



LANGLADE COUNTY
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Annual Report 2023

Langlade County Health Department

Mission

Promote health and wellness for all in Langlade County; regardless of social, economic, or cultural reasons; by providing public health services essential for a safe and healthy community.

Vision

Langlade County: thriving people, healthy communities, and safe environments.

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Foundational Public Health Services

The foundational public health services framework outlines the responsibilities of governmental public health and defines a set of foundational capabilities and foundational areas that must be available in every community. **Foundational areas** are the public health programs and services aimed at improving the health of the community. **Foundational Capabilities** consist of the skills and capacities needed to support basic public health programs and activities.

Foundational Areas

Communicable Disease Control



- Disease Investigation
- COVID-19

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention



- Alcohol & Other Drug Use
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Healthy Living & Active Lifestyles
- Harm Reduction
- Sharps Disposal
- Living Well with Diabetes

Environmental Public Health



- Animal Bites
- Establishment Licensing & Inspection
- Human Health Hazards
- Water Testing Laboratory
- Lead
- Radon

Maternal, Child & Family Health



- Mental Well-Being & Suicide
- Car Seat Safety

Access & Linkage to Clinical Care



- Immunization
- Nursing Services

Foundational Capabilities

Assessment & Surveillance

- Community Health Improvement Plan
- Community Health Needs Assessment
- Annual Report

Equity

- Staff Training
- Core Competency Assessment

Organizational Competencies

- Health Equity
- Workforce Development Plan

Community Partnership Development

- Building a Healthier Lantana County Coalition
- Mental Well Being & Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Alliance for Substance Use Prevention Coalition
- Immunization Coalition

Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Volunteer Management
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan

Accountability & Performance Management

- Strategic Plan
- Performance Management & Quality Improvement Plan

Policy Development and Support

- Updating policies
- Creating new policies

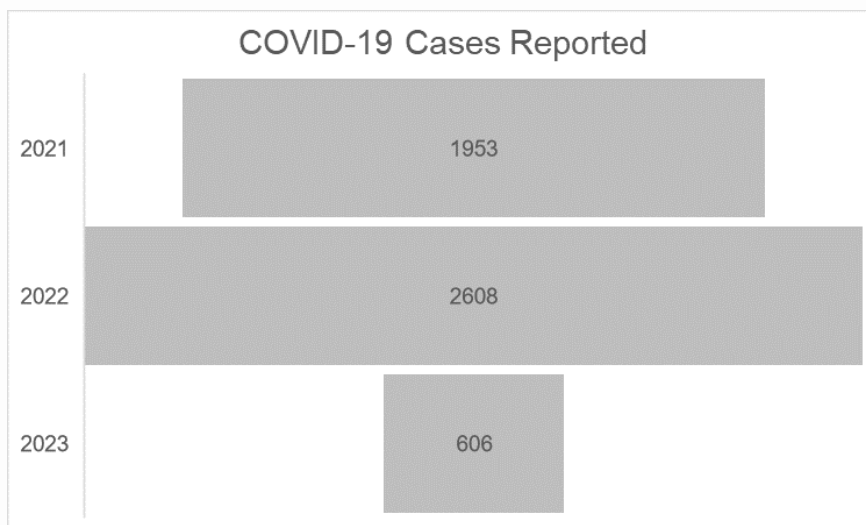
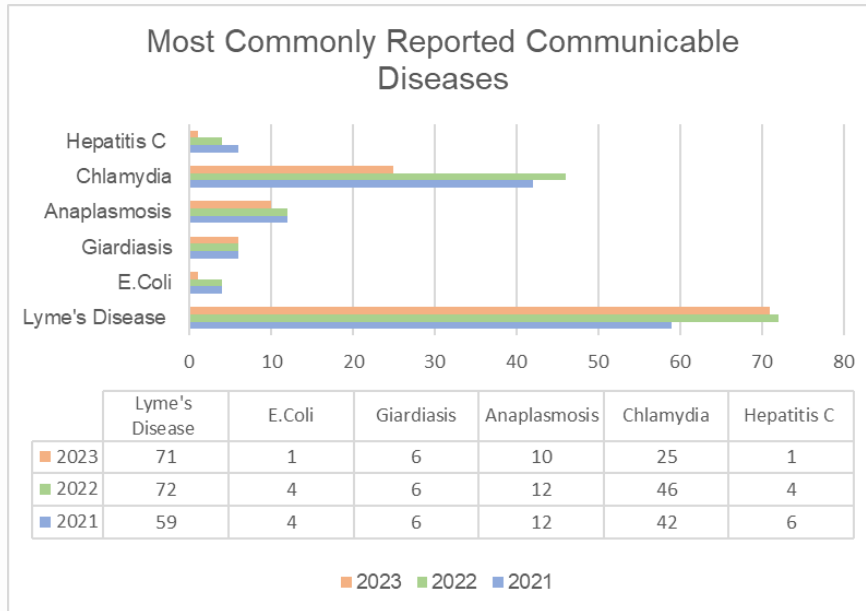
Communications

- Health promotion- Multi-media campaigns, social media presence & outreach
- Data sharing
- Branding & Communication Plan

Communicable Disease

Communicable disease control accounts for a large portion of the health department's work.

By state statute, certain diseases must be reported to local health departments. These diseases pose a public health concern because of their severity and/or their potential for spread. The Lantana County Health Department (LCHD) receives and investigates these and other communicable diseases.



Alcohol and Other Drug Use

As Alcohol and Other Drug Use continues to be a priority for our community, programs continued in 2023. LCHD utilized public education and prevention campaigns to emphasize the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

74% of community surveys in 2022 indicated substance use as a "major issue."

Prevention Efforts



What difference did it make?

- 5 Medication Safety Education Events
- 503 Take Away Bags distributed
- 86 Locked Bags provided to community members
- 100 Drug Deactivation Kits distributed



553 pounds of unwanted prescription medication was collected between October 2022-October 2023



4 "In Plain Sight" Mock Teen Bedroom educational sessions

100's of families educated on where and how teens may hide drugs and alcohol

830 students participated in "Escape the Vape" educational sessions

98% of students reported learning additional information about how vaping can affect their health

- 2 Harm Reduction Vending Machines installed
- 2 Naloxboxes installed to be used in an opioid emergency

Access to harm reduction supplies such as gun locks, NARCAN, drug deactivation bags, condoms and resource guides are now available



Injury Prevention

The Langlade County Health Department works collaboratively with partners to coordinate and implement chronic disease and injury prevention programs and services.

Need a car seat checked? Sign up here



14
Car seats were checked in 2023 to ensure proper installation

92
People trained in blood borne pathogen exposure response

11
Participants completed the 6-week Living Well with Diabetes Course



Healthy Living and Active Lifestyles

Healthy Living Active Lifestyles was one of the three priority areas identified in the 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). This was a new priority that had not had previous work done. The Langlade County Health Department implemented 3 new programs and provided nutrition information at 2 health fairs in 2023.

Education Efforts

Education was provided at the local farmer's market in Antigo once a month from June-September on healthy eating and nutrition.

FRESH FLAVORS

The "Fresh Flavors" program provides recipe cards and food safety information on a highlighted fruit and vegetable monthly. 4 stores agreed to participate including: Lafaro's Fresh Market, Lakeside Market, Pick N Save, and the North Trail Store in Elcho.

Education Results

380 free samples provided at farmers markets

345 nutritious recipe cards provided

201 healthy meal preparation pamphlets

7 nutrition access guides handed out

723 Fresh Flavor healthy recipe and food safety cards provided



Environmental Health Programs & Services

The LCHD expanded its Environmental Health Program in 2023 and is now an Agent for the State of WI DATCP in licensing food and recreational establishments while also following up on complaints. LCHD also serves as an Agent for the WI DNR in ensuring safe water at private wells that serve the public (bars, restaurants, churches. etc).

<p>Food & Recreational Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure compliance of over 280 licensed facilities • Annual Inspections • Complaint Inspections • Pre-Licensing Inspections • Consultation/technical assistance • Temporary food and campground inspections 	<p>Drinking Water Safety & Laboratory Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of WI Certified Water Lab • Drinking water sample analysis for private wells • Ensure compliance of 109 Transient Non-Community water systems • Follow up on unsafe drinking water results • Technical Assistance
<p>Human Health Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint investigations • Enforcement of health hazard violations 	<p>General Environmental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency response • Technical assistance

39

Human health hazard complaints received



61


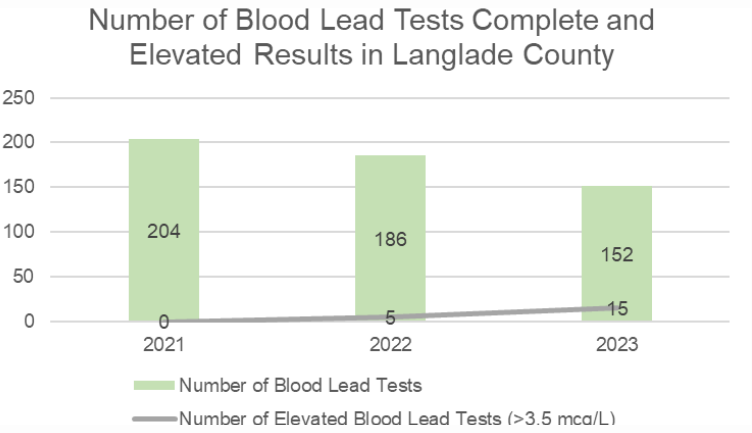
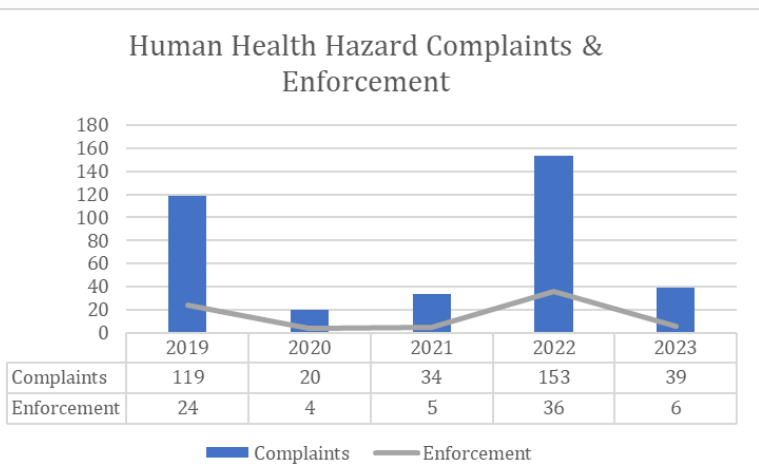
Animal bite follow ups completed



152

Children screened for elevated blood lead levels

15 tests >3.5 mcg/L which requires nurse follow up and tracking

Water Quality

LCHD opened a DATCP certified water lab in March 2023 to analyze samples for Coliform bacteria and nitrates.

101

Private wells tested for Coliform bacteria

98

Private wells tested for nitrates

109

DNR TNC facilities tested for Coliform bacteria and nitrates

14.8%

Of private wells tested present for Coliform bacteria (n=15/101)

7%

Of private wells tested elevated (> 10.0 mg/L) for nitrates (n=7/98)

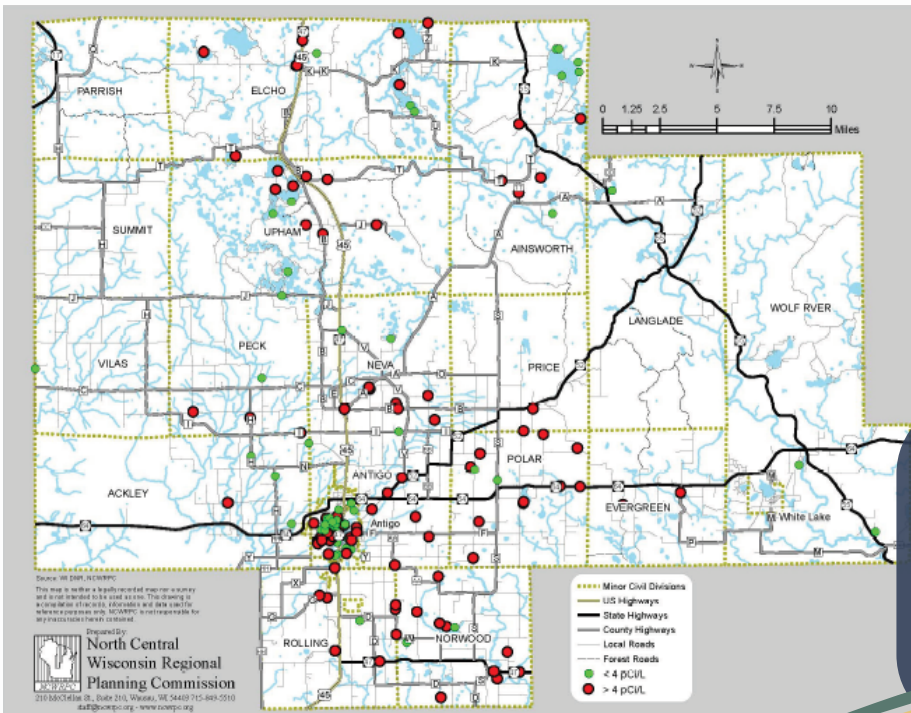
1%

Of DNR TNC facilities tested elevated (> 10.0 mg/L) for nitrates (n=1/109)

5.5%

Of DNR TNC facilities tested present for Coliform bacteria (n=6/109)

Radon



In 2023, the Langlade County Health Department (LCHD) completed the work for a \$10,000 radon grant awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. 200 short term tests were provided to Langlade County residents. Each participant with an elevated level of radon was contacted and provided with recommendations per EPA guidelines.

200 short-term tests given away

151 short-term test results received

61% of homes tested had elevated levels of radon (>4 pCi/L).

Thank you! I had high radon levels in my home and since have had a mitigation system installed.

-Program Participant

A final report with all of the radon results mapped out by zip code that was sent to all participants who received a free test kit.

Licensing & Inspections

The Langlade County Health Department became an agent for the WI Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection in July 2023. LCHD is responsible for the licensing and regulation of retail food establishments, campground, swimming pools, water attractions, hotels, motels and tourist rooming houses. LCHD ensures that all establishments are following state and local regulations. All licensed establishments that serve the public are inspected by the Langlade County Health Department annually by the Environmental Health Specialist.

111



Annual inspections completed from July 1, 2023-December 31, 2023

This accounts for **40%** of licensed establishments (n=111/280)

NOTE: licensing year is July 1-June 30

54

Pre-inspections complete



3

Complaint inspections complete



Maternal, Child & Family Health

The LCHD realized that maternal, child and family health is central to our well-being. The health of the family plays a role in the health and diseases of its members. The LCHD is committed to providing programs and services and supporting good maternal, child and family health.

8
home visits to new mothers in 2023
compared to 4 in 2022

Prenatal and Postnatal Care provides home visits to assist families before and after the birth of their child. Mothers receive support and education, baby weight checks, health teaching, child development and referrals to community services.

334
students received a vision screening with **49** referrals made

Diaper Bank

Program Goal:

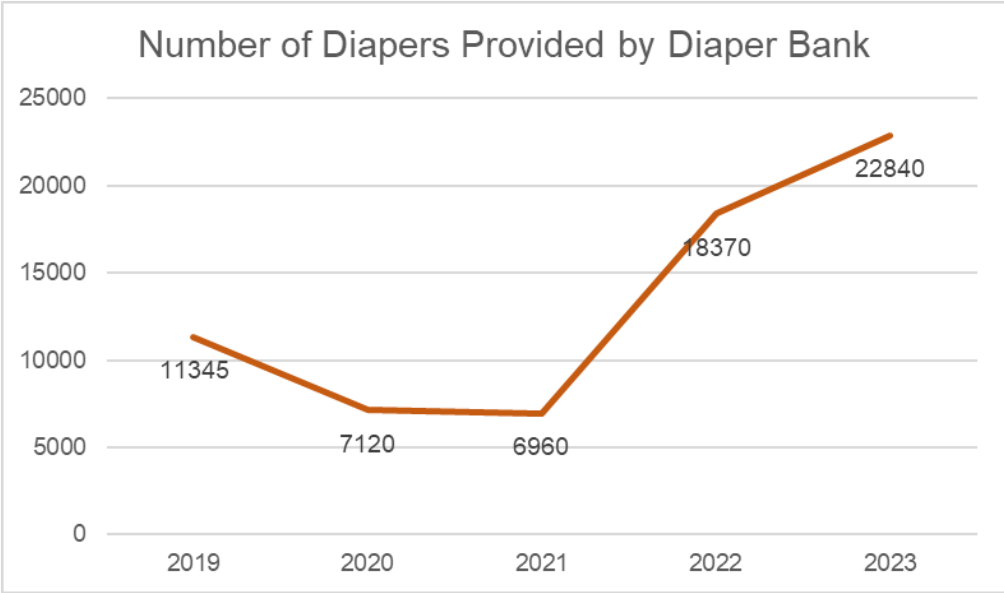
By December 31, 2023 the diaper bank will increase the number of families it reaches by 20%

Program Outcome:

The diaper bank increased the number of families it reached by 41 families which was a **33%** increase.

22,840
Diapers distributed to families in 2023

411
Packs of wipes distributed



Immunizations

831

Vaccinations provided to community members



382

Flu vaccines to children in all schools of Langlade County



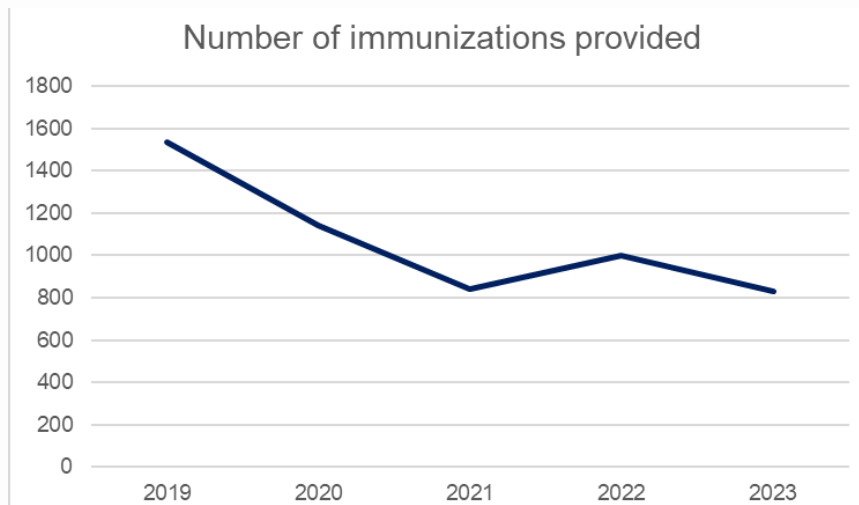
The immunization program provides immunizations to eligible children and adults striving to reduce or eliminate vaccine preventable diseases. This was a cost savings of **\$24,018.85** thru the Vaccines for Children and Vaccines for Adults program, which adults and children who are uninsured or under insured are eligible for free vaccinations. COVID and Flu vaccinations were also included.

62%

In 2023, 62% of 24 month-olds met all required immunization benchmarks.

LCHD's goal is **72%**.

To increase parental awareness related to vaccine schedules, LCHD used a reminder letter to all parents. Public Health Nurses also promote vaccine awareness, education and access to care. LCHD outreaches to local providers to share current immunization rates and encourage vaccination.



Nursing Services

329

Blood pressures taken at community events/blood pressure clinics



54

TB skin tests provided



Assessment & Surveillance



The Langlade County Health Department's continuous surveillance of communicable disease has guided community outreach efforts, public health interventions and sharing with local health care providers.

Throughout 2023, the Langlade County Health Department continued to assess communicable diseases in our communities. In addition to COVID-19, LCHD monitored other communicable diseases including the spread of influenza, RSV and Mpox.

Information is shared with local health care providers in the "Communicable Disease Newsletter" which goes out quarterly to provide updates, trends and relative information.

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COMMUNICABLE DISEASE NEWSLETTER
January 2024

To Our Health Partners in The Community
Promoting vaccine health benefits and providing accurate, consistent information to individuals and families continues to be one of our main goals in 2024. Our rates for children residing in Langlade County who turn 24 months of age to receive recommended vaccine doses by their second birthday is 62%. This shows there is room for improvement.
CDC has released the [2024 Immunization schedules](#).
WIDHS also provides an [Immunization Vaccine Information Toolkit](#) for discussing vaccines with parents and caregivers.
2024 brings exciting changes as the health department works on a new website and a new digital self-care platform - more to come!!

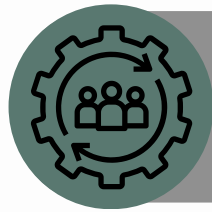
Educational Opportunities:
• RSD Webinar: Tue, Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. [Join Zoom](#)
• Communicable Disease Webinar for Health Care Providers: on Friday of the month from 7-8 a.m.
• [DHHS Provider Webinar Series](#) [reconnect.wisconsin.gov](#)

Health Department Vaccines & Clinics:

Those 18 years and under with MA/MS insurance	Monthly immunization clinic times:
• All VFC vaccines including COVID-19, Moderna and Spikavax	• 2nd Monday 9:00am-10:00am
Adult vaccines: • COVID-19, Spikavax, Hepatitis A & B, Pneumococcal, Tdap	• 4th Wednesday 7:00pm-8:00pm
	*Walk-ins welcome. No appointment needed. Please bring insurance cards with you

Syphilis (All stages) rate increased by 18% from 2021-2022 in Wisconsin. [View by County](#)

STI Updates, Trends & Implications for Practice Staff recently had the opportunity to attend a discussion, "STI Updates, Trends & Implications for Practice." This presentation shared information for curbing the rise of STI's, provided testing and treatment recommendations and shared our current STI trends. A link to the presentation can be found [here](#).



The Langlade County Health Department provides leadership for population health improvement.

In 2022, the Community Health Needs Assessment identified 3 top priorities to be addressed in the Community Health Improvement Plan. This plan is a long-term effort to address public health issues in a community. The priority areas are: **(1) Mental Well-being, (2) Alcohol and Other Drug Use, and (3) Healthy Living & Active Lifestyles.** As 2023 began the implementation phase, the Health Department and partners continue to provide programs, services and will work on systematic planning to achieve the vision of: Langlade County: thriving people, healthy communities, and safe environments.

56
Langlade County ranked 56 out of 72 counties for overall health

Area For Improvement	Langlade County	Wisconsin
Poor physical health days	3.3	3.2
Poor mental health days	4.6	4.4
Adult smoking	21%	16%
Access to exercise opportunities	61%	84%
Excessive Drinking	28%	26%
Mental Health Providers	980:1	420:1

Community Partnership Development



The Langlade County Health Department continues to facilitate partnerships to address public health priorities.

Community Partnership Highlights

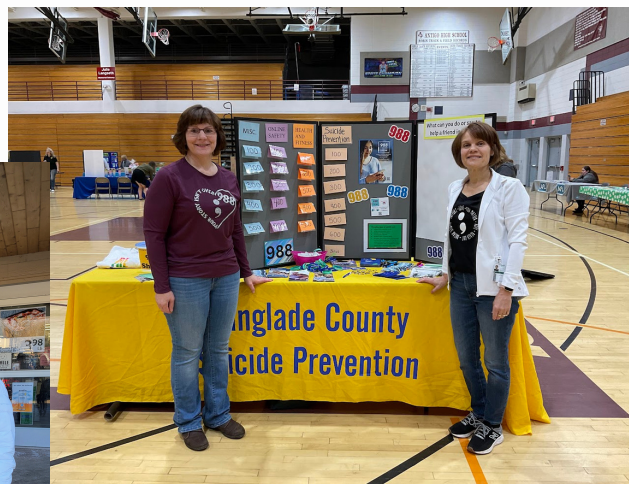
School Partnerships- Partnered with All Saints Catholic School, Elcho School District, and Antigo School District to provide “In Plain Sight” Learning Sessions. Continued partnerships to bring back the “Teen Health Fair” for students. Partnered with Peace Lutheran School to discuss healthy habits with 6-8 graders.

Senior Center of Langlade County- Continued partnership to provide educational sessions as well as a “Senior Health Fair” to those attending the Senior Center of Langlade County.

Grocery stores- Established partnerships with local grocery stores during the implementation of “Fresh Flavors” program.

Community Service- In order to build relationships and provide service to our community and residents staff completed community service hours.

Community Flu Clinics- Partnered with Senior Center of Langlade County, CoVantage Credit Union, Antigo Unified School District, Brickners of Antigo, Spring Breeze Dairy Group to provide annual flu vaccines to staff.



Community Partnership Development

Building a Healthier Langlade County



LCHD continues to facilitate the Building a Healthier Langlade County Coalition, a community-centered approach to address public health priorities identified by Langlade County residents and identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment.

Alliance for Substance Use Prevention



As the lead organization of the Alliance for Substance Use Prevention of Langlade County, we strive to reach the mission of: Promotion, prevention, and reduction of drug and alcohol misuse in Langlade County by using effective education and activities.

Activities include:

“Small Talks” campaign, State Opioid Response grant that provided take away bags and locked bags to community members, partnership with Antigo Police Dept. for Drug Take Back Day in October, community meeting regarding substance use.

Mental-Well Being and Suicide Prevention

Positive mental health allows people to realize their full potential, cope with the stress of life, work productively, and make meaningful contributions to their communities

Activities include:

Hosted “S” Word: Let’s Talk About Suicide event. Attended Tavern League meeting to distribute posters, can koozies; provided packets to local businesses with suicide prevention resources; volunteered at Cornhole event to raise awareness; distributed can koozies with 988 to local fair, softball tournament. Staff also provided mental health resources to local events such as Music in the Park, MS spaghetti dinner, Senior Center, and HS Teen Health Fair.



Organizational Competencies



Ensuring a competent, skilled and dynamic workforce is essential to move the LCHD’s mission forward. The LCHD is committed to maintaining a skilled, knowledgeable, and passionate public health workforce.

Core Competencies

Annually the LCHD staff complete the **Council on Linkages Core competencies** in which staff identify two competencies to build on annually. Training plans are developed to continuously build on the core competencies of all staff.

Department Core Competencies for 2023:

- 1) Community Dimensions of Practice
- 2) Policy Development/Program Planning

Workforce Development Plan

The Workforce Development (WFD) Plan is driven by the Langlade County Health Department’s (LCHD) Strategic Plan, which is a dynamic plan serving as a guide for decision-making and resource allocation for a period of time, and responsive to the results of Core Competency, Health Equity, Performance Management, Quality Improvement and other departmental self-assessments.



Objective 1: LCHD will develop and implement a workforce strategy to strengthen competencies for public health staff.

Objective 2: Langlade County Health Department will revise and update orientation plan for staff and board of health members.

Objective 3: Langlade County Health Department will assure a work environment where employees are valued and supported.

Policy Development & Support



The Lantlade County Health Department ensures quality and consistency in program delivery and practices by maintaining updated policies and procedures.

The Lantlade County Board of Health serves as an advisory board for the LCHD, they are an essential part of policy development, approval and advocacy. The LCHD looks to the Board of Health to ask questions, advocate for health and services, represent constituents, develop and support policy change to improve the health of Lantlade County.



5

New policies, procedures or plans created

19

Policy, procedures or plans reviewed and updated

Accountability & Performance Management

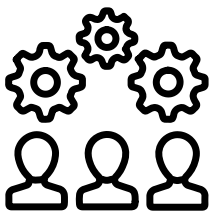


As part of a culture of quality services, the LCHD develops and tracks measurable health objective as part of a continuous effort to guide the development of public health practices.

Performance Management & Quality Improvement

In 2023, Performance management (PM) and Quality Improvement (QI) were at the forefront of importance. LCHD staff were introduced to performance measures, and each program lead began tracking and reporting on meaningful measures within their program areas. The PMQI team is responsible for overseeing the work of performance management and quality improvement within the department.

Continuous Improvement processes



Core Competency Assessment

Identifying and prioritizing training based on the results of staff core competency assessments.



After Action Reports

Identifying strengths, and areas for improvement from flu vaccine clinics.

Strategic Plan



The Lantlade County Health Department Strategic Plan 2024-2028 provides a guide for decision making and allocating resources; largely presenting a trajectory for the department's next five years. The priorities **(1) Change Energy, (2) Coalitions and Partners and (3) Communications** focus on creating a successful health department that addresses the needs of a rapidly changing public health environment.



Emergency Preparedness & Response



The Lantlade County Health Department continues to plan, prepare and respond to public health emergencies in collaboration with partners.

The LCHD continued work in Public Health Emergency Preparedness capabilities throughout the year to build a stronger public health preparedness program. Part of the public health emergency preparedness program is ensuring exercises and trainings of all staff in order to quickly and efficiently respond to emergency events.

Exercises Include:

- Mass Immunization Clinic Exercise at 9 schools in Lantlade County
- Walk-In Mass Immunization Clinic for COVID and Flu
- WI Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry Drill
- Participated in the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

Trainings Include:

- Respiratory fit testing for front line staff
- Governor's Conference on Emergency Management
- Virtual Communication Platform Training
- Nuclear and Radiation Annex Review and Virtual Facilitated Discussion
- ICS 400 Training for Public Health Nurse

Communications



The Lantlade County Health Department strives to share the latest public health information in a timely manner.

66

Community outreach sessions

72

Educational displays

2

Health Fairs coordinated

2,587

People attending community outreach sessions

14

Radio show appearances

23

Press releases sent to the media

310.6

Pounds of food collected and donated to local food pantries

3.8K

Content interactions on Facebook from followers

2.7K

Followers on Facebook



Findings

In order for residents of Langlade County to achieve maximal health and well-being, the most fundamental need is supportive community environments. Supportive community environments are just as important to the people living in bustling downtown Milwaukee as they are to the people living in Wisconsin's beautiful Northwoods. In order for people to live their best lives supportive communities need to contain the following assets:

- Social and Community Communications
- Infrastructure
- Health Environmental Surroundings
- Economic Opportunities for all
- High Quality Health Care and Public Health
- Policies that support equitable outcomes and opportunities to be healthy.



Looking Into 2024

As we close 2023 and move into 2024, the Langlade County Health Department has big plans for the new year which include:

- Update of the LCHD's website.
- Continually developing, tailoring, and implementing programs that best serve the residents of Langlade County.
- Launch of a new self-care platform "Credible Mind" that offers FREE mental well-being resources.
- Strategically enhance partnerships to meet the goals outlined in the Langlade County Health Improvement Plan.
- Update the LCHD Public Health Preparedness Plan.





LCHD Staff

John Zenkovich- Director, Health & Social Services

Meghan Williams, REHS- Health Officer

Karen Marten, RN, BSN- Public Health Nurse

Jean Turunen, RN, BSN- Public Health Nurse

Donna Wiegert, RN, BSN- Public Health Nurse

Kendall Kuenzli, MS-Community Health Specialist

Tammy King, RS- Environmental Health Specialist

Sheila Rine- Office Manager

Kristin Hetto- Administrative Assistant

Board of Health

Robert Benishek- Chair

Teresa Poltrock- Vice Chair

Andrew Bauknecht

Ronald Krueger Sr.

Daniel Persen

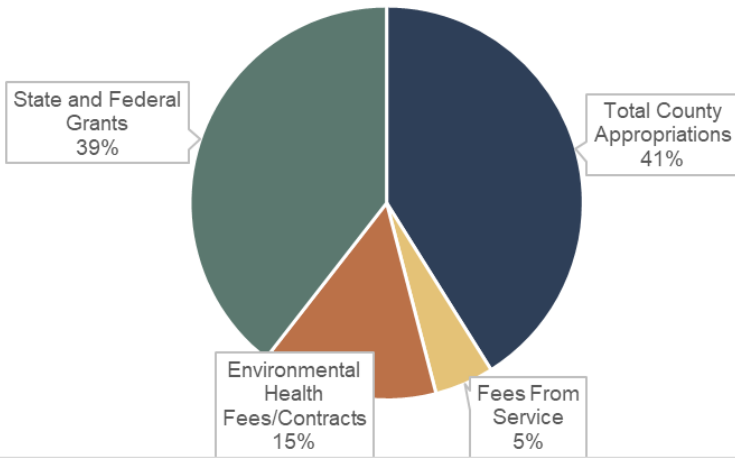
Judith Popelka

Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen, DDS

Dr. Andrew Snider, MD- Medical Advisor

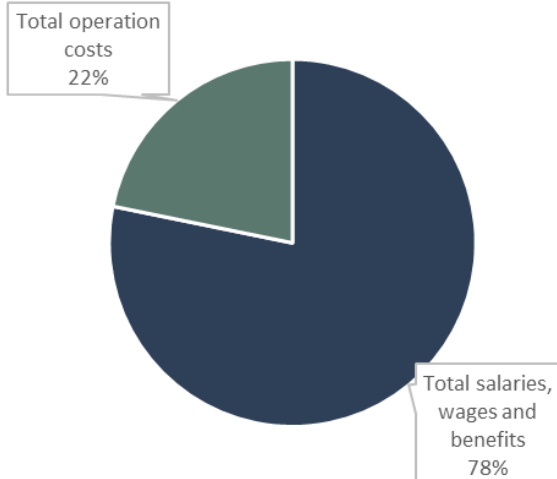
Budget 2023

2023 Revenue



Total County Appropriations	\$385,280.00
Fees From Service	\$45,652.57
Environmental Health Fees/Contracts	\$136,845.00
State and Federal Grants	\$369,969.55
Total Revenue	\$ 937,747.12

2023 Expenditures



Total salaries, wages and benefits	\$653,782.26
Total operation costs	\$182,229.73
Total Expenditures	\$836,011.99

Contact Us



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co.langlade.wi.us/departments/health-department



Monday-Friday
8:30am-4:30pm



Langlade County Health Department