

Forest County Health Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Forest County, WI Health Department
Public Health
prevent. promote. protect.



**Forest County –
Healthy People in Healthy Communities**

Mission: *To protect and promote health and prevent disease and injury by providing services essential for a healthy community.*

Values:

- Respect
- Accountability
- Excellence
- Empowerment
- Flexibility
- Collaboration

Board of Health Members

- Melinda Otto
- Larry Berg
- Kellee Gallion
- Candy Dailey
- Amy Kuebler

Dr. Susan Moore, Medical Advisor
Dr. Rebecca Perry (January-June)



Dr. Rebecca Perry was presented with a plaque to recognize her for her 23 years of service on the Forest County Board of Health as Medical Advisor.

Staff



Jill Krueger BSN, RN
Director/Health Officer



Jacee Anderson BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse



Holli Denton BSN, RN
Public Health Nurse (October)



Julie Weber
Public Health Assistant



Chris Slagowski
Public Health Clerk

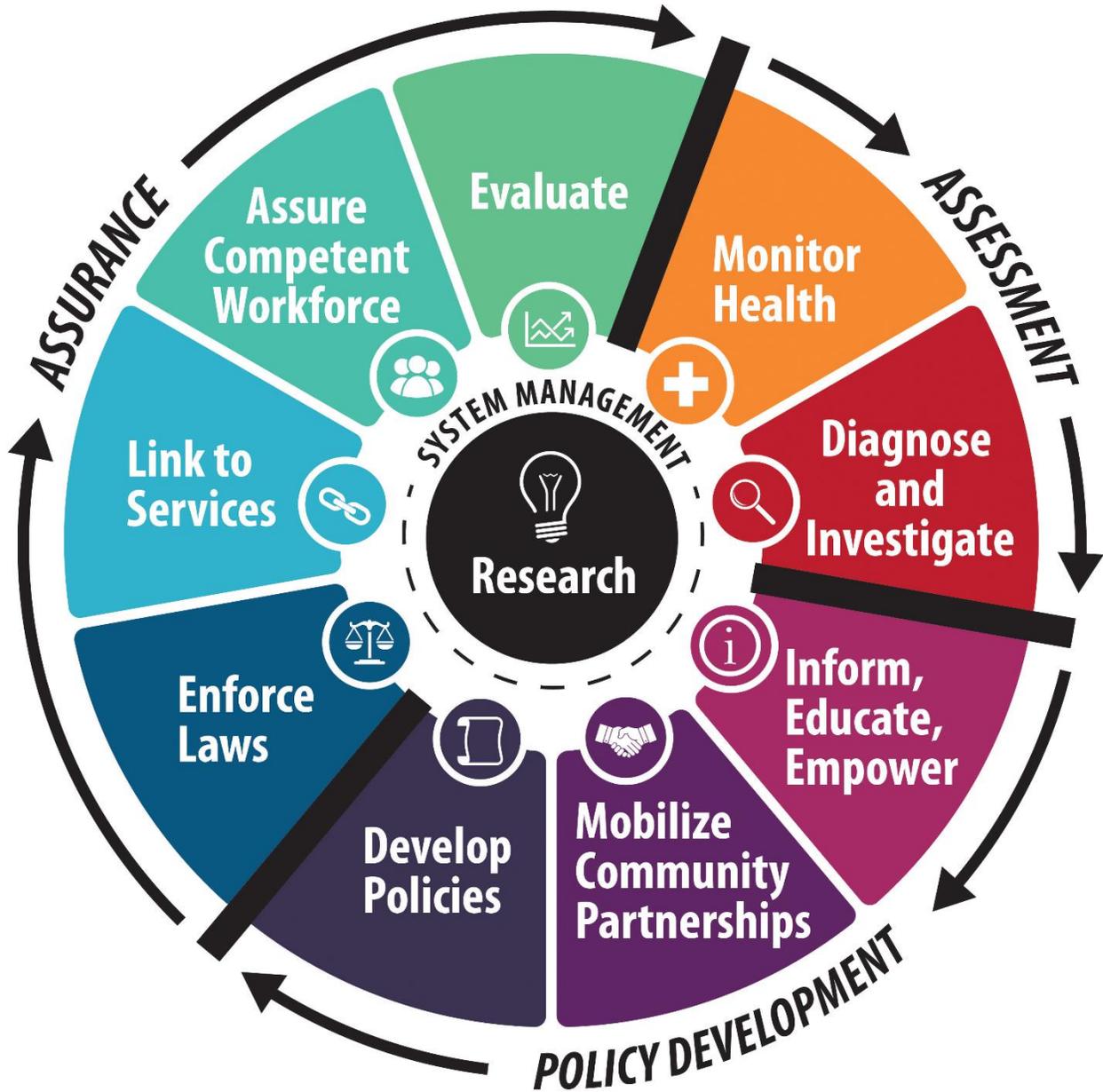


Brenda Husing
Registered Dietitian (part time)



Andrea Johnson
Peer Breastfeeding (part time)

Not pictured:
Samantha Hoffman, Staff
Nurse (January-May)



These 10 Essential Public Health Services identify the actions necessary to provide the protection and improvement of public health. This image shows how the 10 essential public health services align with the 3 Core Functions of public health, which are assessment, policy development, and assurance.

Community Health Improvement

Local health departments are required by law to develop a health improvement plan based on a community needs assessment every 5 years. Forest County Health Department is collaborating with Oneida and Vilas Counties and Ascension/Ministry Health on a 2016-2020 plan that is available on our website at www.forestcountypublichealth.org

Priority Areas:
Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Mental Health
Chronic Disease



Top Causes of Death in 2017

- #1 Heart Disease
- #2 Cancer
- #3 Respiratory Disease
- #4 Accidents

Top Reasons for Hospitalizations in 2017

- #1 Injury
- #2 Alcohol
- #3 Drugs
- #4 Mental Health

Youth Risk Behavior Survey is done in all of our schools and shows a high number of our students thinking about suicide.

What We Are Doing

Working with the Community Coalition of Forest County and other partners to coordinate prescription drug and safe sharps disposal events. Coordinating a Partnership for Success grant to increase awareness through educational materials and events, train law enforcement, and form a Drug Endangered Children committee to respond to the need for services for our families who are struggling with addiction.



Working with Forest County Partnership to provide leadership training at all three schools, Brighter Futures Conference for all 11th graders, and Red Ribbon Week activities.



Working with Tri-County COPE to improve on access to substance abuse and mental health treatment. Staff is trained in QPR – Question, Persuade, Refer which is a program to train community members on how to respond to suicidal thoughts.

Working with Forest County CAN Coalition to increase opportunities for physical activity and increase access to healthier foods.



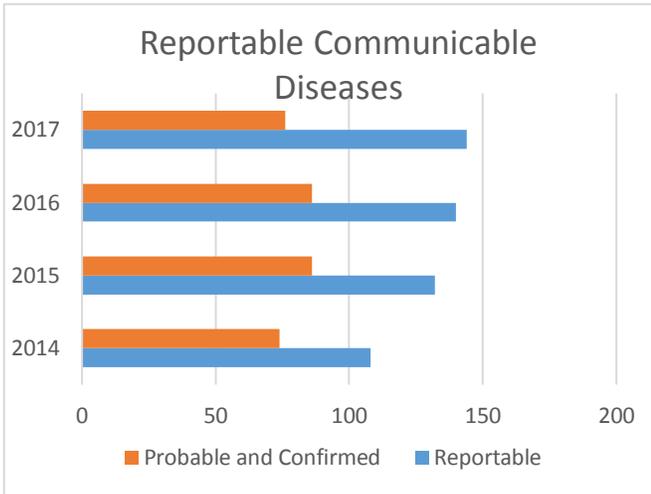
2017 Successes:

- 75 people participated in a No added salt challenge
- 35 people completed a 100 mile walking challenge.
- There were 77 people in Strong Bodies Exercise
- 15 people participated in Walk with Ease

The health department managed two community gardens that provided fresh produce for local pantries and senior meal sites and helped manage a weekly farmer market on the courthouse grounds.



Communicable Diseases



Reportable Diseases include all illnesses consistent with a disease whether or not it is lab confirmed. We investigated 144 diseases. Probable Diseases are those illnesses that meet the clinical case definition and is not laboratory confirmed. Confirmed Diseases are illnesses that meet the case definition and are confirmed by laboratory testing.

Northwood's Syndromic Surveillance Forest County Health Department is a member of this group of Northern Wisconsin health care providers who work to ensure that agencies are kept up to date with timely information and guidelines on communicable disease events.

The health department investigates animal bites as part of our Rabies Prevention Program. In 2017 we investigated 21 animal bites, 4 animals were sent to the state lab for rabies testing with none of them testing positive.



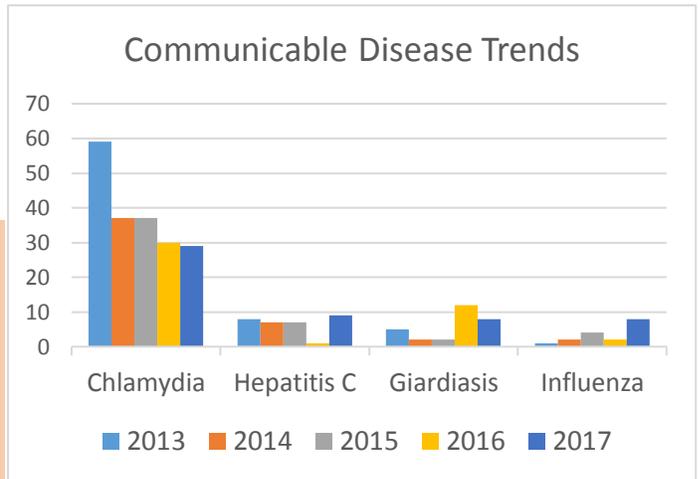
By law specific diseases must be reported to local health departments. Staff receive these reports through an electronic reporting system called Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) and investigate in order to stop the spread.

Wis. Stat. 252.05

Any health care provider who knows or has reason to believe a person treated or visited by him or her has a communicable disease is required to report per Administrative Rule DHS 145.04 (1), this includes reporting of a case or suspected case.

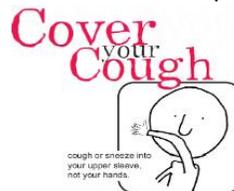
Most common diseases:

- Chlamydia 29 confirmed
- Hepatitis C 9 confirmed
- Giardiasis 8 confirmed
- Influenza (Hospitalizations) 8 confirmed



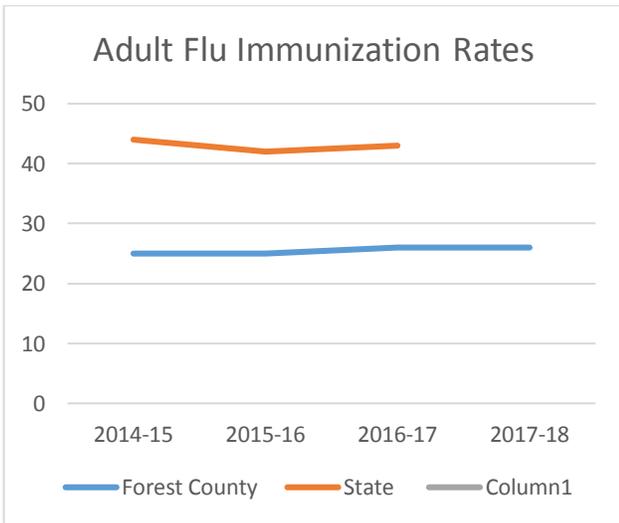
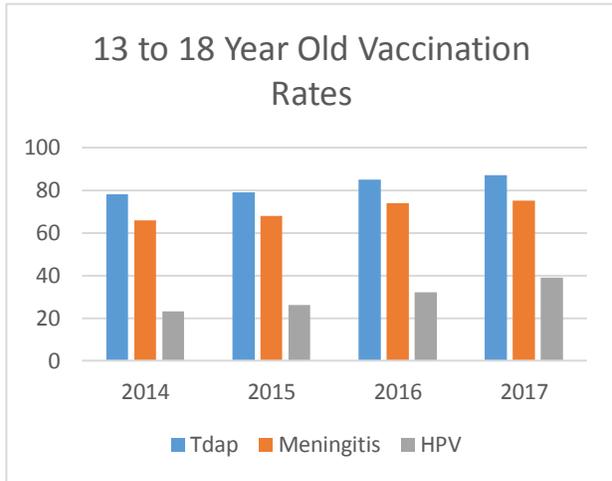
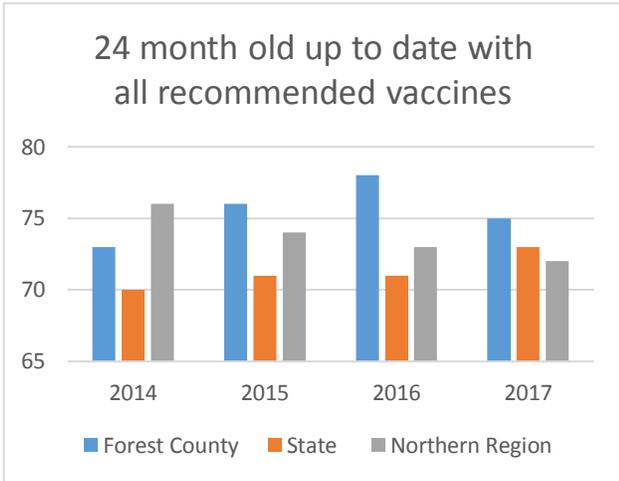
The health department provides Tuberculosis skin tests to screen health care workers and students before they enter the workforce to make sure they do not spread disease.

We provided 27 skin tests.



Immunizations

Forest County Health Department works to improve Immunization coverage through the lifespan by offering vaccines and educating individuals, families and community members on the importance of vaccine preventable diseases.



Schools and Day Care Providers are required by law (Wis. Stat. 252.04) to report child immunization status to the Health Department. We work with the schools and daycares to ensure the reporting forms are completed timely.

The Health Department has taken part in a school mass vaccination clinic to offer students flu vaccine free of charge while testing our capability to provide mass clinic vaccines off-site.



In 2016 we administered 133 doses of influenza vaccine and in 2017 we administered 171 for an increase of 29%.

461 vaccinations were given by the health department in 2017. 87 were given FREE to children under the Vaccine for Children Program. 435 were administered to adults and of those, 415 were flu shots.

The Health Department is part of the Northwood's Immunization Coalition which focuses on improving vaccination rates, increasing access to care, vaccine education, and being prepared for mass vaccination. In 2017 we focused on increasing our adolescent and adult rates through a special grant.

Emergency Preparedness

The department receives grant funding through the Department of Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to support public health preparedness activities. Each year we focus on two of the CDC Public Health Emergency Capabilities. In 2017 the target capabilities were Community Preparedness and Community Recovery.



Our Local Partners:

Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Hospitals and Clinics, Tribal Agencies, Fire Departments, Law Enforcement, American Red Cross, Schools and Volunteer groups. We work to make sure local plans are in place and reviewed on a regular basis and participate in the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). We are also working to improve communication with our partners and the public when an emergency happens. We continue to work on our plans for mass vaccination of the public if the need arises and participate in annual trainings to improve our skills.



Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalitions (HERC)



Our Regional Partners:

We are part of a Health Care Coalition that includes Region 2 local public health, hospitals, clinics and tribes. In 2017 we reviewed the regional Hazard Vulnerability Assessment with the top hazards identified as **Disease Outbreaks, Weather Related Emergencies and Power Outages, Cyber-attacks**. Each year we work with the coalition to complete a table-top exercise to improve our planning and test our capabilities. We also meet with our bordering counties in Michigan on a regular basis to prepare and plan.

Mutual Aid:

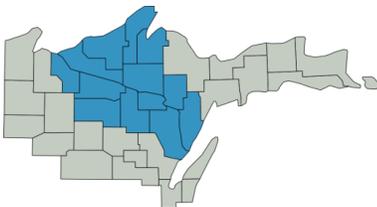
The health department has several mutual aid agreements in place to assist us when needed.

Northern Regional Local Public Health Departments

Wisconsin Disaster Medical Reserve Corps

Wisconsin/Michigan Border County

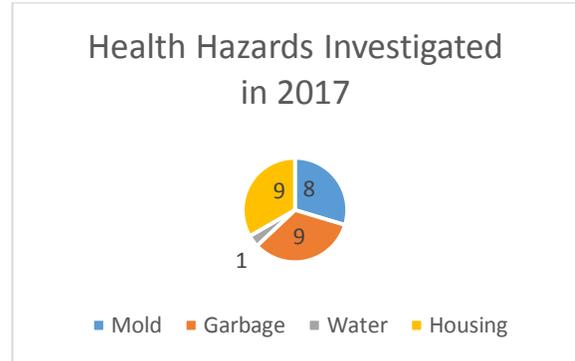
We also have MOUs in place with local agencies to assist with response and recovery.



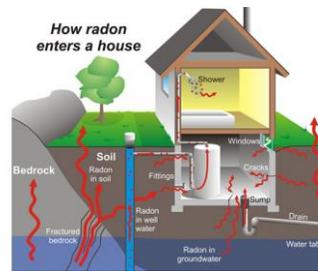
Environmental Programs

Health Hazards

A wide variety of Human Health Hazards from water, air, housing, garbage and a variety of other issues are investigated through a process that typically starts as a complaint. If property owners do not comply with removal of the hazard, a citation may be issued.



Radon: 23 radon tests were sold to Forest County residents. 8 of the results were above the recommended level and required either re-testing or remediation.



Lead: 108 children were screened for lead in Forest County and none were found to have lead poisoning. Parents are given educational information on the environmental risk factors and the symptoms of increased lead in the blood.

Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health.

- Damage to the brain and nervous system
- Slowed growth and development
- Learning and behavior problems
- Hearing and speech problems

Water Testing: The health department offers free water test kits to Forest County residents who have well water with pregnant women or small children in the home. We assist families with information and referrals to other agencies if water is found to be unsafe. In 2017 we had 7 wells tested and 1 was found to be unsafe and was corrected. Transient non-community water supplies are tested and inspected by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ensuring safe and dependable water to the public.



Licensing and Inspections: Our department relies on the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to inspect Forest County food operations, lodging establishments, restaurants, pools and campgrounds. Inspection reports can be found at <http://healthspace.com/Clients/WI/State/web.nsf/home.xsp>



Maternal Child Health Programs

Oral Health:

The Forest County Health Department provides fluoride supplements to children 6 months to 16 years old with non-fluoridated water supply. In 2017, we provided supplements to 17 children. We also partner with our school districts to provide fluoride mouth-rinse at our schools for students in grades one through five. 406 students received weekly fluoride mouth-rinse in 2017.



Northwood's Dental Project:

We partner with the project to provide FREE fluoride varnish to children 6 months to 5 years and FREE dental sealants to all 2nd and 6th graders at all of our schools by a mobile dental clinic. The program includes oral health education, oral health exams and referrals for dental care. During the 2017-18 school year, there are 5 schools participating. There were 181 children who received varnishes and 38 referrals for decay. There were 102 students who received 540 sealants with 21 students referred for decay. This program is offered FREE due to a Wisconsin Seal A Smile Grant.



Child Passenger Safety:

The Health Department has a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and we are able to provide education and assistance to parents on how to choose the correct seat and check that it is installed safely. We are able to give away a limited number of car seats to low income families due to a grant from the Department of Transportation. In 2017, 51 parents received free car seats and education from the health department. All parents increased their knowledge of how to correctly install a seat.



Programs



Child Death Review:

Forest County Health Department is the lead agency for a community wide child death review team. Members come together to review child death information and collaborate on ways to prevent injury. One of the main projects in 2017 was establishing Life Jacket stations for boating safety at 2 of our public boat landings.

First Breath:

First Breath is a smoking cessation program for pregnant woman. The program offers nonjudgmental support and counseling and incentives. In 2017, 5 woman enrolled in the program and all were able to cut down or quit smoking while pregnant. In Forest County, 42% of women who gave birth in 2017 smoked during pregnancy. The health department is working with other providers in our community to provide the First Breath Cessation program.

FIRST BREATH

Prenatal Care Coordination:

High risk pregnant women who are on Medicaid can enroll in our PNCC program to receive education and case management with a goal of having a healthy baby. In 2017, 6 women were enrolled, 5 of them had a normal birthweight, term baby. 1 experienced a pregnancy loss.



There were
106 Births in
Forest
County in
2017

School Health:

Health department nurses provide consultation to school districts and Head Starts related to school illness and communicable disease, school wellness policy, emergency services, and more. We provide education on a wide variety of topics at the schools request, participate in wellness events, and offer wellness challenges and taste testing. Medication administration review is provided to Wabeno School District.



The **Forest County WIC program** helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants and children up to age 5 who are at a health risk due to nutrition.

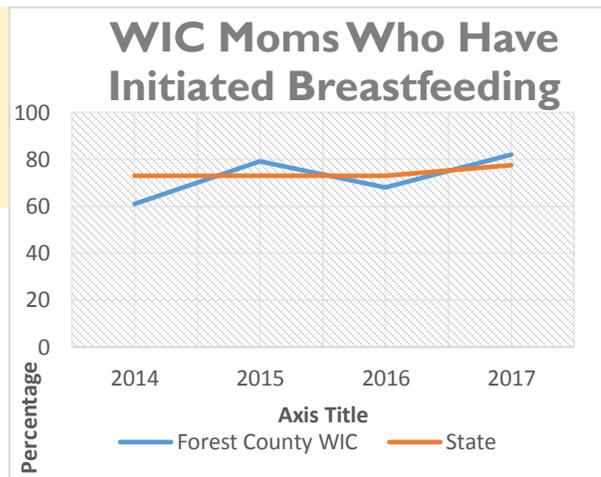


Participants receive nutrition counseling, education, learn about other services and receive WIC approved foods. We average **165 clients** per month. In 2017 an **eWIC debit card** system was implemented and clients can now use an app to check balances and search for WIC approved foods.

\$117,440 of WIC approved food was redeemed at our three WIC approved grocery stores in Forest County. \$714 of farmer market coupons were redeemed at WIC approved farm stands.

WIC Peer Breastfeeding Counselor assist our WIC mothers with education and resources needed to be successful at breastfeeding. Our rates are now above the state average.

Northwood's Breastfeeding Coalition is working to promote breastfeeding as the natural nourishment for infants and working to improve rates.



Fit Families: Fit Families is an evidenced based behavior change program for families with 2-4 year old children who are at risk for overweight. The year-long program works with families to set goals and helps them achieve success. It has been found to increase fruit and vegetable consumption, reduce sugary beverages, reduce screen time and increase physical activity.



Eat healthy • Be active • Your kids are watching

- 12 families completed the program in 2017
- 100% participants stated they feel they will be able to maintain healthy changes that were made.
- 83% participants met their goal to decrease juice per day
- 100% participants met their goal to consume no more than 1 sweet beverage per week
- 83% met their goal to be physically active for 60 minutes per day.
- 50% ate at least 4 servings of fruits and vegetables per day

Other

Lifeline Services: The health department coordinates a county wide Life Line Program with Langlade Aspirus Hospital. We currently have 54 people on the program.



Nail Care Services: We provide toenail clipping for elderly or disabled residents who do not have other means of getting the service. We currently have 25 people on the program.

Blood Pressure Screenings: We provide blood pressure screenings in the community at meal sites, community events, worksites or at the office.

Health Education: The health department provides educational sessions on a variety of health topics throughout the community. We participated in over 25 sessions reaching thousands of individuals. We submitted over 100 different public awareness articles either in newspapers, social media or newsletters. We also send a postpartum newsletter and educational information to all new mothers in Forest County. Our website www.forestcountypublichealth.org provides information on our programs and services and community events and resources. You can also find us on Facebook where we post and share health information and events.

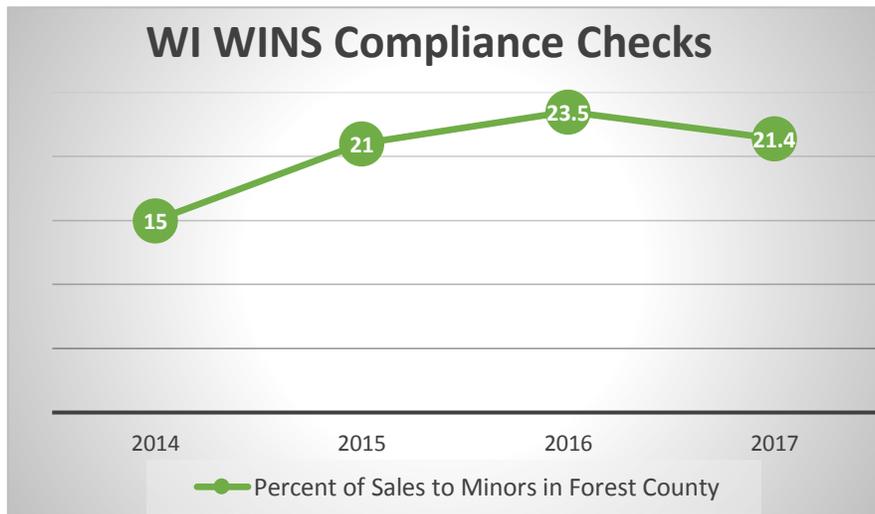
Popular topics on social media in 2017:

County Health Rankings- Bird Test Positive for West Nile Virus---100 mile challenge--farmer market----life jacket stations----healthy food drive---drug take back---



Tobacco Prevention: WI WINS Program is designed to monitor the sales of tobacco to minors at our tobacco retailers. Education and information is offered to businesses each year.

Northwood's Tobacco Free Coalition is a seven county coalition working to address tobacco related health concerns in our communities. A few of the focus areas include: Outreach to local & state leaders Addressing the dangers of other tobacco products like E-cigarettes WI WINS Compliance Checks



Workforce Development: In order to provide the highest quality public health service, the Forest County Health Department strives to ensure that staff possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform their jobs effectively and efficiently. Each year staff complete the Public Health Core Competencies to determine training needs and also attend trainings and conferences to keep abreast of emerging public health issues.

Professional Memberships:

NACCHO National Association of County and City Health Officials



Wisconsin WIC Association (Women, Infants and Children)

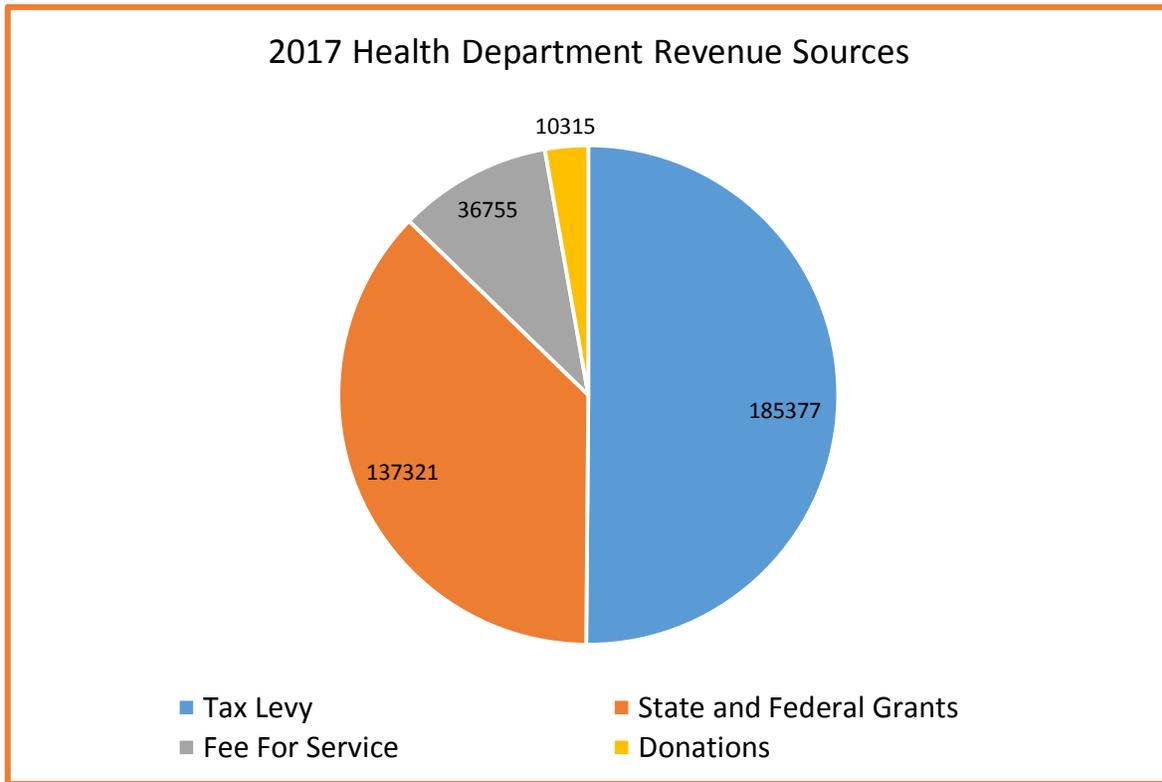


WPHA Wisconsin Public Health Association

WALDHAB Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments & Boards



Performance Management: Each year we establish benchmarks for specific programs and monitor the progress towards meeting the targets throughout the year. Staff collectively chooses a Quality Improvement project each year. In 2017, our project was to increase rates of adult flu vaccinations. We were able to increase the rate from 25 to 26%.



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