



**Wauwatosa**  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2023

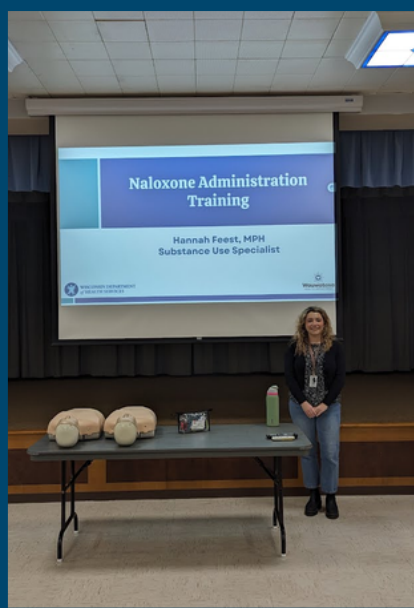
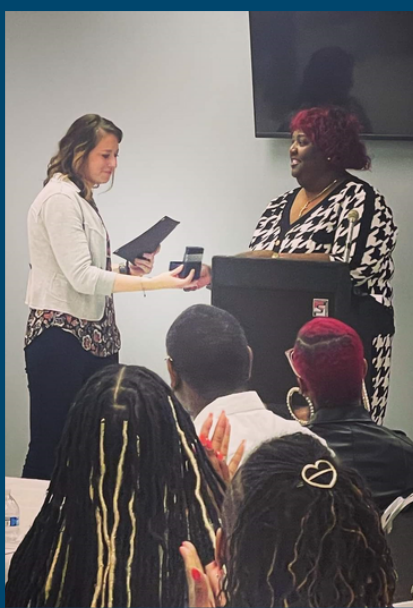
*Annual  
Report*

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Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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# FROM THE DESK OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Health and staff at Wauwatosa Health Department.

Throughout 2023, our department made significant strides in addressing key health concerns in our community, with a focus on mental health, substance use, and reproductive health. Over the past year, we implemented our Community Health Improvement Plan, which includes targeted strategies for housing, mental health, and substance use. We also developed our department's strategic plan to better define our role and priorities in the Wauwatosa community. We added several new programs and services, and we brought on our facility dog, Jordan, to provide support to first responders and other city employees.

Moving forward, we will continue to emphasize community engagement, data-driven decision-making, and strategic partnerships. This includes growing and evaluating our current programs while preparing for new challenges. We continue to use Public Health 3.0 as a model to guide our department and health equity remains at the center of our work.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Wauwatosa Board of Health, City Administration, Common Council, volunteers, community partners, and dedicated Health Department employees for their unwavering support and commitment to improving the health and well-being of our community. Together, we look forward to advancing our programs and services to foster a healthier, safer, and more equitable Wauwatosa in the years to come.

*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.



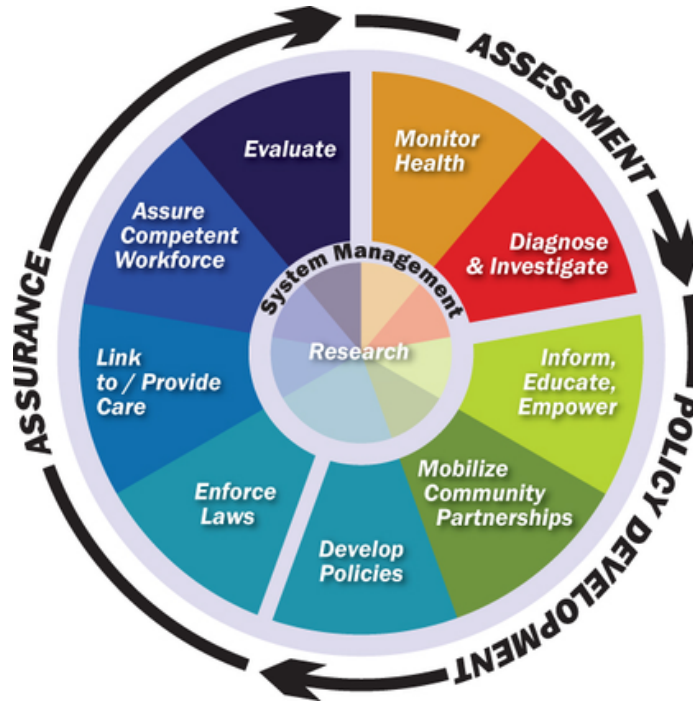
### ASSURANCE

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 toward 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**

Laura Stephens, MPH - Health Officer/Director

Carmen Pangilinan, MSW, APSW - Public Health Strategist

Lisa Simonds - Administrative Assistant

Meghan Spredemann MS, REHS, RS - Public Health Manager

Emily Tianen, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse Manager

## **Community Health Division**

Kari Allison - Public Health Specialist

Hannah Feest, MPH, Substance Use Specialist

Kristen Hecht, MBA, Public Health Specialist

PaChee Lee, MSW, APSW - Youth Mental Health Social Worker

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

Aneshia Scott, MS, LPC-IT - Substance Use Specialist (resigned August 2023)

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

## **Environmental Health Division**

Courtney Ameen, Administrative Support Specialist

Andy Budde, MS, RS - Environmental Health Specialist

Dana Eick - Public Health Specialist & Clinic Coordinator

Olivia Feider - Environmental Health Specialist

## **Public Health Nursing Division**

Ashley Hoffman, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse

Ericka King, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Cindi Lambert, RN, BSN, CLC - Public Health Nurse

Julia Nesheiwat, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

Mary Beth Tyson, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse

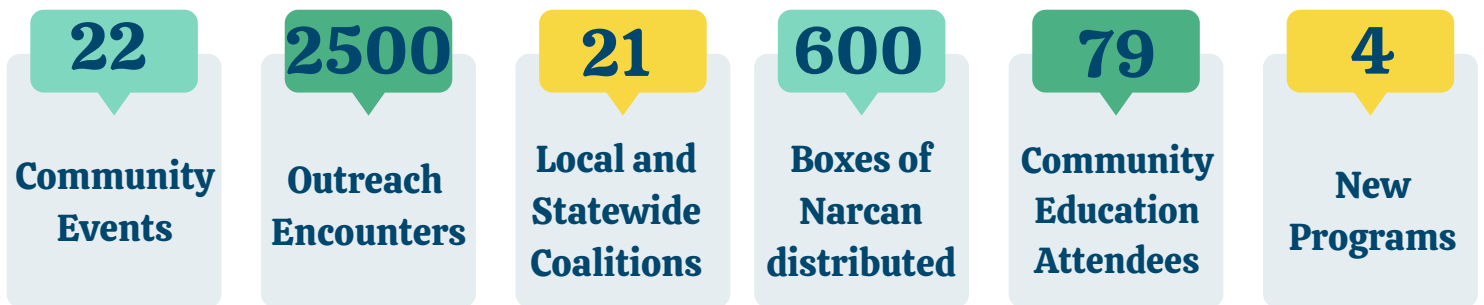


# Community Health Division

## 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.

## 2023 Community Health By The Numbers



### 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

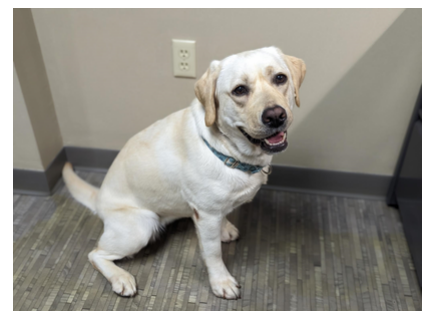
#### 2023 Year Highlights

**Total Referrals:**  
**185**

- Mental Health: 57
- Aging: 45
- Resource: 27
- Homeless: 25
- Human Health Hazard: 19
- Domestic Violence: 6
- Substance Use: 6

## Facility Dog

- In 2023, City Social Worker Kendall Wolter facilitated acquiring Facility Dog, Jordan, to be shared among Health, Police, and Fire.
- Jordan shares time between departments and offers support and comfort.



### Youth Mental Health Social Workers

#### 2022-23 School Year Highlights

- **Elementary School Interactions: 377**
- **Middle School Interactions: 587**

### Youth Mental Health Social Workers

- Assist youth in Wauwatosa through partnerships with the Wauwatosa School District and private local schools.
- Conduct mental health assessments, assist with referrals to treatment and other mental health resources, and provide education to students, teachers, and families on a variety of mental health topics.



# Community Health Division

## Community Health Improvement Plan and Age-Friendly Community Update

### Priority

Mental Health & Social Connection

- **Tosa Tech Time** - intergenerational technology assistance program
- **Wonder Wednesdays** - intergenerational program for middle school students
- **Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) license and curriculum grant** - evidence-based programming
- **Outreach packet of information to homebound residents**

### Priority

Housing

- **Creation of comprehensive Housing Resources List**
- **Community Education - How Housing Relates to Health**
- **Promotion of Wauwatosa Home Loan Repair Program and RAVE alert system program**
- **Partnership with Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management to provide emergency preparedness training**

### Priority

Substance Use

- **Established placement of Narcan in Wauwatosa Public School and City Hall AED cabinets**
- **Provided community Narcan training**
- **Re-established partnership with Wauwatosa Police Department for alcohol and tobacco compliance checks.**
- **Worked closely with Wauwatosa Police and Fire to examine data and trends to inform future interventions**



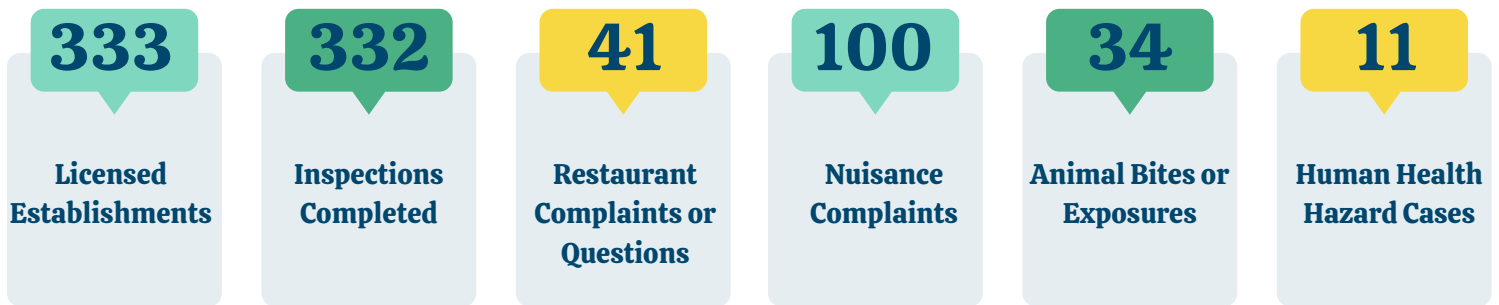


# Environmental Health Division

## What is environmental public health?

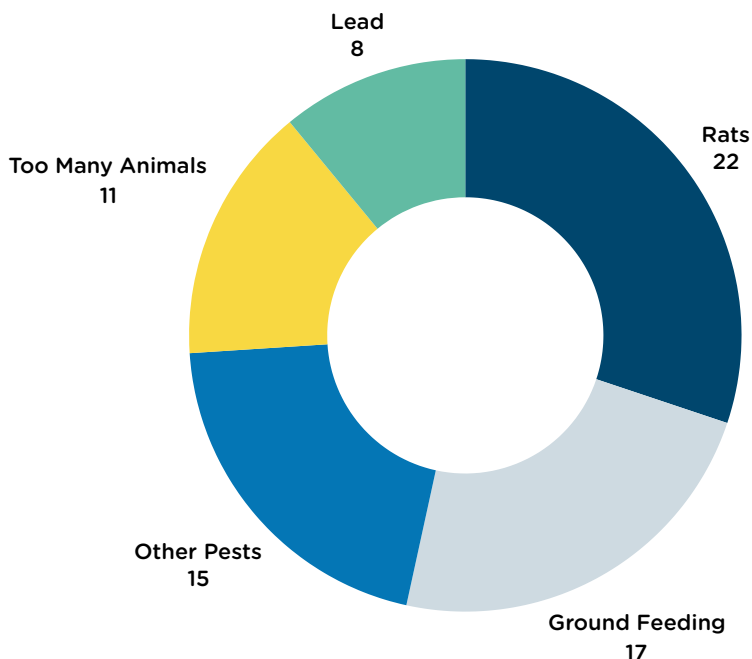
Environmental health is the branch of public health that focuses on the relationships between people and their environment, promotes human health and well-being, and fosters healthy and safe communities.

## 2023 Environmental Health By The Numbers



## Top 5 Nuisance Report Categories

According to City ordinance, a nuisance is "whatever is dangerous, unsanitary, or unwholesome to human life or health."



## Radon Test Kit Program

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

The WHD continues to plan, prepare, and respond to public health emergencies in collaboration with local, regional, and state partners. The WHD continued to mobilize and enhance efforts to mitigate the spread of disease in our community. Additional updates were made to the local Public Health Emergency Readiness/ Preparedness Plan.

## 2023 Emergency Preparedness By The Numbers

2500

COVID-19 Test Kits Distributed

582

Volunteers Registered in WEAVR

1

Wauwatosa Emergency Alert was sent to the public



## Become an Emergency Preparedness Volunteer!

Sign up today at [www.weavrwi.org](http://www.weavrwi.org)

We track our volunteers on 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.

## Be our partner in preparedness!

Sign up for [Wauwatosa.net/alert](http://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.



SIGN UP FOR  
**EMERGENCY ALERTS**  
[wauwatosa.net/alert](http://wauwatosa.net/alert)

# Public Health Nursing Division

## 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)

## 2023 Public Health Nursing By The Numbers

815

Total  
Nursing  
Referrals

201

Community  
Blood  
Pressure  
Screenings

26

Car Seat  
Fittings

185

Pounds of  
Expired  
Medication  
Collected

625

Pounds of  
Sharps  
Collected

142

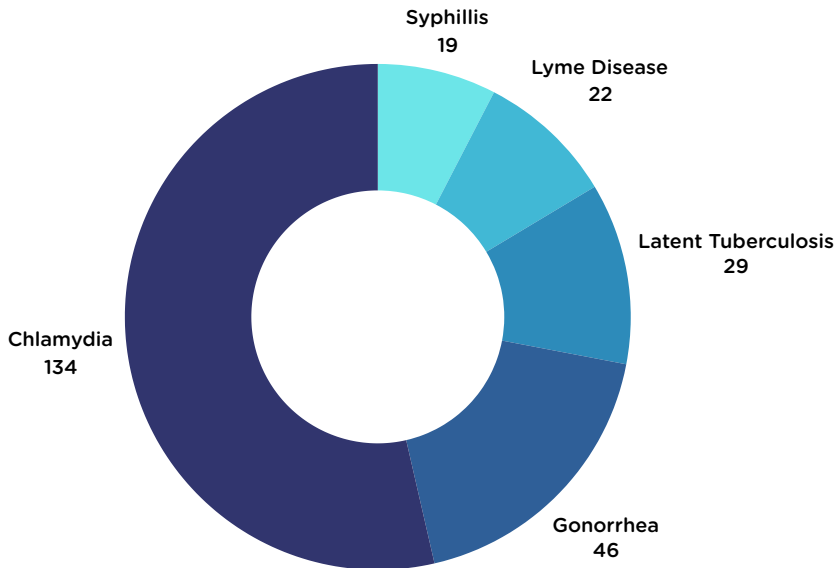
Immunizations  
Provided





# Public Health Nursing Division

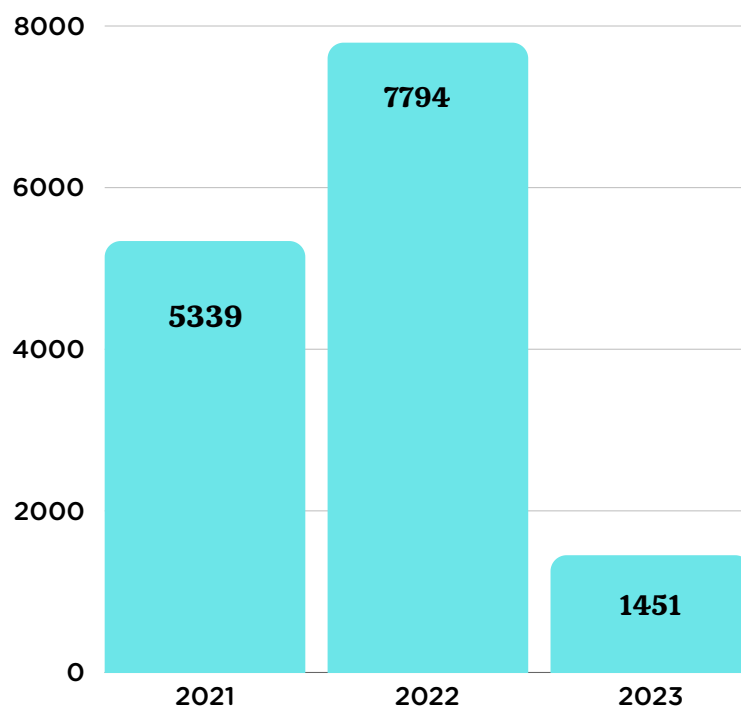
## Top Five Communicable Diseases - excludes COVID-19



**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.**

**There were 1,096 reported COVID-19 cases in 2023.**

## Communicable Disease Referral Trends - includes COVID-19



# Stay in the Loop

## Social Media

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



## Health Department Website

Find community resources related to topics such as:

[Substance Use](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Rats](#)

[Health Equity](#)

[Internships and Volunteering](#)

And much more at [wauwatosa.net/health](http://wauwatosa.net/health)



## Contact Us

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