



Racine County
Public Health

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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

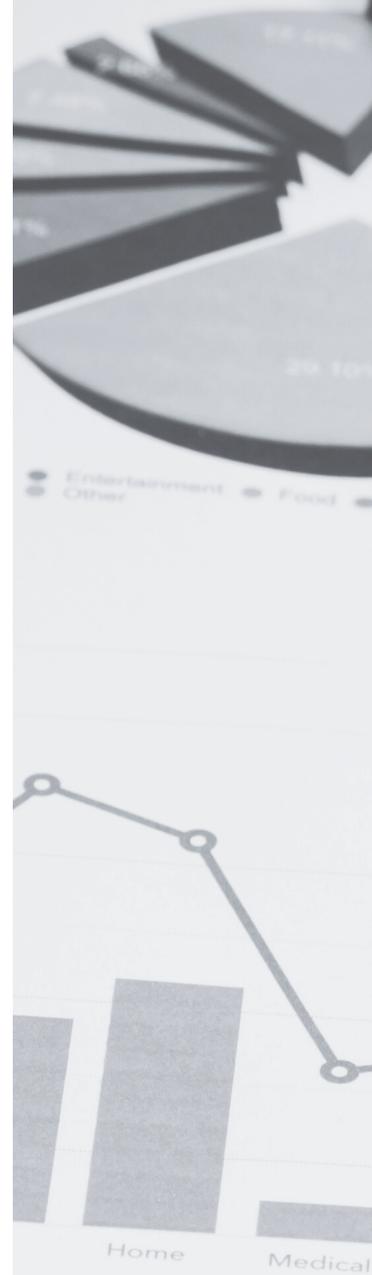


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MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

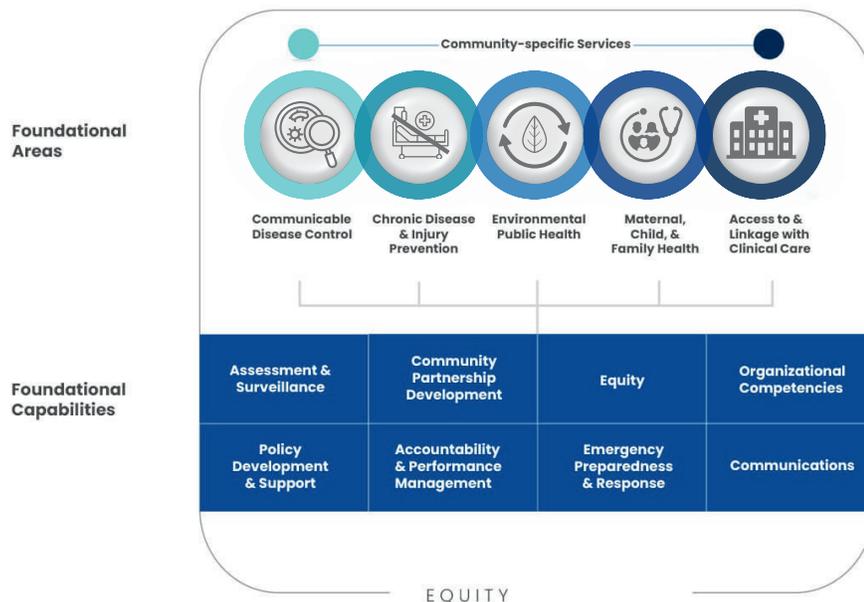
This past year, Racine County Public Health reached record milestones in our mission to protect and promote community well-being. We expanded our impact and reached many families through our two distinct home visiting programs, providing vital education, support and referrals for families during their child’s formative years. Additionally, we prioritized the safety of our local tourism economy by continuing to ensure basic health and safety measures for short-term rentals through a streamlined licensing and inspection process. As we look forward, RCPH remains steadfast in its commitment to being a trusted health leader and a relevant, proactive force for all our residents. We are the community’s invisible shield and will continue providing protection you cannot always see, but can always count on.

Central to our progress is our diligent work on the Community Health Improvement Plan . We are actively moving forward with key priorities—including mental health, poverty, and illness and injury prevention—to address the root causes of health disparities in our county. Our efforts are further guided by the Foundational Public Health Services framework. This model ensures every resident has access to essential Foundational Areas of service, backed by the Foundational Capabilities—the specialized skills and infrastructure—necessary to achieve fair and healthy outcomes for everyone.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our outstanding partners, residents, and staff. Your unwavering dedication to building a healthier Racine County is truly inspiring, and our progress is a direct result of your collaboration. Achieving a healthier community is a shared responsibility and we all play a critical role in reaching that goal. Our shared efforts and partnerships are at the heart of success, and we are honored to serve Racine County as your Public Health partner.

JEFFREY LANGLIEB
HEALTH OFFICER

Foundational Public Health Services



February 2022

CURRENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (EH)

- Chuck Dykstra, EH Supervisor
- Jennifer Loizzo, EH Registered Sanitarian
- Kevin Plachinski, EH Registered Sanitarian
- Lindsay Visona, EH Sanitarian
- Angel True-McGinnis, Public Health Specialist (EH)

COMMUNITY HEALTH/HOME VISITING

- Joella Murray, Community Health Supervisor
- Kari Villalpando, Public Health HV Supervisor
- Sai Moua, Public Health Nurse
- Brittany Gunn, PH Nurse Home Visitor
- Wendi Huffman, PH Nurse Home Visitor
- Linda Garza, PH Nurse Home Visitor
- Kelley Marshman, PH Nurse Home Visitor
- Yesenia Arjon, PH Educator Home Visitor
- Erin Donaldson, PH Educator Home Visitor
- Natasha Keiser, PH Educator Home Visitor
- Jack Ray, PH Educator Home Visitor
- Fred McCann, Disease Intervention Specialist
- Brogan Zochert, Disease Intervention Specialist

PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY & PREPAREDNESS

- Amanda Busack, PH Strategy/Comms Supervisor
- Renee Foy, Public Health Strategist
- Maia Diedrich, Public Health Strategist
- Darrin Ferguson, Public Health Specialist

EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Pa Chang, Epidemiologist
- Silvano Garcia, Epidemiologist

PUBLIC HEALTH CLERKS

- Amanda Davis, Public Health Clerk
- Beth Zivilik, Public Health Clerk

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

- Kristan Binninger, Medical Examiner
- Madeline Baumeister, Chief Deputy Medical Examiner
- Mark Sorensen, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Kathryn Farrell, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Ana Longoria, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Krystal Woda, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Mandi Kampa, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Leann Cornell, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Matthew Landherr, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Nicholas Porter, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Whitney Feiertag, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Madyson Wenzel, Deputy Medical Examiner
- Melvin Robinson, Deputy Medical Examiner Transporter
- Terrance Banks, Deputy Medical Examiner Transporter
- Cori Schmidt, Deputy Medical Examiner Transporter
- Hannah Medlin, Deputy Medical Examiner Transporter
- Ryan Feuerstahler, Deputy Medical Examiner Transporter
- Kristie Wood, Deputy Medical Examiner Transporter

BOARD OF HEALTH

BOARD MEMBERS

- Margaret Hennessy, MD
- Vikki Prochaska, RN
- Susan Greiner, RN
- Dan Baran
- John Monsen
- Don Trottier
- Tom Kramer
- Scott Maier
- Alison Sergio

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

A special thank you to Mark DeCheck, MD, Susan Stroupe, RN, and Sherry Gruhn whose terms ended in 2025

Mission

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Vision

A trusted health leader and
relevant force in the community.

Values



Innovation

Striving to find new ways to address current and future public health needs.



Leadership

Inspiring change to create healthy communities.



Advocacy

Creating awareness and support to improve public health outcomes.



Balance

Meeting diverse needs with strategic and ethical approaches.



Collaboration

Fostering trust and reciprocal relationships to efficiently address public health needs.



Dedication

Advancing health and wellness through relentless commitment.



Community Health Improvement Plan

In 2025, RCPH wrapped up the short term goals and moved into mid term goals. See page 7 for updates on each priority area.

Health Communication and Public Outreach

RCPH provides community education using novel and existing technologies with a focus on regular messaging. In 2025, RCPH shared

- 545 Facebook posts
- 514 Instagram posts
- 4 public awareness campaigns

Strategic Plan

In 2025, RCPH continued to work on the strategic priorities of building and maintaining a quality workforce, increasing timely and intentional communications, modernizing public health practices, and rebuilding trust in the community.

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
- Advocate Aurora Steering Council Burlington/Walworth Market
- Advocate Aurora Healthcare Steering Council Racine/Kenosha Market
- Racine County Home Visiting Stakeholders
- Family Preservation West
- SE Wisconsin Environmental Health Task Force
- Racine Health and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee

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



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.

State and National Public Health Accreditation

RCPH remained a PHAB-accredited health department in 2025 and completed the full application and documentation for reaccreditation, reaffirming our commitment to quality and continuous improvement.



Workforce Development Plan & Qualified Health Professionals



Performance Management & Quality Improvement Plans

RCPH strengthened its commitment to continuous quality improvement (QI) in 2025 through targeted projects designed to enhance service delivery and public health outcomes. One example includes a restaurant inspection improvement initiative that applied structured QI tools to identify root causes, test solutions, and refine practices to reduce priority violations and improve food safety.

Community Health Improvement Plan



Mental Health

In 2025, the mental health workgroup hosted the second annual Youth Mental Health Resource Fair with Burlington School District. Students and families from across the county attended to get connected to services and providers as well as learn self care techniques. This year's attendance was approximately 100 individuals, a 150% increase in participation from 2024's event.



The workgroup also continues to work on raising awareness of existing resources in the community and improving the mechanism for youth mental health referrals.



Socioeconomic and Poverty

In 2025, the Racine County Prospers workgroup advanced several initiatives to strengthen financial stability, reduce stigma surrounding public assistance, and improve access to community resources. The group promoted Credit Builder Loans through a local bank, increased awareness of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) for free tax preparation, and created outreach materials encouraging residents to use ACCESS Wisconsin to apply for benefits. They also hosted a childcare provider information session at the Burlington Library and collaborated with Racine County Courts and the Neighborhood Watch Program to support free eviction mediation services. Collectively, these efforts addressed financial insecurity, childcare gaps, and housing instability while promoting security and opportunity for Racine County residents.



Illness and Injury Prevention

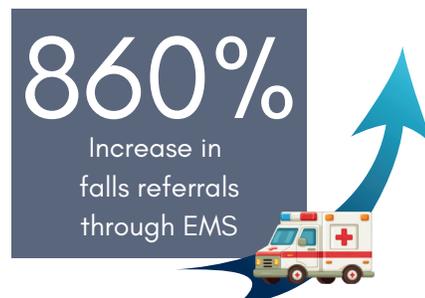
Racine County Public Health strengthened youth prevention efforts by amplifying messages and programs focused on illness and injury prevention in various school districts and using social media.



In 2025, the Racine County Falls Prevention Referral Program demonstrated measurable progress in increasing reach to older adults at risk for falls. In the first year, five of twelve fire departments in Racine County successfully made referrals to the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), increasing referrals by 860% over the previous 5 years and opening up opportunities for risk reduction education and additional referrals for assistance.



Falls Prevention in Racine County





Communicable Disease Control

181%

Increase in Influenza Hospitalizations from 2024 to 2025

82%

Increase in Lyme Disease cases from 2024 to 2025

5%

Increase in chlamydia cases from 2024 to 2025

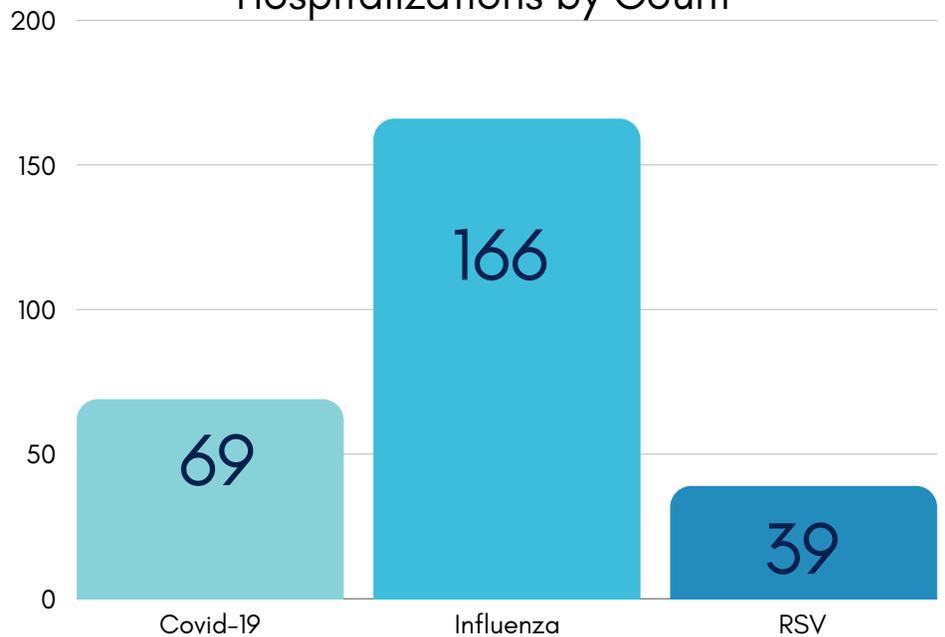
77%

Of reportable CD cases in 2025 were from 3 disease categories (GI, Respiratory, STD)

Top 5 Communicable Diseases with the Highest Incidence in 2025 (Excludes COVID)

Rank	Disease Group	Disease
1	Sexually Transmitted	Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection
2	Respiratory	Influenza-Associated Hospitalization
3	Vector-Borne	Lyme
4	Other	Mycobacterial Disease (Non-Tuberculous)
5	Enteric/Gastrointestinal	E-Coli, Enteropathogenic (EPEC)
	Sexually Transmitted	Gonorrhea

2025 Selected Respiratory Disease Hospitalizations by Count

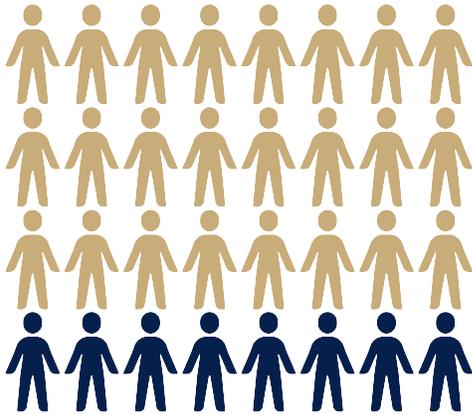




Outbreak Investigations

RCPH investigated 19 outbreaks in long term care facilities in 2025.

 **74% Acute Respiratory Infection**
 **26% Gastrointestinal**



Clinic Services

In 2025, the RCPH clinic provided:

- 99 pediatric vaccines to 29 pediatric clients
- 126 adult vaccines to 33 adult clients
- 28 TB skin tests



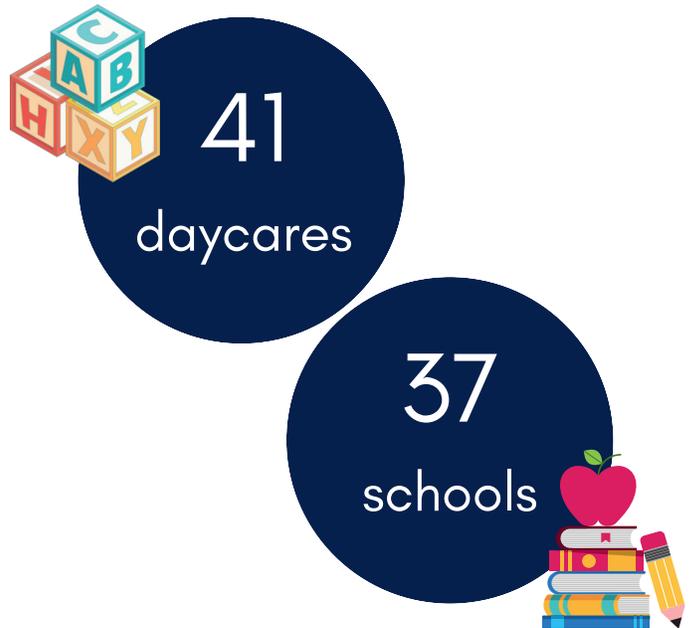
School and Daycare Immunization Assurance Activities

RCPH conducts surveillance, analysis, and assurance of vaccine completion rates for licensed daycare centers and schools. In 2025, RCPH worked with 41 daycares and 37 schools to complete immunization reporting.



Population-Based Immunization Assurance Activities

RCPH monitors population-based immunization rates routinely by generating letters to the parents of children approaching the age of two who may be behind on their immunizations.

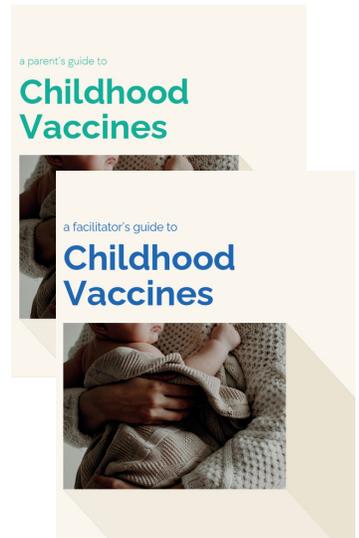




Guides to Childhood Vaccines

In 2025, RCPH launched *A Parent's Guide to Childhood Vaccines*, a resource designed to provide clear, concise, and accessible information about childhood immunizations. Based on surveys of several families within our home visiting programs, the discussions prompted by the guide have resulted in overall improvement in attitudes about immunizations.

The parent guide is used alongside our *Facilitator's Guide* intended for anyone engaging families in conversations about vaccination. The facilitator's guide also provides evidenced-based background information and practical talking points for the facilitator to use when having these conversations with their clients. Together, the Parent and Facilitator Guides support consistent, informed, and empathetic vaccine discussions across RCPH programs and other settings.



HeartWise

In September 2025, RCPH launched HeartWise, an initiative centered on heart health and hypertension education. A cornerstone of the HeartWise initiative is our four-week **Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program**. Participants receive a free blood pressure monitor, in-person training on taking their blood pressure at home, and goal setting/coaching based on the American Heart Association's "Life's Essential 8" framework.

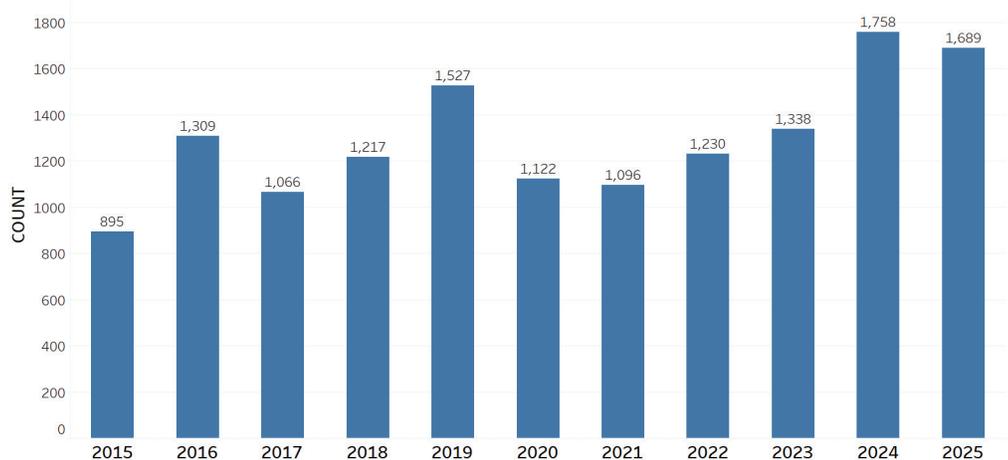


Lead Poisoning Case Management & Lead Hazard Assessments

Health department staff certified as Lead Hazard Investigators provide home assessments to determine potential source(s) of lead contamination and discuss possible solutions for remediation.



Number of Children Tested for Lead
RCPH, 2015-2025



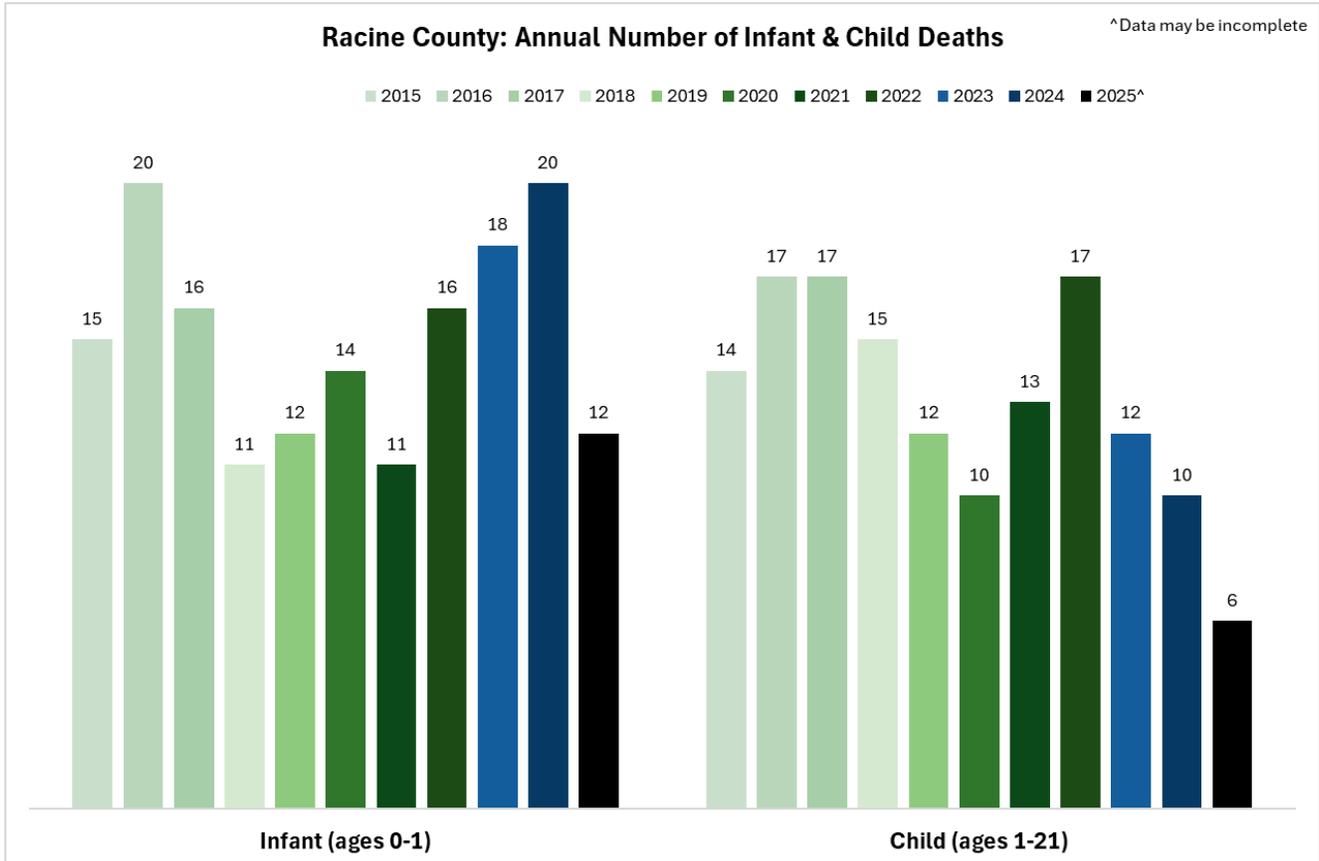
Data is provisional and is subject to change. Source(s): Racine County Public Health Division (RCPH), Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HMLPSS)





Fetal, Infant, & Child Death Review

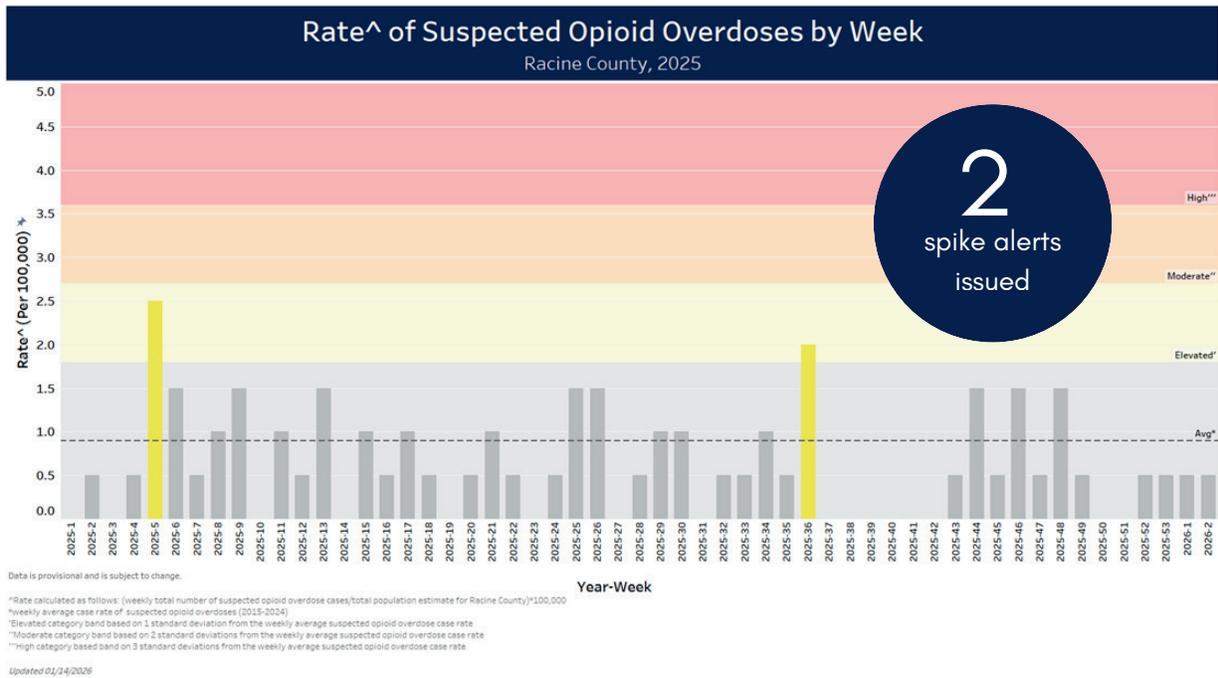
The FICDR team works to ensure accurate identification and uniform reporting of the cause, manner and relevant circumstances of every fetal, infant and child death. The goal is to identify preventable causes of death and inform program and policy direction in the community based on team findings and trend analyses. 23 cases were reviewed in 2025.





Overdose Fatality Review

In 2025, RCPH spike alerts issued in response to suspected opioid overdose emergency department visits decreased by 50% relative to 2024.



Harm Reduction Vending Machine

In 2025, RCPH public health vending machines positioned across Racine County distributed 2127 NARCAN boxes, 1806 fentanyl test strip bundles, and 197 xylazine test strip bundles. These efforts aim to reduce harm from opioids, a leading cause of drug-related deaths in the county, and address the growing presence of xylazine, which can complicate an overdose response and make overdoses more difficult to reverse.



2127



1806



197

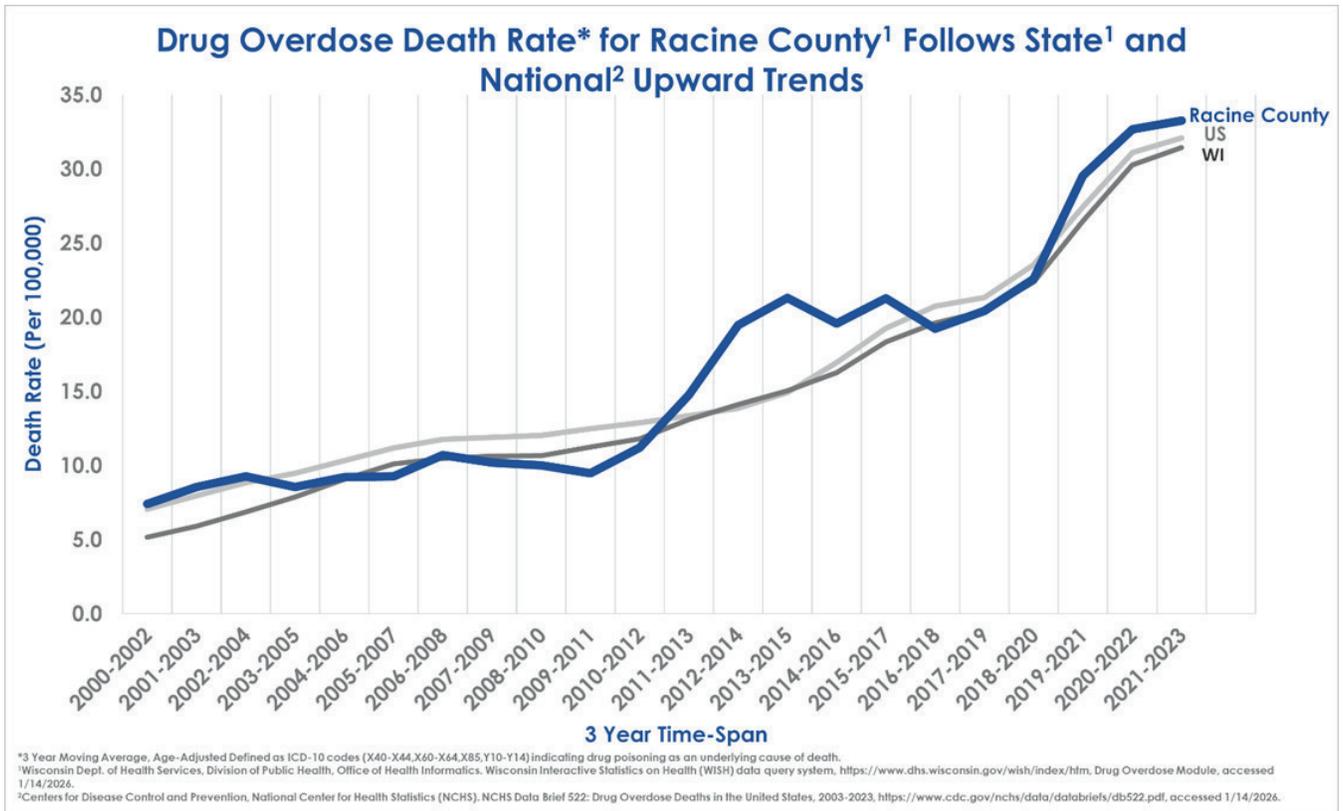
October - December



Overdose Deaths* by Year

*Provisional, subject to change

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
# of Overdose Deaths	23	27	43	54	57	46	72	46	34



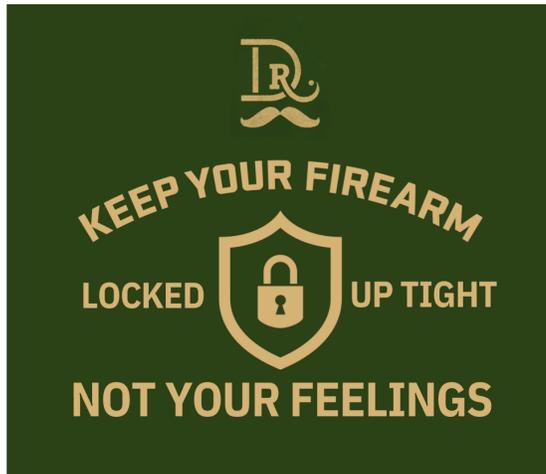


Man Therapy

In 2025, RCPH continued to promote Man Therapy, a 24/7 online platform that uses humor and story telling to break down stigma around mental health care for working age men. This year, the Man Therapy firearm prevention content was partnered with additional mental health initiatives to focus on reducing firearm related suicides.

In Racine County in 2025:

- 71 users visited 390 pages.
- The crisis button was only used 1 time.
- Top visited topics included trauma, relationships, depression, and resilience.



mantherapy.org

Therapy. The way a man does it.



Let's Talk About Mental Health - RCPH x GSWISE

In 2025, RCPH partnered with Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast (GSWISE) to release a mental health guide specifically for adolescent girls called Let's Talk About Mental Health. The guide was distributed through school districts, community events, the girl scout council, and more. It includes information on identifying anxiety, depression, and disordered eating as well as tools to help manage feelings at home, how to ask for support, and even how to manage time on social media in a safe and healthy way.



QPR - Question Persuade Refer

RCPH implemented QPR (Question Persuade Refer) trainings for all health department staff. This training was also implemented at Burlington Area School District for social work and counseling services. In total, 4 trainings were completed in 2025.



Radon Testing

In 2025, RCPH sold 33 short term/2 long term radon test kits. Of the kits sent in for analysis, 68% of them had results greater than or equal to 4.0 pCi/l, the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended action level.



Human Health Hazards

"Human health hazard" means a substance, activity, or condition that is known to have the potential to cause acute or chronic illness, to endanger life, to generate or spread infectious diseases, or to otherwise injuriously affect the health of the public.





Environmental Health Licensing and Inspections

Environmental health staff provided licenses and inspections to the listed establishments.

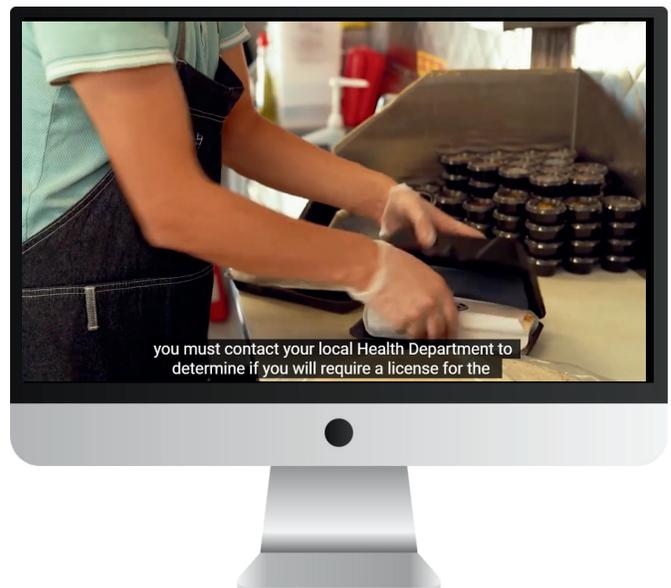
Additionally, RCPH continued to provide mutual aid to the City of Racine Public Health Department by completing 20 inspections.

Total Licenses	Establishment Type
20	Body Art
3	Campground
660	Retail Food
21	Hotels/Motels
62	Pools
2	Summer Camps
77	Tourist rooming Houses
845	TOTAL for 2024-2025



Food Safety Classes

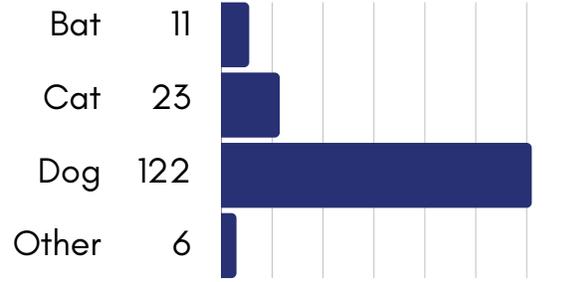
The RCPH Food Safety Training video was viewed 54 times in 2025. 24 certificates were sent to individuals who completed the training and quiz.





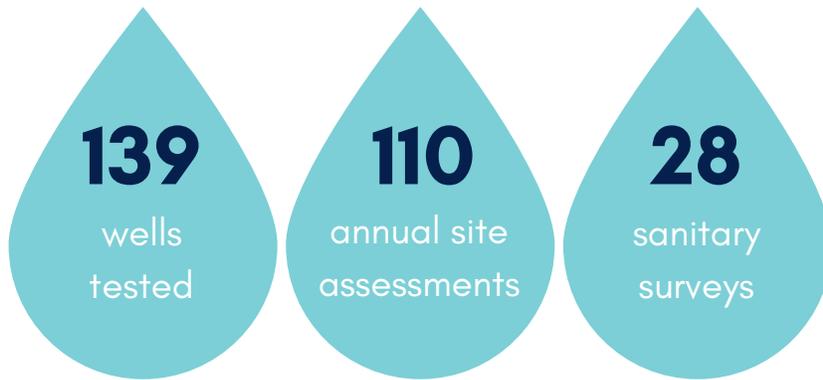
Rabies Exposure Investigations

RCPH continues to investigate potential rabies exposures to ensure the animal is not rabid and the victim has not been exposed to rabies. Each rabies exposure investigations requires a large amount of time to complete. In 2025, RCPH conducted 162 rabies exposure investigations.



DNR Well Water Program

In 2025, RCPH tested 139 wells, performed 110 annual site assessments, and completed 28 sanitary surveys.



Well Water Testing

In 2025, RCPH provided 44 bacteria/nitrate well water test kits to residents.



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 informed municipalities of the need to post 15 Caution signs and implement 4 closures throughout the 2025 beach season.





Hello Baby Universal Home Visiting

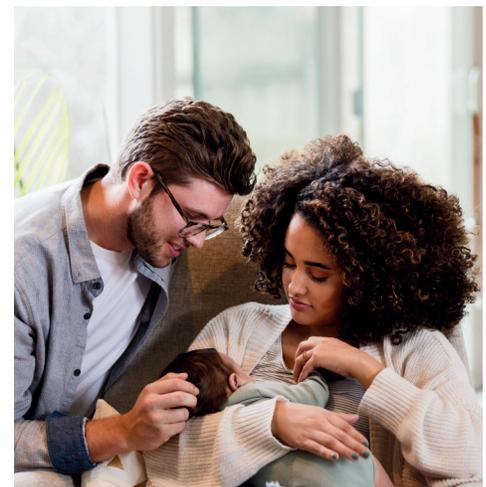
In 2025, the Hello Baby program continued to expand its reach and impact across Racine County, leveraging a 29.6% increase in hospital referrals to ensure access to consistent guidance and resources for all local families with newborns. Our two nurses provided essential early-postpartum care by engaging parents at the hospital and conducting home visits to assess the health and well-being of both mother and baby.

RCPH continued to share the Hello Baby home visiting approach, with neighboring health departments choosing to incorporate the program into their services. Its expansion reflects broader regional interest in strengthening early support for families.



Healthy Families America (HFA) Model Home Visiting Programs

In 2025, RCPH provided 1,190 home visits for 120 families. We had 15 families graduate from services this past year, which indicates those families have been actively participating in services for at least 3 years.



Emergency Preparedness

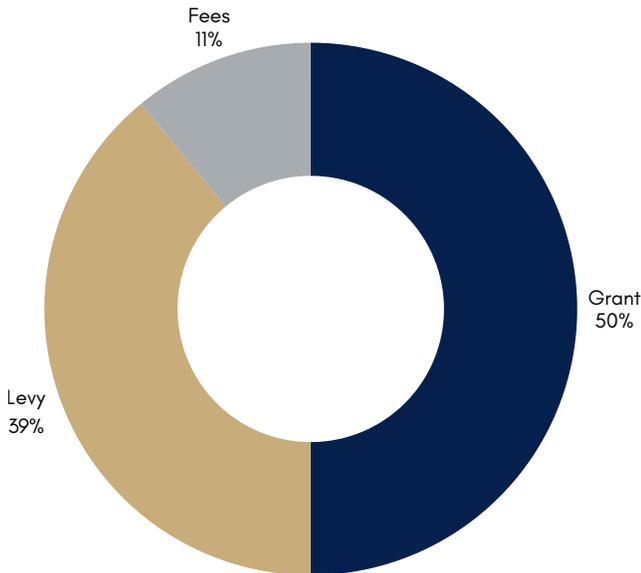


Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness facilitates organizational and community resilience in the face of a wide range of hazards. RCPH staff, in cooperation with other county departments and partners, continue to develop emergency response plans and protocols, and identify internal and external resources that can be deployed by the Health Department during a public health or other emergency.

2025 Budget Summary

2025 Revenues



2025 Expenditures

