

## Message from the Director

March 2014

I am pleased to present the annual report of services provided by the staff at the Rock County Health Department in 2013. As we take time to look back on the services summarized in the annual report, it allows us the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the men and women who work hard to protect the health of our county. Our public health workers are a talented and compassionate group of people who take great pride in serving our citizens.

Our staff can be found in a variety of places: homes, clinics, near water sources, new home sites, in schools and day care centers, businesses, on the beach, digging in mud, or in our offices. We see them conducting such work as inspecting restaurants to ensure food safety, providing immunizations and vaccinations to children and adults alike, sampling water from wells to ensure a safe water supply, providing radon kits to check for radon gas, measuring and weighing babies to determine adequate growth and development, answering health related questions, providing a variety of health education services, or ensuring the efficient operations in each of the Health Department offices.

In the early 1900s, the average life expectancy in the U.S. was 49 years. Today, it is about 80 years. Public health actions are largely responsible for this increase. For example, dramatic declines in infant mortality and deaths from infectious diseases are a result of improved hygiene, sanitation, immunization, and communicable disease control efforts. The work of public health is never done. Emerging infections/diseases, health disparities, an aging population and chronic health conditions, and healthcare financing are challenges to the overall health of citizens.

To do the work of public health, it takes the support of key members of the county. For us, these key members are the Rock County Board of Supervisors, the Rock County Board of Health and our County Administrator. Our sincerest thanks go to the Rock County Board of Supervisors who provide us with the financial support to offer our programs, and to the Rock County Board of Health that provides us with direction by setting public health policy for the county.

This year, a very special acknowledgment and thanks go to our County Administrator, Craig Knutson, who has supported the Department through the ups and downs of the public health world for 30+ years. Not every county health department in the state is as fortunate as we are in garnering the strong support of their county's administration. Without this support, Rock County would not have the strong public health system that currently exists. We thank Craig for his commitment to our county's overall health.

It is a privilege for us to work under the guidance of all these individuals and to serve the people who live, work, and play in Rock County.

As you review the activities presented in this report, should you need or want more information, please feel free to contact Health Department staff. We believe it is our job to serve county citizens, and we take pride in being able to find answers to your questions or to provide information about our services.

With sincerest thanks,

*Karen Cain*

Karen Cain, R.N., M.S.  
Director/Health Officer  
Rock County Health Department

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## **Rock County Board of Health Members**

Sandra Kraft , Chair, County Supervisor  
Richard Bostwick, County Supervisor  
Dr. Keith Konkol, MD  
Mike Rundle, County Supervisor  
Dr. Connie Winter, DDS

Louis Peer, Vice Chair, County Supervisor  
Eric Gresens, RPH.  
Dr. Dean Peterson, DVM  
Judith Wade, WHNP

## **Health Department Personnel:**

### **HEALTH OFFICER**

Karen Cain, RN, MS – Health Officer

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Terri Graham – Public Health Support Specialist  
Elizabeth LaBelle, BS — Administrative Secretary  
Annette Little, BS – Public Health Support Specialist  
Carol McComb – Public Health Support Specialist  
Erica Stilen – Public Health Support Specialist  
Geri Waugh – Account Clerk II

### **HEALTH EDUCATOR**

Laura Conklin, MPH  
Alison Chouindard, BS  
Jenna Lovaas, MPH  
Katie Schroeder, CHES

*(resigned 3/13)*

### **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

Janet Zoellner, RN, MS – Public Health Nursing Director  
Deborah Erickson, RN, BSN – Public Health Nursing Supervisor  
Sancee Siebold, RN, MSN – Public Health Nursing Supervisor  
Joanna Ames, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Valerie Christiansen, RN, BSN - Public Health Nurse  
Ginny Fricke, RN, BSN-Public Health Nurse  
Carissa Hodges, RN, BSN, BA - Public Health Nurse  
Erica Jenson, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Ann Klesic, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Jill Lampo, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Tara Morris, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Olga Myers, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Jennifer Stenger, RN, BSN, CHES – Public Health Nurse  
Amy Stricker, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Casey Stubbs, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Jennifer Weadge, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Anne Weirich, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Risa Weisensel, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse  
Amy Williams, RN, BSN – Public Health Nurse

*(resigned 12/13)*

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SANITARIANS**

Timothy Banwell, RS, MPH – Environmental Health Director  
Janis Baumann, RS, BS – Registered Sanitarian  
Adam Elmer, RS, BS, – Registered Sanitarian  
Roger Eychaner, RS, BS – Registered Sanitarian  
Jeff Moore, BS – Environmental Health Technician  
Jackie Phillips RS, BS – Registered Sanitarian  
Emilie Sadlowski, BA – Environmental Health Technician  
Mark Seymour, RS, MS – Registered Sanitarian  
Matthew Wesson, RS, BS – Registered Sanitarian  
Rick Wietersen, RS, MS – Registered Sanitarian

### **MEDICAL ADVISOR**

Dr. William Clanfield, MD

**Rock County Health Department ---SourcesApplication of Funds  
For the Budget Year Ended December 31,2013**

**SOURCES OF FUNDS:**

**APPLICATION OF FUNDS:**

**PROGRAM REVENUE:**

|                       |                      |                          |                 |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Public Health Nursing | \$ 354,569.00        | Salaries and Benefits    | \$ 2,989,502.00 |
| Environmental Health  | \$ 507,940.00        | Other Operating Expenses | \$ 594,293.00   |
| Laboratory Fees       | \$ 43,641.00         |                          |                 |
| Refund                | \$ 27,862.00         |                          |                 |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>\$ 934,012.00</b> |                          |                 |

**GRANTS/OTHER REVENUE:**

|                                |                        |                           |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Consolidated Contract          | \$ 288,806.00          |                           |                        |
| STI Grant                      | \$ 30,231.00           |                           |                        |
| Brownfield Grant               | \$ 69,530.00           |                           |                        |
| HUD/Lead Grant                 | \$ 4,955.00            |                           |                        |
| Dean/SSM Grant                 | \$ 2,500.00            |                           |                        |
| Community Transformation Grant | \$ 164,902.00          |                           |                        |
| Prescription Drug Grant        | \$ 6,288.00            |                           |                        |
| FIMR Grant                     | \$ 12,885.00           |                           |                        |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                | <b>\$ 1,514,109.00</b> |                           |                        |
| County Tax Levy                | \$ 2,069,686.00        |                           |                        |
|                                |                        |                           |                        |
| <b>Total Sources</b>           | <b>\$ 3,583,795.00</b> | <b>Total Applications</b> | <b>\$ 3,583,795.00</b> |

## **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING DIVISION**

Public health nursing is a unique profession that focuses on services related to maintenance of health and prevention of communicable illness and disease. The strategies of our nursing division detailed in this report reflect the ongoing delivery of core programming while also responding to emerging issues and outbreaks in our county and nation. An increasing focus of health and social services in the community is the elimination of social and economic obstacles in achieving full health. The nursing division continues to expand services created to reduce the gap in health disparities. The nursing division targets illness prevention and health maintenance services for individual citizens, media, coalitions, and elected officials.

In 2013, the Public Health Nursing Division continued working to meet the public health needs of citizens and groups across many service areas. In summary, the nursing division:

- Provided on-site nursing services at First Choice Women's Health Center to enroll pregnant women in Medicaid insurance, home-visiting services, and provide immunizations.
- Through collaboration with Dean Health Systems, delivered 44 Pack and Play cribs into the community with follow-up visits to ensure a safer sleeping environment for babies.
- Provided health education and advice to Hispanic families through Beloit's Even Start program.
- Taught two "Steppin' On" classes to elders in the community to prevent injury from falls.
- Provided 770 hours of school nursing services to the school districts of Edgerton, St. Paul Lutheran and Orfordville-Parkview.
- Made 899 contacts to families with children that were not up to date with immunizations.
- Followed up on 2414 clients for investigation of communicable illnesses and contacts to those with active illness.
- Made 2107 home visits to families in the Healthy Families First program
- Performed 331 ASQ developmental screenings on infants and toddlers; detected 29 with delays warranting intervention.
- Co-chaired the Rock County Child Death Review Team to analyze the deaths of all individuals age 25 and younger in Rock County.
- Began implementation of a Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team to continue efforts aimed at the reduction of health disparities in birth outcomes in Rock County.
- Provided nursing consultation with more than 1500 individuals on the phone.
- Partnered with a local veterinary clinic, preschool education, and child care facilities in Rock County to present dog bite prevention strategies directed at young children and their parents.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Communicable disease control is a state-mandated public health service. Public health nursing services in communicable disease control are focused on three major functions:

- Preventing the occurrence of all diseases which can be prevented by immunizations; activities include:
  - Providing immunization clinics for childhood and adult vaccines
  - Providing immunization services and communicable disease guidance to travelers
  - Monitoring immunization rates
  - Offering consultation services to clients who are in need of immunization information
  - Educating communities, schools, and providers about improving immunization rates
  - Conducting mass clinic exercises to maintain capacity to response to a communicable disease outbreak.
- Controlling the spread of the 80 plus state mandated reportable acute and communicable diseases by prompt investigation and community education; activities include:
  - Contacting clients diagnosed with communicable diseases to educate, inform, and monitor 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.
  - Providing consultation to clinical providers regarding best practices in communicable disease treatment and prevention
- 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 disease professionals locally and at the State of Wisconsin.

Vaccination continues to be the best prevention for many childhood diseases and remains a high priority service of the public health nursing division. The Affordable Care Act now mandates the inclusion of vaccination for all insured individuals. Since October 2012, public health agencies can no longer use Vaccines for Children supplied vaccines to immunize children that are privately insured. Education to citizens, clinics, and schools continues regarding these changes. As a result of these changes, in 2013 the Health Department clinics experienced a 10% decrease in clients served and a 16% decrease in the number of vaccinations given.

Regular clinics are offered at each of the Health Department offices 2-3 days per week. Clinics are also operated on a rotating basis in each community in Rock County. The table that follows lists the number of people served at Health Department clinics and the number of each vaccine given.

## LOCATION OF 2013 CLINICS AND VACCINATIONS BY TYPE

| Immunization Clinics                   | Client Count | Vaccine Type                      | Vaccine Count |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Clinton Clinic                         | 19           | Dtap                              | 65            |
| Edgerton Clinic                        | 29           | Hepatitis A – Adult               | 248           |
| Evansville Clinic                      | 17           | Hepatitis A – Peds                | 458           |
| Thursday North Office Walk – In        | 460          | Hepatitis B – Adult               | 143           |
| First Choice Women’s Health Ctr        | 15           | Hepatitis B – Peds                | 90            |
| Health Department North Office         | 1521         | Hib                               | 65            |
| Health Department South Office         | 959          | HPV                               | 325           |
| Tuesday Evening North Office Walk – In | 79           | Influenza - Injectable            | 1397          |
| Milton Clinic                          | 19           | Influenza - Intradermal           | 42            |
| Orfordville Clinic                     | 36           | Influenza – Nasal Mist            | 802           |
| South Office Evening Walk – In         | 77           | Influenza – High Dose             | 781           |
| Flu & Pneumonia Clinics                | 1373         | Japanese Encephalitis             | 10            |
| Other                                  | 68           | Kinrix (Dtap and Polio)           | 93            |
|  |              | Meningitis                        | 203           |
|  |              | MMR                               | 254           |
|  |              | Pediarix (Dtap, Hep B, and Polio) | 25            |
|  |              | Pentacel (Dtap, Hib, and Polio)   | 113           |
|  |              | Pneumonia                         | 88            |
|  |              | Polio                             | 80            |
|  |              | Prevnar                           | 179           |
|  |              | Rabies                            | 6             |
|  |              | Rotavirus                         | 56            |
|  |              | Td                                | 4             |
|  |              | Tdap                              | 776           |
|  |              | Twinrix                           | 86            |
|  |              | Typhoid                           | 217           |
|  |              | Varicella                         | 290           |
|  |              | Yellow Fever                      | 82            |
|  |              | Zostavax                          | 216           |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>4,672</b> | <b>Total</b>                      | <b>7,194</b>  |

In addition to a primary focus on prevention through vaccination, the Health Department also provides secondary prevention through the investigation of mandatory reportable communicable disease. Public health nurses coordinate with the referring physician when necessary and provide information to the client on restoration of their health and how to best to prevent the spread of illness to others. Not all reports of communicable disease result in a confirmed diagnosis after investigation. Notable in 2013 is a marked reduction in reported pertussis disease. Additionally, Lyme disease criteria for diagnosis have changed, most likely accounting for the reduction in referred cases. The following table below shows a comparison of the type and number of reportable diseases the Health Department investigated in 2012 and 2013.

| DISEASE  | 2012            | 2013            | DISEASE  | 2012                   | 2013         |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------------------|--------------|
| HIV Infections   | **see note      |                 | Parapertussis  | 1                      | 0            |
|  |                 |                 | Mumps  | 0                      | *1 (0)       |
| Blastomycosis  | 1               | 2               | Norovirus & respiratory long-term care outbreaks           | 6 (5c)                 | *15 (14c)    |
| Campylobacter  | 39              | 42              | Pertussis  | *377 (45c) (33p) (76s) | *52 (50c)    |
| Cryptosporidium  | 12              | 21              | Q Fever  | *2 (0)                 | *3 (1c)      |
| E. Coli  | 5               | 8               | Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever                               | 0                      | *1 (1p)      |
| Ehrlichiosis   | *5 (1c) (2s)    | *2 (1c)         | Salmonella   | 40                     | 25           |
| Food/Waterborne Outbreaks  | 2 (0)           | 3               | Shigella   | 5                      | 1            |
| Giardia  | 13              | 9               | Strep A or B, invasive                                     | 11                     | *8 (7c)      |
| Haemophilus Influenzae   | 2               | 3               | Strep Pneumoniae   | 6                      | 9            |
| Hepatitis A  | *4 (0)          | *2 (1s)         | Toxoplasmosis  | 3                      | *1 (1s)      |
| Hepatitis B (acute)  | *35 (0c)        | *53 (0c)        | Tuberculosis   |                        |              |
| Hepatitis C  | *127 (87c)      | *120 (83c)      | Active   | *15 (0)                | *4 (0c)      |
| Hepatitis E  | 0               | *2 (0)          | Atypical   | *19 (14c)              | *15 (12c)    |
| Histoplasmosis   | 0               | 1               | Latent Infection   | *49 (38c)              | *24 (21c)    |
| Influenza, hospitalized  | *33 (11c) (11p) | *57 (25c) (28p) | Varicella (Chicken Pox)                                    | *21 (21c)              | 10 (5c)      |
| Lead Poisoning >10   | *27 (22c)       | *27 (16c)       | West Nile Virus  | *2 (1c) 1p)            | *1 (1c)      |
| Lead Poisoning 5-9   | 58 (42c)        | *119 (52c)      | <b>Sexually Transmitted Infections</b>                     |                        |              |
| Legionellosis  | 2               | *7 (6c)         | Chlamydia  | *723 (719c)            | *775 (761c)  |
| Lyme Disease   | *33 (13c)       | *7 (6c)         | Gonorrhea  | 111                    | *93 (87c)    |
| Meningococcal Meningitis   | 0               | 1               | Syphilis   | **                     | **           |
| *= reported cases<br>(c) = confirmed cases after investigation<br>(p) = probable after investigation<br>(s) = suspect after investigation<br>**Statistics from the State of WI not available |                 |                 | <b>Total all reported</b>                                  | <b>*1793</b>           | <b>*1524</b> |
|  |                 |                 | <b>Total cases confirmed after investigation</b>           | <b>1273</b>            | <b>1273</b>  |
|  |                 |                 | Reported contacts to sexually transmitted infections = 109 |                        |              |
|  |                 |                 | Reported contacts to all other communicable illness = 794  |                        |              |



While there are many strategies implemented by the Health Department to reduce and limit transmission of communicable diseases, eight (8) specific objectives were targeted for 2013. Those objectives and results are described on the following pages.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, have an incidence of 0 for the following vaccine preventable diseases: measles, mumps, rubella, polio, 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 0 confirmed cases of measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and Hepatitis B in the stated ages. The State of Wisconsin continues to struggle to control the outbreak of pertussis (whooping cough) that started in 2010 in children and adults. Numbers are decreasing statewide, with 1,197 cases in 2013 compared with 6,189 in 2012. Rock County mirrors the state numbers, with 52 reports in 2013, compared with 377 reports in 2012. Of those cases reported, 50 were confirmed as meeting the criteria for pertussis diagnosis. There were 9 confirmed pertussis cases in infants less than 1 year old and 17 pertussis cases in children 11-18 years old. Of 5 confirmed/probable varicella cases, 3 were under age 17.

*Objective not achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, 80% of children who turn 24 months during the year will have received 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 3 Hib, 3 Hepatitis B, and 1 MMR vaccinations.**

In 2013, 75% of Rock County infants who turned 24 months met this benchmark, an increase of 6% over 2012.

*Objective not achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, a public health nurse will contact 100% of all residents reported Category I infections within 1 day of case assignment.**

Category I infections are those that can cause the most severe illness, indicate a high risk for foodborne or waterborne outbreaks, or are highly unusual in our area. This year the nursing division investigated 70 Category I illness reports. Of the 70 illnesses reported, 60 remained confirmed after investigation. Reported illnesses included invasive haemophilus influenzae B, hepatitis A, meningococcal meningitis, mumps, norovirus outbreaks, active tuberculosis, foodborne outbreaks, and pertussis. All of these cases were given a high priority for nursing investigation and all cases were contacted for investigation within 24 hours of case assignment.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, 85% of persons followed for treatment of active tuberculosis or latent tuberculosis infection will receive follow-up and education by a public health nurse regarding treatment recommendations.**

Fifty-two (52) individuals were referred for investigation of tuberculosis, 11 cases were determined not to meet criteria for diagnosis. Of the 41 cases remaining, public health nurses were able to contact 38 (93%) individuals to provide education and follow-up. All these cases were diagnosed with inactive infection; none were identified positive for active TB disease.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 5: 80% of children less than 6 years of age, with a capillary blood lead level >5 mcg/dl, will be given education regarding a reduction in lead levels, offered an environmental assessment, and receive recommended confirmatory lead testing.**

Lead toxicity is an ongoing concern. All at-risk children are recommended to receive a blood test to measure the level of this heavy metal in the bloodstream in late infancy, with additional testing as warranted. In mid-2012 the Centers for Communicable Disease Prevention and Control lowered the action threshold for lead levels in children from 10 mcg/dl to 5 mcg/dl. There is no known “safe” level of lead in the blood.

In 2013, 27 children were referred for lead levels over 10 mcg/dl. One hundred-nineteen (119) cases were referred with levels between 5-9 mcg/dl, for a total of 146 cases investigated, an increase of 55% over 2012. The majority of this increase is due to the fact that levels between 5-9 mcg/dl were not reported until mid-year 2012.

Of the 144 cases within our jurisdiction, the objective was reached in 117 cases (81%).

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2013, 30% of families with a potential for infant lead exposure (“birth certificate” lead program) will agree to and complete an educational home visit by a public health nurse or nursing student.**

The “birth certificate” lead program seeks to identify infants at risk for lead paint in their environment and provide nursing intervention and education to prevent these risks before the infant begins crawling. Because the time after a baby’s birth is one of great family transition, at times the family moves before the baby is six months of age, not all parents are able to be reached at the baby’s six month birthday. Additionally, many parents of infants have already received this service with a prior birth and so are not interested in repeating the process. The number of eligible families continues to rise. In 2013, 739 referrals were processed, a 48% increase over 2012. One hundred eighty-five (185) families (25%) accepted a home visit for education. This is a 42% increase in visits made over 2012 levels, however since more individuals were identified to be living in at-risk housing this did not fulfill the stated objective.

***Objective not achieved***

**Objective 7: By December 31, 2013, at least 80% of persons visited for Partner Services (PS) follow-up will accept a rapid HIV test when the partner HIV status is unknown.**

The Health Department received a total of 34 referrals through the multi-jurisdictional agreement serving Rock, Green, Walworth and Lafayette counties. Seventeen (17) referrals were for clients diagnosed with HIV, nine (9) of these were newly diagnosed. Seventeen (17) referrals were partners to those with a diagnosed case of HIV/AIDS. All partners were offered testing. Of the four (4) partners that did not know their HIV status, three (3) agreed to be tested (75%).

The Health Department uses the rapid HIV test. This allows the client to receive results in 15 minutes instead of having to schedule a return visit for results. The agency performed a total of forty-five (45) HIV tests in 2013. When tested, all clients are provided with information and education on HIV prevention.

***Objective not achieved***

**Objective 8: By December 31 2013, 80% of all animal bite victims in Rock County will receive follow-up education by a public health nurse.**

Animal bites continue to be an ongoing and growing concern for Rock County citizens. The nursing division continues to partner with the environmental health division to assure that clients involved in a reported animal bite receive information about follow-up for infection, wound care, and rabies prevention. The most severe and disfiguring bites are dog bites occurring in children and toddlers, often following inadvertent provocation by the child. Neighboring Walworth County experienced a toddler death from a severe dog bite in 2013, increasing local discussion about children's behavior around pets. This resulted in a renewed urgency to educate and inform children about keeping a safe and happy relationship between pets and children. This year specific strategies for dog bite prevention were sent to all families where the victim of a dog bite was less than age 12.

Three hundred forty-six (346) animal bite cases were referred for education from a public health nurse, a 15% increase over 2012. Education was provided by phone or letter to 316 individuals (91%), a 51% increase over those reached in 2012

***Objective achieved***

## **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES**

The goals of the Rock County Healthy Families First program are to:

- Promote positive health behaviors
- Reduce the risks associated with sub-optimal reproductive health of mothers
- Promote the growth, development, and optimal functioning of infants, children, and youth
- Reduce racial disparity in birth outcome and prevent injury and disability.
- Collaborate with other providers in the community

The Healthy Families First home visiting program is a voluntary service offered to women and families expecting a child or parenting an infant. This service is designed to help support and guide through a transitional time in the family. Not all women that are referred for services agree to ongoing visits. Referrals for services come from many sources. The total number of referrals received in 2013 was 588, a 12% increase over 2012. The public health nursing division continues to implement a large scale outreach program to citizens and health care providers. In 2013, all HMOs serving pregnant women in Rock County were informed of a new medical home initiative for pregnant women at risk, scheduled to begin in 2014. This initiative may foster changes in coming years that increase the ability to partner with health systems to improve birth outcomes.

The objectives and narrative related to the accomplishment of the maternal and child health objectives are described below.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, the infant mortality rate for families served with at least three visits antepartally will be zero.**

The Rock County Health Department served 59 women with more than three (3) visits during their pregnancy. Infant mortality among this group was zero.

### *Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, infants born to mothers that were seen for at least three home visits will meet the Healthiest People 2020 goal of less than 7.8% low birth weight.**

The criteria for public health nursing visits include women at various risks for poor birth outcomes, primarily manifesting in low and very low birthweight. This year for the 59 women served with more than 3 home visits in their pregnancy, seven (7) of these 59 were classified as low birthweight babies (weighing less than 5 pounds 8 ounces). Of these seven, none were small enough to be classified as very low birth weight (<3 pounds 5 ounces).

### *Objective not achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, for women visited three times or more during pregnancy, at least 80% who smoke will have stopped smoking during the pregnancy.**

Smoking during pregnancy has far-reaching consequences for the health of both mother and baby. The rate of premature birth, increased risk of birth defects, miscarriage, placental defects, and sudden infant death are all increased when a woman smokes during pregnancy. Wisconsin has a rate of smoking during pregnancy of 14%. Rock County smoking rates during pregnancy are much higher, at 20% according the Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health. Of the 59 clients seen for more than 3 home visits during pregnancy, 13 women smoked (22%). Six (6) of these women agreed to sign up for smoking cessation help through the Wisconsin First Breath program. Three (3) women out of 13 stopped smoking completely during pregnancy (23%), while the remaining 10 decreased their smoking. All public health nurses attended training designed to increase their awareness of smoking cessation resources at the state and local level.

### *Objective not achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, 95% of parent of all newborns seen through the Healthy Families First program will identify that they put their infants on their backs to sleep.**

Through the work of the Child Death Review Team, awareness has grown that many infant deaths in Rock County are due to unsafe sleep habits. Over the course of the last several years, the Healthy Families First program has had the goal of educating parents about safe sleep at the first home visit. Additionally, the agency has distributed pack and play cribs through collaboration with community groups and clinics. In 2013, the Health Department was awarded a \$2500 grant through the national Cribs for Kids program, with a \$2500 match from Dean Clinic and Mercy Health Systems. Through the Healthy Families First home visiting program the nurses visited 187 families with newborns. Education for safe sleep was provided to all new parents and 185 of these parents indicated their infant sleeps face up (99%).

### *Objective achieved*

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2013, 80% of children in the Head Start program who fail the vision and screening will receive public health nurse follow-up to facilitate medical evaluation.**

The Rock County Health Department provides nurse consultation services to Head Start locations in Rock County. Early detection of vision and hearing difficulties can allow for early medical treatment. Failure to

detect and treat these problems early in life can lead to speech and language difficulties and permanent vision loss. A total of 259 children were screened for vision and hearing at the four Head Start locations in Janesville and Beloit. Of these, 43 (17%) were referred for vision concerns, 16 (6%) for hearing concerns. All children received follow-up from a public health nurse to facilitate a medical evaluation. Parents were contacted multiple times by phone and letter. Of the children referred for evaluation and follow-up, 58% received vision exams and 69% received hearing exams.

***Objective not achieved***

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2013, 80% of children served in contracted schools who fail the vision and hearing screening will receive school nurse follow-up to facilitate medical evaluation.**

The Rock County Health Department contracts with three outlying school districts for consultation services. The nurses' primary goals are mitigating the many student health needs that may impede learning. A primary goal is coordination of vision and hearing screening and assisting families in need of follow-up for medical evaluation. The following statistics reflect totals of vision and hearing screening during the 2012-2013 school year. St. Paul Lutheran Schools only utilize nursing services for vision screening.

| District             | Vision Screened | Referred for evaluation | Seen by MD | Hearing Screened | Referred for evaluation | Seen by MD |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Edgerton SD          | 590             | 25                      | 15 (60%)   | 503              | 11                      | 5 (45%)    |
| Orfordville-Parkview | 161             | 6                       | 5 (83%)    | 161              | 0                       | NA         |
| St. Paul Lutheran    | 111             | 2                       | 2 (100%)   | 81               | 1                       | 1 (100%)   |

***Objective partially achieved***

**Objective 7: By December 31, 2013, provide two outreach activities focused at decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes.**

The Health Department continues to be an active participant on the Beloit Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF), a group with the core mission of reducing disparities in birth outcomes and infant mortality in Beloit and across Rock County. This multidisciplinary group meets monthly and reaches out to many in the community with information and education regarding their mission. In 2013, the Health Department began work on a grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program, in collaboration with the LIHF Collaborative, to review infant and neonatal deaths through a process called a Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team. Planning for this team began in 2013. Full implementation of reviews will be accomplished in 2014.

Nurses participated in the Latino Health Fair and a resource fair for new immigrants to the United States. Monthly information and education is presented by a bilingual public health nurse to the EvenStart participants in Beloit. A public health nurse provided information, resource and referral, parenting education and enrollment in the Healthy Families First program for teen parents at Wright School, Beloit Memorial High School, Beloit Learning Academy, Beloit Turner, and Early Head Start.

Public Health nurses are staffed in the First Choice Women's Health Center office in Janesville each week to provide intake for those women that are diagnosed with pregnancy and have no health insurance. The public health nurse moves directly to express enrolling the woman in Medical Assistance and providing assessment, education and enrollment in home visiting services to assure a healthy start to the pregnancy. In 2013, the Beloit location of First Choice Women's Health Center also arranged for an extension of this service for women presenting with a positive pregnancy test during Wednesday clinic hours in Beloit.

### *Objective achieved*

**Objective 8: By December 31, 2013, revenue received through Medical Assistance billing for maternal child health services will increase 10% over 2012 billing.**

The agency bills medical assistance for services delivered to pregnant women and parenting families. The services billed include enrolling women in temporary Medical Assistance due to pregnancy (Express Enrollment), health screening for children (HealthCheck) and Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC). This year continued the process of transitioning from our office-based program in collaboration with Beloit's WIC program to providing services through home-visiting alone.

An audit of the agency's Prenatal Care Coordination program was completed in 2012, the results were received in 2013. The agency spent a great deal of time and effort in 2013 researching and assembling a comprehensive response to the audit results. While awaiting the audit results, billing for prenatal coordination was pared back to a minimum. Total revenue for Medical Assistance services for maternal child health services declined 19% in 2013.

### *Objective not 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.**

In 2013, the public health nursing division provided 975 hours of direct service in community health education and outreach. The role of public health nurses reaches beyond the office and into the community to travel to the point of need. This role is unique in the profession of nursing. Public health nursing in this category essentially combines elements of all core public health functions, assessment, policy development, and assurance. Three objectives were identified in this category for 2013. The next paragraphs will detail just some of the work accomplished in this area.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, public health nurses will participate in at least 4 adult health and wellness activities in a community-based setting.**

The nursing division continued to participate in the annual Rock County Wellness Fair, providing information on caregiver resources for employees. A public health nurse staffed a booth at 8 "Super Tuesday" events at a local natural foods store, focusing on a different topic monthly. A public health nurse presented two "Lunch and Learn" focused discussions on diabetes in the adult population. Breastfeeding and immunization booths were staffed at a local business's staff wellness fair and Beloit College hosted a health fair at which the Health Department presented information on local HIV prevention and follow-up.

### *Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, public health nurses will provide at least 4 population-based services or presentations aimed at meeting the health needs of special populations.**

The public health nursing division provides health consultation to all Head Start locations in Rock County. In addition, a public health nurse integrated education on health prevention at each Head Start monthly parent socialization meeting. The Health Department provided staffing and health information to 3 community baby shower locations in the City of Beloit focusing on families at risk of poor birth outcomes.

Public health nurses gave presentations to two assisted living centers on the topics of influenza vaccination and falls prevention. The nurses participated in a county coalition designed to promote breastfeeding among low-income families in Rock County. The Health Department continues to look for ways to increase access to basic preventative care among rural populations. A “Steppin’ On” class was held in the village of Clinton. This class aims to strengthen elders against common injuries associated with falling. In Milton a mass clinic exercise was held in the fall. This clinic sought to assess and mobilize capacity to respond to a communicable disease incident that may require timely distribution of vaccine or medication. More than 450 students received influenza vaccination through the Health Department’s collaboration with the Milton Schools health services team.

Public health nurses provided monthly visits to Beloit’s Domestic Violence shelter and Stateline Pregnancy Center. These visits were focused on topics that emphasize the maintenance of healthy behaviors. A presentation on tuberculosis was given to a local agency providing shelter to homeless veterans. Nurses also staffed a booth at a health fair designed to give information about community services to recently released prisoners and their families.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, public health nurses will conduct outreach on influenza immunization in at least 4 community settings.**

With the institution of changes in immunization delivery through the Affordable Care Act, the Health Department has added the core function of assurance to community work. In 2013, over 400 nursing hours were devoted to informing and educating the public and providers regarding the necessity of adequate and complete immunization for both children and adults. The public health nurses visited common places where families frequent, such as garage sales selling baby equipment, laundromats, and beauty parlors to distribute information about immunization and local resources for childhood and adult immunization.

The Health Department continues to offer immunization clinics in all towns and villages in Rock County. Although these clinics are not widely attended, rural living often presents a barrier to availability of preventative health services. The Health Department worked with the county’s developmental disabilities board to identify group homes where residents were unable to leave their homes to obtain a flu shot. Six group homes were served with on-site vaccination for influenza. Influenza vaccinations were also offered on site at the Beloit Head Start playgroup, men’s homeless shelter in Janesville, Caritas food pantry and EvenStart programs in Beloit.

Although overall immunization clinic numbers were lower at the Health Department in 2013, Flu vaccination through Health Department services increased over 11% from 2012.

***Objective achieved***

## **FAMILY HEALTH CLINIC**

The Family Health Clinic provides services that transverse the Communicable Disease Control Program, Healthy Families First Program, and Adult Health Program. These clinics provide a needed service and also make available a way to identify clients and families who may need extended services through other program areas. The goal of the Family Health Clinic is to provide Rock County citizens low-cost nursing clinic services that provide health assessment, health information, and appropriate referrals.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, public health nurses will provide education and information to 400 travel immunization clients via phone or clinic visit.**

Travel immunization is provided by the Health Department as a primary prevention service to those traveling to areas where travel risk of communicable illness is high. All clients are provided information and education by phone, some choose to schedule immunization services at the Health Department and others choose to receive these services elsewhere or decline recommended immunizations. In 2013, 431 clients called the Health Department for services related to travel, down from 484 in 2012. Although the total number of calls was less, 369 individuals were provided immunization services, a 15% increase in immunization service delivery over 2012.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, public health nurses will assist at least 24 pregnant women to apply for Medical Assistance benefits via Express Enrollment and enroll in the Healthy Families First program**

Express Enrollment is a service to assist pregnant women that meet certain income guidelines to qualify quickly for medical insurance coverage for issues relating to their pregnancy. Removing the barrier of health insurance coverage allows these women to begin their prenatal care earlier in their pregnancy. All women seen for this service are also offered ongoing nursing visits through our Healthy Families First program and provided referrals to local health care providers and other services for which they may qualify. Nurses provide a half-day clinic weekly in the First Choice Women's Health Center in Janesville. They also serve women that receive pregnancy services at the First Choice Women's Center located at Pathways in the Beloit Eclipse Center.

This year, through the assistance of a public health nurse, 78 women applied for Express Enrollment Medicaid insurance, and also agreed to home-visiting services through a public health nurse. This is a 77% increase over 2012 levels.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, public health nurses will provide 24 clinics to adults being served through First choice Women's Health Center**

In 2010, a collaborative effort was launched to provide an on-site immunization clinic to men and women receiving health services at the First Choice Women's Health Center (FCWHC) in Janesville. In 2012, the



addition of a weekly clinic to assist women to apply for health insurance and support services as soon as their pregnancy was diagnosed was started. Service delivery in 2013 changed to mostly pregnancy services, as electronic charting at FCWHC shifted the dynamics of the office visit. Additionally, this collaboration grew to include the Beloit location of First Choice Women's Health Center. A total of 43 clinics were held in 2013 serving 47 women in the Janesville office and 3 women in the Beloit office.

***Objective achieved***

## Health Education

Health education is critically important to improving the health of communities and individuals. Rock County ranks in the lower 1/3 of counties in the state for overall health.

The goal of the Rock County Health Education Program is to motivate a person or groups to act on learned information to change unhealthy behaviors to healthy behaviors, leading to an overall improvement in health. Health education in Rock County continues to grow and expand in its scope.

In 2013, the addition of 0.4 FTE Health Educator position allowed the Health Department to continue with 3 major grant programs (Wisconsin Partnership Program Grant - STI Prevention, Brownfield Grant, and the Community Transformation Grant) and to expand the services of the Community Transformation Grant by adding a Community Gardens Coordinator. Through these grant activities, the Health Educators hope to have a positive impact on the health of our citizens.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, expand the health education program for preschool-aged children to an additional location.**

The Color Me Healthy Program is a preschool/kindergarten aged program educating young children about healthy eating. In prior years, the program was conducted at Beloit –Turner School District, Head Start, and Creative Beginnings Child Care. In 2013, the program was expanded to include Small Wonders Child Care.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, identify a population health need and implement an educational awareness program or conduct a community presentation on the topic.**

As a response to the obesity problem in Rock County, the following activities were completed:

- Farm to School/School Gardens – a program that provides education and locally grown foods schools to promote health and nutrition.
- “Good to Great-Activate” Festival which provided nutrition and exercise facts and education.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, investigate and apply for mini-grants that would support current Health Department programming.**

The Health Department was able to procure grants from the Beloit Kiwanis Club, Cribs for Kids Organization, Dean/St. Mary's, and Mercy Hospital to purchase Healthy Home incentives to families. Incentives included cribs, safety latches, gates, and outlet covers.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, assist nursing and environmental health staff to develop educational awareness programs and presentations.**

The Health Educators were able to assist the nursing and environmental health staff with display boards, pamphlets, and educational outreach materials related to food safety, rabies, well testing, prescription drug collections, lead prevention, prevention of dog bites, influenza, radon testing, bike safety, summer safety, and healthy homes.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2013, represent the Health Department on health-related community coalitions and committees.**

Coalitions serve several purposes:

- They can organize the community to work together on the same vision
- They can mobilize community resources, apply for federal, state, tribe, and private funding;
- They can make changes now that will impact future generations.

Staff from the Health Department serve on the following coalitions:

Long Term Care Support  
Youth to Youth (Smoking Prevention)  
Coalition for STI Prevention  
Community Transformation Coalition  
Mercy Hospital Emergency Preparedness  
Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families  
Health Monitoring Committee for Janesville Brownfield Redevelopment  
Downtown Revitalization Committee (Janesville)  
PREP Stakeholders (Personal Responsibility Education Program)  
0-3 Advisory Committee  
Breastfeeding Coalition  
Rock County Wellness Committee  
208 Water Quality Committee  
FASC (Food Advisory Safety Committee)  
Good to Great Activate  
Latino Health Fair Committee

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2013, conduct 3 presentations on department services for local service organizations.**

The Health Department staff presented information about specific Health Department services to:

- Rock County Resource Fair
- Teen Parent Provider Resource Fair
- Franklin School Career Day

In addition to Health Department services, Health Department staff also participates in Health Fairs to provide health education. Health education topics in which the staff provided include:

- Diabetes, flu and aging, breastfeeding, immunizations, fall prevention in the elderly, car safety and booster seats, safe sleep, childhood safety, swimming pool safety emergency preparedness, healthy eating and nutrition education.

***Objective achieved***

## Grant Summaries

### COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT

In July 2012, the Health Department received a \$450,000 Community Transformation Grant (CTG) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The funding was provided over a three year period to target work related to active living, healthy eating, and tobacco-free living. The Coalition divided into three work groups: Farm to School, Active Communities, and Tobacco-Free (subcontracted with Youth2Youth of Rock County) to accomplish goals and objectives for each area.

The Farm to School work group provided funding for many healthy eating events and activities, including salad bars for a school to provide youth with more fruit and vegetable options, school and community garden equipment, and taste testing events with locally grown vegetables in schools. Among other goals, the coalition continues to actively work towards local procurement of nutritious food in Rock County schools.

The Tobacco-Free work group conducted outreach and education on Other Tobacco Products (OTP) to students and residents county-wide. Outreach and education was also targeted to landlords and housing authorities on the benefits of smoke-free properties and assistance was provided for multi-unit housing properties to go smoke-free. Four multi-unit housing properties became smoke-free in 2013.

In 2013, Active Communities objectives focused on implementing Active School strategies to increase students' physical activity throughout the school day. Baseline evaluation was conducted in five fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade classrooms to assess their activity levels throughout the school day and at home. Following baseline evaluation, training was provided to teachers on how to implement strategies such as active classrooms, active physical education (PE), active recess, and other activity for students

### (RE)ENERGIZE JANESVILLE

In October 2012, Rock County Health Department received a \$148,400 grant from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to work with the City of Janesville's Comprehensive Brownfields Program to reduce exposure to contaminants and improve health outcomes by using community health issues to guide redevelopment strategies along the riverfront and downtown.

The Health Department has been working with the City of Janesville to gather baseline data. In addition, a coordinated effort has been established with the Rock River Trails Initiative and the Wisconsin Citizen-Based Water Monitoring Network to establish several water quality monitoring locations along the Rock River and in the Brownfield project area. A report which includes the all the community issues, redevelopment ideas, suggested indicators, and baseline

data gathered as of the end of 2013, can be found at <http://www.co.rock.wi.us/reenergize-janesville>.

## ROCK COUNTY COALITION FOR STI PREVENTION

In recent years, Rock County has experienced a notable increase in the number of confirmed sexually transmitted infections (STI). From 2010 to 2012, the reported number of STIs (e.g., Chlamydia and gonorrhea) increased by 12 percent, with a 35 percent increase in gonorrhea alone. To address this growing problem, the Rock County Health Department applied for a grant from the Wisconsin Community Academic Partnership Fund in order to form a county-wide, multi-sector coalition of community partners to assess the magnitude and extent of STIs and develop solutions to reduce the number of those newly diagnosed. The Health Department was awarded the grant for \$46,200 in May 2012 and work began in late June 2012. The Coalition began meeting in October 2012 and met on a monthly basis through the end of the grant period in December 2013. The Coalition is comprised of representatives from health care organizations, school districts, local colleges and universities, and community organizations.

The Coalition also discussed the diagnosis and treatment of STIs in the County, including the barriers to access services and treatment, and significant variation in the education provided to patients by healthcare providers. The Coalition developed a brochure to distribute detailing prevention and testing options throughout the county, as well as started a quarterly newsletter. Although the grant funding ended in December 2013, the Coalition decided to continue to operate with six members volunteering to participate in the newly formed leadership body for the group. The Coalition will, therefore, continue to work on STI prevention, education, and awareness, as well as policy change related reproductive health.

## **Environmental Health Annual Summary**

Each year brings new challenges and the Environmental Health Division staff responds 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 2013 are described below.

The Town well sampling program was very successful with five towns participating. Town residents were able to pick up water test bottles at the town hall and return them the next week. Within three days results are available to the home owners. This was very successful increasing the number of home owners testing their well water. We will continue to offer this program in 2014.

2013 was the second year for disposal of unwanted medications at seven (7) Rx Drop Boxes located at seven (7) sites across Rock County. Approximately four thousand nine hundred seven (4,907) pounds of drugs were collected in 2013, which is a thirty eight (38%) increase from the total collected in 2012. Offering seven (7) conveniently located drop boxes is much more efficient than organizing one-day collection events. Our community is especially thankful for the assistance from local law enforcement agencies and volunteer pharmacists who make this worthwhile program work.

We have made significant progress with the Brownfield Grant to assist the City of Janesville in redeveloping brownfield sites in a manner that promotes public health. Community focus group sessions and meetings with individuals has clarified neighborhood issues and identified ideas for reuse of abandoned and/or contaminated properties that can meet the public health needs of the community.

Sampling of licensed beaches and a number of surface water sites continued in 2013. Not only are the three licensed beaches a recreational venue for the public, but also many other surface water sources are used for fishing, swimming, and boating. Routine testing helps to understand the public health risks associated with our community's surface water resources.

In general, the results demonstrate that water quality was good at the licensed beaches during the entire 2013 season. Many of the smaller streams experienced periodic high levels of E. coli bacteria, often associated to 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 2013. Our department began lead assessments of homes late in the year. This is a three year contract and will assist owners of one hundred forty three (143) dwelling units in reducing the childhood lead poisoning risks in our community.

## RECREATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Many recreational opportunities exist in Rock County for residents and visitors: beaches, pools, recreational educational camps and campgrounds.

These are excellent ways for social interaction and physical activity needed for a healthy life style. However, 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 the 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, 2013 conduct an annual inspection for each licensed facility.**

During 2013, all nine (9) campgrounds, three (3) recreational-education campgrounds, sixty-eight (68) swimming pools, and three (3) beaches received an annual inspection.

#### ***Objective achieved***

### **Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, respond to citizen complaints within two days regarding violation of state and local codes.**

During 2013, two (2) swimming pool complaints were responded to within two days. Swimming pool complaints concerned improper water quality and pool equipment maintenance.

#### ***Objective achieved***

### **Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, conduct follow-up inspections within two weeks at facilities that have critical violations.**

During 2013, nine (9) follow-up inspections for critical violations were completed for swimming pools within two weeks.

#### ***Objective achieved***

### **Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, conduct pre-inspections when new establishments open or current establishments change ownership to ensure compliance with the state and local codes.**

During 2013, a pre-inspection was completed for three (3) swimming pools.

#### ***Objective achieved***



**Objective 5: By December 31, 2013, implement a high risk assessment plan for licensed establishments**

In 2013, a water safety awareness plan was implemented for all licensed swimming pool establishments. The plan consisted of tracking repeat violations at a pool and reviewing with the establishments during routine inspections. Inspections were problem-solving opportunities for pool owners and operators in the ongoing attempt to decrease pool violations and promote a safer swimming environment.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2013, decrease the number of swimming pool recheck inspections by 10%.**

The number of critical violation rechecks in 2012 and 2013 was 20 and 9 respectively: a reduction of fifty five percent (55%).

*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 dissappeared. 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.

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, 2013, provide at least seventy-five (75) radon test kits to county residents.**

During 2013, one hundred seventy-one (171) kits were provided to county residents.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, develop and implement a community awareness effort in one community with low radon testing rates.**

Because a review of radon testing noted that most radon testing occurred in the urban area of Rock County; the rural community was targeted for promotion of radon testing. During 2013, a system was developed to allow citizens in outlying communities to receive radon test kits by mail. Citizens can now print off a form downloaded from the Health Department's web site or mail in a form obtained from one of the posters. Alternatively, citizens can now order test kits from the Department's website with a credit card. Displayed posters can be found at libraries, town halls, and community centers in rural communities that were identified as having low radon testing rates.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, provide follow-up information to all citizens that receive results on radon test kits.**

During 2013, 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 4: By December 31, 2013, increase the annual number of rural addresses testing for radon by 10%.**

Radon testing results from 2012 and 2013 were analyzed with Geographic Information System software. It was found that in 2012, 30.3% of radon tests completed were from rural addresses and in 2013, 44.6% of results were from rural addresses. The percentage of rural addresses testing for radon increased by 14.3% during 2013. The increased availability of test kits to rural residents and increased awareness efforts in rural areas could have resulted in this increase.

***Objective achieved***

**MOBILE HOME PARK INSPECTIONS**

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, conduct an annual inspection of each licensed mobile home park.**

During 2013, annual inspections were conducted for all twenty-three (23) licensed mobile home parks.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, respond to all citizen complaints within two days regarding violations of state and local codes.**

During 2013, five (5) citizen complaints involving mobile home parks were received and responded to within two (2) days. Housing conditions, dog manure, and drinking water were the concerns that were addressed.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, conduct follow-up inspections within thirty (30) days of mobile home parks that have violations.**

During 2013, six (6) follow-up inspections were conducted for mobile home parks within thirty (30) days after critical violations were documented during routine inspections or complaint investigations.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, 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 2013, one (1) mobile home park changed ownership and required a pre-inspection. Pre-inspection was completed by Rock County Health Department.

*Objective achieved*

## RABIES AND ANIMAL BITE MONITORING

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, verify the compliance status of all animal owners issued animal bite orders by local law enforcement agencies.**

Compliance status was verified for all three hundred seventy-eight (378) animal bite orders received in 2013. Animal owners found not in compliance with animal bite orders were referred to law enforcement.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, refer all citizens not compliant with animal bite orders to law enforcement for further action.**

During 2013, forty five (45) non-compliant bite orders were referred to law enforcement for further action. The compliance rate for animal bite orders in 2013 was 88%.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, 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.**

Seventy-six (76) specimens were submitted to the State Laboratory of Hygiene for rabies analysis during 2013. Two (2) specimens (both bats) tested positive for the rabies virus, however eight (8) specimens tested indeterminate for the rabies virus and required further follow up.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, promote awareness of animal bite prevention in one community identified with high reported animal bites.**

Animal bite awareness efforts in 2013 were focused on the City of Beloit which has a high number of animal bites reported annually and a consistently low rabies vaccination rates for these animals. Pet owners who cannot afford to vaccinate their pets for rabies were encouraged to attend the low cost vaccination clinic which took place on September 14, 2013 at Telfer Park. Posters were hung at libraries, community centers, public buildings and businesses throughout the city and press releases were made to local media.

*Objective achieved*

## RABIES CONTROL SUMMARY OF ANIMAL BITE ORDERS FOR 2013

| CITY                                | VACCINATED | UNVACCINATED | UNKNOWN | TOTAL ANIMAL BITES ORDERS | PERCENTAGE VACCINATED |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Afton                               | 0          | 0            | 0       | 0                         | N/A                   |
| Avalon                              | 1          | 0            | 0       | 1                         | 100%                  |
| Beloit                              | 42         | 23           | 22      | 87                        | 48%                   |
| Brodhead                            | 0          | 1            | 1       | 2                         | 0%                    |
| Brooklyn                            | 0          | 0            | 0       | 0                         | N/A                   |
| Clinton                             | 3          | 0            | 1       | 4                         | 75%                   |
| Edgerton                            | 9          | 5            | 2       | 16                        | 56%                   |
| Evansville                          | 11         | 5            | 4       | 20                        | 55%                   |
| Footville<br>Orfordville<br>Hanover | 9          | 0            | 1       | 10                        | 90%                   |
| Janesville                          | 133        | 33           | 48      | 214                       | 62%                   |
| Milton                              | 8          | 2            | 7       | 17                        | 47%                   |
| Sharon                              | 0          | 0            | 1       | 1                         | 0%                    |
| Whitewater                          | 3          | 0            | 1       | 4                         | 75%                   |
| Out of County                       | 1          | 0            | 0       | 1                         | 100%                  |
| Location of Bite Unknown            | 0          | 0            | 1       | 1                         | 0%                    |
| Totals                              | 220        | 69           | 89      | 378                       | 58%                   |

*This chart shows the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated animals with bite orders by city. Among cities with 5 or more reported animal bites, Clinton had the highest vaccination rate at 90% and the Footville/Orfordville/Hanover area had the lowest at 47%.*

### SUMMARY OF ANIMAL BITE MONITORING 2009-2013

|                                  | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      | 2013      |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Animal Bite Orders Issued</b> | 400       | 382       | 422       | 358       | 378       |
| <b>Cat Bites</b>                 | (118) 30% | (108) 28% | (102) 24% | (83) 23%  | (74) 20%  |
| <b>Dog Bites</b>                 | (282) 70% | (274) 72% | (320) 76% | (275) 77% | (304) 80% |
| <b>Ferret Bites</b>              | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| <b>% Vaccinated</b>              | 50%       | 52%       | 57%       | 54%       | 58%       |
| <b>Cats Vaccinated</b>           | (36) 31%  | (33) 31%  | (29) 24%  | (28) 34%  | (21) 28%  |
| <b>Dogs Vaccinated</b>           | (163) 58% | (167) 61% | (212) 66% | (167) 61% | (199) 65% |
| <b>Ferrets Vaccinated</b>        | (0) 0%    | (0) 0%    | (0) 0%    | (0) 0%    | (0) 0%    |

*This chart shows the number of reported animal bites by species and the rabies vaccination rate of these animals by species. In 2013, as in preceding years, cats were most likely to be unvaccinated. The vaccination rate for cats was only 28% in 2013. Dogs accounted for the greatest number of bites with 304(80% of all bites). There were no ferret bites reported in 2013.*

### ANIMALS TESTED FOR RABIES IN ROCK COUNTY FOR 2013

| BREED            | ANIMALS TESTED<br>NEGATIVE FOR<br>RABIES | ANIMALS<br>TESTED<br>POSITIVE FOR<br>RABIES | INDETERMINATE OR<br>INSUFFICIENT<br>MATERIAL TO TEST | TOTAL     |
|------------------|--|---|--|-----------|
| <b>Bat</b>       | 20                                       | 2   | 7  | <b>29</b> |
| <b>Cat</b>       | 24                                       | 0   | 0  | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Dog</b>       | 19                                       | 0   | 0  | <b>19</b> |
| <b>Opossum</b>   | 0  | 0   | 0  | <b>0</b>  |
| <b>Raccoon</b>   | 1  | 0   | 0  | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Skunk</b>     | 1  | 0   | 1  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Groundhog</b> | 1  | 0   | 0  | <b>1</b>  |
|                  | <b>66</b>                                | <b>2</b>                                    | <b>8</b>   | <b>76</b> |

*This chart shows the number of animals submitted to the State Lab of Hygiene for rabies testing by species. Two (2) animals tested positive for rabies in 2013. There were seven bats and one skunk submitted that could not be tested due to the specimen being too damaged or decomposed to test.*

## HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, investigate 100% of human health hazards reported to the Rock County Health Department within 3 days.**

During 2013, Three hundred seven (307) out of three hundred eleven (311) human health hazard requests (98.7%) were investigated and abated, or referred to other appropriate agencies, or determined not to be hazards within three days. One hundred fifteen (115) 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 is provided to citizens to remedy human health hazards that they are experiencing. During 2013, 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*

## TATTOO AND BODY PIERCING ESTABLISHMENTS

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, conduct an annual inspection of each licensed tattoo and body-piercing establishment.**

During 2013, ten (10) routine inspections were conducted for tattoo and body piercing establishments.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, respond to all citizen complaints within two days regarding violations of state and local codes.**

Five (5) tattoo and/or body piercing complaints were received and investigated within two days, during 2013.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, conduct follow-up inspections within two (2) weeks at establishments that have critical violations.**

During 2013, six (6) critical violation follow-up inspections were completed for tattoo and body piercing establishments.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, conduct pre-inspections when new establishments open or current establishments change ownership to ensure compliance with the state and local codes.**

During 2013, Six (6) pre-inspections were completed for new establishments or change of ownership.

*Objective achieved*

#### LEAD ABATEMENT AND MONITORING

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, provide a lead safe environment for 100% of children with a blood lead level  $\geq 20$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$  through education and lead abatement orders.**

During 2013, two (2) children were identified with blood lead levels  $\geq 20$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$  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 of the properties were made lead safe by undergoing lead abatement activities.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, perform an environmental lead assessment and provide lead hazard reduction recommendations on 80% of residences occupied by children with a blood lead level of 5-19  $\mu\text{g/dL}$ .**

During 2013, forty-five (45) children were identified with blood lead levels of 5-19  $\mu\text{g/dL}$ . These children either resided at or spent significant time at forty-five (45) properties. Forty-two (42) or 93% of these properties were assessed for lead hazards and recommendations were sent to the families and property owners.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, perform an environmental lead assessment and provide lead hazard reduction recommendations for all homes of concerned parents of children with a blood lead level of 0-4  $\mu\text{g/dL}$ .**

Thirty-three (33) concerned parents with children at high-risk for lead poisoning requested a lead assessment of their homes in 2013. All Thirty-three (33) or 100% were assessed for lead hazards and recommendations were sent to the families and property owners.

*Objective achieved*



**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, 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 2013, 73% (33 of 45) of the owners of units associated with a child having a blood lead level of 5-19 µg/dL showed significant compliance with the lead hazard reduction recommendations they received from Rock County Health Department after assessment.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2013, 60% of property owners with units that house a child with a blood lead level of 0-4 µg/dL will show compliance with lead hazard reduction recommendations.**

During 2013, 76% (25 of 33) of the property owners of units associated with a child with a blood lead level of 0-4 µg/dL resided showed significant compliance with the department's lead hazard reduction recommendations.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2013, 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 educational programs.**

Lead poisoning prevention information was updated on the Rock County web site during 2013. Educational presentations during 2013 were conducted at the Rock-Green Realtors Family Fun Fair, the Rock County Employee Health Fair, and at Basics Cooperative. All citizen inquiries and concerns were also addressed.

*Objective achieved*

**ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD ASSESSMENT SUMMARY  
NUMBER OF LEAD ASSESSMENTS 2009 - 2013**

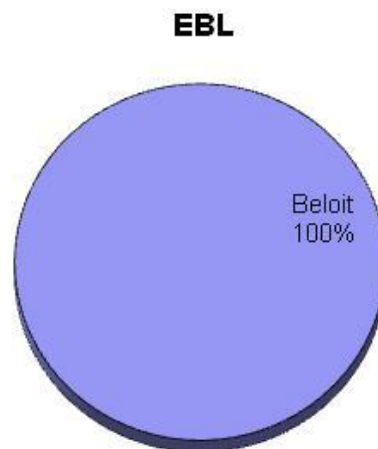
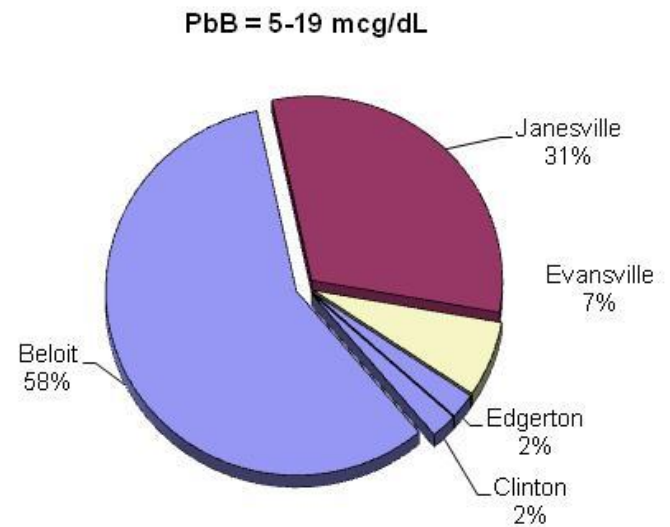
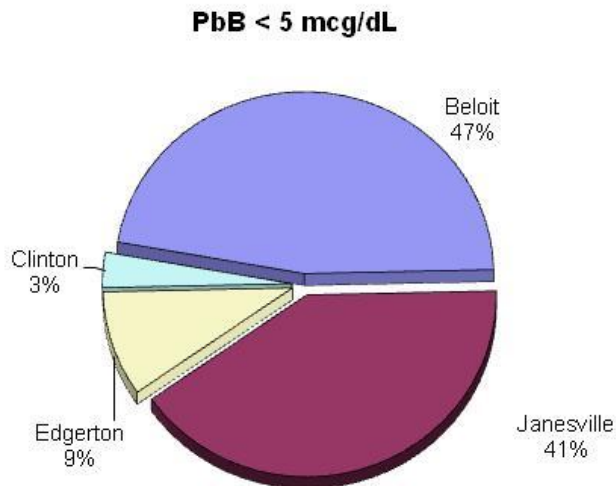
| PbB* µg/dL   | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      | 2013      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ≥20 (EBL)**  | 5         | 3         | 6         | 5         | 2         |
| 5 - 19***    | 15        | 17        | 9         | 11        | 45        |
| <5           | 48        | 65        | 46        | 62        | 33        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>68</b> | <b>85</b> | <b>61</b> | <b>78</b> | <b>80</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 2013 defined as PbB>10 µg/dL

**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.*

## COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY ACTIVITY DATA 2009-2013

|   | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Human Health Hazard Requests and Responses</b>       | 621   | 670   | 538   | 587   | 307   |
| <b>Lead - Total Field Visits</b> .....                  | 250   | 203   | 163   | 184   | 288   |
| Lead Onsite Assessment.....                             | 68    | 85    | 61    | 78    | 80    |
| <b>Radon Kits Sold</b> .....                            | 535   | 196   | 275   | 346   | 171   |
| <b>Radon Kits with Test Results</b>                     | 404   | 92    | 138   | 250   | 103   |
| <b>Animal Bites Monitored for Rabies Control*</b> ..... | 449   | 418   | 475   | 389*  | 378   |
| <b>Citations Issued</b> .....                           | 1     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 0     |
| <b>General Sanitation Program Totals</b>                |       |       |       |       |       |
| Program Field Service Calls.....                        | 643   | 939   | 880   | 809   | 607   |
| Complaint Investigations.....                           | 59    | 110   | 93    | 57    | 76    |
| Clients Seen In Office .....                            | 120   | 69    | 64    | 60    | 48    |
| Telephone Calls.....                                    | 2,601 | 2,873 | 3,050 | 1,944 | 1,391 |

*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.*

## 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, 2013, complete the review of all submitted soil and site evaluation reports.**

Fourteen (14) Certified Soil Testers (CSTs) were monitored and assisted in completing soil test reports and field evaluations of soil borings. In 2013, a total of one-hundred (100) soil test reports were reviewed, corrected when needed, approved, and filed. Thirty-five (35) 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, 2013, 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 2013, one-hundred and eighteen (118) state sanitary permits were issued to install or repair POWTS. Forty-seven (47) sanitary permits for new construction and seventy-one (71) sanitary permits for replacement or repair work were issued in 2013. In addition, two (2) sanitary permits were issued to connect new or additional buildings to an existing POWTS or to install non-plumbing systems.

One-hundred and one (101) POWTS were installed in 2013, which includes forty (40) new POWTS and sixty-one (61) replacement POWTS or POWTS connections. In 2013, numerous orders and/or reminders were issued to correct non-compliant aspects of POWTS being constructed or to correct or complete permit applications. Five (5) of these directives required follow-up orders and/or reminders to obtain POWTS code compliance.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, 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 2013, the Wisconsin Fund grant applications for three (3) property owners were submitted to the State. Total awards received were \$14,158. Individual awards of \$2,970 to \$5,820 were granted. No applicants were denied grants, but amounts were reduced as a result of State budget cuts.

During 2013, seventy-one (71) property owners were sent information on the Wisconsin Fund Program. Three (3) applications received in 2013 were submitted in January 2014 and are awaiting action.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013, administer 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 2013, approximately one-hundred and twenty (120) notices of required maintenance were given or mailed to property owners at the time of sanitary permit issuance and one-hundred and one (101) letters informing property owners of the mandatory maintenance program were mailed after POWTS installation.

Property owners are notified every three (3) years to maintain their POWTS. Four-thousand five-hundred and ninety-seven (4,597) initial notices were sent to property owners in 2013 for POWTS maintenance. During 2013, seven (7) citations were issued for failure to comply. 2013 Compliance rate for POWTS is 99.8%.

In addition to POWTS maintenance, eighty-one (81) owners of holding tanks and twelve (12) pumpers of holding tanks were monitored in regard to proper reporting of servicing holding tanks.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2013 develop and implement a plan to educate four (4) town building inspectors that all building permits involving properties with existing POWTS be reviewed by our department to evaluate the compatibility of proposed construction with existing POWTS.**

During 2013, five town building inspectors (Beloit, Harmony, Janesville, Johnstown, and Union) contacted the Rock County Health Department (RCHD) to request existing POWTS information for properties undergoing construction. All five building inspectors were advised of the State Administrative Code requirements regarding this issue and the services RCHD offers to ensure compliance.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2013 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 assesses proposed property development for the suitability of onsite wastewater treatment. During 2013, fifty-one (51) land divisions consisting of sixty-two (62) lots were reviewed. In addition, eight (8) soil onsite visits were conducted and one soil test report was filed involving new land divisions.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 7: By December 31, 2013 document that less than 2% of failing septic systems are less than 25 years of age.**

During 2013, less than two percent (2%) of the existing 13,000 septic systems failed before 25 years of age. In the last 25 years, six thousand four hundred thirty two (6,432) septic systems have been installed. Sixty-eight (68) permits were issued for failing septic

systems, with ten (10) being less than 25 years of age. This is a failure rate of sixteen hundredths of one percent (0.16%). Two (2) were 10 years old, one (1) was 11 years old, one (1) was 12 years old, one (1) was 13 years old, one (1) was 17 years old, one (1) was 21 years old, two (2) were 23 years old, and one (1) was 24 years old.

The failure of three of the five systems that were less than 15 years of age was linked to failing pre-fabricated chambers in the drain field. One had laterals clogged by baby wipes, likely due to dislodgment of the filter in the septic tank. The cause of failure for the other system less than 15 years of age was 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 the POWTS.

***Objective achieved***

**ACTIVITY DATA PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL PROGRAM  
2009 – 2013 OFFICE WORK**

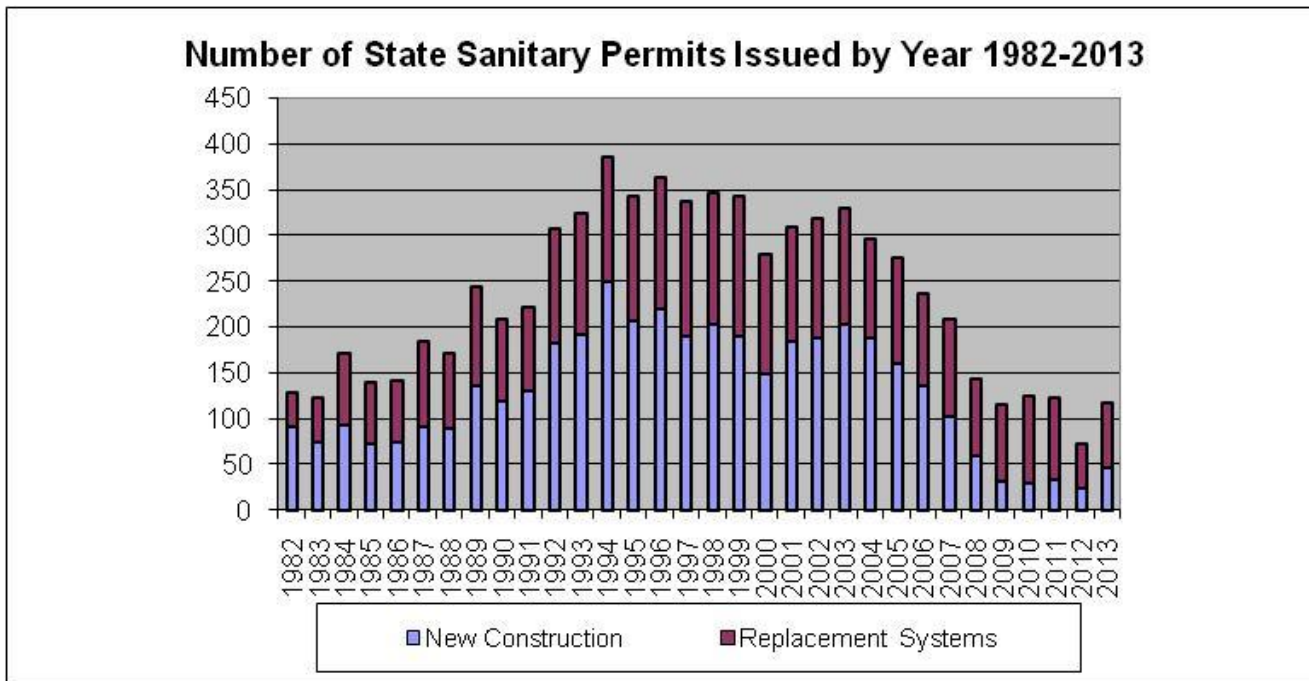
| ACTIVITY                              | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012 | 2013 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| <b>Office Visits</b>                  | 151   | 160   | 141   | 129  | 120  |
| <b>Telephone Calls</b>                | 1,298 | 1,369 | 1,396 | 939  | 870  |
| <b>Sanitary Permits Issued</b>        | 117   | 126   | 124   | 73   | 120  |
| New                                   | 33    | 31    | 34    | 24   | 47   |
| Replace or Repair                     | 84    | 95    | 90    | 49   | 71   |
| <b>County Sanitary Permits</b>        | 2     | 3     | 5     | 6    | 2    |
| <b>Land Divisions Review</b>          | 66    | 67    | 61    | 50   | 51   |
| <b>Lot Review Under Land Division</b> | 135   | 80    | 77    | 58   | 62   |

*The above table describes the office activity of the private sewage disposal program from 2009 through 2013.*

## FIELD WORK

| ACTIVITY   | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Initial System Inspection</b>                 | 118  | 130  | 127  | 79   | 120  |
| Conventional Gravity                             | 63   | 82   | 86   | 46   | 88   |
| Mound  | 43   | 40   | 34   | 22   | 21   |
| Inground Pressure                                | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 3    |
| At Grade   | 2    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 3    |
| Holding Tanks                                    | 1    | 3    | 3    | 5    | 2    |
| Treatment Tank Only<br>(including aerobic tanks) | 8    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1    |
| Other  | 1    | 3    | 3    | 6    | 2    |
| <b>System Re-Inspections</b>                     | 70   | 58   | 38   | 25   | 14   |
| <b>Soil Test Onsite Verification</b>             | 61   | 69   | 61   | 24   | 35   |
| <b>Consultations and Surveys</b>                 | 276  | 270  | 186  | 110  | 122  |
| <b>Failing System Investigations/Complaints</b>  | 57   | 64   | 45   | 33   | 38   |

*The above table describes the field activity of the private sewage program from 2009 through 2013.*



*The Number of Sanitary Permits Issued by Year 1982-2013 chart reflects decrease in the number of new construction building permits our community has experienced in recent years.*

## COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

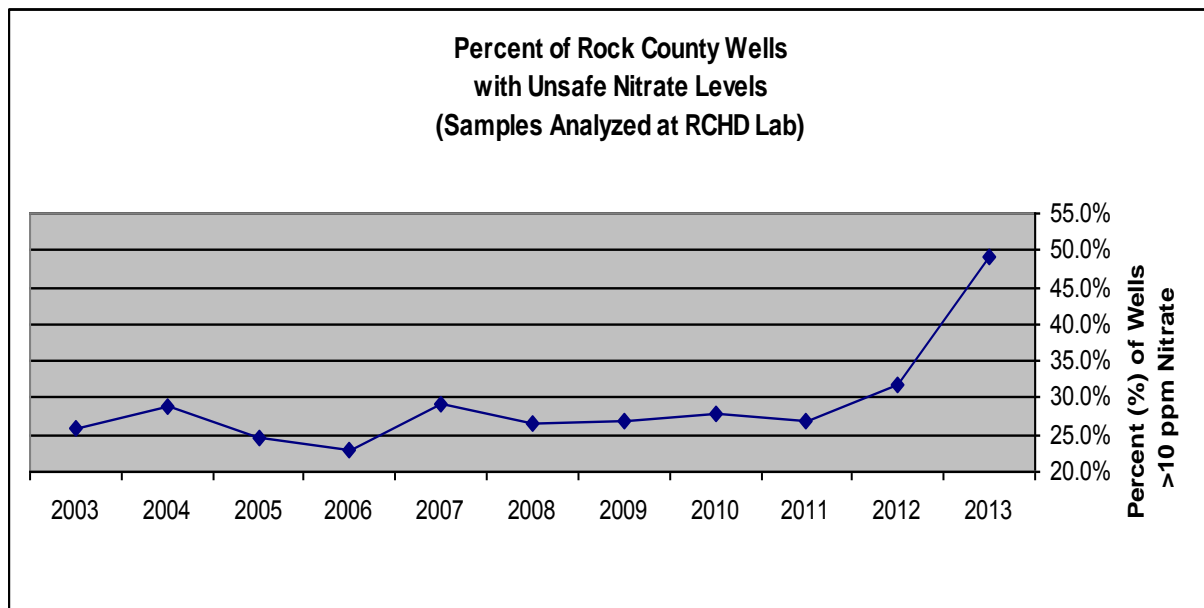
Every person and business in Rock County depends on a daily source of clean drinking water. In this area of Wisconsin, groundwater is our sole water supply source. In addition to the municipal water supply systems in our community, there are approximately 13,000 private water wells providing water to 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 protect the quality of ground water in Rock County for drinking water use.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, 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 two thousand one hundred ninety one (2191) well water tests: including one thousand eighty seven (1087) nitrate and one thousand one hundred four (1104) coliform bacteria. Forty nine percent (49%) of wells tested for nitrates in 2013 exceeded the ten (10) parts per million health advisory level. This rate of unsafe nitrates was the highest level we have seen in Rock County.

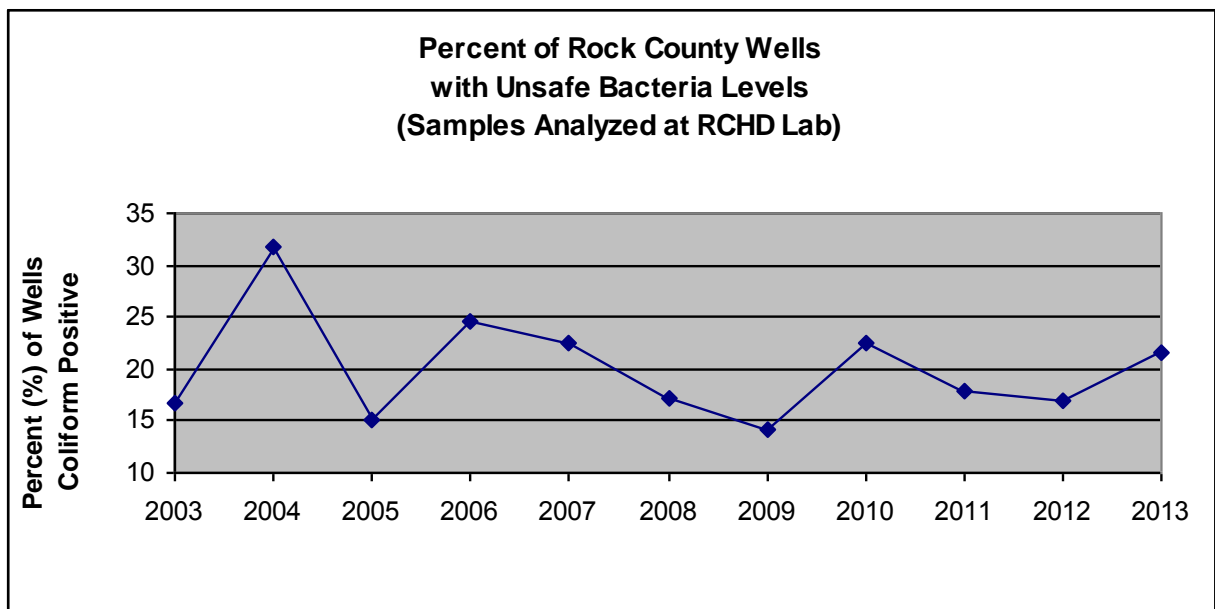
Twenty one percent (21%) of samples brought to the Rock County Health Department Laboratory tested positive for coliform bacteria in 2013. Nineteen (19) positive E.coli well water sample were recorded at the RCHDL in 2013. The percentage of wells testing unsafe for coliform bacteria in 2013 was slightly higher than the 10-year average.

***Objective achieved***



*The percent of Rock County wells with unsafe nitrates above 10 parts per million (10ppm) increased in 2013.*





*The percentage of well samples tested in the Rock County Health Department lab that has been unsafe for nitrates and coliform bacteria by year since 2003.*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, manage the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Safe Drinking Water contract by sampling and following up on all Transient non-community wells.**

Transient non-community wells provide drinking water availability for the public at various types of facilities (campgrounds, parks, restaurants, taverns, etc.). This contract involves sampling one hundred fifty (150) transient non-community wells in Rock County for bacteria, nitrate and nitrites. Bacteria “unsafe” water samples occurred at twenty (20) wells. Fecal Coliform was not found to be present in any of these wells. Multiple sampling is required after unsafe bacteria tests. The unsafe wells resulted in three hundred seventy-nine (379) additional bacteria samples taken by program staff. Time and effort required of staff has been reduced over the years as problem wells are identified and upgraded.

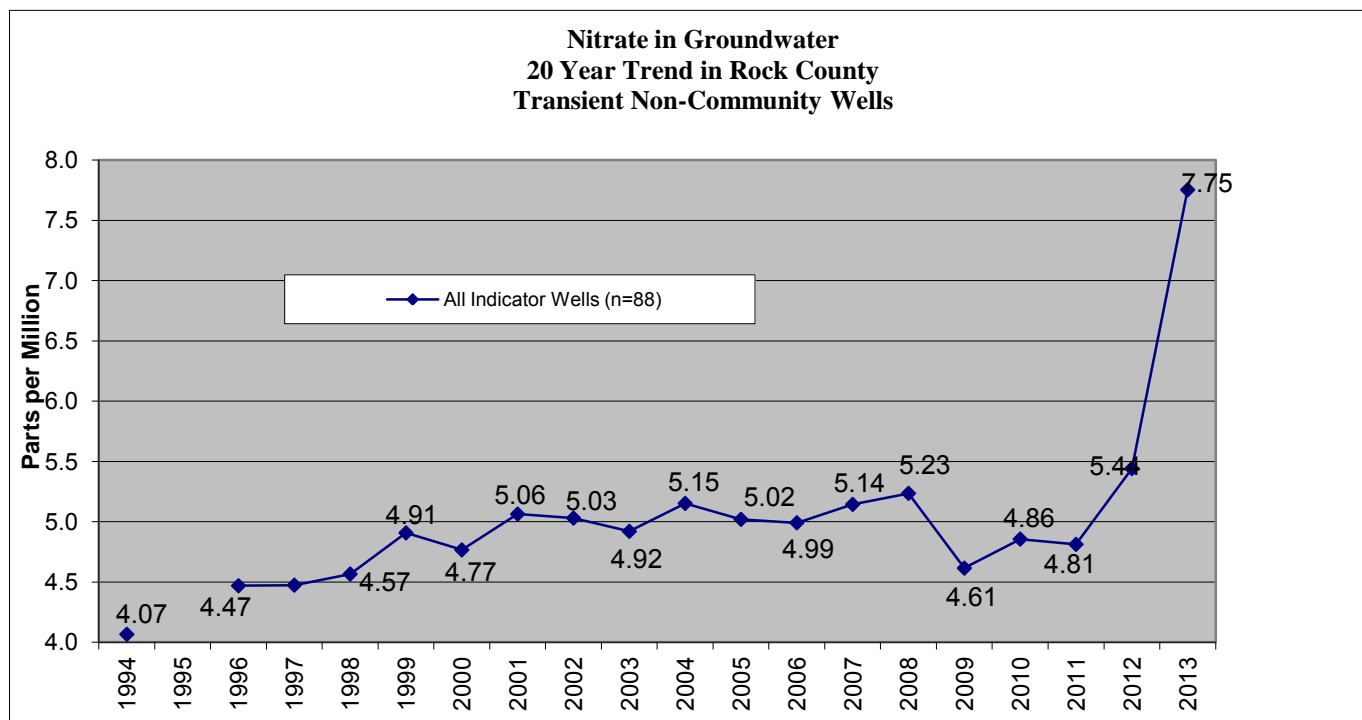
The Health Department is responsible for seeing that the one hundred and fifty (150) transient non-community water supplies in Rock County were sampled in compliance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Five hundred twenty-nine (529) bacteria, one hundred ninety (190) nitrate and seven (7)-nitrite results were obtained from these wells. Thirty (30) well system surveys were also conducted.

Nitrates were above the drinking water standard of ten (10) parts per million at thirty-one percent (31%) of facilities. All facilities with nitrates above the standard must post the water supply as 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 by drilling a new well. Six (6) facilities exceeding the 20 ppm level and are replacing wells, hooking up to municipal supplies, or are in the process of developing an alternative plan for a safe water supply.

The average concentration of nitrates from eighty-eight (88) transient non-community “indicator wells” that have been sampled continuously for the past twenty (20) years provides an indication of nitrate trends in the groundwater of Rock County. This trend

had indicated a steady increase in nitrates over the past 20 years. After a significant decrease in nitrate levels in 2009-2011, which is likely attributed to high groundwater recharge levels, the nitrate levels have increased to record high levels in 2013. The drought of 2012 is considered the largest cause of this sudden increase in nitrates in 2013 sampling.

### ***Objective achieved***



*Average annual nitrate concentrations from eighty-eight (88) transient non-community wells continuously sampled for the last eighteen years (see Objective 2 above).*

### **Objective 3: By December 31, 2013, investigate 100% of citizen complaints and requests concerning ground water quality within two days.**

During 2013, the Groundwater Program had nine hundred forty six (946) field visits, seven hundred seventy-six (776) telephone consultations, and one hundred ninety (190) 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 are made for services to other agencies.

### ***Objective achieved***

**Objective 4: By December 31, 2013 increase private well sampling in Rock County by 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 reached a level of two thousand one hundred ninety-one (2191) samples analyzed at the Rock County Health Department Laboratory. This volume of well testing was two hundred fifty percent (250%) more than the previous 5-year average.

Multiple approaches were utilized in 2013 to promote awareness of drinking water safety. Two groundwater awareness news releases were issued in 2013. Water testing posters and test kits were distributed at dozens of public locations throughout the county. Citizens can 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 2013. Groundwater sampling and education programs were provided to the Towns of Bradford, Harmony, Lima, Magnolia, Porter, and Spring Valley during 2013. Groundwater educational displays were prepared for display at the Town Hall for each community.

In the fall of 2012, the Rock County Health Department was awarded a Brownfield Environmental Health Assessment Grant to evaluate environmental health issues associated with Brownfield properties in the City of Janesville. As part of this project, Health Department staff conducted several educational meetings with community organizations and neighborhood action groups in 2013. The Brownfield Grant project will continue into 2014.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2013, 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 2013, the Health Department field documented the proper abandonment of two county wells that were under enforcement action through the well abandonment program.

*Objective achieved*

## ACTIVITY DATA GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

|   | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Requests on Groundwater Concerns</b> | 1,255 | 1,274 | 1,174 | 1,050 | 1,918 |
| <b>Telephone Consultations</b>          | 759   | 639   | 606   | 519   | 776   |
| <b>Public Education</b>                 | 10    | 8     | 8     | 9     | 9     |
| <b>Program Field Service Calls</b>      | 360   | 494   | 419   | 401   | 401   |
| <b>Clients seen in Office</b>           | 126   | 133   | 149   | 121   | 121   |
| <b>Water Sample Results Reviewed</b>    | 1,921 | 2,230 | 1,620 | 1,620 | 1,620 |
| <b>Bacteria</b>                         | 1,118 | 1,495 | 1,029 | 1,311 | 1,311 |
| <b>Nitrate</b>                          | 727   | 564   | 502   | 678   | 678   |
| <b>Chemical and Other</b>               | 76    | 171   | 89    | 79    | 79    |
| <b>Local Emergency Management Plans</b> | 26    | 29    | 26    | 27    | 27    |

*The groundwater program activity for 2009 through 2013.*

**Objective 7: By December 31, 2013, 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 10%.**

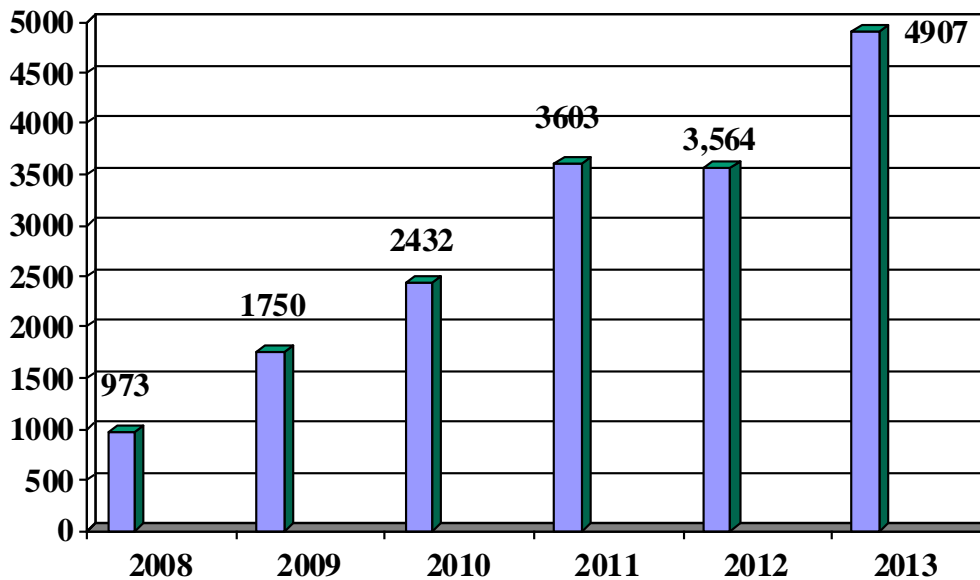
The Rx Round-Up Planning Committee organized two (2) pharmaceutical collection events and participated in a Federal Drug Take-Back Initiative in 2013.

Seven (7) permanent drop boxes are now installed around the county. Six (6) of these drop boxes have 24-hour access. The drug drop boxes are located in the cities of Milton, Edgerton, Evansville, and Beloit. In Janesville, there are three (3) Rx drop box locations.

A total of four thousand nine hundred seven (4,907) 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 2013 was thirty-eight percent (38%) higher than the three thousand five hundred sixty three (3,563) pounds collected in 2012. 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 achieved***

## POUNDS OF UNWANTED PHARMACEUTICALS COLLECTED BY YEAR



*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.

**Objective 1: By December 31, 2013, provide laboratory testing for 1,000 wells 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.

In 2013, a total of two thousand one hundred ninety-one (2191) drinking water tests were completed by the Rock County Health Department Lab; including one thousand eighty seven (1087) nitrate and one thousand one hundred four (1104) coliform bacteria. Forty nine percent (49%) of wells tested for nitrates in 2013 exceeded the ten (10) parts per million health advisory level. Twenty one percent (21%) of samples brought to the Rock County Health Department Laboratory tested positive for coliform bacteria and 1.7% were positive for E.coli in 2013.

The volume of samples analyzed in the lab during 2013 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, 2013, complete offsite plans as determined by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for farms using extremely hazardous chemicals.**

Two (2) farm plans were completed for the LEPC. Each new updated plan contains local information to identify specific hazard risks for each farm, identifies a chemical vulnerability zone, and identifies sensitive populations in case an evacuation was required. In 2013, a county-wide farm plan was developed which includes information for all farms documented to have extremely hazardous substances.

***Objective achieved***

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, complete new and updated plans as determined by the LEPC committee for fixed facilities using extremely hazardous chemicals.**

Eighteen (18) offsite facility plans were completed for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in 2013. Each new updated plan contains facility site plans and local information to identify specific hazard risks for facility, identifies a chemical vulnerability zone, and identifies sensitive populations in case an evacuation was required. In 2013, a county-wide “Retail Battery and Tele-Communication” plan was completed which includes information for all facilities which have sulfuric acid in batteries in a quantity over the planning threshold.

***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, 2013, the requirements of the State Department of Health Services and Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection will be met.**

Routine inspections were conducted at each of the seven hundred six (706) licensed full service facilities and seventy-eight (78) temporary food operations at special events in Rock County. The average score for restaurant and retail facilities was 88.6 in 2013, which is an improvement from 87.9 in 2012. Routine inspections were also completed at thirty (33) public lodging facilities and forty-five (45) school lunchrooms.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 2: By December 31, 2013, 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, 2013, continue outreach to licensed establishments through quarterly newsletters and quarterly meetings of the Food Safety Advisory Committee.**

Four (4) 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, 2013, conduct twelve training visits to licensed food establishments.**

Fourteen (14) training visits were provided to licensed establishments in 2013.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 5: By December 31, 2013, identify one educational need and conduct one training session for food establishment operators.**

A Food Operator training seminar was held at Blackhawk Technical College on March 19, 2013. Forty four (44) food service workers attended from approximately twenty five (25) establishments. The focus was directed to high-risk violations that had been identified in past routine inspections.

*Objective achieved*

**Objective 6: By December 31, 2013, reduce the number of high-risk food safety violations identified in routine annual inspections by 5%.**

The number of CDC high-risk violations per routine inspection dropped from 0.92 in 2012 to 0.91 in 2013, resulting in a 1.09 % reduction.

*Objective not achieved*

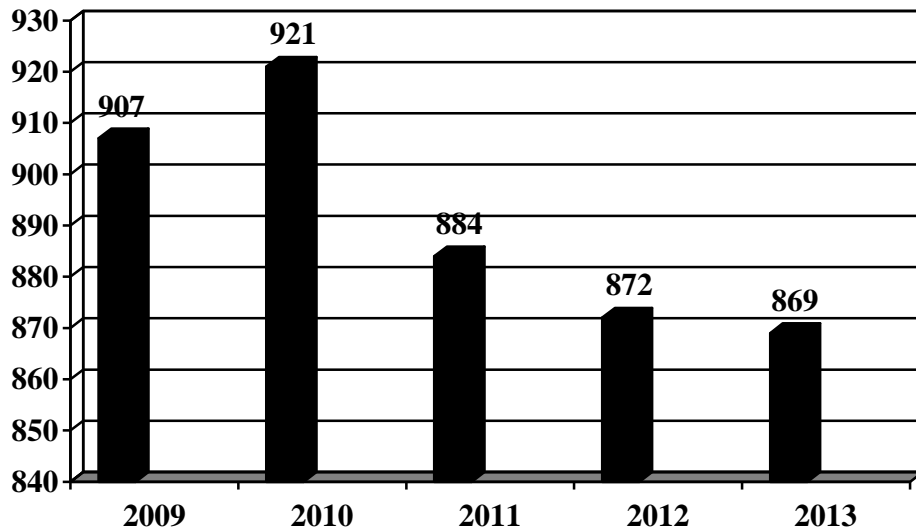
**FOOD PROTECTION AND PUBLIC LODGING PROGRAM DATA**

|   | <b>2009</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b> | <b>2013</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food Establishments, Retail, School, Public Lodging and Milk Vending Permits                  | 907         | 921         | 884         | 872         | 869         |
| Restaurant Routine Inspections  | 505         | 491         | 490         | 540         | 548         |
| Retail Food Routine Inspections   | 238         | 228         | 229         | 243         | 219         |
| School Lunch Room Routine Inspections   | 41          | 43          | 44          | 45          | 43          |
| Motel, Hotel, Bed & Breakfast & Tourist Rooming Houses Routine Inspections                    | 32          | 30          | 34          | 30          | 36          |
| Temporary Restaurant and Retail Food Establishment Inspections                                | 82          | 107         | 70          | 78          | 70          |
| Vending Machine & Milk Vending Machine Inspections  | 355         | 359         | 320         | 290         | 254         |
| Restaurant, Retail and Lodging Establishments Pre-Inspections.                                | 78          | 74          | 88          | 61          | 83          |
| Restaurant, Retail, Lodging and School Establishment Critical Violation Follow-up Inspections | 134         | 100         | 71          | 80          | 69          |
| Restaurant & Retail Written Compliance Orders Issued  | 21          | 16          | 9           | 3           | 3           |
| Food borne Illness Complaints   | 8           | 13          | 11          | 12          | 14          |
| Restaurant, Retail, School Complaints: General  | 60          | 52          | 52          | 81          | 73          |

*The above table describes the Food Protection and Public Lodging program activity from 2009 through 2013.*

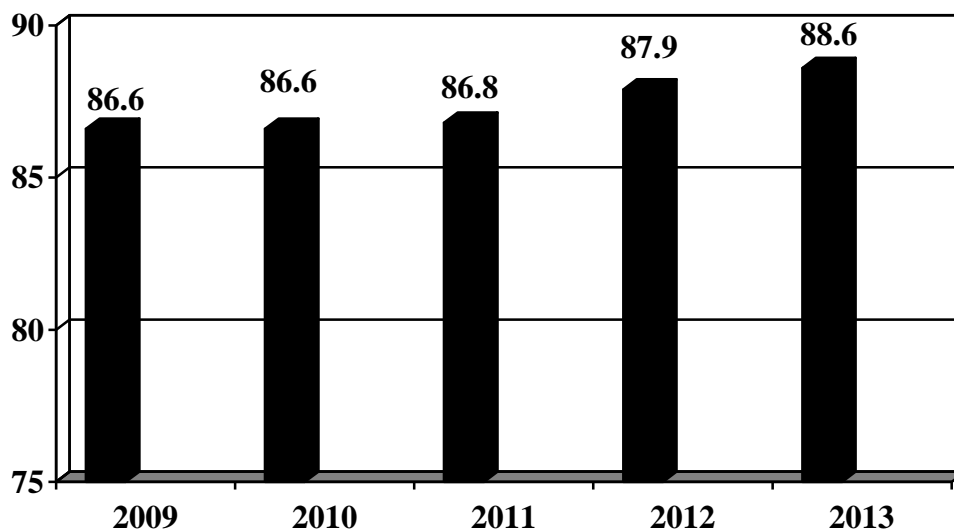


**ROCK COUNT HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NUMBER OF FOOD & LODGING PERMITS**



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

**ROCK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
RESTAURANT AND RETAIL FACILITY  
AVERAGE SCORE HISTORY  
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS**



*The average restaurant and retail facility scores have been increasing from 86.6 in 2009 to 88.6 in 2013.*

