

MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



Monroe County
Health
DEPARTMENT

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Letter to the Community

To County Supervisors, Board of Health Members, Colleagues, Partners and County Residents:

I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report. We began the year with a surge in COVID-19 cases, the opening of a testing site to meet the needs of the community, the final departure of our Afghan guests, staff turnover, and the rebuilding of Public Health programs. It was a year of change, growth and excitement for what lies ahead.

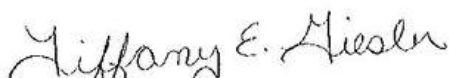
We have been able to return to the community, re-invigorate our coalition work and develop our Community Health Improvement Plan. This has allowed us to identify our top priorities and focus as we move into 2023. As we move forward, our focus will be on Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug Use, and Safe and Affordable Housing.

We look forward to building off our 2022 accomplishments of an in-house bacteria water lab, vaccination clinics to improve our immunizations rates for vaccine preventable diseases, building deeper connections with our partners, and expanding the passion and drive of our dedicated staff.

Monroe County is blessed with great County Board Supervisors, Board of Health members, Partners, County residents and Administrator.

The Health Department looks forward to continuing to protect, promote and improve the health of county residents as we work towards Healthy People, Healthy Monroe County.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Giesler, RN, BSN, PHN
Monroe County Health Department Director/Health Officer

About Us

Our Staff

- Tiffany Giesler, RN, PHN, Director/Health Officer
- Kelsey Hanson, RN, PHN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor
- Lindsey Goyette, RN, PHN
- Julie Peterson, RN, PHN
- Laura Reutlinger, MA, CHE
- Eryn Leahy, BS, CHES®
- Hannah Shimanek, BS, CHES®
- Laura Davis, Medical Office Associate
- Connie Berendes, Bookkeeper
- Lory Jenkins, Medical Transcriptionist/Clerk
- Bryanna Hoff, WIC & Nutritionist Manager
- Paige Zimmerman, WIC & Nutritionist
- Lisa Ewert, WIC Program Assistant
- Kate Swenson, WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

Public Health strives to protect and promote the health of all people in our community. MCHD staff focus on our mission, core values, and vision to guide our work.

Our Mission

"To protect, promote, and improve the health of county residents."

Our Vision

"Healthy People, Healthy Monroe County"

Our Values

"Integrity, Equity, Collaborate & Advocate"

Community Data

County Health Rankings

The County Health Rankings Model is based on factors that influence how long and how well we live. This model takes into account 30 measures that help communities understand the health of residents today (health outcomes) and the impact on health in the future (health factors). Wisconsin Counties are ranked among all 72 counties in the state. According to the 2022 County Health Rankings, Monroe County is ranked as follows:

- Overall Rank: 45
- Health Outcomes: 45
- Health Factors: 30

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

In 2022, MCHD staff spent time creating the 2023–2026 CHIP. The creation of the CHIP involved multiple phases.

1. Analyzing community data
2. Meeting with stakeholders
3. Meeting with community members
4. Creating goals and action plans for our health priorities
5. Designing and creating the report

Moving forward in 2023, MCHD staff will work towards completing the goals identified in our CHIP which include:

- Improve mental health and decrease suicide rates in Monroe County.
- Reduce and prevent the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in Monroe County.
- Improve access to safe and affordable housing in Monroe County.

The full report can be found on our [website](#) under the Resources tab.



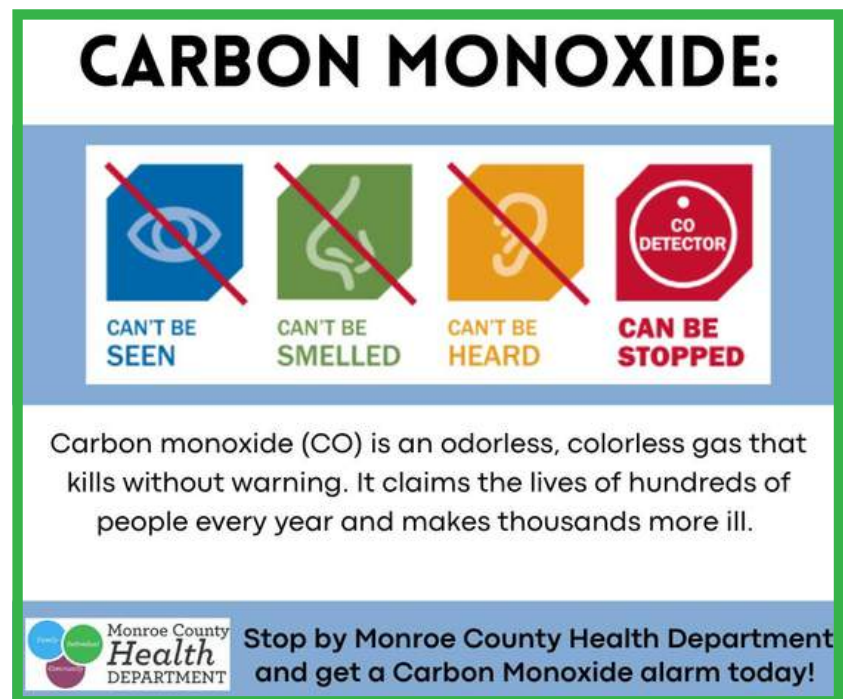
Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Preparedness Campaigns

MCHD is a member of a regional consortium known as the Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium (WWPHRC). Established in 2003 with funds from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the WWPHRC was established to develop core expertise and preparedness in response to bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats. This is accomplished through networking, coordinating, standardizing, and centralizing our resources and planning efforts among the fifteen local public and tribal agency partners in Western Wisconsin.

As a part of WWPHRC, MCHD did three campaigns to prepare Monroe County residents for emergencies. The first campaign provided education and access to free Carbon Monoxide alarms. Through this campaign, the Health Department provided 65 carbon monoxide detectors to county residents. When receiving these, residents were provided with education and fact sheets related to:

- Protecting Your Family from Carbon Monoxide
- Using Generators Safely



CARBON MONOXIDE:

CAN'T BE SEEN **CAN'T BE SMELLED** **CAN'T BE HEARD** **CO DETECTOR** **CAN BE STOPPED**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that kills without warning. It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill.

Monroe County Health DEPARTMENT Stop by Monroe County Health Department and get a Carbon Monoxide alarm today!

Recipients were asked to complete a survey assessing growth in knowledge.

Of the 65 respondents, 62 identified an increase in knowledge in one or more of the following areas:

- What the State Law on Carbon monoxide is.
- How often batteries should be changed in Carbon monoxide alarms.
- The symptoms related to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- What should be done if the carbon monoxide alarm sounds or if symptoms are experienced.

This campaign was very successful and our department was able to distribute all the alarms received from WWPHRC.

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

The second campaign provided education and access to free weather radios and solar lanterns. The focus was to encourage residents to prepare emergency kits for their homes and vehicles. MCHD distributed 50 weather radios and solar lanterns to residents.

The final campaign was Fight the Bite. MCHD distributed 80 fight the bite kits to residents. Kits included insect repellent spray and towelettes, tweezers and tick prevention education.



American Red Cross Partnership

In August, the Health Department joined in a partnership with the American Red Cross as a Direct Service Partner. The program aims to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by providing smoke alarms for Health Department staff to install in resident homes. In 2022, MCHD installed 6 smoke alarms in residents' homes.

Community Partnerships

Monroe County Health Department partners with the following coalitions and groups to make improvements in our county and region.

- Child Death Review
- Dementia Friendly Monroe County
- Monroe County Safe Community Coalition
- Monroe County Mental Health Coalition
- Monroe County Nutrition Coalition
- Resilient and Trauma-Informed Community
- Safe Kids Coulee Region
- Seven C's Health Initiative
- Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
- Wisconsin Public Health Association

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

General Health Education

Monroe County Health Department staff provides outreach and education to community groups, school districts, key stakeholders, legislators, and the general public. 2022 topics included: radon, mold and vermin education, information and assistance with finding and accessing community resources, immunizations, post-partum care, nutrition and physical activity, infectious disease and STI prevention, bloodborne pathogens, first aid, mental health, car seat, safe sleep, arsenic, and well water, and other general public health topics. Highlights of events included:

- National Night Out in Tomah and Sparta
- ACEs and Trauma Informed Care for Norwalk Ontario Wilton School District
- Human Growth and Development for Cashton Schools
- Fort McCoy Wellness Fair
- Dairy Breakfast
- AED Training
- Century Foods Wellness Fair
- Norwalk Wellness Resource Fair
- Space Camp Presentation
- Sparta Arms Seasonal Depression Presentation



Social Media

MCHD strives to use technology to enhance health education and public awareness. In 2022, an Instagram page was created to reach more residents with education. The Monroe County Health Department website and social media pages provide education, information, and awareness about a variety of health topics throughout the year. The Health Department also provides local media with press releases; 77 press releases were sent to be published.

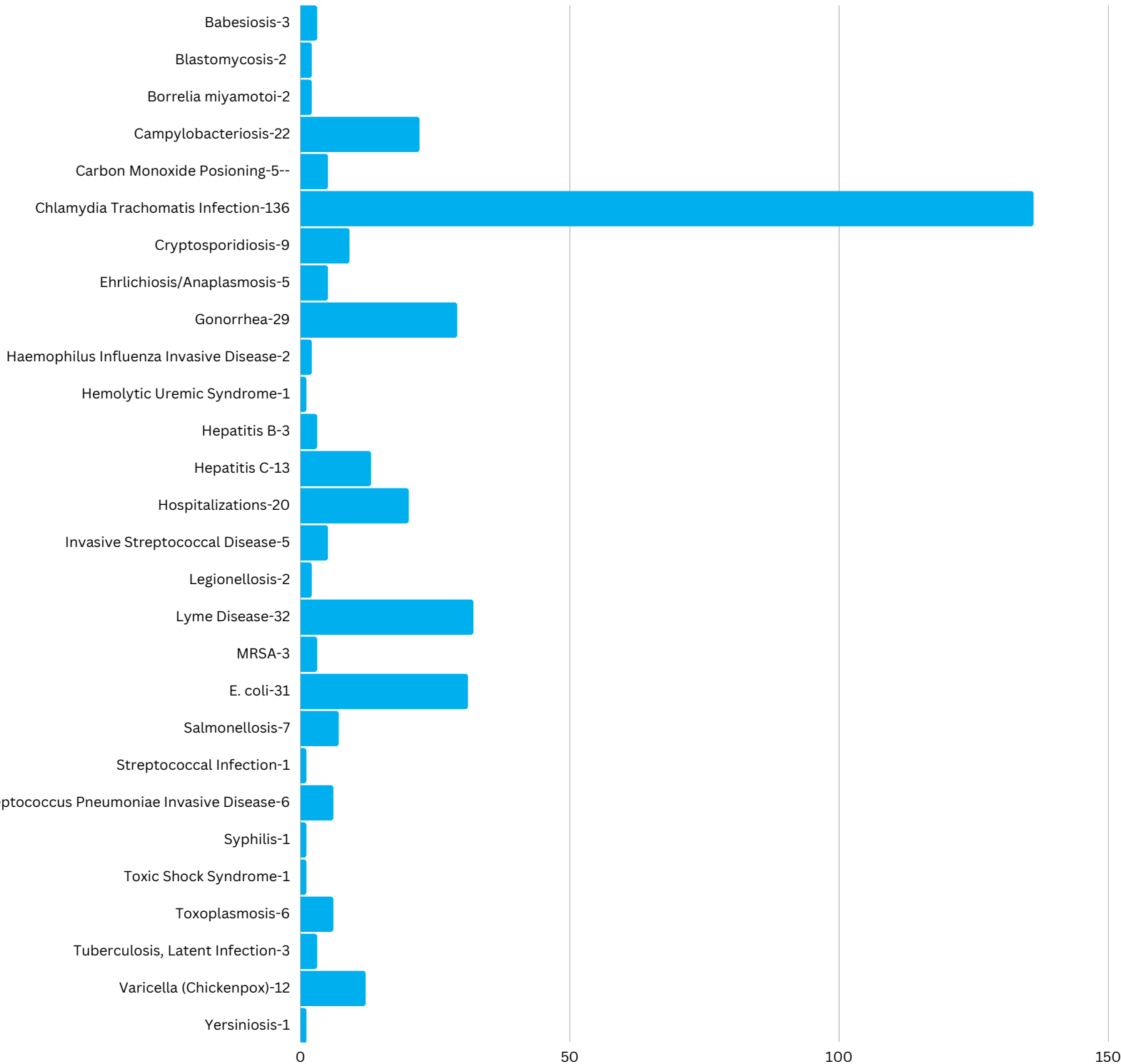
Newsletter

MCHD Community Health Educators started a monthly E-Newsletter discussing various health observances and events. You can subscribe to the newsletter on our website.



Communicable Disease Control

Surveillance, investigation, and follow-up of reportable communicable diseases are statutorily required of local health departments. Please see the chart below to see the diseases MCHD followed-up on in 2022:



Communicable Disease Control

Animal Bites

Investigation of reported animal bites for possible rabies exposure is conducted to assure that serious illness or death from the transmission of rabies is prevented. This program is designed to coordinate an effective rabies control procedure between MCHD, law enforcement, veterinarians, and healthcare partners.

Animal bites are reported to MCHD for follow-up. Monitoring of the animal for signs of rabies is done by a licensed veterinarian. If the animal is not able to be monitored or sent in for testing, the bite victim is recommended to have a series of vaccinations that prevents the onset of the fatal rabies virus.

In 2022, the health department followed-up on seven animal bite exposures. Zero animals were positively identified to have rabies. Three victims were started on rabies vaccination following exposure to a bat.



WHAT TO DO if your dog or cat bites someone

- Exchange Contact Information**
This will help you and the person who was bitten communicate if further action needs to be taken to prevent rabies.
- Call the Health Department**
Report the bite to the health department for further instruction to prevent rabies.
- Contact Your Vet**
Alert your vet that your dog or cat has bitten someone. Follow your vet's instructions.

FACT: Bats Can Carry Rabies

Bat bites and scratches are often small and **unnoticeable**. If there is a chance you could have been bitten or scratched (for example, you woke up and there was a bat in the room OR if a small child was near the bat), you should call your doctor's office AND the local health department.

If possible, safely capture the bat so it can be tested for rabies. **Avoid crushing the bat's head because the brainstem is needed for testing. DO NOT** store the bat in a freezer.

April 26, 2022.

Communicable Disease Control

COVID-19: Evolving from Pandemic to Endemic

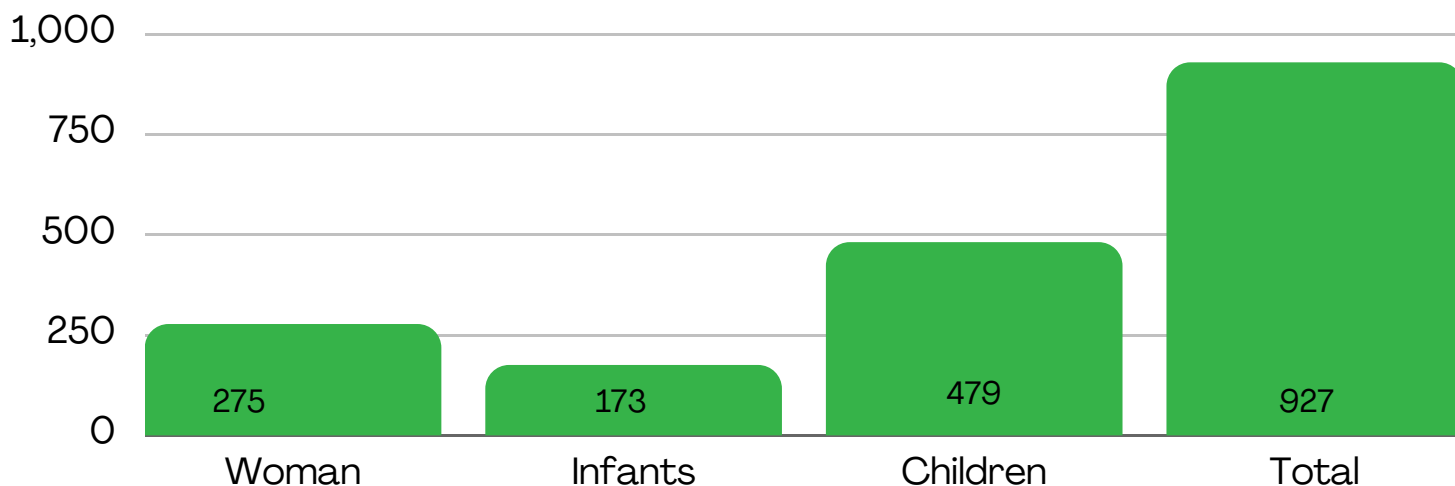
MCHD staff supported our community in many ways with the COVID-19 response over the past two years. From the initial phases of the pandemic with contact tracing, assistance with guidance and protocols, to currently with vaccines and long-term management of COVID-19 into our day to day lives. Contact Tracing primarily with high-risk groups, coordination of testing events and vaccinations have been the focus of our COVID-19 work this past year. MCHD had 5,197 Positive COVID -19 cases.

Contact Tracing	Testing	Vaccines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any confirmed positive case of COVID-19 still requires level 1 follow up and response as mandated by the state of Wisconsin. MCHD continues to help support our community members by reaching out to all reported positive cases either by phone or a letter. Infection prevention education and support was provided to facilities experiencing outbreaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCHD provided testing through an increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) Surge Site. It operated from 2/9/2022- 3/5/2022 providing testing Monday-Saturday from 9am-7pm. At home antigen test kits were provided to county residents beginning in June. Kits were available for pick up from the health department. In this 6-month period, 685 test kits were distributed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly COVID-19 vaccines clinics, for all ages, on Fridays in the office. This was supported by AMI from July-December. MCHD also provided COVID 19 vaccination throughout the county. In 2022, MCHD provided the following COVID vaccines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3- Janssen 454 -Moderna Monovalent 164-Moderna Bivalent 306 -Pfizer Monovalent 23- Pfizer Bivalent

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program

The purpose of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is to promote and maintain the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five. WIC provides supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition and breastfeeding information, and referrals to other health and nutrition services. Income eligibility requirements for WIC extend to 185% of the poverty level. The WIC foods align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics. It promotes WIC as the premier public health nutrition program with a strong focus on breastfeeding as the normal way to feed babies. Foods provided include fruits and vegetables; whole grains such as 100% whole wheat bread, buns, rolls, tortillas, or brown rice, hot or cold cereal; protein foods such as peanut butter, beans, peas, eggs, and canned fish; milk, yogurt, cheese, and tofu; baby foods and formula. The WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program provides vouchers for families to purchase fresh produce from local farmers. In 2022, our WIC program held 211 clinic days to meet the needs of the 927 total participants.



WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program

The WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program provides frequent contacts to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers for breastfeeding promotion and support. A Peer fills a unique niche in providing support to WIC participants when they need it most, which often includes evenings and weekends. Peers have basic breastfeeding knowledge to assist mothers with common concerns. They also can relate well to the WIC mothers through their own experience with WIC and breastfeeding. The WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator has specialized training to assist mothers with more complex problems.

Maternal, Child , & Family Health

Car Seat Program

MCHD receives a Child Passenger Safety Grant from the Department of Transportation Highway Safety Project. This grant of \$3,500 allows for the purchase of car seats that can be distributed to county residents who meet the income criteria.

In 2022, MCHD provided 30 car seats and educated 36 residents. Individuals in the program receive education on proper installation from our three

Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Tech-

nicians, including one who speaks Spanish. Our technicians also attended Sparta's National Night Out event and were able to educate community members with questions about car seat safety.



Child Death Review

MCHD facilitates a Child Death Review Team. This multidisciplinary team meets to share and discuss information to understand how and why children die. Relevant records are shared with the team to create a complete picture of factors that may have increased the risk of death, this information is then utilized to take action to prevent similar deaths. Through this process, MCHD has implemented two programs to address community needs.

The Safety for All Kids (SAK) Pack Program provides home safety kits and education to caregivers in Monroe County. SAK Packs contain home safety devices, such as door knob covers and plug protectors, along with educational materials on relevant topics, such as poison prevention and water safety tips. Over 50 SAK Packs were distributed to community members to improve their home's safety. The Cribs for Kids program supplies safe sleep environments and education to income-eligible families in order to reduce Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS). Nine cribs were distributed in 2022, with 11 individuals educated on safe sleep practices.

Both programs are made possible with generous donations from the Kindness Community.



Environmental Public Health

Private Well Water Testing

Safe, clean water is one of the most important substances in our lives - for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. Municipal water systems test their water regularly to ensure safety, but it's left to private well owners to test their well water annually.

In November of 2022, MCHD opened their own Water Lab to test community drinking water samples for bacteria. The MCHD lab analyzed three water samples. Additionally, MCHD staff gave out 27 test kits to be analyzed at other labs.



Transient Non-Community Water Testing

Through a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 57 facilities in the county that qualify as a Transient Non-community Water System were tested, and 11 of those wells were inspected to ensure safe and dependable water for the public. Two facilities were found to have bacteriologically unsafe water and one facility currently post a public notice as they are operating with nitrate levels between 10mg/L and 20mg/L. A thorough, onsite inspection of the facility's water system is conducted annually to determine a cause, if any, of potential sanitary defects. A total of 93 water samples were collected.

Environmental Public Health

Human Health Hazards

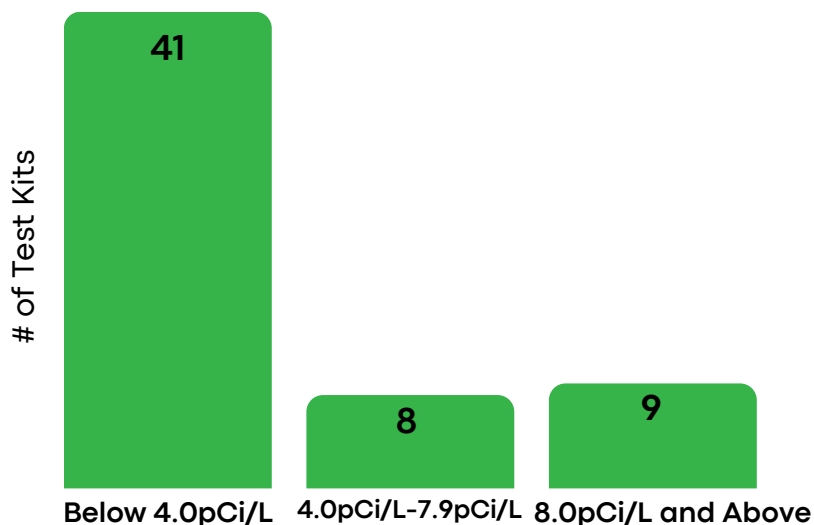
In order to protect and maintain the health, safety, general welfare and environment for the people and communities, MCHD investigates complaints with the potential to have an impact on human health. If a human health hazard is found, the Health Department works with those involved to ensure the hazard is resolved. In 2022, the department investigated 33 human health hazards. Abatement orders were written for 19 cases. Additionally, five properties were condemned. Hazards included unburied carcasses, waste, non-functional building fixtures, unhealthy and unsanitary conditions, and unsafe structures.

Radon

You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it is a problem in many Monroe County homes. Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil and rock, and can contaminate water and air in any type of building. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today behind only smoking. Testing your home is a simple low-cost way to determine your risk. Low cost test kits are available at the Health Department to anyone wanting to test.

In 2022, MCHD distributed 79 combined short-term radon test kits. Fifty-nine test results were reported, 17 of these results were at or above the EPA recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L. Promoting testing along with educating the public regarding health risks from radon, methods to fix the problem in homes, and building radon-resistant new homes are the key focus areas of Public Health radon activities.

2022 Radon Test Kit Results for Monroe County



Environmental Public Health

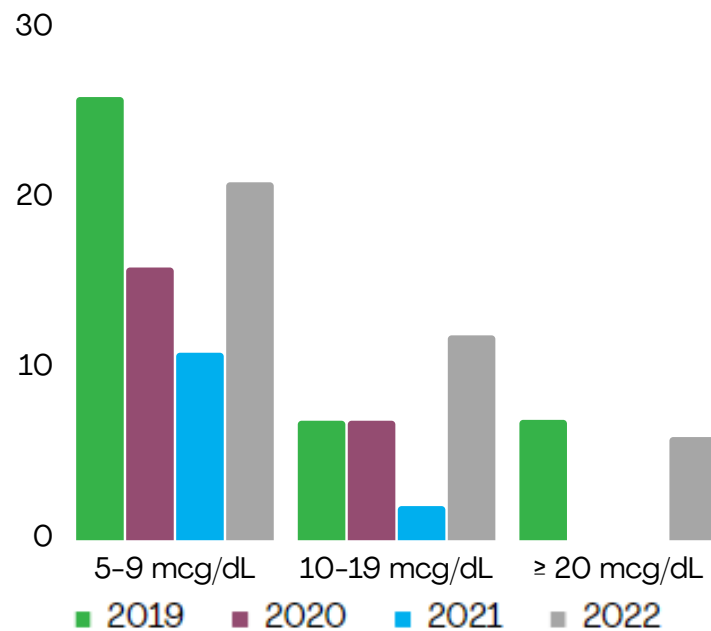
Lead

There is no safe level of lead in the human body, as lead exposure can affect nearly every bodily system. Even very low levels of lead exposure can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health throughout the child's life, especially between 6 months and 6 years of age. The primary source of lead exposure in Wisconsin is lead in paint or varnish in household dust and lead-contaminated soil. Lead in water, air and other products, including traditional home remedies and cosmetics, can contribute to a child's lead exposure. Lead hazards are commonly present when homes built pre-1978 are being remodeled.

The CDC defines a reference level of 3.5 mcg/dL to identify children with elevated blood lead levels. MCHD can provide follow-up and consultation for children with elevated blood lead levels (3.5mcg/dL or greater). Follow-up may include phone calls, home visits, consultation with the primary health care provider, and a home lead risk assessment by a Lead Hazard Investigator. The ultimate goal is to reduce environmental lead exposure and lead poisoning. MCHD completed seven home visits which included a nursing assessment and/or environmental assessment.

Child Blood Lead Levels 2019-2022 in Monroe County

YEAR	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Tested	177	141	43	609
5-9 mcg/dL	26	16	11	21
10-19 mcg/dL	7	7	1	12
≥ 20 mcg/dL	7	0	0	6

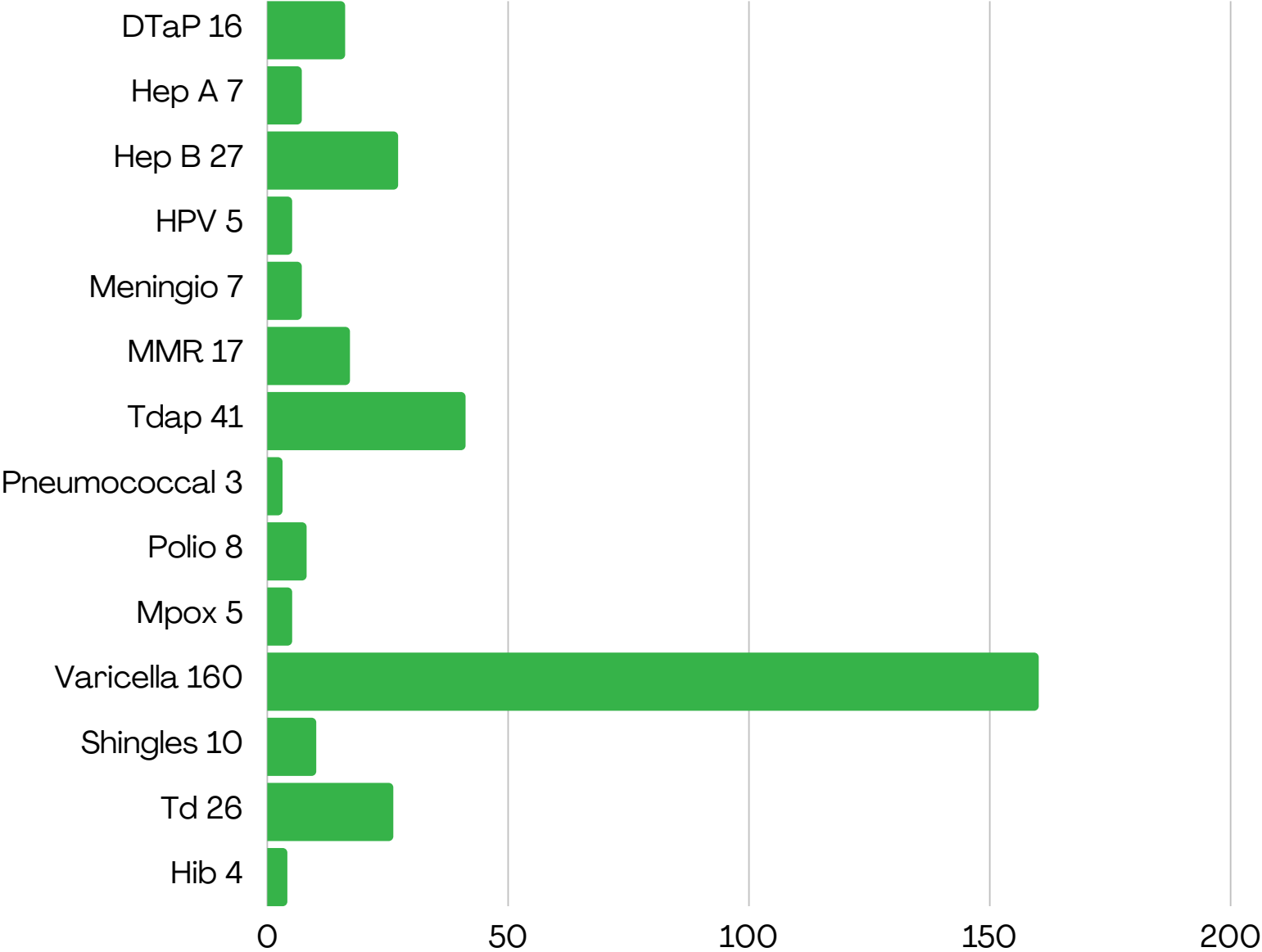


Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Immunization Program

Immunizations prevent disease in those individuals that receive them, but also protect individuals in the community who are not fully vaccinated or have weakened immune systems. Immunizations not only help to prevent disease and transmission, but also decrease the risk of adverse outcomes and death.

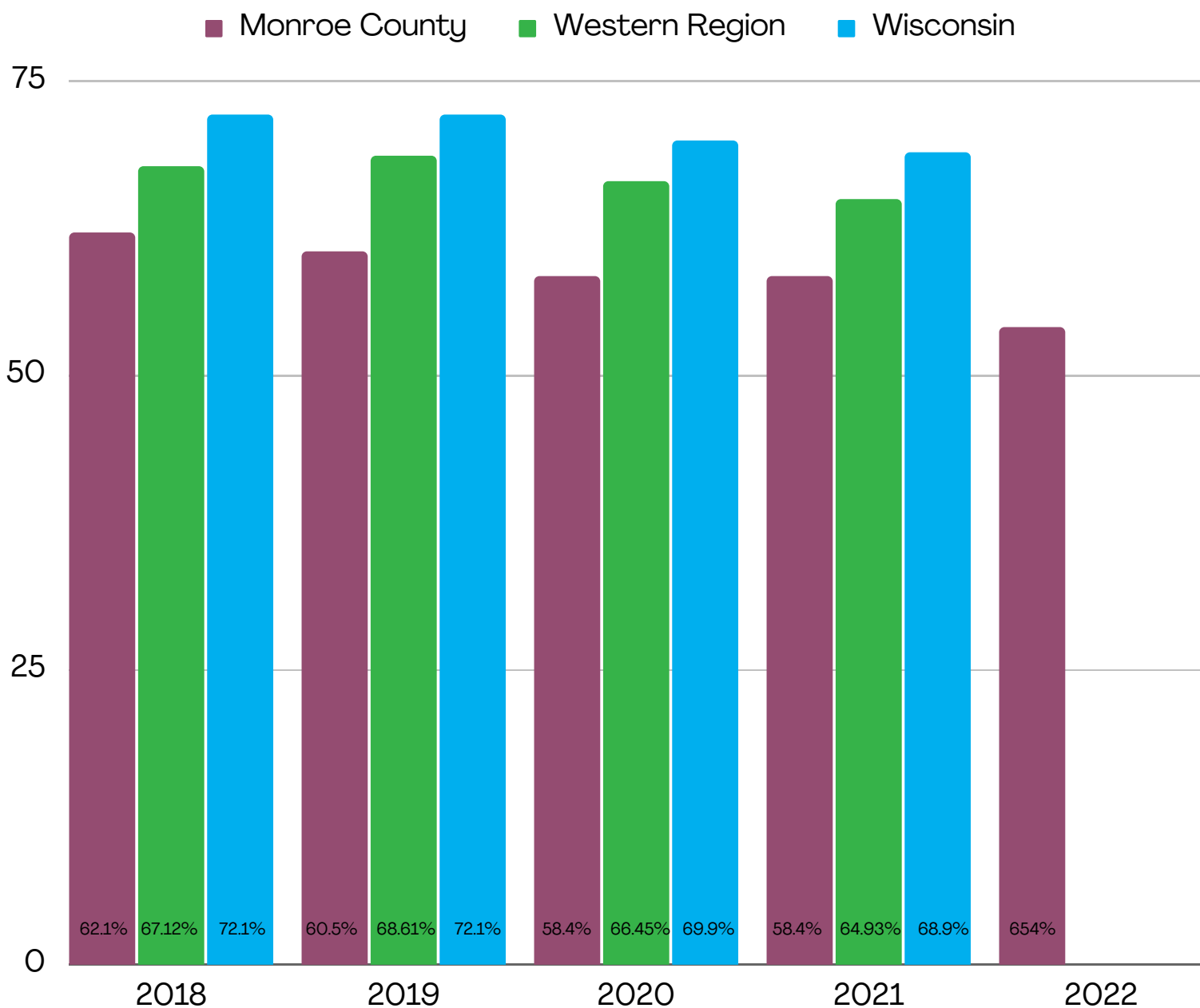
MCHD provides no cost vaccinations to qualifying children and adults through the Vaccines for Children and Adults Programs. Public Health currently stocks vaccines for: COVID-19, Diphtheria, Haemophilis influenza type B (HIB), Hepatitis A and B, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Influenza (flu), Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningococcal disease, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Polio, Rotavirus, Streptococcus pneumoniae, Tetanus, and Varicella (Chicken Pox).



Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Childhood Vaccinations

A common measure of childhood vaccination coverage is the percent of two-year-olds up to date on recommended vaccinations. Children under the age of 2 are most vulnerable to childhood illnesses, which is why they must be protected. In 2022, 54% of 2-year-olds met all benchmark criteria for their age group. State and Western Region 2022 data is unavailable at the time of this report.



Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Seasonal Influenza

The Health Department provided a quadrivalent seasonal influenza vaccine to those individuals aged 6 months and older. MCHD also offered a high-dose vaccine that is formulated to enhance the immune response of individuals aged 65+.

2022 Outcomes:

- 48 offsite clinics
- 9 office clinic days
- Influenza vaccines given: 1,296
- Adult: 1,143
- Children: 153

Community Support Program

The Community Support Program (CSP) provides comprehensive mental health and case management services to adults diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness. Services to CSP clients are provided in the community with the goal of assisting each client in gaining and/or maintaining independence. The Health Department works with our Human Services Department to assist with medication prescriptions, administration, monitoring and education. Services are provided 12 hours a week to meet the need. In 2022, there were 159 CSP visits.

Mantoux Tuberculin (TB) skin test

The Health Department offers Mantoux Tuberculin skin tests to community residents. This screening helps to identify individuals who may have been exposed or may have active TB. Throughout 2022, MCHD placed 49 Mantoux Tuberculin skin tests.

Newborn Screenings

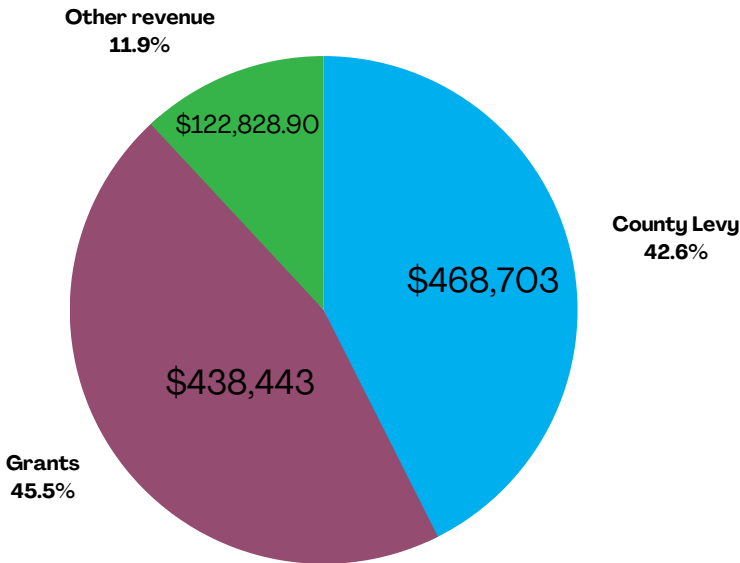
Newborn screening identifies conditions that can affect a child's long-term health and survival. Early detecting, diagnosis and intervention can prevent death or disability in children. The screening consists of a few drops of blood from the newborn's heel and tests for certain genetic, endocrine and metabolic disorders. MCHD performed three newborn screens and no issues were identified.

2022 Budget

2022 Expenditures and Revenues January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022

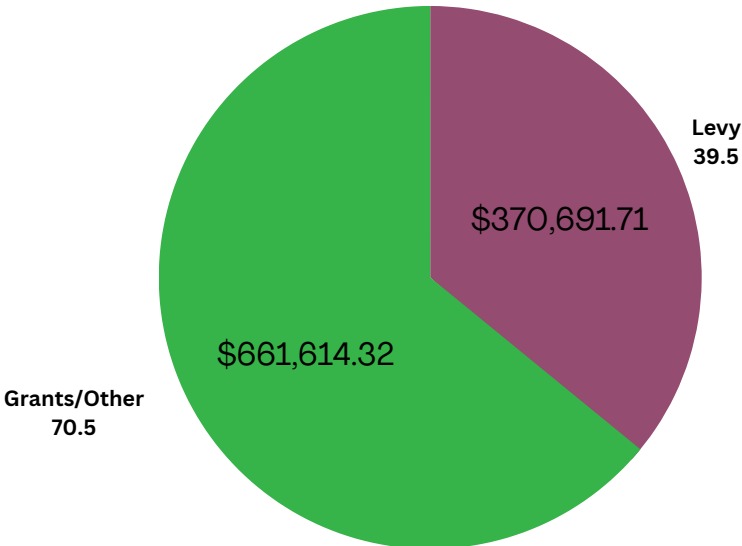
Revenues

Revenues Budgeted \$1,213,226.00
Actual Revenues \$1,029,975.00



Expenditures

Expenditures Budgeted \$1,213,226.00
Actual Expenditures \$938,460.03



*Follow us to see what
we do in 2023!*



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