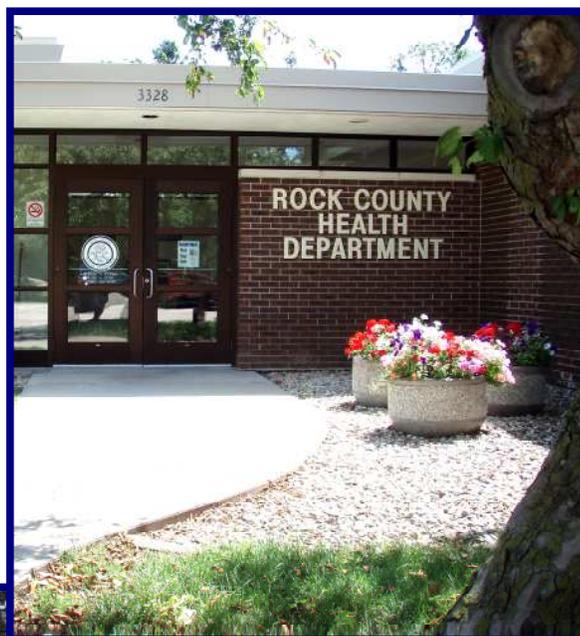


What does Rock County Health Department Do For You?

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



2009 Annual Report

Health Department Staff

Health Officer

Karen Cain, RN, MS

Management Team

Timothy Banwell	Environmental Health Director
Janet Zoellner	Public Health Nursing Director
Deborah Erickson	Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Sancee Siebold	Public Health Nursing Supervisor

Office Staff

Stephanie Bailey	Administrative Assistant
Erica Brandenburg	Health Aide
Terri Graham	Health Aide
Jolly Lamb	Clerk/Stenographer III
Carol McComb	Administrative Assistant
Geri Waugh	Account Clerk II

Health Education Division

Lori McMillan (Resigned)

Public Health Nursing Division

Jenna Bouton	Public Health Nurse	Yvonne Rittenhouse	Public Health Nurse
Serena Jahnke-Berg	Public Health Nurse	Jennifer Stenger	Public Health Nurse
Ann Klesic	Public Health Nurse	Amy Stricker	Public Health Nurse
Michelle Krantz	Public Health Nurse	Casey Stubbs	Public Health Nurse
Jill Lampo	Public Health Nurse	Jennifer Weadge	Public Health Nurse
Joel Mallari	Public Health Nurse	Anne Weirich	Public Health Nurse
Olga Myers	Community Health Nurse	Risa Weisensel	Public Health Nurse
Jessica Petitte	Public Health Nurse		

Environmental Health Division

Janis Baumann	Registered Sanitarian
Adam Elmer	Registered Sanitarian
Roger Eychaner	Registered Sanitarian
Richard Jacobson	Registered Sanitarian
Jeff Moore	Environmental Health Technician
Jackie Phillips	Registered Sanitarian
Amanda Pinter	Environmental Health Technician
Mark Seymour	Registered Sanitarian
Matthew Wesson	Registered Sanitarian
Rick Wietersen	Registered Sanitarian



Board of Health:

Henry Bill, Chair

Richard Bostwick

James Joiner

Louis Peer

Dr. Dean Peterson, DVM

Dr. Connie Winter, DDS

Dr. Aaron Best, MD

Judy Wade, WHNP

James Rooney, R.PH

Medical Advisor: William Clanfield, MD

County Administrator:

Craig Knutson

Annual Report:

For additional copies of this report call, 757-5440 or 364-2010, or visit our website at www.co.rock.wi.us.

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.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Message from the Director

It is with pleasure I present this 2009 Annual Report of Rock County Health Department activities. The annual report is a celebration and acknowledgement of the quality of services and the commitment of staff, providers, and community partners who join together to ensure that Rock County citizens benefit from comprehensive public health practices.

The Health Department provides services to every segment of the population and continues to seek and establish alliances and partnerships to keep pace with the needs of a changing county. As resources decline, we must be creative and efficient to continue to provide for the health and safety needs of Rock County citizens.

In helping us accomplish our mission of “*Preventing Illness and Enhancing Health Through Quality Service*”, 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 at 757-5440 or 364-2010, or visit our website at <http://www.co.rock.wi.us>. We believe it is our job to serve the 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

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. During a public health emergency, Rock County Health

**Our mission:
Preventing Illness
and Enhancing
Health by
Providing Quality
Services**

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 2009 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

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

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.

Community Health Needs Assessment

Completion of Rock County’s first countywide Community Health Needs Assessment occurred in 2009. Approximately 25 areas were identified as concerns affecting the overall health of Rock County citizens, but five major health-related problems were considered to be the foundation for most of the 25 areas identified. These five were:

- Substance Abuse (including smoking, alcohol and drugs)
- Wellness
- Environmental Health Concerns
- Mental Health
- Mental Health Resources/Cultural Competency

These major concerns will help direct future Health Department programming.

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.

Rock County Health Department conducts an immunization clinic somewhere in Rock County every day of the week. 13,034 persons were served in 2009,

a 45 percent increase from 2008. Clinics were conducted in both agency offices, as well as strategic locations in Rock County towns. Special clinics were conducted for seasonal influenza, and over 8300 individuals were provided H1N1 vaccine in response to a worldwide pandemic with a new strain of influenza. Never before had the health department been asked to serve as a distribution point for immunization to schools, businesses, and organizations serving those with special health needs in the community. Through the coordinated efforts of our staff we were able to meet the needs of many in the community through an extraordinary time in our history. Below is a chart showing the type and number of immunizations provided.

Vaccine Type	Vaccine Count
Dtap	153
Hepatitis A – Adult	185
Hepatitis A - Pediatric	282
Hepatitis B – Adult	188
Hepatitis B – Pediatric	184
Hib	133
HPV	552
Influenza – Injectable	4024
Influenza – Nasal Mist	3875
Kinrix (Dtap and Polio)	147
Meningitis	604
MMR	376
Pediatric (Dtap, Hep B, and Polio)	43
Pentacel (Dtap, Hib, and Polio)	175
Pneumonia	98
Polio	92
Prevnar	308
Rotavirus	125
Td	30
Tdap	1237
Twinrix	128
Typhoid	225
Varicella	854
Yellow Fever	78
Zostavax	312
Encephalitis	3
H1N1	8,377
Total	18,917

Maternal Child Health Nursing

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 2009, nurses made 2201 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, foodborne illness, and precautions regarding existing health conditions. 453 travel clients were assessed and provided information over the

phone, while 391 were seen in clinic for immunization delivery.

School Health

Rock County Health Department nurses play a very important role in the health, well-being and safety of children in our county's school districts. Healthy children are more successful learners. Rock County Health Department is contracted to provide school nursing services to Edgerton, Evansville and Parkview School Districts. Nurses seek to meet the needs of the district in maintaining a healthy and safe environment. Many children with special health care needs require specific care planning to keep them safe at school and foster the best learning environment possible. Nurses assist in the development of these plans and collaborate with other providers to assure the student's health needs are met. Nurses also coordinate vision and hearing screening, provide education on public health matters to school staff and students, oversee the administration of medication in the schools, and coordinate the review of school policies and procedures. Our interest in advocating for a healthy start to learning also extends to the preschool population by providing Public health nurse services to all Head Start locations in Rock County.



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. 2009 brought a unique challenge with the arrival of a new strain of influenza, 2009 H1N1. In addition to the widespread coordination and follow-up that this pandemic required, 1114 reportable illnesses were investigated through the course of the year. Rock County Health Department also investigated 2 gastrointestinal disease outbreaks in local long-term facilities. The table below provides a comparison chart from 2008 and 2009 of the most

common diseases that were investigated in Rock County.

DISEASE	2008	2009
HIV Infections	9	8
Bastomycosis	1	1
Campylobacter	38	44
Chicken pox	43	20
Cryptosporidium	39	39
Dengue Fever	0	1
E. Coli	1	12
Ehrlichiosis	2	3
Food/Waterborne Outbreaks	6	2
Giardia	12	12
Haemophilus Influenza	1	1
Hepatitis A	*4 (0)	*4 (1)
Hepatitis B	*15 (2)	*14 (2)
Hepatitis C	*83 (5)	*67 (1)
H1N1	0	*77 (71)
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	1	1
Lead Poisoning	*45 (20)	*53 (28)
Legionnaire's Disease	0	4
Lyme Disease	*37 (16)	*28 (11)
Malaria	0	1
Measles	*3 (0)	*1 (0)
Meningitis (Bacterial)	*2 (1)	6
Mumps	0	*2 (1)
Pertussis	*5 (1)	*20 (18)
Q Fever	0	1
Salmonella	25	18
Shigella	10	0
Strep A or B	3	8
Toxoplasmosis	*4 (2)	1
Tuberculosis	0	44
Active	1	2
Atypical	8	18
Latent Infection (LTBI)	33	18
Sexually Transmitted Diseases		
Chlamydia	554	461
Gonorrhea	90	82
Gonorrhea/Chlamydia Co-infection	48	40
	1127	1114

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

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.

Fax/Email Correspondence	Phone calls, Faxes, Emails, Letters	Field Investigations, Consultations
Asbestos	41	1
Bed Bugs	6	0
Unburied Carcasses	1	1
Cockroaches	27	3
Exterior Property Maintenance	30	20
Housing	125	14
Indoor Air	43	7
Insects	56	5
Livestock Issues	1	0
Manure/Sewage	18	5
Mold	178	11
Mosquitoes	4	2
Rodents	12	2
Toxics	30	2
Wild Animals	10	0
West Nile Virus	7	1
Grand Totals	589	74

Prescription Drug Collections

Over 1,200 households brought approximately 1,600 pounds of unwanted medications to the Rock County



RX Round Up events. 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.

Coordination and planning the Rx Round Ups has been a collaborative venture involving the Rock County Health department, Rock County Coroner's office, Cities of Beloit, Edgerton, Janesville and their respective police departments. By pooling resources we were able to implement the program that would be very difficult to do alone and provide a service to the entire Rock County Community.

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



foodborne 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 907 food establishments in 2009, which includes restaurants, retail food stores, mobile food establishments, temporary events, food markets, churches, schools, hotels/motels, bakeries, food vending companies, and others. During 2009, the Food Program conducted 866 routine annual inspections, 134 follow-up enforcement inspections, 78 pre-inspections and plan reviews for new facilities, 60 complaint and suspected foodborne illness investigations, and 128 food worker education consultations. Rock County experienced no recorded foodborne illness outbreaks for 2009.

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. In 2009 the Rock County Health Department provided provided 535 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 2009, four hundred domestic and forty-one 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. Bats are the most common carrier of rabies in Rock County. Out of twenty-one bats tested for rabies in 2009, two tested positive for the rabies virus. In both positive cases, exposed persons promptly received rabies treatment.

Swimming Pool Inspection Program

Swimming in pools can be a healthy exercise option, however, it can also be hazardous to your health. The Rock County Health Department's purpose and 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 67 licensed swimming pools and whirlpools.

In 2009, 102 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. 66 Re-Inspections occurred

for correction of critical violations found during Routine Inspections. Additionally, three Pre-Inspections of new pools were conducted in 2009.

The Environmental Health Division initiated its first swimming pool seminar to educate public facilities about changes in swimming pool regulations. The seminar was very well received by the more than 30 participants. Targeted community education is an effective method to spread necessary and important information.

Groundwater/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.

Bacteria 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.

The Rock County Health Department offers water-testing services through our laboratory. 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.

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)

Private Sewage Program and Maintenance
Campground, Mobile Home, Parks and Recreational Facilities
Tattoo and Body Piercing Licensing
Lead Inspection and Education
Beach Sampling