



Washington County Health Department

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2008 Annual Report presented to the County Board May 2009

Health Department Mission

Promote Health ♦ Prevent Disease ♦ Protect the Public

Director's Message

from Linda Walter, Director/Health Officer

This report of the Health Department's activities during 2008 is presented in compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Rule HFS 140.04(3) (a). I wish to thank the Board of Health for assuring that the core functions of public health are met. The department's *2006-2010 Strategic Plan* and *2006-2010 Community Health Improvement Plan* (CHIP) continue to guide the Board in policy development. The Health Department strives to fulfill its mission and the County's expectation of providing all citizens with high quality, prompt and cost-effective services. As the Director of the Health Department and the county's Health Officer I am proud of the services offered and the employees who provide them.

The *2006–2010 CHIP* is the third community assessment done since 1994 and identifies priority areas that impact the general well being of all citizens. The plan identifies 3 priority areas that include, but are not limited to: (1) **obesity**: nutrition & physical activity, (2) **addictions**: tobacco, alcohol & other drugs and (3) **emergency preparedness**: proactive measures. The plan and supporting documentation are available on the county website under the Health Department/publications – www.co.washington.wi.us. Many partners, coalitions, other county departments and the Health Department work towards meeting the needs identified in the CHIP.

Public health departments historically have adapted to the evolving needs of the communities they serve. The services delivered each year reside within five areas mandated by Wisconsin statutes for all health departments. Many important functions that protect the public's health occur behind the scenes. The available level of resources often does not increase when demands change such as happened in 2008. WIC and immunization services increased with the economic downturn. Since public health resources are typically people, the Health Department adapted to meet the increased needs.

Public Health professionals are well trained and desirable employees in the job market. In 2008 the Health Department experienced higher than anticipated employee turnover. Even so, the Health Department adapted to the changes, maintained programming, and met client needs because of several factors including:

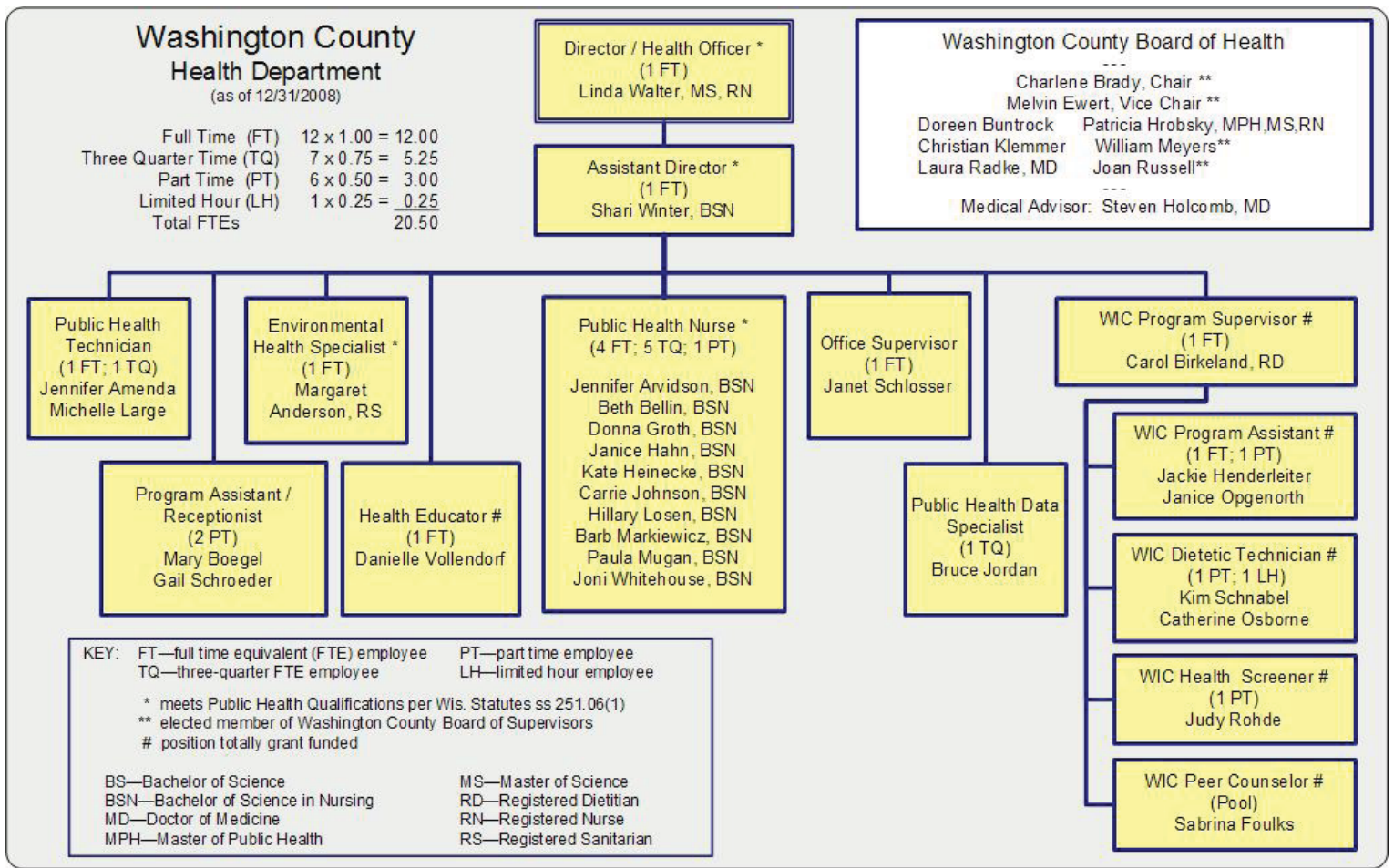
- ♦ Cross-training of employees in multiple areas
- ♦ Continued acceptance and use of available technology
- ♦ Availability of data systems that support analysis and implementation of change
- ♦ Increased flexibility with part time employees and continuing cooperation from other county departments and community partners
- ♦ Most importantly, the Health Department adapted to the changes due to dedication and teamwork of its employees

I can't change the direction of the wind,
but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.

— Jimmy Dean

The Health Department appreciates the support of its stakeholders and looks forward to continuing to deliver essential services to the public and individual citizens.

Public Health makes a difference to the citizens of Washington County.



Focus Areas of Public Health

The remaining pages of the report are color coded to the focus area being highlighted

◆ Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance

- ◆ Communicable disease follow-up including
 - New, emerging, and re-emerging diseases
 - STD and hepatitis counseling services
 - HIV and AIDS partner notification services
- ◆ Immunization services/coalition
- ◆ Tuberculosis testing/case management/dispensary
- ◆ Disaster preparedness activities/coalition

◆ Disease and Injury Prevention

- ◆ Wisconsin Well Woman services/coalition
- ◆ Tobacco Control services/coalition
- ◆ Physical Activity & Nutrition coalition
- ◆ Injury Prevention services/coalition
 - Car seat safety check site

◆ Health Promotion

- ◆ Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program
- ◆ Information dissemination
 - Website, brochures, media, displays

◆ Environmental Health (Human Health Hazard Control)

- ◆ Radon information center/screenings
- ◆ Human health hazard and nuisance investigation
 - Lead screening and risk assessments
 - Beach water testing
- ◆ Rabies control coordination
- ◆ Water testing for selected wells—DNR contract
- ◆ Licensed facility inspections for selected establishments—DPH contract

◆ Generalized Public Health Nursing

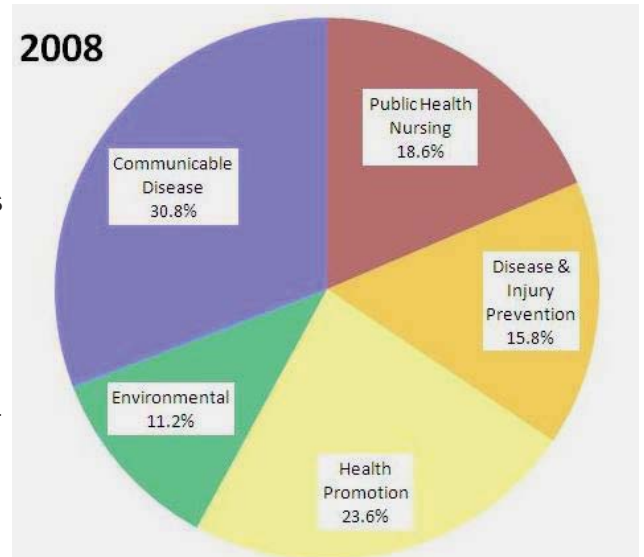
- ◆ Community Health Improvement Process
- ◆ Maternal/newborn health services including
 - Prenatal/postpartum
 - Teaching and education
 - Case management services
 - Referral to community resources
 - Pregnancy testing

◇ Other

- ◆ Loan closet for short-term health care equipment

Health Department Time Allocation By Focus Area

- ◆ The pie chart shows the proportion of time spent in 2008 on the 5 focus areas required by state public health statutes
- ◆ Output 2 reflects more clients receiving increased numbers of vaccines at escalating prices per vaccine
- ◆ Output 6 and 7 reflects changing economic conditions in the community that result in more clients eligible for WIC services
- ◆ Outputs 8 & 9 show local spending and staffing levels compared to all local health departments, but statewide data after 2006 is not available yet
- ◆ Outcome 10 reflects several changes in the measurement tool required of health departments to indicate progress towards all 24 months olds being up to date with recommended immunizations. The latest change is to measurement of county rates instead of health department caseload rates.
- ◆ Outcomes 14 & 15 reflect annual state rankings of 72 counties and the City of Milwaukee



Performance Management Highlights

Table 1 Data on Selected **Outputs**

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	Communicable Disease Investigations	1026	497	554	555	519
2	Value of free vaccines distributed locally	\$58,519	\$45,533	\$70,263	\$93,681	\$199,500
3	# of children followed with elevated blood lead levels	16	16	15	16	11
4	% of blood lead screenings provided by Health Dept of the total done annually in the county by all health care providers	22% 177/812	18% 130/728	15% 100/669	12% 102/844	12% 125/1024
5	Preparedness hours logged by Health Department annually	630**	1,412	2,695	2,204	1,835
6	WIC dollars spent locally	\$690,554	\$677,222	\$693,331	\$963,953	\$1,136,521
7	Average monthly WIC caseload: individuals/families	1225	1251	1231/768	1348/827	1471/897
8	Local county per capita tax levy vs. average all local health departments' per capita tax levy	\$7.33 \$12.25	\$7.40 \$12.19	\$7.88 \$13.20	\$7.82 #	# #
9	Local health department total staff FTEs per 10,000 population vs. average total FTEs all health departments in state	1.6 3.3	1.6 3.2	1.6 3.2	1.6 #	1.6 #

Table 2 Data on Selected **Outcomes**

10	% of age appropriate immunizations for 24 month olds Changed from measuring HD caseload to jurisdictional in 2008	88%	86%	89%	83%	86% agency 70% county
11	% of Health Dept. clients beginning pregnancy care during the 1st trimester	70% 71/101	66% 81/122	59% 84/142	68% 110/164	66% 88/133
12	% of county births for which Health Dept. completed a prenatal or postpartum assessment	15% 213/1432	17% 251/1498	18% 241/1345	22% 330/1512	19% 290/1504
13	% of enrolled WI Well Woman Program clients who are aged 50-64 years	56% 59/105	51% 59/115	63% 87/138	68% 110/162	63% 99/156
14	County's ranking from 1-73 and the (quartile) for health outcomes from annual state report	11th 1st quartile	10th 1st quartile	7th 1st quartile	8th 1st quartile	6th 1st quartile
15	County's ranking from 1-73 and the (quartile) for health determinants from annual state report	3rd 1st quartile	3rd 1st quartile	3rd 1st quartile	4th 1st quartile	3rd 1st quartile

** Incomplete data available from state systems

Data not published yet

Confirmed and Probable Communicable Disease Cases

Washington County													* 2008 Population 130,493				2008	2008	2007	2006
Disease Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Cases	Rate*	Rate*	Rate*				
Category I																				
Hepatitis A				1									1	0.8	0.8	0.8				
Meningococcal disease			1										1	0.8	0.0	0.0				
Pertussis									1		4		5	3.8	13.1	1.6				
Tuberculosis													0	0.0	3.1	0.0				
Total Category I	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	7	5.4	17.0	2.4				
Category II																				
Blastomycosis							1						1	0.8	0.8	0.0				
Campylobacter	3	3	3	2	2	6	1		3	1	2	3	29	22.2	29.4	26.2				
Cryptosporidiosis		1				1	4	1	6	1	1	2	17	13.0	14.7	8.7				
<i>E. coli O157:H7</i>						2	1	1	2	1			7	5.4	6.2	7.9				
Encephalitis, viral (other than arboviral)													0	0.0	0.0	0.8				
Ehrlichiosis													0	0.0	0.8	0.0				
Giardiasis		2		1				2		1	2	1	9	6.9	10.8	16.7				
Hepatitis B				1	2	1	1		1	1		1	8	6.1	4.6	1.6				
Hepatitis C		2	4	1	2	1	2	3		1	1		17	13.0	16.2	9.5				
Histoplasmosis								1					1	0.8	0.0	0.8				
Kawasaki disease			1	1									2	1.5	0.0	0.8				
Legionellosis													0	0.0	0.8	1.6				
Lyme Disease					2		1	1	1	2			7	5.4	3.9	1.6				
Malaria													0	0.0	1.5	0.8				
Meningitis, bacterial													0	0.0	0.8	0				
Meningitis, viral													0	0.0	1.5	2.4				
Mumps									1				1	0.8	0.0	8.7				
Mycobacterial disease (nontuberculosis)	3	1		1	2	4	2	1		2	1	1	18	13.8	17.8	8.7				
Salmonellosis	1	2		1	2	3	2	3	5	0			19	14.6	16.2	15.9				
Shigellosis									2	6			8	6.1	7.7	7.1				
STI: <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	19	11	17	7	11	7	8	11	10	14	9	10	134	102.7	82.0	73.1				
STI: Genital herpes infection	5	7											12	9.2	41.8	43.7				
STI: Gonorrhea	3	3	4	3				3		3		3	22	16.9	13.9	11.1				
STI: Other													0	0.0	0.0	1.6				
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A invasive disease							1		1				2	1.5	0.8	0.8				
<i>Streptococcus</i> group B invasive disease					1				1	1		2	6	4.6	0.0	3.2				
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> invasive	2				1				4	1	2	1	11	8.4	0.8	1.6				
Varicella	2	5	7	11	5	2				3	4		39	29.9	34.0	61.1				
Total Category II	38	37	36	29	30	27	24	32	33	38	22	24	370	283.5	307.0	316.0				
Category III																				
AIDS				1		1							2	1.5	0.8	0.8				
HIV	1	1									2		4	3.1	3.1	0.0				
Total Category III	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	4.6	3.9	0.8				
Total Reportable	39	38	37	31	30	28	24	32	34	38	28	24	383	293.5	327.9	319.2				

These data are provisional, are subject to correction, and may not correspond with WI DPH reporting criteria.

* Population estimate is as of 1/1/2008 from WI Dept of Administration (http://www.doa.state.wi.us/docs_view2.asp?docid=3597). Rates are per 100,000 population.

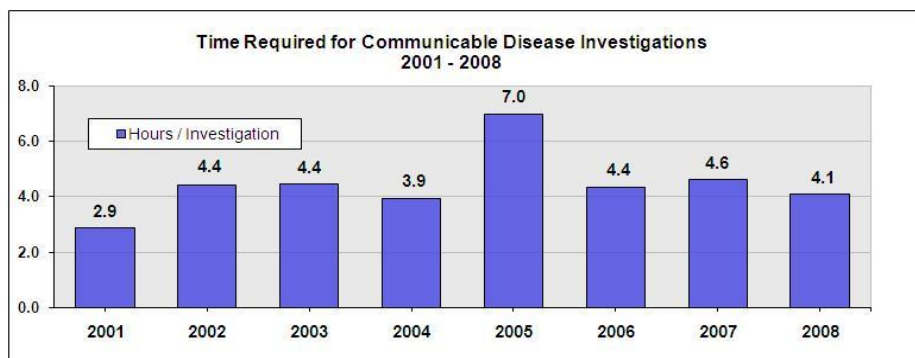
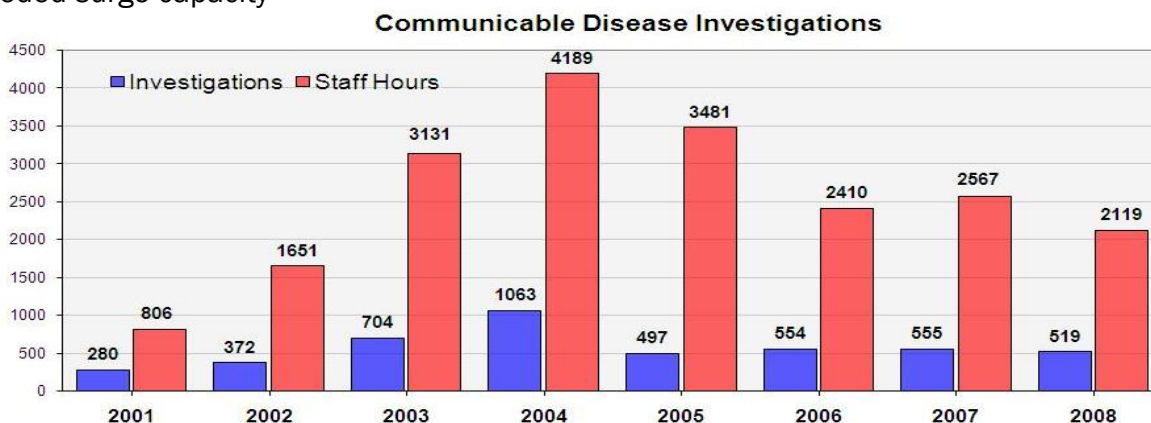
Strategic Plan Long Term Goal:

The public's health will be protected from preventable communicable diseases

Highlights:

◆ **Communicable disease (CD) surveillance, control and prevention**

- Total investigations and confirmed cases for 2008 decreased 6% and 9% respectively from 2007
- Hours per investigation decreased from 4.6 to 4.1 hours reflecting the return to a more stable caseload with fewer complex investigations (TB), increased efficiency and a slight drop in number of food borne outbreaks during 2008
- Extensive planning and preparation took place in readiness for the January 2009 launch of the Wisconsin Electronic Data Surveillance System
- Both the number of vaccines administered by the Health Department and the number of clients vaccinated by the Health Department increased 35% and 36% respectively
- There was a 19% increase in fee exempt lab testing provided by the State Lab of Hygiene
- The year to year fluctuation in employee hours needed for communicable disease control and surveillance demonstrates the importance of having cross-trained employees who can provide the needed surge capacity



◆ **Preparedness for intentional or catastrophic CD response (CHIP Emergency Preparedness Priority)**

- Conducted drills during department staff meetings; participation in regional and state level planning
- Continued to participate in the community coalition, All Hazards Preparedness Coalition (AHPC)
- Repeated the 2006 Preparedness Survey in 2008 with the following results:
 - A statistical increase from Y2006 to Y2008 of those reporting they would stay at home and restrict their activities as directed, increasing from 66% to 75%
 - A statistical increase was reported of those who said they would receive medication or vaccination offered, increasing from 59% to 68%
 - A statistical increase in the overall percentage who reported their community was very well prepared for a man-made or natural disaster was also seen
 - A statistical increase in the overall percentage who reported they had a medical release form completed for minor children was also noted

Disease and Injury Prevention

Wisconsin Statute 251.05(2)(a)
Administrative Rule HFS 140.04(1)(c)

Strategic Plan Long Term Goal:

The public's health is protected and promoted through prevention information and activities with respect to the leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer, stroke, and injury

Highlights:

◆ **Wisconsin Well Women Program (WWWP)**

- Provides income eligible women with cancer screenings and access to medical care
- Total clients enrolled remained stable between 2007 and 2008 at 162 and 156 respectively
- Total re-enrollments increased from 58 to 77 from 2007 to 2008 or 33%
- 10 women who were screened were diagnosed with cancer and received services during 2008

◆ **Injury Prevention Efforts**

- The Health Department continued to offer regularly scheduled time for education, demonstration and assistance in installing infant and child car seats. During the past year 247 car seats safety checks were done with an emphasis on prevention of childhood injuries from car crashes.
- The Health Department and the Washington County Injury Prevention Coalition participated in the Celebrate Families event, Fire Prevention Week, Walk Your Child to School, Kid Fest at Boys & Girls Club and Law Enforcement Family Bike Jam as well as holding the annual alcohol related mock traffic crash for students which was held at Hartford Union High School for 2008

◆ **Tobacco Surveillance and Control (CHIP Addictions Priority)**

- Out of the 1504 births in the County during 2008 twelve percent or 186 women reported smoking during their pregnancy, down 4% from 2007
- Of the women who were clients at the Health Department only 37 or 27% reported smoked during their pregnancy
- 25 smoking clients were referred to the Wisconsin Quit Line for cessation assistance
- The *WC Tobacco Free Coalition* sponsored a well received event, Quit or Die, by a comedy speaker for West Bend Project Graduation on decision making for use of tobacco products

◆ **Obesity: Physical Activity and Nutrition (CHIP Obesity Priority)**

- Healthy People Project of Washington County (HPPWC) participated in state leadership training at DPH and developed a project that provided Farmers Markets at 3 work sites in the county
- HPPWC applied and received a Pioneering Healthy Communities grant with the YMCA as fiscal agent

Health Promotion

Wisconsin Statutes 251.05(2)(a) and 253.06
Administrative Rule HFS 140.04(1)(c)

Strategic Plan Long Term Goal:

The public's health is protected and promoted through health promotion information and activities that affect the health and well-being of all

- ◆ The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program remains a critical support for families, encompassing
 - Supplemental food vouchers, nutrition information and education
 - Preventative blood lead screening and well water testing
 - Promotion of breastfeeding which is associated with reduced childhood obesity

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2008	2007
Individual WIC Caseload	1421	1441	1422	1426	1458	1485	1459	1480	1500	1545	1509	1464	1471**	1348**
Family WIC Caseload	866	875	872	872	883	901	891	909	917	958	931	888	897**	827**

** Monthly average

Environmental Health (Human Health Hazard Control)

Wisconsin Statutes 251.05(2) & 252
Administrative Rule HFS 140.04(1)(e) & (f)

Strategic Plan Long Term Goal:

The public is to be protected from unhealthy environmental conditions where they live, work and play

Highlights:

- ◆ The majority of air quality and housing concerns continue to be related to landlord/tenant issues
- ◆ Two human health hazard abatement orders issued and hazards were eliminated
- ◆ The limited agent contract with the state was continued for a second year to inspect 69 licensed facilities
- ◆ Analysis of need for local food safety and recreational licensing services continued after a September 2008 newspaper story on state inspections lagging in SE Wisconsin and passage of CR08-073 that increases the state's fee schedule for licenses. The Board of Health has recommended development of a proposal to provide local services by 2010 which is consistent with its 2006–2010 Strategic Plan
- ◆ Continued the contract with the WDNR for transient non-community (TNC) well water system testing
 - 57 five-year cycle onsite well surveys were completed and 212 facilities were assisted to complete annual water testing
- ◆ Continued to send letters recommending blood lead testing to parents of Title 19 eligible 1-yr olds with no record of the test, 2-yr olds with no record of a test since 18 months of age and to 36-71 month olds with no record of ever being tested for lead poisoning
- ◆ Animal Bite informational brochure updated and distributed to reflect revised recommendations
- ◆ The 2008 Wisconsin Counties Health Rankings published annually by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute/Department of Population Health Sciences ranked Washington County in the lowest quartile for physical environmental category that makes up 10% of the total score. The high number of homes tested for Radon with positive results contributed to the lower score, but is really a positive outcome.

# Contacts to Health Department	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2008	2007
Air /Water/Solid Waste	32	2	3	23	3	1	13	11	8	9	1	5	111	88
Lead	2	3	0	3	2	0	7	1	0	2	3	2	25	26
Radon	39	8	21	25	13	11	8	8	14	8	4	6	165	40
Rabies Control/Insects/ Animals/Rodents	17	6	6	8	11	13	11	19	8	5	2	4	110	127
Housing	2	4	1	6	2	3	14	0	0	0	1	2	35	21

Health Promotion (continued)

Highlights:

- ◆ During 2008 WIC participants redeemed \$1,136,521 of vouchers in Washington County , up 18%
- ◆ Participants also redeemed an additional \$6,193 in vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local producers at farmers' markets in 2008, up 8% over 2007 numbers
- ◆ In 2008 72.5% of babies were breastfed, up 8% from Y2007
- ◆ Of all those breastfed:
 - 71% were breastfed for 1 month or more, up from 62% in 2007
 - 46% were breastfed for 6 months or more, up from 41% in 2007
 - The breastfeeding peer counselor resource continues to be well utilized by clients
- ◆ In 2008 a total of 2,569 women and children were served by WIC
- ◆ The average number of clients seen each month increased 9% from 2007 to 2008 and before that increased nearly 12% from 2006 to 2007

Strategic Plan Long Term Goal:

Public health needs will be balanced with community resources/capacity through community assessment and prioritization to identify at-risk or vulnerable populations and match needs to resources

Highlights:

- ◆ Pregnant women, new mothers and their babies continue to be identified as an at-risk group needing the assistance and support that the Health Department provides and referral to other community resources
- ◆ The majority of pregnant clients continue to be young unmarried women with limited resources
- ◆ Surveillance of birth certificates received electronically from the state continued with at least 2 general mailings sent to all new parents about Health Department services
- ◆ Annual births were stable from 2007 to 2008 at 1512 and 1504 respectively
- ◆ The percentage of babies being born at less than 37 weeks old also remained unchanged at approximately 8%
- ◆ Volunteers from the Washington County Volunteer Center continue to provide hemming of material for swaddling blankets as part of SIDS prevention teaching materials/resources provided by the Public Health Nurses to clients

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2008	2007
Prenatal Assessments	15	10	15	17	8	9	9	9	15	19	6	9	141	167
Postpartum Assessments	12	14	12	13	21	9	10	5	20	15	6	12	149	163
Presumptive Eligibility Determinations	8	8	11	15	3	3	4	10	7	16	4	7	96	121
# women per month receiving a pregnancy - related service	127	107	116	107	100	83	89	81	100	117	71	105	512*	638*
# women per month receiving services under Title 19	40	34	36	41	27	31	33	26	33	40	27	34	145*	185*

* Duplicates in the 12 month total were eliminated , counting each client only once

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Activities that supported the 3 priority areas of the plan included, but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ The community coalition *Healthy People Project of Washington County* participated in the state leadership training and completed a project to develop Farmers Markets at 3 worksites (**obesity**)
- ◆ A mock alcohol-related vehicle crash for Hartford High Schools was sponsored by the Washington County Injury Prevention Coalition and Health Department (**addictions**)
- ◆ The *All Hazards Preparedness Coalition (AHPC)* continued to meet and is developing a fund to accept donations for any jurisdictional disaster or emergency (**emergency preparedness**)

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Public Health, formally reviewed the Washington County Health Department on May 27, 1999 and July 29, 2005. Another review will take place in Y2009 by the new Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health. The Health Department has continued to meet the Level II requirements of Administrative Rule HFS 140.07(4) during each five years review. To qualify for Level II the Health Department met minimum standards outlined in Wisconsin Statutes for all Level I health departments and, in addition, demonstrated programming and services were in place addressing at least 7 areas of the current state health plan and had a qualified Health Officer. To meet Level III standards a health department must be an agent of the state providing a local licensed facility inspection program and meet higher standards and offer more programming than Level I and II departments.