

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



## Dakota County Public Health Department

**A healthy community  
for all in Dakota County**



# Message to the Community

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In 2017 we made great strides to address the important issues of health equity and continually moving forward as a department. This work is new and challenging in many ways, but I am proud of the creative and dedicated work of our staff to make positive changes.

Our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan sets our priorities in the coming years with a focus on advancing health equity. Read more about it online by searching for our "Health Services" page.

We do not accomplish our vision of a healthy Dakota County for all by working alone. Partnerships with other County departments, community groups, and individuals are key to preventing illness, promoting wellness, and protecting health.

I am happy to present the 2017 Public Health Annual Report, and share our work from the past year. More information about our programs and services can be found on the Dakota County website, and we often post updates to social media.

Healthy regards,



Bonnie Brueshoff, Director  
Dakota County Public Health Department

## *Our mission*

Building healthy individuals, families and communities in Dakota County through partnerships to **prevent** disease, disability, and injury; **promote** physical and mental wellbeing and safety; and **protect** health and the environment.

# Awards and Recognition

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- The Local Public Health Association of Minnesota selected Bonnie Brueshoff, Director of Public Health, for the 2017 Barbara O'Grady Excellence in Public Health Nursing Leadership Award. The award honors a public health nurse for outstanding leadership and contributions to public health in Minnesota.
- The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) awarded the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Unit with a 2017 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Challenge Award.
- The NACCHO Model Practices Program selected the Breastfeeding Friendly Health Departments initiative, created and piloted by the Dakota County Public Health Department, as a Model Practice.
- The National Association of Counties awarded the Birth to Age Eight Collaborative Initiative a 2017 Achievement Award, and selected it for the honor of Best in Category for "its exceptional results and unique innovations".
- The Minnesota Department of Health awarded Dakota County for having the highest pediatric immunization rates among counties with large populations in Minnesota.



Bonnie (middle) with Louise Anderson, 2017 LPHA Chair and Director of the Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board (left), and Lorna Schmidt, the Executive Director of the Local Public Health Association of MN (right).

# 2017 Highlights



Two colleagues from Switzerland came to learn about the ways we use electronic health records (EHRs) in the Omaha system. They also met with the University of Minnesota to learn about how they use EHRs in research.

Four Minnesota Representatives went on home visits with our Public Health Nurses. They learned more about our Family Home Visiting program and why it is so important.



We spent 10 months working on a new strategic plan for the department. More than 70% of staff was involved in the process. The plan will be implemented through 2020.

Our Emergency Preparedness staff helped 99 child care providers make a plan for their center. This will keep kids safer in an emergency and meets state requirements.



We were selected to join the Health Equity Learning Community through the Minnesota Department of Health. We will work on a project to improve health equity in Dakota County, through October 2018.

# *By the* **NUMBERS**



**15,361**

**Child & Teen  
Checkups  
outreach  
phone calls**



**9,428**

**home visits  
made by a  
Family  
Health  
nurse or  
community  
health  
worker**

**1,684**

**immunizations  
administered**



Over **855** people  
walked an average of  
**187** minutes a week  
with the Simple  
Steps Program

**9,819** women

**and children  
received  
nutrition and  
breastfeeding  
education  
through WIC**



**682**

**people rode  
the new South  
St. Paul LOOP  
bus after it  
started in May**

**26** law  
enforcement  
officers  
certified  
in Mental  
Health First  
Aid Training



**753** high-risk pregnant and parenting families received home visits from a public health nurse

**1,046** radon test kits distributed to keep homes safe - a new record!

**33** partner agencies and individuals participated in **13** Emergency Preparedness exercises

**383** families connected to their school district for early childhood and school readiness through the Birth to Age 8 Initiative



Over **13,000** students have more opportunities to be active during the school day because of partnerships with local schools through SHIP

**555** children participated in the Follow Along Program



**670** car seats distributed

**311** Child & Teen Checkups outreach events provided health information and resources (reached 8,640 individuals)

**2,877** home visits made by Dakota Healthy Families staff and nurses

# What our Customers Say

## Opening Doors to Families



Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) staff call families who are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA). It is an opportunity to

offer resources, talk about other programs that the family may be eligible for and educate about the importance of medical or dental checkups for kids.

In July, a mom was referred to a car seat clinic through one of these calls. She received education and a car seat for her child. She let the C&TC staff know how much she appreciated the call. She said she had always worked hard and received insurance through her employer, but because of a recent change in circumstances, now needed her children to receive health insurance through MA. She didn't know that there were other programs that she was eligible for. She appreciated the call to alert her to these programs to help her until she was back on her feet.

## Energizing Classrooms in Dakota County

Between sitting at their desk for class, testing, and homework, kids can spend a lot of sedentary time throughout the day. With funding from the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), several school districts in Dakota County are working to create balance and get kids moving more during the school day.

Over the past two school years, a total of 195 staff from four school districts participated in a Classroom Energizers training, provided by the University of Minnesota Extension. One teacher was excited to report, *"The Energizers are a good way to bring more academics into our 'brain break' times."*

Another teacher observed, *"There are so many kids that get into trouble for being squirmy, so if you can prevent that...you're going to have them more on task with what you're working on."*

This observation mirrors a growing body of research that supports the connection between physical activity and concentration, attention, and improved classroom behavior.

## Factors that influence your health

We strive to do our work within a framework of the social determinants of health.

These are the things in our environment where we live, learn, work, and play that have an impact on our health and wellbeing.



## A Mother's Note of Gratitude

The following is written from a mother involved in the Dakota County Follow Along program:

*"A HUGE thank you for all that you do! This Follow Along Program was what we needed to connect to the school district, the early intervention program which eventually lead us to realizing Lydia needed tubes in her ears. The tubes not only improved her hearing, her ear infections BUT her gross motor skills, too (i.e. balance = walking!)"*

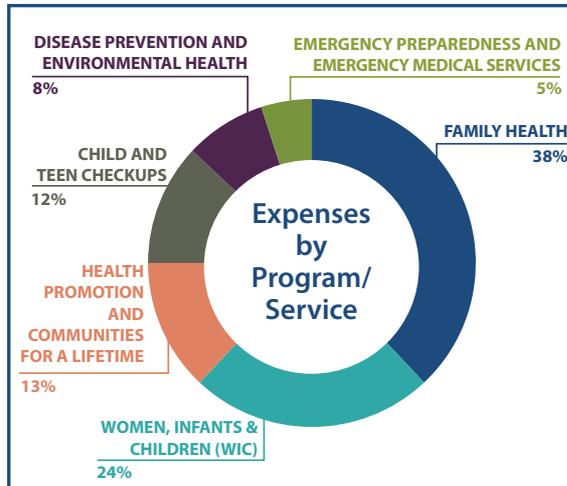
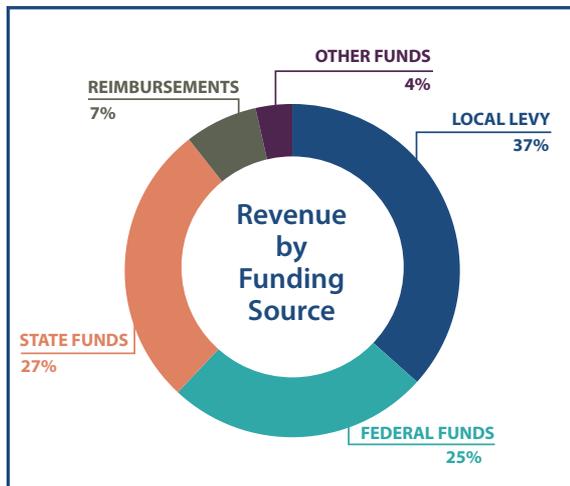


Photo credit: Scott Takushi, Pioneer Press

# Key Financial Stats

2017 Budget: \$10,418,519 • Total 2017 FTEs = 94.02

## 2017 Public Health Revenues and Expenses



# Grant Funding

### Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Cities Readiness Initiative

### Dakota County Collaborative

- Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS)
- Interagency Early Intervention Committee (IEIC)

### F. R. Bigelow Foundation

- Birth to Age Eight Collaborative

### Greater Twin Cities United Way

- Metro Alliance for Health Families (MAHF)

### Minnesota Department of Agriculture

- Farmers Market WIC Nutrition

### Minnesota Department of Health

- Asthma Mentoring
- Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
- Eliminating Health Disparities
- Follow Along Program
- Health Equity Learning Collaborative
- Local Public Health Act Grant
- Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
- Perinatal Hepatitis B, Immunization Practice Improvement
- Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) 4
- Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)
- Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

### Minnesota Department of Human Services

- Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC)

### Minnesota Department of Public Safety

- Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Program (car seats)

### The St. Paul Foundation

- Birth to Age Eight Collaborative



**Learn more about our work**

The work we do happens all year, in many different places, with all kinds of people. Follow Dakota County Government on social media to see more about what we do. We post upcoming events, behind-the-scenes photos, and information for staying healthy.



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