



May 2018 | A quarterly newsletter from Public Health Madison & Dane County

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PHMDC Works to Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning is an important public health concern and keeping children safe from lead poisoning has been a part of PHMDC's work for a long time. Lead poisoning is caused by swallowing or breathing lead. High lead levels can cause damage to the brain and nervous system, delayed growth and development, learning and behavior problems and hearing and speech problems.

Most children in Dane County get lead poisoning from paint dust or chips found in homes built before 1978. Lead in drinking water is another source of exposure. A blood lead test is the only way to know if a child has lead poisoning.



Reported childhood blood lead levels have gradually decreased over the past decade; but even one case of a child being poisoned is one case too many. In 2017, 5,579 children were tested and 73 (1.3%) had blood lead levels of 5ug/dL or higher, indicating lead exposure.

We play a key role in preventing lead exposure, identifying and treating lead poisoning,

and advocating to address the problem. When a child is identified with lead poisoning, there is a coordinated response from our Environmental Health Sanitarians and Public Health Nurses:

- Our Public Health Nurses work closely with the family and their health care provider to assess the development of the child and assure the child is receiving appropriate medical care. In 2017, 81 children received case management services due to elevated blood lead levels.
- Our Sanitarians investigate the home for sources of lead poisoning and provide guidance and support in minimizing exposure and remediating the lead. They also respond to complaints about lead hazards in the community. In 2017, 42 housing units or childcare sites were inspected and provided consultation for lead risks.

As a preventive measure, our Environmental Health Epidemiologist tracks the incidence of lead poisoning in the community and identifies areas of the county that have higher concentrations of older homes with children. In 2017, we offered free home visits to 348 families in pre-1978 homes with children under age 6, to provide information on possible lead hazards in the home, as well as strategies that can be used to prevent lead exposure.

Another measure we have taken to reduce the likelihood of lead poisoning in children is to provide recommendations for school districts and child care facilities about the need to test water, and take action to reduce the amount of lead in their water.

Regardless of age, there is no safe level of lead. The good news is that lead poisoning is preventable and we will continue our efforts to prevent lead poisoning for the health of our children and community.

Learn more: [Lead Poisoning](#)

Paula Tran Inzeo Joins Our Board Of Health

We are pleased to introduce Paula Tran Inzeo as our newest Board of Health member. Paula is the Director for the Mobilizing Action Towards Community Health (MATCH) Group with the UW-Population Health Institute. She received her BS and MPH from UW-Madison and is currently a doctoral candidate in the Civil Society and Community Research PhD program in the UW School of Human Ecology. As a public health professional, she is a leader and a champion in the area of health equity. Her other areas of research and practice focus on collective community action, power building, and health in all policies. We're excited to have Paula join our Board as an advocate for policies, systems and programs that support health for Dane County residents.



Alliance Created to Improve Sexual & Reproductive Health

The first community-wide meeting of the

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Alliance of Dane County was held in March. Fifty participants from diverse organizations from all over Dane County attended with the goal of coming together to promote equity and improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes in Dane County. The recommendation for the formation of the Alliance came from community members that we consulted with while putting together our 2016 [Sexual and Reproductive Health Issue Brief](#).



A Steering Committee began meeting in December 2016. The Steering Committee reviewed data and drafted [vision, mission, values, work agreements](#) and outlined [focus areas](#) which were to:

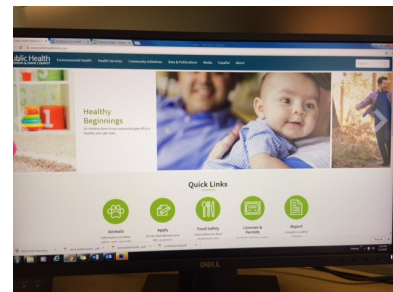
- Improve access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education for all in Dane County.
- Improve access and referral to high quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services in Dane County and ensure that sexual and reproductive health is incorporated into all levels of health care for everyone throughout their life.

The meeting on March 5 introduced the broader community to the work drafted by the Steering Committee and asked for participants to join the Alliance to begin moving the work forward. Participants had a chance to review data, provide input on the draft documents, and discuss their areas of expertise. The feedback from the March 5 meeting was very positive and many participants are ready to start taking action. To date, 45 individuals or organizations have signed up to become members or supporters of the Alliance.

If you would like to learn more about the Alliance or become involved, please email Jami Crespo at srhdanecounty@gmail.com or call her at 608-243-0326.

Check Out Our New Website!

We have a launched a new website with a fresh new look—it offers improved navigation, scannable content, and is mobile-friendly, so it is easy to view on mobile phones and tablets. It is designed to provide you with up-to-date information related to public health issues, initiatives, programs and services. Most of the site is translated into Spanish.



One of the new features of our redesigned website is a blog. It will tell the story of the breadth of the initiatives and services we provide, give examples of our work with partners and the community, and provide our own perspective on national, state, and local news and how it affects public health and our work. You are able to [sign up for the blog](#) and get it delivered to your email.

Another feature on the site is a quick links function, which will get you to some of the most requested information faster.

You will find information on the more visible things we do like giving immunizations, inspecting restaurants, screening for sexually transmitted infections and monitoring our beaches. Along with this, our new website provides a look at the less visible aspects of our work, like working with partners to support community initiatives that focus on health equity and addressing the root causes of poor health outcomes. We hope people will check out our new website to get a glimpse at the wide range of things we do and how we work towards our vision of *Healthy people. Healthy places.*

Check out www.publichealthmdc.com

New Video: Overdose Prevention-We Can All Save A Life

The opioid epidemic in Dane County is growing with the number of deaths and hospitalizations from overdoses continuing to increase. In an effort to slow this growing trend, PHMDC has produced a short educational video showing how to provide help in an overdose situation, and potentially save a life. The video is for anyone who may come in contact someone who is overdosing, including family and friends of those who are at risk for an overdose, as well as those who may be in a public location and see someone who is overdosing. Anyone can come in contact with an overdose victim.



The video outlines the risk factors for an opioid overdose, how to recognize when someone is experiencing an overdose, and what to do if you find someone who has overdosed. Key steps to help are:

- to first call 911, and then,
- administer Narcan (naloxone), a lifesaving medication that reverses an overdose.

Expanding the use of Narcan is a key part of the public health response to the opioid crisis. The US Surgeon General recently recommended more individuals, including family, friends, and those who use opioids, keep the drug on hand. Pharmacists in Wisconsin are able to provide Narcan (or the generic version, naloxone) without a prescription to individuals at risk of an opioid overdose, as well as their family and friends and anyone who may witness an overdose. In addition, individuals can obtain Narcan by contacting the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's Lifepoint program at 608-252-6540 or 800-486-6276.

Collaborators on the video are Dane County Emergency Medical Services, Madison Police Department, Madison Fire Department, City of Madison IT Media Team, and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

View the video below.



News of Note

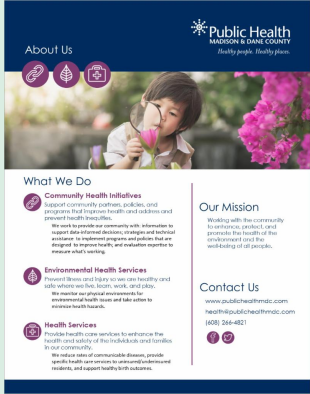


New Partnership for Black Infant Health

As a member of the Dane County Health Council, we are proud to be a partner with the Foundation for Black Women’s Wellness in a new collaborative community engagement campaign that seeks to address and identify solutions to lower the incidence of low-birth weight babies born to Black mothers in Dane County.

Babies born to Black mothers in Dane County are 2 times more likely to be born with low birth weight, which puts them at increased risk for significant health challenges, and dying within the first year of life.

Learn more: [Community Collaboration to Reduce the Rate of Low Birthweight in Black Babies](#)



About Us

Check out our new document that provides updated information on what we do to achieve our mission of working with the community to enhance, protect, and promote the health of the environment and the well-being of all people.

It provides an overview of our services and programs, from our more traditional ones like providing immunizations, testing drinking water, and inspecting restaurants, to how we support community initiatives to improve well-being, particularly among groups most affected by negative health outcomes.



Public Health

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