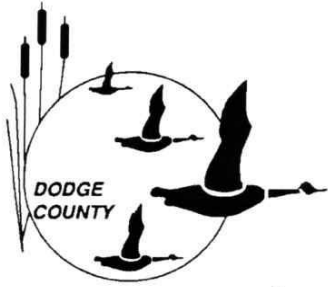


HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



HENRY DODGE
OFFICE BUILDING
HUMAN SERVICES & HEALTH DEPT.



HUMAN SERVICES & HEALTH DEPARTMENT

199 COUNTY ROAD DF • JUNEAU, WISCONSIN 53039-9512

920-386-3500

Becky Bell, Director

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Honorable Dodge County Board of Supervisors
Russell Kottke, Chairman
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039

February 21, 2022

Dear Chairman Kottke and Members of the County Board,

I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report. This report provides general information on each of the programs within the Department. You will also find an organizational chart to assist in understanding the structure of the Department. I believe the County Board can take pride in knowing that the Human Services and Health Department offers services which are cost-effective and meet the needs of the residents of Dodge County. The way in which we provided services to residents of Dodge County changed in 2020 and this continued into 2021 due to precautions associated with COVID 19. Not only did our Public Health Unit worked tirelessly to meet the needs of residents who tested positive for COVID 19, our other staff continued to provide services to residents from their respective units utilizing new forms of technology and protocols never offered with Human Services and Health prior to the pandemic. Human Services saw a dramatic increase in child welfare placements including group homes, RCCs, and foster care. Out of state placements continue to be a concern for the Department. Additionally, admissions to Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) increased from the previous year. These factors have caused significant impact to our budget and we believe these challenges will continue in future years.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Jim Mielke and the County Board of Supervisors for extending me the opportunity to lead an excellent group of professionals in carrying out the Department's mission. Additionally, I would like to extend gratitude to Alyssa Schultz, Sheila Drays, Angela Petruske, as well as the entire supervisory staff, for their expertise in guiding staff to provide the best services possible.

Sincerely,

Becky Bell, Director
Human Services and Health Department

Human Services And Health Board

County Board Members

Mary Bobholz, Chair
Kira Sheahan-Malloy, Vice Chair
Timothy Kemmel
Jenifer Hedrick
Donald Hilgendorf
Andrew Johnson

Citizen Members

Jennifer Keyes, Secretary
David Godshall
Mary Rosecky

Department Administration

Rebecca Bell, Human Services and Health Department Director
Dr. Royle Eenigenburg, Clinical Director, Psychiatrist
Angela Petruske, Fiscal and Support Services Division Manager
Sheila Drays, Community Support Services Division Manager
Alyssa Schultz, Clinical and Family Services Division Manager

**All Programs and Services are Located in the
Henry Dodge Office Building
199 County Road DF
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039
920-386-3500**

www.co.dodge.wi.gov

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- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
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| Fax | 920-386-4011 |
| ♦Public Health and WIC Program | 920-386-3670 |
| Fax | 920-386-4011 |

Second Floor:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| ♦Child & Adolescent Services | 920-386-3750 |
| Fax | 920-386-3533 |
| ♦Adult Protective Services and
Long Term Support | 920-386-3750 |
| Fax | 920-386-3245 |
| ♦Economic Support Services | 920-386-3760 |
| Fax | 920-386-4012 |

Third Floor:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| ♦Aging and Disability Resource Center | 920-386-3580 |
| Toll Free | 800-924-6407 |
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| ♦Transportation Services | 920-386-3832 |
| Toll Free | 800-924-6407 |
| Fax | 920-386-4015 |
| ♦AODA and Mental Health Services | 920-386-4094 |
| Fax | 920-386-3812 |

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Dodge County Board of Supervisors

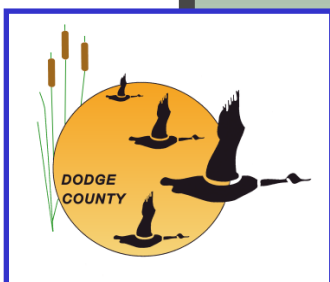
Human Services and Health Board



Fiscal and Support Services Division

Fiscal & Support Services Division Angela Petruske, Division Manager

Audit Compliance Officer	Fiscal & Support	Accounting Technician
Steve Edwards	Vacant Supervisor L. Baumgartner C. Begovatz C. Bunker B. Justmann K. Flanders K. Twardokus K. Detert Vacant	Felicia Bruyette



FISCAL & SUPPORT

The Fiscal and Support Services Division provides financial and clerical support for the Human Services and Health Department. The Division consists of twelve employees. In August of 2020, Angela Petruske joined as the new Division Manager. The new ERP system, Munis went live on January 1, 2020. The department has spent time learning the new system's capabilities in regards to reports, projects, budget, and contracts.

The conscientious and efficient performance of dedicated fiscal and support staff is key to the Department's ability to: (1) create and maintain orderly files including electronic files; (2) accurately record and process billings; (3) answer, manage and route inquiries to appropriate personnel; (4) enhance customer satisfaction with prompt, courteous and professional interaction; (5) provide assistance with administration of health clinics and many other services; (6) process and account for financial transactions; (7) monitor budget and contracts and (8) meet complex and detailed reporting needs for the state as well as other agencies.

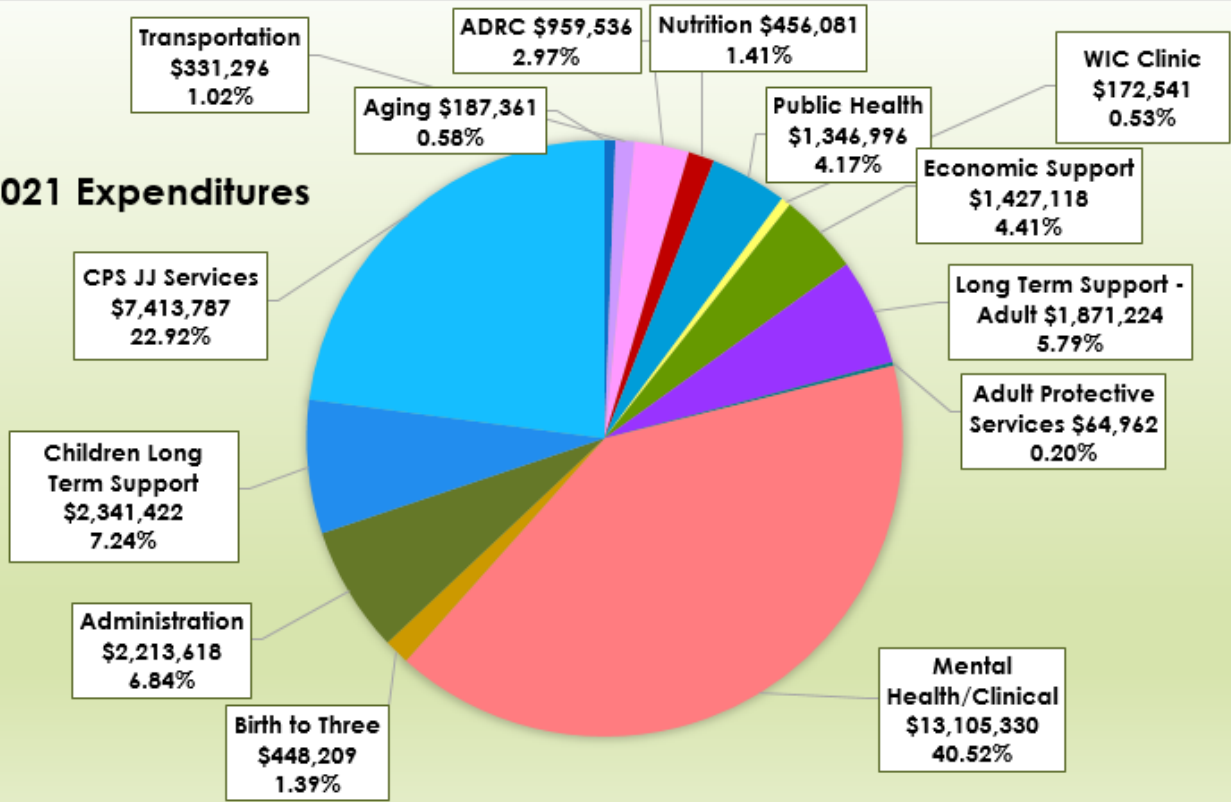
Fiscal and support staff utilize a number of State systems in daily operations with many of these being web based applications. These systems are upgraded on a regular basis and are an integral piece in tracking financial and statistical information.

- CARES – Economic Support Database
- eWiSACWIS – Child Welfare Database
- State Data Warehouse – Human Services Reporting
- SAMS – Aging and Nutrition Database
- CARS – Community Aids Reporting System
- CSAW – Child Day Care Payment System
- Forward Health – Medicaid Program billing and reports
- SPARC – Department of Children and Families Reporting system
- PPS – Program Participation System

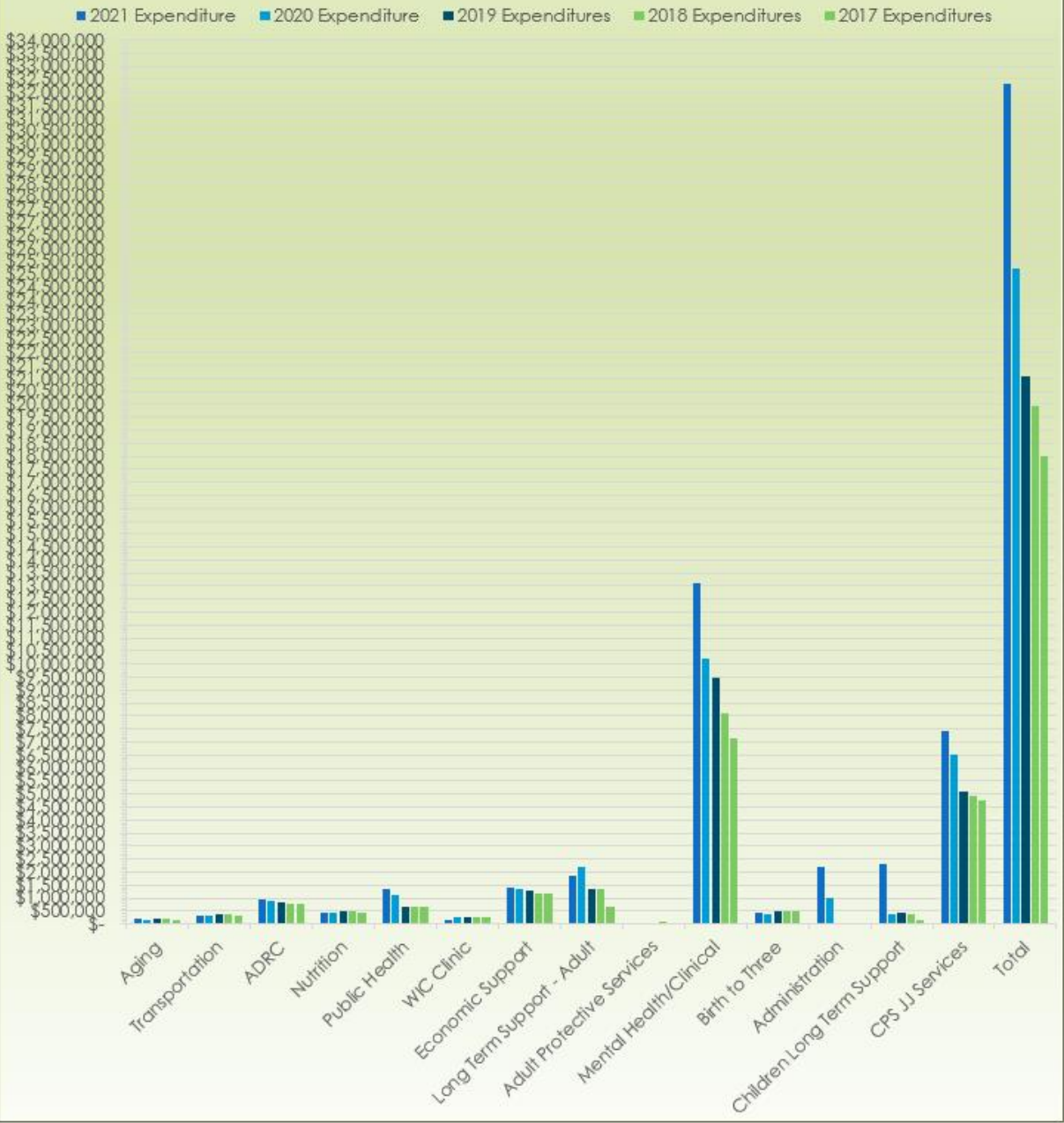
The Department is continuing the process of scanning and creating electronic images of client files, supporting documentation for accounting transactions and this process is significantly improving workflow, productivity and efficiency. At this point in time, it appears the Department will end the year under budget. The Fiscal and Support Division seeks to provide excellent customer service to our internal and external customers and meet the complex needs of the populations served.

Angela Petruske, Division Manager
Fiscal and Support Services
920-386-3504

2021 Expenditures



Expenditure Comparison



COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The Community Support Services Division's goal is to provide essential services and resources to Dodge County residents. In meeting this goal Division staff support individuals with oversight and supervision in personal care such as, dressing, bathing, grooming, housekeeping, and shopping. The Division staff also provide services such as access to BadgerCare, Medicaid, FoodShare, Child Care, transportation, nutrition, immunizations, health education, and prenatal care. Providing these services and resources, the Division strengthens Dodge County by treating its residents with respect and dignity while helping them maintain their health and welfare in the community.

In 2021 as Division staff continued to provide these services and resources to support and maintain Dodge County residents, they also were working under the pervasive, unceasing, COVID-19 pandemic and every program and process continued to be affected. While the Community Support Services Division continued to work under the premise of COVID-19, the programs continued to change in order to address and align with new challenges of the pandemic. These program changes allowed staff to more efficiently respond to the new higher demand of needs. Deadlines were extended, face to face requirements were temporarily suspended, and reporting requirements were altered. These ever evolving, COVID driven, changes meant that the collection of services we think of as human services also had to change.

Adult Protective Services/Long Term Support (APS/LTS) saw an exponential increase in referrals from residents who were in dire need of services. While referrals continued to rise, deaths also rose at a higher rate than in past years and many of those due to COVID-19. Statewide it was found that, because of COVID, there was an increase in isolation and a decrease in the ability for residents to see their physician for regular treatment, which were two more reasons for the higher death rate.

Economic Support is an area that has constant changes in policies and procedures. However, due to COVID-19 they saw program changes that have never been seen before extending review dates, temporarily ending the requirement to do annual reviews and provide necessary verifications. While this made processing easier and quicker, it also allowed for more fraud. With the larger potential for fraud Economic Support was instructed that there were certain areas they could not proceed with prosecution.

As mentioned above, the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) requirement to see residents face to face was temporarily ended and interviews were to be conducted over the phone or via the computer. Community education classes were temporarily suspended due to the requirement of being face to face. Those classed that could did eventually reconvene via on line. These classes are vital to keeping this population active and healthy which allows them to continue living in their home and out of residential care facilities.

Nutrition and Transportation were vastly affected by the pandemic. In 2021 meals continued being delivered to homes versus offering congregate meal sites giving residents the opportunity to socialize. The Transportation Program continued to provide rides with numbers fluctuating throughout the year due to the ups and downs of COVID-19.

Public Health and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), once again, due to COVID, saw a dramatic increase in workload and program changes as can be seen by the numbers below under the Public Health section. In order to better coordinate and keep up with the workload, Public Health was approved to hire a LTE Contact Tracer Coordinator, twelve LTE Contact Tracers and several LTE Contracted Nurses. This team, along with the rest of the Public Health staff, worked long hours including weekends and holidays, making calls, doing the necessary data entry, and keeping the residents of Dodge County informed of COVID matters.

**Sheila Drays, Division Manager
Community Support Services
920-386-3767**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Sheila Drays, Division Manager

Aging & Disability Resource Center	Aging Services, Nutrition & Transportation	Adult Protective Services & Long Term	Economic Support Services	Economic Support Services	Public Health Services
Kristine Schefft, Supervisor	Jackie DeLaRosa, Supervisor	Paula Becker, Supervisor	Amy Beranek, Supervisor	Heidi DeNure, Supervisor	Abby Sauer, Supervisor
B. Borchardt D. Coulter H. Ehrlich J. Farmer O. Gerritson R. Griesel A. Higgins C. Knickelbein M. Leistikow C. McCallum J. Moon A. Sanborn Karlee Vandertie V. Zimmerman	W. Benedon K. Braunschweig E. DeBlare J. Johnson J. Leitner G. Maier D. Pasewald H. Rohlinger F. Roethle R. Teschke 12 Dining Center Mgrs	E. Bussian A. Drumm M. Evans S. Gutschmidt E. Schmitz C. Wiersma	I. Hassey Nevarez M. Fitzgerald M. Hamm H. Helsell L. Hoffman M. Flint S. Miller C. Schultz D. Spears	S. Bahls M. Dunse E. Falcon D. Hohmann Y. Hopkins J. Raupp M. Reinwald A. Schneider N. Whitaker	A. Crossley K. Drake P. Evans A. Henry L. Lange M. Meyer M. Puga L. Rooney S. Smith D. Wickersham A. Young 12 LTE Contact Tracers
Commission on Aging & Disability Services	Nutrition & Transportation Advisory Committees	Adults-At-Risk Interdisciplinary Team Committee			

Ground Floor, Customer Service Operations Coordinator,
Rebecca Vollmer

Ground Floor, Customer Service Support Specialist,
Bev Behm



Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The Aging and Disability Resource Center in Dodge County is an agency within Human Services that provides many different programs to help individuals age well and live at home safely and comfortably. This includes advocacy for elders and those with disabilities, education events for the community on caregiving and dementia, and supporting those individuals. In addition we provide home delivered meals and congregate meals and have a vast transportation program all operating under one umbrella.

COVID remained the focus of 2021, ensuring the nutrition needs of the community were met. ADRC staff continued to assist and the work focus leaned heavily on providing meals and transportation for the seniors in Dodge County. ADRC staff were asked to wear different “hats” to assist with meal delivery, public health, and transportation as that is where the imminent needs were. This was supported by our State and County administration recognizing and funding the extreme efforts to support those in need. We also, as a team, learned to work remotely as well as in person to keep the ADRC open the entire time.

As the year unfolded, we continued operating within regulations which were modified as the pandemic raged on. We continued to keep our community and ourselves safe while performing our jobs. Many times, we were able to meet with families over the phone, or by zoom to complete needs assessments. Our programs were modified by the state in their expectations of face-to-face visits and interactions.

One opportunity that we received and fulfilled was a grant collaborating with Public Health to offer vaccines to those who could not leave their homes for various reasons. We offered many virtual events including weekly support groups for those with dementia, virtual caregiver supports, and virtual classes (Stepping On, Living Well with Chronic Pain). During the late summer we did have the opportunity to offer these classes in person. In the meantime, staff were trained on how to offer all Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) classes virtually.

We created a new three year Aging Plan, which has been approved and will be implemented beginning in 2022. A guiding principle from the State has been to look at health and racial equity in how we provide services, and we will begin with education to staff. The current plan was revised to show how the community was supported during COVID. We had to adapt plans in order to accomplish our work by phone, social media, virtual classes, and support groups. This included using volunteers with our Open Enrollment process for Medicare Part D plans as well as changing this process to be virtual or by phone for most situations. We have been able to safely support any clients who needed to meet in person through precautions of masks, face shields, social distancing and sanitizing.

Kris Schefft
ADRC Supervisor and
Community Health Education Coordinator
920-386-3582

Aging, Transportation, and Nutrition Programs

Dodge County's Senior Nutrition Program

In 2021, the volunteers and staff involved in the Senior Nutrition Program strived to continue meeting the nutrition, socialization, and wellness needs of older adults. With efforts to protect our most vulnerable population, the Senior Nutrition Program's congregate meal sites remained closed this year. Home delivered meals continued to be provided and pick-up meals became quite popular. There are many participants that used to dine at sites that are now able to drive through and pick up their meals. We also saw an influx in new participants that enjoyed taking a ride to pick up a meal. This year, 36,354 meals were provided to seniors and eligible individuals with disabilities.

The Senior Farmer's Market Voucher program served 217 senior households this past summer. Participants are able to receive a voucher that can be redeemed for fresh fruit and vegetables at eligible Farmer's Markets. This program helps support the nutritional needs of seniors while also providing a financial supplement to our local farmers.

In December, we purchased shelf stable food offering Senior Nutrition Program participants three non-perishable meals to ensure that an alternative is available should the program have to close for the day due to inclement weather.

Despite the programmatic challenges surrounding COVID-19 and the emerging variants, our volunteers worked diligently to ensure that meals were delivered to program participants. Our total volunteer hours increased by 51% in comparison to 2020's volunteer hours.



Dodge County's Transportation Program

In 2021, Dodge County's Transportation Program worked diligently to continue to provide essential medical rides. With the restrictions and challenges during the pandemic, our primary focus was transporting individuals to appointments for kidney dialysis, chemotherapy, and radiation. Eventually we were able to offer rides for other categories such as employment and socialization. Volunteer and paid drivers provided 7,862 rides for Dodge County residents. Our volunteer drivers alone, drove 148,194 miles and contributed 5,403 hours providing rides!

In December, we were able to offer new drivers an online Defensive Driver training. We also received notification that our 2021 vehicle grant with Wisconsin Department of Transportation was approved and we would soon be awarded with a new side-load minivan to join the fleet.

Without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, essential programs such as Senior Nutrition and Transportation, would be impossible to administer. To show our appreciation, we began spotlighting a volunteer in our seasonal Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) newsletter. Thank you to all of our volunteers for serving the needs of Dodge County residents!



**Jackie DeLaRosa, Supervisor
Aging, Nutrition, and Transportation
920-386-3583**

Adult Protective Services and Long Term Support (APS/LTS)

The goal of the Adult Protective Services and Long Term Support Unit is to assist individuals to remain living independently within the least restrictive environment, and to prevent, or at least delay institutionalized care for as long as possible. The APS/LTS unit has five Social Workers and one Home and Financial Advisor. The APS/LTS unit provides six primary areas of services to Dodge County residents.

The first area, which is often where the Adult Protective Services Social Workers spend most of their time, is conducting allegations of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation. Statutorily the Adult Protective Services Unit provides investigations for two categories of individuals. The first category is “elder adult at risk,” which is any individual “age 60 or older who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect or financial exploitation.” § 46.90(1)(br). The second category, “adult at risk,” is any individual age 18 to 59 “who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs his or her ability to care for his or her needs, who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation.” § 55.01(1e). These investigations must begin within 24 hours of receipt, not counting weekends and holidays.

The majority of investigations include individuals who are frail elder, seriously and persistently mentally ill, physically disabled, intellectually disabled, have a neurocognitive disorder, or other like incapacities and are in imminent danger of losing their life, liberty, health or property, through abuse and/or exploitation of them by others, or through their own inability to care for themselves resulting in abuse or neglect. The APS/LTS unit works diligently to balance the goals of protecting individuals from abuse, exploitation, and neglect while respecting the individual's right to self-determination. The APS/LTS unit often works closely with a wide variety of collaborative partners such as physicians, nurses, paramedics, and law enforcement. The APS/LTS unit assesses each individual's situation and needs, then develops a case plan to maintain his/her safety, health, and independence.

The APS unit is also responsible for petitioning for guardianship of individuals with intellectual disabilities and who reach the age of majority (18). The unit also petitions the court for guardianships of all other adults who become incompetent related to a degenerative brain/neurocognitive disorder, developmental/intellectual disability, serious and persistent mental illness, and other like incapacities and are unable to make their own decisions, as certified by a licensed physician or psychologist. These referrals usually involve numerous attorneys and court hearings and are coordinated with the Dodge County Corporation Counsel's Office. In addition, the APS unit is also responsible for petitioning the court for Protective Services, Protective Placements, Emergency Protective Placements, Protective Services Order for Involuntary Administration of Psychotropic Medication, and at times Individual at Risk Restraining Orders.

The remaining four areas are covered under Community Long Term Support and include: Supportive Home Care, Case Management, Home & Financial Advisor Services, and the Diversion Program. All of the above services are provided only if an individual is NOT eligible for Family Care program services. Supportive Home Care services include light housekeeping, grocery shopping, and assistance with personal cares. These cases are monitored by the unit's social workers to determine continued eligibility for the program.

The unit's Home & Financial Advisor provides a variety of services to our adult population. These services include bill paying, assisting clients with budgeting and becoming better financial

managers, meal planning, grocery shopping, teaching meal preparation, teaching and promoting healthy hygiene habits, assistance with obtaining energy assistance, housing options, medical assistance applications, scheduling medical appointments, and any other services that help individuals maintain the highest level of independence and to remain living in the least restrictive setting possible.

2021 Unit Accomplishments & Trends

Interdisciplinary Team - In 2021, the Adult Protective Services Unit once again received Elder Abuse Funding through the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR) in the amount of \$32,199. These funds are to be used on services including, but not limited to, advocacy/legal services, community based aids/services, adult day programming/treatment, emergency response services, medical services, service coordination, placement, respite, staff training, transportation, and victim services. In order to receive this funding, an Elder Abuse/Adults at Risk, Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team) needs to be formed and meet at least four times per year and all reports of abuse and neglect that are investigated are entered into the Wisconsin Incident Tracking System (WITS). The purpose of this team is to provide education and resources for elder and adult at risk abuse. Furthermore, the I-Team reviews Adult Protective Services cases that need or could benefit from an interdisciplinary perspective and approach. The I-Team also discusses systems issues and other areas that team members feel can be improved and then looks for ways to approach and improve those systems. In 2021, the I-team met on February 16th, May 18th, August 24th, and November 16th.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) - Every year, June 15th is a date set aside to recognize and focus on our aging population and the problem and prevalence of elder abuse. To highlight WEAAD in 2021, the Dodge County APS/LTS unit partnered with the ADRC of Dodge County, Public Health, PAVE, and other community partners to hold an outreach event in Beaver Dam to focus on elder abuse prevention and available resources.

Dementia Crisis Response & Stabilization: The Adult Protective Services Unit continued to support and coordinate our Dementia Stabilization Teams and response. Depending upon the crisis and service needs these teams often consisted of, or a combination of, APS Social Workers, Crisis Workers, Dementia Care Specialist, Caregiver Coordinator, Supportive Home Care staff from Christian Family Solutions, Holders of Hope, and/or Visiting Angels, and a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist. When stabilization in place could not be accomplished we worked with many community partners for placement such as, but not limited to, Clearview, Northview Heights, Beaver Dam Health Care Center, Sylvan Crossings, Prairie Ridge, Golden Years, Marvin's Manor, and The Larson House.

2021 Trends

In 2021, the APS/LTS unit received 411 referrals of allegations of abuse and or neglect of Adults at Risk or Elder Adults at Risk, Supportive Home Care, and Guardianships/Protective Placements/Protective Services. The majority of these being abuse and neglect referrals. There was an increase in referrals compared to 2020's numbers (373). The APS until has continued to have a high caseload size. The average caseload size in 2018 was 293, in 2019 it was 324 and in 2020 it was 318, and in 2021 it was 317.

As in previous years, the majority of APS referrals were related to self-neglect, financial exploitation, and neglect by caregivers. Approximately 45 percent of the investigations responded to were for self-neglect, 20 percent were financial exploitation, 20 percent were neglect by others, and the remaining 15 percent were physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Often with financial exploitation other forms of abuse were also co-occurring. The APS unit continued to operate safely and effectively throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic with providing the same level of services or with minimal disruption to the individuals being served within the APS/LTS unit during the pandemic. Overall, it continues to be the goal of Adult Protective Services unit to protect the elderly and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation by investigating and providing and arranging for quality services to stop and prevent further harm while respecting their right to self-determination and helping individuals to remain living in the least restrictive environment to best meet their needs.

**Paula Becker, Supervisor
Adult Protective Services and Long Term Support
920-386-3717**

Economic Support (ES)

The Economic Support Unit, in partnership with Adams, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, Richland, Sauk, and Sheboygan counties (Capital Consortium), provides assistance to those experiencing financial hardship within our service area.

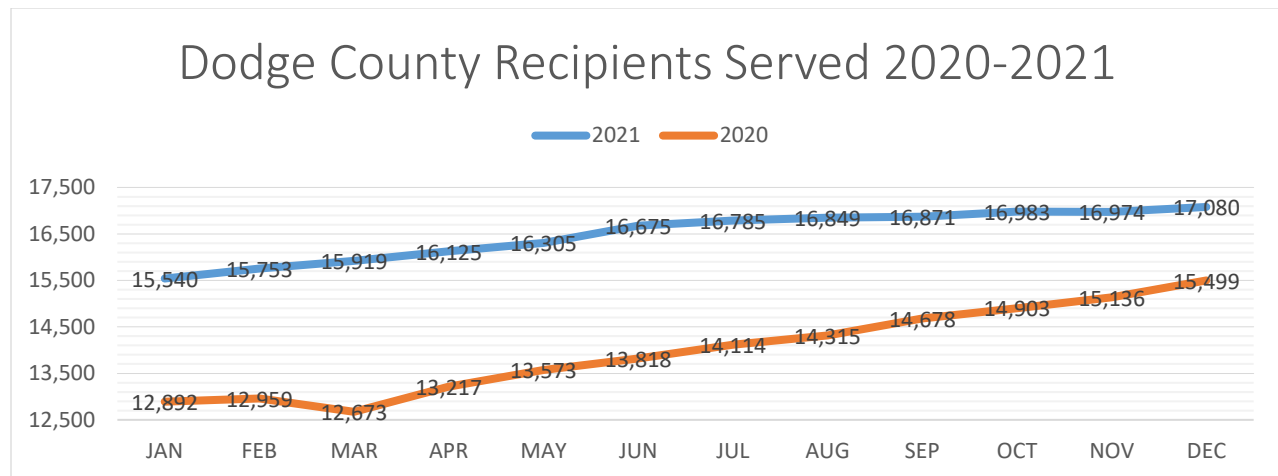
The Dodge County Economic Support staff is managed by Division Manager, Sheila Drays and Supervisors, Amy Beranek and Heidi DeNure, and includes:

- Twelve (12) Economic Support Specialists (ESS),
- Two (2) ESS Lead workers,
- Two (2) Economic Support Assistants,
- One (1) Overpayment/Fraud Specialist
- One (1) Customer Support Specialist

Economic Support staff determine eligibility and provide ongoing case management services for the following public assistance programs:

Wisconsin Shares Child Care, FoodShare, Medicaid Programs, Caretaker Supplement, and Elderly, Blind, or Disabled Medicaid Programs. The ES Unit also regulates certified child care providers (individuals who provide in-home care for 1 to 3 children) within Dodge County.

Capital Consortium staff managed approximately 104,000 active cases in 2021. Approximately 9,400 of those cases reside in Dodge County. Our ES team served an average of 16,500 Dodge County residents.



In an ongoing effort to maintain Program Integrity, Economic Support continues to process overpayments, as well as pursue Intentional Program Violations and prosecution in conjunction with the Sheriff's and District Attorney's (DA) Offices. The year-end total amount of overpayments submitted was \$396,897, with paid incentives totaling \$25,553. Incentive payments for the county are calculated at 15% of the paid amount that were determined to be client-error overpayments. They can be payments received from new or outstanding claims. Additionally, three (3) DA referrals were made in 2021 and are being pursued for potential criminal prosecution.

The Economic Support Unit remains committed to providing excellent customer service to individuals and families in need throughout Dodge County and the Capital Consortium service area. We are also dedicated to serving our taxpayers by making accurate eligibility determinations for our Income Maintenance programs.

Heidi DeNure – (920) 386-4241
Amy Beranek – (920) 386-3955
Human Services Supervisors - Economic Support

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

The Mission of Dodge County Human Services & Health Department – Public Health Unit is to promote healthy living, prevent disease and illness, and protect against injury and environmental concerns to all Dodge County residents using prevention services, health education and working with other agencies and groups.

Our Vision is to make Dodge County the healthiest and safest county in Wisconsin.

Our Values are:

Education – we strive to educate the community and the clients we serve.

Credibility – we exhibit integrity and honesty in all that we do.

Professionalism – we take a nonjudgmental approach to our work.

Service – we responsively deliver our exceptional and comprehensive programs with a highly skilled workforce.

Respect – we treat all people with mutual respect and sensitivity, recognizing the importance of diversity.

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH PANDEMIC

The Dodge County Public Health Unit continued to play a substantial role in the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) response in Dodge County. All Covid-19 results, positive and negative test results were reported to the Public Health unit. Public Health maintained its key role in contact tracing in 2021. Contact tracing allowed Public Health to track the spread of COVID-19 and break the chain of virus spread. This was accomplished by contacting those who had tested positive, learning whom they have had recent contact with and then contacting those individuals to provide guidance on testing and isolation. Public Health staff then followed positive individual and their contacts through the isolation and quarantine periods, which involved daily symptom monitoring averaging 10-14 days, sometime longer. To accomplish this the Public Health Unit maintained around 16 Limited Term Employees and contracted staff. Within the Dodge County Public Unit jurisdiction in 2021, follow-up was completed on 7,746 confirmed positive individuals and 1316 probable positive individuals.

Testing coordination was another role Dodge County Public Health continued to be involved in. In collaboration with the Wisconsin DHS, Wisconsin National Guard, and Dodge County Emergency Management, we coordinated a community based test site for any Wisconsin resident in Beaver Dam, WI. The test site was open 1-2 days a week throughout the year. In 2021, 5,992 individuals were tested at our Beaver Dam community test sites.

The Public Health Unit provided education to the public around Covid-19 and measures to protect residents. Information was pushed out through social media, press releases, email blasts, grocery bag stuffers, and through a weekly Covid-19 report.

Outbreak management guidance was provided by the Public Health Unit to businesses, schools, and Long-term Care Facility. We worked with many of these entities, providing feedback and collaborating on outbreak planning, contact tracing, mitigation measures and reopening guidance.

In 2021 Dodge County Public Health placed a big role in administering the new Covid-19 vaccinations. All three FDA approved vaccines were administered; Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen. The 1st mass vaccination clinic was held at Human Services and Health Department building on January 5, 2021. In total 14,634 Covid-19 vaccinations were administered by Dodge County Public Health throughout 2021.

Dodge County Public Health held a total of 137 mass vaccination clinics throughout the year. Clinics were at the Human Services and Health Department building, at various businesses, schools, grocery stores and community events like the County Fair, farmers markets, safety events. Public Health staff also provided in-home vaccinations to persons who were limited in their ability to leave their homes.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Dodge County Public Health Unit programs focus on prevention efforts and improving the health of the community. We provide many mandated services including the control of communicable disease, investigating and resolving human health hazards, health promotion programming, education outreach, and chronic disease prevention efforts. Many programs were adversely affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, this was in part due to safety measures put in place limiting in-person services and the need for the Public Health unit to shift its focus to the pandemic.

Dodge County Public Health Unit divides its programs and services into four categories:

- 1) Programs for Children: fluoride varnish, infant/child home visits, and blood lead screening.
- 2) Programs for Children and Families: birth packets, car seat inspections/distributions, Cribs for Kids, My Baby and Me, and First Breath.
- 3) Programs for Women: pregnancy tests, Prenatal Care Coordination, Women Infant Children (WIC) program, and Breastfeeding Peer Support.
- 4) Programs for All Residents: communicable disease, environmental health services, health education, immunizations, public health preparedness, screenings [TB skin tests, blood pressure, vision and hearing], and sharps disposal program.

Programs for Children

- **Fluoride varnish:** Dental health is a focus area in public health. Populations believed to be at increased risk for dental caries are those with low socioeconomic status or low levels of parental education, those who do not seek regular dental care, and those without dental insurance or access to dental services. Through the fluoride varnish program, Dodge County Public Health Unit provides oral health assessments, anticipatory guidance, fluoride varnish application and dental referrals if needed. This program is offered to all children who are on Medical Assistance (MA) or participate in the WIC program. In 2021, 1 children received fluoride varnish services, this was down from 16 in 2020.
- **Infant-child home visits:** Children from birth to three years old were seen through our “TalkReadPlay” home visitation program. This program offers the Parents as Teachers curriculum, providing families information to help build their children’s intellectual, language, social and physical development. Public health nurses may provide physical assessments, height and weight checks and anticipatory guidance to parents. In 2021, 13 home visits were provided, this was a decrease from 34 in 2020.
- **Lead program:** Lead based paint and varnish still exist in many Dodge County homes built before 1978. There is no safe level of lead in the human body. Even very low levels of lead exposure can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health throughout the child’s life; especially those between 12 months and 6 years of age. Children are screened using a capillary sample (finger-stick). If there is an elevated result, a venous blood sample is used to confirm the result. A public health nurse

monitors children who have had a high capillary sample, to ensure that a confirmatory venous sample (blood draw) is taken within 3 months. Due to WIC in-person services waiver 0 children received blood lead screening in our office in 2021, a decline from 53 in 2020. Lead screenings continue to be done at medical providers offices, therefore 24 elevated lead levels were reported in 2021 and 8 received a home visits by a public health nurse/lead hazard investigator.

Programs for Children and Families

- **Birth Packets:** Dodge County Public Health provides information and resource packets to all families that give birth to a baby in the county. Information is provided on multiple health topics to include immunizations, car seats, safe sleep, and brain development. In 2021, 620 birth packets were sent out to families.
- **Car seat program:** Three staff are trained as Child Passenger Safety Technicians. Car seat technicians provide education to families on how to properly harness their child and install their car seats. Technicians also check seats for history, expiration and recalls. Car seats are available to be dispensed to families in need that meet eligibility criteria. Car seats were purchased through a grant awarded to the Public Health Unit by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; this is the 11th year that we have received this grant. In 2020, there was a decrease in the amount of car seats Inspected and distributed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Column1	2019	2020	2021
Car Seat Inspections	105	14	25
Car Seats Distributed	88	21	18

- **Cribs for Kids:** This program helps to prevent infant sleep-related deaths by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of practicing safe sleep for their babies and by providing portable cribs to families who, otherwise, cannot afford a safe place for their babies to sleep. Portable cribs are purchased by donations from local organizations. In 2021, 10 portable cribs were distributed to families in need, this is an increase from 2 in 2020.
- **My Baby and Me:** Public health staff use the My Baby & Me screening process to identify pregnant women with alcohol-related questions or concerns. Women who need additional support are referred to the Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation for phone counseling and education. Public health provides consistent messaging and evidence-based information about the often confusing issue of alcohol use during pregnancy. In 2021 we referred 0 pregnant women to the program.
- **First Breath:** Connecting pregnant women to smoking cessation services is one of the many important services that Public Health staff provide. Maternal smoking is higher in

Dodge County at 15.9%, than the state average of 11.5%. Public health staff use health questionnaires to screen for tobacco use and offer education when possible. If a pregnant woman wants to quit smoking, they are referred to the First Breath program. In 2021, 1 pregnant women were referred, this was a decrease from 3 in 2020.

- **Water Test Kits:** Safe, clean water is one of the most important substances in our lives, for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. Municipal water systems test their water regularly to ensure it is safe, but it is up to private well owners to test their well water annually. Through support from the State, Dodge County Public Health is able to distribute well water test kits to families with children under the age of 5 and pregnant women. In 2021, 11 kits were given to families, with 21 follow-up sessions provided with subsequent education.
- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC):** WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children. The program helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who have had a baby within 6 months, infants, and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. The purpose of WIC is to promote and maintain the health and well-being of its participants by providing education about and access to a healthy diet and by providing participants referrals to other assistance programs and healthcare providers. In 2021, the average monthly WIC caseload was 789; this is down from 2020, which had an average of 859.

In 2021, Dodge County WIC made many modifications to how services were provided due to COVID-19 precautions and guidance from the federal and state WIC offices. Outreach to participants currently participating in WIC to provide updates and guidance on how to continue participating in the program was one area of focus, as well as promoting to WIC services to families who were experiencing unprecedented financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Social media posts created were provided from the WIC partner Creative Marketing Resources, Inc. and other messaging was provided from the state WIC office. Other WIC outreach materials were delivered to local health providers in Dodge County.

In response to state and federal guidelines regarding COVID-19 precautions, Dodge County WIC continued to offer fully remote services in 2021. With a USDA waiver of the physical presence requirement for WIC participants, we were able to certify new families and re-certify current participants to provide nutrition support and education while still abiding by social distancing recommendations. The waiver is currently in place through April 2022. The continued need for remote services have led to a nationwide push for updated WIC services to remove barriers to the program for WIC families including transportation, challenges with shopping indoors, lost wages due to taking time away from work, etc. Current works in progress at the Federal and State levels include long-term remote service options, online grocery and store pick-up capabilities, and more. We hope to see some of these changes implemented in 2022 to continue to improve our service to the Dodge County community. Support from the federal office, state office, and local staff, Dodge County WIC was able to maintain WIC services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2021.

The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is available to WIC participants every summer from June 1 to October 31. In 2021, eligible participants received \$30 worth of vouchers per eligible family member to purchase fruits and vegetables from WIC-

approved farmers. This was an increase from the previous issuance of one set of vouchers per family, regardless of family size. Vouchers can be used to purchase Wisconsin-grown produce including fruits, vegetables, and herbs. The program encourages WIC participants to shop local produce while increasing fruits and vegetables in their family meals. In 2021, our WIC families redeemed \$5,460 at local farmers' markets and farm stands, a 35% redemption rate which was comparable to the statewide redemption rate of 37%. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some families declined vouchers this year, due to not feeling safe shopping at the markets. Of the families who did participate in the program this year, the redemption rate remained consistent from 2020 and the total amount spent at local farm stands and farmer's markets increased by \$1,700.

Programs for Women

- **Pregnancy Tests:** Dodge County Public Health Unit provides confidential pregnancy testing for women. Upon results of the test, the public health nurse then provides proof of pregnancy and can connect women to support resources and proper prenatal care. Three pregnancy test were done in 2021, this was a decrease from 13 in 2020.
- **Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC):** This program is a Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus benefit that helps pregnant women get the support and services they need to have a healthy baby. The purpose is to provide access to medical, social, educational, and other services to pregnant woman who are considered high risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes. The programs are outreach, assessment, care plan development, ongoing care coordination and monitoring, and health education and nutrition counseling. Due to COVID-19, in 2021, there continued to be a decrease in PNCC services, only one pregnant woman was enrolled and one home visit was completed compared to 2020 two pregnant women were enrolled and nine home visits were completed; and 2019, 27 pregnant women were enrolled into the program and 114 visits were completed.
- **Breastfeeding Program:** Dodge County WIC promotes and supports breastfeeding through our active breastfeeding program. Research shows there is no better nutrition than breast milk for our first year of life. Breastfeeding provides health, nutrition, economic, and emotional benefits to both mom and baby. This year, Dodge County WIC worked with Dodge County Public Health and the Jefferson County Breastfeeding Coalition to initiate the joint Jefferson and Dodge County Breastfeeding Coalition. Currently the organization is working on logistics and outreach to bring additional breastfeeding services and support to Dodge County residents.

All of the pregnant and breastfeeding mothers who enroll in Dodge County WIC have access to our breastfeeding peer counselor as well as our breastfeeding coordinator. They provide breastfeeding promotion, support, and education to participants and help them to overcome barriers to breastfeeding. The breastfeeding peer and breastfeeding coordinator can provide telephone contacts, office visits, and home visits to participating mothers.

Breastfeeding rates at Dodge County WIC exceed the state average for overall incidence of breastfeeding, as well as breastfeeding duration for 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months. These rates also exceed the state's breastfeeding goals for duration to 1 month and 3 months.

Breastfeeding Incidence and Duration 2021					
	Incidence	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Dodge County WIC	79.9%	84.4%	75.3%	51.3%	30.5%
Wisconsin WIC	69.9%	73.8%	54.9%	33.9%	16.6%
Goal	>82%	>77%	>65%	>60%	>34%
Good	>80%	>75%	>55%	>35%	>20%
Needs Improvement	<70%	<65%	<45%	<25%	<10%

Programs for All Residents:

- Environmental Health Services:** the Dodge County Public Health Unit deals with a wide variety of environmental issues that arise within the county. Calls include nuisance complaints, housing issues, and water quality issues. Public Health staff provide resources and education to individuals with a wide variety of environmental health issues. In 2021, Public Health followed up on 37 environmental calls; this was an increase from 30 cases in 2020.

Dodge County Public Health worked closely with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the WI DNR and local waterway management interest groups in an effort to educate the public regarding health risks posed by exposure to blue green algae. In a cooperative effort with those groups, Public Health utilized social media postings and temporary signage to educate users of local waterways of the presence of blue green algae and best practices when recreating on those waterways.

- *Radon test kits:* Homeowners and renters are encouraged to test their homes for radon, an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas produced by the decay of naturally occurring uranium in soil and water. Radon can cause cancer and exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. In 2021, the Public Health Unit distributed 55 radon test kits to Dodge County residents.
- Health Education:** In past years, the Public Health Unit had provided health education on various topics at a wide variety of events. In 2020, most educational events were postponed or canceled due to safety and the restrictions of COVID-19. In 2021, Public Health participated in 10 health education events.
- Communicable Disease Program:** Communicable disease reports are tracked through an electronic reporting system linking the local, regional, and state public health officials with private physicians, hospitals, and laboratories. This allows the Public Health Unit to conduct prompt investigations of possible outbreaks and to implement control measures to minimize further spread of disease. Public Health staff educate individuals about illnesses and encourage or ensure treatment (if needed). Steps are continually taken to control and reduce the spread of disease. Telephone calls, letters, and/or face-to-face contacts are used to gather and distribute information. In 2019, Public Health received 721 reports of communicable disease. With the emerging of COVID-19 in Wisconsin in 2020, Dodge County followed up on 32,281 communicable disease reports. In 2021, Dodge County Public health followed up on 29,851 cases.

 - *HIV Partner Services:* this program provides counseling and referral for individuals with HIV; staff assist with medical resources, notification, and testing of sexual and needle sharing partners. This is a comprehensive public health strategy for reducing

the spread of HIV. One partner services case was evaluated by the Public Health Unit staff in 2021.

- *Rabies control program:* Follow-ups for animal bite exposures are contacted to prevent potentially fatal cases of human rabies. In 2021, 71 animal bites were reported. All cases were followed up on to ensure quarantine of the animal or completion of testing. Twenty eight rabies specimens were submitted to the State Lab of Hygiene; all yielding negative results.
- *Tuberculosis (TB) program:* The Public Health Unit provides medication and educational services to prevent and control infection and disease caused by tuberculosis bacteria. Anti-tuberculosis therapy is provided to persons with tuberculosis (latent) infection, suspect or confirmed tuberculosis (active) disease, or household contacts with infectious tuberculosis free of charge. In 2021, we provided case management on one active TB disease case; Public Health followed up on 18 latent TB infection cases with three of the latent TB infection cases receiving therapy and case management through the Public Health Unit.

Top Reporting Disease - Dodge County Public Health Jurisdiction	2019	2020	2021
Sexually transmitted Infections (STI)			
Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection	204	135	195
Gonorrhea	14	27	33
Food/Water Borne Illness			
Camplobacterosis	20	11	18
Cryptosporidiosis	10	10	8
E-coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC)	9	3	12
Giardiasis	3	8	4
Salmonellosis	17	17	17
Vaccine Preventable (Except Hep C)			
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	43	37	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	1	5	2
Hepatitis C	31	30	36
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	9	0	1
Varicella (Chickenpox)	3	1	2
Other			
Lyme Disease (B.Burgdorfer)	16	17	8
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	16	28	13
Legionellosis	2	3	2
Tuberculosis Disease - Active	0	2	1
Tuberculosis Infection - Latent	18	13	18
Coronavirus, Novel 2019 (COVID-19) *newly reportable in 2020	*	8,868	9,062

- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness:** The Public Health Unit continues to create or modify plans, coordinate trainings and exercise, and obtain resources to develop, coordinate, and disseminate information, alerts, warnings, and notifications to the public and incident management responders using a whole community approach. We continue to be a member of the South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC) and attended all virtual membership meetings in 2021.

In October and November 2021, the Public Health Unit exercised its disaster Mass Clinic plan. The State supplied flu vaccine to immunize any school-aged child in the county, regardless of insurance status. A mass clinic was set up at 5 different schools throughout the county; 401 school age children received the flu vaccine.

- **Health Screenings:** The Public Health Unit provides various health screenings to residents, to include TB skin tests, blood pressure, vision and hearing. In 2021, 45 individuals participated in TB skin test screening, zero hearing screenings were conducted, and 11 vision screens were conducted.
- **Immunizations:** Immunization is one of the most important public health victories of the 20th century, defeating or sharply reducing disease such as, smallpox, polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough) and other diseases. However, many organisms that cause these diseases have not been eliminated and are re-emerging as vaccination levels drop. In 2021, Public Health staff gave a total of 15,254 vaccines to 8274 individuals. This was a significant increase from 2020, when our nurses gave a total of 542 vaccines to 476 individuals.

	2019	2020	2021
Children 0 - 18			
Immunizations	395	313	1,071
Clients	238	258	735
Adults 19 +			
Immunizations	208	229	14,183
Clients	201	218	7,539
Total			
Immunizations	603	542	15,254
Clients	439	476	8,274

- **Sharps Disposal Program:** As the number of persons using sharps (needles, syringes, and lancets) in their homes rises, so does the health risk to all workers in recycling facilities. Workers may be accidentally stuck when sharps are mixed with household garbage, recyclables or when flushed down a toilet. Public Health disposed of 38 containers in 2021 and dispensed 11 new containers to residents in 2021.

Abby Sauer, Public Health Officer
Public Health and WIC Programs
920-386-3674

CLINICAL AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

The Clinical and Family Services Division of the Human Services and Health Department offers a wide variety of services to the children and families of Dodge County, including services for mental health counseling and psychiatry, alcohol and drug assessments and counseling, crisis services, community-based case management programs, home and financial counseling, child protective services, foster parent licensing services, youth justice services, services to children with disabilities, restitution services, and independent living skills services. This Division is comprised of five units with eighty-five (85) staff members, including sixty-seven (67) providers, four (4) psychiatric prescribers, four (4) nurse case managers, three (3) support staff, one (1) Crisis Coordinator, five (5) unit Supervisors, and one (1) Division Manager.

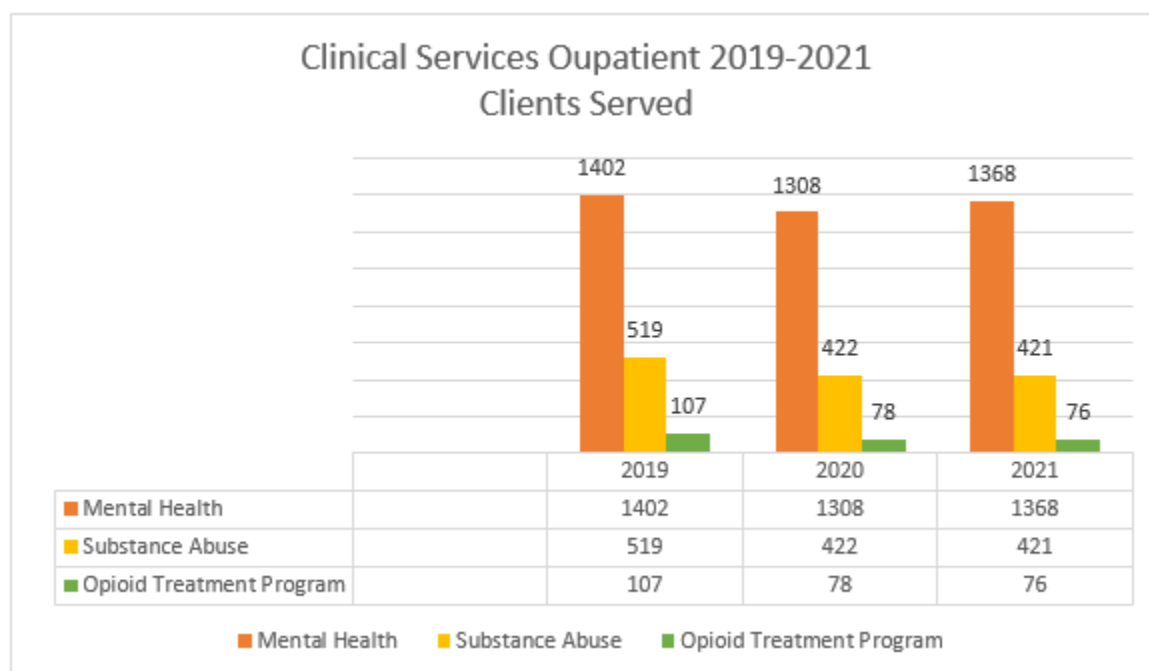
We continuously strive to maintain and improve the quality of services we provide to the residents of Dodge County, while adjusting to the increasingly complex needs of consumers and families, and the challenges of fiscal restraints and a changing economy. Throughout 2021, we worked to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of service provision within a public health emergency in unpredictable and uncertain times. It became even more important to acknowledge the need for increased support to our consumers as well as to each other under increasing amounts of stress. Our teams' dedication to serving the residents of Dodge County, their resilience and their willingness to keep looking for solutions and finding ways to meet needs, is truly humbling and inspirational. I am grateful to serve them in the capacity of a manager, and to support them. Similarly, the commitment of our community partners has guided us through this past year and I am very grateful for the positive working relationships we have established with them. I also appreciate the guidance and support given by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors and the Human Services and Health Department Board, which allows us to fulfill our mission of providing high-quality services and supports to the residents of Dodge County. Throughout 2021, we continued to struggle to find appropriate and least-restrictive treatment and placement options for both children and adults in the face of decreasing resources statewide. Continued development of new resources, prevention, and early intervention programming remain our focal points, however. I am grateful for the high quality work and dedication that all employees demonstrate each day, as well as their professionalism. I look forward to seeing the continued positive direction this agency is moving towards, and proudly share their work with you in these next unit reports.

**Alyssa Schultz, Division Manager
Clinical Services Division
920-386-3492**

CLINICAL SERVICES UNIT

Dodge County Clinical Services Outpatient programming provides a wide range of treatment options for the residents of Dodge County. The Clinical Services Outpatient Unit consists of mental health and substance abuse services. These combined programs are aimed at providing outpatient counseling, case management, and psychiatric services; as well as referrals to detoxification services, inpatient hospitalizations, residential treatment and partial hospitalization programs. Programming within Clinical Services is facilitated by the following providers: 1 Medical Director, 2 Nurse Practitioners (one employee, one contracted), 1 Contracted Child Psychiatrist, 4 Mental Health Therapists, 5 Dually Licensed Therapists, 1 Part-time Mental Health Therapist, 1 Substance Abuse Counselor, 1 Intoxicated Driver Program Assessor, and 2 Nurse Case Managers.

The Clinical Services unit continues to remain focused on providing counseling and psychiatric services to the residents of Dodge County. Clinical staff work in coordination with other Human Services units as well as community partners including local school districts, hospitals, law enforcement and other stakeholders, to provide necessary treatment interventions to maintain a consumer within the community safely. Such collaboration was critical this past year due to the chronicity of mental health and substance abuse issues encountered and barriers with resources faced at times due to the ongoing pandemic.



In 2021, Clinical Services partnered with the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation to create two new grant-funded behavioral health therapist positions within the outpatient unit. The first position allowed for an expansion of the current Open Door Program that provides mental health services to students within the school districts of Hustisford, Dodgeland, Beaver Dam and Watertown. The goal of this expansion was to continue to reduce barriers for youth in accessing needed mental health services.

The second position created a full-time mental health and substance abuse therapist position to work in coordination with Child Protective Services (CPS). This position would provide immediate mental health and substance abuse assessment, intervention and treatment services to the

parents and guardians of children in need of protection whose behaviors are impacting the safety and welfare of their children.

Clinical Services continues to be a significant resource for Dodge County residents in meeting their substance abuse and mental health needs. In response to the ongoing pandemic, service delivery options included both in-person and telehealth treatment. Having flexibility in service delivery allowed consumers, who otherwise would not have received treatment if not physically present, to maintain critical treatment services. In 2021, 1368 consumers received outpatient mental health services, 421 received substance abuse services and 76 received services through the Opioid Treatment Center.

The Clinical Services unit has kept its primary focus on meeting the complex needs of consumers. The unit continues to operate the Opioid Treatment Center (OTC) Grant in coordination with Fond du Lac County. The OTC program expanded consumer eligibility within the grant, allowing for the treatment of individuals with a stimulant use disorder. In 2021, 76 consumers received case management and substance abuse services through the Opioid Treatment Center. This grant continues to enhance capacity for more intense, wraparound services to individuals diagnosed with a stimulant or opioid use disorder.

In summary, Clinical Services remains focused on providing the best care possible to consumers in Dodge County while simultaneously ensuring that programs are running effectively and efficiently with available resources.

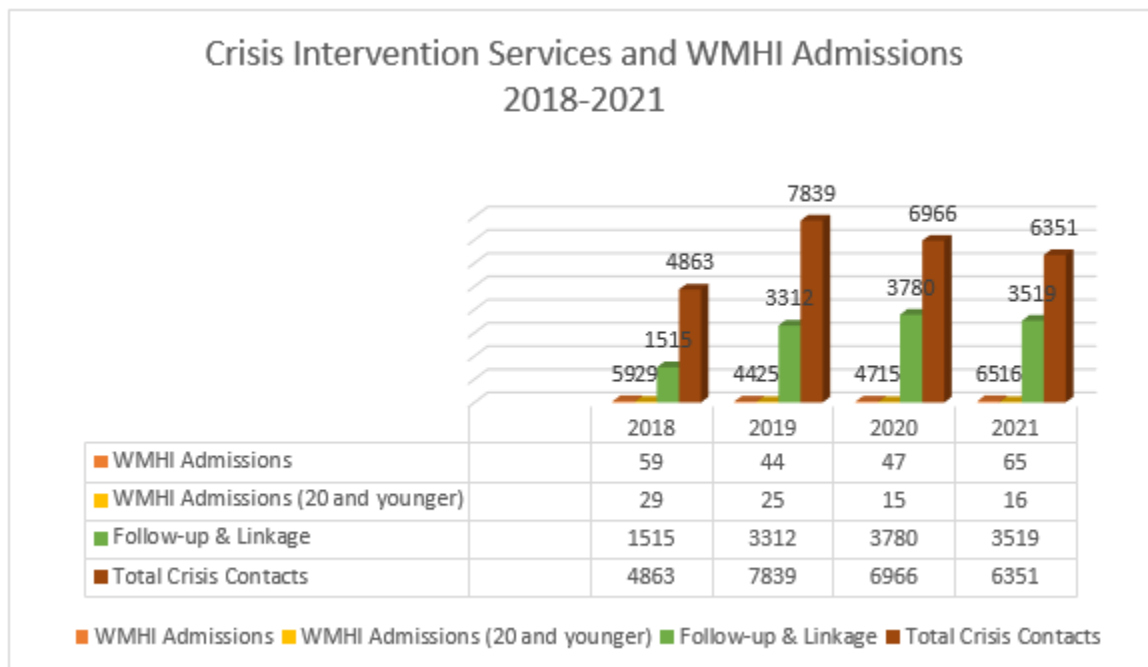
**Sara Gaska, Supervisor
Clinical Services Outpatient
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CRISIS SERVICES UNIT

As a recommendation of the 2020 McGrath Classification and Compensation Study, in July of 2021, the crisis team branched off from the Clinical Services Unit to become its own separate unit, with a Crisis Unit Supervisor and two Master's level Therapists serving as Crisis Response Workers. This team provides all crisis response services during normal business hours, whether individuals are reaching out by phone or in person, or calls are received through contact with collaterals such as law enforcement or hospitals. Crisis staff facilitate crisis intervention counseling, follow-up and linkage services, safety planning, hospitalizations, and emergency detentions as needed. Outside of normal business hours and on holidays and weekends, these same crisis services are provided under contract by staff from Northwest Connections.

Continuing a trend from 2020, the crisis unit again saw a decrease in overall crisis contacts from consumers in 2021. A significant factor in this reduction remains the decrease in crisis contacts from school districts in the first half of 2021 due to the COVID pandemic, and the fact that many schools were engaging in remote learning to some degree. In addition, crisis follow-up and linkage contacts decreased by 6% from 2020. In 2020, there were 3,780 follow-up and linkage contacts with 6,966 total crisis contacts; in 2021, there were 3,519 follow-up and linkage contacts with 6,351 total crisis contacts.

Crisis staff continue to make it a priority to decrease utilization of Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) for involuntary placements whenever possible, and contact in-network insurance providers prior to placement at WMHI. However, the unit saw an increase in WMHI admissions this year, in part due to the ongoing pandemic as bed availability at private hospitals was significantly reduced. Additionally, there was an increase in psychiatrically complex individuals requiring lengthier hospitalizations. In 2021, 9 consumers had stays over 20 days in length. There were 47 WMHI admissions in 2020, while there were 65 admissions in 2021, representing 21% of all psychiatric hospitalizations. Of the 65 WMHI admission in 2021, 3 individuals had 3 or more admissions. In 2020, 15 consumers admitted to WMHI were 20 years of age or younger, while in 2021, that number was 16.



Overall, the crisis unit had a diversion rate of 83%. Diversion represents the number of crisis contacts that did not result in a hospitalization. This number has not been tracked prior to this year but will continue to be monitored as a way to measure relative success within the crisis unit. Starting in 2021 and continuing in 2022, it is a goal of the crisis unit to become more proactive and preventative within Dodge County. This includes regular contact and increased collaboration with community stakeholders (schools, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, managed care organizations, etc.) to establish and maintain positive working relationships, thereby working to prevent crises from evolving into the need for hospitalizations.

**Emily Jorgenson, Supervisor
Crisis Services
920-386-3807**

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS UNIT

The Community-Based Programs provide an array of services for individuals with mental health and/or substance use issues aimed at increasing independence and overall functioning, and supporting individuals in the community. Staffing for these programs includes 17 service facilitators, some of whom are also trained therapists, 2 nurse case managers, and the Community Programs Supervisor.

The Dodge County Community Support Program (CSP) provides comprehensive mental health and case management services to individuals diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness. Services provided address the management and reduction of psychiatric symptoms (through counseling and psychiatric/medication services), as well as the individual's full range of unique personal, social, and economic needs. Services are provided almost exclusively in the community, through weekly home visits by a case manager assigned to work with each consumer. The primary goals of the program are to assist clients in gaining and/or maintaining their highest level of independence in the community, and to promote their ability to live successfully outside of restrictive environments such as hospitals and group homes, in the least restrictive environment possible.

The Dodge County Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program is a community-based psychosocial rehabilitation program designed to provide a wide variety of case management services, as well as assistance in accessing a variety of other community services and supports. The program is available to individuals of any age with a diagnosis of a mental illness or substance abuse disorder, who receive Medical Assistance, and who meet enrollment criteria through a state-approved functional screen. Most importantly, the focus is on empowering consumers to take an active role in their own treatment and recovery process, rather than the professionals solely determining what needs are present and how to address them. Services are intended to be consumer-centered and consumer-directed, meaning that the consumer has a choice in the selection of their recovery team, what services they receive, and who provides these services.

The CCS program continues to see an increase in the total number of consumers served, especially the number of children and adolescents served. In 2021, we increased our capacity by contracting with Seasons Counseling for an additional dual worker to serve children and adolescents who are enrolled in both CCS and CLTS (Children's Long Term Support). Overall, the CCS program served a total of 291 consumers as compared to 254 consumers in 2020. This program continues to work with the Lakeshore Recovery Collaborative under the shared services model with Washington and Ozaukee Counties.

The CSP program has seen a decrease in the number of participants over the past few years. The CSP team is continuing to assess all consumers to determine if their needs meet the level of CSP programming, which is more intensive than other community-based programming. Many consumers have been able to transfer into less restrictive programs if CSP is no longer needed. Though the CSP numbers are lower, there is still a need for some individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to become involved in CSP to ensure independent living, rather than being placed in a hospital and/or group home setting. Within the year 2021, 4 consumers were served within CSP.

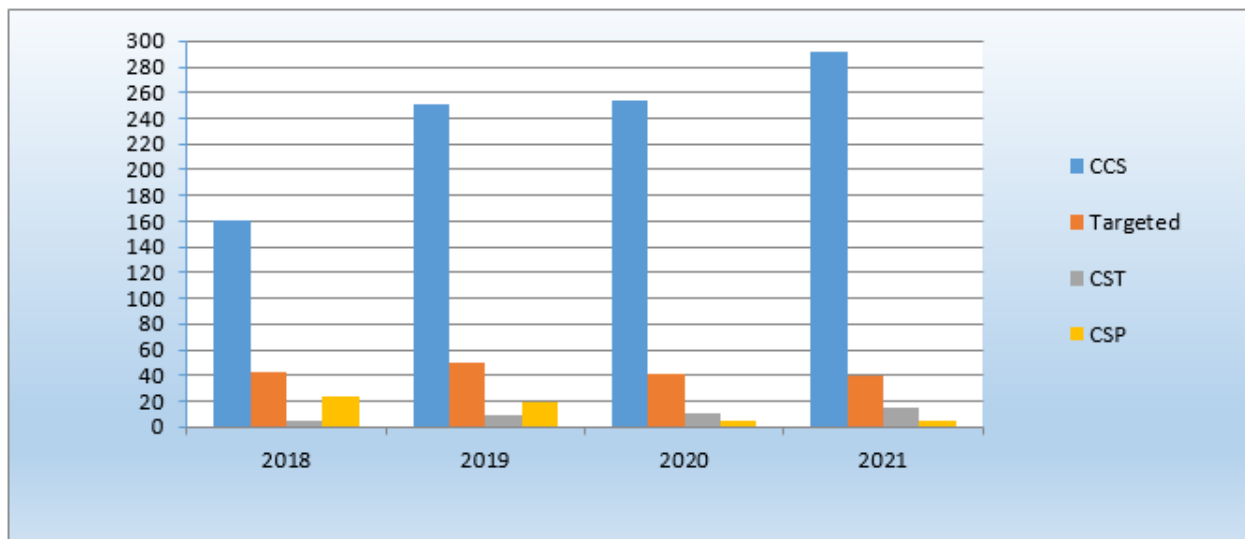
The Dodge County Targeted Case Management program is a community-based program to help consumers become connected with resources in the community that they may be unable to access on their own. Case management includes gaining access to or coordinating Medicaid or Badger Care Plus services as well as access to energy assistance, housing, legal advocacy,

social services, setting up home care workers, and helping to ensure continued independent living. In addition, targeted case management services follow individuals who are in long-term care group homes to continue to monitor services offered and progress.

The targeted case management (TCM) program continues to serve consumers who remain relatively stable, and continuously assess individuals who have been receiving services for many years to assure they are receiving the appropriate level of care. At times, this means transferring individuals from CSP or CCS to TCM if they no longer require more intensive services, and when appropriate, transferring individuals from TCM into basic outpatient services. Within the year 2021, 40 consumers were served within TCM.

The Dodge County Wraparound program, also called Coordinated Services Teams (CST) has been active in Dodge County since 2008. In 2021, the wraparound program served a total of 15 youth, with 10 actively enrolled at the end of 2021. This number is lower than in years past due to more youth being eligible for the CCS program. The CST program funds children and families who are not eligible for CCS funding, and is funded through state block grant money.

2021 Data (overall number of consumers served) as compared to previous 3 years:



**Kim Kunz, Supervisor
Community Based Mental Health Services
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CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – INTAKE UNIT

The philosophy of the Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake Unit is that children have certain basic needs, which must be provided for. These basic needs include: the need for adequate food, clothing, and shelter; the need to be free from physical, sexual, or emotional injury or exploitation; the need to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally to their potential; and the need for a safe and permanent family. This unit also recognizes the fact that unborn children have certain basic needs, which also must be provided. These needs are to develop physically to their potential and to be free from physical harm due to the habitual lack of self-control of their expectant mothers by their use of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or controlled substance analogs. This is consistent with the philosophy of Chapter 48 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The paramount goal of this unit is the protection of children and unborn children by strengthening the family life of children and their families, achieved through assisting the parents in meeting and fulfilling their responsibilities. In accordance with CPS standards, the unit tries to reflect the balance and roles for the agency and its case workers between protecting children and preserving the rights of individuals and families. In order to meet this goal, services need to be available in the form of safety services and treatment services to these families. If these services are not available or are inadequate to meet the needs of the child or the family, the child may need to be placed outside of the home for their own protection.

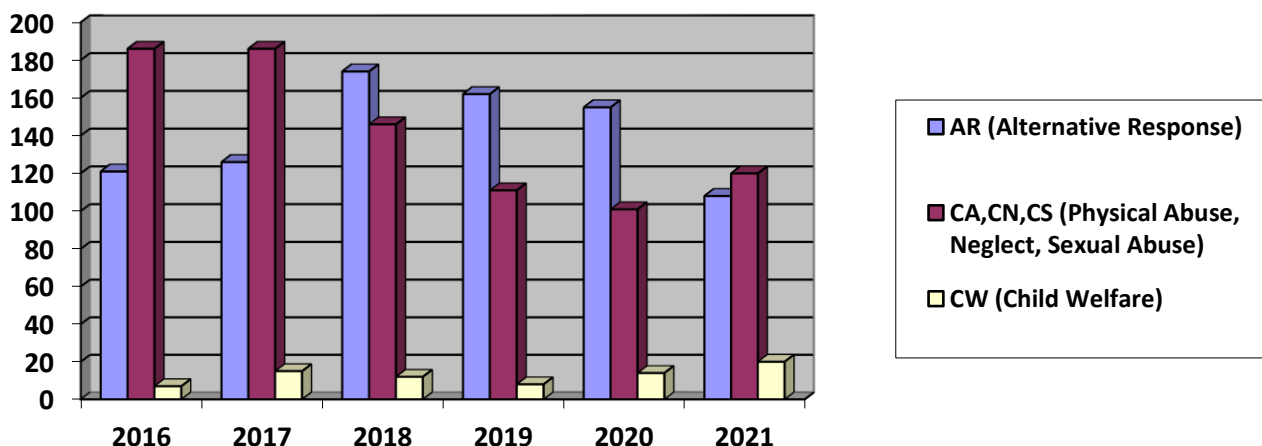
The Dodge County Child Protective Services Intake Unit consists of one access social worker who primarily answers phones when referrals are called in or meets with people in person should they come into the agency to make a report. If warranted, when receiving a Child Protective Services referral call or a walk in visit, the access social worker may refer the person to other community service providers, other Dodge County departments, or other services within the Human Services and Health Department. All Child Protective Services referrals are written up by the access worker and provided to the unit supervisor, who will either initiate an investigation by assigning the case to a Child Protective Services Investigator, or screen the case out. The unit has five full-time Child Protective Services Investigators on staff, and one Investigator position that is shared between the Initial Assessment and Ongoing CPS Units. The unit also has a full time Community Response Social Services Aide who works at developing relationships with community-based services in order to assist those families that do not meet the threshold for a CPS response, but may need assistance with locating and accessing services. Screening decisions are based on identified safety issues as they are described to the access worker. When a referral is screened in, an initial assessment of the family and the circumstances surrounding the referral is completed. At this point, safety issues are identified which then dictate what type of action, if any, this agency will be able to take. The investigating social worker may also make arrangements for services based on the identified needs of the family or work with collateral agencies to assist the family with receiving the types of services needed.

The Child Protective Services Investigator may make the necessary arrangements for placement services if it is determined that a child is in an unsafe situation or safety conditions are identified through the safety assessment, which cannot be managed in the family setting. These investigators work closely with law enforcement agencies, as well as the Dodge County Corporation Counsel's office and the Dodge County District Attorney's office, as a means of using the legal system to provide safety for the children involved. These investigators may also work with the mothers of unborn children who are at risk due to the mother's habitual use of controlled substances or controlled substance analogs.

The Child Protective Services system is primarily designed to protect children from abuse or neglect. This is achieved through interventions that provide for the management of threats to the child's safety and through ongoing service provisions that address the changes necessary to

ensure that children are safe and families are strengthened and able to protect the children without CPS intervention.

In 2021, the Child Protective Services Intake Unit investigated a total of 245 referrals of child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, and child neglect. This was only a slight decrease from 2020 where 265 reports were investigated, and given the significant obstacles that arose due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this is a notable statistic. Of these 245 referrals, 108 were provided services through the Alternative Response model. A total of 38 referrals concerned child neglect, 34 referrals concerned child sexual abuse, 48 referrals concerned child physical abuse and 20 referrals concerned child welfare services. These child welfare referrals involved situations where no specific allegation of abuse or neglect was made; however, there were several concerns or issues present in the referral information that warranted some involvement by this agency. Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (ICPC), Home Studies, Confirming Safe Environments (CSE), and Courtesy Interviews (CI) for other counties or states amounted to 14 referrals.



Throughout 2021, the CPS Intake Unit continued operation of the voluntary Community Response Program (CRP) started in 2019, which is designed to help strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and reduce re-referrals to CPS. CRP is a short-term voluntary prevention program that includes such things as case management, home visits, collaborative goal setting, and comprehensive assessment which helps to identify immediate needs and assist families in connecting to formal and informal resources to meet these needs. The intention of this is to mitigate risk factors while also identifying and building protective capacities of parents and other caregivers. The family plays a key role in identifying their critical stressors as well as the goals they would like to work towards. In 2021, 167 cases were referred to CRP, with 87 of the referred families accepting the CRP services. This is approximately a 52% acceptance rate, which has shown to be a much higher than expected rate of acceptance. Although the data available is limited, there does appear to be a strong relationship between the reduction in screened in CPS referrals and the CRP being able to work closely with families in a more transparent and non-threatening manner. The position of Community Response Social Worker is currently vacant, however the program continues to operate with the Social Services Aide to assist with the families that are assigned to it.

The State of Wisconsin has mandated several changes in the policies and procedures of the Child Protective Services system throughout the course of 2021. These changing mandates make for an ever-evolving set of policies and procedures which provide the framework for these investigations and initial assessments. The State also makes many changes to the automated

data system called eWiSACWIS. These continuing changes often cause issues with the practice and implementation of an already complex child welfare system. As the State mandates more changes to both policies and procedures for child abuse investigations and the eWiSACWIS system, training and workload issues continue to create a high degree of difficulty for the staff. However, one thing that does not change is the primary responsibility of the Child Protective Services system during the initial assessment process to identify children who are in need of protection or services, to assure that unsafe children are protected by engaging parents/caregivers, and to implement an in-home or out-of-home safety plan as necessary to accomplish this.

**Mark Bebel, Supervisor
CPS Intake Unit
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CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – ONGOING UNIT

The programs in the ongoing unit consist of Ongoing Child Protective Services, Foster Care Coordination and Licensing, Home and Financial Advisor services, Independent Living services, Restitution services, parenting services and supervised visitation services.

The Ongoing CPS team consists of seven social workers, and one worker who is staffed in both the Initial Assessment and Ongoing Services units. Staff work within state and federal statutes and standards to coordinate and provide services to families where safety concerns or present danger threats have been identified, placing a child or children at risk of abuse and/ or neglect. CPS Ongoing social workers partner with Dodge County Corporation Counsel, Law Enforcement, schools, families and service providers to support safety for children who have been a victim of neglect and/or abuse.

The Foster Care program includes two Foster Care Coordinators (social workers) whose role is to recruit, license, support and train all foster parents and homes licensed by Dodge County. The Foster Care Coordinators ensure that foster parents receive a variety of services and supports, both internally and externally. In 2021, the Foster Care Coordinators continued to focus on ways to spread the word in the community about the importance of foster care, and recruit new families interested in providing this valuable resource to children in need of care.

The Home and Financial Advisor assist families with budgeting and money management, self-care and home management, and other activities of daily living skills. The Home and Financial Advisor also provides both individual and group parenting services through the Incredible Years Program, implemented in 2019.

The Independent Living Coordinator provides pre-employment, daily living skills, money management and other skills training services to meet the needs of youth and young adults age 14-21 who have been placed in out of home care for at least six months since the age of 14. Services are provided both individually and in a group setting.

Two Social Service Aides also provide parenting services through our Incredible Years Parenting Program, which was implemented in 2019 and is part of our effort to expand prevention services, as well as supervised visits to our families.

2021 Accomplishments

The year continued to bring challenges to the CPS Ongoing Unit as the pandemic continued, however, the unit maintained all face-to-face contacts with children and families during 2021. Four parenting groups were completed in 2021, with an added component of Protective Parenting, along with one-on-one parenting for individuals who could not attend group. The Independent Living Coordinator continued to offer the “Adulting 101” skills training class for teenage youth, and prepared to implement an 8-week class at Dodgeland School. With regards to ongoing recruitment efforts in the Foster Care world, the first big project was the purchase and distribution of 100 advertising yard signs throughout the county. These signs generated multiple inquiries about foster care, with several homes ultimately being licensed as a result of this initiative. While 2021 brought significant challenges, the CPS ongoing unit continues to navigate through the challenges with the needs of the children and families we serve first and foremost in our minds.

	Total number of families	Total number of kids in Care
2020	147	86
2021	155	88

At the end of 2021, there were 88 children placed out of home, an increase of 2 from 2020. In 2021, six Termination of Parental Rights cases and five guardianships cases were processed in Dodge County. The CPS Ongoing unit meets bi-weekly with Dodge County Corporation Counsel to ensure that permanence is achieved for children unable to return home to their families.

2021 Trends:

In 2021, staff experienced continued difficulty finding residential facilities to admit children who are in need of treatment, due to increased demand for beds statewide, a decrease in bed availability across the state as a result of rate-setting changes at the State level, and the COVID-19 pandemic. This challenge is not unique to Dodge County, but consistent throughout the state of Wisconsin. Over the past few years, we have had to place several children in out-of-state placements. This is likely to continue into 2022. Another challenge is the rising number of children entering the system with behaviors that parents are unable to control, due in part to the child's significant mental health issues. It is quite challenging for families and professionals to help stabilize and assist these children and families in a time of need, due to COVID and a lack of available resources to assist. This is a trend that will likely continue for the foreseeable future, and requires continuous discussion, creative thinking and planning, and collaboration with partners.

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CPS Ongoing Services
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CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES UNIT

The Child and Adolescent Services Unit provides services in two areas: Youth Justice and Children with Disabilities.

Eight licensed social workers provide assessment and case management for youth aged 10-17 who are involved or at risk of involvement with the youth justice system, or have been found to be habitually truant. These workers partner with law enforcement, the Court, the District Attorney's Office, schools, families, and service providers to support accountability, community safety, and positive youth development through the implementation of individualized case plans designed to address criminogenic needs and encourage future success.

As the Public Health Emergency continued through 2021, so did the 2020 trend of reduced numbers of delinquency referrals received in Dodge County and across the state of Wisconsin. The impact of the Public Health Emergency has also contributed to a continuing trend of increased severity of offenses committed by Dodge County youth. This phenomenon may also reflect an appropriate shift regarding referral to Youth Justice based on the severity of behavior sometimes inappropriately labeled delinquent in previous years, and highlight the impact of increased stressors on youth already in need of support. The fact that the number of youth newly referred to Dodge County Youth Justice was less in 2021 than in previous years, and that for the second year in row Dodge County saw higher rates of recidivism, seems to support that assertion and identify an area of focus for the immediate future.

Total Number of Referrals	2020	2021
Delinquency	147	152
Truancy	28	56
Prevention/Diversion	60	43

2021 Demographics						
	AGE					
Delinquency	5-9	10-12	13-14	15-16	17	
	2	25	44	80	1	
Prevention/Diversion	-	2	1	3	-	
Truancy	5-7	8-9	10-12	13-14	15-16	17
	1	3	23	22	5	2
Prevention/Diversion	10	8	15	4	-	-

As identified above, the number of delinquency referrals received by Dodge County was similar to the number received in 2020 when compared with previous reporting years. There was an increase in the number of truancy referrals received, which is partly attributed to a return to in-person instruction and partly due to the need for more formal intervention for children and youth who first began to struggle with school attendance when virtual instruction was the only option for education. In total, the Youth Justice workers served 201 youth in 2021. Twenty percent of the total number of delinquency referrals were for girls and 80% were for boys. Fifty one percent of the delinquency referrals received were for youth who had never had contact with the juvenile justice system before, as compared to 68% in 2020.

Also part of the Child and Adolescent Services Unit are five case managers that work with children with disabilities and their families. They work with clients to obtain services through Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS) and Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP), as well as to provide information and referral services for families that have children with disabilities. Both the Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS) and the Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP) waivers serve children under the age of 18 who have a developmental or physical disability, or a severe emotional disturbance. To qualify for either funding stream, children must have substantial functional limitations in at least two of the following areas: self care, receptive/expressive language, learning, mobility, self direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP) funds are now exclusively used by families of children with severe disabilities to purchase allowable goods or services not funded through other sources, which will enable children to reside with their parents, reduce stress in the family and avoid out of home placement. Eligibility for CLTS and CCOP is determined through the use of a Functional Screen which is administered by the case managers. All services for children receiving funding are managed on an ongoing basis by the case managers as long as the children remain eligible for services, which in many cases is the circumstance until a child’s eighteenth birthday. If a child needs services beyond his/her eighteenth birthday, the case managers assist with their transition to the adult service system.

Per a 2018 state mandate, Dodge County immediately enrolls all children found eligible for CLTS/CCOP services. As a result, the number of children served in CLTS and CCOP has increased dramatically over the last three years, and required the addition of three case managers, and two “dual workers” for children enrolled in both CLTS and CCS.

	2020		2021	
	CCOP	CLTS	CCOP	CLTS
# Served	37	197	83	222
Waitlist	0	0	0	0

Birth to Three

Birth to Three is a statewide, federally mandated program for children ages 0-3 who are significantly delayed developmentally or have a physical or mental condition that is likely to result in delayed development. Birth to Three programming provides screening, evaluation, and intervention services. Areas of delay may include cognitive development, physical development (fine motor, gross motor, or vision/hearing), speech, language and communication development, social and emotional development, and adaptive behaviors in self-help development. With oversight by Dodge County Human Services and Health Department, the Dodge County Birth to Three program is administered by Green Valley Enterprises of Beaver Dam, WI.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	136	129	123	114	118	114	117	125	114	117	121	112
2021	113	106	108	110	115	123	98	100	103	112	112	102

In 2021, the average number of children served on a monthly basis in the Birth to Three Program was 109, a notable decrease compared to last year's monthly average of 120. This is attributed to the Public Health Emergency, which has had similar impact on Birth to Three programs across the state.

**Amy Booher, Supervisor
Child and Adolescent Services
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TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DIVERSION (TAD)

IMPAIRED DRIVING COURT (IDC)

Dodge County continues to utilize drug treatment courts to reduce the negative impact of impaired driving and alcohol and drug addiction in the community. The Drug Treatment Court (DTC) and the Impaired Driving Court (IDC) Programs were established in Dodge County in 2015. The program design is based on the national and Wisconsin drug treatment court models which has proven to advance public safety, reduce crime, and to improve the health of individuals and the community. Both programs promote recovery through a coordinated response to offenders who are dependent on drugs and alcohol. These goals are achieved through a team approach and Dodge County continues to achieve success through the collaboration and cooperation of the Dodge County Circuit Court Judges, the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement, the District Attorney, the Public Defender's Office, Human Services and Health Department, the Department of Corrections and many other community stakeholders. Currently, Judge Kristine Snow presides over DTC and Judge Martin DeVries presides over IDC.

The DTC Program accepts offenders with nonviolent charges who are assessed to have a high probability to reoffend and a drug or alcohol addiction. IDC accepts offenders with third and fourth OWI convictions. Participants engage in integrated, evidence based treatment and intensive case management services to address their addiction and individual issues such as mental health, employment, financial and family needs and criminal thinking. Their progress toward sobriety and other program goals are strictly monitored through regular court appearances, case management meetings and random drug testing. All participants are on probation and meet regularly with their agents.

The goal of these programs is to positively impact and change the behaviors of persons who have an addiction and who are cycling in and out of the criminal justice system. Many of these individuals have served jail, prison and probation sentences in the past. These traditional sentences have proven to not be effective in helping the person address those underlying issues that led to their criminal behavior.

In 2021, DTC had 5 participants successfully complete the program and IDC had 17 participants successfully complete. The programs take approximately 14 to 18 months to complete. At the time of completion participants will have been subject to up to 180 drug screens, engaged in 30 or more case management visits, 30 or more probation visits, and have completed up to 24 weeks of treatment or more. All of these graduates have demonstrated stability in their sobriety from drugs and alcohol, are employed and/or financially stable, have sober and stable living conditions, and have a recovery support network in the community.

Both programs undergo continuous review through the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) formally adopted by Dodge County in August of 2016. The Dodge County CJCC has direct authority over both programs. The Council chairperson is currently the District Attorney. In addition to direct oversight from the CJCC, the WI Department of Justice and WI Department of Health Services, both of which primarily fund these programs, provide oversight, guidance and serve as resources. Program performance is continuously monitored and this data is used to make specific program improvements and policy changes.

Since 2015, Dodge County has contracted for case management services with JusticePoint, a Milwaukee based non-profit organization which provides evidence based solutions to criminal justice system concerns. Program staff includes three case managers and one Program

Director who manage approximately 45-75 program participants per year. The Case managers assess and identify appropriate candidates for the program through screening tools that indicate risk of recidivism and treatment needs. Participants work with case managers to appropriately identify top needs that will then result in referrals to treatment as well as additional provided resources. Dodge County Human Services provides participants with a high level of care and they are afforded counseling and treatment tailored to their individual needs, including residential, day treatment, intensive outpatient, and outpatient treatment. Medication assisted treatment is also available.

Dodge County has received The Treatment Alternative to Prison (TAP) grant through the Wisconsin Department of Human Services (DHS) since 2015. TAP is another alternative to prison program designed for justice involved individuals who have a substance use disorder (SUD). Dodge County submitted a proposal for the TAP grant through a competitive bid process for another five year cycle and was awarded this contract for 2021-2026. The program continues to screen all arrestees in the Dodge County Detention Facility for treatment needs and connect these individuals to community treatment. In 2021, 229 individuals were seen in the Dodge County jail within 24-48 hours of arrest, 96 were referred for AODA or mental health treatment and the remaining individuals were left with resources based on reported needs. In 2021, 3 individuals successfully completed the TAP program and have remained stable in the community without any further arrests or charges.

Additionally, all arrestees are given information about the Opioid Treatment Center (OTC). If the person identifies as an opiate user, the case manager will initiate a referral to OTC for services and Vivitrol which is available through a DHS grant. This Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) grant enables the county to provide the Vivitrol injection to the arrestee prior to release to the community. This intervention greatly reduces the risk of overdose deaths upon release from jail. All of these programs are designed to work collaboratively with community partners and have proven to have a positive impact on public health and safety, recidivism, and the related costs to the community.

Alisha Nelson, Treatment Courts Program Director
TAD
920-386-4339

Dodge County Human Services and Health Department is responsible for providing care and treatment to children and adults, the frail elderly, individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities, individuals with mental illness, emotional impairments or addictions, and individuals and families facing economic hardship. Wisconsin State Statutes carry the legal authority for services to these client populations and place the policy-making and program implementation responsibility with the County Human Services and Health Board. Funding for the services for all clients groups come from a variety of federal and state sources as well as from county tax levy.

The authority placed with the County is undertaken with the highest level of responsibility to provide the best evidence-supported services for all citizens of Dodge County with full responsibility and accountability to tax payers. The Human Services and Health Board is comprised of elected County Board Supervisors and volunteer community members.

This report highlights the programs and services delivered in three divisions with several units and Court Services Programs as well as provides a fiscal picture of the Department's 2021 expenditures.

If you have any questions about the information in this report, please contact Rebecca Bell, Director of Human Services and Health Department at 920-386-3534.

Dodge County Human Services And Health Department

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

