

HEALTHFIRST




2023

HEALTHFIRST NETWORK

Annual Report

 www.healthfirstnetwork.org

 800-246-5743



HEALTHFIRST

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of Healthfirst is to improve the reproductive and nutritional health within our communities.

OUR MISSION

Healthfirst is dedicated to providing quality, confidential reproductive health care, education and nutrition counseling that is affordable and accessible through direct care and strategic partnerships.

OUR CORE VALUES

Healthfirst fulfills its purpose and mission through:

- Providing confidential services;
- Treating all with respect and dignity;
- Empowering through education;
- Maintaining honesty and integrity;
- Being kind, caring & empathetic; and
- Committing to innovative, high quality, evidence-based services.

A MESSAGE FROM HEALTHFIRST CEO, JESSICA SCHARFENBERG

What a whirlwind of a year 2023 was! Things were moving so fast, that it has taken a minute to reminisce about all of the things Healthfirst accomplished in 2023. At the top of the list are SANE services and undertaking a large construction project. Let's start with some discussion around SANE services, which aligns well with our mission and passions at Healthfirst. It started with one of our new nurse practitioners asking if we could start offering SANE in Marshfield, and me replying with a simple yes. I do not think that was the answer she was expecting, but it was the one she got! Then, we invested in 6 months of planning to kick things off on June 1st. What a pleasure it has been to bring these needed services back to the community, in a re-invented location!

Next up was construction! An idea that was created in a small discussion over a year ago about needing a social worker. We added that social worker relatively quickly, but she opened Pandora's box, highlighting the gaps in mental health care within our communities. So many referrals made, so many waiting lists, and just not enough access. That is when we looked at the gap as an opportunity, instead of a problem and pursued adding physical space to offer mental health services at Healthfirst.

But how does mental health care connect to reproductive health care? Mental health illnesses in women are most common during the reproductive years and frequently overlap with reproductive transitions, such as menarche, the perinatal period, and perimenopause. In fact, 10% to 15% of women and birthing persons will develop perinatal depression, making it the most common medical complication of childbirth. In addition, mental illness is uniquely comorbid in many gynecologic conditions, including chronic pelvic pain, endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, female sexual dysfunction disorders, and urinary incontinence. Furthermore, the World Health Organization defines reproductive health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes during all stages of life. Our teams at Healthfirst have done an amazing job at ensuring physical and social well-being, but it was time to add mental well-being!

As we have added services, grown, and celebrated the triumphs, I would be remiss not to mention the noise in the background and the battles we continued to fight in 2023. The Dobbs decision was still at the forefront of our care as we helped individuals navigate systems that were set up to work against them. We are thankful for the Dane County Circuit Court decision that came near the end of the year, renewing access to abortion care within Wisconsin. However, there is still the noise of government shutdowns and no federal budget, protestors displaying misinformation about what we do, and legislative attacks toward the core of our services. Each day though, we rise to the challenges, ready to push the equity of our communities forward. Let the noise in the background be just that. Healthfirst will continue to work towards fulfilling our mission each day, providing access while offering respect and dignity.



Jessica Scharfenberg
Jessica Scharfenberg, CEO



Board of Directors



Dr. Jessica N. Scharfenberg
Chief Executive Officer



Gerald J. Lyon
Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Earl W. Zabel
Medical Director



LeeAnn Isham-Her
Service Line Manager
Reproductive Health



Ilizah Zuelsdorff
Service Line Manager
WIC

Jalessa Perez
Service Line Manager
Mental Health

Operations Specialist

Health Educators

Nurse Practitioners
Clinical Operations Specialist
Clinic Assistants - RH

Community Health Worker

Inventory Specialist

Community Care Coordinator
& Spanish Interpreter

Registered Dietitians
Registered Nurses
Clinic Assistants - WIC
Breastfeeding Peer Counselors

Masters of Social Work
Licensed Clinical Social
Worker
Liscensed Professional
Counselor

Senior Certified Medical
Coder

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Our reproductive health service line provides essential reproductive healthcare services in central Wisconsin, assuring accessibility and affordability of comprehensive health services. We work with our clients to help support the reproductive life plan of their choice. By offering contraceptives to clients in our communities, we support pregnancy spacing initiatives, which reduce the rate of premature births, low birth weights, and congenital disorders, while giving new mothers' bodies adequate time to heal between pregnancies. Healthfirst also works towards preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia. All of these communicable diseases lead to poor health outcomes and increased healthcare costs within our communities. Through education, early detection, and treatment individuals can lead productive lives as part of our communities.

Through our strategic partnerships, we are able to offer our reproductive health services to all individuals, regardless of income, race, gender identity, and insurance coverage. The right preventative care at every stage of life helps our community members to stay healthy, avoid or delay the onset of disease, and keep current diseases from worsening or becoming debilitating. We accomplish this by offering annual exams, health education, labs, testicular exams, clinical breast exams, and pelvic exams at all of our locations.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

- Annual Exams
- Emergency Contraception
- Testicular Exams
- STI Testing and Treatment
- Pelvic Exams
- Clinical Breast Exams
- Labs
- Internal/External Condoms
- Health Education
- Wisconsin Well Woman Program
- Doxy-PEP
- PrEP
- Pap Smears
- Vaginal Checks
- HPV Vaccine
- Urinary Tract Infection Testing and Treatment
- Pregnancy Testing
- Yeast Infection Testing and Treatment
- Colposcopies
- Birth Control Methods including Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (IUD/Nexplanon)
- nPEP

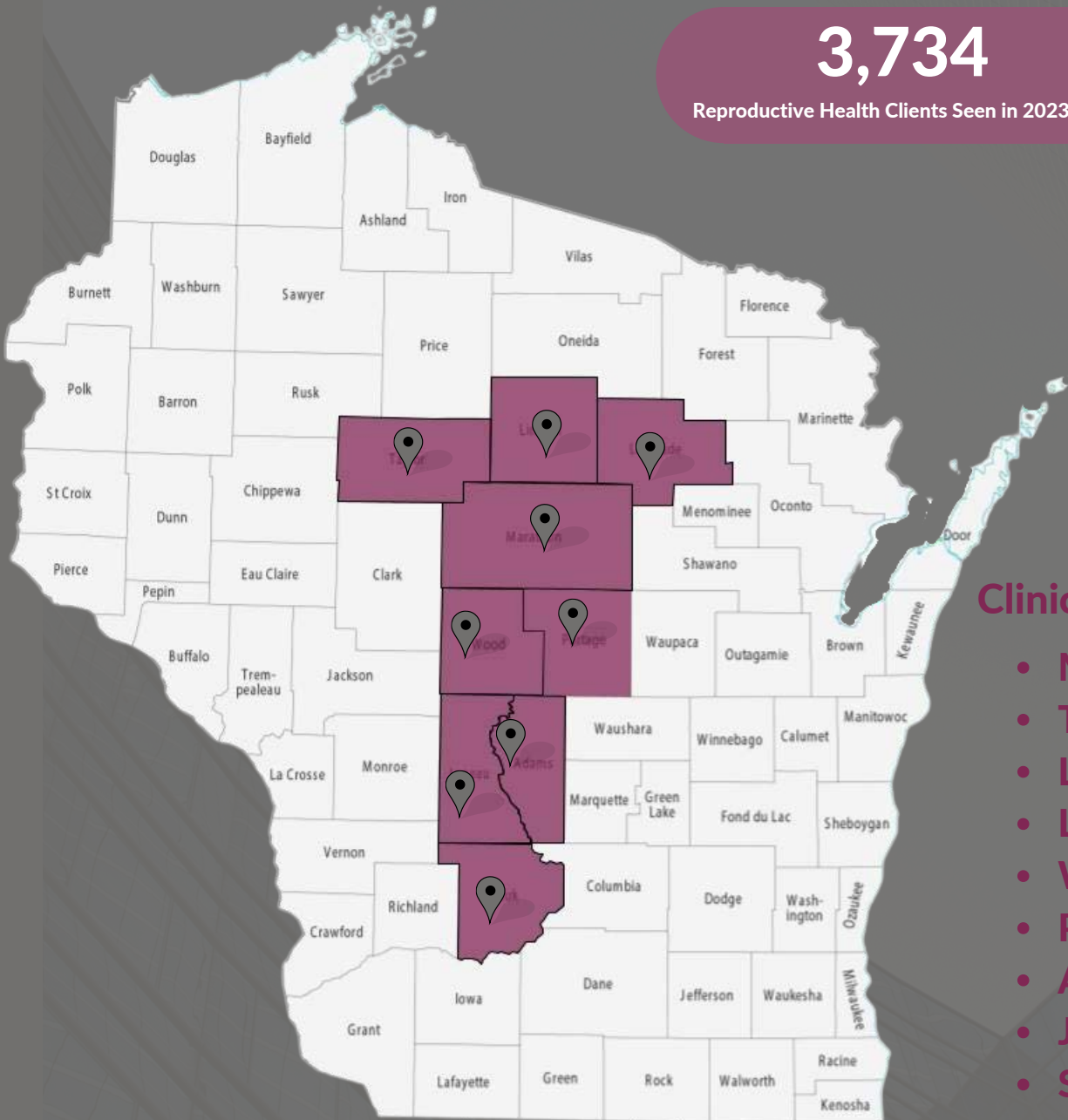


Reproductive Health

A review of strategic growth and continued commitment to our clients.

3,734

Reproductive Health Clients Seen in 2023



Clinic Locations:

- Marathon
- Taylor
- Lincoln
- Langlade
- Wood
- Portage
- Adams
- Juneau
- Sauk



\$22,770,899.55

in community savings by investing in reproductive health care, a \$5million increase from 2022



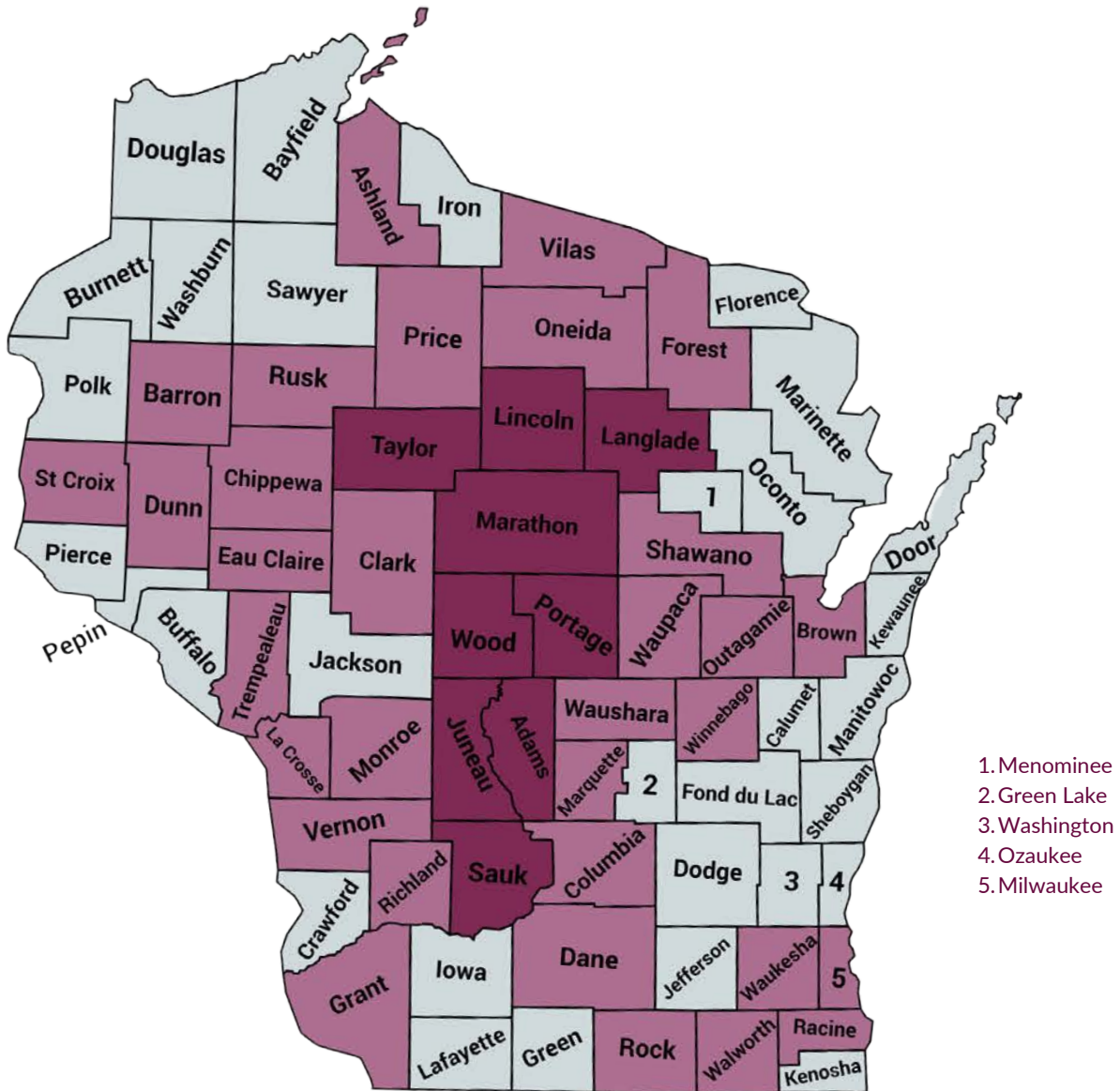
WIS DELLS LOCATION

Healthfirst opened a new location in February of 2023 in WI Dells. This location takes the place of a temporary partnership we had with one of the local dormitories. Through finding a permanent location, Healthfirst has been able to offer reproductive health services to a broader array of individuals working on travel visas within the hospitality industry. Healthfirst staff have also initiated 3 coalitions to help address the health inequities faced by the visa workers, including working with state and federal partners.



Reproductive Health Beyond Our Borders

Healthfirst's reach has continued to grow year after year. In the most recent analysis of client reach, it was determined that Healthfirst has provided services to individuals from over 40, or 57%, of Wisconsin's 72 counties.



57%

Of Counties in the State of Wisconsin
have at least 1 Healthfirst Client.



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLIENT TESTIMONIALS:

“ Always treated with respect whenever I come for appointments. ”

“ 10/10 thank you! Took the needed time with me! ”

“ Very easily accessible. Never a long wait for apts and they are convenient. They are all wonderful. Thank you for what you do. ”

“ Always very friendly. This is my favorite, won't go anywhere else. ”

“ Kind and helpful, easy to make appointments and get information on questions I have. ”

“ Everyone is always so friendly! I always recommend this place to friends. Always stress free and comfortable here. ”

REPRODCUTIVE HEALTH CLIENT TESTIMONIALS:

“
All staff are amazing. It's the best.
”

“
I love the staff. Super recommended!
”

“
I live 30 minutes out but easy to find. Helped my nervousness. Well informed and I learned a few things. Wouldn't go anywhere else.
”

“
Staff is always nice and welcoming. Very easy to work with to reschedule appts.
”

“
Very pleasant, thank you for always being here for me.
”

“
Super quick at getting me in, amazing people!!
”

SANE SERVICES

A mission statement is a brief statement of why an organization exists and what its overall goals are, while the core values are the fundamental beliefs of the organizations. Healthfirst Network's mission includes being dedicated to providing quality, confidential reproductive health care, education and nutrition counseling that is affordable and accessible through direct care and strategic partnerships. While our core values include, providing confidential services, treating all with respect and dignity; empowering through education; maintaining honesty and integrity; being kind, caring & empathetic; and committing to innovative, high-quality, evidence-based services.

As stated in our mission statement, access is a fundamental goal of Healthfirst Network. Access to care can be defined in many ways: proximity to care, the timing of care, and acceptability of care. Healthfirst Network prides itself on striving and achieving the definition to access in its entirety. Access is proximity, serving those in their home location without the need for excessive travel. Access is timing, responding to those with immediate needs now. Access is acceptable, patient-centered, non-coercive, shared decision-making that is high quality, medically accurate, comprehensive, equitable, and culturally responsive.

Also in our mission is the commitment to innovation. I firmly believe in identifying and filling gaps within our mission. That is why I was overjoyed to announce Healthfirst Network's addition of sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) services at our Marshfield location beginning in June. We have introduced a community-based approach to the services that have historically been coupled within larger systems. As others were pulling out of the fire, we were ready to jump in to ensure access (proximity, timing, and accessibility) to these much-needed services within the region. I was also pleased to share that in December of 2023 we recruited a phenomenal new nurse practitioner, Carmen Vazquez, APNP, MSN-FNP, SANE-A, AFN-C, who serves as our SANE coordinator. Her vast knowledge and experience will bring fresh eyes to the need!

As a small non-profit in central Wisconsin, funding is tight, however, we are committed to ensuring safe and equitable access to SANE services for our community. SANE care is healthcare, and we support the health, safety, and well-being of our communities through direct access.

MENTAL HEALTH ADDITION

On September 12th, 2023 Healthfirst Network broke ground for our mental health expansion. Healthfirst, a network of ten reproductive health clinics serving Wisconsin, is committed to continually look for ways to reduce the burden and health disparities that our clients face. In March of 2022, Healthfirst took a significant step by adding a social worker to our model of care. Over the past 17 months, the social worker has assisted clients in navigating the complexities of medical and social challenges. However, one gap in care became apparent early on, access to mental health services. Further research identified that there is a 46% treatment gap for individuals living with mental illness and receiving treatment in our service area.

Healthfirst Network's leadership team initiated discussions and a proposal in early 2023 to devise a strategic solution for this gap. Reflecting upon the World Health Organization's definition of reproductive health – encompassing complete physical, mental, and social well-being – Healthfirst recognized the need to expand our infrastructure to encompass mental health services.

The proposal has now evolved into an action plan, as Healthfirst Network proudly announces the expansion of our service line and physical location in Wausau to accommodate the integration of mental health counseling services. Healthfirst extends immense gratitude to the Healthfirst Board of Directors, The Community Foundation of Northcentral Wisconsin, The B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation, and an anonymous donor, for their generous fiscal contributions, pivotal in realizing this physical expansion.



EXPANSION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The addition of physical space in Wausau has allowed Healthfirst to expand the Mental Health Services we are able to provide to our clients. Our counselors are available for in person and telehealth appointments allowing us to serve the communities of all of our clinics. We are also expanding the group therapy options we are able to provide. Healthfirst is able to provide counseling at reduced hourly rates and is typically available right away for our clients.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

During the 2022-23 school year, the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin introduced the Youth Philanthropy Leadership Program. This program is for junior and senior high school students, and is designed to prepare the next generation of philanthropic leaders with hands-on experiences. After learning about how foundations support nonprofits, this group of students was given \$20,000 with the chance to distribute those funds to local nonprofits. The requirements around this project were:

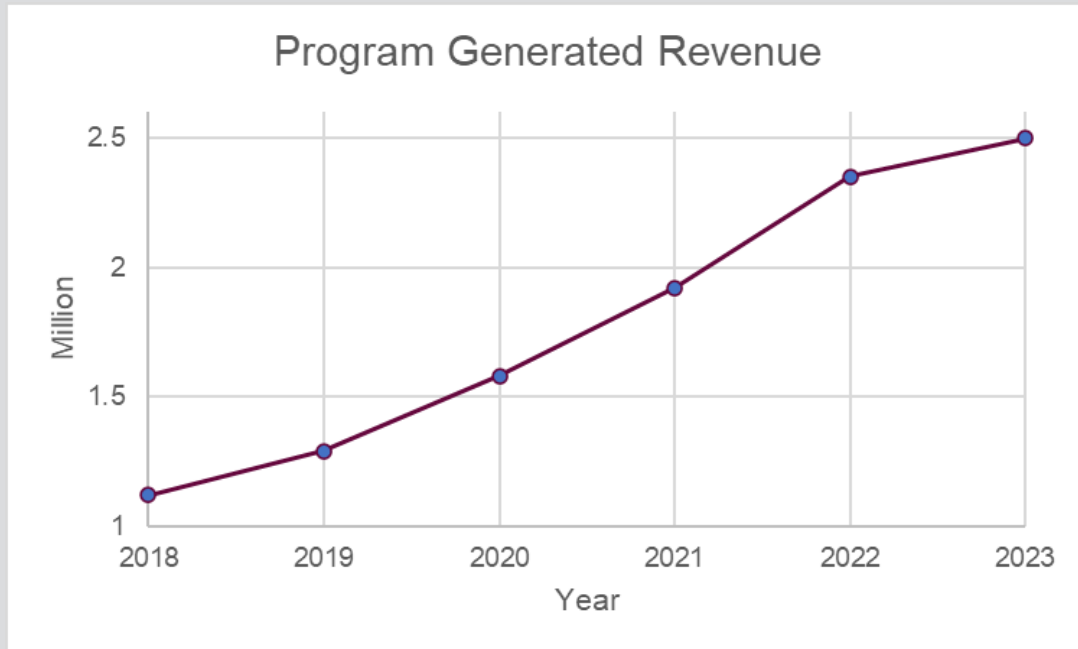
1. Youth were to be involved in planning, organizing, and conducting the project or program, and/or
2. Youth were to directly benefit from the services provided through the project, and/or
3. Youth were to gain specific knowledge about an organization's work if a grant were to be awarded.

In the fall and winter of 2023, Healthfirst worked with the Youth Philanthropy Group in Wausau to address period poverty or the lack of access to menstrual products. Through a gracious donation from the Community Foundation of Northcentral Wisconsin, we purchased 31,000 tampons and 29,376 menstrual pads that were packaged and donated to the 10 middle schools in Marathon County. Each school received 97 1-month packs of pads and 155 1-month packs of tampons.



PROGRAM GENERATED REVENUE

Healthfirst continues to strive for a sustainability model that minimizes reliance on grant funding. In 2023, our goal was to exceed \$2 million in program generated revenue as we continue to grow in the communities we serve. 2023 saw strong growth over the successes of 2022. Healthcare sustainability is difficult in the current environment, but Healthfirst is proud to stand by our quality of care, which has only grown as our revenue has grown.



HEALTHFIRST'S DEDICATION TO AFFORDABLE CARE

Part of Healthfirst's mission and core values is to provide affordable reproductive healthcare services, and part of affordable is free services for many of our clients. We are proud to stand behind the ability to offer our services to the communities we are in, regardless of individual's ability to pay. By meeting individuals where they are at financially, we are able to provide them the opportunity to meet their healthcare goals.

\$393,983.39

Donated Services in 2023



\$145,163.83

More than 2022



WIC WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN

The **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breast/chest feeding, and non-breast/chest feeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk. The WIC program aims to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.

The WIC program provides several different benefits for participants. Breast/chest feeding promotion and supports helps participants prepare for breast/chest feeding during pregnancy and supports the breast/chest feeding journey through peer support. Participants receive screening for nutritional and health needs coupled with nutritional education. This includes tips on using WIC foods, eating habits, dietary needs, and feeding concerns. The Fit Family Program supports families in setting goals around healthy habits for 2-4 year olds. Supplemental food benefits allow participants to buy healthy foods for pregnant and breastfeeding people, kids, and supplemental formula for infants. The WIC team is also able to provide referrals for participants to connect them with health and community resources like doctors, dentists, and programs like FoodShare, Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, Wisconsin Works (W-2) and Head Start.

HOW TO QUALIFY

WIC serves income eligible Wisconsin residents who are pregnant, breastfeeding (up to 12 months), or postpartum (up to 6 months), as well as infants and children up to age five. Foster parents and relatives may also apply on behalf of a child in their care. If you receive FoodShare, Medicaid, BadgerCare+, Wisconsin Works (W-2), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution on Native American Reservations, you most likely meet income requirements.



4,831

WIC Participants in 2023



HEALTH BENEFITS OF WIC

WIC helps overall health in Wisconsin in many ways.

1. It lowers the number of babies born too early
2. It lowers the number of babies born with low weight
3. It lowers medical costs over time.

WIC WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN




FOOD PACKAGES MAY INCLUDE:

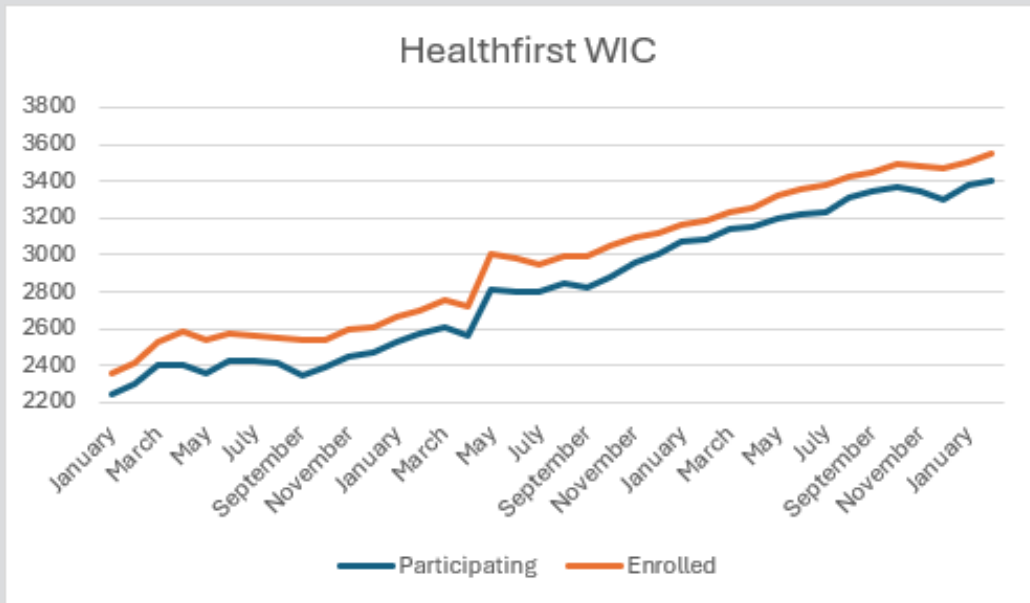
- Fruits:
 - Fresh/Frozen/ or Canned
- Vegetables:
 - Fresh/Frozen/ or Canned
- 100% Juice
- Beans, Peas, or Lentils
- Peanut Butter
- Cold & Hot Cereals
- Whole Wheat/Grain Foods
- Milk & Soy Beverage
- Yogurt
- Cheese
- Tofu
- Eggs
- Fish
- Select Infant foods & Cereals

USING BENEFITS


WIC participant's benefits expire each month, and benefits can be used at any time during the month. Participants can structure the use of their benefits to fit their families needs best. While shopping, WIC participants can find out which foods are approved for their benefits by using the WIC shopping guide. The shopping guide is available on paper, or through the Wisconsin MyWIC app.

\$32,958
Farmers Market Money Redeemed 

WIC participants are also allotted monthly farmers market checks during the growing season, so they can shop for local foods, and support farmers!



 **\$2,655,296.59**
Healthfirst WIC benefits that were used in 2023

\$435,242.48 more than 2022 

WIC PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS:

“ This program has been a true blessing for me and my family. We would not have survived without these amazing people. ”

“ Everyone I have had the pleasure of working with over the years has been so kind and generous and so beyond helpful with tips and tricks. I am thankful. ”

“ This program has been such a blessing. My kids love picking out fruits and veggies and also getting apple juice. Everyone has been super friendly and helpful. ”


“ Staff has always been friendly and allowed me to voice my concerns as a mother. They have been very helpful and have always gone the extra miles to ensure the health of my baby girl. At times the staff over the phone have been more personable than at her pediatrician's office. I am very thankful for my local WIC offic and staff. ”

“ WIC is amazing!! I am so grateful for all the resources and people!!! ”

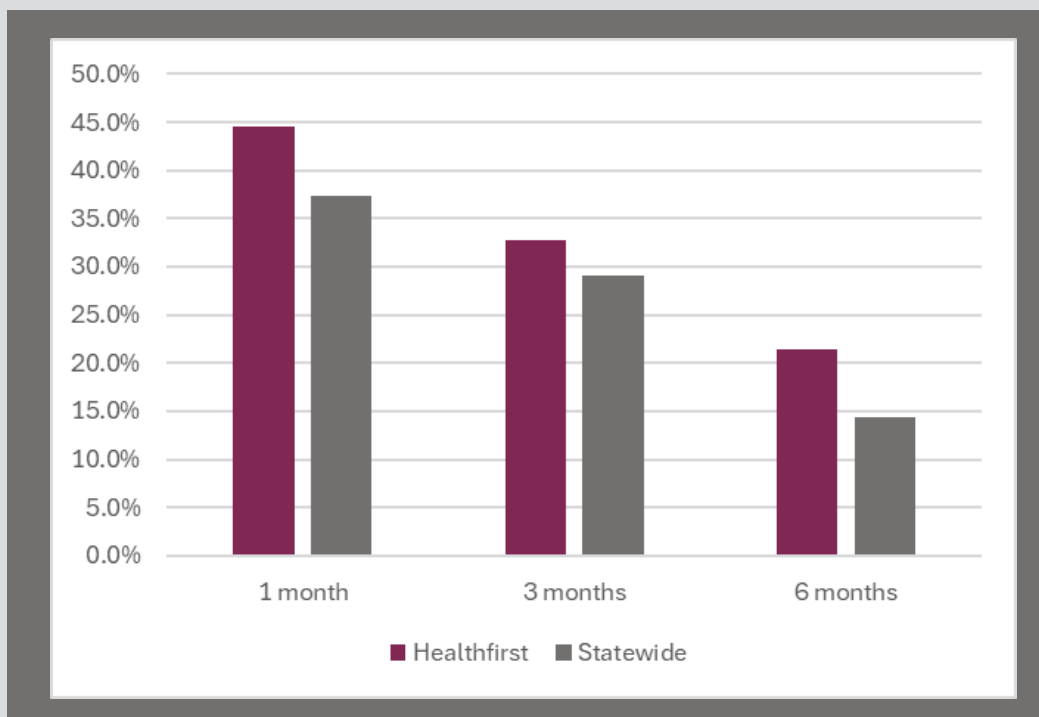
“ You are all doing an amazing job. Keep up the fantastic work! ”

BREAST/CHEST FEEDING SUPPORT

1. Breast/chest feeding Peer Counselors: WIC Breast/chest feeding Peer Counselors are parents just like you! They have experience in breast/chest feeding, provide non-judgmental support, and can help troubleshoot common breast/chest feeding issues. If you run into more complicated issues our Peer Counselors will refer you to our WIC staff who has trained designated breastfeeding experts to consult and provide additional support.
2. Monthly Breast/chest feeding Class: Through the State WIC program, Healthfirst offers a free, weekly, virtual breast/chest feeding class option that provides you with basic information and the general how-to's of breast/chest feeding!
3. Breast Pumps: If you need a breast pump and don't know where to start, contact Healthfirst WIC for guidance! Most individuals are eligible for breast pump coverage for each pregnancy through their insurance, but if your plan does not cover this, the WIC program can help.
4. Monthly Breast/chest feeding Support Group: In addition to the State WIC program's Breast/chest feeding Class, Healthfirst also offers a monthly virtual breastfeeding support group for ALL caregivers to attend. This support group is offered throughout pregnancy to help learn more about breast/chest feeding, share concerns, and debunk breastfeeding myths.
5. Regardless of whether you plan on breast/chest feeding or not, Healthfirst WIC is committed to providing you with education and support!

269
Participating Breastfeeding
Women 

Exclusive Breast/Chest Feeding Rates (compared to State of Wisconsin)



FIT FAMILIES

Wisconsin Fit Families is a multi-level program that strives to prevent child obesity by empowering families to adopt healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. The Fit Families program works to improve the health habits of preschool age children, 2-5 years old and their families, within the community. Families set a goal around one or more of the following areas: increasing fruit and vegetable consumption, increasing physical activity and decreasing screen time, and/or reducing sugared beverage consumption. Fit Families participants receive monthly coaching contacts and reinforcement items quarterly to assist them in meeting their goal(s).

FIT FAMILIES GOALS:

Goal 1

Provide behaviorally focused, evidence-based nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions consistent with current dietary guidelines and USDA food guidance with and for families eligible for SNAP-Ed.

Goal 2

Collaborate with other projects, programs, partners, and coalitions who share common goals to maximize opportunities and resources.

TESTIMONIALS

“

Helped me learn about my kids

”

“

Gave us new ideas to implement into our family

”

“

Helped my child widen his variety of fruits and vegetables

”

“

My son is now drinking way more water than he was a year ago

”

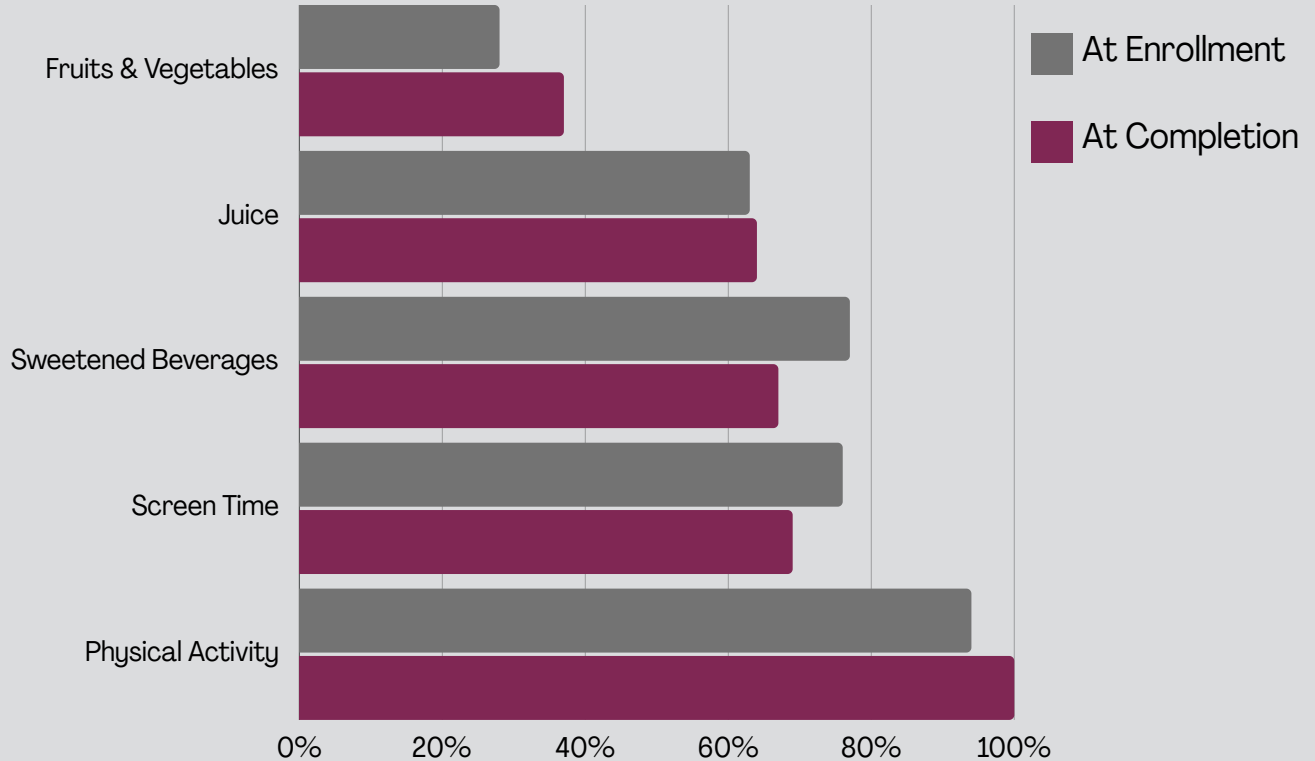


FIT FAMILIES

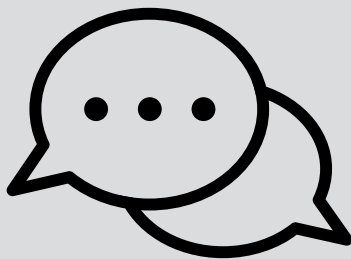
Encouraging families to make healthy decisions through coaching and goal setting.

CHILDREN'S DIETARY BEHAVIOR GOALS

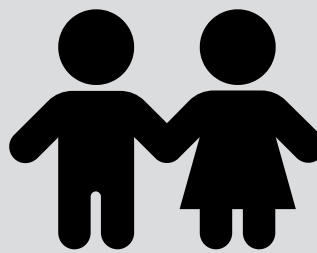
The percent of children meeting or exceeding the recommended levels of healthy behavior from enrollment to completion.



322 Parents
received coaching



2,329 Contacts
delivered by Fit
Families coaches



364 Children
participated



236 Enrolled
in Fit Families
during FY 2023

ADVANCING EDUCATION

Healthfirst has worked hard towards being an open, learning facility by accepting students for preceptorships in many different professions. Annually, Healthfirst welcomes dietetic students from the University Wisconsin-Green Bay dietetics program. The experiences gained by the students allows them to become more aware of public health programs like WIC, and the importance of these programs in the community.

We also have a thriving partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin, in which the M2 and M3 students each complete a two-week rotation at Healthfirst, giving them the opportunity to learn how to perform pap smears, pelvic exams, and how to take a detailed sexual and reproductive history. The medical students gain knowledge on how Healthfirst works in conjunction with other health systems to ensure all clients receive whole person care.

Over the past three years, Healthfirst CEO Jessica Scharfenberg has served as a mentor to three Medical College of Wisconsin Students as they worked through their “physician in the community” projects. The projects that the students have created, were fully supported by Healthfirst and include Healthcare Provider Knowledge of WIC, Community Member Knowledge of WIC, and Recommendations for Pap Smear Intervals for Women Utilizing Public Insurance.

Furthermore, we routinely have medical residents and nurse practitioner students that fulfill their clinical rotations with Healthfirst.

2023 STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

2 Dietitian Students

3 Nurse Practitioner

9 Medical College of Wisconsin Students

5 Aspirus Residents

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Healthfirst offers community education in a variety of formats. Methods used for community education includes in-school presentations, facilitating curriculum within schools, and directing community conversations.

Healthfirst is seen as a content expert in our communities and we provide education on sexual health, pregnancy prevention (including abstinence), consent and sexually transmitted infections at many of the schools in our service area. Prevention education gives our community the skills and knowledge to make informed and safe decisions. On average, for every one dollar of public funding that is spent on quality reproductive health services, there is \$7.09 in community savings, resulting in \$21,795,102 in community savings within the Healthfirst Network service area.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING NUMBERS



THE PREP PROGRAM

Healthfirst is part of Wisconsin's Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), which utilizes the evidenced based FLASH curriculum. PREP has been proven to delay sexual activity, increase condom and contraceptive use, and reduce unintended pregnancy among teens.

The FLASH curriculum is a medically accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive sexual education curriculum that builds skills to support young people in remaining abstinent, as well as teaching about other methods of disease, pregnancy prevention and healthy relationships and increased family communication about sexual health related topics. The goals of the curriculum are to prevent teen pregnancy, STDs and sexual violence, and to increase family communication about sexual health related topics. Throughout the school year, Healthfirst serves roughly 125 ninth grade students by meeting with them once a week each semester.

| Adulthood Preparation Subjects |
|---------------------------------------|
| • Positive Adolescent Development |
| • Healthy Relationships |
| • Healthy Life Skills |
| • Educational and Career Success |
| • Financial Literacy |
| • Parent-Child Communication |

RESULTS OF THE PREP PROGRAM

After participating in the PREP program, most teens experienced positive changes in behavioral intention. The following percentages reflect the amount of youth who answered "much more" or "somewhat more likely" in a post-course survey:

- Better understand what makes a relationship healthy: 75%
- Make decisions to not use drugs or alcohol: 58%
- Think about consequences before making a decision: 57%
- Resist or say no to peer pressure: 57%

Another important consideration is that 90% of teens reported that they have at least one adult in their life who they can talk to if they have a problem.

THE TOP PROGRAM

Healthfirst is part of Wisconsin's Project WISE, which utilizes the evidence-based Teen Outreach Program (TOP) curriculum.

TOP is a nationally recognized, positive youth development program designed to build educational success, life and leadership skills and healthy behaviors and relationships. Healthfirst meets with middle school youth weekly in a TOP club led by trained, knowledgeable facilitators. Throughout the school year, Healthfirst serves roughly 100 sixth grade students. TOP achieves outcomes for young people with engaging curriculum lessons and meaningful, youth-led, Community Service Learning.

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS (CSL)

TOP students completed a variety of community service learning projects. These projects included making blankets for animals at the local humane society, reading to 4K students, baking homemade cookies that were donated to the local food pantry participants, and visiting with residents of a local nursing home.



RESULTS OF THE TOP PROGRAM

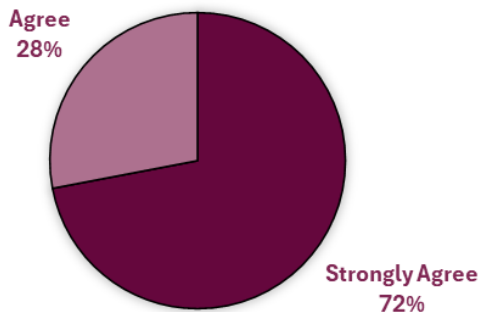
After participating in the TOP Program, most young people experienced positive changes in behavioral intention. The following show the percentage of youth who answered “much” or “somewhat” more likely to the following questions:

- Make healthy decisions: 79%
- Work with others/teamwork: 79%
- Identify own skills and interests: 79%
- Understand things from other people’s point of view: 73%
- Recognize own emotions: 68%

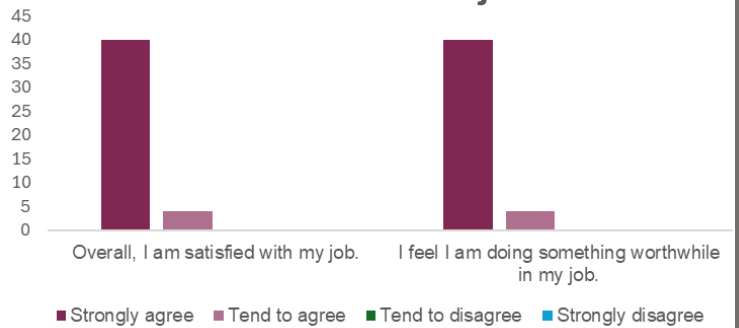
84% of program participants said they have at least one adult in their life they can talk to if they have a problem.

STAFF ENGAGEMENT

In the past 6 months, Leadership has shared information about the progress Healthfirst has made.



100% of staff either strongly agreed or tended to agree that they were satisfied with their job and felt that they were doing something worthwhile in their job.



AWARDS

ATHENA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award Recipients are emerging leaders who:

- Demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession.
- Provide valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community.
- Clearly serve as role models for young women personally and professionally

Dr. Jessie Scharfenberg received this award on November 28, 2023 from the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce.



RISING STAR AWARD

National Family Planning Reproductive Health Association's Rising Star Award is presented to a rising star, early or mid-career level individual who demonstrates aptitude and potential. This person has exhibited exceptional service above and beyond their designated responsibilities while affecting programmatic changes for the benefit of their organization, clients, and community. Dr. Jessie Scharfenberg traveled to Washington DC and was presented with this award on June 12, 2023.

SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

Dr. Jessie Scharfenberg was invited to share her expertise several times in 2023. She participated in a reproductive health roundtable discussion with US Secretary of Health Xavier Becerra, his staff, and key Wisconsin stakeholders on January 20, 2023. They discussed the impact of the Dobbs decision on reproductive healthcare and access in Wisconsin. In October, she served as the Keynote Speaker at the Wisconsin STI Summit: STI Testing In Rural Wisconsin. She also participated in a Keynote Speaker Panel at the NFPRHA Fall Seasonal: Preparing For State Legislative Sessions. Jessie was able to share what to expect from WI with the upcoming legislative session along with what is occurring at the WI Supreme Court with current and upcoming cases.

