

### 2020 Annual Report

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Promoting Health, Preventing Disease, Protecting the Environment.



A Letter to the Community

To the Marathon County leaders and community:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Department staff were organized into an Incident Command Structure (ICS). This structure is used by government agencies and their partners to organize efficiently and effectively during an emergency or event. This means staff have duties specific to the response and may report to someone other than their normal supervisor. In January 2020, there were about 40 permanent and limited term staff. At the peak of COVID-19 activity in late 2020, there were about 85 regular and contracted staff working to support the COVID-19 pandemic response. This report further describes how all department staff pivoted roles and responsibilities to maintain core functions and services, with many shifting to working from home, all in response to the pandemic. Each division was tasked with new activities and subsequently stopped or interrupted some services for varied lengths of time. The impacts are reflected in the data provided in this report.



### Essential Services of Public Health

- **1.** Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets.
- 2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
- **3.** Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.
- 4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
- 5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.
- 6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health.
- **7.** Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.
- **8.** Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.
- **9.** Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.
- **10.** Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.



### Our Mission

To be the healthiest and safest county in which to live, learn, work, and play.

### Our Vision

To advance a healthy Marathon County community by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the public from environmental hazards.

### Our Core Values

**Service:** responsibly delivering on our commitments to all of our internal and external customers.



**Integrity:** honesty, openness, and demonstrating mutual respect and trust in others.



**Quality:** providing public services that are reflective of "best practices" in the field.



**Diversity:** actively welcoming and valuing people with different perspectives and experiences.



**Shared Purpose:** functioning as a team to attain our organizational goals and working collaboratively with our policy makers, department, and employees.



**Stewardship of Resources:** conserving the human, natural, cultural, and financial resources for current and future generations.

### Health Department Leadership

Joan Theurer, RN, MSN - Health Officer Judy Burrows, RD, BS - Program Director, Community Health Improvement Eileen Eckardt, RN, BSN - Program Director, Family Health and Communicable Disease Control Dale Grosskurth, RS, MPA - Program Director, Environmental Health and Safety Season Welle, MBA - Director of Operations, Fiscal and Administrative Support

### Board of Health

Sandi Cihlar MaryAnn Crosby (Jan-Apr) Dean Danner Kue Her Tiffany Lee Corrie Norrbom, MD

Craig McEwen Michael McGrail, MD (Jan-Apr) John Robinson Laura Scudiere (Jan-Mar) Lori Shepherd, MD

Ex-Officio Members: Kevin O'Connell, MD - Medical Advisor

### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

#### **Community Health Improvement**

- Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP)
- Mental Health Changemakers for Behavioral Health
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Tobacco Prevention and Control
- Children's Hearing and Vision Screening

#### **Environmental Health**

- Licensing restaurants, stores, hotels, campgrounds, tattoo shops, pools, and mobile homes for safety
- Water Testing public swimming pools, municipal water supplies, and private wells
- Investigation of animal bites and prevent rabies
- Human Health Hazards mold, pests, housing issues, and radon
- Mercury Reduction program
- Northcentral Radon Information Center provides testing and information

#### **Fiscal and Administrative Support**

- Backbone functions of all internal operations
- Fiscal management of grants, fees, and contracts
- Customer service

#### Family Health / Communicable Disease

- Communicable Disease Surveillance, Investigation, and Control
- Immunization Surveillance and Clinics
- Tuberculosis Case Management and Therapy
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic
- Public Health Preparedness
- Start Right/Home visiting
- Child Health

MARATHON

- Northern Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Injury Prevention

### MCHD STAFF by the numbers



## COVID-19 TIMELINE

**February 5, 2020** First confirmed case of COVID-19 in Wisconsin.

March 11, 2020 COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

March 25, 2020 WI Emergency Order #12 "Safer At Home" takes effect.

April 17, 2020 Serology (antibody testing) is available to determine exposure to COVID-19.

May 14, 2020

MCHD issues COVID-19 Order #1 recommending individuals practice physical distancing and stay home when sick, and businesses follow WI Economic Development Corp. Guidelines for reopening.

May 29, 2020

First COVID-19 testing clinic offered in Abbotsford.

#### October 5, 2020 -

Begin weekly report to area schools on recommendations for mitigation/control measures based on COVID-19 school decision metrics and local school conditions. March 3, 2020

Incident Command System (ICS) activated to prepare to respond to COVID-19.

March 20, 2020 MCHD confirms its first case of COVID-19 in a resident.

April 11, 2020 First confirmed COVID-19 death

of a Marathon County resident.

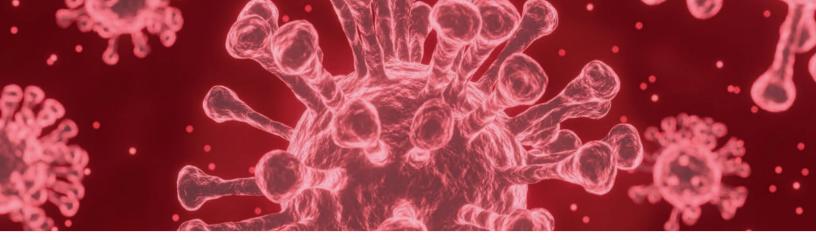
May 13, 2020 WI Supreme Court repeals the "Safer At Home" Order.

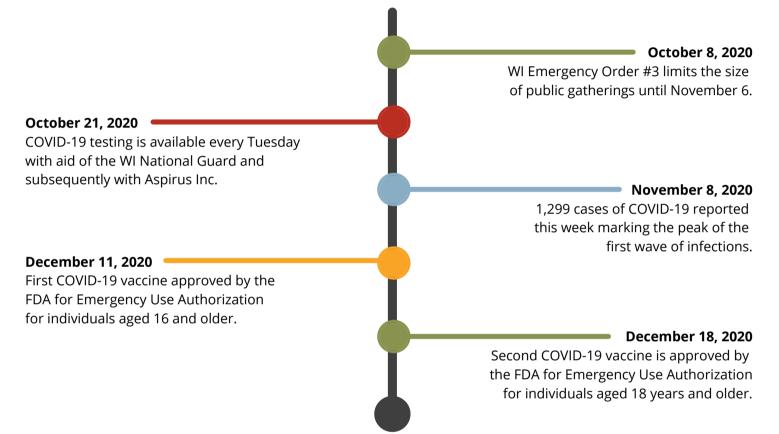
May 19, 2020

First community-wide COVID-19 testing clinic held at Northcentral Technical College with the WI National Guard.

#### August 1, 2020

Emergency Order #1 requiring face coverings indoors & in enclosed spaces with some exceptions takes effect.





#### **Testing & Vaccination Planning**

The goal was to make COVID-19 testing easy, efficient, and accessible to the community. Staff organized and operationalized six mass testing clinics: three in Wausau at Northcentral Technical College, and three in Abbotsford. In collaboration with the Wisconsin National Guard and support from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, they conducted over 2000 tests. A weekly drive-thru testing clinic was operated from October through December in cooperation with the WI National Guard and Marathon County Emergency Management. An average of 200 tests were conducted each day this clinic was open. UW-Stevens Point at Wausau opened a weekly antigen testing clinic to the community in November and December. Lessons learned from testing clinics were applied to the plans for vaccine distribution.



#### **Contact Tracing & Support**

Case investigators contact people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to assess symptoms, support needs, review isolation procedures, and solicit names of their contacts. Contact tracers then follow-up with contacts to review quarantine procedures. During 2020, over 13,000 cases were processed by staff.

Health department staff needed to be rapidly redirected and trained to make calls and provide support. Several adaptations were made and systems developed quickly to meet the needs of the ever changing guidance from federal and state authorities. Crisis Standards of Care were used due to the high number of cases, exceeding the health department's resources. Contact notification of close contacts was carried out by schools, businesses, and other entities. In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Contact Tracing Team assisted with disease investigations.

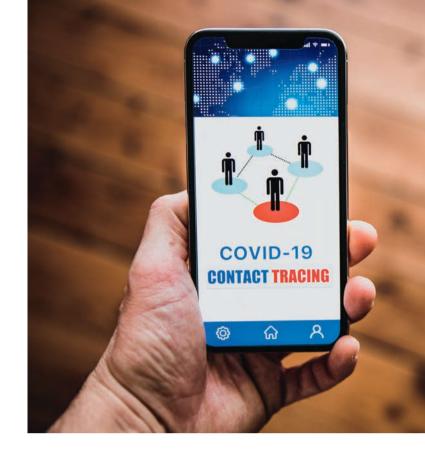
To support COVID-19 isolation and quarantine for those who could not safely do so at home, or were homeless, alternative sites in the Wausau and Marshfield areas were made available. Support such as food and personal hygiene items were provided to some residents who needed support while in isolation, primarily through partnering with The Neighbor's Place.

### Communications

The communications team was tasked with creating materials, writing Facebook posts and news releases, managing web content, answering media questions and arranging interviews, managing our social media presence, coordinating the translation of materials, and responding directly to phone calls and emails from the public. The breadth and rapidly changing nature of the pandemic were key communication challenges to overcome.

### Data

COVID-19 data was collected, analyzed, and utilized to make decisions and answer questions about cases, trends, and other points of interest. Metrics were established for reopening, data dashboards were developed and maintained, and communication products such as printed fact sheets and daily Facebook message were created and shared.



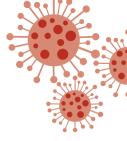
### **Partnerships**

Staff engaged with people from many different sectors, including businesses, childcare, education, health systems, faith organizations, emergency management, and community non-profit organizations. Staff roles included listening and responding to concerns from the partners they work with, as well as communicating their needs back to other teams within the Department's response team. Examples include:

- Provided a weekly report to area schools on recommendations for mitigation/control.
- Fielded over 700 calls from businesses or business related questions.
- Collaborated with Aspirus and Emergency Management to provide a site for testing.
- Provided consultation with long-term care facilities on outbreak containment.
- Coordinated with UW-Stevens Point at Wausau to promote their testing clinic.



### BY THE NUMBERS COVID-19 SERVICES





46

contracted employees assisted with contact tracing, disease investigation and support activities.



13,297 positive COVID-19 cases reported.



5,000+ calls from community members

with questions about COVID-19.



705

calls from businesses or businessrelated questions regarding COVID-19.



**7774** people ever hospitalized for COVID-19.



**194** COVID-19 related deaths.



**432** COVID-19 outbreaks in facilities since April 1.



2,000+

individuals served through 6 mass testing clinics coordinated by MCHD and staffed by the WI National Guard.



1,046

COVID-19 related social media posts since March 1.



45

press releases and 250 COVID-19 related media interviews since March 1.





received in new federal COVID-19 funds for disease investigation.





COVID-19 required aligning staff responsibilities with new activities and subsequently some services were stopped or interrupted for varied lengths of time.



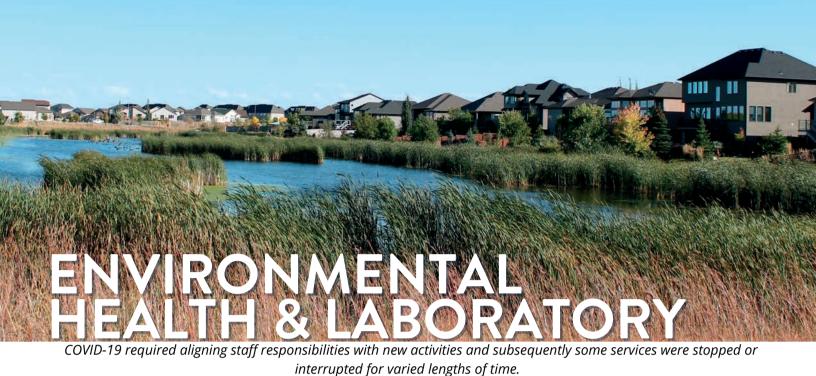
- Fielded questions from the public, community partners, and business sector on recommended COVID-19 mitigation strategies, as well as quarantine and isolation guidance.
- Reviewed new orders or guidelines issued by State and Federal agencies.
- Organized and conducted 2 press conferences, 45 media releases, and 250 media interviews.
- Developed content, responded to comments, and updated website and Facebook, including culturally appropriate and culturally specific messaging.
- Developed and evaluated COVID-19 mitigation strategies and response plans with schools, healthcare systems, the Hmong and Hispanic Network (H2N), and other community organizations.
- Coordinated local COVID-19 testing with University of WI – Stevens Point at Wausau, WI National Guard, and schools.
- Monitored community risk and status of COVID-19 at the community level through data collection, analysis, and interpretation.



- Updates of <u>MarathonCountyPulse.com</u> website, except for COVID-19 data.
- Implementation of the 2017-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Implementation of WI WINS Tobacco Compliance Checks.
- Coordination of school-based Hearing and Vision Screening program.
- Creation of the 2021-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan.



• Support for collaborative efforts of AOD Partnership Council, Marathon County School-Based Counseling Consortium, and Nicotine Prevention Alliance.



WHAT WE Started

- Consulted with licensed establishments to interpret the "Safer At Home" order and help them follow the requirements.
- Consulted with other businesses including; clothing retailers, car washes, bookstores, welding firms, and more.
- Tracked and responded to several hundred mask order violations and complaints.
- Established quarantine or isolation housing sites for those unable to isolate in their home.
- Reviewed organizations COVID-19 response plan for community and sporting events (runs, soccer, and hockey practices, games, and more).
- Conducted outreach and assistance to long term care facilities and nursing homes on preparing their COVID-19 response plan.



- Licensing and inspections stopped in mid-March and resumed on May 26.
- "Safer at Home" resulted in some licensed facilities not operating, resulting in fewer inspections.

WHAT WE Continued

- Provided Environmental Health triage person to respond to resident's concerns.
- Provided human health hazards consultations.
- Continued water laboratory testing and analysis.
- Provided animal bite investigation and rabies prevention follow up.
- Completed a lab audit without any recommendations for correction.



- Fewer inspections because some facilities chose not to operate or were closed due to "Safer at Home."
- License renewal process: grace period established for all licensees choosing to renew.
- Fewer lead hazard investigations due to fewer children tested for lead by health providers.
- Fewer water tests for public pools closed due to "Safer at Home" Order.

### BY THE NUMBERS NON-COVID-19 SERVICES

#### LICENSING -



### 1,050

licensing inspections conducted with restaurants, stores, lodging, pools, mobile home parks, campgrounds, and tattoo shops.



### 855

licenses issued for restaurants, food stands, lodging, campgrounds, pools, retail food stores, mobile home parks, and tattoo facilities.

#### WATER TESTING -



RABIES -

**3,013** drinking water samples tested.



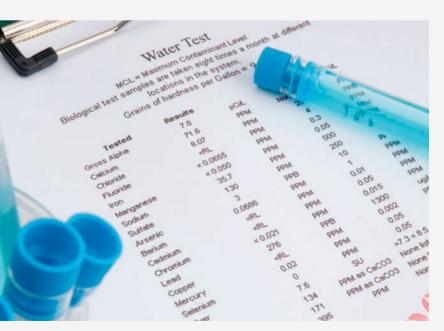
CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING -

lead property inspections.

#### NORTHCENTRAL RADON INFORMATION CENTER •

345 animal bites reported.





### Water Testing Lab Implements Changes, Receives Recertification

The Lab successfully passed the Department of Natural Resources audit to re-certify the Lab under State regulation for performing nitrate in drinking water analysis. We implemented Board of Health directed changes which included a fee analysis for drinking water and pool analysis along with a change in Lab operating hours. The intent was to reduce reliance on tax levy and contribute to efficient operations.

### FAMILY HEALTH & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

COVID-19 required aligning staff responsibilities with new activities and subsequently some services were stopped or interrupted for varied lengths of time.



- COVID-19 Disease Investigation and Contact Tracing.
- Provided isolation letters with educational information.
- Created a resource line for community members to call in with COVID-19 related questions.
- Hired, trained, scheduled, and supervised more than 40 COVID-19 Response team members
- Provided COVID-19 testing for people with cultural, physical, or language barriers.
- Developed data collection and reporting tools to manage the large amount of COVID-19 tracking and operations data.
- Collaborated with schools in providing information to help them determine their response.
- Consulted with community agency partners such as homeless facilities, jails, medical clinics, workplaces, long term care, etc. regarding their response.
- Provided shelter and food for people who were homeless and positive for COVID-19.



- TB investigations, treatment, and contact tracing.
- Childhood Lead interventions.
- Perinatal Hepatitis B services.



- Testing and vaccination at the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic.
- Providing general Immunization Clinics at MCHD.
- Providing in-person Start Right visits.
- Conducting enteric disease investigations.
- Participating in community level groups such as the Housing and Homeless coalition, Child Death Review, Citizens Review Panel, Early Years Coalition, etc.

Intermittent services

- Start Right home visits were offered on a virtual basis.
- Start Right families were offered a referral to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin for home visiting services.
- Parents were referred to the Start Right resource line at the Health Department or the Warm Line at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.
- Public Health Preparedness efforts for non-COVID-19 initiatives.

# BY THE NUMBERS SERVICES

#### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC -



**555** visits for STD services through MCHD (January-March). . Servited

vaccines were administered (January-March).

#### START RIGHT -



**240** pregnant women referred to MCHD for services.



women received three or more visits by a public health nurse.



19 new families accepted Start Right Step by Step services provided by Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.



**22** children served by the child health program.

#### NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS -



**88** consultations with professionals.



**45** people participated in a training.

#### INJURY PREVENTION -





families received education on safe sleep practices for their newborn.



FISCAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

COVID-19 required aligning staff responsibilities with new activities and subsequently some services were stopped or interrupted for varied lengths of time.

### WHAT WE Started

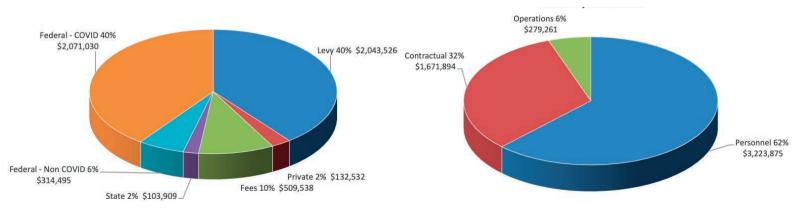
- Developed and updated the Website and Social media sites.
- Gathered & reported COVID-19 related data.
- Imported local COVID-19 data into State data systems (WEDSS).
- Financial management related to COVID-19 funding: verifying compliance, coding, monitoring, and reporting.
- Printed & mailed isolation & quarantine letters.
- Provided new employee orientation of COVIDrelated contracted positions.
- Increased office space, supplies, and equipment for new contracted staff.
- Adjusted internal systems to a 7-day work week for staff, including holidays, to support a robust COVID-19 response.

### WHAT WE Continued

- Submitting birth reports.
- State and local grant billing and administration.
- Fiscal processing payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payment processing.
- Processing/management of licensing and lab fees.
- Answering and routing incoming phone calls to the department.
- Management of employee and other databases.
- Management of vaccine inventory.

Intermittent services

- Decreased volume of walk-in customers
- Updated policies, procedures, and employee handbook



#### **2020 Health Department Revenues**

### 2020 Health Department Expenses

# DEPARTMENT INDICATORS

11.3

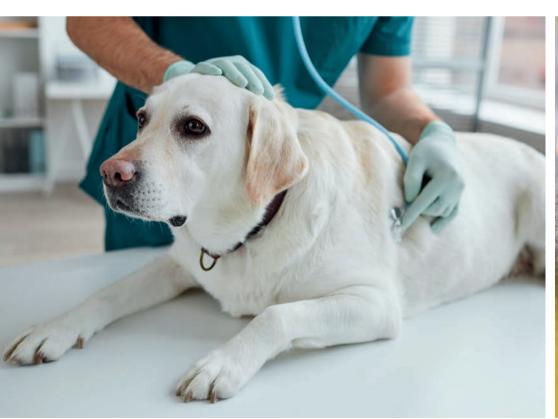
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### COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

Substance Abuse * Data collected in odd numbered years only	2018	2019	2020
Percent of teens who reported drinking in the past 30 days	*	28%	*
Percent of high school teens who have ever drank alcohol	*	56.0%	*
Percent of high school teens who used marijuana in the past 30 days	*	10%	*
Percent of high school teens who have ever used marijuana	*	19%	*
Percent of teens who reported ever using prescription drugs without a prescription	*	9.0%	*
Number of fatal drug overdoses in Marathon County	11	16	14
Tobacco Control. * Data collected in odd numbered years only			
Percent of teens who smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days	*	7.0%	*
Percent of high school students who reported vaping in the past 30 days	*	16%	*
Retail compliance rate for licensed tobacco sellers	91.1%	88.0%	*
Mental Health. * Data collected every other year			
Figures are associated with the school year that ended that year.			
Percent of high school teens who reported feeling depressed	*	26.0%	*
Number of students reported seeing a therapist at school during the school year	341	420	452
Percent of kids (grades 4-12) who reported feeling better now than they did before counseling	85.5%	69.1%	65.6%
Childhood Hearing and Vision Screening *Incomplete data due to Safer At H	ome school clo	osures.	
Figures are associated with the school year that ended that year.			
Total number of screenings conducted	15,447	15,145	12,479
Number referred to providers for hearing concerns	107	67	93
Percent of referrals receiving follow up for hearing	97%	85%	*
Number referred to providers for vision concerns	783	677	576
Percent of referrals receiving follow up for vision	87%	77%	*

### ENTRORMENTAL HEALTH & LABORATORY

Rabies	2018	2019	2020
Animal bites reported	287	349	345
Prophylaxis recommended, in the event of a stray or wild animal exposure	30	21	25
Number of bites NOT needing prophylaxis	257	328	320
Human Health Hazards *Definition for consultations/technical assistance was narrowed			
** Definition for an investigation narrowed to only include on-site inspections.			
Nuisance consultations/technical assistance contacts	224*	319	231
Human health hazard investigations	8**	6	6
Radon test kits provided in Marathon County	172	118	207
Radon mitigation systems installed per report for 11 county area	451	388	279
Requests for radon information (calls, emails, website)	632	764	2,229
Transient drinking water systems inspected	30	37	33
Pounds of mercury collected and properly disposed (excluding amalgam)	1	1	1
Dental offices contacted regarding proper disposal of amalgam	34	35	31
Pounds of amalgam collected by dental offices and recycled	242	192	138
Environmental screens	13	6	15
Radon			
Tests in RIC	371	493	469
Tests in Marathon County	172	118	207
Percent elevated in Marathon County	53%	53%	47%
Mitigations Reported (Voluntary)	451	388	279







Nater Testing *Safer at Home shut down pools for a time			
Total number of drinking water samples	4,030	3,513	3,013
Bacteriologically safe drinking water samples	3,289	3,174	2,783
Bacteriologically unsafe drinking water samples	420	339	230
Nitrate>10.0mg/l (drinking water unsafe for pregnant women & infants)	79	93	4
Total number of recreational water samples	1,762	1,745	983 <sup>.</sup>
Bacteriologically satisfactory recreational water samples	1,709	1,665	940
Bacteriologically unsatisfactory recreational water samples	53	80	43*
ead			
Total Number of Childhood Lead Tests	1,169	1,261	1,15
Tests <10 ug/dl	1,167	1,253	114
Tests 5 to <10 ug/dl (# of children)	25(17)	37(25)	22(16
Tests 10 to 19 ug/dl (# of children)	2(2)	6(4)	7(4
Tests ≥20 ug/dl (# of children)	0(0)	2(1)	1(1
Housing Units – Lead Hazard Reduction	3	1	
Lead Property Inspections	20	14	
icensing			
Number of licensing inspections conducted with restaurants, stores, lodging, campgrounds, pools, mobile home parks, and tattoo facilities.	1,032	1,135	1,05
Number of licenses issued for restaurants, food stands, lodging, campgrounds, pools, retail food stores, mobile home parks, and tattoo facilities.	938	967	95
Restaurants located in Marathon County will have fewer than five (5) critical violations associated with disease transmission.	100%	99%	1009
Retail food establishments in Marathon County will have fewer than five (5) critical violations associated with disease transmission.	100%	100%	1009
Pools and whirlpools located in Marathon County will be bacteriologically safe.	97%	95%	979
Tattoo businesses in Marathon County will not expose their clientele to infectious diseases.	100%	100%	1009
Mobile home parks in Marathon County will provide a safe and healthy environment for residents.	96%	100%	969

### FAMILY HEALTH & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Start Right Prenatal Services *Data not available	2018	2019	2020
Number of women who had 3 or more visits with a public health nurse	102	90	43
Percent of women who reported smoking during their pregnancy	40%	35%	26%
Percent of women who reported smoking who stopped or decreased			
smoking	93%	93%	90%
Percent of homes that are smoke-free	90%	92%	*
Percent of women who reported drinking at all during their pregnancy	31%	32%	28%
Percent of women who reported drinking at all during their pregnancy who stopped drinking completely	91%	88%	100%
Percent of women who screened positive for domestic violence	*	14%	8%
Percent of women who were homeless at any time during services	*	5%	8%
Was involved with Social Services at any time during services	*	10%	10%
Resided in jail at any time during services	*	2%	3%
Percent of women who initiated breastfeeding	79%	69%	69%
Women who have a reproductive life plan	97%	93%	85%
Stepping Stones Home Visiting			
Percent of infants who sleep in a safe sleep environment	83%	83%	69%
Percent of children on schedule for their well child exams	96%	94%	97%
Percent of children who are up-to-date on immunizations at 24 months of age	90%	90%	90%
Percent of parents identified with AODA, domestic violence or mental health concerns who received supportive services	47%	48%	57%
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs *Data not available			
Number of families served	*	48	47
Number of consultations with professionals	*	54	88
Number of trainings offered	*	13	9
Number of attendees at trainings	*	74	45

Reportable Diseases and Conditions	2018	2019	2020
Babesiosis	5	1	3
Blastomycosis	4	9	9
Campylobacteriosis	57	30	23
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	3	12	11
Chlamydia	342	365	388
Coccidioidomycosis	1	0	0
Coronavirus Sars Cor-2 (COVID-19)	0	0	13,297
Cryptosporidiosis	39	30	24
Cyclosporiasis	8	0	2
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	28	19	25
Environmental and Occupational Lung Diseases	0	1	0
Giardiasis	39	38	24
Gonorrhea	54	124	141
Haemophilus Influenzae/Invasive	3	4	1
Hepatitis B	10	8	6
Hepatitis C	25	26	25
Hepatitis E	0	1	0
Histoplasmosis	0	1	0
HIV	2	0	2
Influenza Associated Hospitalizations	146	67	85
Jamestown Canyon Virus	1	2	0
Legionellosis	4	0	1
Listeriosis	1	0	0
Meningitis, Bacterial	1	0	0
Mumps	0	2	1
Mycobacterial Disease (non-tuberculous)	14	13	7
Others (Measles, Rubella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio)	0	0	0
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	14	25	11





### FAMILY HEALTH & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE Continued

ortable Diseases and Conditions Continued	2018	2019	20
Salmonellosis	19	33	
Shiga Toxin Producing E Coli (STEC)	12	11	
Shigellosis	2	0	
Streptococcal Disease/Invasive/Groups A & B	20	18	
Streptococcus Pneumoniae/Invasive	15	17	
Syphilis	5	6	
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE)	0	0	
Tuberculosis, Active Disease	1	1	
Tuberculosis, Latent Infection	19	12	
Varicella (Chickenpox)	5	7	
Vibriosis, Non Cholera	0	1	
West Nile	1	0	
Yersiniosis	0	1	

Immunization Clinic Services			
Number of Children & Adults who recieved a vaccine	459	608	196
Number of Childhood & Adult Vaccines given	907	1,158	356
STD Clinic Services			
Number screened for STD's	313	234	54
Number screened for HIV	262	218	49
Number of vaccines given at STD clinics (part of vaccine total above)	233	234	31
Total Client visits	700	655	55



1000 Lakeview Drive Suite 100 Wausau, WI 54403 715-261-1900