



# SAUK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



## **Sauk County, Wisconsin Public Health Annual Report**

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## **Sauk County, Wisconsin Health Department 2020 Annual Report**

### **Executive Summary**

The mission of the Sauk County Public Health (SCPH) in 2020 was to:

Protect Sauk County residents and visitors by taking action through collaboration to promote health and safety and prevent illness, injury, and disease.

Just some of the ways that SCPH promoted and protected health and safety across Sauk County include:

- ✓ Conducting over 1,500 inspections of all restaurants, pools, lodging facilities, campgrounds, and other licensed establishments to reduce food, water, and air-borne illnesses, and improve public health and safety
- ✓ Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by testing, disease investigations, contact tracing and compiling data and reports for the public
- ✓ Having public health nurses visit at-risk first-time moms and babies in their homes for 2 1/2 years to ensure the child's optimal health and development with over 100 families served in the past year through the Nurse-Family Partnership program
- ✓ Providing supplemental nutrition to over 1,100 families with young children
- ✓ Educating 21 expecting moms and families about their health during pregnancy and what to expect as a new parent through the Prenatal Care Coordination program
- ✓ Screening 80 children for lead and supporting families in reducing lead exposure when elevated blood lead levels are detected
- ✓ Testing over 100 public wells for harmful levels of bacteria and nitrates
- ✓ Investigating almost 200 animal bites for suspected rabies
- ✓ Installing 52 car seats and educating families on safely transporting children
- ✓ Training 100% of our staff in Public Health Emergency Preparedness, which proved critical in the COVID-19 response

This report will highlight some of the great work of SCPH staff and partners in 2020, and will set the stage for the transformative work of 2021.

### **Sauk County Public Health in 2021:**

While the focus of SCPH in 2021 will continue to be on COVID-19 as we work to make vaccination available to all of those who seek it, we, like everyone else, look forward to when we can return to a place of normalcy and regular programming.

Prior to 2020 major work was being developed to modernize public health. As we are able to shift our focus away from the COVID-19 response, our goal is to return to this plan by focusing on training, gaining new partners and expanding current ones to move further toward policy, systems, and environmental change to sustainably improve health and wellness in our county.

## **2020 Goals Review**

The following tables summarize our successes and challenges in meeting the goals defined for 2020.

<b>Goal 1: Engage community partners and build/maintain programs to identify, address, and ensure services to improve mental health and prevent communicable disease</b>	<b>Was this objective Reached in 2020?</b>  Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Improve Sauk County vaccination rates	No. The rate of Sauk County childhood vaccinations dropped from 68% in 2019 to 63% in 2020. Much of this drop is related to COVID-19 access challenges. Many medical providers limited healthcare services in April 2020 to only emergency care. SCPH held by appointment only vaccinations instead of monthly vaccination clinics.
Promote activities that will increase mental health awareness	<p>Yes. Sauk County Public Health, in partnership with Human Services and Emergency Management, offered six “Maintaining Wellness During Stressful Times” webinars to increase awareness of COVID-19 related mental health challenges and provide resources to increase well-being.</p> <p>Mental Health Resources were also shared on the COVID-19 Resources for Individuals and Families webpage, and shared on SCPH Social Media pages.</p>
Engage in activities that will increase awareness about sexually transmitted disease and infection	<p>Yes. In 2020 the Health Department continued to participate in our region’s Reproductive Health Coalition, with a mission of “working together to decrease STI rates and enhance access to reproductive health services for all individuals through policy, education, and direct service delivery in Adams, Juneau, and Sauk Counties.” This coalition continued to meet monthly (virtually during COVID-19), and at most meetings have had a speaker relating to Reproductive Care Barriers and Cultural Sensitivity. Some of the topics covered included: HPVcheck foundation; HPV related diseases and prevention within Hispanic population; UW CORE (Collaborative for Reproductive Equity); HIV care and prevention: PrEP; Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health: discussed reproductive health policies in WI, and Providing Reproductive Care to LGBTQ+ population. We have also requested PRAMS data for our region to review and pinpoint areas of focus for preconception health going forward.</p>

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	Public Health Nurses also provided education and referrals to its clients and community residents to reduce the spread of STIs.
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<b>Goal 2: Improve the health of families in Sauk County</b>	<b>Was this objective Reached in 2020?</b> Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Improve nutritional status and physical activity rate of families	<p>No. One struggle is in defining a benchmark starting point to measure improvements, as data on county-wide nutritional and physical activity rates of families is not available.</p> <p>Sauk County Public Health's Coalition for Activity and Nutrition (CAN) met just once for 2020, in January. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions, the coalition members decided to pause meeting. The hope is that this coalition can resume meeting at some point during 2021 and restart the important work of measuring how the lack of physical activity and good nutrition are adversely affecting the health of Sauk County residents.</p> <p>The rate of children in WIC's Fit Families program that engaged in at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day dropped from 98% to 90%, and the rate of Fit Families participants meeting the objective of 1 or less sweetened beverage per week dropped from 85% in 2019 to 75% in 2020.</p>
Improve the physical environment of children	<p>Yes. 80 children were screened for elevated lead blood levels. Lead education was provided to 14 families of children who had elevated blood lead levels.</p> <p>Radon test kits and educational materials were distributed to 104 Sauk County families to assess the risk of radon in their homes.</p> <p>395.25 hours of staff time were spent in the investigation and enforcement of potential human health hazards in 2020.</p>

<b>Goal 3: Reduce potential for illness and injury resulting from natural or man-made hazards in Sauk County</b>	<b>Was this objective Reached in 2020?</b> Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Increase environmental health programming	No. Due to COVID-19 there were less businesses available to inspect. Also, EH staff shifted priorities for part of the year to assist with COVID-19 operations.



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	<p>Total Environmental Health inspections were 1,544 in 2020.</p> <p>2,260 hours of Environmental Health staff time was spent educating the community on environmental health issues, including radon, lead poisoning prevention, safe drinking/well water, proper discharge of solid waste, rabies, pests and Legionella.</p> <p>2,016 hours of Environmental Health staff time was spent on COVID-19 response. Environmental Health COVID-19 work included business education and consultation, working in the emergency operations center, assisting with COVID testing sites, and answering questions from the public.</p>
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<b>Goal 4: Provide the highest quality public health programs and services and maintain a culture of quality improvement</b>	<b>Was this objective Reached in 2020</b>
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Implement the Strategic Plan	<p>Partially completed. The Leadership Team met in early 2020, just prior to COVID-19, and conducted a SOAR analysis for strategic planning. The information from this SOAR analysis was used to inform the 2021 Vision, Mission and Goals approved by the Board of Health in July.</p> <p>Strategic planning efforts were not completed in 2020 due to COVID-19. Additional work is needed in 2021 to create and implement a new strategic plan.</p>
Implement the Quality Improvement Plan	Partially completed. Due to COVID-19, the work of the Quality Improvement Coordinator was shifted to COVID-19 Response and Informatics. 1 QI Project was started in 2020 to implement an automated phone tree system. The evaluation of this project is on-going.
Provide quality customer service	<p>Partially completed. A customer satisfaction survey was planned for 2020, however, this was not able to be implemented due to COVID-19 staff capacity.</p> <p>The QI Project that began in 2020 was created in response to customer feedback. The Health Department experienced high call volumes, well beyond the capacity of our single receptionist. Callers were experiencing long wait/hold times as the receptionist worked to direct calls. From this feedback an automated phone tree system was</p>

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	created to assist in directing callers to the staff that could best serve their needs. The feedback received so far from this change has been positive.
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<b>Goal 5: Improve dental health of Sauk County residents by increasing the number of residents who receive dental care from 73% to 75% by December 31, 2019</b>	<b>Was this objective Reached in 2020?</b>  Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Expand and grow the public health dental program	No. Due to COVID-19, the Seal-A-Smile Program was paused in March 2020, and has not yet been able to resume.

<b>Goal 6: The Sauk County Health Department will have a knowledgeable, competent workforce</b>	<b>Was this objective Reached in 2020?</b>  Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Achieve public health competencies for all staff	Partially completed. The Health Department leadership team is developing competency requirements and training opportunities for all staff, based on national best practice and accreditation. This work began in late 2019, and was continued in early 2020 in the strategic planning process. Due to COVID-19 staff capacity, this was paused, and will be continued in 2021.
Cross-train staff to increase capacity	Yes. Almost all staff work in multiple program areas and were trained to be successful in each area. In 2020, many staff were also cross-trained to provide COVID-19 support.



## **Changes / Accomplishments & Statistical Summary:**

### **Coronavirus Response**

#### *Sauk County Public Health's COVID-19 Response*

Sauk County Public Health began preparing our COVID-19 response several weeks before the first case of the virus was confirmed in our county. On March 10th, Sauk County Public Health and Emergency Management hosted a COVID-19 Coordination Update Meeting for community-based organizations. On March 18th, 2020, the first COVID-19 case in Sauk County was confirmed. Our county has been hard hit. As of 12/31/2020, 4,496 Sauk County residents had been infected with the disease, 168 had been hospitalized, and 27 had lost their lives to the virus.

The focus of Sauk County Public Health (SCPH) throughout the pandemic has been education and collaboration with community partners to maximize beneficial impact. Successful collaboration resulted in free COVID-19 testing sites being offered throughout the county each week. Thanks to the wonderful work of local EMS, Fire and Healthcare providers and the WI National Guard, over 18,000 tests were conducted at Sauk County community testing sites in 2020. Community education has been extensive. Since March, SCPH has provided weekly in-depth updates via live webinars and video recordings to inform residents about the current COVID-19 status in Sauk County and provide guidance on how to keep safe. In April, Sauk County was the second county in Wisconsin to be selected for a National Guard Drive-Through COVID-19 Testing Site, and what was learned in this process helped inform future testing sites throughout the state. In May and June, SCPH staff prioritized guidance on reopening safely, and SCPH staff provided a Reopening Guide, COVID-19 Self-Assessment Online Tool and promoted WI Economic Development Corporation guidelines to assist businesses in adopting safety precautions to protect their customers and employees. Environmental Health Staff were also available to review re-opening plans and offer guidance for business operators. In July, SCPH staff worked with the School District administrators to plan for the return to school. In November, when the surge in cases hit Wisconsin, and Sauk County hospitals were at peak capacity, SCPH staff worked with area healthcare providers via a virtual press conference to urge residents to take specific actions to combat the spread of the virus.

Throughout this time, SCPH staff have done what public health does for any communicable disease: provide information to educate the case patient about the disease and ensure isolation to prevent further spread. Staff conduct disease investigation interviews to determine where they could have contracted the disease, and perform contact tracing to inform close contacts of the case patient that they have been exposed and provide education about warning signs to look for while they quarantine. Testing, Disease Investigation, Contact Tracing, Isolation/Quarantine are the main tools in our toolkit, and through October, SCPH staff remained in the “green” in our Disease Investigation timeliness metric, contacting over 85% of new cases within 24 hours of receiving a test result from the lab. When the surge hit in November, the increase in new cases exceeded our staff capacity, and this was no longer possible. In 2020, SCPH staff conducted 3,484 Disease Investigation Interviews and recorded 3,666 close contacts.

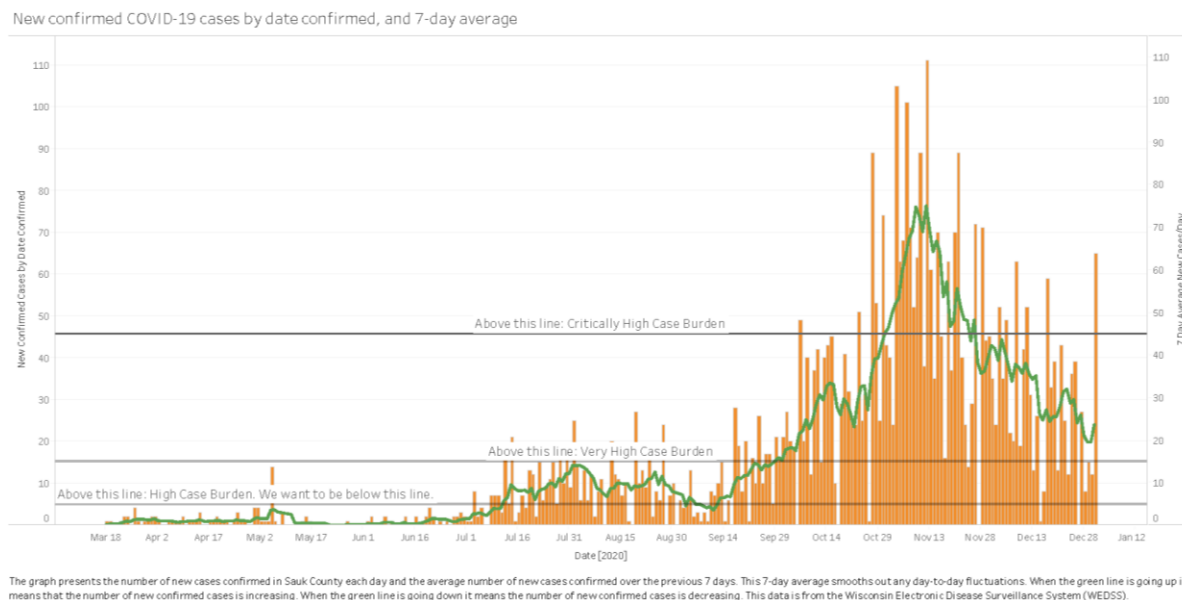
In addition to directly working with COVID-19 case patients and close contacts, SCPH staff has recognized the other impacts of COVID-19, including the increases in mental health challenges,

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opioid overdoses, and increased alcohol use. Staff strived to keep a robust and up-to-date resources webpage, with links to economic assistance, housing resources, local food pantries, mental health services, substance use services, and domestic violence and sexual assault services. In partnership with Human Services and Emergency Management, six Maintaining Wellness During Stressful Times webinars were recorded to provide support and resources to residents. Staff have collaborated with many other Sauk County departments and service providers, from regular calls with area healthcare providers to virtual meetings with local chambers of commerce, in efforts to reduce the impacts of COVID-19.

In December 2020, two COVID-19 vaccines were granted emergency use authorization by the FDA. SCPH continued to provide education to residents and began work on coordinating vaccine rollout in collaboration with other Sauk County vaccinators. On December 14th, 2020, the first Sauk County residents were vaccinated. Our hope is that these vaccines are a light at the end of this very dark, very long tunnel.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, and we expect that the effects will be felt for years to come, as a Health Department we are proud of the work that we have done in 2020 in our efforts to keep Sauk County residents safe and healthy.



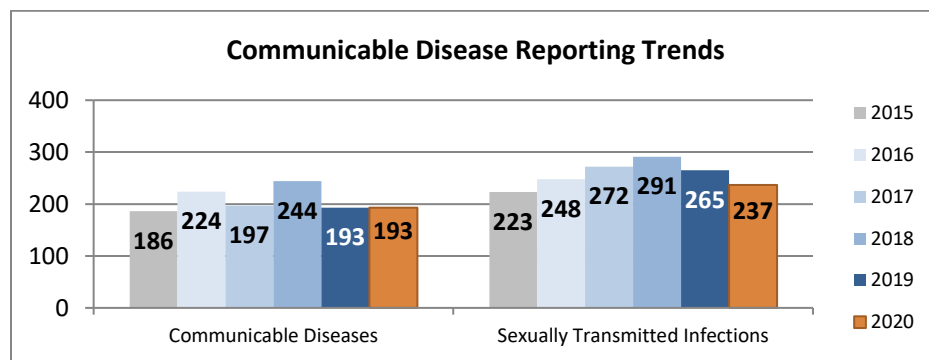
For more information about Sauk County's Coronavirus Response, visit <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/coronavirus>

## **Communicable Diseases & Immunizations**

### *Communicable Diseases (not including COVID-19)*

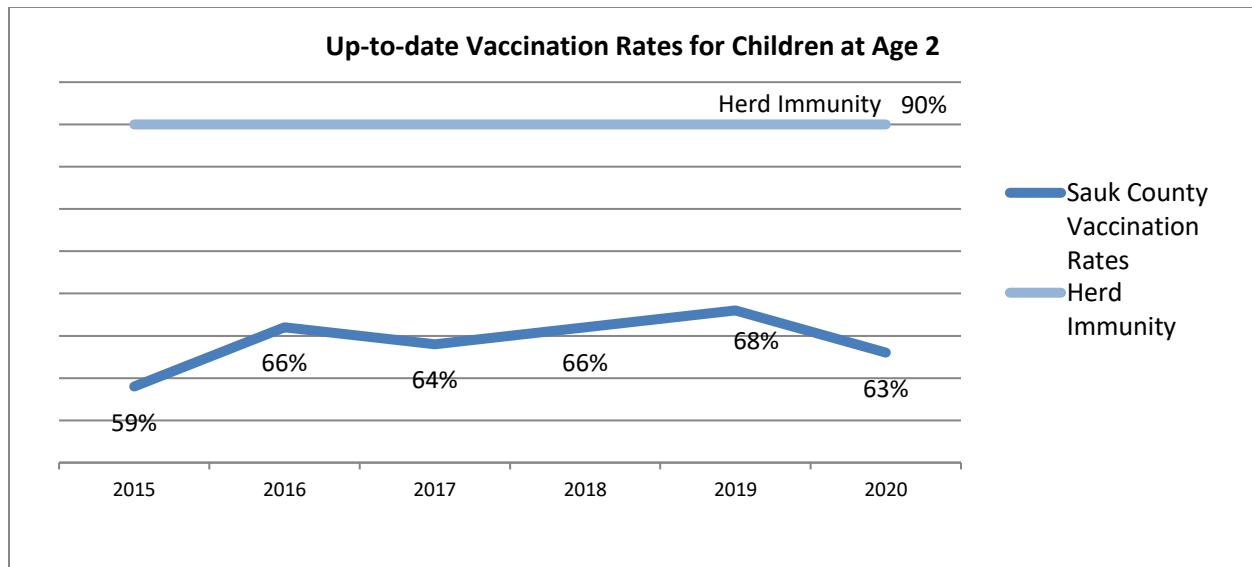
Per state statute, Sauk County Health Department provides surveillance, investigation and follow-up for over 90 reportable diseases and conditions. The Health Department assures that individuals receive appropriate treatment and provides preventive health education to prevent further spread and future infections within our community. Local providers receive monthly reports of communicable disease trends in Sauk County, and intervention policy is created based on those data.

Sauk County's top reportable diseases in 2020 were sexually transmitted infections (chlamydia is the most prevalent STI in Sauk County). Other common communicable diseases included: Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations (55 cases), and Lyme Disease (23 cases). In 2020 there were also two confirmed cases of Active Tuberculosis Disease.



### *Immunizations*

Appropriate administration of safe and effective vaccines is one of the most successful and cost effective public health tools for preventing disease in the last 100 years. Vaccines prevent disease in the people who receive them, and provide indirect protection called “herd immunity” to others in the community who are not fully immunized. Children under two years of age are especially vulnerable to disease, making it critical they be protected through immunization. The State of Wisconsin Immunization Program establishes goals each year. The objective for 2020 was that 70% of Sauk County children will be up-to-date on their childhood disease immunizations by 24 months of age. The 2020 Sauk County childhood vaccination rate is 63%. COVID-19 impacted access to care for many families.



## **Maternal and Child Health**

SCPH provides a variety of health promotion, health education, healthcare access, and direct clinical services to help all Sauk County families have the opportunity to live their healthiest lives possible.

### *Women, Infants and Children (WIC)*

WIC is a short-term nutrition intervention program that provides nutritious foods for low-income women, infants and children during times of rapid growth and development. The WIC program improves birth outcomes, along with the health of women and children. In 2020, Sauk County WIC served an average of 1,138 people each month, saving Medicaid and healthcare costs. WIC is having a true impact on the birth outcomes in Sauk County. 4.3% of infants enrolled in WIC were born low birth weight and 5.9% were born pre-term. This compares favorably to the national averages of 8.3% and 10% respectively.

Breastfeeding has been shown over and over again to be the healthiest option for young babies, especially those 6 months and under. SCPH has certified lactation consultants in both the WIC and NFP programs to assist mom with breastfeeding if she so chooses. Sauk County WIC continues to have one of the highest breastfeeding initiation rates (89%) in the state of Wisconsin.

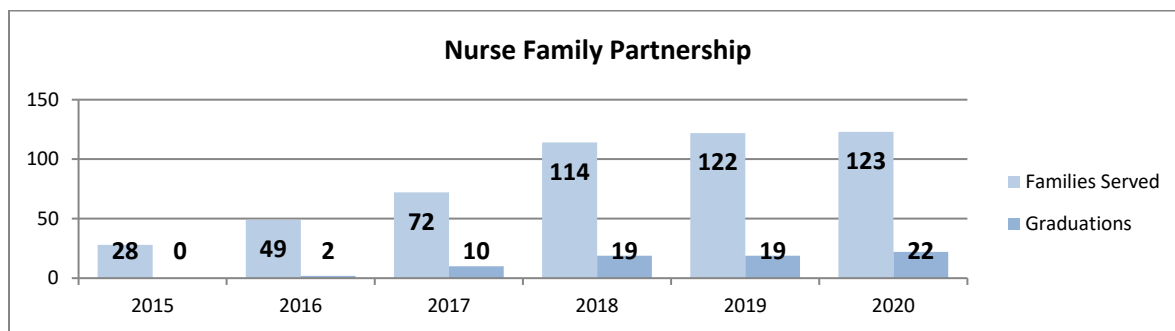
### *Nurse-Family Partnership*

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) connects eligible first-time moms with a registered nurse from pregnancy until baby turns 2 years old. During this time, the nurse supports the mother, baby and her family to create the safest and healthiest environment for the new baby to grow up. The Sauk NFP program has had great success especially in terms of graduation rates, breastfeeding initiation rates and community referrals. The graduation rate in 2020 was 76% of the Sauk families that started in NFP during pregnancy graduating after 2.5 years with the same nurse. We are above the top 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of NFP programs in the country with a rate above 62%. All Sauk NFP nurses are Certified Lactation Counselors and the NFP program currently has a 95%

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breastfeeding initiation rate among new moms. In 2020, Sauk NFP served 123 families, had 107 infants in the program, and graduated 22 residents from the program.

During COVID, the nurses have continued to be dedicated to the NFP program and its families, as the harsh circumstances they live in have become worse. Their struggles with housing, food and work all continue in addition to the difficulties created by the pandemic. The NFP nurses have jumped in to assist with COVID on a fluid basis and have assisted with COVID testing sites, vaccinations, Incident Command positions, direct calls to positive COVID cases and contacts with weekend assistance as well as taking on Prenatal Care Coordination programming and its clients. Visits with NFP families has also been fluid due to COVID transmission. If the weather cooperated, visits were conducted outside at 6-foot distances. If not, visits were done over the phone or virtually. NFP nurses had to adjust their practice with the technology of choice per client preference in order continue supporting them during this time. The NFP National Service Office was able to distribute free phones to clients without access to a phone for this reason. NFP nurses continue to adapt to the changing circumstances that surround COVID and its precautions but are loyal to the needs of the clients and hope to get back to some kind of face-to-face interaction while keeping everyone safe very soon.



### *Prenatal Care Coordination/Healthy Beginnings*

Healthy Beginnings pairs expecting families receiving Medicaid with their own personal nurse. The program provides support and services moms need to have a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby. Healthy Beginnings provides personal visits to educate expecting moms and families about their health during pregnancy and what to expect as a new parent; connects families to community resources; and provides personal and family support required to give these families their best opportunity to lead the healthiest lives they can. In 2020, 21 women participated in the program and there were 17 births. This program continues for 60 days post-partum.

### *Keeping Kids Alive – Child Death Review Team*

The Sauk County Keeping Kids Alive initiative seeks to understand how and why children in Sauk County die. This team meets quarterly and the reviews allow us to track trends and catalyze local prevention efforts. In 2020, this team reviewed 4 cases. Due to the surge in the pandemic, the October meeting of the Child Death Review Team was not conducted.

## Environmental Health



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 6 Americans get sick from contaminated foods and beverages each year, and 3,000 die. As a contracted agent for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), Sauk County Environmental Health has licensing and enforcement authority over food establishments, lodging facilities, campgrounds, pools, and water attractions. Environmental Health Sanitarians conduct food safety inspections annually at over 500 food

establishments in Sauk County, with a focus on education and prevention. With an increased focus on violations most likely to cause foodborne illness, Environmental Health staff work every day to ensure safe food for Sauk County visitors and residents.

Drowning is the number one cause of unintentional death for children between the ages of 1 and 4, according to the CDC. With 387 licensed public pools and water attractions in Sauk County, EH Sanitarians inspect all public pools and educate pool operators on health and safety.

Environmental Health is actively involved in the Pool Code Advisory Committee, which includes members from local health departments, DATCP, and industry. The goal of this committee is to update the pool code, assure transparency to industry, and work collaboratively to improve public health policy. Environmental Health also conducts inspections every year at Sauk County lodging, campgrounds, and tattoo facilities.

The EH team conducted 1,544 inspections of licensed establishments in 2020. 2,260 additional hours of staff time were spent on efforts regarding radon gas, lead poisoning prevention, poor housing conditions, safe drinking water, proper discharge of solid waste, rabies, pests, and *legionella*.

Environmental Health contributed over 2,000 hours of staff time to COVID-19 response. The focus was to provide education and guidance to local businesses, helping them stay open while providing a safe environment for the public. Environmental Health Staff also worked in the emergency operations center and COVID testing sites.

2020 Sauk County Food and Recreational Facility Inspections					
Facility Type	Routine Inspections (annual and follow up)	Pre-Inspections (prior to licensure)	Complaint Inspections	Re-Inspections (conducted in response to non-compliance)	Additional On-Site Visits
Lodging	271	33	9	6	49
Campgrounds	32	0	2	1	0
Food Establishments	467	52	21	22	44
Pools & Water Attractions	259	7	4	22	42
Body art/Tattoo	9	6	2	0	1
Summer Camps	3	0	0	0	0
School Food	45	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1086</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>137</b>

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### *Lead Screening and Home Assessments*

Lead poisoning is an important health concern, especially for young children. Environmental Health plays a key role in identifying and preventing lead exposure. Paint dust or chips in older homes is the leading cause of lead poisoning for children in Sauk County. When a child is found to have elevated blood lead levels, there is a coordinated response from Sauk County Public Health Nurses and Environmental Health Sanitarians. If needed, a home inspection and sampling is done by a certified Lead Hazard Investigator. In 2020, 80 Sauk County children were screened for lead, with 14 elevated lead blood level test results. These 14 families received education and support from Public Health Nurses and Environmental Health Sanitarians to reduce the child's exposure to lead and lower their blood lead levels.

### *Radon*

Sauk County Health Department is the Radon Information Center (RIC) for Sauk and Columbia Counties. The program focuses on radon outreach and the distribution of radon testing kits. There were 104 radon testing kits distributed to Sauk County residents in 2020.

Radon Testing Results 2020	
<b>0-3.9 pCi/L</b> Radon levels are under the recommended EPA Action Level. It is recommended that retesting of the home should be done every 2-3 years to ensure radon levels have not increased. No levels of radon are considered safe.	70%
<b>4-8.0 pCi/L</b> Radon levels are above the recommended EPA Action Level. Retesting should be conducted to verify the results of the first test. If results again are 4.0 – 8.1pCi/L mitigation is recommended.	15%
<b>&gt;8.1 pCi/L</b> Radon levels are well above the recommended EPA Action Level. Retesting should be conducted immediately. If results again are above 8.1 pCi/L mitigation is recommended.	15%

### *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Transient Non-Community Well Water* *WI State Statute Chapter 280.11, 281.15*

The goal of the Transient Non-Community (TNC) Well Water Program is to detect construction, location, maintenance, and operational deficiencies within a public well water system to prevent unsafe conditions. Annual bacteria and nitrate water samples are collected to test systems for harmful levels. There were 138 public wells sampled in 2020.

### *Rabies*

Sauk County Environmental Health division is responsible for rabies surveillance. Rabies is a viral disease affecting the central nervous system transmitted from infected mammals to humans and is invariably fatal once symptoms appear. Rabies is a reportable disease and early treatment is very important. There were 194 animal bite cases investigated in 2020.

### *Human Health Hazards and Nuisance Investigations* *WI State Statute Chapter 254.41, 254.59*



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The goal of this program is to assess and abate possible human health hazards and nuisances. Complaints can include, but are not limited to: unfit buildings, insect and rodent control, air quality, mold, exotic animals, solid waste, and any other unsanitary conditions. Environmental Health staff committed 395.25 hours of staff time to the investigation and enforcement of human health hazards in 2020.

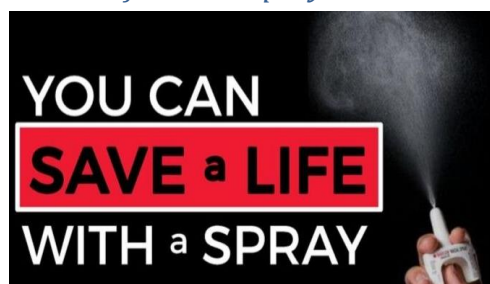
### **Harm Reduction**

#### *Child Safety Devices*

With the generous financial assistance of community partners, the Health Department is able to provide car seats and pack-n-plays for residents in need. The Health Department now has three certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) on staff who work with families to ensure the safest possible transportation for their children. In 2020, Health Department CPST's installed 52 car seats in Sauk County, educating each family on safe child transportation.

All of the Health Department's Home Visiting Public Health Nurses promote infant safe sleep, following the American Academy of Pediatric recommendations. An important part of this program is ensuring that all infants have a safe sleep environment, so the Health Department also educated and provided pack-n-plays to 15 families in 2020.

#### *Save a Life with a Spray: Narcan Trainings*



Narcan, whose active ingredient is naloxone, is a safe medication that can effectively reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. SCPH trained 279 participants in 2020. Training participants receive a free Narcan Nasal Spray kit, disseminated by partners from Genoa Pharmacy and the Ho-Chunk Nation Pharmacy. Due to COVID-19, these trainings shifted to virtual or recorded sessions.

#### *Sauk County Partnership for Prevention and Recovery*

The Sauk County Partnership for Prevention aims to empower our communities to prevent the dangerous use of alcohol and other drugs. In 2020, the coalition continued their efforts on three priorities: alcohol use among youth, vaping in youth, and prescription drug misuse in youth and adults. Shifting to virtual meetings in March, the coalition continued to meet monthly throughout 2020 and celebrated its three-year anniversary. In early 2020, the coalition hosted 3 Let's Talk Drugs community panel presentations attended by about 420 people. Some efforts were postponed due to the pandemic, including launching alcohol age compliance checks and a new Not in My House educational campaign to prevent underage drinking parties. The coalition continued to provide several hundred free prescription drug lock boxes and disposal kits to the community, hosted educational webinars for medical professionals and faith-based leaders, launched the DHS Small Talks campaign, offered free prevention curriculum to local school districts, and continued promotional efforts including two new websites (one for Not in My House and one for the coalition), a Facebook page for the coalition, and promotional items such as pens, several educational pamphlets, and key chains.

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### *The Sauk County Overdose Death Review Team*

In January of 2018, the Health Department formed the Sauk County Overdose Death Review Team. This multi-agency team meets every other month to confidentially review drug overdose deaths that occur in Sauk County. The team's goal is to prevent future overdose deaths in our county by:

1. Identifying missed opportunities for prevention and gaps in system;
2. Building relationships between local stakeholders;
3. Recommending changes in policies, programs, practices, and laws;
4. Informing local prevention strategies related to substance misuse and overdose

In 2020, the team reviewed two overdose death cases and finalized four recommendations. Team recommendations are shared with local and state partners with the intent to influence future policymaking. One of the team's main recommendations, establishing overdose Rapid Response Teams, was developed in detail by team members. Grant funding was sought and awarded to launch these teams.

### *Sauk County Overdose Rapid Response Teams*

Public Health secured funding in May of 2020 to develop a new Rapid Response Team program. Teams will be comprised of two EMS/fire professionals and one peer support specialist/recovery coach. These teams will follow up with an in-home or at-facility visit to individuals that survive overdose in Sauk County in an attempt to streamline a connection to treatment and other services. Our anticipated launch date is May of 2021.

### *Tobacco Retailer Compliance Investigations*

These compliance checks are designed to assure that local retailers are not selling tobacco products to young people under the age of 18 (in 2020, the age was federally raised to 21). These compliance checks and investigations not only assess compliance with state tobacco retailer laws, but also provide training to shop owners and sales clerks. In 2020, these checks were not conducted due to COVID-19.

### *Suicide Prevention*

Collaborating with UW-Extension and agribusinesses, the Farmer Angel Network promotes suicide prevention training, mental wellness and transition training for our farming community. The Farmer Angel Network hosts social and learning events countywide to promote mental wellness and connectedness and to have resources readily available. In January 2020, 11 people received Question-Persuade-Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training. Due to COVID-19, the Farmer Angel Network shifted to virtual meetings and provided outreach programming following social distancing guidelines.

### *Community Connections*

The science is clear: the accumulation of early trauma and adverse experiences directly influences health and well-being across the lifespan. If these adverse experiences are not recognized, managed or treated, they often result in bad outcomes for the individual and family. Unaddressed Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) also result in high costs to health and human service systems and communities. The Health Department, in partnership with the Sauk

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County Jail, worked to identify children of incarcerated residents to offer assistance and connections to local resources to lessen the impact of parental incarceration on children. In 2020, 35 inmate families were served by the program.

### Emergency Preparedness

Preparedness efforts work to protect residents in the event of bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and other public health emergencies. Communities must be ready to respond to emergencies – both those they expect and those that come without warning. In 2020, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator trained 100% of SCPH staff in emergency response, including roles in the Incident Command System. SCPH is responsible for the public health components of emergency preparedness and response across the county, which necessitates staff participation and leadership at various community coalitions, including the South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition and the Sauk County Emergency Management Team. The PHEP Coordinator worked in conjunction with Sauk County Emergency Management during the COVID-19 response and will continue this as we move forward.

### Other Services

#### *Seal-A-Smile Dental Program*

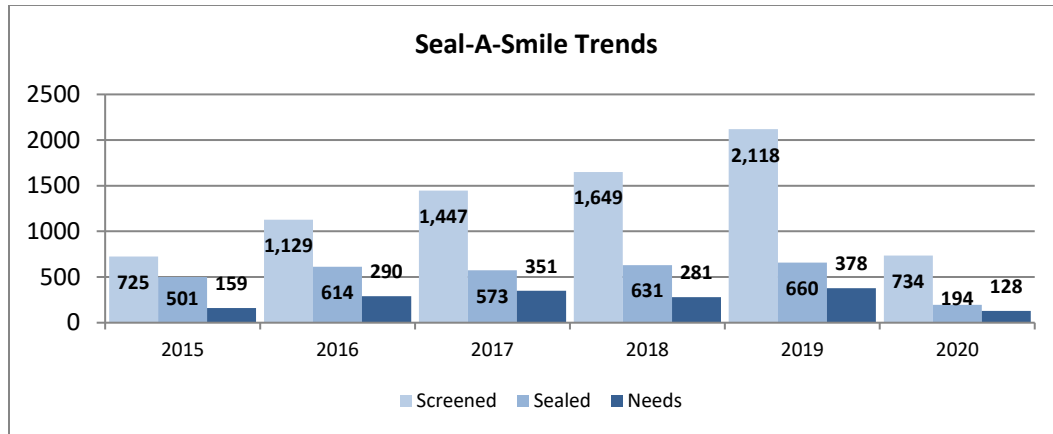
Many Sauk County children lack access to regular preventive dental care. The Sauk County Seal-A-Smile program provides oral health screenings, dental sealants, fluoride varnish applications, and oral health education to high risk students through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Any children in need of more intensive dental treatment are connected to a local dentist. Due to COVID-19 school closures, the Seal-A-Smile Program paused in March 2020, and was not able to be restarted in the fall.

*Special thanks to the donors who make the Seal-A-Smile Program possible!*



Seal-A-Smile Program Stats January-March 2020	
Number of Children Screened	734
Number of Children Sealed	194
Number of Fluoride Varnish Treatments	1,148
Number of Children with Dental Needs	128

## Sauk County Public Health 2020 Annual Report



### *Foot Clinics*



Sauk County Foot Clinics have been providing foot care to residents since 1998. The majority of clients have multiple health issues, including poor vision, arthritis, circulatory issues, or the potential for bleeding, which makes it difficult for them to care for their feet. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, Foot Clinics were paused in late March 2020. Prior to this, 387 foot care services were provided at foot clinics in January-March.

# Sauk County Public Health 2020 Annual Report

## Output Measures

Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
DATCP Routine Inspections	197	163	799	1237	1256	1086
DNR Well Water Inspections	143	141	141	139	143	134
Environmental Health Investigations and Follow-Up *Note-changed from tracking contacts to tracking staff hours in 2019 and 2020	255	207	198	157	652.25*	397.5*
Communicable Disease Follow-Up	395	452	461	535	463	430
Medical Vouchers Given	136	112	99	48	57	48
Immunizations	1239	582	515	659	809	336
Tobacco Compliance Checks	63	63	64	64	70	<i>N/A-not conducted due to COVID-19</i>
PNCC Admissions	21	23	58	33	47	21
NFP Caseload	28	56	68	114	122	132
WIC Caseload (Average/Month)	1194	1197	1178	1183	1133	1139
Preparedness Exercises, Trainings and Meetings	66	27	82	86	89	217 <i>increased due to COVID-19</i>
Foot Clinic Attendance	1786	1739	1727	1873	1880	387 <i>Paused in March due to COVID-19</i>
Seal-A-Smile Screenings	725	1129	1447	1649	2118	734 <i>Paused in March due to COVID-19</i>
Seal-A-Smile Sealants	501	614	573	631	660	194 <i>Paused in March due to COVID-19</i>
Seal-A-Smile Fluoride Varnish Applications	1354	1824	1418	2959	3323	1148 <i>Paused in March due to COVID-19</i>
Child Safety Devices Given	73	70	85	102	108	67

## **Outcome and Efficiency Measures**

<b>Description</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Children who have completed primary immunizations by their 24 <sup>th</sup> month	59%	66%	64%	66%	68%	63%
Tobacco Compliance Checks that do NOT sell to minors	73%	78%	83%	83%	82%	<i>N/A- cancelled due to COVID-19</i>
Rural Safety Days School Participation rate	98%	95%	95%	95%	79%	<i>N/A- cancelled due to COVID-19</i>
Elevated Blood Lead Levels (>5) are followed up	NA	NA	100%	100%	100%	100%
% of qualified wells tested through DNR Well Water Program	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95% <i>*Some were unable to be inspected due to COVID-19 closures</i>
% of establishments inspected through DATCP program	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
NFP children are up-to-date with immunizations at 24 months	NA	NA	64%	80%	100%	80%
NFP client retention rate during pregnancy phase	NA	NA	81%	86%	91.1%	87%
NFP Graduation Rates	NA	NA	NA	76%	76%	76%
WIC Breastfeeding duration rates at 6 months	42.7%	53.5%	48.1%	50%	56%	54.9%
Dental Sealant retention rates	NA	NA	95%	98%	90%	<i>N/A-2<sup>nd</sup> visits were cancelled due to COVID-19</i>
Fit Families participants that met objective of 1 or less sweetened beverage per week	NA	NA	99%	100%	85%	75%
Fit Families children completing the program who engaged in 60 minutes of physical activity each day	NA	NA	95%	98%	98%	90%
Farmer Market Redemption Rates (Cashed)	54%	54%	56%	55%	55%	50%