



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

2015 Health Unit Annual Report

The mission of the Health Unit is to “Assure the health of Green Lake County by promoting and protecting health and preventing disease.”

OUR VISION--

**GREEN LAKE COUNTY:
HEALTHY PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT**



Health Unit Staff: Back row, Renee Peters, , Birth-3/Family Support, Tracy Soda, PHN, Ashley Rondorf, Environmental Health Specialist, Shari Krause, Public Health Program Specialist, Kari Schneider, PHN, Melanie Simpkins, RN, MPH, Health Educator and Accreditation Coordinator. Front Row: Caitlin Witt*, UW-Oshkosh Accelerated Nursing Nursing Student, Kathy Munsey, RN, Health Officer, Makiko Thomas-Omori *, Summer Intern Jeri Loewe, PHN, Marilyn Voeltner, Volunteer.

*Throughout the year, we mentor students from various schools including UW-Oshkosh, Marian University, UW-Madison and more. Mentoring interns is one way to provide them with opportunities to increase their knowledge of public health as practiced in the community setting and they can grow and develop their skills. This is a great way for us to contribute towards a competent workforce!

Our 2015 Programs and Services:

Disease Control and Prevention

Public Health Nurses are required by statute to follow up on acute and communicable diseases. Using the WI Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) we are able to monitor trends and track outbreaks as they occur. Below are some of the diseases we followed in 2015, along with previous year comparables. In 2012 we were seeing huge numbers of pertussis or whooping cough statewide. A huge vaccination campaign was implemented and you can see how that has improved the number of cases for that disease.

Frequency of Reported Diseases in Green Lake County	2012	2013	2014	2015
Blastomycosis	-	-	1	-
Brucellosis	-	1	-	-
Campylobacteriosis	4	4	6	2
Chlamydia	38	41	42	47
Cryptosporidiosis	2	1	2	2
E-Coli (Shiga Toxin)	-	-	-	3
Ehrlichiosis	2	1	1	5
Giardiasis	1	2	3	-
Gonorrhea	3	-	2	2
Ebola Monitored Traveler	-	-	1	1
Hepatitis A	1	-	-	-
Hepatitis B	2	3	-	1
Hepatitis C	8	13	12	16
Influenza (hospitalized)	1	7	9	6
Legionellosis	-	-	1	-
Lyme Disease	18	39	28	20
Measles (Rubeola)	-	-	-	1
Mycobacterium (non-tuberculosis)	3	2	-	5
Parapertussis	1	-	-	-
Pertussis (whooping cough)	21	10	2	-
Q Fever	-	-	1	-
Salmonellosis	3	7	4	5
Shigellosis	-	-	1	-
Invasive Strep Disease	1	1	2	4
Syphilis	2	-	-	1
Latent TB infection	2	-	3	1
Varicella	8	2	3	2
TOTAL	121	134	124	124

Public Health Preparedness

In September of 2015, we completed a full-scale exercise working closely with Gary Podoll, Emergency Management Director, local law enforcement, our coroner, fire departments, hospitals, nursing homes, Red Cross and

surrounding counties to test our ability to handle mass fatalities and open a Family Assistance Center for survivors. The exercise had a tornado hitting Green Lake with 5 fatalities and many victims. We tested our surge capacity of our hospital and our fatality management capabilities of other partners. Past exercises have not stretched the capacity of our county to deal with mass fatalities and the family assistance needs that accompany such an event. New players were included in the drill. We had 112 participants from 6 different jurisdictions and provided “Just In Time” training for all to assist us in our mission. The drill went very well and we had over 45 people get trained on the Esponder communication system as well as the WI Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR) to enhance our response to events.

We also spent a great deal of time training on how to respond to an Ebola traveler and received additional grant funding to do so. We had one traveler from Liberia that we had to monitor this year.

We have also joined Region 6 of the Health Care Coalitions. This is a partnership with hospitals, First Responders, Fire, EMS and more. This group meets monthly in an effort to coordinate preparedness activities.



Above is one of many “fatalities” found by first responders during the full-scale tornado exercise on September 23, 2015. Health & Human Services set up a Family Assistance Center to help survivors during the event. Over 110 individuals participated in the drill to test our readiness for a mass casualty event.

Immunizations for Children and Adults

We continue to have monthly immunization clinics in Green Lake, and one at Care 4U clinic in Dalton every other month to accommodate the large number of uninsured in that part of the county. This has proven to be an effective outreach strategy for immunizations. We continued to have flu clinics in all communities in the fall as usual. Overall, 1447 vaccines were given to 1113 individuals.

Childhood Lead Testing

There is no safe level of lead in the human body; even very low levels of lead exposure can negatively affect health throughout the lifespan.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed their definition of lead poisoning as a blood lead level of 5 or greater in May of 2012. Children with a lead level of 5 or greater are provided with follow-up and consultation by a Public Health Nurse. Follow-up may include phone calls, home visits, consultation with the primary health care provider and a home lead risk assessment by the Health Department's Environmental Health Specialist. In 2015, 166 blood lead tests were completed, 15 had a level over 5, compared to 16 in 2014.

<p>2015 Blood Lead Testing Total Number of Tests: 166 Children <5 ug/dl = 151 Children >5 ug/dl = 15 Home assessments = 1</p>
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Mother, Child and Family

There were 180 births in Green Lake County in 2015 down from 195 births in 2014. We had 1 birth to girls under age 18, compared to 0 last year. We also had 11 babies that were considered "low birth weight" (weighing less than 5lbs, 8oz), unchanged from previous year. In 2015, the percentage of women who smoke during pregnancy did decrease to 18.8% (28% in 2014, 25% in 2013). However, we had 7 infants

born premature, 3 of those mothers smoked during pregnancy. Five infants were transferred to Neonatal Intensive Care Units. This is an area that we continue to target by offering the First Breath program, a smoking cessation program for pregnant women at our WIC clinics.

We continue to utilize the **"Life Course Model"** as promoted by the Family Resource Council through our Maternal Child Health grant. This year 12 education sessions incorporated the model. Through the Healthy Babies Coalition which is a partnership with Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties, we sponsored training to educate local providers and families on the Life Course Model and ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) with a special emphasis on parenting with a history of opiate addiction and how it can effect a child's growth and development. Over 100 people attended the conference in April.

Nutrition WIC

WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

WIC helps income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, those who recently had a baby, and infants and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition.

Green Lake County served over 500 clients in 2015. In addition, breastfeeding education was available to all WIC clients. WIC provides a breastfeeding peer mentor which is an invaluable resource to new mothers. The State of WI contracts with Family Health La Clinica in Wautoma to provide WIC services to Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara counties. This summer, they started using electronic benefit cards instead of the paper vouchers. This has added an extra educational component to the program, but increased convenience for the client.

Kari Schneider and Shari Krause attend all WIC clinics to provide immunizations, information and assist with signing families up for dental and immunization follow-up appointments.

Birth to 3

Birth to 3 is Wisconsin's early intervention program for families of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. The Green Lake County Health Unit has been designated by the county board to be the administrative agency in our county for this mandated program. The county is required to maintain a base level of funding for this program. Some families do have a cost share for services depending on their income. Medicaid and Private Insurance are billed for services when available and with parental permission.

In 2015, 40 new children were referred to the program compared to 45 in 2014. Referrals came from a number of sources including: physician, family member, social worker, WIC, UMOS, school districts, and WI Sound Beginnings. Seventeen of those children received services through an Individualized Family Service Plan. Thirteen children were found to be developing within age appropriate levels. Eight families declined services after their evaluation. One child moved to another county and was referred to school based services given age at the time of referral. These children along with those who had previously been in the program brought the total number of kids served to 31 in 2015. In addition to those with significant developmental delays, there were several children with specific diagnoses including: lead poisoning, hypotonia, significant prematurity, cerebral palsy and delays related to non-accidental injury.

Renee Peters is the Program and Service Coordinator/Educator. Contracted service providers include Jenny Hoffman, Occupational Therapist from Rehab Resources in Beaver Dam. Kristen Mertens provides Speech and Language therapy and comes from CHN in Berlin. Jody Streeter is the Physical Therapist from Walk of Ages in Fond du Lac.

Child Find is an important component of Birth to 3, as we want to assure that all children that may be eligible for services are referred in a timely fashion. In **2015** our outreach consisted of:

Spring Child Development Days – We participated in our area school districts Child Development Day by providing an informational display with brochures and providing assistance as requested.

Brochures – Brochures are available at our county WIC clinics as well as in the lobby of Health and Human Services and in the Public Health Unit. Brochures are also included in the New Parent Packet shared by our Public Health Nurses.

Interagency Agreements – Agreements are in place with each county school district and UMOS (United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.) and Advocap-Head Start.

Renee also collaborates as a committee member of the Head Start Advisory Committee, Green Lake County Family Resource Council and Healthy Babies Coalition of Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara Counties.

Family Support Program

The State provides each county with a yearly allocation to support families who care for their disabled children in the home. The Program recognizes that meeting the needs of children who have severe disabilities may place hardships on a family's emotional, physical and financial resources. The Coordinator for the Family Support Program is Renee Peters.

In 2015, 12 children had a Family Support Plan written for a variety of goods and services. The Program was able to fund specialized equipment, respite, autism consult, shoe lifts, conferences related to a diagnosis, transportation, nutritional supplements, home modifications, individualized recreational opportunities, therapeutic materials, and medical supplies not covered by insurance.

Tobacco Control and Prevention

Green Lake County continues as a member of the "Five Counties for Tobacco Free Living," a coalition that includes the counties of Fond du Lac, Marquette, Waushara and Washington, however, the tobacco compliance checks are now being done by Fond du Lac County and 7 retailers sold to minors in 2015.

Healthy Teeth Healthy Lives Program

The Dental clinic served 98 individuals in 2015. Clinics are held 1- 2 times a month at our agency as well as summer outreach sites at the Boys & Girls Club and a UMOS Migrant Child Care Center in Berlin. Clients need to be on Medical Assistance or Badger Care or have no insurance– in which case a small grant received from Salvation Army is used to pay for the service. Carrie, the dental hygienist, provided cleanings to children and uninsured adults. If they need any additional work done, a referral is then made to Family Health La Clinica. We added Head Start as an outreach site in 2014 and Carrie was able to go to Prairie View Head Start to provide services for the children. Head Start staff are very happy with the convenience of having Carrie come to their site. We will continue to strategize on how to decrease “no shows” since this has been a problem. We have also outreached to local dentists to let them know of our service, since most do not take clients on Medical Assistance.



Kathy Munsey and summer intern Makiko Thomas Omori at the Mission of Mercy dental clinic in Fond du Lac in June 2015.

All staff helped serve 1428 patients for the Mission of Mercy dental clinic in Fond du Lac. Over \$1 million in dental care was provided.

Other Public Health Contacts for 2015	Totals
Blood Pressure Checks	69
Breastfeeding Education	29
Dental	225
Communicable Disease/TB Testing	653
Environmental Issues	36
General Health Promotion	329
Immunizations Given	1113
Immunization information	2296
Infant & Child Health (WIC contacts)	1248
Lead Tests & Follow-up	67
Mental Health	33
Postpartum Visits/Contacts	212
Public Health	448
Reproductive Health	39
Senior Health	78
STD follow-up	90
Tobacco Education/First Breath	10
Wellness Checks	85
Worksite Wellness	494
TOTAL	6763
PRESENTATIONS/EDUCATION CONTACTS	
Blood Borne Path Training	78
Berlin School Wellness	44
Employee Wellness Fair	35
Healthy Babies Coalition Conference	100
Heroin Summit	200
Lunch and Learns	128
Safety and Wellness to TRIAD	35
Preparedness for Tornado Exercise	112
Diabetes Education	226
Provider/Partner Meeting on Lyme	18
Parenting Class & Breastfeeding	28
Nutrition Presentations	381
Women's Health Events	200
Economic Development	169
Worksite Wellness Outreach	10,206
MCH Life Course	95
Amish Culture and Safety	24
Other	19
Total	12,098

Food Safety & Recreational Licensing Program

The Tri-County Health Consortium, consisting of Ashley Rondorf, Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) Green Lake, Jon Jilek, EHS for Marquette County and Mary Robl, Registered Sanitarian, EHS and Program Director from Waushara County Health Department. They are responsible for maintaining the Food Safety and Recreational Licensing Program. As agents of the state, this program licenses and inspects food facilities, swimming pools, hotel/motels, school food programs, campgrounds, kennels, recreational education camps, tattoo, body piercing, and bed and breakfast establishments. Mary took over as program director when Jayme Schenk, previous director accepted the job of Health Officer for Marquette County. During 2015 there were approximately 800 inspections performed in the Tri-County area. Inspections are performed to ensure that facilities are in compliance with applicable regulations to promote health and safety for consumers.

*Tourist Rooming House (TRH) inspections are deemed low-priority facilities per WI DHS

Facility Type	Number of Inspections 2015	Total Number of Facilities
Restaurants and Retail Food	151	136
Campgrounds	11	13
Swimming Pools	21	21
Hotel/Motels/TRH	79*	120
Summer Camps	3	3
Tattoo Shop	0	0

directive and are inspected every other year.

Environmental Health

Tri-County also deals with a wide variety of environmental issues that arise within the consortium. Investigations into nuisance complaints, housing issues, water quality issues and animal bites are some of the problems encountered. The Environmental Health division

of the Health Department is responsible for enforcing the Health and Sanitation chapter of the Green Lake County ordinance to ensure that citizens are not exposed to hazardous conditions that could affect their health.

Environmental Issues Addressed

Animal Bites—36
Water test kits Distributed—7
Housing Inspection Cases—7
Nuisance/Other—6
Radon Test Kits Given Out--14

Worksite Wellness/Employee Health Program

Melanie Simpkins, RN, MPH coordinates the employee wellness program using funds provided by Group Health Trust. The initiatives are a method to help reduce healthcare costs by having healthier employees. This is accomplished in a variety of ways. In 2015 we had over 25 outreach activities including a health fair, individual health screenings, lunch and learns, Healthy Monday Tips, summer challenges, walking contests and more. Over \$5000 was given back to employees in the form of prizes, gift cards, gas cards and cash when they participated. We are very grateful to GHT for providing the funds to help keep our employees happier and healthier with the activities we share.



The 2015 Employee Wellness Fair had a nautical theme and touched on topics such as healthy eating, alcohol use, exercise, boating safety, family wellness and much more.

The Green Lake County Wellness Coalition (GLCWC)

took charge of completing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in 2013 and continues to work on implementing the plan. The coalitions three “Action Teams” were very busy looking at various ways to improve the health of Green Lake County. One of the 3 action teams, ***Mental Health/Substance Abuse*** decided their key issue was the increase in heroin and opiate abuse in the county. Members which include Theda Care, Agnesian, local schools, law enforcement and more, joined forces to sponsor a second “Heroin Summit” in Markesan which was held in April. A presentation was given to all 6-12th graders at Markesan High School and included Green Lake H.S. students and an evening session was held for community members with over 200 people attending to hear the message. Many local organizations had tables set up in the commons to provide resources on counseling services, domestic abuse services and much more. The work will continue in 2016 as we educate the community about this growing problem. We now have drug drop boxes in all 4 communities. We are also collaborating with Berlin High School to train more individuals on mental health first aid. The Central WI Healthcare Partnership which includes 5 surrounding counties is also working on improving services for mental health issues.

The ***Nutrition Team Action Team***, led by Tracy Soda looked at ways to make fresh produce more available to those using WIC & Senior Vouchers at local farm markets. Nutrition education classes for senior citizens and Boys & Girls club were provided as well as education to diabetics through the Diabetic Health Fair sponsored by Theda Care--Berlin.

The third action team is the ***Physical Activity Team*** and they worked hard on presentations to local governing boards to explain the benefits of having physical activity opportunities in their community. The presentation talked about “Health In All”, nutrition, the use of green spaces, bike paths, sidewalks and dual use for

schools. In 2015 they presented to the Berlin School Board, Green Lake School Board and Green Lake City Council. Jeri Loewe is a member of the Berlin School Wellness Coalition and works with them to improve physical activity opportunities for the children as well as improve the environment.

Our efforts paid off since we improved from ranking 62nd out of 72 counties in 2014 to 53rd in 2015. The group continues to stay engaged and is active within many areas of the county.

The Green Lake County Wellness Coalition meets monthly and is open to anyone interested in improving the health of Green Lake County. Additional information is on our website: www.glcwc.org.

Accreditation

Healthy WI 2020, the state health plan would like all health departments to be accredited by 2020. We have appointed Melanie Simpkins as our accreditation coordinator, have assigned the 12 Domains to staff and have been continuously working on this process.

2015 Staff Changes:

Judy Kasuboski, who had worked for the county for 23 years, retired in February. We are very grateful for all she did especially all her work with pregnant women and children in the WIC program. In addition, the WI Well Women’s Program essentially ended and Jackie Westover, the coordinator left to pursue a career in social work. Jackie worked for the county for over 13 years. Marilyn Voeltner, our long time health educator and volunteer moved to Oshkosh and we were very sad to see her go after 13 years of dedicated service to the county. These 3 vacancies provided us with an opportunity to revamp our unit to be more efficient and effective. We decreased the Public Health Nurse position hours in order to create a part-time Public Health Program Specialist position. It has worked out very well so far. We will continue to evaluate the changes.

Submitted by Kathy Munsey, RN, Health Officer