

2019 Annual Report Executive Summary



Since 1867, the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has served the residents of the City of Milwaukee by seeking to improve and protect the health of all who live, work, and play within the city. Today, as the largest local health department in Wisconsin, the MHD now serves nearly 600,000 residents through direct services, evidence-based programs, partnerships, and policy development.

2019 was both an exciting and a challenging year for the department. The MHD experienced a department-wide restructuring, several transitions within its leadership team, and struggled with staffing vacancies and limited funding. Despite these challenges, the MHD provided critical services to thousands of Milwaukee residents. The information below summarizes key accomplishments in 2019.

Declared racism a public health crisis



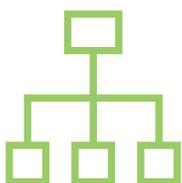
In 2019, the MHD played an instrumental role in the passage of a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis in the City of Milwaukee, committing to take actions toward achieving racial equity and transforming the systems and institutions of racism that produce racial health inequities and impact the health and well-being of the community.

Reestablished Milwaukee's Board of Health

In 2019, the City of Milwaukee reestablished its Board of Health. This nine-member governing board is responsible for assuring city residents that the MHD is fulfilling the responsibilities mandated by the state, advising the department on priorities, taking public stances on public health policy issues, and being champions for public health in Milwaukee.



Implemented a department-wide restructuring



The MHD began our department reorganization in December 2018 and instituted the bulk of the changes in 2019. The MHD now carries out our mission through five branches consisting of 11 divisions. Four of the branches are managed by Deputy Commissioners, with operational direction from the Chief of Staff, who serve as cornerstones of the foundation of the new MHD.

3,173

individuals received assistance connecting with health resources, including healthcare coverage through BadgerCare Plus



1,921

home visits with families to support healthy birth outcomes, family health and psychosocial needs, and child health, safety, and development



611

cribs distributed

869

safe sleep training sessions provided to support infant health and safe sleeping environments



20%

increase in referrals to the Newborn Hearing Screening program, supporting the health and development of babies with hearing impairments through early identification and intervention



86,053

individuals supported through the MHD Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program



4,478

youth and families served through the ReCast Milwaukee initiative, supporting healing, mental health, and community resilience through violence prevention efforts and trauma-informed care



67

violence interruptions as part of the 414Life Violence Interruption Program



50%

increase in the number of families engaged in the Trauma Response Initiative, which supports children exposed to trauma or violence



Hosted

Mother's March Against Violence and Milwaukee's first annual Love Without Violence Conference

Launched

414Life partnership with Froedtert Hospital and Ascension to support survivors of gun violence



CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Established

the Birth Outcomes Made Better (BOMB) Doula program

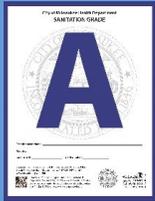
Hosted

two opioid awareness community events through the Milwaukee Overdose Response Initiative



Launched

a city-wide Opioid Awareness Campaign, aiming to inform the public about the dangers and consequences of misusing prescription opioids



1st

year for mandatory posting of Food Sanitation Grades

5%

reduction in CDC Risk Factor Violations since system implementation in 2017

194

lead inspections completed

203

risk assessments conducted



60

families provided relocation services while their homes were being made lead-safe

2,610

water filters certified to remove lead were distributed to high-risk populations in the city

169

public beach water samples tested for *E. coli*

7,972

lead tests on water, dust, paint, and soil



6,859

immunizations provided

91%

compliance with the Wisconsin Student Immunization Law



3,695

inspections of food establishments, mobile vendors, and temporary events



1,374

drinking water tests performed

104

residential soil tests

100%

Provided case management to residents for all reportable communicable diseases.



1,008

breast cancer screenings provided

50+

students provided with field placements or internships at MHD

19

communicable respiratory and gastrointestinal disease outbreaks investigated



5,262

clients served at Keenan Sexual Health Clinic