Manitowoc County Health Department

Annual Report

2023













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It is important to ur	nderstand data used within	this report may vary	slightly over time due	e to ongoing ca
follow-up and data	verification.			

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2023 Health Officer Statement & Highlights

Manitowoc County Health Department (MCHD), is pleased to provide you with the 2023 Annual Report. This report offers an overview of MCHD's efforts to advance the health and wellness of those in Manitowoc County.

This year, MCHD focused on building and strengthening our department, programs and partnerships through assessing and revamping a number of programs, services and plans. As we continued the shift from activities centered around COVID-19, to other public health activities, we reflected on lessons learned during the pandemic and changes in the community and public health system over the years.

Addressing complex health issues in a constantly changing environment requires resiliency, collaboration and participation with multiple sectors and individuals that we serve. MCHD is committed to addressing these challenges in partnership with the community. We look forward to creating more opportunities to serve those in Manitowoc County and enhance our relationships with community partners to achieve our vision of a thriving community, supporting better choices and health for all.

2023 Highlights

- The 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was published and implementation began.
- MCHD completed the 2024-2028 Strategic plan and began work on the Strategic Implementation Plan.
- MCHD staff representing all divisions participated in a FEMA evaluated Nuclear Response Exercise.
- A summer safety campaign was launched targeting youth health and safety during the summer months.
- WIC Program services returned to in person appointments.
- The MCHD brochure and website were redesigned to better reflect the work being done within the community and the role MCHD plays in achieving better health for all.
- MCHD advanced from a level II to a <u>level III</u> status by Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS).







About Us

MCHD works to protect and promote the health of those who live, learn, work and play in our community. Our activities are guided by state statutes, rules and national standards. In December 2023, MCHD was designated as a Level III health department. As a Level III health department, MCHD meets the highest level of standards identified in Wisconsin state statute and rule.

Vision

A thriving community supporting better choices and health for all.

Mission

To protect and promote the health of Manitowoc County in partnership with our community.

Values

At Manitowoc County Health Department we commit to guiding our decisions, behaviors and relationships by these values: Evidence-based, Diversity, Collaboration, Trust, Integrity, Excellence.

2023 Staff



Board of Health

The Board of Health has nine members, appointed by the <u>County Executive</u>, and includes citizen and county board representation. The <u>purpose of the board of health</u> includes providing leadership that fosters local involvement and commitment that emphasizes public health needs and that advocates for equitable distribution of public health resources and complementary private activities that match public health needs.

Members

Shirley Fessler Brian Konowalchuk Leo Naidl

Annette Kaminsky Rita Metzger (Chair) Jonathan Neils (Vice-Chair)

Shannon Kanter Nicholas Muench Catherine Wagner

Other invited attendees

Dr. Pradeep Giriyappa (Medical Advisor)

Resolutions & Ordinances

- 7/18/23 Resolution accepting 2023 Public Health Infrastructure Grant (23/24-16)
- 7/18/23 Resolution accepting 2023 Public Health Vending Machine Grant (23/24-17)
- 10/30/23 Resolution adopting health department fee schedule (23/24/43)

Guiding Frameworks

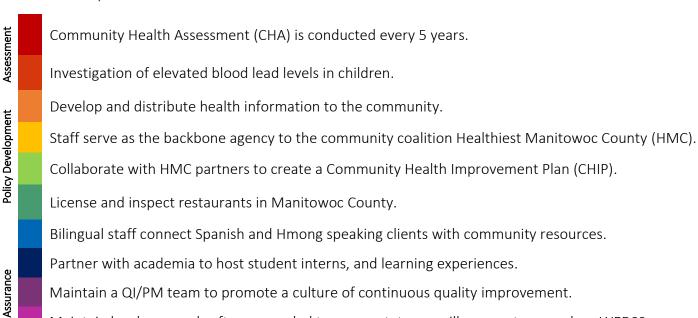
The activities and services carried out by MCHD are based on two national frameworks: the 10 Essential Services and the Foundational Public Health Services.

10 Essential Public health Services (EPHS)

The EPHS define MCHD's scope of work, describes our activities and distinguishes us from health care. By using these services as a guide, we seek to assure a larger picture of health is considered in order to achieve a healthy community.



Below are examples of how MCHD activities fit within the EPHS framework:



The Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)

<u>The FPHS framework</u> outlines the unique responsibilities of MCHD to provide public health protections and services in five different areas, and the capabilities needed to fulfill these responsibilities. The five foundational services include communicable disease, chronic disease & Injury prevention, environmental health, maternal, child, & family health, and access to & linkage to care.

Maintain hardware and software needed to access state surveillance systems such as WEDSS.

Communicable Disease

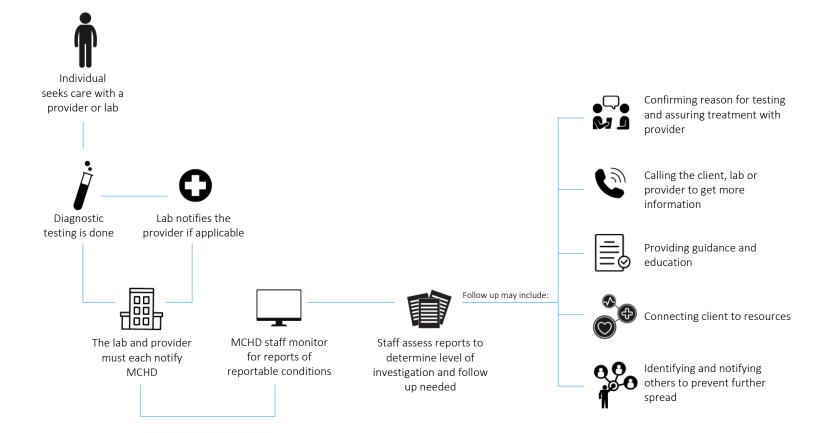
MCHD is responsible for investigating and following up on all <u>reportable conditions</u> in Manitowoc County. These diseases and conditions are considered to have significant public health impact, and any cases must be reported according to requirements described in <u>Wis. Stat. ch. 252</u>. In addition, MCHD receives a number of notifications about conditions that are not reportable by statute, but may require action.

Conditions that are reported involve varying levels of investigation and follow up. MCHD uses specific criteria for reportable conditions called a <u>surveillance case definition</u> to guide follow up activities. Surveillance case definitions are specific to public health and are different than what healthcare providers use to make clinical diagnosis or determine how to meet an individual patient's needs.



Total conditions were received and processed by MCHD in 2023. This includes cases determined to be confirmed, probable, suspect, not a case, and non-reportable conditions.

Figure 1: How MCHD is notified and investigates reportable conditions



Respiratory Diseases

MCHD activities include keeping the public informed on current and emerging health topics. Significant communicable disease changes in 2023 included:

- COVID-19 dropped to a Category II reportable condition
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) became a Category II reportable condition
- Individual cases of COVID-19 and RSV are only reportable if there is a hospitalization or pediatric death
- The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ended and MCHD activities shifted in alignment
- RSV vaccines became available for certain groups

COVID-19, Influenza, RSV

Primary activities carried out by MCHD for respiratory diseases included:

- Distributed respiratory protection kits
- Assisted individuals with barriers in scheduling appointments for vaccines at local pharmacies

COVID-19 Influenza **RSV**

- Provided guidance to high-risk congregate settings such as long-term care facilities
- Administered COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible children
- Distributed almost 1,200 test kits until the end of the antigen testing kit program in Spring of 2023

- Hosted a free, community wide flu clinic for children
- Partnered with 4 schools to provide onsite flu shots
- Administered **156 flu shots**
- Became familiar with new guidelines and vaccines
- Assessed current availability of new vaccines in the community
- Communicated guidance and recommendations to partners such as pharmacies and healthcare partners

Tuberculosis (TB)

Latent TB was one of the most commonly reported respiratory diseases in 2023. Manitowoc County's role for individuals who are suspected of having latent or active TB is to provide case management services which includes assuring treatment is completed.



LTBI Cases

Active TB Cases

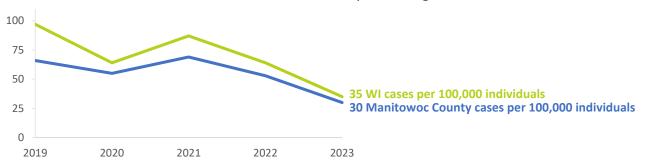
Additional cases of LTBL investigated & determined to be suspect or not a case



Enteric Diseases

<u>Enteric Diseases</u> most commonly result from consuming contaminated foods or water resulting in illnesses that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and fever. The most commonly reported enteric disease in Manitowoc County in 2023 was **Giardiasis with 10 reported cases**. In addition, MCHD collaborated with the state and other local health departments in following up with 1 enteric related outbreak.

Enteric diseases declined in 2023 for Manitowoc County, following state trends.

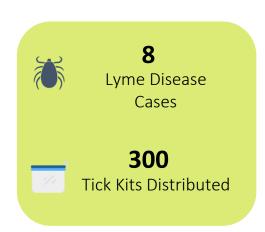


Tick-Borne Diseases

Ticks can transmit a number of diseases to humans. The most common tick-borne disease in Manitowoc County is Lyme diseases.

Manitowoc County has seen an increase in labs reporting Lyme disease due to a change in the way the disease is classified. Reports that are determined to meet the definition of a case, which specifies a characteristic bulls eye rash, are provided education, information, and resources.

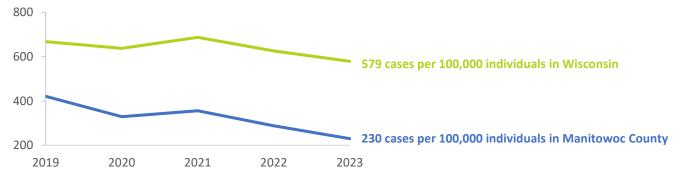
MCHD works to prevent tick born diseases by distributing free tick kits to community members and campgrounds. These kits have information and resources to prevent, and identify ticks.



Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Rates of <u>Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)</u> are below the state average, yet remain an area of concern for Manitowoc County. MCHD provides resources and community education in Manitowoc County to prevent the spread of STIs. In 2023, we began assessing locations within the community to distribute prevention related materials.

Reported incidence rates of STIs has generally declined over the last several years.

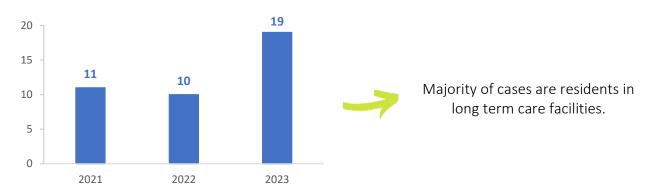


Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs)

<u>Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs)</u> are organisms that have developed the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them. Infections caused by MDROs can be difficult to treat, and there is an increased ability for the infections to spread rapidly, especially in health care settings.

Some MDROs are more concerning than others. One group of MDROs that are especially concerning are called carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs). CPOs have developed resistance to drugs that have long been considered the last line of defense to treat multidrug-resistant infections, and they can pass on resistance to other bacteria, leading to widespread antibiotic resistance.

Cases of CPOs are increasing in Manitowoc County and Wisconsin



MCHD Activities:

- Selected to participate in the WI-DHS Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Training Program, providing on-site assessment, guidance and education to 3 LTCFs throughout the NER.
- Hosted an MDRO infection prevention training in partnership with WI DHS.
- Distributed resources to LTCFs to assist with HAI education, training and response activities
- Developed a LTCF resource page on website for infection prevention reporting including MDRO cases
- Promoted "Be Antibiotics Aware" week in November, including provider outreach





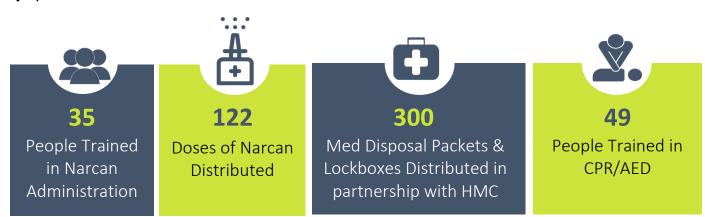
Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

<u>Leading causes of death</u> in Manitowoc County in 2023 included diseases of the heart, malignant neoplasms (cancer), accidents due to unintentional injuries and chronic lower respiratory diseases. MCHD collaborates with community partners and groups, such as <u>Healthiest Manitowoc County</u> (HMC) to promote health and reduce injuries.

Chronic Disease Activities in 2023

- Established a Self-Measured Blood Pressure Program (SMBPP) allowing individuals who may face barriers, such as cost or transportation, to monitor their blood pressure at home.
- Partnered with 2 local agencies to develop and implement a Nutrition Curriculum.
- Hosted 5 Free exercise classes supported through HMC's partnership with Froedtert Holy Family & Manitowoc Parks and Rec Department.
- Promoted cervical cancer prevention through HPV immunization reminder postcards to families.
- Expanded immunizations offered to inmates of county jail to include HPV vaccine.

Injury Prevention Activities in 2023





Environmental Public Health

<u>Environmental Health</u> (EH), centers on the relationships between people and their environment. It focuses on the protection and promotion of a healthier environment by preventing, assessing, correcting and controlling agents in the environment which could have adverse effect on the health and well-being of individuals and communities of Manitowoc County.

Inspections and Licensing*

MCHD licenses and inspects the following facilities:

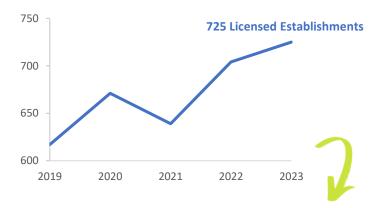
- Retail Food Facilities
- Lodging
- Campgrounds, Recreational & Educational Camps
- Body Art Facilities
- Swimming Pools, Whirlpools & Therapy Pools
- Schools-if in the USDA Hot Lunch Program

Multiple inspections may be needed for each facility. Inspection types include: pre-licensing inspections, routine inspections, re-inspections and complaint inspections

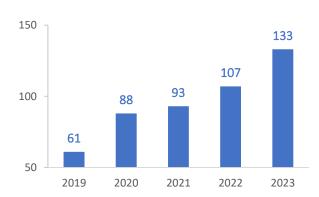


^{*}Data displayed represents the licensing year (July-June), not calendar year.

The number of establishments licensed by the Health Department has significantly increased since 2019



License number increases are largely due to an increased number of new vacation rentals





Radon Information Center

<u>Radon</u> is a naturally occurring gas that is radioactive and is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. About 1 in 10 homes in WI have high levels of radon. MCHD provides education and sells test kits as part of our role as the <u>Radon Information Center</u> for 5 counties in Northeastern Wisconsin (Region 15 in the figure on the left).



Radon Test Kits Sold

Safe Drinking Water

Transient Non-Community Well Program

MCHD assures compliance with the Safe Drinking Water code as it applies to public <u>transient non-community</u> (<u>TNC</u>) <u>water systems</u>. TNC water systems are businesses that serve a certain number of people for a certain length of time and could include rural churches, restaurants, parks and taverns.

MCHD inspects public water systems, collects drinking water samples, and assures enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Code.

 \bigcirc **98** TNC systems inspected

238 Water samples taken (coliform bacti or nitrate)

 $\triangle \triangle \triangle$ **13** Follow-ups conducted due to elevated levels

Free Well Water Testing for Houses with Pregnant Women and Infants

About 30% of WI residents get their drinking water from private wells. MCHD provides <u>free well water testing</u> for households with pregnant women and infants up to 12 months old. Wells with abnormal results are provided with education on what may have contributed to the unsafe reading and retested.

11 households were tested in 2023 with only one test determined to have unsafe levels of coliform.



Beach Water Monitoring Program

The beach monitoring program is a cooperative effort between MCHD, UW-Oshkosh, the City of Manitowoc, the City of Two Rivers and the Wisconsin DNR. Beach water samples are routinely collected and analyzed for levels of fecal coliform bacteria. Depending on the levels an <u>advisory or closure</u> is issued.

11 Manitowoc County beaches on Lake Michigan were monitored in 2023. Results were posted to the <u>Wisconsin Beach</u> <u>Health website</u> and the public notified through signage and messaging from the local health department



471 Samples Collected



64 Advisories Issued



32 Closures Issued

Radiation Protection

Manitowoc County has the only active <u>nuclear power plant</u> in the state of WI. MCHD monitors for any potential radiation emissions to assure the health of the community. 2023 activities included routine collection of environmental samples such as air, milk, and water around the area of the nuclear plant. In addition, 3 EH staff served on the State Radiological Emergency Response Field Team.

Emergency Preparedness

MCHD staff prepare for and respond to hazards and events that pose a risk to the health of the community.

In 2023, MCHD collaborated with other local and state agencies to conduct a 2-day, full-scale exercise evaluated by FEMA representatives. MCHD staff held multiple different roles/stations including: taking environmental samples on the State Radiological Emergency Response Field Team, distributing dosimetry at the reception center, distributing dosimetry at the staging area and coordinating health related activities for the event in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

MCHD played a large role in assisting with preparation for the exercise. Activities included:

- Sorted and replenished needed supplies
- Packaged 300 dosimetry kits
- Updated policies and binders of materials
- Coordinated staff training and participation
- Staged exercise locations ahead of each event



Rabies Control

Rabies is a viral disease transmitted to humans from an infected mammal, usually through a bite. Human rabies is rare in the US, but once symptoms appear it is always fatal. In Wisconsin, skunks and bats are most likely to carry the virus. Other animals such as dogs, cats, and livestock may also carry the rabies virus.

MCHD serves as the primary source of rabies information for community partners, collaborates with law enforcement and veterinarians to assure Wisconsin laws are followed, & coordinates testing of available specimens. Testing rules out the need for bite victims to undergo preventive treatment when observing the animal isn't possible.

In 2023, 22 specimens were tested a slight decrease from 36 specimens tested in 2022.

Animal Bites in Manitowoc County have not significantly changed over recent years.



227

160 Dog Bites

63 Cat Bites

Wild Animal Bites

4

Other Domestic **Animal Bites**



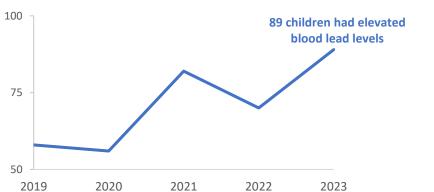
Maternal, Child & Family Health

MCHD works to improve the health status of infants, children, adolescents, and families in collaboration with community partners.

Childhood Lead Exposure

<u>Lead exposure</u> occurs by swallowing or breathing in lead or lead dust. After a child is exposed to lead damaging effects can last a lifetime. Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to negatively affect a child's development. MCHD provides education, information and resources to those children with elevated blood lead levels. Additionally, MCHD collaborates with providers to assure timely testing and follow up care. Depending on the level, more comprehensive services such as developmental screenings or environmental lead hazard investigations are conducted. At the end of 2023 MCHD began plans for increasing access to testing onsite for WIC clients and increasing provider outreach.

The number of children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels in Manitowoc County

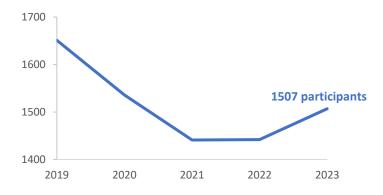




Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The <u>WIC Program</u> 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. In 2023, in-person services, which had been closed since March of 2020, were resumed. In person services allows for a more comprehensive picture of health and nutrition, and includes hands on assessments that cannot be provided remotely.

Participation in the WIC program increased slightly compared to 2022



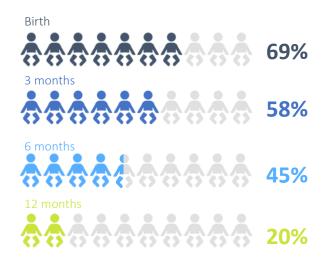
Breastfeeding

<u>Breastfeeding</u> is linked to a reduced risk for many illnesses in children and mothers. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life is linked to health benefits for infants. MCHD breastfeeding trends follow the nationwide trend for high breastfeeding initiation at birth, but with a majority not exclusively breastfeeding for the first 6 months. For those that do initiate breastfeeding at birth, Manitowoc County seen a higher duration of continued breastfeeding compared to 2022.

MCHD activities in 2023:

- One staff member completed training to be able to assist daycares with becoming designated as Breast Feeding Friendly Childcare sites.
- Resumed partnerships with 1 daycare to promote designation as a breast-feeding friendly facility.
- Conducted assessment of licensed daycares in Manitowoc County to assess interest in becoming a certified BF friendly daycare.
- MCHD began the process of recertifying 3 daycares which included providing education and training.
- Provided individual support to breastfeeding moms and babies

The percent of WIC families who breastfed decreases from birth to 6 months of age.



Economic Impact

\$779,268Vender Revenue

The WIC division provides training and support to local stores who partner with WIC. Manitowoc County had 11 WIC approved vendors including grocers and pharmacies 2023. Vendor revenue increased compared to 2022.

\$12,264
Farmer's Market
Vouchers Spent

89%

of WIC families spent some or all of their Farmer's Market Vouchers The <u>WIC Farmers Market Program</u> offers eligible WIC family's vouchers to buy fresh produce from June through October at approved locations. This program increases access to local produce which helps children eat healthier and supports family farmers with their purchasing power. In 2023, WIC staff

- Promoted farmer's market tours for families
- Provided nutrition education to individuals receiving farmer's market vouchers
- Trained framers to become authorized in the farmer's market voucher program

Access and Linkage to Care

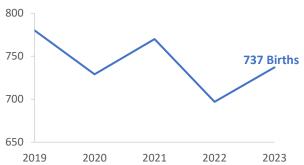
MCHD works with partners to assure an effective system that enables all individuals have access to services and care needed to be healthy. Staff work to promote a variety of community resources, provide services that support healthy pregnancies, screenings for developmental delays, and assist non-English speaking women get connected to mammogram screenings.

Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes

Welcome Baby Packets

Healthy outcomes are increased by providing parents of every child born in Manitowoc County with a Welcome Baby Packet of information. Information includes the recommended immunization schedule, car seat safety information, early literacy practices, and community resources.

Number of births in Manitowoc County



Free Pregnancy Testing

MCHD provides free pregnancy testing for individuals without health insurance. Based on the test results, staff assists individuals with enrollment in badger care, getting appointments set up with a physician, and enrollment in the WIC program. Referrals for tobacco cessation and case management may also be made.

33Pregnancy Tests

Provided

Early Screening

MCHD supports a community effort to get young children screened for developmental progress. In partnership with other agencies, MCHD staff are trained to provide a <u>screening tool</u> and make referrals to services based on individual child/family needs. In 2023, the addition of training bilingual staff increased accessibility of screening events to non-English speakers.

47

Developmental

Screens Conducted

Tuberculosis (TB) Testing

For a small fee, MCHD provides <u>TB skin testing</u>. TB skin tests are done to determine if an individual has been exposed to <u>Tuberculosis</u> bacteria. Some employers require TB skin tests be completed as a term of employment. MCHD connects individuals who do not have insurance or their insurance doesn't cover the cost of TB medication to treatment.

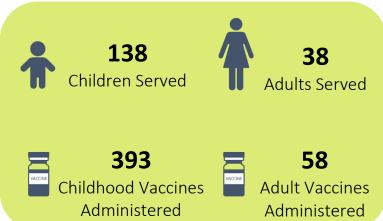
120 TB Skin Tests Administered

Routine Immunizations

MCHD works to encourage and increase access to routine immunizations, provide guidelines, and educate on the importance of vaccination. MCHD is enrolled as a provider for 2 state programs: Vaccines for Children (VFC) and <a href="Vaccines for Adults (VFA). These programs allow eligible individuals to receive CDC recommended vaccines outlined by the programs free of charge.

Activities in 2023

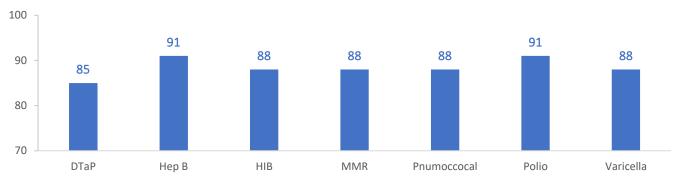
- Reminder notices sent to families of children that are due for recommended childhood vaccines.
- Hosted a <u>weekly vaccine clinic</u> for eligible children through the VFC program
- Established partnership with the jail to provide eligible adults with vaccines through the VFA program



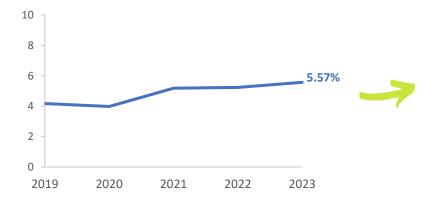
Vaccination Coverage

The percentage of people that have received the recommended vaccines is important to measure how well our community is protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

% of 2 year olds in Manitowoc County who received age-appropriate doses for each CDC recommended childhood vaccines (as of 12/31/2023).



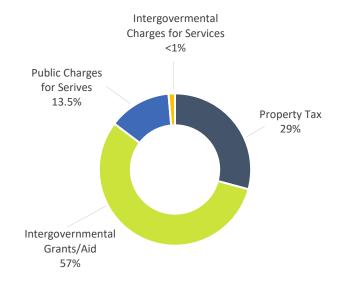
% of student's with at least one vaccine waiver



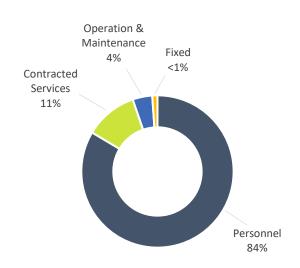
Manitowoc County's waiver rate is slightly higher than the 2022-2023 school year's average for the State of WI.
Increased number of vaccine waivers, reduces the protection from outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

Financial Overview

How MCHD is Funded 2023 revenue



What the Funding Supports 2023 expenses



Revenue Breakdown

Property Taxes	\$534,078
Intergovernmental Grants/Aid	\$1,027,035
Public Charges for Services	\$243,800
 Intergovernmental Charges for Services 	\$300

Total Revenue \$1,805,213

Expense Breakdown

Total Expenses	\$1,805,213
Fixed	\$14,081
Operation & Maintenance	\$75,327
Contracted Services	\$202,598
Personnel	\$1,513,207

Appendix A

Communicable Disease Case Counts for Manitowoc County

This report contains data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) Division of Public Health PHAVR - WEDSS County Board of Health Report for Manitowoc County from 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023. The numbers reflect **confirmed and probable cases** unless otherwise noted. Counts are subject to change due to ongoing case follow up and data verification. For diseases with less than 5 cases, exact numbers are not shown.

of confirmed &

Disease Name	probable cases
Drug Resistant Organisms	
Vancomycin-Intermediates. Aureus (VISA)	<5
Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)	<5
Candida Auris, Colonization/Screening	<5
Carbapenemase Producing Organism (CPO)	16
Enteric and Gastrointestinal	
Campylobacteriosis	26
Cryptosporidiosis	6
E-Coli, Enteropathogenic (EPEC) & E-Coli,	32
Enterotoxigenic (ETEC)	
E-Coli, Shiga Toxin- Producing (STEC)	11
Giardiasis	10
Salmonellosis	12
Yersinosis	<5
Invasive Bacteria	
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group A	12
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group B	13
Fungal	
Blastomycosis	<5
Coccidioidomycosis	<5
Histoplasmosis	<5
Respiratory	
COVID-19	2,004
COVID-19- Associated Hospitalization	26
Influenza	5
Influenza-Associated Hospitalization	26
Legionellosis	<5
RSV-Associated Hospitalization	<5
Tuberculosis (TB)	<5
Tuberculosis, Latent Infection (LTBI)	14

of confirmed & probable cases

Disease Name	probable cases
Sextually Transmitted	
Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection	164
Gonorrhea	8
Syphilis	15
Vaccine Preventative	
Hepatitis A	<5
Hepatitis B, Chronic	<5
Meningitis, Bacterial Other	<5
Parapertussis	<5
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	<5
Streptococcus Pneumoniae, Invasive Disease	8
Varicella (Chickenpox)	<5
Vectorborne	
Lyme Disease, Erythema Migrans (EM) Rash	8
Lyme Laboratory Report	40
Other tickborne illnesses (Anaplasmosis,	<5
Babesiosis, etc.)	
Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiosis,	<5
Undetermined	
Zoonotic	
Toxoplasmosis	<5
Other	
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	5
Hepatitis C	30
Unusual Disease	<5
Mycobacterial Disease (Non-Tuberculous)	<5
Silicosis	<5

We Want to Hear From You!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for how we can improve on this report <u>let us know!</u>

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healthdepartment@manitowoccountywi.gov



