

Washburn County Health Department

2017 Annual Report

Staff

Jim LeDuc
MSW, APSW

Director Health and Human
Services

Jerri Pederson
RN, BSN

Supervisor/Health Officer

Cheri Nickell
RN, BSN

Public Health Nurse
Supervisor/Health Officer

Tim Nickell
RN, BSN

Public Health Nurse

Dianna Stumph
RN, BSN

Public Health Nurse

Julie Erickson
RDN, CD

WIC Registered Dietician
WIC Director

Becky Anonich
Account Clerk

Washburn County Health Department has served the community for 81 years beginning in 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 2014.

The Health Department underwent several key changes in 2017. Dr. Gary Sloniker, DVM, retired as our Veterinary Advisor for our Rabies Control Program, and was replaced by Dr. Allen Pederson, DVM. Jerri Pederson, Public Health Supervisor and Health Officer, retired mid-year after 33 years of service to Washburn County. Cheri Nickell, Public Health Nurse, was appointed by the Board to replace her as the Public Health Supervisor and Health Officer. Cheri's Public Health Nurse position was not replaced. Julie Erickson, the WIC Registered Dietician, assumed the role of WIC Director.



Jerri Pederson, Washburn County Health Officer, receives a plaque commemorating her 33 years of service. The plaque was presented by Tim Ringhand, Western Region Public Health Office Director.

Voluntary Advisors

Beverly Bohac, MD

Public Health Medical Advisor

Jeffrey Dunham, MD

Jail Medical Advisor

Gary Sloniker, DVM

Veterinary Advisor

Allen Pederson, DVM

Veterinary Advisor

We thank our Voluntary Medical and Veterinary Advisors for their willingness to supervise all our programming as required by statute.

Washburn County Health Department

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Community Health Improvement Plan

The Health Department continues to work with community partners to address the Health Priorities identified in the 2015 Community Health Assessment. Those priorities include Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Abuse, Mental Health Barriers, Access to Health Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Nutrition, Obesity, and Physical Activity. 2017 was year two of the five year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Annual updates are posted on the Health Department website.

Communicable Disease Control & Prevention

Wisconsin Statute 252 requires that local hospitals and clinics report communicable diseases to Local Health Departments for investigation and surveillance. Preventing the spread of disease remains a public health priority. In 2017, the Washburn County Health Department conducted 301 communicable disease investigations, confirming 266 cases.



Tick borne diseases, including Lyme, Ehrlichiosis, and Babesiosis, accounted for almost 3/4 of the reported diseases. Lyme Disease cases increased moderately (150 vs 126), while Ehrlichiosis cases almost doubled (42 vs 25).

Enteric (food & water borne) diseases were down slightly from 2016 (15 vs 19). The increase in 2016 was most likely due to the flooding that occurred in parts of the county.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) were down 25% from 2016 (22 vs 29), with Chlamydia still accounting for the majority of the cases.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

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

In 2017, the Health Department facilitated an Ice Storm tabletop exercise for local partners, as well as participating in regional exercises. Communication between partners remains a key issue.

Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Training was again conducted with our local volunteer groups, and in May, the group was able to assist in the VRC activated for the Barron County tornado. Our volunteer group is recognized as a regional asset, and other counties are using our model. Many thanks to our volunteer groups: Faith Lutheran Church, Shell Lake Lions, and Spooner/Trego Lions, as you are a vital part of our Emergency Response Team.



*Rudy & Sharon Kessler
Shell Lake Lions/Faith Lutheran*



VRC Go Kits



*Chuck Warner
VRC Director*

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.

Reproductive Health Services

The Washburn County Reproductive Health Program provides services through the Maternal Child Health block grant, per Wisconsin Statutes 252 & 253. In 2017, **73** clients received on-going Reproductive Health Services. The program provides: Reproductive health education and counseling, birth control education and supplies, sexually transmitted infection risk assessment, education, counseling and limited treatment, pregnancy prevention and early detection and referrals as needed.

Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program

Programs available for families with children include:

Safe Sleep Initiative - 50 infants die in Wisconsin every year from unsafe sleep practices. In 2017, the Health Department offered community Safe Sleep education and training. This training focused on the **ABCs** of safe sleep: **A**lone, on their **B**ack, in a **C**rib, in a **S**moke-free environment. Five community groups received training.

Child Death Review (CDR) Team - Team of community stake holders who review all child deaths in order to identify community strategies to prevent additional deaths. In 2017, there were no child deaths in Washburn County.

Newborn Mailing Program- Education packets containing materials on Immunization, Infant Safety, Healthy Birth Spacing and other Public Health Services are mailed to the parents of all Washburn County newborns. 139 packets were mailed in 2017.

Community Access Point

Washburn County Health Department assists clients in enrolling in all Forward Health Programs. In 2017, Washburn County Health Department assisted 183 participants for one or more Forward Health programs, including BadgerCare+, Food Share, Child Care, and Family Planning Only Services.

WIC (Women Infants and Children)

The WIC Program is a Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 years who have a health risk due to inadequate nutrition.

The program improves pregnancy outcomes, reduces infant mortality and provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets. In 2017, an average of 262 participants received nutrition education and food benefits monthly. Benefits are now on an e-card for convenience.

Immunizations

Under Wisconsin Statute Chapter 252 and in conjunction with the Vaccine for Children Program and the Wisconsin Immunization Program, Washburn County Health Department offers all recommended childhood vaccines to children 0-18 years, who meet program guidelines.

In addition, a limited selection of vaccines are available to adults with no vaccine insurance coverage.

As part of our chronic and communicable disease surveillance duties, we monitor the immunization records and sent vaccine due reminders to the parents of all Washburn County children under the age of three.

In 2017, 76% of all Washburn County 2 years olds were up-to-date with an additional 2% considered late up-to-date (completed by age 3). The state average is 72.55% up-to-date.

Childhood Lead Monitoring

The Washburn County Health Department provides Childhood Lead Screening Surveillance and Lead Abatement under Wisconsin State Statute 254. 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 throughout life. The Centers for Disease Control defines lead poisoning as a blood lead level of 5 mcg or greater.

Rabies Control

State Statute 254 requires that the Health Department investigate all animal bites/exposures involving humans. Rabies is almost always fatal, unless post-exposure prophylaxis (treatment) is given.

Public Health Nurses provide education regarding the need for human medical evaluation. They also order and enforce animal quarantine or rabies testing. All domestic animals, including dogs, cats, and ferrets, must be quarantined for 10 days following a bite or other exposure to a human. If an animal has a current rabies vaccine, they may be allowed to quarantine at home. Unvaccinated animals must be quarantined at a Veterinarian at the owner's expense.

Wild animals involved in a bite to either humans or pets are humanely euthanized and tested for rabies. In 2017, 50 animal bites/exposures were reported and investigated. No animal or human cases of rabies were reported.

Environmental Health

Under Wisconsin Statute 254, the Health Department is responsible for investigation and abatement of known Human Health Hazards to the public. Washburn County Health Department conducted no immediate Human Health Hazard investigations in 2017.

Coalition Memberships

In 2017 Washburn County Health Department was an active member of the following coalitions:

Child Death Review Team (CDR)
Children's Coordinated Services team (CCST)
Continuum of Care (COC)
Elder Abuse Interdisciplinary Team
Keeping Kids Safe in Washburn County (KKS)
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Multidisciplinary Team
(Includes Drug Endangered Children)

Northwest WI Health care Coalition (NWWIHCC)
Washburn County Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Committee
WI Association of Local Health Departments & Boards
(WALHDAB)
Western WI Public Health Readiness Consortium
(WWPHRC)
WI Family Planning Reproductive Health Association
WFPRHA)