



Empowered to Live Well

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024

### ***Our Mission:***

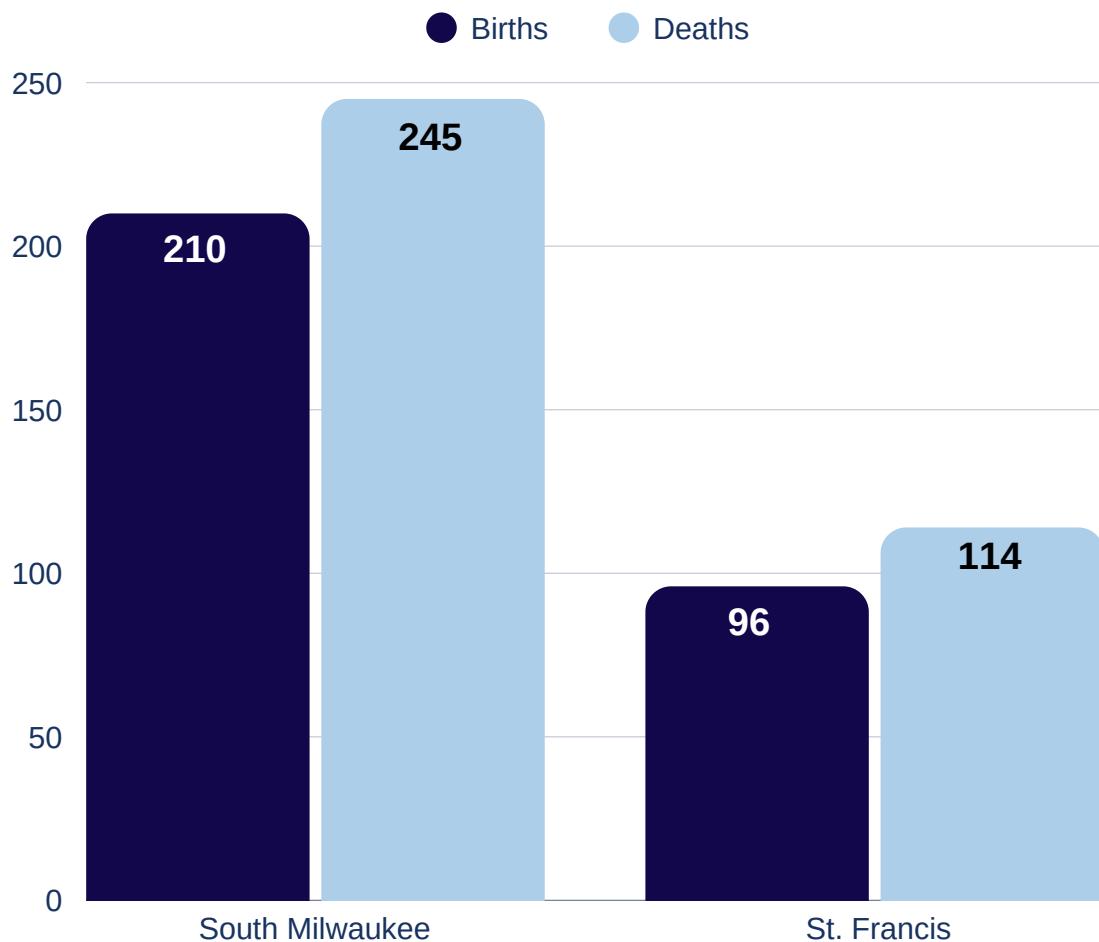
***“To lead South Milwaukee & St. Francis in making informed choices through education and prevention.”***



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# VITAL STATISTICS



## Top Five Causes of Death

### South Milwaukee

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer Related Deaths
3. Cerebrovascular Disease
4. Dementia
5. Accidents- Falls

### St. Francis

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer Related Deaths
3. Dementia
4. Cerebrovascular Disease
5. Respiratory Failure

# FOUNDATIONAL CAPABILITIES & TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES REFERENCE

Public health infrastructure consists of Foundational Capabilities that are the cross-cutting skills and capacities needed to support basic public health protections, programs, and activities key to ensuring community health, wellbeing and achieving equitable outcomes.

There are eight Foundational Capabilities that are needed in Public Health Infrastructure:

## Assessment & Surveillance

- Assess and monitor population health
- Address health problems that affect the community
- Assess disparities in disease distribution and health determinants

## Community Partnerships

- Establish strategic relationships with key community groups
- Foster partnerships, strength, and support

## Policy Development & Support

- Creating and implementing policies that impact community health
- Establish trust and engage with impacted communities
- Involve community members in health improvement planning

## Equity

- Enable equitable access to services
- Conduct collaborative health assessments to identify disparities
- Support community-led data processes to address health inequities

## Accountability & Performance Management

- Maintain standards in accordance with laws and policies
- Implement performance management systems
- Foster a culture of quality improvement

## Communications

- Utilize social media for community engagement
- Tailor communications for diverse audiences
- Educate and inform

## Organizational Competencies

- Allocated resources for equity
- Cultivate a diverse workforce
- Leadership and governance

## Emergency Preparedness

- Lead emergency response efforts
- Develop, exercise, and maintain strategies for various emergencies
- Issue and enforce emergency health orders as necessary
- Ensure access to resource for emergency and recovery responses

# ASSESSMENT & SURVEILLANCE

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

In 2024, the health department began working on the South Shore Community Health Assessment (CHA). This data collection began by creating a survey to be filled out by community members who live, work, learn, and play in the South Shore communities. The survey was promoted on social media, in city newsletters, and at community events and local organizations.

In addition to the survey, the health department conducted focus groups with the South Milwaukee-St. Francis Healthy Community Partnership and the Board of Health and key informant interviews with community stakeholders to gain unique perspective.

Last but not least, the South Shore health departments gathered secondary data to complete the picture of health in the South Shore. Relevant data included demographics, social and economic factors, clinical care, quality of life, health behaviors, and length of life.

All of the data gathered will be published in the 2025 South Shore Community Health Assessment and will help to determine the health priorities for the 2026-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The data which highlights the inequities specific to each community will also influence programming and health education going forward.



## OTHER SOURCES OF DATA

The health department submitted an application for the 2024 “Put Us On The Map Challenge” to allow the cities of South Milwaukee and St. Francis to be added to the [City Health Dashboard](#) and both cities were selected! This is a unique data source that looks at data at the municipality level, while many other data sources report at a county-level. This is another great tool to assess the needs of the community, that is also available to the public.



Ainsworth, NE  
Bainbridge Island, WA  
Bangor, MI  
Berkeley Heights, NJ  
Bridgewater, NJ  
Covert, MI  
Cudahy, WI  
Dover, NJ  
Eastpointe, MI  
Forest Grove, OR  
Fort Lee, NJ  
Green Brook, NJ  
Greenville, MS  
Hattiesburg, MS  
Hillsdale, NJ  
Hillside, NJ  
Kearny, NJ  
Kewanee, IL  
Lafayette, CO  
Lima, OH  
Lockport, NY  
Michigan City, IN  
Middlesex, NJ  
Midland Park, NJ  
Montvale, NJ  
Montville, NJ

**Put Us on the Map**  
2024 Selected Cities

Morristown, NJ  
Niagara Falls, NY  
North Tonawanda, NY  
Oakland, MD  
Patterson, LA  
Rahway, NJ  
Ringwood, NJ  
Saddle River, NJ  
Schoolcraft, MI  
Scotch Plains, NJ  
South Milwaukee, WI  
South Orange Village, NJ  
Springfield, VT  
St. Francis, WI  
Texarkana, TX  
Waldwick, NJ  
Warren, NJ  
Washington, NJ  
Watching, NJ  
Wauwatosa, WI  
Weston, WV  
Westwood, NJ  
Williamstown, MA  
Winfield, NJ  
Yanceyville, NC

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



## COMMUNITY COALITION

The South Milwaukee-St. Francis Healthy Community Partnership convened in-person for the spring and fall meetings of 2024. At the spring meeting, coalition members participated in a focus group for the 2025 South Shore Community Health Assessment (CHA). At the fall meeting, attendees brainstormed ideas of what to work on regarding the health priorities of substance misuse and mental health in the final year of the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Each meeting also served as an opportunity for the coalition members to network and provide organizational updates to the group, in addition to showing their dedication to the health of their communities. In 2024, a coalition feedback survey was also distributed in order for members to evaluate meeting processes and indicate if adjustments or improvements were to be made.

## South Shore CARES

The Cudahy, Oak Creek, and South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Departments continued to grow the South Shore CARES initiative. CARES stands for Community, Access, Resources, Education and Support. The overall aim is to reduce substance use, promote mental health, and provide resources to community members in the South Shore.



### 2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Continued to host:
  - Monthly partner meetings to increase knowledge of resources in the South Shore
  - Monthly Narcan (naloxone) trainings, rotating the four communities
- Distributed **411 boxes** of Narcan (naloxone) in the South Shore
- **116,900** folks reached through social media regarding mental health and substance use
- **1680** folks engaged at community outreach events



## NOTABLE PARTNERSHIPS IN 2024

- Friends of Grant Park - Earth Day Beach Clean-up (pictured)
- South Milwaukee Trinity Lutheran Church - Wake-up Call Backpack Presentation
- South Milwaukee & St. Francis School Districts - Staff & student Narcan (naloxone) trainings
- St. Francis Police Department - Bike Rodeo Helmet Fittings



# POLICY DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- In 2024, the South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department developed a Marketing Policy to assure that all events and programs get marketed similarly in an effort to reach the targeted audience. This was a new policy for the department and we hope that it will streamline the process used to advertise our services and events to the public.
- Several other policies and procedures were updated this year including our Newborn Outreach, Orientation, and animal bite follow-up. Our Newborn Outreach policy and procedure was updated to include a QR code on the letter mailed to new parents. Once scanned, the code takes parents to our website where we added many resources new parents may find helpful. Prior to this update, we were mailing packets with printed materials to new parents. This update was made to decrease the amount of funds spent on postage. Our new letter does include a statement informing parents to contact us if printed materials are preferred.

The Animal Bite Follow-up policy and procedure was updated to simplify the process when the animal owner and victim are the same individual, decreasing the number of calls staff need to make to the client.

Our Orientation policy and procedure was updated to include specific details for new staff to find trainings and resources needed to complete their job duties. Old resources and links were also updated or deleted if no longer relevant.

## POLICY INFLUENCE AND SUPPORT

- The health department participates in the South Shore Overdose Fatality Review meetings to assist in reviewing events that led up to a fatal overdose and research what interventions could be put in place to possibly prevent future overdoses from happening. The meeting consists of public health staff, police and emergency responders from the South Shore region. Ideas taken from the meeting are often implemented into our programs and services developed to prevent future overdoses.
- The health department provided several letters of support for local partners who were pursuing additional resources to implement policies and procedures that would benefit the health of our community. Letters were provided to:
  - A local outpatient medication-assisted treatment center, Community Medical Services, to receive a grant allowing them to strengthen policies and practices towards increasing education on opioid use disorder and medication-assisted treatment within our community.
  - A local non-profit organization, Muslim Community Health Center, to allow the organization to continue serving the unmet needs of a population whose cultural and linguistic intricacies are often difficult for other health clinics to meet.
  - Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services - Housing Services - to apply for funding for lead hazard control.

# ORGANIZATIONAL COMPETENCIES

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department team members spent 2024 gaining valuable knowledge and experience in their respective topics of expertise.

### Training included topics such as:

- Trauma Informed Care (including the role of public health)
- Community and youth engagement
- Substance use prevention
- Safe sleep
- Facilitation
- Health Equity
- Immunizations
- Lead poisoning
- Emergency preparedness
- Communicable Diseases
- Mental health and suicide prevention

### Conferences included:

- Annual TB Summit
- Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Conference
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Summit
- Wisconsin Association of Lactation Consultants
- Wisconsin Health Education Networking meeting
- Wisconsin Public Health Association Public Health in Practice (pictured)

The health department also hosted four student interns in 2024, from backgrounds in nursing and public health, to provide them with essential experience to further the public health workforce.



## PROGRAMS PROVIDED

- A Stepping On falls prevention workshop was hosted in St. Francis in fall of 2024
- Trauma Informed Care for St. Francis Library staff

## GRANT MANAGEMENT

Another topic of focus for staff included diversifying funding sources for the health department. Some newly acquired grants included:

- Alliance for Wisconsin Youth Mini Grant focusing on conducting an alcohol marketing scan in each city
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services Grant for Harm Reduction Vending Machine and Supplies

Staff also worked on an Opioid Settlement Taskforce in order to determine how those funds would be spent in South Milwaukee.



All staff attended monthly staff meetings to provide updates and collaborate on projects throughout the year!

# ACCOUNTABILITY & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

## NEW ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

This year, the health department switched over to a new electronic health record system. This system was designed specifically for public health use in mind and allows staff to document clinical care as well as community-based activities. The system supports our work by optimizing workflow, managing resources, creating efficiencies for data tracking and has a customizable reporting feature.

The health department staff spent many hours training on the new system and configuring the electronic health record to be best suited for the departments needs, which involved customizing forms and setting up billing for insurances.



## AGENCY STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 was the end of the 2022-2024 strategic plan cycle for the health department which meant prioritizing goals and objectives before the year ended and having a final check-in to begin planning for the next cycle. The team had lots of valuable insight about what worked well in the last cycle and what could be better and is therefore excited to create the 2025-2027 strategic plan!

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

The health department continued to track outreach efforts and impact on the community but this also meant improving some of the tracking systems and communication channels to keep up with the work of the department and the ever-changing public health landscape.

- South Shore Overdose Fatality Review recommendations were assessed and reformatted
- South Milwaukee and St. Francis Quick Response Team (QRT) members met to review the QRT program, implement necessary changes, and designate back-up team members
- The performance management system "VMSG" was dismantled into Excel spreadsheets in order to save money for the department
- A workflow document was created for all staff to follow when entering WIR information into the electronic health record
- The health department internal data tracking sheet was updated to include referrals and new cases for case management
- A new spreadsheet was created to quantify outreach completed for South Shore CARES efforts
- The health department "day sheet" spreadsheet was updated to reflect the new format followed for reporting purposes



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## Emergency Plan Updates

The health department developed new templates to utilize when evaluating a potential location as a sheltering site, community reception center, family assistance center, or a point of dispensing clinic. These templates were utilized when staff spent time touring all existing sites for updates in 2024 in preparation for the RNC. As part of the plan updates we updated our signage to be inclusive of all populations of our cities and made sure that they included the top languages we encounter in our communities, which are Spanish, Albanian, Arabic and Hindi.

## RNC 2024 Planning & Event

The Republican National Convention (RNC), which is a National Special Security Event (NSSE) occurred in Milwaukee from July 15-18. Staff helped in the preparation for and during the event in a variety of ways:

- Attended various trainings that were brought in by various partner agencies. Through these trainings, Melissa Ellis, one of our public health nurses, completed the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service's Community Disaster Preparedness for Healthcare Certification Program.
- Member of the Health and Medical Subcommittee and Points of Dispensing (POD) committee.
- Worked with our Zone E Health Department Partners (Oak Creek & Cudahy) to host a South Shore RNC training on the new non-medical model that WI Department of Health Services developed. We practiced with the new forms and reviewed the Zone's plan to respond together if there was a biological, radiological, or nuclear emergency.
- Offered mutual aid and assisted the City of Milwaukee Health Department in staffing their Emergency Operations Center during the event.
- Attended daily briefing calls with the Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC) Region 7 hospitals to discuss health surveillance trends and potential health threats in Southeastern Wisconsin.



## Fit Testing

To maintain our first responder health and safety capabilities we fit test our first responders to make sure that if they would be exposed to any biological, chemical or radiological substances that they are protected. We test staff in the health department, fire departments, police departments and the water department who may be required to wear an N95 or full face respirator as part of their job duties.



50  
Fit Tests  
Completed

# EQUITY

## OUR COMMITMENT TO HEALTH EQUITY

*"The South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department believes that each and every person has the right to live a full and healthy life. We acknowledge that factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, environment, and socio-economic status play a major role in health status and well-being. We are committed to aligning our values, policies, and practices to eliminate disparities to advance health equity for all South Milwaukee and St. Francis residents. We will do this by integrating health equity into the Health Department, enhancing staff knowledge and skills, and evaluating our methods of communication with equity in mind."*

## SOUTH SHORE EQUITY IN RECOVERY PROJECT

From 2022-2023 The SMSF health department, in collaboration with the Oak Creek and Cudahy health departments, worked on a project to have a better understanding on the impact that COVID-19 had on our communities and the most vulnerable populations that live, work and play in our communities.

In 2024 the three health departments shared the projects results and next steps at multiple venues. They shared it with the Milwaukee County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council which included mayor's, village presidents, and administrators from each of the 19 municipalities inside Milwaukee County. The project was also selected as a poster presentation for the Wisconsin Public Health Association's Public Health in Practice Conference. The team shared the results of the project and next steps in making sure our health department's are focused on continuing to provide equitable healthcare for all.



## DIGNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING

In May of 2024 staff attended a Dignity and Public Health Training along with members from health departments across the South Shore. At this training staff learned about restorative dignity through respect, equity and inclusion. The purpose of the training was to better prepare staff to support the community's diverse at-risk populations. It helped to address some of the national Healthy People 2030 goals of:

- Increasing the proportion of adults whose health care provider checked their understanding
- Reduce the proportion of adults who report poor patient and provider communication
- Increasing the proportion of adults whose health care providers involved them in decisions as much as they wanted.



# COMMUNICATIONS

## CITY MAGAZINES

To encourage community members to build their own emergency kits at home we developed the Plan 9 flyer. It encourages community members to have their own kits to make it through the first 72 hours of an emergency, starting with nine essential items. This flyer was printed in St. Francis Mariner and South Milwaukee Bridges magazines spring editions, that every home receives via the mail. We also utilized these magazines in both of their spring and fall editions to advertise our programs, events and to provide education on topics like Helmet Fitting, the Healthy Community Partnership Coalition, the Sexual Health Clinic and taking the South Shore Community Health Assessment Survey.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**217,000+**

People reached on  
Facebook &  
Instagram

The health department's social media strategy continued to evolve in 2024, but maintained focus on public health topics involving current community trends, health promotion and education, environmental health, available services, upcoming events, and so much more. The mission of the health department is to lead South Milwaukee and St. Francis in making informed choices through education and prevention and the information posted on social media adheres to that mission by keeping the community informed about food recalls and outbreaks, dangerous weather, beach testing for E. Coli, and other timely health-related information.

## OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

- South Shore CARES created an advertisement educating on the signs and symptoms of an overdose and to find Narcan at the local health departments. The ads were posted above gas pumps at BP gas stations in St. Francis and Oak Creek from September-December 2024
- Collaborated with other local health departments in Southeastern Wisconsin to create an advertisement educating about the signs and symptoms of an overdose and where to find Narcan (naloxone) which aired on CBS58, Telemundo, and Me! TV from September-December 2024



APPOINTMENTS ENCOURAGED

414-768-8055



# FOUNDATIONAL AREAS & TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES REFERENCE

Public health programs, or Foundational Areas, are basic public health, topic specific programs and services aimed at improving the health of the community. The foundational areas reflect the minimum level of service that should be available in all communities.

There are five Foundational Areas:

## **Communicable Disease Control**

- Provide accurate information to the health care system and community
- Assure the appropriate treatment of individuals who have reportable communicable diseases, such as TB or STIs
- Coordinate communicable disease programs and services

## **Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention**

- Provide accurate information to the health care system and community
- Identify community partners and their capacities
- Develop and implement a prioritized prevention plan
- Coordinate and integrate chronic disease and injury prevention programs and services

## **Environmental Public Health**

- Provide accurate information on environmental public health threats
- Conduct mandated testing, inspections, and oversight to protect food, recreation sites, and drinking water; manage liquid and solid waste streams safely; and identify other public health hazards related to environmental factors

## **Maternal, Child and Family Health**

- Provide accurate information to the health care system and community
- Develop a prioritized prevention plan using life course expertise and an understanding of health disparities
- Coordinate and integrate maternal, child, and family health programs and services

## **Access to & Linkage with Care**

- Provide accurate information to the health care system and community on access and linkage to clinical care (including behavioral health), healthcare system access, quality, and cost
- Identify healthcare partners and competencies, develop prioritized plans for increasing access to healthy homes and quality health care

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

A large portion of staff time was spent working on communicable disease control and prevention to protect the health of the public. Follow up on reportable conditions may include providing education, assuring appropriate treatment was provided and taken, collecting laboratory specimens, isolating and/or identifying and notifying those who were exposed.

## PERTUSSIS



### Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

The State of Wisconsin is experiencing widespread outbreaks of Pertussis or Whooping Cough.

#### WHAT IS IT?

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is an acute infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*.

#### HOW IT'S SPREAD

- Pertussis spreads easily from person to person through droplets produced by an infected person's coughing or sneezing
- May also be spread by direct contact with the bacteria
- Those infected can spread the bacteria for up to three weeks after cough begins if not treated with appropriate antibiotics

#### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

##### Early Symptoms

- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Occasional cough

##### Later Symptoms

- Fits of coughs that may be followed by a deep breath making a "whoop"
- Coughing fits that make it difficult to breathe

#### PREVENTION

- Stay up-to-date with your whooping cough vaccine (Tdap or DTaP)
- Practice good hygiene: cover cough/sneezes and wash hands frequently
- If you develop symptoms, see your doctor for testing and treatment
- If you are a close contact to someone infected, it is recommended that you receive a course of antibiotics to prevent further spread of the bacteria

Questions:

414-768-8055

health@smwi.org

Wisconsin had a huge increase of Pertussis cases (Whooping Cough) in 2024 throughout the state. The cities of South Milwaukee and St. Francis had a total of 13 cases, compared to 0 cases in 2023. Staff followed up with positive cases to educate, assure appropriate treatment was received and notify those that were potentially exposed. Staff also worked hard to educate the general public on how to prevent infection and what to do if exposed.

#### Pertussis Cases

0

2023

13

2024

## OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FOLLOW UP

107

Tuberculosis Skin Tests Administered

Guidance Provided to Long Term Care Facilities on:

7 Respiratory Outbreaks

1 GI Outbreak

Nurse Follow-Up for Rabies From

51

Reported Animal Bites

The number of chlamydia and gonorrhea cases in South Milwaukee and St. Francis decreased 15% from 2023!

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE NUMBERS

## Number of Incidents Investigated

Disease Name	South Milwaukee	St. Francis
Campylobacteriosis	3	1
Carbapenemase Producing Organism	1	0
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	4	6
Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection	78	31
Coccidioidomycosis	1	1
Coronavirus, Novel 2019-Hospitalizations	13	9
Cryptosporidiosis	1	2
E-Coli, Enteropathogenic (EPEC)	8	3
E-Coli, Enterotoxigenic (ETEC)	0	1
E-Coli, Shig Toxin-Producing (STEC)	2	0
Gonorrhea	15	9
Hepatitis A	1	2
Hepatitis C, Acute	1	0
Hepatitis C, Chronic	4	3
Influenza Associated Hospitalizations	13	11
Lyme Disease	8	2
Mycobacterial Disease (Non-Tuberculosis)	12	5
Pertussis - Whooping Cough	12	1
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)- Hospitalizations	14	2
Salmonellosis	2	1
Shigellosis	1	0
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis, undetermined	0	1
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group A	4	3
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group B	2	2
Streptococcal Pneumoniae, invasive	1	1
Syphilis, early non-primary	1	1
Syphilis Secondary	2	0
Syphilis, Unknown or Late	1	2
Tuberculosis, Latent Infection (LTBI)	10	4
Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE)	1	0
Varicella (Chickenpox)	1	0
Yersiniosis	1	0

# CHRONIC DISEASE & INJURY PREVENTION

## CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

Programming to address some of the top causes of deaths of our residents included:

- Blood pressure screenings offered daily at the office, weekly at the Grobschmidt Senior Center, and monthly at the St. Francis and South Milwaukee Public Libraries.
- Cholesterol screenings and education were available at our office during weekly clinics.



Staff throughout the City of South Milwaukee wearing red during the month of February to bring awareness to the importance of Heart Health.

**478**  
Blood  
pressure  
screenings

**23**  
Cholesterol &  
Glucose  
Screenings



## INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Injury prevention efforts focused on:

- Car seat safety
- Proper disposal of sharps
- Medication safety lock boxes and medication disposal bags
- Bike helmet fitting, education, and purchase
- Stepping On falls prevention workshops for adults



**38**  
Bike Helmet  
Fittings  
Completed

**133**  
Used Sharps  
Containers  
Collected

**38**  
Car Seat  
Checks  
Completed

# ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH



The health department is the lead fiscal agent for the Environmental Health Consortium that is a partnership between the South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department and Cudahy Health Department. Through this consortium our environmental health specialists provide service in a variety of ways. They inspect and license food establishments, perform weights and measures, investigate human health hazard complaints, partner with the public health nurses for lead investigations, and make sure the water at our communities beaches and recreational pools are safe from bacteria.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The total services listed below are for those services that the environmental consortium provided to those located in South Milwaukee and St. Francis. The top complaint category for South Milwaukee was related to property maintenance complaints and for St. Francis was improper practices at food/recreation facilities. For both communities no citations were given and the majority of complaint cases complied with health department orders or were advised of the health departments recommendations as there are times when there are not laws pertaining to certain issues.

Both cities saw a slight decrease in the number of animal bites when compared to the 2023 numbers and dogs are still the top animal bite case that is reported to the health department. The environmental health specialist will follow up with the an animal owner to investigate the animals rabies vaccine status and to be sure that the animal completes the state statute quarantine process with the required veterinarian examinations.

Service Provided	South Milwaukee	St. Francis
Food and Recreation Inspections/ Re-inspections	209	115
Complaints Reported/ Investigated	95	44
Animal Bite Follow-Ups	37	15

## LEAD INVESTIGATIONS

The health department, per state statute, follows up when a child's blood lead level is  $>3.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$ . This includes making sure that a confirmatory blood lead level is drawn and educational information is provided via a letter. At a level  $>5.0 \mu\text{g/dL}$  a home visit looking for potential hazards, a developmental screening, and education is completed. An environmental investigation, where samples from the home are taken to check for lead exposure, occurs when a a blood lead level is  $>10 \mu\text{g/dL}$  and orders will be written for lead remediation if lead is located within the home. Once the remediation work is completed the environmental specialist completes a lead clearance inspection



# MATERNAL, CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH

## BREASTFEEDING BUSINESSES

The Maternal Child Health Grant allowed us to continue working with local partners in developing breastfeeding friendly spaces. This year, we partnered with the South Milwaukee Public Library and St. Francis Public Library to assist them in becoming a breastfeeding friendly organization. A physical space was created allowing for a comfortable place to breastfeed.

Due to a change in staff, we were only able to offer lactation services for half of the year. But during that time our Certified Lactation Counselor completed 34 visits.



## VISION SCREENINGS

In partnership with the South Milwaukee Lions Club, our staff screened K5 and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at our local schools. Vision screening was also offered at Child Development Days in South Milwaukee and St. Francis. In total 512 screenings were performed between both cities.



## OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

Other Maternal, Child, Family health services offered include:

- Hearing screenings are completed at the various schools in South Milwaukee & St. Francis when requested
- Pack & Plays are distributed and safe sleep education provided for infant safe sleep efforts
- Review of birth reports and letters sent out to parents of new infants along with helpful parenting resources



# ACCESS TO & LINKAGE WITH CARE

## CASE MANAGEMENT

The health department receives referrals regarding health concerns of individual community members from many different partners such as: fire department, police department, senior center, neighbors, landlords, and community members. The reason for referrals varies but generally surrounds topics such as: individuals living in a human health hazard, frequently falling in their home, have difficulty caring for themselves in their home, or need help connecting to supportive services. Public Health Nurses provide case management services by attempting to connect individuals to resources in an effort to assure the client, and/or their family, receives the care and support that is needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and environment.

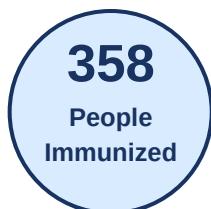


## IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

The health department offers immunizations throughout the year. We are participants of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, which provides vaccines at no cost to children who are uninsured, underinsured, or on Wisconsin State Insurance. Adult vaccines are also available for those that are under/uninsured through the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program in an effort to provide vaccines to those that cannot afford to pay out of pocket.

Since we have the ability to bill Medicare we are able to offer private influenza vaccines for those 65 years and older. We are in the process of working with other insurance companies to obtain contracts to be able to bill and offer flu vaccine for all members of our community in the future.

This year we held our annual offsite immunization clinics for kids 6 months through 18 years old at local elementary schools offering influenza and Tdap vaccines free of charge through a partnership with the Wisconsin Immunization Program. Appointments were offered immediately after school to accommodate those with transportation challenges. Items like shot blockers, weighted lap pads, and buzzy bees were used during clinics to provide pain relief and distraction. These clinics were used as a way of exercising our emergency preparedness point of dispensing plans.



In an effort to meet people where they are at, we offered immunizations at a variety of venues like:

- Our office by appointment and walk-in
- Home visits by a Public Health Nurse
- Offsite venues such as schools, senior living apartments, and worksites



# COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The current cycle of the South Milwaukee/St. Francis Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) runs from 2022-2025.

## Health Priority #1: Substance Misuse

### EDUCATION & PREVENTION

The health department had a few opportunities to host the “Wake Up Call Backpack” which educates parents, caregivers, and teachers on substance use concealment strategies commonly used by teenagers. In 2024, the backpack was presented at St. Francis Parent/Teacher Conferences, The South Shore Resource Fair, and Trinity Lutheran Church (during Sunday School).



### NARCAN TRAINING

Narcan (naloxone) training continued to be a priority this year as the number of overdoses remained elevated in our jurisdictions, as well as across the country. The health department provided many trainings including:

- Walk-in trainings available at the health department
- Four trainings open to the community (two in each city)
- The South Shore Chamber of Commerce
- The St. Francis School District Staff
- The South Shore Resource Fair
- The South Milwaukee Senior Class

**215**  
Narcan  
Boxes  
Distributed

**13**  
Quick  
Response  
Team visits



### MORE HARM REDUCTION

2024 brought the opportunity for a Harm Reduction Vending Machine (HRVM) so the health department applied for the grant and was awarded the funds in August. Lots of time, research, and planning went into the implementation of the machine including approval from Common Council, a new concrete slab, designing the graphic, and ordering all of the supplies to stock it with. The machine was finally delivered at the end of December and will be officially launched in 2025!

# COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

## Health Priority #2: Mental Health

### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

To increase community awareness about mental health and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline that is available 24/7/365, the health department had yard signs created that businesses and households could place in



their yards showing that they supported mental health. It also provided the opportunity to scan a QR code for additional resources. They were available for pickup in the health department or staff delivered them to businesses and homes. Window clings were also created for people to place on their cars or inside windows of their homes or businesses. The department distributed 50 window clings, 40 household and 40 business yard signs.



**THE WORLD IS A BETTER PLACE WITH YOU IN IT.**

You are not alone. Text or Call 988.

**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**

Visit SouthShoreCares.org for local mental health & substance use resources



### BE KIND TO YOUR MIND

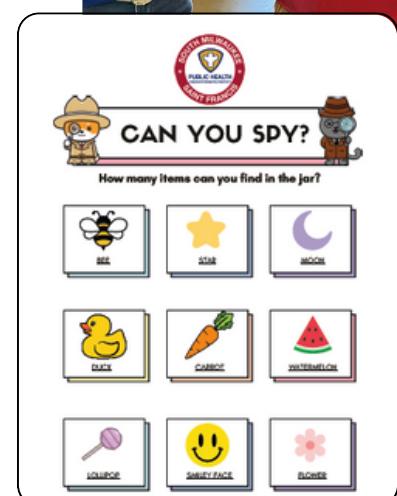
I Spy Jars have benefits for all ages. They are used to help children develop speech, fine motor, and observational skills. They can also



be used by humans (and sasquatches) of all ages as a way to relax the mind. They also assist with strengthening concentration. At Community Night out in both communities we distributed the I Spy Jars and talked to families about ways to be kind to your mind and improve their mental health at any age. We also provided mental health stickers to encourage deep breathing exercises.



**400**  
I Spy Jars  
Made &  
Distributed



# 2024 CHIP HIGHLIGHT

# SOUTH SHORE RESOURCE FAIR

In 2024, the health department partnered with the St. Francis School District to host a resource fair focused on substance misuse and mental health at the St. Francis High School. Held during Light and Unite Red Week, there were approximately 100 folks in attendance! Activities included a presentation from some of the high school students, a panel discussion with local experts, vendor tables, Narcan (naloxone) training, and a presentation on substance use concealment strategies.



# Rise Above the Cloud Presentation on “How to be an Askable Adult”

This was a passion project for these high school students and the audience was captive!



## Panel Discussion

The panel discussion, facilitated by Amanda Dehli, St. Francis School District Nurse, included five experts on substance use, treatment, mental health, and child psychology including:

- **Amanda De Leon** - Community Medical Services Impact Manager
- **Kristin Waite-Labott** - Founder and President of WisPAN
- **Mason Barribeau** - Oak Creek Firefighter/Paramedic
- **Tiffany Wilson** - Community Member/Advocate
- **Michelle Panzer** - St. Francis School Psychologist



## Vendor Tables

There was no shortage of information or resources with over 30 vendor tables to browse including vendors such as:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension Recovery Center
- Clean Slate
- RISE Drug Free MKE
- Naranon
- Rogers Behavioral Health
- South Shore Counseling
- The Parenting Network
- Wellpoint
- Many more



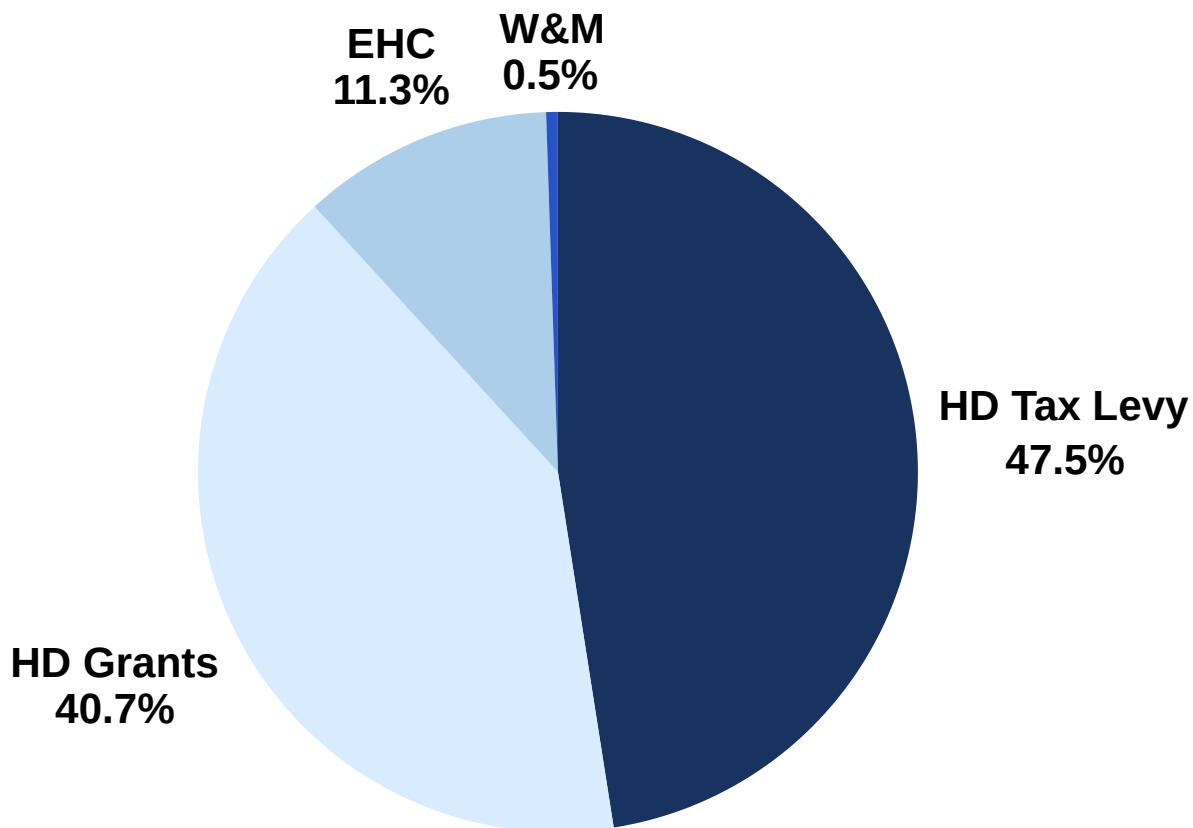
## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

"Great event! Thank you for putting this on and bringing awareness to addiction, recovery and how we can help those in our lives that are struggling."

# DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The health department is funded by three sources:

- Licensing and clinical fees
- Tax levy funds from the city
- Grants from various sources that are allocated to specific programs



	Expenditures
Health Department Tax Levy	\$619,517
Health Department Grants	\$530,151
Environmental Health Consortium	\$147,124
City Sealer Weights & Measures	\$6,832

\*\*Disclaimer: figures may change as the audit and final review of accounts for 2024 were not completed prior to the publishing of this report.\*\*

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT TEAM

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT TEAM

Jacqueline Ove - Public Health Administrator / Health Officer

Dr. Sandra Scalzitti - Medical Advisor

Mary Kosterman - Public Health Nurse Supervisor

Melissa Ellis - Public Health Nurse

Michelle Benz - Public Health Nurse

Sam Osmann - Public Health Specialist

Deborah Guthrie - Health Clerk

Laurie Strube - Public Health Technician

Jacklyn Morales - Environmental Health Specialist

Martin Zabkowicz - Inspector/City Sealer

Carina Marshall - Health Clerk

### Departures

Brianna Campbell - Zone E Preparedness Coordinator (January 2024)

Kailyn Dorniak - Public Health Nurse (July 2024)



## BOARD OF HEALTH

Cyndi Kieck - Chairperson

Cassandra Hadley - Vice Chairperson

Jerome Bzdawka

Vickie Dominiski

Dr. Adam Sadik

Maria Fischbach

Craig Maass - Alderperson South Milwaukee

Matt Damon - Alderperson St. Francis

# CONTACT US



## QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION



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Social Media

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