

Environmental health is defined by the National Environmental Health Association as the science and practice of preventing human injury and illness and promoting well-being. This is done by identifying and evaluating sources of hazardous agents in our community and limiting exposures in our air, water, soil, food, etc.

This annual report provides a snapshot of how Lincoln County Health Department's Environmental Health Programs work on promoting well-being in Lincoln County.



Lincoln County Health Department 2018 Environmental Health Annual Report

In this Annual Report:

- ❖ Program Updates
- ❖ Data Dashboard
- ❖ Performance Management and Trends
- ❖ Standardization





Program Updates

Changes in Law

➔ Retail Food Establishments

The State of Wisconsin has finalized ATCP 74, which is the state statute for retail food establishment programming and local government regulation. Changes were made to this law setting more stringent staff licensing requirements for those that work in this retail licensing and inspections.

➔ Home Bakery Ruling

Court ruling that as of October 2, 2017 Wisconsin home bakers are now free to sell their non-potentially hazardous baked goods out of their homes directly to consumers without a license.

➔ “Lemonade Stand Bill”

This bill will allow minors to operate temporary food stand without a license. Passed Assembly December 2017. Food must be non-potentially hazardous and there is a \$5,000 limit.



Updates in Programming

➔ Foodborne Outbreak Tabletop

Lincoln County Health Department staff assisted in spearheading a regional Foodborne Outbreak Tabletop in February of 2018 with WI DATCP. Thirty-two participants from the following counties attended: Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Vilas, Wood, Ashland and Iron Counties. Based on exercise results LCHD policies and procedures have been updated to clarify initial steps of investigating an outbreak.

➔ Contract for Manufacturing Community Home Licensing

The Board of Health decided in June 2018 to no longer contract with the WI Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) to conduct the Manufacturing Home Licensing Program. Reason for the change is low reimbursement for licensing and inspections and lack of training and technical assistance from the DPS.

➔ Community Outreach Activities

As part of efforts to raise awareness of Environmental Health topics in Lincoln County, LCHD provides community outreach in a variety of ways including, social media, press releases, radio shows, educational packets, and website information. Below is a summary of topics covered during the year.

- National Radon Action Month
- Blue Green Algae Awareness
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Private Well Testing
- Licensing Requirements for Special Events
- Temporary Food Service Education Packet
- Food Safety
- Environmental Health Awards Program



Environmental Health Dashboard 2017-2018



Water Quality

Private Water Nitrates

4% | % of private water tests with elevated nitrates. (Total # tested: 24 (n=1/24))
Lincoln County average: 1%

TNC Water Nitrates

3.3% | % of public water tests with elevated nitrates (Total # tested: 89 (n=3/89))
Lincoln County average: 1.3%

Private Water Bacteria

12% | % of private water tests positive for bacteria (Total # tested: 123 (n=15/123))
Lincoln County average: 17%

TNC Water Bacteria

5.6% | % of public water tests positive for bacteria (Total # tested: 89 n=5/89)
Lincoln County average: 6.6%



Food, Public and Recreation Safety

All License Inspections

330 | # of license facilities inspected
Lincoln County average: 325

CDC Risk Factors

507 | # of CDC Risk Factor identified
Lincoln County average: 587

License Enforcement

13% | % of license facility inspections with enforcement (Total n=42/330)
Lincoln County average: 10

Animal Bites

57% | % of animal bites with enforcement (Total # bites: 7)
Lincoln County average: TBD

Pre-Inspections

34 | # of pre-inspections
Lincoln County average: 39

Heat Stress

19.7 | Rate of ER visits per 100,000 people
Wisconsin: 16.5
Lincoln County average: 22.7

License Complaints

14 | # of complaints
Lincoln County average: 15



Human Health Hazards

Childhood Lead Poisoning

3.4% | % of blood lead level of 5mcg/dL or more.
Lincoln County average: 2.7%
Wisconsin: 6.4%

Radon

49% | % of radon tests elevated (Total # tested: 44 (n=22/46).
Lincoln County Average: 50%

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

12.6 | Age-adjusted rate of emergency room visits related to CO Positioning.
Lincoln County average: 10
Wisconsin: 7.9

Human Health Hazards Investigations

12 | # Investigated
Lincoln County Average: 9

Hazard Enforcement

50% | % of health hazard investigations with enforcement (n=6/12)
Lincoln County Average: 28%



Dashboard Data Detail

Below are the abbreviated references for the data presented in the dashboard. Note that some measures have more years of data available.



Water Quality

Nitrates: Measured concentrations from active public and or private water systems. **Source:** LCHD
Year of data: 2018; Lincoln County average 2015-2017

Bacteria: Presents of coliform bacteria in active public and or private water systems. **Source:** LCHD
Year of data: 2018; Lincoln County average 2015-2017



Food, Public and Recreation Safety

License Inspections: Number of license facility establishments (food, lodging, recreation, and retail) annual inspections completed. **Source:** LCHD **Year of data:** July 1 2017-June 30 2018; Lincoln County Average 2016-2017

License Enforcement: Number of license establishments (food, lodging, recreation, and retail) with enforcement issued resulting in a follow up inspection or re-inspection. **Source:** LCHD **Year of data:** July 1 2017 - June 30 2018; Lincoln County Average 2015-2017.

License Pre-Inspections: Number of new license establishments (food, lodging, recreation, and retail) with a completed pre-inspection. **Source:** LCHD **Year of data:** July 1 2017 - June 30 2018; Lincoln County Average 2015-2017.

License Complaints: Number of license establishments (food, lodging, recreation, and retail) with a complaint received by the public. **Source:** LCHD **Year of data:** 2018; Lincoln County Average 2015-2017.

CDC Risk Factors: Number of food establishments with a CDC violation at time of inspection. **Source:** LCHD-Health Space **Year of data:** July 1 2017 - June 30 2018; Lincoln County Average 2015-2017

Animal Bites: Number of bites or animal exposure requiring a rabies investigation. **Source:** LCHD **Year of data:** 2018; Lincoln County Average 2015-2017

Heat Stress: Age-adjusted rate of emergency room visits related to heat stress. **Source:** Wisconsin Department of Health Services **Year of data:** 2017; Lincoln County average 2015 and 2017



Human Health Hazards

Childhood Lead Poisoning: Percent of children (less than six years of age) tested who had a blood lead level of 5mcg/dL. **Source:** Wisconsin Department of Health Services. **Year of data:**

Radon: Number of homes with radon at 4 pCi/L or greater. **Source:** LCHD **Year of data:** 2018 Lincoln County Average 2015-2017.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: Age-adjusted rate of emergency room visits related to CO Poisoning. **Source:** Wisconsin Department of Health Services **Year of data:** 2017; Lincoln County average 2015-2017

Human Health Hazards Investigations: Number of human health hazard complaints received by the public or organization. **Source:** LCHD **Year of data:** 2018 Lincoln County average 2015-2017.

Health Hazard Enforcement: Number of human health hazard investigations leading to an enforcement abatement order. **Source:** LCHD **Year of data:** 2018; Lincoln County average 2015-2017.

Water Quality



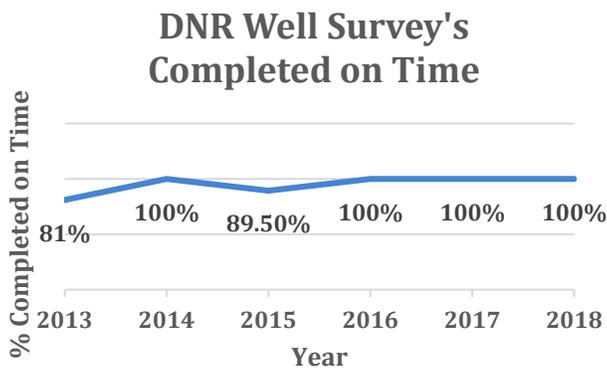
Safe and clean water is one of the most important substances in our lives – for drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing. Lincoln County Health Department Water Quality Program provides a means for safe and clean water through the private and public well water testing and monitoring programs.

Program Performance Objectives

DNR Well Survey

Goal: By December 31, 2018, 100% of DNR well surveys will be complete on time (within 5 years, to the day of the last survey).

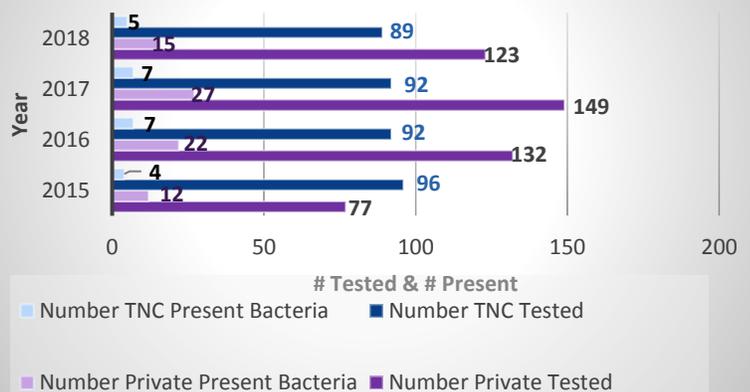
Results: 100% of sanitary surveys were complete on time (within 5 years to the date) of the last sanitary survey. This fulfills the contractual requirements between LCHD and WI DNR. This is also consistent with the baseline data of 100% during 2017. As seen in the chart the trend over time is that LCHD is increasing in the requirement and meeting the contract on a regular basis. A better tracking system and staff organization has aided in this positive outcome.



As part of LCHD water quality program, public and private well water results are monitored for the presence of bacteria and nitrates. Coliform bacteria, though not usually harmful indicate the possible presence of disease causing bacteria. A present Coliform bacteria result indicates a need for further testing and/or treating of the well. By tracking trends, it may help LCHD identify times of the year when results peak, areas of concern and wells with a history of present results. In 2018, 123 private water tests were complete with 15 of those testing present for coliform bacteria. Nitrates are a concern if levels are greater than 10ppm. High nitrate levels are especially a concern for pregnant women, women who may become pregnant and infants under the age of 6 months. Nitrate levels vary within the county and are impacted by localized land use. In 2018, 24 private well nitrate tests were completed. 1 of those tests showed a level > 10ppm. For public water testing and well surveys, LCHD contracts with WI Department of Natural Resources to test transient Non-community (TNC) facilities. Examples of such facilities include rural taverns, churches, etc. In 2018, 89 water tests were complete with five testing present for coliform bacteria and 3 had a nitrate level > 10ppm.

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Number Private & Public Water Tests & Results by Year





Food, Public & Recreation Safety

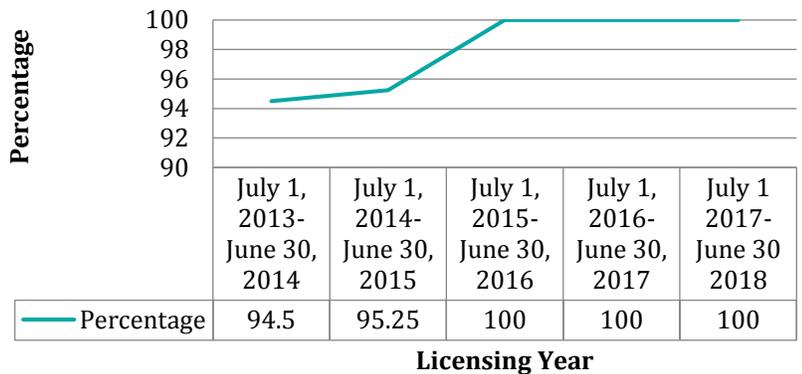
Safe food, water and recreation are essential to a healthy lifestyle. LCHD plays an important role in preventing foodborne illness and ensuring safe recreation. LCHD is an agent for the WI Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection and Department of Safety and Professional Services to administer licensing and inspection programs for licensed facilities in our county such as restaurants, hotels and tattoo.

Program Performance Objectives

Completion of Annual Inspections

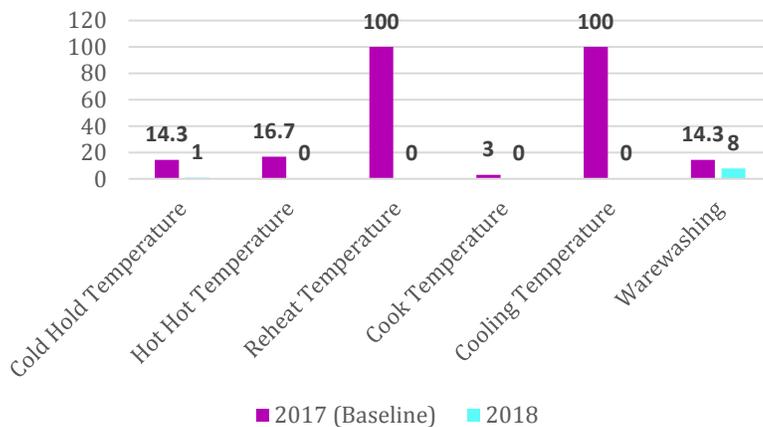
Goal: By June, 100% of establishments under the DATCP contract will review their annual inspection. **Results:** 100% of inspections were completed during the 2017-2018 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018) licensing year. This fulfills the contractual requirements between LCHD and DATCP. This also is consistent with the baseline data Of 100% during the past two licensing years.

Percent of establishments that received annual inspection during licensing year



Standardized Food Inspections

Percent of food inspection reports marked incorrectly 2017-2018



As part of an ongoing effort to meet the FDA Voluntary National Retail Standards and as a recommendation from DATCP, LCHD is working to decrease the number of food inspection reports that have a marking error. **Goal:** By December 31 2018, 100% of food inspection reports will be complete following the standardization marking instructions related to Cooking Temperatures, Reheating Temperatures, Cooling Temperatures, Hot Holding Temperatures, Cold Holding Temperatures and Warewashing. An error would be defined as incorrectly marking a section either In, Out, NA or NO. LCHD uses the marking instructions, which indicate how

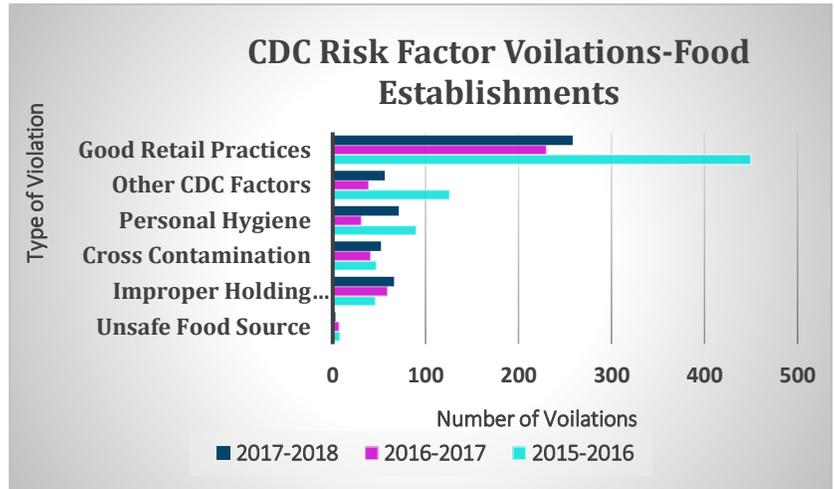
the items listed to the right, should be marked, based on observation and discussion during the inspection. Results: According to the data collected there was an improvement in following marking

instructions from the baseline data of 2017. Some of this variation could have been that the 2017 baseline data did not audit every inspection report but rather only a snapshot (10 reports) complete during this timeframe. The 2018 data audited every annual routine and pre-inspection complete for low, moderate, and high complexity restaurants. The goal was not met during 2018 as there were still errors that occurred. Errors can be caused for a number of reasons the most coming being: inspectors forgot to enter data, inspectors busy and marked something incorrectly, inspectors unsure how to mark item, and confusion as to when items should be marked In, Out, N/A or N/O.

This goal will be repeated in 2019.

CDC Risk Factor Violations

CDC risk factors are defined as the food establishments activities or methods that are likely to increase the risk of people getting a foodborne illness. Through the inspection, enforcement and education provided during inspections, LCHD would hope to see CDC risk factors decrease from year to year.





Human Health Hazards

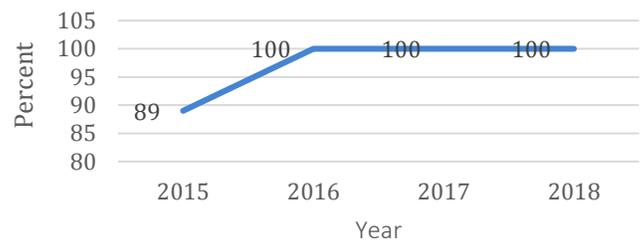
LCHD's staff strives to protect public health through the investigation and education of human health hazards. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health of Lincoln County citizens, provide technical assistance and education and to resolve health hazards.

Program Performance Objectives

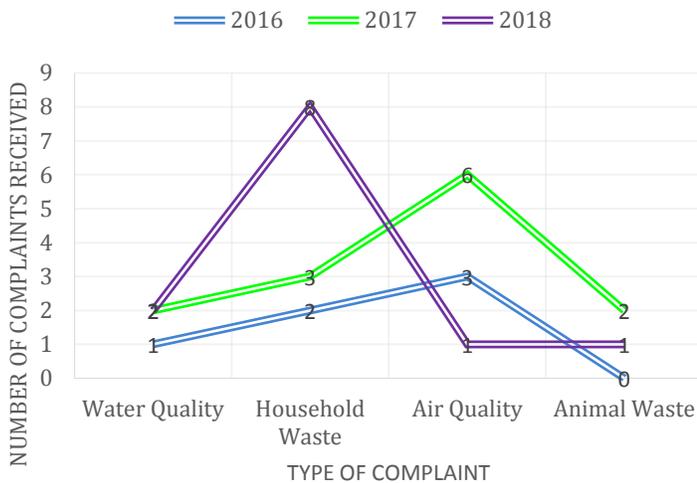
Completion of Annual Inspections

Goal: By December 31, 2018, 100% of Human Health Hazard Investigations will begin within 5 working days of receiving the complaint. **Results:** 100% of HHH investigations began within 5 working days. This is consistent with our baseline data from 2016 and 2017.

Percentage of Human Health Hazard Investigations began within 5 working days



HUMAN HEALTH HAZARD COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY LCHD



LCHD also monitoring, tracks, and analyzes the types of HHH complaints coming into the department. This can help focus any education and outreach completed by LCHD in the area of health hazards.



Program Evaluation

Program Audit

LCHD participated in an audit for our Licensing and Inspection Program by WI DATCP Bureau of Retail Food & Recreational Business on October 2017. The audit is conducted every three years and consists of record review of food facilities permitted, verification of the standardization process, and verifying the department’s annual self-assessment report. Audit results showed LCHD is performing above standards with the Licenseing and Inspection Program. Performance Management goals are developed based off of the state audit. As a result of this audit a performance objective on standardized inspection marking instructions was included in the department’s action plan for 2017-2018.

Certified Food Manager Compliance

A Quality Improvement project was conducted in 2017 to improve our system of following up with establishment’s Certified Food Manager (CFM) requirement. An establishment serving food must have a CFM on staff. **Problem:** Establishments are not obtaining their CFM timely according to state requirements. In 2016, the average number of follow-ups before a CFM was obtained for a new establishment was 3.8 with one establishment requiring 10 follow-ups. For existing establishment average number of follow-ups was 4.1 with one establishment requiring 11 follow-ups. **Goal:** Our goal of this project was to reduce the number of follow-ups by LCHD staff to two for new establishments and three for existing establishments. **Results:** Average number of CFM follow-ups was one, for both new and existing establishments. Contributions to the success of this project was the new DATCP policy adopted by LCHD creating sticker enforcement procedures; thus saving countless hours of LCHD staff time.

Customer Satisfaction

LCHD is always looking for ways to approve our services. Surveys that were conducted in 2018 showed **100% of customers were satisfied or very satisfied** with inspection services received by LCHD. 100% of private water lab customers surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed that the water lab met either testing needs, staff was helpful, and results were easy to understand. Customer feedback drives LCHD’s program changes, evaluates the need for any quality improvement projects, and establishes program performance management goals.

“Very professional and gave good information,” restaurant owner.

“I feel that the program is working for positive results,” lodging owner.

Standardization

LCHD strives to maintain a highly skilled workforce and participates in an extensive training program. As part of this effort, REHS is standardized by the State of Wisconsin in food inspections annually. This standardization process ensures that all establishments received the same quality inspection at any given time.

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