

BUFFALO COUNTY, WI

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2026-2030



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Section 1

The Health Department acknowledges and extends sincere appreciation to the following community partners and Health Department staff for their contributions to the Buffalo County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process.

Buffalo County Coalition Against Violence

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Buffalo County Health and Human Services

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Buffalo County Public Health

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Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

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Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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DEFINITIONS

Priority: highest level thinking about what needs to be accomplished, core themes

Goal: broad, major initiatives that need to be undertaken to address a priority area

Objective: interim steps that address a goal; should be SMART

SMART Goal: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.

Action Steps: specific steps that need to be taken to meet the objective

Timeline: time frame within which the objectives will take place

Responsible Party: the person or entity responsible for ensuring an objective is met.

CHA: Community Health Assessment.

CHIP: Community Health Improvement Plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Community Health Improvement Plan is to mobilize Buffalo County Residents, organizations, and stakeholders to collaboratively address issues that impact health.



OUR COMMUNITY

Section 4

Buffalo County includes 4 cities, 17 towns and 2 villages. The population of Buffalo County is 13.3K. 23% of the population is 65 and older, and 20% of the population is 0–17 years old. Buffalo County has 4 school districts with kindergarten through 12th grade and one private grade school. The median household income is \$64,948. The main industry in Buffalo County is manufacturing.

Buffalo County Public Health professionals monitor the health of the community and promote healthy practices and behaviors through a variety of programs including communicable disease prevention, environmental health, and Maternal and Child Health.

Buffalo County Public Health

The mission of Buffalo County Public Health is to empower communities to live better longer by preventing disease, protecting health and assuring safety.

TIMELINE

Spring 2023	Surveys distributed, CHA data collected
Fall 2023	CHA data reviewed
Spring 2024	CHA stakeholder meetings held
Fall 24–Spring 25	CHIP Workgroup meetings
DEC 2025	Finalize 2026–2030 CHIP

BACKGROUND

In collaboration with Great Rivers United Way, the Buffalo County Health Department began the process of conducting a new Community Health Needs Assessment in early 2023. The assessment gathers information from community members about various aspects of life in our county and determines ways to address those identified needs. The Community Health Needs Assessment is sent out every 3 years and surveys Buffalo County residents on various aspects of life including: health, income, education, public safety, quality of life, and community.

A comprehensive data review was performed, internally, during the Fall of 2023. Three public stakeholder meetings were held during March of 2024 (March 7 in Mondovi, March 19 at the CFC School, March 22 virtually) to share the compiled data. After reviewing the data, the top identified health priority for Buffalo County was Dating and Sexual Violence with Lyme Disease Incidence Rate being the second priority.

COMMUNITY DATA

Dating and Sexual Violence

- CHA data from the YRBS helped lead us to this priority.
- **15% of all students (24% of females, 6% males)** self-reported having had experienced sexual or dating violence.
- 11% of all students were forced to do something sexual (including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse).
- In a 2023 survey, concern about abuse in Buffalo County had increased from previous years.
- Community stakeholders and Sheriff Osmond were concerned about these statistics.

(2021 YRBS, Compass Community Survey)

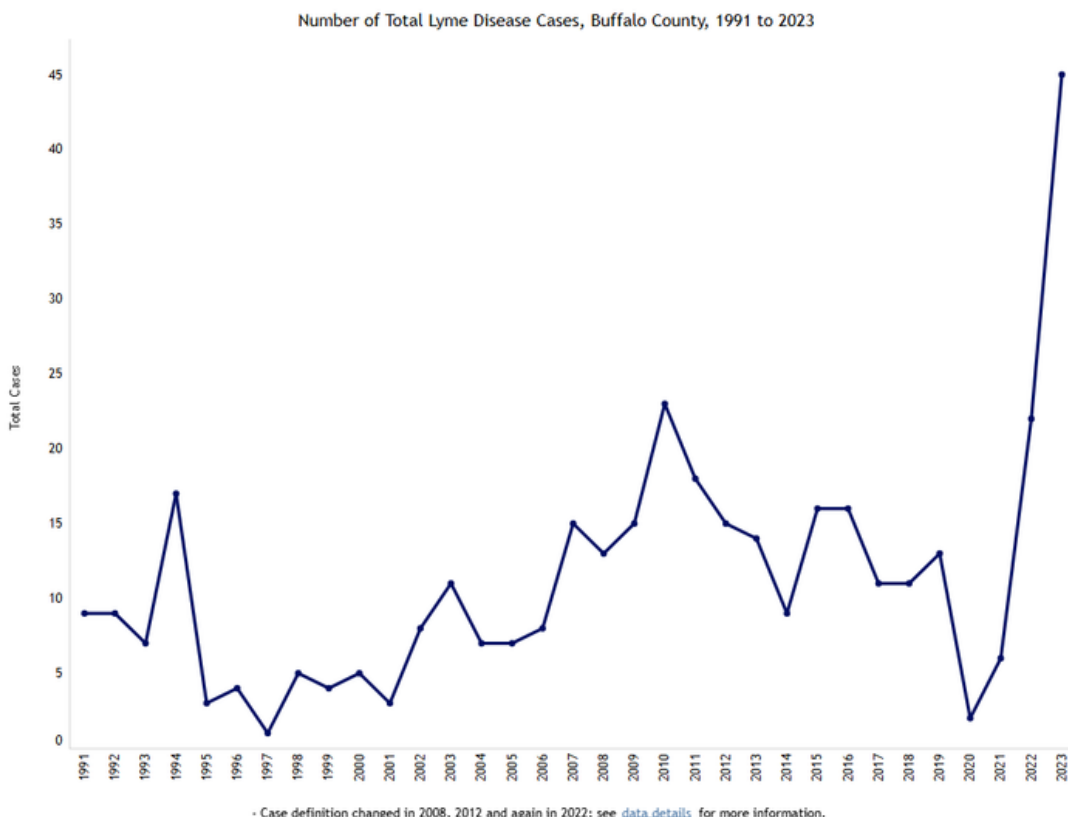
COMMUNITY DATA



Lyme Disease Incidence Rate

- CHA and DHS data helped lead us to this priority.
- There was a **265%** increase in Lyme Disease incident rate from 2021 to 2022 in Buffalo County.
- Buffalo County fell in the highest incident rate category in the state for 2023, falling in the **287-619 cases per 100,000 population.**

(2024 Compass Now Report, Wisconsin DHS)

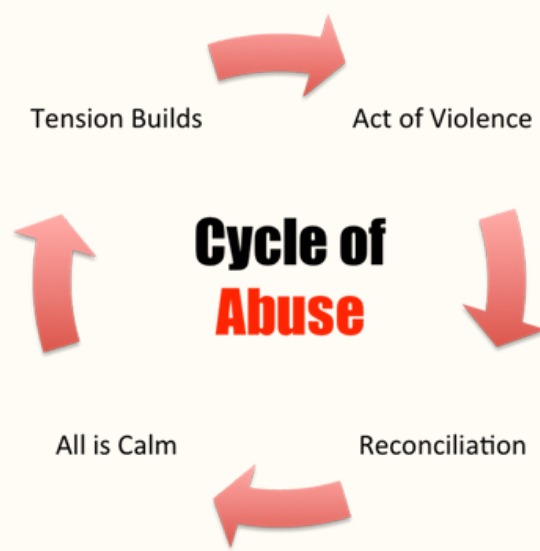


*There was a change in the reporting procedure during 2022

Goal 1: Annually from 2026-2030, during the sexual assault awareness month of April, Public Health will run awareness campaigns based around reducing dating and sexual violence.

Objective 1.1: Public Health will create a weekly video series, to be posted to social media, with educational information concerning dating and sexual violence.

Objective 1.2: Public Health will help make people aware of the resources available to them in the county by creating and dispersing informational brochures at public buildings and establishments.



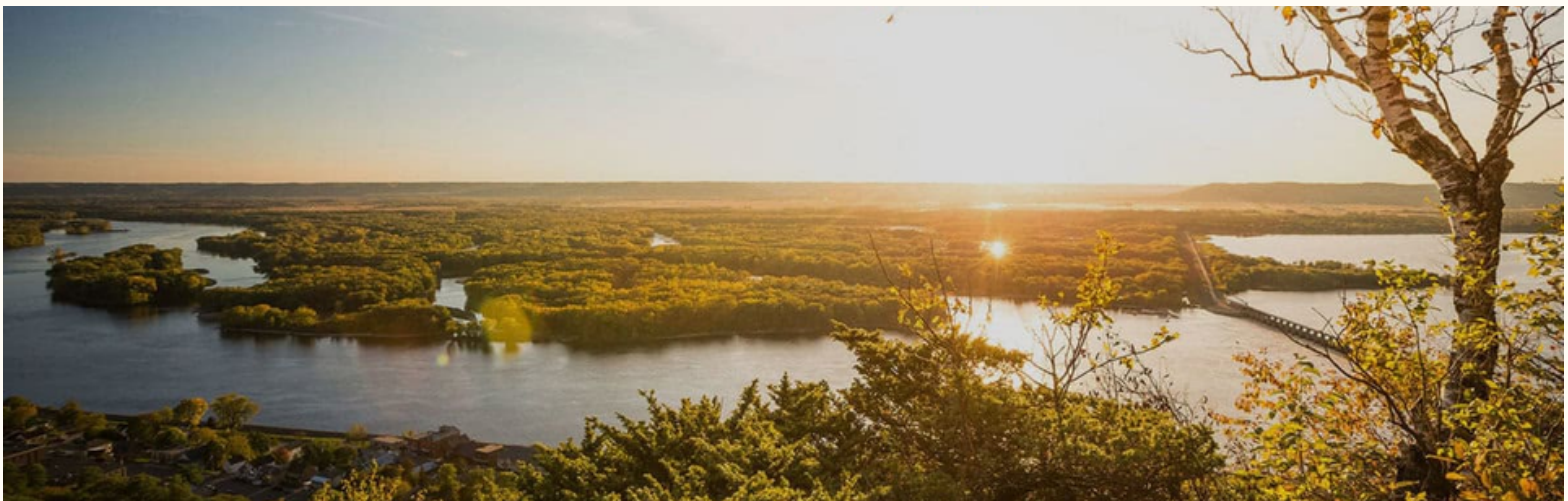
PRIORITY 1: DATING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Goal 2: Public Health and partners will put on a biennial community prevention event around dating and sexual violence prevention during April in the years 2027 and 2029.

Objective 2.1: By the end of December 2026 and 2028, Public Health will reach out and secure a location in the county to hold the event.

Objective 2.2: During the months of September through February, the Public Health team will brainstorm and plan for the event.

Objective 2.3: Public Health will promote the event throughout the month of March and April, leading up to the event.



PRIORITY 1: DATING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Goal 3 : Public Health will work with the local school administrations to implement a prevention curriculum in schools.

Objective 3.1: By July 31, 2026, Public Health will meet with local school administrators to gauge interest.

Objective 3.2: By August 30, 2026 Public Health will have researched curriculum options.

Objective 3.3: Public Health will have the Buffalo County Partnership Council preview and give feedback on the two curriculums.

Objective 3.4: By August 30, 2026 Public Health will have researched curriculum options.



PRIORITY 2: LYME DISEASE INCIDENCE RATE

Goal 1 : During the summer of 2026, Public Health will conduct tick surveillance.

Objective 1.1: By January 31, 2026, Public Health will set up a meeting with WI DHS representatives to set up and carry out training plan.

Objective 1.2: During the first week of June 2026, Public Health will conduct the first round of tick drags.

Objective 1.3: By July 30, 2026, tick drags will be completed.

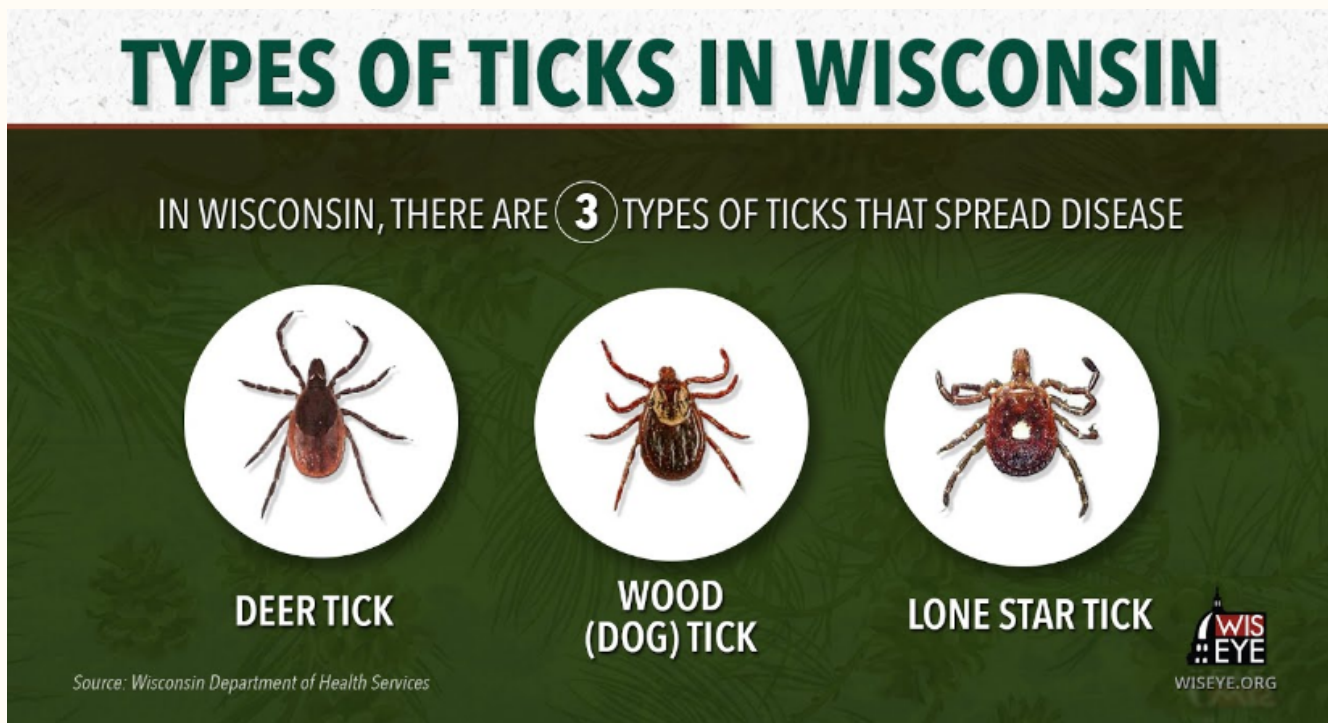


PRIORITY 2: LYME DISEASE INCIDENCE RATE

Goal 2 : By December 31, 2026, Public Health will receive an analysis of the conducted tick drags.

Objective 2.1: Public Health staff will engage in standard operating procedures to ensure proper preservation of the ticks.

Objective 2.2: Public Health will send ticks into the laboratory during the first week of August 2026.



(Image from Wisconsin Department of Health Services)

PRIORITY 2: LYME DISEASE INCIDENCE RATE

Goal 3: By June 30 of 2027, Public Health will engage in community outreach, around Lyme Disease, for the coming tick season.

Objective 3.1: Public Health staff will share the results of the analysis at a Public Health unit meeting to better organize outreach efforts. The analysis results will also be shared with the community.

Objective 3.2: By April 15, 2027, a social media weekly video series on tick safety will be created.

Objective 3.3: By June 30, 2027, Public Health will partner with a local campground or park to host a tick awareness event.



NEXT STEPS

a. How can community members get involved in the initiatives? Community members may contact Buffalo County Public Health if they wish to get involved in any of the initiatives, all community health improvement plan meetings are open to the public.

b. Who should be contacted for more information?

Dyllan Smith: 608-418-0850

dyllan.smith@buffalocountywi.gov

C. What happens next? The Buffalo County Health and Human Services staff and community partners will document their progress and share accomplishments with the community twice a year. The community health assessment and community health improvement plan will be re-evaluated and updated in 2029 and 2030. Updates can be found on the Buffalo County website.

REFERENCES

Section 10

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/buffalo?year=2023>

Great Rivers United Way (2024). Compass Now 2024.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services. "Wisconsin Department of Health Services." Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2019, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/.

2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Buffalo County

Special thank you to Great Rivers United
Way for your help and support

