

What Does Rock County Health Department Do For You?

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



2010 Annual Report

Health Department Staff

Health Officer

Karen Cain, RN, MS

Management Team

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

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

Laura Fadrowski, BS

Public Health Nursing Division

Jenna Bouton, RN, MSN	Public Health Nurse	Jessica Hefty, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Serena Jahnke-Berg, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Jennifer Stenger, RN, BSN, CHES	Public Health Nurse
Carissa Hodges, RN, BSN, BA	Public Health Nurse	Tara Morris, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Ann Klesic, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Amy Stricker, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Michelle Krantz, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Casey Stubbs, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Jill Lampo, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Jennifer Weadge, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Joel Mallari, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Anne Weirich, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Olga Myers, RN	Community Health Nurse	Risa Weisensel, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse

Environmental Health Division

Janis Baumann, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Adam Elmer, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Roger Eychaner, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Richard Jacobson, 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

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

I am pleased to present the annual report of services provided by the staff at the Rock County Health Department. Following the H1N1 pandemic in 2009, 2010 was a year to focus again on the daily public health programs that keep our public safe and healthy.

During the H1N1 outbreak in 2009, collaboration played a vital role in getting public health services accomplished. In 2010, collaboration again played a key role in service delivery. In difficult economic times, collaboration is important in trying to get as many services to the citizen in the most cost effective and efficient manner. Some of the collaborative efforts carried out by the staff in 2010 included:

- the ongoing prescription drug collections offered in Janesville, Beloit, Edgerton and the 24/7 collection in Milton;
- Healthy Families First collaboration with M & I Bank provided public health nurses with incentives and gifts for families with young children;
- Healthy Homes grant allowed nurses and sanitarians to work collaboratively to identify health and safety risk factors in homes with young children and devices that would help reduce the risks (i.e. outlet plugs, gates);
- collaboration with the Head Start program to offer services to families with young children;
- ARRA funding (stimulus money) allowed the Health Department to collaborate with First Choice Women's Health Center to immunize women who would not usually be eligible for low cost vaccination;
- contaminated wells on properties along Nature's Ridge Road required collaboration between residents, Health Department staff, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, and the DNR to identify the source of contamination and well remediation;
- facilitation of a meeting between the town of Milton and residents of the flooded Clear Lake properties to determine how to best get flooded properties removed from the lake to prevent possible contamination.
- internal collaboration to implement a Facebook page and updating of the health department's website.

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 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 Department provides important

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

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 2010 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.

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. In the next column is a chart showing the type and number of immunizations provided.

Vaccine Type	Vaccine Count
Dtap	135
Hepatitis A – Adult	254
Hepatitis A - Pediatric	247
Hepatitis B – Adult	184
Hepatitis B – Pediatric	184
Hib	126
HPV	531
Influenza – Injectable	2929
Influenza – Nasal Mist	568
Kinrix (Dtap and Polio)	163
Meningitis	502
MMR	428
Pediatric (Dtap, Hep B, and Polio)	22
Pentacel (Dtap, Hib, and Polio)	174
Pneumonia	73
Polio	155
Prevnar	357
Rabies	8
Rotavirus	90
Td	45
Tdap	1172
Twinrix	208
Typhoid	287
Varicella	873
Yellow Fever	103
Zostavax	138
H1N1	1505
Total	11,468

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 2010, nurses made 2,352 visits to families in Rock County.

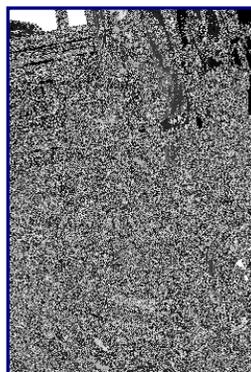
Travel Immunization Services

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, foodborne 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. 500 clients were served through the travel program in 2010.

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. 2010 saw a steep rise in the number of sexually transmitted infections diagnosed in the county. The Health Department is seeking new ways to inform, educate, and empower citizens to prevent infections. The table below provides a comparison chart from 2009 and 2010 of the most common diseases that were investigated in Rock County.

DISEASE	2009	2010
HIV Infections	8	5
Blastomycosis	1	1
Campylobacter	44	37
Chicken pox	20	15
Cryptosporidium	39	38
Dengue Fever	1	0
E. Coli	12	6
Ehrlichiosis	3	0
Food/Waterborne Outbreaks	2	4
Giardia	12	17
Haemophilus Influenza	1	7
Hepatitis A	*4 (1)	*14 (0)
Hepatitis B	*14 (2)	*23 (1)
Hepatitis C	*67 (1)	90
H1N1	77	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	1	1
Lead Poisoning	*53 (28)	*40 (20)
Legionnaire’s Disease	4	2
Lyme Disease	*28 (11)	*48 (41)
Malaria	1	0
Measles	*1 (0)	0

Meningitis (Bacterial)	6	0
Mumps	*2 (1)	*1 (0)
Pertussis	*20 (18)	*9 (4)
Q Fever	1	0
Salmonella	18	25
Shigella	0	3
Strep A or B	8	24
Toxoplasmosis	1	0
Tuberculosis	44	42
Active	2	0
Atypical	18	11
Latent Infection (LTBI)	18	31
Sexually Transmitted Diseases		
Chlamydia	501	663
Gonorrhea	122	72
	1114	1229 (1160)

*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	3	0
Bed Bugs	12	1
Unburied Carcasses	3	3
Cockroaches	10	2

Exterior Property Maintenance	8	6
Housing	25	5
Indoor Air	12	4
Insects	6	0
Livestock Issues	1	0
Mold	37	1
Mosquitoes	0	1
Toxics	1	0
Wild Animals	1	1
West Nile Virus	1	0
Grand Totals	120	24

Prescription Drug Collections

During the four collection events in 2010, approximately 2,400 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.

This year, the Health Department held meetings to foster interest in operating a 24/7-drop off box for unwanted medications. As a result of those meetings, resources from a special county fund assisted the Milton Police Department with implementing a 24/7-collection box at their department.

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 131 homes in 2010. 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



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 921 food establishments in 2010, which includes restaurants, retail food stores, mobile food establishments, temporary events, food markets, churches, schools, hotels/motels, bakeries, food vending companies, and others. During 2010, the Food Program conducted 869 routine annual inspections, 100 follow-up enforcement inspections, 74 pre-inspections and plan reviews for new facilities, and 52 complaint and suspected foodborne illness investigations. Rock County experienced no recorded foodborne illness outbreaks for 2010 in licensed establishments.

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 2010 the Rock County Health Department provided 153 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, 382 domestic and 31 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. Fortunately, out of 27 bats tested for rabies in 2010, none 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 67 licensed swimming pools and whirlpools.

In 2010, 176 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, two Pre-Inspections of new pools were conducted in 2010.

The Environmental Health Division conducted an educational seminar for swimming pool owners/operators. The seminar featured presentations by Rock County Health Department staff, Wisconsin Department of Health Services staff and swimming pool industry professionals.

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.

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