

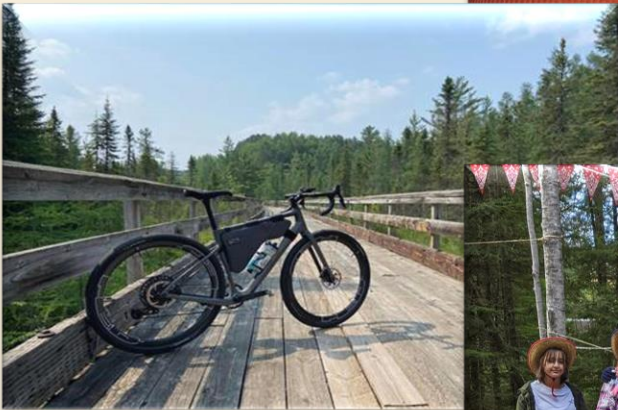
LEARN WHAT SETS US APART, THROUGH OUR ANNUAL REPORT'S ART

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THAT'S

“Health care is vital to all of us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time.”

--C. Everett Koop



PUBLIC

“Relationships we develop with our coalition partners must be transformative, not transactional.”

--Reverend Dr. William Barber



HEALTH



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~ CONGRATULATIONS ~

HEALTH OFFICER OF THE YEAR



LINDA CONLON



"KIND, CARING HARD WORKING & SO MUCH MORE! THIS IS SO WELL DESERVED. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!" -OCHD Staff Member



"CONGRATS ON YOUR AWARD! I AM GRATEFUL I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND WORK WITH YOU!" -OCHD Staff Member



"CONGRATS & WELL DESERVED. YOU ROCK! YOUR PEERS THINK YOU ARE THE BEE'S KNEES!" -OCHD Staff Member



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

I am thrilled to present the Oneida County Health Department's (OCHD) 2023 Annual Report. This past year marked a significant shift for our staff as we successfully transitioned out of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing us to refocus on normal operations.


I would like to highlight that our team once again conducted several community vaccination clinics, providing a total of 2936 influenza vaccines and more than 2283 COVID vaccines to our community. Additionally, we expanded our repertoire of vaccines by adding Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine during this fall/winter season, administering 9 RSV vaccines. Our commitment to enhancing vaccine access was evident in our efforts to accept a broader range of health insurances and increase our vaccines to those who are homebound. We continue receiving expressions of gratitude from community members for our efforts vaccinating in the community.

I am proud of our accomplishments and would like to acknowledge all of our dedicated staff. We not only expanded our programs and services but also responded dynamically to the evolving needs of our community. This annual report serves as a testament of our contributions to the health, safety, and quality of life in our community, highlighting our dedication to serving the people of Oneida County.

During times of uncertainty, our department demonstrated resilience through innovative programming, addressing the ever-increasing demands of our changing environment. Whether it be environmental health inspections, substance use prevention, or family services, our staff rose admirably to the challenge. OCHD has effectively applied for multiple grants, targeting key areas such as vaccine access and provider support, substance use, and healthy brains. Recognizing the diverse needs within our community, we acknowledge the significance of grant funding to spearhead initiatives that address these needs. Throughout the course of 2023, we conducted a comprehensive community health assessment, highlighting mental health, substance use, housing, and childcare as primary priorities demanding our attention and focus.

As we anticipate the future, we eagerly look forward to new opportunities to serve you all. Your continued support is immensely appreciated, and we remain committed to making a positive impact on the well-being of our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Linda Conlon, MPH, BAN, RN
Oneida County Health Officer



Oneida County Community Profile

Located in the Northern region of Wisconsin, Oneida County is home to more 1,100 lakes and rivers, 20 townships, and one city. The majority of jobs in the area are in manufacturing. Other top jobs include healthcare, social assistance, retail, education, and construction¹.

Towns

- Cassian
- Crescent
- Enterprise
- Hazelhurst
- Lake Tomahawk
- Little Rice
- Lynne
- Minocqua
- Monico
- Newbold
- Nokomis
- Pelican
- Piehl
- Pinelake
- Schoepke
- Stella
- Sugar Camp
- Three Lakes
- Woodruff
- Woodbro

Cities

- Rhineland



1,114 square miles

OVERALL HEALTH RANKINGS

25 of 72

Wisconsin counties

Community Snapshot



Male
50.9%



Female
49.1%

38,212
Population²

51.8
Median Age³

78.7
Average Life Expectancy⁴

\$62,660
Median Household Income⁵



75%
Rural





25%
Urban



HEAR WHAT SOME OF OUR CLIENTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS & PARTNERS HAVE TO SAY

 I have never felt **safer** or more **welcomed!** **THANK YOU ALL!!**" - client

 I am **appreciative** for the information which is very **helpful** to have. We will share the documents with all of the employees." - EH facility

 I would rather come to you (OCHD) for my vaccines. Everyone is always so **friendly** and **helpful.**" - client


 For our family, it has been an **amazing help.** As far as being **helpful** in day to day activities when I am not doing the best, is a **lifesaver**"
-community member

 **Thank you** for all your **extra efforts** on trying to get my claim paid" - client

 You're the **BEST! Thank you for all you do for our community!!!** God Bless all of you & keep you healthy!" - community member

 I just want you to know I **appreciate** what you do." -healthcare partner

 I thought you did an **awesome** job facilitating the discussion and was **proud** of the kids too! **Looking forward to continued collaboration.**"
- community member

 It was a very **smooth process** and the staff was **super nice** and **welcoming.**"
- client

Did You Know?

That's Public Health!



INFLUENZA



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Did you know?
42% of cell phone owners do not know all their immediate family members phone numbers and more than half of parents do not have a designated meeting place in case of a disaster.



RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



HEALTH HAZARDS

Did you know?
In 1967, 134 sailors died in a fire aboard the USS Forrestal— one of the worst naval disasters in American history.

The Navy patented the technology and required its vessels carry Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) to protect the lives of U.S. sailors, airmen and flight officers. These AFFFs contained PFAS.



OVERDOSE PREVENTION



SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION



IMMUNIZATIONS

Did you know?
Every \$1 spent on vaccines saves \$52 on low and middle income countries, using cost-of-illness and value-of-a-statistical-life approach.



FAMILY HEALTH



INJURY PREVENTION



ANIMAL BITES

Did you know?
Rabies is considered 100% fatal if contracted. The last human case in Wisconsin was 2010, acquired from a bat. Waushara, Racine, Washburn, Shawano, and Walworth were all Wisconsin counties that reported a bat that tested positive for rabies in 2023. It's out there!



TOBACCO



TESTING KITS



ABOUT OCHD

OUR MISSION

- To protect, nurture and advance the health of our community.

OUR VISION

- Embracing change, partnerships, and best practices to lead Oneida County to a healthy and equitable future.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Sustainability
- Customer Focus/Engagement
- Promote and Protect Health
- Continuous Improvement and Innovation

OUR STAFF POSITIONS BY THE NUMBERS



This is Public Health

Emergency Response, Bike Helmets, Breastfeeding, Immunizations, Seatbelts, Safe Work Environment, Safe Drinking Water, Clean Air, Access to Healthcare, Sidewalks, Safe Walking Trails, Fluoridated Water, Healthy Food Choices

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SERVICES

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1-13

ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICES

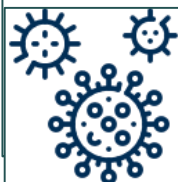
- Backbone functions of all internal operations
- Fiscal management of grants, fees, and contracts
- Customer service
- Governance
- Quality Improvement
- Performance Management



Pages
14-18

CHRONIC & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

- Chronic Disease
- Communicable Disease Investigation
- Animal Bites
- Immunizations
- Tuberculosis Case Management
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing



Page
20

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Public Health Preparedness



Pages
21-26

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Licensing – Food/Lodging/Other Inspections
- Testing Kits – radon and private well water for bacteria, arsenic &/or nitrates
- Human Health Hazards – mold, pests and housing issues
- Lead Program
- PFAS
- Radon



Pages
28-35

FAMILY HEALTH

- Maternal Child Health
- Reproductive Health
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Breastfeeding Peer Counseling
- WI Well Woman Program (WWWP)
- Injury Prevention – Car Seats
- Safe Sleep



Pages
36-44

COMMUNITY HEALTH / HEALTH PROMOTION

- Community Health Assessment
- Community Health Improvement Planning
- FACT
- Overdose Prevention
- Sexual Violence Prevention
- Tobacco Prevention & Control
- WI WINS





BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Tom Kelly
Billy Fried
Michael Roach
Debbie Condado

CITIZEN MEMBERS

Amy Slette, MD
Term: Jan - Sept 2023
Khrystyne Lindgren, MD
Term: Nov - Dec 2023

Marcy Davies, NP
William Crump

MOTIONS PASSED

Board Members



- Renewal of Citizen Board Member – Marcy Davies
- Appointment of Citizen Board Member – Dr. Khrystyne Lindgren

Fee Schedules



- 2023 Fee Schedule
- 2023 Environmental Health Fee Schedule
- Tourist Rooming House License Fees

Resolutions



- PFAS Resolution

Financial / Budget



- 2024 Limited Term Employee Requests
- America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Requests: HIPPA Compliance
- 2024 Budget

Contracts



- CHA Contract Bid
- Iowa State University
- Pfizer

Publications



- 2022 Annual Report
- Mold Appendix

MOST DISCUSSED SUBJECT

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)



PFAS was discussed at **five** of the **eleven** Board of Health meetings in 2023.

BOARD OF HEALTH ORIENTATION

OCHD Leadership led **four** presentations about Public Health at the Board of Health meetings in 2023.



BY THE NUMBERS

1

Newly appointed Citizen Board of Health Members.

8

Program presentations by staff to the Board of Health.

2

Staff recognized for a milestone work anniversary.

73%

Board of Health meetings where public commented.



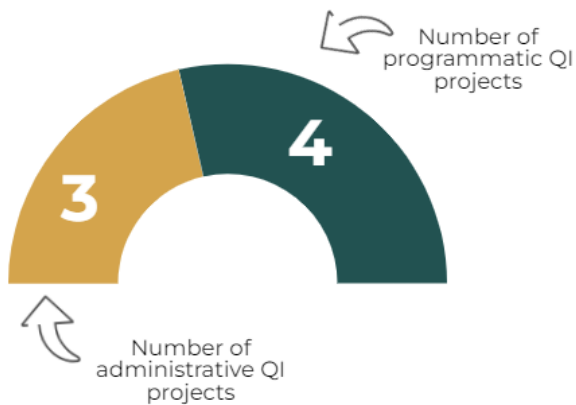
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



Quality improvement (QI) refers to a **continuous and ongoing effort to achieve measureable improvements** in the efficiency, effectiveness, and performance of quality services or processes, thereby improving health.

OCHD QI projects span from small and large scale program improvements to administrative improvements that impact staff or processes across the agency.

While most quality improvement projects have overlapping outcomes, primary outcomes of the **seven** QI projects completed or in-progress in 2023 fell into the following four categories:



- Improves the work process and efficiency
- Improves customer satisfaction
- Supports OCHD goals
- Supports collaborative teamwork

Success Story Highlight

Objective: Reduce the percentage of billing denials related to influenza vaccine by at least 25%.



Outcome: As strategies were implemented, OCHD went from a 3.3% denial/rejection rate during the 2022-2023 influenza/COVID season to 1.5% in the 2023-2024 season, a more than **50% reduction in the denial/rejection rate**. There is also a considerable financial implication. By conservatively estimating the average follow-up on a rejection is 0.5 hours, this project **saved approximately 44 billable hours** of labor for the department.

BY THE NUMBERS

6

QI projects completed by OCHD

1

QI projects initiated that continue to be in progress

112.25

Hours logged working on quality improvement projects

3

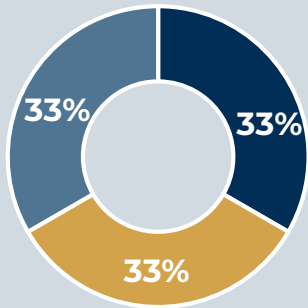
QI projects resulting in a policy change



PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT



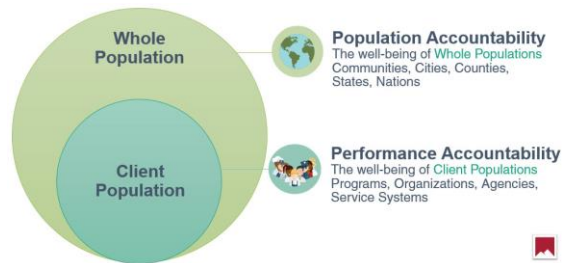
Categories of OCHD Performance Measures



- How much did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- Is anyone better off?

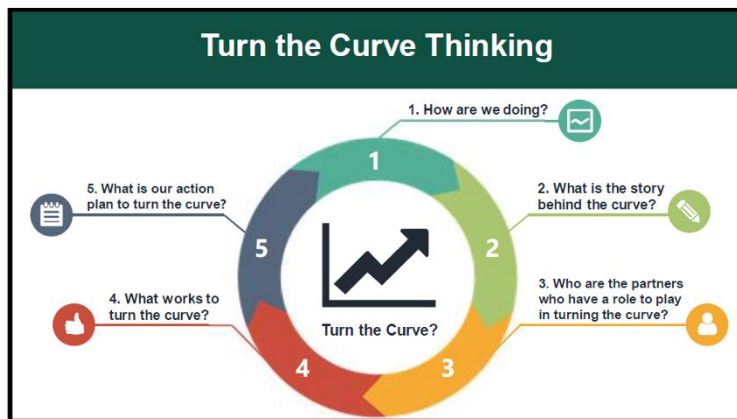
OCHD is committed to being a **performance-based organization**.

OCHD utilizes Results-Based Accountability (RBA) as the framework for its performance management activities. RBA is a disciplined way of thinking and taking action that can be used to improve the performance of programs, services, and systems, as well as **improving the quality of life for whole populations**.



Layered with the context that corresponding community-level indicators provide, a good performance measure gives staff the ability to understand how well a program, initiative, or service system is performing.

When measures display a trend line going in the wrong direction, OCHD can work to **“turn the curve.”**



Opportunity:

The pandemic response paused many non-essential activities at OCHD. Formal performance management practices are resuming and strengthening in 2024. OCHD will continue to develop program and administrative performance measures to be monitored in ongoing efforts to improve the health and quality of life for those in Oneida County.

BY THE NUMBERS

6

Programs with performance measures
**more in progress*

15

Performance measures developed across the department
**more in progress*

99.25

Hours spent on performance management in 2023

11

Community-level indicators being tracked



IMMUNIZATIONS



IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

OCHD is currently enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program which offers vaccines at no cost or discounted rates to children who meet certain qualifications. OCHD is also enrolled in Vaccines for Adult Program which provides certain vaccines at no cost to adults who are uninsured or underinsured.

Several private pay vaccines are offered at OCHD. OCHD accepts multiple insurances as well as cash, check, credit card, and debit card. In 2023, OCHD signed a contract with TransactRx. Through TransactRx, OCHD is able to expand access to the community and administer several Part D-covered vaccines to community members.



Why is vaccination important?

Throughout childhood vaccination is vital as it helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. In 2023, 69% of Oneida County's 24-month olds met Wisconsin's benchmark immunization standards which is a 1% increase from 2022.

ONEIDA COUNTY COMPLIANCE RATES AT 24 MONTHS

Year	DTaP (4)	Hep B (3)	Hib (3)	MMR (1)	Pneumococcal (4)	Polio (3)	Varicella (1)	4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Series
2020	72%	87%	83%	87%	80%	85%	86%	71%
2021	69%	85%	78%	79%	75%	83%	79%	66%
2022	70%	85%	78%	78%	76%	82%	78%	68%
2023	72%	81%	81%	81%	77%	82%	79%	69%

BY THE NUMBERS

5350

Total vaccines administered by OCHD in 2023

5249

influenza, COVID, pneumonia, RSV vaccines administered at OCHD in 2023

46

Td and Tdap vaccines administered to clients 12 years and older at OCHD in 2023

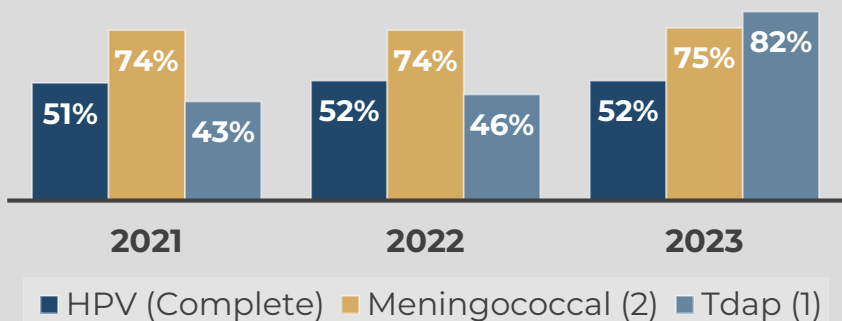
12

Vaccines administered at OCHD and billed through TransactRx in 2023



The risk of exposure to new infections increases as preteens and teens get older. Through adolescence, vaccines are recommended to extend protection from childhood diseases.

Adolescent Benchmark Numbers (13-18 years)

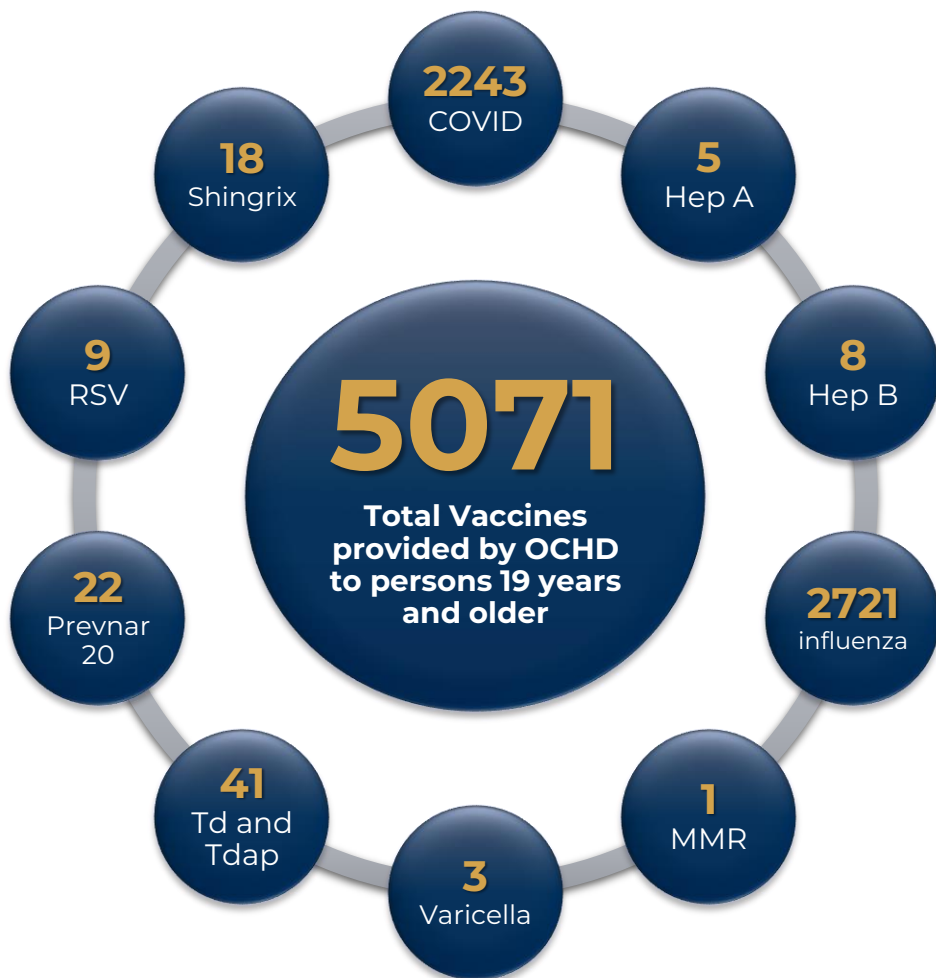


The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the following:

- **HPV** (Human papillomavirus): 2 or 3-dose series depending on age at initial vaccination
- **Meningococcal** (MenACWY): 2-dose series
- **Tdap** (Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis): 1 dose

Adults need routine vaccinations as well to protect their health.

- COVID, influenza, and Tdap vaccinations are routinely recommended for all adults.
- Other vaccinations may be recommended depending on age, health conditions, life events, job, and travel.



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING (NCOA)



In 2023, OCHD focused on developing a system for approaching respiratory illness season following the pandemic response. Respiratory illness season typically begins in the fall and lasts through winter. During this time, both locally and nationally, there are increases in illnesses like influenza, COVID, RSV, etc.

32.6% of O.C. residents received influenza vaccine

Of those vaccinated, **20.9%** received their influenza vaccine by OCHD

Influenza

26.2% of those 65+ years old AND vaccinated received their influenza vaccine by OCHD

11.2% of influenza vaccines provided by OCHD were to non-county residents

17.7% of O.C. residents received COVID vaccine

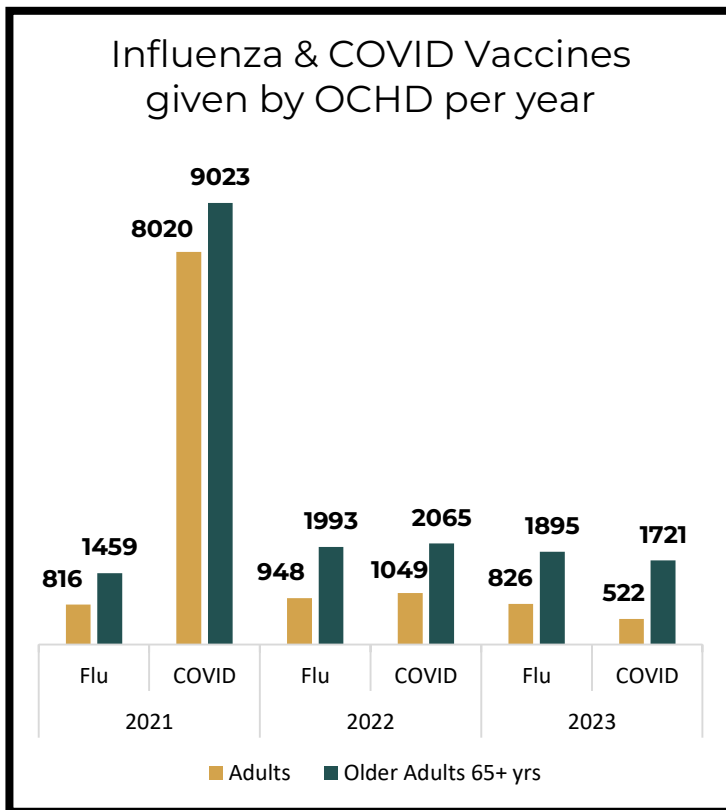
Of those vaccinated **29.6%** received their COVID vaccine by OCHD

COVID

34.3% of those 65+ years old AND received their COVID vaccine by OCHD

12.1% of COVID vaccines provided by OCHD were to non-county residents

Influenza & COVID Vaccines given by OCHD per year



*2021 COVID was a 2 part series and additional boosters
**Children not represented on graph

BY THE NUMBERS

5218

Influenza and COVID vaccines provided by OCHD

2936

Influenza vaccines provided by OCHD

2282

COVID vaccines provided by OCHD

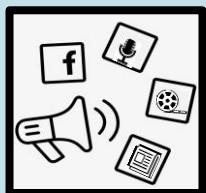
561

Influenza and COVID vaccines provided by OCHD to Non-County Residents



National Council on Aging (NCOA): COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine Uptake Initiative allowed OCHD to maximize opportunities to increase education, outreach, and access to vaccines.

Engagement Highlights



Education and Outreach

The importance of education and outreach efforts in our rural area cannot be overstated. OCHD engaged in messaging through local TV, radio and theater ads, press releases, and social media. In addition, OCHD partnered with the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to send out **150 referrals** to the home bound population.

Decreasing Access to Barriers

OCHD distributed **10 gas cards** to individuals who have transportation, but little to no income, of getting to vaccine clinics. Public transportation vouchers were also offered to individuals in need who do not have reliable transportation or means of getting to vaccines clinics.

Supporting Access



Vaccine Clinics



Community Clinics

OCHD worked to expand outreach and increase access to vaccines during respiratory illness season. In addition to partnering with the ADRC to provide **40 walk-in clinics** in the larger ADRC space, OCHD also coordinated: **26 onsite clinics** at OCHD, **4 mass community clinics**, **13 school-based clinics**, **37 business clinics** and **20 home visits**.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS SAYING:

Great staff and very informational.



Thank You for providing these clinics!



OCHD is professional and the process was easy, no waiting.

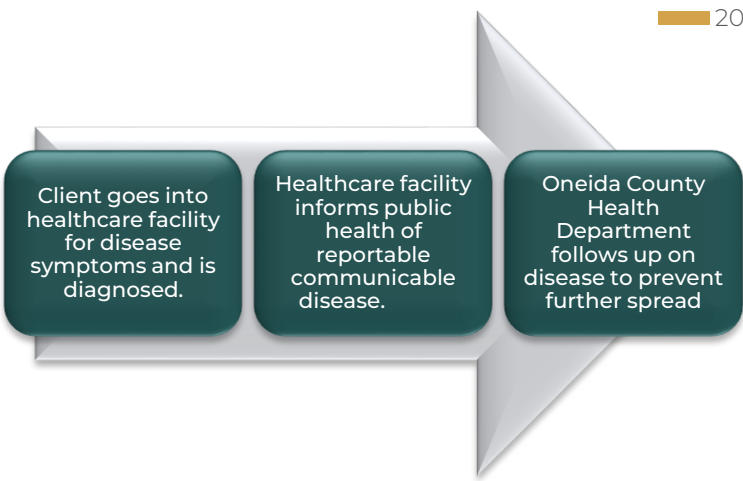
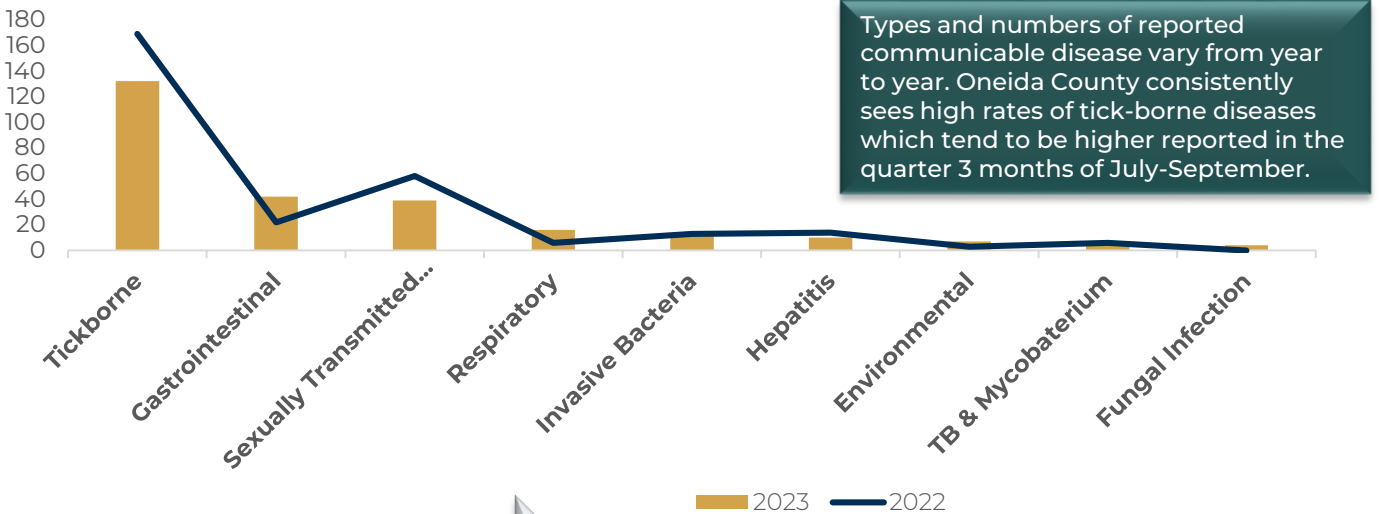


COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

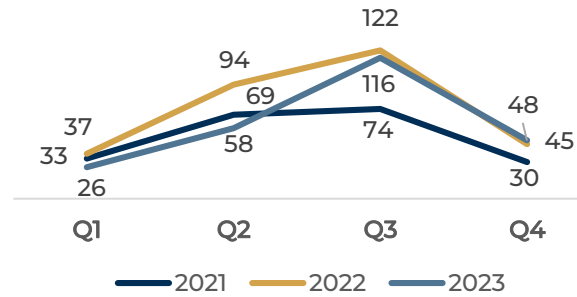


OCHD investigates communicable diseases in Oneida County in order to prevent and control the spread of disease. Communicable disease cases include respiratory viruses, tick-borne illnesses, enteric illnesses, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and more.

Types of Communicable Disease in 2023 Compared to 2022



Communicable Disease By Quarter



BY THE NUMBERS

265

Communicable disease cases (not including COVID)

219.5

Staff hours dedicated to communicable disease follow-up

9

Cases of Giardia (3x higher than state rate based on population)

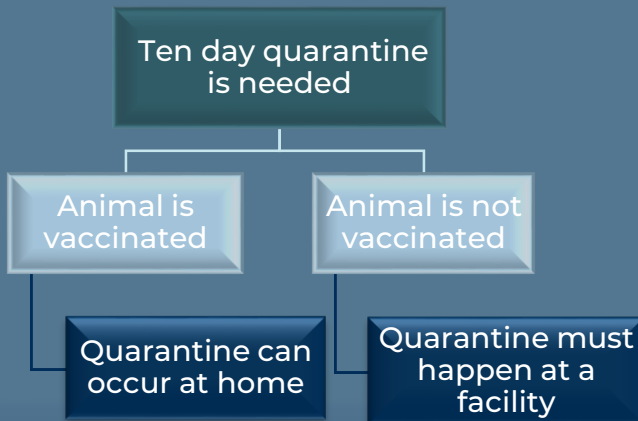
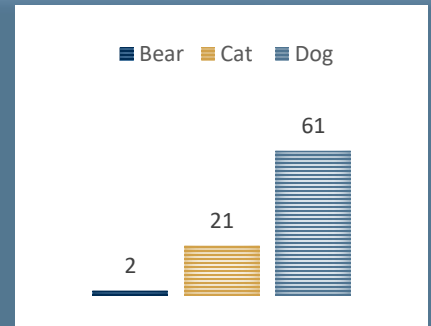
5

Cases of Carbon Monoxide poisoning



ANIMAL BITES

OCHD investigates communicable diseases in Oneida County in order to prevent and control the spread of disease. Communicable disease cases include respiratory viruses, tick-borne illnesses, enteric illnesses, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and more.



After an animal bite occurs, a report to law enforcement and public health requires the owner to follow-up with quarantine of the animal and three wellness checks by a veterinarian to assure the animal is not presenting with signs of rabies.



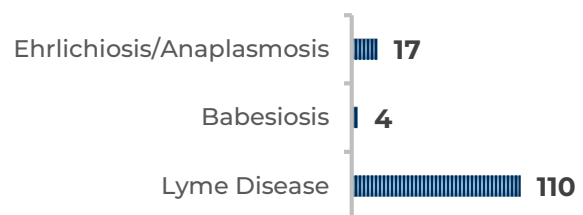
TICK-BORNE DISEASE

- Illnesses spread by ticks are common in Wisconsin; however, not all ticks spread illness. Regardless, illnesses spread by ticks are preventable and can be prevented through doing daily tick checks, using insect repellent, and wearing appropriate clothes when you are outdoors.

HOW TO PREVENT TICK BITES

- Wear insect repellent or protective clothing (long pants and shirt)
- Check for ticks immediately after activity and again at bedtime.
- Stay on marked trails and paths and avoid high grass.

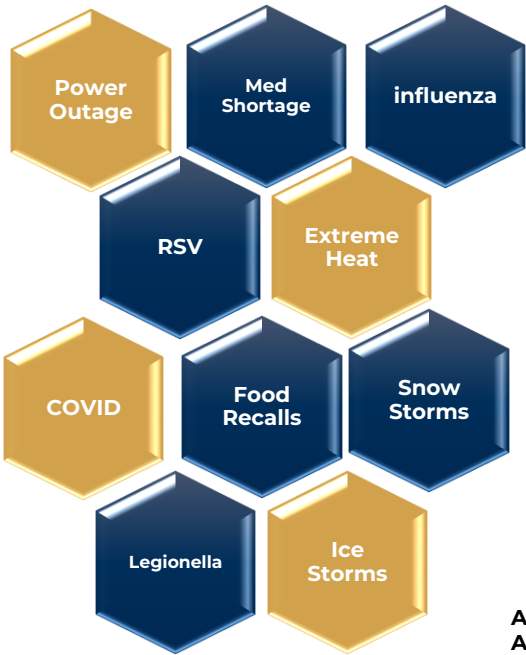
ONEIDA COUNTY 2023 TICK-BORNE CASES



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PHEP)



Significant Events Identified in 2023



The PHEP cooperative agreement is a critical source of funding for state, local, and territorial public health departments, **helping build and strengthen abilities to effectively respond to a range of public health threats**, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events.



Above left: OCHD Vaccine Operations Team September 2023.
Above right: Some of the OCHD LTE RNs who supported OCHD vaccine operation.

Key Preparedness Activities for 2023:

- Revitalized the Community Outreach Information Network (COIN) to prepare for emergencies effecting populations with access and functional needs.
- Continued collaboration with healthcare and emergency partners for regional medical surge preparedness.
- Updated the Northern Region Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement to bolster resources for public health emergencies.
- Leveraged seasonal vaccine operations to conduct a full-scale exercise on medical countermeasures distribution.
- Activated OCHD's "LTE RN Pool" and vetted WEAVR Volunteers to test readiness for public health emergencies.
- Updated OCHD Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for maintaining operational capability.

BY THE NUMBERS

5

Staff Trained in NIMS/ICS

11

LTE RNs activated for Medical Countermeasure exercise/vaccine operations

74/191

Oneida County Volunteers identified as available to respond in WEAVR drill within 48 hours

21

OCHD staff responding within 1 hour of RAVE Emergency Notification Drill



HEALTH HAZARDS

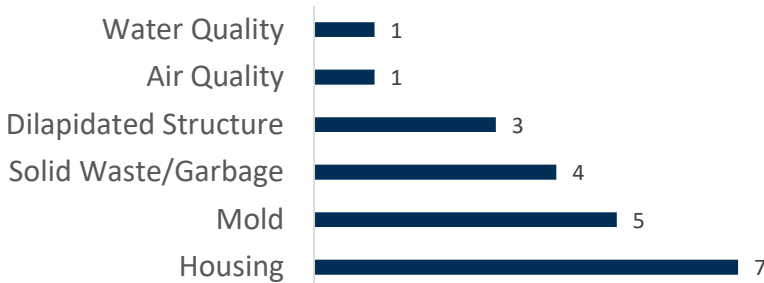


A Health Hazard is a substance, activity or condition that is known to have the potential to cause acute or chronic illness, to endanger life, to generate or spread infectious diseases, or otherwise cause injury to the public. OCHD investigates health hazards to protect the health and safety of the public and communities in Oneida County.

Housing was identified as a health priority for Oneida County in 2023. A safe house away from potential hazards can promote well-being. However, living in unsafe or unsuitable housing conditions may contribute to health inequities and be a factor in health problems, such as chronic diseases.



2023 Health Hazards by Type



BY THE NUMBERS

21

New health hazards

7

Cases that involved housing concerns including structure, poor rent conditions, and more

12

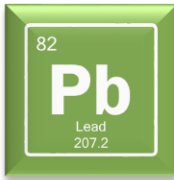
Open cases actively being investigated at the end of 2023

5

New & carried over health hazards that remained posted as Unfit for Human Habitation at end of 2023



LEAD PROGRAM



Lead exposure can seriously harm a child's health.



Damage the brain and nervous system



Slow growth and development



Cause hearing and speech problems



Cause learning and behavior difficulties



GOOD NEWS!

Lead poisoning is 100% preventable!

OCHD provides education and resources to families and health care providers on the importance of lead poisoning prevention. OCHD also plays a vital role in addressing childhood lead poisoning and prevention through the following activities:

Testing

- Education on lead testing recommendations
- Medicaid requirements
- New in 2024: Universal testing
- Provides lead testing

Nurse Case Management

- Follow up from a nurse when there is an elevated lead level
- Confirmatory testing recommendations
- Risk factor assessment
- Resources and education

Hazard Removal

- Lead Hazard Investigator on staff
- Home inspection for lead hazards
- Lead paint, soil, water testing
- Referrals for lead remediation assistance

Children under 6 and children who live, learn, and play in buildings built before 1978 are at greatest risk of lead exposure and health problems



59%

Of Wisconsin homes were built before 1978



At Least 1

Lead-poisoned child in every WI county in the last 5 years

BY THE NUMBERS

5

Oneida County health care facilities provide lead testing, including OCHD.

149

Age appropriate lead tests provided

4

Confirmed elevated lead levels that were provided education from a nurse

1

Referral made to the Lead Safe Homes Program



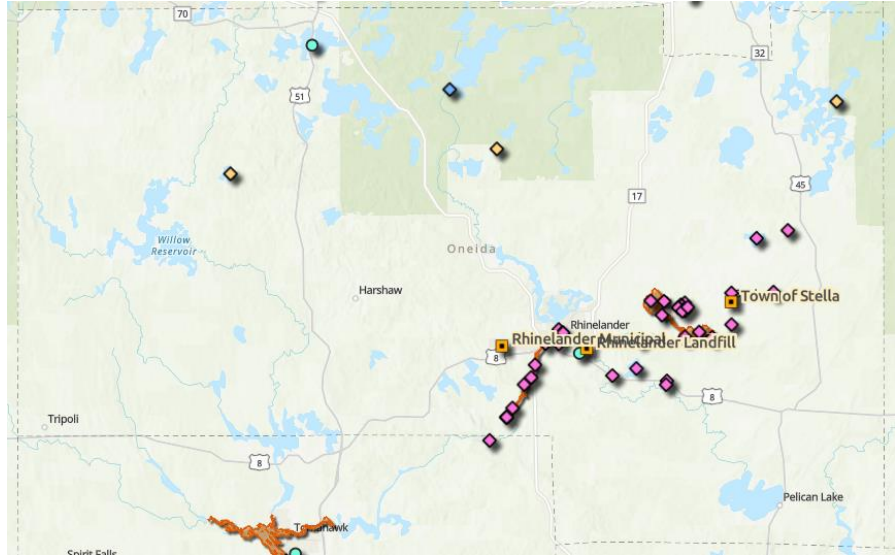
PFAS

Per- and Polyinfluenzaoroalkyl Substances



Per- and Polyinfluenzaoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays, certain types of firefighting foam and more. These contaminants have made their way into the environment in a variety of ways including through spills of PFAS-containing chemicals, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants and use of certain types of firefighting foams.

This map represents data about where PFAS impacts Oneida County. The map shows locations of contamination sites. If several contaminated sites are in close proximity, click on the map to be directed to the Wisconsin PFAS Interactive Data Viewer. This map includes the following information:



Wisconsin PFAS Interactive Data Viewer: <https://arcg.is/rDr9q0>

Surface Water and Fish Tissue Sampling

- Background Monitoring - Lakes
- Background Monitoring - Major Rivers
- Targeted Monitoring

Open Sites (with point clustering)

- Multiple (see count)
- Closed Site

PFAS-Based Consumption Advice

- Fish Advisory - River/Waterbody Area
- Fish Advisory - Stream/River Line
- Other Consumption Advice

Municipal Water System Sampling

- PFAS above the WI DHS health advisory level in one or more samples from the system
- PFAS exceeds the WI DHS hazard index for samples from the water system
- PFAS detected below hazard index in one or more samples from the water system
- PFAS not detected in any samples from the water system

BY THE NUMBERS

3

PFAS Sites (Open Under Investigation)

1

Resolution passed to direct the WI DNR to tests well water for PFAS in areas near historically permitted sludge/waster spreading in Oneida County

71

Wells were tested in the Town of Stella

21

Wells tested in the Town of Stella had PFAS levels reported above DHS' recommended health guidelines



RADON

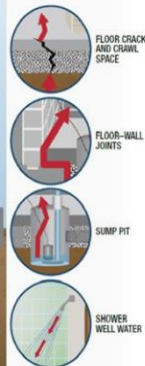
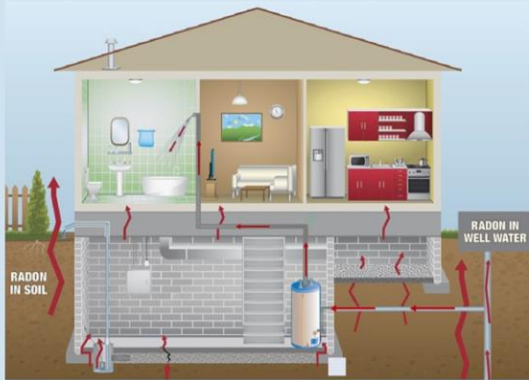


- **1 in 15** homes in the United States have high levels of radon
- January is Radon Action Month
- EPA estimates **21,000 of lung cancer** deaths caused by radon annually
- OCHD sold **42** radon test kits in January 2023
- **24 of the 76** radon test kits sold in 2023 resulted in elevated radon levels above 4 pCi/L
- **Goal is to reduce levels** below the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L (4 pCi/L equals 200 chest x-rays per year or 8 cigarettes per day)



Radon can enter your home in many ways:

- Cracks in solid floors
- Construction joints
- Cracks in walls
- Gaps in suspended floors
- Gaps around service pipes
- Cavities inside walls
- The water supply



www.epa.gov/radon

A mitigation system is simple, effective, and energy efficient - most common installed system is called **“sub-slab depressurization”** which uses plumbing-type PVC pipe and a small fan to remove radon. There are a number of certified mitigation contractors in Wisconsin.

BY THE NUMBERS

96

Certified radon mitigation contractors in Wisconsin listed on Department of Health Services website

17

Radon Information Centers throughout Wisconsin that are funded by Department of Health Services, Marathon County is our hub

1 in 10

Homes in Wisconsin have high radon levels because more testing is being completed

76

Radon test kits sold in 2023 at OCHD



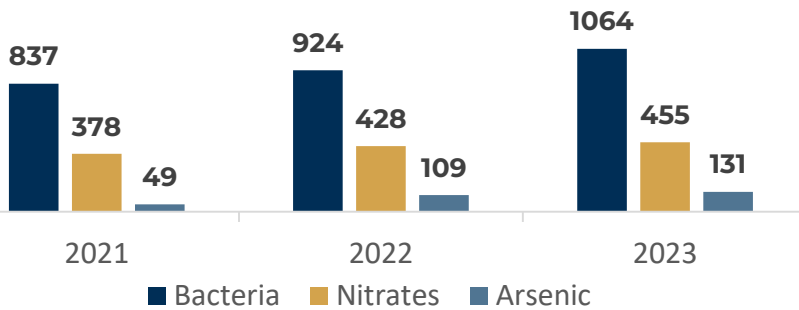
WATER TESTING



DNR TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY PROGRAM

- **OCHD** is responsible for inspecting and testing approximately **300 DNR transient non-community (TN)** wells in Oneida County. A TN well is one which serves 25 or more people at least 60 days a year. Each DNR TN well is annually tested for bacteria and nitrates.
- **5 TN wells** had bacteria contamination in 2023. Bacteria in well water can cause influenza like symptoms. Coliform bacteria in the water shows the well is vulnerable and at risk for more serious contamination. E coli. bacteria indicates human or animal waste fecal contamination.
- **1 TN well** had nitrates above the safe level of 10 mg/L. Elevated nitrates can effect public health by increasing risk of thyroid disease, colon cancer, blue baby syndrome and neural tube defects in fetuses.

Types of Water Tests Completed



High nitrates or bacteria contamination may not affect the smell or taste of water. Lab testing is the only way to confirm their presence.

DID YOU KNOW ?

PRIVATE WELLS

- **15 private wells** were bacteria positive. Environmental Health Staff provided guidance to homeowners including how to visually inspect well components for potential problems, and how to effectively and safely chlorinate their well in order to remove bacterial contamination which may be detrimental to their health.
- **5 private wells** had nitrate levels above safe level of 10 mg/L. Homeowners were given information on nitrates in wells, how to lower nitrates with water treatment systems, and information on well replacement programs offering financial assistance.

BY THE NUMBERS

5

TN wells had bacteria and contamination

1

TN wells had nitrates above the safe level of 10 mg/L.

15

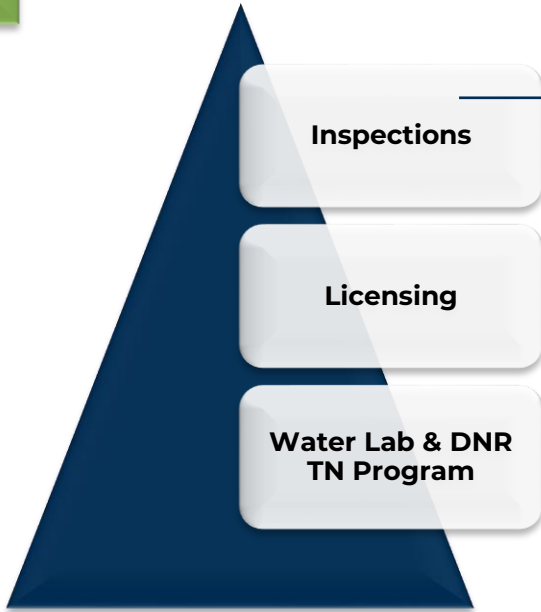
Private wells were bacteria positive

15

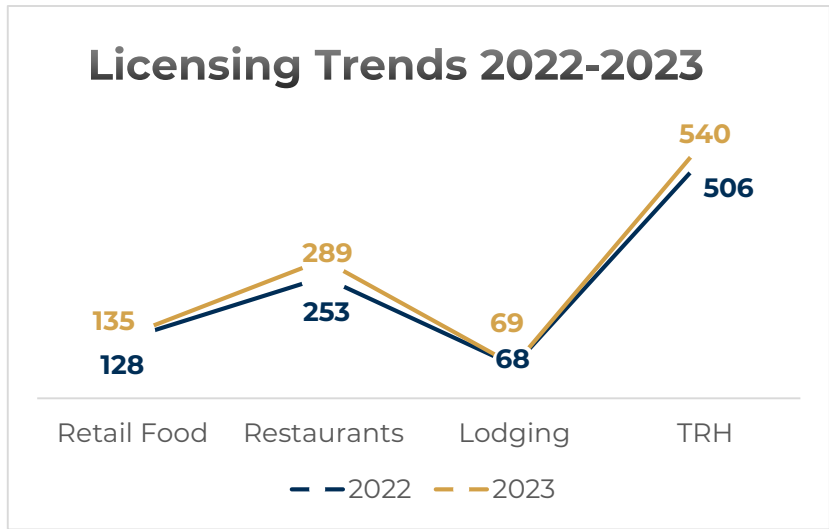
Private wells had nitrate levels above safe level of 10 mg/L



INSPECTION PROGRAM



All facilities that are licensed by OCHD are inspected annually. **Why do we inspect and license facilities?** We inspect restaurants and food establishments to make sure food is safe and to reduce foodborne illnesses. A license indicates that the establishment follows proper safety protocols which in return ensures the safety and well being of the public.



BY THE NUMBERS

64	1133	1165	152
Total Temporary Event Inspections	Total Facilities Licensed	Total Inspections	Total Pre-Inspections

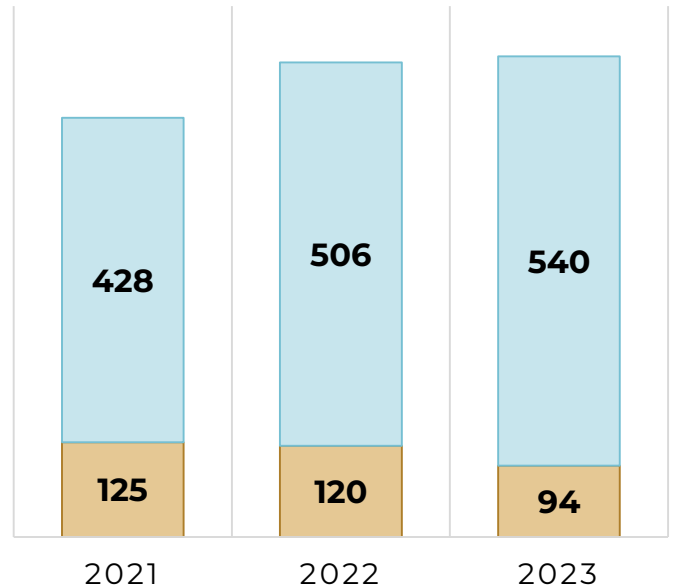
Tourist Rooming Houses (TRH) are single family homes or cabins, rented on a short-term basis to tourists.

Pre-Inspections verify compliance with the state lodging code and are required prior to licensing and at change of ownership. Continual routine inspections must be done to maintain licensing.

Inspections help protect the general health, safety, and welfare of the public while enjoying overnight lodging.

TRH Pre-Inspections & Inspections Trending Data

■ TRH Pre-Inspections ■ TRH Inspections



Oneida County
has the



number of TRHs in



Tina Meier

Environmental Health Technician

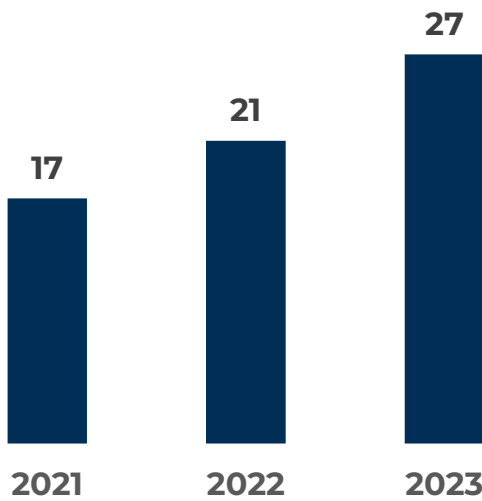
Tina has been employed by OCHD as an Environmental Health Technician for over a year. She has learned a lot of new things in this time and met many new people. A portion of her job involves inspecting houses that people rent to tourists and collect DNR water samples from businesses that are not supplied with municipal water. Some of her other duties include sanitary surveys for businesses that are not on a municipal water supply for the DNR. On these surveys she updates the files with any changes from previous years regarding pressure tanks, if a new well has been drilled, and making sure the well cap and wiring are all intact. Tina also works in the OCHD water lab where she sets and reads the bacteria water samples.



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Number of LARCs Inserted



Our reproductive health clinic offers three types of **Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)**

- Nexplanon Implant
- Hormonal Intrauterine Device (IUD)
- Non-Hormonal Intrauterine Device (IUD)

LARCs have been an important addition to our clinic. They allow our clients continuous years of contraceptive protection, providing effectiveness for 5, 8, or 12 years. Another benefit is that LARC methods do not require taking medication daily, weekly, monthly, or even on an annual basis.

Having these methods readily available at our clinic has increased contraceptive compliance, Nurse Practitioner appointments, and overall client satisfaction.

BY THE NUMBERS

149

Chlamydia & Gonorrhea Tests

585

Total Client Encounters

144 vs 592

Depo Injections given vs. Oral Contraceptives dispensed

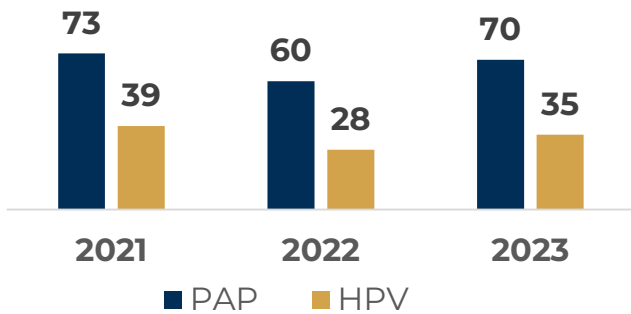
4 / 85

Positives / Total Pregnancy Tests



Reproductive Health Screenings

Number of Pap and HPV Screenings



- **Cervical Cancer ranks 4th among cancers in women.**
- Pap smear checks for abnormal cervical cell changes.
- Abnormal results may need follow-up, especially for high-risk cells.
- High-risk cells might necessitate a colposcopy procedure.
- Regular Pap and HPV screenings are crucial.
- OCHD Reproductive Health offers both screenings.

NEW!!

- Abnormal pap smear and HPV screening results may lead to a colposcopy procedure.
- A colposcopy uses a colposcope to examine cervix, vagina, and vulva tissue.
- Reproductive Health obtained grant funding for colposcopy equipment. This allows them to offer in-house colposcopy procedures.
- Benefits include avoiding external appointments, reducing insurance and billing issues, and lowering out-of-pocket costs.



**Accurate results,
delivered in 30 minutes.
That's the binx io.**

Molecular POC CT/NG testing
for **male and female** patients



- **Binx IO STI testing** available for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea with CLIA waiver and FDA clearance.
- Results in **30 minutes** enable rapid testing, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Aims to reduce poor health outcomes and community spread.
- Medicaid reimbursable.
- Eliminates week-long wait for results, boosting revenue and convenience

Elizabeth Kroening

Reproductive / Public Health Nurse

Liz began working at OCHD on February 28th, 2023. She primarily works in Reproductive Health, but also has generalized Public Health duties. Liz recently graduated with her Bachelors in Science of Nursing degree from UW-Eau Claire. She finds joy in providing reproductive health

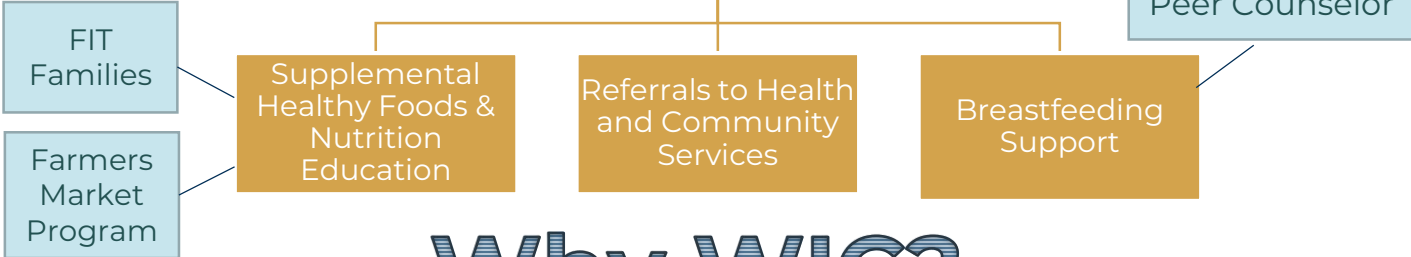
providing reproductive health and overall care to her clients. Liz also likes to work hands on with clients, so her position in RHC is a perfect fit for her!



WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)



Oneida County WIC Provides Qualifying Families With:



Why WIC?

Improved Birth Outcomes

- More full term deliveries (36-42 weeks)
- Fewer infant deaths
- Greater likelihood of accessing prenatal care

Healthcare Savings

- Savings up to \$3.50 in future healthcare costs for every dollar spent on the program
- Every dollar spent on pregnant WIC participants saves Medicaid an estimated \$1.77-\$3.13 for health care costs occurring in the first two months after delivery

Improved Diets and Infant Feeding Practices

- A more nutritious diet of nutrient dense foods
- Decline in iron deficiency anemia
- More effective than other food assistance programs in helping preschoolers have a healthier diet
- Having received breastfeeding advice from the WIC program, WIC participants are more likely to breastfeed

BY THE NUMBERS

576

WIC Participants

53

More WIC participants in 2023 than in 2022

\$453,075

WIC Benefits Spent in Oneida County

93.1%

Oneida County WIC infants ever breastfed, were still breastfed at one month



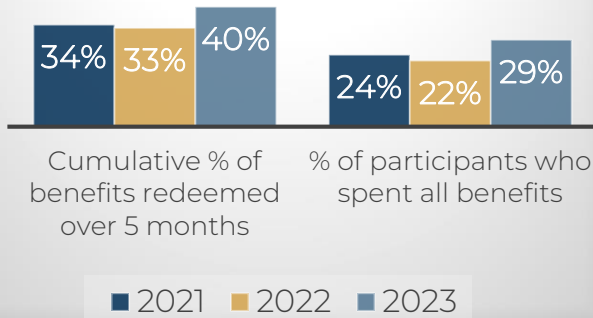
FIT Families

An evidence-based program that is offered free to WIC participants and provides the framework for families to make healthy goals that:

- Improve healthy food and beverage consumption
- Improve daily physical activity
- Create healthy supportive environments



Farmers Market Benefit



Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)

WIC participants receive Farmers Market checks during the summer months to increase access to fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables which helps:

- Increase fruit and vegetable consumption
- Increase awareness of where to find fresh, locally grown foods

2023 FMNP Highlight

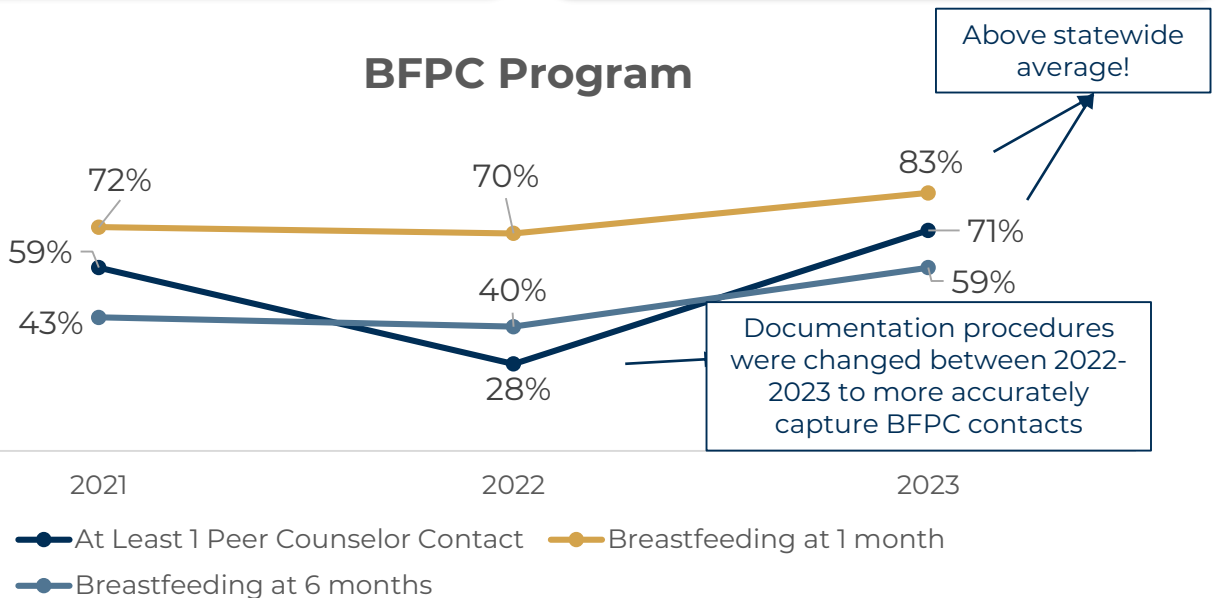
WIC staff worked to increase awareness of the FMNP through social media and text communication!

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (BFPC) Program

WIC BFPC are moms from the community that participated in the WIC program and breastfed their babies. They are available to give breastfeeding support and information and a vital member of the WIC team.

Research has shown that WIC mothers who accept a referral to a BFPC and have at least one phone or in-person contact, there is increased breastfeeding initiation and duration of breastfeeding overall.

BFPC Program



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH (MCH)



In 2023, OCHD received a Title V Maternal & Child Health Services Block Grant. These grant funds were used to promote and deliver programming that improves the health and well-being of Oneida County families. Some of the 2023 MCH initiatives included:



Access to Means 988 Sticker Campaign

OUCHD partnered with the COPE Coalition by distributing 988 Crisis Lifeline stickers for use on medication bags at pharmacy locations (Oneida, Vilas, Forest). This campaign helped to increase suicide prevention protective factors and bring awareness to suicide risk factors in the hopes of reducing suicides in our counties.

Suicide Risk Factors:

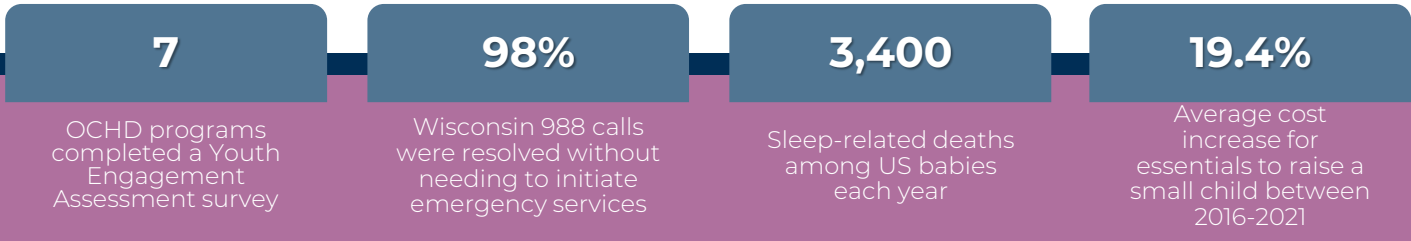
- Stressful life events
- Lack of access to behavioral health and crisis care
- Prolonged stress
- Mental health conditions
- Access to lethal means (firearms and drugs)

Suicide Protective Factors:

- Access/knowledge to mental health and crisis care
- Feeling connected to family and community support
- Limited access to lethal means



BY THE NUMBERS



Safe Sleep Program



- Community education about safe sleep practices
- A safe place for babies to sleep through our Pack N Play distribution program

Safe Sleep Education
+
Pack N Play Distribution Program

- Decreases bed sharing
- Increases knowledge and use of safe sleep practices

Newborn Care

OCHD offers newborn care packages to Oneida County families. These care packages include:

- Safety information (car seat, safe sleep)
- Assistance services information (WIC, Food Pantry, FORK, Oneida County Resource List)
- Child safety/essential items (bath thermometer, Baby basic care kit, nursery thermometer)

With the ever-increasing cost of baby essentials, this care package helps to connect families to the many resources we offer in Oneida County, in the hopes of helping newborns and their families start their journey feeling healthy and supported.



Increase cost of baby supplies 2021-2022

- Baby Food: 12%
- Diapers: 20%
- Car Seats: 41%

Drop in U. S. median household income in 2022

- Pre-tax: 2%
- Post-tax: 8%

46 newborn care packages were sent out in 2023



CAR SEAT PROGRAM



In 2022, child safety seat use prevented nearly 118,600 injuries and 500 deaths in the US.

OCHD receives grant funding from the Department of Transportation to purchase car seats that can be provided free of charge to qualifying families.

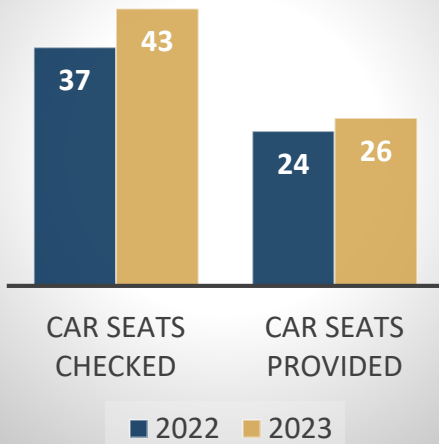
Car seat distribution plus education programs can increase restraint use.

Programs providing hands-on demonstrations help increase proper installation and decrease premature transition.

OCHD's Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians also offer free car seat checks to community members and every car seat recipient. These checks include safety education and installation demonstrations.

Car seat use reduces injury risk for children by 71-82% when compared to seat belt use alone.

2022 vs 2023



Safety Tips:

- Choose a car seat based on your child's height, weight and age.
- Read all instructions to correctly install and use the car seat.
- Check the expiration date and know the history of your car seat before you use it.
- Use a car seat correctly on every ride.
- Children are more likely to buckle up if they see a parent or caregiver buckled up.
- Let others who drive your kids know that a car seat is a must.

BY THE NUMBERS

1

Additional OCHD staff member became a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (2 technicians now at OCHD)

26

Car seats distributed to qualifying families

43

Car seat checks provided by a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician

100%

Individuals who completed a survey reported they are now able to properly install a car seat after receiving instruction



WISCONSIN WELL WOMAN PROGRAM (WWWP)



Serving: Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Iron, Oneida, Price Sawyer & Vilas Counties

What is the Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP)?

The WWWP program helps individuals get screening and other services for breast and cervical cancer prevention. Program eligibility includes: Women ages 40-64 years, live in Wisconsin, are uninsured or have high co-pays or deductibles, meet income requirements **(at or below 25% of the federal poverty level)**.

WWWP OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Community Events

Northwood Technical College: Health Fair

Mobile Mammography Event: Glidden

Pink OUT Event: Rhinelander High School

Light Up the Night for Recovery

Demmer Library: Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Workshops

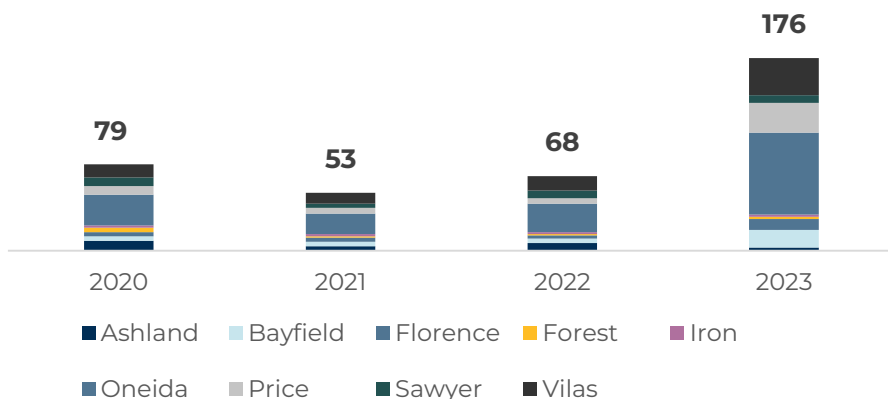
Wisconsin Cancer Collaborative Summit: Networking

1000+

Ads were run on 6 NRG radio stations throughout the region and movie theatre ads through Rouman Cinema in Rhinelander.

WWWP Client Contacts

(Contacts: number of interactions with client or on behalf of client with partners)



Studies have shown that public education and targeted outreach not only helps women get connected with needed services but also increases cancer prevention education and program awareness in the community

BY THE NUMBERS

40

Clients enrolled in program for 2023

10

Secured insurance or became Medicare eligible

4

Clients that needed further diagnostics

1

Clients diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer



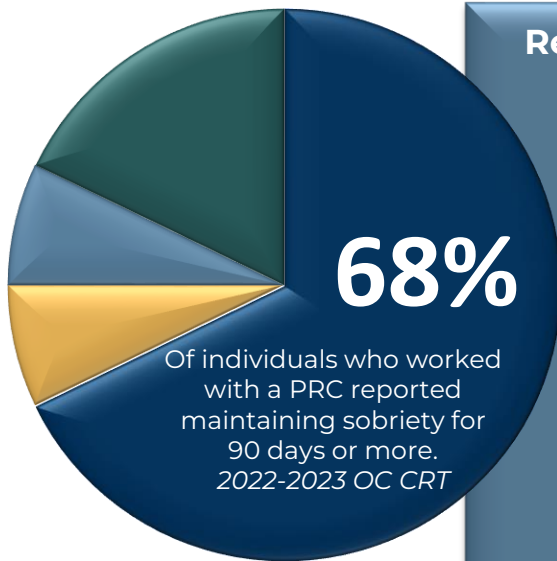
OVERDOSE PREVENTION



Strategies of the **COPE (Community, Outreach, Prevention, and Education) Coalition – Substance Use Subcommittee** and the **Overdose Data to Action Grant** focus on preventing harm associated with opioid overdose and implementing evidence-based approaches to intervention and referral to treatment at multiple intercepts of the criminal justice system.

Oneida County Community Response Team (OC CRT)

The OC CRT utilizes Peer Recovery Coaches (PRC) and the unique contacts of first responders to deflect individuals experiencing substance use concerns and impacted family members to the care they feel they need.



Reported Benefits

1. Increase Access to Recovery Resources

"Sometimes it is hard to find resources when you don't have the right connections, the PRC has been able to connect me to the resources I need." – *client*

2. Improved Relationships and Trust

"Coaches and mentors help improve how individuals respond to treatment, how they feel about it and improve their relationship with treatment providers." – *recovery resource*

3. Enhances Recovery Outcomes

"They help me set boundaries to stay sober and create a better life for me and my children." – *client*

4. Decrease Criminal Justice Involvement

"You can tell when someone is working with the coach by the reduced calls for service." – *law enforcement*

BY THE NUMBERS

3

Peer Recovery Coaches served Oneida County

100%

Clients said the Peer Recovery Coach Program helped them maintain sobriety

10

First responder and recovery resource organizations support OC CRT

97%

PRC contacts are by phone and provide social support any time of day or night



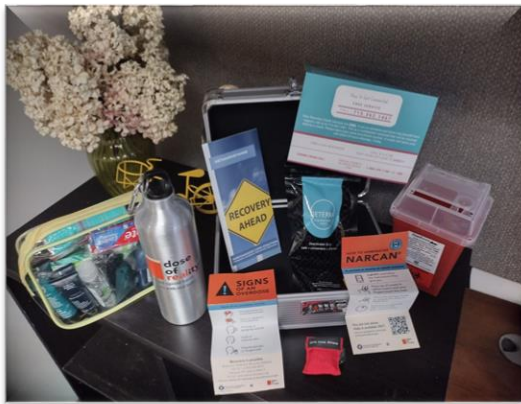


Transportation Vouchers

The Oneida County Community Response Team (OC CRT) distributed **285 transportation vouchers** to people seeking recovery. Cab vouchers are the most valuable resource. Most clients in need do not have reliable transportation.

Light Up the Night for Recovery Event

The annual event aims to reduce stigma and build connections to recovery resources. In 2023 over **150 individuals** and **36 recovery support agencies** attended.



Harm Reduction

The COPE Coalition distributed over **100 harm reduction awareness toolkits** through partners in 2023. The toolkits included things like lock boxes, Detera deactivation units, information on how to respond to an overdose, and CPR masks.

We Care Line

The OC CRT developed the We Care Cards to encourage people to self-refer to PRC services. **150+ cards were distributed** through jail-log mailings. **4 referrals** were received to the We Care Line.

How to Get Connected

FREE SERVICE

CALL **715.362.1467**

Peer Recovery Coach services are **FREE**. If you or someone you know may benefit from support, call us at 715.362.1467. This is a confidential voicemail that will be checked daily by a coach. Please leave your name and phone number. A coach will return your call within 24 hours Monday - Friday.

FIND LOCAL RESOURCES CALL 2-1-1 OR
TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO **898211**

DURING CRISIS CALL ONEIDA COUNTY
24 HOUR CRISIS
LINE **1.888.299.1188 OR 988**

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE - 2024

- ❑ OCHD wrote for a Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program Grant in 2023. The funding will help advance current programming and recovery housing in Oneida County.
- ❑ OCHD is now a NARCAN direct provider! This service will increase access by training and distributing NARCAN to family members and organizations serving people who are experiencing substance use concerns.





Tobacco use* remains the #1 cause of death in Wisconsin.

The Northwoods Tobacco-Free Coalition (NWTFC) is a multijurisdictional coalition representing Florence, Forest, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, Vilas and Langlade Counties.

The goals of NWTFC are to:

- Prevent tobacco use initiation
- Eliminate the exposure to secondhand smoke
- Advance health equity and eliminate tobacco related inequities

The environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play and worship have a major impact on their health, wellbeing, and quality of life.



In Wisconsin, cigarette butts are the **#1 type** of litter found on lake beaches and parks. They leach toxic chemicals like formaldehyde and arsenic into the water and soil.



Exposure to tobacco imagery in popular streaming and TV shows, coupled with exposure to retail marketing tactics such as buy one get one promotions, **triples the likelihood of a young person to initiating vaping.**

BY THE NUMBERS

200,000+

Ads offering information on resources for parents and youth who are looking to quit.

4

New youth prevention programs established.

1000+

Youth engaged in tobacco prevention and control efforts.

5

Testimonials given to the Joint Finance Committee, informing legislators of the ongoing tobacco issues in Wisconsin.



NWTFC Highlights of 2023

The Price County Public Health Department started a **Disposal of Cigarette Litter Campaign** to protect the health of the communities, forests, and waterways.

With help from the city of Phillips, NWTFC stationed a voting cigarette butt disposal bin at Elk Lake Park during the Governor's Fishing Opener weekend events.



The YMCA of the Northwoods, in partnership with NWTFC, created a **Teen Lounge**, offering a substance-free space for community youth. The Teen Lounge fosters a supportive environment where vaping becomes less appealing by encouraging youth to explore new hobbies, create memories and lasting friendships along with providing resources for youth who are currently experiencing addiction to tobacco products.

The Langlade County Health Department enhanced and facilitated **Escape the Vape** to all schools in the county. Escape the Vape is an interactive approach to youth vaping prevention. There is a sequence of activities, and puzzles where youth learn the risks of vaping and develop skills to say no to peer pressure.



* This report focuses on **commercial tobacco** - mass-produced products sold for profit that contain chemical additives. Native Americans have used traditional tobacco in sacred ways for centuries. By focusing tobacco prevention and control on commercial tobacco, we acknowledge and respect sovereign tribal nations' relationship with sacred tobacco.



TOBACCO - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



FACT is a youth tobacco prevention program that is part of the Wisconsin Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. **Rhinelanders FACT Group** members from **James William Middle School (JWMS)** spread the truth about tobacco in their community. Oneida County Health Department staff facilitate the FACT Group.

JWMS students reported the number one reason young people use nicotine products is to alleviate stress, anxiety, and depression. FACT youth wanted to spread the word that nicotine can actually make those things worse. They created posters to share healthy coping techniques and the VAPEFREE quit help text line. **50** posters were distributed through partners in the NWTVD 6 county region.



100 wellness kits containing gum, a journal, and fidget toys were distributed through the school resource officer and student services. The kits message “Break the Vape Stress Spiral” promotes help lines and encourages youth to reach out for help when they are feeling stressed.

BY THE NUMBERS

30%

Oneida County high school students had tried vaping in 2021 (YRBS Report)

55%

Oneida County middle school students reported experiencing anxiety in 2021 (YRBS Report)

15

Middle school students recruited to join FACT

20

Youth advocacy “FACTivism” activities were completed



WISCONSIN WINS

Serving Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Florence, Lincoln, and Price Counties

21+

21 MEANS 21 NO MATTER WHAT.

Retailers, let's work together to follow federal law. Verify IDs and don't sell tobacco to anyone under 21.

Free employee training is available at WITobaccoCheck.org



WI WINS is a science-based strategy to decrease youth **access** to tobacco products and help support retailer compliance with the law.



Tobacco Products Sold
in Oneida County in
2023



The program uses positive reinforcement to create healthier communities by commending clerks who do not sell to youth and educating those who do.

Digital Age Verification
Calendar Available to Retailers



Wisconsin Wins: Trained Employees, Tobacco-Free Kids.

BY THE NUMBERS

7

Types of retailer outreach to educate on T21 laws and access to online training

10

Youth volunteers assisted with compliance checks

24

Compliance checks in Oneida County

91.6%

Oneida County checks resulted in no tobacco sale



COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA)



Oneida County CHA Timeline

August – December 2022

- CHA Core Planning Committee begins CHA process
- CHA Survey launch via social media
- CHA Survey distributed in person to specific populations

January – March 2023

- Conducted Focus Groups
- Conducted Key Informant Interviews

April – May 2023

- CHA Steering Committee Convenes
- Board of Health (BOH) Presentation
- Community Conversations Planning

June – August 2023

- Community Data Walk
- Community Health Prioritization meeting & survey
- BOH Update
- Community meeting and survey to identify Health Priority Focus Areas

September – October 2023

- Secondary Data Packet released to community
- Health Priority Planning and Strategic Meetings for Priority Areas

November - December 2023

- Collaboration with existing coalitions
- Synthesize data and information

February 2024

- Finalize CHA Report
- BOH Presentation

What is the Community Health Assessment?

A **Community Health Assessment (CHA)**, identifies key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis. Community input is collected through surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews that provide invaluable insight around community driven priorities.

New to this year's CHA process is the focus shift from health behaviors and outcomes to include **Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)**. SDOH are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.



Why is the CHA Important?

Overall, community health assessments provide a comprehensive understanding of the health status and needs of a population, guiding evidence-based decision-making and ultimately improving the health and well-being of the community. With this information the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) can develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to justify how and where resources should be allocated to best meet community needs. To ensure community input the OCHD collected;



502
CHA Surveys



14
Key Informant Interviews



3
Focus Groups

BY THE NUMBERS

3

Guiding Frameworks used to organize the CHA process

352+

Data points collected during the CHA process

502

Oneida County participants who completed the CHA Survey

27

Organizations who attended the CHA Community Conversations



COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)



7 Strategies for Creating Effective Community Change

Individual focus

- Provide Information
- Build Skills
- Provide Support

Environmental focus

- Reduce barriers/enhance access
- Change consequences/incentives
- Physical design
- Policy change

What is a Community Health Improvement Plan?

A **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems based on the results of community health assessment activities and the community health improvement process.

Strategic Planning meetings are held with community stakeholders and community members in order to gather community input and discuss what is currently being done in the community. These meetings utilize the **CADCA: 7 Strategies for Creating Effective Community Change**. During these meetings the following Health Priorities and Focus Areas were determined and will be worked on for the next 5 years by the OCHD.



Health Priorities & Focus Areas

Childcare

- * Lack of care before and after school
- * Pay childcare providers/cost of running a daycare/cost to parents

Housing

- * Housing with problems/quality concerns
- * Financial hardship of households

Mental Health

- * Poor self reported mental health days/mentally unhealthy days
- * Youth students who experience bullying
- * Youth students with anxiety

Substance Use

- * Drinking culture
- * Limited access to treatment
- * Youth substance use

BY THE NUMBERS

4

Selected health priorities

10

Health priority focus areas

7

Strategic Planning meetings for health priorities

17

Partner organizations assisting in identifying health priorities & focus areas



SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION (SVP)



The **Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP)** program aims to engage diverse communities to improve health and safety by addressing the root causes of sexual violence.

LGBTQIA Safe Space Survey

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

The Oneida County Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) Team is seeking feedback from allies and the LGBTQIA community about their mental wellness and feelings of support and sense of belonging in Oneida County.

Enter for a chance to win a gift basket or gift card!

SCAN HERE FOR SURVEY

Survey URL:
https://uwstout.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_40LxN6K1Bmt9vIs

Questions? Contact Mo at 715-369-6110
mgross@ccooneida.wi.us

ONEIDA COUNTY
www.oneida.wi.us

“What I’m really looking for is a space that feels humanizing.”

Research shows individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ are **four times** more likely to be victims of violent crimes compared to their heterosexual and cisgender counterparts.

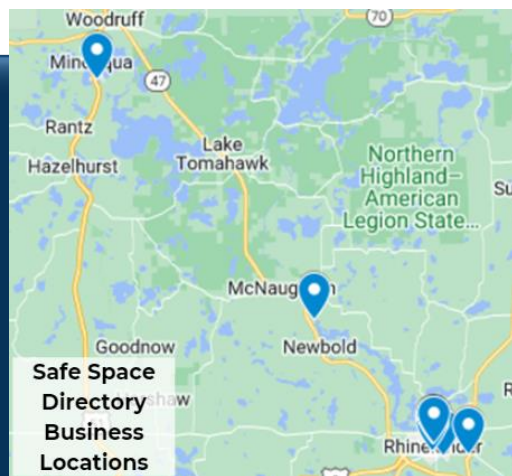
The SVP team launched the LGBTQIA+ Safe Space Survey in March 2023 to learn how LGBTQIA+ individuals feel about their safety and sense of belonging in Oneida County. The resulting data indicated a need for safe and welcoming businesses across the Northwoods.

The Safe Space Directory & Network

The Safe Space Directory and Network aims to improve LGBTQIA+ folks’ experiences in our community.

It includes two tiers:

- 1. Directory:** Businesses that self-identify as LGBTQIA-welcoming.
- 2. Network:** Businesses that complete offered training(s) in creating safe spaces.



BY THE NUMBERS

40+

Community responses in LGBTQIA+ Safe Space Survey, suggesting strategies for effective outcomes.

8

Organizations collaborated to create the Safe Space Directory and Network.

11

Organizations joined the Safe Space Directory and Network.

3

Businesses participated in policy analysis to enhance protective factors for LGBTQIA+ staff.



LOOK FORWARD TO 2024



OCHD wrote for a Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program Grant in 2023. The funding will help advance current programming and recovery housing in Oneida County.



OCHD is now a NARCAN direct provider! This service will increase access by training and distributing NARCAN to family members and organizations serving people who are experiencing substance use concerns.



OCHD wrote and received the Healthy Brain Initiative Grant in 2023. The Healthy Brain Initiative aims to increase knowledge, awareness, and access to services that promote brain health and improve the quality of life for people affected by dementia.



OCHD will be working on the next organizational strategic plan. The strategic plan will outline the mission, vision, and core values defining the purpose, direction, and guiding principles of the public health department.



OCHD is working to rejuvenate our Prenatal Care Coordination program, connecting pregnant people to medical, social, and education services. OCHD will once again be actively enrolling qualifying pregnant people to our PNCC program. OCHD will also be working to increase program awareness by attending community events, working with other agencies in our county, and building new partnerships.



Oneida County (OC) WIC is transitioning back to in person appointments. OC WIC is working to meet the needs of our rural community and building meaningful connections with our participants by offering hybrid services which include both in-person and telehealth appointments. OC WIC is increasing our outreach by getting out into the community, partnering with other amazing Oneida County programs and cultivating new partnerships.





ONEIDA COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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*In Remembrance of
Tom Kelly*

Oneida County Board of Health

May 2014 - January 2024