

# NORTH SHORE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Serving the communities of Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, Glendale, River Hills, Shorewood and Whitefish Bay

# MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR – NORTH SHORE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

#### Dear North Shore Residents, Partners and Friends,

One of the North Shore Health Department's significant accomplishments in 2018 was the completion of our 140 Review by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The 140 Review process happens every five years and verifies that our local health department is meeting Wisconsin State Statute guidelines for required public health programs and services. The North Shore Health Department (NSHD) was re-designated a Level III health department – the highest level.

In addition to providing basic services, a Level III department must demonstrate provision of 14 additional public health programs and services, addressing at least seven focus areas identified in the state health plan: Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer. Examples of our 14 programs and services are included throughout this annual report.

As we completed documentation for our review, we noted how much has changed for our department. Local health department services previously focused primarily on direct care and public health nursing services like immunizations and disease investigations. The scope of local health departments in Wisconsin and across the United States has greatly expanded in the last decade.

The changing structure and function of local health departments results from changes in healthcare delivery and increased access to health insurance. Health departments are also changing due to growing awareness of the social and economic conditions that impact health and quality of life as well as the role public health departments can have improving these conditions.

To achieve NSHD's mission of assuring, protecting and promoting the health and safety of people in the North Shore, our health department continues to provide public health nursing services including immunizations and health-related clinics like blood pressure screenings. Many of these services have been expanded and are now provided in multiple locations throughout the North Shore, rather than only in our Brown Deer and Shorewood office locations.

Figur e 1 North Shore Health Department Programs and Services, 1996 and 2018

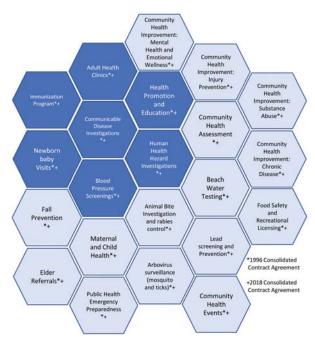


Figure 1 shows the clinical and public health nursing services that had been a large element of our department (dark blue shapes), and while we continue to provide those services, we have expanded our work to also include items in the lighter blue shapes.

In the next five to 10 years, NSHD will continue to evolve and grow based on the changing public health needs in the North Shore, Wisconsin and the nation. If you would like to know more about our programs and services or would like to become involved in our mission, please contact me at *achristi@nshealthdept.org*.

Sincerely,

Ann Christiansen, MPH Health Director/Health Officer

#### NORTH SHORE HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of the North Shore Health Department (NSHD) is to work in partnership with the communities we serve to assure, promote and protect the health and safety of the people in the North Shore. The NSHD provides public health services for the seven Wisconsin communities of Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, Glendale, River Hills, Shorewood and Whitefish Bay, with a total population of more than 65,000.

The NSHD has two offices located in Brown Deer and Shorewood. Residents can utilize services at either location, as well as at routinely scheduled community-based clinics. The NSHD is advised by a Board of Health comprised of representatives from each of the seven communities in the North Shore, along with a medical advisor. The Village of Brown Deer serves as the fiscal and administrative agent for the NSHD.

The NSHD is guided in its work by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 10 Essential Public Health Services (see list to the right). These services outline the responsibilities of public health agencies in the United States to promote and protect the health of the public. All NSHD program and service areas incorporate the essential public health services.

The Department is also guided by our Strategic Plan and our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), available in the Reports section of our website. The CHIP outlines the health priorities of North Shore residents, and the current CHIP's priorities (determined in 2014) include communicable disease prevention and control, chronic disease prevention and management, physical activity, and mental health. A CHIP, however, is dynamic and we are currently in the process of updating the CHIP with our newly chosen health priorities for the next five years. Figure 1 shows the priorities chosen through the new cycle, as determined in January 2019 by the Board of Health. These four areas represent the focus of our 2019-2023 CHIP, which will be released later in 2019.

### NSHD Community Health improvement Plan Focus Areas 2019-2023

Mental
Health and Substance Prevention and
Emotional Free Living Across the Physical
Well Being Lifespan Activity

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health essential Services for Health Departments

- **1** Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
- **2** Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- 3 Inform, educate and empower people about health issues.
- **4** Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- **5** Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- **6** Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- **7** Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- **8** Assure a competent public and personal healthcare workforce.
- **9** Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- **10** Research for new insights and innovate solutions to health problems.

# NORTH SHORE HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The NSHD provides a variety of state-mandated, grant-funded and fee-supported public health services. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) evaluates operations of all 88 local health departments in Wisconsin every five years. This process, known as the 140 Review, verifies that departments are meeting State Statute guidelines for required public health programs and services.

#### Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

A communicable (or infectious) disease is an illness transmitted through direct contact with an infected individual or animal – or indirectly through contact with a vector such as a mosquito, tick, or plant, with blood or bodily fluids, or by breathing in an airborne virus or bacteria. As part of Wisconsin State Statute, 252 – Communicable Diseases, the NSHD is required to follow up and respond to all Category I and II diseases and conditions considered to have significant public health impact.

Wisconsin local health departments investigate all suspect, probable and confirmed cases of reportable communicable diseases for several reasons. Often, we initiate a case investigation for suspect cases while biologic test results are still pending in anticipation of the need to prevent further spread of the disease should results come back confirming a positive case. If tests results are negative and no other clinical information indicates a person has a reportable disease, our investigation process ends as 'not a case.'

In some situations, we continue our investigation and control measures when clinical information suggests it is a case, but test results are negative. These instances are often categorized as probable cases. By investigating and responding to all suspect, probable and confirmed cases we can prevent and control the spread of disease in the community. In 2018, the NSHD responded to 800 suspect and probable disease incidents and conditions, a 15 percent increase from 2017. A total of 530 of these were confirmed disease cases (see Table 1 on following page).

On July 1, 2018 the Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced revisions to Chapter 145 of DHS Administrative Code that establishes a surveillance system for the purpose of tracking the incidence and controlling the spread of communicable diseases in Wisconsin. The most significant changes are in the list of Communicable Diseases and Other Notifiable Conditions that local health departments investigate. Some additions now requiring follow up by local health departments include diseases such as Zika and tickborne diseases, carbon monoxide poisoning, and blue green algae toxicity. However, the one that has had the greatest impact on our work is the addition of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).

People with LTBI are not contagious and show no signs or symptoms of the disease. People with a healthy immune system, if exposed to TB bacteria, can usually fight off infection. However, LTBI, if contracted and not treated, can later develop into active TB, which is contagious and requires treatment. This may happen if a person with LTBI has another infection or develops a weakened immune system for other reasons. Although active TB is not common in the U.S., in many areas of the world it is endemic. Visitors to and from those countries may be exposed to active TB. In addition, people who live in congregate settings are also at an increased risk of TB exposure.

Prior to the change in Administrative Code, NSHD would follow some LTBI cases, primarily in contacts identified while we investigated active TB cases. However, now all cases of LTBI are reported to local health departments. In the six months of 2018 since LTBI became a reportable disease, the NSHD has investigated 22 cases.

Management of people with LTBI requires NSHD to follow up with the healthcare providers to ensure testing is done to rule out active TB. Additionally, NSHD follows up with the LTBI patients to educate about the disease and to identify risk factors for disease progression as this may inform the risk/benefit analysis for treatment. If treatment for LTBI is determined to be in the patient's best interest, in many cases NSHD remains involved with patient monitoring and possibly providing directly observed therapy (DOT) for 3 to 9 months. Latent TB infection cases are complex and involved, with each case requiring individual analysis and follow up, education and possibly case management for an extended period of time – months or even years.

TAbl e 1 Confirmed Communicable Disease Cases\* in North Shore, 2016-2018

Type of Disease	2016	2017	2018
Hepatitis A, B, C	36	30	29
Vaccine Preventable**	16	30	18
Food/Waterborne	42	39	53
Sexually Transmitted Infections	253	262	280
Tuberculosis (TB), Active	<5	0	<5
TB, Latent	<5	<5	18
Mycobacterium (Non-TB)	26	17	31
Influenza Hospitalizations	46	37	65
Strep (A,B, Pneumonia)	12	7	22
Vector-borne Mosquito and Tick (Ehrlichiosis, West Nile, Zika, Lyme)	6	11	6
Other	<5	<5	6
Total	442	438	530
Rate per 10,000	68.2	67.6	81.8

<sup>\*</sup> Confirmed and probable

Source: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System, 2017-2019

#### **Disease investigations**

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are Category II reportable diseases that require monitoring and investigation by local health departments. There are five reportable STIs in Wisconsin with chlamydia and gonorrhea being the two most prevalent. Public Health Nurses conduct interviews with confirmed cases of reportable STIs to assess if people have been appropriately treated and assure notification has taken place with their partner(s). Of note, from 2014 to 2018, rates of gonorrhea in the North Shore nearly quadrupled, increasing from 2.8 per 10,000 to 10.7 per 10,000. In the same time, rates of chlamydia in the North Shore increased from 25.2 to 32.1 per 10,000. This means that for every 10,000 residents in the North Shore, more than 10 had gonorrhea and more than 32

had chlamydia in 2018. While these rates continue to be lower than the national rate of 17.2 per 10,000 (gonorrhea in 2017) and 52.9 per 10,000 (chlamydia in 2017), the North Shore's trend of rising STIs is similar to state and national rising trends.

A vaccine-preventable disease is an infectious disease for which an effective vaccine is available. Pertussis and measles are Category I diseases requiring notification to the local health department within 24 hours of an identified or suspected case. Other vaccine-preventable diseases like mumps and varicella are Category II diseases and require notification to the department within 72 hours of an identified or suspected case. After notification, the health department conducts follow-ups that may include a contact investigation, isolation or quarantine, and assisting schools with calculating exclusion dates for unvaccinated children.

In 2018, the NSHD investigated 109 potential cases of vaccine-preventable diseases with pertussis (whooping cough) being the most prevalent. The NSHD investigated 69 cases of pertussis, of which 14 were confirmed cases.

#### immunization Program

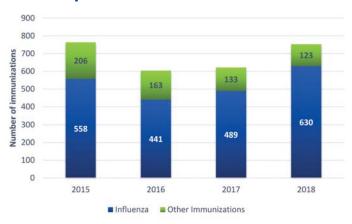
The NSHD maintains an immunization program to prevent and control vaccine-preventable diseases. Under this program, the NSHD provides immunizations to residents without medical insurance or if their insurance does not cover immunizations. The NSHD offers five immunization clinics each month for residents. Additionally, the NSHD works with families, schools and daycare providers to ensure enrolled children are up-to-date on their immunizations and compliant with the Wisconsin Student Immunization Law.

In 2018, 78 percent of children in the North Shore aged 24 months had all required vaccinations and 74 percent of children aged six had all required vaccinations, according to Wisconsin Immunization Registry data.

As part of our effort to prevent influenza, the NSHD provides flu immunizations through our scheduled flu clinics, for homebound residents, and during our regular immunization clinics. In 2018, 84% of our total immunizations were for influenza. We provided 630 flu immunizations in 2018 compared to 489 flu immunizations in 2017 (see Figure 1 on following page).

<sup>\*\*</sup> Pertussis, varicella (chicken pox), mumps, etc.

Figur e 1 immunizations Provided by North Shore Health Department, 2015-2018



Source: NSHD Performance Management System and Wisconsin Immunization Registry

#### Animal bite and r abies Control

The NSHD works with police departments in the North Shore to promptly investigate domestic animal bites for potential rabies exposure. The Health Department is responsible for ensuring that the biting animal is appropriately and legally isolated, observed, and tested for rabies. In 2018 the NSHD unified the rabies control program so that all seven communities manage rabies investigations in a similar manner. The NSHD conducted 22 domestic animal bite investigations in 2018. None of these investigations resulted in a rabies case. The NSHD also assisted with testing of wild animals, such as bats, which may have come in contact with humans. The NSHD tested four bats in 2018 and none tested positive for rabies.

#### **Arbovirus Surveillance – West Nile Virus**

Each year the NSHD collects water samples in summer from local sewer basins to monitor for the presence of Culex mosquito larvae. Culex mosquitos are known carriers of West Nile virus. Once the Health Department has confirmed the presence of Culex mosquito larvae, we alert the participating communities. Municipal leaders determine if they want to treat breeding habitats with larvicide to reduce the spread of these mosquitos. In 2018, we checked samples from three catch basins and positively identified Culex mosquito larvae in some of the catch basins.

In addition, the NSHD participates in the state's Dead Bird Reporting program, monitoring for the presence of West Nile virus in corvids (birds such as crows, ravens, and blue jays). The NSHD monitors dead corvids as an early warning sign that the virus may be present in the area. Confirmed human

cases of West Nile were identified in Milwaukee County in 2018, including in the North Shore.

#### **Chronic Disease Prevention and Control**

Chronic diseases are illnesses that last three months or longer, are rarely cured, and are often progressive. Common chronic diseases include heart disease, stroke, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, arthritis and osteoporosis. Health behaviors such as tobacco use, lack of physical activity and poor eating habits are leading risk factors for many chronic diseases. In 2018, cancer was again the leading cause of death in the North Shore, followed closely by heart disease (see Table 2).

TAbl e 2
Top 10 I eading Causes of Death in North Shore,
2016-2018

Disease		2017 rate per 10,000	
Cancer	19.0	17.6	19.0
Heart Disease	15.7	17.4	18.0
Unintentional Injuries	5.4	5.7	5.4
Alzheimer's Disease	3.1	4.7	3.1
Cerebrovascular/Stroke	4.2	4.0	2.6
Respiratory Diseases	3.9	2.3	2.3
Diabetes Mellitus	2.0	1.2	2.2
Nephritis/nephrotic syndrome	1.2	1.2	1.7
Suicide	0.6	1.5	1.5
Influenza and Pneumonia	2.9	1.2	0.9
Other causes of death	20.3	17.9	21.1

Source: Vital Records, State of Wisconsin, 2016-2019

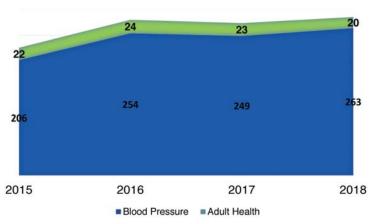
#### **Clinical Services**

The NSHD offers opportunities for residents to manage their health through various clinics. In 2018, the NSHD offered five clinics each month at our Brown Deer and Shorewood offices and at locations throughout the North Shore. NSHD provides free blood pressure screenings during clinic times at our

offices, as well as at the Dolan Community Center in Brown Deer, at the Lydell Community Center in Whitefish Bay and for the Fox Point-Bayside Senior Center, also known as the LX Club. In 2018, we provided 263 blood pressure screenings to residents from all seven of the communities located in our jurisdiction.

NSHD provides affordable adult health screenings, including a blood analysis for cholesterol, glucose, and triglycerides, weight check, and a nurse consultation at our Adult Health Clinics. These clinics are scheduled in our Brown Deer and Shorewood offices.

Figur e 2 blood Pressure and Adult Health Screenings in North Shore, 2015-2018



Source: North Shore Health Department, Performance Management System

#### elder r eferral Program

NSHD staff follow up on referrals we receive regarding health issues of older adults. The NSHD works in partnership with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging and/or North Shore Fire/Rescue to conduct home visits. These referrals often result in linking older adult residents to other resources in the area to maximize their independence and protect their health and safety. In 2018, Public Health Nurses responded to 15 elder referrals from the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, North Shore Fire/Rescue, police departments and concerned residents.

#### **Newborn Home Visit Program**

One of the maternal and child health services the NSHD provides is a newborn home visit by a Public Health Nurse and/or Certified Lactation Counselor. The Health Department sends a letter to all families with newborns in the North Shore offering a home visit by either or both specialists. For those

interested in the visit, a nurse will discuss topics such as home safety, immunizations, nutrition, safe sleep, and healthy growth and development. Lactation counselors will educate and provide clinical management and support for breastfeeding families. In 2018, we added a third Certified Lactation Counselor to our staff and updated educational materials provided to new parents. Through outreach and referrals, NSHD staff visited 30 families in 2018.

#### **Community Events**

The NSHD participates in various community events in the North Shore. Many of these events support our community health improvement focus areas. In 2018, we visited all of the Farmers' Markets held in our communities, participated in National Night Outs and other events as seen in Figure 3.

Figur e 3 2018 Community Outreach events by North Shore Health Department



#### **Environmental Health**

The NSHD's environmental health program focuses on the assessment, management, control and prevention of environmental factors that may adversely affect the health, comfort, safety or well-being of our residents. The NSHD provides these services as part of Wisconsin State Statute, Chapter 254-Environmental Health.

#### Food Safety and r ecreational I icensing

The NSHD oversees the North Shore Environmental Health Consortium (NSEHC), which serves as an agent of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The NSEHC protects the public's health through enforcement of sanitary regulations and fostering sanitary practices in certain public establishments. The NSEHC provides licensing and inspection services for restaurants, pools and hotels. In 2018, the Health Department responded to 26 food and sanitary complaints in licensed restaurants, retail establishments and hotels.

TAbl e 3 r ecreational Food Safety and I icensing by North Shore environmental Health Consortium, 2016-2018

Category	2016	2017	2018
Restaurant Licenses Issued	102	178	175
Retail Food Establishment Licenses Issued	69	64	66
Farmers Markets and Temporary Event Licenses	71	9	20
Pool Licenses	49	75	79
Hotel Licenses	4	10	9
Re-inspections	96	78	102
Complaints	16	8	26

Source: Wisconsin HealthSpace

#### Toxic Substances – I ead Hazard Control

The NSHD's lead hazard control program prevents and reduces the impact of lead poisoning among children in the North Shore. The NSHD receives test results from the State of Wisconsin for all children tested for the presence of lead who reside in any of the seven North Shore communities. A Public Health Nurse reviews test results and contacts families with children whose initial blood lead level result is greater than or equal to  $5\mu g/dL$ . For children with a confirmed elevated blood lead level, the nurse will initiate an investigation, which may include a visit to inspect the home for the presence of environmental conditions that might be contributing to the

lead poisoning. The NSHD also provides education to residents about potential exposures to lead in our region, including sources like paint, dust, soil, and lead-based laterals and plumbing fixtures.

TAble 4 blood I ead I evel r esults in the North Shore, 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Blood lead level results received	534	588	986
Initial Elevated Blood Lead Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL (% of tests)	19 (3.6%)	19 (3.2%)	35 (3.5%)
Home visits made by nurse following confirmed elevated levels	5	2	15

Source: HHLPPS (Healthy Homes Lead Poisoning Prevention System), State of Wisconsin and NSHD

Table 4 (above) shows the number of initial cases of blood lead levels that have been  $\geq 5\mu g/dL$  for the past three years. During 2018, the state of Wisconsin changed the system in which blood lead levels were reported to local health departments, resulting in a greater number of reports. After confirmatory (venous) testing, some cases did not meet the criteria for elevated blood lead levels and thus, no further investigation was warranted. Of those children with initial elevated levels, venous testing was also elevated in 15 children (1.5%).

For children on Medicaid, it is required that they be tested at 12 and 24 months, and additional testing may be warranted if the child is at high risk for exposure or has had elevated levels previously. Because approximately 85% of houses in the North Shore were built before 1980, it is recommended that parents of children living in the North Shore area request their child be screened for elevated blood lead levels at 12 months and 24 months with additional testing if warranted.

#### r adon Outreach and Testing Program

The NSHD provided radon outreach and short-term test kits available at cost in 2018. Staff followed up with residents who had high radon levels and provided additional education and information on mitigation options. The NSHD also provided information on the health risks associated with radon more generally through our newsletter and library display boards. Of 63 radon testing kits sold, we received results on 48 homes. About 19% of those homes (9 homes) had initial elevated levels of radon (≥4pCi/L).

### Human Health Hazard and Public Health Nuisance investigations

Per Wisconsin State Statute, Chapter 254.59, local health departments are required to respond to the presence of human health hazards. Human health hazards are substances, activities or conditions that are known to have the potential to cause acute or chronic illness, injury or death if exposure is not stopped. Local municipal ordinances also give the NSHD authority to investigate and respond to public health nuisance complaints. In 2018, the NSHD responded to five complaints regarding air, water or soil quality, and 30 other human health hazard or public health nuisance investigations. Investigations centered on issues such as sanitary conditions, vermin, animal waste, noxious odors and composting.

#### **Beach Hazards and Aquatic Safety**

The NSHD monitors recreational water conditions at Atwater, Klode and Doctors Park beaches by routinely testing water for harmful levels of *E. coli* bacteria and posting signs to communicate water safety to the public during the summer swimming season. The NSHD works with the Shorewood Department of Public Works to test the water at each of these beaches at least twice a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Sampling results are provided to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and are posted on wibeaches.us.

In 2018, we collected 85 beach water test samples and issued seven cautionary advisories due to bacteria counts elevated above the EPA standard level. Two advisories were issued for Atwater beach, one for Doctors Park beach and four for Klode beach. We also issued one beach closure for unsafe bacterial levels at Klode beach. The costs for monitoring the status of our three beaches is partially covered by a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant.



Matthew Pomes and Ann Christiansen

In 2018 the NSHD partnered with a Whitefish Bay resident on his Eagle Scout project. Matthew Pomes researched best practices, proposed his project to the Village Board, and secured funding to install a safety kiosk at Klode Beach. The kiosk includes signage on escaping a dangerous current,

a ring buoy and a rescue throw bag (see photo).

#### **Injury Prevention Across the Lifespan**

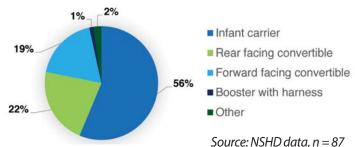
Unintentional and intentional injuries are a leading cause of emergency department visits, hospital inpatient admissions, and fatalities in Wisconsin and the North Shore.

#### **Childhood injury Prevention**

The NSHD partners with North Shore Fire/Rescue to support child passenger safety through our car seat inspection and installation program. The NSHD has two Safe Kids Worldwide Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. We also partner with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to staff a permanent car seat fitting station at North Shore Fire/Rescue Station 81 in Brown Deer. Clinics are held the second Wednesday of each month. Appointments for this clinic can be scheduled through the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin appointment line (414-231-4896).

In 2018, the NSHD completed 87 child passenger safety inspections (see Figure 4), with more than half being inspections or initial installations of infant carriers. For car seats already installed prior to the inspection, over two-thirds of those were incorrectly installed and needed to be re-installed. Frequent errors in installation included improper use of LATCH and/or seatbelts, incorrect use of tether, and using the wrong type of seat for a child's height and/or weight and/or age. This program is partially funded through the donations we receive from the families who use these services.

Figure 4
Child Passenger Safety inspections by NSHD in 2018



#### bicycle Safety

In 2018, NSHD partnered with SafeKids as a pass-through for providing low-cost bicycle helmets. We receive and distribute the helmets for \$10 to community members. Children and adults come to the health department to get fitted for a proper helmet. The health department partners with the municipal police departments, recreation programs, and schools to host annual Bike Rodeos in many of the North Shore communities.

#### **Older Adult Fall and injury Prevention**

The NSHD recognizes falls as a significant issue in our older adult population and offers several fall prevention programs and individual fall risk assessments to community members. Making people aware of this service and the potential benefit has been challenging and fall risk assessments have been done primarily via referrals from North Shore Fire/Rescue (NSFR). Many of the older adults referred by NSFR have had multiple falls and are not candidates for true fall risk assessments, using CDC's STEADI toolkit.

#### Fall Risk Assessments - STEADI toolkit

We provided individual fall risk assessments to three individuals. At the request of these older adults, we did share the assessment information with their primary physicians, and let the physicians know that we are able to provide these as a public health intervention for older adults living in the North Shore at no cost to the clinic or the client. This pilot initiative will expand in 2019 as we partner with North Shore Fire/Rescue on their Home Safety Assessment visits for older adults who have previously fallen.

#### Remembering When

We continued to provide information on fall and fire safety to groups of older adults through "Remembering When" presentations. In 2018, we did four presentations and reached 56 individuals.

#### Stepping On

"Stepping On" is a high-level, evidence-based program proven to reduce falls and build confidence in older people. Evidence has shown Stepping On to reduce fall risk among participants by 30-50%. Stepping On workshops are designed specifically for people who are at risk of falling, have a fear of falling, or who have fallen one or more times. Participants meet for two hours a week for seven weeks. Workshops are facilitated by trained leaders and provide a safe and positive learning experience. Classes are highly participative and offer mutual support so that participants build confidence in their ability to manage their health behaviors, reduce their risk of falls, and maintain active and fulfilling lives.

Through a grant from the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging, NSHD has trained one person as a Stepping On leader and two people from North Shore Fire/Rescue in 2018 and one

workshop was held with 10 consistent participants. NSHD and NSFR will host at least four Stepping On workshops in 2019.

#### Mental Health and Emotional Well Being

The NSHD's suicide prevention strategy is built around our partnerships with organizations like REDgen and Prevent Suicide of Greater Milwaukee. REDgen advocates for mental health and well-being for all youth by promoting balance and resiliency for children and teenagers. Prevent Suicide of Greater Milwaukee is a community coalition whose members work together to reduce the number of attempted and completed suicides. NSHD partners with these groups to support suicide prevention trainings, community education, and advocacy to reduce stigma and improve access to support and services.

These services and programs are provided through schools, faith communities, daycare centers and other parent groups, as well as health care providers through REDgen and PSGM. Additionally, NSHD works with the municipal police departments to support means reduction initiatives, including the promotion of gun safety locks, 24/7 availability of medication drop boxes and medication drop off events sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

#### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness**

Health threats from infectious disease outbreaks, bioterrorism emergencies, and natural disaster events require a coordinated response from multiple government agencies to save lives. Local health departments, including the NSHD, are recognized as essential partners in emergency response situations because of our capacity to identify, communicate, and respond to everyday public health threats such as communicable diseases and human health hazards. We exercise our ability to protect the community from a public health emergency during our annual flu clinics.

In 2018, the NSHD worked with other local health departments in Milwaukee County and in the southeastern Wisconsin region to update and exercise emergency preparedness plans. One major project has involved work on a Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP) with a similar structure among all local health departments in Milwaukee County, but has flexibility to allow for variation by community. By keeping the structure similar, it allows for mutual aid among health departments.

Preparedness exercises in 2018 included a tabletop exercise on Closed Point of Dispensing sites (PODs), a hospital surge exercise, and a regional bioterrorism exercise. Following the Closed POD exercise, we reached out to several North Shore organizations who are in the process of becoming Closed PODs – sites that are able to provide medication and/or vaccination to their employees and patients in case of a public health emergency.

#### **In Summary**

The NSHD has both directly and indirectly reached all who live in, work in, and visit the North Shore through our many programs

and services. We are committed to continuously improving our communities' health, preventing disease and injury, minimizing the health impact of emergencies, and safeguarding the environment. This is done through an organized, collaborative process that includes assessment, policy development, and assurance.

To learn more about what we are doing in 2019, sign up to receive our monthly newsletter, visit us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or explore our redesigned website.

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE 2018**

r eVeNu eS	\$808,865
grants	\$140,854
DHS Maternal/Child Health Block	\$15,801
DHS Immunization	\$12,769
DHS Prevention Block	
DHS Preparedness/PHP	\$75,024
DHS Cities Readiness Initiative	\$14,492
DHS Lead	
DHS Communicable Disease	\$5,400
DNR Beach Testing	
WIHA: Stepping On	\$4,000
Permits	\$154,823
Clinical Fees	\$21,963
Community Contributions	\$472,653
Bayside	\$27,288
Brown Deer	\$131,039
Fox Point	\$28,312
Glendale	\$67,150
River Hills	
Shorewood	\$133,981
Whitefish Bay	\$68,339
Other re venues	\$18,572
TOTAl reVeNueS	\$808,865
ex PeNDiTur eS	\$808,865
Salary and Wages	
Fringe Benefits	
Environmental Health Contracted Services	\$14,468
Supplies, Travel & Other Expenses	\$111,925
Administrative Charges	
Reserves	\$56,955

The North Shore Health Department has a proud and respected tradition of providing excellent health services to our North Shore communities. With our knowledgeable staff, we are continuing our mission to assure, promote, and protect the health and safety of the people in the North Shore.



Serving the communities of Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, Glendale, River Hills, Shorewood and Whitefish Bay

#### STAFF

The Health Department employs a health director/officer, nurse supervisor, Public Health manager, administrative assistant, three Public Health nurses, two sanitarians and a medical advisor, totaling 7.6 full-time equivalents.

#### **bOArD OF HeAITH**

The Board, with representatives from each of the seven communities, helps direct the Health Department's activities.

In addition, a medical advisor serves on the Board of Health.

Ellen Friebert Schupper, MBA-Bayside
Barbara Bechtel, RN-Brown Deer
Bruce Weiss, MD, MPH-Fox Point
Debesh Mazumdar, MD-Glendale
Claudia Altman, MD-River Hills
Kristine Peterka, RN-Shorewood
Christopher Simenz, PhD-Whitefish Bay
Gary Lewis, MD-Medical Advisor/Chair

#### **TWO I OCATIONS**

**brown Deer Office** 

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#### **Shorewood Office**

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