



Eau Claire City-County
Health Department

Annual Report Summary

2019



Message from the Health Officer

I am excited to share with you the 2019 Eau Claire City-County Health Department Annual Report Summary to highlight some of the many public health issues we addressed. 2019 was a busy year for the health department as we focused on a broad range of emerging and challenging public health issues. These included:

- Safe and affordable housing for all community members
- Homelessness
- Drug misuse including opioids and vaping
- Safe water
- Chronic Disease
- Communicable Disease

We look forward to working with all of you in the next year as we continue to work on these and other important public health topics. We will continue to strive to meet the needs of all that live, work, learn, vacation, play, and spend time here. The health department recognizes that there are challenges and opportunities in the year ahead and is positioned well to be strategic in addressing these. In 2020, the health department will work to incorporate health in all policies, ignite system change around chronic disease prevention, and will continue to be a leader in the state on water issues. The health department will also continue to address the challenges of homelessness, affordable housing, drug and alcohol misuse, vaping, mental health, and public health emergency preparedness.

As I reflect on this last year I am grateful for our dedicated team here and all our community partners, whose hard work and dedication are critical to moving this work forward. 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 all the work we do here at the Health Department.

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

Meet our Managers

Assistant Director and
Regulation & Licensing (acting)



Marisa Stanley

Environmental Sciences



Matt Steinbach

Community Health Promotion



Denise Wirth

Healthy Beginnings



Elizabeth Draeger

Operations and
Clinical Services (acting)



Tegan Ruland

Communicable Disease



Paulette Magur

Policy & Systems



Cortney Draxler

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.

Members:

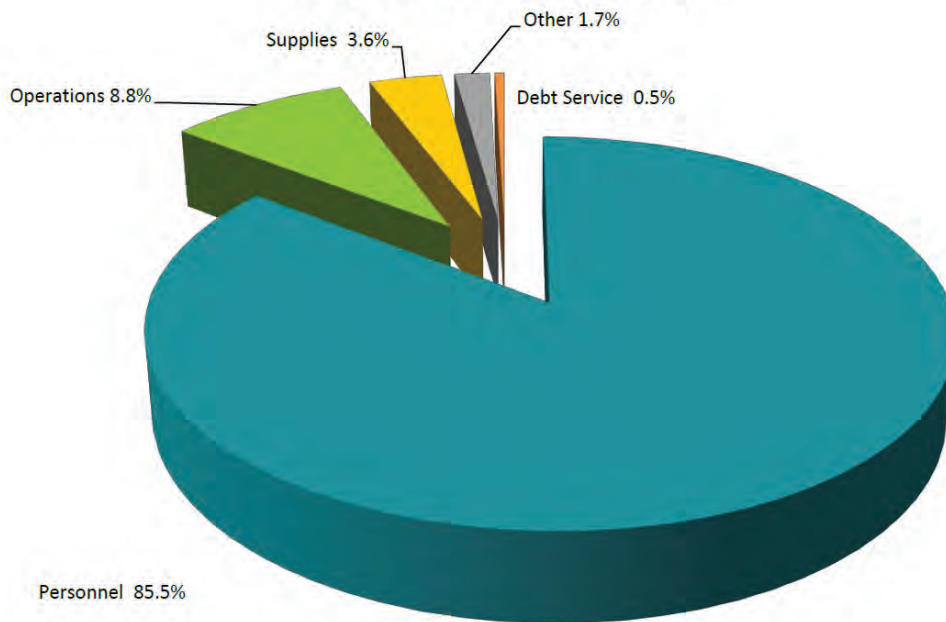
Emily Berge
Donald Bodeau, MD
Jennifer Eddy, MD
Blair T. Johnson, DDS* (Outgoing)
Terry Miskulin, DDS* (Incoming)
Martha Nieman
Merey Price, RN
Elizabeth Spencer
Kari Stroede



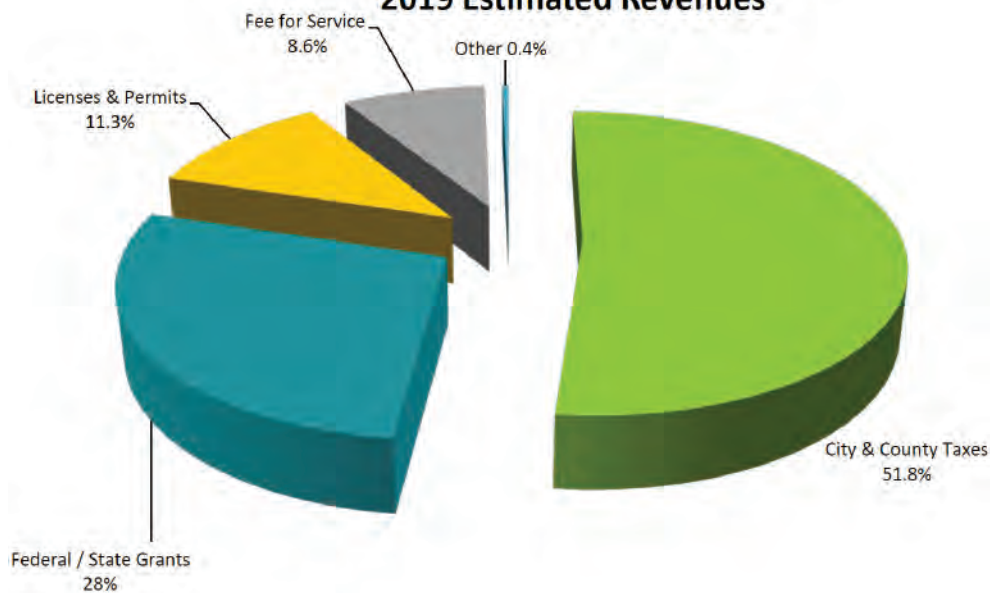
2019 Budget

Here is a general review of the 2019 Eau Calire City-County Health Department budget. We are proud of our remarkable staff and the amazing work they do. In fact, staff represent the largest and one of the most important expenses we have. This staff strives to acquire diverse funding to support the health department's work. This includes the hard work they do to apply for federal and state grants that account for more than a quarter of our annual revenue.

2019 Estimated Expenses






2019 Estimated Revenues



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 public health hazards
-  Provide reliable health information to community partners
-  Evaluate if our programs, policy changes, and environmental changes are making a difference

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

104,534

Eau Claire County Population
(Census)

23%

Eau Claire County Residents
Living in Rural Areas
(Co Health Rankings)

8.2%

Population that is African
American, Asian, American
Indian or Alaskan Native,
or Hispanic (Census)

\$55,700

Median Household Income
(Census)

4.4

Ratio of Household Income
at 80th Percentile to
Income at 20th Percentile
(Co Health Rankings)

13%

Residents Living Below the
Federal Poverty Level
(Census)

17 Communicable disease outbreak
investigations

Learn how we are protecting the public from
the spread of disease on **page 6**

18% of high school students who
used vaping products

Learn how we are increasing awareness about
harmful electronic vapor products on **page 8**

20 Crock Pots given to families in
Nurse-Family Partnership

Learn how we are supporting
new moms on **page 9**

16% 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 and prepares public health emergency response activities.

Protecting You Behind the Scenes

The communicable disease team works behind the scenes to keep you safe. It is committed to preventing exposures to diseases, monitoring outbreaks when they occur, and following up with people that are receiving treatment for a communicable disease. There are so many things that are looked at and all reports are taken seriously. This gives the team the ability to see disease trends early and prevent an outbreak from occurring. Therefore, you may not hear from the staff working in communicable disease but when you do, there may be some important information related to a disease that you should know about.

For example, Health Department staff in the communicable disease division monitor schools in Eau Claire County for patterns of certain diseases. In some cases, these staff work with schools, healthcare systems, and community members to report and monitor symptoms related to Norovirus in order to get ahead of the disease. This allowed the team to inform sick students to stay home, reducing the amount of people that were exposed to the disease. Overall, the public is better protected from exposure and makes it easier to prevent the spread of disease.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BY THE NUMBERS

1183

Reportable communicable disease follow-ups

30%
(33,767 people)

of Eau Claire County vaccinated for the flu

2165

Vaccinations given to infants, children, and adults by the health department

406

Tuberculosis skin tests given by the health department

Clinical Services Division

Provides quality reproductive health services, including testing and treatment of diseases and infections. The division also provides education to raise community awareness of less risky sexual behaviors.

CLINICAL SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

1,129

Patient Visits

765

STI Screenings

469

Cases of Chlamydia in
Eau Claire County

131

Cases of Gonorrhea in
Eau Claire County

4

Cases of Syphilis in
Eau Claire County

Improving Patient Care

The Family Planning Clinic (FPC) team implemented several positive changes improving the services and care we provide to the public. These include:

Electronic Medical Records System (EMR)

After months of planning and training, the new EMR was implemented and increases the function and resources of the clinic. The new EMR allows the clinic team to reduce storage costs, improve communication between nurses and clients, and provides opportunities to expand billing capacity.

Regionalization of Services

The FPC joined with four other Western Wisconsin Counties in 2019 to look at regionalizing some specialized service. Providing these services regionally will create opportunities to better meet the needs our populations, particularly in rural areas and smaller counties. We expect to see a reduction in client time and cost as they will be able to access services on-site that were previously referred out to other providers.

Title X Recipient

The clinic also became a sub-recipient of a Title X grant. This federal funding prioritizes serving people and families with low-incomes. Many of the services offered in the FPC are supported by this funding allowing members of our community to meet reproductive health needs they may or may not otherwise be able to afford.

Understanding Overdose Deaths

In 2019 Eau Claire and Dunn County collaborated to establish an Overdose Fatality Review Team in Eau Claire County. This team was created in response to increasing trends of substance abuse, misuse, and overdoses. A wide array of community partners such as public health, law enforcement, emergency medical services, medical examiners, health care providers, human services, drug treatment providers, behavioral health and schools are participating on the team. The goal of this team is to gain a better understanding of what is happening in our community around overdoses in order to prevent them from happening in the future. Connecting this data and information to better inform our prevention efforts as well as initiate policy or systems changes will be extremely beneficial in decreasing overdose deaths and drug related crimes in our communities.

Vaping Prevention & Education

2019 experienced another increase in electronic cigarette use and other vapor products. Although some people claim e-cigarettes are safe, these products are associated with negative health effects. These effects include addiction, brain damage, and lung disease. Health Department staff and community partners recognized the impact vaping has on youth. County residents were told about vaping's harmful effects and positive changes around access to these harmful products through retailer training, presentations to Student's Against Destructive Decisions groups, and retailer compliance checks.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION BY THE NUMBERS

4,716

Eau Claire County children received hearing or vision screenings

1,256

Individuals trained in Question, Persuade, Refer suicide prevention

213

Adolescents trained through evidenced-based development programs

101

Tobacco and alcohol compliance checks completed

815

Individuals received adverse childhood experience & resiliency training

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS BY THE NUMBERS

88%

of NFP participants
started breastfeeding

200

Clients received
NFP program services

1,520

Home visits to NFP families

245

Women supported by
breastfeeding peer counselor

65%

of WIC children at
a healthy BMI

Celebrating Fit Families

WIC participants involved in the Fit Families program celebrated together at a picnic at a local park in July. On this beautiful afternoon, 60 participants gathered, shared a healthy meal, played some fun games, and won prizes. UW-Stout dietetic students helped with the celebration by providing a fun food demonstration using fresh fruits and vegetables. Fit Families is a program offered to WIC families who have 3 or 4 year old children to improve physical activity, reduce screen time, increase fruits and veggies and decrease sweetened beverage intake. WIC dietitians have monthly contacts with their families for one year to coach them and provide tools to help them accomplish their goals.

Nurse-Family Partnership Program (NFP) Crock Pots

In response to requests made by NFP families to learn more about making healthy meals, we have implemented a Crock Pot Project. This Project teaches life skills around grocery shopping, food safety, meal planning, and basic cooking by providing a crock pot, a recipe book and ingredients for one healthy meal. The nurse guides her client through the making of the recipe during the home visit. The Crock Pot Project has increased our clients confidence around providing healthy meals for their families and has empowered them to use both the crock pot and recipe book for additional meals.

Environmental Sciences Division

Provides programs and services to enhance and protect environment quality. Our division increases awareness of how environmental hazards conditions significantly influence the health and welfare of communities.

Rabies

The Eau Claire City-County Health department works with the Eau Claire Police Department and the Eau Claire Humane Association to maintain public safety during animal bites and exposures. To help prevent rabies exposure and disease, we run an active rabies program along with awareness efforts, clarification on individual situations with rabies exposure, and guidance during a known exposure. When a potential rabies exposure occurs, we verify the situation and follow-up to monitor symptoms, provide guidance, and enforce quarantines. In 2019, multiple animal bites or exposures were reported. These included 85 dog bites, 19 cat bites, and 57 other animal bites or exposures. 51 animals were tested. Of those animals tested, 4 bats tested positive for rabies. It is also crucial to keep cats and dogs current on their rabies vaccine to help protect them and yourself against rabies.

Transient Wells

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department works with the DNR to inspect and sample wells that serve water to the public, also known as transient noncommunity wells (TNC). There are 78 of these facilities in the county (churches, bars, restaurants, etc.) that are classified as 'TNC' based on the number of people served per day throughout the year. In 2019, seven of these facilities had positive coliform bacteria samples. Although coliform bacteria don't usually make people sick, if they are present in drinking water that can tell us that the water may have other harmful germs that can make people sick. This shows how important it is to sample public and private wells regularly for bacteria. If a facility has a positive sample, corrective action is performed to eliminate the bacteria and follow up samples are taken to ensure the water is safe. Four facilities had unsafe nitrate levels that pose a threat to the health of women who are or may become pregnant and infants under 6 months.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES BY THE NUMBERS

161

Animal bite/exposure follow-ups

56

Samples analyzed for West Nile
and Lyme Disease research

124

Permits issued for well installation,
replacement, and reconnection

3,462

Unique drinking water
samples analyzed

41

Wells abandoned

474

Local beach samples
collected & analyzed

Inspection & Licensing

Ever felt ill after eating food or drinking beverages? You may think you got food poisoning from the last thing you ate, except it is most likely from what you consumed hours before then. The Eau Claire City-County Health Department's environmental health specialists inspect places that sell or serve food to the public. They take reports of foodborne illness seriously; however, they also want you to know that symptoms of illness caused by contaminated food begin 10-48 hours after the food is eaten. Want to know more about places you eat and buy food from? The Health Department also posts inspection reports of food-serving facilities located in Eau Claire County. These reports are available online at [Healthspace quicklink] where you have access to current inspections, violations, and corrections.

Housing

The Housing Program has been working with local partners to reduce potentially unsafe and unhealthy housing at the Maples Neighborhood in Eau Claire. We inspect mobile home parks and look at the exterior condition of mobile home park communities. The City of Eau Claire passed a public health-based housing code in 2017 which addresses external and internal housing conditions and is enforced by us. In the Maples Neighborhood, residents want to remain in their homes, but some were living in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. In collaboration with residents and local partners, units have been inspected for health and safety over time to minimize displacement of residents. Empty units are inspected before they are reoccupied and are prioritized based on external conditions. Complaints and emergency situations are investigated when needed. Within two years, the mobile home community went from having 48 occupied units to under 25 occupied units by the end of 2019.

REGULATION & LICENSING BY THE NUMBERS

493

Active restaurant
& retail licenses

850

Restaurant & retail
facility inspections

72

Pool inspection completed

1,751

Property inspections
(including complaints and
re-inspections)

3,888

Rental properties registered

10,963

Rental units
registered

Policy & Systems by the Numbers

250+

Community partners committed to
improve the health of Eau Claire

2,000+

Likes on Facebook

Innovative Diabetes and Chronic Disease Program

ECCCHD is excited to work with a diverse group of community partners on chronic disease prevention to help meet people where they are and help make healthy choices easier for all. A big part of making the healthier choice easier is to talk about the systems in which we live, work, and play.

These systems include our workplaces, hospitals, schools, and many more. Each system has a set of rules or policies that impact our daily lives. Policies and systems are important and mostly made to be helpful for the safety of our community but can sometimes make healthy choices harder for individuals with different health needs.

By working together with these systems, we can make big community impacts through small system changes that better meet the needs of our community. ECCCHD is working to make system changes that address key health issues, such as prediabetes, diabetes, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

At a time when 1 in 3 people have prediabetes, which is a serious health condition that places people at a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes, ECCCHD is bringing local community partners and systems together to increase access to and awareness of evidence-based programs, like the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP). The National DPP supports participants in making lasting lifestyle changes that can reduce people's risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58%.

To make this program successful and see long lasting changes, we'll need continued support from all our community partners. As our community changes, so do our health needs. As we move forward, we are committed to making new community partnerships that allow everyone's voice to be heard to meet these changing needs.

Together, with a growing group of local and state community partners, the ECCCHD is working to make system changes that have helpful, lasting, and powerful impacts on the health and wellbeing of our community. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with our community's many systems to make healthy choices easier for all.

From the People Who Make it Happen

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 2019. 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