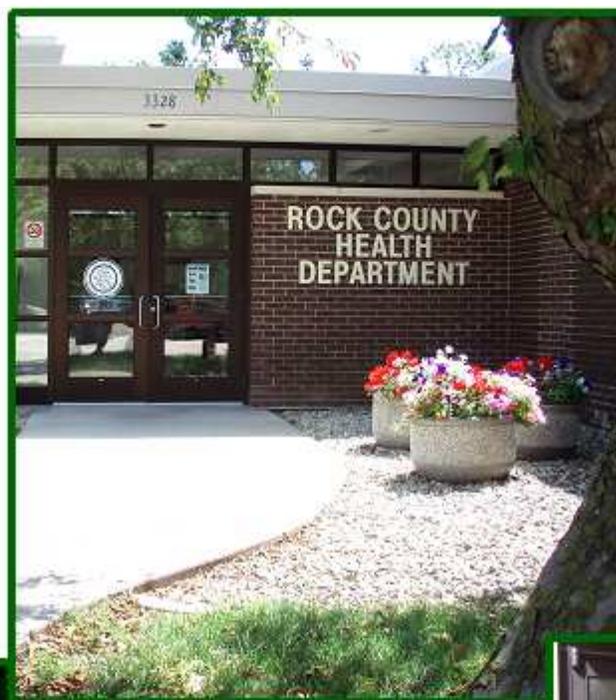


# What Does Rock County Health Department Do For You?

Serving Beloit, Clinton, Edgerton, Evansville, Orfordville, Footville, Janesville, Milton  
and Rural Townships of Rock County



## 2011 Annual Report

# Health Department Staff

## Health Officer

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Karen Cain, RN, MS

## Management Team

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Timothy Banwell, RS, MPH	Environmental Health Director
Janet Zoellner, RN, MS	Public Health Nursing Director
Deborah Erickson, RN, BSN	Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Sancee Siebold, RN, MSN	Public Health Nursing Supervisor

## Office Staff

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Erica Brandenburg	Public Health Support Specialist
Christine Garey	Public Health Support Specialist
Terri Graham	Public Health Support Specialist
Jolly Lamb	Clerk/Stenographer III
Carol McComb	Public Health Support Specialist
Denise Pozzani	Public Health Support Specialist
Geri Waugh	Account Clerk II

## Health Education Division

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Laura Conklin, MPH	Health Educator
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## Public Health Nursing Division

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Valerie Christiansen, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Tara Morris, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Jessica Hefty, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Amy Stricker, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Carissa Hodges, RN, BSN, BA	Public Health Nurse	Casey Stubbs, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Serena Jahnke-Berg, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Jennifer Stenger, RN, BSN, CHES	Public Health Nurse
Erica Jenson, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Jennifer Weadge, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Ann Klesic, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Anne Weirich, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Jill Lampo, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Risa Weisensel, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Olga Myers, RN	Community Health Nurse		

## Environmental Health Division

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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
Mark Seymour, RS, MS	Registered Sanitarian
Matthew Wesson, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Rick Wietersen, RS, MS	Registered Sanitarian
Peter Zakarias, BS	Sanitarian 1/Environmental Health Technician

## Board of Health:

Sandra Kraft, Chair

Louis Peer, Vice Chair

Dr. Aaron Best, MD

Richard Bostwick

Dr. Dean Peterson, DVM

James Rooney, RPh

Jane Thompson

Judith Wade, WHNP

Dr. Connie Winter, DDS

Medical Advisor: Dr. William Clanfield, MD

## County Administrator:

Craig Knutson

The Rock County Board of Health is responsible for providing leadership in planning and policy development to uphold the 10 essential services of public health:

- ① Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community.
- ② Protect people from health problems and health hazards.
- ③ Give people information they need to make healthy choices.
- ④ Engage the community to identify and solve health problems.
- ⑤ Develop public health policies and plans.
- ⑥ Enforce public health laws and regulations.
- ⑦ Help people receive health services.
- ⑧ Maintain a competent public health workforce.
- ⑨ Evaluate and improve programs and interventions.
- ⑩ Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health.

### Annual Report:

For additional copies of this report call, 757-5440 or 364-2010, or visit our website at [www.co.rock.wi.us/health](http://www.co.rock.wi.us/health).



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Message from the Director

I am pleased to present the annual report of services provided by the staff of Rock County Health Department in 2011. The men and women who provide public health services in Rock County are a talented and compassionate group of people who take great pride in protecting the health of our citizens.

Our services are provided in a variety of *locations* throughout the county:

- Homes,
- Schools,
- Restaurants and public lodging facilities,
- Campgrounds and beaches,
- Worksites,
- Mobile clinics that are set up by Health Department staff,
- Health Department offices,
- Mobile home parks,
- Sites where new homes are being built.

Our services are provided via a variety of *methods*:

- Telephone consultations,
- Health education presentations,
- Home visiting,
- Newspaper and other media sites,
- Classroom presentations,
- Membership on community coalitions,
- Inspections,
- Testing and analyzing samples,
- Screenings,
- Mailing information.

Funding for our services is provided from a variety of *sources*:

- Grants,
- Fees for services,
- Donations,
- State and federal tax dollars,
- County tax levy.

In helping us accomplish our mission, we are grateful to the Rock County Board of Supervisors, the Rock County Board of Health, and the County administration for providing us with the ways and means to getting our work accomplished. Without the support of these groups, Rock County citizens would not have access to the quality public health services currently available.

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.

Yours in health,

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

# Comments from our citizens

“Thank you so much for all of your advice and encouragement! We really enjoyed the nurse visits and it was reassuring to know how my son was doing.  
Thanks again!”

“I have always had a good experience with the immunization clinics.  
Good job!”

“I just wanted to say thank you for helping me navigate through my first year as a mom. I can’t tell you how helpful you were and how much I looked forward to our meetings.”

“The nurses are always very helpful. Thank you so much for your services!”

“We were so blessed to have our [public health] nurse in our lives.”

“The inspector was most informative, professional, and very kind.”

“Everything was great. You were very courteous. We appreciate the advice!”

“He was very knowledgeable and explains things well.”

## Did you know?

Since 1900, the average lifespan of persons in the United States has lengthened by greater than 30 years; 25 years of this gain are attributable to advances in public health.

Centers for Disease  
Control & Prevention

# What does Rock County Health Department do for you and your community? Dozen of things, but most people don't realize how many vital services they receive from their local health department. The benefits have become such an integral part of the American standard of living that most people take them for granted.

## Protecting, Educating and Providing

Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention. Public Health focuses on improving the health of the general population (population-based) through broad-based interventions, as opposed to the health care system, which primarily focuses on the treatment of individuals. The population-based services provided by public health departments are a major contributor to the overall improvement of a community's health status.

## Protects the community from health threats, the everyday and the exceptional.

Rock County Health Department guards multiple fronts to defend you and your community from any health threat, regardless of the source, and work to prevent disease outbreaks. The Health Department's Environmental Health Professionals ensure the tap water that everyone drinks and the restaurant food everyone



eats is safe. Public Health Staff are ready to respond to any health emergency—be it H1N1, bioterrorism, SARS, West Nile Virus or an environmental hazard.

## Educates you and your neighbors about health issues.

Rock County Health Department provides information that allows people to make healthy decisions every day, like exercising more, eating right, quitting smoking or simply washing their hands to keep from spreading illness. Public Health Professionals provide this information through public forums in our community, public service announcements in the media, programs in schools, health education in homes and clinics, and detailed websites.

**Our mission:**  
Preventing  
Illness and  
Enhancing  
Health Through  
Quality Service

During a public health emergency, Rock County Health Department provides important alerts and warnings to protect your health and our community's health.

## Provides healthy solutions for everyone.

Rock County Health Department offers the preventive care needed to avoid chronic disease and to help maintain health. Public Health Nurses provide flu shots and help mothers obtain prenatal care that give their babies a healthy start. Rock County Health Department also helps children obtain regular check-ups, immunizations, and good nutrition to help them grow and learn.

## Advances community health.

Rock County Health Department and its governing board, the Board of Health, plays a vital role in developing new policies and implementing evidence-based practices that address existing and emerging challenges to your community's health while enforcing a range of laws intended to keep everyone safe. The Health Department is constantly working through research and rigorous staff training—to maintain its unique expertise and deliver up-to-date, cutting-edge health programs while evaluating program effectiveness. These efforts can not be done alone, but through community partnerships focusing on health priorities identified in the community.



## Our 2011- Programs and Services:

### Public Health Preparedness

Rock County is prepared to respond to all emergencies with a detailed plan of action and a system of communication with community responders. This response includes **detecting** disease outbreaks; **investigating** to determine what the risks



are to the public and who may have been exposed; **informing** the public and professionals of the specific disease threats and how to protect

themselves and others; **managing** infected persons; **isolating or quarantining** affected individuals as appropriate; **providing medications or vaccinations** to people at risk in the population.

### Human Health Hazards

The Rock County Health Department investigates all possible health hazards brought to our attention. The Rock County Public Health Ordinance gives the Health Department the authority to respond to complaints of unburied carcasses, manure, air pollution, noxious odors, solid waste, food or breeding places for vermin (rats, insects, etc.), toxic and hazardous materials, sludge, wastewater, surface water pollution, ground water pollution, private water supply issues, holes or openings, non-functional public building fixtures, and unhealthy or unsanitary conditions.

If it is determined that there is a health hazard, the Health Department works with the owner to abate the hazard through education and the use of the department enforcement protocol. Sanitarians are also available as a resource to citizens who are experiencing problems with mold, indoor air quality, insects and other health hazards they may be experiencing. Citizens are provided with information and consultations in some cases and/or referred to other agencies if the Health Department is unable to provide assistance.

### Prescription Drug Collections

Rock County Health Department conducted seven collection events in 2011 and assisted with the installation of six additional drop boxes at local police

departments and medical locations. Over 3,600 pounds of unwanted medications were collected from the seven collection events and drop boxes. Storing unwanted or expired medications in homes is a serious public health problem. Recreational use of prescription medications by youth is more prevalent than their use of “street drugs” and results in hospitalizations and death. Misuse of drugs prescribed for past illnesses for current health problems can also end tragically.

#### Rx Roundup Totals:

2011: 3603 lbs.

2010: 2432 lbs.

### Healthy Homes

Our homes should be a place of comfort and safety. However the home is a common arena where accidents occur; falls, accidental poisonings, other injuries. Potential environmental exposures of home occupants to radon gas, lead paint or drinking water contaminants are other concerns in our community. The Healthy Homes Program takes a holistic approach to help identify these risks in homes but also address maternal and child health issues, immunizations (both child and adult), and nutrition among other health topics. Efforts were combined between the nursing and environmental health divisions to visit 19 homes in 2011. Over half of the homes had risks that can be prevented:

- Safety latches to prevent child access to cabinets with hazardous chemicals
- Safety Gates for stairs
- Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarms
- Storage of personal Care products
- Lead Paint
- Cutting Curtain Cords (infant strangulation hazard)
- Electrical outlet plugs

### Food Safety and Public Lodging Program

Food establishments in Rock County are regulated by the Health Department Food Safety Program to



ensure a safe and wholesome food supply for the public. The goal of the Food Program is to prevent food borne illness by controlling the CDC's risk factors for unsafe food sources, inadequate cooking, improper temperature holding, cross-contamination, and personal hygiene. To

achieve this goal, the Food Program instituted aggressive surveillance, enforcement, and food worker education programs based on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles.

The Rock County Health Department licensed 884 food establishments in 2011, which includes restaurants, retail food stores, mobile food establishments, temporary events, food markets, churches, schools, hotels/motels, bakeries, food vending companies, and others. During 2011, the Food Program conducted 884 routine annual inspections, 71 follow-up enforcement inspections, 88 pre-inspections and plan reviews for new facilities, and 52 complaint and suspected food borne illness investigations. Rock County experienced one recorded food borne illness outbreak for 2011.

### Radon Program

The US EPA recommends that everyone should test his or her home for radon. This is especially true in areas like Rock County that have higher than average radon levels. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the soil and it is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United

States second only to smoking. Over 50% of test results received by the Rock County Health Department have been at or above the 4.0 pCi/L action level set by US EPA. Because of the risk, the Rock County Health Department promotes radon awareness through press releases, presentations and by providing low cost radon test kits to Rock County citizens. Staff trained in radon measurement and mitigation were available to consult with citizens who had high test results and advise them on what options were available to fix their radon problem. Radon awareness continues to grow in Rock County and more and more homes are having their radon problems fixed every year.

### Rabies Control Program

Rabies is a rare disease in humans today. This is due in a large part to the efforts of local rabies control programs like the one at the Rock County Health Department. In 2010, 422 domestic and 53 wild animal bites were reported to the Health Department. Each one of these bites was followed-up on to ensure that the biting animal was properly quarantined or

tested. If the biting animal could not be located, environmental and nursing staff followed up with victims to ensure they received proper treatment. Rabies control staff work closely with law enforcement, veterinarians, emergency rooms, the State lab of Hygiene and the Rock County Humane Society to investigate all animal bite incidents involving humans.

In addition to follow-up on animal bites, the department promotes rabies awareness and vaccination of pets through press releases, presentations and displays in our community. Statewide, bats are the most common carrier of rabies in Rock County. Out of 24 bats tested for rabies in 2011, one tested positive for the rabies virus.

### Swimming Pool Inspection Program

Swimming in pools can be a healthy exercise option, however, it can also be hazardous to your health. The program's intent is to regulate the maintenance and operation of public swimming pools, including whirlpools, in order to protect the health and safety of the public. Recreational water illnesses, injuries and drowning are some of the associated risks. Currently, Rock County has 66 licensed swimming pools and whirlpools.

In 2011, 108 Routine Inspections were completed in these facilities. Risk items such as proper water chemistry, required rescue equipment, functioning pumps/filters/heaters, pool security, presence of lifeguards if required, and daily testing logs were monitored for compliance with State of Wisconsin DHS Chapter 172. 30 re-inspections occurred for correction of critical violations found during Routine Inspections. Additionally, one pre-inspection of a new pool was conducted in 2011.



In 2011, a water safety awareness plan was developed by Rock County Health Department for all licensed swimming pool establishments. These announced inspections were used as training opportunities for pool owners and operators.

**Staff Provided 275  
Radon Test Kits to  
Rock County citizens  
in 2011.**

## Drinking Water Program

All residents of Rock County get their water from a well. Private well water is generally of good quality if your well is tested annually and maintained properly. Bacterial contamination affects about 1 out of 7 wells in Rock County and can potentially lead to water-related illnesses. The



most common sources of bacteria in wells are improperly maintained wells, especially old or damaged well caps and also contamination from recent plumbing work.

Over 25% of wells in Rock County are found to have high nitrate concentrations that can be harmful to infants less than 6 months of age. The elevated nitrates are most commonly derived from fertilizers, animal waste, or septic systems.

Rock County Health Department offers water-testing services through our laboratory. In 2011, the Health Department Laboratory completed 925 well water tests. Our professional staff follows through with technical assistance to help homeowners get their wells back to a safe condition or provide options to people to obtain a safe drinking water supply.

## Beach Sampling Program

Sampling of licensed beaches in Rock County expanded this year to include additional lakes, streams and rivers. Not only are the three licensed beaches a recreational venue for the public; many of the other

surface water sources are used for fishing, swimming and boating. This increased sampling allows Health Department officials to better understand the public health risks associated with our community's surface water resources. In total, 24 locations were tested in 2011, and the weekly results were posted on the department's website between May and September.

**Beach sampling results are posted on our website:**  
[www.co.rock.wi.us/health](http://www.co.rock.wi.us/health)

## Immunization

Immunization is a safe and effective intervention to combat communicable disease. Because the incidence of vaccine preventable disease has decreased so

dramatically in the past fifty years, it is an ongoing struggle to remind people that these diseases still exist and cause illness in many countries, including our own.

Vaccination continues to be a high priority service of the Rock County Health Department nursing division. While the traditional focus of immunization services has been infants and children, there is an increasing emphasis on the protection of all populations through maintaining vaccination into adulthood and throughout the lifespan.

Immunizations can be obtained at some location in Rock County almost every day the county offices are open. Regular clinics are offered at each of the Health Department offices 3-4 days per week 4,913 persons were served in 2011.

Vaccine Type	Vaccine Count
Dtap	119
Hepatitis A – Adult	210
Hepatitis A - Pediatric	240
Hepatitis B – Adult	181
Hepatitis B – Pediatric	170
Hib	104
HPV	414
Influenza – Injectible	2035
Influenza – Nasal Mist	625
Influenza – High Dose	50
Japanese Encephalitis	6
Kinrix (Dtap and Polio)	156
Meningitis	469
MMR	371
Pediatric (Dtap, Hep B, and Polio)	30
Pentacel (Dtap, Hib, and Polio)	179
Pneumonia	59
Polio	156
Prevnar	278
Rabies	19
Rotavirus	117
Td	13
TDap	876
Twinrix	218
Typhoid	225
Varicella	612
Yellow Fever	91
Zostavax	137
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,160</b>

Special clinics were conducted for seasonal influenza; over 2710 individuals were provided influenza vaccine this year. The table that follows lists the number of people served at Health Department clinics and the number of each vaccine given.

### **Healthy Families First!**

Public health has always concerned itself with prevention of injury and illness, especially to vulnerable populations. That dedication is reflected in the home and office visits that our nurses make to families in Rock County. Families in Rock County identify pregnancy and parenting as an important time. Surveys also show that this is a time of change and stress for which families need support. The connection that nurses make to provide guidance on nutrition, growth, development and community resources begins with pregnancy and extends throughout the first year of the baby's life.



Rock County Health Department serves as a prenatal care coordination provider, and also provides one-to-one visits to help eligible pregnant women through the online process of applying for medical assistance. Nurses seek to remove barriers to a healthier family life and provide professional nursing visits in the home or in whatever setting the client is most comfortable. Referrals are accepted from any source, and the visits are cost-free to the client. In 2011, nurses made 2,352 visits to families in Rock County.

### **Travel Immunization Services**

Travel for leisure, humanitarian missions, and business has extended our borders far beyond the United States. As our population becomes more diverse, businesses enter the global marketplace, and education puts an increasing focus on what can be learned through cooperation around the world, occasions for global travel increase. Many diseases common around the globe are seldom seen within our country.

Since 1994, Rock County has provided comprehensive health consultation to travelers.

Services to the client include assessing the geographic area and determining what immunizations are required or recommended for travel. Beyond just immunization delivery, the nurse educates travel clients regarding specific travel hazards, malaria risk and prevention, food borne illness, and precautions regarding existing health conditions. Our nursing team provides information and education in addition to scheduling a travel immunization appointment for those need access to immunization services. 505 clients were served through the travel program in 2011.

### **Health Education**

Health education is critically important to improving the health of communities and individuals. The goal of health education programming is to motivate a person or groups to act on learned information to change unhealthy behaviors to healthy, leading to an overall improvement in health.

Health education in Rock County ventured into new territory in 2011. Rock County Health Department increased its online presence through the creation of a Facebook page and an updated website. The department's website expanded to include a monthly "Health Topic of the Month," a short video designed to increase the public's knowledge of a specific facet of public health. Topics ranged from obesity and nutrition to homeowner tips and lead poisoning prevention. The health department's Facebook page increased its popularity by highlighting department programs and services, as well as recognizing employee anniversaries and achievements.



The health education division also focused on the prevention of childhood obesity. The Health Educator visited two day care centers and one public school twice per month in 2011 to teach 4 and 5 year old children about nutrition and physical activity, reaching over 210 children each month. Children learned through imaginative and innovative lessons, which include singing, dancing, crafts and hands-on activities.

## Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

The investigation and follow-up of communicable disease in Rock County is a top priority of the Rock County Health Department. Citizens with certain reportable illnesses receive comprehensive nursing services to be sure their health is restored and illness is contained. The Health Department is seeking new ways to inform, educate, and empower citizens to prevent infections. The table below provides a comparison 2010 chart of and 2011 the most common diseases that were investigated in Rock County.

DISEASE	2010	2011
Blastomycosis	1	1
Campylobacter	37	33
Chicken pox	15	*8 (5)
Cryptosporidium	38	40
E. Coli	6	5
Ehrlichiosis	0	*2 (1)
Food/Waterborne Outbreaks	4	9
Giardia	17	16
Haemophilus Influenza	7	2
Hepatitis A	*14 (0)	*6 (0)
Hepatitis B	*23 (1)	*31 (4)
Hepatitis C	90	*85 (74)
Influenza, hospital assoc.	0	18
Influenza, pediatric death	0	1
Lead Poisoning	*40 (20)	*33 (23)
Legionnaire's Disease	2	3
Lyme Disease	*48 (41)	*63 (35)
Measles	0	*1 (0)
Mumps	*1 (0)	*2 (0)
Pertussis	*9 (4)	*45 (7)
Q Fever	0	*4 (0)
Salmonella	25	21
Shigella	3	1
Strep A or B	24	13
Strep Pneumoniae	0	18
Toxoplasmosis	0	*3 (1)
Tuberculosis	42	48
Active	0	*14 (2)
Atypical	11	11
Latent Infection (LTBI)	31	35
<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</b>		
HIV Infections	5	15
Chlamydia	663	777
Gonorrhea	72	83
Syphilis	0	4
	<b>*1229 (1160)</b>	<b>*1160 (1068)</b>

\*Number reported (number confirmed).  
All reported cases must be investigated.

## Other Health Department Services

- Walk-In Clinics
- Partner Referral Services
- HIV Testing
- Steppin' On Program
- Blood Lead Testing
- Health Education upon request
- Paternity Testing
- School nurse consultation for schools without contracts
- Regulatory Services (includes inspection, licensing, and education)**



**Educational Display at  
UW-Rock County Earth Day Health Fair**



**RCHD Flu Shot Clinic at  
2011 Janesville Senior Fair**