



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Iowa County Health Department

Serving our Communities Since 1935



2019 Annual Report

Message from the Director

To the Iowa County Board of Supervisors, Board of Health, Health & Human Services Committee, and Residents:

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2019 Annual Report of the Iowa County Health Department.

In 2019, the Iowa County Health Department continued to provide programs and services needed to maintain its designation as a Level II Health Department in the State of Wisconsin.

As we take time to look back on the services summarized in this report it allows us an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the people who work hard to promote, protect and preserve our health in Iowa County.

Prevention activities continue on a daily basis for those of us in public health. Whether it be vaccinating our children or identifying those at risk for a communicable disease, we are busy behind the scenes working to ensure the well-being of all Iowa County residents.

Of significance in 2019, was the passage of Iowa County Resolution 7-2019 requesting the Wisconsin legislature end the use of personal conviction waivers for school and day care center immunizations. History has shown the impact of vaccination on public health. We must continue to place importance on keeping our immunization rates high in all parts of the county.

As the threat of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 becomes real to our country and Iowa County. I am confident the public health measures we take now will help to slow the spread of this disease.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to have served in this role since September 2015. In March 2020 I will be retiring and wish Debbie Siegenthaler all the best as she steps into this position. She brings with her many years of public health experience and great leadership qualities. She is ready to tackle COVID-19 and anything else that may arise.

Sincerely,

Sue Matye

Sue Matye RN, BSN

Director/Health Officer

Iowa County Health Department

Sue.matye@iowacounty.org

Health Department Staff

Sue Matye RN, BSN Director/Health Officer

Kari Bennett RN, BSN Public Health Nurse
Ann Thompson RN, BSN Public Health Nurse
Kathy Key, Department Assistant
**Geana Shemak, Community Coordinator/
 Educator**

Troy Moris, RS
Environmental Health Coordinator

Board of Health

Linda Pittz, Chair/Community Member
Bruce Paull, Vice-Chair/Elected Official
Judy Lindholm, Elected Official
Tom Forbes, Elected Official
Joan Davis, Elected Official
Tom Howard, Community Member
Sue Steudel, Community Member

Dr. Peter Mullin, Medical Advisor

Wis. Stat. § 251.03(1)

A local board of health shall consist of not more than 9 members. At least 3 of these members shall be persons who are not elected officials or employees of the governing body that establishes the local health department and who have a demonstrated interest or competence in the field of public health or community health. In appointing the members who are not elected officials or employees, a good faith effort shall be made to appoint a registered nurse and a physician. Members of the local board of health shall reflect the diversity of the community.

Wis. Stat. § 251.04(6)(a)

A local board of health shall assess public health needs.



Public Health
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The Iowa County Health Department is the official agency of the County responsible for the promotion of wellness, prevention of disease and provision of a healthful environment. This is achieved through activities involving assessment of the community, policy development and evaluation of programs.



Public Health

THE TOP 10 ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community.
2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards.
3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices.
4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop public health policies and plans.
6. Enforce public health laws and regulations.
7. Help people receive health services.
8. Maintain a competent public health workforce.
9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions.
10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health.

Our Mission

Maximizing quality of life across the lifespan

Our Vision

*Lifelong health and well-being for every person,
family and community in Iowa County.*

Our Values

Prevention and Promotion – Strategies that prevent disease and promote healthy living in healthy environments.

Collaboration and Partnership – People working together provide the best solutions.

Evidence-Based - Our practice is science based and uses best practices that improve population health status

Social Justice - We are advocates for vulnerable populations and work to empower families to assure quality of life

Health Equity – Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier

Compassion - We strive to provide dignified care to others



2019 Programs and Services

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community

Wis. Stat. § 251.05(3)(a)

A local health department shall...Regularly and systematically collect, assemble, analyze and make available information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs, epidemiologic studies of health problems, other studies of health problems.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

In 2019, the Iowa County Health Department collaborated with Upland Hills Health to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to address the needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment and healthy Aging in Rural Towns (HeART) Coalition Needs Assessment. A copy of the Iowa County Improvement Plan can be found on the Iowa County Health Department website under documents.

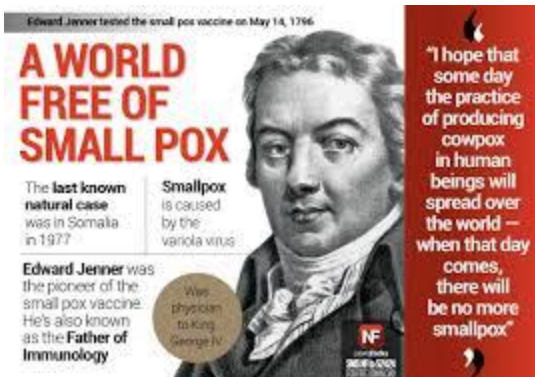
The County Health Rankings evaluates all 72 counties in Wisconsin for health outcomes and health factors. In 2019, Iowa County was ranked 25th for health outcomes and 20th for health factors. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards

Wis. Stat. § 252.06(3)

If a local health officer suspects or is informed of the existence of any communicable disease, the officer shall at once investigate and make or cause such examinations to be made as are necessary.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases/Immunization Program



Appropriate administration of safe and effective vaccines is one of the most successful and cost effective public health tools for preventing disease. In 2019, 1,186 total immunizations (including flu) were administered to 1,116 individuals.

The Health Department is a provider of the Vaccines for Children Program, which can be administered to children through age 18 years with Medicaid, Badger Care or no insurance.



With flu vaccine provided by the Wisconsin Immunization Program, nurses from the Iowa County Health Department immunized 893 school-aged children during mass vaccination clinics held at every school in Iowa County. The school-based clinics were held within a 30-day period during the months of October and November.

The Iowa County Health Department is an active member of the Southern Wisconsin Immunization Consortium (SWIC). The consortium's mission is promoting the use of vaccines with evidence based education and advocacy.

Communicable Disease Surveillance and Follow-up

Wisconsin State Law mandates that local health departments are the responsible agency for the surveillance and follow-up of over 70 reportable communicable diseases. Communicable diseases are tracked through a secure, confidential database between public health, private physicians, hospitals, labs and the state. This communication channel allows for prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and unusual situations. It allows for control measures to minimize further transmission of disease to others.

<i>Diseases in Iowa County</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
Anaplasmosis, A. phagocytophilum	0	0	0	3
Arboviral Illness, West Nile Virus	1	1	1	3
Campylobacteriosis	14	22	14	20
Chlamydia Trachomatis	41	42	36	44
Cryptosporidiosis	12	9	7	6
E-Coli	11	6	5	7
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis, A.	3	2	0	1
Giardiasis	1	0	2	1
Gonorrhea	4	3	8	6
Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive Disease	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	0	0	0	3
Hepatitis C, chronic	6	6	3	20
Histoplasmosis	1	2	0	1
Influenza (Hospitalizations)	3	22	39	28
Legionellosis	1	0	1	1
Leptospirosis	2	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	1
Lyme Disease	11	8	4	9
Lyme Lab Report				38
Measles/Mumps/Rubella (tested)	0	0	0	1
Meningitis, Bacterial other	1	0	0	1
Pertussis (tested)	64	97	64	59
Q Fever, Unspecified	0	0	0	2
Rubella	1	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	4	8	10	3
Shigellosis	4	2	1	0
Spotted Fever Group				1
Streptococcal Infection, Other Invasive	2	1	0	2
Syphilis	2	4	0	3
Toxoplasmosis	1	0	0	3
Tuberculosis				1
Tuberculosis, latent	1	1	3	3
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	4	8	1	9

Data Source: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System

Wis. Stat. § 251.06(3)(f)

A local health officer shall: Investigate and supervise the sanitary conditions of all premises within the jurisdictional area of the local health department.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Program is a valuable asset to our residents. Environmental Health provides programs that focus on issues like house hygiene, lead, radon, water quality and mold. The Environmental Health Coordinator continues to provide consultation and hands-on assessments for referrals in Iowa, Lafayette, Grant, Richland and Vernon counties. Below are the number of home visits and contacts made by the Environmental Health Coordinator.

Services	Iowa County			5 Counties – SW Wisconsin		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Contacts	275	283	287	1,018	1,416	1,505
Home Visits	38	29	27	261	419	229

- **161 Iowa County children were tested for blood lead levels. 59 of the blood lead tests** were performed at WIC clinics in Iowa County. There is no safe level of lead in the human body. Even very low levels of lead can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health, especially those between 6 months and 6 years of age. Six children had blood lead levels falling in the range of 5–10 mcg/dl and were provided follow up.
- **67 animal bite investigations** were completed by the Iowa County Health Department in 2019. Animal bites occurred from 12 wild animals and 55 domestic animals. Of the 55 domestic animals, 25 had not been vaccinated for rabies.
- **51 radon kits** were distributed and **35 (69%)** were completed by residents of Iowa County. There were **24** tests completed with results between 4 – 10 pCi/l and **8** with results above 10 pCi/l. Follow-up letters were sent to all clients with levels above 4 pCi/l. Most scientists agree the risk of death for radon at 4 pCi/l is approximately 1 in 100. At the 4 pCi/l EPA action guideline level, radon carries approximately 1000 times the risk of death as any other EPA carcinogen.

3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices.

Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 140.04(1)(c)

Development and delivery of services to reduce the incidence or prevalence of the chronic diseases or injuries that are the leading causes of disability and premature death in the jurisdiction of the local health department

Chronic Disease Prevention

Chronic disease accounts for the greatest number of poor health conditions and increasing health care costs. 80% of older adults have at least one chronic condition and 50% have at least 2 or more. Public health nurses co-facilitate several community based workshops and classes to help people living with a chronic disease. **“Healthy Living with Diabetes”** and **“Living Well with Chronic Disease”** help adults learn lifestyle skills to manage their disease. **“Stepping On”** is a 7 week workshop that is proven to reduce falls and empower older adults. **Tai Chi** has also shown to be effective in falls prevention for the elderly.

4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems

Wis. Stat. § 251.05(3)(c)

A local health department shall...involve key policymakers and the general public in determining and developing a community health improvement plan that includes actions to implement the services and functions specified under s. 250.03(1)(L).

Healthy Aging in Rural Towns “HeART”



The Iowa County HeART Coalition completed a community assessment in the summer of 2018. This survey identified needs and strategies for closing some of the gaps in support networks for older adults and family caregivers in Iowa County. Results of the assessment were used to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan in 2019. A Community Coordinator/Educator was hired by the Iowa County Health Department in July 2019 to lead the HeART Coalition through the implementation phase of the HeART project.



**The Center for Aging
Research and Education**
SCHOOL OF NURSING
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

<https://care.nursing.wisc.edu/heart/>

Iowa County Wellness Expo

The Iowa County Health Department participated in the Annual Wellness Expo with a focus on the Healthy Aging in Rural Towns (HeART) Coalition. We provided information about HeART objectives and supportive services essential to older adults aging in place, while fostering community engagement and outreach.



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5. Develop Public Health Policies and Plans

Wis. Stat. § 251.05(3)(b)

Develop public health policies and procedures for the community.

Committees and Advisory Boards

The Iowa County Health Department had representation at many committee meetings, board meetings and conferences throughout 2019. These included the following:

Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB)

Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA)

Southwest Community Action Program (SWCAP)

Community Connections Free Clinic

HeART Coalition

Iowa County Homeless Coalition

Substance Abuse Coalition

Infection Prevention Council at Upland Hills Health

Salvation Army

Traffic Safety Commission

Southwest Wisconsin Environmental Health Consortium

Southwest Wisconsin Emergency Preparedness Consortium

South Central Health Care Coalition

Southern Wisconsin Immunization Coalition

Coordinated Service Team (CST)

Aging Network (I Team)

Caregivers Support Group

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Iowa County Caregiver Coalition

Dementia Friendly Community Coalition

Family Resource Center of Iowa County

6. Enforce Public Health Laws and Regulations

Wis. Stat. § 251.06(3)

A local health officer shall:

(a) Administer the local health department in accordance with state statutes and rules.

(b) Enforce state public health statutes and rules.

(c) Enforce any regulations that the local board of health adopts and any ordinances that the relevant governing body enacts, if those regulations and ordinances are consistent with state public health statutes and rules.

In 2019, five orders of abatement were issued for unhealthy home environments with animal feces and urine, pest infestation, mold, drugs and asbestos. Many of the hazards were abated without the need for legal action.

7. Help people receive health services

Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 140.04(1)(c)3

Services to prevent other diseases....Arranging screening, referral and follow-up for population groups for which these activities are recognized by the department as effective in preventing chronic diseases and injuries.

Maternal Child Health (MCH)

The Iowa County Health Department offers health assessments for families who have a newborn to supplement visits with their health care provider. These assessments include height/weight checks, information about growth and development, resources and support to help ensure babies are healthy and developing normally. In 2019, 75 visits were made with infants and families.

WIC

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is a nutrition, informational and supplemental food program available to eligible families with children under age five, women who are pregnant, or nursing women. A public health nurse is available during WIC Clinics to screen families for public health programs and services.

Oral Health

Tooth decay is one of the most common, preventable diseases in children. The Health Department works with local schools, WIC and Head Start to promote use of fluoride varnish. A public health nurse applies fluoride varnish to the teeth of children ages 6 months to 12 years of age. In 2019, 117 fluoride varnishes were applied.

Tobacco Coalition

The Health Department is an active partner of the Southwest Alliance for Tobacco Prevention Coalition. The coalition works to create tobacco free communities in Iowa, Grant, Lafayette, Rock and Green counties. E-cigarettes and “Vaping” became a large focus for the Tobacco Coalition in 2019.

8. Maintain a competent public health workforce

Wis. Stat. § 251.06(3)(e)

A local health officer shall...Appoint all necessary subordinate personnel, assure that they meet appropriate qualifications and have supervisory power over all subordinate personnel. Any public health nurses and sanitarians hired for the local health department shall meet any qualification requirements established in rules promulgated by the department.

Limited Term Employees (LTE)

In 2019, an additional Public Health Nurse joined the staff at the Iowa County Health Department as a Limited-term Employee. All three LTE nurses were able to help with mass influenza immunization clinics held at all Iowa County Schools in the Fall of 2019. With funding from an Opioid Grant, one of the nurses took a lead role in the Substance Misuse Prevention Committee. She continues to be involved with the Substance Misuse Prevention Committee. Another LTE nurse is now working to increase immunization rates in Iowa County.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Iowa County Health Department meets bi-monthly with neighboring counties to work on bioterrorism and emergency preparedness plans. The consortium includes Iowa, Grant, Lafayette, Richland, Vernon and Crawford counties. Health Officers share ideas and plan together to fulfill the requirements of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.

South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC)

<http://www.scwiherc.org/>

Iowa County is one of 14 counties in the South Central Wisconsin HERC Region 5. The coalition is comprised of hospitals, public health, emergency management, emergency medical services and trauma. Through effective policy development and training practices, the Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition integrates individual planning capabilities from regional responders to facilitate a coordinated and collaborative response to emergencies in the region. In 2018, Iowa County Health Department became the fiscal agent for SCWIHERC. The Iowa County Health Officer continues to serve on the Advisory Board for the Coalition.

9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions

Wis. Stat. § 251.06(3)(h)

A local health officer shall: Have charge of the local health department and perform the duties prescribed by the local board of health. The local health officer shall submit an annual report of the administration of the local health department to the local board of health.

February 26, 2020 Board of Health Meeting

10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health

Wis. Stat. § 250.03(1)(L)

Provide research to develop insights into and innovative solutions for health problems.



The Iowa County Health Department continues to be a provider of the National Diabetes Prevention Program, “Prevent T2” for people who are diagnosed with prediabetes or are at risk of developing diabetes. The Iowa County Health Department was the first health department in Wisconsin to offer the program. This yearlong, evidenced-based program to prevent or postpone Type 2 Diabetes focuses on healthy eating, increasing physical activity, weight loss, stress reduction and coping skills, and making lifestyle changes. In 2019, classes for the program were held at Lands’ End in Dodgeville.



Expenses	2016	2017	2018	2019
Personnel & Fringe	307,927	314,550	325,600	348,542
All others	35,515	30,048	49,965	59,172
*SCWIHERC	-	-	-	355,592
Total:	\$343,442	\$344,598	\$375,565	\$763,307
Revenue				
Grants	77,587	80,663	107,549	135,934
Other	20,654	21,239	12,368	10,558
*SCWIHERC	-	-	-	360,912
Total:	\$98,241	\$101,902	\$119,917	\$507,404
Tax Levy	\$245,201	\$242,696	\$255,648	\$255,903

*Iowa County Health Department is the fiscal agent for South Central Wisconsin Health Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC).