

SAWYER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SAWYER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
ANNUAL REPORT 2013



SAWYER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Eileen Simak RN, BSN, Health Officer

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Message from Health Officer

The Sawyer County Public Health Annual Report defines how public health touches the lives of the 17,000 residents of our county. Although public health programs and activities may not often be visible, public health staff can frequently be found working behind the scenes on our mission to protect, promote, and maintain the health of our entire population. Sawyer County Public Health uses scientifically developed evidence based strategies for preventing chronic disease and injury which will save local governments money and improve the quality of life for all residents of the county.

Sawyer County Public Health (SCPH) is part of Sawyer County Health and Human Services. SCPH provides the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide the framework for the National Public Health Performance Standards Program. A strong public health system delivers the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The 10 Essential Public Health Services include the following:

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems.
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. **Inform, educate, and empower** people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts.
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. **Link** people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.
9. **Evaluate** effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Sawyer County Public Health shares the vision of Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer. Healthiest Wisconsin is a state-wide community health improvement plan designed to benefit the health of everyone in Wisconsin and the communities in which we live, play, work, and learn. The plan reflects twin goals: improve health across the life span, and eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity. The plan's mission is to increase the health, safety, and resilience of community members.



Just as the Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 250.07(1)(a) requires the Department of Health Services to produce a public health agenda for the people of Wisconsin at least every 10 years, Sawyer County and community partners regularly review plans, usually every five years. The Sawyer County Health Plan is an ongoing process using science, quality improvement, partnerships, and large-scale community engagement. Again in 2014 we will engage community partners in the development of the Sawyer County Health Improvement Plan, which will guide our community through 2017.

Highlights:

Sawyer County Public Health initiated the 2013 -2015 Community Health Assessment. For more information: <http://www.sawyercountygov.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=YFxJKCW-OFg%3d&tabid=538&mid=1694>

Sawyer County ranked in the top half of Wisconsin Counties for Health Outcomes in 2013. Sawyer County ranked 36 out of the counties in Wisconsin for health outcomes. This has been a significant improvement from 66 in 2010. Information available at: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/wisconsin/2013/sawyer/county/outcomes/overall/snaps-hot/by-rank>

Sawyer County Public Health establishes a community wide annual **Life Survey**. Sawyer County/LCO Joint Prevention Coalition and local schools work towards establishing county wide **Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS)** data through Hayward, LCO and Winter Schools.

The Sawyer County *Women, Infant and Children Program (WIC)* continues the *Be Person Centered* Grant. The grant provided funding to improve the physical environment of our WIC program and assist staff to develop a culture of quality customer service.

Sawyer County Public Health continues to work towards public health accreditation criteria.

Sawyer County Public Health and local partners came together and participated in the “*Safety Preparedness Partners*”, which works to continue to increase the safety of Sawyer County residents.

Sawyer County Public Health has established a *Quality Improvement (QI) Team* and continues to work on (QI) projects.

Thank you,

Eileen Simak, Health Officer



Public health and economic security

“Poor health is putting the nation’s economic security in jeopardy. Helping people to stay healthy and better manage illnesses are the best ways to drive down health care costs...We need to rethink how we spend our health dollars. Investing in public health tops the list of ways we could start spending smarter.” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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Deb Kollmorgen, WIC Support

Vickie Palya, Health Desk Support





Public Health Staff: Lynn Schuman, Jessica Bjork, Renee Reinke, Cathy Becker, Eileen Simak, Vickie Palya, Julie Martin, and Heather Bergman

Essential Service I: Monitor Health Status to Identify and Solve Community Health Problems

Introduction: Essential Service 1 activities include assessing the health status of the community through formal and informal needs assessments and data analysis. Sawyer County Public Health (SCPH) collaborates with a diverse group of community partners to address community health problems. In this section community health improvement planning and leading health indicators including data used to determine the top health focus areas are highlighted.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

In 2012, SCPH began the Community Health Assessment Process with Data in a Day on December 5, 2012. Community members selected three priority areas in the development of the CHIP.

Outcomes:

- Three priority areas identified by the community: Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Tobacco Exposure, and Mental Health.
- In response to the community, SCPH provided the Data in a Day document on the Sawyer County government website for partners and citizens to review.
- A Sawyer County Health survey was developed and disseminated at local food shelves and on the Sawyer County government website. We have had over 84 individual responses to the survey and captured local data on the health of Sawyer County residents.
- SCPH has developed a partnership with Hayward Area Memorial Hospital to collaborate on current and future Community Health Assessments.

Essential Service 2: Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community

Introduction: Essential Service 2 includes provision of epidemiological identification of emerging health threats, active investigation of infectious disease and human health hazards and prevention of vaccine preventable disease through immunization.



Outcomes:

- In 2013, the seasonal influenza vaccine was again formulated to include H1N1, the causative agent for the 2009 pandemic influenza outbreak. SCPH Nurses provided two hundred sixty-seven (267) adult and one hundred forty-nine (149) pediatric doses of influenza vaccine during the 2013 flu season.
- SCPH established influenza school based clinics through the 2013-14 Preparedness Grant funding.
- Communicable disease control
- Immunization program
- Lead poisoning prevention
- Human health hazard control

Essential Service 3: Inform, Educate and Empower People about Health Issues

Introduction: Essential Service 3 includes social marketing, targeted media public communication and providing accessible health information resources to reinforce health promotion messages and programs.

Outcomes:

- General Health Education. SCPH staff provides educational sessions to towns and civic groups through regular media releases, presentations and radio programs in the community.

Essential Service 4: Mobilize Community Partnerships and Action to Identify and Solve Health Problems

Introduction: Essential Service 4 involves convening and facilitating community groups in undertaking defined preventive and population focused activities in order to capture the full range of potential resources to solve community health problems.

Outcomes:

- Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Joint Prevention Programming Coalition meetings and activities in the community
- Community Health Assessment Process

Essential Service 5: Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

Introduction: Essential Service 5 involves providing leadership for systematic community and state level planning for health improvement; development and tracking of measureable health objectives as a part of continuous quality improvement strategies and development of codes, regulations and legislation to guide the practice of public health.

Outcomes:

- Sawyer County Public Health strategic plan.
- The establishment of regular Quality Improvement activities and meetings
- Participation in Northwoods Preparedness Coalition and Shared Services Grant in 2012-13.



Essential Service 6: Enforce Laws and Regulations That Protect Health and Safety

Introduction: Essential Service 6 involves full enforcement of sanitary codes, especially in the food industry; full protection of drinking water supplies; enforcement of clean air standards and timely follow-up of hazards.

Outcomes:

- Agent Programs with the State Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Human Health Hazard Control
- Youth Tobacco Compliance Investigations

Essential Service 7: Link People to Needed Personal Health Services

Introduction: Essential Service 7 involves assuring effective entry for disadvantaged people in to a coordinated system of clinical care; linkage to services for special population groups; ongoing care coordination.

Outcomes:

- Oral Health
- Prenatal Care Coordination
- Reproductive Health
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP)
- Quality Improvement Project works on assuring continuous enrollment of new clients in Reproductive Health Program, and expanded services in the villages of Exeland and Winter.

Essential Service 8: Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce

Introduction: Essential Service 8 involves educating and training personnel to meet the needs for public and personal health service; adoption of continuous quality improvement and life-long learning; active partnership with academic institutions. In order to provide the highest quality public health service, SCPH strives to ensure that our staff possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform their jobs effectively and efficiently.

Outcomes:

- Public health preparedness competency development
- Workforce Development Team
- Linkages with Academia

Essential Service 9: Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility & Quality of Personal and Population Based Health Services

Introduction: Essential Service 9 calls for ongoing evaluation of health programs to assess program effectiveness and to provide information necessary for allocating resources and shaping programs.



Outcomes:

- Measures for assessing this essential service indicate a need for strengthening SCPH activities in this domain. SCPH has worked to improve quality of public health services provided.
- Participation in Northwoods Coalition assisted SCPH to work on Quality Improvement.

Essential Service 10: Research for New Insights & Innovative Solutions to Health Problems

Introduction: Essential Service 10 includes continuous linkage with appropriate institutions of higher learning and research.

Outcomes:

- SCPH continues to develop innovative solutions to public health issues. We have had students from the University of Wisconsin System schools. These include 2-year nursing school, 4-year nursing schools and UW medical school.

Program Summaries

Family Planning Reproductive Health

SCPH follows the Family Planning, Reproductive/Sexual Health, and Early Intervention Program Guidelines. We have worked with the State of Wisconsin and our medical director, Dr Sabrina Dunlap. Our lead nurse Lynn Schuman provided education at Hayward High school on the topics, *Contraception* and *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Spectrum Disorders*. One hundred fifty-one (151) unduplicated clients received services through the Sawyer County Reproductive/Sexual Health Program. The Family Planning and Reproductive Health Program was promoted as a reproductive health “medical home” in the community for those who do not have health care coverage or a health care provider.

Childhood Immunization

SCPH had a 78% immunization rate for children residing in Sawyer County jurisdiction who turn 24 months of age during the 2013 contract year. The children completed the recommended series of 19 vaccinations by 24 months of age: 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella and 4 Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV)].

The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) Assessment Summary was reviewed quarterly. WIR reports of client names and benchmarks were utilized to contact client’s parents to encourage vaccination. SCPH has an Immunization Tracking Procedure Policy with the goal: Assist Sawyer County residents with receiving age-appropriate immunizations and maintain accurate immunization records for Sawyer County.



Maternal Child Health

SCPH developed a collaborative plan for a community system that supports healthy early childhood development. Sawyer County Health and Human Service is working with the Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Joint Prevention Programming Coalition which was established in 2009. The coalition includes 12 sectors of community representation and has strengthened partnerships with community members and agencies. The coalition continues to ensure access to infant car seats for Sawyer County residents with participation in technician training events and collaboration with partners.

The coalition has increased participation with partners from the Sawyer County Youth Services Group, Community Services Team, and all three Community Schools. The “Sawyer County Collaborative Council for Early Childhood” meets annually to provide developmental resources and assessments for young children in Sawyer County. This group meets with the goal of looking at ways in which we can work together and assist communities that will benefit children and families, our individual agencies, and our communities at large.

SCPH has presented life course health development model and systems approaches to Sawyer County partners and community members. We continue to collaborate with local clinics and agencies to strengthen access to services for women and families in Sawyer County.

Sawyer County partners established a Child Death Review Team (CDRT). The group is lead by the Coroner, Dave Dokkestul. Law enforcement, health care providers, and social service agencies participate in the quarterly meetings.



Wisconsin Well Woman Program

Wisconsin Well Woman Program (WWWP) is managed by the SCPH Well Woman Coordinator Julie Martin. One hundred one (101) women were enrolled in the program in 2013. The promotional materials were sent to local clinics and shared at three local health fairs. The WWWP Coordinator interacts with Wisconsin Well Woman Program staff as needed and utilizes the WWWP guidelines. Julie attended the state teleconference meetings in 2013. Tracking of abnormal cancer screening results have been effective and is ongoing. The Wisconsin Well Woman Program Coordinator has been trained on the use of the Forward Health Interchange for obtaining reports. The Forward Health Interchange is used routinely for increased efficiency of reports and follow-up of abnormal results.

Childhood Lead Testing

SCPH continues to offer blood lead testing to any Sawyer County resident less than six years of age regardless of ability to pay. Blood lead tests are offered to all children enrolled in the Sawyer County Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program up to 5 years of age. A log is kept of all completed blood lead tests. Families are provided education and notified of blood lead test results performed by Sawyer County.

In 2013, Sawyer County WIC enrolled one hundred ninety (190) children age one through four years old. Eighty-four percent (84%) of the 190 WIC-enrolled children had a blood lead test result. This percentage includes all blood lead testing done at SCPH or by a medical provider.

In 2013 one child had a capillary blood lead level greater than 5 micrograms per decimetre of blood (mcg/dl). This child had spent time in a grandparents' home with old furniture that was a suspected source for lead. A repeat test result returned within normal limits and the parent was provided lead exposure education by a public health nurse. No children had a capillary blood lead test greater than or equal to 10 mcg /dl, therefore, no environmental lead hazard investigations were required. Environmental investigations will be conducted on their primary residence. Secondary properties will be conducted according to the procedure outlined in Chapter 9 of the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Handbook (2002).



Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Grant provides WIC, WIC Farmers Market and Breastfeeding Peer Counseling programs. The WIC general program had 558 participants. The Farmers Market Program offers \$17 per family (per season) to be used for fruits and vegetables at local participating farmers markets or farm stands. The WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program offers assistance to women choosing to breastfeed. Peer counsellors contacted 96 women during their pregnancy and after delivery in 2013 to offer expert advice and improve duration of breastfeeding. The breastfeeding training *Grow & Glow* provided is integrated into the WIC program to ensure all WIC staff is competent and provide breastfeeding support to WIC families. The University of Wisconsin Extension Food and Nutrition Program provides educational support to WIC families at the WIC sites. Topics include strategies on food preparation, limiting sodium intake and stretching food dollars.

Sawyer County WIC has integrated the Be Person Centered Grant through the Wisconsin WIC program. The grant allowed Sawyer County Public Health to improve the clinic flow and enhance the environment of our WIC clinic areas. The WIC waiting room has been enhanced for the comfort of young families. We are changing the way we do business by becoming more person-centered in how we interact with others. We've incorporated six founding principles of quality customer services: Listen to Understand, Respect, Individualize, Acknowledge Success, Motivate and Empathize.



Sawyer County WIC Staff: Eileen Simak, Lynn Schuman, Julie Martin, Marsha Stoeberl, Cathy Becker, Jessica Bjork and Deb Kollmorgen



Accreditation Preparation

Public health department accreditation is defined as the development of a set of standards, a process to measure health department performance against those standards, and reward or recognition for those health departments who meet the standards. Sawyer County Public Health is a member of Northwoods Preparedness Collaborative (NPC). In 2013 Sawyer County Public Health along with NPC participated in quality improvement activities in daily practice and seeks accreditation from the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

The NPC also obtained a Center for Sharing Public Health Services Grant in 2012. Northwoods Shared Services Project is one of 16 projects in 14 states being funded through the Center for Sharing Public Health Services to explore how cross-jurisdictional sharing can lead to greater efficiency and impact. The opportunity to participate in this learning collaborative through the Center for Sharing Public Health Services allows us to explore ways to share resources with the goal of providing more efficient and effective public health services.

The Sawyer County Public Health Quality Improvement Team meets quarterly. The Mission of the SCPH Quality Improvement Plan: Promoting, Protecting and Preserving Health through Partnerships with People and Communities. We are currently working on projects to ensure the continuous enrolment of our clients in appropriate services.



The SCPH Quality Improvement Team meets quarterly to discuss quality improvement projects. Sawyer County Public Health staff also participate in monthly web-based trainings through the *Public Health Accreditation Board* and the *Institute for Wisconsin's Health Inc.*



Public Health Preparedness

SCPH participated in The Northwoods Preparedness Collaborative (NPC). The NPC is a partnership of county public health departments in north central Wisconsin working together to build a strong response system to meet the needs of the jurisdiction during a public health incident or event. A key advantage of this collaborative partnership is sharing expertise and resources which enhances the ability of the health department to develop plans, train personnel, and conduct drills, exercises, and activities that support an effective response to a public health incident.

SCPH collaborates with local partners through Safety Preparedness Partners. Members of this local group include health care providers, human services, law enforcement, and interested agencies. The group shares resources and expertise to improve safety of Sawyer County residents in response to local emergencies and events.



Communicable Disease Reporting

Communicable diseases are tracked through a channel of communications at the local, state and regional levels between public health, private physicians, hospitals, and labs. This communication channel allows for prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and unusual situations, and to implement control measures to minimize further transmission of disease to others.

SCPH has developed expertise in Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). Laboratories, clinics and hospitals document all reportable diseases in the electronic program. The system is efficient and confidential.

Sawyer County experienced an outbreak of *Bordetella pertussis* (whooping cough) which started in the late summer of 2012 and continued to 2013. Clinics notified SCPH laboratory results and medication treatment for individuals. SCPH called each individual, explaining the need for isolation until test results were known and developing a contact list of individuals who may have been exposed. Each individual contact was encouraged to seek treatment



and testing if symptomatic. This outbreak provided the nurses and the health officer a greater understanding of how important disease control is in public health.

Reportable Disease in Sawyer County			
Disease	2013	2012	2011
Lyme	99	115	164
Chlamydia Trachomatis	67	23	64
Blastomycosis	3	2	2
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	30	26	40
Campylobacteriosis	1	7	2
Influenza-Novel Influenza A	3	2	2
Norovirus	0	0	3
Pertussis (whooping cough)	106	82	2
Tetanus	0	0	1
Hepatitis C	15	6	10

Food Safety and Environmental Health



SCPH responds to local concerns regarding a variety of environmental topics: mold, lead paint, animal bite contact, and chemical exposures. The State Sanitarian, Matt Dale, provides inspection services and responds to food related complaints and potential food born outbreaks. Sawyer County restaurants, hotels, pools, campgrounds, and other facilities are licensed and inspected regularly.

SAWYER COUNTY LICENSING YEAR 2012-2013

Inspection Type	2012		2013		Grand Total
	Qtr3	Qtr4	Qtr1	Qtr2	
Complaint	3			1	4
Downtime		1			1
Follow Up	1				1
Onsite Visit	6	1			7
Other		1	1	4	6
Pre-inspection	18	9	6	44	77
Pre-inspection Follow Up	3	5	2	15	25
Re-inspection				1	1
Routine	76	64	50	68	258
Second Inspection				6	6
Grand Total	107	81	59	139	386

**Source: State of WI*

Fluoride for Children

SCPH continues to offer free fluoride to children 6 months to 16 years without adequate oral fluoride supplement. Approximately 20 families currently participate in the program. Fee exempt fluoride water testing is available to Sawyer County residents with children under 16 years with a private well. Free well water testing for fluoride, bacteria and nitrates is available for pregnant Sawyer County residents and families with children under 12 months of age.

Sawyer County /LCO Joint Prevention Programming Coalition

Sawyer County/LCO Joint Prevention Programming Coalition meets monthly at various locations throughout the county to ensure county-wide participation. In 2013 the coalition worked on developing sustainability of car seats for Sawyer County residents. Partners worked on a Wisconsin Department of Transportation grant which could provide funding for car seats.

Partners continue to work on reducing alcohol related auto accidents for people 16 to 34 years of age. Sawyer County Health and Human Services and LCO Community Health Center obtained the "Parents Who Host Lose The Most" campaign materials. The campaign supports parents who chose not to serve alcohol to minors.



Partners collaborated on the bi-annual DEA Prescription Drug Take-back Events. These events provide communities with safe disposal of unwanted or no longer needed prescription drugs. The Sawyer County/LCO Prevention Programming Coalition successfully obtained two permanent year-round prescription drug drop-off boxes. One is located at the LCO Police Department the other is located at the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department.



Drug Take Back Results:

DEA Bi-Annual Drug Take Back	Partners	2011	2012	2013
Spring	City of Hayward, LCO Police, Sawyer County Sheriff	30 lbs.	110 lbs	NA
Fall	City of Hayward, Sawyer County Sheriff	62 lbs	47.5 lbs	NA

Immunization program

SCPH continues to offer children routine immunizations through the **Wisconsin State Vaccine for Children Program**. The program ensures that all children in Sawyer County have recommended childhood immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases. In 2013, the State of Wisconsin funded \$12,473.10 in vaccination for Sawyer County which provided 362 vaccinations to 175 children. Sawyer County provided 83 adults vaccines (Td, Tdap, Hep A or Hep B). Sawyer County Public Health ensured that influenza would be available to adults. Private Influenza vaccine totaling \$2193.10 was purchased for the 2013-2014 influenza season ensured that 267 adults received **influenza vaccine** through Sawyer County Health and Human Services.



SCPH participates in ongoing training of personnel to ensure that vaccine is managed appropriately. Staff receives State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services training on storage, administration and recording of vaccines. The public health vaccine is continuously monitored and recorded to ensure the quality of the Sawyer County Immunization Program.

Prenatal Care Coordination Program

SCPH offers Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC) for pregnant women. Thirty-three (33) women were enrolled into the PNCC program in 2013. Fourteen (14) women were under 21 years of age; and seven (7) of those were under the age of 18. Prenatal Care Coordination is a Medicaid and Badger Care Plus benefit that helps pregnant women get the support, education and services they need to have a healthy baby.

Prenatal Care Coordination services include:

- Help getting prenatal health care and dental services
- Education on pregnancy, infant feeding and parenting
- Personal support
- Information on good eating habits and health practices
- Information and help finding needed services in the community



This report is in compliance with Chapter 251.06(3)(h) WISSTATS

