

Community Health Improvement Processes and Plans

Objective: By 2010, 100% of local health departments will have implemented and evaluated a community health improvement plan that is linked to the State Health Plan.

Selected Accomplishments and DHFS Activities

- Disseminated the 2004 Mapping Project that shows the distribution of community health priorities (the 11 health priorities and the 5 infrastructure priorities) throughout Wisconsin. This is in response to the statutory mandate that every local health department assess current needs of the community, develop policies and plans to address these needs, and assure that the needs are met.
- Developed an inventory to identify every program delivered at the local level by health departments using the framework of the state health plan (e.g., Well Woman Program services are linked to at least four different health priorities).
- Provided local data online to measure the health conditions that are linked to the health priorities. This work is designed to recognize the programs delivered at the local level by health departments and their community partners and ultimately improve the health status of local communities.
- Gathered information on the quality of all local health department community health improvement plans as part of the five-year certification program carried out by DHFS.
- Planned statewide implementation of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program in Wisconsin local health departments, linked to public health preparedness.
- Worked with the Wisconsin Public Health Association to update the state's public health statutes.
- Analyzed local community health improvement plans to identify the degree to which community health needs are being addressed and gaps are narrowing.
- Submitted an implementation grant proposal to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health to develop evidence-based practices for the health priorities of the state health plan specifically targeted to ethnic and racial minorities in Wisconsin.

New and Emerging Issues

- Current state law requires local health departments to conduct regular needs assessments. The majority of, but not all, local health departments have developed community health improvement plans with their communities to act upon current and emerging needs and threats to health.