

Rock County Health Department



2014 Annual Report

Executive Summary

What does your Rock County Do for you?

The Rock County Health Department serves the cities of: Beloit, Clinton, Edgerton, Evansville, Footville, Janesville, Milton, Orfordville, and Rural Townships of Rock County.

In this report, you will a summary of the array of services provided by the Rock County Health Department to enhance the health and well-being of Rock County citizens.

Rock County Board of Health Members

Sandra Kraft , Chair, County Supervisor

Louis Peer, Vice Chair, County Supervisor

Richard Bostwick, County Supervisor

Greg Addie, County Supervisor

Eric Gresens, RPH.

Dr. Keith Konkol, MD

Dr. Dean Peterson, DVM

Judith Wade, WHNP

Dr. Connie Winter, DDS

County Administrator:

Josh Smith

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The Rock County Board of Health is responsible for providing leadership in planning and policy development to uphold the 10 essential services of public health:

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community
2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards
3. Give people information they need to make healthy choices
4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop public health policies and plans
6. Enforce public health laws and regulations
7. Help people receive health services
8. Maintain a competent public health workforce
9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions
10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health



Health Department Staff

Health Officer

Karen Cain, RN, MS

Management Team

Timothy Banwell, RS, MPH	Environmental Health Director
Janet Zoellner, RN, MS	Public Health Nursing Director
Deborah Erickson, RN, BSN	Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Sancee Siebold, RN, MSN	Public Health Nursing Supervisor

Administrative Support Staff

Terri Graham	Public Health Support Specialist
Elizabeth LaBelle, BS	Administrative Secretary
Annette Little, BS	Public Health Support Specialist
Carol McComb	Public Health Support Specialist
Erica Stilen	Public Health Support Specialist
Geri Waugh	Account Clerk II

Environmental Health Division

Janis Baumann, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Adam Elmer, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Roger Eychaner, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Jeff Moore, BS	Environmental Health Technician
Jackie Phillips, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Emilie Sadlowski, BA	Environmental Health Technician
Mark Seymour, RS, MS	Registered Sanitarian
Matthew Wesson, RS, BS	Registered Sanitarian
Rick Wietersen, RS, MS	Registered Sanitarian

Health Education Division

Alison Chouinard, BS	Health Educator
Jenna Lovaas, MPH	Health Educator
Katie Schroeder, BS, CHES	Health Educator

Public Health Nursing Division

Joanna Ames, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Olga Myers, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Sandy Biviano, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Jennifer Stenger, RN, BSN, CHES	Public Health Nurse
Valerie Christiansen, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Amy Stricker, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Ginny Fricke, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Casey Stubbs, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Carissa Hodges, RN, BSN, BA	Public Health Nurse	Jennifer Weadge, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Erica Jenson, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Anne Weirich, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Ann Klesic, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Jessica Weimert, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Jill Lampo, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse	Risa Weisensel, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
		Amy Williams, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse

Message from the Director

It is with great pleasure I present the annual report of Rock County Health Department services. The annual report provides Rock County citizens with a look at what has been accomplished by their health department staff.

The health department staff can be found providing services in many locations: homes, clinics, schools, restaurants, public lodging facilities, health fairs, wells, new building sites, mobile home parks, and campgrounds and beaches, all with the intent of improving or protecting the health of Rock County citizens. A dedicated support staff stays in the office to ensure walk in customers are served, phones are answered and requests from the staff are completed efficiently. It is very much a team effort to serve Rock County citizens.

As always, we are grateful to the Rock County Board of Supervisors, the Rock County Board of Health, and the County Administration for providing us with the ways and means to getting our work done. Without their support, Rock County citizens would not have access to the quality public health services currently available.

As with any change, there was an uncertainty in 2014 about how working with a new county administrator (Josh Smith) would go. I have found it a great pleasure to work with him. He has been open to listening and learning more about the services provided by the health department. His interest and support of Public Health services made my decision to retire a much more difficult decision.

As I step away from a great career, I believe the health department is in good hands; the managers with whom I have worked are a capable and dedicated group. Still I will miss the interactions with them and the staff. And I will miss working with the Board of Health with whom I have had monthly contact for over 9 years. There is not a better group of people to guide the department and support the staff in the many ways they have. Citizens and staff alike, are fortunate.

I am appreciative of all the people who have served on the Board of Supervisors and Board of Health during my years as a Rock County employee, and the many staff who have come through my life. The Health Department has been a good place to work and I am grateful for the opportunity it afforded me to live and work in Rock County, WI.

In gratitude,

Karen Cain

Karen Cain, RN, MS
Director/Health Officer
Rock County Health Department

Comments from our Citizens

“She {Public Health Nurse} would sit down and answer any questions, help me make phone calls, and assist me to get appointments that I needed”.

“{Health Inspector} was very informative and to the point. She {Health Inspector} seems to care a lot about making sure businesses understand food service issues for the health & concern of all parties involved.”

“My nurse provided me with information on my baby growth while in the womb and after birth. It was very helpful and good information to learn.”

“The inspectors are always helpful, courteous, and patient.”

“She {public health nurse} provided me support and encouraged me to move my life forward by providing education on healthy pregnancies, babies, and community resources. She {public health nurse} provided me support and resources to leave an abusive relationship and start my GED.”

“I picked up {radon test kit} at the office. Counter staff was friendly and got me out of the office quickly. I had a short phone conversation with the staff member who handles radon and he {Registered Sanitarian} was very knowledgeable and helpful.”

“We had a meeting of all kitchen staff with {health inspector} after the inspection. It was great! Staff seemed to respond better in that setting with a question and answer session.”

Did you know?

Old age used to mean being a senior citizen by age 40, but public health has changed that. Improvements in water, sanitation, and nutrition have been largely responsible for increasing life expectancy in the U.S. from 47 years in 1900 to 78.2 years in 2007. That’s an increase of over 66% that resulted from efforts to improve health conditions and behavior.

Centers for Disease
Control & Prevention

Do vaccines work?

Think this: As the 2014 Ebola outbreak raged in West Africa, no vaccine was available, so thousands of people became very sick and more than 9,000 have died. In the case of measles, in the decade before 1963 when a vaccine became available, nearly all children got measles by the time they were 15. Up to 4 million people in the United States were infected each year, 400-500 people died, 48,000 were hospitalized, and 4,000 suffered encephalitis, or swelling of the brain. Now, two doses of measles vaccine are about 97 percent effective at preventing measles if someone is exposed to the virus.
Vaccines work!

American Public Health Association

What does Rock County Health Department do for you and your community? Dozen of things, but most people don't realize how many vital services they receive from their local health department. The benefits have become such an integral part of the American standard of living that most people take them for granted.

Protecting, Educating and Providing

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention. Public health focuses on improving the health of the general population (population-based) through broad-based interventions, as opposed to the health care system, which primarily focuses on the treatment of individuals. The population-based services provided by public health departments are a major contributor to the overall improvement of a community's health status.

Protects the Community From Health Threats, the Everyday and the Exceptional



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Rock County Health Department guards multiple fronts to defend you and your community from any health threat, regardless of the source, and work to prevent disease outbreaks. The Health Department's Environmental Health Professionals ensure the tap water that everyone drinks and the restaurant food everyone eats is safe. Public Health Staff are ready to respond to any health emergency—be it H1N1, bioterrorism, SARS, West Nile Virus or an environmental hazard. In 2014, public health staff collaborated with community providers and hospitals to develop an Ebola response plan.

Educates You and Your Neighbors About Health Issues

Rock County Health Department provides information that allows people to make healthy decisions every day, like exercising more, eating right, quitting smoking or simply washing their hands to keep from spreading illness. Public Health Professionals provide this information through public forums in our

Our mission:
*Preventing Illness
and Enhancing
Health Through
Quality Service*

community, public service announcements in the media, programs in schools, health education in homes and clinics, and detailed websites.

During a public health emergency, Rock County Health Department provides important alerts and warnings to protect your health and our community's health.

Provides Healthy Solutions For Everyone

Rock County Health Department offers the preventive care needed to avoid chronic disease and to help maintain health. Public Health Nurses provide vaccinations and help mothers obtain prenatal care that gives their babies a healthy start. Rock County Health Department also helps children obtain regular check-ups, immunizations, and good nutrition to help them grow and learn.

Advances Community Health

Rock County Health Department and its governing board, the Board of Health, play a vital role in developing new policies and implementing evidence-based practices that address existing and emerging challenges to your community's health while enforcing a range of laws intended to keep everyone safe. The Health Department is constantly working through research and rigorous staff training—to



maintain its unique expertise and deliver up-to-date, cutting-edge health programs while evaluating program effectiveness. These efforts cannot be done alone, but through community partnerships focusing on health priorities identified in the community.

Our 2014 Programs and Services:

Public Health Preparedness

Rock County is prepared to respond to all emergencies with a detailed plan of action and a system of communication with community responders.



This response includes **detecting** disease outbreaks; **investigating** to determine what the risks are to the public and who may have been exposed; **informing** the public and professionals of the specific disease threats and how to protect themselves and others; **managing** infected persons; **isolating or quarantining** affected individuals as appropriate; and **providing medications or vaccinations** to people at risk in the population.



Human Health Hazards

The Rock County Health Department investigates all possible health hazards brought to our attention. The Rock County Public Health Ordinance gives the Health Department the authority to respond to complaints of unburied carcasses, manure, air pollution, noxious odors, solid waste, food or breeding places for vermin (rats, insects, etc.), toxic and hazardous materials, sludge, wastewater, surface water pollution, ground water pollution, private water supply issues, holes or openings, non-functional public building fixtures, and unhealthy or unsanitary conditions.

If it is determined there is a health hazard, the Health Department works with the owner to abate the hazard through education and the use of the department enforcement protocol. Sanitarians are also available as a resource to citizens who are experiencing problems with mold, indoor air quality, insects and other health hazards they may be experiencing. Citizens are provided with information and consultations, in some cases, and/or referred to other agencies if the Health Department is unable to provide assistance.

Prescription Drug Collections

Rx Roundup Totals:

2014: 5,569 lbs

2013: 4,907 lbs

Rock County Health Department, with the Rx Round-Up Planning Committee, organized two pharmaceutical collection events and participated in a Federal Drug Take-Back Initiative. There are eight permanent drop boxes installed throughout the county, six of which have 24-hour access. The drug drop boxes are located in Beloit, Milton, Edgerton, Evansville, and Janesville. 5,569 pounds of unwanted medications were collected from the collection events and drop boxes. Storing unwanted or expired medications in homes is a serious public health problem. Recreational use of prescription medications by youth is more prevalent than their use of “street drugs” and results in hospitalizations and death. Misuse of drugs prescribed for past illnesses for current health problems can also end tragically.

Healthy Homes

Our homes should be a place of comfort and safety. However, the home is a common arena where accidents occur, such as falls, accidental poisonings, and other injuries. Potential environmental exposures of home occupants to radon gas, lead paint or drinking water contaminants are other concerns in our community. The Healthy Homes Program takes a holistic approach to help identify these risks in homes, while also addressing maternal and child health issues, immunizations (both child and adult), and nutrition, among other health topics. Efforts were combined between the nursing and environmental health divisions. Common risks in homes that can be prevented are:

- Safety latches to prevent child access to cabinets with hazardous chemicals
- Safety gates for stairs
- Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarms
- Storage of personal care products
- Lead Paint
- Cutting Curtain Cords (infant strangulation hazard)
- Electrical outlet plugs

Food Safety and Public Lodging Program

Food establishments in Rock County are regulated by the Health Department Food Safety Program to ensure a safe and wholesome food supply for the public. The goal of the Food Program is to prevent food-borne illness by controlling the CDC's risk factors for unsafe food sources, inadequate cooking, improper temperature holding, cross-contamination, and personal hygiene. To achieve this goal, the Food Program instituted aggressive surveillance, enforcement, and food worker education programs based on the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles.



The Rock County Health Department licensed 864 food establishments in 2014, which includes restaurants, retail food stores, mobile food establishments, temporary events, food markets, churches, schools, hotels/motels, bakeries, food vending companies, and others. Rock County investigated 1 foodborne illness outbreak in 2014.

Radon Program

The US EPA recommends that everyone should test his or her home for radon. This is especially true in areas like Rock County that have higher than average radon levels. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the soil and it is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, second only to smoking. Over 50% of test results received by the Rock County Health Department have been at or above the 4.0 pCi/L action level set by US EPA. Because of the risk, the

In 2014, staff provided 219 Radon test kits to Rock County Citizens



Rock County Health Department promotes radon awareness through press releases, presentations and by providing low cost radon test kits to Rock County citizens.

Staff trained in radon measurement and mitigation were available to consult with citizens who had high test results and advise them on what options were available to fix their

radon problem. Radon awareness continues to grow in Rock County and more and more homes are having their radon problems fixed every year.

Rabies Control Program

Rabies is a rare disease in humans today. This is due in a large part to the efforts of local rabies control programs like the one at the Rock County Health Department. In 2014, 390 domestic animal bites and 20 wild animal exposures were reported to the Health Department. Each one of these bites was followed-up on to ensure that the biting animal was properly quarantined or tested. If the biting animal could not be located, environmental and nursing staff followed up with victims to ensure they received proper treatment. Rabies control staff work closely with law enforcement, veterinarians, emergency rooms, the State lab of Hygiene and the Rock County Humane Society to investigate all animal bite incidents involving humans.

In addition to follow-up on animal bites, the department promotes rabies awareness and vaccination of pets through press releases, presentations and displays in our community. Statewide, bats are the most common carrier of rabies in Rock County. Out of 16 bats tested for rabies in 2014, one tested positive for the rabies virus. Two bats were unable to be submitted for testing due to the specimen being too damaged or decomposed.

Swimming Pool Inspection Program

Swimming in pools can be a healthy exercise option; however, it can also be hazardous to your health. The program's intent is to regulate the maintenance and operation of public swimming pools, including whirlpools, in order to protect the health and safety of the public. Recreational water illnesses, injuries and drowning are some of the associated risks. Currently, Rock County has 68 licensed swimming pools and whirlpools.

In 2014, routine inspections were completed in these facilities. Risk items such as proper water chemistry, required rescue equipment, functioning pumps/filters/heaters, pool security, presence of lifeguards if required, and daily testing logs were monitored for compliance with State of Wisconsin DHS Chapter 172. Nine re-inspections occurred for correction of critical violations found during routine

inspections. Additionally, three pre-inspections of new pools were conducted in 2014.

In 2014, the water safety awareness plan from 2013 was continued by Rock County Health Department for all licensed swimming pool establishments. Routine inspections were used as training opportunities for pool owners and operators.

Drinking Water Program

All residents of Rock County get their water from a well. Private well water is generally of good quality if your well is tested annually and maintained properly. Bacterial contamination affects about 1 out of 5 wells in Rock County and can potentially lead to water-related illnesses. The most common sources of bacteria in wells are improperly maintained wells, especially old or damaged well caps, and contamination from recent plumbing work.



Almost 32% of wells in Rock County were found to have high nitrate concentrations that can be harmful to infants less than 6 months of age. The elevated nitrates are most commonly derived from fertilizers, animal waste, or septic systems.

Rock County Health Department offers water-testing services through our laboratory. In 2014, the Health Department Laboratory completed 2,327 well water tests. Our professional staff follows through with technical assistance to help homeowners get their wells back to a safe condition or provide options to people to obtain a safe drinking water supply.

Beach Sampling Program

Sampling of licensed beaches in Rock County includes lakes, streams and rivers. Not only are the three licensed beaches a recreational venue for the public, many of the other surface water sources are used for fishing, swimming and boating. The increased sampling allows Health

Beach sampling results are posted on our website:
www.co.rock.wi.us/health

Department officials to better understand the public health risks associated with our community's surface water resources. In total, 29 locations were tested in 2014, and the weekly results were posted on the department's website between May and September.

Immunization

Immunization is a safe and effective intervention to combat communicable disease. Because the incidence of vaccine preventable disease has decreased so dramatically in the past fifty years, it is an ongoing struggle to remind people these diseases still exist and cause illness in many countries, including our own. Vaccination continues to be a high priority service of the Rock County Health Department nursing division. While the traditional focus of immunization services has been infants and children, there is an increasing emphasis on the protection of all populations through maintaining vaccination into adulthood and throughout the lifespan.

Immunizations can be obtained at some location in Rock County almost every day the county offices are open. Regular clinics are offered at each of the Health Department offices 3-4 days per week. In 2014, the department served 3,730 people.

Special clinics were conducted for seasonal influenza; over 2,000 individuals were provided influenza vaccine this year.

The vaccine table on the next page reflects the vaccine type and count given by the Rock County Health Department in 2014.



Vaccine Type	Vaccine Count
DTaP	69
Hepatitis A – Adult	158
Hepatitis A - Pediatric	285
Hepatitis B – Adult	95
Hepatitis B – Pediatric	76
Hib	53
HPV	144
Influenza – Injectable	937
Influenza – Nasal Mist	683
Influenza – High Dose	636
Japanese Encephalitis	4
Kinrix (Dtap and Polio)	86
Meningitis	158
MMR	246
Pediatrix (Dtap, Hep B, and Polio)	28
Pentacel (Dtap, Hib, and Polio)	74
Pneumonia	47
Polio	75
Prevnar	128
Rabies	12
Rotavirus	41
Td	4
Tdap	556
Twinrix	54
Typhoid	264
Varicella	267
Yellow Fever	106
Zostavax	339
Total	5,625

Healthy Families First!

Public health has always concerned itself with prevention of injury and illness, especially to vulnerable populations. That dedication is reflected in the home and office visits that our nurses make to families in Rock County. Families in Rock County identify pregnancy and parenting as an important time. Surveys also show this is a time of change and stress for which families need support. The connection nurses make to provide guidance on nutrition, growth, development and community resources begins with pregnancy and extends throughout the first year of the baby’s life.

Rock County Health Department serves as a prenatal care coordination provider, and also provides one-to-

one visits to help eligible pregnant women through the online process of applying for medical assistance. Nurses seek to remove barriers to a healthier family life and provide professional nursing visits in the home or in whatever setting the client is most comfortable. Nurses work to educate clients on child development, breastfeeding, safe sleep, and overall health. In 2014, a grant was implemented to deliver 80 pack and play cribs to families that may otherwise not have had a safe place to put their newborn children to sleep. Referrals are accepted from any source, and the visits are cost-free to the client. In 2014, nurses made 2,699 visits to families in Rock County.



Travel Immunization Services

Travel for leisure, humanitarian missions, and business has extended our borders far beyond the United States. As our population becomes more diverse, businesses enter the global marketplace, and education puts an increasing focus on what can be learned through cooperation around the world, occasions for global travel increase. Many diseases common around the globe are seldom seen within our country.

Since 1994, Rock County has provided comprehensive health consultation to travelers. Services to the client include assessing the geographic area and determining what immunizations are required or recommended for travel. Beyond just immunization delivery, the nurse educates travel clients regarding specific travel hazards, malaria risk and prevention, food borne illness, and precautions regarding existing health conditions. Our nursing team provides information and education in addition to scheduling a travel immunization appointment for those need access to immunization services. The travel program served 479 clients in 2014.

Health Education

Health education is critically important to improving the health of communities and individuals. Rock County ranks in the lower 1/3 of counties in the state for overall health.

The goal of the Rock County Health Education Program is to motivate a person or groups to act on learned information to change unhealthy behaviors to healthy behaviors, leading to an overall improvement in health. Health education in Rock County continues to grow and expand in its scope.

Because of the Community Transformation Grant, the Health Department was able to implement a Farm to School program in the Edgerton School District. Support was also given to the School District of Beloit for Farm to School programming.



Edgerton Community Elementary School Garden for the Farm to School Program

Rock County Health Department continued to use its Facebook page to highlight department programs and services, as well as recognizing employee anniversaries and achievements. The Health Department also worked to improve and expand its website.



**Raised Garden Beds
Edgerton Community Elementary**



Edgerton Community Elementary Teacher, Adam Gould, providing a lesson on composting.



**Educational Display
Beloit Black Family Day 2014**

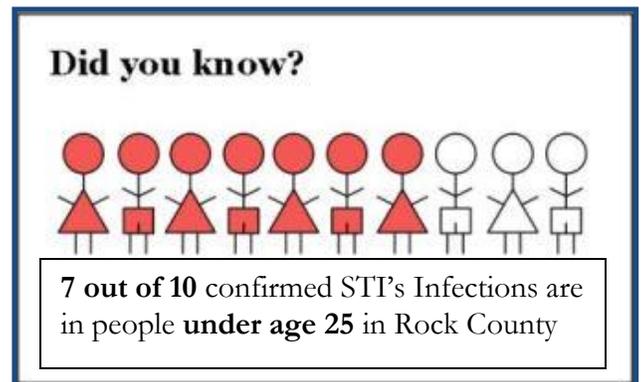
Other Health Department Services

- Walk-In Clinics
- Partner Referral Services
- HIV Testing
- Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team
- Steppin' On Program
- Blood Lead Testing
- Paternity Testing
- Child Death Review Team
- School Nurse Consultation for schools without contracts
- Regulatory Services (includes inspections, licensing, and education).
- Lighten-UP Program



Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

The investigation and follow-up of communicable disease in Rock County is a top priority of the Rock County Health Department. Citizens with certain reportable illnesses receive comprehensive nursing services to be sure their health is restored and illness is contained. The Health Department is seeking new ways to inform, educate, and empower citizens to prevent infections. The table on the following page provides a comparison chart of the most common diseases investigated in Rock County in 2014 and 2014.



DISEASE	2013	2014	DISEASE	2013	2014
HIV Infections	**see note		Mumps	*1 (0)	*13 (0c)
Arsenic Poisoning	0	1 (0c)	Norovirus & respiratory outbreaks	*15 (14c)	*15 (12c)
Blastomycosis	2	0	Pertussis	*52 (50c)	25
Campylobacter	42	31	Q Fever	*3 (1c)	*1 (0c)
Chikungunya	0	1	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	*1 (1p)	*1 (0c)
Cryptosporidium	21	18	Salmonella	25	42
E. Coli	8	6	Shigella	1	5
Ehrlichiosis	*2 (1c)	0	Strep A or B, invasive	*8 (7c)	23
Food/Waterborne Outbreaks	3		Strep Pneumoniae	9	*14 (13c)
Giardia	9	11	Toxoplasmosis	*1 (1s)	*2 (1p)
Haemophilus Influenzae	3	2	Tuberculosis		
Hepatitis A	*2 (1s)	*1 (0c)	Active	*4 (0c)	*13 (1c)
Hepatitis B (acute)	*53 (0c)	*49 (0c)	Atypical	*15 (12c)	*19 (16c)
Hepatitis C	*120 (83c)	*127 (93c)	Latent Infection	*24 (21c)	*29 (19c)
Hepatitis E	*2 (0)	*2 (2c)	Varicella (Chicken Pox)	10 (5c)	*15 (2c)
Histoplasmosis	1	1	West Nile Virus	*1 (1c)	*2 (0c)
Influenza, hospitalized	*57 (25c) (28p)	*93 (66c) (14p)	Sexually Transmitted Infections		
Lead Poisoning >10	*27 (16c)	*25 (10c)			
Lead Poisoning 5-9	*119 (52c)	*110 (16c)			
Legionellosis	*7 (6c)	*5 (4c)	Chlamydia	*775 (761c)	*670 (666c)
Lyme Disease	*7 (6c)	*10 (5c)	Gonorrhea	*93 (87c)	*90 (89c)
Malaria	0	1	Syphilis	**	**
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	1			
Meningitis, Bacterial other	0	*3 (2c)			
*= reported cases (c) = confirmed cases after investigation (p) = probable after investigation (s) = suspect after investigation **Statistics from the State of WI not available			Total all reported	*1524	*1477
			Total cases confirmed after investigation	1273	1184
			Reported contacts to sexually transmitted infections = 70		
			Reported contacts to all other communicable illness = 434		

Thank you for reading our 2014 Annual Report!