



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

MANITOWOC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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2022 OVERVIEW

Objective

The Manitowoc County Health Department Annual Report provides a snapshot of the health status of our community and the work we do to improve the overall health of Manitowoc County. Our work is done in partnership with individuals, families, organizations, and the public. We focus on all factors that affect health: health behaviors, social and economic factors, clinical care, and the physical environment. The core functions of public health and the 10 essential public health services provide structure to our mission.

2022 Year in Review

The Manitowoc County Health Department continued its mission to protect and promote the health of Manitowoc County in partnership with our community.

The Public Health Nursing team responded to communicable diseases throughout the community, working with providers, facilities, and individuals to prevent the spread of disease. The team also improved routine vaccination rates among children by decreasing barriers and promoting health education. They also worked with families to prevent or reduce childhood lead poisoning and began numerous health education initiatives to address pressing public health concerns in Manitowoc County.

The Environmental Health staff continued to protect public health and safety through inspection and licensing of retail food establishments, campgrounds, swimming pools, and motels. They also responded to notifications of human health hazards, collected water samples, and visited homes of lead-poisoned children.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) staff worked with pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children to help them access supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, and breastfeeding information and education. WIC again offered both virtual and in-person visits to clients in order to serve people in the way that met their needs best.

The Health Department is served by a team of dedicated people who are passionate about meeting the public health needs of Manitowoc County. The future is bright.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Lambert, MPH

COUNTY OF MANITOWOC

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County Executive

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Chairperson of the County Board

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Annalisa Valli, R.N., B.S.N	Rochelle John

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Norma Medrano, Bi-lingual Health Aide
Luarmarie Rosado Rivera, Bi-lingual Health Aide

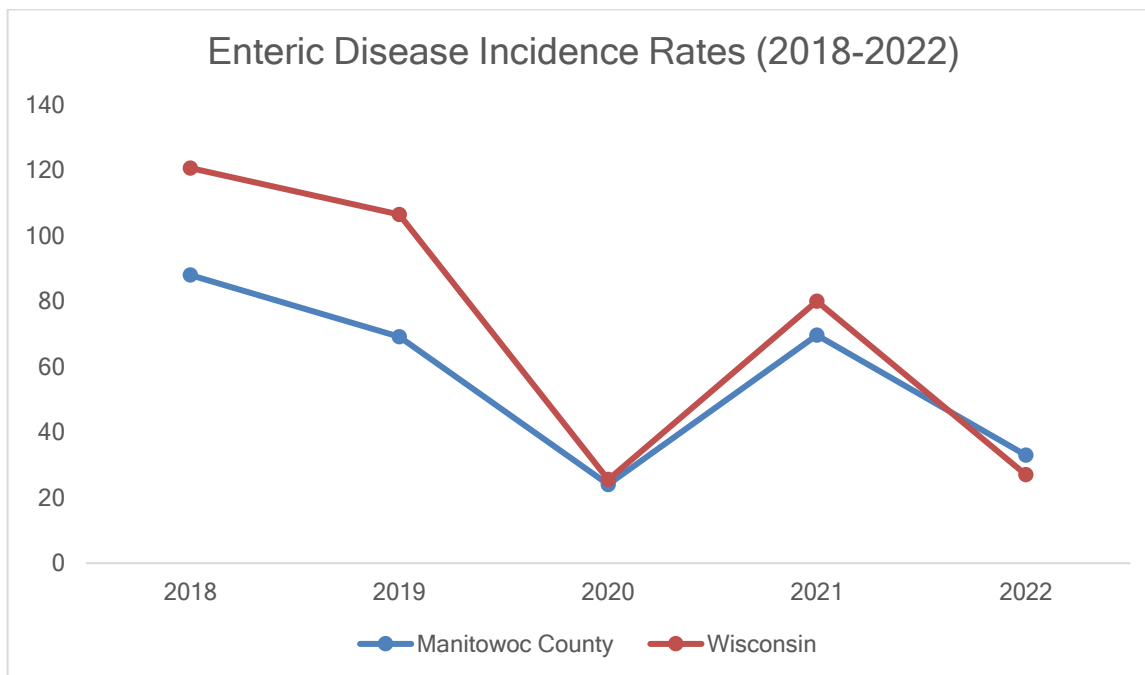
* Retired or left their position in 2022

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Statutorily required program to prevent, suppress and control the spread of communicable disease through immunizations, reporting, contact follow up, and assurance of appropriate treatment and community interventions through department surveillance.

Enteric Disease

Both Manitowoc County and the State saw a decline in reportable enteric infections during 2022. Manitowoc County had slightly more cases of enteric disease than the state average in 2022.



Several enteric infections were reported in 2022, including 11 cases of cryptosporidiosis, 9 cases of salmonellosis, 3 cases of giardiasis, and fewer than 5 cases of shigellosis, hepatitis A and non-cholera vibriosis.

Tick-Borne Diseases

The primary tick-borne infection in Manitowoc County residents in 2022 was once again Lyme disease, increasing from 22 cases in 2021 to 36 cases in 2022. Fewer than 5 cases of ehrlichiosis / anaplasmosis were detected. Both diseases are transmitted to humans through the bite of infected ticks. If left untreated, infection can spread throughout the body. Steps to avoid tick-bite infections include using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly, and reducing or avoiding tick habitat.

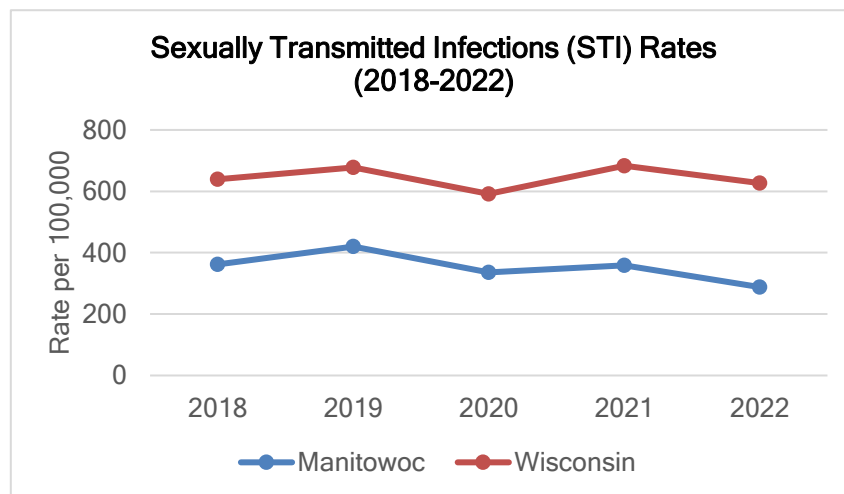
Non-COVID-19 Respiratory Diseases

Some respiratory diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) and certain influenza cases are required to be reported to the Health Department, where the cases are investigated and followed up as necessary. The majority of the reported contagious bacterial respiratory diseases are suspect TB. There were fewer than 5 cases of active TB reported in 2022 and 14 cases of latent TB (LTBI). All cases of active TB initiated or completed treatment, and eight individuals with LTBI initiated or completed treatment with medication to prevent active TB.

Influenza is only reportable when there is an outbreak, pediatric death or hospitalization identified. In 2022, there were 9 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported. This is an increase from the 3 hospitalizations reported in 2021.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

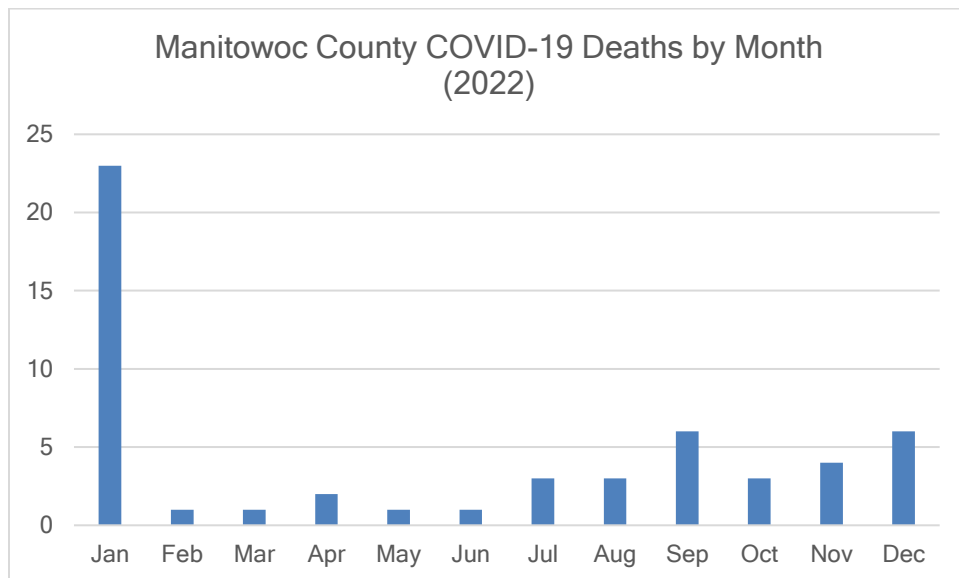
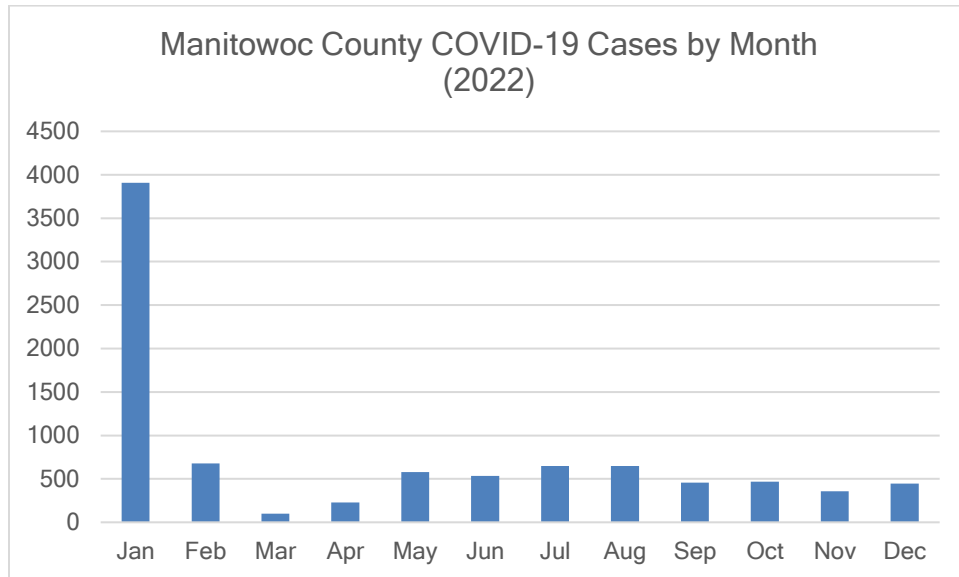
Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) remain an area of concern for Manitowoc County, although rates of infection remain below the Wisconsin state average. The Health Department follows up on STIs by contacting high-risk individuals to educate them about the disease, facilitate treatment, and trace partners to prevent continued spread of the disease.



Reported incidence of STIs has generally declined over the last several years, with the exception of rising cases of syphilis. In 2022, there were 190 cases of chlamydia, 33 cases of gonorrhea, and 9 cases of syphilis.

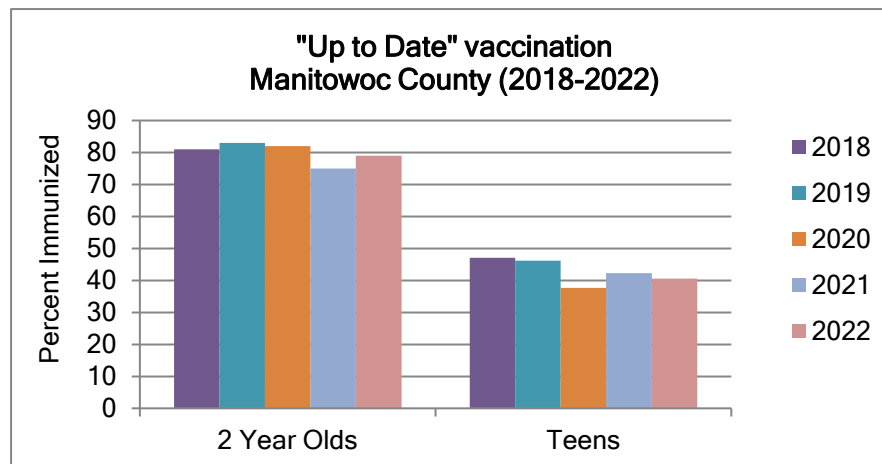
COVID-19 Disease

COVID-19 posed a reduced yet still significant public health threat throughout 2022. Manitowoc County had 8,597 reported cases, resulting in 227 hospitalizations and 53 deaths. COVID-19 was the fifth leading cause of death in Manitowoc County in 2022.



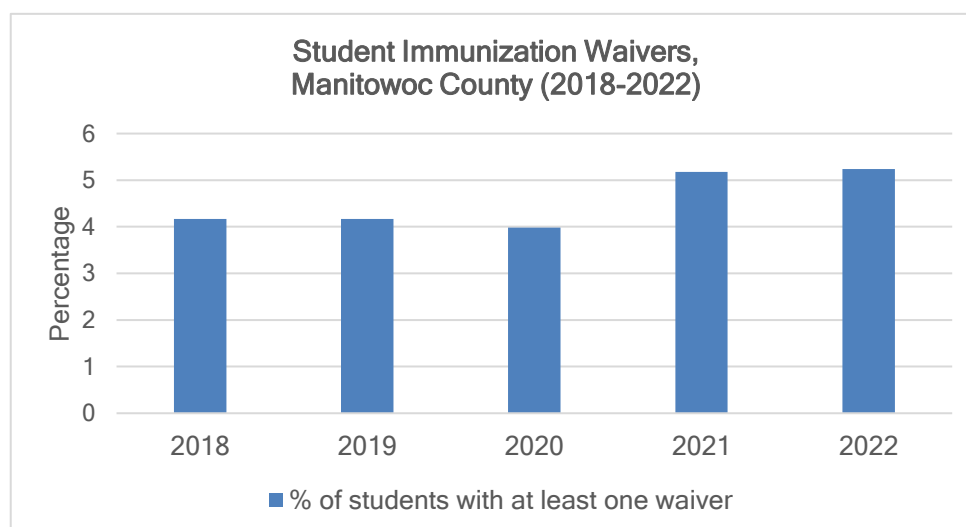
Routine Immunizations

Approximately 90% of children should be immunized to prevent outbreaks of contagious, vaccine-preventable disease and protect those most vulnerable. The Health Department sends reminder notices to the parents of children under the age of 3 who may be in need of vaccination, a proven method for increasing the scheduling and attendance of vaccine appointments.



Routine vaccination rates are suboptimal in Manitowoc County. Increasing vaccination coverage is an identified priority for the State of WI and the Manitowoc County Health Department. The Health Department offered weekly vaccine clinics for eligible children and offered some on-site school vaccine clinics in 2022.

All states allow for medical exemptions to immunization requirements. The State of Wisconsin also allows exemption based on religion or personal convictions. Families who claim exemptions from vaccine for any reason are at increased risk of developing a vaccine preventable disease, and can also increase the risk of outbreaks in the community.



PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

Public health nurses use their extensive knowledge of the community to organize community resources to collaboratively meet the health needs of families and individuals.

Interventions are the core of public health nurse activities which nurses carry out on behalf of individuals, families, systems, and communities to improve or protect health status.

Public health nurses are strong advocates for individuals and families and provide health education, disease prevention and health promotion to improve outcomes.

Health Education

Education on communicable disease exposure and control and immunization information were the topics most commonly discussed with clients. Other topics included childhood lead poisoning prevention, information about community agencies and their services, and head lice/scabies information.

Health Teaching Topic	No. of Activities
Communicable disease control	135
Immunization information	33
Lead testing/prevention	18
Agency services	5
Head lice/Scabies	4
Other	21

Referral and Follow Ups

Public Health Nurses determine the most appropriate referral based on the need and availability of effective strategies and resources in the community. Referrals were made to various community partners, including healthcare providers and food and housing assistance programs. Follow up time was spent on communicable diseases and childhood lead poisoning prevention activities.

Referral/Follow-up Type	No. of Activities
Communicable disease control	969
Lead testing/prevention	170
Immunization information	72
Community resources	16
Communicable disease exposure	14
Access to health care	9
Agency services	5
Other	44

Other Public Health Activities

Public Health Nurses offer a variety of services to the public. This includes providing routine childhood immunizations, administering TB skin tests, distributing well water test kits for households with pregnant women and infants, ad hoc walk-in visits, childhood lead tests, distribution of eyeglass vouchers for children, and blood pressure checks.

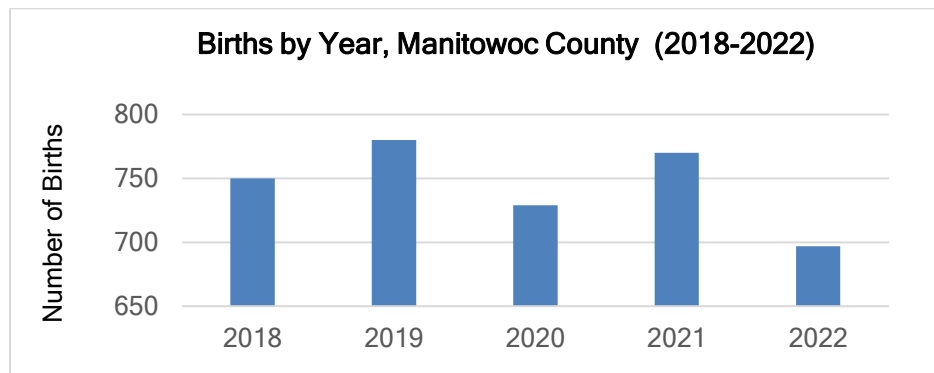
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Healthy birth outcomes and early identification and treatment of health conditions among infants can prevent death or disability and enable children to reach their full potential.

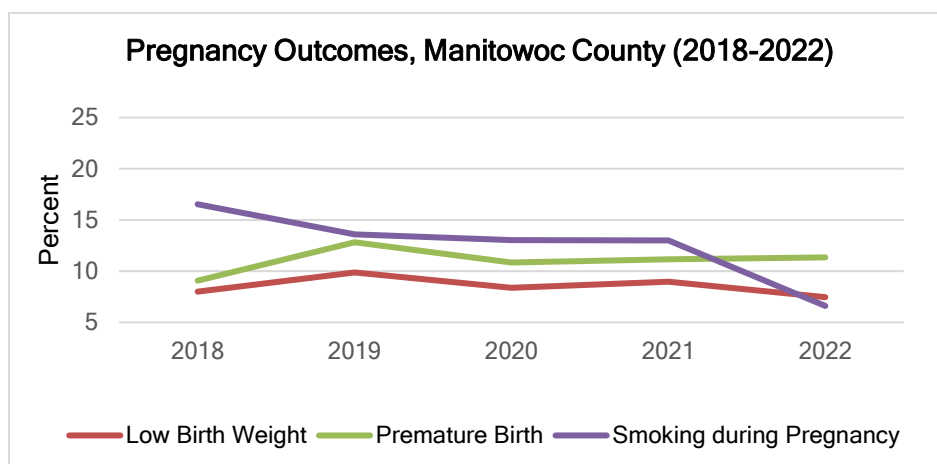
The Health Department offers pregnancy testing and child blood lead testing. These screenings contribute to healthy birth and early childhood development outcomes.

Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes

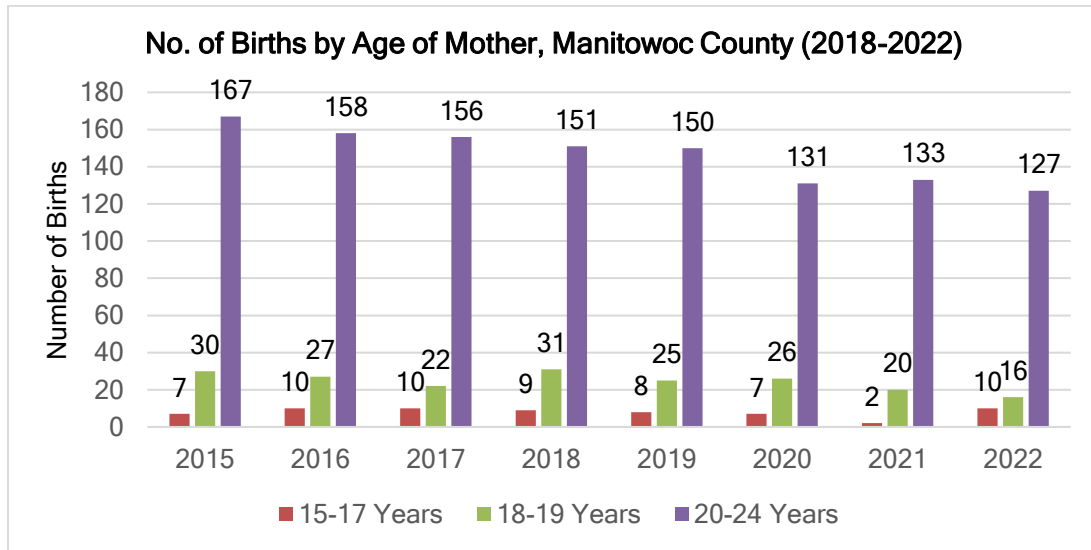
Healthy outcomes are increased by providing parents of all children born in Manitowoc County with age-appropriate information.



Smoking rates negatively impact premature birth and low birth weight. The number of women who smoked during pregnancy decreased in 2022. Nurses offer referral to tobacco cessation resources as well as to the WIC programs.



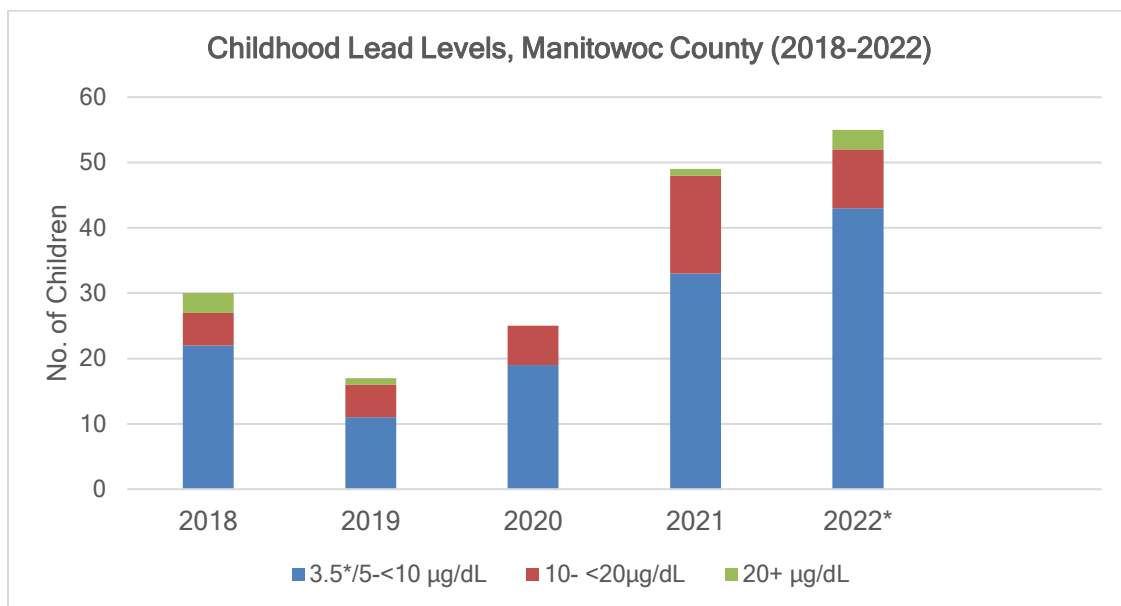
Young pregnant women are at a much higher risk of having serious medical complications. Nurses refer people at risk of becoming pregnant to providers to prevent unplanned pregnancies and refer high-risk pregnant individuals for appropriate case management to resources such as WIC. The number of young women delivering babies continues to decline, though there was an increase in the number of teenage pregnancies in 2022.



Childhood Lead Exposure

No safe blood lead level in children has been identified. Because lead exposure often occurs with no obvious symptoms, it frequently goes unrecognized and can affect neurological development of the child. In 2022, the blood lead reference level reduced from 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ to 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. Lead screening is provided along with follow up and case management in children with blood lead levels ≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ with intensive services for children that have levels ≥ 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

The number of children who received services for elevated blood lead levels increased in 2022, largely due to the reduced blood lead reference value.



Manitowoc County Health Department has a robust program for preventing and addressing lead poisoning in children.* Public Health Nurses provide educational phone calls, letters, and home visits to children who test positive for lead poisoning. They are also able to provide a nursing assessment and developmental assessment of the child, as well as a referral to Birth to 3. Environmental Health staff provide information on improving environmental safety, conduct home visits, and can perform Environmental Lead Hazard Investigations to help make the home safer for lead poisoned children.

**Outreach activities vary depending on the severity of lead poisoning.*

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health focuses on the protection and promotion of a healthy environment by preventing, assessing, correcting and controlling agents in the environment which could have adverse effects on the health and well-being of individuals and communities of Manitowoc County.

Inspections and Licensing

The Environmental Health Section of the Manitowoc County Health Department licenses and inspects the following facilities within Manitowoc County through contracts with the following Wisconsin agencies: DATCP and DSPS

Manitowoc County Licensed Establishments	License Year 2017-2018	License Year 2018-2019	License Year 2019-2020	License Year 2020-2021	License Year 2021-2022
All Retail Facilities	470	466	491	454	501
School Food Service (non-licensed)	19	19	18	19	19
Lodging	64	61	88	93	107
Campgrounds	11	11	11	12	16
Recreation and Educational Camps	7	6	6	6	7
Body Art	8	8	9	7	6
Swimming Pools, Whirlpools and Therapy Pools	35	33	37	34	36
Mobile Home Parks	13	13	11	14	12
Total	627	617	671	639	704

Radon Information Center

Environmental Health staff provides radon information and outreach for Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Calumet Counties in Northeastern Wisconsin through a grant from the State of Wisconsin and EPA. Radon is a naturally occurring radiological gas that has been linked to lung cancer. We provide information and test kits to citizens. Short term and long term test kits were offered for sale at cost from the Manitowoc County Health Department.

Test Kits Distributed	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Short Term Kits	187	281	158	225	174
Long Term Kits	52	44	40	44	53

Radiation Protection

Through a contract with the State of Wisconsin, environmental health staff collects environmental samples, such as air, milk, and water, around the area of the nuclear plants. Three staff members serve on the State Emergency Response Team which train yearly. The staff participate in the nuclear exercises with a field team, in the EOC, and nurses staffing the congregate care facilities. Public health staff are also prepared to staff an emergency station to help with dosimetry.

Safe Drinking Water

The Manitowoc County Health Department is involved in 2 aspects of monitoring and testing drinking water in Manitowoc County.

Transient Non-Community Well Program: The Environmental Health Section has a contract with the Wisconsin DNR for the purpose of assuring compliance with the Safe Drinking Water code as it applies to public transient non-community water systems. TNC water systems include rural churches, restaurants, parks and taverns and other businesses that serve over 25 different people 60 days or more per year. Work includes collecting drinking water samples, inspecting the public water systems and enforcement.

Number of TNC Systems inventoried, tested, and inspected	100
Total coliform bacti samples taken	143
Total nitrate samples taken	101
Follow up visits conducted (resampling and investigations)	23

Free Well Water Testing for Houses with Pregnant Women and Infants

Manitowoc County Health Department provides free well water testing for coliform bacteria, nitrates, fluoride and metals for households with pregnant women and infants (up to 12 months old). The results provide information on the general drinking water quality from a metals perspective. Wells with abnormal results were retested after discussing possible parameters that may have contributed to the unsafe reading.

Wells tested	6
Unsafe coliform test	1
Elevated nitrate test	0

Beach Water Monitoring Program

During 2022, a total of 11 Manitowoc County beaches on Lake Michigan were monitored according to EPA standards for water quality and safety. Beach water samples are routinely collected and analyzed for total and fecal coliform bacteria. The beach monitoring program was performed through a cooperative effort between UW-Oshkosh, the Manitowoc County Health Department, the City of Manitowoc, the City of Two Rivers and the Wisconsin DNR. This program was funded through an EPA grant administered by the DNR. Results were posted to the Wisconsin Beach Health website and signage was provided at the beaches indicating to the public the most current available water conditions and any risks associated with swimming in contaminated surface water. Any level over 235 MPN is an advisory, over 1000 MPN is a beach closure.

Beach Name	# of Samples	# of Advisories	# of Closures
Blue Rail	50	6	2
Fisher Creek	27	6	4
Hika Bay	27	5	1
Lakefront Park	36	7	3
Memorial @ Parkway	30	2	0
Memorial @ Thiede	29	1	0
Neshotah Beach	50	5	0
Point Beach SF Concessions	14	0	0
Point Beach SF Lakeshore	30	3	0
Point Beach SF Lighthouse	27	2	0
Red Arrow Park	50	10	1

Rabies Control

Wisconsin law requires that all dogs and cats without current rabies vaccine that bite or scratch a human must be impounded for 10 days under surveillance of a veterinarian. Domestic animals with current rabies vaccinations are required to be home quarantined for 10 days and observed by a veterinarian 3 times throughout the quarantine. Quarantine orders are issued by local law enforcement officials and the Manitowoc County Health Department. The Manitowoc County Health Department also serves as the primary source of rabies information for local physicians, law enforcement officials and veterinarians. Domestic animals that have been exposed to wild animals that have tested positive for rabies, or that are not available for testing, require a special quarantine. These quarantine orders are issued by the Manitowoc County Health Department.

Animal Bites Reported	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dog	158	153	151	175	146
Cat	61	61	38	42	67
Wild Animal (always tested for rabies)	10	6	3	1	4
Other Domestic Animal	1	2	0	1	1
Animal Bites (total)	230	222	192	219	218

WSLH Rabies Tests	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dogs	7	3	4	7	11
Cats	11	12	4	8	10
Wild Animals and Other Domestic Animals	11	7	6	16	15
Total Animals Tested	19	22	14	31	36
Quarantine Order for Domestic Animals	1	0	6	7	5

Safe Housing, Indoor Air, and Human Health Hazard

The Environmental Health Section receives complaints regarding poor plumbing, insects, indoor air, toxic chemicals, garbage and refuse, mold, health hazards, lack of heat, and generally unfit dwellings. State Statute requires that the local health officer orders the abatement or removal of human health hazards and if the order is not complied with, arranges for the hazard to be abated. The Department also works with local building inspectors, police, Planning and Zoning, Aging and Disability Resource Center, and Human Services Departments to identify and correct poor living conditions.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Manitowoc County is prepared to respond to all emergencies with a detailed plan of action and a system of communication with community responders. The third year grant cycle was from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 and focused on the Surge Management domain including medical surge, mass care, volunteer management and fatality management.

2022 PHEP Accomplishments

- Assisted with COVID-19 vaccination and testing outreach activities
- Trained preparedness staff and at a minimum, ensured staff completed the ICS 100, ICS 200 and NIMS 700 classes
- Maintained communication with the Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition
- Designed and implemented a tabletop exercise for county department heads in partnership with Emergency Services to increase knowledge of EOC operations
- Completed Public Information Officer (PIO) training
- Participated in a regional tabletop exercise to increase ability as agencies and a region to respond to extreme cold related emergencies
- Participated in a regional tabletop exercise to review infectious disease preparedness activities
- Engaged with community organizations as part of a Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) group to build partnerships and capacity to respond to small emergencies and disasters
- Coordinated a shelter training led by Emergency Services for Health Department and Human Services staff

Grant Cycle Objectives

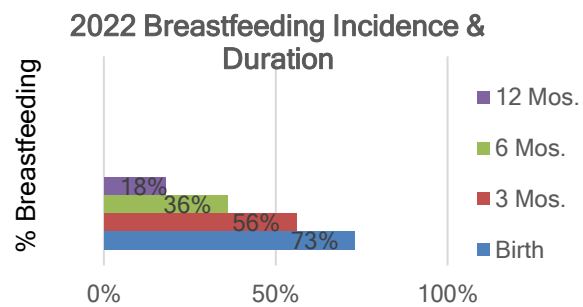
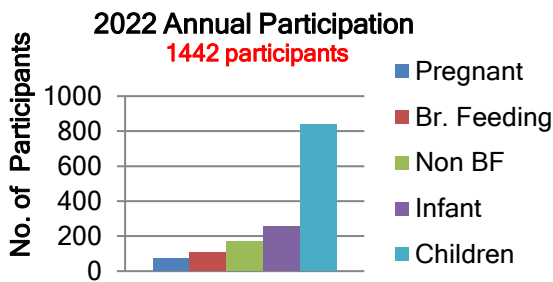
	2017-2018 Year 1	2018-2019 Year 2	2019-2020 Year 3	2020-2021 Year 4	2021-2022 Year 5
DOMAIN	Community Resilience	Information Management	Countermeasures and Mitigation	Bio surveillance	Surge Management
Capabilities	Community Preparedness & Community Recovery	Emergency Public Information and Warning & Information Sharing	Medical Countermeasure Dispensing, Medical Materiel Management and Distribution, Non-pharmaceutical Interventions & Responder Safety and Health	Public Health Laboratory Testing & Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation	Medical Surge, Mass Care, Volunteer Management & Fatality Management

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is the public health cornerstone for building healthier women, infants, children, families and communities. WIC’s goal is to improve the health of pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5.

WIC Overview

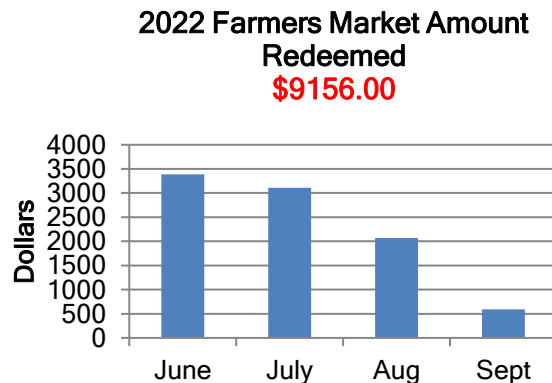
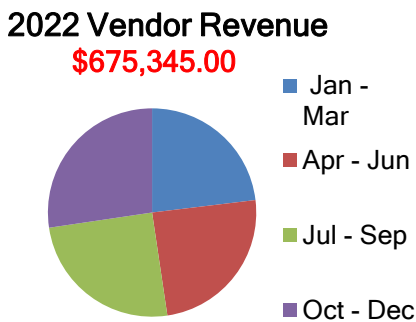
The WIC Program provides supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education and breastfeeding information/education for pregnant & postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of 5. WIC staff make referrals to other service providers including health & other government programs. Breastfeeding education includes how to breastfeed, tools to help return to work/school and continue breastfeeding, and how to obtain and use a breast pump.



WIC provides support for breastfeeding mothers with a team of nutritionists & a breastfeeding specialist I.B.C.L.C. who both prenatally and post-delivery provide breastfeeding education & support.

WIC approved vendors are located throughout Manitowoc County. There are ten locations of grocery stores and pharmacies available to our participants to purchase WIC approved foods.

The WIC Farmers Market Program offers eligible WIC families checks to buy fresh produce from June through October at approved locations.



WIC continues to help grow our local economy by the increase of dollars spent through WIC and by providing foods that are more nutritious to our local families. WIC saw an increase in vender revenue from \$588,426.00 to \$675,345.00. This increase is due to an increase in fresh fruit and vegetable monthly dollar amounts for children from \$9.00 to \$25.00, pregnant and postpartum women from \$12.00 to \$44.00, and breastfeeding women from \$15.00 to \$49.00. There was another significant increase in redemption of the Farmer’s market checks for the 2022 season. The Farmers market redemption went up \$1600.00 from 2021.