

What does Green Lake County Health Department Do For You? 2010 Annual Report

Serving our community since 1940



Green Lake County Health Department staff includes (back row) Judy Kasuboski, RN; Deb Washkoviak, WI Well Woman Program Coordinator; Jason Aho, Environmental Health; Tracy Soda, RN; Jeri Loewe, RN; (front row) Marilyn Voeltner, Health Educator; Renee Peters, Birth to 3 Coordinator; Kathy Munsey, Health Officer.



Message from the Health Officer



The 2010 Annual Report of Green Lake County Health Department provides a snapshot of the many ways in which our department touches the lives of Green Lake County residents each and every day and provides an answer to many who ask us, “What does Public Health do?”

Although public health programs and activities may not often be visible, public health staff can frequently be found working behind the scenes on our mission to protect, promote, and maintain the health of our entire population. The 10 Essential Services of Public Health can provide a basic description to others as to “What does Public Health do” and the services provided by our department.

What will help us to further describe public health in the future is the national movement of Public Health Accreditation. Through the accreditation process we will begin to formally sharpen and develop the tools and methods we need to ensure the safety and health of the population that we serve. We are in the process of writing a grant to help us prepare for accreditation to provide our health department with measurable feedback on our strengths and areas that need improvement.

In summary, we can not do it alone. Providing Essential Services of Public Health requires community partnerships. In June of this year, we moved into our new facility at 571 County Road A. Having all county departments together will facilitate such partnerships and strengthen our ability to provide essential public health services, we continue to develop and engage community partners to provide a healthy and safe place to live for all residents of Green Lake County.

Respectful yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn S. Munsey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn S. Munsey
Health Officer
Green Lake County Health Department

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.

The Green Lake County Health Department helps improve community health through broad-based interventions, rather than focusing primarily on individual treatment. Population-based services are a major contributor to the overall improvement of a community's health status.

- **Protects the community from all kinds of health threats**



The Environmental Health Specialist ensures the tap water that everyone drinks; the restaurant food everyone eats and the air everyone breathes are all safe. Public

Health Staff are ready to respond to any health emergency—be it bioterrorism, HINI, West Nile Virus or an environmental hazard.

- **Educates you and your neighbors about health issues.**

The department provides information that allows people to make healthy decisions every day, like exercising more, eating right, quitting smoking or simply washing their hands to keep from spreading illness. Public Health Nurses and Educators provide this information through community forums, public service announcements, school programs, health education in homes and clinics, and detailed websites. During a public health emergency, the department provides important alerts and warnings to protect your health and our community's health.

- **Provides healthy solutions for all.**



We offer preventive care needed to avoid chronic disease and to help maintain health, including flu shots and

other immunizations, prenatal care and nutrition education

- **Advances community health.**

The Health Department and its governing board, the Health Advisory Board, are constantly working to develop new policies and implement evidence-based practices, while enforcing a range of laws intended to keep everyone safe. Research and rigorous staff training help maintain expertise and deliver up-to-date, cutting-edge health programs while evaluating program effectiveness. These efforts can not be done alone, but through community partnerships focusing on health priorities identified in the community.

Green Lake County Board of Health

Cindy Skipchak, Chair, Berlin
 Jeanne Lyke, MD, Ripon
 Dan Priske, Green Lake
 Kathryn Vergos, Ripon Medical Center
 Shirley Frost, Community Health Network, Berlin
 Jean Kessler, Markesan
 Sara Mueller, Princeton
 Kathy Munsey, Health Officer, Green Lake

Our 2010 Programs and Services:

Green Lake County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

CHIP is a partnership plan developed to focus on improving the health of Green Lake County residents for the years 2010-2015. The plan provides strategic direction for collective action with community individuals and partnership groups for the following health priority areas:

- Access to Primary & Preventative Care
- Adequate & Appropriate Nutrition
- Alcohol & Other Substance Use & Abuse
- Mental Health & Mental Disorder
- Overweight, Obesity, Lack of Physical Activity

The Green Lake Area Health and Wellness Coalition creates a synergy of efforts and resources to impact the quality of life for Green Lake area residents.

Successes in 2010 include:

- Small Business Worksite Wellness Grant.
- Active Schools Grant.
- County-wide "Let's Move" campaign.
- Convened AODA Committee.
- Partnered with WI Tobacco Control Board to implement statewide smoking ban.
- Outreached to over 350 women at annual Women's Health Event.
- Collaborated with WIC and CHN to increase access to breast-feeding support services in Green Lake County.

Disease Control and Prevention

We track communicable disease through a channel of communications at the local, state and regional levels between public health, private physicians, hospitals, and labs. This communication channel allows for prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and unusual situations, and helps to implement control measures to minimize further transmission of disease to others. In 2010, Green Lake County Public Health nurses received the following reports of communicable diseases such as Cryptosporidium, Hepatitis C, Salmonellosis and Lyme disease.

Frequency of Reported Diseases in Green Lake County	2008	2009	2010
Babesiosis	1	-	-
Campylobacteriosis	8	5	6
Cryptosporidiosis	-	3	2
E-Coli	1	-	1
Ehrlichiosis	-	-	1
Giardiasis	-	2	6
Gonorrhea	1	-	-
Hib-Invasive	-	2	-
Hepatitis B	-	1	1
Hepatitis C	1	7	9
Lyme Disease	1	15	17
Salmonellosis	2	2	3
Invasive Strep Disease	6	5	6
Latent TB infection	1	3	2
Tetanus	-	-	1
Varicella	1	12	6

Public Health Preparedness

Green Lake County is prepared to respond to all emergencies with a detailed plan of action and a system of communication with community responders. This response includes

detecting disease outbreaks; **investigating** to determine what the risks are to the public and who may have been exposed; **informing** the public and professionals of the specific disease threats and how to protect themselves and others; **managing** infected persons; **isolating or quarantining** affected individuals as appropriate; **providing medications or vaccinations** to people at risk in the population.

In 2010, Green Lake County preparedness efforts included testing a number of performance measures set by the Centers for Disease Control and

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”
- Benjamin Franklin

Prevention that helps to determine whether our agency is ready to respond rapidly to a public health emergency. 2010 exercises and planning focused on surge capacity. A tabletop exercise with community partners tested the ability to deal with special needs casualties during a tornado. We also tested response to mass clinics during H1N1 clinics.



The Health Department, along with members of the Emergency Services from Ripon and Berlin Hospitals and Director of Emergency Services Gary Podoll, tested skills during a tornado drill at Patriot Place.

Immunizations for Children and Adults

Immunization is one of the most important public health victories of the 20th century – defeating or sharply reducing disease such as smallpox, polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough) and other diseases. However, many organisms that cause these diseases have not been eliminated, and they could reemerge if vaccination levels drop.

In 2010, Green Lake County gave a total of 4,679 immunizations, to children and adults. Through the



Nurse Judy Kasuboski gives H1N1 flu mist to nurse Jeri Loewe.

state of Wisconsin Vaccine for Children’s program, Green Lake County received over \$100,000 of vaccines given at no charge to Green Lake County citizens. In addition to children’s vaccinations, we offer Tetanus booster shots for adults and the Hepatitis B vaccine.

Mother, Child and Family

Infant mortality is an important measure of a community's health. Our prenatal and postnatal programs aim to help families support their children's healthy growth and development. Research indicates that families participating in these programs have healthier babies, improved their parenting skills, and developed positive community relationships. In these families children have fewer behavior problems and less tobacco exposure and alcohol use.

There were 202 births in Green Lake County in 2010, compared to 187 in 2009 with 2 sets of twins. We had 2 births to girls under age 18, compared to 0 in 2009 and 5 in 2008. Seventy-one were first time moms and 31 had home births. Seventeen were born with abnormal conditions and 4 had congenital anomalies. All new moms are given information on infant health and wellness and immunization clinic times and dates. We also offer home visits to first time moms and will do a home safety assessment and offer programs and services if needed. In 2010, 152 phone contacts or home visits were made by the nurses to these new moms.

We also had 14 babies that were considered "low birth weight" (weighing less than 5lbs, 8oz), compared to 7 last year. 18.3% stated they smoked during pregnancy compared to 23% in 2009. Of those who smoked during pregnancy, 19% reported low birth weight babies. Smoking during pregnancy is a leading cause of low birth weight babies and an area that we continue to target by offering the First Breath program, a smoking cessation program for pregnant women. We had 18 high-risk women on our Prenatal Care Coordination Program which is billable to M.A. due to high-risk issues.



Nutrition WIC
WIC 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, infants and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. Green Lake County served 566 clients in 2010 with 2480

contacts at WIC. Of those clients, 24% were Hispanic and 1% were Asian. In addition we also provided breastfeeding education to 198 people individually and in classroom settings. The State of WI contracts with Family Health La Clinica in Wautoma to provide WIC services to Green Lake, Marquette and Waushara counties. Each county then provides nurses and other staff for immunization services.

The Health Department has worked with Fond Du Lac County Health Department and Advocap Head Start to provide dental assessments to children at the Prairie View Head Start in Markesan which serves our county. This includes many WIC clients.

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. Children between ages 6 months and 6 years are most at risk. Many lead hazards still exist in homes, primarily those built before 1978.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines lead poisoning as a blood lead level of 10 or greater. In Green Lake County, children with a lead level of 10 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. The ultimate goal is to reduce environmental lead exposure and lead poisoning.

2010 Blood Lead Testing

Total Number of Tests:
Children <10 ug/dl = 235
Children 10 to 19 ug/ dl = 6
Children >20 ug/dl = 3
Home inspections = 1

Tobacco Control and Prevention

Green Lake County now belongs to “Five Counties for Tobacco Free Living,” a coalition that also includes the counties of Fond du Lac, Marquette, Waushara and Washington. This past year Green Lake County conducted 26 tobacco compliance checks as well as quarterly inspections to monitor other tobacco products available in the county.



A display of new tobacco products aimed at teenagers is part of the county's tobacco education program.

Birth to 3

Birth to 3 is Wisconsin's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. The Green Lake County Health Department 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.

Green Lake County employs the program coordinator/educator and it contracts with three private agencies for our most utilized services of speech, occupational and physical therapy. In 2010, 35 new children were referred to the program, and a total of 34 children received services through an Individualized Family Service Plan throughout the year. In addition to a significant developmental delay, 12 of the children had a specific additional diagnosis.

Wisconsin Well Woman Program

The goals of the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are to improve access to preventive health services and eliminate preventable death and disability from breast and cervical cancer. Green Lake County provides uninsured women ages 45-64 with preventive health screening services to women with little or no health insurance coverage. The Wisconsin Well Woman Program pays for mammograms, Pap tests, certain other health screenings, and multiple sclerosis testing for women with high risk signs of multiple sclerosis. In 2010, we provided services to Green Lake, Marquette & Waushara County clients with cancer screenings and case management and provider education. In 2010 the Well Woman Program provided group or individual education sessions for 930 women, including those who attended the Annual Women's Health Event.

Community Human Health Hazards

To protect the health of the citizens of Green Lake County, we investigate situations with the potential of a human health hazard and bring health hazards that are not regulated by other governmental agencies to resolution. In 1998 the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors approved the "Human Health Hazards" ordinance. Enforcement of the Human Health ordinance is the role of Green Lake County Health Advisory Board and Green Lake County Health Department's Health Officer and Environmental Specialist. If a human health hazard is found, the Health Department works with the owner to ensure safe removal of the hazard. If an owner does not comply with removal of the hazard, a citation may be issued.



Food Safety & Recreational Licensing Programs

The Tri-County Environmental Health Consortium, consisting of staff positioned in Waushara, Green Lake and Marquette County Health Departments, administers the “Food Safety and Recreational Licensing Program” for the area. Tri-County serves as designated agents of the Wisconsin Department of

Health Services, Division of Public Health, Food Safety and Recreational Licensing, and the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Division of Food Safety.

For the past five years, our Environmental Health Specialists have been working with local restaurants, retail food stores, schools, temporary and mobile food establishments, hotels, tourist rooming houses, bed and breakfasts, public swimming pools, campgrounds, recreational and educational camps, and tattoo and body piercing establishments, in assuring safe delivery of their services. Green Lake County alone has over 100 food service establishments, 42 retail food stores, 20 pools, 13 campgrounds, and 120 lodging facilities. Tri-County staff completed 99.9% of the licensed establishment inspections in the 2009-2010 licensing year.

Tri-County continued to provide free food safety trainings for non-profit and special organizations. The trainings allow for reduced fees for temporary restaurant licenses for the organizations that participate in the training. Tri-County has also been working to establish a Certified Food Managers Course, and intends to offer licensed establishment personnel the opportunity to obtain ServSafe® training at a reduced cost.

General Environmental Health

The Health Department also participates in a multitude of additional environmental program areas including a kennel licensing program, rabies prevention/investigation activities, radon outreach, safe drinking water, home lead assessments, and program and policy development.

Animal Bites – 44
Kennel Inspections – 9
Free Water Tests – 7
Free Radon Kits – 50
Housing Cases - 15
Nuisance/Other - 10

Information Sources: National Association of County and City Health Officials, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Green Lake County Health Department.

Other Public Health Programs

In an effort to reduce cardiovascular disease and stroke, we do monthly blood pressure clinics and screened 209 people and also 95 people for cholesterol. Our worksite wellness program which is funded through a grant from Group Health Trust screened 108 individuals and helped improve employee health.

Public Health Nurses also provided TB skin tests to 192 individuals which is required for those in healthcare settings annually.

We provided many educational sessions throughout the year, including sessions on tobacco, general health promotion, sensory disorders and blood borne pathogens. In all, over 500 people attended the various sessions.



Health Department staff got a tour of the new Justice Center before moving into their offices this June. Taking the tour were (front row) Renee Peters, Kathy Munsey, Deb Washkoviak, Tracy Soda and Marilyn Voeltner. Back row members are Jeri Loewe and Judy Kasuboski. The new facility, which includes ample office and storage space, is well designed to serve the needs of county residents.

Annual Report:

For additional copies of this report call, 920-294-4070, or visit our website at www.co.green-lake.wi.us .

