

# 2020



## **Grant County Health Department**

"Protecting Public Health in Grant County for 85 years"

**TO:** The Honorable Chairman, Robert Keeney and the  
Members of the Grant County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** The Staff of the Grant County Health Department  
and the Members of the Board of Health

**RE:** Report of the Grant County Health Department  
Programs and Services for 2020

The work and efforts of a dedicated staff and Board of Health are reflected in this report. A special thank you to Dr. Neil Martin, the Grant County Board of Supervisors, Personnel Department, Emergency Management, Grant County Fairgrounds, Area Healthcare Providers, SW Community Action Program, Unified Community Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and our other partners in public health not mentioned above.

The mission of the  
**Grant County Health Department**  
is to promote  
the health and wellness  
of  
ALL residents  
of  
Grant County.

“Everyone Living Better, Longer”



### **Ten Essential Services**

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personnel and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

### **State and Local Health Goals**

Improved Health Across the Life Span  
Eliminate Health Disparities and Achieve Health Equality

### **2020 Health Plan Focus Areas**

Identify and Address Health Disparities  
Examine and Assess Social, Economic and Education Factors that Influence Health  
Improve Access to High Quality Health Services  
Form Collaborative Partnerships for Community Health Improvement  
Create and Maintain a Diverse, Sufficient, and Competent Workforce that Promotes and Protects Health  
Ensure Capabilities that Promote Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery  
Secure Equitable, Adequate, and Stable Public Health Funding  
Improve the Health Literacy of the Public and Our Partners  
Ensure Public Health Capacity and Quality of Services  
Conduct research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems  
Support Systems to Manage and Share Health Information While Protecting Privacy  
Assure Adequate, Appropriate, and Safe Food and Nutrition  
Reduce Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
Prevent and Manage Chronic Illness  
Control and Prevent Communicable Diseases  
Improve Environmental and Occupational Health  
Promote Health, Growth and Development  
Reduce Injuries and Violence  
Improve Mental Health  
Improve Oral Health  
Increase Physical Activity  
Promote Reproductive and Sexual Health  
Reduce Tobacco Use

### **Department Overview**

In 2020, the Grant County Health Department administered over 20 programs, managing multiple grants and contracts with the State and other agencies. Additionally, we manage several multi-county regional programs. Staffing includes the following:

**Full Time: 26**

#### **Full Time Staff**

**Professions Include:** *Administrative Assistants, a Coordinator, Registered Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants, Registered Sanitarians, a Registered Dietitian, and a Social Worker*

**Part Time: 1 (Clerical)**

**LTE Staff: 23** [(1) Certified Nursing Assistant, (2) Nurse Practitioners (1) Hospice Spiritual Counselor, (1) Physical Therapist (1) Physical Therapist Assistant, (1) Occupational Therapist (1) Occupational Therapist Assistant, (1) Speech Therapist (1) Office Assistant, (13) Contact Tracers]

**Direct Contracts: 7** [(1) Hospice Medical Director, (1) Hospice Physician, (1) Pharmacist, (1) Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, (2) Translators, (1) Contact Tracer]

**Other Contracts: >~100 individual contracts for services or to provide services**

**Volunteers: ~8 Hospice, 1 PH Medical Advisor, ~6 COVID-19 Support**

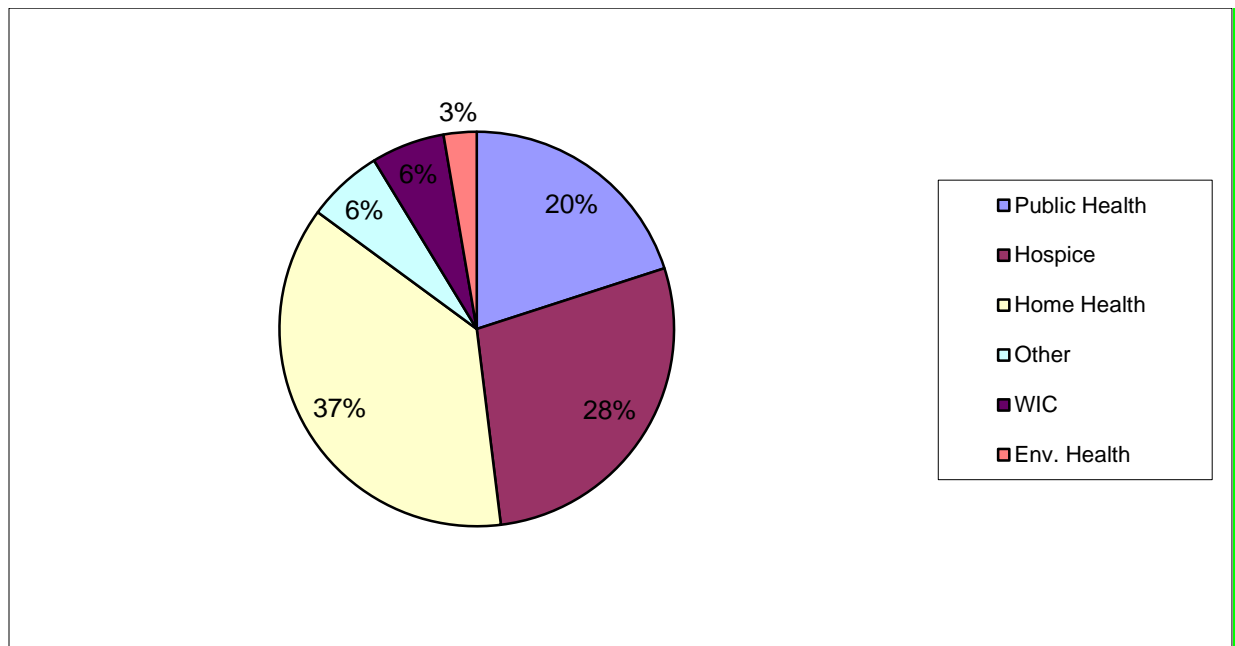
The 2020 operating budget was initially approximately 3.2 million dollars. Approximately 2.8 million dollars was anticipated from sources other than the local tax levy, making the health department largely funded by State, Federal, grant, and fee for service sources. However, the COVID-19 pandemic response included significant federal assistance adding nearly \$500,000 in direct contracts to support our response. The diversion of resources meant many programs were under budget and much less was accomplished than initially planned.

In 2020, four programs were supported directly, but not entirely, by county levy funds. The vast majority of levy is used to provide public health and environmental health services which are mandated by the State. The remaining programs provide limited personal care services and childhood health services including lead testing and developmental screening. As a result of deferred and reduced programming the health department was well under budget with regard to its local levy allocation.

All programs are supported by levy funds through basic infrastructure, administration, and other ancillary activities (see the Sequoia Consulting Group Report).

### Major Programs by Expense

The following pie chart illustrates budgeted expenses within the department for 2020.



## **Highlights and Challenges in 2020**

It was an unprecedented year for communicable disease in Grant County and elsewhere. On March 24, 2020, Grant County had its first confirmed case of COVID-19. By the end of December, there were 3,511 confirmed cases, 394 probable cases, 82 deaths, 6,601 contacts and 28,500 reports of COVID-19 illness that needed follow-up. Typically, the health department receives about 800 cases of (all) reportable diseases that require follow up in an entire year. As a result, most other programming activity was greatly reduced with the exception of statutory requirements such as other communicable disease report follow ups and human health hazard investigations, as well as our WIC programming, Home Health, and Hospice. Additionally, nearly all meetings and training were either canceled or switched to virtual.

During 2020, local hospitals and nursing homes experienced critical staffing shortages. The health department and Emergency Management assisted with staffing, testing, and PPE shortages throughout the county. At times patients that needed a higher level of care could not be transported out of Grant County to get care due to ICUs elsewhere being filled to capacity.

The health department was not free of staffing challenges and struggled to maintain a response, cover Hospice and Home Health patients, and expand access to testing often with its own staff under isolation or quarantine. There were also significant challenges with individuals that chose to be non-compliant with masking, social distancing, isolation and quarantine. There were threats made against health department staff for doing their jobs making the work environment very unpleasant. Much like the public, many staff experienced losses of family and friends due to COVID-19. There were also many impacts on individuals, schools, local businesses and others that went well beyond the effects of the virus itself. Mental health issues, other health issues due to delays in seeking treatment and damage to the economy impacted many as well.

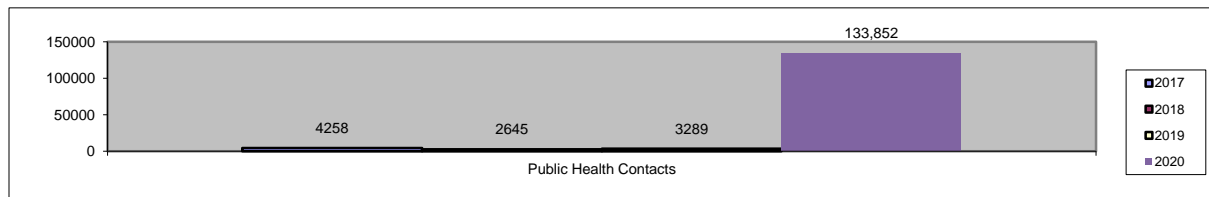
However, throughout the year we had offers of assistance and received some praises and many thank you messages for the work being done. Toward the end of 2020 vaccine for COVID-19 was beginning to become available.

## **Health Department Program Overviews**

### **Public Health**

Public Health programs generally focus on prevention efforts and improving the health of the community. Monitoring health indicators such as immunization rates, disease incident rates, causes of injury or death, and health behaviors are important. Much of our general programming was placed on hold or reduced in March due to the COVID-19 response. The dramatic increase in contacts in 2020 was due to COVID-19.

Below is the number of contacts for our Public Health staff.



## School Health

The Grant County Health Department provides nursing services to the following schools:

Cassville Elem. /HS	St. Charles (Cassville)
Cuba City Elem. /HS	St. Clements (Lancaster)
Potosi Elem. /HS	Holy Ghost (Dickeyville)
River Ridge Elem. /HS	Immaculate Conception (Kieler)
St. Mary's (Bloomington)	St. Joseph (Sinsinawa)
St. Rose (Cuba City)	Christian Day School (Muscoda)
Amish/Mennonite Schools	

Services can include:

- General health information
- Assistance with managing health related issues such as lice, bed bugs, etc.
- Medication management assistance
- Health plan and policy development
- Vision and hearing screenings for selected grades, including rechecks and referral to appropriate health care providers as needed
- Immunization clinics for children and staff
- Follow-up on immunization requirements for entry to school
- Health resources and presentations for teachers, staff, students and parents
- Training for school staff

A total of 247.75 nursing hours were spent relating to school health not including immunization exercises or communicable disease control efforts. In addition, 1,827 miles were traveled by nurses relating to school health services. In 2019, 1,109.25 hours of nursing time were dedicated to schools and 4,909 miles were traveled. Public health aide time and administration time are not included in this total (as these hours are not specifically kept track of). The reduction normal nursing hours provided was due to COVID-19. However, many hours of services helping schools implement policies related to COVID-19 and addressing outbreaks are not accounted for above.

# WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program is a supplemental nutrition program serving lower income families with children up to age five. The program also promotes and helps maintain the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children. WIC encourages and supports breastfeeding with incentives, education, and peer counseling. WIC also provides access to fresh fruits and vegetables with a farmer's market program. In October, the vacant WIC Director position was filled by local Registered Dietitian Christopher Baird.

Health benefits relating to WIC participation include reduced:

Premature births      Low birth-weight babies      Long-term medical expenses

The farmer's market program brought fresh fruits and vegetables to 64 families this year and \$1,560 in benefits. In 2020, Grant County WIC served an average of 642 participants per month compared to 644 in 2019. WIC families spent a total of \$350,220.00 in benefits, an increase from 2019's \$326,656.18.

Grant County WIC has had steady participation levels when comparing to 2019. We were able to retain our number as many counties are struggling with participation rates. After March, participation was 100% virtual providing WIC services online and over the phone with a smooth transition from physical clinic sites.

## Health Check Services

The Health Check Program provides both individual services and comprehensive examinations of children aged birth to 21 years. A complete health check includes:

*✕ Head to Toe Physical Exams*

*✕ Immunizations*

*✕ Fluoride Varnishes*

*✕ Growth and Development Assessments*

*✕ Mouth Exams*

*✕ Lab Tests*

*✕ Nutritional Screening*

*✕ Eye Exams*

*✕ Blood Lead Testing*

*✕ Other Screenings*

Health Check screenings, lead testing, and immunizations are offered at most clinics to compliment the WIC program. As part of our health check services, 54 blood lead screenings were completed for children in Grant County. In comparison, 275 blood lead screenings were done in 2019. The significant reduction was due to the suspension of in person clinics as requested by the State and Federal government.

We also checked and/or installed 26 child passenger safety seats (providing some

seats at no charge to low income families through a Wisconsin Department of Transportation grant). The number was reduced due to COVID-19.

## **Jail Health**

Two nurses from the Grant County Health Department have received extensive training and continuing education on topics relating to the provision of jail health services. These nurses staff the Grant County Jail normally providing onsite care on three scheduled days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday).

In addition, the jail is included in our “intake” system and “on call” rotation allowing our department to provide services as needed ensuring complete coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays on an as needed basis. As a result on average over 37 hours nursing of services were provided each week.

Nursing services increased in 2020 due to COVID-19. In 2020, 1,955.75 hours of nursing time was provided to the jail. This is an increase compared to 2019 when 1,613 hours of nursing time was provided to the jail. In addition 2,480 miles were traveled to provide jail health services in 2020 compared to and 1,835 in 2019.

## **Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP)**

Grant County Health Department continues to support the WWWP for women ages 45-64 years of age meeting specific income requirements. Well Woman pays for mammograms, Pap tests and certain other health screenings. Early detection of breast or cervical cancer can greatly improve outcomes and significantly reduce the cost of treatment as well as shorten recovery times.

## **Communicable Disease Follow-Up**

Local public health departments are required to complete follow-up activities with individuals having or suspected to have illnesses as identified in Wisconsin State Administrative Rule Chapter DHS 145, “Control of Communicable Diseases”. Public Health staff continues to educate individuals about illnesses and encourage or ensure treatment (if needed).

Steps are also taken to control and reduce the spread of diseases as well. Telephone calls, letters, and/or face-to-face contacts are used to gather and distribute information. Staff also conducted educational outreach with area hospitals and clinics relating to reporting requirements and follow up with specific illnesses.



Below is a summary of communicable diseases that were reported to the Grant County Health Department in 2020. (It should be noted that not all cases were confirmed, many reports end up not being actual cases but require follow up nonetheless). The significant increase was due to COVID-19 reporting which required significant follow up including the isolation of nearly 3,900 individuals and the quarantine of over 6,601 contacts. Unfortunately, there were 82 deaths of individuals that were either confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 and at least 181 hospitalizations.

## Communicable Diseases

(January 1 - December 31, 2020)

According to Wisconsin State Statute 252, any individual with knowledge or reason to believe that a person has a communicable disease must report to their local health department. This includes physician, nurses, lab workers, teachers and the general public. The Grant County Health Department has received the following reports of illness. Staff has completed follow-up on these reports and appropriate action has been taken.

<b>COMMUNICABLE DISEASES</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Anaplasmosis	-	-	-	4	3	3
Arboviral Illness	2	1	4	1	0	1
Babesiosis	-	2	0	2	0	0
Blastomycosis	2	1	0	1	0	0
Brucellosis	0	0	2	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	23	31	32	41	29	38
Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteria	-	-	-	1	3	3
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	-	-	-	3	14	10
Chancroid	-	-	-	1	0	0
Chemical Pneumonitis	-	-	-	-	2	0
COVID-19	-	-	-	-	-	28,500
Cryptosporidiosis	15	29	24	31	31	24
Cyclosporidiosis	1	0	1	7	0	2
E.Coli	8	19	23	38	64	55
Ehrlichiosis	8	11	10	2	1	2
Giardiasis	0	3	5	14	7	3
Hantavirus	-	-	-	-	1	0
Hepatitis C	13	26	45	25	29	30
Hepatitis E	-	1	0	1	0	0
Histoplasmosis	1	0	0	1	2	3
Influenza – Seasonal Reported in Error	-	-	-	-	210	209
Influenza-Associated Hospitalization	21	20	31	43	27	92
Invasive Hemophilus Influenza	1	1	0	0	2	1
LaCrosse Encephalitis	0	1	0	0	0	0
Legionella	0	1	0	1	2	1
Lyme Disease	46	57	81	65	70	43
Metal Poisoning (Non-Lead)	7	5	2	5	1	1
Methemoglobinemia	-	-	2	1	0	0
Methicillin or Oxacillin Resistant Staph	-	-	1	2	2	1
Mycobacterium (Non TB)	3	5	5	4	6	6
Meningitis, Aseptic Viral	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis, Bacterial	-	4	1	1	1	0

Novel Strain Influenza	-	1	0	0	0	0
Parapertussis	0	1	0	0	3	2
Pneumocystis Jirovecii	-	-	-	1	0	0
Plesiomonas Infection	-	-	-	-	-	2
Q Fever	3	4	2	1	5	1
Rabies (Animal)	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0	0	1	0	1	0
Salmonellosis	13	4	7	11	7	10
Shigellosis	1	2	2	0	1	0
Strept All Types	6	3	8	10	8	6
Toxic Shock Syndrome	0	0	2	0	0	0
Toxoplasmosis	-	-	-	-	3	2
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy	0	0	0	1	0	1
Trichinellosis	-	1	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	0	2	2	1	0	1
Tuberculosis Latent	1	2	6	3	10	10
Tularemia	-	5	2	1	1	0
Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci	1	4	0	0	1	0
Vibriosis, Non-Cholera	-	-	-	-	2	1
West Nile Virus	-	1	0	0	0	0
Yersiniosis	-	1	1	0	0	0
Zika Virus	-	4	4	1	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>29,065</b>

<b>VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Chickenpox	8	4	10	12	13	5
Hepatitis A	1	3	3	0	1	1
Hepatitis B	8	3	5	3	7	5
Hib	1	1	0	2	0	0
Measles (Rubeola)	5	1	1	1	3	3
Mumps	54	37	52	14	14	14
N. Meningitidis	1	0	1	1	0	0
Pertussis	23	16	38	41	52	25
Rubella	0	0	0	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>53</b>

<b>SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Chlamydia	135	129	194	160	138	111
Gonorrhea	28	12	17	12	22	12
Syphilis	3	3	1	2	8	13
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>136</b>

# Immunizations

As indicated by the continuation of vaccine preventable illness outbreaks, challenges remain in ensuring that vaccination rates are high enough to prevent the sustained transmission of many vaccine preventable diseases here and around the country. Unfortunately, vaccination rates in Grant County among two year olds that are considered fully immunized are in the 50-60% range far below the recommended 90% range. Adolescent immunization rates are also lower than desired and waiver rates remain high and are increasing throughout Wisconsin and our county as well.

Grant County has continued its membership with the Southern Wisconsin Immunization Consortium (<http://www.rwhc.com/SWIC.aspx>) in an effort to increase immunization rates.

In 2020, immunizations were offered at many locations throughout the county including all WIC / Health Check Clinics and vaccine was also available at the Health Department office, Grant County schools, and limited vaccines were available in businesses as well. Many vaccines are provided at no charge while others are billed at minimal expense. However, in March WIC clinic access was reduced and less immunizations were given due to COVID-19. Immunization rates fell across the state.

Below are the totals of vaccinations given by the Grant County Health Department in 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused by COVID-19 also lowered immunizations administered and overall levels in our County even though we continued to offer vaccinations from our office throughout the pandemic.

<b>Number of Doses of Vaccine</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
DTaP - Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	75	88	79	76	68	43
DTaP/Polio (Kinrix)	92	80	83	66	64	43
DTaP/HepB/Polio (Pediarix)	216	215	190	184	149	95
Polio	45	39	25	29	29	17
MMR - Measles/Mumps/Rubella	165	96	105	88	90	59
MMR - Varicella (Proquad)	102	77	83	76	73	42
Hepatitis A (pediatric)	101	120	101	123	103	78
Hepatitis B (pediatric)	26	15	8	18	19	3
Td - Tetanus/Diphtheria	13	12	21	48	81	37
Tdap (Adacel & Boostrix)	526	432	389	390	255	160
Hib - Haemophilus Influenza type B	247	252	239	212	169	123
HPV (Gardasil)	617	530	276	47	40	38
Varicella (Chickenpox)	93	78	79	63	66	54
Prevnar 13	247	254	222	208	146	128
Meningitis	409	399	237	306	39	34
Meningitis B	-	-	-	-	-	7
Rotavirus	77	122	91	73	57	39
Influenza - Seasonal	3901	3247	3221	3474	3607	2998
Pneumonia-Prevnar 13 (adult)	30	34	16	16	23	3

Pneumo-Poly 23 (adult)	-	4	4	9	6	5
Hepatitis A (adult)	13	30	15	7	65	34
Hepatitis B (adult)	88	56	37	18	32	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>7083</b>	<b>6180</b>	<b>5521</b>	<b>5531</b>	<b>5181</b>	<b>4050</b>

## Environmental Health (EH) Programs

Grant County continues to lead the Southwest Wisconsin Environmental Consortium. Members of the consortium include Grant, Crawford (limited participation), Lafayette, Iowa, Richland, and Vernon counties. We respond to human health hazards such as vermin infestations, sewage or other waste problems, water and air quality issues, or public health nuisances which may endanger the safety, health, or well-being of the public. We also conduct lead and asbestos inspections.

Local health departments are required by state statute and by local ordinance to respond to human health hazards and public health nuisances. Additionally, health departments are required to investigate lead poisoning cases. Most complaints received by the local health departments are related to environmental health issues and include both public health nuisances and human health hazards.

Grant County Health Department is also a Radon Information Center (RIC) serving a six county region. Radon is a naturally occurring gas that is considered to be the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. The RIC provides free consultation and radon test kits to homeowners. In 2020, a total of 294 radon test kits were distributed in the 6 county region.

Below are the EH total contacts for 2014 through 2020. Note the reduction in activity due to COVID-19:

<i>Number of Contacts</i>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Water	139	122	156	75	94	133	116
Air Quality	160	171	199	233	138	198	199
Asbestos	142	149	119	79	142	142	119
Hazardous Materials	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lead Hazards	93	88	151	86	164	138	77
Radiation Hazards	174	132	181	127	159	162	117
Housing	159	151	139	144	208	244	170
Rabies	114	106	108	116	104	105	117
Sewage	146	166	133	93	138	170	124
Solid Waste	155	181	139	102	195	179	159
Insects/Rodents/Animal Problems	116	118	109	79	125	139	100
Home Inspections	282	151	248	261	526	229	180
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1680</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>1682</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1839</b>	<b>1478</b>

## **Public Health Preparedness and Response**

During 2020, Grant County Health Department continued to prepare for public health emergencies through extensive planning, training, and testing efforts. The department participated in several exercises. We continued to test mass clinic plans by conducting immunization exercises in all of the county schools. We also planned and exercised with the regional health care coalition. This planning helped during the pandemic. Much of the activities in 2020 were related to COVID-19 planning and response.

## **Tobacco-Free Coalition**

In 2020, the Grant County Health Department continued a partnership with resources being provided by Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, Inc. The Multi-jurisdictional Tobacco Coalition provided tobacco control and coordination services to Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties. The coalition focus continued on tobacco use among disparate groups, and electronic delivery devices.

## **Consolidated Grants**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has continued to provide state and federal grant funds to local health departments in a pass through process called Consolidated Contracts. Our allocation recently increased due to becoming a level 3 health department. The following programs are examples of services provided using these funds:

**Maternal & Child Health** –The 2020 focus was on developmental screening.  
<https://agesandstages.com/>

**Lead** – Promotes blood lead screening of children and follow-up services for children with elevated lead levels (using Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, and Vernon County funding allocations)

**Radon** – Provides testing, education, and consultation services for residents regarding radon risks. (Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Vernon, and Crawford counties funds)

**WIC (Women, Infants & Children)** – Provides education and nutrition services, access to healthy foods, and referrals to services for pregnant women and children up to age five who meet the income guidelines.

**Immunizations** – Funds are used for maintaining records and for entering information into Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) as well as to help ensure that children are up to date on immunizations.

**Public Health Preparedness and Response** – Federal funds provided for training and planning responses to natural and man-made public health emergencies. This is done in conjunction with Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, and health care providers as well as other partners.

**Prevention** - Provides some limited funding for environmental health services.

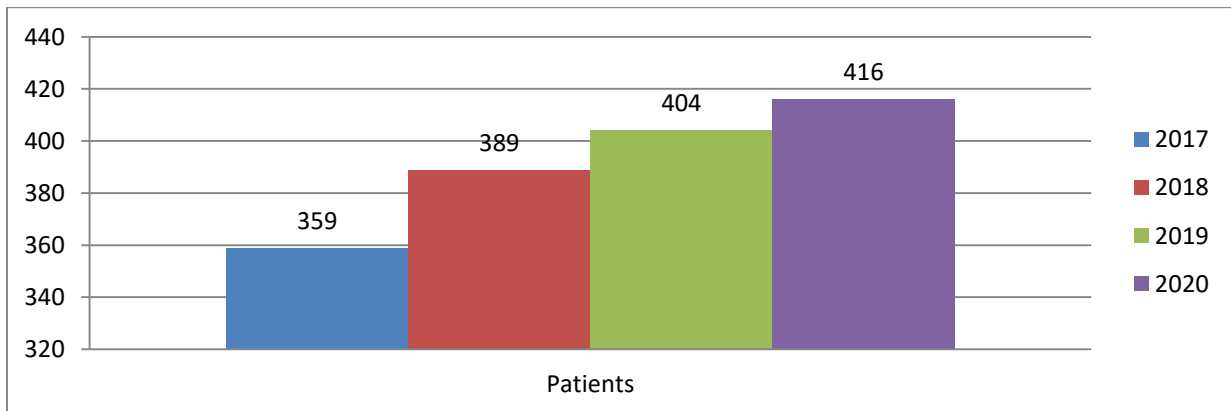
# Home Nursing

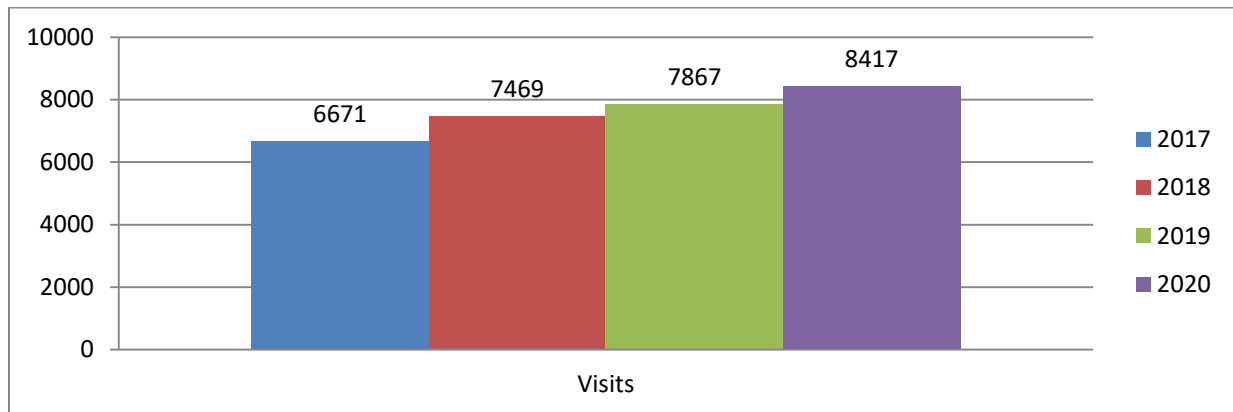
In 2020, 416 clients received services from the Grant County Health Department. These clients received a total of 8,417 visits from the Department. These visits are provided by nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists and home health aides. These services are paid for by Medicare, Medical Assistance, private insurance, Medicare replacement policies, private pay and Family Care. No one is denied service because of inability to pay.

The Department provides physical, occupational and speech therapy services through contracts with all three hospitals in our county. This allows the therapy services to be provided by a therapist who is in their area. In 2020, there was a significant shift in referrals received. We received more referrals for therapy only cases and less referrals for skilled nursing visits. This resulted in more therapy visits and fewer skilled nursing visits. Also, patients were less likely to allow home health aide visits. This shift may be related to COVID-19 and the decrease in outpatient services being offered and the desire to limit exposure to any additional health care personnel.

Two clients received personal care only services in 2020. These clients receive assistance with bathing, hair care, skin and nail care. These clients also receive a supervision visit from our nurses every 50 to 60 days. In 2020, 4 nursing visits were made to these clients. These services are covered by Medical Assistance, private pay or private personal care agencies. In 2020, the regulations changed due to COVID-19 that allowed these visits to be held via zoom or another audiovisual technology.

A comparison of Home Nursing patients and visits is noted below.





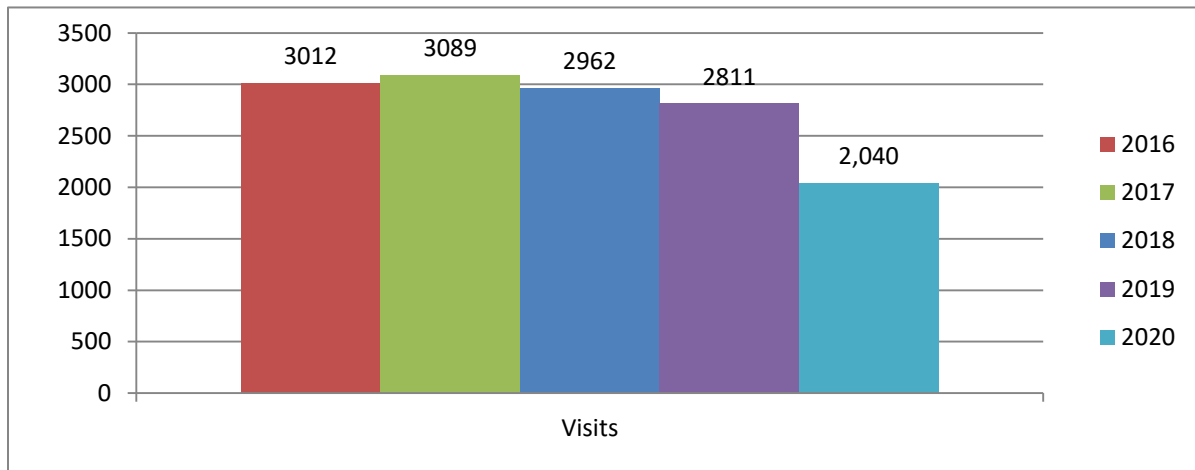
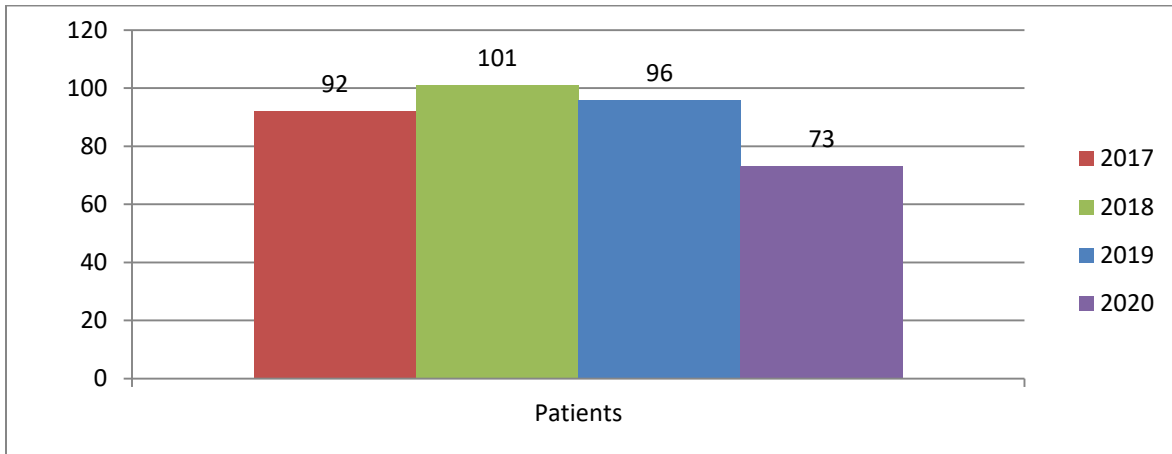
## Hospice

Hospice care focuses on medical and personal comfort for people in the last months of their lives. Hospice provides comfort care so clients can live as fully as possible until the end of life. Hospice also provides support services to clients' families as well as bereavement services for at least 13 months following the clients' death.

Again, COVID-19 had an impact on Hospice. Due to facilities not allowing all staff access to their facilities, Audiovisual technology was used to "visit" these patients or these visits were not allowed at all. Also, since visits were not allowed, eligible patients may not have been admitted to Hospice resulting in fewer admissions to Hospice and fewer visits by all staff members in general.

In 2020, 73 clients were served on the Grant County Hospice Program. These clients received 2,040 visits from a multi-disciplinary support team that includes registered nurses, social workers, hospice aides, nurse practitioner and therapists. Clients choose hospice care when their physician certifies that they are terminally ill and they are no longer seeking active treatment for their illness.

A comparison of Hospice patients and visits is noted below:





# Board of Health Members

Carol Beals, Chair  
Neil T. Martin, MD  
Dwight Nelson

Porter Wagner  
Greg Fry, Secretary

Mary K. Logemann, Vice Chair  
Matt Andrews, DDS

The persons listed below are directly responsible for the activities and programs noted in this report. Their dedication and commitment to the residents of Grant County is evident in the quality of the services provided to our communities.

## Health Department Staff

Jeff Kindrai, MSPH, RS, Director/Health Officer  
Amy Miller, RN, BSN, Assistant Director  
Holly Muench, RN, Nursing Compliance & Quality Coordinator  
Deb Udelhoven, Office & Financial Coordinator

Amy Budworth, Administrative Assistant I  
Andrew Fessler, PT  
Annette Snyder, LTE CNA  
Ashley Sullivan, RN, BSN  
Beth Strangstalien, COTA  
Brianna Klaas, RN, BSN  
Brenda Cullen, CNA  
Brooke Reuter, LTE Clerical  
Cari Schmidt, RN  
Casey Gradel, RN, BSN  
Christopher Baird, RD WIC Director  
Erin Huebschman, MD Hospice Physician  
Jamie Kreul, Administrative Assistant I  
Jason Hollander, PT  
Jessica Schuler, RN, BSN  
Joanna Schindler, OT  
Jolene Ziebart, NP  
Kalyn Baird, RN, BSN  
Katherine Reuter, NP  
Kessa Klaas, RN, BSN

### LTE COVID-19 Response

Atkinson, Julie  
Bahr, Melody  
Millard, Jacob  
Roesch, Michelle  
Runde, Jessica (Contracted)  
Waterman, Jolinda  
Wehrle, Melissa

Kim Martens, RN, BSN  
Kim Pribnow, RN, BSN  
Kim Seifert, PTA  
Laura Wolles, RD, WIC Dietitian  
MacKenzie Johll, Administrative Assistant II  
Maggie Droessler, RN, BSN  
Mareeta Kolman, SW  
Mary Allen, Admission Specialist  
Michelle Farrell, Contract Pharmacist  
Michelle Young, RN, BSN  
Mike Parks, Speech-Language Pathologist  
Neil T Martin, MD, Medical Advisor  
Pam Strakeljahn, Hospice Spiritual Counselor  
Rebecca Franzen, BF Counselor  
Robert Smith, MD Hospice Medical Director  
Selina Baus, RN, BSN  
Shannon Bartels, LTE CNA  
Shawn Handfelt, Administrative Assistant I  
Steve Straka, Clerical  
Troy Moris, RS Environmental Health

Wiederholt, Joanne  
McCarthy, Linda  
Randecker, Patricia  
Walters, Olivia  
Bartkowski, Margaret  
Gessler, Amber