

Marquette County Health Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Public Health

*"HEALTH IS THE GREATEST GIFT."
- Buddha*

This year while compiling our public health department annual report two themes stood out: change and adversity. I look forward to the day we can report 'smooth sailing' in our public health efforts but this year, like those before it, required continued adaptability in the face of political and funding challenges.

Public health work often happens behind the scenes, yet it remains essential to protecting families, preventing illness, and promoting well-being at every stage of life. Its impact may not always be obvious, but it is far-reaching and forms the foundation of a safe, healthy, and thriving community.

This past year brought both change and progress. From navigating continuous policy and funding changes to managing the transition to fiscal agency for the Rural Environmental Health Alliance, our team continued to advance core public health initiatives with resilience, creativity, and dedication. Their efforts spanning disease prevention, health promotion, environmental health, emergency preparedness, and strategic planning have strengthened our community and improved the health of our residents.

As stewards of public health, we are committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement to meet the ever-changing needs of Marquette County residents. This report highlights key work in health promotion, community health improvement, equitable practices, and our response to emerging health threats. I am deeply grateful to our public health staff, community stakeholders, and partners. Through their collaboration and commitment, we continue to build a healthier Marquette County.

Jayne Sopha
Director-Health Officer

2025 HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Jayne Sopha - Director-Health Officer



Melissa Minnema - Administrative Assistant

Mel Hodges - Public Health Technician

Jessica DeRosier - Public Health Nurse

Jenny Stelzner - Public Health Nurse

Sarah Jensen - Public Health Nurse

Carlota Balaguer - CHIP Summer Intern

Rural Environmental Health Alliance:

Jessica Jungenberg - Environmental Health Manager

Kyle Alt - Env. Health Specialist (GL)

Amber Pelehowski - Env. Health Specialist (GL & Marq.)

2025 BOARD OF HEALTH

Judi Nigbor - Board of Health Chair, County Board Supervisor, District 17

Dave Benson - County Board Supervisor, District No. 6

Mike Raddatz - County Board Supervisor, District No. 8

Gary Sorensen - County Board Supervisor, District No. 9

Kathleen McGwin - County Board Supervisor, District No. 13

Dr. William Franks - Physician Member

Barb Jordan - Nurse Member

Jan Mink - Citizen Member



The updates in this report highlight services provided in Public Health Clinics as well as the foundational public health capabilities required of a robust public health system. These capabilities form the backbone of a society's ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from health threats, emergencies, and crises.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

EQUITY



Community events calendar

Continue to collaborate with the county childcare team to improve access to safe quality childcare.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



Prevent slips trips and falls by offering "Stepping On" programming.*

Continue to promote healthy aging and preventative healthcare by supporting "Living Well" programming.*

Continue to offer community-wide access to Naloxone and other harm reduction services.*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Continue to promote Community Development Block Grant funding to improve safe housing in Marquette County.

*See detailed updates below

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mission: Improve the health of Marquette County communities by increasing access to services and opportunities through strong partnerships, policy changes, and education.

Vision: To build equitable access to services and opportunities, assuring everyone has the ability to achieve their best life

VALUES

Welcoming | Teamwork | Passion | Cooperation | Sharing | Enthusiasm | Transparency | Accountability Trust | Humor | Inclusion
Confidentiality | Continuous Improvement | Efficiency | Patience | Respect | Empathy | Resilience | Collaboration | Creativity

GOAL 1

Reach target demographics for public health programs.

Measures:

- Increase in community perception and trust of public health
- Increase program and service utilization
- One hundred percent of community events the Health Dept participates in have meaningful participation by the public

Inventory all programs, partners and community events for internal audit.

Audited all Health Dept programs to assure alignment with the following requirements:

- Aligns with CHIP mandates
- Required by statute/administrative code
- Is funded by fees or grants

GOAL 2

Strengthen community knowledge and understanding of community health and needs.

Measures:

- Increase in Facebook followers
- Increase in Instagram followers
- Increase in website visits

Utilized new methods for engaging interest in public health programming. This includes creating more videos and utilizing staff in more promotional materials.

Developed a toolkit with program branding for the promotion of public health efforts.

Update website content to offer more timely and accurate resources.

GOAL 3

Develop true collaboration with local stakeholders for shared goals and resources.

Measures:

- Partnerships with identified responsibilities; complete checklist
- Increase in requests to participate

- Created a checklist to help staff evaluate meaningful partnership and programming opportunities.

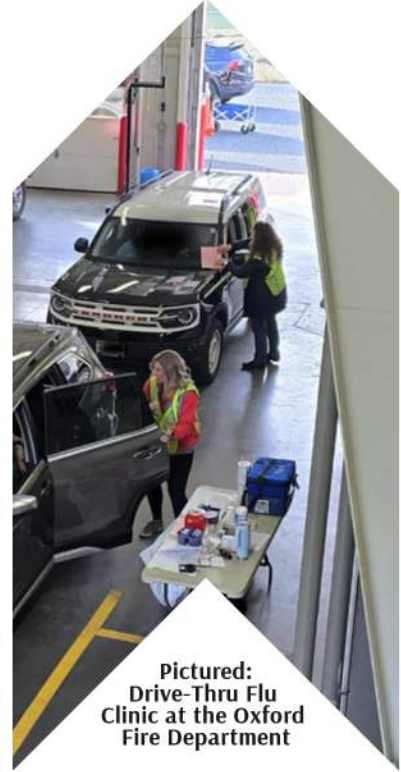


Standard Vaccines Administered	2024	2025
Influenza	223	105
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	9	7
Pneumococcal	9	5
Hep A	10	5
MMR	14	3
Tetanus	10	1
Pentacel (Dtap/Polio/Hib)	10	3
Dtap	8	2
COVID	8	8
Polio	0	2
Proquad (MMR/Chicken Pox)	2	2

Vaccine for Adults Program	2025
COVID	4
Flu	2
Hep A	1
Hep B	0
MMR	4
Tdap	8
Tetanus	2
Twinrix	3
Total	24

Of these, 16 vaccinations were provided to the jail population.

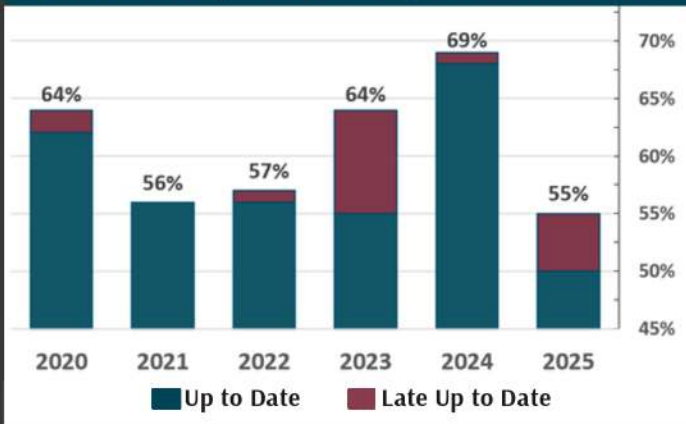
Vaccinations are offered to inmates each month, but clinics only occur when there is interest and eligibility.



Pictured: Drive-Thru Flu Clinic at the Oxford Fire Department

"Please keep doing these clinics! My mom doesn't get around very well anymore, so I bring her to these every year."
-Drive-Thru Clinic Client

Percentage of Two Year-Olds Who Have All of Their Required Childhood Vaccinations



Elementary School Vaccine Waivers*

2024-2025 School Year	97
2025-2026 School Year	112

*WI allows vaccine exemptions for religious and personal conviction reasons.

"I really appreciate that I don't have to take off work to get my kids vaccinated."
-School Clinic Parent

Barriers:

- Public Health is the only provider of childhood vaccines in Marquette County.
- But we can only vaccinate children on BadgerCare, or those without insurance.
- Confusion around federal guidelines.
- Funding.

Opportunities:

- Partnership with Central WI Pharmacy allowing Public Health to offer childhood vaccines for ALL children regardless of insurance.
- Partnership with GlaxoSmithKlein to send out childhood vaccine reminders.

2025 CLINICS

- ↑ 10 Community and School Influenza Clinics
- ↓ 5 Jail vaccination clinics
- ↓ 253 Total vaccinations given by MCHD

< Pictured: Drive-Thru Clinic Team at the Oxford Fire Department

"Thank you so much for doing these! They're close, fast and I really like that I don't have to get out of the car."
-Drive-Thru Clinic Client



Pictured: Drive-Thru Clinic Team Vaccinating at the Montello Highway Shop



COVID

- ↓ 12.5% Marquette County residents received at least 1 dose
- ↓ 12.9% Wisconsin Residents received at least 1 dose

INFLUENZA

- 28.5% Marquette residents received their seasonal flu shot
- 33.7% Wisconsin residents received their seasonal flu shot

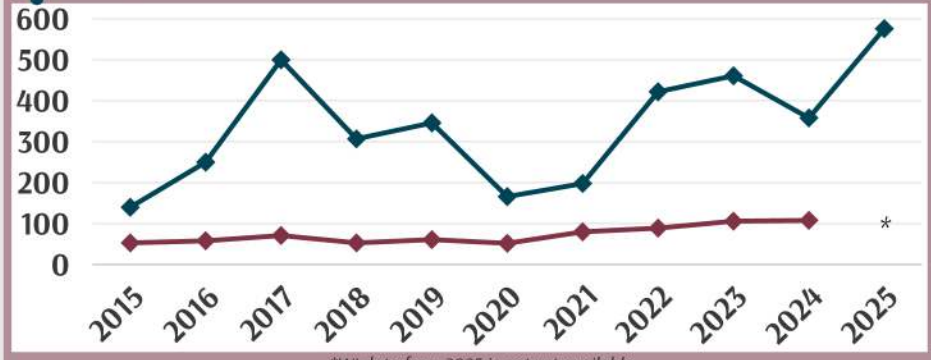
70% - Healthy Wisconsin 2030 Goal

452 Communicable Disease Reports Received in 2025



Most Common Reportable Diseases in 2025	
Lyme Disease	88
COVID-19	39
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	36
Chronic Hep C	27
Chlamydia	22
Influenza Associated Hosp.	18
Adult Blood Lead	18
Influenza	17
Other Tickborne Illness	15
Latent Tuberculosis	11
E-Coli (EPEC)	11

● Marquette Co. Lyme Disease Incidence per 100,000
● Wisconsin Lyme Disease Incidence per 100,000



**WI data from 2025 is not yet available*
Lyme Disease levels in Marquette County have consistently exceeded those of the State, however recent trends show an accelerated rate of growth. Tick activity and thus tickborne illness rates, tend to increase in the years following 'mild' winters. Global warming trends contribute to this trend.

Tickborne Illness Defense
In response to the continuous high rates of tickborne illnesses throughout Marquette County, the Health Department assembled and distributed ~600 tick kits and educational materials throughout the community at various events, and keeps libraries stocked with resources during peak tick season.



< Pictured: Screenshot of tick kit promotional video

CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured: Jenny, Our Resident Foot Clinic Nurse

Foot Clinic

- 85 Clinics held
- 639 Foot Clinic appts
- 48 New clients
- 180 Total clients
- \$19,045 Revenue generated

Foot care services help fill a gap caused by lack of access to podiatry as well as increased out of pocket and Medicare costs.

Individuals receiving foot care have better stability and balance, fewer infections, reduced trips and falls, and improved diabetic outcomes.

Clients receive referrals to appropriate medical providers when concerns are identified.

Reproductive Health

- 4 Attended our 'Get Yourself Tested' Events to receive free STI testing/treatment and safer sex supplies.
- 140 Condoms given away at these events
- 684 Condoms and 240 Packets of lube were distributed via 2 condom dispensers located at local establishments.
- 6 Reproductive health services provided to:
 - 4 PNCC Clients
 - 6 Individuals
 - 15 Visits

"This clinic saved my marriage"
-Foot Clinic Client



>900 Rapid COVID tests purchased with grant funds, were distributed through local libraries, meal sites, community partners, and the health department.

Dental

- 466 Children participated in the Children's Dental Foundation and Seal a Smile Program which provided:
 - 261 Sealants
 - 176 Dental Cleanings
- Resulting in 104 Referrals to a Dentist
- 20 Fluoride Services Provided by Public Health Staff in Community Clinics



Health Screenings	
43	TB Skin Tests provided to volunteers, healthcare workers, foster parents etc.
4	Blood Lead tests completed
45	Hearing screenings
14	Vision screenings
4	UMOS clinics held serving 6 children
5	Amish Clinics 13 Families served



BABY 101 (JULY 31)

76 Attendees at Baby 101 event featuring 18 Vendors supporting families and parents.

Public Health booths for harm reduction, safe water, radon safety, lead poisoning, and immunizations.

Held in conjunction with bi-annual "baby item giveaway." Offered door prizes, raffles and incentives.

Partner booths included resources on home visiting, fire safety, childcare, breastfeeding, infant CPR, maternal/family resources, and more!

Outcomes:

Encouraging feedback from both vendors and attendees!

"Amazing event to help out families in need."

"Thanks to all involved. This was a beautiful event."

"A lot of awesome information. This is an amazing event, thank you!"

"Great event, thank you for having it!"

100% of attendees surveyed felt they would share information on 1-2 resources they discovered at the event, with other parents.



Pictured Above:
Baby item donations from St. John the Baptist and Good Shepard Catholic Churches



Pictured Below:
Booths, activities, and vendors from Baby 101



Fall Baby Item Giveaway is held before the holidays each year. Items offered to families with young children. Resources are supplied by community donations (churches, families, organizations).

PRESENTATIONS

Winter Illness, Blood Pressure Checks and Libraries with Heart presentations at each of our county's meal sites.

Facilitated Strategic Planning processes for the Central Wisconsin Health Partnership as well as the Opioid Settlement Team in Marquette County.

IN THE CLASSROOM

- 51 5th grade boys received puberty/hygiene education.
- 30 7th grade Montello students received education on STIs.
- 33 Montello HS students were educated about Healthy Relationships and reproductive health.
- 70 Montello Students received Harm Reduction education.
- 41 Montello Students learned about preparedness and survival.
- 20 Immunization presentation Montello HS.
- 10 Mock interviews for Montello students wishing to pursue health related fields.

PLAIN COMMUNITY

Educational materials on the following topics provided to our Amish communities:

- Oral health
- Vaping (by request)
- Food Safety
- Summer Safety/Tickbite Prevention
- Buggy Safety



Pictured Above:
Tri-County Plain Community Public Health Coalition consisting of Marquette, Green Lake and Columbia County staff

Measles Tabletop exercise with Care4U, TCPCPHC, and representatives of the Plain Community.

ASK A NURSE

>1,500 Student interactions during Ask a Nurse Program in 2025.

Monthly topics have included: Healthy Home Environments, February is Heart Month, Energy Drink Facts, Self Esteem, Summer Goals, Suicide Prevention, Bullying, Modern Tobacco Risks, Gratitude.

Informal contacts resulted in 3 referrals (reports) to appropriate services/resources for students struggling with mental health or safety concerns.



Pictured:
Face Painting Booth



Pictured Above:
Health Department Booth
Pictured Right:
Balloon Animals!



Family Adventure Day

- 300+ People attended FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY EVENT
- 33 Vendors
- 64 Prizes
- \$4,450 Donations
- \$100 Chamber of Commerce 'Bucks'
- Health Dept booth highlighting hands-on play and parent education on reducing screen time for kids.



Pictured Above:
Farm Animal Petting Zoo
Pictured Right:
Sparky the Firefighter



(Above) Door Prize Drawing, (Left and right) Vendor Booths (below) Accordion Music, Block Building, and 'Axe Throwing' Activities

Harm Reduction

HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED:

- 171 NALOXONE KITS DISTRIBUTED
- 82 TRIGGER AND CABLE GUN LOCKS
- 4 VIVENT LIFEPOINT SERVICES VISITS
- 52 FENTANYL TEST STRIPS
- 42 XYLAZINE TEST STRIPS
- 200 MEDICATION LOCKBOXES AND BAGS
- 35 DETERRA DRUG DISPOSAL BAGS

Harm Reduction Box Locations:

Ethel Everhard Library - Westfield
 Packwaukee Library
 Rod's Trading Post
 Oxford Village Hall
 Realistic Recovery



Distribution Partners:

Oxford Fire, Treatment Court, Clinical Services, Montello School District

Event Distribution Locations:

Save a Life Day, Touch a Truck, County Fair, Montello Employee Health Fair, Baby 101

23 Individuals trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of an overdose as well as the administration of Naloxone Nasal Spray.



< Pictured: Save a Life Day booth set up in the Health Department Lobby

Living Well with Chronic Conditions

6 week workshop for the self management of pain, anxiety, fatigue, insomnia, shortness of breath, and more.

1 Workshop in 2025: Held in Montello

Results:

- 83% Increased confidence discussing their condition with their healthcare provider
- 66% Confident in daily activities
- 83% Confidence managing so they can do what they need or want to do
- 83% Confidence managing their own health

"I really enjoyed the guest speakers. This program was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the experts."

-Stepping On Participant



Pictured Above: 'Living Well' participants hard at work.



Pictured Above: 'Stepping On' Class of 2025!

PH Preparedness

- ✓ CONTINUE TO DEVELOP EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANS
- ✓ PARTICIPATED IN BOTH THE FOX VALLEY AND SOUTH CENTRAL HEALTH EMERGENCY READINESS COALITION (HERC)
- ✓ HAZARD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT WITH BOTH HERCS
- ✓ SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS FOR PREPAREDNESS WEEK, FLOOD WEEK, SEVERE WEATHER WEEK, WINTER STORM WEEK AND GENERAL EMERGENCY AWARENESS INFORMATION.
- ✓ LEPC MEETINGS
- ✓ MEDICAL RESPONSE AND SURGE TABLETOP EXERCISE

LIBRARIES WITH HEART

Obtained American Heart Association grant to purchase blood pressure cuffs which can be used or checked out from each of our 6 local libraries.

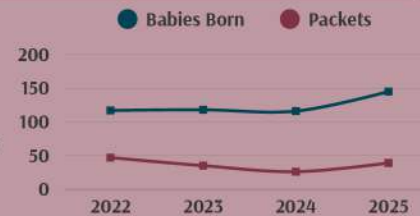
- County Blood Drive: -10 Donations -Up to 30 lives saved
- 23 Loan Closet Rentals



BABY PACKETS

The Health Dept sends out information about available services for each baby born in Marquette County.

New parents receive a packet of resources including a new book courtesy of the Marquette County Literacy Council.



The Health Department donated their time and supplies to craft homemade Valentine's Day cards for our Veterans.

COMMUNITY HEALTH INTERN

Hosted an Area Health Education Centers intern who helped improve our social media outreach and assisted with the promotion of our departmental Community Health Improvement and Strategic Plans.

CWHP COLLABORATION

Collaboration with the Central Wisconsin Health Partnership to improve harm reduction strategies and reduce stigma related to substance use (Partner agencies include Health and Human Services representatives of Marquette, Green Lake, Waushara, Adams, Juneau and Waupaca Counties as well as the Federally Qualified Health Center Service our region).

EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS

- Fight the Bite Display with Tick Kits and Bug Spray at the Fair
- Montello Parent Teacher Conference Resource Table
- Career Fairs at Montello High School. Attended by Environmental Health, Registered Nurse and Medical Assistant professionals.
- Montello Schools Employee Health Fair Mental Health/Resource Table
- Immunization/Fluoride Booth at Touch-a-Truck
- Save a Life Day: Harm and Stigma Reduction Display
- Food Safety Display at Westfield Bike Rodeo.



Pictured: Career Fair Booths



Pictured: Activities at the Westfield Bike Rodeo

CHILD DEVELOPMENT DAY

27 Hearing screens were performed for Westfield's Child Development Day which screened children entering into 4k the following year.

IN APRIL OF 2025, MARQUETTE AND GREEN LAKE COUNTIES JOINED EFFORTS TO CREATE THE RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE (REHA) TO ASSURE QUALITY PROVISION OF STATE MANDATED PROGRAMS. FOOD SAFETY, RECREATIONAL LICENSING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS WERE TRANSITIONED IN JULY. THE DNR'S TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WELL WATER TESTING PROGRAMS ARE CONTRACTED TO BEGIN IN JULY 2026. MARQUETTE COUNTY IS SERVING AS THE FISCAL AGENT FOR THIS MULTI-COUNTY COLLABORATION.



BELOW ARE THE PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR MARQUETTE COUNTY.

ANIMAL BITE CASES

- ↓ -84 CONTACTS TOTAL
- ↓ -31 CASES
- ↻ -11 ANIMALS NOT VACCINATED FOR RABIES
- ↓ -27 CASES WHERE THE VICTIM REQUIRED MEDICAL ATTENTION
- ↑ SPECIMINES SUBMITTED TO THE WI STATE LAB OF HYGIENE FOR RABIES TESTING:
 - 1 BAT
 - 4 DOGS
 - 1 CAT
 - 1 HORSE



DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

- CYCLOSPORA SAMPLE COLLECTION
- HERP B EXPOSURE INVESTIGATION
- CONFIRMED BIRD FLU CASE

PRIVATE WELL WATER TESTING

- ↓ 13 COMPREHENSIVE WATER TEST KITS COMPLETED BY FAMILIES OF PREGNANT WOMEN OR CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

REHA PROGRAM TOTALS:

328 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONTACTS

121 ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF LICENSED FACILITIES

27 NEW FACILITIES

OUTREACH:

- BABY 101
- BIKE RODEO
- CAREER FAIR AT MONTELLO SD
- TEMPORARY FOOD SAFETY COURSES OFFERED IN BRIGGSVILLE AND NESHKORO

RADON TEST KITS

- ↑ 28 TOTAL KITS SOLD
- ↑ 26 TOTAL KITS TESTED
- ↑ 46% OF HOMES TESTED IN 2025 HAD ELEVATED RADON LEVELS

"Keep up the great work. Your team is great to deal with. Thank you."

-Operator Survey Response

RESOURCES DEVELOPED

- ✓ RESOURCE GUIDES TO ASSIST OPERATORS WITH RECENT UPDATES TO THE STATE'S LODGING CODE:
 - PROPER CLEANING
 - CHECKLIST FOR OPENING A NEW FACILITY
 - BUILDING CODE RELATED TO RAILINGS
 - SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR BUNK BEDS
 - KEY CHANGES TO THE CODE
- ✓ TICK PREVENTION AND SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR HUMANS AND PETS
- ✓ FOOD SAFETY FOR SUMMER COOKOUTS AND TRAVEL
- ✓ FAIR SAFETY: PREVENTION OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION BY FOOD AND ANIMALS
- ✓ REGULAR FOOD AND PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- ✓ DOCUMENTS RELATED TO RABIES LICENSING AND VACCINATION REGULATIONS
- ✓ QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS FOR LICENSED OPERATORS
- ✓ FACT SHEETS, FORMS, AND GUIDANCE FOR THE CREATION OF THE DNR WATER TESTING PROGRAM

MEDIA

- ↑ 2574 Facebook Followers
- ↑ 382.3K Facebook Reach
- ↓ 387 Posts
- ↑ 988 Avg. Views/Post
- ↑ 1153 Post Shares

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Bird Flu Identified
December 9, 2025, 2:57 PM
ID: 1276454041176965

Interactions
81 reactions • 20 comments • 27 shares

MOST VIEWED POST OF 2025:
26,710 INDIVIDUAL VIEWS
52 LINK CLICKS
27 SHARES



Pictured Below: Screenshots of Sun Protection Promotional Video



A small sample of promotional and educational content shared on social media

2025 Budget *

Expenses			
	Budget	Actual	Difference
Total Expenses	\$575,274.00	\$681,385.37	-\$106,111.37
Revenues			
Department Revenues	\$40,000.00	\$35,402.62	-\$4,597.38
State Aid Revenues	\$160,000.00	\$310,151.00	\$150,151.00
Total Revenues	\$200,000.00	\$345,553.62	\$145,553.62
Totals			
Net Levy Impact	\$375,274.00	\$335,831.75	\$39,442.25

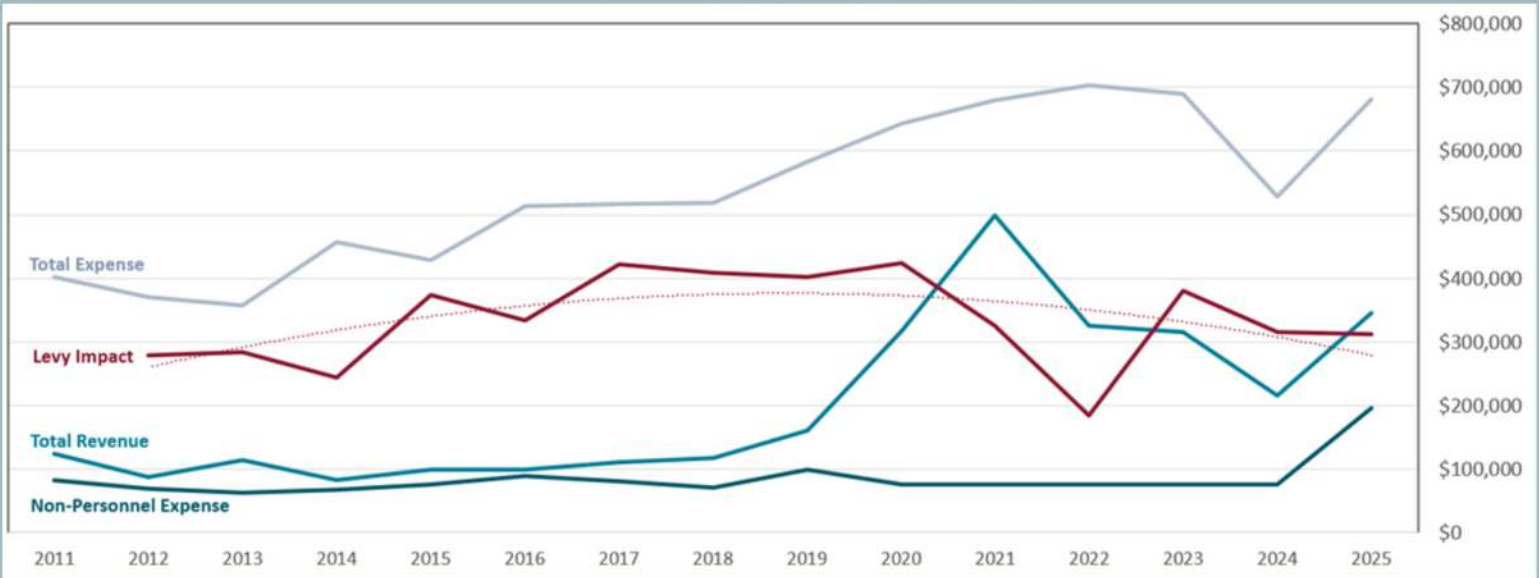
*Based on Preliminary EOY Budget Report Dated: March 11, 2025

Grants obtained by the Health Department throughout the year required additional, unbudgeted purchases and expenses in 2025.

However, a significant portion of these funds offset expenses originally budgeted for as levy.

Ultimately, the Health Department anticipates returning just under \$40,000 to the General Fund.

Public Health Budget Impact Over Time



Key Takeaways:

- Unpredictable funding and mandates caused disruption to the “status quo” during COVID.
- Continuously applying for grants and responsible budgeting has resulted in a relatively flat ‘net levy impact’ by the Health Dept over the last decade and a half.
- While they may impact the non-personnel expense side of our budget, public health grants have allowed us to offer services our budget would not typically support.

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2025 Annual Report!
 We hope you have enjoyed and have a renewed appreciation
 for the impact made by your Local Public Health Department.
 If you are interested in more information or just want to check in,
 you can find us here:
 428 Underwood Ave
 Montello, WI 53949
 608-297-3135
healthinfo@marquettecountywi.gov



Public Health
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.