

Sauk County, Wisconsin
Public Health Annual Report 2021

2021 Mission:

To enhance the conditions that support optimal health and well-being for all people in Sauk County.

Departmental Program Summary:

Our Department is made up of 3 Divisions:

- Environmental Health
- Public Health Programming
- Women, Infant, Children (WIC)

These divisions work collaboratively to make Sauk County a healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

2021 Goals Review:

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED?
		Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Improve dental health in school-aged children.	Sealants will be applied to 2,000 Sauk County children in 18 schools.	No. Due to COVID-19, the Seal-A-Smile Program was paused in the 2020-2021 school year and didn't start up again until September. 417 children received sealants from September-December 2021.
	Children with urgent dental needs will be connected with a dentist and receive care.	Yes. 290 children were referred for urgent dental needs.
Improve the opportunities for children and their caregivers to thrive.	Hold at least 1 open community forum to discuss vaccine hesitancy and identify common ground.	Yes. We hosted a COVID-19 virtual forum in January in partnership with RAMC, SSM Health and Sauk Prairie Healthcare to provide information about the COVID-19 vaccines, answer questions, and address hesitancy.
	Engage community coalition to support policy and systems changes designed to reduce youth and farmer suicide.	Yes. We continued work with the Farmer Angel Network in 2021, assisting with 12 meetings and 6 community events (a combination of virtual and in-person outdoors).
	Disseminate and fit at least 25 car seats.	Yes. 53 car seats were distributed/fitted.
	Provide health education and injury prevention to at least 1,000 children at Rural Safety Days.	Yes. 1,002 children participated in Virtual Rural Safety Days.
	Provide blood lead level testing to 350 children aged 6 mo-5 yrs. 11 mo.	No. WIC Nation-wide have shifted to virtual appointments due to the pandemic, so 0 WIC children were screened for lead by the Health Department.

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED?
		Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Improve community resiliency to recover from an outbreak or disaster.	Engage at least 15 community emergency preparedness stakeholders.	Yes. Continued to engage with Sauk County Emergency Management, the 3 local hospitals, 4 local pharmacies, 5 local EMS/Fire agencies, 6 area school districts, and 10 area churches/parochial school partners during the COVID-19 pandemic response.
	Train 100% of new staff in required ICS training within 60 days of hire.	No. 93% of new staff were trained in ICS within 60 days of hire.
	Maintain at least 20 trained volunteers to participate in public health emergencies through WEAVER system.	Yes. 82 trained volunteers were maintained in the WEAVER system.
Reduce communicable disease outbreaks through education, surveillance, treatment, investigation, and case follow up.	Reduce sexually transmitted illness by 5% over 2020.	No. The number of STI cases increased in 2021 compared to 2020. Due to the COVID pandemic, STI prevention education was not completed by communicable disease staff.
	As a community, provide age-appropriate vaccinations to 75% of children aged 0-24 months.	No. 64% of children aged 0-24 months had completed all age-appropriate vaccinations.
	Maintain COVID-19 response at levels that reduce number of new cases, community spread, positivity rate, and outbreaks, focused on long-term care facilities, educational institutions, and workplaces.	Yes. We had staff scheduled 7 days a week to respond to COVID-19 cases.
Create a quality-focused organization.	Conduct at least 2 formal QI projects annually, determined by comprehensive review of performance indicators.	Yes. COVID-19 Response conducted a QI project regarding the COVID-19 Hotline Phone Tree, and NFP conducted a QI project regarding early literacy.
	Create a comprehensive Strategic Plan.	Yes. The 2022-2025 Strategic Plan was created.
Ensure a competent public health workforce.	Identify public health core competencies to drive future staff workforce development plans.	Yes. All staff participated in a core competencies exercise at the Staff Retreat in September 2021. The end result is that each unit identified core competencies relevant to their daily work, and department-wide core competencies were also set.
Improve preconception health of women.	Provide convening leadership for the Reproductive Health Coalition with broad-based community stakeholders to develop policy improvements designed to support reproductive health among women of Sauk County.	Yes. 11 virtual meetings of the Reproductive Health Coalition were held.
	50% of pregnancy women enrolled in PNCC/NFP who are identified as being high-risk receive medical nutrition therapy by a registered dietician.	No. PNCC program staffing was limited and many enrollments were received later in pregnancy due to COVID response.

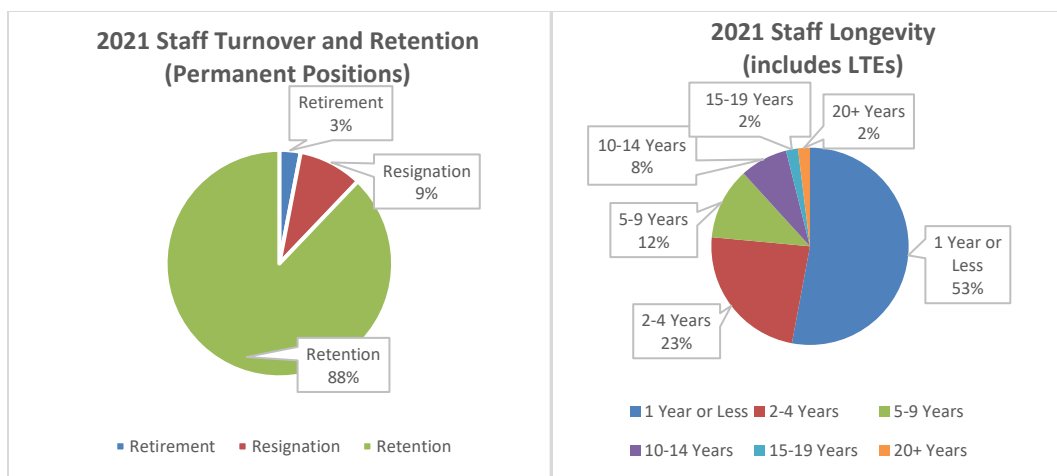
GOAL	OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED?
		Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Increase data and informatics capacity to inform community health strategy; improve data collection, management, and reporting to inform best practice interventions and policy/systems improvements.	Conduct comprehensive, equity-focused Community Health Assessment and subsequent Health Improvement Plan with Healthy Sauk 2030 and the Data Council.	<p>Yes. The Community Health Assessment Survey was conducted in 2021. 1,621 people took the CHA Survey (1598 English, 23 Spanish).</p> <p>The Community Health Needs Assessment Report and Community Health Improvement Plan is currently being written.</p>
Enhance community engagement and community ownership over defining community health priorities and solutions.	Engage community members and agencies, particularly those representing populations in Sauk County experiencing health disparities, to plan, implement, evaluate and disseminate a Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.	<p>Yes. 12 meetings, 1 Virtual Community event, 19 Focus Groups, and 2 Key Informant Interviews were conducted to plan, implement, evaluate and disseminate the Sauk County Community Health Assessment Survey and begin work on the Community Health Needs Assessment Report and Community Health Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Agencies represented in this process included: Sauk Prairie Healthcare, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, SSM Health/St. Clare Hospital, Ho-Chunk Nation, UW Extension, City of Reedsburg, Village of Baraboo, City of Baraboo, Sauk Prairie School District, River Valley School District, Sauk County Development Corporation, Sauk County Human Services.</p> <p>The Community Health Assessment Survey was disseminated in March 2021.</p>
	Facilitate community and interagency collaboration through coordinating teams using best practices for fostering engagement.	<p>Yes. Most meetings were virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings facilitated/assisted by Health Department staff included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Partnership for Prevention Meetings • 6 Overdose Death Review Team Meetings • 12 Healthy Sauk/Health & Wellness/Data Council Meetings • 11 of Reproductive Health Coalition Meetings • 2 Child Death Review Team Meetings
Increase and diversify investment in Sauk County Public Health.	Secure at least an additional \$100,000 in external funding to support policy and systems change activities.	Yes. 3 new grants were applied for and funded in 2021.

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED?
		Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Reduce foodborne illnesses and environmental health hazards.	Reduce lead hazards by enrolling at least 10 families in the Lead Safe Housing Grant program to remediate childhood lead exposures by December 31, 2021.	Yes, 10 families enrolled.
	Increase homes tested with REOSACC (Radon Educators of Sauk and Columbia Counties) test kits for radon from 175 to 200 by December 31, 2021.	No, 66 radon kits sold.
	Reduce Lyme's Disease cases in Sauk County by 5% by December 31, 2021.	No. Lyme's cases increased in 2021 compared to 2020. However, Lyme's Disease cases were much lower in 2020. When Lyme's cases are compared to 2019 levels (pre-pandemic), they number of cases remained about the same.
	Attendance to at least 3 professional development training courses for 100% of EH staff.	Yes
Assure a safe well-water drinking supply for Sauk County.	Sample and test 100% of Transient Non-Community wells.	Yes
Reduce blood borne pathogen transmission from tattoo and body art procedures.	Conduct 100% of routine inspections within licensing year.	Yes
Increase awareness of Farmers Markets to Sauk County residents.	Provide at least 2 healthy cooking demonstrations at local Farmers Markets.	No, unable to provide due to COVID response.
	Keep WIC Farmer's Markets webpage updated with produce availability biweekly.	Yes
	Promote healthy eating and physical activity with at least 10 posts on Social Media.	Yes
	Send a minimum of 8 text message reminders to WIC participants throughout the season.	Yes
Improve breastfeeding duration rates of Women, Infants & Children (WIC) mothers.	57% of WIC mothers breastfeed until baby is 6 months old.	No, 51.2%. There was turnover in the breastfeeding peer counselor staff during the year which impacted these rates.
	Provide breast feeding support, education, training, and promotion to at least 3 Sauk County employers.	No, unable to commit staff time to these efforts due to COVID.
Maximize WIC services to WIC-eligible families.	Ensure 97% of the assigned WIC caseload participates in WIC services.	Yes
	Schedule social media posts about the WIC program weekly.	Yes
	Outreach on a monthly basis to organizations, churches, schools, medical providers and other agencies that work with low-income families.	Yes

Changes / Accomplishments:

Changes:

- Continued COVID response has impacted services:
 - Many staff that had been shifted to COVID response in 2020/early 2021 were able to start returning to their regular programming.
 - Some programs look different during COVID response, such as WIC nation-wide providing services virtually, and Rural Safety Days being a series of virtual videos in 2021.
- Staff Turnover and Longevity:
 - In 2020, Public Health Sauk County experienced a 20% staff turnover rate in permanent positions (10% due to Retirement and 10% due to Resignations).
 - In 2021, Public Health Sauk County experienced a 12% staff turnover rate in permanent positions (3% due to Retirement and 9% due to Resignations).
 - In 2021, 76% of all staff (includes LTEs) had been with Public Health for 1 year or less. Much of this is due to the addition of LTE COVID response positions in 2020 and 2021.



Accomplishments:

- COVID Vaccine Rollout:
 - Public Health staff worked with the local hospitals and clinics, pharmacies, Fire/EMS, Ho-Chunk Nation, ADRC, schools, and churches to host vaccine clinics throughout the county.
 - A local vaccination site webpage and mobile map app was created with locations where residents could get a free COVID-19 vaccine, and this was updated at least weekly. The Sauk County Vaccination Site Map App was viewed 11,476 times in 2021.
 - At Health Department Vaccine Clinics, 7,797 doses of COVID-19 Vaccines were administered.
 - At the end of 2021, 63.5% of Sauk County's population (40,897 people) had received at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 3 new grants were funded:
 - Health Resources & Services Administration-Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Grant in partnership with MetaStar, Lutheran Social Services, and Human Services to support the creation a recovery-focused community coalition, School and Community-based prevention programs, Narcan access, drug take back efforts, increase promotion and connection to treatment services, expand access to Medication-Assisted Treatment services, and provide jail re-entry coordination. Total grant is \$1 million from September 2021-August 2024, with a portion of that going to Public Health.
 - CDC Drug Free Communities grant to support policy and systems change activities to prevent youth drug use, funding of \$100,000/year, for up to 10 years, starting in September 2021.
 - COVID-19 Vaccine Community Outreach Grant to support equitable access to vaccination and promotion to underserved populations, received at \$62,355 in funding for April-October 2021, and additional funding of \$96,750 for November 2021-October 2022.

Statistical Summary:



**PUBLIC HEALTH
SAUK COUNTY**

Together we thrive

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Making Sauk County a healthy place to live, learn, work and play.



Health & Wellness Programs

COVID Vaccines: **7,797** doses administered by Public Health Sauk County

Seal-A-Smile Program:

1,024 children screened,

991 received fluoride treatments,

417 received sealants, and

290 children were referred for additional dental needs

Fit Families: **50** participants

WIC Average Monthly Case Load: **1,092**

44% of WIC Farmers Market Checks Redeemed

51.2% of WIC Mothers Breastfeeding at 6 Months

Prenatal Care Coordination Births: **12**

28 Nurse Family Partnership Graduations



Coalitions for Community Health Improvement



3 New Grants Received

1,612 Community Health Assessment Surveys Completed

129 community members trained how to use Narcan

Community Connections: **55** families served to lessen the impact of parental incarceration on children



Environmental Health

After an elevated blood lead level test result, **10** families received education from a Public Health Nurse, and **3** families had home visits conducted by an Environmental Health Sanitarian



Radon Kits Sold: **66**

Environmental Health Inspections: **1,104**

Output Measures

Description	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Communicable Disease Follow-Up	452	461	535	463	430* (Non-COVID Communicable Diseases)	421* (Non-COVID Communicable Diseases)
Number of Lyme's Disease cases	97	99	73	68	31	67
Medical Vouchers Given	112	99	48	57	48	47
Immunizations	582	515	659	809	336* (Non-COVID Vaccines)	274* (Non-COVID Vaccines)
Tobacco Compliance Checks	63	64	64	70	N/A (not conducted due to COVID-19)	N/A (not conducted due to COVID-19)
PNCC Admissions	23	58	33	47	21	23
NFP Caseload	56	68	114	122	132	125
Percent of children in MCH program who receive Resource Nurse screenings to identify risks	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of residents connected to health services (BadgerCare Express Enrollments) through MATCH	39	39	18	10	2	11
Number of families served by Community Connections program	10	24	119	71	35	55
Number of accidental child fatalities reviewed by the Child Death Review Team	7	7	5	6	4	5
Number of lock boxes/bags/deactivation units dispensed to community members to safely store or deactivate prescription drugs.	N/A (Program began in 2018)		357	940	1471	1742
Number of people trained in Narcan and overdose death prevention	N/A (Program began in 2017)	693	416	312	279	129
Number of overdose survivors receiving a home visit attempt from Overdose Response Team	N/A (Program began in 2021)					103
# of Accidental Overdose Deaths that occur in Sauk County	13	10	10	10	18	11* (Preliminary data)
# of suicides (suppress if under 5)	9	5	10	10	13	19
Number of Preparedness Exercises, Trainings and Meetings Facilitated	27	82	86	89	217 (increased due to COVID-19)	511 (increased due to COVID-19)
Number of CHA/CHIP meetings facilitated: Steering Committee, Data Council, Healthy Sauk 2030, Community Events	N/A (New measure in 2021)					22
Seal-A-Smile Screenings *Note-Paused from March 2020-August 2021 due to COVID-19	1129	1447	1649	2118	734*	1024*
Seal-A-Smile Sealants *Note-Paused from March 2020-August 2021 due to COVID-19	614	573	631	660	194*	417*
Seal-A-Smile Fluoride Varnish Applications *Note-Paused from March 2020-August 2021 due to COVID-19	1824	1418	2959	3323	1148*	991*

Rural Safety Day Attendance (# of children)	766	799	778	733	N/A (Rural Safety Days was not held due to COVID-19)	1,002 (Virtual Event, included 4 th graders who missed last year)
Child Safety Devices Given (Car Seats and Cribs)	70	85	102	108	67	59
WIC Caseload (Average/Month)	1197	1178	1183	1133	1139	1092
Number of WIC children (0-5) screened for elevated blood lead levels <i>*Note-in 2020 changed from reporting WIC children screened to all children in Sauk County screened as WIC nation-wide paused in-person appointments due to COVID response. Primary care providers have continued to screen for elevated blood lead levels.</i>	396	426	395	357	487 (80 children screened by WIC)	470 (0 children screened by WIC)
Fit Families Grant Enrollees	N/A	N/A	51	52	54	50
DATCP Routine Inspections	163	799	1237	1256	1086	1104
DNR Well Water Inspections	141	141	139	143	134	140
Environmental Health Investigations and Follow-Up <i>*Note-changed from tracking contacts to tracking staff hours</i>	207	198	157	652.25*	397.5*	454.5*
Families enrolled in Lead Safe Housing Program	N/A (Program started in 2021)					10
Number of radon educational contacts	56	85	65	258	179	153
Number of radon kits distributed	40	79	145	128	104	66
Number of new commercial lodging facilities associated with a case(s) of Legionnaire's Disease	0	0	0	2	0	0

Outcome and Efficiency Measures

Description	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children who have completed primary immunizations by their 24 th month	66%	64%	66%	68%	63%	64%
Youth Alcohol Use (High School YRBS Data, Surveys conducted every other year)	N/A	27%	N/A	43%	N/A	2021 YRBS Data not available yet
Youth Vaping (High School YRBS Data, Surveys conducted every other year)	N/A	18%	N/A	26%	N/A	2021 YRBS Data not available yet
# Children that had elevated blood lead levels	11	16	25	23	14	10
% of children with elevated blood lead levels that have been investigated and abated, mitigated, or relocated.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sexually Transmitted Infections (case count and case rate/100,000 population)	249 cases 422 per 100,000 population	269 cases 456 per 100,000 population	284 cases 481 per 100,000 population	279 cases 473 per 100,000 population	247 cases 388 per 100,000 population	297 cases 470 per 100,000 population
% of NFP families with another pregnancy within 2 years of previous pregnancy. Benchmark is less than 25%.	N/A	N/A	41%	44%	20%	2021 Data not yet available
NFP children are up-to-date with immunizations at 24 months	N/A	64%	80%	100%	80%	70%

NFP client retention rate during pregnancy phase	N/A	81%	86%	91.1%	87%	82%
NFP Graduation Rates	N/A	N/A	76%	76%	76%	59% <i>*2021 graduation rates impacted by staff turnover in NFP Nurse Position in 2020</i>
WIC Participation Rate <i>State average prior to COVID was 91.6%. Transitioning to virtual visits has increased WIC participation statewide, is now 94.3%</i>	94.6%	95.6%	96%	97%	97.3%	97.6%
WIC Breastfeeding rate at 6 months <i>State average is 36.8%</i>	53.5%	48.1%	50%	56%	54.9%	51.2% <i>*decrease due to staff turnover in Peer Counselor Position</i>
Fit Families participants that met objective of 1 or less sweetened beverage per week	N/A	99%	100%	85%	75%	84%
Fit Families-% of children completing the program who engaged in 60 minutes of physical activity each day	N/A	95%	98%	98%	90%	100%
Farmer Market Redemption Rates (Cashed) <i>*In 2021 every participant over age 1 received their own Farmers Market checks vs a set amount for each family</i>	54%	56%	55%	55%	50%	44%*
% of establishments inspected through DATCP program	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% of qualified wells tested through DNR Well Water Program	100%	100%	100%	100%	95% <i>*Some were unable to be inspected due to COVID-19 closures</i>	100%
% of Body Art establishments inspected	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% of radon test results above recommended EPA action levels	48%	37%	36%	34%	30%	38%