



Eau Claire City-County
Health Department

Annual Report Summary

2018

Message from the Health Officer

I am pleased to share the 2018 Eau Claire City-County Health Department Annual Report Summary - 2018 was an exciting and challenging year.

This year the health department went through a reorganization designed to assure that the health department is structured to be as efficient and effective as possible now, as well as prepared for the future roles and responsibilities of local public health. Our new structure focuses on more efficient and connected population health services that have a common purpose and shared outcomes. We are focusing on outcomes so that we can make this a healthy place for everyone.

We are excited to share that in 2018 the health department met the National Public Health Accreditation standards - a rigorous peer-review process that resulted in the awarding of national accreditation status. We are one of only 15 departments in Wisconsin that have achieved this status. We could not have done that without the strong partners we have.

We also focused on a broad range of emerging and challenging public health issues in 2018. These included:

- Safe and affordable housing for all community members
- Homelessness
- Drug misuse including opioids, meth, and alcohol
- Safe water

None of these topics are easy to solve and they all take a strong collaborative approach. We anticipate that all will continue to be a focus of the work of the department along with the many other core services we provide related to maternal child health, environmental health sciences, regulation and licensing, reproductive health, community health promotion, and communicable disease. We will continue to strive to meet the needs of all that live, work, learn, vacation, play, and spend time here.

Thank you for your continued support of the work we do to promote health and safety for all communities in Eau Claire County. Let me know how we can continue to improve the work we do at the Health Department.

Please contact me at (715) 839-4721 or Elizabeth.Giese@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Respectfully,



Health Department Overview

Mission

Promoting health and safety for all Eau Claire communities

Vision

Eau Claire City-County Health Department will be a leader in assuring healthy people in healthy communities

Guiding Principles

Seven overarching principles guide the work of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department:

Prevention

Promotion of health and prevention of disease, injury, and disability is critical in saving lives and money

Health Equity

Everyone should have equal opportunity to be healthy

Collaboration

People working together to provide the best solutions

Quality

Efficiency and effectiveness are critical in programs and services

Data-Informed

Collection and analysis of data guides decisions

Evidence-Based

Building and utilizing evidence and promising practices in programs and services

Ethical Practice

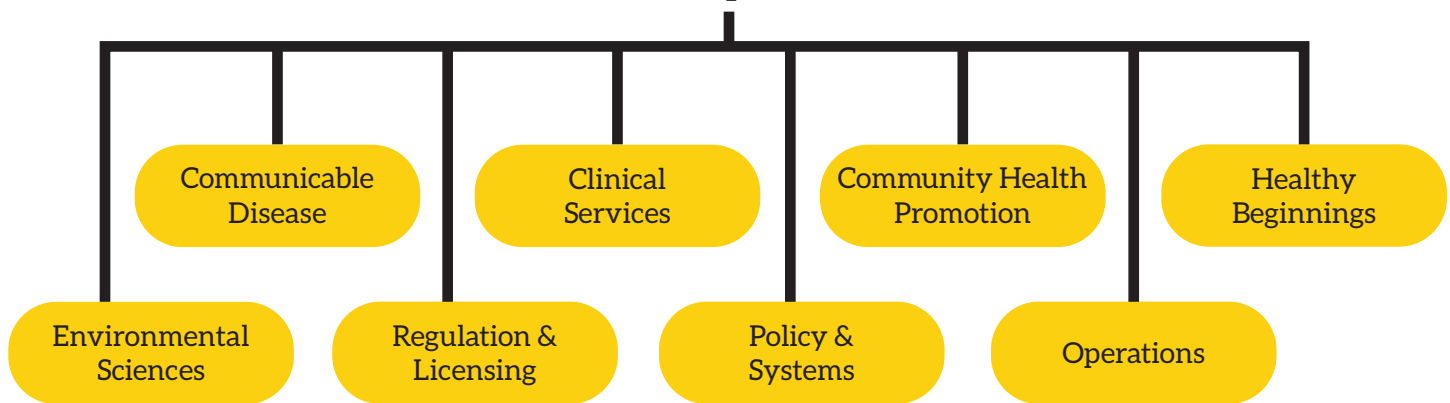
Acting with the highest standards of professional practice

Health Department Structure

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department was restructured in 2018 to meet the needs of our community now and in the future. The efficiency of the department will be improved by narrowing the focus of each division and developing strong collaborative efforts within the department and the community.



Eau Claire City-County Health Department



Eau Claire City-County Board of Health

The Eau Claire City-County Board of Health (BOH) is an eight-member board appointed by the County Board and City Council. The BOH advocates for reasonable and necessary public health services. They also provide leadership that fosters local involvement and commitment. The BOH is made up of: a City Council member, a County Board member, two practicing physicians, one practicing dentist, one registered nurse, and two community representatives.

Current members:

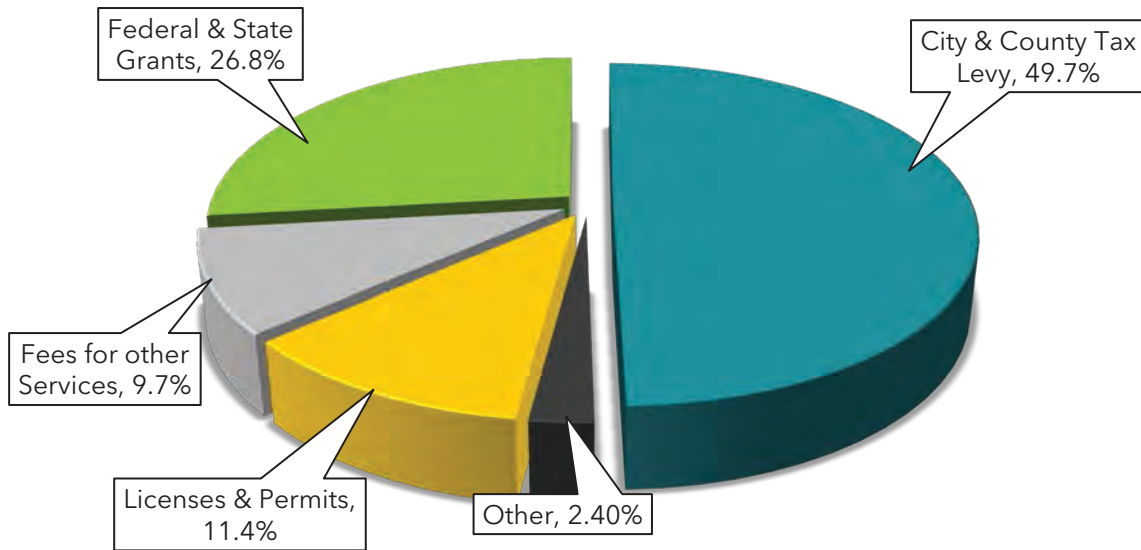
Emily Berge
Donald Bodeau, MD
Jennifer Eddy, MD
Blair T. Johnson, DDS
Martha Nieman
Merey Price
Elizabeth Spencer
Kari Stroede



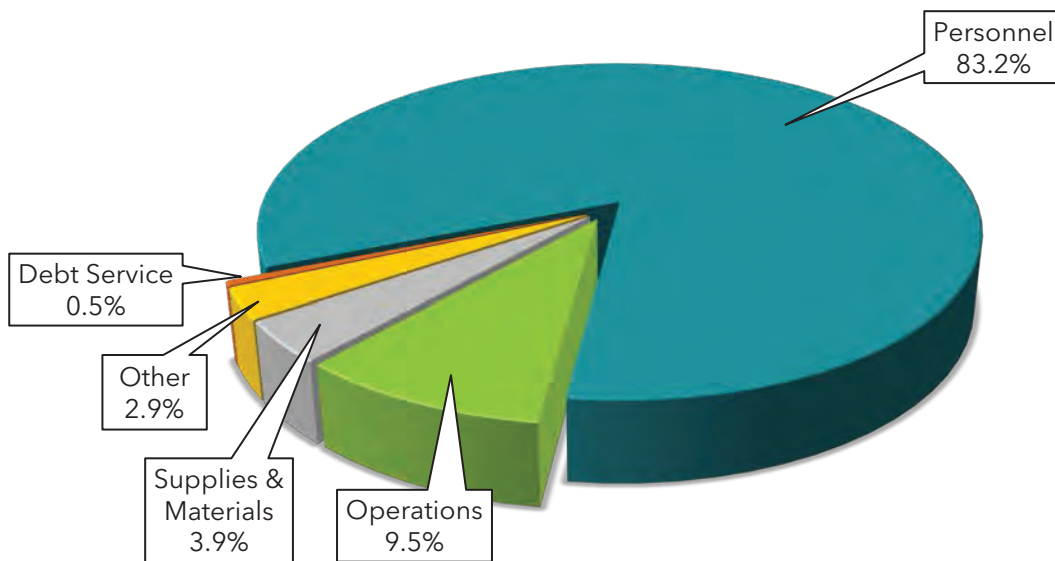
2018 Budget

Below is an overview of the 2018 Eau Claire City-County Health Department budget. The work we do in this department depends on our amazing staff. You will see that staff are the largest and most critical expenses we have. Our department works hard to have diverse funding in order to do our work. This includes tax levy, grant funding, and fees for services.

2018 Estimated Revenues






2018 Estimated Expenses



Local Health Data

Data provides an overview of the health of our community and can show how health is influenced by many factors. This includes our everyday surroundings - where we live, learn, work, and play. Accurate data helps us to:

-  Identify and understand current and potential health problems or environmental hazards
-  Provide reliable health information to people in the community
-  Evaluate if our programs, policy changes, and environmental changes are making a difference

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

102,965

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
POPULATION

23%

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
RESIDENTS LIVING IN
RURAL AREAS

8.1%

POPULATION THAT IS AFRICAN
AMERICAN, ASIAN, AMERICAN
INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE,
OR HISPANIC

\$52,200

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

2 IN 5

CHILDREN IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE FOR
FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

13%

RESIDENTS LIVING
BELOW THE FEDERAL
POVERTY LEVEL

33% of Eau Claire County residents
are vaccinated for the flu

LEARN HOW WE ARE INCREASING THE FLU
VACCINATION RATE ON **PAGE 6**

55% increase in chlamydia cases
since 2012

LEARN HOW WE ARE INCREASING AWARENESS OF
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS ON **PAGE 7**

47.6% of high school students had significant problems
with feeling anxious, nervous, tense, scared, or
like something bad was going to happen.

LEARN HOW WE ARE USING MINDFULNESS TO
IMPROVE OUR YOUTH'S MENTAL AND OVERALL
HEALTH ON **PAGE 8**

15% of households in Eau Claire County
face severe housing problems

LEARN HOW WE ARE HELPING IMPROVE
HOUSING CONDITIONS ON **PAGE 11**

Communicable Disease Division

Provides essential services to prevent and control communicable disease outbreaks, prepares for public health emergencies, and responds to them.

Immunization & Emergency Preparedness

The 2017-2018 influenza (flu) season was particularly severe, resulting in 143 influenza hospitalizations of Eau Claire County residents, the highest on record. Nationwide, there was a record number of child deaths due to influenza. The severity of such flu seasons highlights the need for emergency preparedness. To increase vaccination rates and exercise our ability to respond to public health emergencies, several mass flu clinics were held this flu season.

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department offered several opportunities for families to get flu vaccines together. While there was a cost for adults, flu vaccines were free to children. Mass flu shot clinics were held at six middle schools in the county and at the Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center (ISC). Holding a mass flu clinic at the ISC, an emergency clinic location, gave staff an opportunity to trial the location for emergency response. Increased attendance at the mass flu clinics resulted in 315 more flu vaccinations than last flu season, a 37% increase.



COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE
BY THE
NUMBERS

1,389

REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE FOLLOW-UPS

33%

OF EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
VACCINATED FOR THE FLU

13

OUTBREAK INVESTIGATIONS

1,950

VACCINATIONS GIVEN TO
INFANTS, CHILDRENS, AND
ADULTS

490

TUBERCULOSIS SKIN TESTS
GIVEN

Clinical Services Division

Provides quality reproductive health services, including testing and treatment of diseases, and education to raise community awareness of and encourage less risky sexual behaviors.

CLINICAL SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

Cases of Chlamydia in Eau Claire County

2012:	2018:
332	513

Cases of Gonorrhea in Eau Claire County

2012:	2018:
16	169

Cases of Syphilis in Eau Claire County

2006:	2018:
0	8

1,055

PATIENT VISITS

850

STI SCREENINGS

16

COLPOSCOPY SERVICES

Reproductive Health

In 2018, Eau Claire County saw a drastic rise in the number of reported sexually transmitted infections (STI's). This county data reflects the upward trend in STI's that is happening nationally.

Family Planning Clinic (FPC) staff were asked to present at the Wisconsin Sexually Transmitted Disease Summit in the fall of 2018. They shared creative ways a community can educate the public about STI's and encourage STI testing with limited funding for outreach. Strong partnerships with many organizations and service providers were key to moving many of these efforts forward.

Efforts to increase public knowledge and awareness of STI's in 2018 included:

- Collaborating with local youth-serving organizations to provide evidence-based programs geared toward relationship abuse prevention and sexual risk reduction.
- Educating freshman health classes at some of the Eau Claire Area High Schools about FPC services and how to access them.
- Partnering with UWEC Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies capstone students to successfully host a sexual health trivia night, "Knockin' Boots Trivial Pursuits."
- Providing risk reduction education and no cost HIV testing to eligible individuals at Scooters Bar with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin for National HIV Testing Day and World AIDS Day. Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing were also offered based on risk factors.
- Creating Safer Sex Kits, equipped with condoms and information about STI prevention. UWEC students, along with the AIDS Resource Center of WI, handed them out at the bars on Water Street before St. Patrick's Day to encourage safe sex and inform this population of clinic services.

Community Health Promotion Division

Works closely with community partners to collaboratively identify and address those things that can improve our health where we live, work, and play.

Mental Health Matters

Mindfulness practice is a strategy being used more often in schools due to emerging research linking it to many positive outcomes for staff and students, including: decreased depression, anxiety, emotional reactivity, and psychological stress as well as improved focus, memory, and general well-being. The Mental Health Matters coalition supported two schools in receiving mindfulness training during the 2018-2019 academic year. Mental Health Matters provides community support to help youth build resilience, or the ability to bounce back after setbacks.

Staff from Cadott Jr. and Sr. High Schools participated in a six-session mindfulness course in the Fall of 2018. Staff noted they were highly satisfied with the training and improved their mindfulness skills and knowledge. "I can tell that I am much calmer...with all students and I continue to try to make sure that I am more aware of my students and their experiences as well," said one teacher.

Signs of Drug Use

In the Fall 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, youth reported that use of e-cigarettes in a 30-day period in Eau Claire County (23.4%) nearly doubled compared to e-cigarette use in 2015 (12.7%). This is also double that of the State of Wisconsin in 2017 (11.6%). While some claim that e-cigarettes are safe, e-cigarettes are associated with many negative health consequences. Many of those using drugs report experimenting with substances before the age of 13. The Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention is collaborating with community partners and organizations to address this issue in Eau Claire County. One strategy that is used to help educate the community regarding e-cigarettes, vaping, and other substances of abuse is the "mock bedroom."

A mock bedroom is a model of a teenager's bedroom with signs of abuse, or "red flags," in it. The goal of this program is to educate parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers and anyone who works with teens. By the end of this program, participants report knowing more about substance use indicators. Participants also learn about drug slang, current drug trends, and signs and symptoms of substance abuse. The mock bedroom is seldom presented to adolescents to avoid providing them with a plan to deceive parents and other adults.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION BY THE NUMBERS

4,823

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY CHILDREN RECEIVED HEARING OR VISION SCREENINGS

1,132

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED IN QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER SUICIDE PREVENTION

249

ADOLESCENTS TRAINED THROUGH EVIDENCED-BASED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

125

TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL COMPLIANCE CHECKS COMPLETED

373

PROFESSIONALS RECEIVED ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE & RESILIENCY TRAINING

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS BY THE NUMBERS

838

WIC PARTICIPANTS
ASSESSED BY A REGISTERED
DENTAL HYGIENIST

89%

OF NFP PARTICIPANTS
STARTED BREASTFEEDING

91

WOMEN RECEIVED NFP
PROGRAM SERVICES

1,859

HOME VISITS TO NFP AND
MATERNAL & CHILD
FAMILIES

261

WOMEN SUPPORTED BY
WIC BREASTFEEDING PEER
COUNSELOR

Oral Health & Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Tooth decay can lead to other serious health concerns, and good oral health during pregnancy can lower chances of preterm birth, low birthweight, and tooth decay in young children. Fluoride varnishes are an effective way to help prevent, slow, and stop tooth decay.

To increase referrals to dental care providers and the number of children receiving fluoride varnishes, three dental hygienists from NorthLakes Clinic visit the WIC clinic several times per month. While at the WIC clinic, they provide fluoride varnishes, additional oral health information, and referrals for pregnant women and their families to dental care providers. WIC staff collected data that helped determine barriers for families to receive dental care and what methods worked to increase the number of children and pregnant women receiving varnish and referrals. This partnership continues into 2019 with the goal of continuing to increase varnish and referral rates.

Finding Community through the Nurse-Family Partnership Program (NFP)

Public Health Nurses in the NFP program support first time mothers in their goals of parenting. The success of the program is driven by nurses building trusted relationships with clients and understanding their desires as parents. NFP nurses connect families to community agencies that can provide them further support as they grow in their journey of parenting. One client in particular recognized the value of community connection.

After being introduced to the Children's Museum of Eau Claire by her nurse, she was able to strengthen her confidence and self-efficacy as a parent. She and her son have recently been featured in a video produced by the Children's Museum which highlights how play and positive interactions helped her build attachment with her son.

Environmental Sciences Division

Provides programs and services to better understand, enhance, and protect environmental quality. Our division increases awareness of how environmental conditions influence the health and welfare of communities.

City and County Animal Ordinances

Environmental Sciences plays an important role in overseeing several city and county animal ordinances. We make our environment safer by assisting with ordinance drafting, inspecting operations, and responding to public complaints and other health concerns. In accordance with state and local regulations, laboratory staff also respond to potentially harmful interactions between humans, pets, and wild animals to prevent effects of harmful disease such as rabies.

In 2018, the City of Eau Claire passed an ordinance that allows the keeping of poultry in select residential zoning districts. The Health Department inspects coops, responds to complaints, and provides education to lower the risk of exposure to salmonella and other harmful bacteria. The Health Department is also responsible for approving the siting and management of beekeeping operations within the city and select zoning districts in the county to reduce the risk of exposure to members of the public with severe allergies.

Groundwater Protection

Groundwater is one of the most important resources that exists in the state of Wisconsin, and a quarter of Eau Claire County obtains groundwater from private wells. The Health Department partners with the Wisconsin DNR (WDNR) to carry out three aspects of the WDNR's County Well Delegation program: private well location permitting, inspections of existing well systems, and well and drillhole abandonment. By performing these three duties, the department seeks to ensure that around 9,000 private wells are safe for use. The Health Department also houses a certified public health laboratory, which residents can use to test private wells for potential contaminants. Private well testing is recommended to occur *at least* once a year *and* any time a change is observed in the look, taste, or smell of the water. Laboratory staff often help homeowners determine when to test their wells, what to test for, and to explain test results.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES BY THE NUMBERS

143

ANIMAL BITE/EXPOSURE
FOLLOW-UPS

122

SAMPLING EVENTS FOR
WEST NILE AND LYME
DISEASE RESEARCH

151

PERMITS ISSUED FOR WELL
INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT,
AND RECONNECTION

3,466

UNIQUE DRINKING WATER
TESTS COMPLETED

30

WELLS SAFELY ABANDONED

459

LOCAL BEACH SAMPLES
COLLECTED & ANALYZED

Regulation & Licensing Division

Inspects housing and any facility that provides necessities, such as food and water, to the public. This division also inspects recreational facilities and temporary event spaces.

REGULATION & LICENSING BY THE NUMBERS

492

ACTIVE RESTAURANT & RETAIL LICENSES

NEARLY

900

RESTAURANT & RETAIL FACILITY INSPECTIONS

57

POOL INSPECTIONS COMPLETED

1,548

PROPERTY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING COMPLAINTS AND RE-INSPECTIONS)

3,443

RENTAL PROPERTIES REGISTERED

9,521

RENTAL UNITS REGISTERED

Inspection & Licensing

Enjoy dining in restaurants without having to worry about getting sick? The Health Department has a team of environmental health specialists that inspect and license all facilities in Eau Claire County that sell or serve food to the public, as well as a variety of recreational facilities. This includes everything from restaurants, convenience stores, and vending machines to campgrounds and hotels. They perform these inspections to reduce the risk of foodborne illness and ensure safe and healthy practices are used in public facilities. They also inspect temporary services or special event venues like food trucks and festival grounds to ensure all health and safety standards are met.

Housing

Good health depends on the availability of safe and healthy housing, and the Health Department wants to make sure you have one to live in. Housing inspectors continue to perform housing code inspections and compliance checks for rental and owner-occupied housing. The Health Department implemented a new requirement in 2018 that rental properties be registered as a step towards ensuring that all housing units meet safety standards.

Community Health Assessment (CHA)

Many community partners came together to complete the CHA process this spring. The CHA includes a survey and community conversations where residents shared what they felt are the top health priorities in our community. As part of the process, additional data was pulled to see how our community compares to the state and nation. Together, this data was used to determine the top health priorities in our county.

Eau Claire Healthy Communities, a long-standing coalition, uses CHA data to determine which health priorities they will work towards improving in our county. In 2018, Eau Claire Healthy Communities committed to utilize existing action teams to address the priorities of mental health, chronic disease/obesity, high-risk alcohol use, oral health and healthy relationship promotion. With substance abuse rising as a new health priority in 2018, Eau Claire Healthy Communities formalized their partnership with the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention so they can make bigger strides forward in this area for our community.

2018-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

After health priorities are identified, the community creates a three-year plan (CHIP) that shares how they will make improvements in each health priority area. As part of the CHIP process, Eau Claire Healthy Communities updated their action team goals. Based on what they heard from the community and from health data used in the CHA, action teams identified strategies to improve health outcomes. Many strategies they chose built upon their work started in previous years, others are new and exciting! All this information is located in the new 2018-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan (<https://ehealthycommunities.org/health-action-plan/>).

We're anxious to see the changes that happen in our community from the new 2018-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan. Thank you to all the wonderful community members and partners who participate in Eau Claire Healthy Communities! Stay tuned to their activities by visiting their site, www.ehealthycommunities.org.

TOP HEALTH PRIORITIES IN 2018

MENTAL HEALTH
SUBSTANCE USE
ALCOHOL MISUSE
CHRONIC DISEASE
OBESITY

POLICY & SYSTEMS BY THE NUMBERS

1,876

RESIDENTS COMPLETED
THE CHA SURVEY

78%

SURVEY RESPONDENTS
IDENTIFIED SUBSTANCE
USE AS A PROBLEM

> \$16,000

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER
TIME INVESTMENT

250+

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
IMPROVING THE HEALTH
OF EAU CLAIRE

Staff

We are committed to creating a safe and healthy community for all the citizens of Eau Claire County. We are proud to share some of the progress that our county has made in 2018. Thank you for taking the time to read about the empowering and necessary work that our dedicated staff devote their time to each and every day.



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Full Annual Report and Annual Report Summary available at www.ehealthdepartment.org