



# *Department of Public Health*



# Annual Report 2024

## Letter from Health Officer/Director

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Dear Community Members & Stakeholders,

I am honored to present this annual report on behalf of our health department, highlighting the collective efforts and achievements that have contributed to the well-being of our community. Our team has worked diligently to address both current and emerging health needs, and we are proud of the strides we've made to support our residents.

A key accomplishment in our Environmental Health division this year was the establishment of a water analysis lab to analyze bacteria and nitrate samples for public water systems in our Transient Non-Community (TNC) Water Program. The in-house water analysis lab increases efficiency to meet contract requirements for annual water sampling and timely sample follow up for TNC public water systems, ensuring that our community has access to safe drinking water by closely monitoring water quality.

In our Emergency Preparedness division, we took steps to enhance public health emergency preparedness across the city by coordinating First Aid and Stop the Bleed training for city staff, as well as providing them with Go Bags with emergency supplies. These efforts ensure that our city staff is well-prepared to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. Recognizing the importance of strong leadership during emergencies, staff also provided emergency preparedness training for city leadership, ensuring that our leaders are equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to guide the city through potential crises.

In our Community Health division we collaborated with local partners to host a community baby shower for expecting families and families with newborns up to 6 months old. This event provided valuable resources and support to families in need, helping ensure healthier beginnings for our youngest residents.

The department provided support in the updating of the City's smoking ordinance, which limits smoking in public parks to foster cleaner air and a healthier environment for everyone. This important step reflects our commitment to creating spaces where families and individuals can come together without the health risks of tobacco exposure.

Our department remained committed to promoting oral health for school-aged children through the Seal-A-Smile program, providing necessary dental services to children who may not have access to regular care. This program continues to have a positive impact on the oral health and overall well-being of our youth.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to further improving the health of our community through continued collaboration, innovation, and responsive care. Our department will continue to focus on advancing public health priorities and ensuring that all residents have access to the services and support they need.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in building a healthier community. We look forward to another year of success together.

Sincerely,



Carol Quest, RN, BSN

Health Officer/Director





## ***Mission, Vision and Core Values***

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### **MISSION:**

***Support a community where all individuals can achieve their best health.***

### **VISION:**

***To work with and advocate for the community by promoting health, preparing for emergencies, and preventing disease for the health of all generations .***

### **ORGANIZATIONAL CORE VALUES:**

**Accountability:** We take responsibility for our actions and decisions while striving to meet goals and outcomes.

**Collaboration:** We work in partnership to create an environment that brings together diverse people to work collectively towards shared goals.

**Community:** We promote cooperative and creative approaches to common issues.

**Consistency:** We are committed to equitable enforcement of agency policies to ensure fair treatment and assessments that uphold the public trust.

**Knowledge:** We foster education and implementation of best practice and evidence based strategies by educating staff, informing the community and supporting future public health professionals.

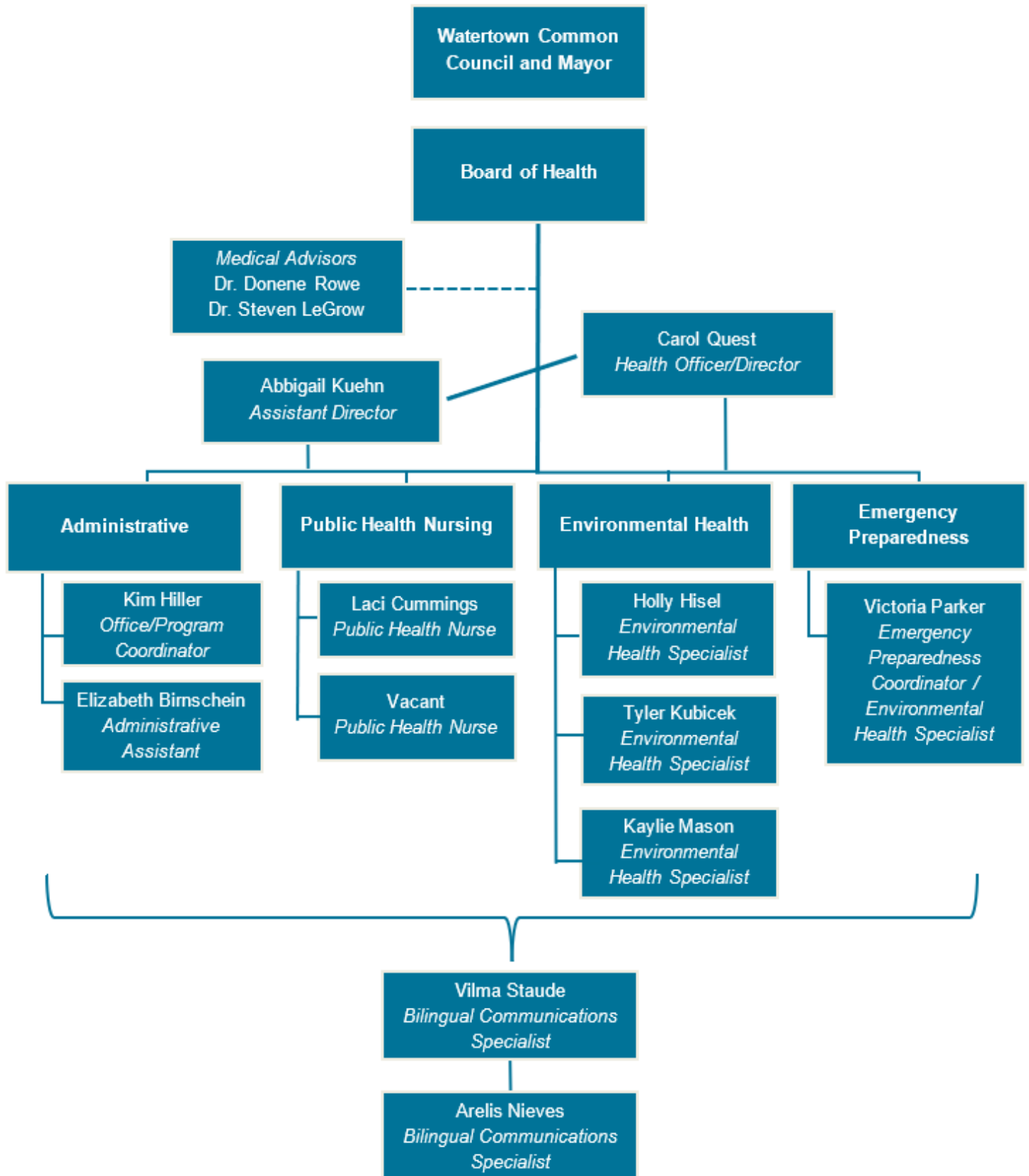
**Leadership:** As a team of Public Health professionals we adhere to and promote public health core functions and standards of practice, embracing responsibility and leading by example to achieve community public health goals.

**Resourcefulness:** We are committed to pursuing resources and the efficient use of limited assets to carry out our mission.

**Responsive:** We respond to the needs of the community by advocating for services that are meaningful and positively impact the health of the community.



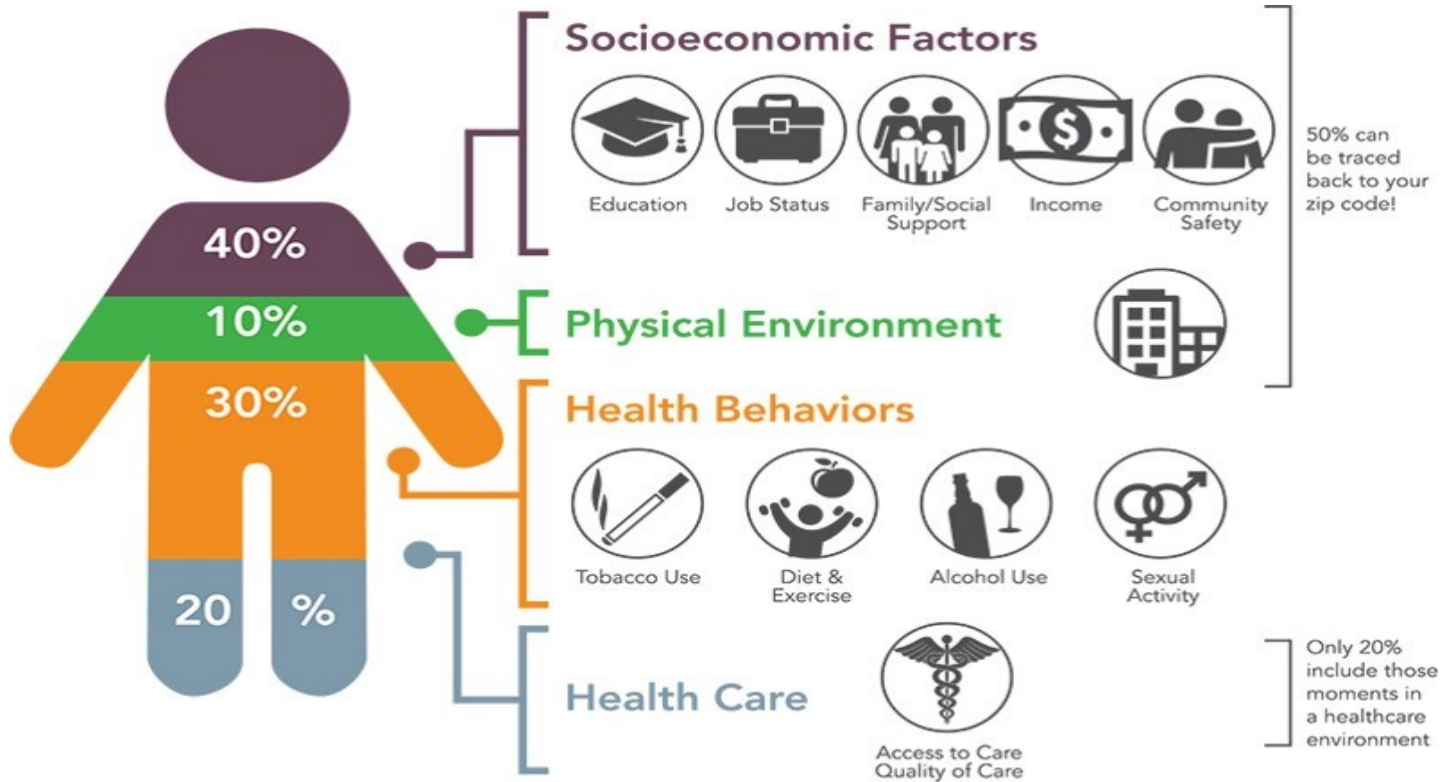
# Organizational Chart 2024



# Essential Service #1

Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.

## What determines our health?



Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

## Demographics

	Watertown	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Wisconsin	USA
Population	23,030	90,186	85,622	5,922,426	333,934,112
Median Age	39.4	42.3	40.4	40.2	38.8
Median Household Income	\$59,111	\$61,969	\$71,285	\$63,001	\$64,730
Annual Population Growth (2021-2026)	-0.41% (2020)	0.19%	0.37%	0.41%	0.71%
Household Population	8,996	34,769	33,815	2,404,113	126,470,675
Businesses	402	2,999	3,018	215,273	12,013,469
Employees	9,795	42,128	39,005	3,151,581	150,287,786
Health Care Index	95	91	98	95	100
Average Health Expenditures	NA	\$5,658	\$6,090	\$5,922	\$6,237
Total Health Expenditures	NA	196.7 M	205.9 M	14.2 B	788.8 B
<b>Racial and Ethnic Make-up</b>					
White	84%	92%	92%	84%	69%
Black	1%	3%	1%	7%	13%
American Indian	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0%	1%	1%	3%	6%
Other	0%	2%	3%	3%	7%
Mixed Race	3%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Hispanic Origin	11%	5%	8%	7%	19%

Sources: Dodge and Jefferson Counties, WI, and USA data retrieved from 2022 published DJHCP CHA document, listed source Esri. Watertown data retrieved from the following sources: Population data from <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US5583975-watertown-wi/>, Business and employee from [https://data.census.gov/](https://data.census.gov/table?q=Watertown,WI&tid=ACST5Y2021.S0804) and <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/watertowncitywisconsin/SB0001217#SB0001217>; Annual Population Growth rate from <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/watertown-wi-population>, and Health Expenditures retrieved from BestPlaces Health Cost Index



## Essential Service #2

Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.

### Communicable Disease

Communicable diseases are reported to the local health department to help stop the transmission of disease. Communicable diseases are reported based on State Statute 252.

Communicable Disease	2022	2023	2024
Chlamydia & Gonorrhea	55	84	56
Food/Water Borne	12	20	17
Hepatitis A, B, C	50	46	41
Hospitalized Associated Influenza	29	28	29
Lyme Disease	*	9	*
Measles & Mumps	*	*	*
Pertussis	10	9	79
Invasive Streptococcal Disease	5	5	*
Tuberculosis- Latent & Active	*	*	7
Varicella	6	*	*

\* Numbers less than 5 will not be reported due to privacy  
 Chart includes confirmed, probable, suspect, and not a case numbers



#### Long-Term Care Facility Outbreaks

Long-term care facilities report outbreaks for respiratory and gastrointestinal viruses in residents and staff. Health department staff monitor, answer questions, and provide guidance for facilities during outbreaks.



#### Rabies Follow-up

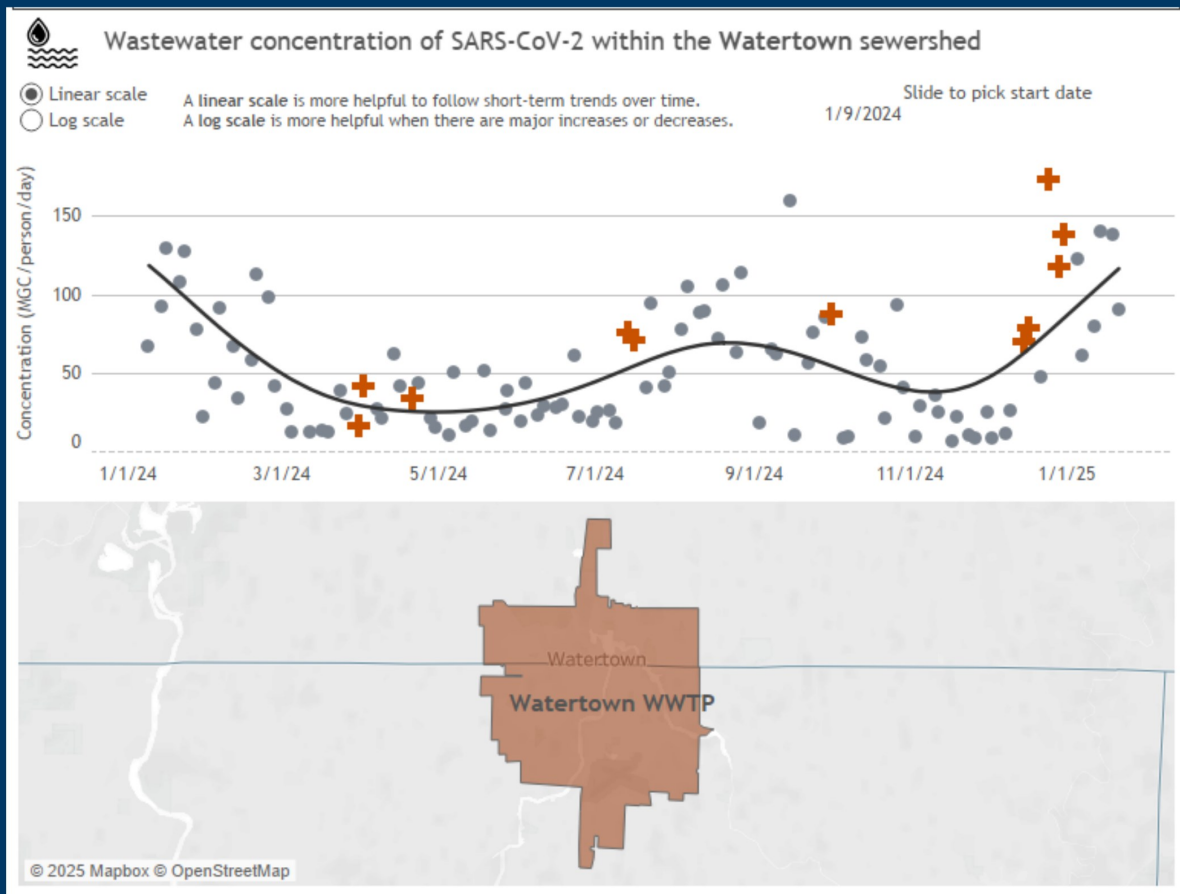
Staff conducted follow-up including guidance and next steps for community members with possible exposures to rabies.

## COVID-19 Wastewater Sampling

In 2024, Environmental Health staff continued their partnership with the City of Watertown Water Department to collect and ship wastewater samples to determine the amount of SARS-CoV-2 virus present in untreated wastewater in the community. Rather than test every single person individually, this approach allows monitoring of the entire community at the same time and provides a more complete picture of COVID-19 activity in our community.



## WI DHS Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard



Categories are calculated by averaging the SARS-CoV-2 concentrations of the three most recent samples at the Watertown Wastewater Treatment Plant and comparing this current level to past levels measured at that facility, which are sorted into five categories:

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

The "+" symbol indicates a significant increase.

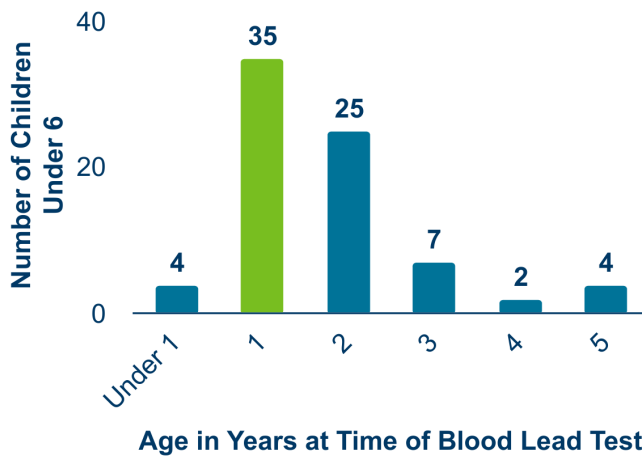
Lead



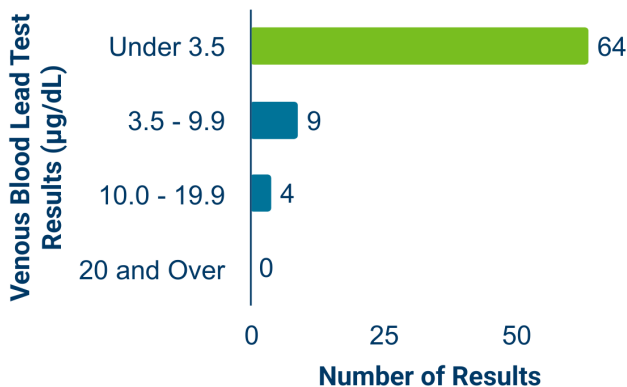
## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Lead, a natural occurring metal, can affect almost every organ and system in the human body. Lead exposure has the potential to impact individuals of all ages, but it is especially harmful to young children because the developing brain is particularly sensitive to environmental contaminants. People are exposed to lead by eating lead paint chips, ingesting contaminated food or water, and/or breathing in lead dust. Children younger than 6 years are more likely to be exposed due to their hand-to-mouth behavior.

### 2024 Lead Program Data



**77** children in the City of Watertown received at least one venous blood lead test in 2024.



### 2024 Objectives

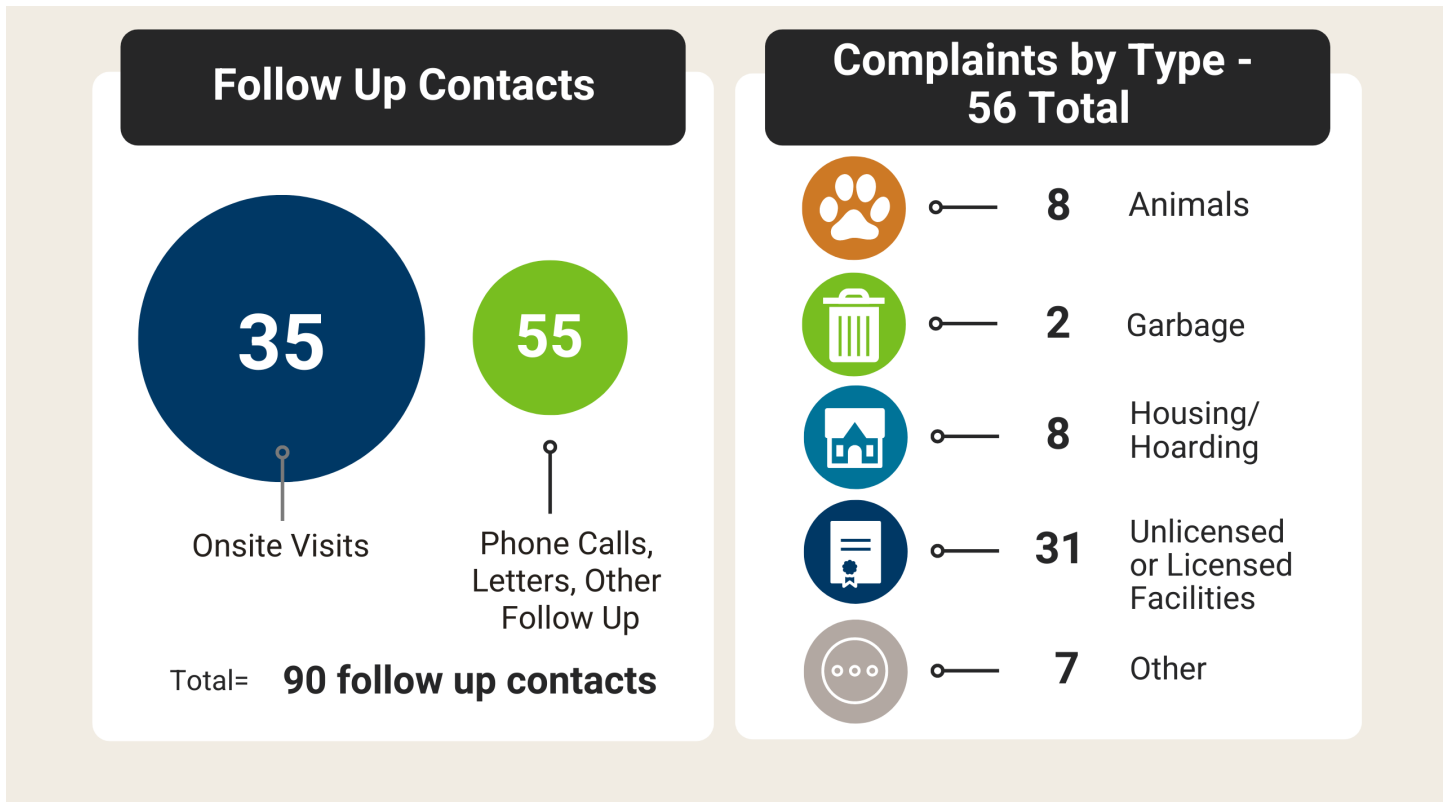
Wisconsin law requires intervention when a child’s blood lead level reaches an “elevated blood lead level (EBLL).” The statutory definition of an EBLL is a venous BLL  $\geq$  20 µg/dL or two venous BLLs  $\geq$  15 µg/dL drawn at least 90 days apart. Local health departments are required to do environmental investigations for all children with an EBLL.

Children with results over 10 µg/dL receive comprehensive home visits from a public health nurse.



Human Health Hazards

Throughout the year, the Environmental Public Health Consortium handles a variety of complaints from citizens that require investigation and follow-up.

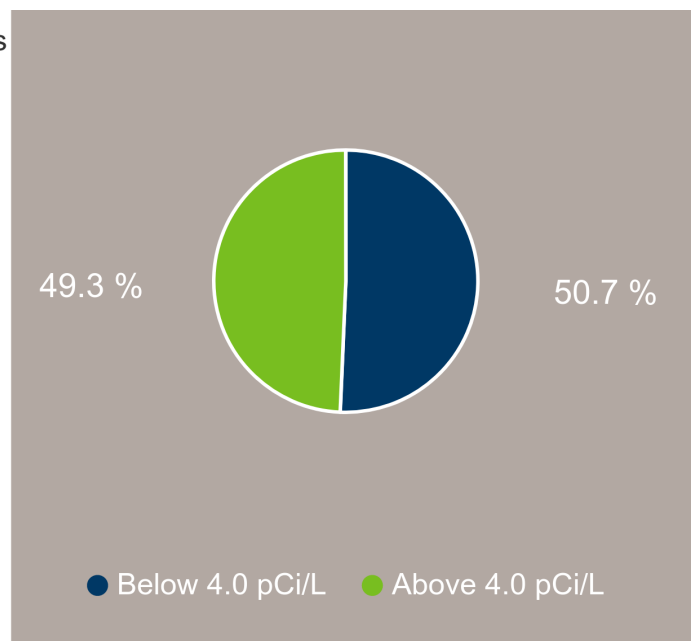


Radon

The Watertown Radon Information Center (RIC) serves the City of Watertown, Jefferson and Dodge Counties as the lead contact for Radon awareness and education. Funded by a grant through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Watertown RIC provides free Radon test kits at all three local health departments. The Watertown RIC also provides outreach to the public through press releases, social media, and public events.

The Radon test kits provided to citizens are now fully postage paid. From October 2023 to September 2024:


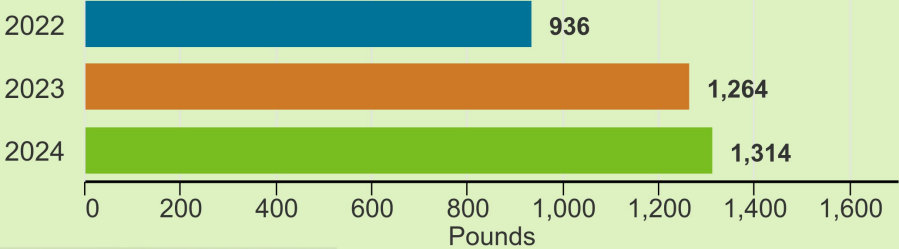
*315 Radon kits were distributed throughout Dodge and Jefferson Counties and the City of Watertown. Of the 217 that were returned for analyzing, 107 of the results were above 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), which is the EPA's recommended action level.*



## Essential Service #3

Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.

### Sharps





Year	Weight (Pounds)
2022	936
2023	1,264
2024	1,314

As the number of persons using sharps (needles, syringes and lancets) in their homes rises, so does the health risk to all workers in recycling facilities. Workers may be accidentally stuck when sharps are mixed with household garbage, recyclables, or when flushed down a toilet.

The Watertown Department of Public Health (WDPH) is a drop off site for household sharps. During 2024, 1,314 pounds of sharps were disposed of between community member drop off and used vaccine syringes.

WDPH also offers community members the option to purchase sharps containers for a nominal fee. In 2024, 85 containers were sold.



### Social Media Messaging

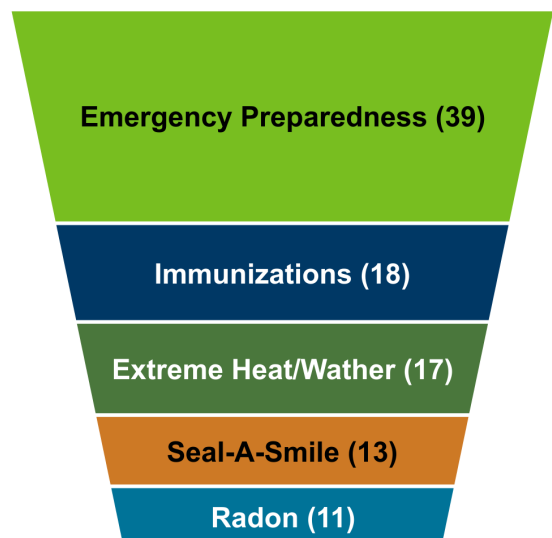
# Social Media Messaging Report

## Overview

Social messaging is a vital tool to help spread essential health information in Watertown. With such a wide range of important topics—from environmental hazards like radon blue-green algae to public health initiatives like the Seal-A-Smile program and emergency preparedness—social messaging is used to communicate in a clear and expedited way.

Breaking down the numbers, the majority of posts (507) were in English, Spanish (29 posts) and some posts had both languages (13 posts). WDPH is attempting to reach a broader audience through multilingual communication, which can make a big difference in public health awareness.

## Topics with most posts



Child Safety Programs

# Car Seat Program

In 2024, our Car Seat Check and Dispense Program continued its vital mission of ensuring the safety of children on the road.

Through comprehensive checks, education, and free car seat distribution, we've helped families install their car seats correctly, reducing the risk of injury in the event of an accident.



60

**Car seats checked**

31

**Car seats dispensed**

Our Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician provided hands-on assistance, offering personalized guidance and ensuring that parents and caregivers feel confident in their ability to secure their child safely. We aim to create a safer environment for the youngest passengers, one car seat at a time.

# Safe Sleep & Pack 'N Play Program

Our Safe Sleep and Pack and Play Distribution Program continued in our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of infants. By providing families with Pack and Play cribs, we helped create safe sleep environments, reducing the risk of sleep-related infant deaths. Our program continues to grow, with more families benefiting from education on safe sleep. Through community partnerships, educational outreach, and the distribution of these essential resources, we are fostering healthier sleep habits and providing families with the tools they need for a safer future. All families in the Prenatal Care Coordination Program are provided with safe sleep information before and after having their babies.



5

**Pack 'N plays dispensed in 2024**



## Essential Service #4

Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.

### Crossroads

# Crossroads of Watertown Rental Assistance



### Collaboration

WDPH has partnered with Crossroads for over a decade, to support their mission of serving families and individuals with rental assistance within the Watertown Unified School District.



## 81 households supported

223 people: 98 adults and 125 children were able to stay in their homes due to financial support received from Crossroads, which is **DOUBLE** the amount of people served in 2023.



## \$40,056.50

The total amount Crossroads paid out to landlords. The average household received \$520. This is almost **DOUBLE** the amount of support that Crossroads paid out in 2023.

**CROSSROADS OF WATERTOWN RENTAL ASSISTANCE**



**Serving Families and Individuals with Rental Assistance in the Watertown School District**

**WHAT CAN CROSSROADS HELP WITH?**

- First Month's Rent
- Security Deposit
- Eviction Prevention

**WHO QUALIFIES FOR ASSISTANCE?**

- Individuals or families with a household income living within the Watertown School District for 3 months or longer

**WHERE CAN I FIND AN APPLICATION?**

- Watertown Health Department, Watertown Family Connections and Watertown Elks Lodge (By Entrance)
- Email Crossroads to get an application sent to your email

 920-248-0255

 Crossroadsrentalassistance@gmail.com

Stop the Bleed/Go Kits

# STOP THE BLEED TRAINING



In an effort to bolster safety and preparedness, employees from various city departments recently participated in Stop the Bleed training sessions. These sessions were designed to equip staff with the necessary skills and tools to effectively respond to emergencies while working throughout the city.

Each employee who attended the training received a specialized Go Bag containing essential safety and first aid supplies. These Go Bags are equipped with items such as gloves, CPR masks, trauma kits (including tourniquets), Tyvek suits, N95 masks, and other critical tools to assist in emergency situations.

The two-hour training sessions, conducted by the Police Department over several days, ensured that employees were comfortable with the contents of their Go Bags and confident in their ability to use the items. The training focused on immediate response techniques, such as bleeding control and providing basic first aid, to help save lives until professional medical help arrives.

By offering this training and providing the necessary supplies, the city is taking proactive steps to ensure that its employees are well-prepared to handle emergencies in the field, contributing to a safer community for all.

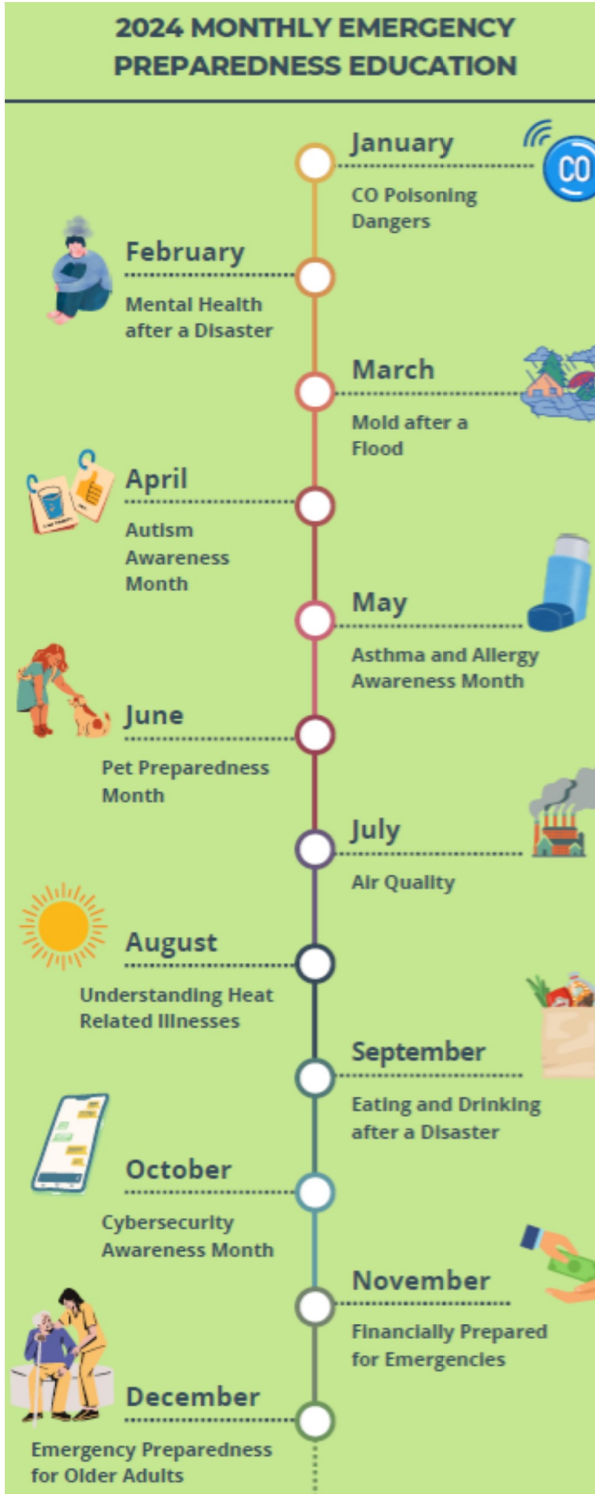




## Essential Service #5

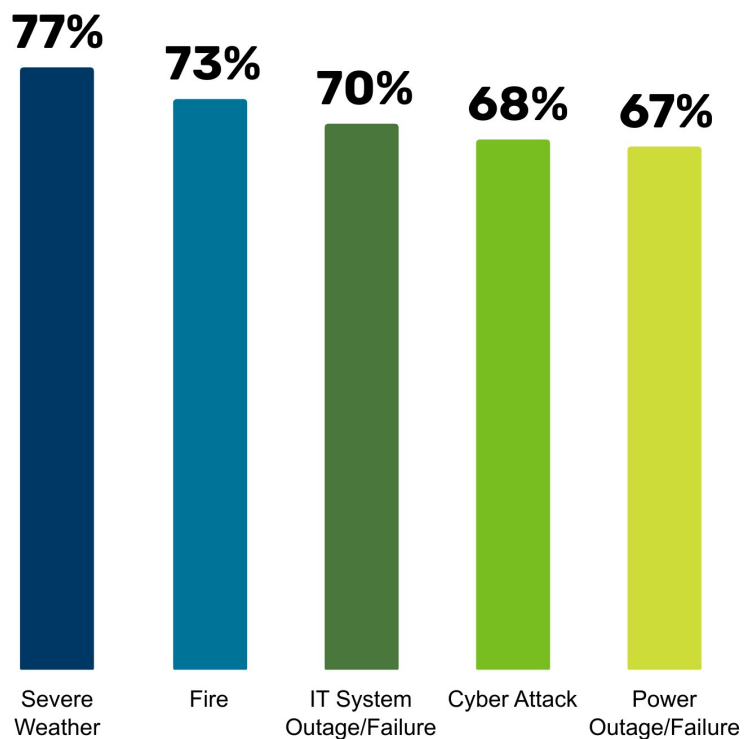
Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

### Emergency Preparedness



In 2024, City Department Leadership had a tabletop exercise and a full-scale exercise to discuss how policies, plans and procedures would work in different emergency situations and how different departments would have to collaborate with each other to ensure continuity of operations. Throughout the year continued participation with community partners was strengthened through regular meetings with the Watertown Health Care Coalition and South-Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition Public Health Emergency Preparedness Forum. The annual Hazards Vulnerability Assessment was conducted to reveal the top five hazards that are most likely to have an impact on Watertown. In March, the Wisconsin Emergency Management Conference took place. The health department conducted internal communication drills to ensure proper notification occurs when emergencies take place.

### 2024 Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Top 5 Risks





# Community Health Improvement Plan

In 2022, Dodge Jefferson Healthier Community Partnership (DJHCP) brought community members together to review data and vote on the top community priorities. In 2023, DJHCP took the top priorities from the 2022 Community Health Assessment and developed a Community Health Improvement Plan. Community partners already doing great work on housing and childcare agreed to continue addressing these priorities and provide progress and data back to DJHCP. Workgroups were established for the priority areas of transportation and mental health and led by DJHCP members. During monthly meetings, workgroup members identified the overall outcome of the workgroup, what work was already being done around these priorities, indicators, strategies, and developed an action plan. DJHCP and workgroup members will continue working on these priorities into 2026.



**2023-2026**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN**  
Priority Area: Access to Affordable Quality Mental Health Care

**ACTION PLAN**

11.7.23 MENTAL HEALTH WAS DEFINED AS A GROUP AND EACH ORGANIZATION DISCUSSED HOW THEY ARE ALREADY, OR HOW THEY WILL, IMPLEMENT THESE STRATEGIES. DISCUSSED PERFORMANCE MEASURES THAT WILL BE LOOKED AT BY EACH ORGANIZATION.  
**BEGIN TO CREATE THE ACTION PLAN FOR A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY.**  
WORKGROUP TO RECONVENE IN FEBRUARY.

12.23 -1.24 **DJHCP MENTAL HEALTH SUB-GROUPS CONTINUED MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PLAN FOR A SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITY.**

**SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS**

2.13.24 DEEPER DIVE INTO SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS. SHARED WHAT IS GOING ON AT A NATIONAL LEVEL. ASKED THE GROUP: WHAT DOES SOCIAL CONNECTION LOOK, FEEL, AND SOUND LIKE? **GROUP TO PARTNER WITH A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, HEALTHY PLACES BY DESIGN**, AND RECONVENE IN JUNE FOR A COMMUNITY NARRATIVE WORKSHOP.

3.24-6-24 **SEEK MORE INPUT FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS.** FURTHER THESE EFFORTS BY WORKING WITH HEALTHY PLACES BY DESIGN TO LEARN ABOUT A COMMUNITY NARRATIVE, WORKSHOP COMMUNITY VALUES, FRAME COMMUNITY MESSAGES, AND CONDUCT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS TO IMPROVE SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS.

2024 -2026 **ONGOING WORK ON ACTION PLAN.**



**2023-2026**  
**COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN**  
Priority Area: Access to Affordable Reliable Transportation

**ACTION PLAN**

12.7.23 TWEAKED OUR INDICATOR #1 TO "PERCENT OF MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS MISSED DUE TO TRANSPORTATION". THREE STRATEGIES WERE CHOSEN:  
1) **INCREASE DRIVER RECRUITMENT FOR PAID AND UNPAID DRIVERS**  
2) **INCREASE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**  
3) **INCREASE AWARENESS OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO CONSUMERS.**  
START OF ACTION PLANNING.

2.8.24 **COMMITMENT FROM THE VARIOUS ENTITIES TO PROVIDE DATA.** CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON ACTIVITIES FOR EACH OF THE THREE STRATEGIES AND THEN COMMITMENT BY WORKGROUP PARTICIPANTS TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF ACTIVITIES.

4.11.24 WHERE IS THE MOMENTUM? HOW CAN WE SUPPORT THIS AS A GROUP? WHAT DO EACH OF THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS NEED FROM THE WORKGROUP TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THEIR ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES?

2024 -2026 **ONGOING WORK ON ACTION PLAN.**

The next Community Health Assessment cycle will be starting in 2025

Smoking Ordinance

## Updates to the City’s Smoking Ordinance

This year, the City Council approved important changes to the Smoking Ordinance aimed at further protecting public health and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors. With a focus on creating cleaner, healthier public spaces, the updated ordinance specifies additional areas where smoking will be prohibited, ensuring that citizens are not exposed to harmful secondhand smoke in high-use community spaces.

### Key Changes to the Smoking Ordinance to the Smoking Ordinance

Under the revised ordinance, smoking is now prohibited within 25 feet of the following public park and recreation areas, except in cases where an agreement or special event permit exists between the City and a private entity. These updated regulations cover a broad range of public spaces, helping to create a healthier environment for everyone:



**Playgrounds:** Smoking will no longer be allowed near areas where children play, ensuring their safety and well-being.



**Enclosed, Open-Air, and Temporary Structures:** Smoking will be restricted in all types of structures used for public gatherings and events.



**Sports Fields, Courts, and Complexes:** Spectators and athletes alike will be protected from secondhand smoke in high-traffic sports areas.



**Picnic Areas:** Families and individuals enjoying outdoor meals will now be able to do so in smoke-free zones.



**Disc Golf Courses:** Enthusiasts of this popular recreational activity will now have a cleaner, healthier environment while playing.



**Piers/Kayak Launches:** Those enjoying outdoor water activities will be able to breathe freely as they engage in their recreational pursuits.



**Community Gardens:** These spaces, which promote health and wellness through gardening, will also be free of smoke to maintain their clean and inviting atmosphere.



**Dog-Walk Areas:** Pet owners will no longer have to deal with smoke while walking their dogs in designated dog-friendly spaces.



**Heating and Air Conditioning Intakes or Vents:** To ensure that indoor air quality is not compromised by outdoor smoking, smoking is prohibited near these critical air intake systems.



**Swimming Pools and Water Features:** People enjoying a swim or water play will now experience cleaner air, contributing to a more pleasant experience.



**Stages, Performance Areas, and Event Seating:** Whether for concerts, plays, or festivals, public events will be held in smoke-free environments, ensuring attendees and performers can enjoy the activities without exposure to tobacco smoke.



### Why These Changes Matter

These updates represent a significant step toward ensuring that the city’s public spaces remain safe and enjoyable for everyone. By restricting smoking in these areas, the city is not only reducing exposure to harmful secondhand smoke but also fostering a sense of community responsibility. The changes reflect the City’s ongoing commitment to improving public health, enhancing the environment, and creating spaces where all citizens can thrive.



## Essential Service #6

**Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.**

### Agent Inspection Program

The City of Watertown/Jefferson County Environmental Public Health Consortium provides health inspections and licensing services for a variety of establishments under contracts with Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS).

License Type	Pre-inspection	Routine	Re-inspection	Onsite Visit	Complaint	Totals
<b>Retail Food:</b> (Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Convenience Stores, bakeries, etc)	87	437	50	3	19	587
<b>Recreational Business:</b> (Recreational Water, Lodging, Rec-Ed Camps, Campgrounds)	44	127	47	207	6	431
<b>Body Art</b> (Tattoo, Body Piercing)	3	5				8

#### Pre-inspections

Pre-inspections are required for any new business prior to obtaining a license. This includes newly constructed businesses or existing businesses that are changing ownership. A pre-inspection is also required for significant remodels for existing facilities.

During pre-inspections, physical features of the facility must meet most recent Food Code standards. Some facilities may require multiple pre-inspections before having their license released and opening to the public.

#### Routine

All licensed facilities are required to have a routine inspection completed every license year (July 1 through June 30).

At routine inspections, inspectors observe food safety practices and processes (e.g. cooking, cooling, hand washing, etc.), physical features of the facility (e.g. equipment, cleanliness, pest control), employee health and competency/training.

#### Re-inspections

Re-inspections are chargeable inspections that are completed based on violations observed during a routine, complaint, or on-site visit that fall under the re-inspection criteria for that license type.

Re-inspections are required for imminent health hazards, an excessive number of violations or the same violation observed on three consecutive violations.

Monthly pool chemistry onsite visits that result in closure due to non-complying chemicals will also require a re-inspection to re-open.

#### On-site Visits

On-site visits can be a visit to a facility that does not fall under a pre-inspection, re-inspection, or routine inspection.

Most frequently, onsite visits occur for recreational water facilities (i.e. pools, whirlpools) monthly chemistry inspections. Inspectors test water chemistry to assure levels are within code required ranges.



60

School Food Safety Inspections completed



71

Inspections completed at 25 different events and 4 local farmer's markets



55

Grease trap inspections completed

### School Food Safety Inspections

Schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program receive two inspections per school year by our department as required by the Department of Public Instruction.

One inspection is a routine kitchen inspection based on the Wisconsin Food Code. Second inspections are a review and audit of the school's Food Safety Plan and records, including Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles, policies and procedures, and documentation logs.

### Special Event Inspections

Vendors providing food and beverages during special events (e.g. fairs, festivals, farmer's markets) may require licenses and inspections. Inspectors are onsite during special events to complete inspections to assure food safety principles are being followed. Not only do we inspect our locally licensed vendors, but we also complete inspections for vendors that are licensed in other jurisdictions.

### Grease Trap Inspections

In collaboration with the Watertown Water/Wastewater Department, inspection staff complete grease trap inspection for businesses in Watertown that have a grease trap (interceptor) installed in their facility.

Grease traps that are not maintained and serviced allow grease to flow into the city sewer lines and infrastructure causing build up and accumulations to occur in sewer laterals.

Inspection staff complete onsite visual inspections of the grease traps and review any service or maintenance logs.

# Pool Closures January 2024 - December 2024

The Environmental Public Health Consortium continued its monthly onsite chemistry inspections for recreational water licenses. After evaluating facilities with chronic closures and those with no closures, an updated monthly testing policy was put into place. Any license closed for chemistry violations during a monthly onsite chemistry inspection or annual routine inspection, would be required to have six months of chemistry compliance before returning to annual routine inspection.

**250**

inspections completed, both onsite and routine inspections of roughly 43 pools



**40**

temporary closures issued



**8**

facilities were temporarily closed 2 or more times 2024



**17**

temporary closures were due to high disinfectant levels over code limit (chlorine or bromine)



**21**

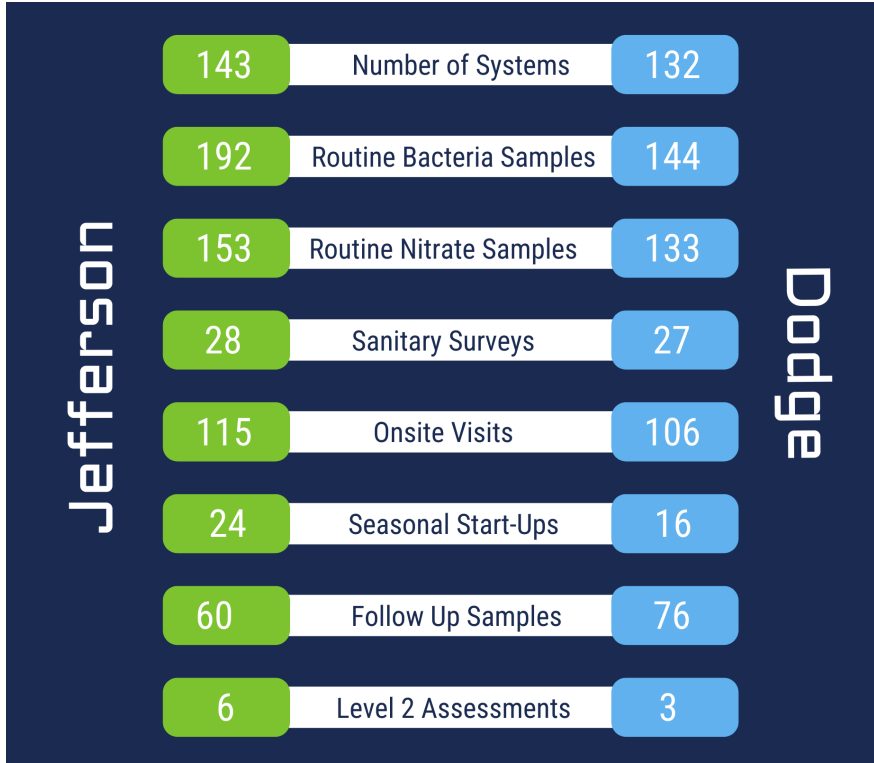
temporary closures were due to low disinfectant (chlorine or bromine), of those 1 had no disinfectant detected





### Transient Well (TN) Program

Through a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Environmental Public Health Consortium is a county contract for the transient well water program. Transient well water systems are locations with private wells that serve at least 25 transient people at least 60 days a year. Our jurisdiction covers both Jefferson and Dodge Counties. Responsibilities of the contract include water sampling, well inspections, and enforcement.



### Beach Water Quality Testing

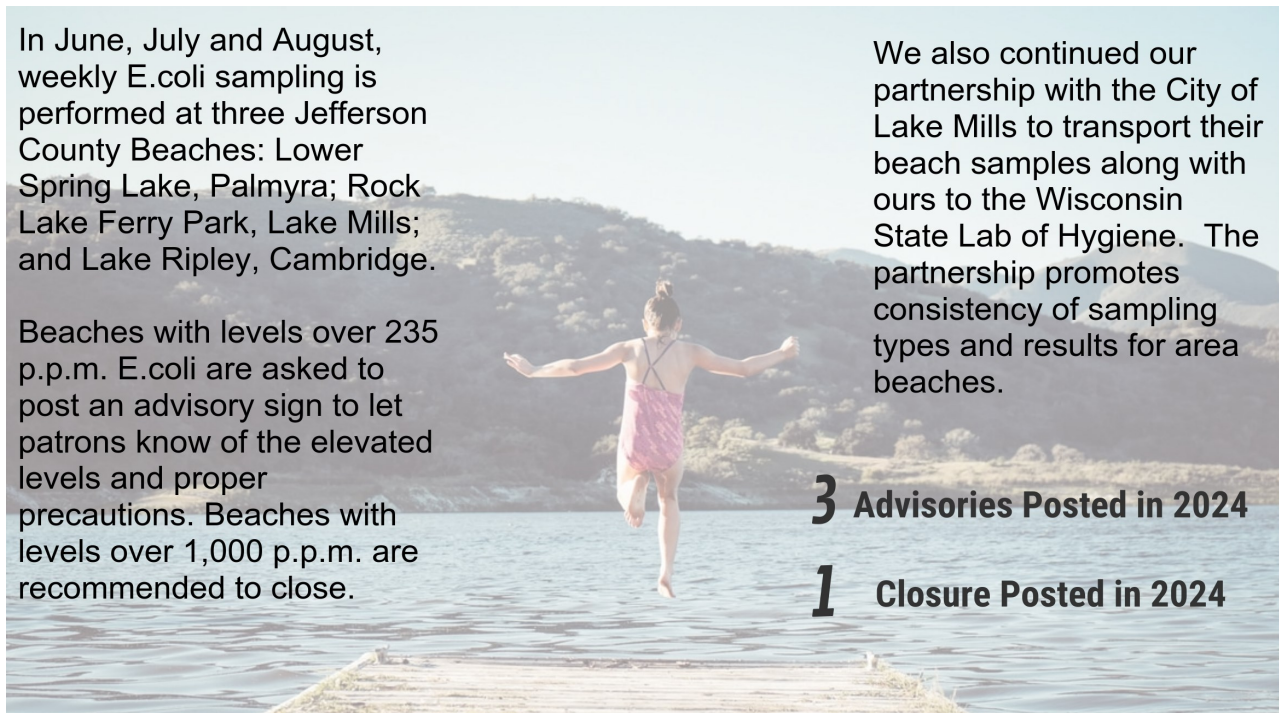
In June, July and August, weekly E.coli sampling is performed at three Jefferson County Beaches: Lower Spring Lake, Palmyra; Rock Lake Ferry Park, Lake Mills; and Lake Ripley, Cambridge.

Beaches with levels over 235 p.p.m. E.coli are asked to post an advisory sign to let patrons know of the elevated levels and proper precautions. Beaches with levels over 1,000 p.p.m. are recommended to close.

We also continued our partnership with the City of Lake Mills to transport their beach samples along with ours to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene. The partnership promotes consistency of sampling types and results for area beaches.

**3** Advisories Posted in 2024

**1** Closure Posted in 2024



# Watertown Dept of Public Health Laboratory

In 2024, the Environmental Health Division started the long process to create their own water analysis laboratory for analyzing bacteria and nitrate in drinking water. The beginning focus will be analyzing bacteria and nitrate samples collected through the Transient Non-Community (TN) Well Water Program.

## January - March

- Create and approve the policies for bacteria and nitrate analysis and their corresponding documents and logs
- Purchase equipment and supplies
- Submit applications to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for nitrate analysis lab and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for bacteria analysis lab

## April - June

- Financial analysis for price of each sample calculating supplies and staff time
- Performed and passed nitrate proficiency testing. (Proficiency testing are samples that have a predetermined result, that if performed correctly would match the results we got when testing was performed)

## July - September

- Performed and passed bacteria proficiency testing
- July 31, 2024 - Nitrate Laboratory Audit completed by DNR - passed and certified
- September 27, 2024 - Bacteria Laboratory Audit completed by DATCP - passed and certified

## October - December

- Creation of the Billing Policy and working with Administrative Staff on flow of billing and reporting samples
- Letter introducing the new laboratory and corresponding analysis fees was sent out to existing TN systems
- Test run of analyzing samples and following the results through the billing and reporting system with Administrative Staff





### Essential Service #7

Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

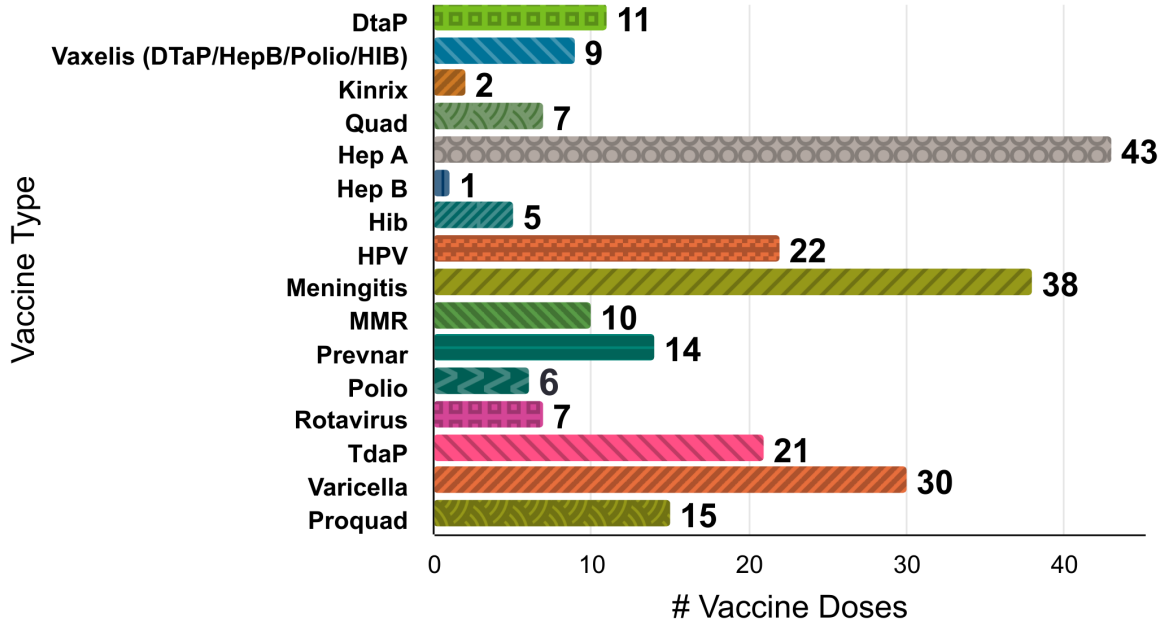
### Immunization Program

## 2024 Immunization Report

WDPH offers immunizations to children that are on state insurance (BadgerCare), are uninsured, or are underinsured.

The department provided 16 different childhood vaccines to 250 people.

### Childhood Vaccines



On June 4, 2024 Dr. Grajewski was honored at the Board of Health meeting. Since 1995, Dr. Grajewski acted as Immunization Medical Director for Watertown Department of Public Health. Dr. Grajewski was a vital part of overseeing the administration of COVID 19 vaccines and was tasked with reviewing the multiple changes to policies. Dr. Grajewski was thanked for his attention, support and dedication to the department. His commitment to the health and wellness of the Watertown community is appreciated and will always be remembered.

# Prenatal Care Coordination

The Prenatal Care Coordination Program is dedicated to providing comprehensive, compassionate support to individuals experiencing risk factors during their pregnancies. Throughout the year, we have focused on delivering personalized care, connecting patients with essential resources, and fostering collaboration between healthcare providers. By addressing the unique medical, emotional, and social challenges faced by expectant parents, we aim to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. This program's success is reflected in the positive impact it has on families, helping them navigate their pregnancy journey with confidence.

30

**Pregnant people screened and enrolled in PNCC**



16

**Newborn visits with families who delivered in 2024**

## Community Baby Shower



Watertown Family Connections and Watertown Department of Public Health held a Community Baby Shower on May 17, 2024 at the Watertown Public Library. The shower brought expecting families and families with newborns up to 6 months old together to learn about community resources such as car seat and child safety resources, Watertown Family Connection programs, WIC, Mary’s Room, Watertown Public Library programs, Birth to Three, childcare support, banking and financial resources, insurance, and Jefferson County Literacy Council services.

Families in attendance were able to socialize, get a tour of the library and receive baby items. Watertown Department of Public Health, Jefferson County Health Department, and Easter Seals maternal child health programs invited 26 families to attend.



Seal-A-Smile Program



# SEAL-A-SMILE

## A Bright Smile Starts with Healthy Teeth!

Seal-A-Smile is a grant funded program through the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin.

Through the grant, this program is provided free of charge to 2nd, 3rd, 6th & 7th grade students in Watertown Unified School District regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

Participating students are screened by a registered dental hygienist to determine if adult molars are present in order to place a protective sealant on the chewing surface of the tooth. While sealants are placed on the teeth, education is provided on proper dental hygiene and healthy eating.

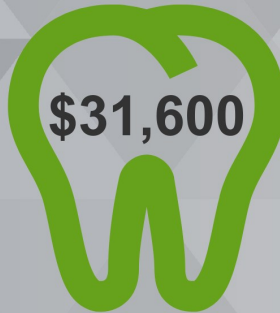
Dental hygienists also screen students for possible decay during their visit. A letter is sent home with students indicating a need for a dental follow up as well as a list of dental resources.

Families of students with urgent dental issues are contacted and assistance is provided to find urgent dental care.

Number of students participating in 2024



Preventative Dental Care Provided



Number of sealants applied in 2024



Students with urgent dental needs



Percentage of students seen that had tooth decay



## Essential Service #8

Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.

### Workforce Development

#### Nursing Students



In the fall, WDPH's nursing staff were able to preceptor nursing students to educate them on the role of public health in the community. Over six days, twelve Maranatha students were provided with real world experiences in maternal and child health, communicable disease follow-up, immunizations, childhood lead follow-up, and community health initiatives. These students gained valuable insights into how public health nursing integrates education, prevention, and intervention to improve community health.

#### Garden Volunteers



The Health Department utilized green space around the parking lot to plant a community garden. Volunteers helped maintain the garden, which grew fresh, nutritious produce that was distributed to the senior dining program held at Watertown Senior and Community Center. By donating their time and skills, these volunteers ensured that local seniors had access to high-quality, locally grown food, improving their nutrition and overall well-being. The garden serves as a symbol of community collaboration, fostering both healthier food options and stronger connections among community members, all while reducing food insecurity for vulnerable populations. 84 pounds of food were harvested.



#### AmeriCorps Service Member



In 2024, the Watertown Department of Public Health benefited from the contributions of an AmeriCorps service member. Their work focused on community health improvement by leading the Community Health Improvement Plan's Mental Health Workgroup and helping the group identify overall outcomes, indicators, strategies, and assisting in developing an action plan. This individual also played a key role in overseeing garden volunteers, supporting initiatives that promote access to fresh, nutritious food, and fostering community engagement.

#### Certified Lactation Specialist (CLS)



This year, one of our public health nurses achieved a professional milestone by completing the Certified Lactation Specialist (CLS) training. This training enhances our team's ability to support new mothers and families, ensuring they receive expert guidance on breastfeeding practices. Our staff is now better equipped to address the unique challenges that can arise during the early stages of motherhood, empowering families to foster healthy and successful breastfeeding experiences.



### CPR Instructor Training



In response to a vacancy, one of our public health nurses took the initiative to pursue CPR instructor training. By stepping up to fill the gap, they not only enhanced their professional skills but also played a key role in strengthening our internal training capabilities by leading CPR certification courses for staff. This training ensures that our team remains well-prepared to respond effectively in emergency situations.

### Mental Health First Aid



Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis. Two WDPH staff members are certified mental health first aiders and also obtained certification to teach Mental Health First Aid classes throughout the City.

In 2024, there over 1,000 staff training hours through in-person trainings, conferences, webinars, and other online trainings



Above: Family Assistance Center Training  
Left: CPR Training  
Bottom Left: Fire Extinguisher Training,  
Bottom Right: Mental Health First Aid  
Certified Trainers  
Right: Marantha Student Nurses



## Essential Service #9

Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.

### Electronic Health Record



## Electronic Health Record

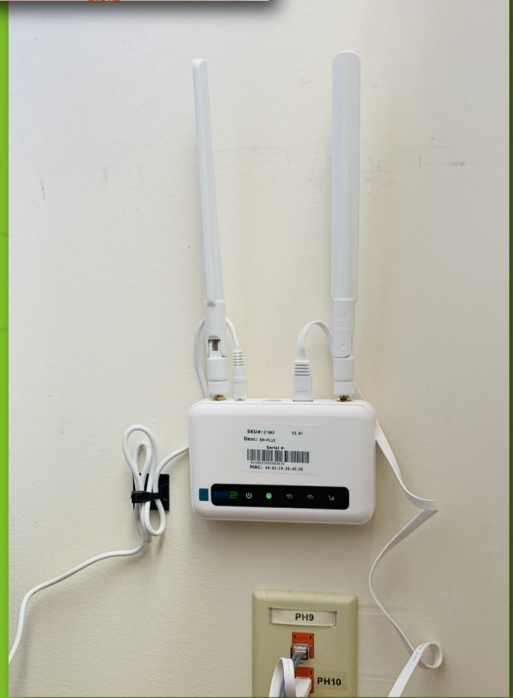
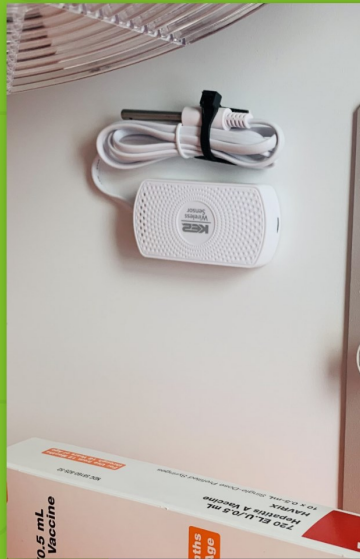
An Electronic Health Record (EHR) system for public health nursing plays a crucial role in streamlining patient care, enhancing communication, and improving overall public health outcomes. EHRs provide powerful data analytics tools, helping public health nurses identify trends, monitor disease outbreaks, and develop targeted interventions to improve community health. With the ability to track vaccination rates, screen for chronic conditions, and follow up on high-risk populations, EHR systems are essential for advancing the mission of public health and achieving optimal health outcomes for communities.

WDPH is currently in the process of implementing an Electronic Health Record to digitize patient data, which will allow staff to access up-to-date information, pull reports, make informed decisions, and coordinate care more efficiently.



# Nursing Quality Improvement

This year, our Quality Improvement (QI) project focused on enhancing the safety and effectiveness of immunization storage through the implementation of a comprehensive Fridge Monitoring and Alert System, the KE2 System. By integrating real-time temperature tracking and automated alerts, we have significantly reduced the risk of vaccine spoilage, ensuring that immunization efforts are more reliable and efficient. Over the past year, the project has successfully streamlined monitoring processes, improved compliance with vaccine storage guidelines, and contributed to higher standards of care in our vaccination programs. The ongoing success of this initiative is a testament to the commitment of our team in safeguarding public health and advancing immunization practices.




 QI

# 2024 Environmental Health Quality Improvement Project

Quality improvement (QI) is a systematic approach that looks at how to improve existing processes. QI projects help our team continuously evaluate and improve our programs by addressing programmatic gaps and implementing public health interventions to improve outcomes.

In 2024, the Environmental Health staff created a water analysis laboratory, a priority of our organization's strategic plan. Our team implemented a QI project to improve how we were tracking certified laboratory requirements like chemical expiration dates, laboratory analyst training requirements, and quality assurance procedures.

## Step 1



### Project Proposal and Reasoning - Why It Started

In order to maintain our status as a certified laboratory, our team identified a need to improve our process for tracking deadlines related to training, chemical expirations, and quality assurance requirements.

## Step 2



### Project Goal - What Is Our Aim

Appropriately trained laboratory staff and strict maintenance of laboratory equipment and chemicals ensured proper methods were being followed when completing well water analysis of samples. This project was important as it supported our ability to base public health interventions and education on accurate and precise results.

## Step 3



### Project Implementation - What We Did

Our team started tracking laboratory deadlines using multiple methods. We established online calendar reminders on all environmental health staff calendars and purchased a whiteboard for the laboratory that was filled out by the laboratory supervisory staff with applicable dates and requirements that needed to be met.

## Step 4



### Project Updates - How It's Going

Environmental health staff responded positively to the implementation of this project and laboratory supervisory staff were able to ensure that deadlines were not being missed. Our team plans to continue evaluating this process in 2025 to ensure continued success of our laboratory and confidence in the accuracy of results being provided to our public water systems.

## Essential Service #10

Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Parenting/TalkReadPlay Home Visitors

# TalkReadPlay Home Visiting Program

The TalkReadPlay (TRP) Home Visiting Program continues to focus on the early development of children from birth to age 3 years. By empowering families with tools and resources, we focus on fostering healthy communication, emotional bonding, and cognitive skills through personalized, in-home visits. Our team works closely with parents and caregivers to ensure they have the knowledge and confidence to support their child’s growth at this crucial stage. Through our program, we are laying the foundation for lifelong learning, building strong families, and helping children reach their full potential in a supportive and nurturing environment.



3

Families enrolled in TalkReadPlay

74

Letters sent to first time parents with information on TRP

### Community Connections

Two social connection events were held for families enrolled in our Maternal Child Health programs. These events provided a welcoming space for families to engage with one another, build valuable social connections, and learn about essential community resources. By fostering a sense of belonging and offering support networks, we helped families navigate the challenges of early parenthood while strengthening ties within the community. Through these gatherings, we are proud to have empowered families with the knowledge and relationships that contribute to their well-being and resilience.

Staff participated in 26 community events to provide education to community members on services and programs offered by Watertown Department of Public Health.





# Food Pantry

WDPH continued their partnership with the Breadbasket Food Pantry allowing us to hold 12 food pantry events on the first Friday of each month for families in our Maternal Child Health programs. To help families with transportation barriers keeping them from utilizing the food pantry, 153 boxes were packed and delivered to families. These events and deliveries allowed us to serve 278 families with a total of 1162 individuals. Families coming to the food pantry were able to socialize with other families, ask questions and get information from WDPH staff, and learn about resources and upcoming community events.



**278 Families Assisted**

**1,162 individuals assisted**

**153 Boxes packed & delivered**

**Thanksgiving boxes 25 families**

This partnership also allowed us to be able to provide Thanksgiving boxes for 25 families feeding 111 individuals who stated they had a need for food over the holiday. Through this collaborative effort, we were able to provide critical resources to those in need, alleviating hunger and providing food security for families in our Maternal Child Health programs.



**Financial Comparison**

<b>Watertown Department of Public Health Financial Information 2022 to 2024</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Maternal & Child Health Grant	\$ 10,454.00	\$ 10,445.00	\$ 8,571.00
Prevention Block Grant	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,018.00	\$ 8,000.00
Family Preservation Grant	\$ 26,063.00	\$ 24,439.00	\$ 25,497.90
Immunization Grant	\$ 7,461.00	\$ 7,393.00	\$ 6,961.00
Car Seat donation	\$ (10,000.00)	\$ -	
Credit			
Emergency Preparedness Grant	\$ 33,967.00	\$ 72,098.00	\$ 21,615.00
Radon Grant	\$ 2,547.00	\$ 10,475.00	\$ 5,719.00
Childhood Lead Grant	\$ 2,539.00	\$ 5,932.00	\$ 4,434.00
Health Prevention		\$ 1,705.00	\$ 2,711.00
COVID -19 - Tracing/Monitor grant	\$ 139,171.00	\$ 27,694.00	\$ 25,654.00
Workforce / COVID-19		\$ 12,463.00	\$ 36,173.00
ARPA / COVID-19		\$ 23,362.00	\$ 70,796.00
Communicable Disease	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,540.00
Seal A Smile Grant & Donations	\$ 3,954.87	\$ 6,427.25	\$ 6,343.00
<b>Fees for Service</b>			
Title 18 (Medicare)	\$ 1,391.70	\$ 744.83	\$ 106.00
Title 19 (HealthCheck/PNCC)	\$ 3,387.05	\$ 12,391.96	\$ 6,837.55
Seal A Smile MA	\$ 12,962.57	\$ 12,104.80	\$ 11,520.00
Jefferson Cty Consortium	\$ 34,998.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,003.00
Environmental Health Fees/Interest	\$ 49,669.00	\$ 40,682.57	\$ 37,664.92
Dept of Ag	\$ 288,588.00	\$ 304,277.00	\$ 311,145.00
Agent Program / DSPS/Body Art	\$ 1,218.00	\$ 1,401.00	\$ 1,826.00
Transient Well Water Program	\$ 55,181.00	\$ 55,833.75	\$ 58,491.00
Emergency Preparedness Consortium	\$ 112,692.00		\$ -
General Health Revenue Tax & non-tax	\$ 4,950.26	\$ 6,375.16	\$ 11,312.04
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 792,794.45</b>	<b>\$ 682,862.32</b>	<b>\$ 699,920.41</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Environmental Carry Over	\$ 7,449.25	\$ (18,235.75)	\$ (75,515.00)
Emergency Prep/Pandemic Carry Over	\$ 30,343.19	\$ (21,995.81)	\$ (147,334.00)
Seal A Smile Carry Over	\$ 5,023.80	\$ 7,544.56	\$ 3,172.00
Emergency Prep Coordinator Salary	\$ 30,991.65	\$ 33,141.31	\$ 34,799.00
Contracted Salary/SAS Hygienist & Dental Asst.	\$ 3,847.50	\$ 3,300.50	\$ 4,200.00
Personnel	\$ 858,908.53	\$ 873,733.00	\$ 857,537.00
General Supplies	\$ 123,084.11	\$ 161,188.27	\$ 341,744.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,059,648.03</b>	<b>\$ 1,038,676.08</b>	<b>\$ 1,018,603.00</b>
<b>City Tax Contribution</b>	<b>\$ (266,853.58)</b>	<b>\$ (355,813.76)</b>	<b>\$ (318,682.59)</b>

Public Health is Everywhere!



Above: Beth, Laci and Bri sharing important public health information at Lights and Sirens, July 2025.



Above: WDPH bid farewell to long time Public Health Nurse Susan Wollin.



Above: Holly and Abbey getting the Mental Health Room ready at the Family Assistance Center.



Above: Laci, Kim, Holly, Carol and Abbey wear blue for Child Abuse Awareness.



Above: Staff work together to unpack a large shipment of emergency preparedness supplies.



Above: Beth, Laci and Carol having important public health conversations at the Senior Health Fair.