

# What Does Lagrange County Health Department Do For You?

Serving our community since 1917



## 2010 Annual Report

# Message from the Director

The **2010** Annual Report of Langlade County Health Department provides a snapshot of the many ways in which our department touches the lives of Langlade County residents each and every day and provides an answer to many who ask us, “What does Public Health do?”

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. The 10 Essential Services of Public Health can provide a basic description to others as to “What does Public Health do” and the services provided by our department.

What will help us to further describe public health in the future is the national movement of Public Health Accreditation. Through the accreditation process we will continue to formally sharpen and develop the tools and methods we need to ensure the safety and health of the population that we serve. Preparing for this accreditation has provided our health department with measurable feedback on our strengths and areas that need improvement.

In summary, we can not do it alone. Providing Essential Services of Public Health requires community partnerships. While strengthening our services to provide essential public health services, we continue to develop and engage community partners to provide a healthy and safe place to live for all residents of Langlade County.

Respectful yours,

*Holly Matucheski*

Holly Matucheski, RN/PHN/BSN  
Director/Health Officer  
Langlade County Health Department



## 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.

**What does Langlade 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**

#### **(Essential Services #2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10)**

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.

### **Protecting the community from health threats, the everyday and the exceptional**

#### **(Essential Services #2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10)**



Langlade County Health Department guards multiple fronts to defend you and our community from any health threat, regardless of the source, and works to prevent disease outbreaks. The Health Department's staff ensures the tap water that everyone drinks; the restaurant food everyone eats and the air everyone breathes are all safe. Public Health Staff are ready to respond to any health emergency—be it bioterrorism, SARS, West Nile Virus or an environmental hazard. This was especially hi-lighted during 2009 with the Noval Influenza virus – H1N1. Many hours were spent in educating and preparing the community for the unknown effects of H1N1.

#### **Mission**

**Langlade County Health Department is dedicated to providing public health services to individuals, groups, and communities through prevention, protection and health promotion activities.**

### **Educating you and your neighbors about health issues**

#### **(Essential Services # 3, 4)**

Langlade 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 Nurses, Public Health Technicians and Educators 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, Langlade County Health Department provides important alerts and warnings to protect your health and our community's health.

*This is accomplished through numerous articles in the Antigo Daily Journal, Primetime, Shoppers' Guide/Senior Lifestyles, and radio. Multiple opportunities for group education in the community and schools exist. Blood borne Pathogen trainings, Scrubby Bear for hand washing, and First Aide training are just a few. Informational sessions were presented to 117 community organizations and schools to 4341 students and staff. 57 educational displays were also set up throughout the community. 195 printed articles and radio spots were presented through the media.*

### **Provides healthy solutions for everyone**

#### **(Essential Services # 1, 3, 4, 7)**



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

4,022 immunizations were given in 2010 to 2,595 persons. 638 people were screened for high blood pressure. 372 people were tested for tuberculosis, and 135 prenatal contacts were completed by a nurse. (See attached data sheet.)

## Advances community health

### (Essential Services #1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)

Langlade 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.

*The Community Health Improvement Plan committee has completed the 3rd community assessment. Community Partners for Medication Safety and Community Partners for Falls Prevention are community partnerships to improve the safety and health of community members. KidsTravelSafe of Langlade County is a partnership of trained car seat technicians who work for the safety of children in vehicles. Kids Safety Day is an annual day that community partners come together to offer a variety of safety classes to all fourth graders in the county. In recent years, the County adopted a Human Health Hazard Ordinance that is the responsibility of the Health Department. Health Department staff completed 40 inspections of bars serving prepackaged foods, camp grounds, hotels/motels and tourist rooming houses.*

## Our 2010 Programs and Services:

### Building a Healthier Langlade County

#### (Essential Services # 1, 4, 9, 10)

Building a Healthier Langlade County is a partnership developed to focus on improving the health of Langlade County residents. Each health department in the state of Wisconsin is mandated to complete a community health assessment every 5 years. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> plan was completed in 2010. This plan was published and presented to the community during 2010 and will encompass 2010 – 2015. The Community Health

Improvement Plan (CHIP) provides strategic direction for collective action with community individuals and partnership groups for the following health priority areas as identified during 2010 – 2015.

- Alcohol Abuse (Action Alliance)
- Overweight/Obesity (Healthy Ways)
- Teen Health

The Building a Healthier Langlade County plan provides a synergy of efforts and resources by engaging a diverse group of citizens in the implementation process, overall impacting the quality of life for Langlade County residents.

Successes in 2010 include:

- The updating of a web page offering community information ([www.healthylangladeco.org](http://www.healthylangladeco.org))
- Health Department information updated to the County web page ([www.co.langlade.wi.us](http://www.co.langlade.wi.us))
- Community Partners for Medication Safety's Red Bag Campaign to decrease the problem of medication errors and abuse continues and has reached hundreds of community members.
- Community Partners for Falls Prevention has implemented strengthening programs in partnership with the ADRC and Langlade Hospital.
- Introduction of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Health Improvement Plan with 3 workgroups (Action Alliance, Healthy Ways, Teen Health).
- A strong collaboration of community partners in the Immunization Coalition to assure the availability of immunizations from several sources.
- Many educational opportunities on the dangers of alcohol (Parents Who Host Lose the Most, Family Matters)
- Information for the community on improved nutrition and physical activity (Support of the Farmer's Market, Healthy Ways Community Events, etc.)
- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) program in elementary schools, middle school, and high school, AIDS Teen Peers educators, Reality Baby program, Teen Health Fairs in the Antigo High School and Middle School.

## Disease Control and Prevention

### (Essential Services # 3, 7, 8)

We track communicable disease 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. This has been further advanced with the implementation of the WI Electronic Disease Surveillance System. In 2010, Languade County disease control staff received 435 reports leading to investigations of communicable diseases such as Cryptosporidium, Hepatitis C, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Blastomycosis and Lyme's disease. This resulted in 252 contacts.

## Public Health Preparedness

### (Essential Services #1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)

Languade County Health Department 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.



In 2010, Languade County Health Department preparedness efforts included testing 15 performance measures set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that helps to determine whether our agency is ready to respond rapidly to a public health emergency. As well as all public health staff meeting the nine core competencies that are identified in the Columbia Core Competencies for Public Health Workers.

2010 exercises and planning focused on community containment. This was tested through 34

immunization clinics plus the multiple walk-ins conducted through the fall of 2010. Emphasis was placed on working with at-risk populations. Planning meetings were held with the Housing Authority. Five presentations to the senior population on emergency preparedness were completed. The Languade County Pandemic Taskforce did not meet during 2010, but can be readily called together as needed.

## Immunizations for Children and Adults

### (Essential Services #1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8)

Immunization is one of the most important public health victories of the 20th century – defeating or sharply reducing disease such as smallpox, polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough) and other diseases. However, many organisms that cause these diseases have not been eliminated, and they could reemerge if vaccination levels drop. This is becoming more evident as an increasing number of parents decide not to immunize their children. We are seeing emerging pockets of pertussis and measles in the states around WI and in WI.

In 2010, Languade County Health Department gave a total of 4,022 immunizations to children and adults at 14 clinics and to walk-ins. Through the state of Wisconsin Vaccine for Children's program, Languade County Health Department received \$103,822.00 of vaccines given at no charge to Languade County children. In addition to children's vaccinations, we offer Tetanus booster vaccine which includes a pertussis component at no cost, and pneumonia, Hepatitis B and flu for adults at low cost. Through a special grant, we were able to offer Hepatitis A, A & B, HPV, Tdap, and Varicella to adults at no cost.

## Mother, Child and Family

### (Essential Services #1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10)

Infant mortality is an important measure of a community's health. Our prenatal and postnatal programs aim to help families support their children's healthy growth and development. Research indicates that families participating in these programs have healthier babies, improved parenting skills, developed positive community relationships, children have less behavior problems, and there is a reduction in tobacco exposure and alcohol use.

## Prenatal and Postnatal Care

### (Essential Services #1, 3, 7, 9, 10)



Langlade County Health Department provides an informal parent and baby home visit from a public health nurse to assist families after the birth of their baby whether it is their

first baby or they already have children. Mothers receive support and education, baby weight checks, health teaching on parenting and child development and referrals to community services. Our nurse worked with 26 women for prenatal care coordination and 41 families for post-partum well-baby visits with 258 contacts in 2010.

Langlade County Health Department provides access to medical, social, educational and other services to pregnant women who are considered high risk for adverse pregnancy outcome through our Prenatal Care Coordination program, as well as women who need extra support after delivering their baby in collaboration with the Birth To Three Program and The Family Corner Resource Center. Although Prenatal Care Coordination is limited to those who receive Medicaid, Langlade County Health Department follows all pregnancies. The components of these programs are outreach, physical and emotional assessments, care plan development, ongoing care coordination and monitoring, and health education and nutrition counseling

## Injury Prevention Program

### (Essential Services #2, 3, 4, 9)



Injuries are a significant public health problem in Langlade County, Wisconsin, and the nation, causing needless pain and suffering as well as emotional and financial stress.

Each year, injury accounts for about 50,268 hospitalizations in Wisconsin and 606 hospitalizations in Langlade County during the years of 2003-2007. The five leading causes of injury deaths in Langlade County are motor vehicle crashes, falls, accidental exposure to smoke, fire and flames, accidental poisoning and exposure to noxious substances, and non-motor vehicle accidents. These resulted in 67 deaths not including the nearly 5000 ED visits and

hospitalizations during this time period.

Injury prevention education is integrated in public health services provided to families and children. In 2010, Langlade County Health Department with community partners provided a stationary car seat inspection site at the Antigo Fire Department once a month, Annual Kids Safety Day, and multiple educational events through the media, health fairs and individual contacts. The Red Bag Campaign has been influential in decreasing accidental poisoning due to medication errors and abuse. Community Partners for Falls Safety continued to meet during 2010 at the request of Langlade Hospital. The hospital was seeing an increase of injuries due to falls in their emergency room. This group meets to work on education and strengthening programs to prevent falls in our senior population.

## Nutrition WIC

### (Essential Services #3, 7)



WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. The program improves pregnancy outcomes by providing or referring to support services necessary for full-term pregnancies; reduces infant mortality by reducing the incidence of low birth weight (infants under 5 ½ pounds are at greater risk of breathing problems, brain injuries and physical abnormalities) and provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets while saving long-term medical costs.

The WIC program provides essential health for women during the prenatal period that extends throughout the life of the child. Langlade County Health Department works cooperatively with Family Planning Services to provide services to 962 WIC clients in 2010.

## Oral Health

### (Essential Services #3, 4, 5, 7, 10)

Oral health is essential to the general health and well-being of all Wisconsin residents and can be achieved by everyone. Virtually everyone will have some sort of dental problem during his or her life, but regular dental care can prevent minor problems from becoming major ones. In children, the immediate consequences of poor oral health can result in psychological and social stressors, self-esteem, difficulty eating, swallowing, and speech. Dental services for children can be a problem due to the lack of finances or dental services for medical assistant enrollees.



In 2010, the Langlade County Health Department's oral health program provided fluoride supplements to 4 area children who do not have fluoride in their drinking water. Mouthrinse is offered to all Langlade County community schools with non-fluoride water supply. 970 children participated in the

weekly school-based fluoride mouth rinsing program. Fluoride varnishing is applied to the teeth of infants and children under the age of 5. Fluoride varnish is a protective coating that is painted on teeth by a public health nurse or a public health technician to help prevent new cavities and to help stop cavities that have already started. Varnish was applied to 41 children at Early Childhood/Head Start programs in 2010. The Rural Dental Health Program has joined with the Bridge Clinic, Wausau, resulting in increased dental coverage for Langlade County.

## Wisconsin Well Woman Program

### (Essential Services #3, 7)



The goals of the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are to improve access to preventive health services and eliminate preventable death and disability from breast and cervical cancer. Langlade

County Health Department provides uninsured women ages 45-64 with preventive health screening services to women with little or no health insurance

coverage. The WI Well Woman Program pays for mammograms, Pap tests, certain other health screenings, and multiple sclerosis testing for women with high risk signs of multiple sclerosis. In 2010, we provided referral and follow-up services to 84 clients for cancer screenings with a total of 358 contacts. Services were provided by a variety of medical providers. We do anticipate an increase in the number of women seeking assistance in 2011 due to the changes in BadgerCare eligibility.

## Community Human Health Hazards

### (Essential Services #1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10)



To protect the health of the citizens of Langlade County, we investigate situations with the potential of a human health hazard and bring health hazards that are not

regulated by other governmental agencies to resolution. In 2006, the Langlade County Board of Supervisors ordained the "Human Health Hazards" ordinance. Enforcement of the Human Health Hazards Ordinance is the role of Langlade County Board of Health and Langlade County Health Department's Health Officer and trained staff. If a human health hazard is found, the Health Department works with the owner to ensure safe removal of the hazard. If an owner does not comply with removal of the hazard, a citation may be issued.

2008 Human Health Hazards			
Type	Contacts	# Inspections	Enforcements
Housing	10	16	0
Mold, radon lead, etc...	17	8	1
Environmental Health	68	58	28
Animal Bites	257	79	73

*Health Department staff investigated 82 environmental health complaints with 95 contacts resulting in 28 enforcement actions; 79 animal bite complaints with 257 contacts resulting in 73 enforcement actions.*

## Water Quality Issues

### (Essential Services #1, 2, 6)



Safe, clean water is one of the most important substances in our lives - for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. Municipal water systems test their water regularly to ensure it is safe, but it's up to private well owners to test their well water annually. In 2010, we provided 40 water test kits to families with newborns and children under the age of 16 years who receive fluoride supplements.

## Food Safety Programs

### (Essential Services #1, 2, 3, 6, 8)

Through the Limited Agent Program, our nurses work with hotels, motels, tourist boarding houses, campgrounds and bars to educate employees and consumers about safe pre-packaged food and beverage handling procedures. The State of WI provides a Registered Sanitarian to inspect restaurants, bed and breakfast establishments, public swimming pools, school kitchens, and tattoo and body piercing establishments to educate employees and owners about sanitation and safe food handling procedures including proper temperatures for cooking, serving, and refrigeration. In 2010, under the Limited Agent Contract, 40 inspections were completed in an effort to reduce food/water borne illnesses for our 21,220 residents – which also benefits the thousands of others who dine and use the facilities in Langlade County. The Registered Sanitarian was responsible for over 200 establishments, schools, and swimming pools.

## Childhood Lead Testing

### (Essential Services #2, 3, 10)

There is no safe level of lead in the human body; even very low levels of lead exposure can cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health throughout the child's life, especially those between 6 months and 6 years of age. Many lead hazards still exist in homes and the environment, including paint, vinyl mini-blinds, chalk, candlewicks, toys and others. These hazards are commonly present during painting and remodeling of pre-1978 housing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines lead poisoning as a blood lead level of 10 or greater. In Langlade County, children with a lead level of 5 mcg or greater are provided with follow-up and consultation by a Public Health Nurse. Follow-up includes information on how to reduce the risk of lead poisoning through phone calls or face-to-face interviews. If a home assessment is needed, a sanitarian from the Northern Region Office in Rhinelander will make the home visit. The ultimate goal is to reduce environmental lead exposure and lead poisoning.

2009 Langlade County Blood Lead Testing	
Total Number of Tests	276
Tests < 10 ug/dl	276
Tests 10 to 19 ug/dl	0
Test >20 ug/dl	0
Home Investigation Inspections	0

## School Health

### (Essential Services # 1, 3, 8, 9, 10)

The health, well being and safety of children in the 3 school districts and 2 parochial schools are a top priority for the Health Department. Langlade County public health nurses play a crucial role in a child's health care needs at school, home and in the community. School nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self management, self-advocacy, and learning. Healthy children are successful learners.



The Langlade County Health Department has provided school nursing services for students in public and private schools in Langlade County since January 25, 1929.

*Langlade County Health Department staff provided 117 educational sessions to 4,341 students and staff. 57 educational displays were set-up throughout the community.*

Public Health Services



Oral Health



Car Seat Checks



Immunizations



Emergency Preparedness Training



MCH Programs



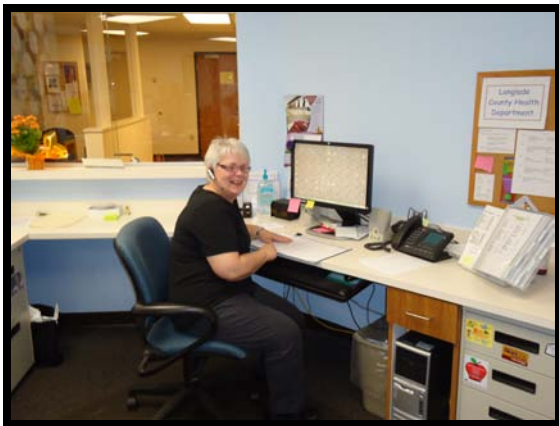
WIC Programs



Health Hazard Investigations



Media Relations



Client Assistance



Head Start Programs



Disease Investigations



Limited Agent Inspections

# Community Collaborations



Kids Safety Day 2010



Precepting Students



Teen Health Activities



Healthy Ways and Health Promotion Activities



Youth Outreach Programs



Red Bag Program

Since 1900, the average lifespan of persons in the United States has lengthened by greater than 30 years; 25 years of this gain is attributable to advances in public health. *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*



Langlade County  
Public Health Staff:

**Holly Matucheski, PHN, BSN**  
Director/Health Officer

**Karen Hegranes, PHN/MSN**  
Asst. Dir./Deputy Health Officer

**Ron Barger, PHN, BSN**  
Public Health Nurse

**Jean Turunen, PHN, BSN**  
Public Health Nurse

**Julie Webb, RN**  
Public Health Nurse

**Joan Postler, PHN, BSN**  
Jail Nurse

**Denise Guenther, PHN, BSN**  
School Nurse

**Sheila Rine**  
Public Health Technician

**Carrie Zelazoski**  
Receptionist/Secretary

Langlade County  
Board of Health:

**Dale Dalms, Chairman**  
Antigo

**Robert Benishek**  
Antigo

**Arlene Bonacci**  
Antigo

**Jerold Burns**  
Elcho

**Patricia McKinney-Rice**  
Antigo

**Kristine Flowers, M.D.**  
Medical Advisor  
Antigo

**Patricia Galarowicz**  
Retired RN,  
Antigo

**Sally Leaser**  
Community Member,  
Antigo

## 2010 Revenues

January 1 – December 31, 2010

Total County Appropriations \$431,424.00  
*A per capita contribution of \$21.56*

Total fees from service	\$119,822.91
Total federal funds	\$103,773.44
Total state grant funds	\$24,742.54
Total Medicaid	\$21,472.55
In-kind contributions	\$11,334.00
2009 Carry-over funds	\$ -0-
Total Revenues	\$712,569.44

## 2010 Expenditures

Total salaries, wages and benefits	\$543,028.57
Total operation costs	\$158,206.87
Total In-kind expenses	\$11,334.00
Total Expenditures	\$712,569.44

## 2010 Population Base

20,008

**Annual Report: Information Sources:** National Association of County and City Health Officials, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Tri-County Annual Report 2002, and Langlade County Health Department.

For additional copies of this report call: 715-627-6250, or visit our website at: [www.co.langlade.wi.us](http://www.co.langlade.wi.us).



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