



LA CROSSE COUNTY
Health Department
Nationally Accredited

CHIP Progress Report

April - June
2026

Health Priorities

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) includes 3 health priority areas. Our community helped shape the goals written in this plan. Each year, our department puts together a community-driven action plan to address the greatest needs in La Crosse County.



Behavioral Health Vision

Build a community that prioritizes protective factors for positive childhood experiences and resilient communities.



Healthy Environment Vision

Collaborate for solutions that build healthier and more accessible neighborhoods where people are connected to what they need where they live.



Access to Care Vision

Grow a system of care that represents and supports underserved individuals to get the right care at the right time.

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health priority has three goals. Over time, the work aims to improve mental health and decrease substance use. This quarterly update describes the activity from April through June 2026.

Progress: What has been done?



Youth substance use prevention

- Tobacco compliance checks were completed and there were **no tobacco sales** out of the 62 establishments that were checked.
- **Education on responsible selling practices** was sent out to all tobacco retail establishments throughout the county - highlighting the purchase age of 21.
- Staff **met with a new partner at the La Crosse Police Department** and are planning on doing staff training for ID checks and products that exist on the market.
- Staff **presented on local success for hemp-derived THC policies** at the Northwoods Coalition.
- As part of the public health campaign to increase awareness of alcohol use and the perception of risk among youth and adults, staff were interviewed by local news stations. **Check out the story from April [here](#).**



Mental health and resiliency

- Staff have been attending the **Early Childhood Impact Steering Committee** hosted by the La Crosse School District. The committee recently **focused on identifying the Root Cause** for these issues: lack of knowledge on available resources, financial challenges and economic stressors, parenting challenges, childcare, and racial biases and concerns.



Self-harm and substance use prevention

- The Coulee Region Harm Reduction Collaborative (CRHRC) has been **focusing on planning for overdose awareness month** which will take place in August.
- Staff provided **Narcan training to 55 individuals** throughout April and May. Among those trained were staff at Stein Counseling, Community Health Workers, individuals who attended the Older American Picnic, and attendees of the Harm Reduction Day event.
- Harm Reduction Day was hosted at the Main Public Library in May by the regional coalition. Health department staff provided harm reduction education and information through panel discussion and **provided on-site Narcan training**.
- Dental Pain program staff now work with 5 dental offices. Of all the referrals, **68% of dental pain calls** have received treatment for their dental needs this quarter.
- We hosted a dental block training for Emplify ER doctors - **12 attended**.

Healthy Environment

The Healthy Environment Priority has three goals. Over time, the work aims to improve housing, food access, and opportunities for physical activity. This quarterly update describes the activity from April through June 2026.

Progress: What has been done?



Safe, affordable, and supportive housing

- The Radon program continues to distribute test kits - A total of **195 Radon Testing Kits** have been distributed so far this year. Also, staff are using a **new reminder postcard** for all households that buy a radon test kit from our department. The postcard is used to increase the number of test kits that are returned and used in homes. Customers have appreciated the reminder!
- Sanitarians are using the new housing inspection check list for all housing complaints. The new checklist is a great tool for keeping everyone on track.
- Staff are in the process of creating a **newsletter on weatherization** to be shared with manufactured home communities in the fall



Year-round access to healthy food

- **LCHD staff hosted** the bi-annual Food Access Partners Meeting in May. Emplify Health shared information about local food resources and their Community Link website.
- Staff continue to update the **local food resource guide** and promote and provide department updates to additional resource guides.



Increase opportunities for active transportation

- The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program **attended 5 events** focusing on pedestrian safety, helmet fitting and distribution, and bike rodeo stations.
 - Handed out **65 helmets** at the Northside Elementary School Bike Rodeo
 - Provided pedestrian safety education to **744 3rd graders** at the annual Slide Into Safety event
 - Handed out **45 helmets** at the Carnival Night for State Road Elementary students
- **Connected** with staff from the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) to continue to explore opportunities for **collaboration** at the high school age level.



Access to Care

The Access to Care priority has three goals. Over time, the work aims to improve relationships, communication, and community-centered services. This quarterly update describes the activity from April through June 2026.

Progress: What has been done?



Increase access to clinical services

- Public Health Nurses are building relationships with schools and other partners to plan summer and fall clinics to offer vaccines in the community. **10 community clinics are planned in conjunction with back-to-school events and sports physicals.**
- LCHD staff offer the Seal-A-Smile program at 20 local schools - 19 public and 1 private school **receive fluoride, sealants, and dental cleanings** throughout the school year. The program is offered to all students at **no cost to the families.**



Enhance organizational health literacy

- The goal for 2026 is to **increase health literacy** on our health department **website and our educational materials** available to the public. This means our materials will be easy to read, messages will be clear, and will include county logo and colors.
- The health department is **working closely with IT** to ensure our website follows **ADA compliance guidelines.** This will be ongoing work over the next year.



Increase connections to resources

- Health Department Social Workers assisted **250 individuals with health insurance benefits in the last three months.** The team helps clients apply for childcare, Foodshare, and Medicare benefits.
- Community engagement and outreach help clients access resources. Health department staff participate in **weekly outreach at Mobile Medicine** as well as ongoing contact with Hunger Taskforce, Coulee Recovery Center, and other local non-profits.
- The WI Well Woman program sends reminders to participants to schedule screening appointments. In the second quarter, **80% of the women** enrolled in the program had used their **free preventive cancer screenings** - mammograms and cervical screenings. Our team is making additional efforts to encourage all participants to use the benefits of the program.