



Wauwatosa
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2024

*Annual
Report*

7725 W. North Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

www.wauwatosa.net/health
414-479-8936

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- From the Desk of the Health Officer
- Overview
- Community Health
- Environmental Health
- Emergency Preparedness
- Public Health Nursing
- Stay in the Loop



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Health and staff at the Wauwatosa Health Department.

This year, we focused on strengthening social connections, supporting harm reduction efforts, ensuring access to reproductive health services, and advocating for affordable, quality housing. Our programs and services reflect the goals in our Community Health Improvement Plan, and we use our Strategic Plan to guide our work and adapt to the changing needs of Wauwatosa.

We remain committed to working closely with the community, using data to inform decisions, and building strong partnerships. We continue to grow and improve our programs while preparing for new public health challenges. Equity is at the heart of everything we do, and we will keep advocating for policies and systems that support the health and well-being of all residents.

We sincerely thank the Wauwatosa Board of Health, City Administration, Common Council, volunteers, community partners, and dedicated Health Department employees. Your support makes our work possible, and together, we're creating a healthier, safer, and more equitable Wauwatosa.

Laura Stephens

Laura Stephens, MPH

City of Wauwatosa Health Officer & Wauwatosa Health Department Director

CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH



ASSESSMENT

Assess the health needs of the community, investigate the occurrence of health hazards and analyze the determinants of identified health needs.



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Advocate for public health, prioritize health needs and plan and develop policies to address health needs.

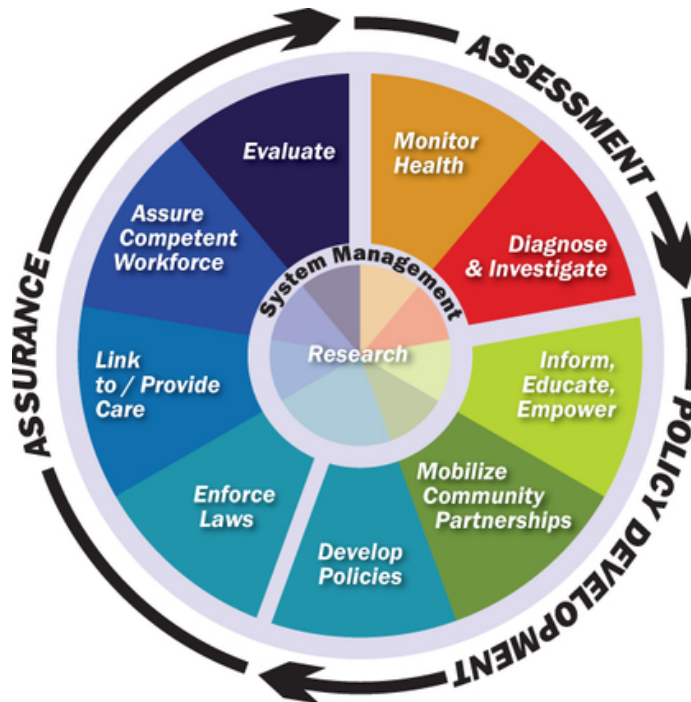


ASSURANCE

Manage resources and develop organizational structure, implement programs, evaluate programs, and inform and educate the public.

Wauwatosa Health Department Overview

According to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 251.02(2), counties with a population greater than 500,000 must establish a local health department (LHD). Therefore, there is no county level health department for Milwaukee County, but rather 12 LHDs that are maintained at the municipal level.



The City of Wauwatosa Health Department (WHD) is a Level 3 health department, the highest level of health department in the state. Level 3 health departments must provide additional programs and services to their community, going above and beyond the Ten Essential Services for Public Health Departments.

Modernization of Public Health- Public Health 3.0

Public Health 3.0 is the term used to describe the modernization of public health goals and missions. It's a progression from focusing on traditional clinical prevention to community-wide prevention, with a strong emphasis on collaborative engagement and actions that directly affect the systematic and unjust factors that contribute to poor health.

The WHD embraces the Public Health 3.0 model and recognizes its necessity in addressing the social determinants of health as well as advancing health equity.

5 Main Recommendations of Public Health 3.0

- Embrace the role of the Community Health Strategist
- Cultivate Cross-Sector Partnerships to promote collective action
- Consider Accreditation
- Document Initiatives with Data and Metrics to focus, guide and assess impact
- Enhance Public Health Funding



Wauwatosa Health Department Overview

Mission Statement

Protecting and improving the health, safety and well-being of the community through advocacy, education, quality services, innovation, and partnership.

Vision Statement

A healthy, safe, equitable Wauwatosa

Core Values

Advocacy- We use evidence-based science, research, and best practices, to provide reliable community education to promote the health and well-being of all community members. We provide a trusted voice around matters of systemic injustice, and around the need for the creation of an equitable community in which all may achieve their best health.

Collaboration- We are committed to creating and sustaining strategic and intentional partnerships with residents, government entities, other city departments, non-profits, local businesses, and more. We provide leadership to connect individuals and groups toward working together for a healthier community.

Equity- We acknowledge historic and current injustices, conduct ourselves with compassion, and recognize the dignity and worth of all members of the community. We work in partnership to advance an inclusive and forward-thinking community.

Integrity- We are open and honest in our practices, committed to transparency, and share current and up-to-date information in an accurate and timely manner. We adapt to dynamic and evolving situations with openness and transparency.

Service- We provide high-quality, personalized customer service in an accessible manner. We display compassion and understanding to all individuals, partners, and members of the community.

Board of Health Members

Robin Brannin, Alderperson (through April 2024)

Aletha Champine, Alderperson

Jennifer Cicero, MSW, LCSW; Member

John Dunn, MD; Member

Leslie Martin, MD; Member

Christine Shaw, PhD, APRN; Chair

Health Department Administration

Laura Stephens, MPH - Health Officer/Director

Carmen Pangilinan, MSW, APSW - Public Health Strategist

Lisa Simonds - Administrative Assistant

Meghan Spredemann MS, REHS, RS - Public Health Manager

Emily Tianen, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse Manager

Community Health Division

Kari Allison - Public Health Specialist

Hannah Gumina, MPH, CHES® Substance Use Specialist

Kristen Hecht, MBA, Public Health Specialist

PaChee Lee, MSW, APSW - Youth Mental Health Social Worker

Zoe Rezner, MSW, LCSW - Youth Mental Health Social Worker

Kendall Wolter, MSW, APSW - Social Worker, Fire, Health and Police Response

Environmental Health Division

Courtney Ameen, Administrative Support Specialist

Andy Budde, MS, RS - Environmental Health Specialist

Mayra Castaneda, REHS - Environmental Health Specialist

Dana Eick - Public Health Specialist & Clinic Coordinator

Olivia Feider - Environmental Health Specialist (resigned August 2024)

Public Health Nursing Division

Ashley Hoffman, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse

Ericka King, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Cindi Lambert, RN, BSN, CLC - Public Health Nurse

Julia Nesheiwat, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Mary Beth Tyson, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

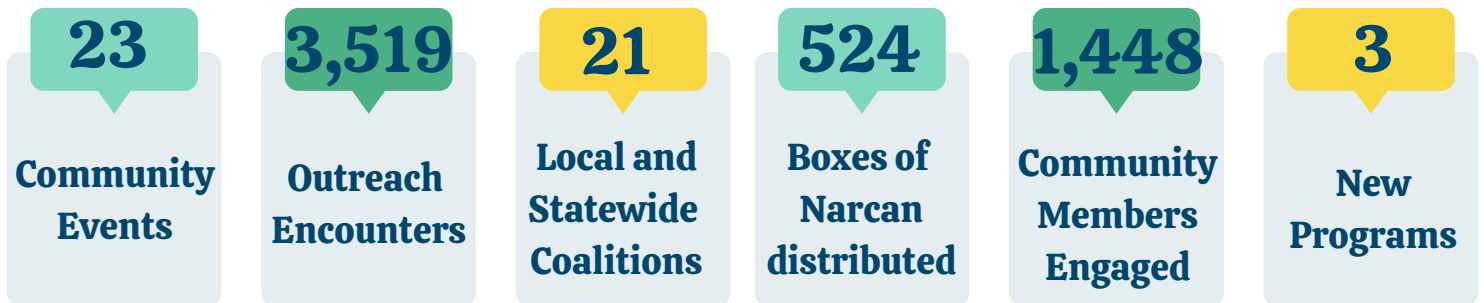


Community Health Division

What is community health?

Community health refers to non-clinical approaches for improving health, preventing disease and reducing health disparities through addressing social, behavioral, environmental, and economic factors that impact our health.

2024 Community Health By The Numbers



Social Work Services:

Police, Health, and Fire Social Worker

- Works collaboratively with the Health, Fire, and Police Departments.
- Meets with individuals to assess their needs, refer them to services or resources in the Milwaukee County area.
- Maintains follow-up case management contact with Wauwatosa residents as needed.

Wauwatosa City Social Worker 2024 Year Highlights

**Total
Referrals:
171 (Jan.-
Oct.)**

- Mental Health: 55
- Aging: 40
- Resource: 33
- Homeless: 19
- Human Health Hazard: 18
- Domestic Violence: 4
- Substance Use: 2

Facility Dog

- Since 2023, City Social Worker Kendall Wolter has been working together with our Facility Dog, Jordan, who is shared among Health, Police, and Fire.
- Jordan shares her time between departments and continues to add support and comfort.



Harm Reduction Vending Machine

- HRVMs provide free supplies that help reduce the risks associated with drug use.
- Our HRVM is located right outside City Hall, and has provided 377 total transactions to the community in 2024!



Community Health Division

Community Health Improvement Plan and Age-Friendly Community Update

Priority

Mental Health & Social Connection

- Tosa Tech Time - intergenerational technology assistance program
- AARP Senior Planet - digital literacy classes
- Wonder Wednesdays - intergenerational program for middle school students
- Outreach packet of information to homebound residents
- Community Conversations related to social connection

Priority

Housing

- Creation of comprehensive Housing Resources List
- Community Education - How Housing Relates to Health
- Promotion of Wauwatosa Home Loan Repair Program and RAVE alert system program
- Partnership with Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management to provide emergency preparedness training

Priority

Substance Use

- Presented the “Teen Bedroom Exhibit” four times in partnership with the school district
- Provided community Narcan training every other month.
- Started the Wauwatosa Fatality Review team in collaboration with police, fire, and community treatment providers to examine overdose and suicide deaths and create change.
- Re-established partnership with Wauwatosa Police Department for alcohol and tobacco compliance checks.
- Launched ad campaigns surrounding Naloxone at bus shelters, billboards, and mall.

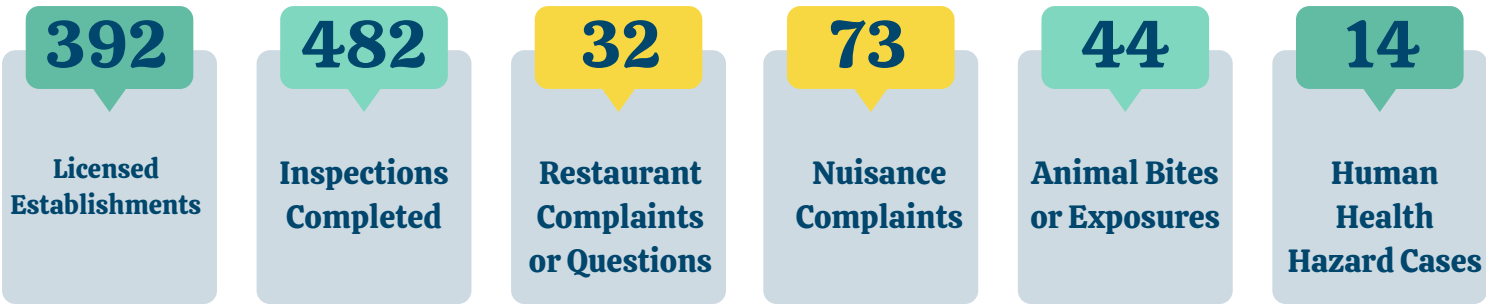


Environmental Health Division

What is environmental public health?

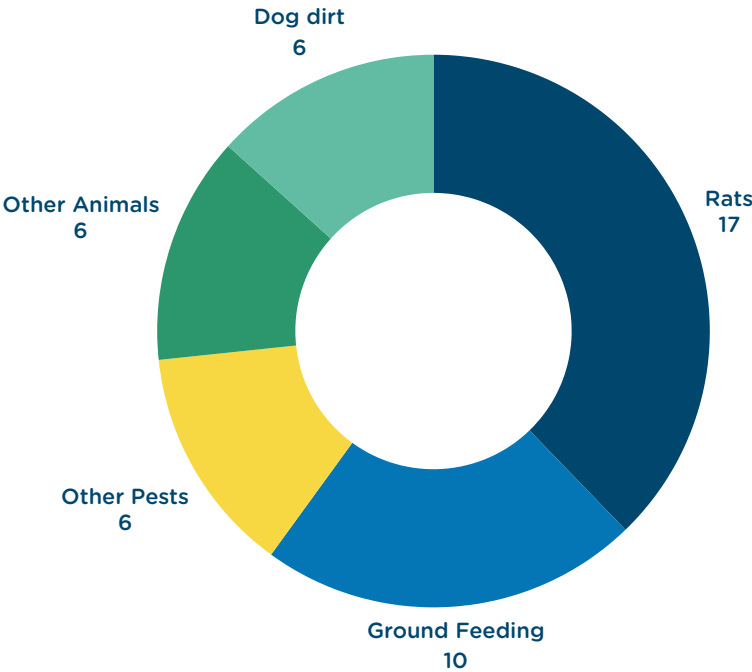
Environmental health is the branch of public health that focuses on the relationships between people and their environment, promotes human health and well-being, and fosters healthy and safe communities.

2024 Environmental Health By The Numbers



Top 5 Nuisance Report Categories

According to City ordinance, a nuisance is "whatever is dangerous, unsanitary, or unwholesome to human life or health."



Radon Test Kit Program

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste, but may be in your home. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon has been found in all Wauwatosa zip codes. Testing is the only way to know if there is a radon risk.



Emergency Preparedness

The WHD continues to plan, prepare, and respond to public health emergencies in collaboration with local, regional, and state partners. The WHD continued to mobilize and enhance efforts to mitigate the spread of disease in our community. Additional updates were made to the local Public Health Emergency Readiness/ Preparedness Plan.

2024 Emergency Preparedness By The Numbers

4,694

COVID-19
Test
Kits
Distributed

500

Volunteers
Registered in
WEAVR

1

Wauwatosa
Emergency
Alert was sent
to the public



Become an Emergency Preparedness Volunteer!

Sign up today at www.weavrwi.org

We track our volunteers on Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Registry (WEAVR). Your name and skill set will be stored and utilized as needed if an emergency were to occur in the Wauwatosa community.

Be our partner in preparedness!

Sign up for Wauwatosa.net/alert

The Wauwatosa RAVE alerts system provides Wauwatosa residents and visitors with real-time communications about emergencies and other situations that impact life in Wauwatosa.



SIGN UP FOR
EMERGENCY ALERTS
wauwatosa.net/alert

Public Health Nursing Division

What is public health nursing?

The goal of public health nursing is to protect the health and safety of the people in our communities.

Nurses work with individuals, groups, families, and communities, especially those who are at increased risk of illness, injury, premature death, and disability by:

- Taking action to identify and activate resources, services and policies that protect health.
- Responding to current and emerging threats to the public's health and safety.
- Applying nursing and public health principles to assess, develop, implement, and evaluate care plans and health programs related to health promotion, disease prevention, and health protection services for individuals, families, and the community. (Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DHS 139)

2024 Public Health Nursing By The Numbers

517

Total
Nursing
Referrals

218

Community
Blood
Pressure
Screenings

63

Car Seat
Fittings

182

Pounds of
Expired
Medication
Collected

835

Pounds of
Sharps
Collected

233

Immunizations
Provided

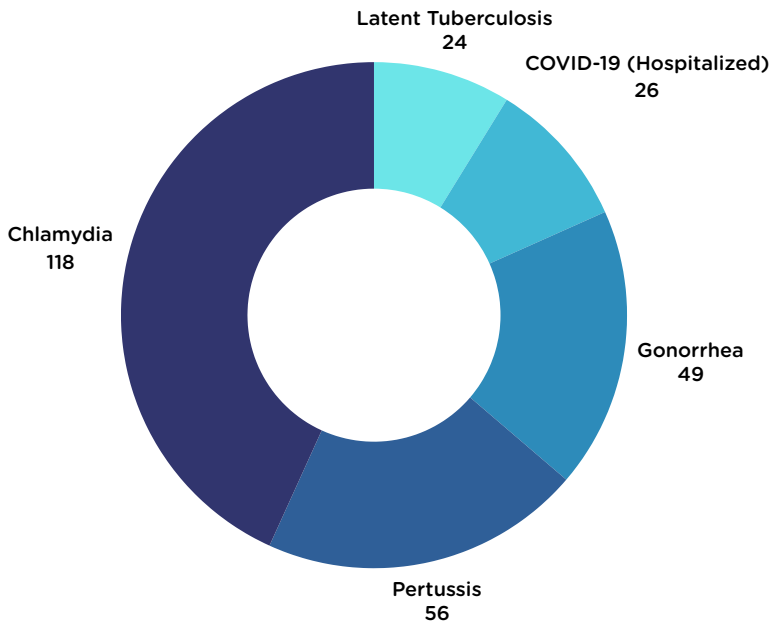


Public Health Nursing 2024 Year Highlights

We reinstated employee flu clinics in 2024. The City's human resources department purchased flu vaccines for City employees, and the Wauwatosa Health Department nurses hosted seven onsite clinics for the City's first responders and DPW workers.

Public Health Nursing Division

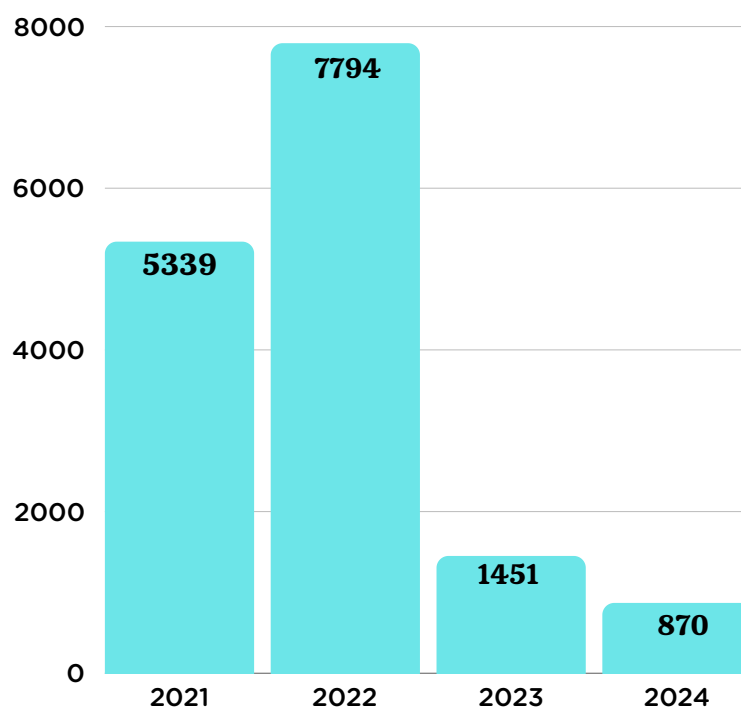
Top Five Communicable Diseases - excludes COVID-19



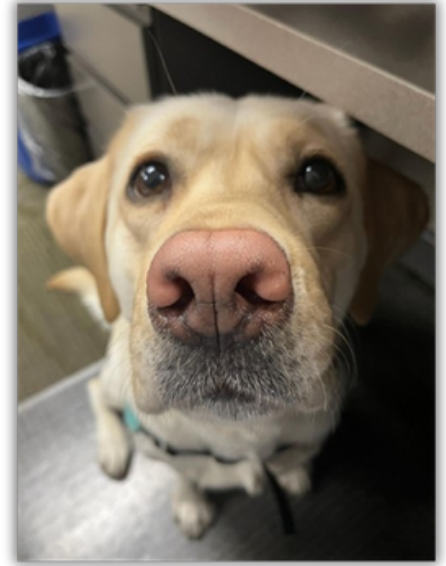
A communicable disease (CD), also known as an infectious disease, is an illness or condition that is transmitted through direct contact with an infected person or animal.

There were 103 reported vaccine reportable illnesses in 2024.

Communicable Disease Referral Trends - includes COVID-19



Thank You, Jordan.



Jordan, our beloved Facility Dog, was an important part of the Wauwatosa Health Department team. On March 28th, 2025, we made the incredibly difficult decision to say goodbye to her due to health complications. Jordan brought comfort, smiles, and a little extra joy to everyone who walked through our doors. Her goofy personality and gentle heart made a lasting impact on our staff and community. She'll always hold a special place in our hearts, and she will be deeply missed.



Wauwatosa Health Department

**Find community resources
related to topics such as:**



@wauwatosahealthdept

Substance Use

Mental Health

Rats

Health Equity

**Internships and
Volunteering**

**And much more
at
[wauwatosa.net/
health](https://wauwatosa.net/health)**



Contact Us

**414-479-8936
7725 W. North Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213**