



Wauwatosa
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2021

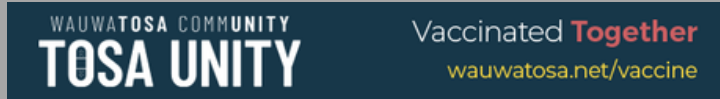
*Annual
Report*

7725 W. North Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

www.wauwatosa.net
414-479-8939

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National Fall Prevention Week 2021

Join us to stay strong and prevent falls!

Virtual Event
 Monday, September 20
 Facebook Live Kickoff Event
 11am-12pm
 Link to event available at <https://www.mcfpc.net/events/classes>

Free From Falls Resource Fair
 Socially distanced events held outdoors

Tuesday, September 21 10am-12pm Hart Park Senior Center 7300 W Chestnut St	Fall screenings Free snacks!
Thursday, September 23 10am-12pm Clinton Ross Senior Center 3045 N Martin Luther King Dr	Vision and hearing screenings Giveaways!

For more information visit www.mcfpc.net #FreeCheckUp



Health Equity

To achieve health equity, we must remove obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination and their consequences... such as preexisting conditions and access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, and safe environments and health care.

The starting place is respect and acceptance, and only then can we journey on toward equitable access to opportunities for health and well-being.

Choosing love to advance health equity starts with acknowledging both the harms that have been inflicted upon some populations... ..and a celebration of all that we have in common and how we are stronger together.

wauwatosa.net/healthequity



WAUWATOSA SENIOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

Hart Park Senior Center
7300 W Chestnut St

- Explore Active Adult Offerings available through the Rec Department
- Local Health and Wellness Opportunities
- Robert Laplander, famed author and musician, shares his classic country and Americana music.
- Free snacks!

This is a socially distanced event. Per Wauwatosa Recreation Department guidelines: "Face masks covering both the nose and mouth are currently required indoors for participants of all Recreation Department programming."

Wednesday,
September 15
Noon-3pm



Wauwatosa Harvest of the Month 2021-2022 Calendar

September Broccoli	October Apple	November Winter Squash
December Carrot	January Sweet Potato	February Cabbage
March Greens	April Asparagus	May Sweet Peas
June Tomato	July Pepper	August Summer Squash

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Health and staff at Wauwatosa Health Department.

Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has consumed a significant portion of our department's time and resources. Our team has worked tirelessly to conduct follow up on disease investigations, provide COVID-19 vaccines to our residents, support community partners, and deliver timely and accurate COVID-19 information to the community.

As we transition out of COVID-19 crisis response in 2022, we will continue our COVID-19 mitigation and prevention efforts, while also focusing on important issues such as mental health and substance use. We will strategically reintroduce work on our Community Health Improvement Plan, Strategic Plan, community health programming, health equity initiatives, and all the other health department work we haven't been able to focus on in the last two years. These programs and services are crucial to ensuring positive health outcomes for our community.

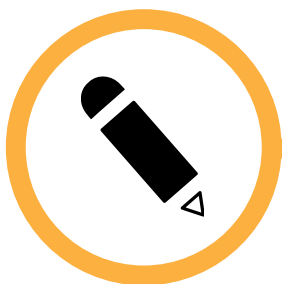
Thank you to the Wauwatosa Board of Health, City Administration, the Common Council, our volunteers, and each Health Department employee for their continued dedication and support of the important work we do every day to ensure all residents and visitors to Wauwatosa are happy, healthy, and safe.

Laura Stephens

Laura Stephens, MPH

City of Wauwatosa Health Officer & Wauwatosa Health Department Director

CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH



ASSESSMENT

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



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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



ASSURANCE

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

Wauwatosa Health Department Overview

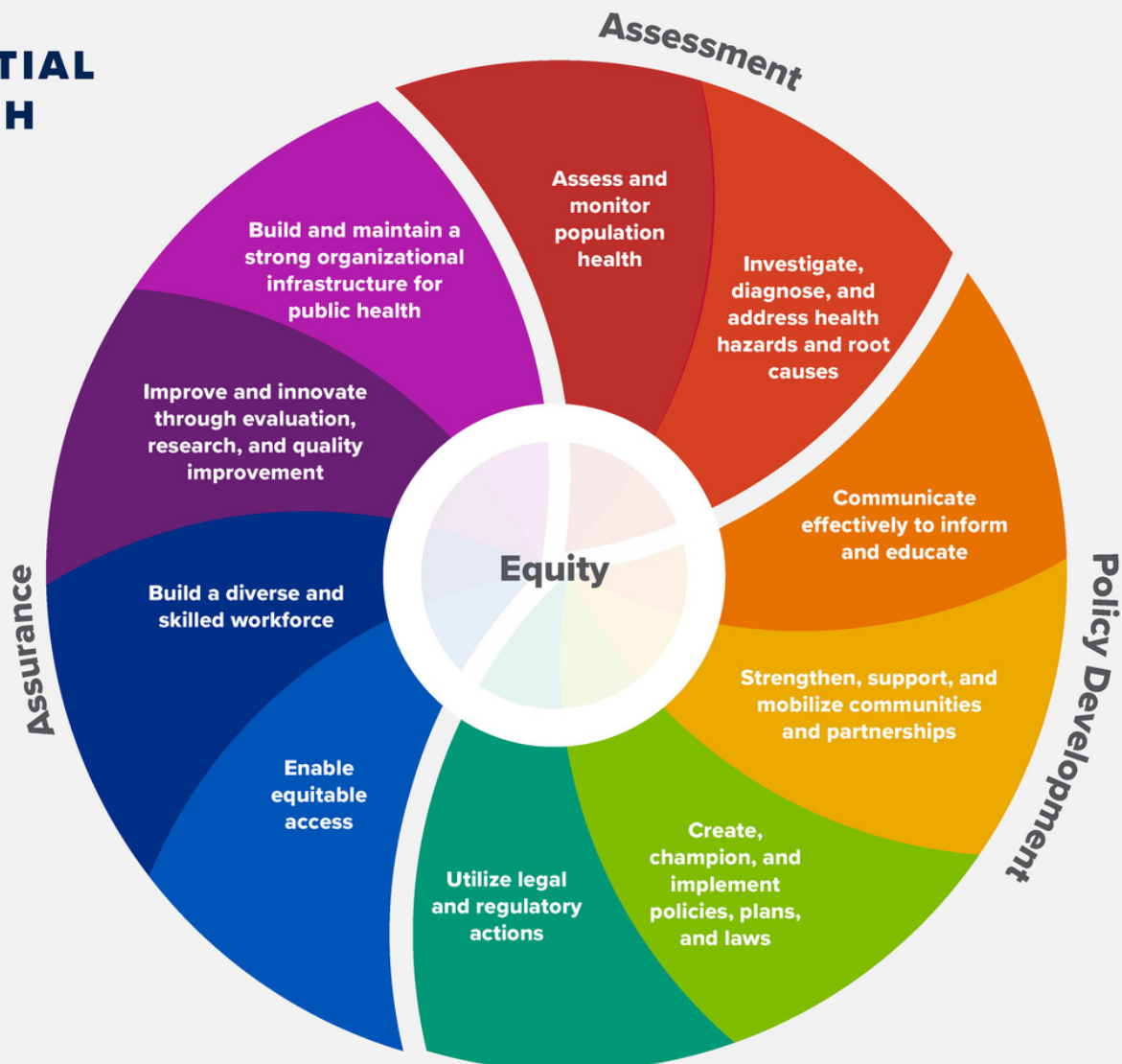
According to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 251.02(2), counties with a population greater than 500,000 must establish a local health department (LHD). Therefore, there is no county level health department for Milwaukee County, but rather 12 LHDs that are maintained at the municipal level.

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

THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve optimal health for all, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and services that enable good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers, such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression, that have resulted in health inequities. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.



Created 2020

Mission Statement

To protect, promote and assure conditions for the health and safety of all residents and visitors of Wauwatosa through the assessment of needs, assisting in the development of public health policies, and the provision of accessible, quality services.

Board of Health Members

Christine Shaw, PhD, APRN; Chair

Michael Walsh, Alderperson

Jennifer Cicero, MSW, LCSW; Member

John Dunn, MD; Member

Leslie Martin, MD; Member

Health Department Administration

Laura Stephens, MPH - Health Officer/Director

Meghan Spredemann MS, REHS, RS - Public Health Manager

Paige Bernau, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse Manager (resigned June 2021)

Emily Tianen, RN, BSN, CLC - Public Health Nurse Manager

Lisa Simonds - Administrative Support

Community Health Education Division

Kari Allison - Public Health Specialist

Carmen Pangilinan, MSW, APSW - Public Health Specialist

Environmental Health Division

Andy Budde, MS, RS - Sanitarian

Whitney Johnson - Sanitarian

Courtney Ameen, Administrative Support Specialist

Public Health Nursing Division

Dana Eick - Public Health Specialist & Clinic Coordinator

Sue Javoroski, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Ericka King, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Cindi Lambert, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Tim Maher, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Julia Nesheiwat, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Emily Tianen, RN, BSN, CLC - Public Health Nurse



Wauwatosa Health Department Services & Programs

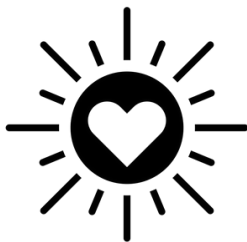
Public Health Nursing Services

Communicable Disease Monitoring & Follow Up:
Track, investigate, and work to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease and conditions.

Immunization Services:
Provide education and free immunizations to qualifying children and adults to reduce the spread of disease in our community.

Tuberculosis (TB Control) Services:
Control and prevent the spread of TB through treatment, case management and contact investigations.

Safe Syringe Disposal:
Provides risk-reduction information and accepts used needles for disposal to reduce the spread of disease.



Environmental Health

Animal Control Services:
Insure a safe and health environment between humans and animals in Wauwatosa by responding to rabies disease reports

Environmental Health Protection & Monitoring:
Investigate & follow up on spills, lead poisoning, and resident complaints that may affect our environment. Monitor water and air quality and other environmental factors that impact our community

Environmental Licensing and Inspection:
License and inspect food establishments, lodging facilities, and pools to reduce the occurrence of illness.

Water and Lead Paint Testing:
Provide household and recreational water testing for nutrients, metals and bacteria, and paint testing for lead.

Environmental & Community Health Emergency Preparedness & Response:
Respond to public health emergencies including bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and natural disasters.

Community Health Initiatives

Community Engagement:
Engagement in community outreach and collaboration using a health and racial equity framework to support policy, systems and environmental change to improve community health.

Health Policy:
Track and analyze policies that impact health and work with partners in multiple sectors, to incorporate health considerations into decision-making.

Epidemiology & Data Analysis:
Collect, organize, analyze, and communicate health-related data to assess community health, track health trends, prevent diseases and inform policies and programs to improve health

COVID-19 Response

Our Organization During the COVID-19 Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff have been largely organized into an Incident Command Structure (ICS). This structure is used by government agencies and their partners to organize efficiently and effectively during an emergency or event. This means staff have duties specific to the response and may report to someone other than their normal supervisor.

In order to host 210 total COVID-19/influenza clinics, WHD relied on the support of community volunteers. 221 volunteers provided assistance with a host of clinic responsibilities ranging from registration, sanitizing, monitoring to administration of vaccine.

COVID-19 in Wauwatosha

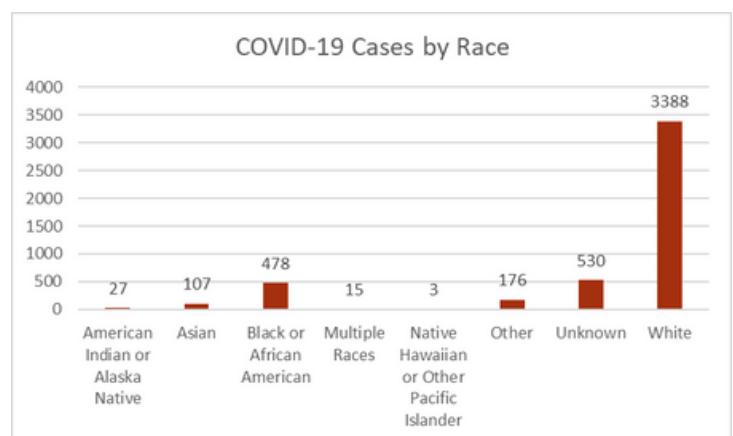
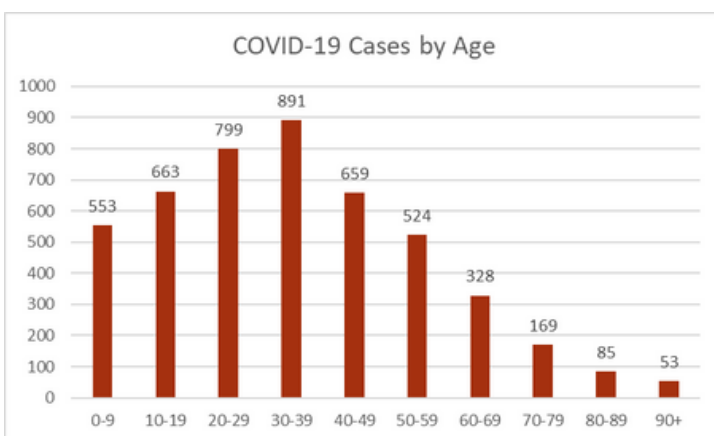
COVID-19 continued to be the primary focus of the Wauwatosha Health Department in 2021. As a result of the ongoing severity of the pandemic, as well as administration of a mass vaccination campaign, many of the Department's typical programs and services had to be paused in order to manage COVID-19.

Total confirmed cases: 4724 (does not include suspect cases)

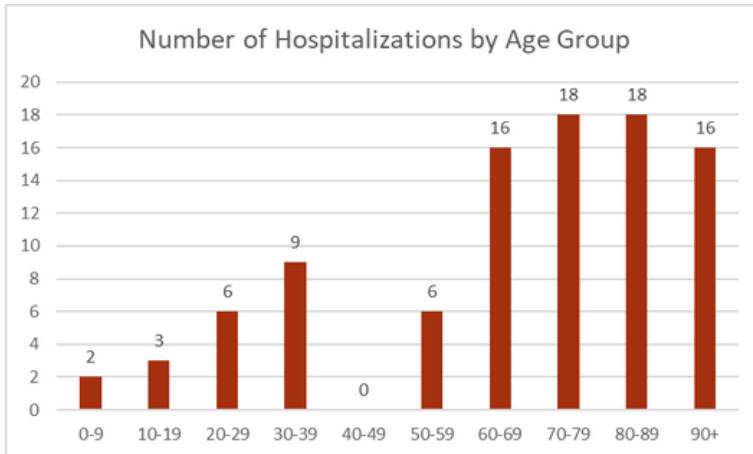
Total hospitalizations: 94

Total deaths: 19

These charts depict cases of COVID-19 in Wauwatosha residents based upon age and race

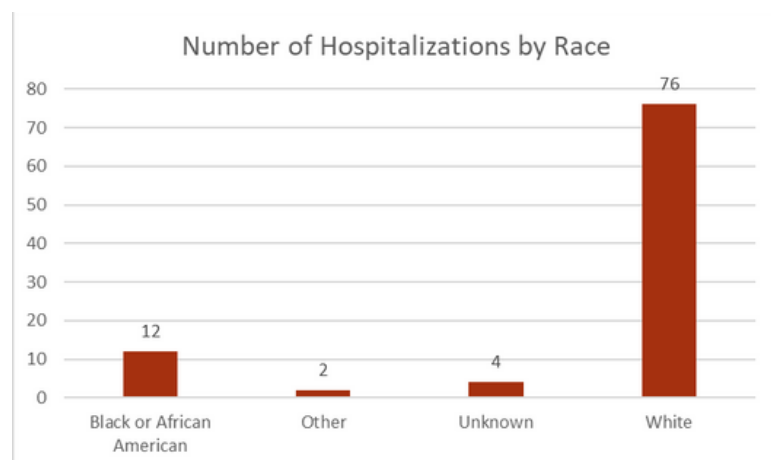


COVID-19 Hospitalizations



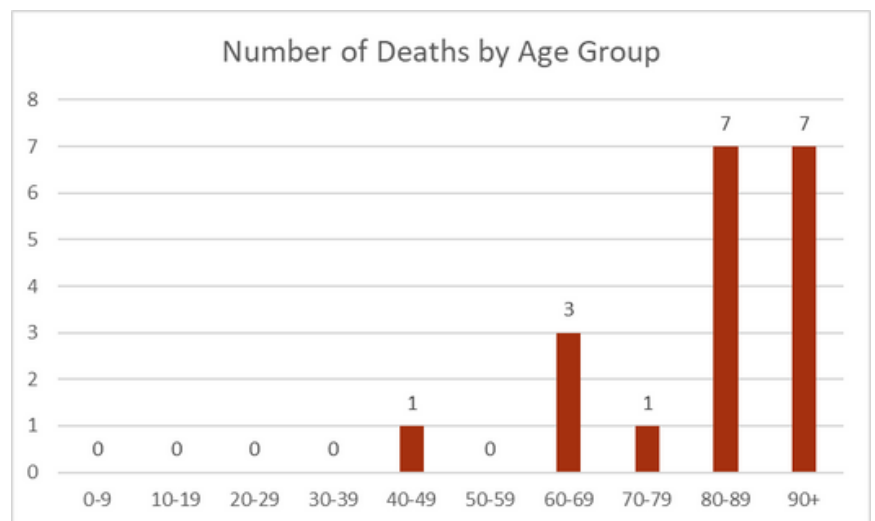
94 Wauwatosa residents were hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 in 2021. This compares to 99 hospitalizations between March and December of 2020.

The majority of hospitalizations took place among White individuals. Despite making up only 6% of the total population of Wauwatosa, 13% of hospitalized Wauwatosans were Black.



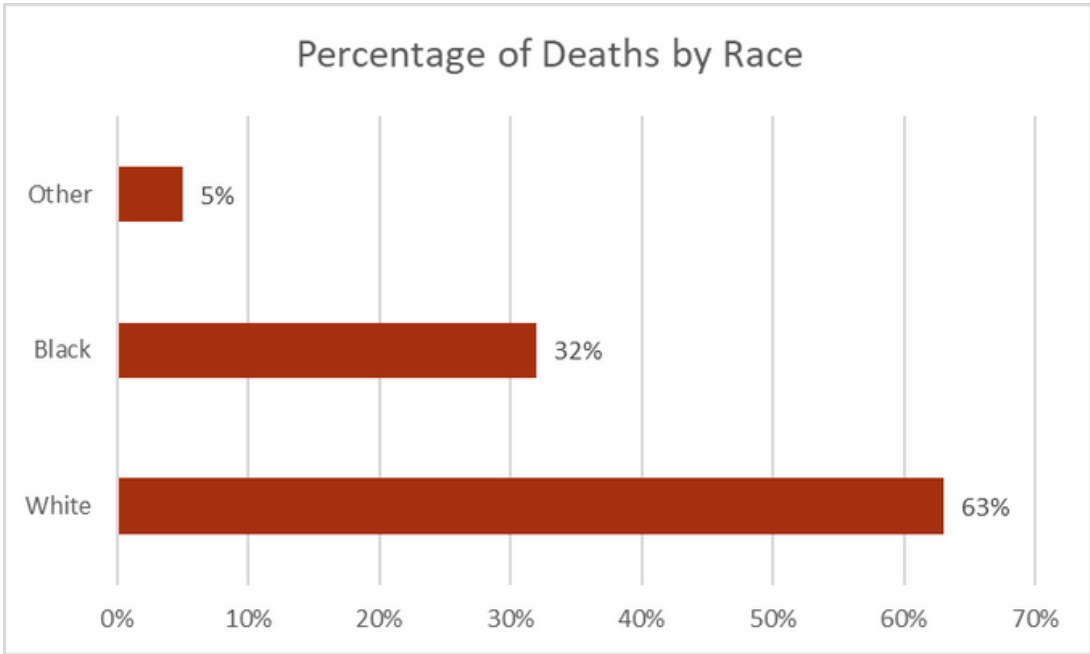
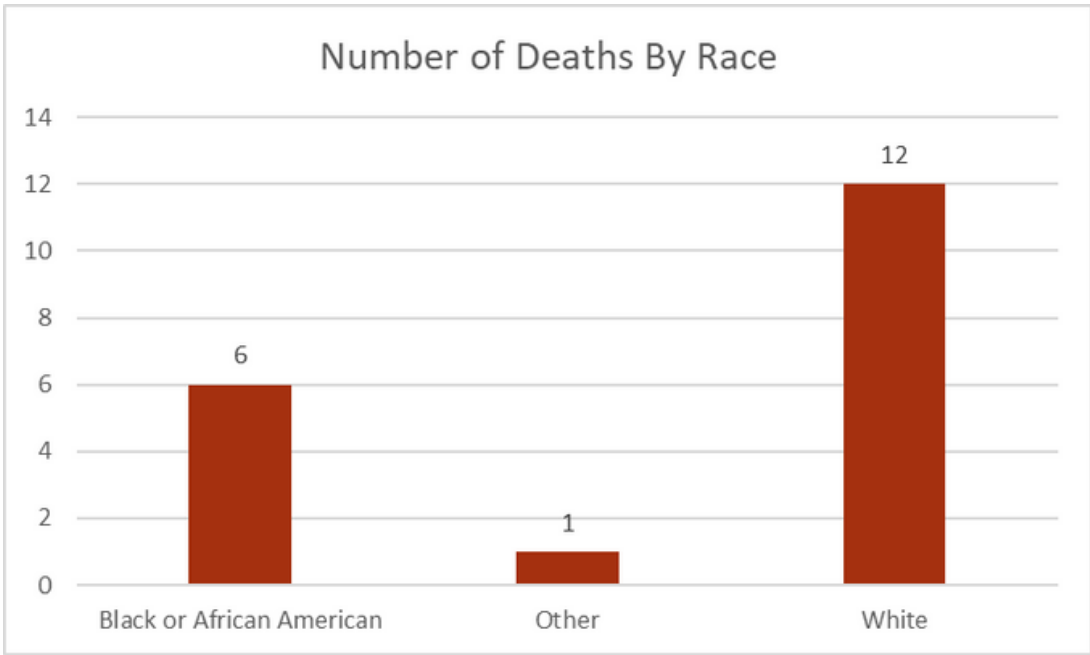
COVID-19 Deaths by Age

Nineteen Wauwatosa residents died as a result of COVID-19 in 2021, compared to 64 deaths between the months of March and December of 2020. In 2021 deaths skewed slightly younger, with a higher percentage of deaths in individuals under the age of 70 when compared to 2020. In 2020, 10% of deaths occurred in individuals under 70 compared to 21% of deaths in 2021.



COVID-19 Deaths by Race

Nineteen Wauwatosa residents died as a result of COVID-19 in 2021. As with hospitalizations, we see an over-representation of deaths among Black residents.



COVID-19 Response

Vaccination

On January 6, 2021 the WHD administered our first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Since that time, we've set up systems and workflows to book appointments and steadily increase the number of people we vaccinated per day. In 2021, we hosted 210 COVID vaccine clinics, including 15 pop-up vaccination clinics throughout the city.

Additionally, WHD gave 57 COVID and/or influenza vaccinations for homebound residents who were otherwise unable to access the immunizations. WHD also administers select vaccinations to individuals who meet eligibility requirements on an appointment basis.

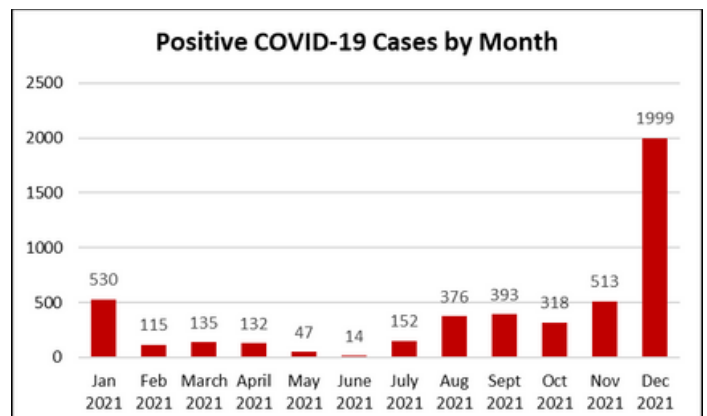
We hosted mass vaccination clinics on a daily basis until December of 2021 and will continue to provide vaccinations in 2022.



Contract Tracing & Support

Disease investigation is a critical intervention to slow the spread of disease. Case investigators contact people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to assess symptoms, support needs, review isolation procedures and solicit names of their contacts.

Cases of COVID-19 in Wauwatosa in 2021 closely mirrored statewide and national trends with large decreases in the number of positive cases reported as the vaccine became more readily available beginning in February. Cases remained lower through August, when the Delta variant began to surge. Wauwatosa saw unparalleled numbers of new cases in December which coincided with the surge of the Omicron variant.



Public Health Nursing Division



- 5454 referrals made to Public Health Nurses.
- 302% increase in number of referrals compared to 2019.

What do public health nurses do?

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

How do they do this?

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

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

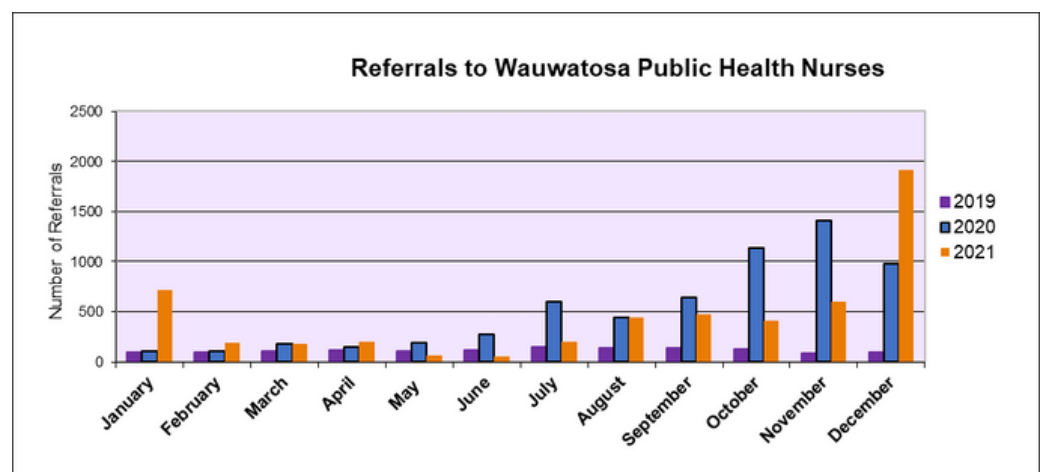
Public Health Focuses on Prevention -

some of our programs and services include:

- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Maternal Child Health services
- Outbreak investigations
- Communicable Disease Investigations
- Immunizations

2021 Public Health Nurse Referral Trends

Referrals to Wauwatosa Public Health Nurses continued to increase in 2021 due to COVID-19. In order to manage these COVID-19 cases, many of the other Public Health Nursing programs and services had to be suspended.



Communicable Disease and Surveillance

What is a Communicable Disease?

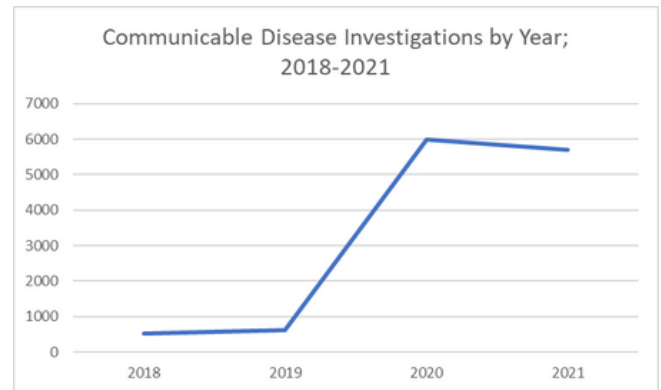
A communicable disease (CD), also known as an infectious disease, is an illness or condition that is transmitted through direct contact with an infected person or animal (Including COVID-19).

Why does WHD monitor communicable disease?

Wisconsin State Statute 252.03 states that a local health department "upon the appearance of any communicable disease in his or her territory shall immediately investigate all circumstances and do what is reasonable for the prevention and suppression of disease".

Communicable disease management accounts for a large portion of the health department's work hours. It requires detailed follow up to ensure protection of the public and is multi-faceted. Management may include investigation, inspection, laboratory collection, isolation and/or the provision of medications or vaccinations.

Communicable Disease Trends By Year



The COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause communicable disease investigations to remain extremely high. While the number of COVID-19 cases decreased slightly in 2021 from 2020, the overall number of Communicable Disease cases in 2021 still represents an 826% increase over 2019.

*Due to COVID-19, capacity to follow up on other communicable diseases was severely limited and suspended in some cases.

**Includes confirmed and suspect cases.

2021 Top Five Communicable Diseases* by case

1. COVID-19**	5290
2. Chlamydia	134
3. Gonorrhea	51
4. Lyme Disease	48
5. Hepatitis C	39

WHD in the Community

Typically all WHD staff participate in community outreach activities such as health fairs, community education and community-wide coalitions and committees. In-person opportunities continued to be cut short in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Online education, virtual events and coalition meetings continued to replace most in-person opportunities in 2021. However, there were a few opportunities to provide community education in person. In September of 2021 WHD participated in the "Free From Falls" Resource Fair at Hart Park Senior Center. This falls prevention event was held in partnership with the Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition. And also in September, WHD and the Wauwatosa Recreation Department collaborated to provide the second Senior Health and Wellness Fair at Hart Park Senior Center.

Community Education

- Falls Prevention Week Events
- Harvest of the Month
- Living Well with Chronic Conditions
- Monthly educational table in collaboration with Wauwatosa Library
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month in collaboration with Wauwatosa Police Department
- "Free From Falls" Resource Fair at Hart Park Senior Center
- Senior Health and Wellness Fair at Hart Park Senior Center
- Milwaukee County Wellness Symposium

Coalition and Committee Memberships

- Prevent Suicide Greater Milwaukee
- Wauwatosa Senior Commission
- Wauwatosa Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
- Milwaukee County Health and Human Services Wellness Committee
- Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition
- Wisconsin Coalition to End Loneliness and Social Isolation
- Milwaukee County Wellness Symposium Planning Committee
- Froedtert Community Health Improvement Advisory Committee
- Milwaukee County Overdose Prevention Public Health and Safety Team
- Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network



Environmental Health Division

Food Inspection Program

The City of Wauwatosa has 357 licensed establishments. 2020-2021 inspections were forced to be put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Licensed establishments are typically inspected at least annually.

51 Licensed establishment complaints or questions were followed up on by the Environmental Health Team in 2021.

Nuisances

According to City ordinance, a nuisance is "whatever is dangerous, unsanitary, or unwholesome to human life or health." The WHD conducted 97 nuisance inspections in 2021.

Top Nuisance Reports

Rats	60
Mold	5
Ground Feeding	4
Other animal	9
No Heat	4



Regulation of Animals

Animal Bites and Rabies Control

- Rabies determinations are critical because although very rare, rabies is almost 100% fatal if left untreated.
- Registered Sanitarians investigate all documented animals bites, most common being domestic dog bites.



Human Health Hazards (HHH)

According to City ordinance, HHHs are a "substance, activity, or condition that is known to have potential to cause acute or chronic illness or death; to generate or spread infectious diseases, or otherwise affect the health of the public if the exposure or condition is not abated." Examples of HHH that have been investigated are sewage back-ups, hazardous material exposure and residential hoarding.

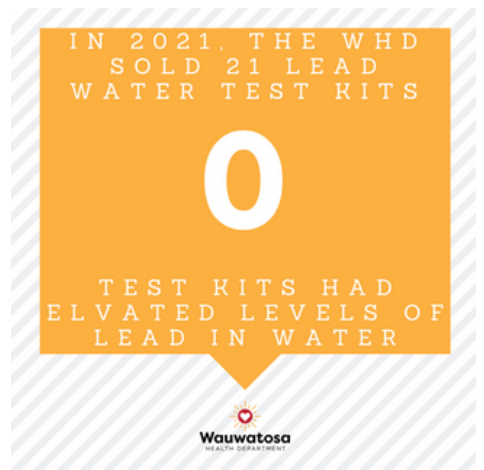


Lead

Many houses and apartments built before 1978 have paint that contains lead. Over 98% of the homes in Wauwatosa were built before 1978. Lead from paint can pose serious health hazards if not taken care of.

Lead's effects on children are worse as it is absorbed by their bodies more easily. A child's developing nervous system is more easily harmed by lead.

In 2021, WHD continued providing water test kits for residents with children under the age of 6 as well as pregnant women.



Radon

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



Community Health Education Division

Health education is intended to help individuals and communities improve their health by increasing their knowledge and influencing attitudes. Programming plays a key role in:

- Preventing disease and injury
- Improving health
- Enhancing quality of life
- Forging community partnerships

Wauwatosa Senior Health and Wellness Fair

- Partnership between Health Department and Recreation Department.
- Included information and representation from 30 local organizations and businesses.



WAUWATOSA SENIOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

Hart Park Senior Center
7300 W Chestnut St

- Explore Active Adult Offerings available through the Rec Department
- Robert Laplander, famed author and musician, shares his classic country and Americana music.
- Local Health and Wellness Opportunities
- Free snacks!

This is a socially distanced event. Per Wauwatosa Recreation Department guidelines: *Face masks covering both the nose and mouth are currently required indoors for participants of all Recreation Department programming.*

Wednesday,
September 15
Noon-3pm



Living Well with Chronic Conditions Workshop

- Partnership between Health Department, Milwaukee County Aging and Disability Resource Center and Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging.
- Using an action-based approach, provides participants with the skills to better manage their chronic conditions.
- Living Well with Chronic Conditions has been researched and proven to: Reduce average Emergency Department (ED) visits by 27% in the first six months following the intervention; and by 21% in first twelve months following the intervention. Reduce the average number of hospitalizations by 22% in first six months post intervention.



Falls Prevention Events

- Collaboration with Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition.
- Provided two in person (one hosted at Hart Park Senior Center) and two virtual events to connect the community with practical resources to prevent falls.
- Distributed newsletter articles and social media posts with falls prevention strategies.

National Fall Prevention Week 2021

MCFCPC
Milwaukee County
Falls Prevention Coalition
SPONSOR TOGETHER

Join us to stay strong and prevent falls!

Virtual Event
Monday, September 20
Facebook Live Kickoff Event
11am-12pm
Link to event available at <https://www.mcfcpc.net/events/classes>

Free From Falls Resource Fair
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Clinton Rose Senior Center
3045 N Martin Luther King Dr

Free snacks!
Fall screenings
Giveaways!
Vision and hearing screenings

For more information visit www.mcfcpc.net #COO: Falls/Free CheckUp

Emergency Preparedness

A public health emergency occurs when the ordinary health service capabilities of a community are overwhelmed by an extreme situation or event.

Emergency preparedness refers to the steps taken in order to be ready to respond to and stay safe during an emergency.

Emergency preparedness is an ongoing and collaborative community effort. Having programs in place before an emergency is critical so that agencies are able to support and enhance their response to the event. WHD is an active partner in emergency preparedness in the community.

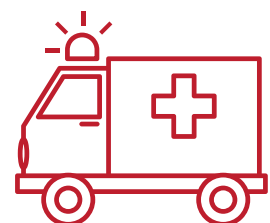
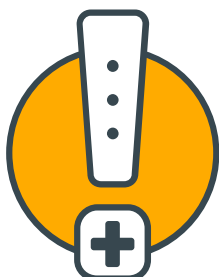


WHD Partnerships

- Southeast Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC)
 - HERC partners with healthcare facilities, public safety, and first responders. The coalition supports communities before, during, and after disasters and other health-related crises.
- Southeast Wisconsin Incident Management Team (SEW IMT)
 - SEW IMT assists local jurisdictions with the management of an incident, exercise or a preplanned event according to the principles of the Incident Command System to achieve an efficient, safe and effective response.

You can be a partner in preparedness!

Would you like to help the WHD and other community partners in the event of an emergency? Sign up on the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Registry (WEAVR). Your name and skill set will be stored and utilized as needed if an emergency were to occur in the Wauwatosa community. Sign up today at www.weavrwi.org



Stay in the Loop

Social Media

Visit us on Facebook at Healthy Wauwatosa, on Twitter @HealthyTosa and on Instagram @healthywauwatosa for daily public health news, education and community events.



Tosa Food Scoop

Quarterly newsletter sent to all licensed food establishments in Wauwatosa. Our Registered Sanitarians include the latest information on the Wisconsin Food Code and tips to keep establishments clean and safe.



Public Health Scoop

WHD's quarterly newsletter highlighting public health news and information for each season. Find paper copies throughout City Hall or electronically on our website: www.wauwatosa.net/health

