

# Washburn County Health Department 2015 Annual Report

## STAFF

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Washburn County Health Department has served the community for 79 years since 1936.

Washburn County Health Department continues to meet the statutory requirements for a Level II Health Department in the State of Wisconsin following the 140 Review completed by the State in late 2014.

In 2015, we completed the Community Health Assessment in partnership with Spooner Health System. The Health Assessment is required every 5 years. A Steering Committee reviewed demographic information, available community program and services and unmet needs. The Community-wide Health Assessment Survey was distributed and reviewed.

The top health priorities for the next five years were: Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Abuse, Mental Health Barriers, Access to Health Care, Chronic Disease Prevention and Nutrition, Obesity and Physical Activity Issues. The Steering Committee will develop the Community Health Improvement Plan and report outcomes annually or the next five years

We would like to thank the Steering Committee Members for their assistance in the assessment process and their commitment for the next five years as they oversee the Community Improvement Plan. Thank you to the over 300 community members that completed the survey by mail and on-line. The voice of the community was acknowledged.

## VOLUNTARY ADVISORS

**Beverly Bohac MD**  
Medical Advisor

**Jeffrey Dunham MD**  
Jail Medical Advisor

**Gary Sloniker DVM**  
Veterinary Advisor

## Washburn County Health Department

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# Immunizations

As part of Wisconsin Statute Chapter 252, the Washburn County Health Department provides vaccinations to children and adults to prevent communicable diseases. We offer all recommended vaccines for uninsured children 0-18 years and limited adult. Through electronic monitoring of records and quarterly reminders, 68 percent of all 2-year-olds met immunization requirements in 2015. 74% were considered "late up-to-date" and met the immunization benchmark by age three.

## Communicable Disease Control & Prevention

Wisconsin Statute 252 requires that local hospitals and clinics report communicable diseases to local health departments for investigation and surveillance. In 2015, Washburn County Health Department conducted 249 communicable disease investigations confirming 164 cases. Preventing the spread of communicable disease remains a public health priority.

### Reportable Diseases in Washburn County

Disease	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Arborovirus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Babesiosis	2	1	1	1	5	4	1	1	3
Blastomycosis	0	0	3	1	4	0	0	1	0
Campylobacter	3	1	4	2	4	3	4	3	2
Cat Scratch Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Chlamydia	15	15	22	17	23	16	30	34	35
Clostridium	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cryptosporidium	1	3	0	0	3	6	5	1	3
Dengue	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
E Coli - 157	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	1
Ehrlichiosis	14	17	21	20	39	56	24	23	22
Genital Herpes	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Giardia	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	2
Gonorrhea	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Hib (Invasive)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
H1N1 Influenza	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Hepatitis C	6	4	5	14	9	5	8	9	11
HIV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza (Hospitalized)	6	0	0	0	1	1	10	9	13
Legionnaire's	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lyme	72	73	80	139	83	84	88	68	54
Meningitis - Bacterial	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis - Viral	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0
Mycobacterium (Non-Tb)	2	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	1
Norovirus	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pertussis/Parapertussis	0	0	0	5	2	58	27	6	3
Rocky Mt Spotted Fever	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Salmonella	8	5	3	1	3	0	3	1	3
Shigella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strep B	2	4	2	1	1	2	1	3	1
Tuberculosis (latent)	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Varicella	NR	2	1	0	6	0	0	0	1
Yersiniosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>164</b>

NR = Not Reportable

## Reproductive Health Services

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The Washburn County Reproductive Health Program provides services through the Maternal Child Health block grant, per Wisconsin Statutes 252 & 253. In 2015, 116 clients received on-going Reproductive Health services. The program provides:

- Counseling, education and contraceptive supplies.
- Sexually transmitted infection risk assessment, counseling, education and testing; with referrals for treatment as needed.
- Pregnancy risk assessment, counseling, testing and referral.
- BadgerCare+ Family Planning Only and Pregnant Women Enrollment both temporary and continuous enrollment assistance.

## BadgerCare +

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ForwardHealth Outreach programming began in 2008 when Washburn County Health Department became a BadgerCare+ Express Enrollment site for pregnant women, children and Family Planning Only services. This service allows eligible individuals to receive immediate, temporary health care coverage and assistance with long-term certification.

In 2015, Washburn County Health Department successfully enrolled 186 clients in one of the several BadgerCare+ programs. Most enrollments were crisis enrollments.

## Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program

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In 2015, Washburn County recorded 120 births. There are several programs available to newborns and parents:

**Car Seat Safety Program** - In 2015, 4 parents with children from birth through 8 years of age were taught how to properly position their children in car seats by our certified car seat safety inspector. One free car seat was given away to a parent in need.

**Child Death Review Team** offered recommendations to the Keeping Kids Alive Initiative for implementation.

**Keeping Kids Alive Initiative** was implemented in collaboration with our community partners. Car seat safety, ATV safety and co-sleeping messages were given to the community.

**Immunization Reminder/Recall Letters:** Parents of children under age 3 receive immunization reminder letters and a copy of their current immunization record for review quarterly. Immunization recall letters are intended to increase the percentage of children up to date with immunizations by 2, to ensure protection against vaccine preventable diseases.

**Newborn Mailing Program**- Education packets containing materials on Immunization, Infant Safety, Healthy Birth Spacing and other Public Health services were mailed to the parents of all Washburn County newborns.

**Well Water Testing** - Kits offered at no charge to households where a pregnant or breastfeeding woman or an infant resides.

## Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP)

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Under Wisconsin Statute 255, Washburn County Health Department offers, at no charge, breast and cervical cancer screening through local medical providers to income eligible, uninsured, or underinsured women between the ages of 45 and 64 through the WWWP.



In mid 2015, the program transitioned to a regional coordination model. Enrollment and case management for Washburn County participants are completed by Polk County Health Department.

## WIC (Women Infants and Children)

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Under Wisconsin State Statute 253, Washburn County Health Department provides the WIC Program.

The WIC Program is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, and infants and children up to age 5 years who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition.

The program improves pregnancy outcomes by providing referrals to support services necessary for full-term pregnancy, reduces infant mortality by reducing the incidence of low birth weight and provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets while saving long-term medical costs.

In 2015, an average of 342 women infants and children received nutritional education and food stipend benefits monthly through the WIC Program.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Rabies Control

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Wisconsin Statute 254 requires that the Health Department investigate all animal bites/exposures involving humans.



Public Health Nurses provide education regarding the need for medical treatment and animal quarantine or animal rabies testing.

In 2015, 45 animal bites/exposures were reported and investigated. No animal or human cases of rabies were reported.

## Tuberculosis Testing Surveillance

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Tuberculosis (TB) skin tests are provided to community members, jail staff and inmates. TB case surveillance is state mandated by Wisconsin Statute 252.

## Coalition Memberships

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Washburn County Health Department was an active member of the following coalitions in 2015:

- Childhood Death Review Team (CDR)
- Children's Coordinated Services Team
- Multidisciplinary Team (M-Team) includes Drug Endangered Children (DEC)
- Elder Abuse Interdisciplinary Team
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Washburn County Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Committee (AODA)
- Keeping Kids Safe in Washburn County
- Washburn County Preparedness Committee (WCPC)
- Western Wisconsin Partnership for Public Health Readiness (WWPPHR)
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB)
- Wisconsin Family Planning Reproductive Health Association (WFPRHA)
- Hazard Mitigation Work Group
- Coordinated Community Response (CCR)
- Western Regional Jail Health
- Continuum of Care (COC)
- Lakeland Family Resource Center
- New Paradigm Partners
- Northwest WI Health Care Coalition
- Western WI Nutrition Network

## School Vision & Hearing Screening

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Vision and hearing screening provides an opportunity for early intervention and treatment enhancing educational outcomes.

The Health Department provides vision and hearing screening equipment to all area schools.

## Jail Health

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Washburn County Health Department provides jail nursing services to inmates at the Washburn County Jail.

Services include case management, medication monitoring, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infection screening and limited treatments.

In 2015, Washburn County Public Health Department provided 1113 hours of nursing services in the jail setting.

## Public Health Emergency Preparedness

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The Washburn County Health Department engages in a continuous planning process with community partners to respond to public health emergencies, from large scale disease outbreaks to acts of bioterrorism. The Health Department is part of a Regional Preparedness Coalition which provides continuity of planning across county lines.

In 2015, the Health Department worked with medical providers and emergency management to develop a coordinated Ebola Response Plan. A Mass Fatality Plan and a Service Animal Sheltering Plan have also been developed. A Volunteer Reception Center Training was conducted with our local volunteer groups.

The Health Department will continue to work with partners to improve planning, training and response. Local partners include Emergency Management, Medical Providers, Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Schools, Volunteer groups and many others.

## Childhood Lead Monitoring

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The Washburn County Health Department provides Childhood Lead Screening Surveillance and Lead Abatement Authority under State Statute 254.

There is no safe level of lead in the human body. Even very low levels of lead exposure can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health throughout the child's life, especially those up to age 6 years. The Centers for Disease Control defines lead poisoning as a blood lead level of 5 mcg or greater.

In 2015 there were no children with elevated blood lead levels in Washburn County.

## Environmental Health

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Under Wisconsin Statute 254, the Health Department is responsible for investigation and abatement of known human health hazards to the public. A moratorium on Chapter 30 of the Washburn County Environmental Nuisance Ordinance was enacted in 2013 due to budget constraints and enforcement challenges.

Most complaints continue to involve repeat offenders with an accumulation of solid waste. All townships have access to waste disposal at the public's own expense.





