



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
9531 RAYNE RD, STE V
STURTEVANT, WI 53177

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

Over 2500 years ago the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, said that “change is the only constant.” What was true centuries ago remained true in 2022 for the health department—the inevitability of change and the associated sequelae of constantly moving parts and pieces. The most important change of the year came in January of 2022, with the launching of Racine County Public Health Division (RCPH) accompanied by the official disbanding of Central Racine County Health Department (CRCHD). This meant that RCPH began a steady and purposeful process of integrating into Racine County Human Services Department and overall Racine County government. In addition, a new Board of Health was formed in alignment with State Statutes. We thank everyone who has helped to make the transition as smooth as possible given the complexity of this endeavor.

Amid transitioning to Racine County, RCPH saw its second, large change of the year when we made a move to new office space after 20+ years in Franksville. Still centrally located to the municipalities it serves, RCPH offices are now located on Rayne Road in Sturtevant (next to the DMV). This move has provided for a flexible and functional working space, one that the health department has not had for many years. We again thank everyone who helped make the move possible.

The two aforementioned changes were accompanied by an extremely busy and ever-changing year on the public health front. In addition to addressing immediate public health challenges (COVID-19, RSV, monkeypox, mental health/isolation, health communication/social media, opioids/other drugs, e-cigarettes, obesity, environmental health issues, and health equity, to name a few), RCPH also began work on a new community health assessment (CHA). Local health departments are required to conduct a CHA every five years, with the goal of collecting, reviewing, and analyzing health data to better understand the overall health of the community, predominant health issues, and factors that impact health. CHA data specifically helps identify factors such as the type, prevalence, severity, communicability, and preventability of leading health issues. These factors matter because many health issues are extremely expensive to treat and drive up health insurance and medical costs. Identifying salient health issues and accompanying public health prevention work puts public health in a position to help prevent disease and illness while lowering costs. This initial CHA work laid the foundation for the new RCPH to identify strategies to address the most pressing public health issues.

In 2022, long-serving Board of Health Chairperson, Fran Petrick, stepped down, and we thank her for all her important years of service. Additionally, we remain extremely appreciative of the dedication and commitment of RCPH staff, Racine County (employees, Human Services Department Director, Supervisors, Board of Health, the County Executive), and the community we serve, all of whom continue to be so supportive as we work to create and sustain a vital, effective, and efficient local health department for our Racine County community.

Jeff Langlieb, Health Officer

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

- Jeff Langlieb, Health Officer
- Keith Hendricks, EH Health Director/Deputy Health Officer
- Ashlee Franzen, Community Health Director
- Jennifer Jozwiak, Fiscal Analyst

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (EH)

- Chuck Dykstra, EH Supervisor
- Jennifer Loizzo, Sanitarian
- Kevin Plachinski, Sanitarian
- Lindsay Visona, Sanitarian

PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY & PREPAREDNESS

- Amanda Busack, Public Health Strategist
- Carissa Brunner, Public Health Strategist
- Renee Foy, Public Health Strategist
- Darrin Ferguson, Senior Health Technician

COMMUNITY HEALTH/HOME VISITING

- Kate Dickinson, Community Health Supervisor
- Kari Villalpando, Public Health HV Supervisor
- Erin Donaldson, Public Health HV Supervisor
- Sai Moua, Public Health Nurse
- Yesenia Arjon, PH Educator Home Visitor
- Linda Garza, PH Nurse Home Visitor
- Kelley Marshman, PH Nurse Home Visitor
- Kristina Geniesse, PH Educator Home Visitor
- Jack Ray, PH Educator Home Visitor
- Brittany Gunn, PH Nurse Home Visitor
- Wendi Huffman, PH Nurse Home Visitor
- Fred McCann, Disease Intervention Specialist

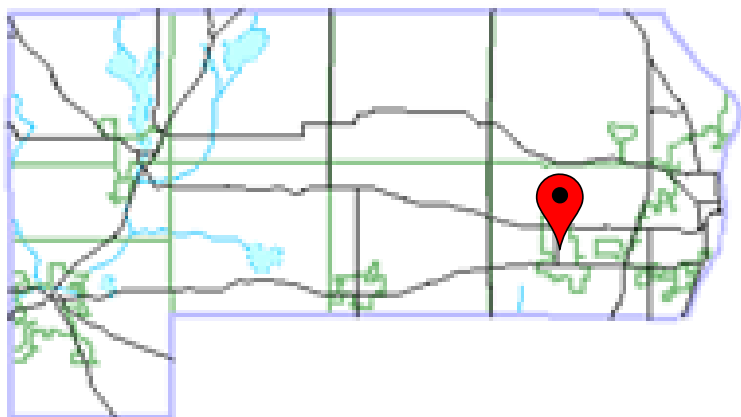
EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Pa Chang, Epidemiologist
- Silviano Garcia, Epidemiologist

BOARD OF HEALTH

BOARD MEMBERS

- Vikkie Prochaska, RN
- Mark DeCheck, MD
- Susan Stroupe, RN
- John Monsen
- Sherry Gruhn
- Don Trottier
- Tom Kremer
- Scott Maier



**The Racine County Board of Health meets
the 3rd Thursday of each month.**

RCPH MISSION, VISION, PRINCIPLES, PRIORITIES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES

Mission Statement

The mission of RCPH is to improve the health of the communities we serve through health promotion, disease prevention, and protection from health and environmental hazards. This mission is achieved by:

- Assuring the enforcement of state public health statutes and rules.
- Developing policies and providing public health programs and services that prevent disease and injury, protect against environmental health hazards, promote healthy behaviors, and provide education.
- Monitoring the health status of the community to identify health issues.
- Preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.
- Assessing the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of programs and services.

Vision: Building a Healthy Future by Protecting the Public's Health

Guiding Principles

Collaboration: Engage partners & the community to promote health and meet common goals

- Leaders
- Innovative problem-solvers
- Team players

Responsiveness: Deliver accessible public health programs with integrity

- Respectful, reliable, principled
- Community-driven
- Stewardship of resources

Caring: Serve the community with the customer in mind

- Accountable and respectful
- Competent and highly skilled staff
- Quality service-oriented

High Quality: Provide excellence in programs and services

- Evidence-based and data-driven
- Quality outcomes and performance-driven
- Effective, efficient, and sustainable

Diversity: Promote public health services that address community needs

- Advocate
- Culturally competent
- Focused on eliminating health disparities



3 Core Functions & 10 Public Health Essential Functions



1. Monitor Health Status to Identify and Solve Community Health Problems

RCPH monitors and assesses our community's health status through formal and informal needs assessments and data analyses. Staff work to identify threats to health, recognize health inequities, and determine current and emerging health needs in collaboration with multi-sectoral community partners.

Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Improvement Planning (CHIP)

Wisconsin State Statutes require that local health departments:

- Regularly and systematically collect, assemble, analyze, and make available information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, and epidemiological and other studies of health problems.
- Develop public health policies and procedures for the community.
- Involve key policymakers and the public in determining and developing a community health improvement plan that includes actions to implement the services and functions.



In 2022, RCPH began work on a new community health assessment (CHA) by systematically collecting, identifying, and synthesizing data on key community health issues and needs. This process included collection of both qualitative and quantitative data which will be used to determine health priorities and identify strategies and partnerships to address these priorities. Data collection for the CHA is nearly complete, and in 2023 RCPH will move on to identification, development, and implementation of priority strategies to improve the population's health by developing a community health improvement plan (CHIP).



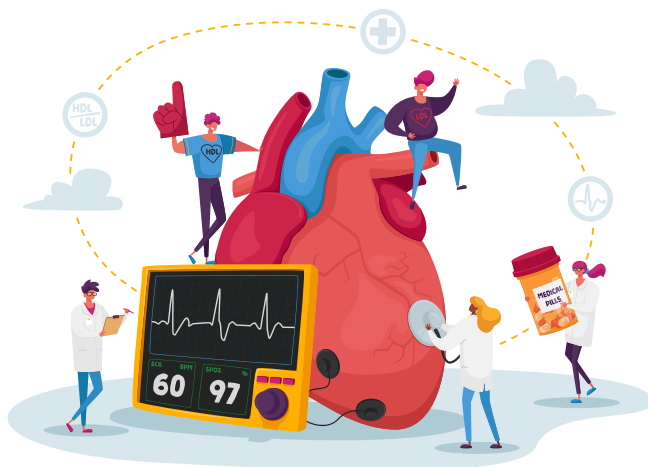
Morbidity and Mortality Data

In Wisconsin in 2022, due to premature deaths, 6,600 years of life were lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people. In contrast, in 2022 in Racine County the years of potential life (YPLL) lost before age 75 was 7,700 per 100,000 population. This measure of YPLL matters as it helps quantify social and economic loss owing to premature death, and Racine County is disproportionately affected. The data below shows the leading causes of death (mortality) for Racine County. Notably prior to COVID-19, communicable diseases were not in the top five. Overdose deaths saw a big jump when COVID-19 hit, and overdose deaths remained high in 2021. Injuries remain a leading cause of emergency department visits (treated and released in ED) and hospitalizations (admitted to the hospital). These morbidity data also reflect a cost to our community.

Rank	2021* Racine County Leading Causes of Death	Deaths	Population	Crude Rate
1	Diseases of heart	481	196896	244.3
2	Malignant neoplasms	353	196896	179.3
3	COVID-19	244	196896	123.9
4	Accidents (unintentional injuries)**	119	196896	60.4
5	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	117	196896	59.4

*Most recent year for which there is data.

**Includes overdose deaths.



Overdose Deaths by Year

	Age-Adjusted Rates	Count
2019	18.3	37
2020	34.6	63
2021*	32.0	61

Ranked Causes of Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits by Age Group (Racine County, 2019-2021)

	0-17	18-64	65+
1	Fall (n=2843)	Fall (n=6465)	Fall (n=4701)
2	Struck by or against object or person (n=1887)	Motor Vehicle (n=4346)	Struck by or against object or person (n=517)
3	Motor Vehicle (n=746)	Struck by or against object or person (n=4110)	Motor Vehicle (n=419)
4	Cutting or piercing objects (n=705)	Overexertion (n=2564)	Cutting or piercing objects (n=311)
5	Overexertion (n=569)	Cutting or piercing objects (n=2517)	Overexertion (n=308)

Ranked Causes of Injury-Related Hospitalizations by Age Group (Racine County, 2019-2021)

	0-17	18-64	65+
1	Poisoning* (n=37)	Poisoning* (n=428)	Fall (n=1278)
2	Fall (n=19)	Fall (n=385)	Poisoning* (n=75)
3	Motor vehicle (n=13)	Motor Vehicle (n=222)	Motor vehicle (n=53)
4	Nontraffic transportation (n=12)	Nontraffic transportation (n=57)	Struck by or against object or person (n=30)
5	Firearm (n=12)	Firearm (n=56)	Nontraffic transportation (n=18)

*Poisoning includes drug-related hospitalizations

2. Identify and Investigate Health Problems and Hazards in the Community

RCPH provides for epidemiological investigation of communicable diseases, disease outbreaks, environmental health hazards, chronic diseases, and injuries. This includes identifying community-level determinants of health and implementing prevention and intervention strategies.

Communicable Disease Control

Wisconsin law requires many diseases be reported to local health departments which helps detect disease when and where it happens, stops disease before it spreads, prevents outbreaks, and keeps people healthy. Diseases may range in severity from asymptomatic (without symptoms) to severe and fatal, which is why investigation of them is so important. A confirmed or probable disease case requires case investigation, follow-up of treatment, individual education, and community education, depending on the disease. Disease reports that ultimately do not meet the case definition still require timely investigation to determine if the diagnosis fits the case definition. For 2022, there were 17203 confirmed and probable communicable disease (CD) reports (16459 or 96% were COVID-19, 400 or 2% were STDs, and the rest (344 or 2% were other CDs). Of note: 1) After decreasing in 2020 and 2021, flu hospitalizations increased in 2022; 2) After increasing from 2020 to 2021 by 33%, STD cases decreased in 2022 by 6%; and 3) The number of COVID-19 cases increased year over year from 2020 to 2022.

145%

Increase in Influenza Hospitalizations from 2021 to 2022

41%

Increase in COVID-19 cases from 2021-2022
(11% increase from 2020-2021)

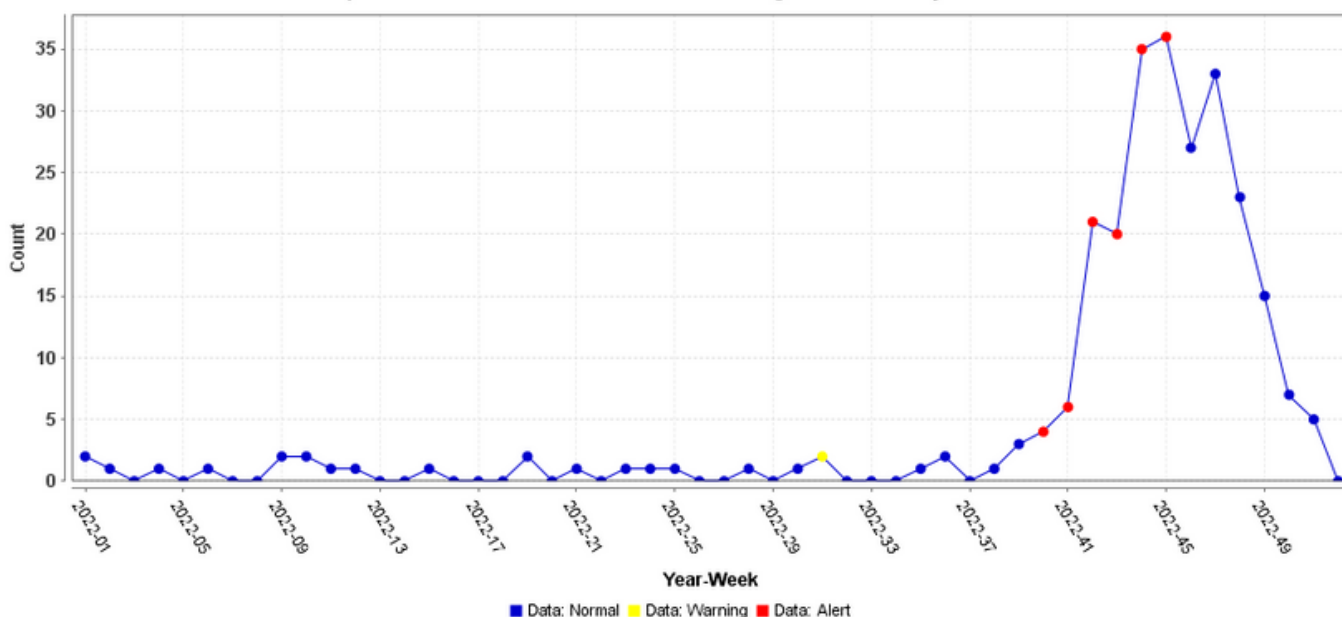
6%

Decrease in STD cases from 2021 to 2022

9

Non-COVID Outbreak Investigations

Suspected RSV Related ED Visit Count Among Racine County Residents

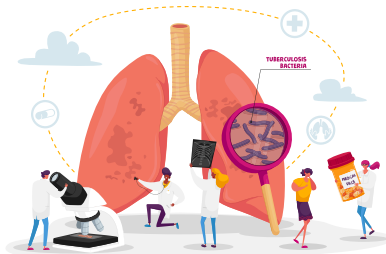


Outbreak Investigations

An outbreak is when more cases of disease occur than what would normally be expected in a defined community, geographical area, or season. RCPH investigates and responds to public health threats and emergencies. In 2022, RCPH continued to follow up on COVID-19 outbreak investigations primarily in long-term care facilities (LTCFs). For non-COVID outbreaks, 78% outbreaks occurred in LTCFs, and 22% in other community establishments. The types of disease-causing organisms identified in the outbreaks included: Coronavirus OC43, Type A Influenza, Norovirus, Rhinovirus, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Legionella, and Novel A Influenza. While there were no monkeypox cases in the jurisdiction, RCPH ensured that the public received ample prevention and treatment information via its various social media channels and the press. Additionally, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) became prevalent in 2022 and the chart below shows suspected RSV-related emergency department visits cases among Racine County residents.

Adult Services Programs

RCPH provides some gap-filling adult services. In 2022, RCPH gave 20 TB skin tests and provided 11 adult vaccinations for <5 clients, 50% of whom lived in the jurisdiction and 50% of whom lived in the City of Racine. RCPH did not give any adult COVID-19 vaccinations in 2022.



Childhood Immunizations

Through the federal Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), RCPH receives free childhood vaccines to ensure that children receive and remain up-to-date on vaccinations. In 2022, RCPH provided 47 pediatric vaccines to 16 pediatric clients. Of those receiving pediatric vaccines, 75% lived in the RCPH jurisdiction, 19% lived in the City of Racine jurisdiction, and 6% lived in Kenosha County. RCPH did not provide any pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations in 2022.

Population-Based Immunization Compliance Program

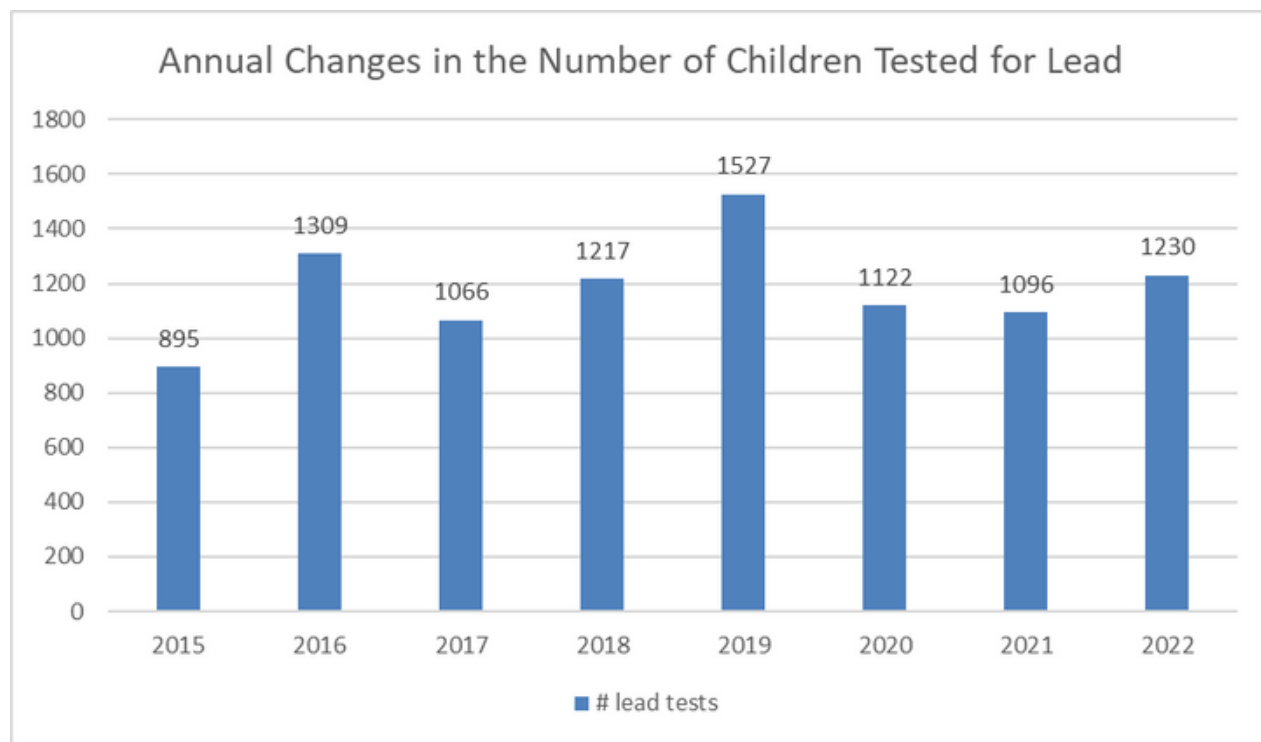
RCPH supports childhood immunizations to prevent morbidity and mortality associated with vaccine-preventable diseases. In 2022, RCPH helped ensure that 75% of children residing in Racine County who turned 24 months of age during the year were up-to-date on their immunizations (79% were late but became up-to-date); RCPH coordinated immunization surveillance by sending 655 reminder/recall letters to residents.

School and Daycare Immunization Compliance Program

RCPH staff work closely with school districts and daycare centers to assure school age children are in compliance with the Wisconsin State Immunization Law. In 2022, RCPH tracked immunization law compliance rates for all schools (N=36) and daycares (N=40) in the jurisdiction. RCPH provided reminder calls and technical assistance on this front.

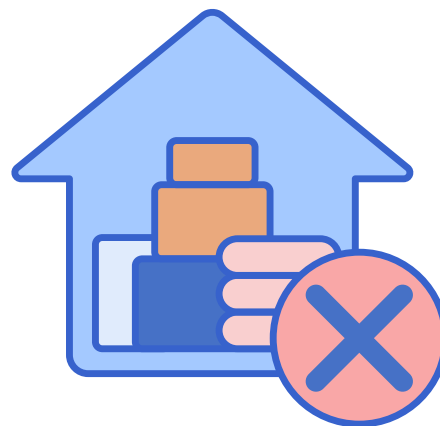
Lead Poisoning Case Management & Lead Hazard Investigations

Lead exposure in young children can cause reduced IQ and attention span, impaired growth, reading and learning disabilities, hearing loss, and a range of other health and behavioral effects. RCPH provides lead poisoning prevention and intervention services for children with a blood lead level (BLL) \geq 5 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL) to improve detection and treatment of lead poisoning in children. In 2022, RCPH provided lead poisoning education to 9 children identified with a venous BLL \geq 5 μ g/dL. Of the 9, 100% received a nurse call and/or visit (type of visit depended on COVID-19). All were offered an environmental assessment and 7 accepted (there was 1 refusal and 1 in process at the time of this report). No children had a venous BLL requiring a lead hazard investigation.



Human Health Hazards

RCPH continues to investigate human health hazards which are defined as substances, activities or conditions that are known to have the potential to cause acute or chronic illness or death if exposure to the substances, activities or conditions is not abated. In 2022, RCPH followed up on 24 reported human health hazard complaints.



3. Inform, Educate, Empower People About Health Issues

RCPH promotes healthy behaviors by making health information available in a variety of formats. Staff regularly share and discuss current and emerging health issues with the public, policy makers and decision-makers. RCPH also provides programs and services that reinforce health promotion messages, and we work to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches. This includes areas such as childhood injury prevention, community events, and chronic disease prevention.

Suicide Prevention Work Group

For several years RCPH has been working with local partner agencies to promote suicide prevention resources in the community. In 2022, RCPH updated SPWG labels to transition to 988 and updated the SWPG webpage to include other uses of the label image (social media, desktop, mobile background). RCPH marketed suicide prevention labels/images from the SPWG through social media, provided updates at meetings, and distributed 988 materials alongside overdose prevention resources at an Overdose Awareness Day Event. Last, RCPH partnered with NAMI Racine County in development of a 988/Columbia Protocol card to be used in their Crisis Intervention Team training. Cards were also distributed through school resource fairs with Racine Unified School District and to our local OFRT partners including law enforcement, EMS, the county medical examiner, and behavioral health services.



Radon Testing

RCPH provides radon test kits to residents at a reduced cost and assists with test result interpretation as well as mitigation information and referrals for residents whose homes have high radon levels. A naturally occurring radioactive gas, radon causes lung cancer and claims about 20,000 lives annually in the U.S. In 2022, RCPH sold 44 radon test kits. Of those purchased, 80% were sent by the homeowner for analysis; 57% of kits analyzed had a result greater than or equal to 4.0 pCi/l (recommended remediation level).



Well Water Testing

RCPH provides free well water test kits to residents for testing bacteria and nitrates at Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH charges a nominal testing fee). RCPH also aids with interpretation of test results and mitigation information. In 2022, RCPH provided 28 bacteria/nitrate well water test kits to residents.



Health Communication and Public Outreach

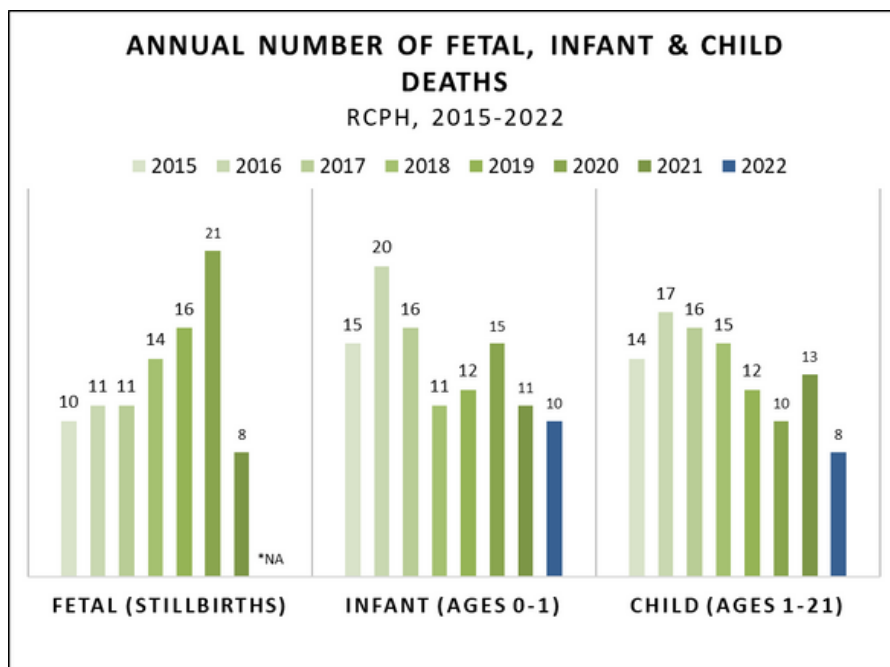
RCPH provides community education using novel and existing technologies with a focus on regular messaging. In 2022, RCPH put out daily Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter posts regarding salient health issues of the day, month, and/or year. RCPH additionally communicated upcoming events and issues needing prompt public attention.

4. Mobilize Community Partnerships and Action to Identify and Solve Health Problems

RCPH collaborates with and convenes community groups to work on prevention and population-focused activities. Through community traditional and non-traditional partnerships, we develop strategies for assessing and engaging the full range of individual and community assets to improve locally determined health and environmental issues.

Fetal, Infant, & Child Death Review

In 2010, RCPH began chairing the Racine County child death review team and in 2012 added fetal and infant mortality review. The now hybrid FICDR team works to ensure accurate identification and uniform reporting of the cause, manner and relevant circumstances of every fetal, infant and child death. The goal is to identify preventable causes of death and inform program and policy direction in the community based on team findings and trend analyses. For 2022, there were 8 childhood (ages 1-21) and 10 infant (ages 0-1), while 2022 fetal (stillbirths) are pending at the State. Of note, during the first year of the pandemic (2020) and prior to vaccinations, fetal deaths increased while infant deaths decreased. For deaths from 2015-2021, 30% were fetal, 36% were infant, and 34% were child.



Other Collaboratives and Coalitions

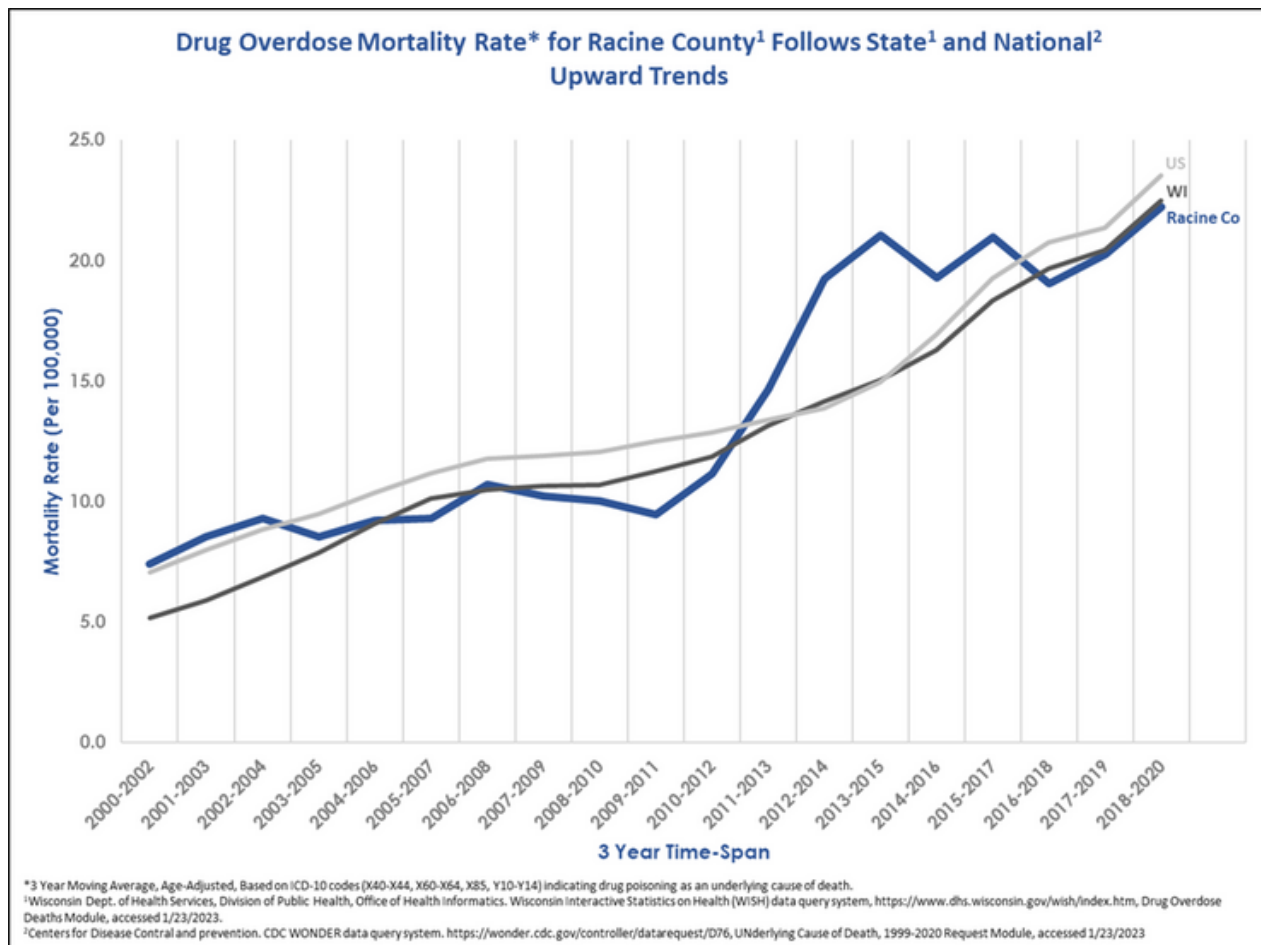
RCPH addresses many community health needs through participation in community collaboratives and coalitions. Public health is a partner at the table to support and contribute to the work of other local agencies in provision of needed programs and services.

- SE WI Association of Local Health Depts & Boards (WALHDAB)
- Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition
- Environmental Health WALHDAB
- Wisconsin Public Health Association
- Aurora Steering Council Burlington/Walworth Market
- Aurora Steering Council Racine/Kenosha Market
- Racine County Home Visiting Stakeholders
- Family Preservation West
- SE Wisconsin Environmental Health Task Force
- Racine County Immunization Coalition

RCPH provides leadership to drive the development of public health plans and policies that are consistent throughout the state but that address local needs.

Overdose Fatality Review, Med Collection, Opioid/Heroin Awareness

RCPH leads the Racine County Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT), and the OFRT began to meet in 2018 to identify the underpinnings of overdose deaths and translate findings from the review process into prevention recommendations and strategies. RCPH continues to promote the use of medication collection boxes, an information card for law enforcement and emergency medical services to give to families of overdose victims, and use of our Opioid and Heroin Awareness Guide



5. Develop Policies and Plans That Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

Strategic Plan

RCPH completed its Strategic Plan in 2020 and wrote up a final report in 2021. In the completed Strategic Plan, RCPH achieved National Public Health Accreditation; enhanced external communication and partnerships; focused workforce development on performance; aligned organizational programs and services; and assured financial viability. RCPH is poised to begin a new Strategic Plan in 2023.

Public Health Policies and Laws

RCPH regularly develops and updates policies and procedures for internal use as well as develops, promotes, and educates elected officials regarding local and state policies and laws. In 2022, RCPH passed new ordinances as part of Racine County government which became Chapter 21 of the Racine County Code of Ordinances. In addition, all RCPH rebranded its policies and procedures to align with Racine County, and specific ones were updated as needed and time allowed. Further, RCPH was integrated into Racine County Affirmative Action and Civil Rights Compliance Plans.

State and National Public Health Accreditation

In 2020 RCPH was reaccredited by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) as a Level III health department. In the same year RCPH achieved National Public Health Accreditation. In 2021, RCPH successfully submitted a Year 1 report to PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board). In 2022 PHAB put on hold the Year 2 report so that will be completed in 2023. RCPH submitted its 2021 Annual Report to DHS as required.



Emergency Preparedness

In 2022, RCPH was required to complete objectives related to CDC requirements, including addressing COVID-19. In fulfillment of these required objectives in 2022, RCPH participated in meetings with local, regional, and state partner agencies. RCPH worked on capabilities related to community preparedness; community recovery; emergency operations coordination; information sharing; medical countermeasure dispensing and administration; public health surveillance and epidemiologic investigation; responder safety and health; and volunteer management. RCPH also addressed workforce development and COVID-19 vaccine assurance.

6. Enforce Laws and Regulations That Protect Health and Ensure Safety

RCPH works to efficiently and effectively enforce state and local laws and regulations that protect and promote the public’s health.

Environmental Health Licensing and Inspections

RCPH is an agent for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). Environmental health staff provide licenses and inspections to the listed establishments. Staff also provide free food safety training classes in person or online at the RCPH website. RCPH completed its required inspections for the 2021-2022 license year. For this time period, RCPH licensed 716 establishments and conducted 1067 inspections. Additionally, in 2022, RCPH was asked to provide mutual aid to the City of Racine Public Health Department to help them complete inspections, and a contract was established with the City for RCPH to provide this assistance.

Total Licenses	Establishment Type
15	Body Art
3	Campground
599	Retail Food
21	Hotels/Motels
69	Pools
1	Summer Camps
8	Tourist rooming Houses
716	TOTAL for 2020-2021



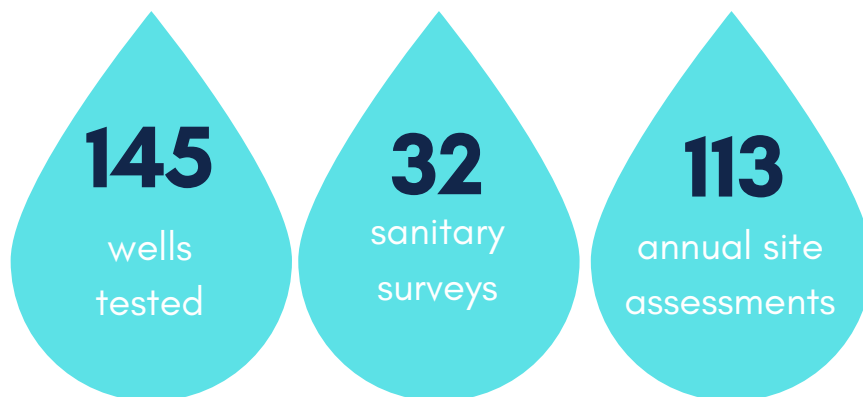
Food Safety Classes

In 2017 RCPH Environmental Health staff developed its first online food safety video presentations to provide basic food safety information for people and groups who serve food to the public on a limited basis. This includes volunteers of non-profit organizations such as religious, fraternal, youth, or patriotic ones. Operators of temporary food establishments find this information useful as well. In 2022, RCPH updated and revamped its online food safety course, and 19 individuals took the online food safety course.



DNR Well Water Program

RCPH is an agent for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) agents for public transient non-community well testing in Racine County. A transient non-community water system is defined as a water system that serves at least 25 people at least 60 days of the year but does not serve the same 25 people over 6 months of the year. The program requires annual testing for bacteria and nitrate, annual site assessment, and a sanitary survey every 5 years. In 2022, RCPH tested 145 wells, performed 113 annual site assessments, and completed 32 sanitary surveys.



DNR Childcare Lead-in-Water Testing Program

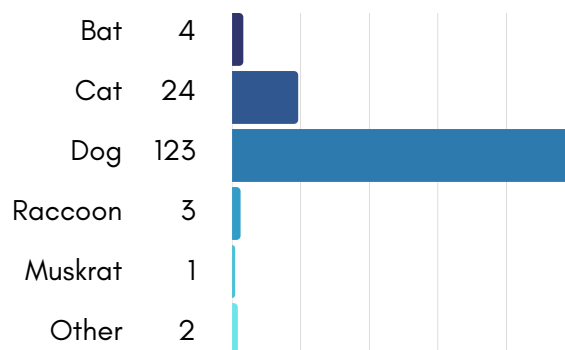
In late 2022, RCPH received approval to move forward with a new 2023 initiative to protect the health of young children from lead poisoning by testing drinking water in local childcare facilities, in partnership with Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The goal of this initiative is to reduce lead hazards in early childcare centers and early Head Start programs across the state. Testing the water for the presence of lead is the only way to detect it, as you cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water. This initiative is important, because children exposed to lead are at increased risk for developing behavior problems; learning impairment; hearing loss; lower IQ; hyperactivity; anemia; and slowed growth and development. In 2023, RCPH will reach out to local childcare facilities to offer this testing on a voluntary basis through 9/30/2023.

Beach Water Monitoring

Beaches monitored in the RCPH jurisdiction include Bohners Lake (Aukes, Leach and Public Beaches), Fischer Park Beach, North Bay Parkway Beach, Quarry Lake Park Beach, and Wind Point Lighthouse Beach. RCPH works with partner agencies who ensure the water is tested at these beaches on a regular basis. Results are then posted on the RCPH website as well as at the beaches. Beach water quality testing is done to advise swimmers when conditions exist that may lead to illness. Beach water is tested for the presence of E. coli. RCPH posted 5 Caution and 3 Closed signs throughout the 2022 beach season.

Animal Bite/Rabies Investigations

RCPH continues to investigate all animal bites to ensure the animal is not rabid and the bite victim has not been exposed to rabies. Rabies investigations take a large amount of time with many phone calls and detailed follow-up required to complete an investigation. In 2022, RCPH conducted 134 rabies investigations.



7. Link People to Needed Health Services and Assure the Provision of Healthcare When Otherwise Unavailable

RCPH provides education and outreach as well as referrals, care coordination, and other services that promote health. Staff assist people to better access public health and health care services, and ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services are provided.

Healthy Families America (HFA) Model Home Visiting Programs

RCPH provides two comprehensive home visitation programs (Family Foundations Home Visiting aka FFHV and Racine Healthy Babies aka RHB) using Healthy Families America (HFA) evidence-based model and Growing Great Kids curriculum to promote maternal and child health and reduce poor birth outcomes. For the 2021-2022 grant cycle, RCPH provided 740 home visits (in-person or virtual via face conference or phone) for 86 families (FFHV) and 123 home visits for 14 families (RHB).



Universal Home Visiting Program

In 2017 Family Connects Racine County was implemented as a new, pilot, community-wide nurse home visiting program. Program services are for all parents of newborns in Racine County, with visits tailored to meet each family's needs. Nurses provide between one and three home visits to families with a newborn beginning at about three weeks of age, regardless of income or demographics. Nurse home visitors offer supportive guidance, respond to family questions about newborn care, and help bridge the gap between parent needs and community resources. In 2022, RCPH became unaffiliated with Family Connects International for financial and flexibility reasons. Instead, RCPH is moving forward with developing a low-cost, evidence-informed, best-practice, postpartum home visiting program in conjunction with academic partners at UW- Milwaukee. In 2022, RCPH provided nurse postpartum home visits for 142 families.



8. Assure Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce

RCPH supports efforts to improve the quality, quantity, and diversity of health professionals. We promote the development of professional education strategies and programs that address local health needs. Cultural and public health competencies are hallmarks of our training.

Workforce Development Plan & Qualified Health Professionals

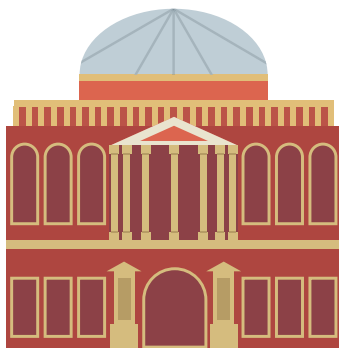
RCPH's WDP ensures a systematic process for staff to identify strengths and areas for improvement and to institute actions to fulfill improvements. RCPH employees must meet job, statutory requirements, and license requirements. In 2022, RCPH updated its WDP and is the process of developing a new competency and training assessment tool. RCPH works to employ highly qualified staff:

- 1 Master's prepared Health Officer (MPH)
- 2 Bachelor's prepared and credentialed managers (RS and RN)
- 2 Registered Sanitarians (RS), including a supervisor
- 7 Registered Nurses (RN), including supervisors
- 3 Master's prepared Public Health Strategists
- 2 Epidemiologists (MPH)
- 1 Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES)
- 1 Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)
- All staff completed County, Department, Division, and grant-required trainings



Linkages with Academia, Healthcare, Schools

RCPH maintains strong relationships with local healthcare systems, schools, and universities to provide quality staff, programs, and services. In 2022, these linkages remained vital to all RCPH work. And, as noted above, RCPH entered into a new contract with UW-Milwaukee to help develop a new, low-cost, evidence-informed, best-practice, postpartum home visiting program.

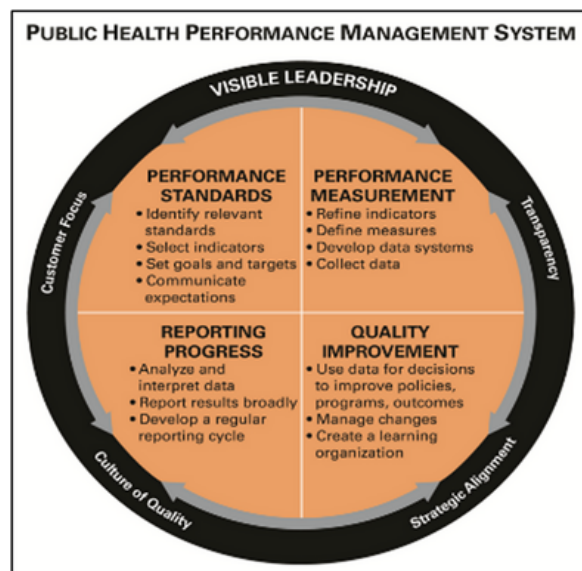


9. Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Individual and Population Based Health Services

RCPH regularly evaluates our performance, processes, and outcomes to provide information necessary to define accountability, allocate resources, and reshape policies and services. We see performance management and quality improvement as methods to explore and address more effectively the root causes of issues.

Performance Management & Quality Improvement Plans

Performance management identifies actual results against planned or intended results. A performance management system ensures that progress is being made toward department goals by systematically collecting and analyzing data, tracking results, and identifying opportunities for improvement. Quality improvement is an element of performance management that uses processes to address specific targets. For 2022, RCPH continued to refine its PM/QI processes. RCPH trained staff on and began implementation of Microsoft Teams as a platform in which to create a system and associated processes by which to manage performance, using online workplans with goals, objectives, measures, target dates, and outcomes and associated files.



10. Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems

RCPH develops partnerships with institutions, colleges, vocational/technical schools, and universities to broaden the range of public health research. We work to conduct scientific analysis of public health issues and engage in testing of innovative solutions at the local level.

Partnerships for Research and Innovation

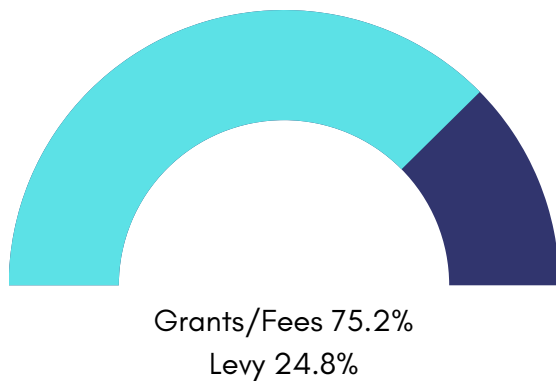
RCPH partners with many local and state agencies and programs to further public health innovation and research as enumerated throughout this report.



2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

In 2022, the COVID-19 response continued to overwhelm the budget and RCPH relied heavily on State and Federal funding for response efforts. The 2022 levy contribution was \$10.99 per capita, significantly less than the national average of \$18 per capita for local health departments. Of note, Wisconsin ranks in the bottom quartile for public health expenditures relative to the rest of the country. 24.8% of RCPH revenues are from levy and 75.2% of revenues from grants (and a small amount of fees) due to COVID-19. Eighty seven percent (87%) of 2022 budgeted expenses were for personnel-related expenditures. Also in 2022, the Village of Caledonia completed the 2021 health department audit and moved the remaining fund balance dollars to Racine County, RCPH staff gave regular budget reports to the Board of Health, and RCPH staff learned new Racine County accounting software.

2022 Revenues



2022 Expenditures

