LA CROSSE COUNTY
Health Department
Nationally Accredited

CHIP Progress Report

July - September 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 July through September 2026.

Progress: What has been done?

Youth substance use prevention

- **Completed tobacco compliace checks** for Jackson County.
- Staff has put together a **presentation on the importance of smoke free air policy** and gathered information for model language.
- Staff **continue to host FACT clubs** with both Logan Middle and High schools.
- Staff **presented to local alcohol retailers** at an educational mini conference put on by the La Crosse PD. The presentation was on the importance of underage drinking prevention, and how liquor license holders can support that. Attendees included City of La Crosse liquor license holders, around **20 people were in attendance**.

Mental health and resiliency

- The **Mental Health Coalition is currently paused** due to staff turnover. We are hopeful meetings will resume once there is a new coordinator in place for the coalition.

Self-harm and substance use prevention

- **43% of dental pain calls** have received treatment for their dental needs this quarter.
- A **dental block training has been scheduled** with Mayo Health System for Novermber 11th.
- The Coulee Region Harm Reduction Collaborative (CRHRC) celebrated Overdose Awareness Day by distributing educational and overdose awareness materials to 25 bars, coffee shops, and community hubs, along with multiple little libraries. Staff attended the Homeless Connect event in July and **provided Narcan, Xylazine and Fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields and education** to over 30 community members.



- Staff provided **Narcan training to the Health Department's public health nurses and 5 additional individuals** throughout this quarter.
- Staff held a focus group with **AODA social workers in ISRS** to gather information on resources and the pathways for substance use treatment. This will be used to develop an asset map and a flowchart.

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 July through September 2026.

Progress: What has been done?

Safe, affordable, and supportive housing



- LCHD Staff presented **"Removing Barriers to Safe Housing: How a Dual Response Model and Dumpster Program Transform Outcomes"** at the anual Wisconsin Environmental Health Association (WEHA) Conference.
- The Radon program continues to distribute test kits - **202 Radon Testing Kits** have been distributed so far this year. LCHD staff are looking to distribute at least 300 test kits each year. We continue to look for additional opportunities to distribute radon test kits locally.
- LCHD staff responded to 65 Housing Complaints this quarter. **12 of the 65** cases received education, resources, and services. Staff worked with clients to build skills and helped **connect with new community partners** to maximize resources and outcomes.
- LCHD staff educated the **UWL Student Life Association** about our housing inspection process and how **college students** can connect with our team if needed.

Year-round access to healthy food

- 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 program partnered with the City of La Crosse to host a **city-wide bike rodeo at Myrick Park during the summer**. Staff provided helmet fittings and set up bike rodeo stations for youth to practice safe biking skills.
- One additional host-school has joined in Safe Routes to School programming for the 2026-2027 school year. Our team helps coordinate programming with **8 schools**.
- Collaboration with local schools continues to find unique ways to bring SRTS and active transportation education to the middle school and high school level.
- Staff continue to participate and present at BPAC meetings as well as **advocate for safe e-bike and e-scooter policies**.

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 July through September 2026.

Progress: What has been done?



Increase access to clinical services

- Public Health Nurses are building relationships with local partners to offer vaccines in the community. **Eighteen clinics have been completed and five more are planned for the year.**
- LCHD staff offer the **Seal-A-Smile program at 20 local schools**. Children receive services, such as **fluoride, sealants and dental cleanings twice a year**.
- Our team led efforts to **increase lead testing for children** by providing testing guidance with staff and parents at local schools, childcare, libraries, La Crosse County Human Services, YMCA and WIC.



Enhance organizational health literacy

- To continue **growing our expertise in health literacy**, staff are provided resources and tutorials to including health literacy when developing **educational materials** and other communications available to the public.
- The **health department's website** has been updated to follow **ADA compliance guidelines**. This includes read aloud, focus options, font size, and language options.



Increase connections to resources

- Health Department Social Workers assisted **212 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.
- Efforts to encourage **enrollment in the WI Well Woman Program** include participation in Steppin' Out in Pink and providing presentations to providers at Mayo Clinic. In the third quarter, **18 women were enrolled** in the program to receive **free preventive cancer screenings** - mammograms and cervical screenings.