



AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

EDUCATING OUTDOOR WORKERS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SKIN CANCER PREVENTION AND DETECTION

Door County, Wisconsin

THE PROBLEM

Door County is almost entirely surrounded by Lake Michigan, which makes it a popular destination for outdoor activities like swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and boating. Perhaps due in part to this outdoor culture, Door County's annual melanoma rate (41 per 100,000 people) is nearly double the Wisconsin average (22 per 100,000 people). It's the highest rate in the state and has steadily gone up since 1995.

WHAT DOOR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DID

One strategy health department staff used to address this problem was training highway department staff and seasonal park workers. Staff developed an evidence-based curriculum for the training and worked with the highway commissioner to schedule the trainings. As a result of the trainings, the highway department started offering free sunscreen to all employees.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

In total, 66 highway department and seasonal park staff were trained in skin cancer prevention and detection and proper sunscreen application. By offering free sunscreen to employees, the highway and park departments sent a message about the importance of skin cancer prevention and made it easy for staff to protect themselves.

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTY'S
MELANOMA DATA:

dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht

WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht | DECEMBER 2017 | dhstracking@wi.gov
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