

2020 Annual Report

Kenosha County Public Health's activities are spread across three sections: clinical services, population health and environmental health. This report highlights some of KCPH's accomplishments across these areas in 2020.

A New Vision for Kenosha County Public Health

As part of its 2020 rebranding, Kenosha County Public Health has crafted new vision and mission statements to capture what KCPH is all about.

Vision: An Equitable, Engaged, & Healthy Future

Mission: To inspire health and wellness in Kenosha County through service and leadership

Striving for Equity

In August of 2020, Kenosha County passed a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. This resolution was passed not in response to any one incident, but due to the pervasive structural inequities in U.S. society, which show consistent poorer health outcomes for people of some races vs. others. KCPH hired an Epidemiologist to begin researching data related to health disparities in Kenosha County. This will assist with bringing a sharper equity focus to KCPH's programs, services and policies.

The COVID-19 Pandemic

The pandemic profoundly impacted KCPH in 2020, as it became necessary for the organization to adapt its operations to focus on statutorily-required communicable disease investigation and management. As schools, businesses and daily life in general faced an ever-changing landscape of disruption, KCPH coordinated Kenosha County's emergency response, tracking cases and hospitalizations and providing timely public health guidance. Dr. Jen Freiheit, KCPH's Director, served as Incident Commander for the county, and most KCPH employees pivoted to new roles related to the pandemic in place of their normal duties.



35+ temporary staff hired to assist in managing the large caseload



14,000+ disease investigations conducted

CLINICAL SERVICES SECTION

The Clinical Services Section follows up on communicable disease reports along with providing preventive health program services and education to the residents of Kenosha County. Individuals are seen in schools, homes, daycares, and workplaces, as well as at Kenosha County Public Health on a walk-in basis through our two clinic locations.

Nurse of the Day (NOD) and Wellness Center Clinics

Two clinics provide a variety of services to clients on a walk-in basis at the Kenosha County Job Center and the Kenosha County Wellness Center but had to move to appointments only in 2020.

 **198** Tuberculosis prevention and control clients served

 **6,481** urine drug screenings completed

 **3,210** urine alcohol screenings completed

 **18** lead screenings completed

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program

KCPH, in collaboration with the Division of Aging, Disability & Behavioral Health Services and the Professional Services Group, a local treatment and counseling service, provides a comprehensive approach to addiction for opioid and alcohol dependent clients within Kenosha County. New clients are screened and, depending on results, receive injectable Naltrexone every 28 days while attending counseling sessions.

 **106** new referrals to the program

 **348** Naltrexone injections

Family and Reproductive Health Program

The Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services provide testing, screening and treatments for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV testing, PAP testing, contraceptive counseling and sexual assault follow-up exams.

 **1,176** reportable confirmed STD cases in Kenosha County

 **423** clients served in STD clinic

 **418** clients received contraceptive supplies

 **311** STD screening tests performed

 **105** HIV antibody tests completed

Wisconsin Well Women Program

This state contract program provides breast and cervical cancer screening for eligible women. Annual exams for women include PAP testing as needed. Area providers deliver Mammography services.

 **263** clients were enrolled in 2020, exceeding the target of 234.

School Nursing Program

Public health nurses provide services in the school setting to the individual and community for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health and well-being. The nurses develop health care plans for students with chronic medical conditions to accommodate the student in the school setting. They also provide staff training, disease surveillance, and health education to a total of 37 schools in the Kenosha Unified School District and Head Start Program.



14,504 student population **within 37** schools served



26% of students with health conditions



630 students with emergency health plans created by KCPH staff (Fall semester of 2020-21)

POPULATION HEALTH SECTION

The Population Health Section focuses on the health of the community as a whole and develops health education and programming based on data and needs assessments. This section ensures programs are aimed at addressing the root causes of health issues, reducing health disparities and promoting health equity.

Public Health Preparedness

Through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the KCPH is able to prepare the community for a natural catastrophic event or an emerging/re-emerging disease. Plans have been developed and exercised to ensure staff are able to respond and assist residents in an emergency. The community is educated to prepare their family, homes, and businesses prior to an emergency event. These plans were essential during the COVID-19 response in Kenosha County, guiding the Command structure operations, containment measures, and resource

Kenosha County Comprehensive Home Visitation Program (KCCHVP)

This program offers case management and health education for pregnant women and babies post birth aiming to improve healthy birth outcomes for families.



589 referrals to KCCHVP in 2020

Narcan Distribution Program

Narcan, nasal naloxone, is a life-saving medication that allows breathing to resume in an opioid overdose, thus preventing the overdose from becoming fatal. Narcan is distributed and trainings are held to curb fatal overdoses among at-risk populations.



901 Narcan kits distributed



737 individuals trained

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

The Environmental Health Section preserves and enhances the public health environment of Kenosha County. It provides information, regulations, education, and intervention in areas of food, water, waste, recreation, lodging, environmental and human health hazards, and consumer protection. In 2020, restaurants were closed for three months and KCPH sanitarians were unable to perform their inspections.

Rabies Control and Animal Nuisances

This program conducts investigations related to animal bite cases, determining rabies immunization status, and initiating animal quarantine and observation procedures as required by State Statute and local ordinances.



133 bite investigations



34 animals submitted for rabies testing

Transient Non-Community (TNC) Well Program

TNC water systems are public systems that serve at least 25 individuals per day and at least 60 days per year. The program involves annual bacteriological and nitrate sampling as well as sanitary survey well inspections to determine compliance with DNR well construction and pump installation requirements. There is a total of 180 TNC wells in Kenosha County.



159 wells sampled



34 well surveys completed

HUD Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Project

KCPH was awarded a \$4.4m grant from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant in September, to remove lead from homes. This program is being implemented in partnership with the Cities of Racine and Kenosha, and numerous other local community organizations. Aims of this grant include:

- Providing appropriate level of lead hazard control services in identified housing units, and clearance testing for residential units.
- Providing technical support to companies and/or organizations to become qualified lead abatement contractors that otherwise would not have this capacity.
- Providing educational outreach events with community partners to help advocate for the program and work alongside other community programs.
- Providing a full continuum of services including blood samples, reporting, treatment and medical follow-up.



45 units completed



30 inspections



22 individuals trained

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION (continued)

Laboratory

Each year, numerous samples are submitted to the laboratory for testing and examination. The laboratory is certified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to accept human specimens for the purpose of performing laboratory examinations. Approval has been granted in Microbiology, Diagnostic Immunology and Chemistry.

The Environmental Bacteriology Unit tests water samples for coliform bacteria, nitrates and fluoride, and tests paint chips for presence of lead.

The Clinical Microbiology / Serology Unit performs diagnostic tests for Gonorrhea, serological tests for Syphilis, and blood lead level tests.

The Forensic Chemistry Unit analyzes blood specimens for presence of alcohol, and tests evidence submitted by local law enforcement for presence of controlled substances.

