



2025 Annual Report

**Buffalo County
Health Department**

Our Mission

To empower individuals, families and communities to live well by preventing disease, protecting health and assuring safety while encouraging independence. The mission will be achieved using proven scientific evidence and clinical expertise.



Our Purpose

Health departments provide public health protections in several areas, including preventing the spread of communicable disease, ensuring food, air, and water quality are safe, supporting maternal and child health, improving access to clinical care services, and preventing chronic disease and injury – these are known as the Foundational Areas. The infrastructure needed to provide these protections strives to provide fair opportunities for all to be healthy and includes eight capabilities – known as the Foundational Capabilities.

Foundational Public Health Areas:

Communicable Disease Control



- Surveillance & investigation
- Animal bites
- Immunizations

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention



- Well Women Program
- Harm reduction
- Tobacco prevention
- Health promotion
- Rural farm visits

Environmental Health



- Agent of the State
- Water testing
- Radon
- Lead
- Human Health Hazards

Maternal, Child & Family Health



- Botvin Life Skills
- Youth mental health
- WIC
- School health

Access & Linkage to Care



- Reproductive health clinic
- Referral to clinical care
- Linkage to insurance
- Healthcare meetings
- Nursing services & consultation

Foundational Public Health Capabilities:

1. Assessment & Surveillance

- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Community Health Assessment (CHA)

* Revised Every 5 Years

* Conducted Every 3 years

2. Equity

3. Organizational Competencies

4. Community Partnership Development

5. Emergency Preparedness & Response

6. Accountability & Performance Management

7. Policy Development & Support

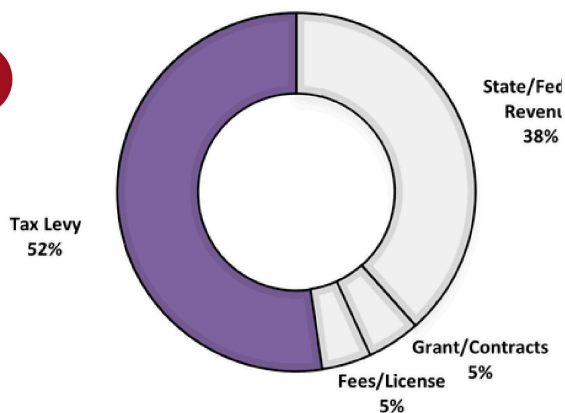
8. Communications



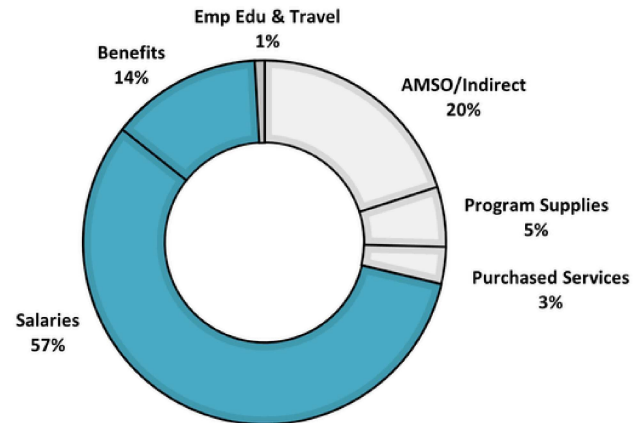
2025 Budget

In 2025, tax levy revenue accounted for just over half of Public Health's total funding, and was the primary funding source supporting staff salaries and benefits, which represent the largest portion of 2025 program expenses and directly enable service delivery.

REVENUE \$345,365.91



EXPENSES \$345,365.91



2025 Public Health Unit

Jamie Weaver, Health Officer / PH Supervisor



Dyllan Smith, Public Health Educator



Sara Thielen, Public Health Nurse Jonah Hewitt, Environmental Health Specialist

Carri Renchin, DHHS Director

2025 Health and Human Services & Veterans Committee Members

Elected members:

Mary Anne McMillan Urell - Chair
Dwight Ruff
Carol McDonough
Steven Nelson
John Hadley

Appointed members:

Wendy Kleinschmidt
Steve Schiffli
Kim Beseler
Liz Hoffmaster

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

Under Wisconsin Statute DHS 145, all reportable communicable diseases must be reported to local public health agencies for investigation, control, and prevention. Reporting is conducted through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) and supported by timely provider communication.



Sara Thielen, Public Health Nurse, promoting community services

68% of 2 year-olds up to date on vaccines

18 TB tests administered in 2025

87 Vaccines for Children in 2025

Infection	2023	2024	2025
Anaplasmosis	7	3	11
CO Poisoning	1	0	0
Babesiosis	1	1	3
Campylobacteriosis	7	21	19
Chlamydia	17	11	22
Cryptosporidium	4	3	6
E. coli (EPEC)	8	21	0
E. coli (STEC)	4	3	3
Gonorrhea	4	3	0
Hepatitis B	0	0	0
Hepatitis C	0	2	2
Influenza-hospital	2	6	0
Lyme Disease	46	49	49
Pertussis	0	6	1
RSV-hospital	1	2	0
Salmonella	1	4	3
Invasive Strep (A)	5	2	1
LTBI	2	1	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilis	2	2	1
Toxoplasmosis	1	2	0
Vibriosis	0	1	1

Communicable Disease Stats

This table summarizes select communicable disease case reports for Buffalo County residents received over a three-year period. Lyme Disease, Campylobacteriosis, and Chlamydia continue to be the most prevalent infections within Buffalo County.

Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

Harm Reduction Efforts

68 Deterra Drug Disposal Bags Distributed

3 Narcan Education events (37 attendees)

Sharps Disposal bin for Mondovi City Hall

37 Med Lock Bags Distributed

120 6th grade students participated in “Escape the Vape” educational series

Public Health partnered with Law Enforcement on a grant to support the safe disposal of used sharps. The project included five temporary collection sites, held over two weekends, as well as the purchase and installation of a new permanent sharps collection bin.



What Good did it Do?

104 Narcan Kits Distributed

145 Pounds of Used Sharps Collected

66 pounds of unwanted medications collected



Dyllan Smith, Public Health Educator, educates on vaping risks.

Public Health participates in the WI Wins program, a research-based initiative that reduces youth access to tobacco through positive reinforcement of retailers who do not sell to minors. In 2025, two local high school students conducted 17 tobacco compliance checks, with only one retailer failing the check.

Environmental Health



Public Health acts as an agent for the State of Wisconsin DATCP by licensing food and recreational establishments. We also serve as an agent for the Wisconsin DNR to protect public health by ensuring safe water at transient non-community wells, including those at bars, restaurants, churches, and similar facilities.

Food & Recreational Safety	Drinking Water Safety & Lab Analysis
• Ensure compliance of 237 <u>licensed facilities</u> • Annual Inspections • Complaint Inspections • Pre-Licensing Inspections • Consultation/technical assistance • Temporary food and campground inspections	• State of WI Certified Water Lab • Drinking water sample analysis for private wells • Ensure compliance of 58 Transient Non-Community water systems • Follow up on unsafe drinking water results • Technical Assistance



Public Health pictured with AHEC intern, Abbie Stangl.

Public Health partners with Scenic Rivers AHEC to place students pursuing rural healthcare careers. In 2025, Abbie inspected licensed vacation rentals, helping to increase the overall number of routine inspections completed to 231.

Environmental Health



Buffalo County Public Health has a CLIA certified lab that provides in-house bacteria testing and partners with UW-Oshkosh to analyze arsenic and nitrate samples.

To improve testing convenience, kits are placed at Mondovi City Hall, Buffalo City Municipal Building, and G-Mart in Gilmanton.

218 private wells tested for coliform bacteria

13.3% of private wells were positive for Total Coliforms
n = 29/218

CLIA sets standards for result accuracy, reliability, and timeliness.

The EPA's maximum contaminate level (MCL) for nitrates is 10 mg/L or 10 ppm.

54 private wells tested for nitrate

7% of private wells exceeded the MCL for nitrate contamination
n = 4/54

Lead Testing



Wisconsin testing recommendations: all children should get two lead tests by age 2. Ages 3 to 5 should get tested if they have no record of a previous test. The Public Health Nurse provides home visits for results at 5 mcg/dL or above.

30 Radon Test Kits Provided

12 Animal Bite Cases



6 Human Health Hazard Investigations

Maternal, Child, and Family Health



In 2025, Public Health received the Social Connectedness grant to promote youth social connection following the pandemic and hosted “Birdhouse Mania,” an event bringing children and families together to decorate birdhouses and connect with peers and family.

Public Health promotes adolescent wellbeing by delivering the Botvin LifeSkills curriculum to students in grades 3–5 across all four public schools in the County. In 2025, the program reached 480 students. Botvin is an evidence-based program that prevents substance abuse and violence while building self-esteem, healthy attitudes, and essential life skills.

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program

The WIC program is offered to Buffalo County residents in partnership with Trempealeau County. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and supplemental food to families at or below the poverty level. For a family of 4, this would be an annual income of less than \$59,478.

WIC connects clients with WI farmers. Clients can get a voucher to spend at local markets. In 2025, \$1,650 was redeemed by Buffalo – Trempealeau clients.



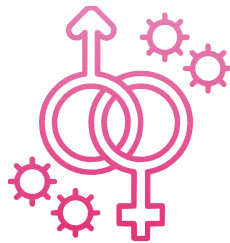
Access & Linkage to Care

Public Health operates a reproductive health clinic. The essential services offered at this clinic include:

- STD testing and treatment
- Pregnancy testing
- Contraceptive assessment, education, and initial access
- Health insurance eligibility screening and enrollment aid for FPOS (Family Planning Only Services)
- Menstrual hygiene resources and education
- Referrals to medical providers



In response to a 2022 rise in Toxic Shock Syndrome, Public Health distributes "period packs" with hygiene supplies and TSS prevention education to local high schools. In 2025, 90 packs were distributed for student use.



In 2025, the Public Health Nurse provided education at Alma and CFC schools on STD prevention, birth control, and healthy relationships, in partnership with the school nurse.

Foundational Capability

Community Partnership Development

Public Health builds and sustains community partnerships by actively participating in local events to promote programs and share resources.

At the 2025 County Fair, staff distributed 24 water test kits, 10 radon test kits, 40 tick kits, 24 cans of OFF! repellent, 100 condoms, and more.

Partnership engagement also included participation in National Night Out, the ADRC Resource Fair, and Drug Take Back events, strengthening relationships across the community.



Foundational Capability

Emergency Preparedness and Response

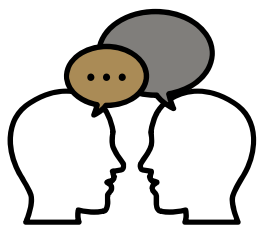
As required by WI Administrative Code, DHS 140, local health departments are required to participate in emergency preparedness and response.

We meet this requirement by:

1. Maintaining a Emergency Preparedness Response Plan
2. Participating in preparedness exercises.
3. Communicating and coordinating with health care providers, emergency service providers, and other agencies that respond to disasters, outbreaks or emergencies.
4. Issuing and enforcing emergency health orders, as permitted by law.
5. Implementing strategies intended to protect the health of vulnerable populations during a disaster, outbreak, or emergency.



2025 Preparedness Table Top Exercise on Flooding. Attendees included multiple County stakeholders and departments



Foundational Capability

Communications

Public Health strives to keep the local community informed with the latest health information while promoting resources and education on key topics and trends impacting public health and safety. Means of communication can include press releases, social media platforms, published articles, and community presentations.

In 2025, the Health and Human Services Facebook page received 5,100 site visits, generated 2,800 interactions with posted content, and gained 118 new followers.

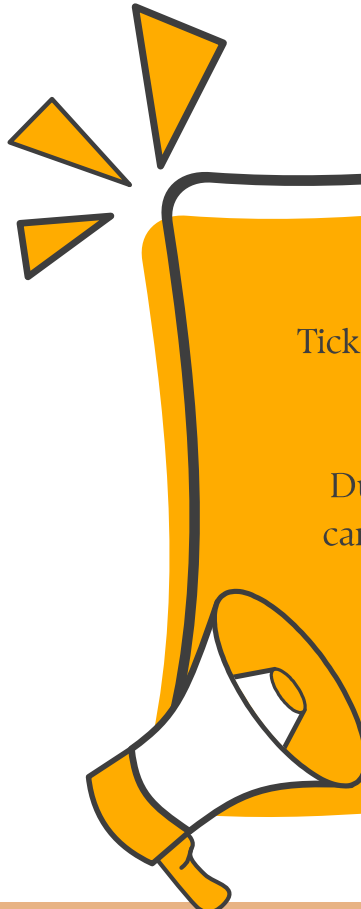
Assessment and Surveillance

The Buffalo County Health Department leads initiatives to improve the overall health of the community. These efforts are guided by the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The CHA is conducted every three years and informs the development of a five-year improvement plan. In 2025, Public Health worked with a State Data Strategist to finalize the CHIP plan and get it ready for implementation.

The priority areas identified for the 2026–2030 Community Health Improvement Plan are:

- Prevention of sexual and dating violence
- Education and prevention of Lyme disease



Upcoming CHIP Initiatives in 2026:

Tick drag sampling to identify the presence of Lyme disease-carrying ticks.

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, campaigns will promote education, reduce stigma, and share support resources.

(Not an all-encompassing list)



THANK
YOU

for a Successful 2025!

This Annual Report is compiled and will be submitted to the WI Department of Health to satisfy the statutory requirement: DHS 140.06 (2)

(a) By May 1, a copy of the annual report submitted by the local health officer during the previous year, as required by s. 251.06 (3) (h), Stats.

(b) Public health data, in a format prescribed by the department.

Respectfully submitted:

Jamie Weaver, REHS, LRA

Buffalo County Health Officer/ Public Health Supervisor

