



LA CROSSE COUNTY
Health Department
Nationally Accredited

CHIP Progress Report

July - September 2024

Health Priorities

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) includes 3 health priority areas. Our community created the goals that we work on each year. The Health 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 peoples to get the right care at the right time.

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health Goal has three objectives. Over time, the work aims to improve mental health and decrease substance use, suicide, and self-harm. This quarterly update describes the activity from July through September 2024.

Progress: What has been done?



Opioid harm-reduction work

- The Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team has **reviewed 6 cases** this quarter.
- The Alliance to HEAL workgroups have been actively **working on implementing 3 recommendations** each month that came from the OFR team.
- Health Department staff continue their efforts with Narcan distribution. **315 doses** have been distributed this quarter. Staff have held **13 Narcan trainings with 60+ attendees**. Due to Narcan outreach, over 40 Downtown and Northside businesses now have Narcan available on-site.
- Fentanyl test strip distribution is new to the Health Department this year. **500 fentanyl test strips** were distributed this quarter which is 5 times the amount of last quarter.
- Overdose Awareness month took place in August. Various efforts were done to raise awareness to include **Narcan trainings**, conversations with people with lived experiences, a **candlelight vigil** to honor those who lost their lives to overdose, and the **release of the OFR report** into the community.
- Health department staff have made **59 referrals** to community-based dental care for non-traumatic dental pain and over half of the referrals have already received treatment.

Mental health and
substance use
prevention at work



Overdose Awareness Event

Behavioral Health (cont.)



Self-harm and suicide prevention work

- The Suicide Death Review Team continues to meet monthly. They invited **2 new partners** to participate in the team and reviewed **3 cases**. The group meets each month to discuss recommendations.
- The Suicide Prevention Initiative continues to work on existing recommendations and had **3 new recommendations** this quarter. They are currently working on the WI Governor's challenge with the goal of **reducing death by firearms**.
- The SDRT is working with all **3 college campuses** in the area. They are now communicating more and combining their efforts in mental health and suicide prevention. They now have **2 new relationships** with K-12 schools as well.
- A **location was secured for the Suicide Prevention mural**. SPI funds will be used to help pay for a mural that will be painted on the side of the Family and Children's Center. A New York artist will host a workshop for community members to help install the painting and be a part of the process.
- All bluff and bridge locations have the suicide and crisis lifeline signs posted. Positive responses to the signs have been shared with the partners that advocated for the sign placement.



Culture change around substance use and mental health

- Tobacco Prevention staff included a **FACT activities** booth for all students at Logan High School. Many of the previous FACT members graduated and are no longer able to be involved in the group. There are **3 confirmed members** so far, and there have been **new sign-ups** for this year's FACT group.
- Tobacco compliance checks have started up again and **95% of La Crosse County retailers passed their checks**. Keeping tobacco products out of the hands of youth.
- Health Department staff continue efforts of the **environmental scans** for Delta 8 products. They have been working on developing a plan to **create partnerships** with Delta 8 retailers.
- A **new member** joined the Alliance to HEAL coalition to work on prevention efforts.

Display at the FACT Activities Fair



Healthy Environment

The Healthy Environment Goal has three objectives. Over time, the work aims to improve housing, food access, and opportunities for physical activity. This quarterly update describes the activity from July through September 2024.

Progress: What has been done?



Safe, affordable, and supportive housing

- LCHD **Environmental health staff and social workers** continue to provide support to residents that are experiencing housing-based complaints.
- We are working closely with the County Planning & Zoning Department staff on climate action and sustainability projects. The continued relationship is beneficial as we work toward **common goals for housing** in the Comprehensive Plan.



Year-round access to healthy food

- LCHD staff used the **Food Resource Map** to study the strengths and gaps in food access across the county. The team plans to update the map with additional layers for grocery stores, convenience stores, and access to healthy foods.
- Planning for the Food and Nutrition Partners meeting is ongoing. At the next meeting, partners will have the opportunity to learn more about **food access programming** from the YMCA, review the Food Resource Map, and discuss next steps for the group to take.



Increase opportunities for active transportation

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) staff have provided **13 walking and biking educational events** throughout the county - library summer reading program, city-wide bike rodeo, railroad safety, and school-related events.
- Operation Lifesaver - railroad safety program - was a success. Many partners worked together to provide education to school-aged kids, families, and local community members at **8 schools and 3 youth-serving organizations**.
- There are **7 schools hosting the SRTS program** this year. Logan Middle School is the first school to join for the older age group.
- The Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is interested in fostering more support for the SRTS program. The group would like to focus their efforts and implement the recommendations in the **City of La Crosse's SRTS Plan** to improve infrastructure near schools.

Access to Care

The Access to Care Goal has three objectives. Over time, the work aims to improve relationships, communication, and community-centered services. This quarterly update describes the activity from July through September 2024.

Progress: What has been done?



Build relationships and increase community engagement

- Wisconsin Well Woman Program has **30 new enrollees** this year that will receive free cancer screenings.
- The **La Crosse Smiles** program added a new elementary school and provider this fall - Hintgen Elementary and Gundersen Pediatrics.
- Hmong Breastfeeding videos have been viewed **568 times** so far. Family Health staff also presented on breastfeeding experiences for Hmoob mothers to a statewide network.
- LCHD Nursing staff hosted the Coulee Region Immunization Coalition Symposium for **68 providers and nurses** to learn more about vaccine misinformation and hesitancy.
- Back-to-School events served **over 1000+ students** where nurses shared info about vaccines needed for kids to be ready for school.



Build organizational health literacy

- Staff will be focused on updating Environmental Health pages this fall, and **25%** of the Health Department website pages have already been revised using the **health literacy standards**.
- We ran a short **public health campaign for Pertussis** that focused on education through social media and a TV interview.



Provide health services in community spaces

- Social workers and nurses are **collaborating with the Street Med Team** to provide services to unsheltered individuals. The Wednesday morning outreach is a good place to **build ongoing relationships** with those needing services for insurance, food assistance, and other clinical services.
- Public health nurses are offering new services for fluoride varnish and lead screenings. They have provided **27 lead screenings** for children this year. The team continues to work with our WIC program to offer services to the families and children.