Communication

The CCHD continued to collaborate with many local partners throughout the pandemic. Outreach included providing education and updated guidance. The CCHD was in frequent contact with the following:

- *Emergency Management*: Clark County Emergency Management worked with the CCHD to distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the county and assisted with the coordination of COVID-19 immunization operations.
- *Schools and Daycares\**:
  - The CCHD provided both public and private school districts with frequent e-mail communications on up-to-date information.
  - The CCHD hosted a weekly meeting with Clark County school districts. Over the summer of 2021, meetings were held monthly. Once school started in the fall, meetings were held every-other Tuesday.
  - School districts were provided with toolkits on how to help prevent and respond to the spread of COVID-19.
  - Schools collaborated with the CCHD to help make educated decisions and plans regarding learning platforms, classroom activities, school sports, extracurricular/after school activities, graduation, prom, etc.
  - Schools worked with the CCHD to manage any outbreaks (i.e., contact tracing, school exclusion, testing referral, etc.) and kept in communication with the CCHD.
  - (\*All of the above information also applied to Clark County daycares.)
- *Long-Term Care Facilities/Assisted Living Facilities/Group Homes*: The CCHD continued to partner with Clark County long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, group homes, and adult family homes throughout the pandemic. Staff provided these entities with educational toolkits, information, testing, and guidance. When outbreaks occurred, the CCHD guided them through testing, proper PPE protocols, and quarantine/isolation procedures (for both staff and residents).
  - Throughout the pandemic, long-term care, assisted living, and group home facilities were required to regularly test both residents and staff for COVID-19. To help facilitate this, the CCHD:
    - Provided isolation and quarantine timelines when warranted
    - Monitored that proper exposure-prevention measures were being followed
    - Ensured that facilities had access to an adequate number of COVID-19 tests and that they were testing both staff and residents as required

## COVID-19 Pandemic Response (continued)

### Community Partner Outreach and Communication (continued)

- *Churches/Funeral Homes/Libraries:* As guidelines continued to change throughout 2021, the CCHD helped direct these entities to where they could find updated language and resources.
- *EMS/Fire/Police:* With the help of the Clark County Emergency Management Director, up-to-date guidance was shared with these entities to ensure the safety of emergency responders and law enforcement personnel.
- *Businesses:* The CCHD actively outreached and advised hundreds of local businesses regarding COVID-19 protocols, mitigation strategies, return-to-work guidelines, etc.
- *Amish and Mennonite Communities:* The CCHD regularly mailed leaders of the Plain community updates regarding COVID-19 transmission rates, testing opportunities, vaccine information, and social distancing guidelines.
- *The Hispanic Community:* In November, the CCHD hired an additional bilingual translator (total of 2).
  - The roles of the translators during the pandemic were to:
    - Conduct case follow-ups with those who tested positive or were exposed to COVID-19
    - Answer any COVID-19 related questions or concerns
    - Translate resources
    - Send resources to Hispanic community newspapers, webpages/social media, local businesses, etc.
- *Clark County Income-Based Resources:* The CCHD provided referrals to both Clark County Social Services and local food pantries to help aid families in need of essentials during their isolation and/or quarantine.
- *Western Wisconsin Regional Public Health Readiness Consortium (WWPHRC):* The CCHD is a paying member of the WWPHRC. Throughout the pandemic, the consortium hosted daily meetings for health officers and support staff. The WWPHRC was instrumental in helping the CCHD continue to navigate through the pandemic.



### COVID-19 Vaccinations

- *Drive-Through Vaccination Clinics:* The CCHD partnered with local fire departments to host numerous COVID-19 drive-through clinics. These clinics were necessary when there was a need to vaccinate large numbers of individuals. The clinics ran from January 2021 through May 2021.
  - Locations: Owen-Withee-Curtiss Fire District (Curtiss) and Greenwood Area Fire Department (Greenwood)
  - View the [COVID-19 Drive Through COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics PowerPoint](#) to see photos, planning, logistics, execution of clinics, and more



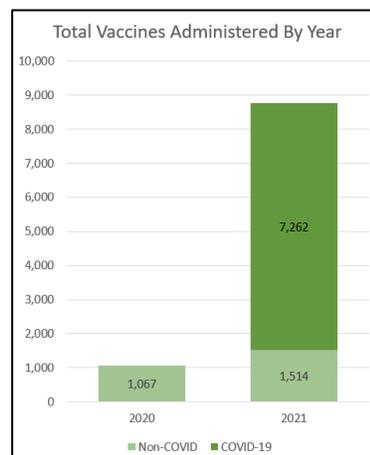
## COVID-19 Pandemic Response (continued)

### COVID-19 Vaccinations (continued)

- *Schools and Daycares:* The CCHD provided COVID-19 vaccines at Clark County schools and daycares. Clinics were set at locations throughout the county to decrease the amount of travel time for school and daycare staff.



- *Pop-Up Clinics:* CCHD staff hosted pop-up clinics throughout the county where gaps were identified (those in need of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine after drive-through vaccination clinics phased out).
  - Example: Factory employees who could not afford to leave work for an extended period of time to get vaccinated. Pop-up clinics were scheduled near these businesses to help get staff vaccinated.
  - Locations: Colby Lion's Club, Neillsville Legion, Thorp Area Fire District, etc.
- *Existing Partnerships:* The CCHD provided COVID-19 vaccines at locations where previous partnerships were already established for other immunization clinics (Abbyland Pork Pack, Gross Motors, Clark County Rehabilitation & Living Center, local nursing homes, and assisted living centers).
- *Administration Data:* CCHD nurses administered *first, second, additional, and booster* COVID-19 vaccinations.
  - In total, the CCHD administered 7,262 COVID-19 vaccines in 2021:
    - Moderna: 6,514
    - Janssen: 722
    - Pfizer Pediatric: 26
  - The number of COVID-19 vaccines administered alone in 2021 is greatly higher than any other year that CCHD nurses administered all types of vaccines.



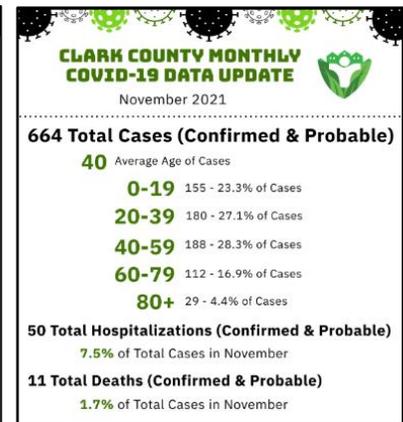
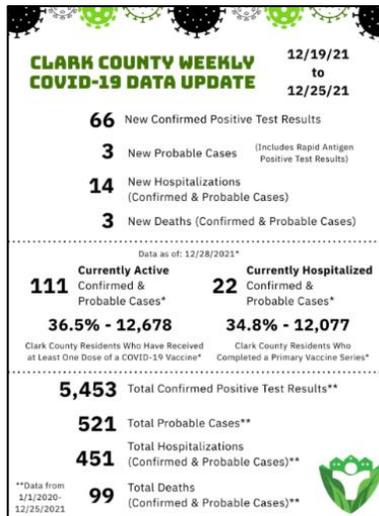
### Education/Health Promotion

- *Facebook:* Updates, testing, vaccination opportunities, and other resources were posted on Facebook (in both English and in Spanish) to keep the public informed.
  - <https://www.facebook.com/clarkcohealthdept>
- *Website:* The CCHD continuously improved the health department's website to feature the most current information (in both English and in Spanish). Several community members commented that the website was informative and easy to navigate.
  - <https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/covid-19>

## COVID-19 Pandemic Response (continued)

### Education/Health Promotion (continued)

- *Clark County Data Dashboard and Clark County COVID-19 Homepage:* Throughout 2021, the CCHD utilized functionalities through Clark County’s website to share information with the public.
  - *Clark County COVID-19 Homepage:* As COVID-19 began to wane in the spring of 2021, the CCHD switched from providing *daily* COVID-19 data updates to *twice-a-week* updates (on both the website and Facebook). This again changed in the fall, when the CCHD opted to only provide a weekly data update on Tuesdays.
  - *Clark County Data Dashboard:* The original Data Dashboard that was created in 2020 was archived. In its place, the CCHD utilized the Clark County COVID-19 Homepage to share both local and state-level data with community members.



### Data & Visualizations

CLARK COUNTY COVID-19 TOTALS			
	2020	2021	Totals (2020 + 2021)
Confirmed Cases	2,813	2,741	5,554
Probable Cases	298	210	508
Hospitalizations	226	246	472
Deaths	59	51	110

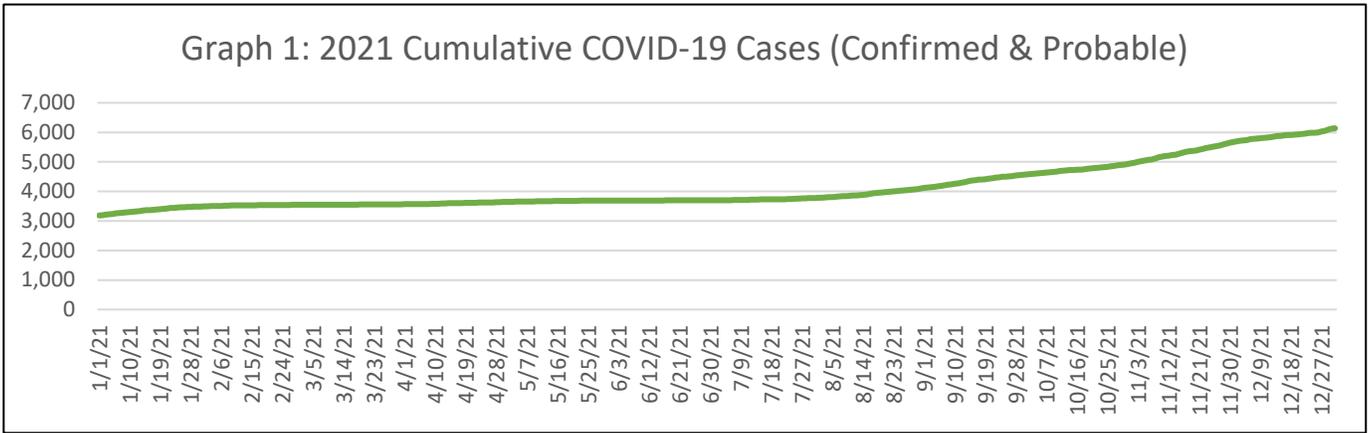
*Data taken from WI DHS*

CLARK COUNTY 2021 ISOLATION & QUARENTINE ORDERS	
	2021
Isolation Orders Issued to COVID-19 Positive Cases	313
Quarantine Orders Issued to COVID-19 Close Contacts	24

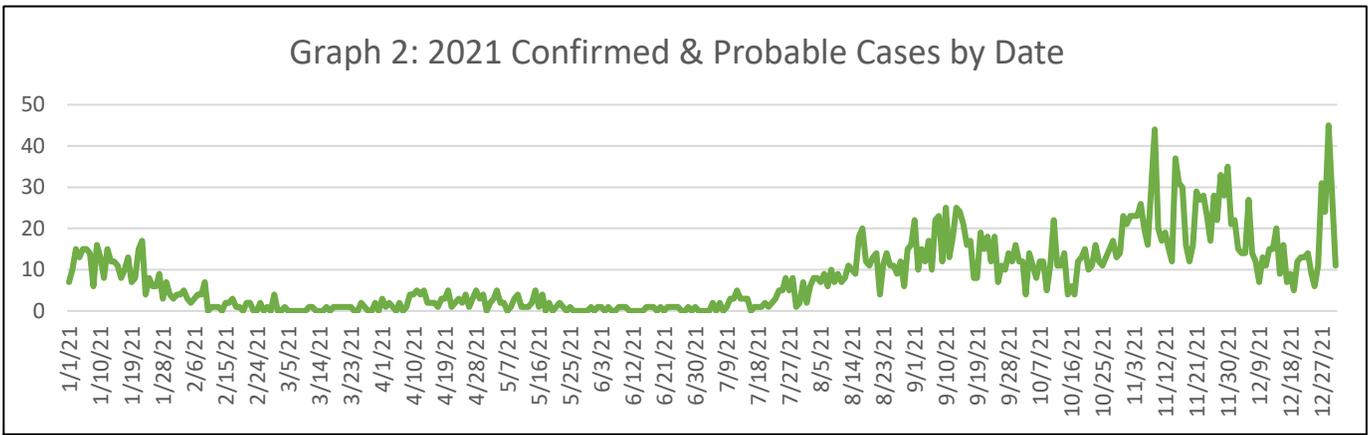
*Data retrieved from WEDSS*

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response (continued)

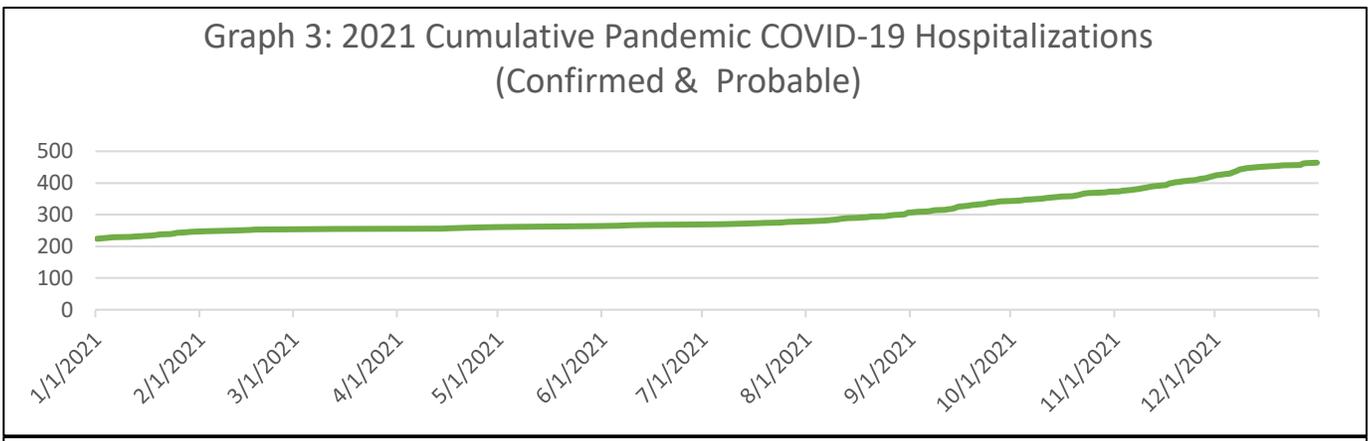
## Data & Visualizations (continued)



This graph depicts the cumulative number of COVID-19 positive and probable cases in 2021



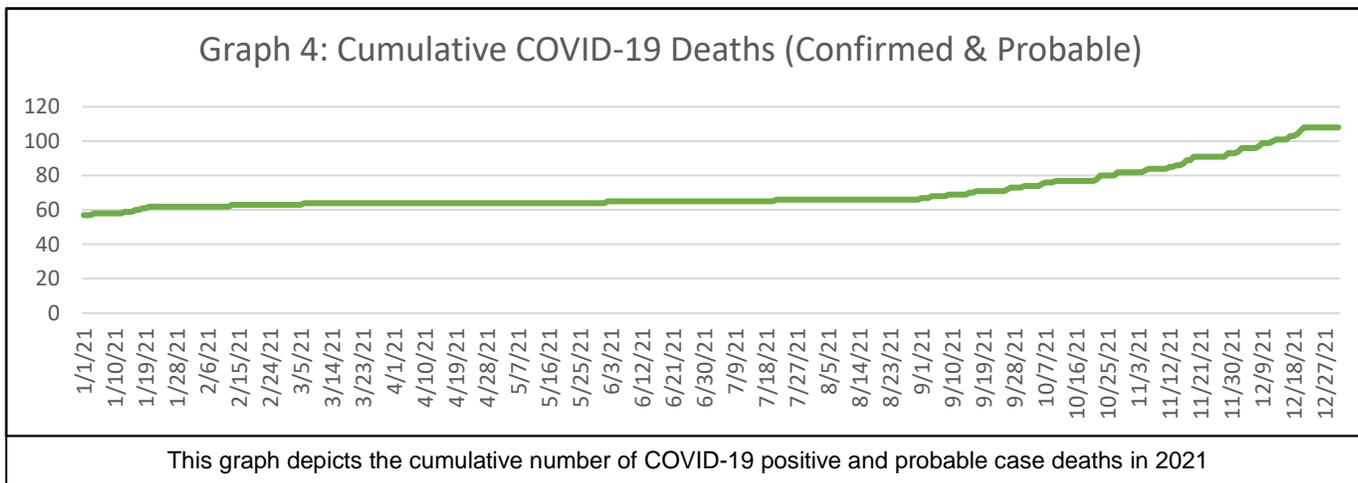
This graph depicts the total number of COVID-19 positive and probable cases the CCHD received each day during 2021



This graph depicts the cumulative number of COVID-19 positive and probable case hospitalizations in 2021

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response (continued)

## Data & Visualizations (continued)



## Recognitions

Throughout 2021, the CCHD received many letters of gratitude and words of encouragement. Below, are just a few of these messages:

*"I just want to thank you (Brittany) for the incredible staff that you have helping senior citizens navigate the COVID vaccine situation. I am 75 years old and have four co-morbidities, so I am really anxious to get the vaccine. I live in Hudson, and unfortunately, St. Croix County has not yet started vaccinating people in my age group. I lived in Medford for 35 years, and one of my friends there happened to mention that she had just gone to your drive-through clinic yesterday, so I called your health department to see what the possibility would be for getting an appointment. I really just wanted to find out when new appointments would be available online. Little did I imagine that I would meet two wonderful people, Bonnie and Rebecca, who went out of their way to help me and actually enrolled me for next week's clinic in Greenwood. I cannot tell you what a relief that is. I find myself fighting back tears as I write this because their kindness, compassion, and empathy have touched me deeply. I have been strictly quarantined since March 16 according to doctors orders, and while I have been lucky due to temperament and interest to have navigated the situation extremely well, it will be such a relief to have the vaccine. Please let Bonnie and Rebecca know how much I deeply appreciate their kindness. Kudos to you (Brittany) as well because it sounds like your program is run very professionally and competently. Sometimes good things do come in small packages (as in county health departments)."*

*"Please know how much we appreciate the efforts of you (Brittany) and your staff. We may not be the majority, but we are here and so grateful for the protection your department is trying to provide through practical precautions."*

*Thank you*

*"Thank you for your work during these many months the pandemic has been raging; we realize the necessary and proven precautions you've promoted have not all been popular with county residents and that you've at times met with resistance. We want you to know that we support you and your policies and appreciate all you and your staff do."*

*Thank you*

*"MY HUSBAND AND I WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE ATTENDED THE JANUARY 21 COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC IN CURTISS AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU, YOUR EMPLOYEES, THE VOLUNTEERS, AND ANYONE ELSE WHO HELPED ORGANIZE AND EXECUTE IT. WHAT A WELL-RUN CLINIC! WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, AND WERE A BIT NERVOUS, BUT WE WERE IMMEDIATELY GREETED AT THE DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE WHERE EVERYTHING WAS EXPLAINED CLEARLY AND SUCCINCTLY. (WE DID FEEL SORRY FOR THE FOLKS WHO HAD TO BRAVE THE WIND AND COLD AT THEIR OUTDOOR POSTS. BUT SUCH PROFESSIONALS). THOSE WHO ADMINISTERED THE VACCINE AND THEIR ASSISTANTS WERE FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT. WE WERE SO IMPRESSED WITH HOW SMOOTHLY THE OPERATION WENT AND CANNOT THANK YOU AND YOUR TEAM ENOUGH FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID TO MAKE THIS WORK. WE ARE SO RELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE SECOND DOSE."*

*"Brittany Mews and all your staff are just doing such a fantastic job. We are so proud of you. Keep working and keep helping us."*

*thank you*

*"THANK YOU, Rebecca, for how incredibly hard you and your colleagues are working these days. I can only imagine how exhausting this is for your small department serving a very big county. Clark County residents are very fortunate to have people like you looking out for them and I hope you're getting some time to take care of yourself too!"*

**notes**

*"We are so thankful, again, for everything you and your staff are doing every day to help - and not only with COVID but with all the programs the health department helps to oversee."*

*"Wanted to say thank you and let you know we appreciate the job you and the health department are doing to try and keep people healthy in our county."*

## COVID-19 Pandemic Response (continued)

### Quality Improvement, Efficiency, and Accomplishments

- For the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the CCHD's normal operations and programs were put on hold. In 2021, however, two Public Health nurses were able to return to their pre-pandemic duties. The following staff played a primary role in the 2021 COVID-19 response:
  - 5 LTE contact tracers
  - 1 LTE Nurse
  - 1 Full-Time Nurse
  - 1 Director/Health Officer
- The PHN that worked full-time in the COVID-19 response kept up-to-date on all policies, procedures, and guidance regarding all aspects of COVID-19. She spent time educating and providing this information to the COVID-19 Team. This included having regular meetings at least once a week, along with frequent e-mail communications.
  - *COVID-19 Team*: LTE Contact Tracers and LTE Public Health Nurse. In 2021, these team members conducted almost all COVID-19 case investigations.
- The CCHD Call Tree: The CCHD continued to experience high call volumes during the pandemic. A COVID-19 call tree continued to be utilized, which helped separate callers by type of inquiry (i.e., health care entities, schools, business, isolation/quarantine, testing, etc.). Each COVID-19 line was assigned to a specific staff person (including LTE staff).

### Obstacles/Growth

One of the greatest challenges that COVID-19 presented to the CCHD was staffing shortage. Due to ever-changing recommendations, facility outbreaks, non-compliance with quarantine guidelines, lack of accessible PPE, and requests for clarity/assistance from community partners, one full-time nurse and much of the Health Officer/Director's time was dedicated to the response effort.

Without the hiring of additional full-time staff, and the need for one PHN to focus solely on COVID-19, traditional PHN programs at the CCHD were understaffed; the COVID-19 PHN was unable to assist with any non-COVID public health programs. In addition, the Health Officer/Director also had limited capacity to perform administrative operations and duties since 2020.

Another reoccurring challenge was communication at all levels. Despite this, staff continued to uphold the CCHD's mission, vision, and core values, becoming stronger and more resilient while serving community members.

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## Mission, Vision, and Core Values

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### 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.

This will be accomplished through:

- ✓ Assuring and promoting the quality and accessibility of health services
- ✓ Preventing epidemics and the spread of disease
- ✓ Preventing injuries
- ✓ Promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors through education
- ✓ Protecting against environmental hazards
- ✓ Responding to disasters and assisting communities in recovery

### Our Core Values

These values motivate and drive the work of the Clark County Health Department:

- ✓ *Partnerships*
- ✓ *Trust*
- ✓ *Respect*
- ✓ *Integrity*
- ✓ *Compassion*
- ✓ *Accountability*

# Health Department Staff and Board of Health

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## **Director/Health Officer**

Brittany Mews, BSN, RN

## **Lead Public Health Nurse**

Kelsey Wussow, BSN, RN

## **Public Health Nurses**

Katie Cook, BSN, RN

Corrine Spencer, BSN, RN

## **Health Educator/Public Health Specialist**

Rebecca Greisen, BS, CHES

## **Jail Health**

Lynn Klovas, RN

## **Environmental Health**

Dillon Brost, BS, RS – Environmental Health Specialist II/Sanitarian

Brittney Fortuna, MPH – Environmental Health Specialist (November-December)

Kevin Smith, MPH, REHS/RS – Environmental Health Specialist II/Sanitarian (January-September)

## **Administrative Support**

Alyssa Suda – Finance Associate

Bonnie Mayenschein – Administrative Assistant

## **LTE Public Health Nurses**

Megan Lindau, BSN, RN

Trina Kaiser, BSN, RN (September-December)

Jenna Goodwin, BSN, RN (January-May)

## **LTE Contact Tracers**

Ashtyn Schmitz, Jill Bancroft, Laura Garcia-Torres, Mariah Stange, Autumn Marshall, Jenna Thieme (January), Wendy Cantarella (January-March), Crystal Rueth (October-December), and Marisol Garcia (December)

## **Board of Health**

Dean Zank (Chair), Dr. Gary Janssen (Medical Advisor), Doris Bakker, William Neville, Jim Smagacz, Sue Backaus, Kristin Weiler-Nytes, Jean Ketterhagen, Sharon Rogers (January-May), and Ryan Ashbeck (June-December)

## Essential Service 1: Monitor Health Status to Identify and Solve Community Health Problems

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**Introduction:** *Essential Service 1 activities include assessing the health status of the community through formal and informal needs assessments and data analyses. The Clark County Health Department (CCHD) collaborates with a diverse group of community partners to address community health problems. In this section, community health improvement planning and leading health indicators, including community survey data, are used to determine the top health focus areas.*

### Online Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The Online Youth Risk Behavior Survey (OYRBS) is a surveillance system designed to monitor a wide range of health risk behaviors (e.g., unintentional injury and violence, tobacco use, alcohol use, sexual behaviors, unhealthy dietary behaviors, physical inactivity, etc.) among adolescents. The CCHD utilizes data collected from the OYRBS when designing and implementing programs geared toward young people.

Data collected by the OYRBS is invaluable. No other survey tool has allowed the CCHD to build such a rich repository of youth information. The CCHD will continue to encourage school districts to participate in the OYRBS biannually.

#### **2021 Activities and Outputs:**

##### *Spring 2019 OYRBS:*

- 774 high school students and 740 middle school students participated in the 2019 OYRBS. Results from the 2019 survey marked the fourth year in which student data was available for both Clark County and individual schools.
- The CCHD continued to utilize 2019 OYRBS data to drive program objectives, add context to grant applications, and help select priority areas for the 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

##### *Fall 2021 OYRBS:*

- Per the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), students could only complete the 2021 OYRBS between September 7<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - In April, the CCHD initiated outreach efforts to Clark County's 8 public school districts, encouraging schools to register. Outreach efforts continued through October.
    - 6 school districts registered: Abbotsford, Colby, Greenwood, Granton, Owen-Withee, and Neillsville.
  - Results are expected to be available in spring 2022.

### Community Health Improvement Plan (2021-2022)

The Clark County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), *A Healthier Clark County: Connecting the Dots 2021-2022*, focuses on select health priorities and outlines the strategic framework for implementing a comprehensive and focused approach for improving the overall health and quality of life for residents of Clark County.

The CCHD uses this document to determine project strategies and program goals. A version of Clark County's CHIP is also used by Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville (MMCN) and Aspirus Stanley Hospital (ASH) to help give focus to their community outreach efforts.

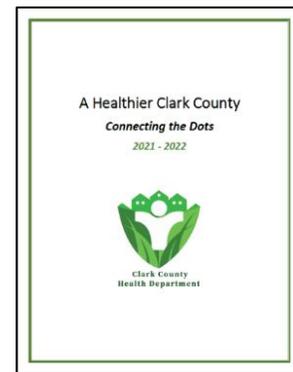
## Community Health Improvement Plan (2021-2022) (continued)

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- Through both partnerships and independent work, the CCHD continued to make progress within the three 2021-2022 CHIP priority areas:

#### 1. Chronic Disease:

- Youth residents of Clark County will decrease their usage of vaping and e-cigarette products.
- Clark County retailers will decrease the number of illegal tobacco sales to minors (individuals under the age of 21).
- Women who are nursing or pumping will have increased access to breastfeeding-friendly areas within Clark County.
- Underserved Clark County residents will have increased access to healthy and nutritious foods.
- Clark County will make strides to develop or implement plans for public infrastructure that promotes physical activity.
- Clark County will incorporate infrastructure that eases accessibility limitations for underserved Clark County populations.
- Clark County will offer opportunities for senior citizens to improve their physical health through strength training programs.



#### 2. Mental Health:

- Clark County will increase the number of youth who are able to recognize the warning signs of a suicide risk and respond appropriately.
- Clark County will increase the number of youth who are able to recognize and appropriately respond to indicators of self-harm.
- Clark County will increase awareness for mental health illnesses and services.
- Clark County will reduce access to readily operable firearms (by providing firearm locks).
- Clark County will increase the number of adults who are aware of the effects of childhood trauma.

#### 3. Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA):

- Clark County will decrease youth alcohol use.
- Clark County will reduce unauthorized access to prescription medications.
- Clark County will reduce the number of residents who die from opioid overdoses.
- Clark County will increase the number of AODA self-help groups.
- Clark County will increase awareness in the community about the dangers of problematic adult alcohol consumption.

## Community Health Assessment (2023-2025)

Per Wisconsin Statute 251.05, the CCHD is required to facilitate a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and create a corresponding Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) every five years. The purpose of this is to:

1. Understand Clark County's current health status, needs, and issues
2. Collaborate with community partners to identify the top health priority areas
3. Prepare to develop action plans to address key health issues affecting Clark County residents

## Community Health Assessment (2023-2025) (continued)

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- In March, the CCHD began regularly meeting with the Healthy Clark County group, consisting of partners from MMCN and ASH, to plan for the 2021 Community Health Survey (CHS).
- Finalized the 2021 CHS in June.
- From June-August, the Healthy Clark County group conducted public outreach efforts to collect survey responses from the public.
  - Targeted populations included the elderly, the Amish and Mennonite, and inmates at the Clark County jail.
  - 464 individuals who either lived in Clark County or utilized services in Clark County participated.
- From September-November, survey responses were reviewed and secondary data was compiled.
- In December, the top 6 community health priority area recommendations were identified:
  1. *Mental/Behavioral Health*
  2. *Alcohol and Other Drugs (AODA)*
  3. *Chronic Disease*
  4. *Communicable Disease*
  5. *Social Determinants of Health*
  6. *Physical Environment and Safety*
- A meeting is planned for January 2022, in which community stakeholders will be asked to help determine the top 3 priority areas for 2023-2025.

## Monitoring Data

The CCHD continued to monitor county-specific data made available through County Health Rankings & Roadmaps and Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH).

CLARK COUNTY DASHBOARD			
County Health Rankings*	2019	2020	2021
<i>Health Outcomes</i>	18	46	51
Length of Life (Premature Death)	25	52	51
Quality of Life	13	34	47
<i>Health Factors</i>	61	64	68
Health Behaviors	53	68	62
Clinical Care	72	72	72
Social & Economic Factors	33	33	64
Physical Environment	10	25	5
*Numerical value based on 72 counties in WI; Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (2019, 2020, 2021)			

## Monitoring Data (continued)

<b>NATALITY PROFILE FOR CLARK COUNTY RESIDENTS</b>			
<b>POPULATION</b>			
	<b>Clark County 2020</b>	<b>Wisconsin 2020</b>	
<b>Total Population</b>	34,747	5,835,721	
<b>Females (15-44 yrs.)</b>	5,629	1,093,638	
<b>Births</b>	555	60,615	
Based on WI Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) (Data not available for 2021)			
<b>CLARK COUNTY BIRTHS</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Births</b>	<b>Teen Births (&lt;age 20)</b>	<b>Estimated Percent of Amish/Mennonite Births (Compared to Overall Births )</b>
2018	583	2.1%	44.6%
2019	575	1.9%	50.3%
2020	555	2.9%	46.11%
2021	591*	<i>Data Not Available</i>	50.08%*
Based on WI Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data Some data not available for 2021 *Based on SPHERE birth record data (manually sorted and recorded)			
<b>CLARK COUNTY TOTAL BIRTHS BY AGE OF MOTHER</b>			
<b>Age</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
15-17 years	0	4	6
18-19 years	8	9	13
20-24 years	166	152	137
25-29 years	172	181	177
30-34 years	128	139	130
35-39 years	76	74	66
40-44 years	28	23	26
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>555</b>
Based on WI Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data (Data not available for 2021)			

## Monitoring Data (continued)

<b>NATALITY PROFILE FOR CLARK COUNTY RESIDENTS (CONTINUED)</b>				
<b>LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS (&lt;2500 grams)</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Clark County</b>	<b>Clark County Percentage</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>Wisconsin Percentage</b>
<b>2018</b>	32	5.5%	4,953	7.7%
<b>2019</b>	32	5.5%	4,812	7.6%
<b>2020</b>	21	3.8%	4,686	7.7%
Based on WI Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data (Data not available for 2021)				
<b>PREMATURE BIRTHS (&lt;37 weeks gestation)</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Clark County</b>	<b>Clark County Percentage</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>Wisconsin Percentage</b>
<b>2018</b>	41	7.1%	6,344	9.9%
<b>2019</b>	51	8.8%	6,364	10.1%
<b>2020</b>	35	6.3%	6,015	10.0%
Based on WI Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data (Data not available for 2021)				
<b>CLARK COUNTY MATERNAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Mothers with &lt;High School Education</b>	<b>Births to Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy</b>	<b>Not Married</b>	
<b>2018</b>	288 (49.8%)	43 (7.4%)	117 (20.2%)	
<b>2019</b>	268 (46.0%)	41 (7.0%)	97 (16.7%)	
<b>2020</b>	258 (46.5%)	44 (7.9%)	98 (17.6%)	
Based on WI Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data (Data not available for 2021)				

## Essential Service 2: Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community

**Introduction:** *Essential Service 2 includes provision of epidemiological identification of emerging health threats, active investigation of infectious disease and human health hazards, and prevention of disease through immunization. The following programs and activities are highlighted in this section: Clark County Immunization Coalition, communicable disease control, immunization program, seasonal influenza, animal bites, lead poisoning prevention, indoor radon testing, environmental health concerns, and private well water testing.*

### Clark County Immunization Coalition

The CCHD outreached to partners to form a Clark County Immunization Coalition (CCIC). Partners include Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville (MMCN) and Sniteman Pharmacy.

- Mission: To increase immunization rates to protect the residents of Clark County from vaccine-preventable diseases.



#### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- The CCIC group was resurrected in March 2021.
- Collaborative meetings were held monthly via WebEx. The CCHD served as the lead in combination with Dr. Devries at MMCN.
- At these meetings, the work plan and mission statement were revised; immunization benchmark reports were shared; reminder recall processes were reviewed; and resources from the CDC, DHS, and MMCN were discussed to have a better understanding of how to best promote vaccines in Clark County.
- The CCIC hosted a presentation by Dr. Devries on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> about childhood vaccines and vaccine hesitancy.
- In an effort to combat vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, the group outreached to providers such as Dr. Schrock at Country Health Clinic, as well as other MMCN providers to see what common themes were amongst parents who refused vaccines.
  - The coalition then worked on ideas on how to combat misinformation (i.e., educating pregnant mothers, having standardized handouts, having a presence at back-to-school events, etc.). Strategies will be implemented in 2022.

### Communicable Disease Control

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 assures that individuals receive appropriate treatments and are provided with education to help prevent the further spread of diseases.

Please refer to the table on the next page for a list of diseases that were reported to the CCHD from 2019-2021. These numbers are not a complete picture of communicable diseases in Clark County—as some infections may not have been reported.

The most commonly reported disease in Clark County in 2021 was Coronavirus, Novel 2019 (COVID-19) at 2,951 cases (both confirmed and probable). The second most commonly reported disease in Clark County in 2021 was Chlamydia Trachomatis infection, at 60 cases (both confirmed and probable).

## Communicable Disease Control (continued)

<b>CCHD REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: CONFIRMED &amp; PROBABLE CASES</b>			
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Coronavirus, Novel 2019 (COVID-19)	0	3,114	2,951
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)	0	1	1
Influenza Associated Hospitalizations	16	29	1
Parapertussis	1	0	0
Lyme Disease (B.Burgdorferi)	4	0	0
Babesiosis	1	1	0
Anaplasmosis	0	0	3
Hepatitis C (Chronic)	6	1	4
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	1	0	0
Tuberculosis (Active Disease)	1	0	1
Tuberculosis (Latent Infection-LTBI)	2	0	1
Mycobacterial Disease (Non-Tuberculosis)	5	4	2
Carbon Monoxide Reporting	5	0	2
Streptococcal Disease/Invasive/Groups A & B	9	1	3
Shigellosis	1	0	0
<b>VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES</b>			
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	10	5	0
Mumps	0	0	0
Haemophilus Influenzae/Invasive	2	0	0
Varicella (Chickenpox)	3	1	1
Others (Measles, Rubella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio)	0	0	0
Case counts are from the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS)			

## Communicable Disease Control (continued)

<b>CCHD REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: CONFIRMED &amp; PROBABLE CASES</b> (continued)			
<b>ENTERIC DISEASES</b>			
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Campylobacteriosis</b>	21	11	18
<b>Cryptosporidiosis</b>	19	9	12
<b>Salmonellosis</b>	10	4	14
<b>Giardiasis</b>	8	3	6
<b>E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC)</b>	6	3	7
<b>E. Coli, Enterotoxigenic (ETEC)</b>	1	3	3
<b>E. Coli Enteropathogenic (EPEC)</b>	18	11	2
<b>Cyclosporiasis</b>	0	0	1
<b>Shigellosis</b>	1	0	0
<b>SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES</b>			
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Chlamydia</b>	44	59	60
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	3	11	8
<b>Syphilis</b>	0	1	0
<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)</b>	0	0	1
Case counts are from the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS)			

## Immunization Program

Immunizations are considered one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Vaccines prevent disease not only in the people who receive them, but also provide indirect protection to individuals in the community who are not fully immunized or have weakened immune systems. Preventing and reducing the spread of disease through indirect protection is known as “herd immunity.” Children under the age of 2 are vulnerable to childhood diseases, which is why it is extremely important that they be protected through immunizations.

The CCHD strives to reduce and eliminate cases of vaccine-preventable diseases through the administration of vaccines. The table on the next page depicts compliance rates among Clark County’s pediatric population at 24 months.

## Immunization Program (continued)

CLARK COUNTY COMPLIANCE RATES AT 24 MONTHS								
Year	DTaP (4)	HepB (3)	Hib (3)	MMR (1)	Pneumococcal (4)	Polio (3)	Varicella (1)	4331431 Series
2019	52%	52%	62%	60%	54%	60%	49%	39%
2020	50%	52%	60%	59%	54%	60%	47%	39%
2021	48%	49%	58%	56%	51%	56%	46%	37%

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- 1,514 immunizations were administered by the CCHD (*data excludes COVID-19 vaccines*).
  - 494 vaccines were given to adults ages 19 and older.
  - 1,020 immunizations were given to children (<18 years).
- 37% of Clark County's 2 year olds met Wisconsin's benchmark immunization standards, with 40% meeting the criteria late-up-to-date.
- The CCHD partnered with Pfizer's VAKs (*Vaccine Adherence in Kids*) program which supports efforts to improve pediatric vaccination adherence. Essentially, it is a vaccine reminder-recall program that assists health care professionals and organizations in notifying a parent/guardian (via post card or telephone) to let them know that their child may have missed a CDC-recommended vaccination.
  - The CCHD implemented this program in October 2021, with the goal of increasing pediatric immunization rates in Clark County. The CCHD understands that it will take continued education, culture change, and time to meet this goal.
- The CCHD held monthly immunization clinics at the Clark County Rehabilitation & Living Center (CCRLC) and weekly immunization clinics at the health department. Appointments were strongly encouraged, but walk-ins were welcome.
- Clark County has a significant Plain community (Amish and Mennonite population) that often chooses to opt out of (routine or otherwise) immunizations.
  - The CCHD traveled to 8 Plain community homes and schools every 8 weeks; totaling 48 clinics for the year.
- The CCHD issued multiple Facebook posts and Plain community newsletter articles promoting the importance of vaccinations.



## Seasonal Influenza

In 2021, the CCHD administered the quadrivalent influenza vaccine. The quadrivalent vaccine includes protection from 4 influenza virus strains.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- 462 doses of the adult influenza vaccine and 451 doses of the children's influenza vaccine were administered during the 2021 influenza season, for a total of 913 influenza vaccines given by the CCHD (981, 2020).

## Seasonal Influenza (continued)

### 2021 Activities and Outputs (continued):

- The CCHD offered senior adult influenza immunization clinics throughout the county, which increased access to vaccine coverage. The Public Health Nurses (PHNs) traveled to 6 sites (including nursing homes, senior living apartments, and an assisted living facility) to administer the influenza vaccine.
- The CCHD collaborated with the American Lung Association and United HealthCare to provide low-cost flu vaccines to uninsured individuals who met the following criteria: Wisconsin resident, age 50+, and/or high-risk individuals living with lung disease or other chronic disease(s).
  - The CCHD facilitated 3 off-site influenza clinics to serve these individuals. The clinics were held at American Legion Post 73 in Neillsville, the Colby Lion's Shelter, and the Thorp Area Fire District.
- The CCHD outreached to worksites, providing flu vaccinations to employees.
  - Flu vaccines were offered to all employees of Clark County at special employee-only flu clinics.
  - The CCHD also provided vaccines to employees at Gross Motors in Neillsville, Abbyland, Inc. (Pork Pack facility in Curtiss), and Dairy Farmers of America in Chili.
- The CCHD held mass immunization clinics at 5 Clark County schools and at 1 community site. This service is very convenient for children, adolescents and their parents, as it eliminates the need to schedule an off-site appointment at a clinic or pharmacy.

## Animal Bites

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.

In 2021, a bat tested positive for rabies. Both individuals that were exposed to the bat received rabies vaccinations.

ANIMAL BITES & POSSIBLE RABIES EXPOSURES			
Animal Type	2019	2020	2021
Dog	36	45	30
Cat	10	8	10
Bat	6	0	1
Raccoon	0	0	0
Animal to Animal	2	0	1
Horse	1	0	0
Rat	0	0	0
<b>Total # Reported to CCHD</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>42</b>

## Lead Poisoning Prevention

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  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . If a child's venous BLL is  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , the CCHD provides education and case management until the child's BLL is at or below 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . Those who do not receive a confirmatory test for lead poisoning do not receive full case management. However, they are contacted and instructed to seek out a confirmatory blood lead testing.

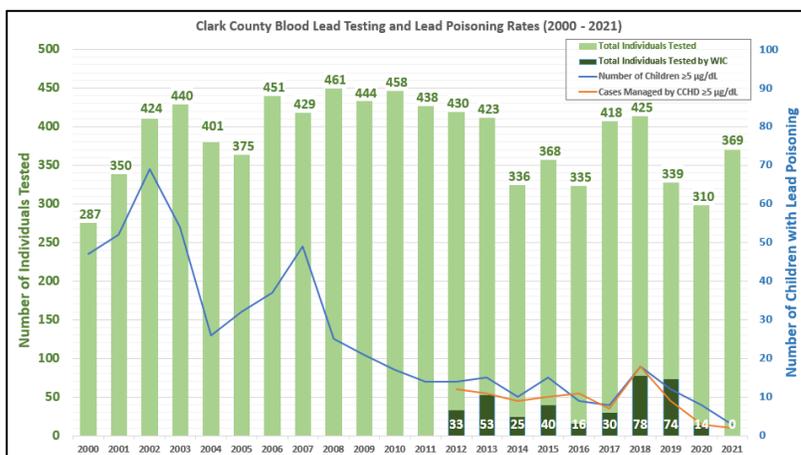
Some cases of lead poisoning persist from year to year and may cause a higher number of case counts than the actual number of individuals that tested  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  that year.

In 2021 the CCHD did not perform any blood lead tests due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Two individuals had an elevated blood lead test. They were followed up with by a CCHD nurse.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- 3 children had confirmed lead poisoning (BLL  $\geq 5\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) through venous testing conducted by their primary care provider.
- In 2012, the CCHD purchased a capillary blood lead testing analyzer and began performing blood lead tests in collaboration with Clark County's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. The graph to the right depicts the number of individuals in Clark County that received at least one blood lead test between 2000 and 2021 (light green bars). The dark green bars show the number of individuals who were tested by CCHD/WIC. The blue line shows the number of individuals that had at least one blood lead test  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . The orange line indicates the number of individuals that received case management by a CCHD nurse.

Clark County Blood Lead Testing Rates & Results			
	2019	2020	2021
Total Individuals Tested	338	308	369
Total Tested by CCHD and WIC	74	14	0
Individuals Below 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$	327	300	366
Individuals Above 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ (one or more tests)	11	8	3
Individuals with Case Management for Lead Poisoning	9	3	2



- The table below shows Clark County homes investigated for lead between 2019 and 2021.

Environment Investigation Outcomes for Lead Poisoning Prevention			
	2019	2020	2021
Environmental Lead Risk Assessments	4	0	0
Homes with Identified Lead Hazards	4	0	0
Homes with Corrected Lead Abatement Orders	0	0	1
Combined Average Floor Dust Concentration*	519 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$	N/A	N/A
Combined Average Windowsill Dust Concentration**	2,414 g/ft	N/A	N/A
*Floor dust concentration greater than or equal to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ is considered a lead dust hazard			
**Windowsill dust concentration greater than or equal to 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ is considered a lead dust hazard			

## Lead Safe Homes Program

In 2020, the CCHD developed a contract with the Wisconsin Lead Safe Homes Program to fund the cost of lead abatement-related activities. The CCHD was awarded \$286,650. This contract ran from January 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021. Reimbursable activities for the program included:

- Completed lead abatement projects of residential dwellings
- Family relocation costs while the property was being abated
- Lead risk assessment-related activities (i.e., laboratory costs, conducting risk assessments, clearance activities, etc.)
- Training for private abatement contracting companies, CCHD staff risk assessor training, and certification costs for each.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- 1 CCHD staff member completed Lead Risk Assessor training and certification.
- 2 CCHD staff members completed Lead Abatement Supervisor training and certification.
- 13 individuals from 5 companies completed Lead Abatement Supervisor training and certification.

## Indoor Radon Testing

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- The CCHD supplied 14 radon test kits.
  - A total of 3 test kits were completed (21.4%).
    - 1 household (33%) was identified to have an unsafe level of radon (>4 pCi/L).
- January Radon Awareness Month: Press release to Clark County newspapers and post to Facebook.



## Environmental Health Concerns

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 on the next page reflects all of the contacts that were made with the CCHD in 2021. These include environmental health-related concerns and complaints and 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.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- 23 properties had environmental concerns (25, 2020).
  - 8 of the environmental health concerns were related to disputes (12, 2020).

## Environmental Health Concerns (continued)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS			
Concern	2019	2020	2021
Damaged, Dilapidated, Unsafe or Abandoned Buildings	7	10	7
Unsanitary or Unfit Conditions	5	6	2
Hoarding	0	1	1
Insect Infestations (Cockroaches, Bedbugs, etc.)	5	4	5
Animal Infestations (Rats, Mice, Cats, etc.)	8	4	2
Garbage	4	2	1
Sewage or Waste	9	2	2
Water or Plumbing	5	6	3
Air Quality Concerns	3	4	1
Lead-Based Paint (not related to lead poisoning)	2	2	1
Asbestos	0	1	0
Mold	15	4	7
Animal Health	0	2	0
Methamphetamine	0	1	0
<b>Total Environmental Health Concerns</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>32</b>

### Private Well Water Testing – Fee Exempt Test Kits

Homes with pregnant women and/or children ages 6 months 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.

#### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- The CCHD supplied 65 residential fee-exempt well water test kits to 59 households.
  - 39 test kits were completed by residents in 34 different homes.
- Nitrates and Bacteria:
  - Nitrates: 34 households were tested for nitrates in the groundwater.
    - 3 (8.8%) were above 10 mg/L, the unsafe level for pregnant women and children under six months old.
    - No households were above 20 mg/L, the unsafe level for consumption.

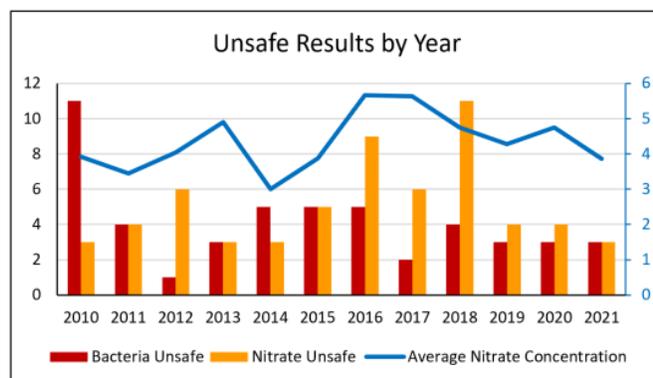
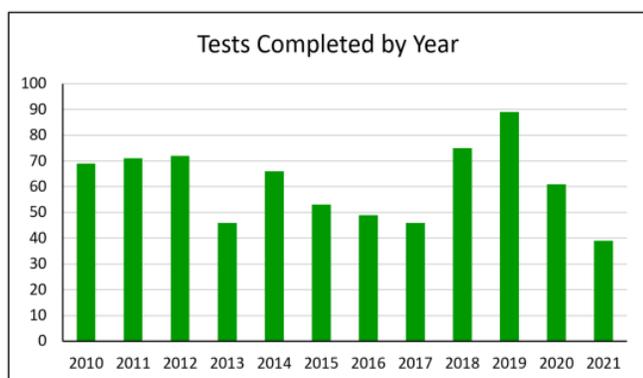
## Private Well Water Testing – Fee Exempt Test Kits (continued)

### 2021 Activities and Outputs (continued):

- **Bacteria:** 34 households were tested for Total Coliform and E. coli bacteria in the groundwater.
  - 11 households (32.4%) were identified to have the presence of Total Coliform bacteria.
    - 3 of the 11 households (27.3%) were confirmed to have the presence of Total Coliform bacteria.
    - None of the households had the presence of E. coli.
- **Inorganics and Total Metals:**
  - **Fluoride:** 34 households were tested for inorganics in the groundwater.
    - 25 households (73.5%) 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:** 34 households were tested for heavy metals in the drinking water.
    - 2 households (5.9%) were identified to have unsafe levels of heavy metals.
      - **Copper:** 2 households (5.9%) had an unsafe level of copper ( $\geq 1300$  mcg/L) based on Public Health Standard.
      - **Manganese:** 8 households (23.5%) had elevated levels of manganese ( $\geq 50$   $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) based on the Public Welfare Standard; and 0 households had unsafe levels 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:** 9 households (26.5%) had elevated levels of iron ( $\geq 0.3$  mg/L) based on the Public Welfare Standard.
 

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



## Essential Service 3: Inform, Educate and Empower People about Health Issues

**Introduction:** Essential Service 3 includes social marketing, targeted media public communication, and providing accessible health information resources to reinforce health promotion messages and programs.

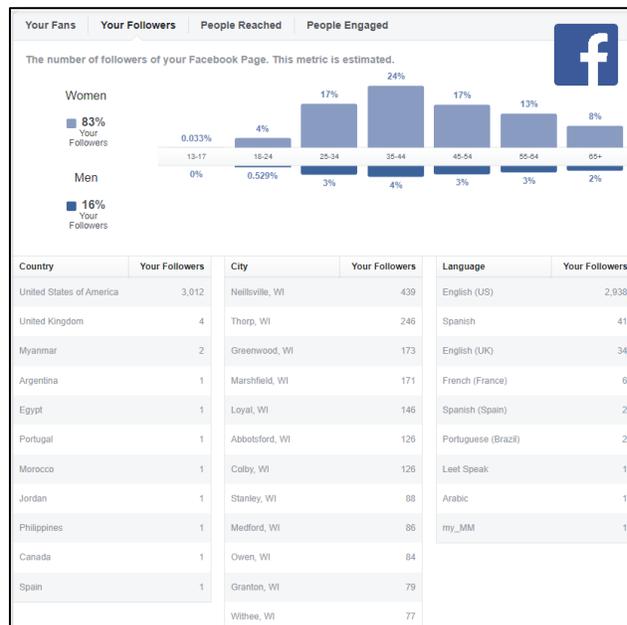
### General Health Education

Per request, the CCHD provides in-person educational sessions to community groups, worksites, students, and individual clients. To reach a broad audience, the CCHD uses technology and other resources to enhance public awareness for health issues.

- The CCHD website promotes a multitude of health-related topics and programs:
  - <http://www.clarkcountywi.gov/healthdepartment>
- The CCHD Facebook page communicates health messages to the public:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/clarkcohealthdept>
- The CCHD issues press releases regarding a variety of programs/health topics throughout the year.
- Occasionally, the CCHD participates in radio interviews to promote programs, offer insight, and educate the public on various health topics.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- The CCHD continued to maintain and promote its website.
- The CCHD had an active Facebook presence and continued to increase its number of “followers” and “likes.”
  - 2021 followers: 3,026 (2020: 2,686)
  - 2021 page likes: 2,619 (2020: 2,335)
- In March, the Health Educator co-proposed the implementation of a Story Walk in the Owen-Withee area to Owen City Council. City Council approved the implementation.
- In May, the Health Educator conducted a radio interview with WCCN on opioid overdoses and the NARCAN® Direct program.
- In August, the Health Educator offered a presentation on Clark County’s Amish and Mennonite communities to a group of professionals belonging to the Western Wisconsin Rural Behavioral Health Network.
- In regard to the youth vaping epidemic, the Health Educator held 6 in-person presentations and conducted one newspaper interview:
  - October: Presented to Owen-Withee’s 9<sup>th</sup> grade class
  - November: Presented to Colby’s 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes (4 sections)
  - December: Presented to Colby parents and community members (15 attended)
  - December: Interviewed with the Clark County Press



Number of Facebook followers by country, city, and language. Courtesy of Facebook. January, 2022.

## General Health Education (continued)

### 2021 Activities and Outputs (continued):

- Hydroponic Farms Initiative:
  - In partnership with Fork Farms and Marshfield Clinic Health System, the CCHP's Health Educator applied to speak at the statewide Annual Public Health Conference This conference is sponsored by the Wisconsin Public Health Association and Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WPHA-WALHDAB).
  - In October, the Health Educator issued a newspaper release to the Clark County Press, Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield OnFocus, O-W Enterprise, Sentinel & Rural News, Thorp Courier, Tribune Phonograph, and Tribune Record Gleaner.
  - In December, the Health Educator was interviewed by Security Health Plan. A write-up will be featured their annual Community Benefits Report.
- Mailed general education newsletter updates to 109 Amish/Mennonite leaders throughout the year. Topics included:
  - April: Lyme Disease, Wisconsin Tornadoes, General Farm Safety, Getting Baby to Sleep, Food Sensitivities in Babies, and Immunizations
  - July: Courthouse Hitching Post, Mold, Heat Exhaustion, Choking, Getting Babies Older Than 6 Months Back to Sleep, Sunscreen, Food Safety, and COVID-19 Update
  - September: Courthouse Single Point of Entry, Courthouse Hitching Post, Water Quality and Swimming, The Importance of Sleep, Lead Paint, Fall School Rounds and Nurse Visits, and COVID-19 Update
  - December: Radon, Clark County Horse Tests Positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus, Tobacco Use and Clark County Youth, "No-No" Foods for Toddlers, Safe Sleep, 2022 Immunization Services and Your Baby's Immune System, and COVID-19 Situational Update



## National Walk to School Day-Neillsville

Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as lack of physical activity, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, and concern for the environment. Each year, the CCHD partners with the Neillsville community to support National Walk to School Day.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- The CCHD collaborated with Neillsville School District, St. John's Lutheran School, and the Neillsville Optimist Club to support the 2021 Walk to School event.
  - The CCHD was responsible for updating flyers, volunteer forms, and letters to parents to promote the event. The CCHD was also responsible for one of the walking routes on the day of the event.
- Several children from both Neillsville School District and St. John's Lutheran School participated.



## Essential Service 4: Mobilize Community Partnerships and Action to Identify and Solve Health Problems

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**Introduction:** *Essential Service 4 involves convening and facilitating community groups in undertaking defined preventative and population-focused activities in order to capture the full range of potential resources to solve community health problems. Highlighted in this section are the Child Death Review Team; New Baby Welcome Kit Project; Clark County Interagency Coordinating Coalition; NARCAN® Direct Program; Clark County Prevention Partnership; Eat Right, Be Fit Coalition; and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP).*

### Child Death Review Team

The CCHD is an active member of the Clark County Child Death Review (CDR) team, which is coordinated through the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Local infant/child death review teams are part of public health surveillance and are critical for better understanding how and why a child died. These multidisciplinary teams review and acknowledge all child deaths from a prevention standpoint. CDR teams are a community response to a child's death (birth through age 21). There are statistics available on the number of children that die and from what causes, but often little about the circumstances leading up to the child's death. Teams increase agency collaboration to improve health and safety, while demonstrating a commitment to keeping children and adolescents alive.

Conducting a CDR influences actions to prevent additional child deaths. 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.

#### **2021 Activities and Outputs:**

- 2 CDR meetings were held.
  - As a result of the CDR meetings, several prevention initiatives were implemented in conjunction with Safe Kids Wood and Clark County.

### New Baby Welcome Kit Project

To promote early childhood development, the CCHD continued to collaborate with Extension Clark County to offer baby welcome kits to new mothers. After the birth of a child, mothers residing in the Colby, Abbotsford, Dorchester, and Thorp areas receive a mail invitation to visit their local library to collect a gift. Each gift contains practical baby care items, two board books (that promote safe sleep and the importance of reading), a resource guide, and simple tips that parents can use to promote early brain development/bonding.

When a kit is given, librarians offer to assist the family in opening up a library card. The goal of this program is to help foster early literacy within the county via a joint community effort.

#### **2021 Activities and Outputs:**

- 238 invitations for early childhood development gifts were sent to new Clark County mothers.

## Clark County Interagency Coordinating Coalition

The Clark County Interagency Coordinating Coalition (ICC) is the unification of agencies/programs in a cooperative effort to network and implement valuable services to young children and their families in Clark County. Several organizations actively participate in this coalition such as Indianhead Community Action Agency (ICAA), Head Start, Clark County Social Services, Birth-to-3, Childcaring, the CCHD, Marshfield Clinic Health System, Personal Development Center, Extension Clark County, Clark County Community Services-Family Support Program-Children's Long-Term Support Waiver (CLTS), etc.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this program was again suspended in 2021.

## NARCAN® Direct Program

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.

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.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- The CCHD applied for and received 168 additional doses of free nasal NARCAN®.
- Distributed 178 doses of fresh NARCAN® to all previously trained entities:
  - Thorp Area Ambulance District
  - Clark County Social Services
  - Clark County Sheriff's Office
  - Colby-Abbotsford Police Department
  - Greenwood Police Department
  - Loyal Police Department
  - Neillsville Police Department
  - Owen-Withee Police Department
- Trained 2 recovering addicts that were referred to the CCHD by Clark County Community Services.
- In May, the Health Educator conducted one radio interview with WCCN regarding the NARCAN® Direct program.
- In June, the CCHD and Substance Abuse Counselor from Clark County Community Services held a public training event at the Greenwood Fire Station.
  - 1 community member attended.
- As a result of this grant, 3 overdose deaths were prevented in Clark County in 2021:
  - Colby-Abby Police Department: January
  - Neillsville Police Department: September
  - Clark County Sheriff's Office: November



## Clark County Prevention Partnership

The Clark County Prevention Partnership (CCPP) is a local group that was organized in 2013. It is represented by multiple organizations invested in addressing the mental and/or behavioral health needs of Clark County residents. Membership consists of local healthcare groups, Social and Community Services Departments, faith-based groups, educational institutions, and community members. This group has played (and continues to play) a pivotal role in identifying CHIP priorities and strategies related to mental/behavioral health.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- 4 partner meetings were held.
- Made progress relative to the *Mental Health* portion of the 2021-2022 CHIP.
- Applied for and received a Hidden in Plain Sight Teen Bedroom Kit through Marshfield Clinic Health System's Center for Community Health Advancement.
- Maintained active membership in the Northwoods Coalition



### *Suicide and Self-Injury Prevention:*

- Signs of Suicide (SOS) is a nationally recognized prevention program. It teaches students, staff, and parents how to recognize and respond appropriately to someone exhibiting warning signs for suicide.
  - Trained Neillsville School District's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class (44 students) in SOS:
    - Presentation included Clark County's youth mental health data, warning signs that someone may be considering suicide, and resources on how to help.
    - After completing a short assessment, Neillsville's Middle/High School Counselor followed up with 8 students who indicated that they had either recently thought about suicide or were concerned about someone else.
- Signs of Self Injury (SOSI) is a nationally recognized self-injury prevention program. It teaches students, staff, and parents how to recognize and appropriately respond to someone who may be thinking about self-harming.
  - Trained Neillsville School District's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class (51 students) in SOSI:
    - After completing a short assessment, Neillsville's Middle/High School Counselor followed up with 5 students who indicated that they had recently hurt themselves on purpose.
- Raised awareness for farm stress and farmer suicide.

### *Means Reduction:*

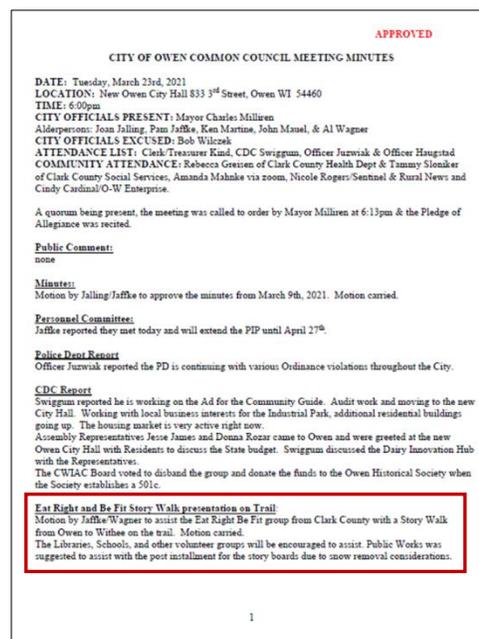
- Medication Lock Boxes:
  - To reduce unauthorized access to prescription medications, the CCHD applied for a \$3,500 grant from Aspirus Stanley Hospital and was awarded.
    - In total, 249 medication lock boxes were purchased and distributed to the following entities:
      - Aspirus Stanley Hospital: 100 (\$1,395.01)
      - Clark County Community Services: 30 (\$410.12)
      - Clark County Aging and Disability Resource Center: 31 (\$438.97)
      - Granton School District: 30 (\$408.88)
      - Sniteman Pharmacy: 35 (\$500.98)
      - Clark County Health Department: 23 (\$343.44)
- Firearm Locks:
  - To help prevent accidental death or injury from firearms, the CCPP continued to distribute free firearm locks provided through Project ChildSafe.

## Eat Right, Be Fit Coalition

As a longstanding member of the Eat Right, Be Fit (ERBF) coalition, the CCHD continued to work with Clark County WIC, Extension Clark County, Clark County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville (MMCN), Aspirus Stanley Hospital (ASH), and other community stakeholders to support and promote adequate nutrition, healthy eating, and physical activity throughout Clark County.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- In 2021, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program participants received \$30 in vouchers and eligible senior citizens received \$25 in vouchers for Clark County farmers' markets.
  - ERBF heavily promoted the local farmers' markets and roadside stands in Clark County via the ADRC newsletter (700 recipients), WIC Facebook page, and text messaging to WIC clients.
    - WIC Redemption Rate: 60% (53% in 2020)
    - Senior Redemption Rate: 71% (71% in 2020)
      - Clark County ADRC distributed farmers' market vouchers to 208 individuals.
- Promoted awareness for Clark County food pantries.
  - Food pantry locations were posted and kept up-to-date on Extension Clark County's website and in the Clark County ADRC newsletters.
- Facilitated and supported physical activity programs for seniors.
  - 7 residents from a Greenwood residential center participated in the 4-week *Stand Up & Move More* program.
  - Continued to offer the *Strong Bodies* program virtually.
- Owen Story Walk Project: A Story Walk is a creative and fun way for communities to support early literacy as well as physical activity. In general, a Story Walk consists of a book that has been taken apart, laminated, and presented page-by-page along a trail. The laminated pages are typically displayed either on wooden stakes or in small kiosks.
  - In early 2021, ERBF made it their goal to implement at least one story walk in Clark County.
  - In March, the CCHD's Health Educator applied for and was awarded a \$4,000 grant from ASH to support the Story Walk initiative.
  - In March, the CCHD's Health Educator, as well as the chairperson of the ERBF Coalition, presented to Owen City Council.
    - Owen City Council approved the implementation of the Story Walk.
  - In April, ERBF partnered with Owen-Withee Middle/High School and Owen Library.
    - To support youth involvement and a more cost-effective strategy, the Education Technology (Tech Ed) teacher from Owen-Withee Middle/High School agreed to have students help construct the wooden kiosks.
    - The Director at Owen Public Library agreed to select children's books for display along the Story Walk.
  - The Owen Story Walk Project is anticipated to be complete in spring, 2022.



# Eat Right, Be Fit Coalition

## 2021 Activities and Outputs (continued):

- Hydroponic Farms Project:** Over the last few years, Wisconsin has seen a significant increase in the number of schools that utilize hydroponic farms to provide students with educational opportunities as well as to supplement their school lunch programs. In a single year, some farms are capable of producing 300lbs of fresh vegetables for less than one dollar per pound. These farms are unique in that they do not require soil. Instead, the plants are suspended, with their root systems feeding directly from a solution of water and nutrients that circulates through tubes. Larger hydroponic farms are ideal for classrooms and community centers because they are relatively clean, provide many opportunities for agricultural education, and can grow large quantities of produce in very little space.
  - Prior to 2021, Colby Elementary was the only school in Clark County to have a hydroponic farm.
  - In 2021, ERBF prioritized getting fresh produce into Clark County schools via hydroponic farm systems. With the CCHD taking the lead, the ERBF Coalition applied for and was awarded a cumulative \$18K in grant dollars from ASH and MMCN. The Health Educator outreached and contacted all 8 Clark County public school districts regarding this opportunity. After completing a preliminary interest survey and receiving approval from school administration, representatives from 4 school districts attended a large group meeting hosted by Fork Farms to learn more about the hydroponic systems. Those interested then underwent an application process.
  - In August 2021, the ERBF Coalition awarded all 4 schools that applied. They each received 1 hydroponic farm and 1 year of supplies:
    - Abbotsford School District
    - Loyal Elementary School
    - Owen-Withee Middle/High School
    - Thorp Elementary School
  - In August 2021, the ERBF Coalition awarded Colby Elementary School with 1 year of supplies for their assistance in promoting the hydroponic farms to other Clark County schools.
  - Beginning in March 2022, each school that received a hydroponic farm will complete a quarterly survey regarding their system usage and production. This will continue for a 3-year period (12 surveys total).

### HYDROPONIC FARMS TIMELINE



- May, 2021**
  - First ERBF Small Group Meeting
  - Outreached to School Districts
- June, 2021**
  - ERBF Applied for & Awarded \$10K Grant from ASH
  - 4/8 Schools Interested
  - ERBF Partnered with Fork Farms
- July, 2021**
  - Large Group Meeting with Schools
  - Created & Sent Application Form to Schools
- September, 2021**
  - Schools Signed Agreements
  - Fork Farms Delivered Units & Supplies to Schools
  - 2 Schools Began Planting
- November, 2021**
  - Developed Quarterly Survey
- August, 2021**
  - 4/8 Schools Applied for a Farm
  - Secured \$8K in Additional Funding from MMCN
  - Developed Grant Agreement
  - Notified Award Recipients
- October, 2021**
  - Media Releases
  - 2 Schools Began Planting



## Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The CCHD continued to align itself with the (Region 2) North Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (NCW-HERC) and the Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium (WWPHRC). The primary purpose of the NCW-HERC and the WWPHRC is to assure efficient and effective delivery of services in the event of a public health emergency through networking, coordinating, standardizing, and centralizing resources and planning efforts.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- Completed 100% of the required CDC/DHS Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) contract deliverables.
- In February, the CCHD collaborated with Clark County Emergency Management to complete the County's annual Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA).
  - The top 5 identified risks to Clark County were:
    1. Cyber Attack (73%)
    2. Epidemic (68%)
    3. Ice Storm (68%)
    4. Supply Distribution (67%)
    5. Fuel Shortage (67%)
- As a stakeholder in the Clark County Emergency Operations Plan and Local Emergency Planning Committee, the CCHD continued to participate in ongoing planning efforts.
- Fit tested 6 CCHD employees for proper mask fitting.
- Maintained vigilance of communicable disease data to monitor for outbreaks.
- Compiled an After Action Report (AAR) resulting from the CCHD's mass vaccination (drive-through) immunization clinic in Loyal.
- Released one urgent staffing request (statewide) via the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR) on behalf of a Clark County long-term care facility experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Continued to actively participate as a member of the NCW HERC.
  - Attended Region 2 coalition meetings
  - Participated in the NCW HERC's Recovery Workshop exercise
- Continued to actively participate as a member of the WWPHRC

## Essential Service 5: Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

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**Introduction:** *Essential Service 5 involves providing leadership for systematic community and state-level planning for health improvement; development and tracking of measureable health objectives as a part of continuous quality improvement strategies; and development of codes, regulations, and legislation to guide the practice of public health. Highlighted in this section are the agency's policy-focused initiatives, community support and planning achievements, strategic plan, and quality improvement/performance management efforts.*

### Breastfeeding-Friendly Worksites

In recognition of the well-documented health advantages of breastfeeding for both infants and mothers, the CCHD works with local employers to make their worksites more breastfeeding and pumping friendly. The purpose of encouraging employers to adopt breastfeeding policy at their workplace is to normalize breastfeeding in public spaces, encourage healthy child nourishment, and protect the rights of breastfeeding/pumping employees so that they may comfortably express their milk during work hours.

#### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- Developed a breastfeeding/pumping policy for Abbotsford Public Library.
  - In July, the Abbotsford Library Board of Trustees approved and adopted this policy.
- Developed a breastfeeding/pumping policy for Colby Community Library.
- Sought and received approval from Clark County's Employee Wellness Committee to make aesthetic improvements to the Courthouse's existing employee breastfeeding/pumping room.

### Youth Alcohol Consumption

The state of Wisconsin recognizes Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) as one of its twelve priority areas in the statewide Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). In 2020, alcohol-related deaths rose nearly 25% in Wisconsin, the largest one-year increase in more than two decades (*Wisconsin Policy Forum, 2022*).

The excessive and inappropriate consumption of alcohol amongst both adult and youth populations is a major health concern in Clark County. Twenty-six percent of Clark County adults drink excessively (*County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2021*) and 14% of Clark County high school students report excessive or binge drinking in the past 30 days (*Clark County OYRBS, 2019*). Numerous studies show that youth who consume alcohol at an early age are at higher risk for developing alcohol use disorders later in life (*The American Journal of Psychiatry, 2000*).

In order to help curve the age of initiation and deter youth alcohol consumption in general, the CCHD actively supports organizations and efforts that aim to reduce youth access to alcohol.

#### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- Partnered with the Clark County Sheriff's Office to work toward implementing alcohol compliance checks in Clark County.
  - The CCHD crafted a "Notice of Alcohol Compliance Checks" letter for local retailers that was mailed by the Clark County Sheriff's Office, developed and finalized all documentation associated with alcohol compliance checks, and created a randomly-generated list of alcohol retailers to inspect.
    - Although the Clark County Sheriff's Office intended to begin alcohol compliance checks in the summer, they have been unable to due to limited staffing and capacity.

## Western Wisconsin Rural Behavioral Health Network: Community Health Worker Program

Federally, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) designates Clark County as a medically underserved area. This means that there is a lack of professional primary, dental, and mental healthcare providers as measured against Clark County's total population. According to the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* data (2019), the ratio of Clark County residents to primary care physicians is 3,470:1 (WI: 1,270:1) and the ratio of Clark County residents to mental health providers is 2,900:1 (WI: 470:1).

Given this provider shortage, Marshfield Clinic Health System's Center for Community Health Advancement (MCHS-CCHA) applied for and received a large, multi-year, and multi-county grant through HRSA. Funds available through this grant will be used to help address the growing concern of farm-related stress, mental illness, and suicide in Rusk, Taylor, Clark, and Chippewa County.

In late 2020, the CCHD accepted an invitation from MCHS-CCHA to join the Western Wisconsin Rural Behavioral Health Network (WWRBHN). Other members of the WWRBHN include the National Farm Medicine Center, Chippewa County Health Department, Rusk County Health Department and Human Services, Wisconsin Well Woman Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, and Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers.

The CCHD does not receive any monetary benefit from being a part of the WWRBHN. Rather, the CCHD is utilizing this opportunity to build a stronger relationship with MCHS and, most importantly, to bring additional mental health support services to Clark County.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- Attended monthly WWRBHN meetings.
- Hosted a presentation for the WWRBHN on Clark County's Amish and Mennonite populations.
- Contributed to the development of a Community Health Worker (CHW) model for Clark County.
  - CHWs are frontline public health workers who are trusted members of the communities they serve. Typically, they act as liaisons between health systems, county entities, and communities to facilitate access to services.
- Collaborated with MCHS-CCHA to create 2 new CHW job positions dedicated to Clark County. Both positions will be funded and overseen by MCHS-CCHA:
  - CHW 1 will focus on Clark County's Hispanic population
  - CHW 2 will focus on Clark County's Amish and Mennonite populations

## Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery

Formed in 2019, the Central Wisconsin Partnership for Recovery (CWPR) is a consortium of more than 44 members from 24 organizations in both Clark and Wood Counties. The mission of the CWPR is to raise awareness and work together to reduce the prevalence of substance use disorders through prevention, treatment, and recovery programming for those living in central Wisconsin.

The CWPR has four priority areas:

1. Targeted Youth Programming
2. Jail Discharge Planning
3. Safe and Sober Housing
4. Increased Access to Peer Recovery Support Services

The CCHD acts as a support agency in the CWPR consortium by attending meetings, providing input, and disseminating information.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- Attended meetings relevant to Priority Area 1: Targeted Youth Programming
- Contributed to the development of a "resource menu" for school districts, which includes prevention curriculum, training for district staff, and technical assistance.

## Strategic Plan

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- In early 2020, the CCHD met with staff from the Western Region Division of Public Health to start revising goals and objectives within each priority area.
  - Due to ongoing COVID-19 response priorities, progress on the strategic plan was suspended in 2021.

## Quality Improvement/Performance Management

Regular quality improvement and performance management reviews ensure that all of the CCHD's programs and services are being facilitated at full potential.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- The CCHD implemented and/or continued to develop QI projects over the course of 2021 (many in response to the COVID-19 pandemic), which included the following:
  - Developed, managed, and consistently updated the CCHD's robust COVID-19 website: <https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/covid-19>
    - Webpages under this site included:
      - Vaccine Information: <https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/vaccine-information>
      - Resources: <https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/covid-19-resources>
      - Testing: <https://www.clarkcountywi.gov/ph-covid-19-testing>
- Made progress toward becoming a (mostly) paperless department:
  - Continued to transition toward electronic record retention.
  - Utilized new technology (i.e., iPads, Zebra barcode scanner, SignUpGenius scheduling system, portable printers, FM radio transmitter, digital messaging boards, etc.) to increase efficiency and productivity within programs.
  - Utilized online creative platforms (i.e., Canva, Piktochart, etc.) to develop outreach materials and promote the CCHD's brand.
- Improved fiscal and billing practices by integrating Reproductive Health program billing into Nightingale Notes.
- Made both aesthetic and functional updates to the Health Department:
  - Added a scrolling educational TV display in the waiting area
  - Added a private, child-friendly clinic/immunization area
  - Improved the department's layout to make it more inviting and conducive to meeting with members of the public
  - Implemented an environmental lab workspace
  - Implemented industrial-sized cabinets to organize personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccination supplies



## Essential Service 6: Enforce Laws and Regulations That Protect Health and Safety

**Introduction:** Essential Service 6 involves enforcement of state and local rules and regulations, full protection of drinking water supplies, and enforcement of clean air standards and timely follow-up of hazards. Highlighted in this section are the WI Wins youth tobacco compliance investigations; agent licensing program with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; the National Environmental Health Association grant; the Transient Non-Community Well Water Testing program with the Department of Natural Resources; and recreational beach water testing.

### WI Wins: Youth Tobacco Compliance Investigations

The CCHD contracts with the WI Wins program to conduct tobacco compliance investigations throughout the county. The goal of this program is to prevent tobacco/nicotine sales to minors. The state goal is to have a “sales to minors” rate under 10%. Through the work of WI Wins, tobacco use among minors in the state has greatly decreased.

By doing compliance checks, it gives the CCHD the opportunity to thank retailers who *do not sell* to minors and offer training opportunities to retailers who *do sell* to minors.



#### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- The WI Wins program runs July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
- Tobacco compliance investigations are normally a significant component of the WI Wins program. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all inspections were put on hold in March 2020.
  - For the 2021-2022 contract, the WI Wins program modified the CCHD’s scope of work to focus solely on outreach activities (see table below for completed activities).

2021 WI WINS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES		
✓	Offered a presentation to Clark County’s Corporation Counsel on the WI Wins program and the federal Tobacco 21 law	September, 2021
✓	Offered a presentation to the Clark County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Captain on the WI Wins program and federal Tobacco 21 law	September, 2021
✓	Updated the CCHD’s address book of licensed tobacco retailers	September, 2021
✓	Presented to the Clark County Board of Health on the WI Wins program and federal Tobacco 21 law	October, 2021
✓	Presented to Owen-Withee’s freshmen class on nicotine, vaping, tobacco legislation, and resources for quitting (about 20 students)	October, 2021
✓	Presented to Colby’s 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade classes on nicotine, vaping, tobacco legislation, and resources for quitting.	November, 2021
✓	Hosted a community presentation on vaping for parents of Colby Middle and High School students. 15 attended.	December, 2021
✓	Participated in an interview with the Clark County Press.	December, 2021
✓	Included an article on illegal tobacco sales to minors in the December Amish-Mennonite newsletter (109 letters were mailed).	December, 2021

## Licensing and Inspections Program

In April of 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 annual inspections and investigates foodborne disease outbreaks at all licensed facilities.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- In 2021, there were 288 licenses in Clark County.
  - *Table 1* lists the licenses by facility type. Restaurants and grocery stores make up 69% of the entire licenses in Clark County.
- Each year, the CCHD inspects each of the licensed facilities at least once during the licensing period.
  - Licensing period runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
  - *Table 2* shows the total number of inspections at each type of licensed facility, based on the calendar year.

Number of Licenses by Facility Type			
Type of License / Facility	2019	2020	2021
Restaurant	117	112	123
Retail / Grocery Store	70	71	76
School	16	16	16
Jail	0	1	1
Lodging	28	37	39
Pool / Water Attraction	10	9	9
Campground	17	21	24
<b>Total Number of Licenses:</b>	258	267	288

*Table 1*

Number of Inspections by Facility Type			
Type of License / Facility	2019	2020	2021
Restaurants	42	91	129
Retail / Grocery Stores	36	55	81
Schools	20	27	28
Jail	0	1	1
Lodging	16	43	31
Pool / Water Attractions	13	14	5
Campgrounds	10	23	24
<b>Total Number of Inspections:</b>	137	254	299

*Table 2*

- Routine inspections and pre-licensing inspections contribute to the number of inspections that the CCHD is required to conduct each year. Re-inspections and follow-up inspections are conducted to ensure that 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.
  - *Table 3* lists several types of inspections.

Number of Inspections by Type of Inspection			
Type of Inspection	2019	2020	2021
Routine Inspections	86	174	236
Pre-Licensing Inspections	21	40	32
Re- Inspections / Follow Ups	19	28	26
Complaint Investigations	4	1	2
Other Inspection Types	7	11	3
<b>Total Number of Inspections:</b>	137	254	299

*Table 3*

## National Environmental Health Association Grant

The CCHD was awarded \$2,900 from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) to learn more about the National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS). This grant provided the opportunity to train CCHD staff on how to conduct an environmental assessment in relation to a foodborne disease outbreak. Through this grant, 2 staff members completed a series of webinars hosted by NEHA and 1 staff member completed a series of online trainings about performing an environmental assessment.

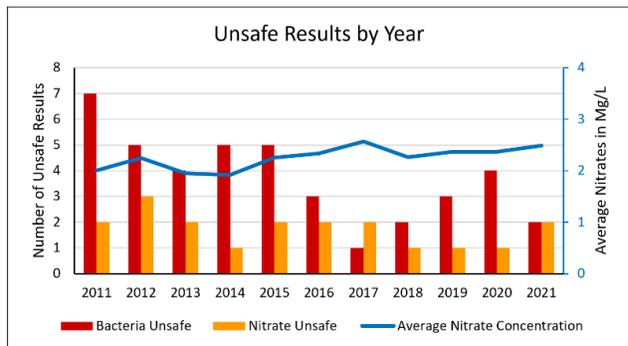
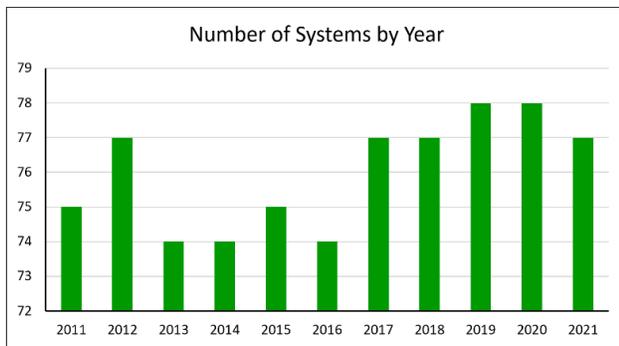
## Transient Non-Community Well Water Testing Program

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 2021, 77 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 nitrates, CCHD staff worked with operators to post public notices and take corrective action to eliminate contamination.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- 77 TNC well water systems were sampled.
  - 2 wells tested positive for Total Coliform bacteria.
    - 2 had confirmed (were retested for) Total Coliform bacteria.
  - 0 tested positive for E. coli.
  - 2 tested equal to or greater than 10.0 mg/L for nitrates.
- 13 sanitary surveys were completed.
- All contract deliverables were completed.



## Recreational Beach Testing

The CCHD’s Recreational Beach Testing program ensures the safety of public beaches in Clark County by sampling for the presence of E. coli.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- Bi-weekly sampling (end of May to end of August).
- 42 total samples were collected:
  - 4 beaches were monitored for E. coli, including Arbutus Lake, Mead Lake, Rock Dam Lake, and Sherwood Lake
    - 2 tests came back abnormal (Lake Arbutus and Mead Lake both had an advisory posted)

BEACH	# TESTS COMPLETED	ABNORMAL
Arbutus Lake	10	1 Beach Advisory
Mead Lake	12	1 Beach Advisory
Rock Dam Lake	10	No
Sherwood Lake	10	No

## Essential Service 7: Link People to Needed Personal Health Services

**Introduction:** *Essential Service 7 involves assuring entry for disadvantaged people into a coordinated system of clinical care, linkage to services for special populations, ongoing care coordination, targeted health information to high-risk population groups, and technical assistance for effective worksite health promotion/disease prevention programs. Highlighted in this section are the CCHD's jail nursing services, Seal-A-Smile (oral health) program, prenatal care coordination efforts, Safe Kids Wood and Clark County, Cribs for Kids, Car Seats for Kids, Reproductive Health program, and school-based nursing services.*

### Jail Health and Nursing Services

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

#### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

OUTPUTS	2019	2020	2021
TB Skin Tests on Inmates	24	12	17
# of Positive Inmate TB Tests	1	0	0
Prescription Medication Setup for Inmates	101	54	119
Inmates Seen by Jail M.D.	220	79	134
Counselor Visits	136	75	162
Psychiatrist Visits	30	25	28
<b>Total RN Contacts</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1552</b>

### Clark County Seal-A-Smile

The Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile (SAS) program is a statewide sealant program that offers grants to local school-based programs targeting underserved children. This program is funded by Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile, a collaborative program of Children's Health Alliance of WI and the WI Department of Health Services (DHS).



A dental provider (registered dental hygienist) goes into schools and provides a dental screening/exam (without x-rays) to assess if sealants are needed, applies sealants (when appropriate), and provides a dental cleaning and fluoride varnish treatment(s). A follow-up letter is sent home to describe what was completed and recommendations for future needs. Case management is provided for students who have significant decay and urgent follow-up needs. All procedures follow recommendations from the American Dental Association and CDC's recommendations for school-based dental sealant programs.

The mission of the SAS program is to prevent dental decay and promote oral health as part of a child's total health by increasing the number of dental sealants on their teeth through community-based sealant promotion initiatives.

## Clark County Seal-A-Smile (continued)

The SAS program has three primary goals:

1. Sealant Placement: To have annual community-based sealant promotion initiatives in every Wisconsin county (all children are eligible to receive sealants).
2. Sealant Education: Provide education and information about sealants and oral health.
3. Partnerships: Strengthen state and local partnerships between dental providers, educational institutions, and youth health advocates to improve the oral health of children in Wisconsin.

The CCHD received a start-up grant in 2010-2011 and has since received a yearly award (except for the 2020-2021 school year due to the pandemic) to help support facilitation efforts. Over the years, the program has expanded, allowing the CCHD to increase access to oral healthcare services and, in particular, increase the number of children served in Clark County.

### *2021-2022 School Year Activities and Outputs:*

- As of December 31, 2021:
  - SAS services were offered to children in grades K-8 at 5 Clark County public schools and at 3 parochial schools.
  - A total of 656 children received oral health screenings:
    - 344 of those received dental sealants.
    - 644 of those received topical fluoride varnish applications.
- The CCHD will continue to serve the 8 Clark County schools (indicated above) for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

## Prenatal Education Program

The CCHD provides a prenatal care program previously called *Healthy Beginnings Plus* to help expecting families get the support they need to have a healthy baby. The program is open to Medicaid-eligible pregnant women residing in Clark County who are deemed at high-risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes. Services are provided for the duration of the pregnancy and up to 60 days postpartum. This generally includes client outreach, in-home or virtual meetings with the client, ongoing care coordination and monitoring, health education, and nutrition counseling services.

Objectives of this program include ensuring that women at high risk:

- Are identified as early as possible
- Receive individual psychosocial support and services
- Receive necessary health and nutrition education
- Are referred to available community services as appropriate
- Receive assistance in accessing and obtaining needed health and social services

Participation in this program has been decreasing as the CCHD is not receiving referrals from entities like insurance providers, healthcare providers, or WIC. The CCHD has not billed for the Prenatal Education program since 2019.

### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCHD opted to conduct many meetings with clients virtually.
- 5 expectant mothers received education in 2021.
  - Typically, 3 visits are scheduled with a client over the duration of the mother's pregnancy and postpartum period, unless more visits or meetings are necessary.

## Safe Kids Wood and Clark County

The CCHD is a member of Safe Kids Wood and Clark County. Safe Kids Worldwide is an organization that focuses on childhood injury prevention.

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



### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- The *Caught Being Safe* program launched in the spring of 2021. This program rewards Clark County children for demonstrating safe behavior(s), such as using hand signals while riding their bike or wearing their helmet.
  - The Clark County Community Foundation provided funding to purchase some of the incentives for this program.
  - In March, the CCHD PHN hosted a meeting with local police chiefs.
    - The PHN distributed 30 helmets, coupons for free items from local businesses, Frisbees, and water bottles with the Safe Kids Wood and Clark County logo. These items were then given to local patrol officers to hand out to children who were “Caught Being Safe.”
- In October, 8 Clark County schools received educational materials on bicycle safety, along with 2 bicycle helmets and bells.
  - Safe Kids Wood and Clark County received funding for this through the Ready to Roll grant.
  - The 2 bicycle helmets and bells will be raffled off or donated at the discretion of the school.
- Attended quarterly Safe Kids Wood and Clark County coalition meetings.
- Attended virtual Safe Kids Worldwide meetings to learn more on 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.

## 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 free Pack ‘n Play crib. A 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 crib.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCHD did not host group trainings in 2021.

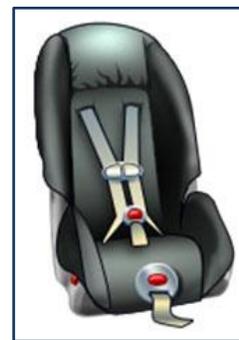


### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- The CCHD secured grant funding from Clark County United Way.
- 15 Pack ‘n Play cribs were distributed to families in need.
- Consistently promoted safe sleep and the Cribs for Kids program during Interagency Coordinating Coalition (ICC) and Child Death Review (CDR) team meetings; allowing this important information to reach numerous families in Clark County.
- Shared safe sleep messaging on the CCHD’s Facebook page and in the Plain community newsletter.

## Car Seats for Kids

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



### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- Secured Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) and Clark County United Way grant funds to help sustain the program.
- A total of 27 new car seats were given to families in need and education was provided along with each installation.
- Partnered with a Certified Nurse Midwife from Withee to help outreach to the Plain community.
  - The CCHD provided the midwife with:
    - 10 infant and convertible car seats for families to purchase at a reduced cost
    - Education on car seat safety
    - Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety Law cards
    - Clark County Car Seats for Kids program business cards
    - Children Have An iDentity (CHAD) stickers

## Reproductive Health Program

The CCHD provides reproductive health services that offer quality, accessible, affordable, and confidential family planning care.

- Program goals:
  1. Increase access to healthcare coverage, affordable contraceptives, and reproductive/sexual education.
  2. Increase access to sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening, testing, and treatment services.

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- 96 unduplicated clients were seen at the CCHD's reproductive health clinic for services, including education and counseling, contraception management, pregnancy testing, STI testing and treatment, referrals for women's medical care, and presumptive eligibility for the Family Planning Waiver.
  - 3 unduplicated clients were seen for early pregnancy detection.

OUTPUTS	2019	2020	2021
Unduplicated Clients	147	108	96
New Female Clients	48	8	8
Pregnancy Tests	4	4	3
Positive Pregnancy Tests	1	1	0

- 2 condom dispensers in the Clark County Courthouse were monitored and refilled as needed.
  - These dispensers help bridge the gap in access to condoms for Clark County residents who receive services within the Courthouse. Their intent is to ultimately prevent the spread of STIs and long-term health consequences associated with those infections.

## Reproductive Health Program (continued)

### 2021 Activities and Outputs (continued):

- Participated in the 2021 *Get Yourself Tested* (GYT) campaign, which aims to:
  1. Increase public awareness on the importance of STI risk identification and testing
  2. Provide confidential and convenient low-cost testing and treatment
  3. Increase the CCHD's recognition as a primary community-based resource for clients in need of sexual and reproductive health care
- GYT campaign activities included:
  - Free STI testing for the general public (available year-round to new and established clients enrolled in the Reproductive Health program). Free condoms were given to those who participated.
  - Free STI testing for inmates at the Clark County jail (April, June, August, and September).
  - Updated the CCHD's bulletin board to include GYT-related information and STI data. The theme was "Condom Sense."
  - In April, the Reproductive Public Health Nurse (RPHN) completed a radio interview with WCCN.
  - In May, the RPHN presented GYT campaign information and a proposal for partnership to local school nurses, health aids, and district administrators.
    - A follow-up survey was sent to gauge interest in partnering for the 2021-2022 school year. 2 schools indicated interest.
  - In August, the CCHD partnered with Vivent Health (Eau Claire) to offer more comprehensive STI testing services (i.e., Hepatitis C and HIV testing) to Clark County inmates.
  - Launched a "URINEvited to P(ee) for Pizza" initiative to incentivize STI testing. Participants received a \$25 Pizza Hut gift card.



## School-Based Nursing Services

The CCHD provides school-based nursing services to 8 public school districts, 4 parochial schools, 22 Amish schools, and 33 Mennonite schools throughout Clark County.

- Services include:
  - Consultation on communicable disease prevention and control
  - Assistance with State Immunization Program guideline compliance
  - Presentations on various health topics per school request (i.e., puberty education)

### 2021 Activities and Outputs:

- Worked closely with school leadership and school nurses/health aids to facilitate contact tracing efforts when staff members or students tested positive for COVID-19.
- Received a 40-day immunization report from each school and submitted those reports to DHS.

## School-Based Nursing Services (continued)

### *2021 Activities and Outputs (continued):*

- The RPHN hosted presentations on sexual education (for high school students) at 2 Clark County schools.
  - Requests for this presentation were made by the school health teacher.
  - In a typical year, the RPHN conducts sexual education presentations at several schools. However, due to the need for extra staff to assist with the COVID-19 response, the RPHN was limited to only visiting 2 schools.
- In the fall, the CCHD made 2 visits to 55 Plain community schools to collect class rosters and immunization information.
  - Historically, the CCHD offers a vision screening for students in grades 1, 3, and 5 during the second visit. The CCHD suspended this service in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Collaborated with University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire nursing students to host a presentation on oral health at 2 Mennonite schools.
  - Presentations took place in a large area where social distancing could be maintained.

## Essential Service 8: Assure a Competent Public and Personal Healthcare Workforce

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**Introduction:** *Essential Service 8 involves educating and training personnel to meet the needs of the public through continuous quality improvement and life-long learning. In order to provide the highest quality public health services, the CCHD strives to ensure that all staff possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform their jobs effectively and efficiently.*

### Public Health Competency Development

The CCHD supports the professional development needs of its employees. Each year, staff members participate in a variety of trainings that focus on particular capabilities and/or related competencies. When appropriate, staff are also encouraged to attend training opportunities that support other (existing) general health programs or potential (future) services. This is supported through the workforce development plan.

As a component of the strategic plan, CCHD staff strive to assure effective performance by adopting the public health core competencies. The CCHD aims to strengthen workforce competencies, capabilities, and improve workforce recruitment and retention.

#### **2021 Activities and Outputs:**

- To support continuing education and workforce development needs, CCHD staff attended several virtual and (limited) in-person trainings throughout 2021:
  - National Child Passenger Safety
  - Basic Life Support (CPR and AED)
  - Title X Policy
  - Fulfilling the Promise (maternal and child health)
  - Latent Tuberculosis Infection (through Florida State University)
  - Lead Risk Assessor
  - Lead Abatement Supervisor
  - Lead Company Certification (Health Department)
  - Foodborne Disease Outbreak
  - Registered Sanitarian/Registered Environmental Health Specialist
  - Water Laboratory Certification
  - Vaccine Coordinator
  - Vaccine Storage and Handling
  - Seal-A-Smile Infection Prevention and Control for School Sealant Programs
  - Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin: Child Death Review (refresher training)
  - Maternal and Child Health Summit Series
  - Advocating for Wisconsin's Health - Striving for Justice through Systems Change
  - Numerous COVID-19 webinars and trainings through DHS
  - Multiple trainings through the Bureau of Communicable Disease
  - Nightingale Notes billing implementation training

## Essential Service 9: Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility & Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services

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**Introduction:** *Essential Service 9 calls for ongoing evaluation of health programs to assess program effectiveness and to provide information necessary for allocating resources and shaping programs. This section includes the Community Health Assessment, 140 Review, and state-based grants/contracts.*

### Community Health Assessment (2023-2025)

Per Wisconsin Statute 251.05, the CCHD is required to facilitate a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and create a corresponding Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) every five years.

#### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- CHA and CHIP requirements met. See pages 16-18 of this report for full details.

### Department of Health Services' 140 Review

The CCHD offers valuable programs to Clark County residents by administering and providing public health services and expertise. In order to operate in the state, *Wisconsin Statute ch. 251* and *Wisconsin Administrative Code ch. 140 Department of Health Services* require local health departments to perform specific duties and to possess a high level of expertise in programmatic areas.

To confirm that local health departments are meeting or exceeding the state's expectations, staff from the Division of Public Health's Office of Policy and Practice Alignment (OPPA) conduct in-person reviews of the local health department's performance. These reviews require evidence of work completed and typically cover a 5-year period.

#### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- The CCHD maintained its status as a Level II Health Department.
- A full review of the CCHD's performance (years 2015-2019) was scheduled to take place in 2021. The OPPA opted to postpone this review, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### State Contracts

Each year, the State Division of Public Health enters into contracts with local health departments to provide a variety of public health services or to support public health initiatives. Moreover, local health departments can contract with state agencies, such as DATCP, to serve as an agent to the state. In every instance, these grants/contracts are performance-based and require objectives to be met.

#### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- The CCHD was in full compliance with meeting all contract deliverables. See pages 54-56 of this report for a detailed list of grantors, designated programs, and funding received.

## Essential Service 10: Research for New Insights & Innovative Solutions to Health Problems

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**Introduction:** *Essential Service 10 includes active partnerships with institutions of higher learning and/or research. Highlighted in this section are the Clark County Health Department's involvement in projects supported by partnerships with local healthcare organizations and academic institutions.*

### Research-Related Involvement

The CCHD participates in data collection surveys and information-gathering efforts.

#### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- In May, the CCHD presented to 8 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire nursing students and their professor.
  - Topics included Clark County's Amish and Mennonite population, the role of public health in a rural county, and overcoming COVID-19 setbacks.
- From June-August, the CCHD actively collected feedback from the general public via the Community Health Survey (CHS). The purpose of this survey was to gain insight on issues that impact health and quality of life in Clark County.
  - Partners included Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville and Aspirus Stanley Hospital
  - 464 community members completed the survey.
    - Survey responses were analyzed, interpreted, and aggregately compared against secondary data sets.
    - CHS data will be used to help facilitate the (health priority) selection component of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) in early 2022.
- In August, the CCHD participated in a statewide review of a COVID-19 decision-making tool created by Extension-University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### Linkages with Academia

The CCHD has strong linkages with numerous institutions of higher learning and serves as a site for student placement for observation, practice experience, and internship in a local health department. In particular, this is demonstrated through the CCHD's partnership with multiple nursing schools, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the North Central Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) office.

#### *2021 Activities and Outputs:*

- From April-September, the CCHD served as a preceptor to a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at Rasmussen College.
  - The CCHD mentored and assisted the student with their public health practicum course. The purpose of the practicum experience was for the student to collaborate with an experienced nurse to integrate new knowledge.
- In May, the CCHD hosted a virtual presentation for AHEC students on the Amish and Mennonite communities in Clark County.
- From June-July, the CCHD hosted 1 AHEC student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (320 total hours).

## Linkages with Academia (continued)

### 2021 Activities and Outputs (continued):

- From June-December, the CCHD served as a community mentor to 2 medical students attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
  - The CCHD assisted the students with completing their Rural Public Health and Community Project, which focused on assessing current sexual education curricula practices and gaps from middle school health teachers in Clark County.
  - Data collected could assist the CCHD in exploring future avenues for advocating for comprehensive sexual education to be included in curricula for local youth.
- From September-December, the CCHD served as a preceptor to 4 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) BSN students.
  - The CCHD was designated as the students' community clinical site.
  - The CCHD collaborated with the nursing students and their clinical professor to complete two projects:
    1. *Plain Community Oral Health: Education & Access*: For this project, the BSN students were assigned to develop an oral health campaign and presentation specific to school-aged children in the Plain community. The BSN students researched current Plain community oral health practices and worked with local dental providers to identify barriers to education and services. They then created educational materials to provide to Plain community school teachers and students (where they presented).
    2. *Risky Behaviors Presentation Series (Grades 6-8)*: For this project, the BSN students were asked to review the most current data from the Clark County Online Youth Risk Behavior Survey (OYRBS). They analyzed the data, determined areas of greatest concern, and created a coinciding presentation. The students then created an evidence-based presentation on the following topics: *Vaping and Tobacco Use*, *Mental Health*, and *Driving Safety*. This information was presented to the Clark County Board of Health and submitted electronically to the CCHD. The CCHD intends to use this presentation if (or when) a Clark County school requests a presentation on one (or more) of the above topics.

## Appendix A: Funding and Finances

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

### Revenues and Expenditures

The table below represents the approved budget amounts for 2021 and the actual amounts spent in 2021.

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.

2021 REVENUES & EXPENDITURES			
		Budgeted	Actual
100 - General Fund	Revenue:	\$13,870	\$14,535
	Expenditures:	\$647,859	\$449,517
210 - Grant Fund	Revenue:	\$284,977	\$723,754
	Expenditures:	\$284,977	\$689,314

### Grants Received

#### Chronic Disease Prevention

- WI Wins: 07/01/20-06/30/21 and 07/01/21-06/30/22
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$2,400 and \$2,400
- NARCAN® Direct: 09/30/21-09/29/22
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded 168 doses of free nasal NARCAN®

#### Community Programs

- Clark County Prevention Partnership
  - Aspirus Stanley Hospital awarded \$3,500 for the purchase of medication lock boxes
  - Aspirus Stanley Hospital awarded \$4,000 to support a mock accident event
- Car Seats for Kids: 10/01/20–09/30/21 and 10/01/21–09/30/22
  - WI Department of Transportation awarded \$2,500 and \$2,500
- Cribs for Kids: 01/01/21–12/31/21
  - Clark County United Way awarded \$2,000
- Community Health Survey
  - Aspirus Stanley Hospital awarded \$115 for Plain community outreach

## Grants Received (continued)

### Community Programs (continued)

- Eat Right, Be Fit Coalition
  - Aspirus Stanley Hospital awarded \$10,000 to purchase hydroponic farm systems for Clark County schools
  - Aspirus Stanley Hospital awarded \$4,000 for a community-supported Story Walk
- Farm Technology Days
  - Listeman Foundation awarded \$2,000 for educational opportunities during the event
- Safe Kids Wood and Clark County
  - Clark County Community Foundation awarded \$1,000 to support safety initiatives in Clark County

### Environmental Health

- Childhood Lead: 01/01/21–12/31/21
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$4,752
- Lead Safe Homes: 01/01/20–06/30/21
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$143,500
- TNC: 01/01/21–12/31/21
  - WI Department of Natural Resources awarded \$13,792
- NEARS: 04/01/21–08/31/21
  - National Environmental Health Association awarded \$2,900

### Family Health/Communicable Disease

- Child Immunization: 01/01/21–12/31/21
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$13,355
- Communicable Disease: 07/01/20–06/30/21 and 07/01/21–06/30/22
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$4,082 and \$4,000
- Get Yourself Tested: 01/01/21–12/31/21
  - Health Care Education and Training awarded \$3,000
- Maternal and Child Health and Reproductive Health: 01/01/21–12/31/21
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$102,066
- Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS): 10/01/19–09/30/20
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$6,402
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP): 07/01/20–06/30/21 and 07/01/21–06/30/22
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$35,129 and \$35,429
- WI Seal-A-Smile: 07/01/21–06/30/22
  - Children's Health Alliance of WI awarded \$8,397

### COVID-19

- Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) Cares: 02/01/20–09/30/21
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$16,200

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## Grants Received (continued)

### COVID-19 (continued)

- Enhancing Detection: 10/01/20–10/31/22
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$639,300
- Immunization Support: 07/01/21–06/30/24
  - WI Department of Health Services awarded \$69,100
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP): 04/01/20–03/31/21
  - CDC awarded \$46,714



**Clark County  
Health Department**

517 Court Street, Room 105  
Neillsville, WI 54456  
(715) 743-5105

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