

# Dakota County Public Health Infrastructure

Public health infrastructure refers to all aspects of the public health system that help health professionals carry out essential public health services to promote, protect and maintain the health of the community as a whole. Examples are: workforce capacity and competency, information and data systems, and organizational and systems capacity. It includes activities that are required by law, efforts to assure the delivery of public health services to diverse populations, and actions that help maintain the public health system.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Key facts about Public Health Infrastructure

Minnesota's local public health system has long been regarded as one of the strongest in the nation. However, in recent years funding cuts at the federal, state and local level have compromised the ability of local public health departments to provide essential health protection and prevention. At the same time, additional requirements have been mandated for emergency planning and response. In addition, demand for public health service is growing and clients are increasingly diverse. There has been little growth in Public Health staff to accommodate increased need.

**Community  
Health  
Profiles**

*Dakota*  
COUNTY

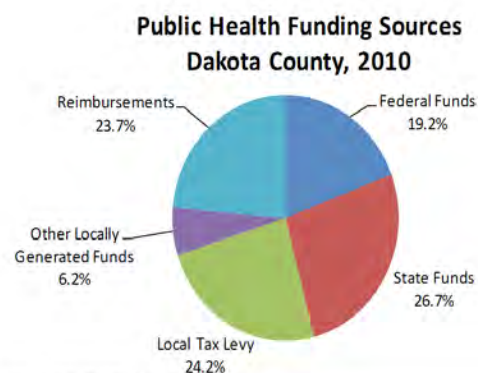
## Organization

- The mission of the Dakota County Public Health Department is to:
  - **Prevent** onset, transmission, and adverse consequences of disease and disability
  - **Promote** optimum level of health and safety, and
  - **Protect** citizens and their environment by fostering cooperative partnerships.
- The Dakota County Public Health Department is organized into four major areas: Family Health Services; Health Promotion Services; Disease Prevention and Control, Emergency Preparedness and Response; and Correctional Health.

## Expenditures and funding

- The Dakota County Public Health Department budget in 2010 was \$14.0 million. This represents a 1.6 percent decrease in spending from 2009.

- In 2010, state and federal funds accounted for the largest portion of funding (46 percent), followed by local tax levy (24 percent). Reimbursements from Medicaid and private insurance accounted for 24 percent of the funding. Seven percent of funding is Local Public Health Act dollars from the state general fund.



- Due to a grant that Dakota County Public Health received for the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), state and federal funds increased as a proportion of funding from 34 percent in 2009 to 46 percent in 2010.

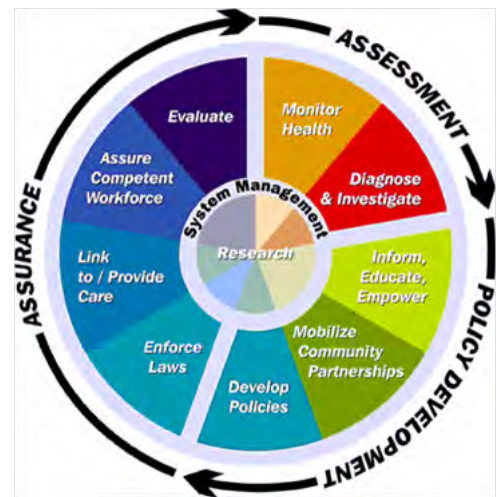
## Overview of Public Health services

- While an estimated 15 percent of the Dakota County population was non-white or Hispanic, 51 percent of Dakota County Public Health clients were non-white or Hispanic in 2009.
- The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture program designed to help keep low-income women, infants, and children up to age five healthy. Dakota County Public Health served an estimated\* 12,265 WIC clients in 2010 – an increase of 66 percent from 2001.
- Public Health nurses conducted home visits for an estimated\* 1,203 clients (mothers and children) in 2010. The Dakota Healthy Families program, part of the Metro Alliance for Healthy Families, visited 244 families in 2010.
- Dakota County Public Health partners with 77 coalitions and collaborative groups to support health in the community.
- Public health nurses gave 4,952 immunizations in 2010; a one percent increase from 4,885 in 2009.
- Dakota County Public Health develops plans, conducts exercises, and collaborates with other federal, state and local agencies to prepare for emergencies.
- Dakota County Public Health supported all nine school districts in the county in making significant gains in improving the quality of food in schools. This included 48 schools who provided healthier food and drink options and removed unhealthy items from vending machines.

*\*Due to a mid-year information system change in 2010, actual numbers are not available for family health or WIC.*

## Workforce

- In 2010, Dakota County Public Health had 135 filled and contracted full-time equivalents (FTEs).
- Nine percent of the Dakota County Public Health workforce in 2010 was racially or ethnically diverse. This compares to 15 percent of the county population that is racially or ethnically diverse.
- Each year, more than 60 students from a number of colleges and universities learn about public health and gain clinical experience at Dakota County Public Health.



## About this Community Health Profile

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, contact: Melanie Countryman, Epidemiologist (melanie.countryman@co.dakota.mn.us or 651-554-6131).

## For more information:

- Dakota County Public Health Department [www.DakotaCounty.us/PublicHealth](http://www.DakotaCounty.us/PublicHealth)
- Local Public Health Association of Minnesota [www.mncounties2.org/lpha](http://www.mncounties2.org/lpha)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)
- Minnesota Department of Health [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**TO GOOD HEALTH**

[www.DakotaCounty.us/PublicHealth](http://www.DakotaCounty.us/PublicHealth)

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