



Wauwatosa
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2022

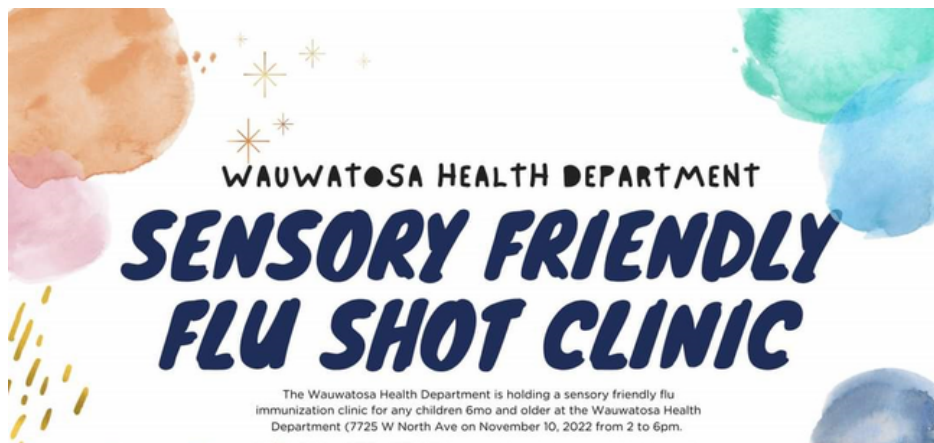
*Annual
Report*

7725 W. North Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

www.wauwatosa.net
414-479-8939

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WAUWATOSA HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

Exhibitors representing:

Wauwatosa local governmental services

Housing options

Specialty health care services - eye & hearing

Educational opportunities

Volunteer opportunities and MORE...

GREAT FOR:
Older Adults
Caregivers
Families

Wednesday, September 14
Noon-3pm
Hart Park Senior Center
7300 W Chestnut

Come to find opportunities to help achieve health and wellness in your life.

- ★ Blood Pressure Screenings
- ★ Snacks
- ★ Hearing Screenings
- ★ Local Resources
- ★ Healthy Food Demonstration
- ★ Giveaways

AARP Wisconsin

Thank you to our sponsors!

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE

City of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

has committed to becoming more age-friendly under the criteria established by AARP and has been accepted as a member of

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

THIS CERTIFICATION IS VALID UNTIL
January 13, 2024

Nancy A. LeMond, Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer
COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS
AARP | WASHINGTON, D.C.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities is a program of the AARP Livable Communities initiative and serves as the organizational affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.®

[AARP.org/AgeFriendly](https://www.aarp.org/AgeFriendly)

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Health and staff at Wauwatosa Health Department.

Over the past year, our department reintroduced many of the programs and services that were on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. We were also able to add several new positions to address major health concerns in our community, including substance use and mental health. Through all of this, we maintained a focus on health equity and continued our COVID-19 response by ensuring access to vaccines, testing, and care.

In 2022, we completed our Community Health Assessment and used the results to begin our work on our next Community Health Improvement Plan. We also began an internal strategic planning process to help our department define the future of our work and our role in the Wauwatosa community. In 2023, we will continue using the Public Health 3.0 framework to guide the work of our department. This will include hiring a Public Health Strategist, cultivating our community partnerships, and using localized data to evaluate and inform our programs and services.

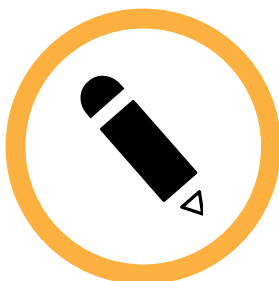
Many thanks to the Wauwatosa Board of Health, City Administration, Common Council, our volunteers, and each Health Department employee for their continued dedication and support of the important work we do every day. We look forward to continuing to improve our programs and services to ensure a healthy, safe, and equitable Wauwatosa.

Laura Stephens

Laura Stephens, MPH

City of Wauwatosa Health Officer & Wauwatosa Health Department Director

CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH



ASSESSMENT

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



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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

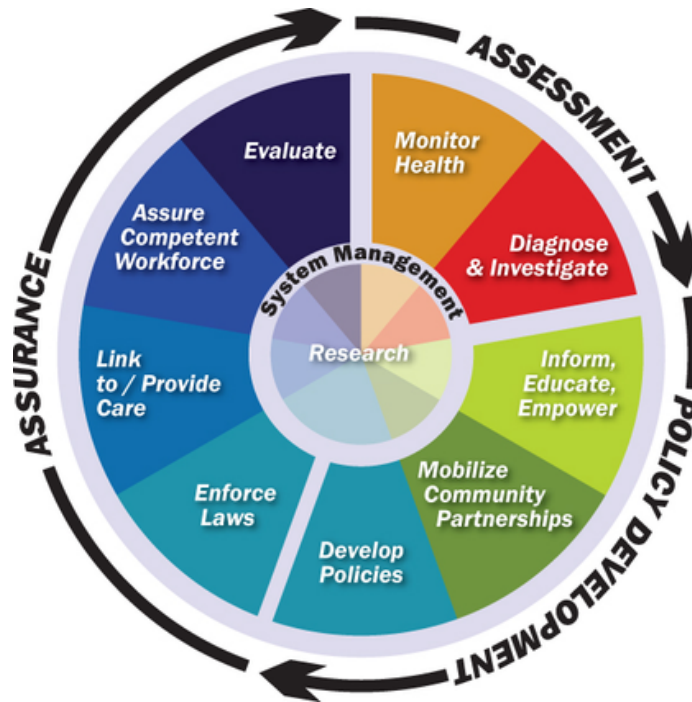


ASSURANCE

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

Wauwatosa Health Department Overview

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



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

Modernization of Public Health- Public Health 3.0

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

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

5 Main Recommendations of Public Health 3.0

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



Wauwatosa Health Department Overview

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

A healthy, safe, equitable Wauwatosa

Core Values

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

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

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

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

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



Board of Health Members

Robin Brannin, Alderperson

Jennifer Cicero, MSW, LCSW; Member

John Dunn, MD; Member

Leslie Martin, MD; Member

Christine Shaw, PhD, APRN; Chair

Health Department Administration

Lisa Simonds - Administrative Assistant

Meghan Spredemann MS, REHS, RS - Public Health Manager

Laura Stephens, MPH - Health Officer/Director

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

Community Health Division

Kari Allison - Public Health Specialist

Carmen Pangilinan, MSW, APSW - Public Health Specialist

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

Aneshia Scott, MS, LPC-IT - Substance Use Specialist

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

Environmental Health Division

Courtney Ameen, Administrative Support Specialist

Andy Budde, MS, RS - Registered Sanitarian

Dana Eick - Public Health Specialist & Clinic Coordinator

Whitney Johnson - Sanitarian

Public Health Nursing Division

Ashley Hoffman, 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 (retired July 2022)

Julia Nesheiwat, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Mary Beth Tyson, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse



Community Health Division

Community Health Assessment
Community Engagement
Community Education
Community Health Improvement Planning



Coalition Work
Partnership Building
Social Work Services
Substance Use Harm Reduction Services

What is community health?

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

Services and Programs

Community Health Assessment (CHA):

- The CHA
 - Is updated every five years
 - Measures the health and quality of life of Wauwatosa residents
 - Provides accurate, credible and valid information to guide public health decision making as a result of the systemic review of quantitative and qualitative data.
 - Engages citizens and partners in listening sessions, a community-wide survey and a community partner meeting.
 - Raises awareness of public health needs, emerging issues, strengths and challenges within the community.

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.

IN 2022, WHD STAFF PARTICIPATED IN

14

LOCAL AND STATEWIDE COALITIONS



IN 2022, WHD STAFF PARTICIPATED IN

9

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS



Community Health Division

Services and Programs

Community Education:

Community Education can improve the quality of life by providing lifelong learning opportunities for all members of the community. Examples of Community Education provided in 2022 include:

- Falls Prevention Week Events
- Harvest of the Month Program
- Living Well with Chronic Conditions Workshop
- Monthly educational table in collaboration with Wauwatosa Library
- Senior Health and Wellness Fair at Hart Park Senior Center
- Milwaukee County Wellness Symposium



Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP):

Work began on the CHIP in 2022.

The CHIP is:

- A long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems in a community
- Developed collaboratively, and defines a vision for the community's health
- A plan that belongs to the entire community

COMMUNITY CHOSEN
CHIP PRIORITIES

HOUSING
MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL
CONNECTION
SUBSTANCE USE



Age-Friendly Tosa

- City of Wauwatosa received Age-Friendly designation from AARP and the World Health Organization
- Indicates a commitment to making the community more livable for people of all ages
- Conducted survey regarding community needs and strengths
- Creating action plan to increase community livability for all based upon survey findings
- Community Health Staff lead community wide efforts and steering committee

COMMUNITY CHOSEN
ACTION PLAN
PRIORITIES

COMMUNICATION
HOUSING
RESPECT & SOCIAL
INCLUSION



Community Health Division

Services and Programs

NEW

As a result of ARPA funding, the Health Department was able to add new services and staff to the Community Health Division.

Social Work Services:

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

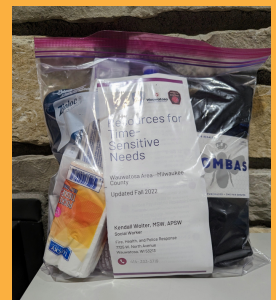
Wauwatosa City Social Worker 2022 Year Highlights

May 1, 2022-December 31, 2022

**Total
Referrals:
102**

- Mental Health: 33
- Substance Use: 13
- Domestic Violence: 10
- Human Health Hazard: 8
- Aging: 10
- Resource: 28

- **Links to services**
- **Victim advocacy**
- **Build partnerships**
- **City department collaboration**
- **Community harm reduction**
- **Hygiene supply kits**



- **Youth Mental Health Social Worker**
 - Assists youth in Wauwatosa through partnerships with the Wauwatosa School District and private local schools.
 - Focus is on addressing the negative effects of the pandemic on youth mental health.
 - Conducts mental health assessments, assists with referrals to treatment and other mental health resources, and provides education to students, teachers, and families on a variety of mental health topics.

Youth Mental Health Social Worker 2022 Year Highlights

September 6, 2022-December 31, 2022

**Total
Referrals:
65**

- Mental Health: 34
- Community Resources: 19
- School Attendance- 12

- **Links youth and families to mental health resources**
- **Links to basic need resources**
- **Addresses homelessness**
- **Encourages attendance**
- **Provides donated clothing to meet basic needs**

Community Health Division

Services and Programs

NEW

Substance Use Harm Reduction Services:

- Substance Use Specialist
 - Focuses on prevention and risk reduction around opiates, prescription drugs, marijuana, and alcohol use.
 - Implements the HALO Program - Substance use resources for all ages
 - Overdose prevention and education
 - Harm reduction kits including Narcan and fentanyl test strips
 - Medication lock boxes and disposal kits
 - Support for family members and friends

Substance Use Specialist

2022 Year Highlights

September 6, 2022-December 31, 2022

- **Created HALO Program**
- **Received Narcan in December and began distributing throughout the community**
- **Began receiving referrals from Wauwatosa School District**



Environmental Health Division

Animal Control Services
Protection and Monitoring
Environmental Licensing and Inspection



Water and Lead Paint Testing
Environmental and Community Health
Emergency Preparedness and Response

What is environmental public health?

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

Services and Programs

Animal Control Services:

Insure a safe and healthy 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.

Environmental Health Division

Food Inspection Program

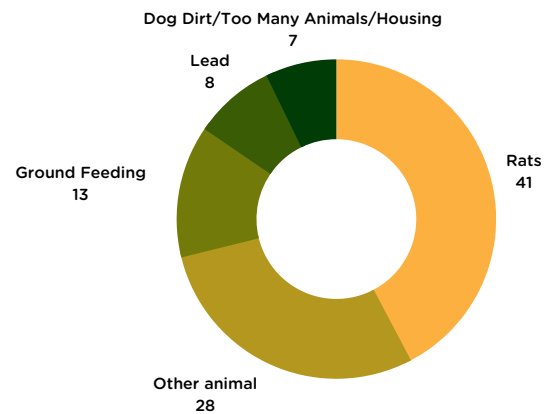
The City of Wauwatosa has 332 licensed establishments, 315 of which were inspected in 2022.

35 Licensed establishment complaints or questions were followed up on by the Environmental Health Team in 2022.

Nuisances

According to City ordinance, a nuisance is "whatever is dangerous, unsanitary, or unwholesome to human life or health." The WHD conducted 134 nuisance inspections in 2022.

Top Nuisance Reports



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.

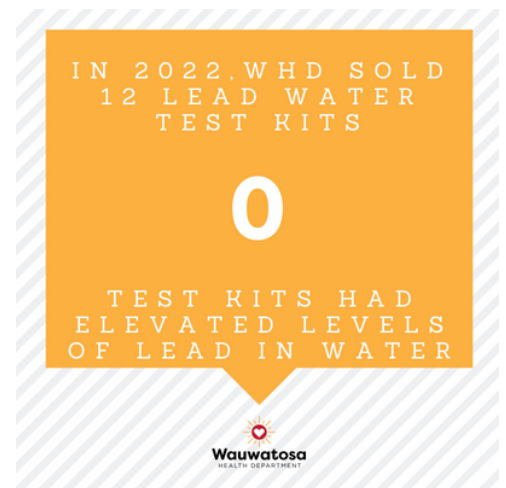


Lead

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 2022, 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.



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!

Sign up for Wauwatosa.net/alert

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

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



Public Health Nursing Division

Communicable Disease Investigations
Immunizations
Outbreak Investigations



Lead Poisoning Prevention
Maternal Child Health Services
Community Education & Outreach

What is public health nursing?

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

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

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

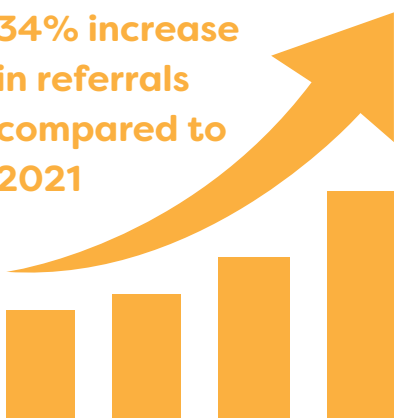
IN 2022, WHD NURSES
FOLLOWED UP ON

7340

REFERRALS

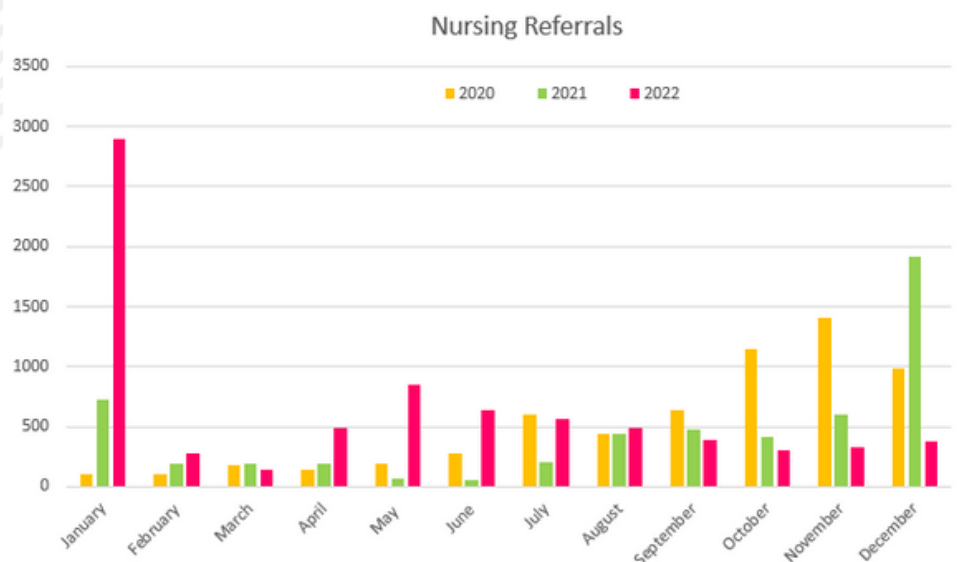


**34% increase
in referrals
compared to
2021**



2022 Public Health Nurse Referral Trends

Referrals to Wauwatosa Public Health Nurses remained high in 2022 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 for a portion of the year.



Public Health Nursing Division

Services and Programs

Communicable Disease Monitoring & Follow Up:

Track, investigate, and work to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease and conditions.

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).

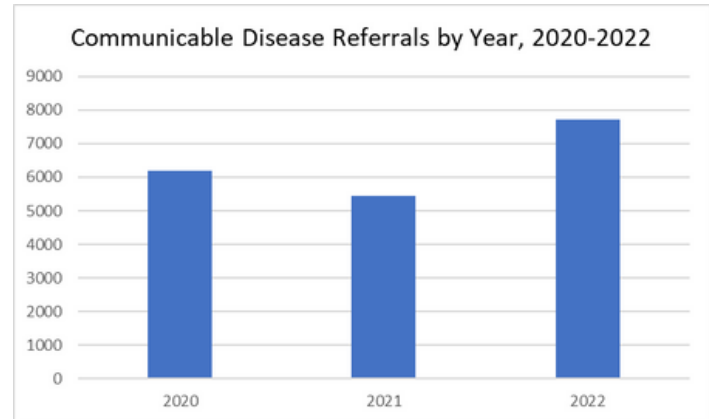
Why does WHD monitor communicable disease?

Wisconsin State Statute requires local health departments to immediately investigate all circumstances and do what is reasonable for the prevention and suppression of disease.

Communicable disease management requires detailed follow up to ensure protection of the public and the work 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. 2022 also saw an alarming increase in the number of Syphilis cases in Wauwatosa as well as nationwide. The City of Milwaukee follows up on all Syphilis cases that occur within Milwaukee County.

*Due to COVID-19, capacity to follow up on other communicable diseases was severely limited or suspended for a portion of the year.

**Includes confirmed and suspect cases.

2022 Top Six Communicable Diseases* by case

1. COVID-19**	7373
2. Chlamydia	163
3. Gonorrhea	43
4. Tuberculosis (suspect)	35
5. Influenza (hospitalized)	28
6. Syphilis	26

STI Prevention



Public Health Nursing Division

Services and Programs

Immunization Services:

Public Health Nurses provide education and free immunizations to qualifying children and adults to reduce the spread of disease in our community. In 2022, immunization services were provided by appointment in the office, in the home to homebound residents, as well as in mass clinics.

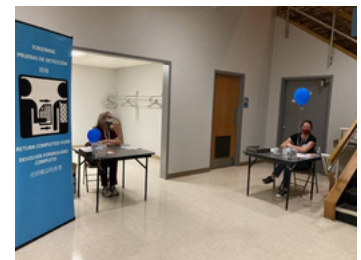
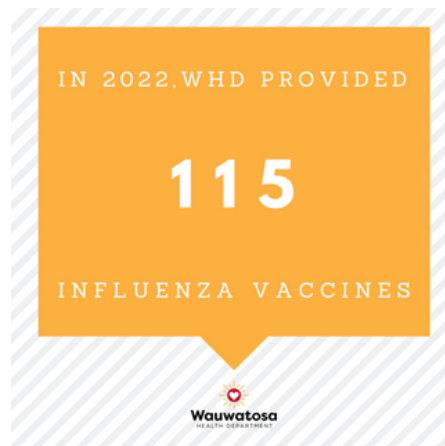
COVID Vaccination

For the first four months of 2022, WHD provided COVID vaccinations on an appointment basis. Later in the year, we partnered with AMI to provide COVID and influenza vaccine services in **seven** mass clinics as well as to homebound residents.



Influenza Vaccination

Between our mass clinic, regular clinic hours and homebound services, WHD Provided **115** influenza vaccines in 2022.



NEW

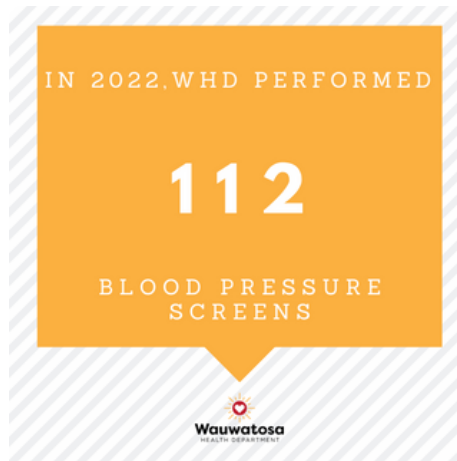
Sensory Friendly Clinic

WHD introduced our Sensory Friendly Clinic in 2022. What is a Sensory Friendly Clinic? The clinic is designed to provide a supportive environment that is calm and flexible while offering access to tools and accommodations to patients. We are able to offer individualized accommodations when needed, such as a modified immunization process. Children are asked to please bring their own headsets when attending the clinic, and we have toys, fidgets, and other distractions to create a welcoming environment.

Public Health Nursing Community Education and Outreach

Community Blood Pressure Screenings

Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings at Hart Park Senior Center were reinstated in 2022.

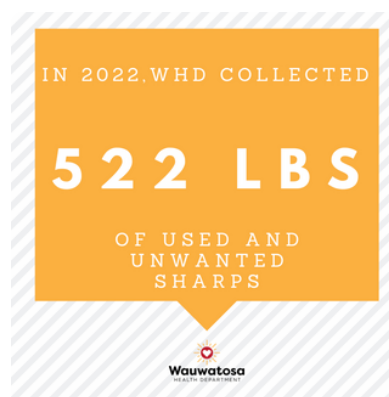


NEW

Partnership with the Wauwatosa Library to hold monthly blood pressure screenings inside the library.

Safe Drug and Syringe Disposal

As part of the Tosa Green Summit and in partnership with the Wauwatosa Police Department, WHD collected unused and unwanted medications to reduce the possibility of it getting into the wrong hands.



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

NEW

Certified Lactation Counseling Services

One of WHD's public health nurses obtained certification as a lactation counselor and will be offering services to support new parents.

NEW

Car Seat Fittings

One of WHD's public health nurses gained certification as a car seat technician and will be partnering with the Wauwatosa Fire Department to provide car seat fittings to ensure car seats are strapped in properly.

Falls Prevention Services - Reintroduced and Reimagined

Two of WHD's public health nurses will be receiving training in the evidence based Stepping On Falls Prevention Program and will provide workshops after obtaining certification. WHD has re-established a partnership with the Fire Department and is working on processes to follow up with and provide support and resources to community members who have fallen.

Stay in the Loop

Social Media

Visit us on Facebook at Wauwatosa Health Department, on Twitter @HealthyTosa and on Instagram @wauwatosahhealthdepartment for updated public health news, education and community events.



Health Department Website

Find community resources related to topics such as:

Substance use:
wauwatosa.net/substanceuse

Mental Health: wauwatosa.net/mentalhealth

Rats: wauwatosa.net/rats

Vaccines: wauwatosa.net/vaccine

Health Equity: wauwatosa.net/healthequity

And much more at wauwatosa.net/health

Public Health Newsletter

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

Contact Us

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