

Every year, during the first week of August, World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated across the globe by more than 120 countries. Originally organized in 1992 by World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), UNICEF, and the World Organization (WHO), World Breastfeeding Week was created to bring awareness to the value of breastfeeding for children as well as mothers and to reestablish a global breastfeeding culture.

Human milk feeding has many health and economic benefits. Breastmilk contains unique beneficial compounds that are unable to be replicated and implemented into formula such as certain enzymes, stem cells, antibodies, good bacteria (think breastmilk as the first probiotic food!), and hormones. This not only feeds and nourishes, it helps create a good healthy start to life. Breastmilk helps transition our babies to life outside the womb. Antibodies are specific to the germs in the local environment. Hormones help regulate baby's endocrine system as well as circadian rhythm. Babies do not overeat from the breast and receive Leptin, a compound that helps regulate appetite and healthy eating habits. Breastfeeding helps mothers physically recover from childbirth quicker and reduces the likelihood of postpartum depression caused by hormone fluctuations. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is reduced in breastfed infants by approximately 50%. Feeding at the breast produces no waste. There is no resulting factory pollution, industrial energy consumption, plastic production (and resulting litter) from breastfeeding. If a mother chooses to pump her breastmilk and bottle feed (or tube feed when medically necessary), the amount of waste produced is still greatly reduced from that of formula production and use.

Despite the studies and knowledge that breastmilk is the ideal food for babies, mothers often find difficulty feeding their children their milk. Breastfeeding initiation rates in the U.S. were at a low of 22% in 1972, resulting in a lack of breastfeeding experience to share with subsequent generations. Although considered natural, breastfeeding is a learned skill. Just like with pregnancy, there are different stages to breastfeeding and if a mother is uninformed, she may find these changes to be worrisome (that something is "wrong with her") and switch to formula feeding unnecessarily. The WIC program at Marion County Health Department has a focus on teaching clients about nutrition and healthy life habits. This includes breastfeeding education for all pregnant participants. The two Breastfeeding Peer Counselors not only teach clients about the benefits of human milk feeding but also serve as mentors to guide women on how to breastfeed, how to overcome setbacks, and to support them with any additional resources needed to help them reach their breastfeeding goals.

In the spirit of World Breastfeeding Week, the Marion County Health Department invites all area breastfeeding and pregnant families to the Salem office on Wednesday, August 6th, 2025 at 1pm for a celebratory gathering of breastfeeding support. Light refreshments, activities, and door prizes will be provided.

Sources: <https://www.waba.org.my/wbw> [https://jn.nutrition.org/article/S0022-3166\(22\)14649-3/fulltext](https://jn.nutrition.org/article/S0022-3166(22)14649-3/fulltext)
<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/123/123/3e406/71689/Does-Breastfeeding-Reduce-the-Risk-of-Sudden?redirectedFrom=fulltext> <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-breastfeeding-week>



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Marion County

June 2025 Statistics

Clinics

Blood Pressure	
Persons served: Blood Pressure	0
Paternity Testing Clinics	1
Number of Persons Tested	4

Immunizations

Number of Clinics	6
No. of adults	23
No. of adults immz. adm	11
No. of pediatrics	68
No. of pediatrics immz. adm	137
Total of vaccines administered.....	148

Children's Immunizations

Pediarix.....	21
Pediatric Flu	0
Hib	21
Pneumococcal	17
Rotavirus	6
Hep A.....	12
Dtap	5
MMR.....	8
Tdap.....	9
Hepatitis B.....	0
Varicella.....	9
Kinrix	5
Gardasil	7
Meningitis	12
ProQuad	4
IPV (Polio)	1
Td.....	0
Men. B.....	0
Nirsevimab/RSV.....	0
COVID-19.....	0

Adult Immunizations

Hepatitis A	0
Hepatitis B	2
Flu	0
Men. B	0
Meningitis	0
MMR.....	1
Pneumonia 23	0
TD.....	2
Tdap.....	5
Typhoid.....	0
Varicella.....	0
Yellow Fever	1
Prevnar 20	0
Shingrix.....	0
RSV.....	0
COVID-19.....	0

Maternal Child Health (MCH)

Maternal Health Encounters	354
WIC Caseload	1,089
WIC Clients receiving Education..	149
WSSM / WIC Education	34
Internet WIC Education	10
Individual WIC Education	19
Phone Education	86
Lead	25
Hemoglobins	68
ASQ Developmental Screenings	23
Depression Screenings	27
EPSDT'S.....	31
Flouride Varnish (Oral Health).....	40
Number of Vision Tested	1
Number of Hearing Tested	2
Pregnancy Tests	1

Family Case Management

APORS Investigations	5
Healthworks Caseload.....	68

Communicable Disease Investigations

Animal Bites.....	5
Chickenpox	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0
Hepatitis B	2
Hepatitis C	5
Histoplasmosis	2
HIV/AIDS Cases Investigated	1
HIV Test.....	4
Salmonellosis.....	0
Streptococcal Infections (Group A) .	0
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	0

Sexually Transmitted Disease

Chlamydia	4
Gonorrhea	6
Syphilis.....	0

TB (Tuberculosis)

Tests Administered.....	22
New LTBI.....	1
New Suspect TB Investigations.	0
New Active Cases.....	1

Lab Draws

Private Pay

Salem Office	47
Centralia Office	31
Total Private Pay Lab Draws.....	78

Environmental Health

Food

Routine Inspections.....	33
Follow-up Inspections	7
Complaint Inspections	6
Temporary Inspections	3
Pre-Operational Inspections	2
Emergency Incident Inspections	0
Number of Permits Issued	23
Cottage Food Permits Issued	1

Sewage

Routine Inspections.....	6
Complaint Inspections	1
Realty Inspections	0
Sewage Systems Installed.....	7
Number of Permits Issued	5

Water

New System Inspections.....	0
Existing Water Well Inspections.....	0
Realty Inspections	0
Complaint Inspections	0
Water Wells Sealed	0
Number of Permits Issued.....	0

Closed Loop Wells

Closed Loop Well Inspections	1
Systems Installed	1
Number of Permits Issued	1

Tanning

Routine Inspections.....	0
Follow-up Inspections	0
Complaint Inspections	0

Body Art

Routine Inspections.....	0
Follow-up Inspections	0
Complaint Inspections	0

FIT Test

Female.....	0	Male.....	0
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