

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302
7:45 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 21, Chair	Present	
Lee Hennick	Chippewa County	District 15, Vice-Chair	Present	
Dennis Bachman	Chippewa County	District 5	Absent	
James Ericksen	Chippewa County	District 8	Present	
James Meinen	Chippewa County	District 20	Present	
John Halbleib	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Absent	
Robert Bullwinkel	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep, MD	Late	7:51 AM
Marcia Kyes	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

Others Present: County Administrator Andy Albarado; Human Services Staff: Bobbie Jaeger, Brandi Engel, Paul Brenner, and Sarah Zielke; Public Health Staff: Sarah McQuillan, Audra Knowlton, Allie Isaacson, Maryn Bengs, JoAnna Bernklau, Nikki Hoernke, and Claire Park; County Staff: Traci Bremness; Member of the Public: Charlie Walker, Virtual: Brian Kay, Nicole Burns, and Cindy Meyer.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	James Meinen, District 20
SECONDER:	Marcia Kyes, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Kyes
ABSENT:	Bachman, Halbleib
AWAY:	Bullwinkel

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Health & Human Services Board - Regular Meeting - Aug 21, 2025 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - October 16, 2025

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

Health & Human Services Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

September 18, 2025
7:45 AM

1. Presentation/Introduction - Rogers Behavioral Health

Chippewa Economic Development Corporation President/CEO Charlie Walker introduced the virtual staff for Rogers Behavioral Health. Walker noted on October 15, they will hold an open house at CVTC to have the opportunity to meet staff and ask questions. More information forthcoming.

Rogers Behavioral Health coordinates care, aligning with the lives of its patients and their families. The team guides care with experts in every field of behavioral health. Rogers Behavioral Health applies measurement-based care to guide its treatment plans. Brian Kay reviewed the treatments available. The facility will consist of an inpatient unit, residential treatment center, partial hospitalization, and intensive outpatient programs, including telehealth. The location will be in the Lake Wissota Business Park, east of the Oakleaf Clinic off of Seymour Cray Boulevard. The completion date is scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

Rogers Behavioral Health staff thanked the Board for allowing them to attend the meeting and create this new partnership.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
----------------	------------------

2. 9172 : Resolution Urging State Funding To Offset County Impacts Of Federal SNAP Changes - Kari Ives

The Resolution Urging State Funding to Offset County Impacts of Federal SNAP Changes was reviewed by Chair Kari Ives. Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger shared the impact the reduction in federal reimbursement would have on the program, including possible reduction in staff, increase in error rate, and longer wait times.

The Resolution was approved to forward to the Chippewa County Clerk to send a copy to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Legislators, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin County Human Service Association.

RESULT:	FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 10/14/2025 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Lee Hennick, District 15, Vice-Chair	
SECONDER:	James Meinen, District 20	
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Bullwinkel, Kyes	
ABSENT:	Bachman, Halbleib	

6. REPORTS

1. ADRC Board Minutes - July 10, 2025

ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) Board - Regular Meeting - Jul 10, 2025 3:30 PM

2. Public Health Success Story – Children's Resource Center - Maryn Bengs

Children's Resource Center-West Program Coordinator Maryn Bengs shared the success of the Compassion Resilience Workshops. She explained the reason behind creating the workshops was due to parents and caregivers of children with special health care needs reporting burnout. The workshop content was designed to include three goals: increased understanding of Compassion Fatigue and Caregiver Burnout concepts, leave with a self-care plan they created, and have an increased sense of confidence in their ability to practice self-care. The program reduced barriers to attendance at the

Health & Human Services Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

September 18, 2025
7:45 AM

workshops by providing on-site respite care, free meals, gas card reimbursement, and ADA-compliant venues. The event was held at the Pablo Center in Eau Claire, and each participant was given a take-home wellness tool basket. They served 45 participants from Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Polk counties in 2024. Bengs reviewed the survey results.

The CRC-West held two Compassion Resilience Workshops in rural locations, improving them with the feedback they received. They will hold two more events before the end of the year. Planning and Strategy Division Manager Nikki Hoernke announced the Division has secured additional funding to continue this support into next year.

3. Human Services Policy, Practice, and People – ADRC – Michelle Fellom

Sarah Zielke presented the Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) program on behalf of Michelle Fellom. Zielke highlighted from the presentation some background of the program, first contact must come from the consumer themselves, State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselor services, EBS program structure, supervising attorneys, specialty areas, how EBS can help the consumer save money, reporting requirements, statewide EBS data with 84.5 percent resulting in successful advocacy, and data for Chippewa County. From 2025 to date, Michelle Fellom served 495 consumers. Zielke reviewed the Medicare & You classes offered.

4. Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Report - Community Health - JoAnna Bernklau

Community Health Planning and Promotion Specialist JoAnna Bernklau reviewed the Chippewa County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team report. She highlighted the purpose, history, and timeline of the program from 2020-2024. The team recreated the Chippewa County Grief Support Guide and developed the Harm Reduction Workgroup. The OFR Team has reviewed 27 cases. Bernklau shared data on the number of residents who overdosed in Chippewa County from 2020-2024, and the annual percentage change between Chippewa County, Wisconsin, and the United States. Data was shared on the substances found at the death scene and substances contributing to deaths, statewide common opioids and stimulants with overdose deaths, route of drug use, deaths by time of year, deaths by demographics, recommendations to reduce overdose deaths, and success highlights.

Efforts are underway to strengthen the Good Samaritan Law to ensure protection for all individuals, regardless of their criminal history.

Bernklau shared a video surrounding stigma on harm reduction, which will be aired on multiple social media platforms.

5. Human Services Director's Program and Financial Report – Bobbie Jaeger

Human Services Director Bobbie Jaeger presented the Human Services Program and Financial Report. Jaeger highlighted several items from her report:

- Leadership updated the consumer data report to include additional data points, which will now give a better picture of Human Services overall. Jaeger thanked Brandi for all her hard work on this project. She reviewed the data on the new DHS Dashboard, which captures previously reported data, the addition of ADRC data, and additional graphs showing data year by year.
- Congratulations to DHS staff celebrating years of service, including Patty LeMay, who celebrated 31 years.
- ADRC was awarded the Congregate Revitalization Grant to support the Café 60 restaurant.
- Child Protective Services - Two staff members went to Green Bay to support a former foster youth moving into the dorm. They also coordinated donations for the youth to start their college career in a positive way.

Health & Human Services Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

September 18, 2025
7:45 AM

- Children with Differing Abilities - Enrollment timelines have declined, CCS has zero consumers, and CLTS has 10 consumers on the enrollment queue.
- Economic Support - Completed the Annual Foodshare Management Evaluation Review, which went very well.
- Fiscal information was reviewed. Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Placements continue to track over budget.

6. Public Health Director's Program and Financial Report – Brittnay Fortuna

Public Health Fiscal Manager Sarah McQuillan presented the Public Health Program and Financial Report on behalf of Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna. McQuillan highlighted the following:

- Administration - April and Panya attended the Foster and Kinship Care picnic, providing educational outreach.
- Community Health - Chippewa County has no confirmed measles cases, awarded Title V Dual Protection funding, applied for the Routine Immunization Through Community Engagement grant, working on two grant applications for reproductive health and family planning, and a Walmart Spark Good Local grant to support the vending machine with socks, hygiene supplies, and first aid supplies.
- Environmental Health - wrapped up mobile and transient inspections, started school inspections, wrapped up beach water testing, and the LTE EH Specialist is focusing on the water lab and tourist rooming house inspections. There is currently a vacancy for an Environmental Health Specialist.
- Nutrition - Infant formula rebate contract awarded to Abbot again, Farm Fresh Produce program distributed 288 vouchers and 380 Farmers Market Nutrition program booklets. Fit Families program secured carryover funding.
- Planning and Strategy - Increase in contacts and referrals with the transition back to school, received the Title V Maternal and Child Health grant. Brooke Krumenauer was awarded the Community Health Nurse position. We are currently recruiting for the Medical Services Screener position. Human Services staff have been completing the functional screens in Brooke's absence.
- Years of Service - Congratulations to staff celebrating years of service this month.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Ericksen, District 8
SECONDER:	James Meinen, District 20
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Bullwinkel, Kyes
ABSENT:	Bachman, Halbleib

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2025
CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302
7:45 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 21, Chair	Present	
Lee Hennick	Chippewa County	District 15, Vice-Chair	Present	
Dennis Bachman	Chippewa County	District 5	Present	
James Ericksen	Chippewa County	District 8	Present	
James Meinen	Chippewa County	District 20	Present	
John Halbleib	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Nichole Wallsch	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Absent	
Robert Bullwinkel	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep, MD	Absent	
Marcia Kyes	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

Others Present: Human Services Staff: Bobbie Jaeger, Paul Brenner, Brandi Engel, Sarah Zielke, Michelle Fellom; Public Health Staff: Brittnay Fortuna, Sarah McQuillan, Maryn Bengs, Nikki Hoernke; County Staff: Andy Albarado

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lee Hennick, District 15, Vice-Chair
SECONDER:	James Meinen, District 20
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Bachman, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Kyes
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Bullwinkel

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Health & Human Services Board - Regular Meeting - Jul 17, 2025 7:45 AM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - September 18, 2025

5. REPORTS

1. ADRC Board Minutes - May 8, 2025

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 21, 2025 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

Health & Human Services Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

August 21, 2025
7:45 AM

The minutes of the 05/08/2025 Aging & Disability Resource Center Board Meeting were presented for review.

2. Human Services Success Story - ADRC - Michelle Fellom

Michelle Fellom, Elder Benefit Specialist with the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), reported on a consumer who sought help from the ADRC with a Senior Care application. While receiving assistance, it was learned that the consumer was low on assets, received \$2,400/month for income, and was the sole caregiver for his wife whom has Parkinson's. The consumer had a Medigap insurance policy and out of pocket prescription costs totaling 40% of their monthly income. After further exploration by staff, the ADRC was able to assist him with applying for the Medicaid Purchase Plan program, and also helped his spouse apply for Long Term Care Medicaid. These programs allowed the consumer to drop his expensive Medigap policy, saving hundreds of dollars each month, and also provided access to an in-home caregiver for continued support.

3. Public Health Policy, Practice, and People - Children's Resource Center-West - Maryn Bengs

Maryn Bengs, Children's Resource Center-West (CRC) Program Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the Children's Resource Center-West: a program to guide families of children with special needs to access information and resources within their communities. Bengs reported that they held a focus group to hear from families in the rural communities. An emerging theme from this focus group was the need for further support for parents themselves to continue to support their children. With a more holistic approach in mind, the team has integrated Parent Resilience as a core component of their practice. They have also hosted in-person and virtual workshops to allow parents to connect with each other as well as professional resources.

4. Human Services Director's Program and Financial Report – Bobbie Jaeger, Paul Brenner

Human Services Director, Bobbie Jaeger, presented the Human Services Program and Financial Report. Jaeger highlighted several items from her report: There is discussion regarding the use of AI to help with efficiencies in services. DHS is updating federal grant manuals to note that federal funds will not be used for DEI Initiatives. The Birth to Three program received a record number of referrals in July, CPS was active with reports, and Youth Justice referrals have been increasing. The Youth Justice program received a renewal of their Continuation Innovation Grant allowing for ongoing support to their BTAM and Coalition initiatives in the community. Jaeger highlighted the monthly budget and indicated the difficulty in predicting what months will have higher needs. DHS participated in the CFPD National Night Out event and recently hosted the annual Foster Care picnic.

5. Public Health Director's Program and Financial Report – Brittnay Fortuna

Public Health Director, Brittnay Fortuna, presented the Public Health Program and Financial Report. Fortuna highlighted several items from her report: August is National Immunization Awareness Month and they are participating in immunization clinics prior to the school year starting. There have been no measles cases reported in Chippewa County. August 31 is Opioid Misuse Prevention Day. Overdoses are higher in Chippewa County compared to neighboring counties, but the death rate due to overdose is declining. The Environmental Health team's inspections this past month included numerous seasonal vendors such as food trucks, campgrounds, and pools. WIC is working to educate families on the food package changes that will be happening. The state is also working to authorize Kwik Trip as a WIC vendor. 214 vouchers were issued for the Farm Fresh Produce program. The Big Beautiful Bill cut funding for the FIT Families program and they've also seen impacts on funding for their ForwardHealth Grant which allows the team to offer assistance in Medicaid & FoodShare enrollment. The Children's Resource Center-West had an increase in referrals compared to June. The team has submitted a grant for data-tracking of tick-borne diseases and outreach. They are also in the process of completed the application for the Immunization Grant as well as the Reproductive Health Grant.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 21, 2025 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)

Health & Human Services Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

August 21, 2025
7:45 AM

6. Public Health 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Update - Nikki Hoernke
Nikki Hoernke presented an update on the Strategic Plan. They have seven goals based around four priority areas: Communications, Health Equity, Performance Management, and Workforce & Engagement. There has been significant work done towards meeting their goals and they will begin preparing and refining their next strategic plan to be followed for the next three years.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Chair, Kari Ives, presented an idea for further discussion from the WCA calling for resolutions in support of IM administration.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 AM.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Ericksen, District 8
SECONDER:	Lee Hennick, District 15, Vice-Chair
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Bachman, Ericksen, Meinen, Halbleib, Kyes
ABSENT:	Wallsch, Bullwinkel

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 21, 2025 7:45 AM (Consent Agenda)



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
PRESENTATION/INTRODUCTION - ROGERS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

5.1

Representatives from Rogers Behavioral Health will give a presentation.

**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION**

Resolution No. 33 - 25

**RES. 33-25: RESOLUTION URGING STATE FUNDING TO OFFSET COUNTY
IMPACTS OF FEDERAL SNAP CHANGES - BOBBIE JAEGER**

1 This resolution responds to recent federal changes to the FoodShare (SNAP) program
2 that shift more costs and responsibilities to states and counties.

3
4 The changes extend work requirements to more people, reduce exemptions, and lower
5 federal funding for program administration. At the same time, counties could face higher
6 workloads, less funding to pay staff, and possible penalties if payment errors increase.

7
8 For Chippewa County, this means more people needing case management through
9 FoodShare, but fewer federal dollars to cover the cost of that work. With levy limits in place,
10 counties cannot make up the difference on their own.

11
12 This resolution asks the State of Wisconsin to provide funding to offset these impacts
13 and ensure counties can continue administering FoodShare effectively.

14

Resolution No. 33 - 25

RES. 33-25: RESOLUTION URGING STATE FUNDING TO OFFSET COUNTY IMPACTS OF FEDERAL SNAP CHANGES - BOBBIE JAEGER

WHEREAS, the federal budget reconciliation package enacted in July of 2025, makes changes to the SNAP (FoodShare) program that would reduce federal costs and significantly impact county- administered services; and

WHEREAS, these changes extend SNAP work requirements to individuals up to age 64, lower the child age threshold for parent exemptions, and eliminate waivers for areas with high unemployment, thereby increasing referrals to the FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) program and workload for county human service departments; and

WHEREAS, the legislation requires states to contribute a minimum of 5% toward the cost of SNAP benefits if their error rate is 6% or higher, facing penalty funding of between 5% and 15% of total SNAP costs; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's current SNAP payment error rate is 4.47%, but without additional investment in eligibility and administrative systems, heightened workloads could push the state above the 6% threshold, triggering significant penalties; and

WHEREAS, if Wisconsin's error rate reaches 6% on or after October 1, 2027, the state's 5% cost share would be approximately \$69 million annually, with potential penalty payments increasing the state's financial burden-costs that could ultimately cascade down to counties; and

WHEREAS, the SNAP administrative match rate for Income Maintenance (IM) activities has been reduced from the previous 50% federal / 50% state-local to 25% federal / 75% state-local, substantially reducing federal revenue available to counties to administer SNAP; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in administrative funds could lead to a reduction in IM staff, which could result in an increased payment error rate; and

WHEREAS, county IM administrative costs are approximately \$123 million annually, with SNAP-related workload accounting for about \$49 million of those costs; and

WHEREAS the new administrative match rate results in an estimated \$17 million annual loss in SNAP administrative funding to counties; and

WHEREAS, these federal cuts result from shifting the benefit and administrative costs

to states and counties (reducing resources available for local administration), tightening work requirements (increasing county workload), and penalizing minor payment errors (resulting in more cost to the states); and

WHEREAS, counties operate under state-imposed property tax levy limits, restricting their ability to offset such funding losses without additional state or federal relief;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors urges the State of Wisconsin to provide funding to offset the county fiscal impact caused by the enacted federal SNAP changes, and to work with counties to ensure adequate resources for the administration of FoodShare and related programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Legislators with a constituency within Chippewa County, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin County Human Service Association.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to Chippewa County by passage of this resolution.

09/18/2025	Health & Human Services Board	
RESULT:	FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 10/14/2025 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Lee Hennick, District 15, Vice-Chair	
SECONDER:	James Meinen, District 20	
AYES:	Ives, Hennick, Ericksen, Meinen, Bullwinkel, Kyes	
ABSENT:	Dennis Bachman, John Halbleib	

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls

Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

9/3/2025

Leah Simington

Leah Simington, Finance Director

9/3/2025

Andy J. Albarado

Andy J. Albarado, County Administrator

9/4/2025

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

ADRC (AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER) BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 10, 2025

CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302

3:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 21, Chair	Present	
Patricia German	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Larry Marquardt	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Don Hauser	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Yvonne Hedrington	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Cindy Spaeth	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	
Renee Thompson	Chippewa County	Citizen Rep	Present	

Others present: County Administrator Andy Albarado; ADRC Staff: Sarah Zielke, Carla Berscheit, Kayla Colbenson; DHS Staff: Bobbie Jaeger, Paul Brenner; Other County Staff: Leah Simington, and Audra Knowlton

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Cindy Spaeth, Citizen Rep
SECONDER: Larry Marquardt, Citizen Rep
AYES: Ives, German, Marquardt, Hauser, Hedrington, Spaeth, Thompson

1. Approve the agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) Board - Regular Meeting - May 8, 2025 3:30 PM

3. Schedule next meeting date - September 11, 2025

5. REPORTS

1. ADRC Staff Presentation - Carla Berscheit

Dementia Care Specialist Carla Berscheit has been in this role for five years. Berscheit highlighted a few of the resources available, including support groups, home tech options, and crisis training. She gave the statistic that by 2035, there will be a projected 216,000 individuals with dementia, 50 percent of those have not been diagnosed yet, and 85 percent with dementia are living in the community. There are 1,547 people in Chippewa County with diagnosed dementia. In June, the FDA approved a blood test to diagnose

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 10, 2025 3:30 PM (Reports)

ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

July 10, 2025
3:30 PM

Alzheimer's. Berscheit reviewed the qualifications of a dementia care specialist, community education, networking and collaboration with local partners, and support for caregivers and families. She shared the different support groups she provides in the community.

There was a recommendation for the Board to share dementia information on their Facebook page. A discussion was held on different types of dementia and possible causes.

2. ADRC Manager Program and Financial Report - Sarah Zielke, Paul Brenner

ADRC Manager Sarah Zielke thanked Kari for becoming the new ADRC Board Chair and announced Karen is their new administrative assistant. Zielke reviewed staffing changes, newsletter delivery locations (Festival Foods is a new location), waitlists for Meals on Wheels, Farmers Market Voucher program, SAIL program in Stanley was well received, Mind Over Matter will start in August in Stanley, and the future website migration.

Paul Brenner reviewed the financial data.

3. ADRC Advocacy Report - Sarah Zielke

ADRC Manager Sarah Zielke highlighted Aging Advocacy Day in Madison, Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support program update, Senate Bill 262 bipartisan support for referrals to assisted living facilities, and increase to ADRC base grant funding in the State biennium budget. Senator Jeff Smith will join Meals on Wheels delivery on Monday, July 14.

4. ADRC 2025-2027 Strategic Plan - Sarah Zielke

ADRC Manager Sarah Zielke reviewed the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. The Plan aligns the Department's goals with the County's goals. The Strategic Plan includes goals as a result from the Employee Engagement Survey.

5. ADRC Transportation Program Update - Sarah Zielke, Kayla Colbenson

ADRC Manager Sarah Zielke noted they are currently underspent in the transportation budget. Kayla has worked with consumers to enroll them in programs available. They are looking at increasing the rider limit by \$200 per rider with the understanding that this can be adjusted in the future if needed.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. ADRC 2026 Copays and Fees - Sarah Zielke, Kayla Colbenson

The 2026 copays and fees recommendations were reviewed and approved as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Patricia German, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Renee Thompson, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Ives, German, Marquardt, Hauser, Hedrington, Spaeth, Thompson

2. ADRC 2026 Budget - Sarah Zielke, Paul Brenner, Bobbie Jaeger

ADRC Manager Sarah Zielke reviewed the budget process, budget challenges, wages and benefits comparison from 2025 to 2026, budget comparison from 2020 to 2026, revenues and expenditures, overall budget expense breakdown, nutrition program budget breakdown, fees and donations (all but the

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 10, 2025 3:30 PM (Reports)

ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) Board

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

July 10, 2025
3:30 PM

transportation copay is a suggested donation,) advocacy for additional funding, and 2026 strategies. The ADRC budget was approved to forward to the County Administrator.

RESULT:	FORWARD BUDGET TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Don Hauser, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Patricia German, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Ives, German, Marquardt, Hauser, Hedrington, Spaeth, Thompson

3. ADRC 2026 Program Prioritization Results - Sarah Zielke

ADRC Manager Sarah Zielke shared the results of the 2026 program prioritization.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Larry Marquardt, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Cindy Spaeth, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Ives, German, Marquardt, Hauser, Hedrington, Spaeth, Thompson

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Renee Thompson, Citizen Rep
SECONDER:	Yvonne Hedrington, Citizen Rep
AYES:	Ives, German, Marquardt, Hauser, Hedrington, Spaeth, Thompson

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 10, 2025 3:30 PM (Reports)



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
PUBLIC HEALTH SUCCESS STORY – CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER -
MARYN BENGS

6.2

Children's Resource Center-West Program Coordinator Maryn Benge will share the success of the Compassion Resilience Workshops.

The Children's Resource Center - West has shown a strong commitment to turning resilience into practice through its Compassion Resilience Workshops, which are designed for families of youth with special health care needs. These workshops provide education on building resilience, practicing self-care, and reducing burnout while offering parents the support they have consistently voiced as a critical need. They also create a welcoming space for parents to connect with one another and build supportive communities.



COMPASSION RESILIENCE WORKSHOPS

Children's Resource Center – West

WHY DID WE CREATE THIS WORKSHOP?



**The need for
parent connection**



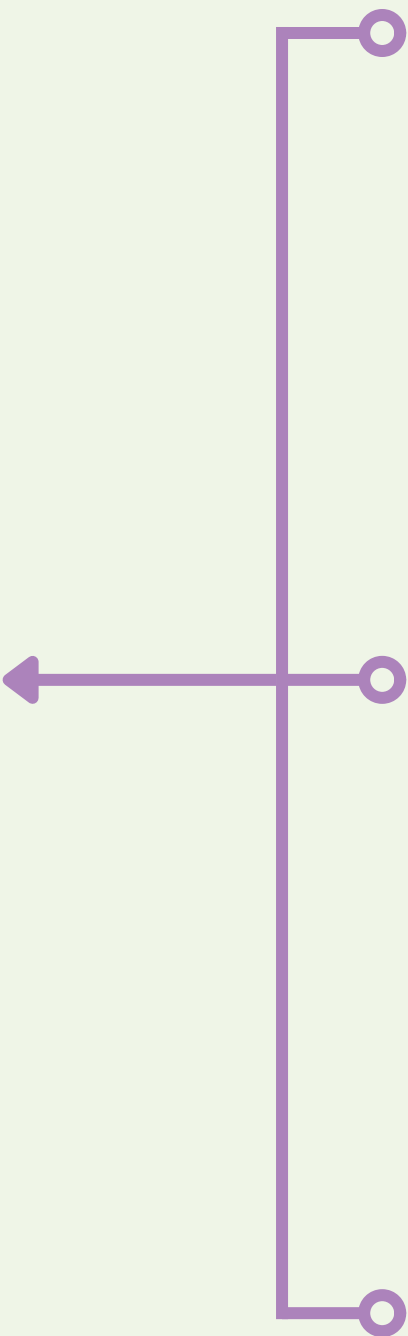
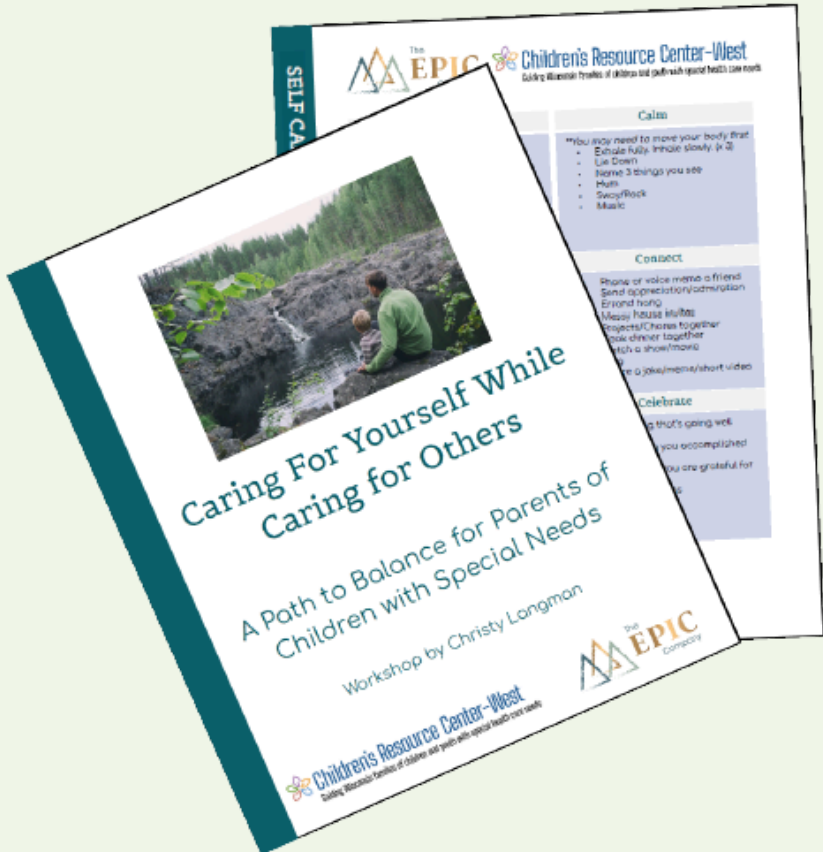
**Increased
caregiver burnout**

United States Surgeon General's Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents

“In 2023, 33% of parents reported high levels of stress in the past month compared to 20% of other adults.”

WORKSHOP CONTENT

Workshop content was intentionally designed to include simple, evidence-based, easy-to-implement strategies that wouldn't feel overwhelming.



Goal # 1

Participants will have an increased understanding of Compassion Fatigue and Caregiver Burnout concepts.

Goal # 2

Participants will leave with a self-care plan they created.

Goal # 3

Participants will have an increased sense of confidence in their ability to practice self-care

REDUCING BARRIERS

We were able to reduce barriers of attendance, to encourage participation and ensure accessibility.

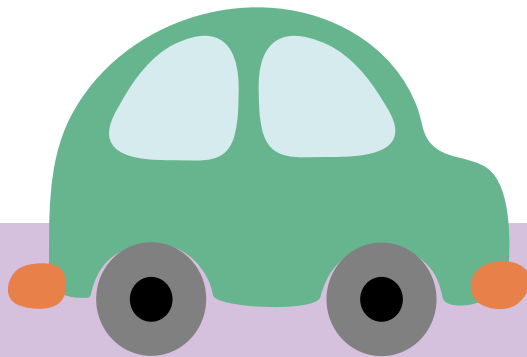
**On-site
Respite Care**



**Free
Meal**



**Gas Card
Reinbursment**

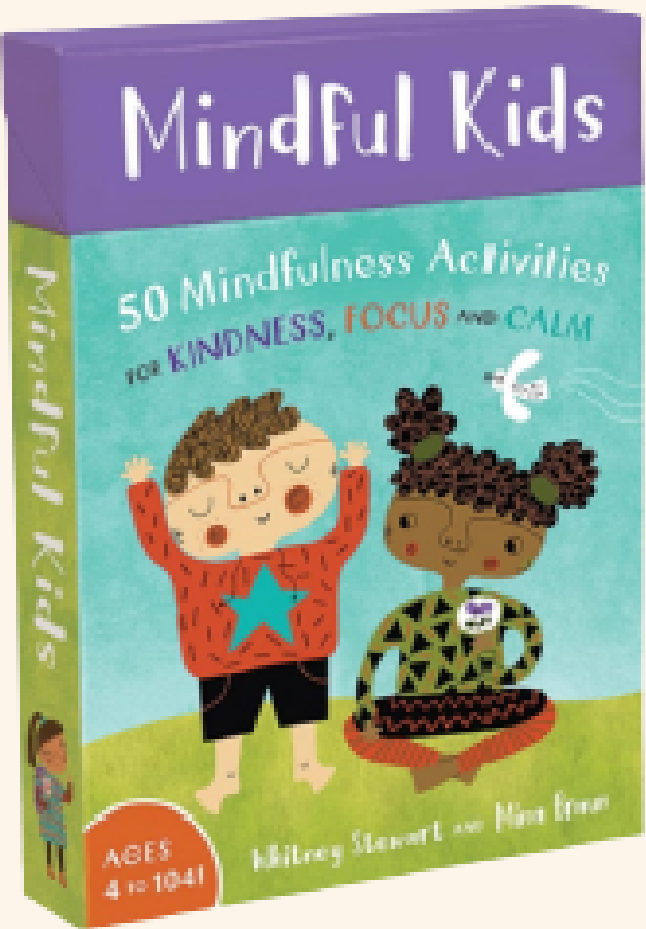


**ADA
Compliant
Venue**



“
After I used the tuning fork for a
few minutes I let out a heavy sigh
and felt calmer
-Workshop Participant
”

TAKE HOME WELLNESS TOOLS



PARTICIPANTS



We Served:

- Participants aged 26-55
- Participants with an average of 1-2 children with special health care needs
- A total of 45 participants from Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Polk counties
 - Nearly 30% of participants were from Chippewa County!



SURVEY RESULTS

“I understand what compassion fatigue is”

Percentage who reported positive growth: **57.9%**

“I know the emotional and physical signs of burnout”

Percentage who reported positive growth: **57.9%**



“I am confident in my ability to incorporate self-care strategies into my daily life”

Percentage who reported positive growth: **50.0%**

SURVEY RESULTS

Which resilience-building techniques do you plan to use regularly after this workshop?

“

Making a plan for action. Self-compassion and kind talk when I fall short.

”

“

**Taking some time for myself daily.
Breathing, stretching.**

”

“

Stretching. I have been working on breathing and meditation. This is the push to do it more.

”

Was there a particular moment or activity during the workshop that had the biggest impact on you?

“

Connecting with others, realizing I am not alone.

”

“

How small and simple those moments can be, which allow you to reset and relax.

”

“

I think everyone could relate to all the topic pieces. It was helpful having Christy verbalize all the feelings.

”

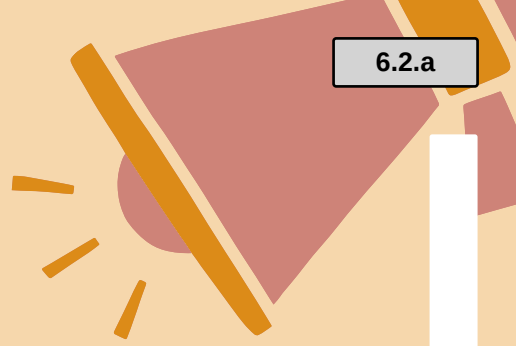
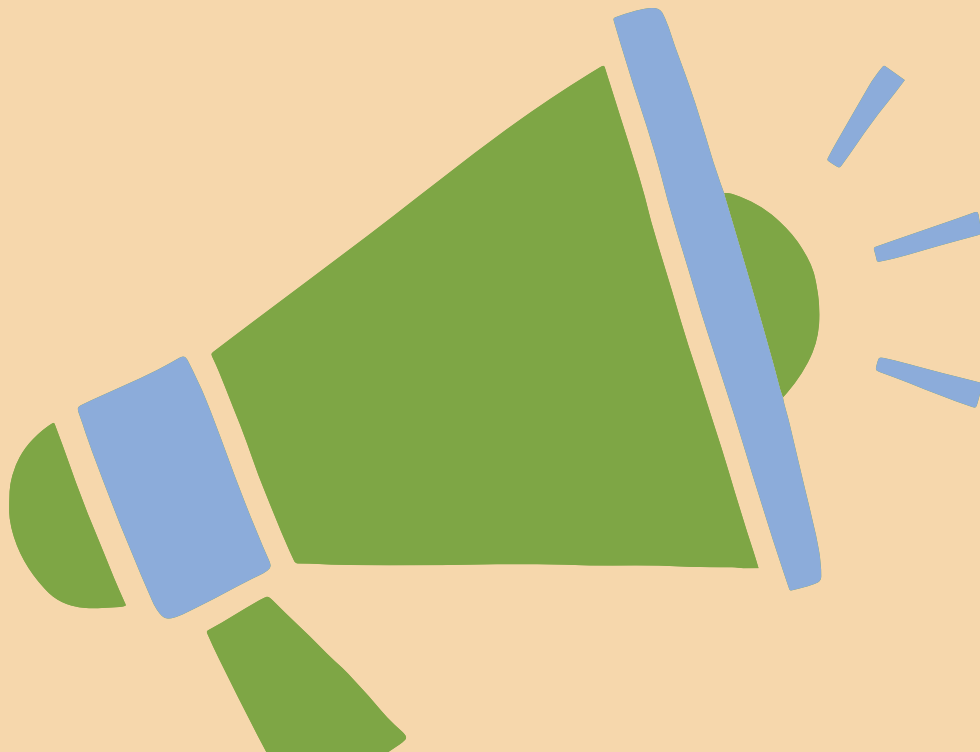
SINCE THE 2024 EVENTS...

CRC-West has held 2 Compassion Resilience Events in rural locations across the region.

We have altered the Compassion Resilience Events to continue responding to feedback.

We have heard from families in Chippewa County that have expressed their interest in this topic, and look forward to attending future events.

Agencies have reached out to us sharing thanks for hosting these events for families and making a positive impact in the lives of these parents.





STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
HUMAN SERVICES POLICY, PRACTICE, AND PEOPLE – ADRC – MICHELLE
FELLOM

This presentation by Human Services staff educates the Health & Human Services Board about the policy implications of our services. This month, Michelle Fellom, from the ADRC will talk about the Elder Benefits program.

Elder Benefit Specialist Program

Sarah Zielke, ADRC Manager

Michelle Fellom, Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS)



1

Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS)

- Provides free legal services to seniors age 60+
- Unbiased and confidential resource
- Required component of the Older Americans Act
- At least one EBS serves each county and Native American Tribe in Wisconsin

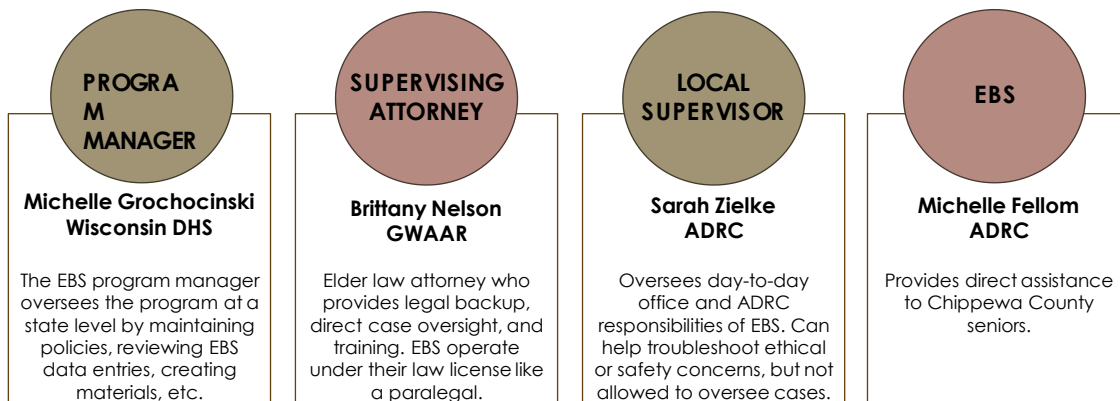
2

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Counselors

- All EBS in Wisconsin are also certified Advanced SHIP Counselors
- Advanced SHIP Counselors:
 - Provide Medicare options counseling
 - Conduct group outreach activities about Medicare-related topics
 - Contact Medicare or certain Medicare plans on a beneficiary's behalf
 - Assist with issues such as appeals or enrollment issues

3

EBS Program Structure



4

Supervising Attorneys

- EBS are supervised by Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorneys (BSSAs)
 - BSSAs are WI Bar licensed attorneys
 - EBS operate under BSSAs Bar license like a paralegal
 - EBS must follow WI Rules of Professional Responsibility just like attorneys.
- BSSA responsibilities include:
 - Directing oversight of EBS case work
 - Providing guidance on ethical and professional standards
 - Facilitating EBS trainings

5

Specialty Areas

- Medicare
 - A&B
 - Supplements and Advantage plans
 - Part D
 - Medicare Savings Programs
 - Extra Help
- Medicaid
- Social Security
 - Retirement
 - Disability
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- SeniorCare
- FoodShare
- Consumer Issues
 - Fraud/identity theft
 - Debt
- Housing
 - Landlord/tenant rights issues
 - Evictions
- Long Term Care Policy Coverage Issues
- Coverage Issues with Other Health Insurances
- Medical Debt
- Assistance Programs
 - Dental
 - Vision
 - Hearing aids
 - Prescription discounts

6

How can an EBS help?

- Provide information about public benefits (Benefit Check Up)
- Provide education and information about complex topics relating to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid
- Assist with application paperwork
- Research and advocacy
- Representation or assistance with appeals or fair hearings
- Guidance on legal rights and procedures
- Group outreach activities

7

Reporting Requirements

- All interactions reported in case management software, Peer Place
- SHIP Counselors required to report Medicare related activities into a second system, STARS
- Medicaid reimbursement from the federal government for work done to support Medicaid programs is tracked in 15 minute increments, 100% Time and Task reporting.

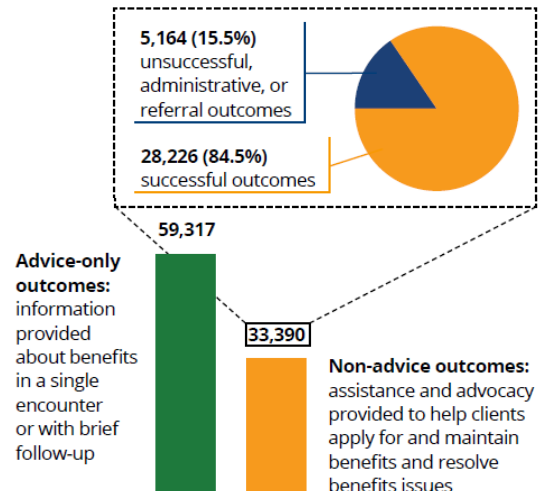
8

Statewide EBS Data

84.5% of non-advice cases resulted in successful advocacy outcomes for clients.

Monetary impact (MI): the value of services and benefits that clients receive as a result of successful advocacy from benefit specialists

- **Total 2023 MI \$274,053,233**
- Avg. MI per benefit specialist \$1,473,404
- Avg. MI per successful outcome \$9,709



9

Clients Served in Chippewa County

- **495 consumers** served by our EBS so far this year
- Monetary impact total **\$1,192,258 in 2025 so far**
- Often clients are served on an ongoing, as needed basis
- 249 Medicare & You class attendees in 2024

August Topic Data

Healthcare	9%
Income - SSA programs	18%
Income - general	2%
Medicaid	27%
Medicare	37%
Nutrition	4%
Other	2%
Utilities	1%

10

Medicare & You Classes

- **Free Unbiased** Medicare Information
- Group setting, presentation format
- Topics include the parts of Medicare, the difference between Advantage Plans, supplement & drug coverage options
- Open to anyone new to Medicare, currently on Medicare, caregivers, families and community partners.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Chippewa County Presents

Medicare & You Classes



Free Unbiased Medicare Information!

New to Medicare or want to know more about those Medicare commercials you keep seeing? Wondering where you can go for objective Medicare information?

We will cover multiple topics including enrolling in Medicare, the parts of Medicare, the difference between Advantage Plans, Supplements & drug coverage options.

This is open to anyone new to Medicare, currently on Medicare, caregivers, families and community partners.



Follow the ADRC of Chippewa County on Facebook

Registration Required (3 ways)

1. www.chippewacountywi.gov/adrc/events



2. Or use your phone's camera to scan this code & register online.

3. Or call us to register: 715-726-7777

Various locations offered throughout Chippewa County, including *Virtual. See our website for the full schedule.

Upcoming this month

07-08-2025, 1-3pm.....Bloomer Library
07-22-2025, 5-7pm.....Chippewa Courthouse

2025

11

Questions?



12



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW (OFR) REPORT - COMMUNITY HEALTH -
JOANNA BERNKLAU

6.4

JoAnna Bernklau, Community Health Planning & Promotion Specialist and the new Overdose Fatality Review Coordinator, will be reviewing the Chippewa County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Lifetime Report, which covers data and findings from 2020 through 2024. This report provides a comprehensive look at local overdose trends and the insights gathered through our review process, highlighting key data, themes, and opportunities for prevention to guide our community's ongoing response.



CHIPPEWA COUNTY Overdose Fatality Review Team

Report Period: April 2020 - August 2024

Prepared by Chippewa County Department of Public Health

PURPOSE

Through a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach, the Overdose Fatality Review Team works to prevent overdose deaths by identifying system gaps, enhancing community response, and informing compassionate, data-driven strategies to prevent future deaths and support the well-being of all individuals impacted by substance use.



HISTORY

The Chippewa County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team was established in April 2020 with 11 members. The team was initially comprised of representatives from the following sectors: Medical Examiner/Coroner, Child Protective Services, Emergency Management Services, Criminal Justice, Behavioral Health, Department of Corrections, Health Care, Social Services, Public Health, and Administration.

As part of the initial startup, each team member met individually with the Chippewa County OFR Coordinator to review the OFR process, discuss expectations, and ensure a shared understanding of the team's goals and procedures.

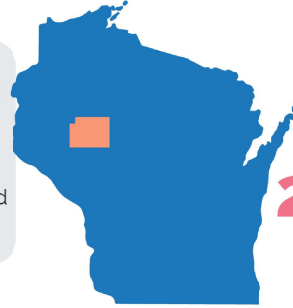
Chippewa County's first review meeting was held virtually in April 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on established procedures and analysis of local data trends, it was determined that all overdose deaths in Chippewa County would be reviewed as part of the OFR process.

TIMELINE



CHIPPEWA COUNTY OVERDOSE FATALITY CASE OVERVIEW

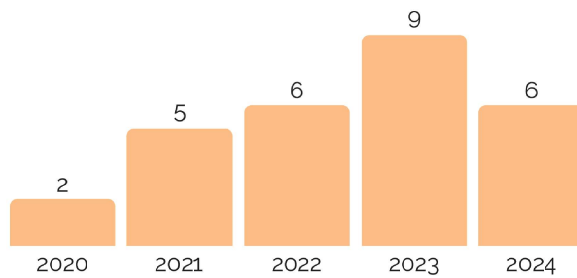
The following pages contain information from the 27 overdose death cases the OFR team has reviewed. Reviewing overdose deaths helps identify patterns, missed opportunities, and system gaps. These insights guide targeted recommendations to prevent future overdoses and improve community response.



27 cases reviewed
17 meetings held

Overdose Fatalities Occurring in Chippewa County

Reviewed by the OFR Team



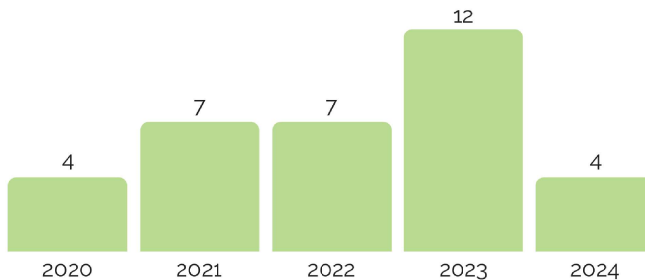
Overdose deaths continue to impact Chippewa County, in both the number of fatalities occurring locally and among residents who died elsewhere.

The number of **overdose deaths** that occurred **within the county** has **gradually increased**, **peaking in 2023**.

This trend may reflect increased potency and availability of illicit substances, such as fentanyl, or changing patterns in drug use and accessibility of harm reduction resources like naloxone (Narcan).

Chippewa County Resident Overdose Fatalities

Reviewed by the OFR Team



When looking at residents of Chippewa County who died from an overdose, regardless of where the death occurred, a slightly different picture emerges.

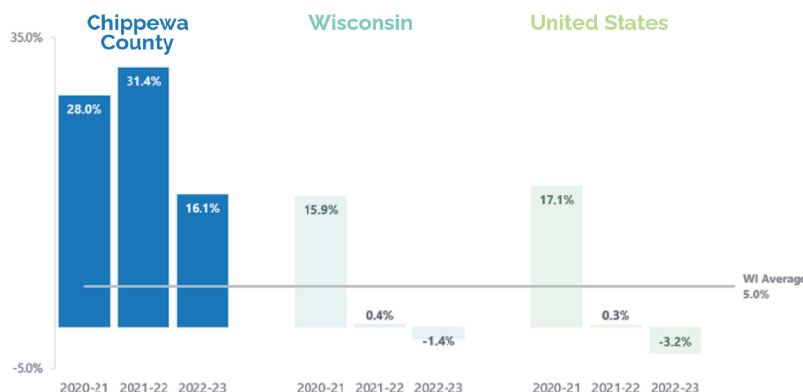
The significant increase in 2023 indicates that **more county residents were lost to overdose**, some potentially outside of the county boundaries. This points to a **broader need for cross-jurisdictional strategies that extend beyond county lines**.

In 2024, the number of overdose deaths **decreased**. This drop could mean progress is being made, **possibly due to increased access to naloxone**. Which means these efforts may be helping to save lives.

From 2020 to 2023, **Chippewa County** experienced a **steady increase in opioid overdose death rates**, rising an average of **25.2%** during this timeframe. At the same time, **Wisconsin** (5% average increase) and **national** (4.7% average increase) rates had begun to plateau.

The data highlights a concerning upward trend in **Chippewa County** that is **outpacing broader statewide and national trends**.

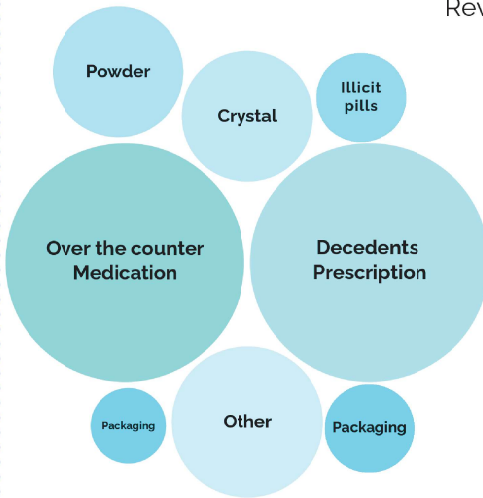
Annual Percent Change of Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Individuals by Location



CDC Mapping Injury, Overdose, and Violence Dashboard, 2020 - 2023

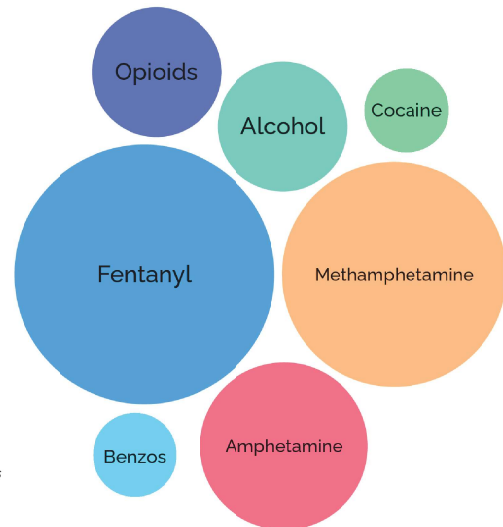
Substances Found at the Scene of Overdose

Reviewed by the OFR Team



Understanding the variety of substances found at overdose scenes provides insight into the **complexity of substance use and the variety of drug sources involved**, suggesting that medications legally obtained, whether for everyday use or ongoing medical needs, can still pose a significant risk when misused or combined with other substances.

Public education should **focus on the risks of misusing prescriptions and over-the-counter medications**, as well as the dangers of unregulated street drugs. Expanding access to naloxone and drug testing supplies can help reduce harm, while promoting safe storage and proper disposal of medications can prevent misuse.

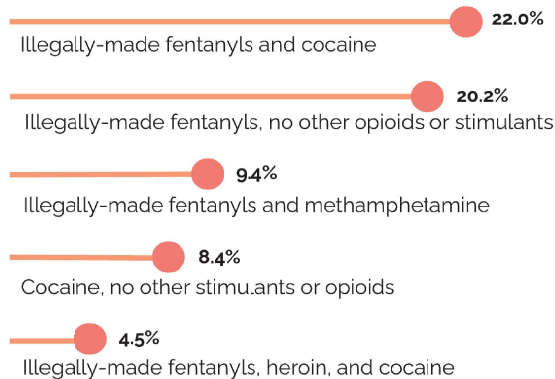


Substances Contributing to Death

Reviewed by the OFR Team

**Specific drugs identified in the cause of death section of the medical examiners report in the OFR Reviewed Cases.*

Overdose Deaths: Common Opioids and Stimulants

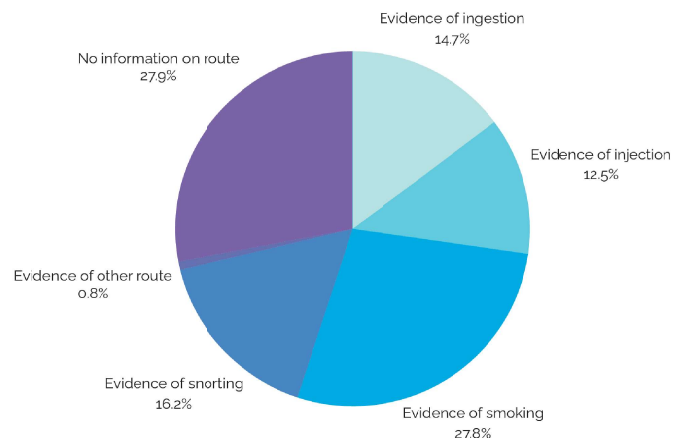


According to the CDC's Fatal Drug Overdose Data dashboard in 2023 in Wisconsin, **84.6% of deaths involved at least one opioid**, and **63.9% involved at least one stimulant**. Illegally-made fentanyl was the most commonly involved opioid. The most common stimulant involved in overdose deaths was cocaine.

These **five most frequently occurring opioids and stimulants**, either alone or in combination, **accounted for 64.5% of overdose deaths**.

Route of Drug Use

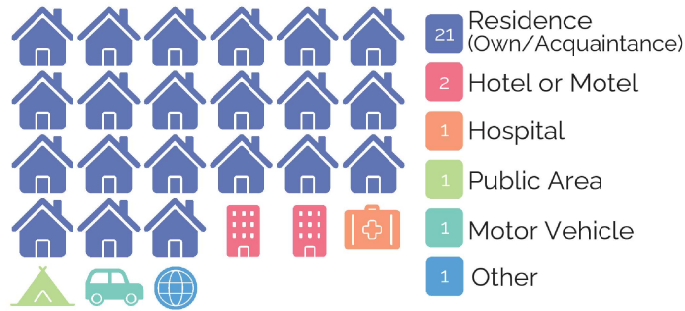
How an individual ingests substances can **provide insights into outreach strategies** that are inclusive of the diversity of health and social settings of people who use drugs. According to the CDC's Fatal Drug Overdose Data dashboard in 2023 in Wisconsin, injection is often considered the riskiest route of drug use. The following graphic provides insight into the route of use that led to the overdose death of individuals in Wisconsin.



**Percentages are only among decedents with sufficient information on route of use surrounding the overdose death.*

Location of Overdose

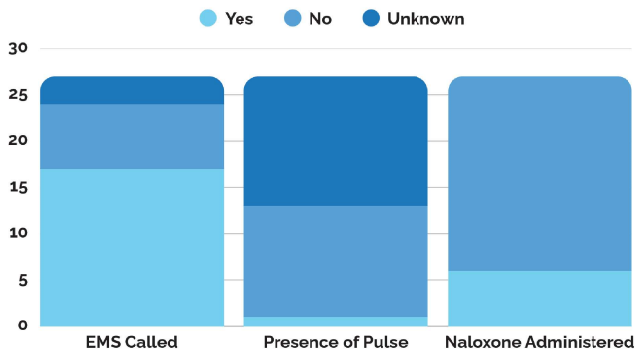
Reviewed by the OFR Team



From April 2020 to August 2024, **most overdose deaths (21 out of 27) occurred in the home**. Narcan was only known to be used in 6 cases, and EMS was called in 17. In 7 cases, no emergency help was called, and in only one case did the person still have a pulse when EMS arrived, which suggests help often came too late or Narcan was not used.

This raises serious concerns about delayed or absent intervention. **The low use of Narcan and inconsistent calls to EMS may reflect a lack of knowledge, access, or fear of legal consequences when calling for help during an overdose.**

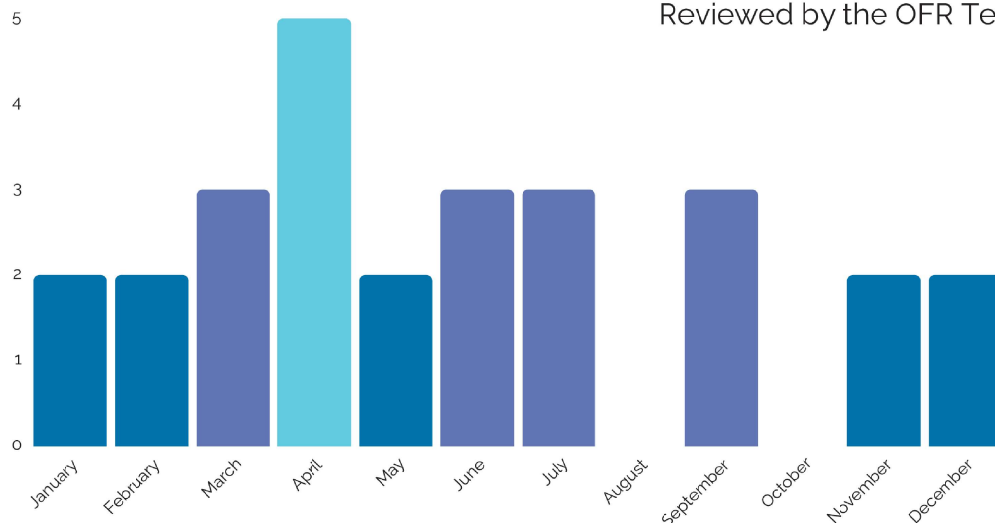
These findings highlight the urgent **need for increased public education on recognizing overdoses, using naloxone, and calling 911 immediately**. This also points to the importance of strengthening Wisconsin's Good Samaritan law, so that individuals feel safe seeking emergency help without fear of arrest. **Stronger protections and wider access to naloxone could save lives.**



Reviewed by the OFR Team

Overdose Deaths by Month

Reviewed by the OFR Team



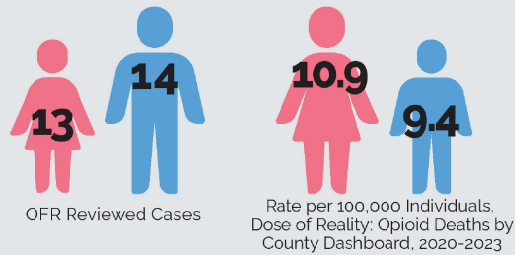
Of the 27 overdose death cases that the OFR reviewed, April saw the highest number of deaths (5), nearly 19% of all overdose deaths. Deaths were fairly steady from March through July (3–5 deaths per month), which could indicate a **period of risk during late spring and early summer**.

Seasonal patterns could influence the spike in April and **elevated numbers during spring and summer in drug use, mental health, or social factors**.

Targeted outreach and prevention campaigns may be especially important leading into the spring months, particularly March and April.

Understanding why August and October had zero deaths could help identify protective factors worth reinforcing (e.g., community events, public health interventions, or reduced access).

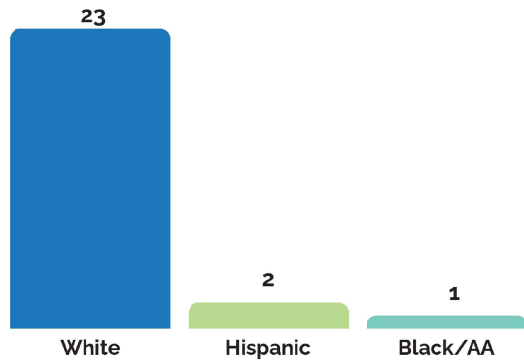
Opioid Deaths by Sex



From April 2020 to August 2024, overdose deaths were higher among males. Despite similar numbers, the opioid overdose death rate was higher for females than for males. This **higher rate among females suggests a disproportionate impact relative to their population size**. While males traditionally have higher overdose death rates nationwide, this **local data indicates a concerning trend among women** that may warrant further attention, **highlighting the importance of examining gender-specific risk factors and tailoring prevention and intervention strategies to address the unique needs of women in the community**.

Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity

Reviewed by the OFR Team



Using the 2023 WI Census data, even though more white individuals died in total, the death rates were much higher for Hispanic and Black residents compared to white residents.

White:

23 deaths out of 61,449 people = **37.4 deaths per 100,000**

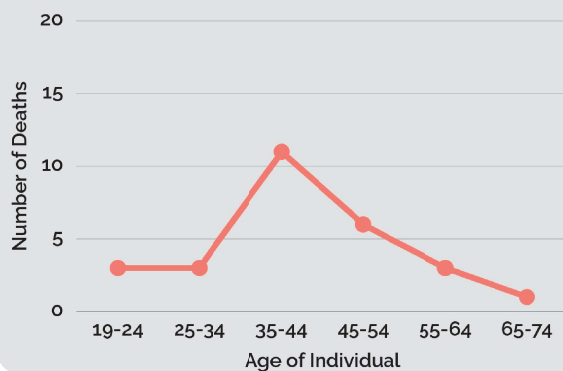
Hispanic:

2 deaths out of 1,473 people = **135.8 deaths per 100,000**

Black/African American (AA):

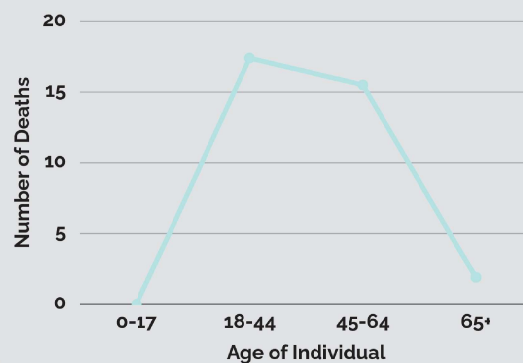
1 death out of 335 people = **298.5 deaths per 100,000**

Overdose Deaths by Age



Reviewed by the OFR Team

Opioid Death Rate by Age



Dose of Reality: Opioid Deaths by County Dashboard, Chippewa County, 2020-2023

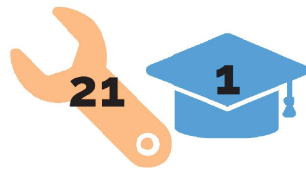
Many overdose deaths occurred among individuals between the ages of 35 and 54, suggesting that midlife adults may face elevated risk; however, the data also indicate that overdose impacts people across the lifespan.

This highlights the importance of age-specific prevention and harm reduction strategies, such as outreach through workplaces and community programs, access to naloxone, and connections to treatment and support services.

For younger adults, incorporating overdose prevention education into schools, colleges, and youth organizations can help engage individuals early and reduce risk.

According to research from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, older adults may encounter unique challenges, such as chronic pain or social isolation. Supporting healthcare providers in recognizing and addressing substance use in this population is critical.

Overall, overdose prevention and harm reduction efforts should be widely accessible and tailored to meet the diverse needs of people at all stages of life.



Overdose Deaths by Employment Status

Reviewed by the OFR Team

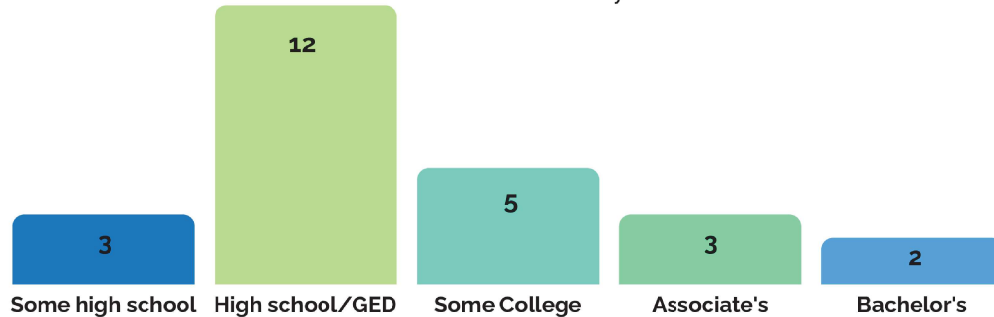
21 individuals were **employed**, and **1** individual was a **student** at the time of death, excluding 5 cases where employment status is unknown.

This highlights the importance of **expanding overdose prevention efforts to workplaces and educational institutions**, as they can be key routes to provide harm reduction resources like naloxone, education on substance use and mental health, and access to confidential support services.



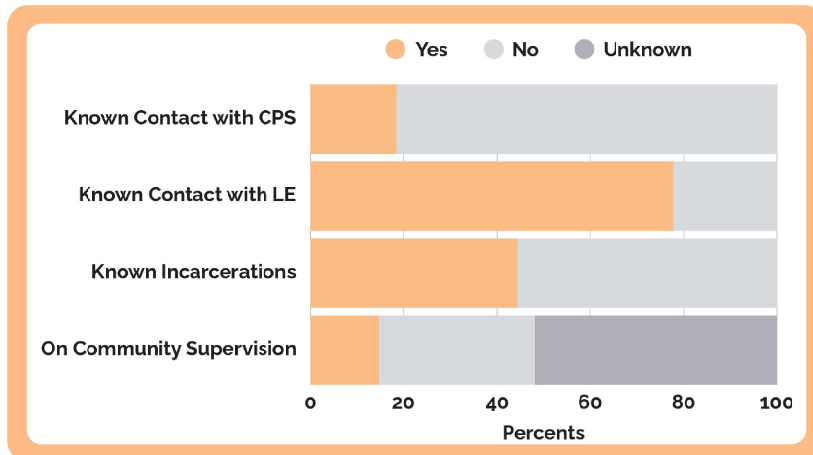
Overdose Deaths by Education Level

Reviewed by the OFR Team



The **majority of overdose deaths** occurred among individuals with a **high school diploma or GED**, accounting for 12 deaths, which represents the largest single education group.

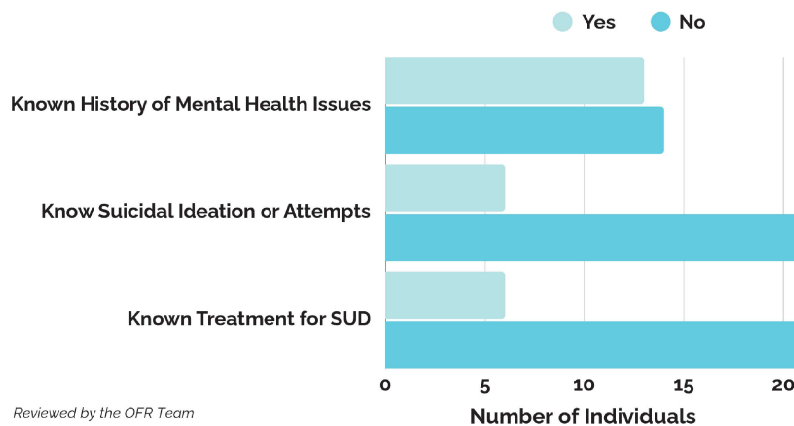
This suggests that **overdose deaths were more common among individuals with lower levels of formal education**, particularly those who had completed high school but had not pursued a postsecondary degree.



Reviewed by the OFR Team

These patterns highlight **significant intersections between overdose risk and criminal justice involvement** but also reveal **gaps in data and services**, especially around community supervision and CPS contact.

Expanding harm reduction beyond traditional justice touchpoints and improving data sharing can help ensure comprehensive support for all at risk.



Reviewed by the OFR Team

This suggests that while mental health challenges were present for about half of the individuals, a majority did not have known histories of suicidal thoughts or attempts, nor had they accessed treatment for substance use.

This **highlights ongoing gaps in mental health and addiction support or engagement**.



RECOMMENDATIONS

After reviewing overdose related data, the OFR Team develops recommendations that seek to reduce overdose deaths. These recommendations are shared with the Harm Reduction Workgroup who work to implement them. Below are a list of recommendations that have been developed by our OFR Team.

1. Expand Community Access to Narcan:

Broaden the availability of Narcan (naloxone) throughout the community by increasing the number of distribution points. Ensure Narcan is easy to access without stigma, cost, or unnecessary barriers.

2. Develop a Targeted Narcan Distribution Strategy:

Develop an outreach plan to provide Narcan in higher-risk settings including hotels/motels, transitional housing, and private residences where overdoses are more likely to occur.

3. Create a Narcan Leave-Behind Program:

Formalize "leave-behind" practices that allow EMS, law enforcement, jails, coroners, and Department of Corrections staff to leave Narcan kits at the scene of an overdose, upon release from custody, or during any appropriate field encounter. Include education materials, local support resources, and instructions on how to use the medication.

4. Strengthen Peer Support Integration:

Increase the presence and visibility of peer support specialists in harm reduction and overdose prevention efforts. This includes peer involvement in Narcan distribution, follow-up with overdose survivors, and connection to recovery and support services.

5. Review and Enhance Provider Screening Tools:

Review and update screening tools used by healthcare and behavioral health providers to better identify individuals at risk of overdose. Ensure tools are trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and integrated with referral pathways for harm reduction resources, including Narcan distribution.

6. Install Narcan Dispensing Machine at Jail Discharge Area:

Install a public health vending machine to ensure individuals leaving incarceration have immediate access to Narcan. Pair the machine with clear instructions and signage about overdose prevention and local resources.

7. Expand Outreach Education and Training Opportunities:

Increase community education efforts by offering regular Narcan training sessions for the public, community organizations, and high-risk groups.

8. Targeted Narcan Outreach in Trailer Park Communities:

Develop a focused strategy to distribute Narcan and provide overdose prevention education in trailer parks and manufactured housing communities. Collaborate with park management and landlords to support harm reduction messaging, host onsite training sessions, and establish trusted points of contact for ongoing support and restocking supplies.



SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

Thriving in Recovery Video Campaign

This campaign highlighted local individuals thriving in recovery, showcasing their passions, careers, and renewed purpose. By sharing real stories, it helped humanize recovery, reduce stigma, and promote a local recovery resource.

The videos aired on TV, in theaters, at gas stations, and on social media, reaching a wide audience and sparking positive conversations around addiction and recovery in our community.



Gas Station TV Ad:

Ran for **64 days** on **23 different stations**
374,066 total impressions

Two billboard placements:

Ran for **28 days**
315,208 total views

TV & Streaming:

Ran for **8 weeks**
253,058 total impressions

Facebook Ads:

Ran for **7 days**
34,269 user reach, **22,590** engaged

Narcan Access and Education

The Health Department became a recipient of the Narcan Direct program in April 2023, which enabled us to increase the community's access to Narcan. With this, the Health Department has been able to provide monthly trainings at the Chippewa County Jail along with offering multiple community-based trainings. All participants are offered nasal Narcan, along with drug testing supplies, breathing barrier masks, and other resources.

644 Individuals Trained

1,562 Doses of Narcan Distributed

156 Fentanyl Test Supplies Provided

THANK YOU to all of our Partners who've participated over the years!

Arbor Place

Child Protective Services

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council

Department of Corrections

Department of Health Services

Department of Public Health

EMS

HSBS - L.E. Phillips Treatment Center

Medical Coroner

Prevea

Sheriff's Department



Data Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS). Final Data. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; July 28, 2025. Access at: <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention., Mapping Injury, Overdose, and Violence Dashboard. July 28, 2025. Access at: <https://www.cdc.gov/injury-violence-data/data-vis/index.html>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Dose of Reality: Opioid Deaths by County Dashboard, July 28, 2025. Access at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/deaths-county.htm>

Wisconsin Overdose Fatality Review, Chippewa County RedCap Report, April 2020 - August 2024 Report Generated May 12, 2025



CHIPPEWA COUNTY
Public Health

LEARN MORE

 715-726-7900

 711 North Bridge St. Room 121
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

 Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Chippewa County Overdose Fatality Review Lifetime Report Executive Summary

Overview

This report provides an overview of the **27 reviewed overdose fatalities** in Chippewa County from **April 2020 to August 2024**. It examines trends, risk factors, and community impact.

The goal is to use these insights to **guide prevention, intervention, and support strategies that save lives** and strengthen community wellbeing.

Each overdose death represents not only the loss of a life but also long-term effects on families, children, first responders, healthcare providers, and the broader community. These losses highlight the urgent **need for coordinated, compassionate, and evidence-based responses**.

History of the OFR

The Chippewa County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team was established in April 2020 with 11 members.

The team was initially comprised of representatives from the following sectors:

- Medical Examiner/Coroner
- Child Protective Services
- Emergency Management Services
- Criminal Justice
- Behavioral Health
- Department of Corrections
- Health Care
- Social Services
- Public Health
- Administration

As part of the initial startup, each team member met individually with the Chippewa County OFR Coordinator to review the OFR process, discuss expectations, and ensure a shared understanding of the team's goals and procedures.

Chippewa County's first review meeting was held virtually in April 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



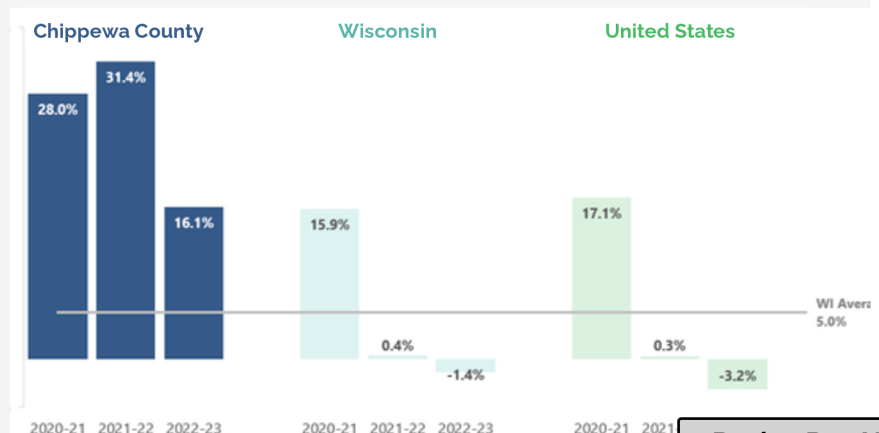
27 cases reviewed

17 meetings held

Key Findings

- **Overdose deaths most often occur at home**, emphasizing the need for in-home prevention and response tools.
- **Middle-aged, male adults are most affected**, with white men overrepresented in fatal overdoses.
- **Opioids are the leading substance involved in overdose deaths**, followed by methamphetamine, and frequently combined with alcohol, or benzodiazepine which complicates prevention and treatment efforts.
- **Stigma, gaps in access to treatment, and fragmented care systems remain significant barriers to prevention and recovery.**

Annual Percent Change of Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Individuals by Location

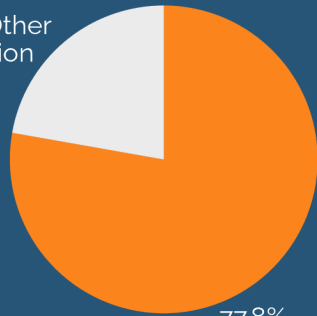


From **2020 to 2023**, Chippewa County experienced a **steady increase in opioid overdose death rates, rising an average of 25.2%** during this timeframe. At the same time, **Wisconsin** (5% average increase) and **national** (4.7% average increase) rates had begun to plateau.

Data Highlights

Overdose Death Location

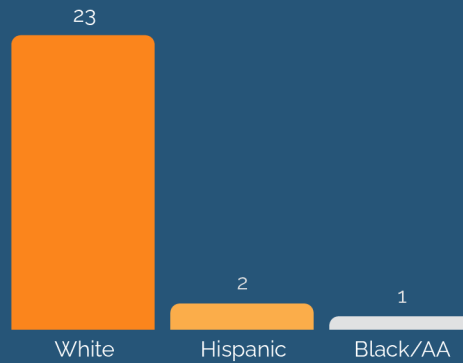
22.2% Other Location



77.8% Residence

21 of **27** overdose deaths occurred within the individual's home or the home of an acquaintance.

Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity



White: 23 deaths out of 61,449 people = **37.4 deaths per 100,000**

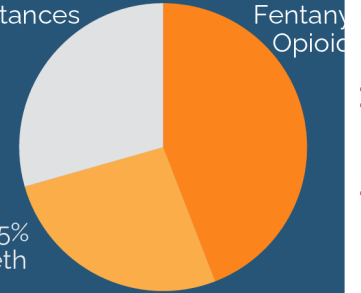
Hispanic: 2 deaths out of 1,473 people = **135.8 deaths per 100,000**

Black/African American (AA): 1 death out of 335 people = **298.5 deaths per 100,000**

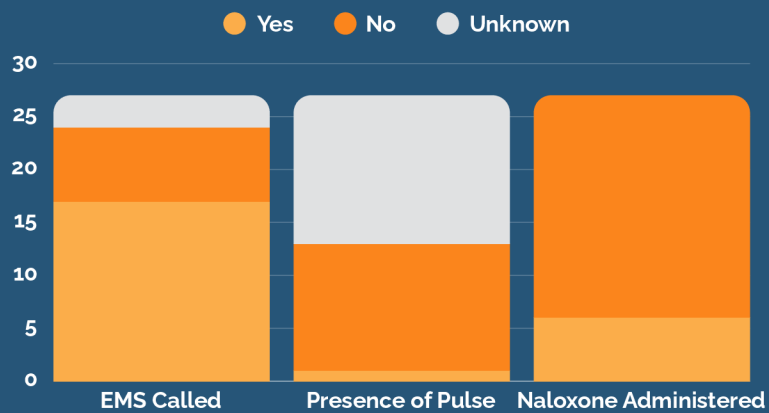
2023 WI Census data used to calculate rate

Substances Contributing to Deaths

29.4% Other Substances



70.6% of overdose deaths identified the cause of death section of the medical examiner's report involved opioid and/or methamphetamine



Reviewed by the OFR Team

The low use of Narcan and inconsistent calls to EMS may reflect a lack of knowledge, access, or fear of legal consequences when calling for help during an overdose.

These findings highlight the urgent **need for increased education on recognizing overdoses, using naloxone, and calling 911 immediately.** This also points to the importance of **expanding awareness of Wisconsin's Good Samaritan law and strengthening it**, so that individuals feel safe seeking emergency help without fear of arrest.

Summary of Recommendations

- **Expand prevention and harm reduction efforts** such as naloxone access, education, and safe use practices.
- **Increase treatment access and care coordination** for substance use and mental health disorders.
- **Address stigma** through education, awareness campaigns, and person-first language.
- **Strengthen cross-sector collaboration** between healthcare, law enforcement, social services, and community organizations.
- **Support families and children** affected by overdose through targeted services.

LEARN MORE



715-726-7900



711 North Bridge St. Room 121
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



CHIPPEWA COUNTY
Public Health

Packet Pg. 42



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR'S PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL REPORT –
BOBBIE JAEGER

6.5

Human Services Director, Bobbie Jaeger, and Senior Fiscal Manager, Paul Brenner, provide a department program and financial report for review and discussion.

Human Services Director's Report

Board Meeting Date: September 18, 2025

WCHSA Updates

Division of Children and Families (DCF) and CYF PAC

- Contract issues have been resolved with the exception of proposed restrictions on county Human Services use of AI tools

Division of Health Services (DHS)

- DHS updated their analysis of the OBBBA impact on Foodshare and Medicaid programs. The analysis mentions the forthcoming DHS request for \$69 million of state GRP funding to address reduction in federal SNAP administrative reimbursement. DHS indicated \$13.4 million of the request is for counties, which would cover 10/2026-6/2027. WCHSA has requested information from DHS to determine individual county impact.

Behavioral Health PAC

- No update available

Department and Division Updates

Department Updates

- DHS Leadership has been working on updating the look and content of the consumer caseload data report. The new format will provide more quantitative data to show trends in service delivery and include additional data from Economic Support and the ADRC.

Work Anniversary CONGRATS and THANKS to the following staff for their service and dedication:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patty LeMay, B-3 – 31 Years Renee Berthiaume, MWR – 7 Years Kim Behnke, MWR – 6 Years Jordan Hallingstad, Fiscal – 3 Years Sara Bedford, CPS – 3 Years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Turnmire, CWDA – 1 Year Marie Moua, CWDA – 1 Year Rita Fehr, MWR – 1 Year Tara Reitan, CWDA – 1 Year |
|--|---|



Division Updates

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

- The ADRC was awarded a \$10,000 Nutrition Program 2025 Congregate Revitalization Grant to support our Café 60 restaurant voucher model in Cornell and purchase equipment for senior dining sites in Bloomer and Chippewa Falls.
- The Point & Pay system is live, allowing consumers to make credit and debit card donations and co-payments at the ADRC front desk, by phone, or online. This added flexibility improves access and convenience for those we serve.
- We are partnering with Mayo Clinic to once again offer our Strong Bodies exercise class focused on strength and balance. This class begins Tuesday September 9th at the Bloomer Senior Center.

Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division

Birth to Three (B-3)

- Birth-to-Three received a little bit of a break with twelve referrals for the month of August.
- Birth-to-Three's MetaStar review has been completed, and preliminary feedback was given but the final results come back later in September.
 - 2025 was a pilot year, as the state has made a big shift in their review protocol which is due to the state getting ready for their federal audit in 2027.
 - Overall, the review went well, giving the team feedback on areas of strength but also giving information on areas to improve practices.
 - The team was also proactive and reached out to state support for additional feedback as some areas did not receive any feedback due to the state picked samples. The state only looked at nine files from January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025. This is a small sample amount considering there are approximately ninety children enrolled at one time and a very small window considering some children can be enrolled in the program for up to three years.
- Birth-to-Three is also getting ready for the onboarding of the Physical Therapist who will be starting October 15, 2025. The contracted Physical Therapy position has been open since the end of April due to a staff member retiring. The team is excited to have a full team again!

Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division

Child Protective Services (CPS)

- In August 2025, the Department screened-in seventeen reports of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in order to complete an assessment or offer services. Unfortunately, the State System has not updated; therefore, we are unable to provide how many total reports were received during the month.
- In August 2025, Child Protective Services re-removed a child who was reunified in June 2025 due to his parents' continued methamphetamine use. The Department also had to remove a child due to her parents' continued fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine use.



- In August 2025, the Department was able to close three children's cases; two cases closed due to guardianship with a relative and one case closed due to successful reunification.
- The Department offered their first ever Foster and Kinship Care Support Group. Three families attended and the group lasted an entire hour with great information and conversations.
- Foster Care Coordinator Sydney Kwaliek and Initial Assessment Worker Kaitlyn Papineau traveled to Green Bay, WI, to help a former foster youth who aged out of care settle into her dorm. Sydney also coordinated donations for the youth to help her start her college career in the best possible way!
- September is National Kinship Month! The Department was fortunate enough to receive a Relative Caregiver Support Grant late last year. Kinship families are going to receive an appreciation letter with gift cards this month to show the Department's gratitude for all that they do to keep families together!

Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division

Children with Differing Abilities (CWDA)

- The CCS program welcomed two additional staff in August and are now considered fully staffed. One more position remains available for hiring in the CCS program. Hiring for this position will be reevaluated at a later date.
- The CLTS team said good-bye to one team member at the end of August and are in the process of hiring for that position. There is hope that a new team member will be able to join at the end of September or early October.
- The CWDA team continues to work diligently to reduce the enrollment que. CCS currently has 0 consumers and CLTS has 10 consumers on the enrollment que.
- CCS Supervisor, Elizabeth Patten, had the opportunity to attend the CCS Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Improvement (QI) Summit held at UW-Stout on August 5th. This provided a lot of insight into how to improve workers' practices within the CCS program.
- CCS Supervisors, Erika Ferrin and Elizabeth Patten, have been actively covering for the Public Health Medical Screen while they are out of the office. Referrals continue to consistently come in through Single Point of Entry (SPOE).
- There have been several training opportunities for CWDA staff over the last month. Several staff attended a Core Crisis Training put on by the WRRWC and an Ethics and Boundaries Training put on by Dunn County. There are plans in place for staff to attend a two-day Motivational Interviewing Training in September.
- Avatar, the system utilized for electronic health records by CWDA, is going through several changes/updates. Avatar Super Users have been working hard to test the new functions in Avatar. There will be staff training completed in September and the new system is scheduled to go live on October 1st.



Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division

Youth Justice (YJ)

- Members of the Youth Justice team took PTO to support and attend a golf scramble fundraiser to support impactful youth programming in our region.
- We are transitioning one of our ongoing youth justice positions to provide assistance to the juvenile court intake role and provide increase coordination with schools around truancy issued.
- Two of our newer staff members attended Carey Bits and Guides training in Madison to be trained in administering this evidence-based tool in the case management of our youth.
- Our newest Youth Justice worker is part of the inaugural Youth Justice Wi-Learn cohort to ensure State-based onboarding is focused on Youth Justice practice rather than so heavily centered on Child Protective Service practice.

Economic Support (ES) Division

- Christina Szalecki, who was a current Economic Support Specialist for Chippewa County, has accepted the role of EBD Economic Support Coordinator for Chippewa and Douglas County. Christina started her new role on Sept 2.
- Annual FoodShare Management Evaluation Review was completed, and Great Rivers scored very well, with 5 total findings. A few of the comments: Staff consistently provided very good customer service, per Survey results, Call Quality Reviews, Anonymous Calls and Lobby Visits. All training requirements were met, lobby toured had current signage, all websites had current nondiscrimination info, and very good customer resources were available. Great Rivers has consistently provided great customer service, accurate benefits, and very good access to customer resources -awesome job!
- Economic Support currently has 1 vacancy in the family team.

Recovery & Wellness Consortium (RWC) Division

- September is national suicide awareness. Suicide is the leading cause of preventable deaths in United States. 988 Wisconsin Lifeline provides free and confidential services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to individuals experiencing suicide, mental health and/or substance use crisis. Since July 2022 the 988-crisis line has answered nearly 250,000 calls, more than 50,000 text and nearly 35,000 chats. More than ever, there has been a media push to end the stigma around seeking help. By creating a safe environment for those to share their struggle we end up saving lives.
- On September 1st the RWC officially changed over to their new name. Moving forward the Division will be known as Mental Wellness and Recovery Services (MWR). This internal change will help reduce confusion associated with Western Region Recovery and Wellness Consortium.
- On September 4th the MWR Division enjoyed an organizational workday. In addition to several team building activities there was a presentation on HIGH5 Strengths by Garret Zastoupil with the UW-Extension office.



2025 Monthly Fiscal Information

Through Month of: August 2025

2025 Budget (Total is \$37,539,226): \$25,026,144 **Prorated – 8 months**

Expenses Paid (Through August 31): 19,136,843

Variance to Budget: \$5,889,301

Note: The August Over/(Under) amounts are an estimated annualized amount for each placement category. Prior months estimated amounts are shown to indicate if expense variances are trending up, down, or remaining the same.

2025 Kinship Placement with a Relative

Month	Kinship	Projected Cost	2025 Grant Amount*	Over/(Under)
January	80	\$351,072	\$454,500	(\$103,428)
February	77	340,536	454,500	(113,964)
March	77	347,772	454,500	(106,728)
April	75	338,960	454,500	(115,540)
May	75	335,534	454,500	(118,966)
June	75	334,152	454,500	(120,348)
July	72	334,356	454,500	(120,144)
August	74	331,860	454,600	(122,640)

2025 Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Placements

Month	Out of Home*	Out of Home**	Projected Cost	2025 Budget	Over/(Under)
January	29	0	\$1,365,828	\$1,046,000	\$319,828
February	31	0		1,046,000	
March	31	0	1,785,004	1,046,000	739,004
April	28	3	2,106,305	1,046,000	1,060,305
May	27	0	2,006,351	1,046,000	960,351
June	30	0	1,989,873	1,046,000	943,873
July	30	0	1,951,154	1,046,000	905,154
August	28	0	1,862,948	1,046,000	816,948

*Children and Youth in Placement: Foster Care, Treatment Foster Care, Group Home, Residential Care

**Additional children placed with relatives (unpaid)



2025 Adult Mental Health CBRF Out-of-Home Placements

Month	Out of Home	Projected Cost	2025 Budget	Over/(Under)
January	13	\$281,328	\$479,041	(\$197,713)
February	15	399,708	479,041	(79,333)
March	12	474,756	479,041	(4,285)
April	15	457,618	479,041	(21,423)
May	20	492,574	479,041	13,533
June	15	492,340	479,041	13,299
July	11	418,408	479,041	(60,633)
August	10	397,608	479,041	(81,433)

2025 Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) Placements

Month	Inpatient Days	Projected Cost*	2025 Budget	Over/(Under)
January	161	\$1,090,296	\$878,000	\$212,296
February	100	751,591	878,000	(126,409)
March	146	852,716	878,000	(24,284)
April	152	1,079,421	878,000	201,421
May	115	1,048,961	878,000	170,961
June	136	1,130,311	878,000	252,311
July*	111	1,077,921	878,000	199,921

*July IMD is the most recent invoice received



Note: The following reports show monthly disbursement amounts for each placement category. The month shown is the month the invoice was paid (not the month the charge was incurred).

2025 Kinship

Month	Amount Paid	Monthly Grant Amount
January	0	\$37,875
February	28,058	37,875
March	28,734	37,875
April	27,902	37,875
May	27,326	37,875
June	27,882	37,875
July	27,280	37,875
August	26,410	37,875
Total	\$193,592	\$303,000

2025 Children & Youth Placements

Month	Amount Paid	Monthly Budget
January	0	\$87,167
February	134,373	87,167
March	82,173	87,167
April	189,086	87,167
May	254,735	87,167
June	155,431	87,167
July	159,577	87,167
August	126,386	87,167
Total	\$1,101,761	\$697,336

2025 Adults in CBRF Placement

Month	Amount Paid	Monthly Budget
January	0	\$39,920
February	17,553	39,920
March	49,898	39,920
April	24,651	39,920
May	43,143	39,920
June	27,472	39,920
July	34,368	39,920
August	54,574	39,920
Total	\$251,659	\$319,360



2025 IMD

Month	Amount Paid	Monthly Budget
January	0	\$73,166
February	37,179	73,166
March	135,141	73,166
April	35,034	73,166
June	79,404	73,166
July	351,114	73,166
August	63,633	73,166
Total	\$628,788	\$585,328





GRC

Calls Received:

12,678

July



GRC Average

Speed of Answer:

5.08 Mins

Contract Requirement: ≤10 Minutes

July



GRC

FNS Error Rate:

6.14%

State FNS Error Rate: 7.28%

Contract Requirement: Below 6%

Data current: Oct. 2024 – Mar. 2025

Crisis Reports

Apr.-June

209

YJ Referrals

June

18

IMD Expenditures

January-July

Children: \$53,547

Adults: \$575,242

Total: \$628,789

CPS Reports

July

73

GRC Cases

July

61,044

B-3 Referrals

August

12

Meals Served

July

3,287

Benefit Specialist

Monthly Contacts

July

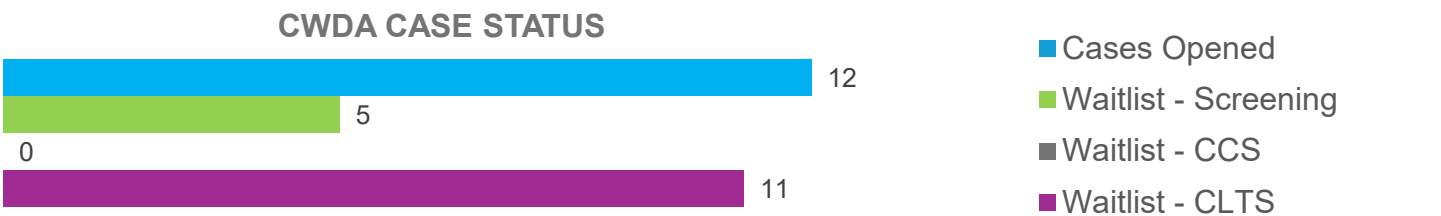
239

Options Counselor

Monthly Contacts

July

225



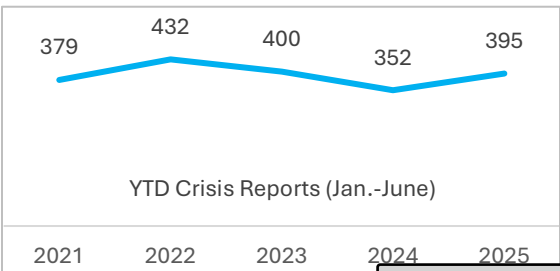
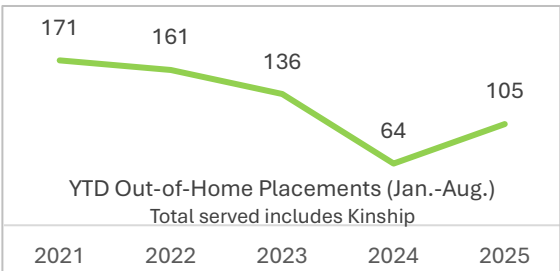
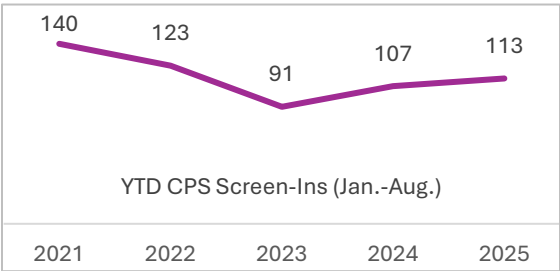
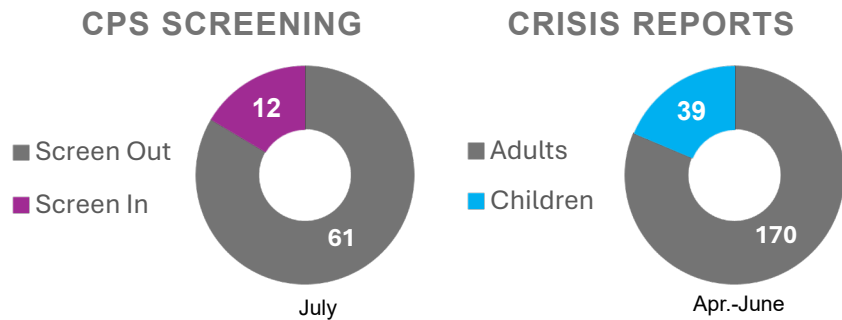
CPS Caseload	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
IA	7	6	8	6					
Ongoing					13	4	8	3	6

WCHSA Caseload Recommendations

Initial Assessments: 11 cases per worker with no more than 6 new assessments per worker per month

Ongoing: 10 cases per worker with no more than 15 children per worker

YJ Caseload	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE	0.5 LTE
Ongoing		19	8	14	6	8
Deferred Agreements	17					





STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR'S PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL REPORT –
BRITTNAY FORTUNA

6.6

Public Health Director Brittnay Fortuna provides a department program and financial report for review and discussion.



Administration Division

In August, April and Pangya attended the Foster and Kinship Care Picnic at Irvine Park, which brought together about 40 children and 25 adults. They provided educational outreach to children, caregivers, and community partners on a variety of Public Health services and programs, including WIC, car seat safety, and safe sharps disposal. They also answered questions about Narcan and Detera Drug Deactivation Systems, distributing both to caregivers. Other popular items handed out included hand sanitizer and reusable ice pack pouches.



We have also been supporting the Community Health Team as they prepare for the upcoming flu season. This work includes coordinating schedules, updating forms, and ensuring that all necessary materials are ready.

Alongside flu season preparations, the Administrative Team continues to play a key role in the daily operations of our department. We provide support by scheduling appointments, responding to car seat safety inquiries, loaning out wheelchairs, and coordinating Breastfeeding Peer Counseling services. Our team also serves as a reliable resource for general Public Health questions, helping connect community members with the information and services they need.

Community Health Division

Stigma Reduction Campaign

Earlier this year, the Chippewa County Department of Public Health received funding through the Northwoods Coalition and the Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Health Advancement to support opioid misuse prevention efforts. With this support, we launched a countywide initiative focused on reducing stigma surrounding harm reduction. Stigma is one of the greatest barriers to treatment and recovery. Addressing it is key to ensuring individuals and families feel supported in seeking help.

Starting September 8 and continuing through January 25, 2026, a 30-second video will be streamed across major digital platforms. This campaign is expected to generate approximately 250,000 impressions within targeted zip codes, extending reach not only within Chippewa County but also into surrounding areas.

Stigma Reduction Campaign Video: <https://youtu.be/Wn35VZZmG8c>

Measles Update

- **Local Status:** As of September 1, Chippewa County continues to report no confirmed measles cases.
- **Wisconsin Cases:** As of September 2, the Wisconsin DHS measles dashboard reports 24 confirmed cases in Oconto County, all linked to a single out-of-state travel exposure. Two of these individuals required hospitalization, and all cases have been laboratory-confirmed.
- **National Context:** According to the CDC measles data dashboard (updated September 2, 2025), the U.S. has reported 1,431 confirmed cases across 42 jurisdictions, including 35 outbreaks. Approximately 86 percent of cases are outbreak-associated, with 13 percent requiring hospitalization. The vast majority, over 90 percent, occurred in unvaccinated individuals or those with unknown vaccination status. This represents the highest case count since 1992 and underscores the severity of the current measles resurgence.
- **Wisconsin Wastewater Monitoring:** This summer, Wisconsin DHS expanded its Wastewater Monitoring Program to test for measles at 44 sites statewide. Results are posted weekly to a secure dashboard for local and Tribal health departments, listed as either Detected or Not Detected. If measles is identified in a community's wastewater, DHS notifies the local health department before posting results to allow for a timely and coordinated response. This new tool enhances early detection and preparedness across Wisconsin.
- **Risk and Response:** We remain in continuous coordination with DHS, local providers, schools, and LTHD partners to ensure rapid detection, reporting, and containment if a case occurs locally. We continue to actively promote MMR vaccination and ensure that the vaccine remains available and accessible to all residents, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. We are also engaging in outreach to under-vaccinated communities to strengthen immunization coverage.

Community Health Division Funding Updates

The Community Health Division is proactively addressing funding challenges to maintain and enhance community health services. Despite facing financial constraints, the team has actively pursued various funding opportunities to support its initiatives.

Awarded and Pending Grants

- **Title V Dual Protection Funding:** The department has been awarded funding under the Title V program, which supports dual protection strategies to improve sexual and reproductive health services. This funding is renewable for up to four additional years.
- **RICE 4.0 Grant:** An application for the Routine Immunization Through Community Engagement (RICE) 4.0 grant has been submitted and is currently pending review. This grant aims to empower communities to overcome barriers, promote confidence in vaccines, and increase protection against vaccine-preventable diseases through immunization.

Active Applications

- **Wisconsin DHS Reproductive Health and Family Planning (RHFP) Program Grants:** The department is preparing to apply for two RHFP funding opportunities aimed at strengthening Chippewa County's capacity to provide client-centered reproductive health services and prenatal support:
 - **Women's Health Block Grant – General:** Supports services such as pregnancy testing, perinatal care coordination, cervical cancer screening, STI prevention, testing, treatment, follow-up, and general health screening.
 - **Outreach to Low-Income Pregnant Women:** Supports outreach programs to inform low-income pregnant women about early prenatal and infant care, medical assistance benefits, and referral to local services.
- **Walmart Spark Good Local Grants:** The department is exploring opportunities through Walmart's Spark Good Local Grants program, which offers funding ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 for local community projects. The Community Health Division intends to submit a proposal to help support items for the Public Health Kiosks, such as socks, hygiene supplies, and first aid supplies.

Communicable Disease

The Health Officer is required by Wisconsin State Statute 252.05 to report information on current communicable disease reporting and follow-up to the Health and Human Services Board. In August, we received 117 new reports: 35 confirmed (11 Chlamydia, 6 Lyme Disease, and 2 COVID-19); 18 probable cases (17 Lyme Laboratory Reports and 1 Campylobacteriosis); and 41 that did not meet the definition of a case (10 Lyme Laboratory Reports, 9 Hepatitis A, and 5 Hepatitis B). See the attached report for further breakdown by disease type.

Environmental Health Division (EH)

With Fall nearing, the Environmental Health team wrapped up the month of August by completing the last few mobile and transient food safety inspections at the Chippewa Farmers Market and licensing inspections of campgrounds across the county. Fall brings our school inspections back, and more of a routine for our food safety and recreational licensing inspections. The team completed 48 routine inspections this month, with four complaint inspections.

Beach water testing has come to an end with our last sample being collected before Labor Day. In total, we had four recommended closures and six advisories. Three of those closures were due to algae blooms at the end of the season. Our team received several calls and emails about blue-green algae this year, whether it was questions or reports of observation within the community. There has been increased interest in algae this summer, and we hope to create outreach for next year, as well as look into grants that focus on blue-green algae.

Thirty-three TN water samples were collected for the DNR program, with a few of those being investigative samples due to positive coliform test results. Our Environmental Health team's goal is to work with the facility owner and determine where the contamination source is coming from. Our

water lab received 13 private homeowner bacteria samples, 10 nitrate samples, and four heavy metal tests.

The team has spent the end of the month preparing for a new part-time environmental health specialist who will be focusing on the water lab and tourist rooming houses. Our goal is to increase the number of water samples brought in each month, and having her on-site will help us meet those goals. More to come next month!

Nutrition Division

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

WIC dietitians continue to provide education to families about upcoming food package changes rolling out in October. We have also completed training on tailoring food package benefits and will be practicing these within our ROSIE test site.

We were notified at the end of August that our infant formula rebate contract was awarded to Abbott, who is our current contract. Families will continue to receive Similac brand formulas in the next five-year cycle.

Farm Fresh Produce Program and Farmers Market Nutrition Program Updates

As of September 5, we have issued 288 booklets of vouchers and 380 booklets of FMNP checks.

We will be ending issuance of FMNP checks on September 30th but will have the option to continue issuance of Farm Fresh vouchers for new participants. Both vouchers and checks need to be used by October 31st. Families will receive multiple text messages to encourage redemption of these benefits.

Fit Families Update

Fit Families projects have the opportunity to receive carry-over funding from FY25 to work on policy, systems, and environmental change for the first quarter of FY26 (Oct-Dec). Chippewa County has opted to receive this funding. This will allow Amy and Stephanie to continue working within the Pathway to Health Action Team of the Chippewa County Health Communities coalition to support work on increasing access to healthy foods and partnering with food pantries.

ForwardHealth Grant

The message below was sent to Medicaid and FoodShare partners and presents a good overview of the numerous changes and unknowns from the passing of the Big Beautiful Bill:

On August 28, "the Wisconsin Department of Health Services released additional details about the cost to Wisconsin taxpayers of implementing the federal reconciliation bill and timing for when the requirements will go into effect. View the [news release](#) and [final analysis](#).

While some of these changes will not take effect for several months or even years, others, like the red tape work requirements for FoodShare members, went into effect upon signing the bill. What we need you to know is that we do not yet have adequate details from the federal government to be able to implement these changes to the FoodShare program. When we have details about the changes, including the timing, we will notify you and our FoodShare members.

We want our Medicaid and FoodShare members to know that nothing about their benefits has changed at this point, and we will not change program rules without ample time to notify them.

Changes will be coming in the future, and we will let members know the new rules they need to meet, when they need to meet them, and how they can meet them.

It is more important than ever for Medicaid and FoodShare members to keep their contact information up to date. We will be sending our notices, texts, and emails as soon as we can to notify members if and when they need to comply with any new rules or requirements.

We will continue to provide updates to partners, providers, and the public as we receive further guidance from the federal government about how to fully implement these policy changes. We have also created a [new webpage for partners and providers](#) to keep up with the most recent changes and updates.”

As part of our ForwardHealth grant work, Pang is available to provide one-on-one assistance for those who need help renewing or applying for BadgerCare Plus, Family Planning Waiver, Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy, and FoodShare. Both Pang and Stephanie will continue to attend webinars to keep abreast of Medicaid and FoodShare impacts with the passing of the Big Beautiful Bill.

Planning and Strategy

Children’s Resource Center – West

As families transitioned back into the school year, our program experienced a notable increase in contacts and referrals. This is a trend we see annually during the start of the academic year, as families often reach out with new questions and needs while navigating schedules, school support, and health care resources. The rise in requests serves as an important reminder of the role our program plays in helping families connect with guidance and support during times of change.

This season also marked one of our most active periods for community outreach. Staff members represented the Children’s Resource Center – West at multiple large-scale events across our region. Highlights included the Lake Holcombe School Resource Fair, the We Care Eau Claire Backpack Event, where more than 1,500 families were served, and National Night Out celebrations. These events provided meaningful opportunities to connect face-to-face with families and professionals, share information about resources, and continue strengthening the relationships that are essential to our work.

On the funding front, we submitted our renewal application for the next three-year cycle of the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) grant. Our program has successfully received this grant for over 25

years, which speaks to both the sustainability of our work and the ongoing importance of the services we provide. In addition to this renewal, we also applied for an additional Title V MCH grant to expand the parent support efforts that have become an integral part of our annual work plans. These efforts reflect the ways our program continues to evolve in response to the needs of families in western Wisconsin.

Alongside our outreach and grant work, our team remains focused on long-term performance management and quality improvement projects. These initiatives are designed to strengthen internal systems, improve capacity, and ensure that we continue serving families and professionals across the 18-county region in the most effective and efficient ways possible. By investing in these improvements, we are laying the groundwork for ongoing success and ensuring that our program remains a trusted and reliable resource for families for years to come.

Chippewa County Healthy Communities

As part of its role as the backbone organization for Chippewa County Healthy Communities (CCHC), the Chippewa County Department of Public Health provides coordination, facilitation, and strategic support, including the Drug-Free Communities grant. This work is led by the Planning and Strategy Division, which oversees day-to-day coalition activities and partner engagement.

Recent highlights from CCHC include:

- **Pathways to Health (PTH):** The Pathway to Health Action Team has started recruiting members for a new work group to begin work on Activity 1.1.2. In partnership with the Mental Health & Wellbeing (MHWB) Action Team, this group will create a virtual care resource hub designed to bring together existing care navigation platforms such as 211 Great Rivers and FindHelp.org in one accessible location. The hub will also connect users to systems navigation support and health literacy resources. In addition, the team reviewed recent changes to Chippewa County's nutrition education programs and discussed how best to adapt the action plan in response.
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing (MHWB):** In addition to collaborating on the virtual care resource hub, the MHWB team is partnering with VIP to launch a men's mental health campaign. This initiative will engage local taverns and alcohol outlets to connect men with gender-specific mental health resources while working to reduce stigma around seeking care. The team is also finalizing plans to reach out to local businesses with information on free health trainings that can support employees' mental health and overall wellbeing.
- **Voices in Prevention (VIP):** Alongside MHWB, VIP is preparing to roll out the men's mental health campaign. The group also continued its work with youth-focused prevention, rebranding the former Prom Positive toolkit as Memories in the Making. This new branding broadens the toolkit's relevance to a variety of school celebrations, including homecoming, graduation, and prom, with the goal of expanding its use across more high schools this year.

The team is also addressing vaping trends. Work is underway on a vape density map, which will show retailer proximity to schools and help inform future prevention strategies.

On the harm reduction front, the Know More. Stay Safe. Reduce Harm. initiative, funded through the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, was piloted at back-to-school events and Chippewa Falls National Night Out. This effort includes flipbooks that help caregivers start conversations with children about medication safety, harm reduction tools provided by CCDPH, and educational resources from Wisconsin Poison Control. In addition, the Support Without Stigma campaign is preparing to release a new video across multiple streaming platforms, delivering messages about harm reduction and reducing stigma around substance use.

Several Chippewa County representatives also completed a four-part national training series hosted by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), which concluded with a legislative breakfast in Wausau. Participants developed logic models, strategic plans, and other foundational tools that will help strengthen local prevention and harm reduction initiatives and align them with best practices.

Finally, in August, VIP participated in several community outreach events, including Chippewa Falls National Night Out, the Foster and Kinship Care Picnic, the Stanley-Boyd Back-to-School Open House, and the Lake Holcombe School Resource Fair.



Single Point of Entry: Centralized Support for Families of Children with Special Needs in Chippewa County

The CRC-West serves as the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) for families in Chippewa County seeking support for children with special needs. This means families can contact CRC-West as a central place

to access a variety of services without needing to reach out to multiple organizations. Under a contract with the Department of Human Services, CRC-West connects families to programs like Birth to Three, Children's Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), and the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver and assists with functional screenings for these services.

We are excited to share that Brooke, who has served as our Medical Services Screener, has been promoted to a Public Health Nurse position within our Community Health Team. While we are sad to see her transition out of the screener role, we are grateful that her skills will continue to strengthen our department and benefit the community in this new capacity.

In her time as a screener, Brooke played a key role in connecting families to the supports and services their children need to thrive. Her ability to build trust with families and ensure accurate, timely screenings has been invaluable. We are confident these strengths will continue to make an impact in her new role.

To ensure continuity of services, the Department of Human Services is temporarily completing all functional screens while we recruit and train a new Medical Services Screener. During this transition, SPOE updates will be on pause until the position is filled.

Years of Service

CONGRATULATIONS to the following staff for their hard work and dedication to providing excellent customer service to the citizens of Chippewa County.



- ❖ April Krumenauer, Administrative Assistant – 12 years
- ❖ Kyle Zieger, Environmental Health Specialist – 5 years
- ❖ Savannah Bertrand, CRC Resource Specialist – 4 years
- ❖ Amy Ralph, Nutritionist – 4 years
- ❖ Mary Rudd, Nutrition Program Assistant – 4 years
- ❖ JoAnna Bernklau, CH Planning and Promotions Specialist – 2 years



**Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
PHAVER - WEDSS**

County Board of Health Report

Jurisdiction: Chippewa County

Received Date: 8/1/2025 to 8/31/2025

Disease	Confirmed	Probable	Suspect	Not A Case	Total
LYME LABORATORY REPORT	0	17	0	10	27
CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS INFECTION	11	0	0	0	11
HEPATITIS A	0	0	0	9	9
LYME DISEASE, ERYTHEMA MIGRANS (EM) RASH	6	0	0	2	8
E-COLI, ENTEROPATHOGENIC (EPEC)	0	0	6	0	6
HEPATITIS B, CHRONIC	1	0	0	5	6
TUBERCULOSIS, LTBI - LABORATORY RESULTS ONLY	0	0	5	0	5
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	2	1	1	0	4
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC	0	0	0	4	4
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	2	0	1	0	3
MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE (NON-TUBERCULOUS)	3	0	0	0	3
PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH)	0	0	1	2	3
STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE, INVASIVE, GROUP B	1	0	1	1	3
VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)	1	0	0	2	3
ARBOVIRAL ILLNESS, WEST NILE VIRUS, Unspecified	0	0	1	1	2
BABESIOSIS	1	0	1	0	2
CORONAVIRUS, NOVEL 2019 (COVID-19)	1	0	0	1	2

Disease	Confirmed	Probable	Suspect	Not A Case	Total
CORONAVIRUS, NOVEL 2019 (COVID-19) - ASSOCIATED HOSPITALIZATION	2	0	0	0	2
METHICILLIN- or OXICILLIN RESISTANT S. AUREUS (MRSA/ORSA)	0	0	2	0	2
STREPTOCOCCAL DISEASE, INVASIVE, GROUP A	1	0	1	0	2
ANAPLASMOSIS, A. phagocytophilum	0	0	1	0	1
E-COLI, ENTEROTOXIGENIC (ETEC)	0	0	1	0	1
E-COLI, SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING (STEC)	0	0	1	0	1
GIARDIASIS	1	0	0	0	1
GONORRHEA	1	0	0	0	1
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE, INVASIVE DISEASE	0	0	0	1	1
LEAD-BLOOD LEVELS - ADULT	0	0	0	1	1
MEASLES (RUBEOLA)	0	0	0	1	1
N. MENINGITIDIS (Meningococcal Disease)	0	0	0	1	1
SALMONELLOSIS	1	0	0	0	1
Total	35	18	23	41	117

Default Filters: 'State' EQUAL TO 'WI'



Public Health Financial Results

August 2025

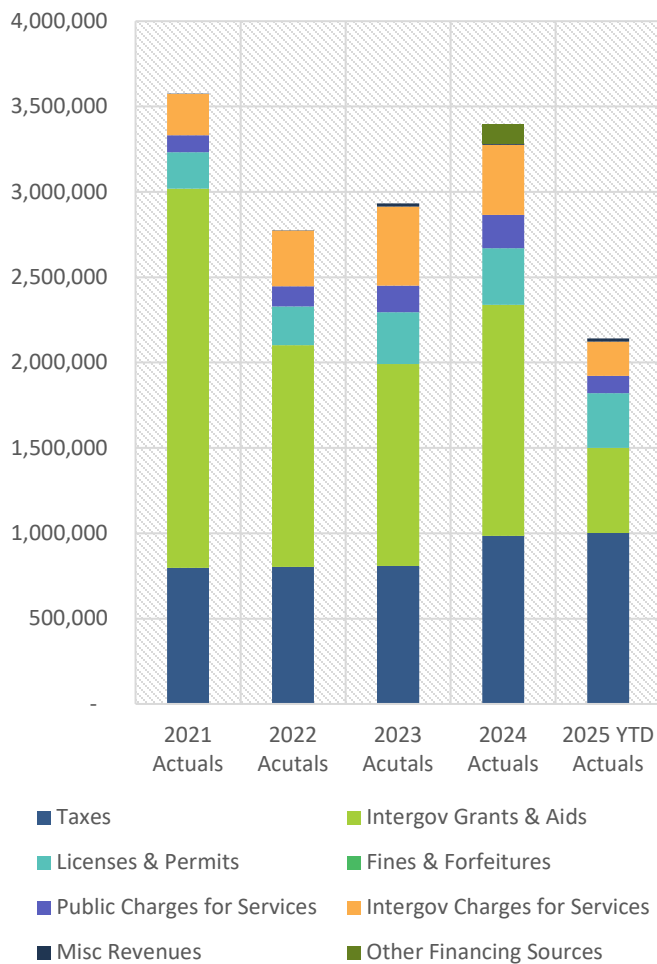
Fund	Description	Revenue			Expense		
		Budget	Actual	% Collected	Budget	Actual	% Spent
54100	Community Health	\$ (593,947.00)	\$ (548,816.16)	92.4%	\$ 593,947.00	\$ 332,397.93	56.0%
54121	Nurse Family Partnership	(123,650.00)	(65,722.12)	53.2%	123,650.00	75,482.32	61.0%
54123	Farmers Market	(3,930.00)	(185.90)	4.7%	3,930.00	1,135.74	28.9%
54125	Prenatal Care Coordination	(27,536.00)	(11,700.36)	42.5%	27,536.00	23,395.02	85.0%
54127	Healthy U	(31,393.00)	(22,840.50)	72.8%	31,393.00	16,561.67	52.8%
54128	Public Health Preparedness	(47,943.00)	(20,316.34)	42.4%	47,943.00	27,307.04	57.0%
54129	TN Program	(56,587.00)	(46,603.91)	82.4%	56,587.00	28,774.46	50.8%
54130	CHIP Coalition	(4,500.00)	-	0.0%	4,500.00	254.81	5.7%
54132	Drug Free Community Grant	(139,083.00)	(54,913.41)	39.5%	139,083.00	57,295.13	41.2%
54133	Iron Will Endowment Fund	(1,881.00)	(2,190.73)	116.5%	1,881.00	19.16	1.0%
54135	Bright Start River Source	(10,997.00)	(10,350.10)	94.1%	10,997.00	9,968.88	90.7%
54138	Planning & Strategy	(325,662.00)	(308,423.16)	94.7%	325,662.00	215,436.86	66.2%
54140	WIC	(433,809.00)	(271,641.20)	62.6%	433,809.00	246,618.80	56.8%
54142	Maternal & Child Health Program	(32,143.00)	-	0.0%	32,143.00	-	0.0%
54144	Wisconsin Wins	(5,065.00)	(1,591.10)	31.4%	5,065.00	4,481.25	88.5%
54149	Pre-Venture	(20,747.00)	(2,678.88)	12.9%	20,747.00	2,763.81	13.3%
54150	Prevention	(9,346.00)	(6,181.10)	66.1%	9,346.00	6,023.49	64.4%
54151	Equipment Loan Closet	(2,997.00)	(399.62)	13.3%	2,997.00	1,691.44	56.4%
54152	Childrens Resource Center	(242,490.00)	(106,010.54)	43.7%	242,490.00	144,027.55	59.4%
54153	WIC Endowment	-	(2,547.62)	#DIV/0!	-	1,445.48	#DIV/0!
54154	Title X Reproductive Health	(6,000.00)	(7,954.22)	132.6%	6,000.00	13,244.40	220.7%
54156	FIT WIC	(41,447.00)	(17,117.72)	41.3%	41,447.00	28,600.08	69.0%
54157	Reproductive Health	(55,193.00)	(20,368.27)	36.9%	55,193.00	23,016.12	41.7%
54158	WIC BF Peer Counseling	(19,995.00)	(14,736.14)	73.7%	19,995.00	21,959.93	109.8%
54161	Health Clinics	(32,652.00)	(3,952.16)	12.1%	32,652.00	4,345.82	13.3%
54162	COVID Vaccine	(23,032.00)	(4,094.34)	17.8%	23,032.00	7,732.81	33.6%
54163	Overdose Fatality Review	(27,347.00)	(9,629.08)	35.2%	27,347.00	31,880.12	116.6%
54164	COVID Contact Tracing	-	(15,747.00)	#DIV/0!	-	16,000.30	#DIV/0!
54165	GYT - Get Yourself Tested	(2,195.00)	(91.74)	4.2%	2,195.00	956.83	43.6%
54166	Water Lab	(3,627.00)	(5,844.92)		3,627.00	17,416.33	
54167	NW Coalition	-	-		-	28,522.87	
54168	Farm Fresh Program	-	(15,000.00)		-	300.02	
54171	Food Safety Recreation License	(357,141.00)	(335,591.25)		357,141.00	193,849.73	
54172	Infant Immunization Grant	(16,794.00)	(6,380.24)	38.0%	16,794.00	18,797.83	111.9%
54173	Opioid Abatement	(1,694.00)	(796.20)		1,694.00	3,155.35	
54174	Forward Health Outreach	(33,744.00)	(10,988.82)	32.6%	33,744.00	21,211.12	62.9%
54176	Environmental Health	(79,337.00)	(80,346.57)	101.3%	79,337.00	46,779.48	59.0%
54178	Public Health Infrastructure	(72,867.00)	(8,041.90)		72,867.00	16,065.94	
54180	DHS Agreement	(173,446.00)	(67,470.28)	38.9%	173,446.00	88,516.15	51.0%
54182	Environmental Tracking	-	(1,508.00)		-	1,908.80	
54184	Childhood Lead Poisoning Prev.	(9,927.00)	(2,896.08)	29.2%	9,927.00	2,976.14	30.0%
54186	Charity Outreach Program	(250.00)	-	0.0%	250.00	-	0.0%
54188	WI Wayfinder	(81,987.00)	(15,697.83)		81,987.00	40,406.23	
54189	Sensory Friendly Vaccination	-	-		-	-	
54190	Public Health Donation Expendi	(1,000.00)	(438.72)	43.9%	1,000.00	-	0.0%
		\$ 3,153,381.00	\$ 2,132,553.23	67.6%	\$ 3,153,381.00	\$ 1,821,874.24	57.8%



Public Health Revenue vs Expenses

Variance Year-to-Date through August 2025

Total Revenues for All Years



Total Expenses for All Years

