



## AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

# INCLUDING LEAD POISONING TESTING PROMPTS IN ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS

Walworth County, Wisconsin

### THE PROBLEM

As a grantee of the [Taking Action with Data grant program](#), Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services (WCDHHS) staff were able to study Medicaid provider lead poisoning testing rates in their county. They found many clinics were not testing children according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations.

### WHAT WALWORTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DID

Health department staff met with the clinic director at Mercyhealth—a vertically integrated, not-for-profit, multi-regional health system that sees 2.1 million patients each year—to discuss lead poisoning testing procedures. After determining there was a discrepancy between the clinic’s procedures and current recommendations, health department staff worked with Mercyhealth to revise their electronic medical record prompts to reflect CDC childhood lead poisoning testing recommendations. The record now reminds providers when a child should be tested and how often the child should be retested.

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

With the electronic medical record prompts now in place, Mercyhealth procedures match the recommendations of the CDC, the state health department, and WCDHHS. The prompts will ensure children at risk for lead poisoning get the testing they need.



We continue to look for opportunities to provide exceptional care to our patients. Utilizing our electronic medical record to help identify clinically appropriate testing is just another way we ensure our patients receive the care they deserve. Partnering with WCDHHS allows us to provide a consistent message to our patients and keeps our community healthy.

SHAWN DAVENPORT  
Mercyhealth Clinic Director

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