

---

## Accomplishment Highlights

*Healthiest Wisconsin 2010: A Partnership Plan to Improve the Health of the Public* is Wisconsin's state health plan. In this landmark plan, public health is defined as a social enterprise focused on improving and protecting the health and safety of the more than 5.5 million residents of Wisconsin. It takes the work of many to improve and protect the health of all. Wisconsin's public health system partners include government, the public, private, nonprofit, and voluntary sectors. The Department and 94 local health departments serve as the foundation of Wisconsin's public health system.

The 2005 Annual Status Report is an accountability report to the residents of Wisconsin and the statewide public health system partners. It reflects Department-wide activities, accomplishments, efforts to eliminate health disparities, and emerging issues as they relate to the 16 priorities and the three goals of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, and provides a midcourse report to achieve the vision of "healthy people in healthy Wisconsin communities."

Listed below are highlights of the accomplishments documented in this report. With its partners, the Department has:

- Developed *A Framework for Action to **Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Birth Outcomes*** to address one of the most serious and disturbing racial health disparities in Wisconsin: the persistent high death rate of infants born to African American women. With strong support from our partners, the Department and other partners are implementing many of the plan's measures that will lead to healthier birth outcomes for minority populations in Wisconsin.
- Developed the Wisconsin **Pandemic Influenza Plan**, which is considered the "gold standard" for state plans by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and been heavily engaged in pandemic preparedness activities with our partners.
- **Supported Hurricane Katrina response and recovery** efforts by activating CommandCaller to notify Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry volunteers, using the Health Alert Network to communicate and coordinate local public health activities, and playing a leading role in Wisconsin's emergency government activities to assist individuals displaced and relocated to Wisconsin due to Hurricane Katrina.
- Increased **BadgerCare** coverage to approximately 29,000 children and over 60,000 adults. In 2006, the year following the period covered by this report, Governor Doyle proposed an ambitious expansion of BadgerCare, called BadgerCarePlus, to provide access to affordable health insurance for all children.
- Improved **access to dental services** for underserved populations by, among other measures, supporting expanded dental services at rural health clinics, Wisconsin technical colleges, and Marquette School of Dentistry clinics; expanding the Seal-a-Smile program that provides sealants to children; and changing Medicaid reimbursement to help low-income and uninsured children receive dental sealants and fluoride varnishes.

- 
- Created **ACCESS** (Access to Economic Support Services), a Web-based tool that allows Wisconsin citizens to determine if they qualify for certain public assistance programs (Medicaid, BadgerCare, SeniorCare, FoodShare, WIC, State Tax Credits, Summer Meals Program, Medicare Part D and the Free School Lunch Program) by entering basic information about themselves and their family.
  - Increased participation in **FoodShare** to more than 150,000 families.
  - Decreased the number of children under age six who tested positive in a **blood lead test**.
  - Worked to develop **childhood lead poisoning elimination** plans with Racine and Milwaukee, supported the “Window Bill” that would provide low-interest loans to replace windows, and worked on an administrative rule revision to assure that no licensed day-care has chipping lead paint in its environment.
  - Increased the percentage of Wisconsin children aged 19 months to 35 months who were fully immunized to 82.9% and the percentage of school-age children who met the statutory **immunization** requirement to 98 percent.
  - Strengthened asthma control efforts by training 112 child-care providers and 40 teachers and school staff to better care for children with **asthma**.
  - Under the direction of Governor Doyle, began leading an effort to utilize **health information technology** to help reduce medical costs and improve the safety of health care. In 2006, the year following the period covered by this report, the Governor established the eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board, chaired by the DHFS Secretary and composed of a wide representation of public and private partners, and charged the Board with developing an action plan to improve the quality and reduce the cost of health care in Wisconsin by fostering the creation of a statewide health information technology infrastructure.
  - Developed and implemented a comprehensive plan to strengthen Wisconsin’s child welfare system, which among other measures, implements the first statewide child welfare **continuous quality improvement initiative** to provide the counties and the Department with valuable information on the strengths of and opportunities for enhancing child welfare case practice in Wisconsin and identifies seven priorities aimed at improving child welfare services for **American Indian children** in Wisconsin.
  - Helped to implement the “Click It or Ticket” marketing campaign, supported booster seat and other child passenger safety restraint legislation, and supported legislation on graduated licensing for teen drivers to keep people **safe in their vehicles**.
  - Through a \$22.5 million (three-year) federal **Access to Recovery Grant**, transformed the substance abuse recovery support system in Milwaukee to include client freedom-of-choice for treatment, faith-based organization involvement, and wrap-around services.
  - Reached nearly 10,000 people at **mental health anti-stigma** events and developed an anti-stigma curriculum for businesses, schools, and the general public that includes a focus on multicultural awareness.

- 
- Certified 11 counties for **Comprehensive Community Services**, which will allow Medicaid funding for integrated mental health and substance abuse rehabilitation for individuals across the life span.
  - Developed the “**Governor’s School Health Award Program**” to promote healthy school nutrition and physical activity environments.
  - Received a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant for the “**Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program**” to increase fruit and vegetable consumption by every student in 25 selected schools.
  - Established 23 local smoke-free policies, funded a UW–Oshkosh effort that decreased smoking by 10 percent, **reduced youth tobacco use to an historic low**, and reduced illegal tobacco sales to minors.
  - Modernized the administrative rule pertaining to the safety and operation of **public swimming pools** to address the state’s rapidly growing water attraction industry, thus helping Wisconsin maintain its reputation as the Water Park Capital of the World.

The chapters in this report detail state efforts by priority through 2005. The Department of Health and Family Services is pleased and proud to continue working with its public health partners throughout the state to make further progress on achieving the goals of our state health plan: *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*.