



Ho-Chunk Nation
Department of Health

Health Profile Report

Public Health & Environmental Health

2026

Submitted August 2026

WAŽA HIGIRAWI
(We care)

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Want to learn more?

Visit us online:

health.ho-chunk.com

Visit us in-person:

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center

N6520 Lumber Jack Guy Road
Black River Falls, WI 54615
715-284-9851

House of Wellness

S2845 White Eagle Road
Baraboo, WI 53913
608-355-1240

**Building a strong mind,
body, and spirit together**

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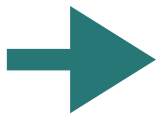




Data details

Where does the data come from?

Multiple data sources are used in this report. This includes:



Internal data: From the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health (DOH) and other Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN) Departments



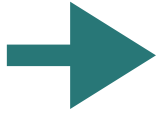
HCN Office of Enrollment



DOH Programs



NextGen
(DOH Electronic Record System)



External data: From places outside the Ho-Chunk Nation, including state and federal sources



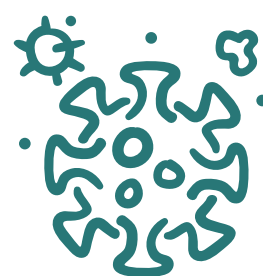
US Census



WI DNR



WI DHS



CDC



WEDSS

When is the data from?

Because it can take some time for public data to become available, this report uses the latest information we have. For some measures, you might see data from different years or an average of those years- this often occurs in smaller groups or with public sources that use surveys to represent a population (county, state, or country).

i



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Data details

Who is represented in the data?

Because of how tribal nations and tribal health departments can 1) receive or share information, and 2) due to differences in funding reporting requirements, some data sources report on all tribal members, and others report on Ho-Chunk tribal members only. Additionally, some sources will only report on specific geographic areas, such as statewide or specific counties. Be sure to keep this in mind when interpreting results and referencing the data source on each page.



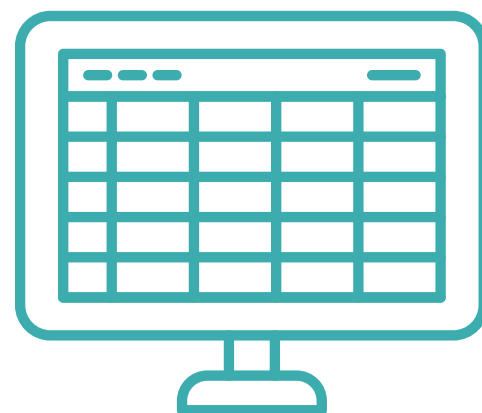
Can I access or get a copy of the original data?

Depends! Anyone can access the public data sources. However, some external sources can only be used by specific organizations and are not available to the public. Some internal Ho-Chunk Nation data may be available for an aggregated report upon request.



How do I use the data in this report?

There are many ways data can be used, ranging from individual, community, or organizational use. See the following page for more ideas on how this information can be applied in different settings.



Other Questions?

Please contact Sarah Reed-Thryselius

Ho-Chunk Nation Epidemiologist
Sarah.Thryselius@ho-chunk.com

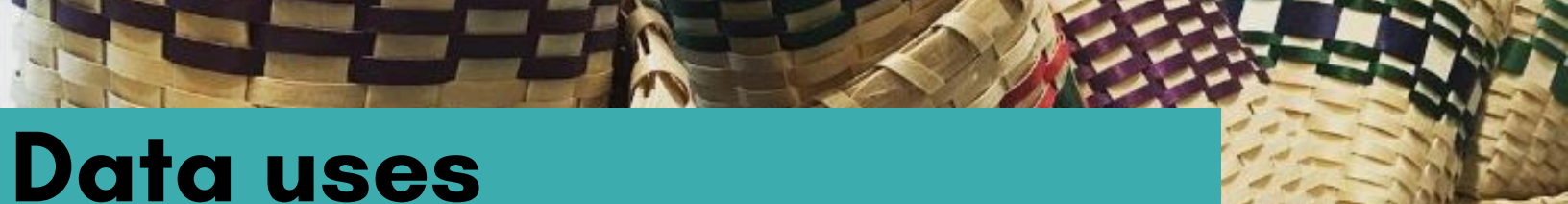


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Data uses

Community Knowledge & Empowerment

A key function of the HCN DOH is to provide information to our communities about their health, community conditions, and health outcomes to support informed decisions.

Education & Communication

Providing the most up-to-date health information to our communities, including health education and resources from the Public Health and Environmental Health divisions.

Accreditation

This includes standards such as analyzing data, providing health education, and conducting performance management.

Programming & Service Development

Measures highlight community strengths and opportunities. Programs can use data to identify service gaps.

Grant Proposals

Use Ho-Chunk Nation data to support grant proposals and explain your "so what."

Community Health Assessment

Provides additional community data to deepen the understanding of community conditions and outcomes.

Policy Development

Identifies needs and gaps in the community. Data could highlight the need for a policy.

Research

Use data to identify a need or a question.

Media Stories

Support and strengthen stories with data, including articles, social media posts, interviews, and more.

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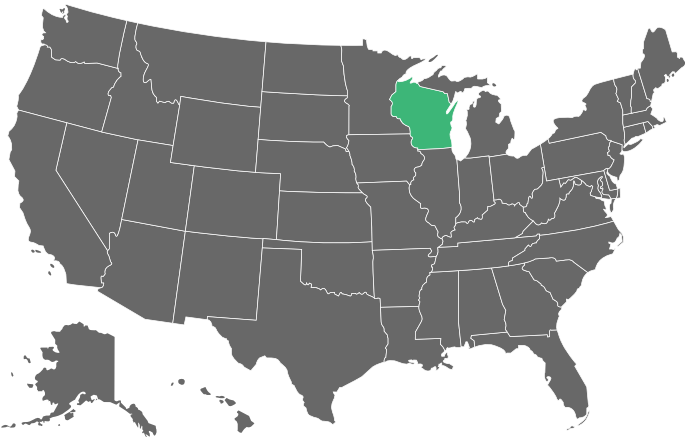
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Ho-Chunk Nation Community Profile

Our Ho-Chunk Tribal members live all over the world. Population estimates are helpful to understand age, sex, and geographical location to predict service demand and resource allocation. The numbers below reflect enrolled Ho-Chunk Tribal members in 2024.



7,706
members
nationwide

5,337
members in
Wisconsin

Sex
(nationwide)

51% female
49% male

By age

All HCN Tribal in Wisconsin

0- 4 years	55
5-11 years	394
12-17 years	570
18-24 years	700
25-34 years	953
35-44 years	853
45-59 years	995
60+ years	817

DYK? Ho-Chunk people (*Hocaks/Ho-Chungra*) have traditional lands from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois.



Among Wisconsin Ho-Chunk Tribal members, about 34% are considered vulnerable:

This includes Elders and youth.

These groups are more susceptible to health conditions & community impacts because of their age.

1

HCN Community Profile: HCN tribal enrollment, December 2024
Source: HCN Office of Enrollment
Years displayed: 2024



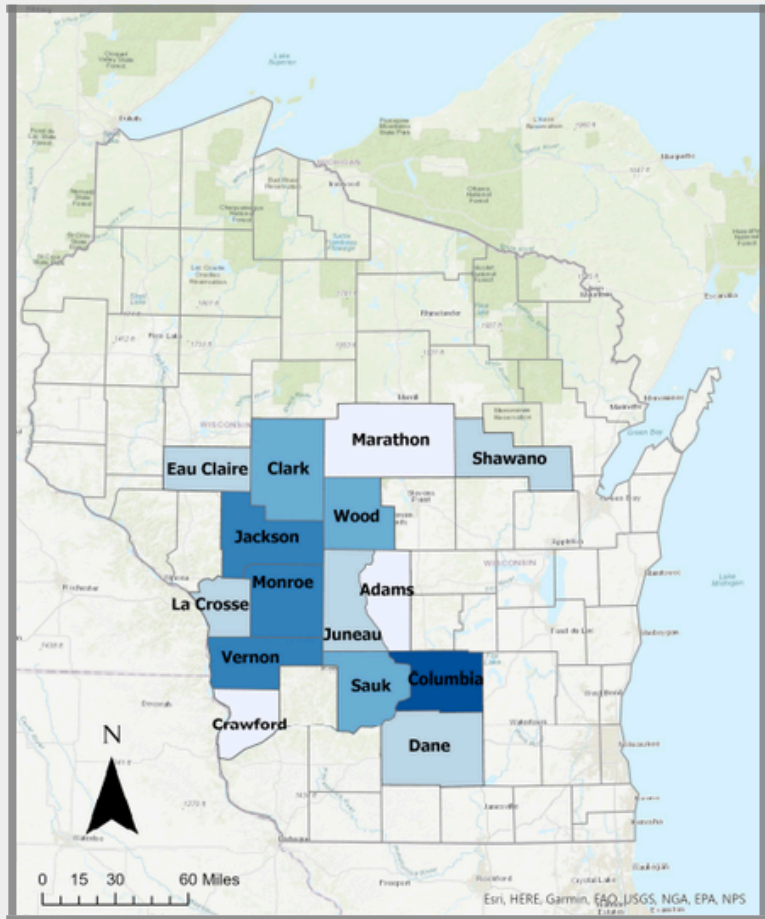
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Purchased Referred Care Delivery Area

In addition to national and state populations, Indian Health Services (IHS) assigns designated **Purchased Referred Care Delivery Areas** (PRCDA) to tribes. This is a county or counties that includes all or part of a reservation or have a common boundary with a reservation. The PRCDA designation ensures that federal health program funds are used to support health services for tribal people who live on or near reservations, or within PRCDA designated spaces (IHS, n.d.). The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health often reports on national, state, and PRCDA populations due to funding and program requirements.



NOTE: Houston County (MN) not pictured

There are **15 counties in Wisconsin** and **one county in Minnesota** which make up the **HCN DOH PRCDA area**:

- Adams
- Clark
- Columbia
- Crawford
- Dane
- Eau Claire
- Jackson
- Juneau
- La Crosse
- Marathon
- Monroe
- Sauk
- Shawano
- Vernon
- Wood
- Houston



4,142

of enrolled members in PRCDA area

78

% of enrolled WI members living in PRCDA area

HCN Community Profile: HCN tribal enrollment, December 2024
Source: HCN Office of Enrollment
Years displayed: 2024

2

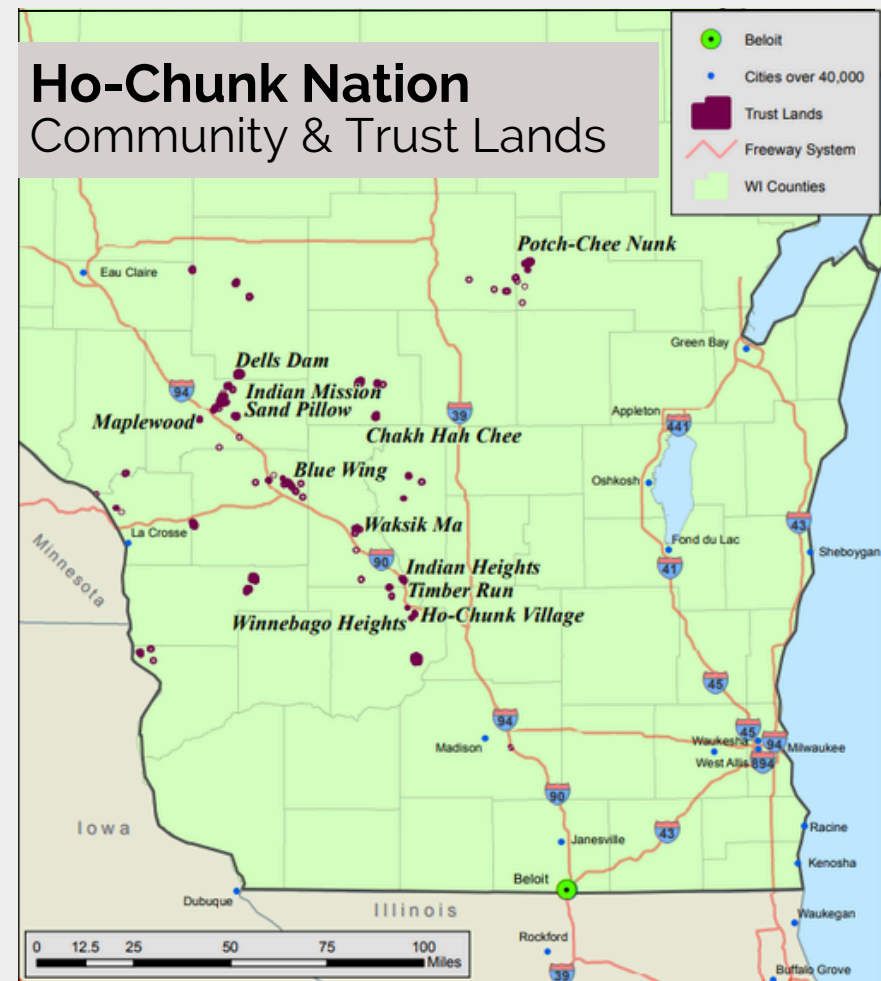


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Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Communities

Ho-Chunk communities are located on Nation Trust land. Ho-Chunk Tribal members and their families are eligible for housing in these designated places, which span seven Wisconsin counties. The Environmental Health (EH) Division oversees certain services in these communities and on other trust land properties, including their water systems.



Community locations (by county)

Clark

- Dells Dam

Jackson

- Sand Pillow
- Indian Mission

Juneau

- Waksik Ma
- Indian Heights
- Timber Run

Sauk

- Ho-Chunk Village
- Winnebago Heights

Shawano

- Potch Chee Nunk
- Ho-Chunk Village

Monroe

- Blue Wing

Wood

- Chakh-Hah-Chee

Map: Courtesy of HCN GIS division

DYK? The EH division ensures safe potable water sources for its customers by maintaining compliance with all applicable Federal and State Regulations. These community water systems serve approximately 10,562 people, including residents, employees, and visitors.

The division shares full water quality reports (Consumer Confidence Reports) on their division webpage.



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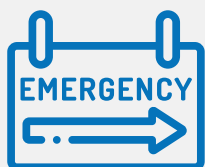


Hospitalization & ER Visits

Hospitalization and emergency room (ER) visit data are captured for Wisconsin tribal residents who are treated in Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Iowa. The data below reflects the primary cause of admission and number of visits, not patient counts. Because someone may be seen multiple times, each encounter counts as a new visit.

During 2024....

Among Wisconsin tribal residents



33, 096

OF
ER VISITS



7, 116

OF
HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

Among Wisconsin tribal residents living in the DOH PRCDA



7, 715

OF
ER VISITS



1, 533

OF
HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

DYK?

Wisconsin tribal ER visits made up about **1.7% of all statewide ER visits** and **1.2% of all hospitalization admissions**.

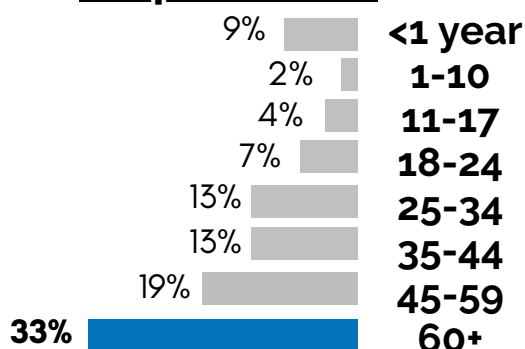
The 2020 Census estimates report that about 1.1% of Wisconsin residents are tribal (AIAN alone).



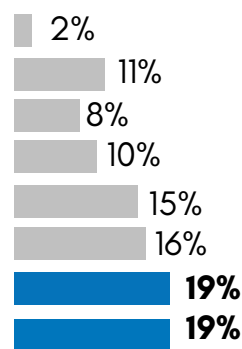
WI tribal Visits

% by age

Hospitalization



ER



Hospitalization & ER Visits: Hospital discharge visits (inpatient and ER) for AIAN; principal diagnosis

Source: WI DHS Office of Health Informatics

Years displayed: 2024



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Hospitalization & ER Visits

This table reports the **primary ER visit cause** of **Wisconsin tribal residents** who lived within the DOH PRCDA during 2024, and were treated in Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Iowa. Because someone may be seen multiple times, each encounter counts as a new visit.

TOTAL ER VISITS	# of visits
Total ER visits	7,715

AGE	
Less than 1 year	189
1-10 years	784
11-17 years	591
18-24 years	830
25-34 years	1,174
35-44 years	1,190
45-59 years	1,419
60+ years	1,538

NOTE: For ICD-10 CM conditions included in each health outcome group, please view pages 5-6 and Hospitalization & ER Data Definition reference pages.

*** indicates < 5 encounters*

DYK? Unintentional accidents/injuries made up about 17% of all ER visits



SELECTED PRIMARY CAUSES	
ACCIDENTS/INJURIES (unintentional)	1,330
Broken bones	173
Poisonings (any cause)	49
MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	247
Conditions/disorders	120
Alcohol/drug dependence	31
Suicide (intent and self-harm)	96
INFECTIOUS/PARASITIC DISEASES	212
ALCOHOL & DRUG USE	172
Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis	5
PNEUMONIA & INFLUENZA	166

COVID-19	111
DIABETES	96
HEART DISEASE	83
Coronary Artery Disease	23
ASTHMA	59
COPD	40
CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	21
CANCER (all types)	**

Alcohol and drug use: does not include "dependence."

Infectious/parasitic diseases: including sexually transmitted infections (STIs), other communicable diseases like salmonella, measles, or hepatitis. Does not include COVID-19, pneumonia, or influenza

COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder

Hospitalization & ER Visits: Hospital discharge visits (inpatient and ER) for AI/AN; principal diagnosis
Source: WI DHS Office of Health Informatics
Years displayed: 2024



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Hospitalization & ER Visits

This table reports the **primary hospitalization admission cause** of **Wisconsin tribal residents** who lived within the DOH PRCDA during 2024, and were treated in Wisconsin, Minnesota, or Iowa. Because someone may be seen multiple times, each encounter counts as a new admission.

TOTAL HOSPITALIZATIONS	# of admissions
Total hospitalizations	1,533

AGE	
Less than 1 year	143
1-10 years	15
11-17 years	53
18-24 years	119
25-34 years	187
35-44 years	185
45-59 years	291
60+ years	540

SELECTED PRIMARY CAUSES	
MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	235
Conditions/disorders	148
Alcohol/drug dependence	80
Suicide (intent and self-harm)	7
INFECTIOUS/PARASITIC DISEASES	135
HEART DISEASE	81
Coronary Artery Disease	10
DIABETES	66
ACCIDENTS/INJURIES (unintentional)	57
Broken bones	24
Poisoning (any cause)	11
ALCOHOL & DRUG USE	57
Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis	7

NOTE: For ICD-10 CM conditions included in each health outcome group, please view pages 5-6 and Hospitalization & ER Data Definition reference pages.

** indicates < 5 encounters

DYK? Mental/behavioral health outcomes made up about 15% of all inpatient admissions.



CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	44
PNEUMONIA & INFLUENZA	23
CANCER (all types)	23
COPD	9
COVID-19	**
ASTHMA	**

Continued from page 5:
Cerebrovascular disease: including stroke, brain bleed, or brain aneurysm

Asthma: Not related to COPD

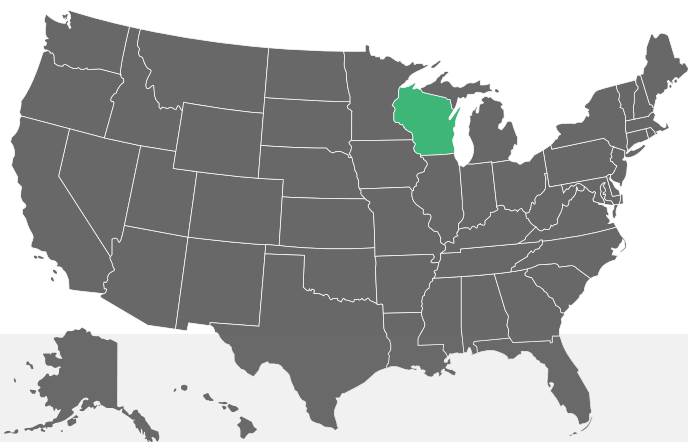
Hospitalization & ER Visits: Hospital discharge visits (inpatient and ER) for AI/AN; principal diagnosis
Source: WI DHS Office of Health Informatics
Years displayed: 2024





Ho-Chunk Nation Death Statistics

The Ho-Chunk Nation Office of Enrollment records tribal member death statistics and receives cause of death information when shared by family members or funeral homes on behalf of families. **The numbers below reflect death statistics for enrolled Ho-Chunk Tribal members from 2020 to 2024.**

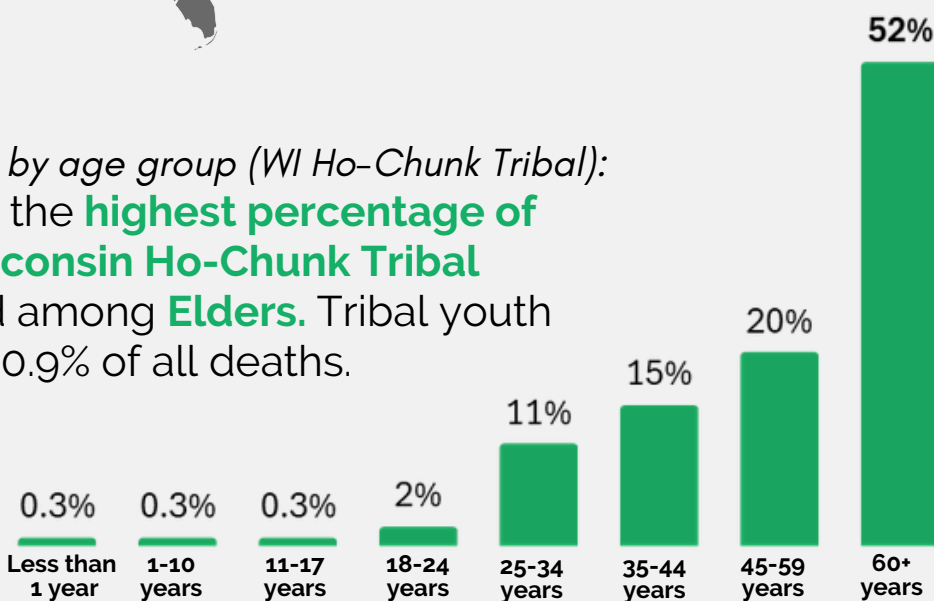


438
deaths
nationwide

333
deaths
in Wisconsin*

*Approximately 83% of the deaths in Wisconsin occurred among individuals residing in the DOH PRCD.

Percentage of deaths by age group (WI Ho-Chunk Tribal):
From 2020 to 2024, the **highest percentage of deaths** among **Wisconsin Ho-Chunk Tribal members** occurred among **Elders**. Tribal youth represented about 0.9% of all deaths.



HCN Death Statistics: Deceased population count
Source: HCN Office of Enrollment
Years displayed: 2020-2024

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Ho-Chunk Nation Death Statistics

The major cause of death is determined by the underlying cause listed on an individual's death certificate. Note, the information below describes the major cause of death for records that the Ho-Chunk Nation Office of Enrollment received for 2020-2024.

About 47% of WI deaths had major cause of death information. For deaths in other states, 30% of had this information.

The **leading 5 causes of death** among **Wisconsin Ho-Chunk Tribal members** were:

- 1 Alcohol and drug use as a contributing cause.** This includes long-term liver disease, cirrhosis of the liver, drug overdose, and drug misuse.
- 2 Diseases of the heart.** This includes things like coronary artery disease, irregular heartbeats, heart failure, and heart defects someone is born with.
- 3 Malignant neoplasms.** This includes all types of cancer.
- 4 Accidents.** This includes unintentional injuries like car accidents, drownings, poisonings, falls, and fires.
- 5 COVID-19.** This includes complications from the virus or exacerbations of previous underlying health conditions.

Major causes of death: Underlying cause of death- Enrolled HCN tribal, all ages

Source: HCN Office of Enrollment

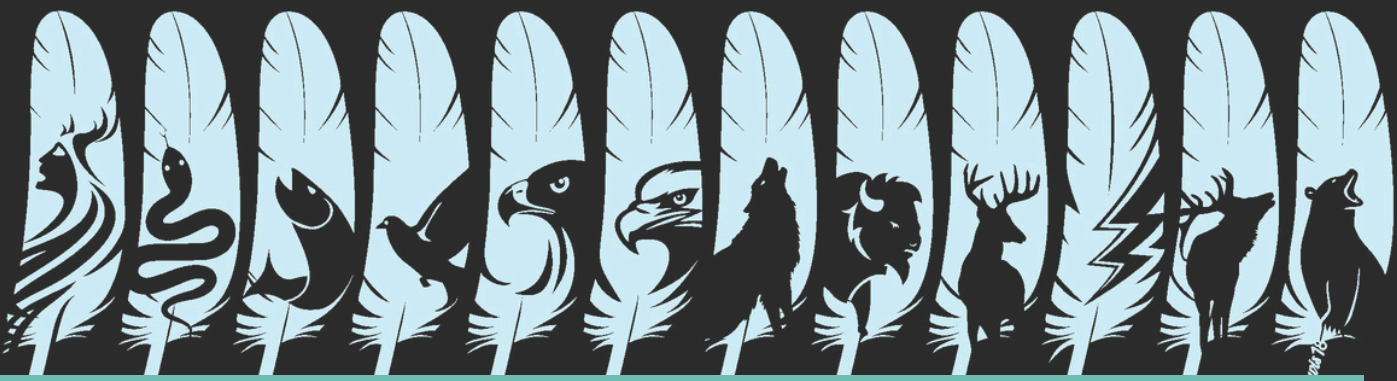
Years displayed: 2020-2024

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Ho-Chunk Nation Death Statistics

This table reports **Wisconsin Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal cause of death** data during **2020-2024**, regardless of where the death occurred.

TOTAL DEATHS	# of deaths
Total deaths	333

AGE	
Less than 1 year	1
1-10 years	1
11-17 years	1
18-24 years	5
25-34 years	35
35-44 years	49
45-59 years	68
60+ years	173

SELECTED UNDERLYING CAUSES	
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE	35
Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis	11
Other drugs	16
HEART DISEASE	34
Coronary Artery Disease	10
CANCER (all types)	21
Trachea/Bronchus/Lung	7
Pancreas	3
ACCIDENTS/INJURIES	16
Motor vehicle	8
Fire	2

Note: This information displays select major cause of death information for individuals whose death certificate was received by the Office of Enrollment. Of the 333 deaths reported during 2020-2024, 155 had a cause of death on record.

Major causes of death: Underlying cause of death- Enrolled HCN tribal, all ages
Source: HCN Office of Enrollment
Years displayed: 2020-2024

COVID-19	11
INFECTIOUS/PARASITIC DISEASES	10
DIABETES	8
SUICIDE	7
PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA	6
CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	5
DEMENTIA	5
Alzheimer's	3
CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE	5

Chronic kidney disease: including causes from things like diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic kidney infections or inflammation

Cerebrovascular disease: including stroke, brain bleed, brain aneurysm, or carotid artery disease

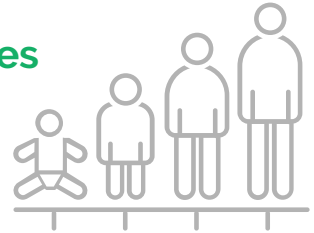
Infectious/parasitic diseases: including sexually transmitted infections (STIs), other communicable diseases like salmonella, measles, hepatitis, or complications like sepsis



WI Tribal Death Statistics

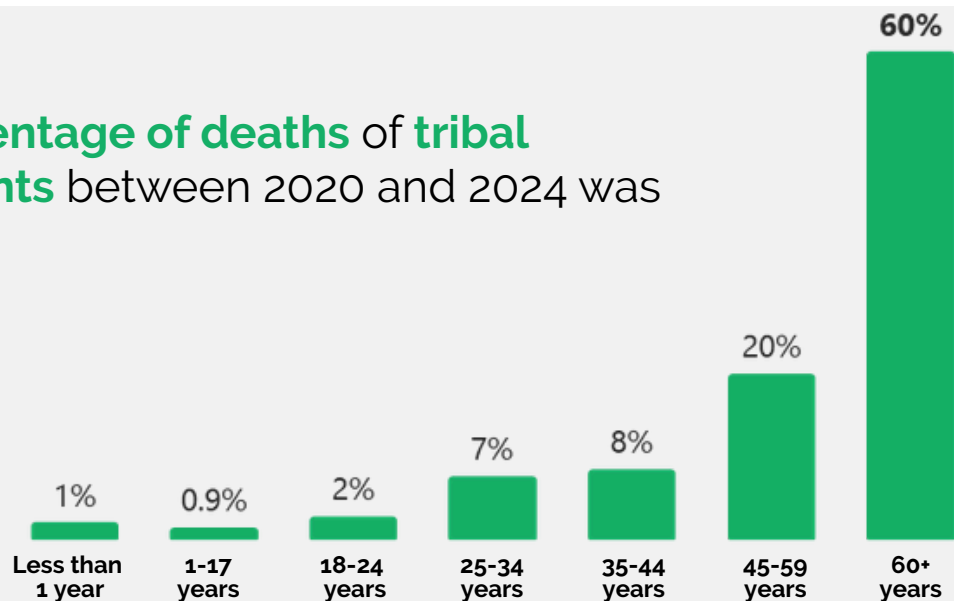
All tribal
WI

From 2020-2024, a total of **3,173 deaths** were recorded for tribal Wisconsin residents, regardless of tribal affiliation. The **top five causes of death** were:



- 1 Diseases of the heart.** This includes things like coronary artery disease, irregular heartbeats, heart failure, and heart defects someone is born with.
- 2 Accidents.** This includes unintentional injuries like car accidents, drownings, poisonings, falls, and fires.
- 3 Malignant neoplasms.** This includes all types of cancer.
- 4 COVID-19.** This includes complications from the virus or exacerbations of previous underlying health conditions.
- 5 Diabetes.** This includes Type 1 and Type 2.

The **highest percentage of deaths** of **tribal Wisconsin residents** between 2020 and 2024 was among **Elders**.



Major causes of death: Underlying cause of death for WI AI/AN alone or in any combination, all ages
Source: CDC Wonder
Years displayed: 2020-2024

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WI Tribal Death Statistics cont.

This table reports **Wisconsin Tribal resident cause-of-death** data for the years **2020-2024**, regardless of where the death occurred.

TOTAL DEATHS	# of deaths
Total deaths	3,173

AGE	
Less than 1 year	44
1-17 years	27
18-24 years	71
25-34 years	227
35-44 years	257
45-59 years	634
60+ years	1,913

SELECTED UNDERLYING CAUSES	
CANCER (all types)	481
Trachea/Bronchus/Lung	138
Colorectal	35
Breast	25
HEART DISEASE	515
Coronary Artery Disease	192
ACCIDENTS/INJURIES	487
Drug misuse	135
Motor vehicle	71
Falls	34
COVID-19	192
DIABETES	175

Major causes of death: Underlying cause of death for WI AI/AN alone or in any combination, all ages

Source: CDC Wonder

Years displayed: 2020-2024



DYK? The top causes of death for youth include:



Conditions originating in the perinatal period*

**occurring before birth up to 28 days after birth*



Accidents

CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE	172
Cirrhosis	97
LOWER RESPIRATORY DISEASE	123
CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	95
SUICIDE	82
INFECTIOUS/PARASITIC DISEASES	78
ALZHEIMERS	43
PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA	31

Lower respiratory: including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD, asthma, bronchitis, or emphysema)

Cerebrovascular disease: including stroke, brain bleed, brain aneurysm, or carotid artery disease

Infectious/parasitic diseases: including sexually transmitted infections (STIs), other communicable diseases like salmonella, measles, or hepatitis



Economic Community Conditions

Economic conditions often include education, income, poverty, and cost of living. They shape health behaviors and the community environment by impacting available resources and barriers.



Education



% with a HS degree or lower

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) **50%**

All people
(WI) **35%**



Household income



Median income
past 12 months

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) **\$61,650**

All people
(WI) **\$77,485**



Poverty



% living below the poverty level

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) **27%**

All people
(WI) **11%**



Cost of living



Average survival budget
for family of 4

All people
(HCN
PRCDA) **\$76,746**

All people
(WI) **\$77,112**

All people
(MN) **\$81,216**



Same or better
than state value



Worse than
state value



Data suppressed or
unavailable

12



Measurement updates to the data indicator. Previous years may not be comparable. Interpret with caution.



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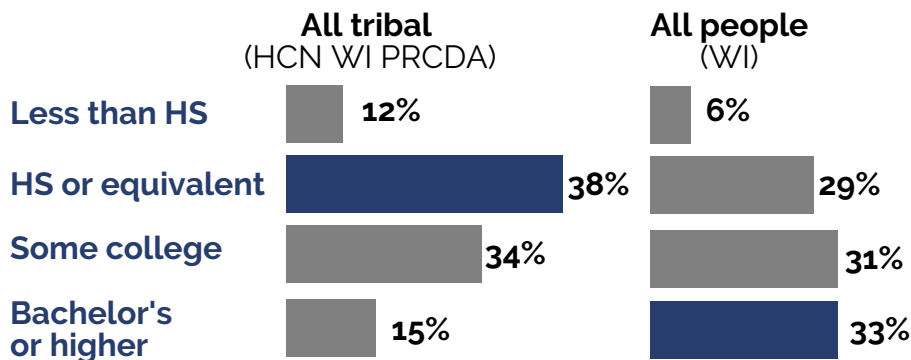
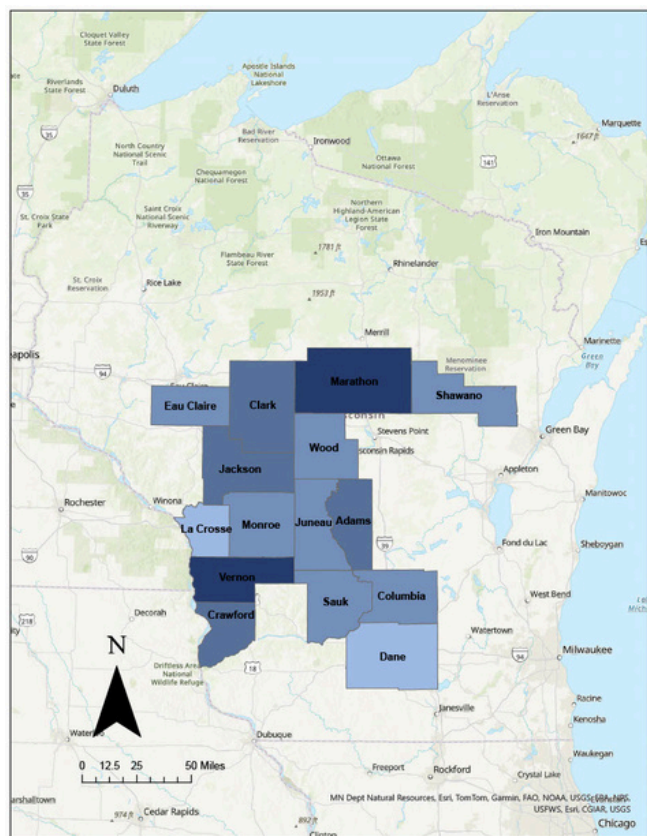


Education

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

Educational attainment (of those 25+ years):

When comparing the highest grade or level of education completed, about 51% of WI tribal members living in the PRCDA counties hold a high school degree or lower, compared to 35% of all Wisconsin residents (aged 25 years and older).



Education: Educational attainment, 25+ years

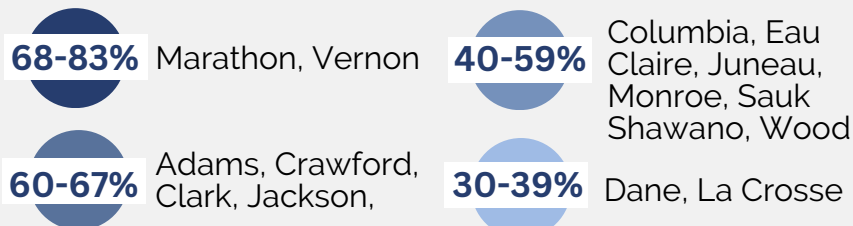
Source: American Community Survey

Years displayed: 2020-2024

Highest grade/level of education completed:

13 out of the 15 counties had a higher percentage of tribal members (50% or more) with a HS degree/equivalent or less.

% of tribal population with a HS degree or less



DYK? Of tribal members living in the PRCDA counties, females have higher educational levels when compared to males.



	Female	Male
Bachelor's or higher :	18%	12%

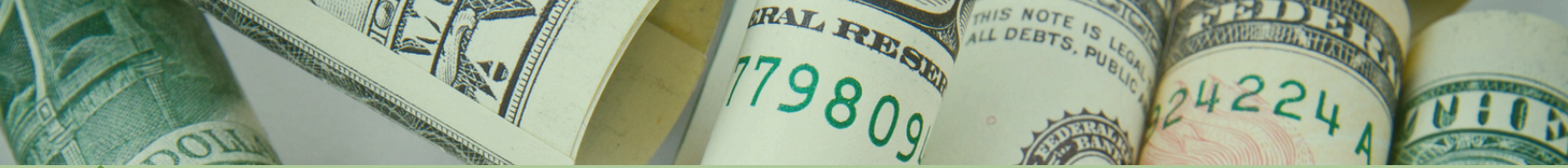


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Household income

All tribal WI HCN DOH PRCDA*

*excludes Crawford, La Crosse, Sauk & Vernon counties due to limited sampling

Median household income (\$):

All people have higher median household incomes compared to tribal people. The median statewide household income for all people is the highest.

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA)



\$61,650

All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA)



\$72,164

All tribal
(WI)



\$59,670

All people
(WI)



\$77,485

Household income: Median household income in the past 12 months (in 2024 inflated dollars)

Source: American Community Survey

Years displayed: 2020-2024

Among Wisconsin Tribal Residents:

Lowest household income

Juneau County: \$26,250

Highest household income

Monroe County: \$107,386

**Greatest difference
among tribal and all people
Dane County: \$35,857**

**Tribal: \$54,118
All people: \$89,975**

Median household income: 7 out of the 11 counties had a median household income lower than the HCN WI PRCDA value (\$61,650).

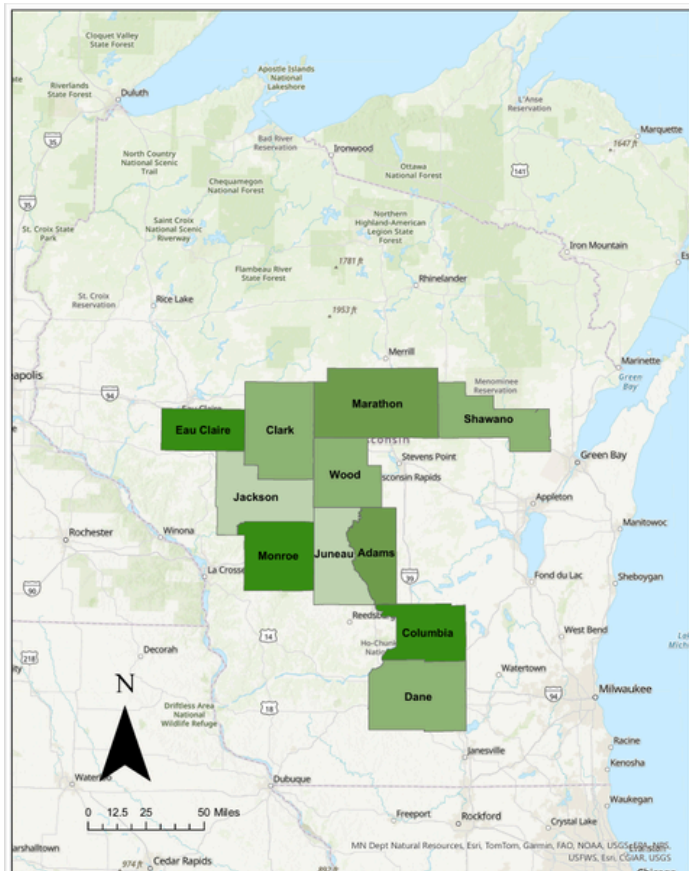
Median household income (\$)

\$75,649 - \$107,386
Columbia,
Eau Claire, Monroe

\$32,293 - \$54,118
Clark, Dane,
Shawano, Wood

\$54,119 - \$75,648
Adams, Marathon

\$26,250 - \$32,292
Jackson, Juneau



Higher Lower

14



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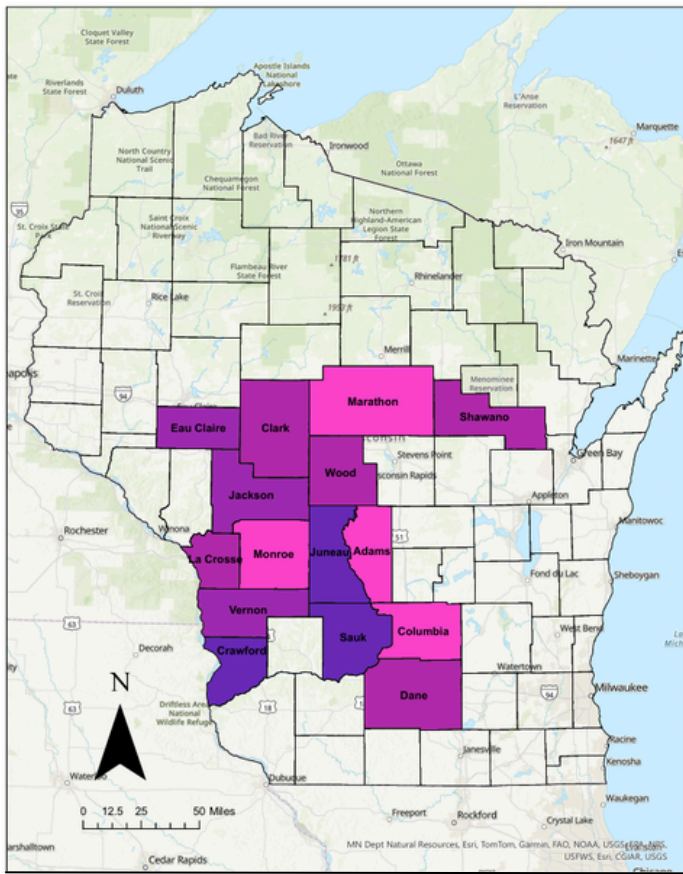


Poverty

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

% of people living in poverty

Tribal people have a greater percentage of people living in poverty, and tribal people living in the WI PRCDA have the greatest percentage. The Healthy People 2030 goal is to reduce the percentage of persons living in poverty down to 8%.



Poverty: Poverty status in the past 12 months
Source: American Community Survey
Years displayed: 2020-2024

Among Wisconsin Tribal Residents:

Lowest % below poverty
Columbia: 9%

Highest % below poverty
Sauk: 57%

**Greatest difference among
tribal and all people**
Sauk: 49%



Tribal: 57%
All people: 8%

Poverty rate: 5 out of the 15 counties have a poverty rate higher than the average HCN WI PRCDA poverty percentage (27%).

% of tribal population below poverty level

34-57% Crawford, Juneau, Sauk

15-26% Clark, Dane, La Crosse, Shawano, Wood

27-33% Eau Claire, Jackson, Vernon

9-14% Adams, Columbia, Marathon, Vernon

Higher Lower

15



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Cost of Living

All people
HCN DOH PRCDA

Alice Minimum Budget:

Households who are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) earn too much money to qualify as "poor" (living below the Federal Poverty Level) but are still unable to cover basic household expenses. In 2023, it was estimated that nearly 42% of US households were struggling to afford basic needs- this includes those below the Federal Poverty Level and those who are ALICE.

Family of four:

All people
(WI)



\$77,112

All people
(HCN PRCDA)



\$76,746

All people
(MN)

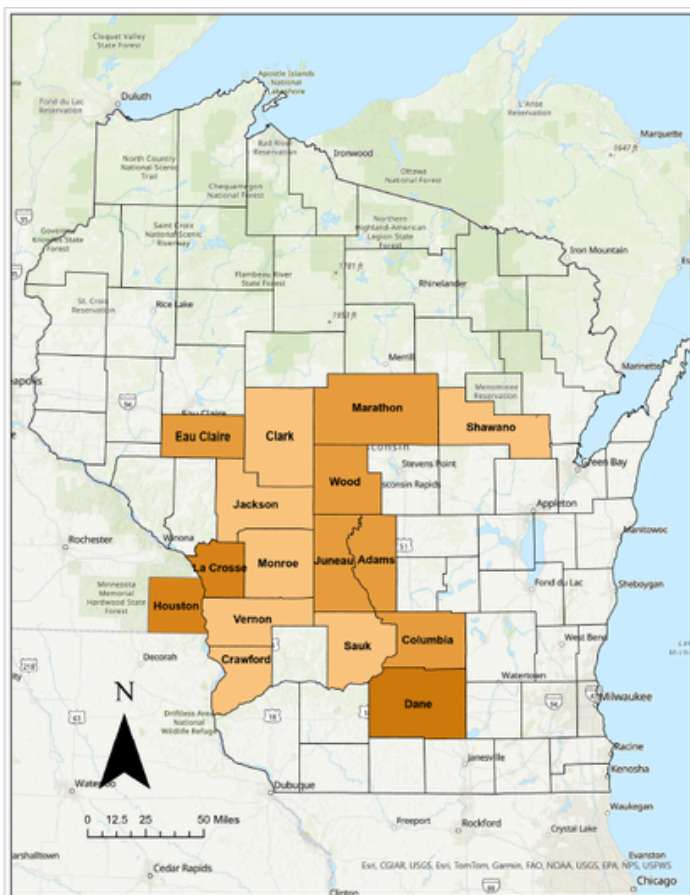


\$81,216

Cost of living: ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

Source: United for ALICE

Years displayed: 2023



Among Wisconsin/Minnesotan Residents:

Lowest % ALICE + Poverty

WI: Waukesha and Washington, 26%
MN: Cook, 27%

Highest % ALICE + Poverty

WI: Menominee, 45%
MN: Mahnomon, 54%

ALICE Budget: 8 out of the 16 counties have an ALICE budget that is higher than the HCN PRCDA average value (\$76,746).

ALICE budget (for a family of four, \$)



\$85,693 - \$100,644

Dane



\$76,061 - \$80,192

Adams, Columbia, Eau Claire, Juneau, Marathon, Wood



\$80,193 - \$85,692

Houston, La Crosse



\$71,124 - \$75,060

Clark, Crawford, Jackson, Monroe, Shawano, Vernon

Higher → Lower



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Health Care Access

The following section includes measures to evaluate access to health services. These include having health and dental insurance, cost of health care, and having a usual place of care.



Health insurance



% with health insurance

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) 97%

All people
(WI) 96%



Dental insurance



% with dental insurance

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) 87%

All people
(WI) 77%



Health care costs



% who report difficulty in
affording out-of-pocket costs

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) 26%

All people
(WI) 36%



Usual place of care



% who report usual access to
care

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) 97%

All people
(WI) 95%



Same or better
than state value



Worse than
state value



Data suppressed or
unavailable



Measurement updates to the data indicator. Previous
years may not be comparable. Interpret with caution.



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Health insurance

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

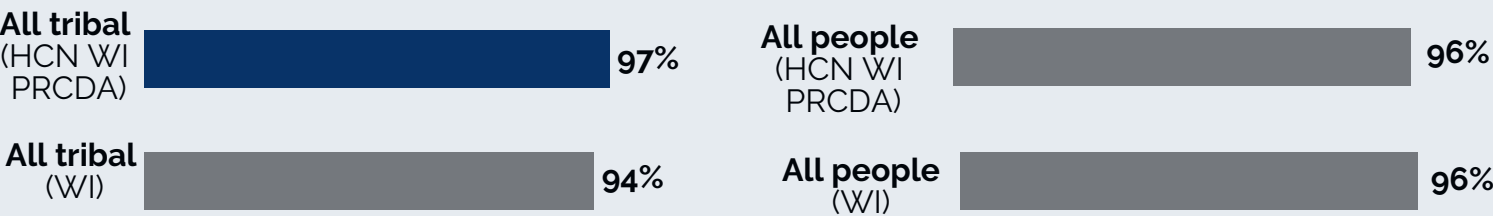
Health insurance types include private insurance, public (Medicare or Medicaid), or military coverage (TRICARE, CHAMPUS, or VA). Indian Health Services' PRC program provides healthcare to eligible Native American/Alaska Native people, but is not considered an entitlement program or insurance coverage (IHS, n.d.).



New measure

% of people with health insurance:

Most people in Wisconsin have health insurance. Tribal people living in the PRCDA area have the greatest percentage of coverage.



DYK? The Department of Health has benefit coordinators who assist patients in finding alternative resources to pay for medical services, enrolling them in available programs, and helping maintain their eligibility for things like...



- **Medicaid/Badgercare+** or other health insurances available through the marketplace
- **Purchased/ Referred Care (Contract Health):** This program is considered a 'last resort' to pay for medical or dental services outside of our tribal healthcare facilities; it is not considered insurance or an entitlement plan

Health insurance: Has health insurance
Source: Family Health Survey, WI DHS Office of Health Informatics
Years displayed: 2019-2023



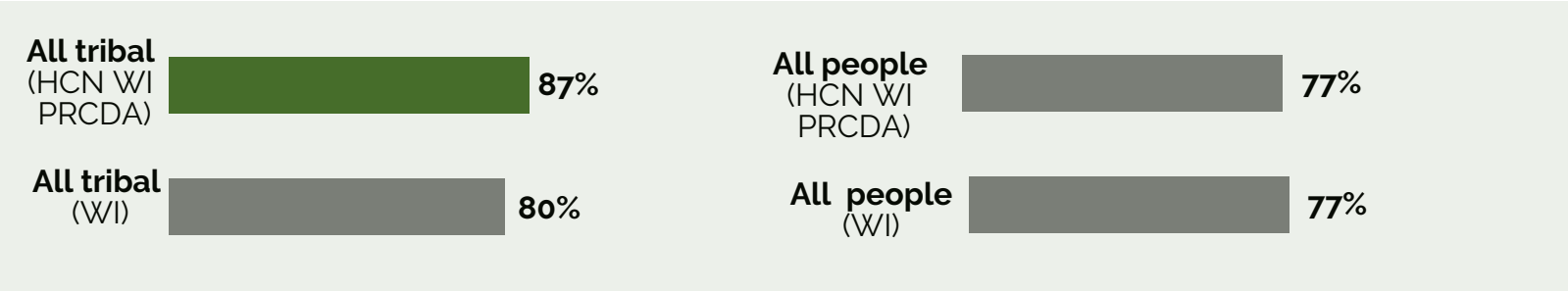
Dental insurance types include private insurance or public (Medicare Advantage or Medicaid). Indian Health Services' PRC program provides healthcare to eligible Native American/Alaska Native people, but it is not considered an entitlement program or insurance coverage (IHS, n.d.).



Dental coverage can be more challenging to find. For example, dental coverage under Medicaid includes children under 21, but adult coverage varies by each state. Military coverage for dental includes discounted plans for private insurance under the VA Dental Insurance Program.

% of people with dental insurance:

About ¾ of people in Wisconsin have dental insurance. Tribal people living in the PRCDA area have the greatest percentage of coverage.



DYK? The Department of Health's offers dental services, including

- Hygiene exams and cleaning
- Oral cancer screenings
- Oral surgery
- Fluoride treatments
- Impressions or repairs for partials/dentures
- Nutrition counseling



Dental insurance: Has dental insurance
Source: Family Health Survey, WI DHS Office of Health Informatics
Years displayed: 2019-2023





Health care costs

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA



New measure

Out-of-pocket (OOP) costs include insurance deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and costs for services or care items not covered by insurance. These costs are paid directly by the patient. OOP costs can add financial stress and discourage people from getting care they need.

For instance, about 1 in 3 adults have skipped or postponed getting care they need in the past 12 months due to cost, and a little less than half of US adults reported difficulty in affording health care costs (Sparks et al., 2026).

% of people who report difficulty affording OOP costs:

At least 1/4 of people report difficulty in paying for OOP costs but tribal people statewide have the highest percentage, with 39% reporting difficulty.

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) 26%

All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA) 30%

All tribal
(WI) 39%

All people
(WI) 36%

People with OOP costs:

Most people reported having OOP medical costs.



Tribal people

70%

HCN WI PRCDA

77%

WI

All people

90%

HCN WI PRCDA

90%

WI

Health care costs: Affordability of out-of-pocket costs

Source: Family Health Survey, WI DHS Office of Health Informatics

Years displayed: 2019-2023

20



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Usual place of care

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

When people have a place they routinely go to get care when they are sick and to receive advice about their health (excludes ER services), they are said to have a usual place of care.



New measure

Having a usual place of care is often linked to getting the recommended preventative care and services people need (Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, n.d.).

% of people who report having a usual place of care

Most people in Wisconsin have a usual place of care. Tribal people living in the PRCDA area have the greatest percentage.

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA)



All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA)



All tribal
(WI)



All people
(WI)



DYK? The HealthyPeople 2030 goal is to increase the proportion of Americans who report having a usual place of care to 95.1 %. In 2019, this was estimated at 89%.



Usual place of care: Has usual place of care

Source: Family Health Survey, WI DHS Office of Health Informatics

Years displayed: 2019-2023

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The Public Health Division

The Public Health Division works to prevent illness and improve the community's health in many ways. This includes stopping health problems before they start, identifying them early, and supporting people in managing ongoing conditions. The team focuses on preventing and monitoring both infectious and chronic diseases, connecting people to services, and meeting national standards through Public Health Accreditation. Public health staff also provide education, hands-on skills, and helpful resources to support healthier choices and stronger communities, with a strong focus on prevention at every stage of life.

Available services to community members include:



Family Spirit Program

Prevention-based, family health program from pregnancy to 3 years

Jamie Decorah

715-253-4400 ext. 33142



Communicable Disease Prevention & Follow-up

Home-test reporting, communicable disease follow up, and STI prevention

Ronelle McKernan

715-896-2570



Maternal and Child Health

Care/education to parents and children, Partners in Parenting, Safe Sleep Cribs for Kids, First Breath, community referrals, childhood vaccines

Baraboo-Irina Clendenning

608-355-1240 ext. 35620



Breastfeeding Support

Support with answers about latching, feeding difficulties, return to work, low milk supply, storing breastmilk, and more

Irina Clendenning

608-355-1240 ext. 35620

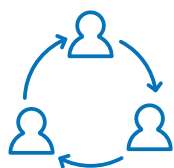


Child Passenger Safety Technicians

PHWs provide education on proper child passenger safety & car seats

Wittenberg- Claudia Yaeger

715-253-2897 ext. 33140



Resources, Programs, & Referrals

Connection to local, tribal, county, and state resources to meet your health needs.

Jamie Decorah

715-253-4400 ext. 33142

Nekoosa- Lena Walker

715-886-5444 ext. 38753

Baraboo, Madison- Wendy Lonetree

608-355-1240 ext. 35600

Black River Falls, Tomah, La Crosse- Macy Emery

715-284-9851 ext. 350323



Other Services (available periodically)

Summer block parties, monthly prevention programs, and tribal health assessments

** Availability dependent upon funding*

Kandycce Dunlap

715-284-9851 ext. 35042

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Public Health Outcomes

The following section describes some public health outcomes like cancer, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and vaccines. Reported STIs include syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea.



Cancer



Rate of new cases (per 100,000)



Sexually transmitted infections



Rate of new cases (per 100,000)



Vaccines



Influenza



% with at least one dose



Same or better than state value



Worse than state value



Data suppressed or unavailable



Measurement updates to the data indicator. Previous years may not be comparable. Interpret with caution.

23



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Public Health Outcomes

The following section describes various pregnancy health measures, including maternal and infant characteristics.



Maternal & Child Health



Prenatal care



% of mothers receiving care in the first trimester

All tribal
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



66%

All people
(W/I)



80%



Low birth weight



% of births with low birth weight (<2,500 grams)

All tribal
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



6%

All people
(W/I)



8%



Gestational diabetes



% of mothers with gestational diabetes

HCN tribal
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



9%

All people
(W/I)



9%



Maternal smoking



% of mothers who ever smoked during pregnancy

All tribal
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



22%

All people
(W/I)



6%



Same or better than state value



Worse than state value



Data suppressed or unavailable



Measurement updates to the data indicator. Previous years may not be comparable. Interpret with caution.



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(We care)



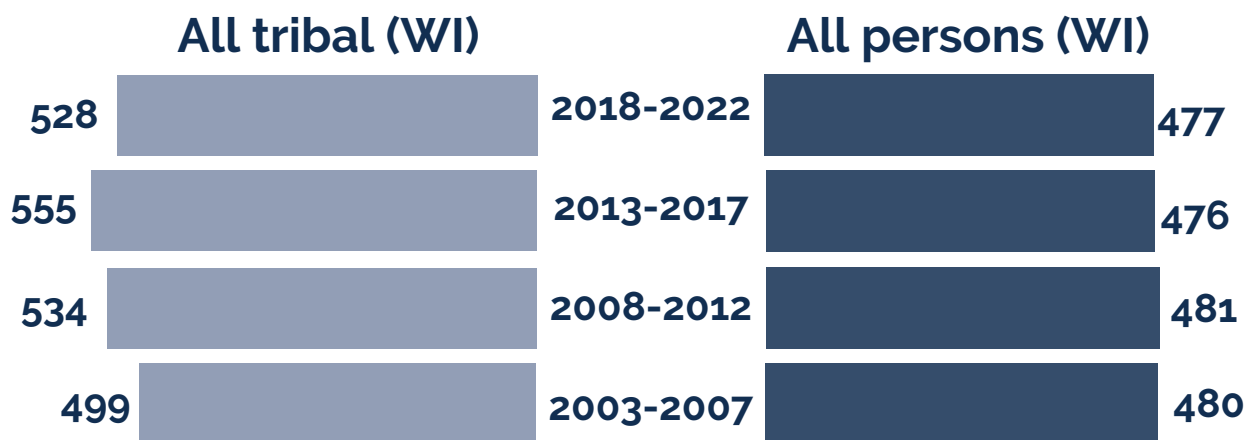


Cancer (new cases)

All tribal
WI

This includes all types of newly diagnosed cancers (any stage) by year of diagnosis among Wisconsin residents. Increases in cancer may be due to increased exposure to risk factors (air or water pollution, smoking/alcohol use, tanning bed use, poor diet/exercise, and more) or better ways to detect cancer like increased screening, improved healthcare access, or technology advancements.

About age-adjusted rates: The rates below show age-adjusted rates per 100,000 people. When comparing two or more populations, it is important to adjust rates to account for age differences in the populations. So, populations with a greater proportion of older persons would likely have an overall higher cancer rate because cancer risk usually increases by age. By using an age-adjusted rate, the population comparison becomes more equal by accounting for these age differences.



Top two cancers with the highest aged-adjusted rate in Wisconsin, 2018-2022:

All tribal

- 1 Lung and bronchus:**
97 cases per 100,000
- 2 Female breast:**
70 cases per 100,000

All persons

- 1 Female breast:**
71 cases per 100,000
- 2 Prostate:**
61 cases per 100,000

Cancer (new cases): Cancer incidence age-adjusted rate
Source: WI DHS Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health
Years displayed: 2003-2022

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Sexually transmitted infections

HCN tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are infections spread by vaginal, oral, or anal sex. If left untreated, STIs can increase your risk of getting other STIs (like HIV), infertility, organ damage, or certain types of cancer. Using protection (like condoms), regular screening, and vaccines (for HPV and hepatitis) are the best ways to prevent and stop the spread of STIs (CDC, 2024).

Rate of new Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis cases (per 100,000 in 2024):

HCN tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA)

485

All people
(WI)

534

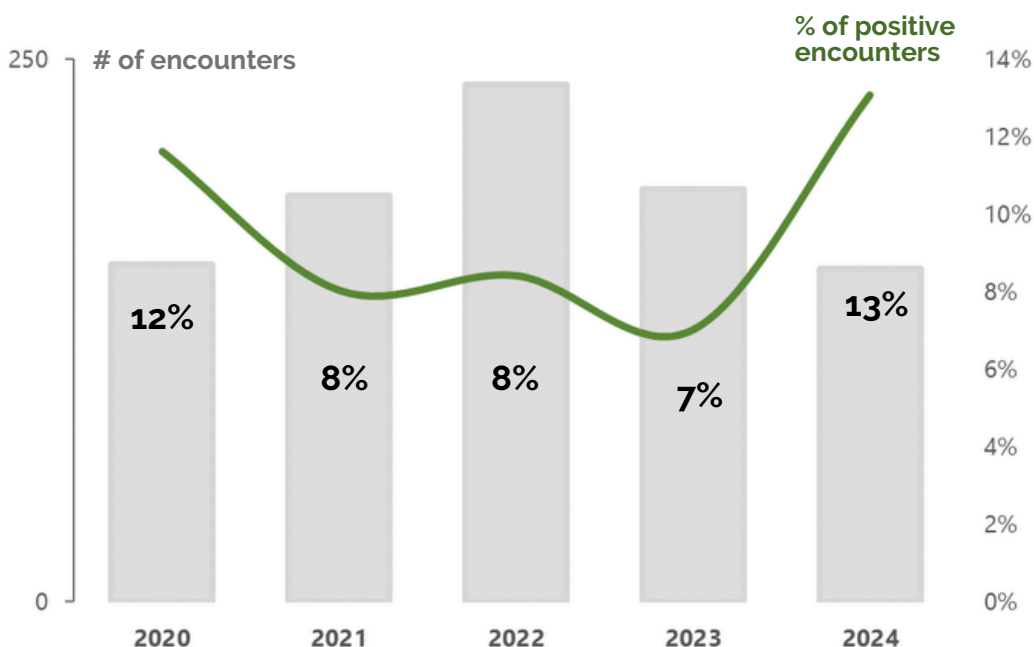
HCN tribal
(WI)

375

All tribal
(WI)

860

Graph below: The number of annual encounters and the percentage of positive encounters for chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis among Ho-Chunk Tribal members living within a PRCDA county who tested at one of the DOH clinics, or had their information forwarded to us.



DYK? The 5-year average of positive STI-related encounters is 10%.



Meaning, 10% of all HCN tribal patients living in the PRCDA who tested for one of the selected STIs was positive for chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis.

Sexually transmitted infections: Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis
Source: HCN DOH NextGen; STIs in WI 2024 Reported Cases
Years displayed: 2020-2024; 2024

26

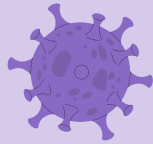


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Vaccines



Influenza

HCN tribal
HCN DOH PRCDA



Measurement update

Influenza (flu) is an illness caused by influenza viruses. The flu is considered a seasonal illness, occurring yearly and during similar months. The flu can result in mild to severe illness, including hospitalization or death. Elders, those with an underlying health condition, and pregnant women are at an increased risk for severe outcomes (WI DHS, 2024). The best way to prevent flu is to get your yearly flu vaccine.

% of Ho-Chunk Tribal clinic patients with at least one flu vaccine dose during the 2023-2024 flu season:

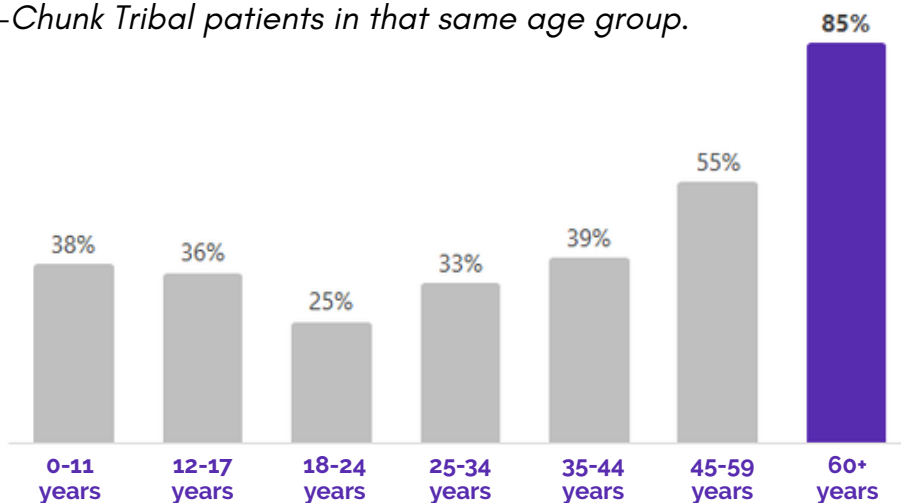
HCN tribal
(HCN MN/WI
PRCDA)



All people
(WI)

35%

Graph below: The percentage of PRCDA Ho-Chunk Tribal patients (by age) who received at least one flu vaccine dose during the 2023-2024 flu season by the HCN DOH compared to the total number of Ho-Chunk Tribal patients in that same age group.



Elders had the **highest percentage** of Ho-Chunk patients with **at least one flu vaccine dose** (85% of patients).



NOTE: Individuals 6 months and older are eligible for a flu vaccine. Most individuals only need one dose of flu vaccine, but youth aged 6 months-8 years who have had fewer than two flu vaccines in the past or don't know if they have had fewer than two doses should get two doses during this flu season (WI DHS, 2024).

Influenza (vaccine): Influenza vaccine

Source: HCN DOH NextGen; WI DHS Immunizations: Influenza vaccine data

Years displayed: 2023-2024 flu season

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Maternal & Child Health



Prenatal Care

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

Prenatal care should begin as soon as when someone thinks they are pregnant to protect the health of themselves and the baby. Barriers to access prenatal care may include limited appointment or provider availability, having no insurance or money to pay for visit costs, and driving far distances, among others.

A pregnancy includes three trimesters:

1 0-13 weeks

2 14-26 weeks

3 27-40 weeks

% of mothers receiving care in the first trimester:

Tribal mothers living in the PRCDA had the lowest percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA)



66%

All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA)



77%

All tribal
(WI)



70%

All people
(WI)



80%

Of those receiving delayed prenatal care:

All tribal
(HCN WI PRCDA)

9%

Care in 3rd trimester

3%

No care

All people
(WI)

4%

Care in 3rd trimester

1%

No care

Prenatal care: Trimester prenatal care began
Source: WI DHS Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health
Years displayed: 2020-2024

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Maternal & Child Health



Low birth weight

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

Low birth weight (LBW) is any baby that weighs less than 2,500 grams or about 5.5 pounds. A baby with a LBW is often caused by being born too early (pre-term), growing too slowly in the womb (poor intrauterine growth), or both. LBW can occur due to carrying more than one baby (like twins or triplets), smoking or alcohol use, and medical conditions like high blood pressure. Babies with LBW may need additional care after birth and/or may have developmental concerns related to their organ systems, immune system, breathing function, and nutrition (Stanford Medicine, n.d.).

% of babies with LBW:

Babies with LBW are similar, ranging from 6%-8%.

All tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) 6%

All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA) 7%

All tribal
(WI) 8%

All people
(WI) 8%

Of babies with LBW:

All tribal
(HCN WI PRCDA)

5%

1,500-2,499 grams

1%

<1,500 grams

All people
(WI)

7%

1,500-2,499 grams

1%

<1,500 grams

Low birth weight: Low birth weight module
Source: WI DHS Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health
Years displayed: 2020-2024





Maternal & Child Health



Gestational diabetes

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

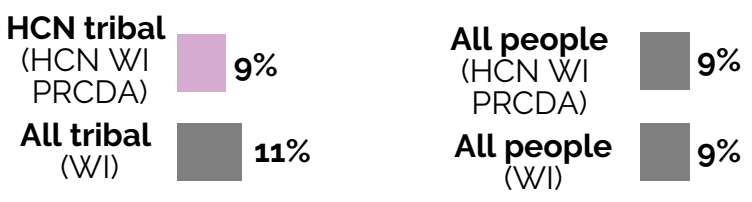


New measure

Gestational diabetes (GD) can occur when your body can't make enough insulin during pregnancy. Insulin is an important hormone produced by your pancreas which helps regulate your blood sugars. If your blood sugar is higher earlier on in your pregnancy, you may have type 1 or type 2 diabetes instead of GD. Things that increase GD risk include being overweight, family history of type 2 diabetes, having a hormone disorder called polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS), given birth to a baby over 9 pounds, or previously had gestational diabetes. Each year, it is estimated that 5% - 9% of all pregnancies in the United States experience GD (CDC, 2024).

% of mothers with GD:

Mothers with GD are similar, ranging from 9%-11%.



Data below: Encounters with an elevated 1-hour or 3-hour glucose result (≥ 140 mg/dL) and diagnosed with GD compared to the number of 1-hour glucose tests performed or received by the HCN DOH clinics from 2020-2024. Having an elevated 1-hour result does not necessarily mean someone has GD.

Of mothers tested for GD:

All tribal (HCN WI PRCDA)			HCN tribal (HCN WI PRCDA)		
54	14	11	46	12	9
# of 1-hour glucose tests	# of elevated 1-hour results	% of patients with GD	# of 1-hour glucose tests	# of elevated 1-hour results	% of patients with GD

Gestational Diabetes: Glucose tests; Pregnancy characteristics, gestational diabetes
Source: HCN DOH NextGen; WI DHS Pregnancy Characteristics;
Years displayed: 2020-2024

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Maternal & Child Health



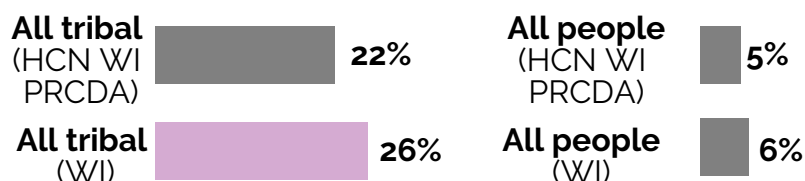
Maternal Smoking

All tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

Babies can be exposed to smoking directly, by the mother (maternal smoking), or indirectly, by others in the household (secondhand smoking). Mothers who smoke during pregnancy put their baby at risk for miscarriage, preterm birth, low birth weight, and death from sudden infant syndrome (SIDS). These effects can lead to developmental effects, even later in life. Additionally, smoking mothers may have pregnancy complications and may have more difficulty becoming pregnant in the future (CDC, 2023).

% of mothers who smoked during pregnancy:

WI tribal mothers statewide had the largest percentage of mothers who smoked during pregnancy.



Of mothers who smoked during pregnancy:

All tribal
(HCN WI PRCDA)

15%	7%
Entire pregnancy	Sometimes

All people
(WI)

4%	1%
Entire pregnancy	Sometimes



DYK? Pregnant tribal mothers were exposed to secondhand smoke more than non-tribal mothers. About 28% of pregnant tribal mothers living in the PRCDA were living with a smoker compared to 8% of all WI mothers.

Maternal smoking: Maternal smoking module
Source: WI DHS Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health
Years displayed: 2020-2024

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The Environmental Health Division

The Environmental Health (EH) division works to prevent, identify, and manage environmental hazards through several programs, including those related to air, water, and soil. In addition, the EH division oversees emergency preparedness, injury prevention, institutional environmental health, public works, surface water monitoring, wetlands delineation, and assists in public health accreditation.

Available services to community members include:



Injury prevention

Free car seats & other safety equipment, when available
Call for appointments

Lisa Herritz
715-284-9851 ext. 35022



Water-private wells

Free water testing and free well construction*
Includes bacteria, nitrate, pH, iron, manganese, arsenic
Assistance with emergency situations

Cassandra Taplin
715-284-9851 ext. 35063



Water-private septic*

Free septic construction
Assistance with emergency situations

Cassandra Taplin
715-284-9851 ext. 35063



Air-environmental assessments

Mold and radon inspections

Matt Malimanek
715-284-9851 ext. 35054



Environmental health reporting

Inspections and testing for complaints
Includes food, lodging, childcare, food or waterborne illness
Environmental hazards reporting

Pam Thunder
715-284-9851 ext. 35011



Environmental clean up

Resources to assist in clean-up for community hazards
Includes dump sites, abandoned homes, hazardous spills, and more

Randy Poelma
715-284-9851 ext. 35061



Water- public water

Application for use for residential accounts

Kevin Gunderson
715-284-9851 ext. 35060



Other services- available periodically

Clean Sweep Events- hazardous waste
Rabies vaccine events for pets
Notices shared via social media

**Dependent upon available funding; must be a tribal member, be the first well/septic constructed, and installed at primary residence*

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Inspections and Testing

Registered Tribal sanitarians conduct inspections among Ho-Chunk facilities and events to ensure public health safety. Inspections are conducted routinely and when complaints are issued.

Inspections occur at the following types of Ho-Chunk facilities:



Gaming centers



C-stores



Head Start



Daycare



Food warehouse



Pools



Campground



Hotels



Tribal Aging Unit

Food protection inspections and other testing also occur for:

- 1** Mass gatherings
- 2** Foodborne/waterborne illness investigations
- 3** Institutional environmental health

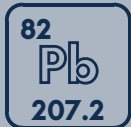


Environmental Health Outcomes

The following section describes various environmental health measures including public drinking water conditions.



Community drinking water



Lead



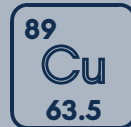
Average ppb

All people
(HCN WI
COMMUNITIES)

3.1

All people
(WI COUNTIES OF
HCN COMMUNITIES)

1.7



Copper



Average ppb

All people
(HCN WI
COMMUNITIES)

228

All people
(WI COUNTIES OF
HCN COMMUNITIES)

185.5



Nitrate



Average ppm

All people
(HCN WI
COMMUNITIES)

1.8

All people
(WI COUNTIES OF
HCN COMMUNITIES)

1.9



Within maximum contaminant limit



Above maximum contaminant limit



Data not available or suppressed

34



Measurement updates to the data indicator. Previous years may not be comparable. Interpret with caution.



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Environmental Health Outcomes

The following section describes various environmental health measures including private drinking water (well) conditions.



Private well water

Primary contaminants



Bacteria



% positive

HCN tribal
(HCN W/ PRCDA)

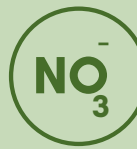


9%

All people
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



15%



Nitrate



Average ppm

HCN tribal
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



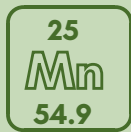
3.0

All people
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



3.9

Secondary contaminants



Manganese



Average ppm

HCN tribal
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



0.07

All people
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



0.05



pH level



Average level

HCN tribal
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



7.0

All people
(HCN W/ PRCDA)



7.4



Within maximum contaminant limit



Above maximum contaminant limit



Data not available or suppressed

35



Measurement updates to the data indicator. Previous years may not be comparable. Interpret with caution.



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Environmental Health Outcomes

The following section describes various environmental health measures related to health outcomes associated with lead exposure and air quality.



Blood lead levels



% of youth (0-6 years)
with value ≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$

HCN tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA)



6%

All people
(WI)



5%



Asthma



rate of ER visits (per 10,000)

All tribal
HCN WI
PRCDA)



85

All people
(WI)



29



Lyme disease



rate of new cases (per 10,000)

HCN tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA)

none reported

All people
(WI)



10.9



Same or better
than state value



Worse than
state value



Data suppressed or
unavailable



Measurement updates to the data indicator. Previous
years may not be comparable. Interpret with caution.



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Community Drinking Water

82

Pb

207.2

Lead

All people
WI HCN tribal communities

Lead gets into the drinking water from corrosive plumbing materials. This happens when metal wears away due to a chemical reaction in the water- this can be caused by water temperature, existing minerals, or the water's pH. The Lead and Copper Rule issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that water treatment facilities take steps to make drinking water less corrosive to the materials it comes into contact with. It is estimated that lead exposure from water makes up a minimum of 20% of total lead exposure (2023).

Lead exposure is harmful for everyone, but especially children and pregnant women. In children, it can cause behavioral or developmental problems. Similarly, pregnant women with lead exposure can result in pre-term birth or reduced fetal growth (EPA, 2023).

Lead summary

Maximum contaminant level (MCL): Highest level allowed in drinking water; Requires action if 10% or more samples exceed value	15 ppb
Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG): Level for at which there is no known or expected risk for health	0 ppb

During 2021-2024, in the HCN community water system, lead reads included Jackson, Sauk, and Wood counties. The Wisconsin counties for all residents reflect these same counties and their reads during this period.

	All people (HCN WI COMMUNITIES)	All people (WI COUNTIES OF HCN COMMUNITIES)
% water reads over lead MCL:	0%	1.6%
Range of lead reads:	0.62-4.9 ppb	0-249 ppb

Public drinking water: Water Quality Report; Drinking Water System Portal
Source: HCN DOH EH Division; WI Department of Natural Resources
Years displayed: 2021-2024



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Community Drinking Water



Copper

All people
WI HCN tribal communities

Copper is naturally found in water, but it can also come from corroded household plumbing sources. The risk of copper exposure increased when using hot water or water that hasn't been used recently. The Lead and Copper Rule issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that water treatment facilities must take action to make drinking water less corrosive to the materials it comes into contact with (2023).

Generally, copper doesn't post health risks to healthy people. However, high levels of exposure can cause headaches, gastrointestinal issues, liver damage, and kidney disease. Infants (< 1 year) are especially at risk because their bodies cannot get rid of it easily (MN Department of Health, 2023).

Copper summary

Maximum contaminant level (MCL): Highest level allowed in drinking water; Requires action if 10% or more samples exceed value	➔	1,300 ppb
Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG): Level for at which there is no known or expected risk for health	➔	1,300 ppb

During 2021-2024, in the HCN community water system, copper reads included Jackson, Sauk, and Wood counties. The Wisconsin counties for all residents reflect these same counties and their reads during this period.

	All people (HCN WI COMMUNITIES)	All people (WI COUNTIES OF HCN COMMUNITIES)
% water reads over copper MCL:	0%	0.63%
Range of copper reads:	11.5-637 ppb	0-1,660 ppb

Public drinking water: Water Quality Report; Drinking Water System Portal
Source: HCN DOH EH Division; WI Department of Natural Resources
Years displayed: 2021-2024



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Community Drinking Water



Nitrate

All people
WI HCN tribal communities

Nitrate is found naturally in plants and animals. However, excess nitrate can get into the water from fertilizers and waste from humans or animals. High levels of nitrate can increase the risk of colon cancer and thyroid disease. Babies and pregnant women are at an increased risk of nitrate effects. In babies, high nitrate levels can cause blue baby syndrome (methemoglobinemia), where their skin turns blue or gray. This happens because nitrate affects the blood's ability to carry oxygen, causing fatigue, dizziness, or a higher heart rate. In pregnant women, excess nitrate exposure can lead to birth defects, including problems with the brain, spine, or spinal cord (WI DHS, 2026).

Nitrate summary

Maximum contaminant level (MCL):

Highest level allowed in drinking water;
Requires action if 10% or more samples exceed value

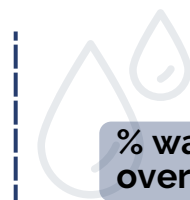
10 ppm

Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG):

Level for at which there is no known or expected risk for health

10 ppm

During 2021-2024, in the HCN community water system, nitrate reads included Jackson, Sauk, and Wood counties. The Wisconsin counties for all residents reflect these same counties and their reads during this period.



All people
(HCN WI
COMMUNITIES)

All people
(WI COUNTIES OF
HCN COMMUNITIES)

% water reads
over nitrate MCL:

0%

0%

Range of
nitrate reads:

0.24-3.3 ppm

0-7.6 ppm

Public drinking water: Water Quality Report; Drinking Water System Portal
Source: HCN DOH EH Division; WI Department of Natural Resources
Years displayed: 2021-2024

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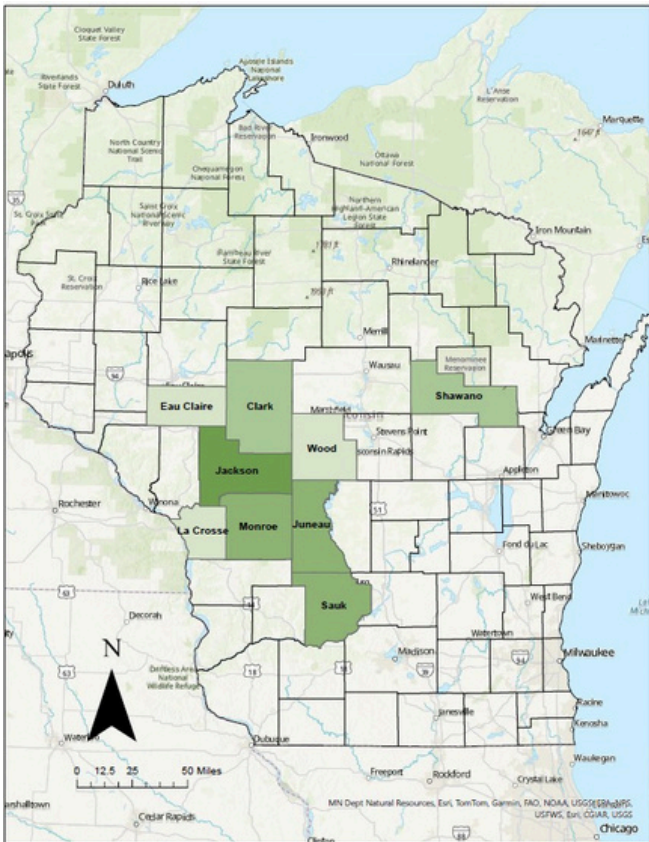
Private well water



Bacteria

All people
WI HCN tribal communities

Bacterial tests in well water check if there are bacterial coliforms present. When coliforms are present, it means the water has been contaminated by soil or feces. This contamination often occurs due to unmaintained well or septic systems, or due to the transport of human or animal feces through groundwater or runoff (WI DHS, 2018). Some coliforms can cause symptoms like diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, nausea, headaches, fever, and fatigue (MN Department of Health, 2018).



The data reflects households that have had their well water tested by the EH division. The map reports the number of samples that had a bacterial well test, positive or negative.

of bacteria well tests

16-24 Jackson

4-6 Clark, Shawano

7-15 Sauk, Monroe, Juneau

1-3 Eau Claire, La Crosse, Wood

If a positive bacterial coliform is found, a follow-up sample is taken. If the second sample is positive, the well is disinfected by the EH Division.

% of wells with positive bacteria

HCN tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) **9%**

All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA) **15%**

NOTE: No bacteria well samples have been taken in Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Marathon, or Vernon County during 2021-2024.

Higher Lower

Private well water: Water sampling data; WI Well Water Quality Viewer

Source: HCN DOH EH Division; UW Stevens Point

Years displayed: 2021-2024; 1985-2026



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Private well water



Nitrate

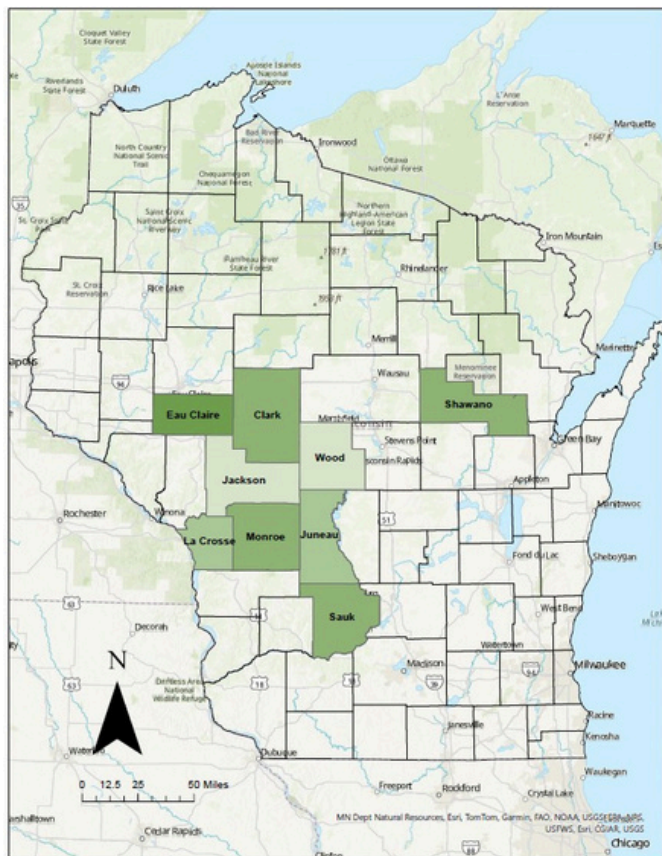
All people
WI HCN tribal communities

Nitrate is naturally found in plants and animals. However, excess nitrate gets into the water from fertilizers and animal or human waste. In wells, excess nitrate moves through the groundwater and runoff (WI DHS, 2023).

Average nitrate level (ppm):

HCN tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) **3.0**

All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA) **3.9**



The data reflects households that have had their well water tested by the EH division. The map reports the average nitrate level (by ppm).

Average nitrate level (ppm)*

4.1-10.5 Eau Claire

1.2-2.8 Juneau,
La Crosse

2.9-4.0 Clark, Monroe,
Sauk, Shawano

< 1.2 Jackson,
Wood

Health standard- 10 ppm

Level of nitrate should not exceed this level to avoid human health hazards.

If a nitrate value exceeds the health standard, the EH division will provide treatment in the form of reverse osmosis.

% of wells over health standard

3%
HCN DOH
samples

10%
WI resident samples from
PRCDA counties

NOTE: No nitrate well samples have been taken in Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Marathon, or Vernon County during 2021-2024

Higher → Lower

Private well water: Water sampling data; WI Well Water Quality Viewer

Source: HCN DOH EH Division; UW Stevens Point

Years displayed: 2021-2024; 1985-2026



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Private well water



Manganese

All people
WI HCN tribal communities



Manganese naturally occurs in rocks, soil, groundwater, and surface water. At 0.05 ppm, you may notice a brownish-red stain on plumbing fixtures, an off-taste or odor. Excess manganese may cause neurological or developmental impacts in babies.

Average manganese level (ppm):

HCN tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA) | **0.07**

All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA) | **0.05**



The data reflects households that have had their well water tested by the EH division. The map reports the average manganese level (by ppm).

Average manganese level (ppm)*

0.19-0.30 Eau Claire

0.06-0.11 Clark, Monroe, Jackson, Sauk

0.12-0.18 Wood

< 0.06 Juneau, La Crosse, Shawano

Health standard- 0.3 ppm

Level of manganese should not exceed this level to avoid human health hazards.

If a manganese value exceeds the health standard, the EH division will provide education on manganese removal.

% of wells over health standard

5%
HCN DOH
samples

3%
WI resident samples from
PRCDA counties

NOTE: No manganese well samples have been taken in Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Marathon, or Vernon County during 2021-2024

Higher → Lower

Private well water: Water sampling data; WI Well Water Quality Viewer

Source: HCN DOH EH Division; UW Stevens Point

Years displayed: 2021-2024; 1988-2026



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Private well water



pH level

All people
WI HCN tribal communities

The pH of water measures how acidic or basic it is, ranging from 0-14 (7= neutral, < 7 is more acidic, and > 7 is more basic). Water that is too acidic can result in corrosive plumbing materials, which can result in lead or copper entering your water. The desirable pH level range is 6.5-8.5 (WHO, 2007).

Average pH level:

HCN tribal
(HCN WI
PRCDA)

7.0

All people
(HCN WI
PRCDA)

7.4

The data reflects households who have had their well water tested by the EH division. The map reports the average pH level.

Average pH level

7.4-7.8

La Crosse

6.6-7.0

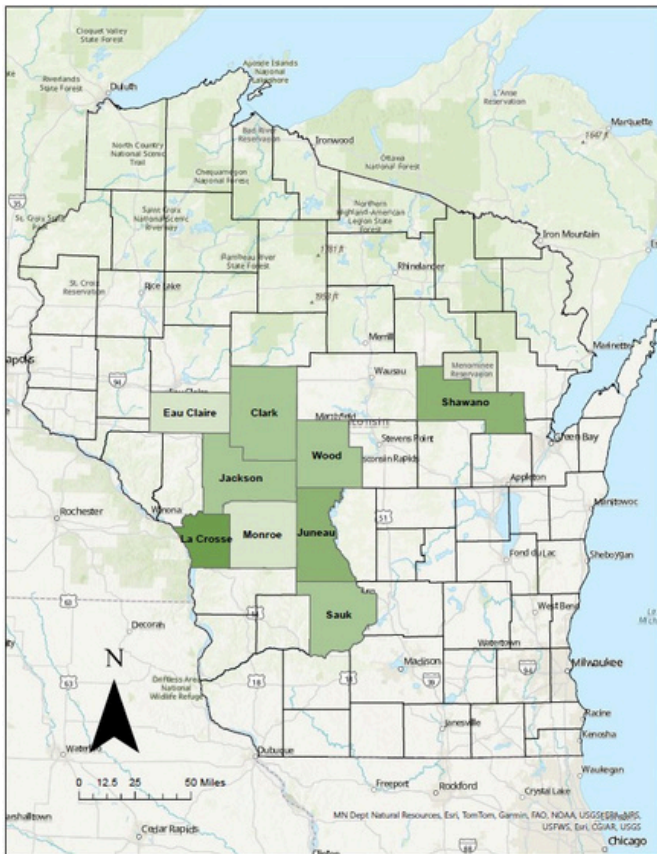
Clark, Jackson,
Sauk, Wood

7.1-7.3

Juneau, Shawano

6.1-6.5

Eau Claire,
Monroe



Desirable range-6.5-8.5

Level of pH should not be below or above this range

If a pH value exceeds the health standard, the EH division will conduct additional water testing.

% of wells outside range

24%

HCN DOH
samples

N/A

WI resident samples
from PRCDA counties

NOTE: No pH well samples have been taken in Adams, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Marathon, or Vernon County during 2021-2024

Higher → Lower

Private well water: Water sampling data; WI Well Water Quality Viewer

Source: HCN DOH EH Division; UW Stevens Point

Years displayed: 2021-2024; 1988-2026



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Blood lead levels

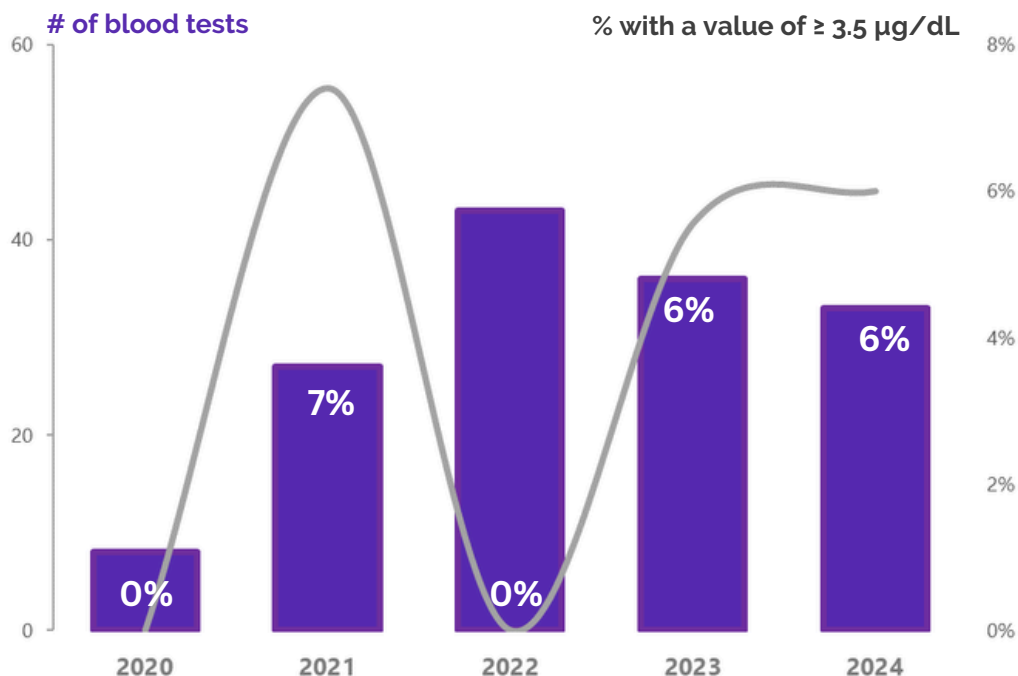
HCN Tribal
HCN DOH PRCD A

Lead poisoning happens when lead builds up in the body. Lead exposure happens through dust from lead-based paint, drinking water from corroded plumbing fixtures, touching soil with leaded gasoline, and through other products like toys, jewelry, or others. Lead poisoning can cause developmental delays, learning disabilities, and damage to the kidney or nervous system (WI DHS, 2023). Children under 6 and pregnant women are the most at-risk. Lead exposure in pregnant women can lead to pre-term birth, developmental issues, and miscarriage (CDC, 2022). To test for lead, a blood sample is taken. Previously, lead poisoning was defined as a blood lead level of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. In 2025, Wisconsin approved an emergency rule to lower the blood lead level poisoning value to 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

% of blood lead tests at or exceeding the health standard of 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in 2024 among Ho-Chunk Tribal youth patients (≤ 6 years):

HCN tribal (HCN PRCD A) 6% All people (WI) 5%

Graph below: The number of Ho-Chunk Tribal youth (≤ 6 years) who have received a blood lead level test from the HCN DOH and the percentage of those tests with a value $\geq 3.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.



HCN Tribal Youth Patients (0-6 years)

% blood lead level test value in 2020-2024

94% <3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ 3% 3.5-4.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ 3% >5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$



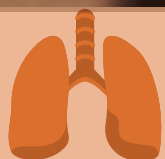
Blood lead levels: Blood lead level tests & results; Childhood lead poisoning
Source: HCN DOH NextGen; WI Environmental Health Tracking Program
Years displayed: 2020-2024; 2024

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Asthma

All Tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA

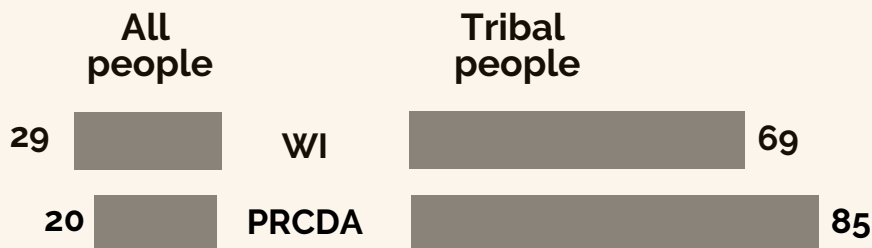
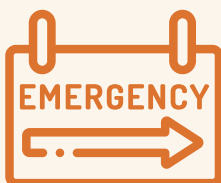
Asthma is a health condition that affects your lungs. It can be caused by environmental factors, such as smoking, mold, other allergens, air pollution, and by things like lung infection or family history. Asthma can cause coughing, wheezing, chest tightness, and breathlessness. When something significantly triggers your asthma, you can have an asthma attack. Asthma attacks happen when your lungs swell, the airways shrink, and mucus clogs the airways. ER visits and hospitalizations for asthma often occur due to asthma attacks (CDC, 2021).

Rate of asthma hospitalizations or ER visits in Wisconsin (per 10,000):

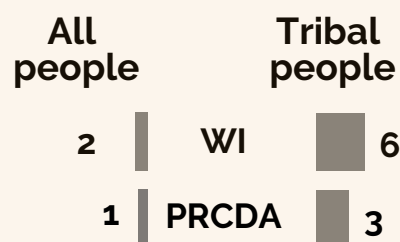
In 2024, for every 10,000 tribal people in Wisconsin, 6 people were hospitalized due to asthma and 69 visited the emergency room.

Data below: The rate (per every 10,000 people) of Wisconsin people hospitalized or seen in the ER for asthma.

ER visits



Hospitalization



Asthma Primary cause of admission- ER and hospitalization; Asthma
Source: WI DHS Office of Health Informatics; WI Environmental Tracking Program
Years displayed: 2024

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Lyme disease

All Tribal
WI HCN DOH PRCDA



New measure

Lyme disease is an illness caused from the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is spread through infected deer tick bites. In Wisconsin, deer ticks are present in every county, and Lyme disease is considered endemic, meaning there is a constant presence of the disease throughout the state. Ticks can be found anywhere outside, but more likely in long grasses or wooded areas (DHS 2026).

Symptoms occur within the first 30 days of exposure and include fever, circular rash, sweats, chills, headache, fatigue, stiff neck, muscle and/or joint pain. If Lyme disease goes untreated, more symptoms can develop. Two step blood tests are used to to diagnose cases of Lyme disease and antibiotics are used to treat positive cases.

Rate of new Lyme disease cases in Wisconsin (per 10,000):

In 2024, for every 10,000 people in Wisconsin, 10.9 people reported a new case of Lyme disease.

HCN tribal
(HCN
PRCDA)

0

All people
(WI)

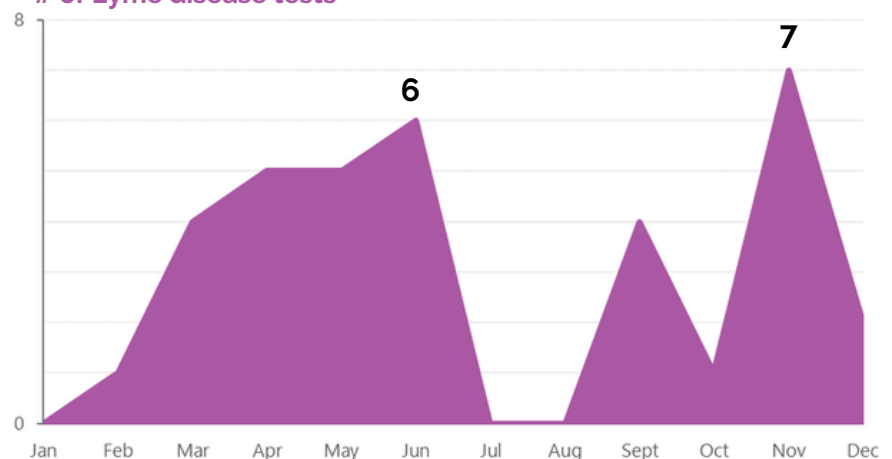
10.9

Graph below: The number of Lyme disease tests received or conducted each month by the HCN DOH among Ho-Chunk Tribal members living within the PRCDA who tested at one of the DOH clinics, or had their information forwarded to us during 2023-2024.

Since 2023, 35 Lyme disease tests from HCN Tribal patients have been received or conducted by the HCN DOH:

- The highest test activity was during June and November. Typically, Lyme activity is usually the most active during the summer months.
- No Lyme cases were reported in 2024, but 9 were in 2023 (highest was in September).

of Lyme disease tests



Lyme Disease: New cases

Source: HCN DOH NextGen, WI Environmental Tracking Program

Years displayed: 2023-2024

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Tribal people

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All people

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Poverty:

Tribal people

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All people

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Wisconsin, family of 4 in childcare

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V



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Community conditions- Health care access

Health insurance

Tribal people

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All people

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Tribal people

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Usual place of care

Usual place of care linked to getting recommended care

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Community conditions- Health care access

Usual place of care cont.

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About prevention

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About flu

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Low birth weight effects

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Community water- Copper

Copper sources

See lead summary source above

Copper effects

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<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/contaminants/copperfac tsht.pdf>

Copper data summary-Ho-Chunk Nation

See lead summary Ho-Chunk Nation above

Copper data summary- Wisconsin residents

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Community water-Nitrate

Nitrate effects

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Nitrate data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation

See copper data summary Ho-Chunk Nation above

Nitrate data summary- Wisconsin residents

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References

Private wells-Bacteria

Bacteria sources

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health (2018, April). Bacteria in private well water [fact sheet].

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02132.pdf>

Bacteria effects

Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health Division, Well Management Section (2019, August 1). *Bacterial safety of well water* [fact sheet]. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/wells/waterquality/bacteria.pdf>

Bacteria data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health, Environmental Health Division (n.d.). *Water sampling data, 2021-2024* [report].

Private wells-Nitrate

Nitrate effects

See nitrate effects (community water-nitrate above)

Nitrate data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation

See bacteria data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation above

Nitrate data summary- Wisconsin residents

See bacteria data summary-Wisconsin residents above

Private wells-Manganese

Manganese data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation

See bacteria data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation above

Manganese data summary- Wisconsin residents

See bacteria data summary- Wisconsin residents above

Private wells- pH

pH effects

World Health Organization (2007). *pH in drinking water* [report].

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pH data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation

See bacteria data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation above

pH data summary- Wisconsin residents

See bacteria data summary- Wisconsin residents above

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References

Blood lead levels

Blood lead level sources

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (2023, March 3). *Lead-safe Wisconsin: What is lead poisoning?* <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/clppp-info.htm>

Blood lead level effects

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health, Division of Environmental Health and Practice (2022, July 1). *Childhood lead poisoning prevention, pregnant women*. <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/pregnant.htm>

Blood lead level data summary- Ho-Chunk Nation

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health, Nextgen (2025, May). *Blood lead tests and levels, 2020-2024* [report].

Blood lead level data summary- Wisconsin residents

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Environmental public health tracking program (2025, January 17). *Environmental public health data tracker childhood lead poisoning 2024 (statewide)*. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht/lead.htm>

Asthma

About asthma

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health (2021, July 1). *Learn how to control asthma*. <https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/faqs.htm>

Asthma data summary- Tribal people

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Office of Health Informatics (2026, February). *Hospital discharge visits (inpatient and ER) for American Indian/Alaska Native during 2024* [report].

Asthma data summary- all people

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Environmental public health tracking program (2026, July 23). *Wisconsin Asthma Data Dashboard- 2024 (statewide)*. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht/asthma.htm>

Lyme Disease

About Lyme Disease

Lyme Disease Data Summary- Ho-Chunk Nation

Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health NextGen. (2025, December). *Lyme Disease 2024* [report].

Lyme Disease Data Summary- Wisconsin residents

Wisconsin Department of health Services, Bureau of Communicable Diseases. (2026, February 24). *Lyme Disease: Wisconsin data*. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tick/lyme-data.htm>



Hospitalization & ER Visit Data Definitions

Hospitalization and ER visit data summaries are created using different health categories, which includes specific health outcomes. Each health outcome is labeled by a specific ICD-10-CM diagnosis code by primary diagnosis.

ICD-10 is the most current diagnosis code set used today- this change was implemented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2015. While the ICD-11 become globally available in 2022, this has not yet been implemented in the United States.

NOTE: Health categories were used by following the same set of ICD-10-CM codes listed by the references below unless otherwise noted. Previous WI DHS Public Health Profiles (2017) used ICD-9 CM codes that are no longer in use, so a converter was used. Note: Some older codes do not create a perfect conversion, while other codes are a close conversion. This process is also further explained in the WI DHS Public Health Profile appendices.

ICD-10 CM Health Categories Sources (Code Groupings)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services: *Wisconsin Public Health Profile* (2017).

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p45358-2017.pdf>

Michigan Department of Health Services: *Ambulatory Care Sensitive (ACS) Conditions ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM Groupings*. <https://www.mdch.state.mi.us/OSR/CHI/HOSP/ICD9CM1.HTM>

American Academy of Professional Coders: *Convert ICD-9 to ICD-10*. <https://www.aapc.com/icd-10/codes/>

Additional Coding/Conversion Notes

Accidents/injuries

- Poisonings: Only when specified as "unintentional"
- Broken bones: Only when "fractured" or "fract" is used

Mental/Behavioral Health

- Suicide: Includes ideation and "intentional" or "self-harm" poisonings
- Conditions/disorders: Includes all other mental/behavioral health outcomes excluding suicide. Codes used include F01-F99.

Alcohol & Drug use

- Includes "use" and "abuse," does not include "dependence"

COVID-19

- Includes infection of, exposure to, and exposure to general communicable disease when COVID is specified. Codes used include U071, Z20822

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