

HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





HUMAN SERVICES & HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Becky Bell, Director

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& AGING PROGRAM
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◆ ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
& SUPPORTIVE HOME CARE
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◆ ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE
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◆ CHILD WELFARE &
JUVENILE JUSTICE
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◆ COMMUNITY SUPPORT
PROGRAM & COMPREHENSIVE
COMMUNITY SERVICES
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◆ ECONOMIC SUPPORT
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◆ MENTAL HEALTH
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◆ PUBLIC HEALTH
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Honorable Dodge County Board of Supervisors
Dave Frohling, Chairman
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039

February 15, 2024

Dear Chairman Frohling and Members of the County Board,

I am pleased to present the 2023 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. Human Services and Health Department strives to offer services which are cost-effective and meet the needs of the residents of Dodge County. Public Health has taken great strides this past year to rebuild our workforce and revamp our services to a pre-pandemic level. The Department continues to see high costs in child welfare placements including Residential Care Centers (RCC) and foster care. Involuntary mental health placements at Mental Health Institutes continue to come at a high cost to Dodge County. These factors have caused significant impact to our budget and we believe these challenges will continue in future years. The Department ended the year with a surplus due to WIMCR reimbursement received.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Cameron Clapper, County Administrator 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 their respective field to ensure high quality service delivery.

Sincerely,

Becky Bell, Director
Human Services and Health Department

Human Services And Health Board

County Board Members

Jenifer Hedrick, Chair
Lisa Derr
David Guckenberger
Steve Kauffeld
Marilyn Klobuchar
Jody Steger

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
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Juneau, Wisconsin 53039
920-386-3500**

www.co.dodge.wi.gov

Ground Floor:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
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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 |
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| Fax | 920-386-4015 |
| ♦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

N. Kufahl

Medical Records Clerk

B. Justmann

Accounting Technician

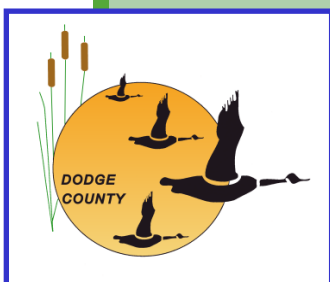
F. Bruyette
C. Mayo

Medical Billing Specialist

L. Baumgartner
C. Bunker
S. Nelson
K. Twardokus

Fiscal Assistant

C. Begovatz
L. Klatt
J. Schmidt



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.

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.

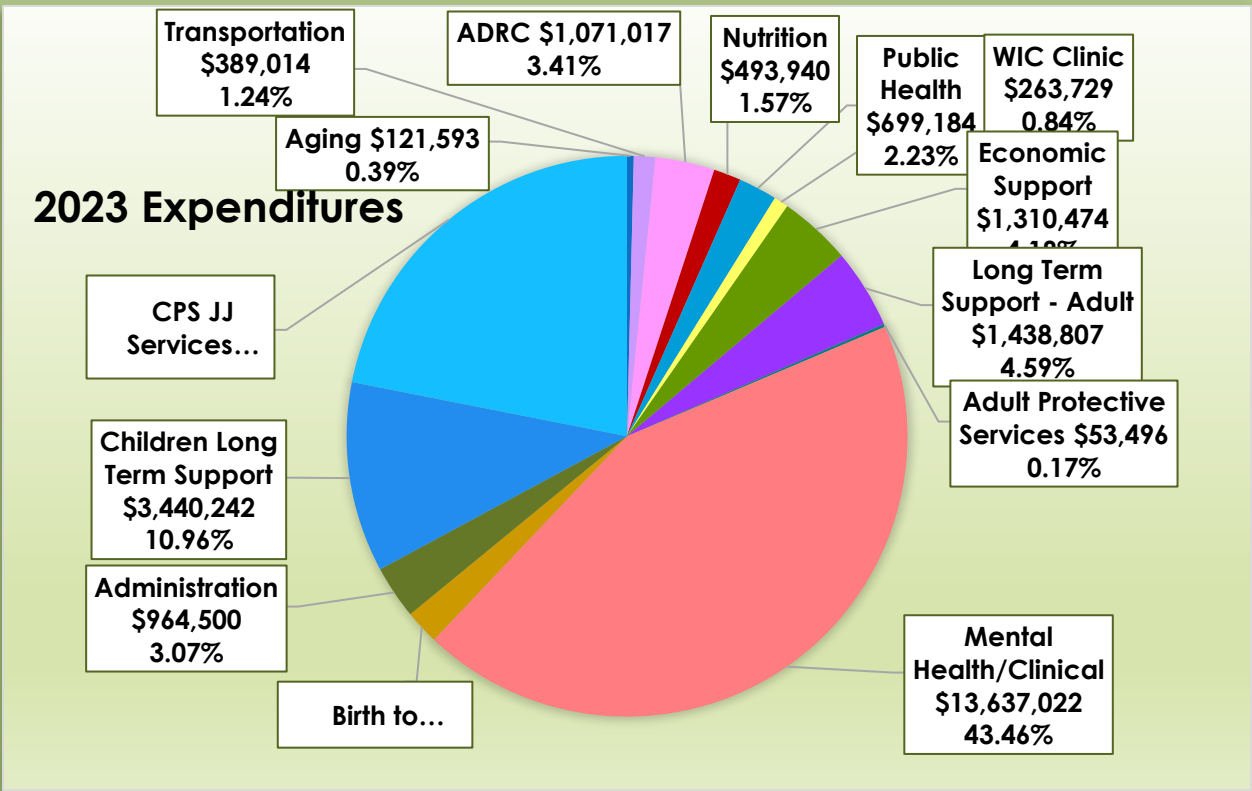
Fiscal and support staff utilize a number of State systems in daily operations with many of these being web based applications. These systems are upgraded on a regular basis and are an integral piece in tracking financial and statistical information.

- CARES – Economic Support Database
- eWiSACWIS – Child Welfare Database
- State Data Warehouse – Human Services Reporting
- SAMS – Aging and Nutrition Database
- GEARS – Grant Enrollment, Application and Reporting System
- Forward Health – Medicaid Program billing and reports
- SPARC – Department of Children and Families Reporting System
- PPS – Program Participation System

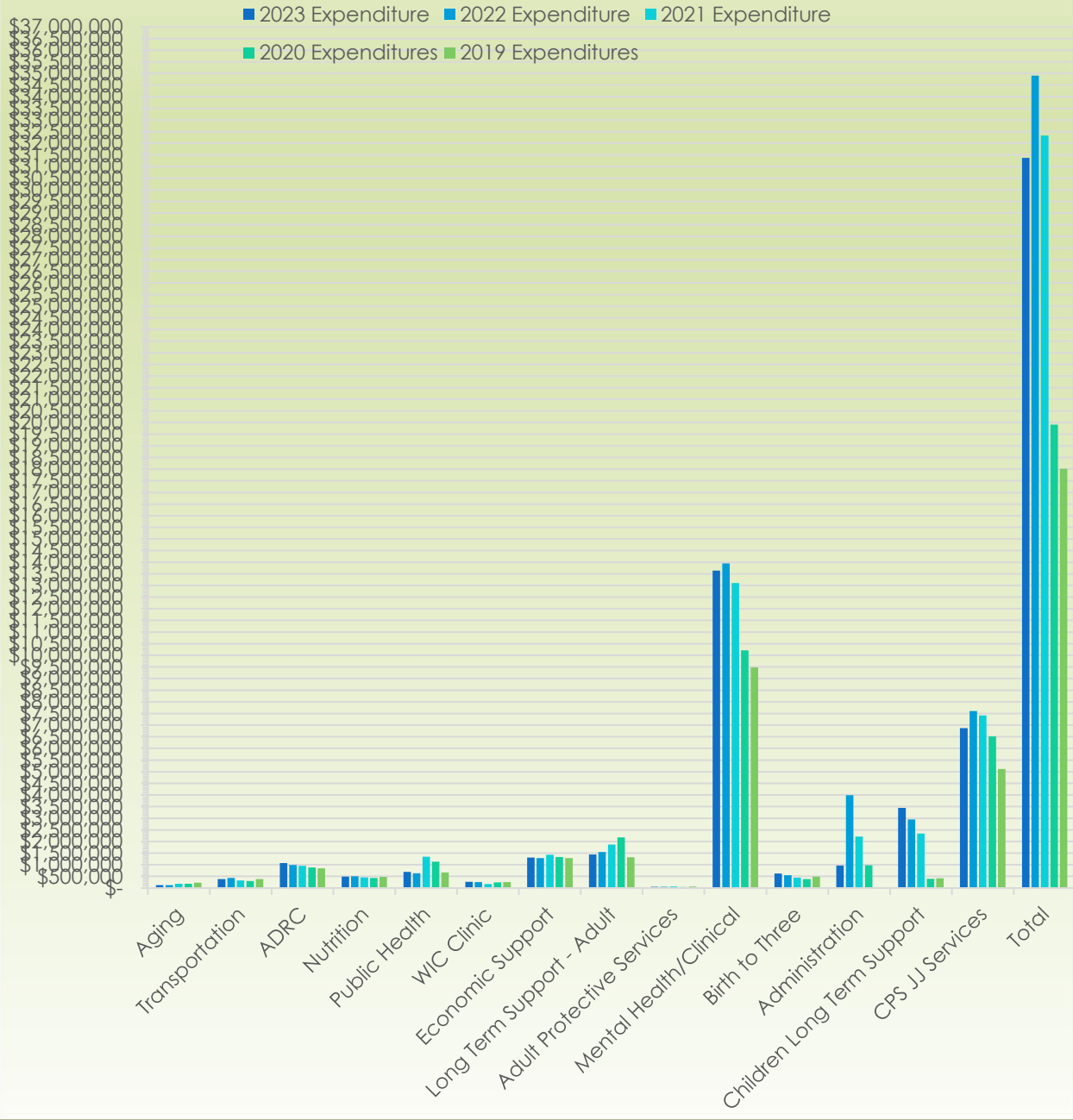
The Department will end the year with a surplus due to a WIMCR reimbursement. The Department is over budget in the following programs child institutions, clinical mental health, crisis, foster care admin fees, IDC, mental health CBRF, and mental health institutions,

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**



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 2023, as Division staff continued to provide these services and resources to support and maintain Dodge County residents, they also were continuing to recover from the altered and increased workload associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic transformed the way we do work and led to increased, more complex cases. Programs and policies were changed and had an enormous impact on Dodge County residents. This Division is well into the "unwinding" process and restoring policies as they were before Covid-19. In Economic Support, towards the end of 2023 we are beginning to see a slight decrease in total caseload. In Adult Protective Services and the Aging and Disability Resource Center their caseloads are evening out. Public Health is working hard and striving to get their caseload numbers back to and above what they were before Covid-19 to ensure Dodge County residents are receiving the services they need.

The Community Support Services Division staff would like to thank our Director, Becky Bell, County Administrator, Cameron Clapper, the Human Services & Health Board, and the County Board of Supervisors for their continued support as we navigate through some uncharted waters, continue to rebound from the COVID pandemic and the affects it has had on our staff and the work we do. It is greatly appreciated.

**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
Brittany Borchardt, Supervisor	Jackie DeLaRosa, Supervisor	Paula Becker, Supervisor	Amy Beranek, Supervisor	Renee Lyman, Supervisor	Roman Mullen, Supervisor
D. Coulter J. Eberhardt H. Ehrlich J. Farmer O. Gerritson R. Griesel M. Haen A. Higgins K. Holland J. Krueger R. Lee K. Pieper A. Sanborn V. Zimmerman	W. Benedon K. Braunschweig E. DeBlare E. Feuerhammer D. Grosenick J. Johnson G. Maier D. Mergener D. Pasewald H. Rohlinger F. Roethle 8 Dining Center Mgrs	A. Drumm M. Evans S. Gutschmidt A. Pearson E. Schmitz A. Schultz C. Wiersma	K. Bleecker A. Erkander M. Fitzgerald M. Kirchoff K. Korth H. Nunez C. Schultz K. Wegner C. Zwieg	M. Christensen E. Falcon D. Hohmann C. Liedtke M. Sassamon M. Valles N. Whitaker A. Williams	M. Bartol C. Fissell B. Gehring-Schultz L. Gerritson K. Greenwald M. Meyer M. Puga L. Rooney J. Schmidt A. Young
Commission on Aging & Disability Services	Nutrition & Transportation Advisory Committees	Adults-At-Risk Interdisciplinary Team Committee			

Ground Floor, Customer Service Support Specialist,
Jessica Clyde



Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The Aging and Disability Resource Center in Dodge County is an agency within Human Services that provides an array of different programs and resources to help individuals maintain their independence in the home safely and comfortably. Aging and Disability Resource Centers are “information stations” where individuals can obtain accurate, unbiased information related to aging or living with a disability. Some of the many services offered by the ADRC include counseling on options to meet immediate or future care needs, advocacy to cut through problems with benefit programs, health insurance, housing or consumer issues, educational events for the community on dementia, support for caregivers and health promotion classes to support healthy aging.

The ADRC successfully transitioned all requirements and services offered back to pre-pandemic methods in 2023. Resource Specialists received 8,623 calls from community consumers seeking a variety of resources, indicating a 6% increase in call volume compared to 2022. Additionally, there was a 7.5% increase in face-to-face contacts during this twelve-month period. We were awarded an opportunity to participate in the Independent Living Supports Pilot program, a grant opportunity made possible under the American Rescue Plan Act through WI DHS. This pilot program provides funding to qualifying individuals to help improve one’s ability to stay in their own home, potentially easing the increased burden on Wisconsin’s long-term care system as our population ages.

In addition to our in-person support groups, we have successfully implemented virtual support groups to cater to diverse needs. Our Dementia Care Specialist collaborated with community partners to organize the second annual Lewy Body Dementia conference, which attracted nearly 100 attendees interested in dementia education. Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, the conference was fully funded. Furthermore, we have expanded the reach of our SPARK! program by introducing the program in Waupun and a second program offering in Beaver Dam, allowing us to serve more individuals in these areas. SPARK! is a cultural program for people with early to mid-stage memory loss and their care partners designed to keep participants actively engaged in their communities by providing experiences that stimulate conversations, provide peer support and inspire creativity through creative engagement, workshops and programs.

All our health promotion programs have successfully transitioned back to in-person classes, and we have been witnessing incredible participation. Through a partnership with UW- Extension and the Juneau Park & Rec, we have introduced the Strong Bodies Program in Juneau. This 8-week strength training program is designed specifically for aging adults, providing a variety of physical health benefits such as increased balance, strength, wellness, and reducing the risk of falls. Additionally, it fosters social connectedness, creating a sense of belonging among participants.

Our Benefit Specialists have been instrumental in providing assistance to individuals in need, with almost 300 referrals being handled for various issues including health insurance and income benefits. Of these referrals, 169 of them were for new consumers. The efforts of our Benefit Specialists in 2023 have made a significant effect, resulting in a total monetary impact of \$3,375,250.00 for consumers in Dodge County!

The year 2023 marked an important milestone for the ADRC of Dodge County, as we celebrated 15 years of dedicated service to our community and residents. Moving forward, we remain committed to upholding our three-year Aging Plan, which is guided and reviewed by the state. This plan serves as the foundation for our community programs and services, ensuring that we continue to meet the needs and expectations of our community.

**Brittany Borchardt, Supervisor
Aging and Disability Resource Center
920-386-3582**

Aging, Transportation, and Nutrition Programs

Dodge County's Senior Nutrition Program

Through the Older Americans Act (OOA), the Dodge County Senior Nutrition Program provides healthy meals in a congregate dining setting as well as in the homes of eligible older adults. The program is designed to promote the general health and well-being of older individuals. In addition to meals, the program offers a wide range of services including nutrition screening, socialization, education, and access to other resources and services.

In 2023, the congregate dining site at the Watermark in Beaver Dam provided 2,679 meals and welcomed many new faces. Home Delivered Meals continued to be provided in Dodge County and pick-up meals remained popular for many participants. Overall, the Senior Nutrition Program provided 39,341 meals combined through carry out services, home delivery, and congregate dining.

Additionally, the Senior Nutrition Program administers the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program through Wisconsin's Department of Health Services. This year, eligible seniors received \$35.00 in vouchers to buy fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs grown in Wisconsin. This program benefits both seniors and farmers and is very well received by our county residents. A total of 213 vouchers were issued and 79% of vouchers were redeemed at certified farmers' markets. The Senior Nutrition Program relies heavily on the generosity of volunteers to operate successfully. Our Nutrition Program volunteers help in kitchens packaging and serving meals, and delivering meals to homebound individuals. This year, volunteers provided 4,167 hours to provide these vital services to our aging and disabled population in Dodge County.



Dodge County's Transportation Program

Dodge County's Transportation Program prioritizes ride services for seniors and disabled individuals in need of medical rides. This program is designed to accommodate door to door services from pick-up to final destination. Drivers are trained to assist with loading, securement, and unloading. Drivers are paired with individuals to ensure that any specialized needs are fully accommodated. Whether an individual is ambulatory or non-ambulatory, we understand that medical transportation is a necessity for our most vulnerable populations. In 2023, the program was awarded a brand new accessible, side-load minivan to complement the fleet. Our volunteer and paid drivers combined, provided 7,850 rides for Dodge County residents. Our volunteer drivers alone, drove 156,996 miles and contributed 6,899 hours providing rides!

Without the hard work and dedication of our cherished volunteers and partners, Dodge County's Nutrition and Transportation programs would not be possible. Thanks goes out to each and every one of our volunteers that have dedicated their time and efforts to 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 goals of the Adult Protective Services (APS) and Long Term Support (LTS) Unit and program is to: effectively respond to the needs of older adults and adults with disabilities who are victims of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation; to prevent abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation whenever possible, to promote safety, independence, and quality of life for vulnerable adults who are being mistreated or at-risk of being mistreated and who are unable to protective themselves, and 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. In addition, the APS/LTS Unit has six 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. Types of investigations that APS social workers respond to include, self-neglect, neglect by others, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, treatment without consent, unreasonable confinement or restraint, and financial 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 eighteen. 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 three areas are covered under Community Long Term Support are supportive services and include: Supportive Home Care, Case Management, and Home & Financial Advisor Services. All of the above services are provided only if an individual is not eligible for Family Care program services or during the course of an investigation to provide safety and stability until long term services can be put into place. 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, food share, 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.

2023 Unit Accomplishments & Trends

Interdisciplinary Team - In 2023, 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 2023, the I-team met on February 21st, May 16th, August 15th, and November 21st.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day/Community Education – June 15th is the designated date each year to recognize and focus on our aging population and the problem and prevalence of elder abuse. It provides an opportunity for collaborative partners to come together to show support against abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Our APS unit works throughout the year to provide education to the community regarding elder abuse and abuse of adults with disabilities. On April 20, 2023, our APS unit in conjunction with our Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) sponsored Identity Theft: Protect and Prevent presented by the Bureau of Consumer Protection within the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. This event was held at the Watermark Community and Senior Center in Beaver Dam with approximately thirty-five people in attendance. On June 15, 2023 our APS unit promoted and highlighted World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by having a booth at and participating in the ADRC's fifteen year celebration event. Our booth was well attended and numerous resources regarding abuse, neglect, and exploitation were discussed and handed out to the attendees. On October 4, 2023, our APS unit and PAVE met together to provide education about each other's roles and programming.

Dementia Crisis Response & Stabilization: The Adult Protective Services Unit continued to support and coordinate dementia stabilization response in the community. 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, and Supportive Home Care staff. When stabilization in place could not be accomplished we worked with many community partners for placement such as, but not limited to, Clearview, Marshfield Medical Center Beaver Dam, Waupun Hospital, Aurora Hospital - Hartford, Watertown Hospital, Marvin's Manor, and the Larson House.

APS On-Call: Our APS unit continues to be on-call after-hours to consult with Northwest Connections when APS related issues arose after-hours. The APS social workers rotate being on-call weekly from Friday afternoon through the following Friday morning. APS staff spent approximately 11 hours on active after-hour calls in 2023.

Crisis Training: In 2023 all APS staff completed a Crisis Intervention Online Orientation course which consisted of 17.5 hours and an Older Adults in Crisis course, which consisted of 4.0 hours. Our APS unit often works collaboratively with our Crisis unit and responds to adults experiencing mental health challenges or crises.

Addition of APS/LTS Staff Member: Previous to 2023, the APS unit consisted of five social workers, one home and financial advisor, and one supervisor. In 2023, thanks to the support of our Director, the Human Services and Health Board, and County Board of Supervisors, our APS/LTS unit was able to add one social work position increasing the total to six social workers. The APS unit was fully staffed with six social workers by July of 2023.

2023 Trends

In 2023, the APS/LTS unit received and responded to 421 new referrals of allegations of abuse and/or neglect of Adults at Risk or Elder Adults at Risk, Supportive Home Care, outreach, and Guardianships/Protective Placements/Protective Services. The majority of these, 331, being abuse and neglect referrals. This was an increase from 2022 referrals responded to (406). The total average caseload size in 2023 was 303.

As in previous years, the majority of APS referrals were related to self-neglect, financial exploitation, and neglect by caregivers. Approximately 49 percent of the investigations responded to were for self-neglect, 20 percent were financial exploitation, 10 percent were neglect by others, and the remaining 21 percent were physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Often with financial exploitation other forms of abuse were also co-occurring. It continues to be the goal of the 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)

Unit Overview:

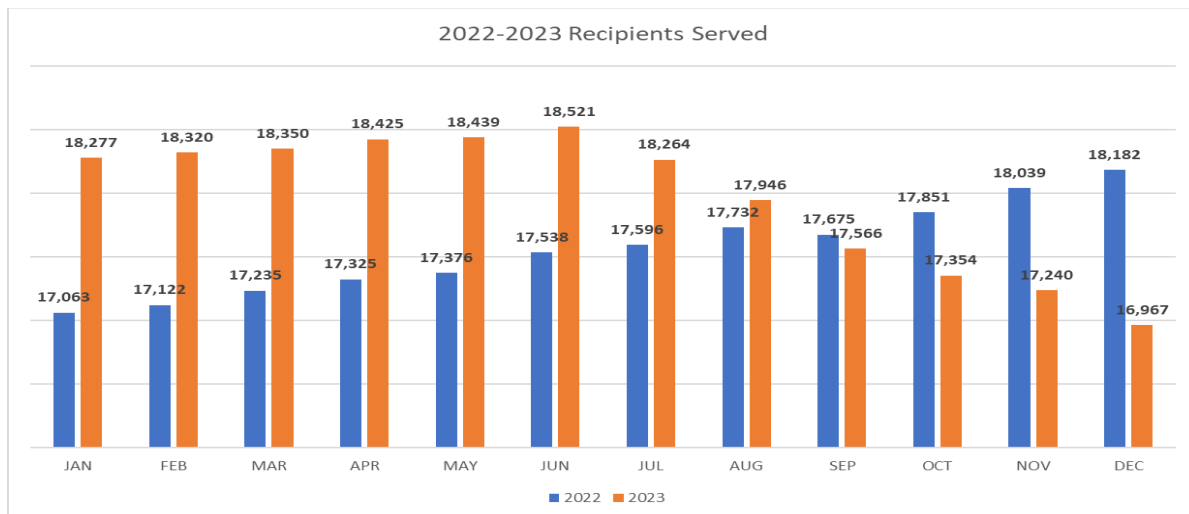
The Economic Support Unit, in conjunction with Adams, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, Richland, Sauk, and Sheboygan counties (Capital Consortium), helps those who have financial difficulties within our service area.

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

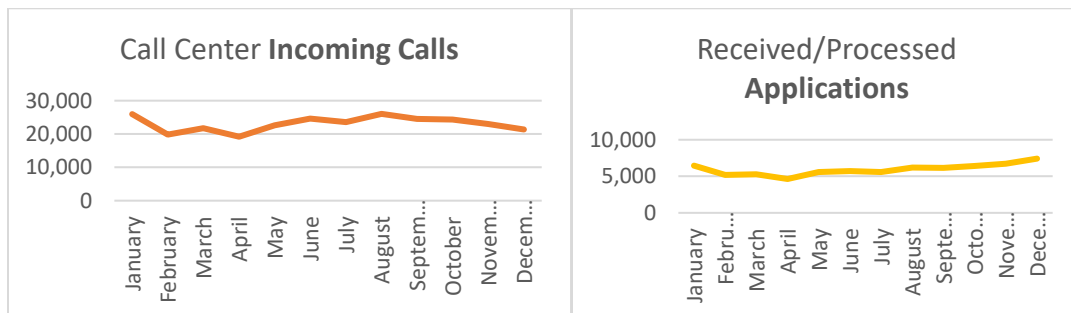
Wisconsin Shares Childcare, FoodShare, Medicaid Programs, Caretaker Supplement, and Elderly, Blind, or Disabled Medicaid Programs. The ES Unit also regulates certified childcare providers (individuals who provide in-home care for 1 to 3 children) within Dodge County.

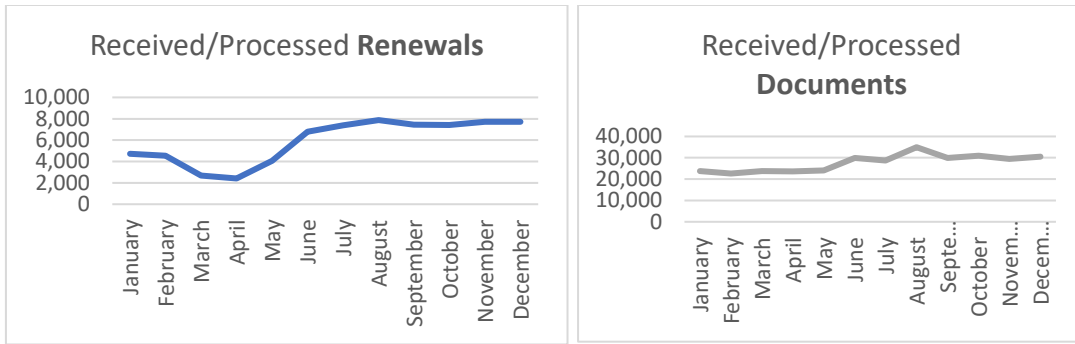
2023 Caseload and Recipients Served Snapshot:

Capital Consortia staff managed a monthly average of 120,000 active cases in 2023. Approximately 10,203 of those cases reside in Dodge County. Our ES team served an average of 17,972 Dodge County residents.



2023 Capital Consortia Workload Trends:





2023 Program Integrity Highlights:

Program Integrity remains a focus for Economic Support as we navigated through numerous policy changes. The result had a direct and negative impact on our ability to collect on overpayments in 2023, specifically for our Health Care (HC) and FoodShare (FS) programs. Some overall policy changes that occurred included: a) when all attempts to obtain needed verification to determine an overpayment are unsuccessful, an overpayment may not be established, b) \$500 minimum or the overpayment is excused.

FoodShare-specific impacts: All FS overpayments established during the Public Health Emergency (PHE) require that an Intentional Program Violation (IPV) to be established first. This means that if benefits were received in error, *intention* must be proven before recoupment can occur. Other policy updates included drug testing for felons and student eligibility exemptions being suspended through June, along with work requirements, which were also suspended through September. In November, DHS announced that SWICA (State Wage information Collection Agency) discrepancies will no longer be generated for FS, which compared what we have in our eligibility system to wages reported by employers.

Health Care specific impacts: Continuous coverage was required from March 2020 thru May 2023, and as cases renew(ed) from June 2023 through the end of the year. Effective April 1, 2023, HC overpayment claims are not allowed to be created for any reason. Overpayment claims that were established prior to April will have the remaining balance removed and will be considered paid in full.

After all of that, we still managed to establish 11 IPV's and almost \$45,000 in overpayments in 2023.

With some changes in staffing at both the Sheriff and DA's offices, we are establishing some new relationships in an effort to collaborate on situations that warrant field investigations, and if egregious enough, pursuing criminal prosecution.

2023 Staffing:

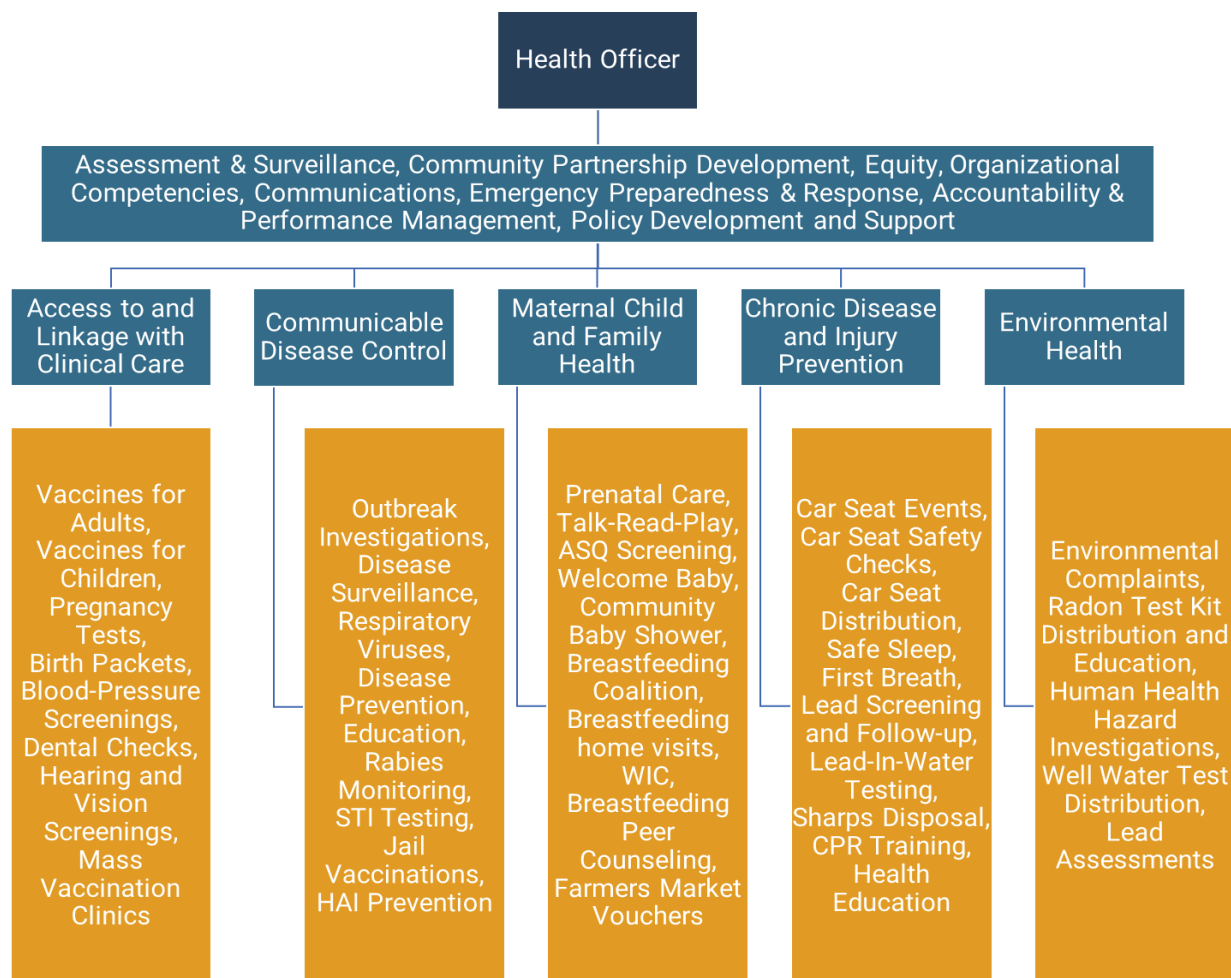
The Dodge County Economic Support staff is managed by Division Manager, Sheila Drays and Supervisors, Amy Beranek and Renee Lyman, and includes:

- 12 Economic Support Specialists
- 2 ESS Leads
- 2 Economic Support Assistants
- 1 Overpayment/Fraud Specialist
- 1 Customer Support Specialist

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.

Amy Beranek – (920) 386-3955
Renee Lyman – (920) 386-4825
Human Services Supervisors - Economic Support

Services Chart



Foundational Public Health Areas

Access to Linkage with Clinical Care

Immunizations

Immunization is one of the most important public health victories of the 20th century. Vaccines sharply reduce and even eliminate diseases. Examples of highly successful vaccination efforts include smallpox, which has been successfully eradicated globally due to vaccination efforts, polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough), etc. When vaccination rates drop, the presence and severity of these illnesses can rapidly increase, leading to epidemics or even pandemics.

In 2023, we administered 577 intranasal influenza vaccinations for Dodge County students during school vaccination clinics. Fifteen schools around Dodge County participated in our student flu clinics, servicing ages 3-18. A total of 680 influenza vaccinations were administered by public health staff. Additionally, public health provided 49 vaccinations for COVID-19 to inmates at the Dodge County Detention Facility.

We continue to vaccinate both children and adults who do not have insurance or are underinsured via the Vaccines for Children program (VFC) and the Vaccines for Adults program (VFA). In 2023, we vaccinated a total of 759 clients of all ages, providing 947 vaccines in total.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Children 0 - 18					
Immunizations	395	313	1,071	609	793
Clients	238	258	735	519	619
Adults 19 +					
Immunizations	208	229	14,183	247	154
Clients	201	218	7,539	237	140
Total					
Immunizations	603	542	15,254	856	947
Clients	439	476	8,274	756	759

Pregnancy Tests

We provide confidential pregnancy testing for women. Upon results of the test, a public health nurse provides proof-of-pregnancy and connects the patient to supportive resources and proper prenatal care. Thirteen pregnancy tests were conducted in 2023.

Dental Checks

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood. Dental caries can affect children’s growth, lead to difficulty concentrating during the learning process, and cause significant pain and infection. Access problems, due to socioeconomic disparity, present a high risk for tooth decay. Dodge County Public Health has four components to its fluoride varnish program: 1) oral screening, 2) anticipatory guidance, 3) fluoride varnish application, and 4) referral to dentists. This program is offered to children who are at risk for dental caries and are also on Medical Assistance, participants in the WIC program, or those enrolled in any school in Wisconsin. In 2023, twelve children received fluoride varnish services.

In 2023, we developed a partnership with Bridging Brighter Smiles to provide free dental checkups and teeth cleaning services for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) participants within our clinic. If Bridging Brighter Smiles identifies dental issues or complications, they will refer the participant to a dentist to seek further treatment. This service is offered to participants quarterly.

Health Screenings

Dodge County Public Health provides various health screenings to residents that request them, such as tuberculosis skin-tests, blood-pressure, and vision screenings. In 2023, twenty-nine individuals received tuberculosis skin-tests, fourteen received blood-pressure screenings, and six received a vision screening.

Birth Packets

Dodge County Public Health receives birth reports for newborns who reside in Dodge County. These reports reflect how the pregnancy went, noting any complications, how labor and delivery went, and any social-economic factors that were identified that may impact the success of the family unit. These reports are utilized to provide “birth packets” to families with newborns, which consist of brochures and information on how public health and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) can benefit their family. More specifically, we ensure that information regarding well-water sampling, car seat safety, our home visiting programs, and a milestone hand out is provided within the packets.

Each birth report is reviewed by a public health nurse to identify if families are high risk – possible financial problems, complicated pregnancy or delivery, and lack of support. If they are high risk, the family will not only receive a “birth packet,” but also receive a call and/or text from a public health nurse to discuss the benefits of enrolling in our TalkReadPlay program, offer breastfeeding assistance (if applicable), discuss other home visiting programs, and provide an opportunity to answer any questions that the family may have. In 2023, we sent 604 birth packets.

Communicable Disease Control

Disease Surveillance

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 Dodge County Public Health to conduct prompt follow-up with affected individuals, as well as investigations of possible outbreaks 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 2023, Dodge County Public health followed up on 2,365 cases of communicable disease.

Based on the continued high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STI) in Dodge County and poor accessibility for affordable testing in the area, we have been working on a program to provide free, at-home STI test kits to residents of Dodge County. STIs are a burden to the healthcare system both in cost and resources. By having affordable testing available, we can improve equity of care, help prevent the spread of STIs and reduce the long-term effects on an individual’s health.

HIV Partner Services: This program provides counseling and referrals for individuals with HIV; staff assist with medical resources, notifications, and testing of sexual and needle sharing partners. This is a comprehensive public health strategy for reducing the spread of HIV. Four partner services cases were evaluated by Dodge County Public Health staff in 2023.

Rabies control program: As a public health unit, we provide follow-ups for all known animal bites and potential exposures. If a domestic animal has bitten a resident, the animal will be placed under quarantine by either the Dodge County Sheriff or local Police Department, a veterinary service, or our public health team. During an animal's quarantine, the animal must be visited three times by a licensed veterinarian to analyze the animal for potential symptoms of rabies. The resident who was bitten, can coordinate with their doctor and our public health team to determine if a series of rabies vaccinations is appropriate. If the owner of the domesticated animal does not wish to quarantine the animal, then the animal must be euthanized and tested for rabies at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene. These measures are taken to prevent fatal cases of human rabies; after the onset of symptoms, rabies is nearly 100% fatal. In 2023, 147 animal bites/exposures were reported to our public health team, and 37 rabies specimens were submitted to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene.

Tuberculosis (TB) program: Dodge County Public Health provides education, case management, and medications (through the state TB Program), 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, and close contacts of a person with active tuberculosis. In 2023, we provided case management for one active TB disease case and followed-up on seventeen latent TB infections. Seven of these cases received directly observed medication therapy weekly for 12 weeks and case management through Public Health.

Top Reporting Disease - Dodge County Public Health Jurisdiction	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sexually transmitted Infections (STI)					
Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection	204	135	195	153	148
Gonorrhea	14	27	33	13	22
Food/Water Borne Illness					
Campylobacteriosis	20	11	18	21	21
Cryptosporidiosis	10	10	8	10	8
E-coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC)	9	3	12	4	13
E-coli, Enterotoxigenic (ETEC) *not tracked	*	*	*	*	6
Giardiasis	3	8	4	5	4
Salmonellosis	17	17	17	14	17
Vaccine Preventable (Except Hep C)					
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	43	37	1	57	30
Hepatitis A	0	0	1	1	0
Hepatitis B	1	5	2	9	1
Hepatitis C	31	30	36	16	19
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	9	0	1	0	0
Varicella (Chickenpox)	3	1	2	2	3
Other					
Lyme Disease (B.Burgdorfer)	16	17	8	6	2
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	16	28	13	25	13
Legionellosis	2	3	2	1	0
Tuberculosis Disease - Active	0	2	1	1	1
Tuberculosis Infection - Latent	18	13	18	22	17
Coronavirus, Novel 2019 (COVID-19) *newly reportable in 2020	*	8,868	9,062	9,508	1,667
Streptococcal Invasive Disease *not tracked	*	*	*	16	33

Hospital-Associated Infection Prevention

A healthcare-associated infection, or HAI, is an infection that occurs while receiving healthcare services. These infections are typically associated with hospitals and long-term care settings, but can also occur in outpatient clinics, dental offices, and urgent care settings. Some examples of HAIs include catheter-associated urinary-tract infections (UTIs), central-line-associated infections, which can lead to sepsis, and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), which can be difficult to treat due to its antibiotic resistance. One in every 31 hospital patients and one in every 43 nursing-home residents acquire a HAI, leading to an increased mortality rate for patients, especially for those who are elderly or immunocompromised.

In 2023, one of our public health nurses participated in an HAI mentorship through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Through the six-month program, our nurse received infection prevention and control education through classes, self-paced modules, and on-site investigations. Looking forward, we are excited to use the learned knowledge and skills to serve as a resource and ally in reducing the prevalence of HAIs in Dodge County.

Maternal Child and Family Health

Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC)

Prenatal care coordination is also known as *Health Beginning+*. In this home-visiting program a public health nurse conducts monthly home visits for those that are pregnant to provide them with support and services they need to promote a successful birth and a healthy baby. During these visits, we provide extra education on fetal development, information about labor and delivery, breastfeeding information, and information on the expectations of birth. These topics are just a few of many educational materials we can discuss during a home visit; they are intended to be very open to what the family will benefit from or what they would like to learn. During these visits, we identify possible pregnancy or newborn outcome risk factors before delivery, and we collaborate with their providers to address any concerns. In 2023, we completed 63 *Healthy Beginning+* home visits.

Infant-Child Home Visits

Our infant-child home visits are also known as the TalkReadPlay program. Our target population is birth to three. During these visits we focus on the child's intellectual, language, social, and physical development by using the *Parents as Teachers* curriculum. Our intent is to promote education to the family and identify any early child developmental delays. We use ASQ-3 and ASQ-2 screening tools to help the family and parents' educator identify any delays in communication, fine motor, large motor, personal-social, and problem-solving skills that the infant may be behind in. At these visits, a public health nurse measures the height and weight of the infant, reassures families that their child is developing appropriately, and teaches them how to promote their child's learning. We can then refer and update their providers along the way. Finally, during these visits, the nurse assists and answers any questions the parents may have regarding breastfeeding. In 2023, we completed 132 TalkReadPlay home visits.

Breastfeeding Home Visits

Breastfeeding not only provides the best nutrition for newborns, but it also saves the family money during difficult times. Three of our public health nurses are Certified Lactation Specialists (CLS). With this training, they can conduct home visits to those breastfeeding in the community who need extra help with breastfeeding. 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. In 2023, our public health nurses conducted 37 breastfeeding home visits.

Welcome Baby Coalition

The Welcome Baby Coalition is comprised of several different community organizations that aim to provide all families with support and necessary resources to be confident in providing a safe, stable, and supportive environments for their child from prenatal to postpartum. The coalition focuses on building systems of support through universal social determinants of health screenings and referral networks, establishing a universal home visiting program, and creating group-centered prenatal care. In 2023, the coalition identified that the largest barrier to connecting clients to resources is the lack of closed loops. To address this barrier, they began tracking data to aid in the development of a resource referral system that allows partnerships to better communicate to ensure that families are receiving the resources they may need.

Community Baby Shower

In 2023, Watertown Family Connections partnered with Dodge County Public Health to have Dodge County's first community baby shower. This community baby shower invited 15 expecting moms and a support person to a two-hour event that provided families with essential supplies and resources to support their baby's healthy development and learning. During this event, a gift basket, lunch, and several community resources to connect parents with local early childhood resources and information was provided to the attending mothers. This event not only helped families financially, but also showcased to the families that they are not alone in their parenting journey.

Jefferson-Dodge Breastfeeding Coalition

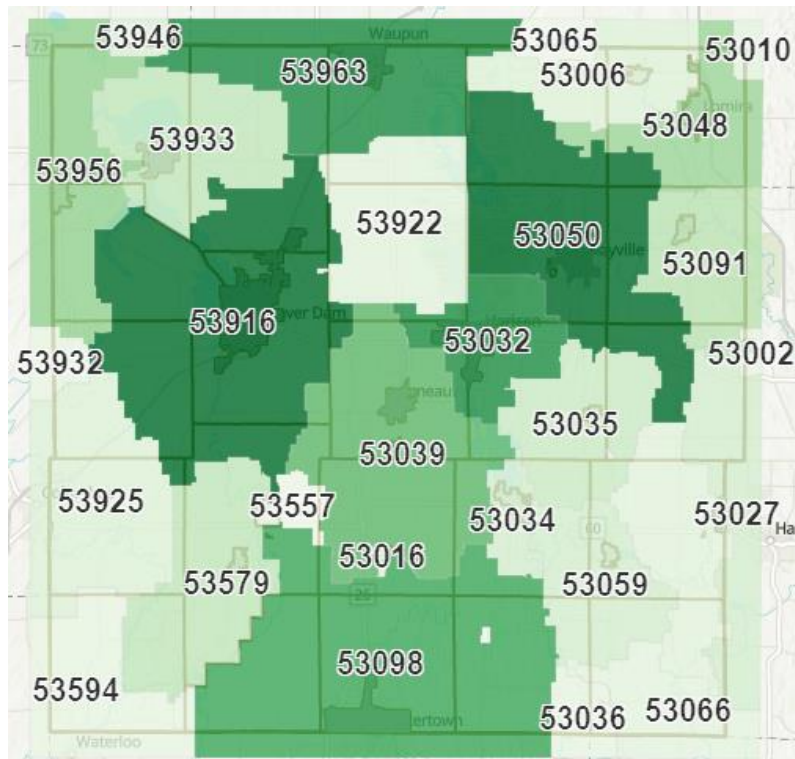
The Dodge and Jefferson County Health Departments came together to create the Jefferson-Dodge Breastfeeding Coalition. As a coalition, we have a mission to empower all mothers to breastfeed and fulfill their breastfeeding goals.

One of our Dodge County Public Health nurses is the co-chair for the coalition and is expected to help organize and facilitate monthly meetings for partnerships to come together to support the efforts that contribute to our mission. In 2023, we developed a strategic plan that includes efforts to address suggestions detailed in survey responses from 2022. Our main objectives as a coalition are to create a breastfeeding policy template, assist and support breastfeeding support groups in Dodge and Jefferson Counties, and to increase community outreach. By the end of 2023, both Jefferson and Dodge County Health Departments created their own monthly support groups within their respective communities. We increased community outreach by attending community events, such as Family Fest, National Night Out, Jefferson and Dodge County fairs, and farmers markets, to promote our coalition and the breastfeeding resources available within our communities. We were able to create a breastfeeding space at both fairs to allow a private place for mothers to breastfeed or pump during these public events. During our coalition meetings, we organized to have several presenters who provided their breastfeeding knowledge and offered support systems to the coalition members. Examples of presenters include the Department of Labor, a local dental office who provided education on lip and tongue ties, a local mom who shared her breastfeeding journey, and a labor and delivery nurse.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, 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 the previous six 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 access to a healthy diet, and by providing participants referrals to other assistance programs, public health programs, and healthcare providers. In 2023, the average monthly WIC enrollment in Dodge County was 805; this was an increase from 2022, which had an average enrollment of 784.

WIC Participation Concentration by Zip code



***Key: A higher concentration of participants will appear in a darker color

In 2023, Dodge County WIC maintained modifications to the program, such as remote services, based on guidance from the federal and state WIC offices. WIC participants continue to receive updates and guidance on remote participation in the program, and additional outreach and recruitment from the state WIC office and local WIC staff. Wisconsin WIC also partners with Medicaid and local providers for WIC recruitment, via a referral system.

In response to federal guidelines and a USDA waiver of the physical presence requirement for WIC participants, families were able to participate in WIC nutrition support and education services while abiding by social distancing recommendations. The initial waiver expired in August 2023 and was replaced with an updated waiver that expires September 2026. The current waiver allows for a hybrid type of service which benefits participants by continuing to allow remote services if needed. Remote services have helped to remove barriers, such as transportation, lost wages from leaving work to come to WIC, etc. Due to these benefits, the Federal and State WIC offices are working on revising WIC policies to provide a more permanent option of remote services, offering online and curbside grocery ordering for WIC foods, and streamlining access to anthropometrics measured by providers at well-child checks and prenatal visits. We look forward to seeing these changes improve WIC services for our community in the coming year.

Dodge County WIC consistently receives glowing feedback from its participants via a State-designed survey available through the Wisconsin MyWIC app. A few notes from participants throughout 2023:

- “It is very helpful and helps me and my son eat healthier.”
- “They are very helpful in so many ways.”
- “It’s extra help to take some of the financial load off. Especially with formula. It is so expensive and goes so quick.”
- “It helps me not have to worry about feeding my daughter, changed my life.”

WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program

Each summer, the WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is available for eligible participants from June 1st to October 31st. Each eligible participant was able to receive \$30 of vouchers to purchase local fruits, herbs, and vegetables from WIC-approved farmers. The WIC FMNP program encourages participants to shop locally for produce, while increasing their access to fruits and vegetables. In 2023, Dodge County WIC families spent \$5,292 at local farmers’ markets and farm stands. This was a 34% redemption rate, similar to the 34% redemption in 2022. Some obstacles that WIC families face with redeeming their FMNP vouchers include transportation challenges, loss or theft of vouchers, and schedule conflicts, such as work. Despite these obstacles, participants express excitement about these vouchers each year. The FMNP program is mutually beneficial to our local farmers and local families.

WIC Breastfeeding Support

Every pregnant and breastfeeding mother who enrolls in Dodge County WIC has access to our breastfeeding peer counselors, as well as our Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). Our breastfeeding peer counselors are moms with experience in breastfeeding, who can provide support and mentorship to other moms on their breastfeeding journey. The WIC CLC provides additional education and support for more complex breastfeeding issues or barriers that may arise. The breastfeeding peer and CLC provide telephone contacts, office visits, and home visits as needed to participating mothers.

Breastfeeding incidence rates of Dodge County WIC participants consistently exceed the state average year after year, as do the rates for breastfeeding duration to one month, three months, six months, and twelve months. These rates also exceed the state’s breastfeeding goals for duration to one month and three months. In 2022, the American Academy of Pediatrics adopted the World Health Organization’s recommendations for breastfeeding, which is six months of exclusive breastfeeding and continued breastfeeding to 24 months of age or beyond.

Breastfeeding Incidence and Duration 2021					
	Incidence	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Dodge County WIC 2022	88.4%	89.2%	76.5%	57.8%	25.6%
Dodge County WIC 2023	84.9%	85.2%	77.7%	53.4%	36.1%
Wisconsin WIC 2023	75.4%	80.5%	64.9%	44.8%	23.0%

The largest decrease in breastfeeding rates occurs between three and six months. This may be related to most mothers having to return to work after two to three months of maternity leave, which can be a barrier for continued breastfeeding. This is an area that the Dodge County WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator plans to partner with Public Health staff and the Jefferson-Dodge Breastfeeding Coalition into the future. Some areas that we would like to focus on include identifying barriers to breastfeeding and increasing awareness of the Break Time for Nursing Mothers Provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, supporting the development of breastfeeding-friendly employers, and implementing the changes to breast pump access through WIC. The new program for breast pumps provided by WIC was designed by the State Breastfeeding Coordinator, and was rolled out in 2023, making the process more flexible and efficient for mothers participating in the WIC program. In 2023, 24 breastfeeding home-visits were completed by our WIC breastfeeding support staff.

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

Car Seat Program

We have four of our staff members trained and certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST). The CPSTs provide education on the proper use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts to help save lives and prevent injuries and death of children. Properly installed car seats decrease the risk of a fatal injury by 71% among infants and 54% among toddlers. As part of this program, we offer car seat safety inspections for families that request one. During these inspections, CPSTs check the expiration, history, recalls, and installation requirements on the installed car seats/boosters. Additionally, our CPSTs provided Child Protective Services (CPS) with car seat training so families, in coordination with CPS, can safely choose and install car seats/boosters. Funding has been received for several consecutive years from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to purchase car seats that can be dispensed to families in need that meet specific income eligibility criteria.

In 2023, we hosted our first ever Dodge County Car Seat Event at the Beaver Dam Fire Department. We offered car seats/boosters to those who were eligible, completed safety checks, and provided education on the safe and proper use of car seats/boosters.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Car Seat Inspections	105	14	25	4	62
Car Seats Distributed	88	21	18	8	95

Safe Sleep

As a Cribs for Kids® partner, we provide education and Pack N Play cribs to families to prevent infant sleep-related deaths. During home visits with families, videos, handouts, and questionnaires are used to educate parents and caregivers on the importance of safe sleep for their babies. Pack N Play cribs are purchased with grants or donations from local organizations, and distributed to families who need them. In 2023, twenty-two families were provided with safe sleep guidance and a new crib.

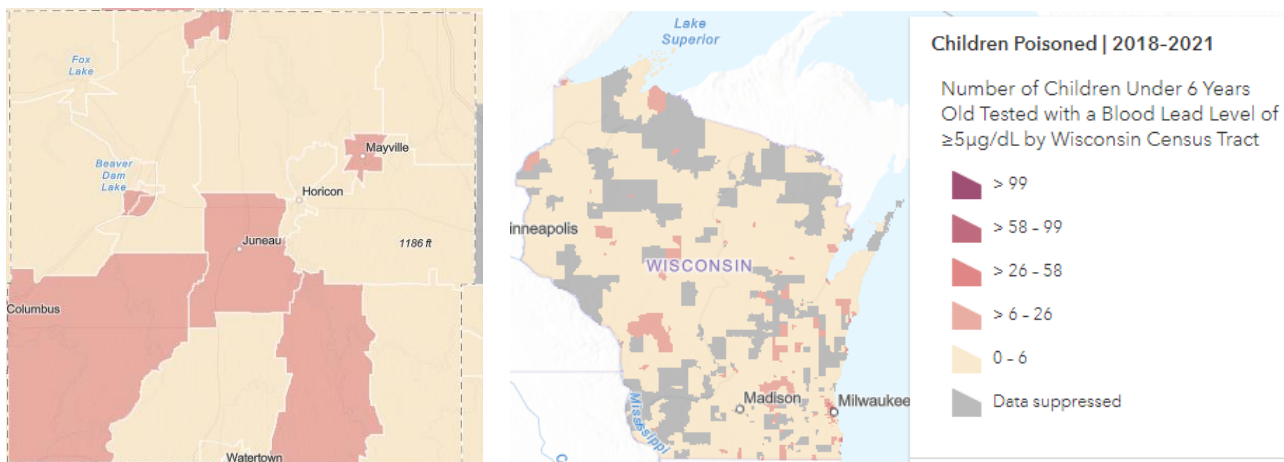
First Breath

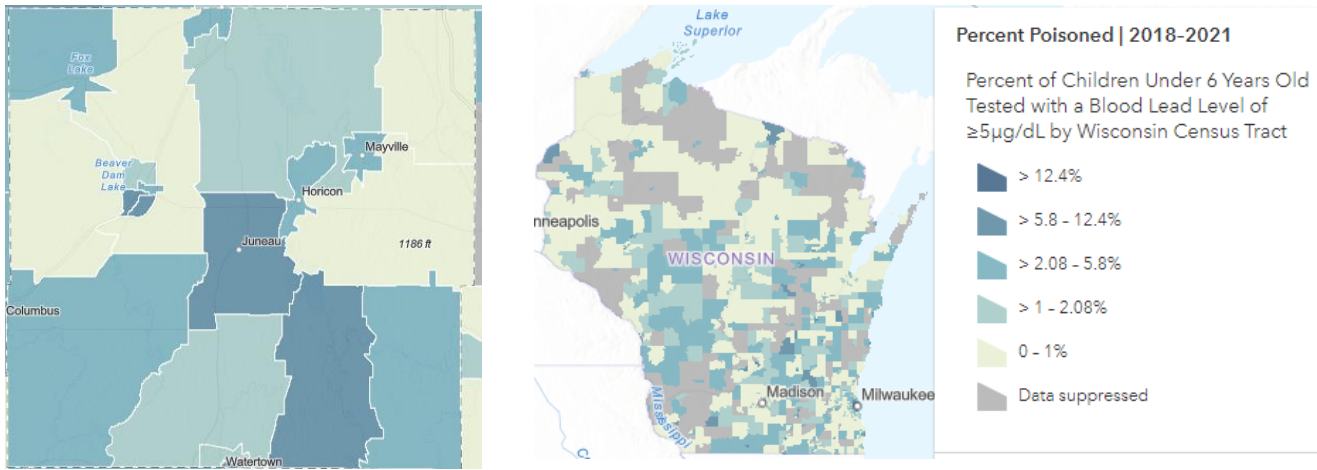
First Breath is a referral program that provides resources and support for tobacco cessation to expecting mothers, those who recently gave birth within the last 6 months, and primary caretakers of a child. This program merged with the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation's "My Baby and Me" program, which expands the resources and support of cessation to mothers and caregivers struggling with alcohol and drugs. If one would accept this service, a First Breath Health Educator would reach out to the participant by offering high intensity support, low intensity support, caregiver/family support, and long-term engagement to help them make a change to their tobacco, alcohol, and substance use. In 2023, we made seven referrals to the First Breath program.

Blood-lead Screening and Follow-up

Lead based paint and varnish exists in many of the Dodge County homes built before 1978. Lead is a toxin, and there is no safe level of lead in the human body. Lead exposure is especially dangerous for children and adolescents. An acute-lead exposure is enough to cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health throughout a child's life; especially those who are between the ages of one and six years old. To identify exposure levels, children are screened using a capillary sample (finger-stick). Once elevated blood-lead levels are confirmed, a public health nurse monitors the condition of the child by taking a venous sample (blood sample) every three months. Based on the results of laboratory testing, the nurse provides education and recommendations on lifestyle changes that can assist in reducing the child's blood-lead level. With continued elevated blood-lead levels, public health nurses will conduct an at-home lead assessment to determine if the living conditions within the family's home are contributing to the measured lead levels in the child's blood. In severe cases, the child will be removed from the home until the lead conditions can be remediated. In 2023, sixty-six elevated lead levels were reported, which resulted in fourteen home visits by either a public health nurse and/or a lead hazard investigator.

Given our older infrastructure and homes, Dodge County has a high prevalence of lead-poisoned children when compared to other areas around Wisconsin





Lead-In Water Testing at Daycare Facilities

In 2023, Dodge County Public Health participated in a state-funded Wisconsin Lead-in-Water Testing and Remediation (WTR) Initiative. The initiative aimed to reduce lead hazards in licensed group childcare and Head Start facilities across the state. Old plumbing materials and plumbing fixtures, like faucets and water fountains, may contain lead. Over time, this lead can enter our drinking water, which allows the lead to enter our bloodstream when the water is consumed. Children that are exposed to lead can develop behavior and learning problems, hearing problems, lower IQ, hyperactivity, anemia, delayed growth, and speech and language impairments. To reduce a child’s exposure to lead in a daycare setting, we tested water outlets for lead contamination throughout the participating childcare facilities. If a fixture tested positive for lead, the State of Wisconsin paid for the remediation efforts of replacing the water fixture. In 2023, we sampled six daycare facilities for the presence of lead in their water fixtures.

Sharps Disposal Program

With our Sharps Disposal Program, we exchange full sharp containers with empty ones for a small fee. We then dispose of the full sharp’s containers in a proper manner for the entity or person that is dropping them off. This program is utilized by both the community and our own department. Diabetes, vitamin deficiencies, and blood disorders are just a few conditions that would require families to utilize sharps containers on a regular basis. This program allows the community to dispose of their sharps in a safe, convenient way. In 2023, we disposed of 94 sharps containers, and provided 25 new sharps containers to those who needed one.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Program

In 2023, Dodge County Public Health implemented a CPR training program with the intent of providing all Dodge County employees with the tools necessary to save a life during a cardiac event when the need arises. Ten Dodge County employees were trained and certified to teach CPR classes to their peers. By the end of 2023, those ten trainers provided CPR training to over 150 individuals.

CPR training is crucial for several reasons, as it plays a vital role in saving lives during emergencies.

1. **Immediate Response:** CPR training equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to respond promptly in situations where someone is experiencing cardiac arrest or has stopped breathing. Immediate action can significantly increase the chances of survival.
2. **Saves Lives:** Performing CPR helps maintain blood circulation and oxygenation to vital organs, especially the brain, until professional medical help arrives. This can be crucial in preventing irreversible damage and increasing the likelihood of survival.
3. **Bystander Intervention:** In many cases, bystanders are the first to witness a medical emergency. CPR training empowers ordinary people to take action and provide assistance before professional medical personnel arrive, making a significant difference in the outcome.
4. **Time is Critical:** During cardiac arrest, every second counts. CPR training emphasizes the importance of quick and effective intervention. The sooner CPR is initiated, the better the chances of preserving brain function and preventing complications.
5. **Community Resilience:** CPR training enhances community resilience by creating a pool of individuals who are prepared to respond to emergencies. This can be particularly important in situations where emergency services may be delayed or inaccessible.
6. **Increased Confidence:** CPR training not only imparts life-saving skills but also boosts confidence. Knowing what to do in an emergency situation can help individuals remain calm and focused, leading to more effective assistance.
7. **Wide Applicability:** CPR training is applicable in various settings, including homes, workplaces, public spaces, and recreational areas. Accidents and medical emergencies can happen anywhere, making CPR skills valuable in diverse situations.
8. **Complements AED Use:** CPR is often combined with the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in certain situations. CPR training provides individuals with the knowledge of how to use AEDs effectively, further improving the chances of a positive outcome.

Health Education

At Dodge County Public Health, we have a Community Health Educator who is responsible for performing work involving planning, coordinating, assessing, and implementing public health programs. These programs may include communicable and chronic disease, nutrition, health promotion, and other health and wellness topics. In 2023, our Community Health Educator coordinated a presentation through *Your Choice Prevention Education* to speak to 700 local middle schoolers on the topic of Alcohol and Other Drugs Abuse (AODA). Similarly, they provided 14 one-hour sessions on AODA to over 100 local 6th and 8th graders. Health education was also provided during local community events, such as the Dodge County Fair, where our Community Health Educator coordinated a mental health-based education theme for fair attendees, mainly children, to participate in. Health education was also provided at National Night Out where the focus was physical activity. Day-to-day, our Community Health Educator develops health education material that gets posted on our Facebook page and our website. In 2023, they created a Dodge County Public Health Quarterly Newsletter as well as a Weekly Wellness education initiative. Overall, Dodge County Public Health staff participated in 28 health education events throughout 2023.

Environmental Health

Environmental Complaints

We assist residents with a wide variety of environmental concerns or issues that arise within the county. We receive calls and notifications for consumer concerns, nuisance complaints, housing issues, and water quality concerns. Public health staff provides resources and education to those who notify us of a concern. Each instance will look different in terms of the remediation efforts and follow-up procedures that may be required. In complex scenarios, we will seek help from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) or the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). In 2023, public health followed up on 85 environmental-related calls.

Radon Test Kits

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that we can't smell or taste. It can get into any type of building, new or old, including our homes, offices, and schools. Radon is second only to smoking as a leading cause for lung cancer. Testing is the only way to know if you are at risk of exposure to radon. We receive free radon test kits from the Watertown Radon Information Center to dispense to our Dodge County residents. Testing is easy and free. If radon is detected, there are ways to lower the level to acceptable standards. In 2023, we distributed 197 kits to our residents.

Well-Water Testing

More than two-thirds of Wisconsin residents use groundwater as their drinking water source and more than 40% of residents rely on a private well. Contamination of private wells occurs all throughout Wisconsin. Safe, clean water is the most essential resource for healthy communities. We rely on clean water 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 own well water. Dodge County Public Health, with support from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, helps private well owners by distributing well water test kits to families with children under the age of six and pregnant women, of whom are among the most vulnerable groups if exposed to contaminated water. We are committed to 1) encouraging regular well water testing, 2) ensuring a confirmation sample has been taken if levels are high, 3) providing advice about appropriate water use, and 4) recommending actions to reduce exposure if levels are high. In 2023, 20 kits were given to families, and 17 follow-up sessions were conducted with subsequent education.

Lead Assessments

A home lead assessment involves the evaluation of a residence to identify potential sources of lead exposure. This assessment is crucial for various reasons, particularly in ensuring the safety and well-being of occupants, especially children. Lead, a toxic metal, can have serious health implications, and a home lead assessment helps to mitigate the risks associated with lead exposure. When a child presents high blood-lead levels, our trained and certified Lead Hazard Investigator will conduct a lead assessment of a families dwelling.

During a home lead assessment, our Lead Hazard Investigator typically inspects the dwelling for lead-based paint, dust, and soil contamination. The assessment may involve:

1. **Paint Inspection:** Identifying the presence of lead-based paint in older homes, as lead paint was commonly used before its ban in residential properties in the late 1970s.
2. **Dust and Soil Sampling:** Collecting samples from household dust and soil to assess lead levels, as lead particles from deteriorating paint or other sources can contaminate these areas.
3. **Water Testing:** Assessing lead levels in tap water, especially if the home has plumbing components or pipes made of lead or if the water source is at risk of lead contamination.

The purpose of the assessment is to investigate areas where the child has potential of ingesting lead. For example, if a child is consuming paint chips while at home, and the home is identified to have lead-based paint, the investigator may determine that the lead-based paint is contributing to the child's high blood-lead level readings. The investigator will then recommend remediation efforts to remove the lead-based paint or recommend that the family finds alternative dwelling options to reduce the child's blood-lead levels.

Foundational Public Health Capabilities

Assessment and Surveillance

Assessment and surveillance play pivotal roles in safeguarding public health by providing crucial insights into the prevalence, distribution, and determinants of diseases within a population. These processes enable us to identify and monitor health trends, assess the effectiveness of interventions, and make informed decisions to protect and promote community well-being. Surveillance systems help detect outbreaks early, allowing for prompt response and containment measures. Additionally, assessments contribute to the identification of risk factors and vulnerable populations, guiding the development of targeted interventions. By constantly evaluating health indicators and trends, we can implement evidence-based strategies to prevent the spread of diseases, enhance healthcare delivery, and ultimately improve overall community health outcomes. The integration of assessment and surveillance forms a cornerstone in the proactive management of public health, ensuring a comprehensive and timely approach to disease prevention and control.

Community Partnership Development

Community partnership development is paramount in public health as it fosters collaboration between health professionals, community leaders, and residents to address health disparities and enhance overall well-being. By forging strong partnerships, public health initiatives can tap into local knowledge, cultural nuances, and community-specific needs, ensuring that interventions are contextually relevant and accepted. Community engagement builds trust and empowers individuals to actively participate in health promotion and disease prevention efforts. Through partnerships, public health programs gain access to valuable resources, such as community networks, facilities, and volunteers, amplifying the impact of interventions. Moreover, involving communities in decision-making processes promotes a sense of ownership and sustainability, making it more likely for health initiatives to be successful in the long term. The collaborative efforts of public health organizations and communities create a synergistic approach that addresses diverse health challenges and fosters a healthier and more resilient society.

In 2023, Dodge County Public Health focused on developing a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in conjunction with the Dodge Jefferson Healthier Community Partnership (DJHCP), which is comprised of Dodge County, Jefferson County, and the City of Watertown Health Departments; Marshfield Medical Center Beaver Dam, Watertown Regional Medical Center, and Fort Healthcare; the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation, and Rock River Community Clinic. As a partnership, we conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) every three years. Based on our 2022 CHA, we determined that our CHIP needed to focus on four areas: safe, reliable transportation, youth mental health, childcare, and affordable housing. We invited community stakeholders to join the conversation to help develop solutions for the issues of transportation and youth mental health. We held monthly focus groups with our stakeholders for each of the two topics to progress the conversation, develop partnerships, and to create a unified front in addressing the issues.

Equity

Equity is a fundamental principle in public health, emphasizing the fair distribution of resources, opportunities, and healthcare to ensure that everyone has the chance to attain their highest level of health. Recognizing and addressing health disparities based on factors such as race, socioeconomic status, gender, and geographic location is crucial for achieving optimal public health outcomes. An equitable approach involves dismantling systemic barriers that contribute to health inequalities and striving to provide all individuals with equal access to healthcare services, preventive measures, and health information. By prioritizing equity, public health interventions become more inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of populations, ultimately reducing health disparities and promoting social justice. Embracing equity in public health endeavors not only enhances the well-being of individuals but also contributes to the overall resilience and strength of communities and societies as a whole.

Organizational Competencies

Organizational competencies are crucial in public health as they define an entity's capacity to effectively plan, implement, and evaluate public health programs and interventions. A public health organization's competencies encompass a range of skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to address complex health challenges. These competencies involve strategic planning, leadership, data analysis, communication, and the ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders. A well-equipped organization can respond promptly to emerging health issues, allocate resources efficiently, and adapt to changing circumstances. Additionally, organizational competencies contribute to the establishment of evidence-based practices and ensure that public health efforts are grounded in sound research and evaluation methodologies. At Dodge County Public Health, we focus on fostering a culture of continuous improvement and learning. Our organizational competencies enhance the overall effectiveness and impact of public health initiatives, leading to better health outcomes for communities and populations.

Communications

Effective communication plays a vital role in disseminating information, raising awareness, and promoting behavior change within communities. Clear and accessible communication is essential for conveying public health messages, whether related to disease prevention, health promotion, or emergency response. Communicating health information in a culturally sensitive and easily understandable manner fosters trust between public health authorities and the community, encouraging individuals to make informed decisions about their health. Timely and transparent communication during public health crises is critical for managing public perceptions, dispelling misinformation, and facilitating coordinated responses.

Additionally, communication helps mobilize support for health policies and interventions, garnering public cooperation and participation. By prioritizing effective communication strategies, we can bridge knowledge gaps, empower individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles, and ultimately contribute to the overall well-being of populations.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Emergency preparedness and response are paramount in public health to effectively address and mitigate the impact of unforeseen events such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and other health crises. At Dodge County Public Health, we are committed to developing robust emergency plans to ensure that we are well-equipped to handle a sudden surge in cases, coordinate resources, and provide timely and efficient care to affected populations. Swift and coordinated responses are critical for preventing the spread of diseases, minimizing casualties, and maintaining public trust. Preparedness measures, including training healthcare professionals, establishing communication protocols, and stockpiling necessary supplies, contribute to a proactive approach that can significantly reduce the severity and duration of public health emergencies. By investing in preparedness and response capabilities, we enhance our resilience and ability to protect Dodge County from a wide range of health threats, ultimately saving lives and safeguarding public well-being.

Accountability & Performance Management

Performance management involves continuous monitoring and evaluation of programs, allowing for data-driven decision-making and the identification of areas for improvement. This process ensures that resources are allocated efficiently, interventions are evidence-based, and goals of Dodge County Public Health are met. Accountability and performance management enhance the overall effectiveness of public health initiatives, leading to better health outcomes and improved quality of services for communities.

Policy Development & Support

Well-crafted policies establish guidelines, standards, and regulations that guide our public health interventions, ensuring consistency and alignment with our overarching health goals. Our policies play a crucial role in shaping environments that promote health, influence behaviors, and address social determinants. By actively engaging in policy development and garnering support, our public health professionals create sustainable and impactful interventions that contribute to the overall well-being Dodge County.

2023 Notable Accomplishments

In 2023, we had many successes that are worth noting:

- We held our first ever car seat event, which was held at the Beaver Dam Fire Department, and provided a day for families to receive safety inspections on their car seats and to distribute car seats to families who were eligible
- Three of our employees completed their Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician certifications, totaling our number of technicians to four
- We hosted our first annual Family Fest event where we showcased the services our community offers to over 200 residents
- We established a Breastfeeding Support Group in Dodge County
- We hired two Breastfeeding Peer Counselors who provide support to our breastfeeding mothers in our WIC program
- We developed a CPR program that has already held 15 classes and trained over 150 individuals on the lifesaving measures of CPR

- One of our nurses participated in a Hospital-Associated Infections mentorship through the state, which will help us support our long-term care partners with disease prevention measures
- We participated in a state-funded lead-in-water program in which we sampled water fixtures in daycare facilities to help reduce lead-poisoning in Dodge County
- We developed a partnership with a laboratory to offer free at-home sexually-transmitted infection test kits for Dodge County residents
- We provided lead education to pediatric and family practice providers on when, how, and how often a child should be tested for lead in their blood
- We increased the number of residents served for nearly all of our programs
- We increased our average monthly WIC participation, which means more families received nutrition education information and supplemental food benefits
- We partnered with a dental clinic to offer free dental visits for our WIC participants

**Roman Mullen, 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, opioid-specific treatment services, crisis services, community-based case management programs, child protective services, foster parent licensing services, home and financial counseling, supervised visitation services, youth justice services, services to children with disabilities, restitution services, Birth-to-Three services, and independent living skills services. In 2022, this Division was comprised of six units with eighty-nine (89) staff members, including seventy (70) providers, five (5) psychiatric prescribers, four (4) nurse case managers, three (3) support staff, six (6) unit Supervisors, and one (1) Division Manager.

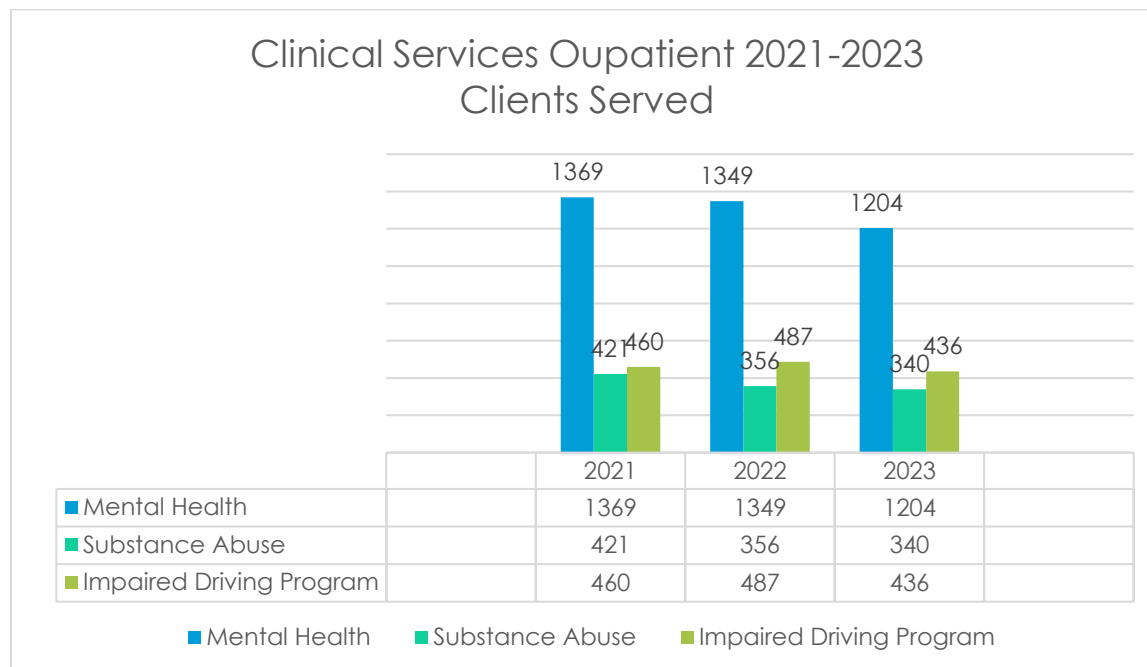
We continuously strive to maintain and improve the quality of services we provide to the residents of Dodge County, while adjusting to the increasingly complex needs of consumers and families, and the challenges of fiscal restraints and a changing economy. Throughout 2023, we have worked to strengthen the collaboration among units and with community partners built over the years. Now more than ever, we recognize the importance of building a team to support the children and families who are struggling in Dodge County during these unpredictable and difficult times. The staff members' dedication to serving the residents of Dodge County, their creativity, resilience, and willingness to keep looking for solutions and finding ways to meet needs, as well as their ongoing support for one another, is truly humbling and inspirational. I am grateful to serve them in the capacity of a manager. 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 2023, 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. 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, 1 Contracted Adult Psychiatrist, 4 Mental Health Therapists, 5 Dually Licensed Therapists, 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 continues to be critical due to the chronicity of mental health and substance abuse issues encountered and barriers with resources faced at times within a rural community.



In 2023, Clinical Services focused on expanding evidenced-based practices to address the ongoing needs of consumers presenting with trauma-related disorders. Five additional staff were trained in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy). EMDR is aimed at supporting consumers presenting with trauma and is one of two therapies recommended for the treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The expansion of EMDR trained therapists has allowed Clinical Services to broaden its scope of practice in the treatment and case management of consumers presenting with trauma-related disorders.

Clinical Services maintained its provider status as a Narcan Direct Program site in 2023. Trained staff provided ongoing education and training on the administration of Narcan to consumers, providers and other community members as requested. Narcan doses were provided free of charge to anyone in the community are trained in how to administer Narcan. Staff also can administer Narcan to any consumer presenting with a life-threatening opioid overdose to reverse the overdose to save lives. Over 100 boxes of Narcan were distributed this past year.

Clinical Services also continues to operate the Impaired Driving Program (IDP). Due to statutory changes, the Impaired Driving program is now monitored under the community substance use services standards within DHS 75. Such statutory changes not only impacted how IDP services are monitored and provided by the Division of Quality Assurance, but also impacted service delivery for all substance use disorder services with the creation of new policies and procedures and program changes to facilitate substance use disorder services within the clinic.

Clinical Services continues to be a significant resource for Dodge County residents in meeting their substance abuse and mental health needs. Service delivery options included both in-person and telehealth treatment. Having flexibility in service delivery allows consumers, who otherwise would not have received treatment if not physically present, to maintain critical treatment services.

The departures of four behavioral health therapists and challenges with rehiring for those clinical positions posed a significant challenge this past year. A waitlist for behavioral health services was implemented, creating a gap in counseling services being offered, leading to a reduction in clients served this past year. In 2023, 1204 consumers received outpatient mental health services, and 340 received substance abuse services and 436 were referred to the impaired driving program.

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
920-386-3490**

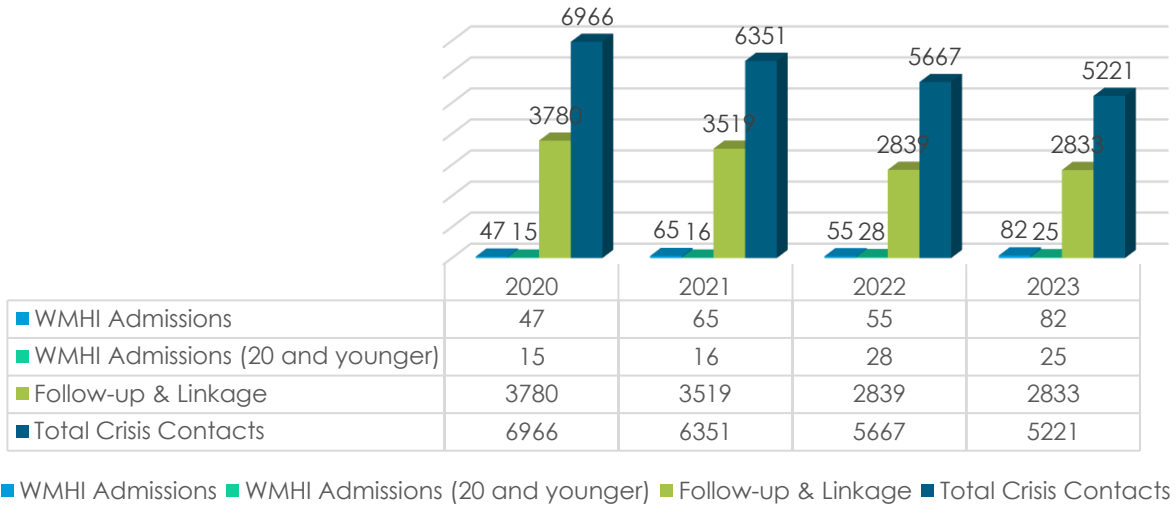
CRISIS SERVICES UNIT

Dodge County Crisis Services Unit continued to provide supportive crisis response services to the residents of Dodge County in 2023. The unit is composed of 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, with follow-up of all contacts by Dodge County Staff and oversight provided by the Crisis Unit Supervisor.

Continuing a trend from the past two years, the crisis unit again saw an overall decrease in the number of crisis contacts in 2023. While an exact reason for this is unknown, it is suspected that the continued resource of the 3-digit National Suicide Prevention Hotline (988) could have had an impact, providing individuals with another option for reaching out in times of crisis. Additionally, new billing procedures have changed the way contacts are documented. The amount of time calculated for the initial contacts are very similar to the time in 2022. Also very comparable were the number of calls crisis made to follow-up with individuals following a crisis or attempt to link them with additional services and supports. In 2022, there were 2,839 follow-up and linkage contacts with 5,667 total crisis contacts; in 2023, there were 2,833 follow-up and linkage contacts with 5,221 total crisis contacts. This year brought a reduction in the number of contacts and emergency detentions for our county's youth population. The total number of crisis contacts with youth decreased by 9% from 2022 with a total of 665 youth initial crisis contacts, which equates to 27% of the total initial crisis contacts. There was also an 18% decrease in the number of emergency detentions for youth from 2022 (44 youth) to 2023 (36 youth).

Staff continue to make it a priority to decrease utilization of Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) for involuntary admissions whenever possible, and contact in-network insurance providers prior to admission to WMHI, however this is not always possible due to acuity of symptoms and bed availability. There were 82 admissions (both Emergency Detentions and consumers returned to a more restrictive level of care) to WMHI in 2023, which is a 37% increase from 2022. Eleven consumers had a length of stay over 30 days in 2023, while one consumer had a length of stay of 137 days. Of the 82 WMHI admissions in 2023, nine individuals (three youth and six adults) had multiple admissions over the course of the year, with one adult requiring five admissions. In 2022, 28 consumers admitted to WMHI were 20 years of age or younger, while in 2023, that number decreased slightly to 25.

Crisis Intervention Services and WMHI Admissions 2020-2023



Overall, the crisis unit had a diversion rate of 87%, which remains the same from 2022. Diversion represents the number of crisis contacts that did not result in a hospitalization. This number will continue to be tracked to measure relative success within the crisis unit. In 2024, the crisis unit is hoping to utilize more crisis stabilization services within the community. New resources have recently been established to assist with creating more diversions from hospitalizations. These services include crisis stabilization facilities for both youth and adults as well as in-home youth diversion services. With an increase in the utilization of these services, it is the expectation that the diversion rate will be higher in the future.

**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 in 2023 included 17 service facilitators, 3 therapists, 2 nurse case managers, 3 contracted service facilitators, 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 CSP program has continued to see low numbers due to assessing all consumers to determine if their needs meet the level of CSP programming, which is more intensive than other community-based programming. Consumers continue to be 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. In 2022, two consumers were served.

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 through contracted community providers. 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.

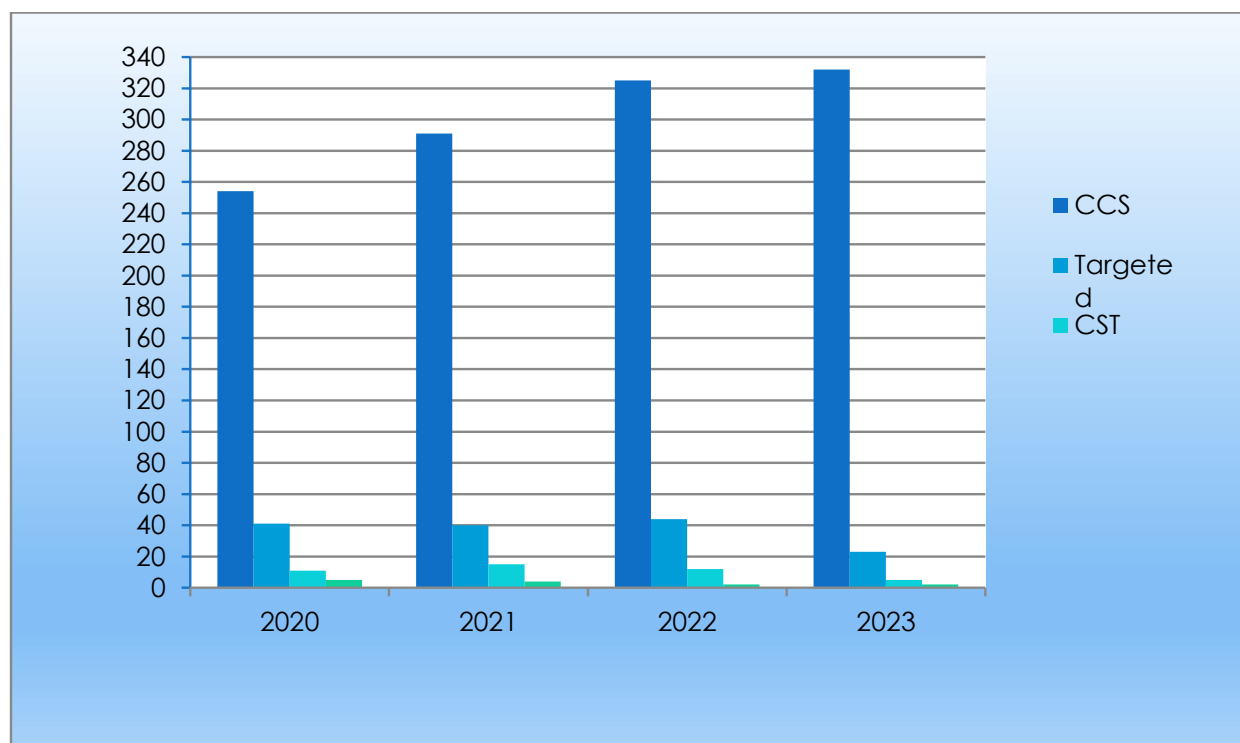
The CCS program continues to serve a large number of individuals with mental health and/or substance use concerns, especially the number of children and adolescents served. In 2023, we continued to increase our capacity by creating an additional fulltime service facilitator to serve children and adolescents who are enrolled in both CCS and the CLTS (Children's Long Term Support) program (within the Child and Adolescent Services unit). In addition, we continued a partnership with Sirona Recovery to dually enroll eligible participants of the grant-funded Opioid Treatment Center program into CCS as well, so as to provide additional mental health and substance use services and support where needed. Overall, the CCS program served a total of 332 consumers in 2023, as compared to 325 in 2022 and 291 consumers in 2021. This program continues to function as part of the Lakeshore Recovery Collaborative under a shared services model with Washington and Ozaukee Counties.

The Targeted Case Management (TCM) 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. In 2023, 23 consumers were served within TCM.

The Coordinated Services Teams (CST) Program, also called the Dodge County Wraparound program, has been active in Dodge County since 2008. In 2023, the CST program served a total of 4 youth. This number is lower than in years past due to more youth being eligible for the CCS program. The CST program services and supports to children and families who are not eligible for the CCS program because they do not have Medical Assistance. Dodge County funds the CST program through state block grant dollars.

2023 Data - Total number of consumers served as compared to previous 3 years:



**Kim Kunz, Supervisor
Community Based Mental Health Services
920-386-3831**

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – INTAKE UNIT

The philosophy of the Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake Unit is ensuring the safety of children while strengthening the family unit. Per Wisconsin State Statutes, children have specific basic needs which must be provided for, including: 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. Unborn children have certain basic needs, which too 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. Initial assessment social workers and the Intake Unit as a whole assess for and ensure these basic needs are being provided. The unit balances its responsibilities in ensuring child safety while simultaneously strengthening and empowering the family. 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 protection. The removal of a child from their home is the last option pursued when there is no option to ensure and control for child safety within the family home.

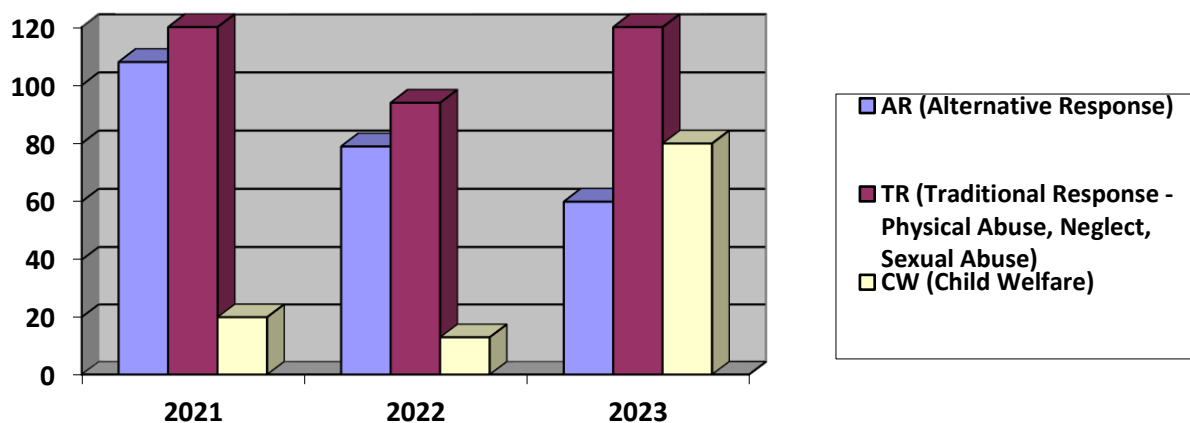
The Dodge County Child Protective Services Intake Unit consists of one access social worker who primarily answers phones when referrals are called in or meets with people in person should they come into the agency to make a report. If warranted, the access social worker may refer the person to other community service providers, other Dodge County departments, or other services within the Human Services and Health Department. All CPS 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 CPS Investigator or screen the case out. Cases that are screened out may also be referred to the Community Response Program depending on the information in the access report. The unit has five full-time CPS Investigator positions, and one full-time Community Response Social Services Aide who works at developing relationships with community-based services 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 need 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.

The CPS 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. They work closely with law enforcement agencies, 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 CPS 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 2023, the Child Protective Services Intake Unit investigated a total of 180 reports of alleged abuse or neglect. Of these reports, 89 were alleging neglect, 62 were alleging physical abuse, 31 were alleging emotional damage, and 1 was alleging unborn child abuse. This total number increased from 2022 when 173 reports were investigated. It should also be noted, referrals can include more than one form of maltreatment explaining why maltreatment types are higher than total investigations completed. Of these 180 referrals, 60 were provided services through the Alternative Response model. A total of 120 were provided services through the Traditional Response model. In 2023, there were also 80 child welfare reports, involving situations where no specific allegation of abuse or neglect was made; however, there were several concerns or issues present in the report information that warranted some involvement by this agency.

Courtesy Interviews and Requests (CI) from other counties comprised 7 cases in 2023, but the unit did not have any Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (ICPC) cases or Home Study requests from other counties or states in 2023.



Throughout 2023, 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 2023, 403 reports were made to the Community Response Program, which included many of the 80 Child Welfare cases referred to above, where there is no specific allegation of abuse or neglect, and families are offered outreach, education, and supportive resources to reduce the likelihood of future CPS contact and referrals.

The State of Wisconsin continues to focus on the Families First Act which targets keeping more families together and reducing the use of out-of-home care. This does not change the responsibility of the Child Protective Services Intake Unit's primary goal of ensuring the safety of children. This focus supports creative brainstorming and supportive services to keep families together while providing intensive services to promote behavioral change and the safety of children.

Lydia Elson, 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 work positions. 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 (also 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. Foster Care Coordinators work to spread the word in the community about the importance of foster care, and to recruit new families interested in providing this valuable resource to children in need of care.

The Home and Financial Advisor assists 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 individual 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 6 months since the age of 14. Services are provided both individually and in a group setting, and are intended to help prepare youth for independent functioning as adults.

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. These aides also provide assistance with supervised visits between children and parents.

2023 Accomplishments

In 2023, CPS continued to focus considerable efforts on learning about and implementing the State of Wisconsin's Family First Initiative, which is guided by the tenet of using teaming and services to prevent removal and promote reunification of children with their family. Three parenting groups were completed in 2023, with the 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. In 2023, there were 3 IL groups, two over the summer at Dodgeland School, every day of the week for 5 weeks, and the other at Waupun High School for 8 weeks. This program will be expanding to one more school in 2024. In the realm of Foster Care, the focus for 2023 continued to be on recruitment and advertising. However, Foster Care also implemented a mentorship program for new foster homes. New homes were teamed with more seasoned foster homes, so that they would feel more supported. A discount program was also implemented this year, for foster homes. Certain business throughout Dodge County were willing to give foster parents discounts at their places of business to support children in OHC.

	Total number of families served in CPS Ongoing unit	Total number of kids in out-of-home care
2022	136	66
2023	140	66

Over the course of 2023, the number of children placed in out of home care in Dodge County stayed the same as 2022. In 2023, four Termination of Parental Rights cases and seven Guardianships cases were processed in Dodge County. The CPS Ongoing unit meets regularly with the Dodge County Corporation Counsel to ensure that cases are processed promptly, and permanence is achieved for children unable to return home to their families.

2023 Trends

Dodge County continues to see a high number of cases with CPS involvement due to parental substance use, 45% in 2023. Additionally, in 2023, staff continued to have trouble finding residential facilities to admit children in need of this level of treatment, due to increased demand for beds statewide, and a decrease in bed availability across the state because of rate-setting changes at the State level. 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, however as of the end of 2023, there were no children placed in out-of-state care. 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 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.

**Lisa Grycowski, Supervisor
CPS Ongoing Services
920-386-3609**

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES UNIT

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

Seven licensed social workers (one position is currently vacant) 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.

With the Public Health Emergency ending in 2023, the Youth Justice unit saw a twenty-eight percent increase in delinquency referrals from 2022. This was the highest number of referrals received since 2019. 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 youths newly referred to Dodge County Youth Justice was less in 2023 than in previous years, and that for the fourth year in a row Dodge County saw higher rates of recidivism, seems to support that assertion and identifies an area of focus, which will continue to be addressed in the immediate future.

Total Number of Referrals	2022		2023			
Delinquency	134		172			
Truancy	47		37			
Prevention/Diversion	2		4			
2023 Referral Demographics						
	AGE					
Delinquency	5-9	10-12	13-14	15-16	17	
Standard Delinquency Referrals	5	31	79	57	-	
Prevention/Diversion	-	1	1	1	-	
Truancy	5-7	8-9	10-12	13-14	15-16	17
Standard Truancy Referrals	5	7	8	12	5	-
Prevention/Diversion	-	-	-	-	1	-

As identified above, there was a substantial increase in the number of delinquency referrals received by Dodge County in 2023, but a slight decrease in the number of truancy referrals received. In total, the Youth Justice workers served 131 youth in 2023. Thirty-three percent were females and sixty-seven percent were males. Thirty-nine percent of the delinquency referrals received were for youth who had never had contact with the youth justice system before, as compared to forty-three percent in 2022.

Also part of the Child and Adolescent Services Unit are seven case managers that work with children with disabilities and their families. Due to high caseloads and the increasing number of referrals, the Department added two case manager positions for this program in 2023. One limited term employee position from October of 2022 became a permanent position in January of 2023, and the other case manager position was added in April of 2023. These case managers work with clients to obtain services through the Children’s Long Term Support Program (CLTS) and the Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP), as well as to provide information and referral services for families that have children with disabilities. Both CLTS and CCOP are waiver programs that serve children up to the age of 22 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, or economic self-sufficiency. CCOP funds are 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 State 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 services system. If the child is ineligible for adult services, but they continue to be eligible for services through the CLTS program, they are able to continue receiving services until their twenty-second birthday.

Since 2018, the program has grown substantially. The dramatic increase in numbers of children served in CLTS and CCOP has required the addition of five case managers, two full-time “dual workers” and one part-time “dual worker” for children enrolled in both CLTS and CCS. Due to the continued high rate of referrals for programming, a waitlist was established.

	2022		2023	
	CCOP	CLTS	CCOP	CLTS
# Served	89	309	55	357

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, a division of Opportunities Incorporated in Beaver Dam, WI.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	101	96	115	125	132	145	140	142	143	134	149	135
2023	141	137	147	161	148	162	143	157	150	147	146	141

In 2023, the average number of children served on a monthly basis in the Birth to Three Program was 148, a notable increase compared to last year's monthly average of 130. This is likely attributed to the Public Health Emergency, which has brought an increase in stress and mental health concerns throughout the population.

**Jennifer Scharf, Supervisor
Child and Adolescent Services
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TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DIVERSION (TAD)

Dodge County continues to utilize Treatment Alternatives and Diversions (TAD) to reduce the negative impact of impaired driving and alcohol and drug addiction in the community. Both Drug Treatment Court (DTC) and Impaired Driving Court (IDC) were established in Dodge County in 2015 with a program design based on the National and Wisconsin Drug Treatment Court Models which have proven to advance public safety, reduce crime, and improve the health of individuals and the community. Both programs promote recovery through a coordinated response to participants 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 Judge's, 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, The Honorable Judge Kristine Snow presides over DTC and The Honorable 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 use disorder. IDC accepts offenders with third and fourth OWI convictions. Participants engage in integrated, evidence-based treatment and intensive case management services to address substance use and individual issues such as mental health, employment, financial and familial 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. Participants on probation are required to meet regularly with their agents.

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

In 2023, DTC had 3 participants successfully complete the program and IDC had 20 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 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 Dodge County Sherriff, Dale Schmidt. 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 Justice Point, 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, outpatient, and relapse prevention treatment. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) 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). The program continues to screen all arrestees in the Dodge County Detention Facility for treatment needs and connect these individuals to community treatment. In 2023, 214 individuals were seen in the Dodge County jail within 24-48 hours of arrest, 74 were referred for AODA or mental health treatment and the remaining individuals were left with resources based on reported needs. In 2023, 1 individual successfully completed the TAP program and has 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 or stimulant user, the case manager will initiate a referral to OTC for services and Vivitrol if needed. 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 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.

Angelica Muñoz, Treatment Courts Program Director
TAD
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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.

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