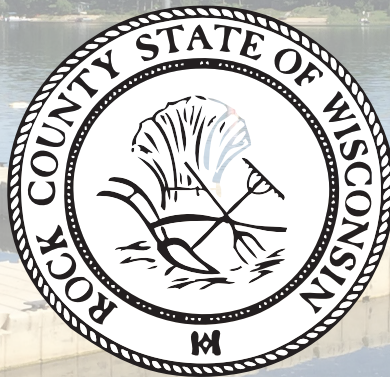


# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



## Rock County Public Health Department

...the catalyst that cultivates a spirit of wellness and improves quality of life by promoting healthier lifestyles and environments through collaborative community partnerships.



## Board of Health

(left to right)

Louis Peer, Vice Chair, County Supervisor

Eric Gresens, RPH

Dr. Dean Peterson, DVM

Dr. Connie Winter, DD

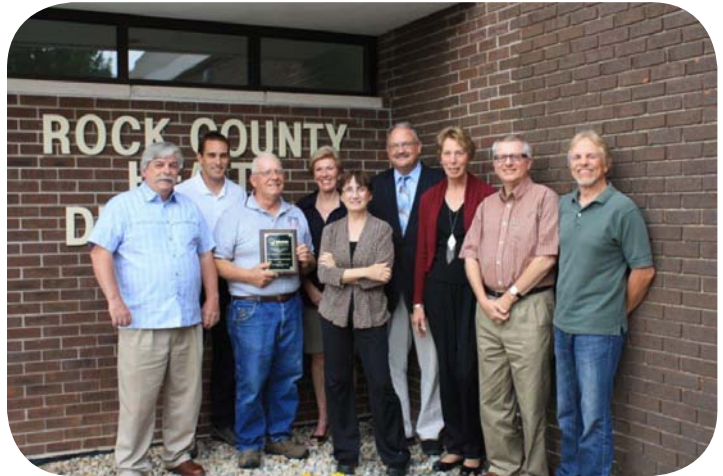
Judith Wade, WHNP

Greg Addie, County Supervisor

Sandra Kraft, Chair, County Supervisor

Dr. Keith Konkol, MD

Richard Bostwick, County Supervisor



# Rock County Public Health

Environmental Health  
Public Health Nursing  
Health Education  
Preparedness



### North Office

PO Box 1088

3328 Hwy 51 N

Janesville WI 53547-1088

608.757.5440

### South Office

61 Eclipse Center

Beloit WI 53511

608.364.2010



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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rock County Public Health is working to improve and protect the health and well-being of Rock County citizens across all lifespans, from the youngest infants to our senior citizens. Our challenge is to find collaborative, multifaceted approaches to respond to our communities' unique needs. We strive to provide services that promote health, prevent disease, and empower people to make sound health decisions. This report serves to highlight ways in which our team has made a difference in Rock County this past year.

Reducing the leading causes of preventable death and disability, with special emphasis on underserved populations and health disparities—this is the perpetual “North Star” for local health departments. How we achieve this mission has changed significantly over the past decade. Nationwide, local health department focus has moved toward the reduction of providing personal health services and increased focus on emergency preparedness, epidemiology and surveillance, and primary prevention through education. Additionally, there is an increase in collaboration with other agencies and community partners. This new focus characterizes a new role for health departments as the “chief strategists” for a community. In this new role, health departments will lead communities' health promotion efforts by catalyzing, conducting, supporting, and sustaining health protection and promotion activities in partnership with health care clinicians and leaders in widely diverse sectors, including social services, education, transportation, public safety, and community development.

I am especially proud of how Rock County Public Health staff, our Board of Health, and our community partners have risen to the challenge of how we adapt to these changes. We have initiated a department-wide strategic planning process involving all staff members as well as representatives from our Board of Health to inform and guide us in organizing and structuring data-influenced programs and services offered in Rock County. We continue developing community partnerships to address priority health issues identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment and continue to work, in collaboration with our partners, on the Community Health Improvement Plan. As we move forward, Rock County can expect to see more activity, more sharing, and a healthier community.

We are honored to have public health “Rock Stars” in our midst. We are very proud of Tim Banwell, our Environmental Health Division Director, who was named Wisconsin's Environmental Health Professional of the Year. Our very dedicated Board of Health was named Wisconsin's Board of Health the Year. Congratulations! The awards are well deserved.

We thank our Board of Health, County Board, and County Administration as well as our many community partners for supporting the services we provide to the citizens of Rock County.

Yours in Health,

Marie-Noel Sandoval, MPH  
Health Officer/Director



# MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2015, the Rock County Public Health Department achieved many things. Emergency preparedness exercises and trainings were attended. The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) were presented to the community. Sampling of licensed beaches and a number of

1,642

private well samples analyzed

\$3,485

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference and Training Scholarship

surface water sites used for fishing, swimming, and boating took place to help understand public health risks. School nursing services were provided. Lead hazard risk assessments and home inspections were conducted. Grants were awarded. The “Teens for Vaccines” campaign was initiated. An asthma coalition was formed. Leadership was provided to develop strategies aimed at the reduction of health disparities in birth outcomes.

“Stepping On” classes were conducted in partnership with the Council on Aging to prevent injury from falls. A low-cost Rabies Clinic was organized. Communicable illness investigations were conducted. HealthSpace was implemented to assist in a more thorough facility inspection process and assessment of results. A county-wide farm plan was

2,375

Healthy Families First home visits

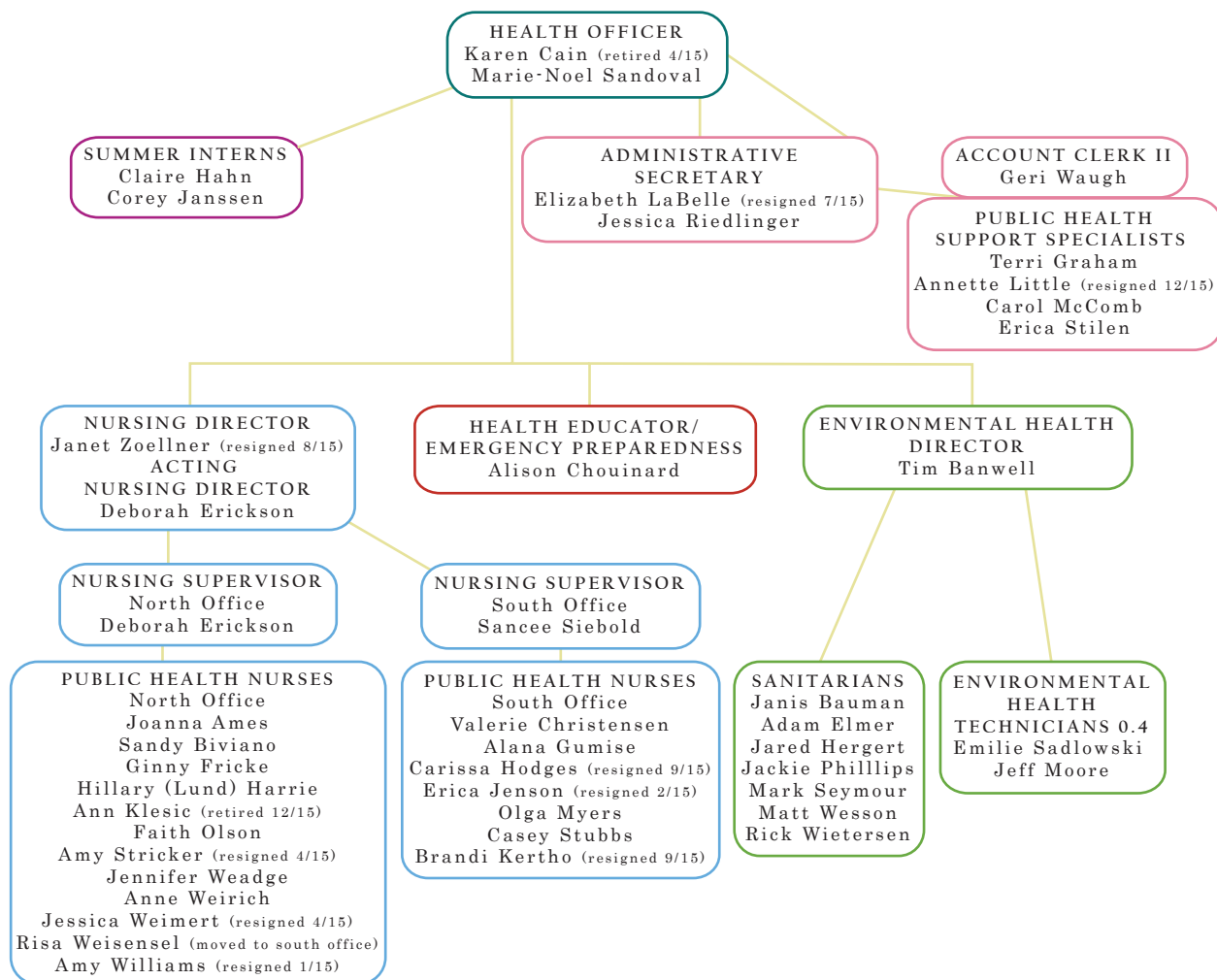
4,107

pounds of drugs collected

developed which included information for all farms documented to have extremely hazardous substances. Ages and Stages developmental screenings were conducted. A Hazard Vulnerability Assessment was completed. Mass vaccination clinics were provided. The Public Health Department partnered with other agencies to positively impact the health of Rock County.



# HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF





# ROCKSTAR



The Rock County Board of Health was awarded the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards 2015 Board of Health of the Year Award. This “Presidential Award for Distinguished

Services in Public Health” recognizes the outstanding work of the Board of Health and acknowledges the significant contributions the Board has made to public health over time. Only one award is given each year and was announced at the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA)/Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) Annual Conference. WALHDAB is a “statewide organization of board of health members and health department administrators providing a unified forum for public health leadership development, advocacy, education, and forging of community partnerships for the improvement of public health at a local level.”

Tim Banwell, Environmental Protection Director at the Rock County Health Department was awarded the Wisconsin Environmental Health Professional of the Year award from the



Wisconsin Environmental Health Association. Banwell was recognized for his contribution to local environmental and public health services. This exclusive award is only given out to one outstanding environmental health professional in the entire State of Wisconsin per year.

# COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT & HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

In August 2013, the Rock County Health Department convened the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Steering Committee – an interdisciplinary committee of community leaders and healthcare providers, to measure the health status of Rock County, Wisconsin residents. The committee, composed of county health officials, providers, social workers, and administrators, engaged in a series of focused discussions to create a comprehensive health assessment framework to both evaluate the healthcare infrastructure and prioritize the needs of the Rock County community. To guide the health assessment, the committee adopted the Center for Disease Control's Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework.



The MAPP assessments provided a comprehensive picture of the overall health status of Rock County residents as well as the resources available to improve health and quality of life. Feedback was solicited from community members using Community Health Status Assessment surveys.

Over an eleven-month period, health questionnaires were distributed to a random sample of 2000 Rock County residents. The fifty question survey covered a wide range of topics ranging from access to care, quality of life, chronic illnesses, and lifestyle factors. Response rate was 32.8% (656 surveys).

In addition to the data gathered from household surveys and focus groups, health related data was analyzed from a variety of existing resources, including the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin County Health Rankings, Department of Education and Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Secondary source data, when combined with the qualitative and quantitative information gathered from the MAPP assessments, provided the Steering Committee with a clear picture of what is working well in addition to identifying opportunities for improvement for the healthcare infrastructure of Rock County.

The Steering Committee reviewed results and themes from the MAPP assessments and statistical data from both the 2011 and 2014 surveys in Rock County. After discussing the data, trends, and emerging concerns, the Steering Committee reached a consensus on the following issues as priorities to address:

These priority health need areas include:

- Mental health related issues, including substance abuse and inadequate access to treatment
- Harmful lifestyle choices (e.g. obesity, smoking, and inactivity)
- Underutilization of dental health services
- Underutilization of certain preventative health screenings



# STRATEGIC PLANNING

## What is Strategic Planning?

Strategic planning is a systematic process for making decisions to guide an organization towards achieving its desired outcomes.

Strategic planning involves:

- Making decisions with an awareness of the future and an awareness of the implications of each future-minded decision.
- Organizing systematically the actions of work areas, teams, and individuals to carry out these future-minded decisions.
- Measuring the results of these actions and decisions against expectations.

Strategic planning is creating conditions in organizations that get people at every level of the organization to think and act strategically — every decision, every action, every day.

## Where are we now?

### Organizational Values

- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Spirit of Wellness
- Adapting / Continuous Improvement
- Diversity / Health Equity
- Integrity
- Accountability / Fiscal Responsibility

## Where do we want to be?

### Vision

Rock County Wisconsin ... a healthy, thriving community...

## How do we get there?

### Mission

Rock County Public Health Department ... the catalyst that cultivates a spirit of wellness and improves quality of life by promoting healthier lifestyles and environments through collaborative community partnerships.

# Environmental Health

Each year brings new challenges and the Environmental Health Division staff responded to these challenges by providing services, regulatory action, and information to the general public and property owners. Some of the highlights of the Environmental Services Division in 2015 are described below.

The Town Well Sampling program was popular again in 2015 with the Town of Fulton participating this year. Town residents were able to pick up water test bottles at the town hall and return them the next week. Within three (3) days, results were available to the home owners. This was a very successful program with one hundred eighty three (183) home owners testing their well water. We will continue to offer this program in 2016.

Collection of unwanted medicines continued in 2015. Because of changes in the federal regulations on collection of unwanted pharmaceuticals, the drop boxes at two (2) clinics were removed. The remaining six (6) drop boxes were located at local law enforcement offices in Rock County. Approximately four thousand one hundred seven (4,107) pounds of drugs were collected in 2015. Our community is especially thankful for the assistance from local law enforcement agencies and volunteer pharmacists who make this worthwhile program work.

Sampling of licensed beaches and a number of surface water sites continued in 2015. Not only are the three (3) licensed beaches a recreational venue for the public, but also many other surface water sources are used for fishing, swimming, and boating. Routine testing helped to understand the public health risks associated with our community's surface water resources. In general, the results demonstrated that water quality was good at the licensed beaches during the entire 2015 season. Many of the smaller streams experienced periodic high levels of E. coli bacteria, often associated with rainfall events or specific land use issues. Health advisory signs were placed at these locations and on our website throughout the duration of the high bacteria counts.

A lead hazard control grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development was jointly awarded to Rock County and the Cities of Beloit and Janesville to remove lead hazards from residential properties in August of 2014. In 2015, our department completed forty-seven (47) lead hazard risk assessments and twenty (20) healthy homes inspections. This is a three (3) year contract that will assist owners of one hundred forty-three (143) dwelling units in reducing the childhood lead poisoning risks in our community.

In November, a grant to explore the nitrate levels in our community's drinking water was awarded to the Health Department by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services as part of their Environmental Health Tracking Program. This grant will help to determine areas of risk for elevated nitrate in our groundwater.

A new software program (HealthSpace) was implemented in January of 2015 that will assist in a more

thorough inspection process and assessment of inspection results. Also, our department is now adding our inspection results in a statewide database to better determine what potential health risks occur statewide. This year has been a learning period and a time to work out any problems. As we move forward, our inspection results will be more meaningful in understanding food safety concerns and steps to take in Rock County to address these concerns.

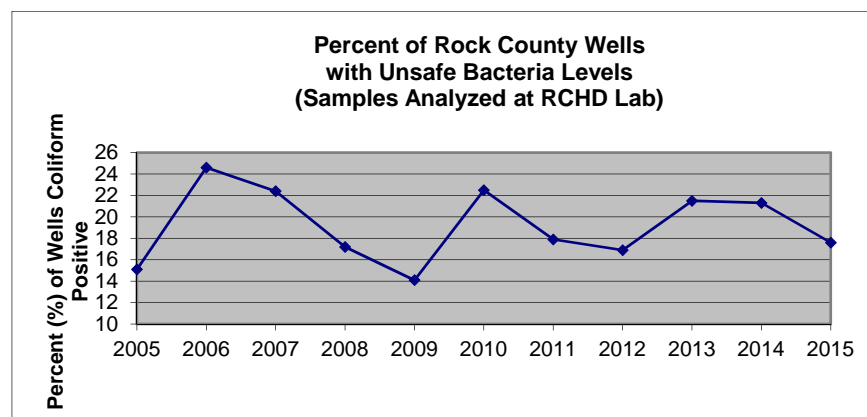
## **COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM**

Every person and business in Rock County depends on a daily source of clean drinking water. In this area of Wisconsin, groundwater is our sole water supply source. In addition to the municipal water supply systems in our community, there are approximately thirteen thousand (13,000) private water wells providing water to homes and businesses throughout the county. The groundwater protection program assists citizens and property owners with their drinking water concerns regarding bacteria and chemicals. The goal of the groundwater protection program is to protect the quality of groundwater in Rock County for drinking water use.



**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, review two hundred (200) private well sample results for nitrate, other chemical contamination, and/or bacteria levels.**

The Rock County Health Department Laboratory (RCHDL) completed one thousand six hundred forty-two (1,642) well water tests: including eight hundred twelve (812) nitrate and eight hundred thirty (830) coliform bacteria. Twenty five percent (25%) of wells tested for nitrates in 2015 exceeded the ten (10) parts per million health advisory level. This rate of unsafe nitrates has not been that low since 2006.

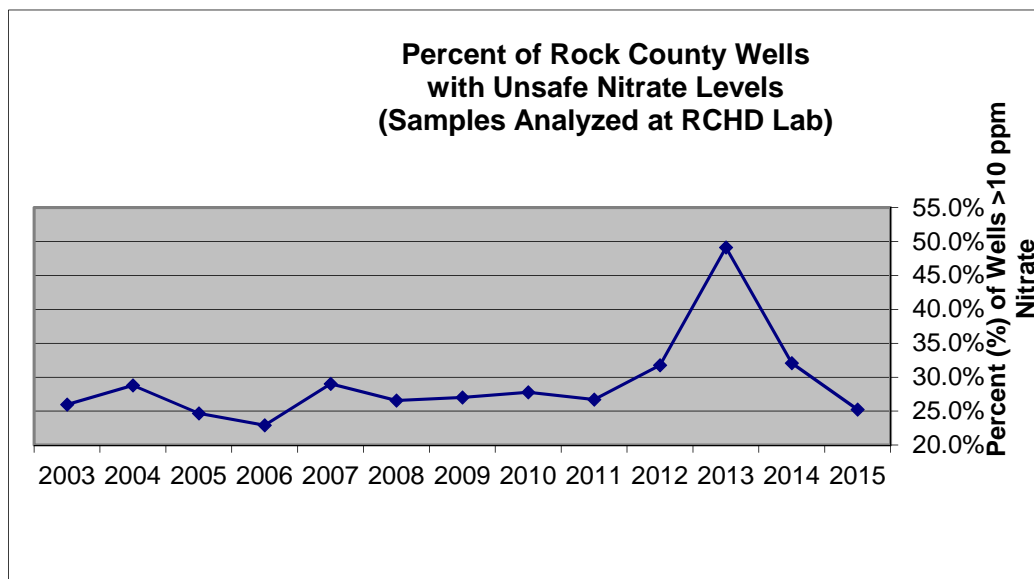


*The percentage of well samples tested in the Rock County Health Department lab that has been unsafe for coliform bacteria*



Eighteen percent (18%) of samples brought to the Rock County Health Department Laboratory tested positive for coliform bacteria in 2015. Four (4) positive E.coli well water samples were recorded at the RCHDL in 2015. The percentage of wells testing unsafe for coliform bacteria in 2015 was similar to the ten (10) year average.

### *Objective achieved*



*The percent of Rock County wells with unsafe nitrates above 10 parts per million (10ppm) decreased in 2015*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, comply with one hundred percent (100%) of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Safe Drinking Water contract requirements for Transient non-community wells.**

Transient non-community wells provide drinking water availability to the public at various types of facilities (campgrounds, parks, restaurants, taverns, etc.). This contract involves sampling one hundred forty-seven (147) transient non-community wells in Rock County for bacteria, nitrate, and nitrites. Coliform bacteria “unsafe” water samples occurred at seven (7) wells. Fecal Coliform was not found to be present in any of these wells. Because multiple sampling is required after the initial unsafe bacteria tests, two hundred fourteen (214) additional bacteria samples were taken by program staff. Potential contamination sources are explored and, when found, corrected. Wells must be treated to eliminate coliform bacteria. Deficiencies for all wells were corrected.

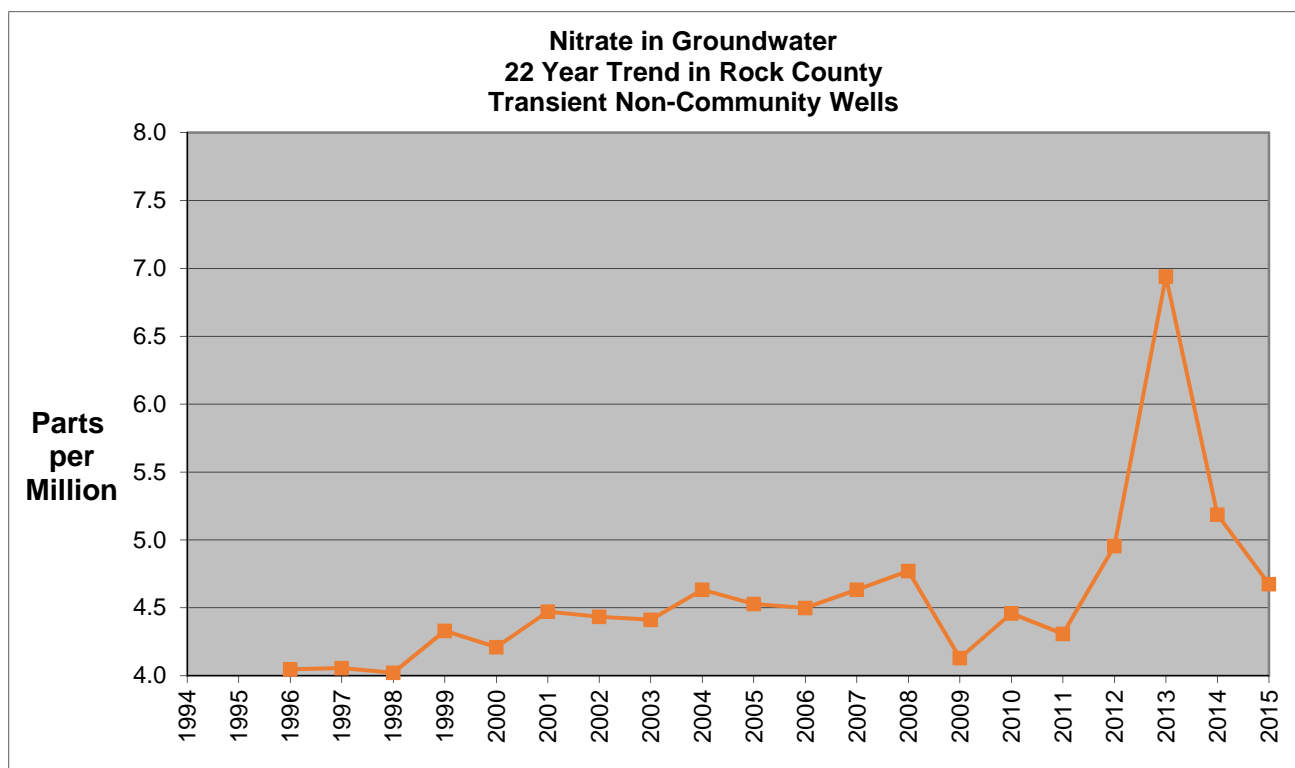
Nitrates were above the drinking water standard of ten (10) parts per million at fifteen percent (15%) of facilities. All facilities with nitrates above the standard must post a warning to all drinking water users. When a water supply exceeds twenty (20) parts per million, the facility must provide an alternative water supply.

In addition to the above, nitrite testing is conducted for new systems added to the program, and surveys are completed for at least thirty percent (30%) of the total facilities. The two (2) new systems tested safe for nitrites and thirty-three (33) well system surveys were completed.

In summary, three hundred sixty-one (361) bacteria, one hundred fifty-eight (158) nitrate, and two (2) nitrite results were obtained from these wells. Thirty-three (33) well system surveys were also conducted.

Since 1993, eighty-one (81) of the one hundred forty-seven (147) transient non-community wells have been tested each year for nitrates. These “indicator wells” provide an indication of nitrate trends in the groundwater of Rock County. This trend had indicated a steady increase in the average nitrate concentration over the past twenty-one (21) years. After a significant decrease in nitrate levels in 2009-2011, which is likely attributed to high groundwater recharge, the nitrate levels spiked to record high levels in 2013. The drought of 2012 is considered the cause of this sudden increase in 2013. In 2015, nitrate levels decreased for the second consecutive year and are near the twenty-two (22) year average.

### ***Objective achieved***



*Average annual nitrate concentrations from eighty-one (81) transient non-community wells continuously sampled for the last twenty-two years (see Objective 2 above)*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, investigate one hundred percent (100%) of citizen complaints and requests concerning ground water quality within two (2) days.**

During 2015 the Groundwater Program had nine hundred one (901) field visits, six hundred thirty (630) telephone consultations, and one hundred seventy-eight (178) office visits regarding private well and/or ground water concerns. All citizens were given consultation from our office by on-site visits, phone, and/or e-mail or mail. When needed, referrals were made for services to other agencies.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015 increase private well sampling in Rock County by five percent (5%) by promoting drinking water safety through posting information on the Rock County website, issuing news releases, and responding to citizen inquiries.**

Private well sampling in 2015 was the second highest level ever at one thousand six hundred forty-two (1,642) samples analyzed at the Rock County Health Department Laboratory. This number was twenty-seven percent (27%) higher than the number of samples tested in 2014. Two (2) towns (Town of Fulton and Beloit) volunteered for the Town Well Sampling program in 2015.

Multiple approaches were utilized in 2015 to promote awareness of drinking water safety, including groundwater awareness news releases, water testing posters, test kits distributed at dozens of public locations throughout the county, and mailings to well owners. Citizens could also purchase water test kits online at the Rock County Health Department website.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 5: Present five (5) Ground Water Educational Programs to Rock County citizens.**

“Town Sampling Programs” were offered in 2015. Groundwater sampling and education programs were provided to the Town of Beloit in 2015. Groundwater educational displays were prepared for display at the Town Hall and individual consultation was given to residents. Groundwater information was provided to the Rock County Towns Association to promote well testing at the local level. Groundwater and well testing was promoted at community events including Earth Day at the University of Wisconsin Rock County and through the Ag Matters Radio program.

Two (2) community Rx collection events were conducted to promote removing prescription drugs from our surface and ground water.

*Objective achieved*



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Requests on Groundwater Concerns</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>1,717</b>
Telephone Consultations	606	519	488	706	630
Public Education	8	9	9	6	8
Program Field Service Calls	419	401	946	850	901
Clients seen in Office	149	121	136	171	178
<b>Water Sample Results Reviewed</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>2967</b>
Bacteria	1,029	1,311	1,104	1,359	1565
Nitrate	502	678	1,087	968	986
Chemical and Other	89	79	79	383	416
<b>Local Emergency Management Plans</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>49</b>

*The groundwater program activity for 2011 through 2015*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2015, in coordination with Rock County Land Conservation Department, administer the county well abandonment program.**

The Rock County Health Department is delegated by the State Department of Natural Resources to conduct a well abandonment program. This delegation is included in the Rock County Public Health Ordinance. The Land Conservation Department implements the well abandonment program in coordination with the Health Department. In 2015, the Health Department referred all requests for abandonment of wells to the Land Conservation Department for follow-up consultation and funding for filling and sealing of unused wells.

*Objective achieved*



**Objective 7: By December 31, 2015, increase the amount of unwanted prescription drugs collected through the Prescription Drug Collection Program with the Cities of Beloit, Edgerton, Evansville, Milton, and Janesville by five percent (5%).**

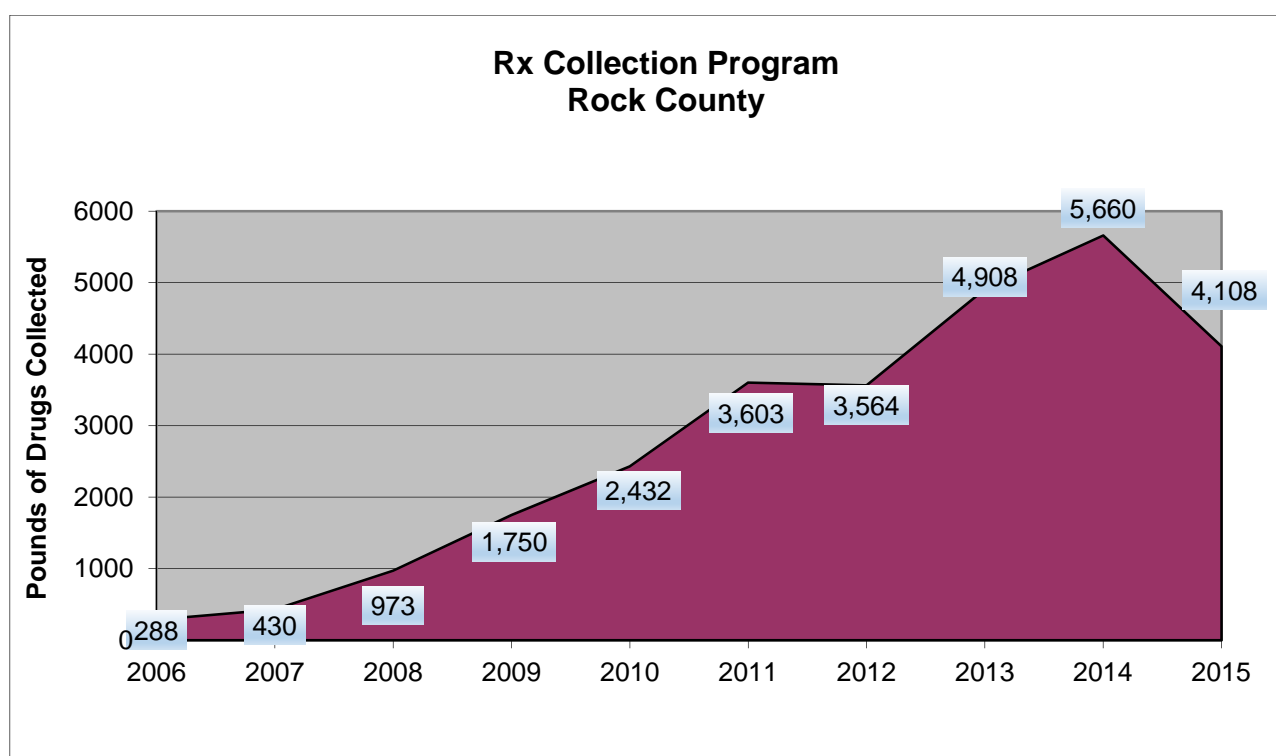
The Rx Round-Up Planning Committee organized two (2) pharmaceutical collection events and participated in three (3) Federal/State Drug Take-Back Initiatives in 2015.

The number of permanent drop boxes in the county decreased from eight (8) to six (6) due Federal Regulations. Most of these of these drop boxes have 24-hour access. The drug drop boxes are located in the cities of Milton, Edgerton, Evansville, Beloit and the Town of Beloit. In Janesville, there was a reduction from three (3) to one (1) Rx drop box locations.

As a result of the new Federal Drug Enforcement rules, Rock County ended 2015 with six (6) Rx drop boxes.

A total of four thousand one hundred seven (4,107) pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals were collected between the Janesville and Beloit Senior Fairs and from the collection drop boxes. The amount of drugs collected in 2015 was twenty-seven percent (27%) lower than the five thousand six hundred fifty-nine (5,659) pounds collected in 2014. The decrease was predominantly from Janesville and likely a result of fewer drop boxes. The drop boxes accounted for a majority of the collected drugs. The convenience of the 24-hour drop boxes is the biggest reason given for their increased use over the one-day collection events.

### ***Objective not achieved***



*The above graph shows the pounds of unwanted drugs collected annually through the Prescription Drug Community Collection Program*

## **LABORATORY SERVICES**

The laboratory provides a local service for Rock County citizens to test the drinking water quality of their private water wells. Public Health recommendations are for private well owners to test their water once a year. The goal of the laboratory services is to provide basic drinking water analysis for citizens in Rock County.

Rock County residents and visitors obtain drinking water from approximately thirteen thousand (13,000) private wells servicing homes, eating establishments, campgrounds, churches, and other facilities. The laboratory maintains State Certification for coliform bacteria and nitrate analysis. Coliform bacteria and nitrate analysis is provided to citizens and businesses in a cost effective and convenient manner.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, the private drinking water laboratory will complete all water sample tests submitted to the laboratory for coliform bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria and nitrate analysis.**

In 2015, a total of one thousand six hundred forty-two (1,642) drinking water tests were completed by the Rock County Health Department Lab; including eight hundred twelve (812) nitrate and eight hundred thirty (830) coliform bacteria. Twenty-five percent (25%) of wells tested for nitrates in 2015 exceeded the ten (10) parts per million health advisory level. Eighteen percent (18%) of samples brought to the Rock County Health Department Laboratory tested positive for coliform bacteria and five-tenths of a percent (0.5%) were positive for E.coli in 2015.

The volume of samples analyzed in the lab during 2015 maintained a strong trend of water quality testing service to the community, reflecting our efforts to increase public awareness of our lab and the need for water quality testing of private wells.

*Objective achieved*

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

The Health Department has the administrative responsibility to complete the offsite plans for farms and fixed facilities under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III legislation. The Health Department works with Rock County Emergency Management to complete the plans for the county.





**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, complete offsite plans as determined by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for farms using extremely hazardous chemicals.**

Eight (8) farm plans were completed for the LEPC. Each new updated plan contained local information to identify specific hazard risks for each farm, identified a chemical vulnerability zone, and identified sensitive populations in case an evacuation was required. In 2015, a county-wide farm plan was developed which included information for all farms documented to have extremely hazardous substances.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, complete new and updated plans as determined by the LEPC committee for fixed facilities using extremely hazardous chemicals.**

Forty-one (41) offsite facility plans were completed for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in 2015. Each new updated plan contained facility site plans and local information to identify specific hazard risks at a facility, identified a chemical vulnerability zone, and identified sensitive populations in case an evacuation was required.

In 2015 a county-wide “Retail Battery and Tele-Communication” plan was completed which included information for all facilities which have sulfuric acid in batteries at a quantity over the planning threshold.

***Objective achieved***

**RECREATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

Many recreational opportunities exist in Rock County for residents and visitors: beaches, pools, recreational educational camps, and campgrounds. These are excellent opportunities for social interaction and physical activity needed for a healthy life style.

Stepping out of day-to-day routine situations place people at risk for injury and adverse health events such as recreational water illnesses, drowning, and other accidents. Beaches, pools, recreational educational camps, and campgrounds are licensed by the Rock County Health Department and meet specific standards that reduce the public health risk for accidents and exposure to communicable disease.



The goal of the Recreational Health and Safety Program is to reduce or eliminate the spread of communicable disease and risk of injury to the public who participate in recreational activities at beaches, swimming pools, campgrounds, and recreational educational camps in Rock County.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, conduct an annual inspection for each licensed facility.**

During 2015, all nine (9) campgrounds, three (3) recreational education campgrounds, sixty-three (63) swimming pools, three (3) water attractions, and three (3) beaches received an annual inspection.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, respond to citizen complaints within two (2) days regarding violation of state and local codes.**

During 2015, two (2) swimming pool complaints, one (1) beach complaint, and one (1) campground complaint were responded to within two (2) days. The swimming pool complaints concerned improper water quality at one (1) swimming pool and presence of insects at one (1) pool complex. The beach complaint concerned failure by owner to close the beach to patrons after unsafe water quality posting. The campground complaint concerned the placement of a permanent campsite in an area prone to flooding.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, conduct follow-up inspections within two (2) weeks at facilities that have critical violations.**

During 2015, twenty-one (21) follow-up inspections for critical violations were completed for swimming pools within two (2) weeks.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, conduct pre-inspections when new establishments open or current establishments change ownership to ensure compliance with the state and local codes.**

During 2015, a pre-inspection was completed for two (2) swimming pools.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2015, the number of swimming pool recheck inspections for high risk violations will decrease by 5%.**

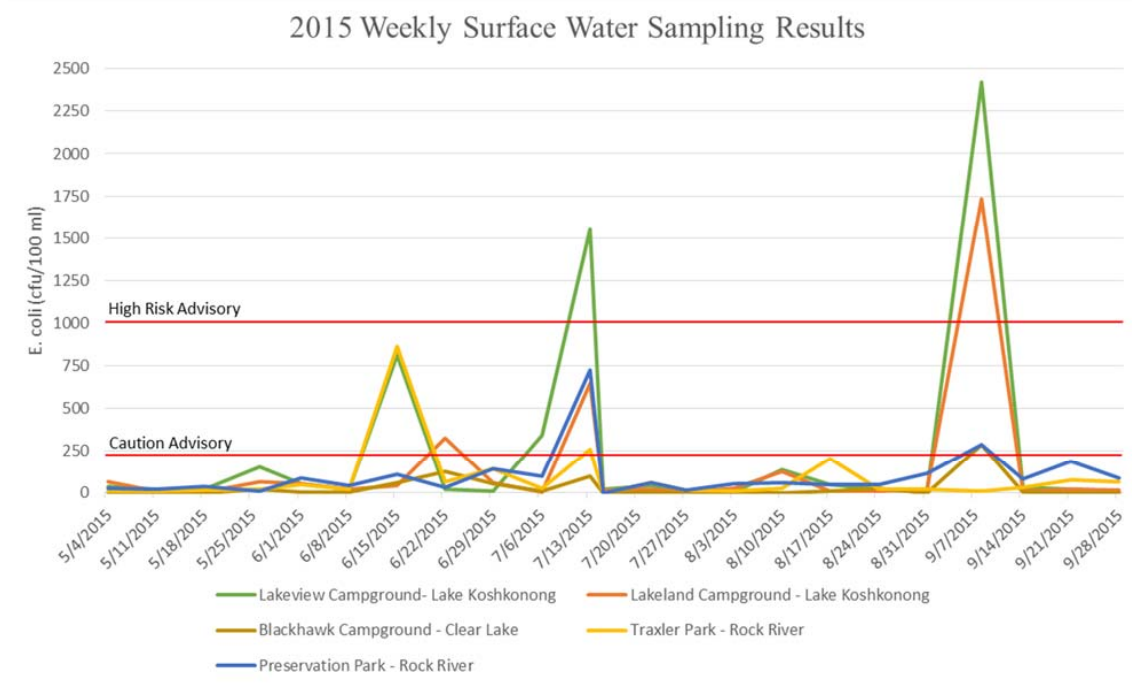
During 2014 and 2015, the number of pool recheck inspections was forty-seven (47) and twenty-one (21), respectively: a forty-five percent (45%) decrease.

### *Objective achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2015, sample the licensed beaches and selected surface water sources for bacteria and complete a report on the findings.**

During 2015, three (3) licensed beaches and two (2) locations on the Rock River with high likelihood of human water contact were sampled weekly for bacteria. Six (6) additional locations were sampled monthly and thirteen (13) locations were sampled at least one (1) time during the summer season.

Elevated *E. coli* levels above two hundred thirty-five (235) cfu per 100 ml resulted in “caution” advisories on nine (9) different occasions at weekly sampled sites. On three (3) occasions, licensed beaches were temporarily closed due to “high risk” *E. coli* levels greater than one thousand (1,000) cfu per 100 ml. Advisories were lifted and beaches were reopened when follow-up samples were back in the normal range.



High *E. coli* levels are often associated with rain events and the resulting runoff which brings in contaminants from both urban and agricultural areas. All surface water sampling results are posted to the Rock County Health Department’s website.

### *Objective achieved*



## COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

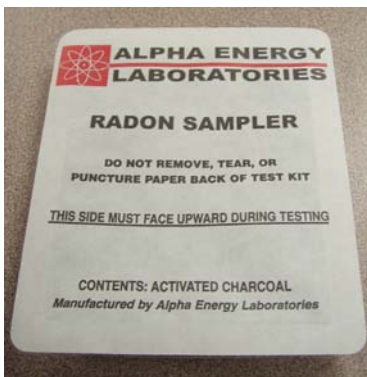


The Community Health and Safety programs are resources to be used by Rock County residents to reduce or eliminate hazardous conditions in their home and community. Many of the improvements in health that were achieved in the 20th century resulted from improvements in housing and areas surrounding our homes. Problems from our past have not entirely disappeared. Traditional insect and rodent pests are ever-present, waiting for the right opportunity to set up residence in and around our homes. Timely and adequate

disposal of refuse will always be a challenge in this society. Radon and mold are examples of hazards that enter homes from the outside, are identifiable, and exposure is preventable. Health Department staff has the expertise to assist citizens in reducing or eliminating these risks to their health. Childhood lead poisoning prevention is one of our priority programs. Lead damages the developing brain of children with the potential of causing long term health impacts for the child and our community.

The goal of Community Health & Safety is to reduce or eliminate public health risks to citizens in their homes and in the community through the education of disease, injury prevention practices, and administration of state and local regulations.

## **RADON MONITORING AND RISK REDUCTION**



**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, provide at least seventy-five (75) radon test kits to county residents.**

During 2015, One hundred eighty-seven (187) kits were provided to county residents.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, provide follow-up information to all citizens that receive results on radon test kits.**

During 2015, all citizens who purchased radon test kits were provided with the US EPA Citizen's Guide

to Radon and a list of local certified radon mitigation system installers. Consultation with staff trained in radon measurement and mitigation was offered to all citizens with elevated radon results.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, develop and implement a plan to increase the percentage of home owners who complete the radon test by 10%.**

As of February 2016, one hundred thirty-one (131) results (from the radon kits purchased in 2015) have been received indicating that seventy percent (70%) of those purchasing radon kits completed the test. This was a ten percent (10%) increase over 2013 (data is not available for 2014 due to an issue with the test kit company). This increase may be due to increased promotion in rural areas. Reminder postcards have been developed and will be mailed all citizens who purchased test kits in 2015, but have not yet completed the test.

***Objective achieved***

## **MOBILE HOME PARK INSPECTIONS**

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, conduct an annual inspection of each licensed mobile home park.**

During 2015, annual inspections were conducted for all twenty-three (23) licensed mobile home parks.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, respond to all citizen complaints within two (2) days regarding violations of state and local codes.**

During 2015, six (6) citizen complaints involving mobile home parks were received and responded to within two (2) days. Housing conditions, refuse, and water supply issues were the concerns that were addressed.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, conduct follow-up inspections within thirty (30) days of mobile home parks that have violations.**

During 2015, one (1) follow-up inspection was conducted for a mobile home park within thirty (30) days after critical or excessive violations were documented during a routine inspection.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, conduct pre-inspections when new mobile home parks open or current mobile home parks change ownership to ensure compliance with the state and local codes.**

During 2015, two (2) mobile home parks changed ownership and required a pre-inspection.

*Objective achieved*

## **RABIES AND ANIMAL BITE MONITORING**

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, verify the compliance status of all animal owners issued animal bite orders by local law enforcement agencies.**

Compliance status was verified for all four hundred thirty-eight (438) animal bite orders received in 2015. Animal owners found not in compliance with animal bite orders were referred to law enforcement.



*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, refer all citizens not compliant with animal bite orders to law enforcement for further action.**

During 2015, thirty-eight (38) non-compliant bite orders were referred to law enforcement for further action. The compliance rate for animal bite orders in 2015 was ninety-one percent (91%).

*Objective achieved*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Animal Bite Orders Issued</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>438</b>
Cat Bites	102	83	74	81	114
Dog Bites	320	275	304	307	324
Ferret Bites	0	0	0	0	0
<b>% Vaccinated</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>55%</b>
Cats Vaccinated	24%	34%	28%	30%	30%
Dogs Vaccinated	66%	61%	65%	62%	65%
Ferrets Vaccinated	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Animal Bite Orders are issued to owners of cats, dogs, and ferrets that bite a person. Animals not vaccinated for rabies must be quarantined at a veterinary clinic for 10 days after the bite.*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, all specimens of domestic cats, dogs, and ferrets that do not complete quarantine and wild animals with suspected risk of rabies transmission, will be submitted to the State Laboratory of Hygiene for rabies analysis.**

Sixty-four (64) specimens were submitted to the State Laboratory of Hygiene for rabies analysis during 2015. One (1) specimen (a bat) tested positive for the rabies virus, and two (2) specimens tested indeterminate for the rabies virus and required further follow up.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, promotion of rabies vaccination strategies will result in a five percent (5%) decrease of unvaccinated animal bites in one community that has a high number of unvaccinated animals involved in bites.**

A low-cost Rabies Clinic was conducted in September. Posters were hung at libraries, community centers, public buildings, and businesses throughout the city and press releases were made to local media. Information was put on the Department website and Facebook page. A local radio interview discussed the importance of rabies immunization and promoted the low-cost rabies clinic. The percent of immunized pets in Rock County remained at fifty five percent (55%).

***Objective not achieved***

CITY	VACCINATED	UNVACCINATED	UNKNOWN	TOTAL ANIMAL BITES ORDERS	PERCENTAGE VACCINATED
Avalon	2	1	0	3	67%
Beloit	55	30	35	120	46%
Brodhead	1	0	0	1	100%
Brooklyn	0	1	0	1	0%
Clinton	6	0	0	6	100%
Darien	0	0	1	1	0%
Edgerton	21	5	7	33	64%
Evansville	16	3	2	21	76%
Footville Orfordville Hanover	6	4	0	10	60%
Fort Atkinson	0	0	1	1	0%
Janesville	119	27	70	216	55%
Milton	14	1	4	19	74%
Whitewater	2	0	2	4	50%
Location of Bite Unknown	1	0	1	2	50%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>55%</b>

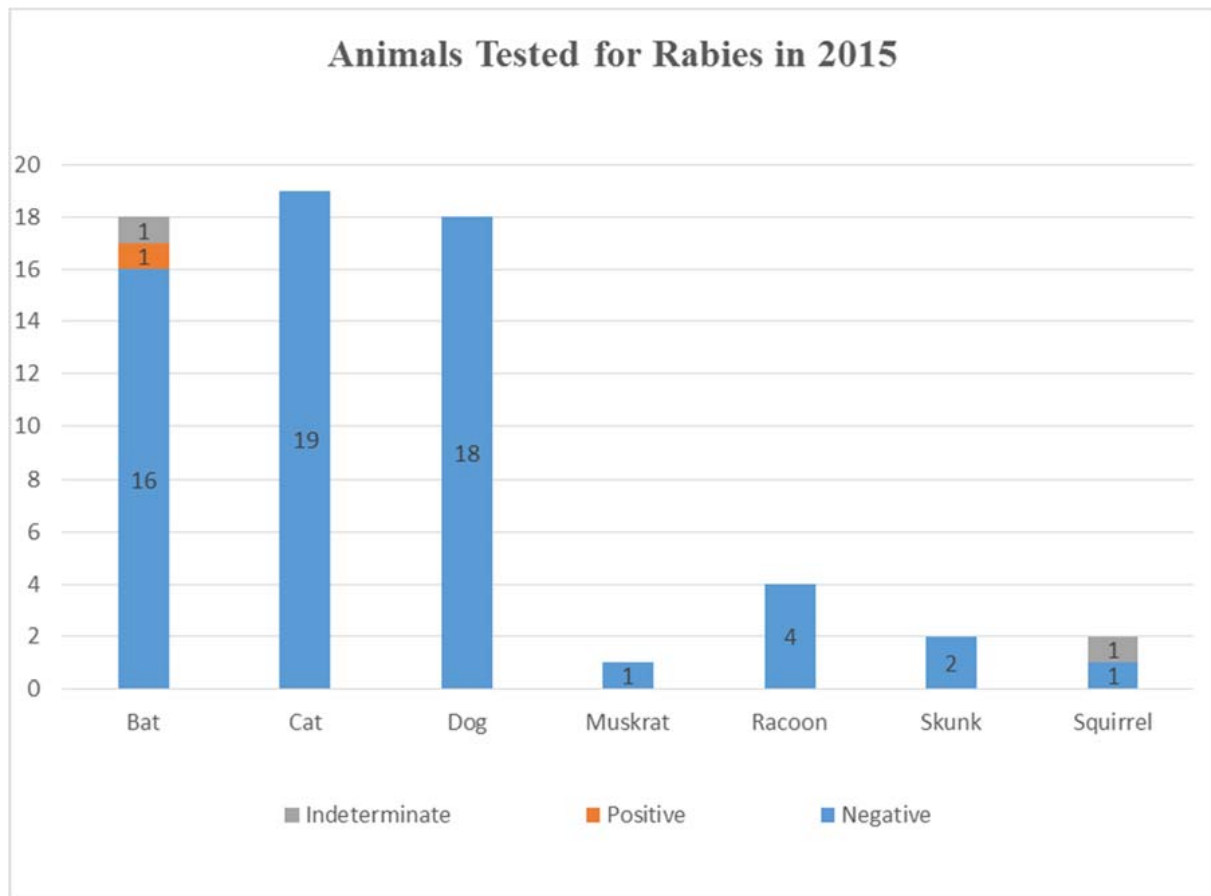
*Reported animal bites occur throughout Rock County and vaccination rates vary by community. Unknown vaccination status is associated with strays.*



**Objective 5: By December 31, 2015, through collaboration with community partners, a low cost rabies clinic will reduce the number of unvaccinated dogs and cats in Rock County by four hundred (400).**

In collaboration with community partners, four hundred and ten (410) dogs and cats were vaccinated for rabies during a low-cost rabies clinic held at the Rock County Fairgrounds on September 26, 2015.

*Objective achieved*



*This graph shows the number of animals submitted to the State Lab of Hygiene for rabies testing by species. A total of sixty-four (64) animals were tested for rabies in 2015.*

## HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, investigate one hundred percent (100%) of human health hazards reported to the Rock County Health Department within three (3) days.**

During 2015, two hundred five (205) out of two hundred six (206) human health hazard requests (99.5%) were investigated and abated, referred to other appropriate agencies, or determined not to be hazards within three (3) days. Eighty eight (88) field visits investigated the requests for compliance with the Rock County Health ordinance and/or assessing the situation for referral to other local or state agencies.

In addition to field investigations, information was provided to citizens to remedy human health hazards that they are experiencing. During 2015, information was provided to individuals for the purpose of: a) addressing public health concerns; b) resolving human health hazards; c) gaining compliance with the requirements of the Rock County Public Health Ordinance.

***Objective not achieved***

**COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY ACTIVITY DATA 2011-2015**

			<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Human Health Hazard Requests and Responses</b>			538	587	307	260	205
<b>Lead - Total Field Visits.....</b>			163	184	288	508	<b>393</b>
Lead Onsite Assessment.....			61	78	80	44	<b>46</b>
Lead Hazard Control Grant .....			-	-	10	99	<b>104</b>
Healthy Homes .....			-	-	-	201	<b>89</b>
<b>Radon Kits Sold .....</b>			275	346	171	219	187
<b>Radon Kits with Test Results</b>			138	250	103	N/A	131
<b>Animal Bites Monitored for Rabies Control* .....</b>			475	389*	378	390	438
<b>Citations Issued.....</b>			1	1	0	0	0
<b>General Sanitation Program Totals</b>							
Program Field Service Calls.....			880	809	607	1138	529
Complaint Investigations .....			93	57	76	62	52
Clients Seen In Office.....			64	60	48	34	27
Telephone Calls.....			3,050	1,944	1,391	1150	530

*The General Sanitation activity chart includes field visits, phone calls received, clients seen in the office, and information sent by mail or e-mail*

*\*Animal bites monitored for rabies control includes wild animals that were submitted for testing, but did not have an associated bite order.*

## **TATTOO AND BODY PIERCING ESTABLISHMENTS**

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, conduct an annual inspection of each licensed tattoo and body-piercing establishment.**

During 2015, sixteen (16) routine inspections were conducted for tattoo and body piercing establishments.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, respond to all citizen complaints within two (2) days regarding violations of state and local codes.**

One (1) tattoo and/or body piercing complaint was received and investigated within two (2) days, during 2015.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, one hundred percent (100%) of critical violations in each tattoo and body piercing establishment will be resolved by the time of the follow up inspection.**

During 2015, one (1) critical violation follow-up inspection was completed and violations resolved.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, conduct pre-inspections when new establishments open or current establishments change ownership to ensure compliance with the state and local codes.**

During 2015, six (6) pre-inspections were completed for new establishments or change of ownership.

*Objective achieved*

## **LEAD ABATEMENT AND MONITORING**

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, one hundred percent (100%) of children with a blood lead level >20 µg/dL (micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood) will reside in a lead safe environment.**

During 2015, two (2) children were identified with blood lead levels >20 ug/dL in Rock County. Two (2) properties where the children resided or spent significant time were investigated and ordered to undergo lead hazard reduction work to make the property lead safe. Both properties were made lead safe through interim controls and lead abatement.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, eighty percent (80%) of referrals of children with a blood lead level of 0 -19 µg/dL will have an environmental lead assessment completed and lead hazard reduction recommendations will be made to the owners.**

During 2015, Forty-eight (48) properties with children identified with blood lead levels of 0-19 µg/dL were referred to the Environmental Health Division. Forty-four (44) or ninety-two percent (92%) of these properties were assessed for lead hazards and recommendations were sent to the families and/or property owners. Four (4) families refused service or were unresponsive to contact attempts.

*Objective achieved*

**Number of Lead Assessments 2011-2015**

PbB* µg/dL	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
≥20 (EBL)**	6	5	2	3	2
5 - 19***	9	11	45	19	25
<5	46	62	33	22	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>46</b>

\*PbB = Blood lead level measured in micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (µg/dL)

\*\* Elevated blood lead level (EBL) – environmental assessment mandated

\*\*\*Lead Poisoning – defined as PbB >5µg/dL; Prior to 2014 defined as PbB>10 µg/dL

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, seventy percent (70%) of owners of units that house a child with a blood lead level of 5-19 µg/dL will show compliance with lead hazard reduction recommendations.**

During 2015, seventy-six percent (76%), or nineteen of twenty-five (19 of 25), of the property owners of units associated with a child with a blood lead level of 5-19 µg/dL showed significant compliance with the Department's lead hazard reduction recommendations.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, sixty percent (60%) of property owners with units that house a child with a blood lead level of 0-5 µg/dL will show compliance with lead hazard reduction recommendations.**



During 2015, seventy-nine percent (79%), or fifteen of nineteen (15 of 19), of the property owners of units associated with a child with a blood lead level of 0-4 µg/dL showed significant compliance with the department's lead hazard reduction recommendations.

*Objective achieved*

**PERCENT OF LEAD ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED BY COMMUNITY  
CHILDHOOD BLOOD LEAD LEVELS (PbB) IN MICROGRAMS PER  
DECILITER OF BLOOD (µg/dL)**



*These pie charts demonstrate the percentages of childhood blood lead levels distributed in Rock County communities.*

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2015, promote childhood lead poisoning prevention by posting information on the Rock County web site, issuing news releases, responding to citizens inquiring about lead poisoning hazards, and presenting two (2) educational programs.**

Lead poisoning prevention information was updated on the Rock County web site during 2015. Educational presentations during 2015 were conducted at the Rock-Green Realtors Family Fun Fair, the Clinton National Night out, the Rock County Employee Health Fair, and at Basics Cooperative. Several activities related to the Rock County Lead Hazard Control Grant were also conducted, which included an article in the Janesville Gazette and mailers to families living in at-risk housing. All citizen inquiries and concerns were also addressed.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2015, complete seventy-one (71) lead hazard inspections for the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant.**

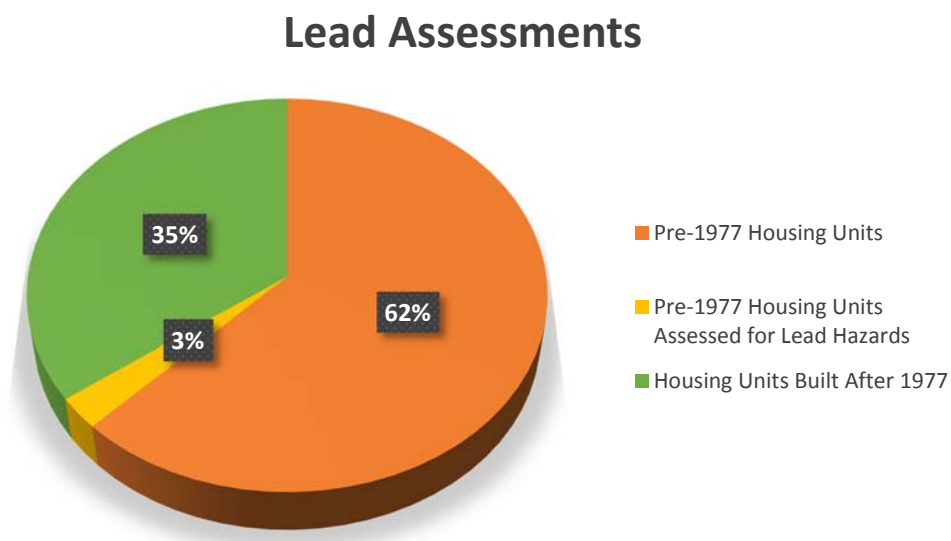
During 2015, seventy-four (74) lead hazard inspections were conducted on housing units for the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 7: By December 31, 2015, complete twenty (20) Healthy Homes inspections for the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant.**

During 2015, twenty-six (26) Healthy Homes inspections were conducted on housing units for the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant.

***Objective achieved***



## **PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL PROGRAM**

Proper treatment of wastewater has been instrumental in the reduction of communicable disease over the last century. For those living in a city or village, sewage is collected in a distribution of underground piping and treated in a central location to remove pathogens and chemicals before being discharged to a river or stream. Homes and businesses outside the municipal boundaries depend on their own means for treating wastewater called private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS).

The Private Sewage Program regulates and controls the installation of the POWTS and the soil testing necessary for designing. The goal of the Private Sewage Disposal Program is to protect the public health and the environment of Rock County by ensuring that all POWTS are properly installed, repaired, and maintained.

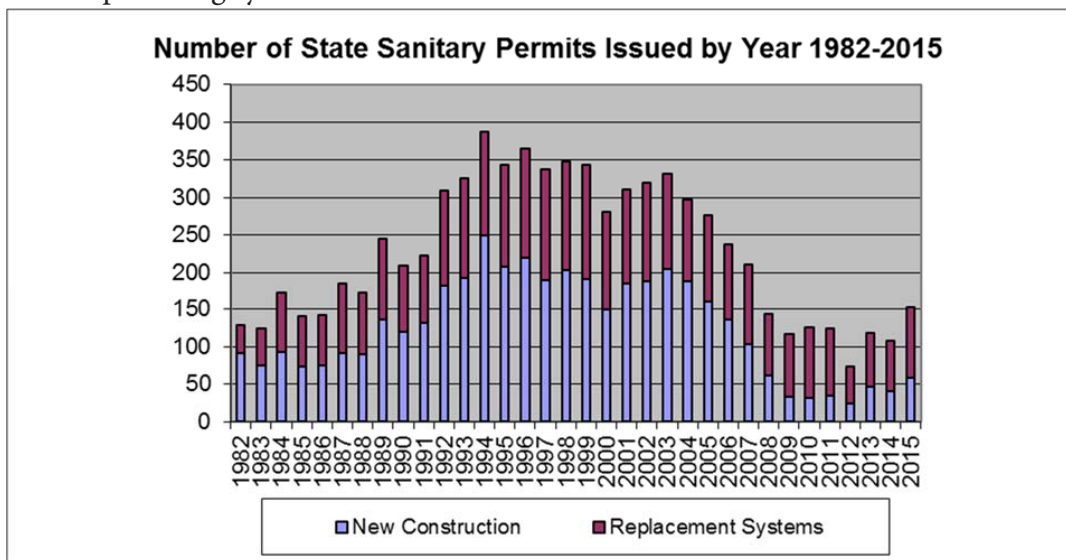
**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, complete the review of all submitted soil and site evaluation reports.**

Twelve (12) Certified Soil Testers (CSTs) were monitored and assisted in completing soil test reports and field evaluations of soil borings. In 2015, a total of one hundred twenty (120) soil test reports were reviewed, corrected when needed, approved, and filed. Thirty-eight (38) soil onsite visits were made to verify soil conditions to assure soil testing reports are completed in an accurate manner.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, ensure that properly designed and installed POWTS are provided for all properties not served by public sewer.**

Thirty-one (31) different plumbers were monitored and assisted in completing accurate plans and installing code conforming POWTS. In 2015, one hundred fifty-two (152) state sanitary permits were issued to install or repair POWTS. Fifty-eight (58) sanitary permits for new construction and ninety-one (91) sanitary permits for replacement or repair work were issued in 2015. In addition, two (2) sanitary permits were issued to connect new buildings to an existing POWTS and one (1) sanitary permit was issued for a non-plumbing system.



One hundred twenty-seven (127) POWTS were installed in 2015, which includes thirty-nine (39) new POWTS and eighty-eight (88) replacement POWTS or POWTS connections. In 2015, numerous orders and/or reminders were issued to correct non-compliant aspects of POWTS being constructed or to correct or complete permit applications. Two (2) of these directives required follow-up orders and/or reminders to obtain POWTS code compliance.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, administer the Wisconsin Fund Program and process all applications to assist citizens in obtaining State grants for repair and/or replacement of a POWTS.**

In January 2015, the Wisconsin Fund grant applications for two (2) property owners were submitted to the State. Total awards of \$6,996.93 were received and distributed to the two (2) applicants. No applicants were denied grants, but amounts were reduced as a result of State budget cuts.

During 2015, eighty-five (85) property owners were sent information on the Wisconsin Fund Program. Two (2) applications received in 2015 were submitted in January 2016 and are awaiting action.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, obtain at least ninety-five percent (95%) citizen compliance with the POWTS maintenance program for private onsite wastewater treatment systems.**

Each year, as new or replaced POWTS are installed, property owners are informed of the septic maintenance program requirements. In 2015, approximately one hundred fifty-two (152) notices of required maintenance were given or mailed to property owners at the time of sanitary permit issuance.

ACTIVITY	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Office Visits	141	129	120	107	90
Telephone Calls	1,396	939	870	808	876
Sanitary Permits Issued	124	73	120	109	152
New	34	24	47	41	58
Replace or Repair	90	49	71	67	91
County Sanitary Permits	5	6	2	1	3
Land Divisions Review	61	50	51	64	67
Lot Review Under Land Division	77	58	62	85	85

*The above table describes the office activity of the private sewage disposal program from 2011 through 2015*

Property owners are notified every three (3) years to maintain their POWTS. Four thousand six-hundred and thirty-eight (4,638) initial notices were sent to property owners in 2015 for POWTS maintenance. During 2015, twenty-three (23) properties failed to comply. The 2015 compliance rate for POWTS maintenance was ninety-nine and five tenths percent (99.5%).



ACTIVITY	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Initial System Inspection</b>	127	79	120	101	127
Conventional Gravity	86	46	88	68	77
Mound	34	22	21	25	42
Inground Pressure	0	0	3	0	2
At Grade	0	0	3	3	0
Holding Tanks	3	5	2	1	4
Treatment Tank Only (including aerobic tanks)	1	2	1	1	0
Other	3	6	2	3	2
<b>System Re-Inspections</b>	38	25	14	12	14
<b>Soil Test Onsite Verification</b>	61	24	35	35	38
<b>Consultations and Surveys</b>	186	110	122	105	98
<b>Failing System Investigations/Complaints</b>	45	33	38	35	29

*The above table describes the field activity of the private sewage program from 2011 through 2015*

In addition to POWTS maintenance, eighty-nine (89) owners of holding tanks and ten (10) pumpers of holding tanks were monitored in regard to proper reporting of servicing holding tanks.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2015 evaluate all soil and site evaluation reports for land divisions not served by public sewer and make recommendations to Rock County Planning and Zoning Committee.**

As a reviewing agency for the Rock County Planning and Development Committee, the Rock County Health Department assessed proposed property development for the suitability of onsite wastewater treatment. During 2015, sixty-seven (67) land divisions consisting of eighty-five (85) lots were reviewed. In addition, three (3) soil onsite visits were conducted and five (5) soil test reports were filed involving new land divisions.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2015 document that less than two percent (2%) of failing septic systems are less than twenty-five (25) years of age.**

During 2015, less than two percent (2%) of the existing thirteen thousand (13,000) septic systems failed before twenty-five (25) years of age. In the last twenty-five (25) years, six thousand three hundred ten (6,310) septic systems have been installed. Ninety-one (91) permits were issued in 2015 for failing septic systems, with eight (8) being less than twenty-five (25) years of age. This is a failure rate of thirteen thousandths of one percent (0.13%). One (1) was a year old, one (1) was ten (10) years old, one (1) was eleven (11) years old, one (1) was fifteen (15) years old, one (1) was sixteen (16) years old, one (1) was nineteen (19) years old, one (1) was twenty-one (21) years old and one (1) was twenty-three (23) years old.

The failure of the one (1) year old and the eleven (11) year old systems were linked to damage from heavy vehicles unrelated to the installation. The failure of the ten (10) year old system was determined to be from water usage beyond the system's design. The failure of the sixteen (16) year old system is suspected to be from failing pre-fabricated drain field chambers. The cause of failure for the other systems less than twenty-five (25) years of age were unable to be determined with certainty. Since faulty components or installations were not found, it is suspected that hydraulic overloading and/or improper waste disposal contributed to the shortened anticipated life spans of these POWTS.

***Objective achieved***

## **FOOD PROTECTION AND PUBLIC LODGING PROGRAM**

Residents and visitors to our community use food service establishments and public lodging facilities. The threat of food borne illness is ever present and citizens expect that they can dine out and travel in relative safety. Recent statistics from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) state that one in six (1 in 6) people suffer from food borne illness over the course of a year. The role of public health is to not only license and regulate, but to provide owners, operators, and workers with the latest information on food safety practices.

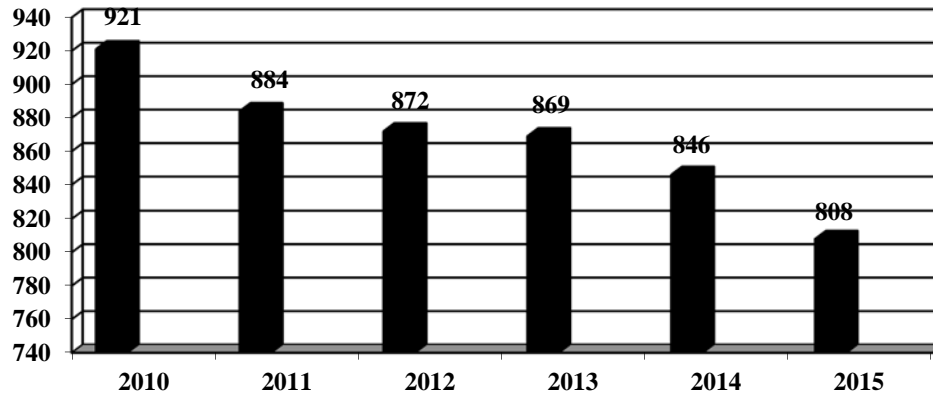
The goal of the Food Protection and Public Lodging Program is to protect the health and safety of the public that utilizes licensed food and public lodging establishments in Rock County.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, meet the requirements of the State Department of Health Services and Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.**

Routine inspections were conducted at each of the seven hundred thirty-seven (737) licensed full service facilities, forty-three (43) school lunchrooms, and forty-two (42) temporary food operations at special events in Rock County. Routine inspections were also completed at thirty (33) public lodging facilities.

***Objective achieved***

## NUMBER OF FOOD & LODGING PERMITS



*The number of Rock County food and lodging permits has been steadily decreasing since 2010.*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, conduct at least one inspection of each senior citizen nutrition facility to ensure safe food handling practices.**

Inspections were completed for all ten (10) senior meal sites.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, continue outreach to licensed establishments through quarterly newsletters and quarterly meetings of the Food Safety Advisory Committee.**

Three (3) quarterly newsletters were sent to licensed establishments. One meeting was held with the Food Safety Advisory Committee.

*Objective not achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, each inspector will conduct three (3) scheduled training visits to licensed food establishments.**

Twelve (12) training visits were provided to licensed establishments in 2015.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 7: By December 31, 2015, reduce the number of high-risk food safety violations identified in routine annual inspections by 5%.**

A new inspection software supported by the State of Wisconsin (HealthSpace) is used for food facility inspections as of January 2015. The inspection criteria is different from the software from prior years and is not comparable. The number of CDC Risk Factors in 2015 was 1.17 Violations per facility inspection; higher than the 2014 CDC Risk Factor Violations per facility inspection results (1.03) calculated from the older software; an increase of 14%. The results from 2015 will be our base year for future comparisons.

*Objective not achieved*

#### **FOOD PROTECTION AND PUBLIC LODGING PROGRAM INSPECTION DATA**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Food Establishments, Retail, School, Public Lodging and Milk Vending Permits	884	872	869	846	808
Restaurant Routine Inspections	490	540	453	449	439
Retail Food Routine Inspections	229	243	203	212	184
School Lunch Room Routine Inspections	44	45	43	43	72
Motel, Hotel, Bed & Breakfast & Tourist Rooming Houses Routine Inspections	34	30	35	34	34
Temporary Restaurant and Retail Food Establishment Inspections	70	78	58	39	42
Vending Machine Inspections	320	290	254	236	212
Restaurant, Retail and Lodging Establishments Pre-Inspections.	88	61	58	91	62
Restaurant, Retail, Lodging and School Establishment Critical Violation Follow-up Inspections	71	80	69	54	17
Restaurant & Retail Written Compliance Orders Issued	9	3	3	1	4
Food borne Illness Complaints	11	12	14	10	9
Restaurant, Retail, School Complaints: General	52	81	73	69	40

*The above table describes the Food Protection and Public Lodging program activity from 2011 through 2015*



# Public Health Nursing

Public Health Nursing has a unique role in promoting and impacting the health of Rock County. The services provided in 2015 and highlighted in this report reflect the core programming that is in response to gaps and needs identified in our community.

The Public Health Nurses conducted 2,375 home visits to families in the Healthy Families First program. Seven hundred and seven (707) Ages and Stages developmental screenings (ASQ) were completed on infants and toddlers. One hundred (100) were referred for further follow-up with other health care professionals or given support and additional teaching of specific strategies to address concerns or lags in development that were identified by the screening. Breastfeeding, safe sleep, immunizations and other important health behaviors are routinely discussed with families. Access to care, utilization of services and navigation of health care systems are also important factors that public health nurses address with these high risk families.

The Nursing Division chaired the Rock County Child Death Review Team (CDRT) to review the deaths of individuals age 25 and younger in Rock County and develop prevention strategies based on findings. The Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Team also continued efforts aimed at the reduction of health disparities in birth outcomes in Rock County. This was accomplished through the analysis of fetal death by health care providers and consultation with the African American Service Advisory Team (AASAT) which provides cultural insights to the findings of the FIMR team. The FIMR grant continued through 2015 and provided funding for the program.

Partnerships with many agencies and coalitions are crucial to improving health in Rock County. Headstart, Early Headstart, Youth to Youth, Rock County Breastfeeding Coalition, Long Term Support, Council on Aging, and public and parochial schools are some key community partners. Contracted school health services were provided to the school districts of Edgerton, Orfordville-Parkview, and St. Paul Lutheran for the 2015-16 school year. Two “Stepping On” classes in partnership with the Council on Aging to elders to prevent injury from falls.

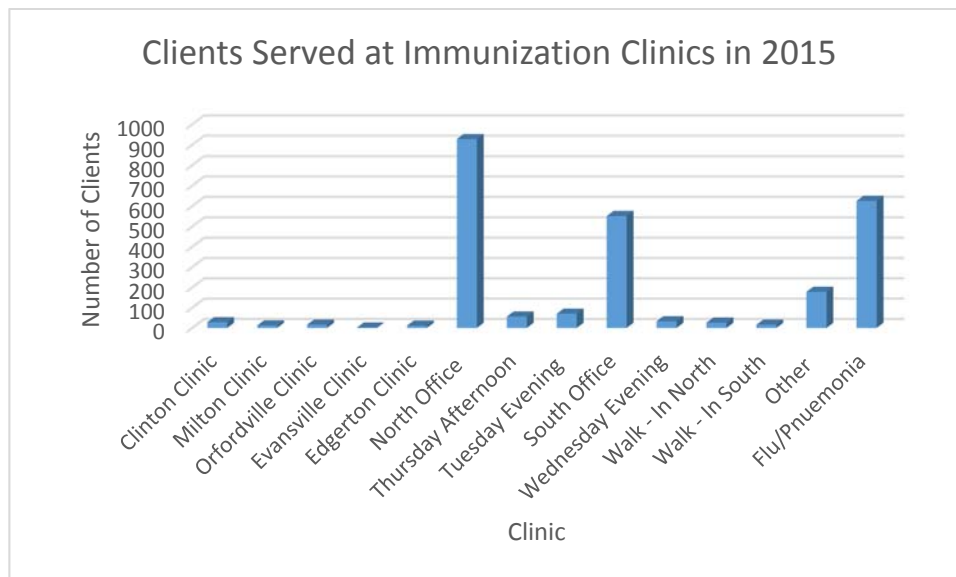
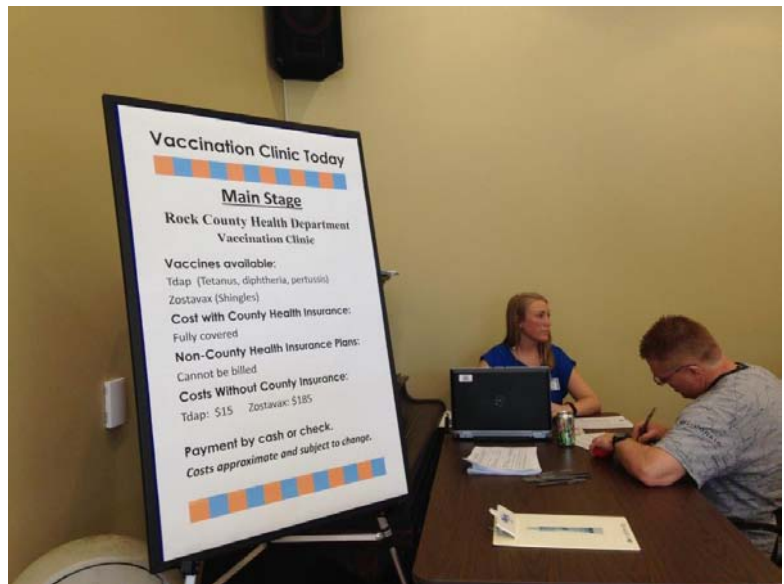
Much time was spent in 2015 developing a Public Health Strategic plan. This plan will direct the evidence influenced services and priorities for the department. The services and programs previously provided by the Health Department were reviewed and evaluated to ensure that each one was in response to a need identified and had a measureable outcome. This strategic plan will be beneficial in the future to keep the focus of the Public Health Department on the needs that the department can make the biggest impact on the health of Rock County.

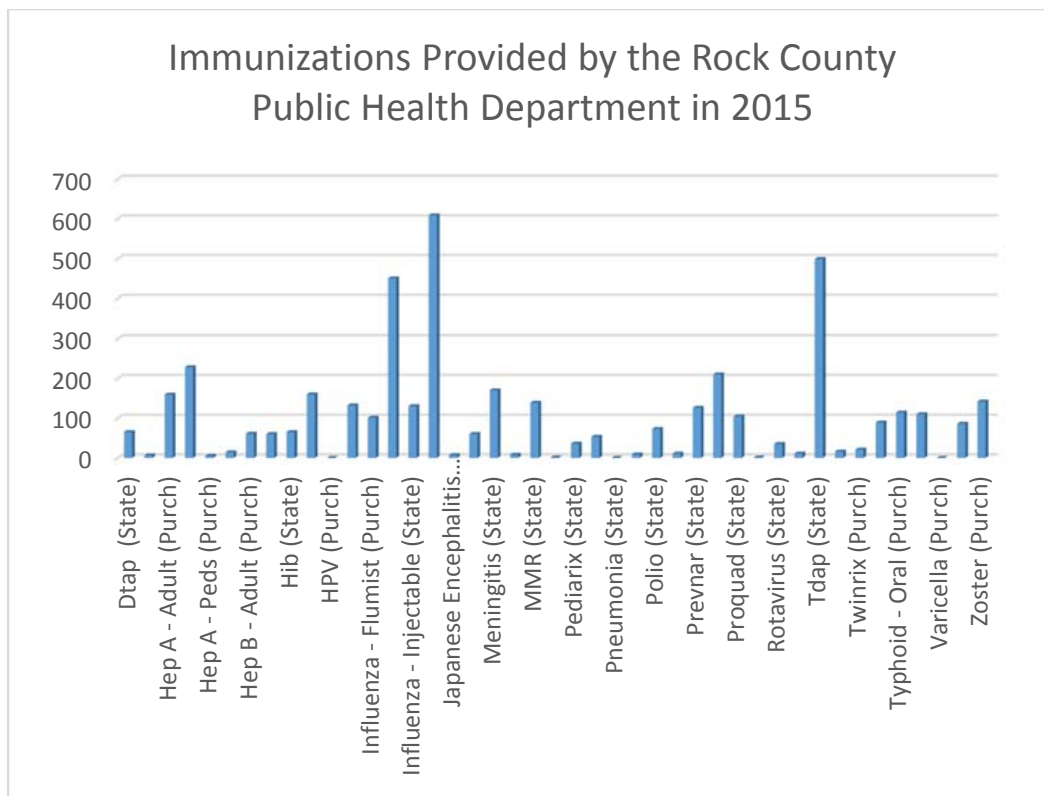
## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Communicable disease control is a state-mandated public health service. Investigation of over 1400 clients with communicable illnesses and contacts to those with active illness was completed in 2015. The unique role of Public Health Nursing services in communicable disease control are three fold:

1. Preventing the occurrence of all vaccine preventable disease through the following strategies:

- Providing immunization clinics for childhood and adult vaccines for uninsured and underinsured individuals
- Providing immunization services and communicable disease guidance to travelers through the Travel Program
- Partnering with schools to increase immunization rates and decrease the number of waivers signed to circumvent immunizations





2. Controlling the spread of the 80 plus state mandated reportable acute and communicable disease by prompt investigation and community education; strategies include:

- Contacting clients diagnosed with communicable disease to educate, inform and monitor appropriate treatment
- Educating contacts to clients with reportable diseases about signs and symptoms, testing, treatment, and prevention strategies
- Updating and consulting with community partners about changes in communicable disease reporting and treatment guidelines
- Investigating outbreaks of communicable illness in high-risk settings such as nursing homes, schools, daycares or involving health care workers or food handlers

3. Maintaining ongoing surveillance of diseases in the community; activities include:

- Reviewing communicable disease data and information to determine what communicable diseases are occurring in the county
- Following up with reports of illnesses and potential outbreaks
- Communicating with infection control professionals locally and the Department of Public Health
- Keeping informed on potential risks that are new or uncommon such as Ebola, Zika virus, and Elizabethkingia

Partnerships with schools, daycares, long term care facilities, and health care providers are vital to surveillance of diseases in the community. The sharing of information occurs regularly with these important partners. 10 outbreaks associated with long term care facilities were investigated in 2015.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, have an incidence of zero (0) for the following vaccine preventable diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and pertussis in children < 1 year of age and 11-18 years of age and hepatitis B children 2-18 years of age and varicella in children < 17 years of age.**

There was an incidence of zero (0) for measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and hepatitis B in the listed age groups. However, there were seven (7) cases of pertussis and four (4) confirmed and five (5) probable cases of varicella. The Nursing Division continues to put a high priority on outreach and education regarding vaccine-preventable diseases. There was an outbreak of Mumps in the neighboring county but was in the college-age group. Our two (2) cases were connected to that outbreak.

***Objective not achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, eighty percent (80%) of children who turn twenty-four (24) months during the year will have received four (4) DTaP, three (3) polio, three (3) Hib, three (3) Hepatitis B, and one (1) MMR vaccinations.**



Rock County Health Department utilized a monthly Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) report indicating two (2) year olds behind schedule on immunizations. A postcard reminder was sent to the address indicated in WIR. The 744 postcards were strategically mailed in conjunction with outlying clinics provided by the Health Department. A Public Health Nurse also reviewed the records for errors or trends occurring at particular clinics. Parents were called and given information and encouraged to complete timely immunizations. Barriers to immunization that

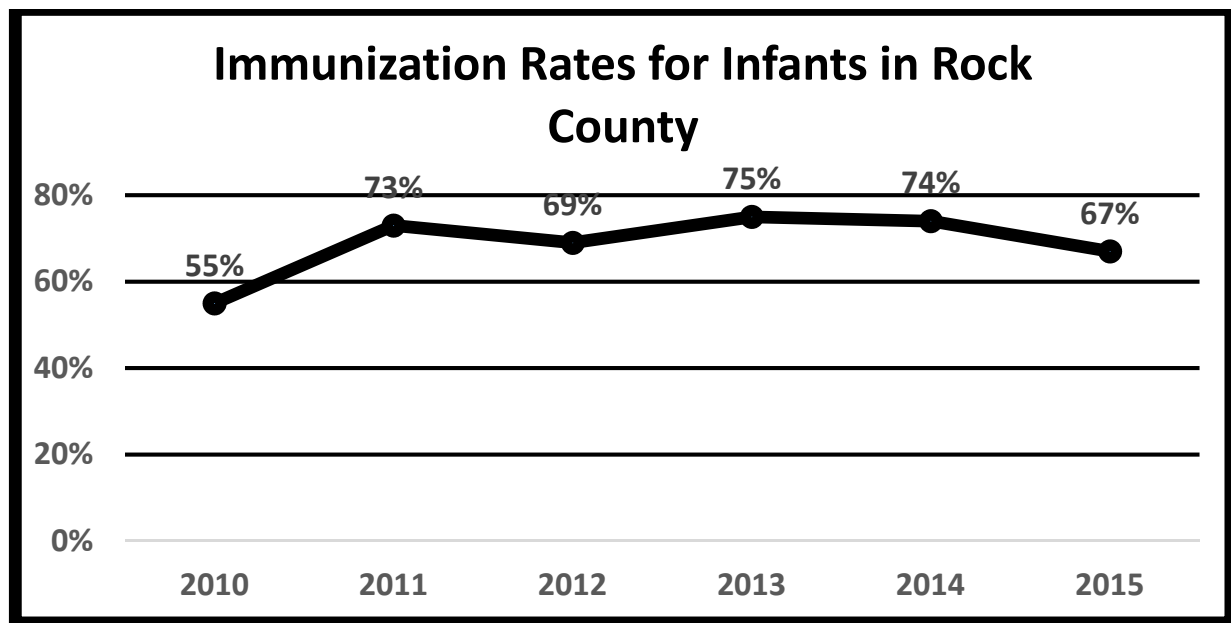
were found included vaccine hesitant philosophy, alternative schedules of vaccinations, missed appointments, and missed opportunity by the health care provider. A “missed opportunity” occurs when a person is not given all of the recommended vaccinations at an appointment. Other families had moved out of county or postcards were returned without a forwarding address,

Due to the high numbers of “missed opportunities” by Health Care providers, the Public Health Nurses partnered with the clinics in Rock County and provided outreach by offering support and answering any questions. An Immunization Newsletter that highlighted any changes or new recommendations was also utilized. It featured a “Can you spot the missed shot?” section so that other

health care providers could practice finding missed opportunities. Unfortunately, our immunization rate was 67% which did not meet our goal for 2015 of eighty percent (80%) of two (2) year olds up to date was not met in 2015.

Looking forward to 2016, an Immunization Coalition is in the beginning stages and we are confident that this will magnify our efforts to increase immunization rates in Rock County. We are planning to utilize a recall and reminder system that will alert a parent that an immunization is due. This will utilize calls and texts and has been proven to increase immunization rates in other locations.

***Objective not achieved***

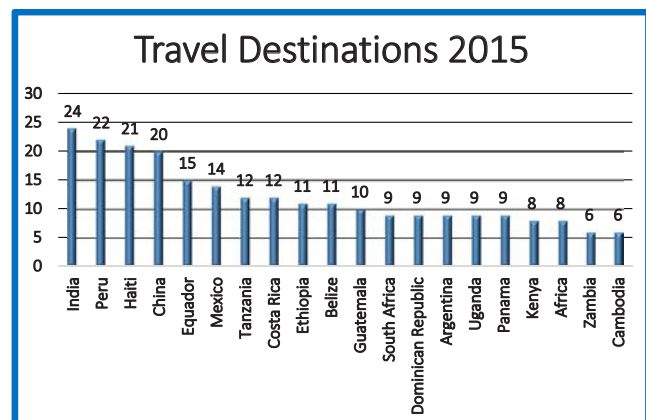
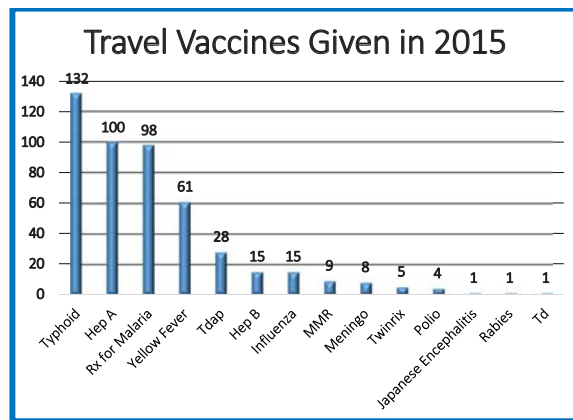


**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, Public Health Nurses will provide education and information to four hundred (400) travel immunization clients via phone or clinic visit.**

Three hundred (300) clients received over seven hundred (700) different immunizations going to over many destinations at Rock County Health Department. We also received over one hundred (100) inquiry calls requesting information about travel risks.

***Objective achieved***





**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, one hundred percent (100%) of all clients with a reported Category I infection will be contacted by a nurse within one (1) day of case assignment.**

All thirty-five (35) cases of a Category I infection were contacted within 24 hours of case assignment. These infections included pertussis, meningitis, hepatitis A, measles, HIB, and outbreaks of various types. This rapid response to the most dangerous infections is crucial in preventing outbreaks of these diseases.

**Objective achieved**

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2015, the percentage of clients receiving a home visit for services HIV partner referral services will increase from twenty-six percent (26%) to the WI state average of forty percent (40%).**

The Health Department provided follow-up for HIV and partner referral for the counties of Rock, Green, Walworth, and Lafayette. In 2015 the number of referrals received in the HIV/Partner Services Referral Program remained almost the same as 2014, nineteen versus twenty (19 vs 20). Of the nineteen (19) referrals, fourteen (14) were cases which means they had a positive test result and five (5) were partners of a person who had a positive test result. There was an eighty-four percent (84%) contact rate with these referrals, phone contact or an office visits were preferred by the majority of clients and only twenty-six percent (26%) received a home visit. There were three (3) individuals who were unable to be contacted. Hence, the home visit rate remained the same as 2014. All referrals contacted received nursing follow-up and education. In 2015, the number of clients tested for HIV at the health department decreased from fifty-seven (57) in 2014 to twenty-six (26) in 2015. HIV testing paired with providing education, resource referrals, and follow-up with partner services is a comprehensive strategy for preventing the spread of the disease.



*Objective not achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2015, repeat Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in the same client within the same year will be reduced by five percent (5%).**

The number of STI's reported continues to escalate. Nurses contact each case and ensure that recommended treatment was obtained and completed. Motivational interviewing with each case is crucial to change risk behaviors associated with STIs. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the cases were contacted, the remaining were typically unable to be located. Despite, efforts, the number of clients with repeat STIs remained the same as 2014. Going forward, establishing partnerships with other agencies to increase awareness and knowledge will be key to improving the STI rates.

*Objective not achieved*

**Objective 7: By December 31, 2015, nurses will provide outreach and education about communicable diseases to area day care providers.**

Education on communicable disease and outreach to over 20 area day care providers was completed by the nurses, including delivery of a wall chart that has valuable information about incubation period and exclusion requirements on all communicable diseases.

*Objective achieved*

**Childhood Lead Program**

Rock County Health Department delivers primary prevention lead services by providing case management of all children who have a blood lead reading > 5 mcg/dl, contacting families who live in pre-1950 housing and have a six month old infant, providing capillary blood lead screening for children 9 months of age through age 1 and providing case management of participants in a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program with children 6 years and younger.

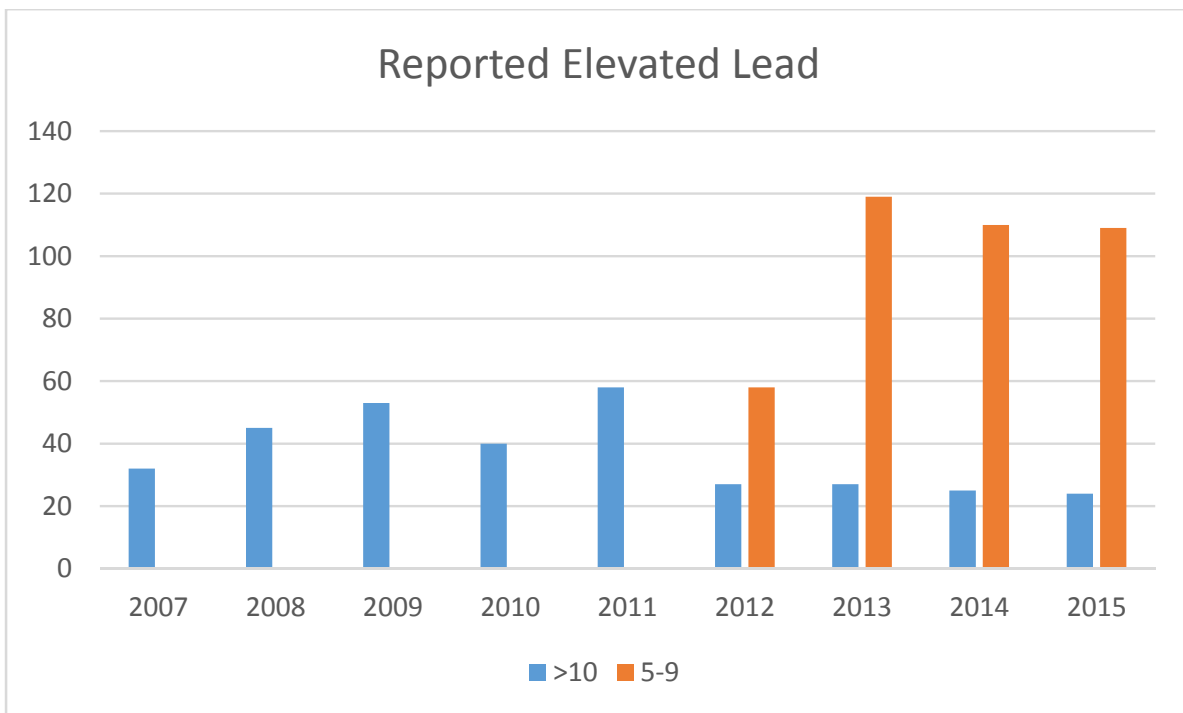


Over seven hundred (700) families with infants were identified in pre-1950 housing with risk for lead exposure. One hundred and forty-nine (149) home visits, eighty-four (84) phone visits, and fifteen (15) environmental assessments were completed with the identified families. Another three hundred and seventy-two (372) of the families received specific information about lead risk and testing.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, eighty percent (80%) of families with children less than six (6) years of age with a capillary blood lead level >5 mcg/dl, will receive Public Health Nursing services to educate, provide lead abatement information, and be referred for medical follow-up.**

One hundred thirty-eight (138) children with elevated blood levels were reported. Eleven (11) were ruled out with confirmatory testing. One hundred eight (108) of the remaining one hundred twenty-seven families, or eighty-one percent (81%) were provided education on the pertinent topics. The remaining nineteen (19%) had moved out of jurisdiction, refused services, or were unable to be located. See the graph below for trends in elevated lead levels over time in Rock County.

***Objective achieved***



**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, nurses will case manage one hundred percent (100%) of HUD grant referrals for lead abatement according to the grant standards.**

A Public Health Nurse did case management of 45 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant referrals. Rock County Public Health has been partnering with The City of Beloit, City of Janesville, and Rock County Planning Department on the HUD grant for the last three (3) years. The Nursing Division has provided case management of participants with children age six (6) or under to ensure that the children do not have elevated lead levels in the pre-construction period or that any exposure occurs during the construction period. These referrals required blood lead testing and developmental screening of the children. No elevated blood lead levels were associated with the lead abatement. However, several of the participants were referred to the program due to elevated levels.

***Objective achieved***

## Maternal/Child Health



The goals of Maternal/Child Health Services are to promote positive health behaviors and reduce the risks associated with reproductive health of mothers and families; to promote the growth, development, and optimal functioning of infants, children, and youth; to reduce racial disparity in birth outcome; and to prevent injury and premature disability.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, infants born to mothers that were seen for at least three (3) home visits will meet the Healthiest People 2020 goal of less than seven and eight tenths percent (7.8%) low birth weight.**

Birth weight is a measure used for overall health of an infant. Infants weighing less than 5.8 pounds are considered to be low birthweight. Of the prenatal clients seen by Public Health Nurses for at least three (3) home visits, only six (6) of one hundred eight (108), or six percent (6%), had an infant with low birth weight. This is better than the target of Healthiest People 2020 by 1.8%.

### *Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, seventy-five percent (75%) of parents of all newborns seen through the Healthy Families First program will identify that they put their infants on their backs to sleep (Healthiest People 2020 target goal).**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends an infant is placed on his back to sleep for every sleep as a strategy to decrease unexplained infant death. Public Health Nurses work with families and provide education about safe sleep environment. One hundred sixty-eight (168) of one hundred eighty-eight (188), or eighty-nine percent (89%) of Healthy Families First clients report that they put their infants on their backs to sleep.

### *Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, there will be a five percent (5%) increase in completed medical evaluation for those Head Start students who fail their vision or hearing screening.**

The number of students screened for both vision and hearing in 2015 were one hundred ninety-one (191) versus one hundred ninety-six (196) in 2014. This year there were only twenty-seven (27) students referred for vision and seven (7) for hearing. Currently, sixty-three percent (63%) versus

sixty-five percent (65%) in 2014 have received an evaluation or are pending in having their vision evaluated. Currently, seventy-one percent (71%) of hearing referrals have been evaluated or are pending versus sixty-four percent (64%) in 2014. Students moving and changing of addresses and phone numbers are barriers for follow-up with the referrals.

*Objective achieved for hearing referrals but not vision referrals.*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, nurses will provide two (2) outreach activities focused at decreasing disparities in one or more social determinants of health.**

The Nursing staff provided monthly health topics and support to the parent socialization groups of Rock County's Head Start Program and directed health education to teen mothers in a local charter school, the Beloit Domestic Violence Shelter and Stateline Pregnancy Center. The Health Department also participated with the LifeCourse Initiative for Healthy Families which is an innovative, community-education collaboration designed to improve local conditions that lead to healthier birth outcomes among African American families in Beloit.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2015, there will be a ten percent (10%) increase in revenue received through Medical Assistance billing related to maternal and child health.**

In 2014, Medical Assistance billing revenue related to maternal and child health services was \$54,221 and in 2015, the services generated \$50,507.

*Objective not achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2015, among Healthy Families First clients receiving more than three (3) home visits, there will be a five percent (5%) increase in mothers who sustain breastfeeding for the first six (6) months of baby's life.**

Breastfeeding is strongly encouraged by Public Health Nurses prenatally and support is given after delivery. Twenty-six (26) of one hundred eighty-eight (188), or fourteen percent (14%), breastfed six (6) months or longer in 2015. In 2014, forty-eight (48) of two hundred forty-five (245), or twenty percent (20%), breastfed six (6) months or longer.

*Objective not achieved*

**Objective 7: By December 31, 2015, among Healthy Families First clients receiving more than three (3) home visits, there will be zero (0) unintended repeat pregnancies at case closure.**





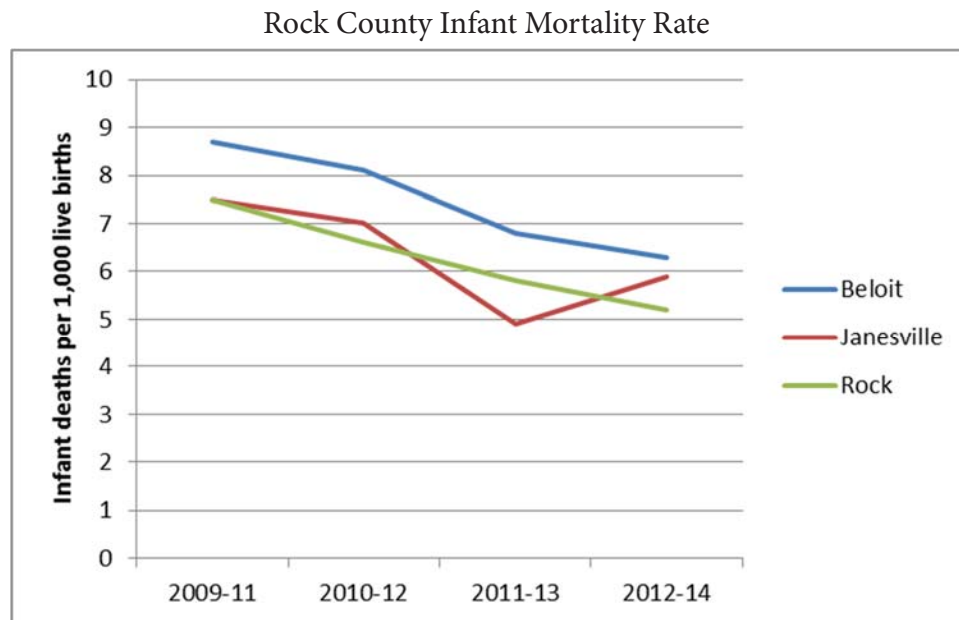
Spacing between pregnancies is an important factor in continued health of the mother and health of the unborn baby. Public Health Nurses focus teaching on this risk factor and provide education on contraception options. They also encourage women to complete the postpartum check with the Health Care Provider, helping to remove barriers to keeping the appointments. Of the two hundred eighty-seven (287) families with infants that we saw in 2015, ten (10), or three percent (3%), had unintended pregnancy before case closure at one (1) year of age. This number decreased from last year which was twenty-two (22) of two hundred seventeen (217) families, or ten percent (10%).

***Objective not achieved***

**Objective 8: By December 31, 2015, at least one (1) new program or service will be developed in response to the findings of the Rock County Child Death Review Team or Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team.**

Data from the Rock County Child Death Review Team indicated that Hispanic children were less likely to be in an appropriate car seat than non-Hispanics in motor vehicle crashes. To address this issue, specific information on car seats was developed in Spanish. This information was shared with Hispanic families at the Latino Community Fair in October. Additionally, outreach to a predominately Hispanic mobile home park was completed. A team comprised of Spanish speaking public health nurses and high school student volunteers from the Spanish National Honor Society canvassed the park of over seventy (70) homes with information and about car seat safety.

***Objective achieved***



## **Adult Health**

The goals of adult health services are to reduce and/or eliminate risks associated with chronic and communicable diseases, prevent premature disability and/or death, and promote positive health outcomes and optimal levels of functioning.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, Public Health Nurses will participate in at least four (4) adult health and wellness activities in a community-based setting.**

Public health nurses participated in several adult health and wellness activities in 2015 covering many topics including; water testing, radon, lead, blood borne pathogens, communicable diseases, emergency preparedness, weather safety, tick prevention, coping mechanisms, and sexually transmitted infections.



***Objective achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, nurses will participate in at least two (2) activities supporting positive mental health in the elderly at-risk population.**

In collaboration with the Council on Aging, a support group called “Lighten Up” that focused on mental health in seniors and adults with disabilities was facilitated by a public health nurse. This program included training for the facilitator and was evidence based. Another program led by a public health nurse focused on positive mental health with a group of Veterans.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, Public Health Nurses will conduct outreach on influenza immunization resulting in a five percent (5%) increase in influenza immunization delivered by the agency.**

1,422 flu shots were given by Rock County Public Health in 2015. This is a decrease in the number of influenza immunizations by the agency from 2256 in 2014. This is likely due to the Affordable Care Act which directs clients to seek immunizations from the primary health care provider.

***Objective not achieved***



## **Family Health Clinic**

The Family Health Clinic provides services that transverse the Communicable Disease Control Program, Maternal/Child Health Program, and Adult Health Program. The services of these clinics serve as a case finder in identifying clients and families who may need extended services through one of these program areas. The goal of the Family Health Clinic is to make available to Rock County citizens low-cost nursing clinic services that provide health assessment, health information and appropriate referrals.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2015, through increased efforts at case finding, there will be a ten percent (10%) increase in the number of pregnant women referred for Healthy Families First home visiting services.**

Partnerships with Mercy HMO, First Choice Women's Health Center, Child Protective Service, as well as Dean Clinics and Beloit Clinics have been established. These partners send high risk pregnancy referrals for the program. There were two hundred ninety-seven (297) prenatal clients referred for Healthy Families First program in 2015 and three hundred five (305) referred in 2014.

***Objective not achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2015, prenatal resource and referral services will be provided collaboratively with First Choice Women's Health Center in both Beloit and Janesville locations.**

The collaboration with First Choice Women's Health Center in both Beloit and Janesville has continued. We received more than forty (40) prenatal referrals from FCWHC in 2015.

***Objective achieved***

# Community Health Education

The goal of community-based public health is to increase the quality, availability, and effectiveness of educational and community-based programs designed to prevent disease and injury, improve health, and enhance quality of life. Community health education plays a strong role in helping advance this goal. Health educators offer knowledge, skills, and training that complement others whose work impacts human health. Training in core competencies of public health allows health educators to be an asset to the growth and future work for community-based public health workforces. All efforts of community health education are geared toward examining and influencing the health outcomes of groups of individuals. Health educators advocate for policy that promotes health equity, access to health care, and the ability to make healthy choices. They use skills that help promote population health and positively impact the health outcomes of all community members.

In 2015, Rock County ranked 62 out of 72 counties in overall County Health Rankings for health outcomes and risk factors. A goal of Rock County Community Health Education programming is to work with community partners to improve our County Health rankings.

In 2013 an interdisciplinary committee of community leaders and healthcare providers formed to assess the health status of Rock County, Wisconsin residents and prioritize initiatives to address these needs. In 2014 a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted utilizing a community survey as well as secondary data sources. Four priority issues were identified and a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was drafted. In April 2015, the CHNA and CHIP were presented to the community during a “State of Rock County Health” breakfast.

Community partnerships play an important role in improving the health of Rock County. We continue to expand these partnerships. Some noteworthy community projects include the “Teens for Vaccines” campaign initiated by our summer intern, the “Farm to School - School Garden” project at Edgerton Elementary, and the recent formation of an asthma coalition.

Employee health and well-being is a priority for our County Staff. A Rock N’ Wellness committee comprised of representatives from various Rock County Departments was formed to provide programming, activities, events and incentives to increase the health and well-being of Rock County Employees and their families. The Rock N’ Wellness committee partnered with local agencies and businesses from around Rock County to provide wellness opportunities and activities.

In addition to traditional media outlets, social media has become an integral part of community health promotion for Rock County Public Health. Health topics and resources including food recalls, monthly “Healthful Hint” news columns written for traditional media outlets, quarterly Immunization Newsletters for health care providers, quarterly Food Program Newsletters for food establishments are also posted to our Facebook page and our website. Our traditional signboard displays bi-weekly health messages.

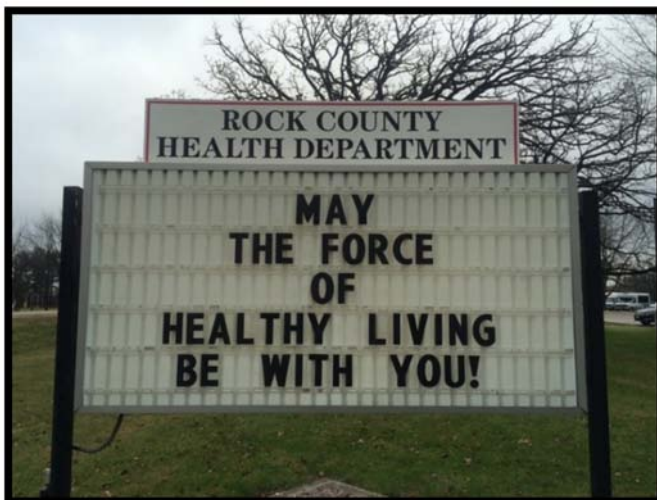


**Objectives 1: Provide Health Education to the public that address health issues identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment.**

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) which identified priority issues: Underutilization of Dental Health Services; Mental Health (including substance abuse and inadequate access to treatment); Harmful Lifestyle Choices (e.g. obesity, smoking and inactivity); and Underutilization of Preventative Health Screenings and the Community Health Needs Improvement Plan (CHIP) were presented to the 66 community members in April 2015 during a ‘State of Rock County Health’ breakfast. These documents are also available on the Rock County Public Health Department’s official website page.



Many improvements were made to our website and Facebook page to improve social media messaging. Facebook messages related to Community Health Needs Assessment priority issues were posted 2-3 times per week. Additionally, bi-weekly health messages were posted on our signboard. Community members often remark about our “catchy” messages and look forward to new ones.



“Healthful Hint” monthly news columns based on CHNA priority issues are submitted to nine media outlets and posted to the Rock County Public Health Department’s official website page. Topics included “Weighing in on the Issue of Obesity” (Harmful Lifestyle Choices) and “Keep Your Smile Healthy” (Dental Health).

***Objective achieved***



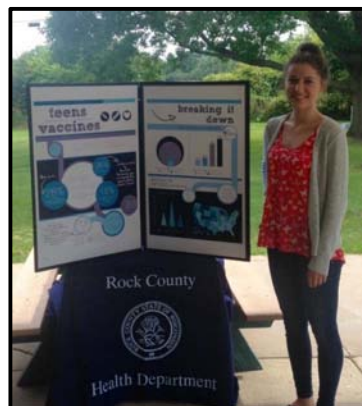
## Objective 2: Promote community partnerships to identify and solve local health concerns.

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Committee held quarterly meetings to discuss the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan. The CHNA committee includes representatives from Rock County UW-Extension, HealthNet, Rock County Departments, Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change, Youth 2 Youth, Beloit Head Start, Good to Great Activate, Community Health Systems of Wisconsin and South Central Area Health Education Center and four local hospitals: Mercy Health System, St. Mary's Janesville Hospital, Beloit Health System and Edgerton Hospital and Health Services. Strategies developed through the Community Health Improvement Plan serve to improve health for Rock County citizens. At the beginning of 2015, the CHNA committee had 13 members. By year's end, membership had expanded to 11 additional partners for a total of 24 members.

Partnerships with local media and Head Start were established. Monthly "Healthful Hint" news columns and monthly "Parent Head Start" news letters written by our staff were published by our new partners. "Healthful Hint" news columns were distributed to nine media outlets in Rock County. Media outlets included: Beloit Daily News, Edgerton Reporter, Community Shoppers, Charter, Independent Register, Brodhead Free Press, Janesville Gazette, The Clinton Topper and Lite Wire. These are also posted to our website and Facebook page. Topics included: vaccines, lead, radon, dental health, cyberbullying, helmet safety, nutrition, obesity, heat and ticks.

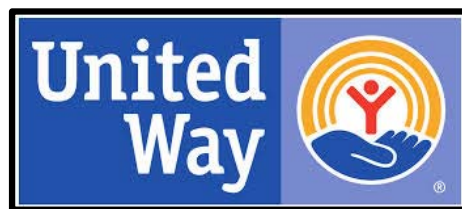
Low immunization rates have been an issue of concern for Rock County. We have partnered with schools and health care providers to increase immunization rates. One initiative is to write a quarterly Immunization Newsletter for providers outlining timely information about vaccines.

Our summer public health intern designed a "Teens for Vaccines" campaign which was launched in partnership with the Clinton Community School District and the County Sheriff's office. The campaign was promoted at school events as well as at the annual Sheriff's "National Night Out" community event.



We partnered with and provided resources to the "Good to Great Activate" Festival at Beloit Memorial High School for Rock County citizens.

We partner with United Way BlackHawk Region in their support of many public health initiatives in Rock County. Funds were raised by holding several fundraising events and activities including: United Way Pledges, Tail Gate Party, Chili Cook Off, Bingo, Golf Tournament, Pumpkin Sale, Bake N' Take N' Donate, 50/50 Football Pool, Poinsettia Raffle,



Christmas Bingo and Baby Guess Game. In addition to raising funds for community initiatives, these events served as team-building activities for our staff.

### ***Objective achieved***

### **Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, implement strategies in the Community Health Improvement Plan that address health issues identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment.**

One of the strategies to address health issues identified in the CHIP was through the County's Rock N' Wellness employee wellness initiative. The Rock N' Wellness committee is chaired by our public health educator and includes 11 representatives from 7 Rock County Departments including: Administration, Public Health, Human Resources, Human Services, Information Technology, Sheriff's Office and Register of Deeds.

In 2015, the committee conducted four wellness challenges open to all Rock County Employees and families. These challenges focused on nutrition, fitness, weight loss, and mental health. The four challenges included: The "More" challenge –drink more water, exercise more and eat more vegetables (nutrition, physical fitness, weight loss), the "Spring into Action" challenge –walk, run, bike or do a combination (physical fitness, weight loss), "Bucket List" challenge –do activities on a list to improve mental and physical health (mental, physical wellbeing, nutrition), and the "Biggest Loser" challenge (nutrition, physical fitness, weight loss, mental health).



The Rock N' Wellness committee coordinated the Annual Rock County Health Fair for County employees and their families. In 2015, there were 227 participants and 22 community vendors. The Health Fair allowed employees to be vaccinated for Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) and Zostavax (Shingles) – provided by Rock County Public Health Department nurses. A total of 43 employees and/or family members were vaccinated. Four presentations were held during the health fair. Topics included: "Don't Fear All Fats" (Presenter - Clinical Dietician from St. Mary's Janesville Hospital), "Container Gardens" (Presenter - Horticulturist Educator from U.W. Extension), "Good Drugs Gone Bad" (Presenter from Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change) and "Yoga Demonstration" (Presenter from Integrated Yoga).





A Harvest Luncheon was piloted in the fall of 2015. The goal was to introduce healthy foods using a variety of produce that people have never tried before. We partnered with Rock County Community Garden – RECAP, master gardeners and Rock County- UW Extension. A total of 39 employees attended the luncheon and 46 healthy recipe books were distributed.

The Rock N’ Wellness Committee purchased a share from the Rock County Community Garden. Ten RECAP garden baskets were raffled off and donated to County employees.

A total of 140 employees participated in the free raffle drawing. Over 200 pounds of produce was distributed.

The Ladies Night Out event focused on women’s mental health and nutrition. There were 55 participants. A guest speaker presented information on mental health. Wellness stations were set up to focus on nutrition, mental health and wellness.

Rock N’ Wellness developed a new Live N’ Well Newsletter in 2015 to promote health and wellness to County Employees. Topics focused on wellness areas for County Employees such as immunizations, healthy eating, stress, and physical activity.

Rock N’ Wellness maintained the Rock N’Wellness Workout Center at the Health Care Center (HCC) for County Employees to utilize.



Another initiative to address health issues identified in the CHIP is a “Farm to School Garden Project”. In July 2012, the Public Health Department received a Community Transformation Grant (CTG) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Funding was provided to target work related to active living, healthy eating, and tobacco-free living. In 2013, Edgerton Community Elementary was given \$5,000 from the Community Transformation Grant to develop a Farm to School program and develop a school garden. Edgerton Community Elementary’s Farm to School Garden project is ongoing and has been

sustainable by the school.

A major health issue in Rock County is asthma. Rock County's prevalence of asthma (14.06%) is slightly higher than the prevalence in Wisconsin (13.27%) and nationally (13.20%). Rock County is ranked 4th statewide for asthma. Emergency Department (ED) rates and 5th for asthma hospitalizations. Strategies implemented to address asthma included the formation a local asthma



coalition (membership includes: School District of Beloit Turner, Mercy Health System, Dean Clinic/St. Mary's Janesville Hospital, UW-Extension, and the Wisconsin Asthma Coalition), drafting of an asthma grant proposal and development a partnership with the Wisconsin Asthma Coalition (WAC).

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2015, investigate and apply for mini-grants that would support current health department programming.**

Grants were investigated and considered through the UW School of Medicine, Wisconsin Partnership Program (Community Opportunities Grants Program) and the Medical College of Wisconsin "Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment" (Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program – Strategic Component Call for Community Change-makers for Behavioral Health).

An asthma grant proposal was written to address hospitalizations and Emergency Department (ED) visits for children with chronic asthma conditions by conducting home assessments for asthma triggers. The grantor advised us to develop our partnerships further prior to seeking this funding.

Rock County Public Health Department prepared an "Action for Asthma" grant proposal and submitted a "Letter of Intent" to apply for asthma grant funding through the Wisconsin Partnership Program (Community Opportunities Grants Program). The asthma grant proposal and logic model are ready for future grants.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2015, represent the health department on health-related community coalitions and committees.**

The Health Educator served in difference instances as chair, facilitator, administrator and representative member on several committees, coalitions and online registries, including: Rock N' Wellness Committee [chair], Community Health Needs Assessment Committee (CHNA) [member], Good to Great Activate Committee [member], and United Way Committee [facilitator/member].

*Objective achieved*



# Preparedness

Rock County is prepared to respond to emergencies with a detailed plan of action and a system of communication with community responders. This response includes detecting disease outbreaks and investigating who may have been exposed as well as determining public risk. It also involves informing the public and professionals of specific disease threats and how to protect themselves and others. The plan of action also involves management of affected individuals, including isolation and/or quarantine and providing medications or vaccinations as appropriate.

This effort is supported by Wisconsin's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program which focuses on preparing for, and responding to, events that pose a substantial risk to the health of the state's residents. The program supports and enhances the capacity of the state, local health departments/Tribes, and the health care system to prepare for public health threats and emergencies through planning, exercising, responding, and training." Grant funding for local public health preparedness comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



## **Objective 1: Promote community partnerships to identify and solve local health concerns.**

In collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI-DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fulfilled contract grant deliverables and capabilities for Budget Year 2015-2016 focusing on: Fatality Management, Mass Care, Medical Surge and Volunteer Management for local public health emergency preparedness.

Preparedness activities such as trainings and exercises were conducted in partnership with Rock County Emergency Management, Rock County Human Services, local fire and police, four local hospitals (Mercy Health System, St. Mary's Janesville Hospital, Beloit Health System and Edgerton Hospital and Health Services), Rock County Public Works, Rock County Medical Examiner and funeral directors and chaplains as well as with local and regional emergency preparedness affiliates from the South Central Health Care Coalition (SCHCC) and the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR).





Two separate mass vaccination clinics for school-aged children were conducted in partnership with the Janesville School District (Wilson Elementary School and Franklin Middle School) and Edgewood School of Nursing. Immunization rates were increased for these schools and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) After Action Reports and Improvement Plans (AAR/IP) for WI-DHS were developed from the mass clinics.

We were active participants in various local and regional emergency preparedness coalition and committee meetings. Committees include: Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), South Central Health Care Coalition (SCHCC), Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Committee (HVA), MHTC Emergency Operations Committee (Mercy), Rock County Mass Fatality Planning Committee and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

#### *Objective achieved*

**Objectives 2: By December 31, 2015, investigate and apply for mini-grants that would support current public health department programming.**

Rock County Public Health was awarded a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference and Training Scholarship in the amount of \$3,485.

#### *Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2015, represent the health department on health-related community coalitions and committees.**

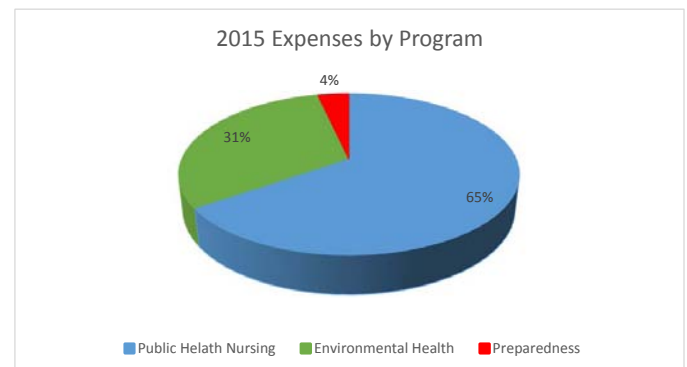
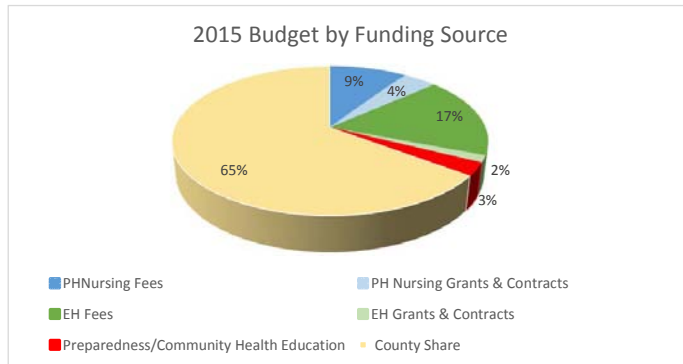
The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator represented Rock County Public Health on various coalitions and committee, including: Wisconsin Emergency Active Volunteer Registry (WEAVR) [administrator], Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) [member], South Central Health Care Coalition (SCHCC) [member], Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Committee (HVA) [facilitator], MHTC Emergency Operations Committee (Mercy) [member] and Rock County Mass Fatality Planning Committee [facilitator].

#### *Objective achieved*

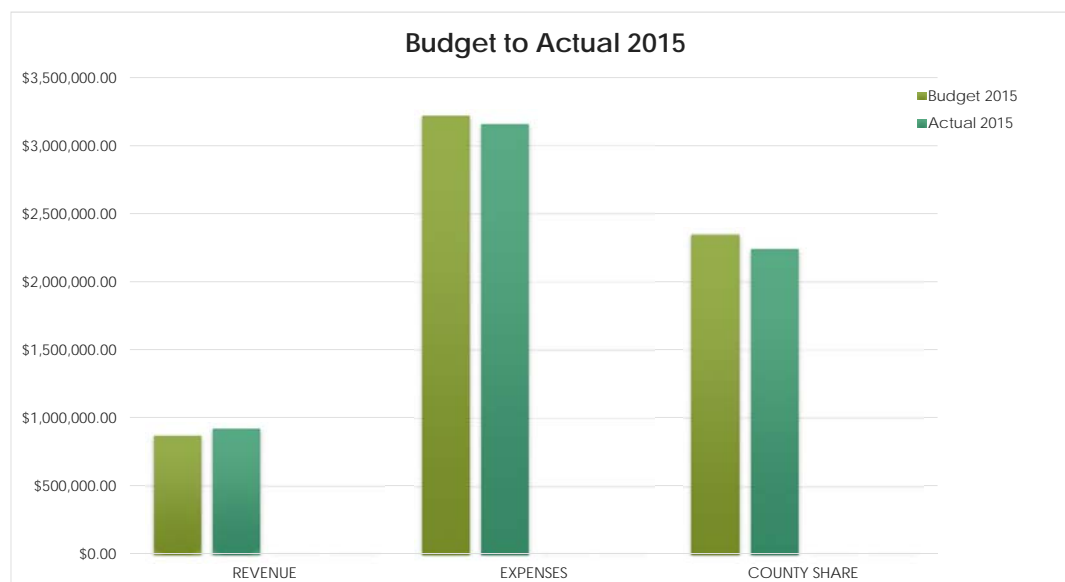
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2015 BUDGET BY FUNDING SOURCE	\$	%
PHNursing Fees	\$ 323,986.00	9%
PH Nursing Grants & Contracts	\$ 143,455.00	4%
EH Fees	\$ 598,058.00	17%
EH Grants & Contracts	\$ 55,169.00	2%
Preparedness/Community Health Education	\$ 97,391.00	3%
County Share	\$ 2,238,773.00	65%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,160,817.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

2015 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM	\$	%
Public Helath Nursing	\$ 2,065,550.00	65%
Environmental Health	\$ 983,092.00	31%
Preparedness	\$ 112,173.00	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,160,815.00</b>	<b>100%</b>



	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
REVENUE	\$874,620.00	\$922,044.00	47424	5%↑
EXPENSES	\$3,221,002.00	\$3,160,817.00	-60185	1.9%↓
COUNTY SHARE	\$2,346,382.00	\$2,238,773.00	-107609	4.6%↓



Overall, our 2015 budget to actual numbers were very good. We experienced an increase in revenue by \$47,424 (5%) and decreased our expenses by \$60,185 (1.9%), thus decreasing the County share by \$107,609 (4.6%).



## Rock County Public Health Department

...the catalyst that cultivates a spirit of wellness  
and improves quality of life by promoting healthier  
lifestyles and environments through collaborative  
community partnerships.

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