



# Wisconsin Governmental Public Health Orientation

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# Objectives of Today's Presentation

- Introduce Wisconsin governmental public health system
- Review legal structure
- Compare responsibility and authority
- Share DHS Resources

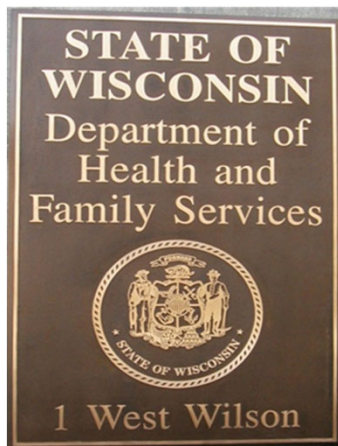
# Wisconsin Public Health Authorities

The **Department of Health Services** is the lead agency for public health and maintains the public health system.

**Local boards of health** are the policymaking bodies for local health departments.

**Local health departments** are responsible for the public health services in their jurisdictions.





**DHS Vision**  
Everyone living their  
best life.

# Six Functions of Public Health Governance

1. Policy development
2. Resource stewardship
3. Legal authority
4. Partner engagement
5. Continuous improvement
6. Oversight

Source: 2015 Local Board of Health National Profile

<http://nacchoprofilestudy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Local-Board-of-Health-Profile.pdf>

# Important Public Health Statutes

- Wis. Stat. ch. 250 Health: Administration and Supervision
- Wis. Stat. ch. 251 Local Health Officials (and Boards)
- Wis. Stat. ch. 252 Communicable Diseases
- Wis. Stat. ch. 253 Maternal and Child Health
- Wis. Stat. ch. 254 Environmental Health
- Wis. Stat. ch. 255 Chronic Disease and Injuries
- Wis. Stat. ch. 256 Emergency Medical Services
- Wis. Stat. ch. 257 Emergency Volunteer Health Care Practitioners

# Important Public Health Rules

- Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 139 Qualifications Of Public Health Professionals Employed by Local Health Departments
- Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 140 Required Services of Local Health Departments
- Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 144 Immunization of Students
- Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 145 Control of Communicable Disease
- Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 149 (WIC)

# Wisconsin Admin. Code ch. DHS 140

- Authority from Wis. Stat. § 251.20
- Sets three levels of local health departments (LHD)
  - Lists required services of local health departments
  - Notes Level I required of all LHDs
  - Provides Level II and III additional requirements
- Further describes health officer qualifications in Wis. Stat. § 251.06



# Required Services

## All Local Health Departments

- Surveillance and investigation
- Communicable disease control
- Other disease prevention
- Emergency preparedness and response \*
- Health promotion
- Human health hazard control
- Policy and planning \*
- Leadership and organizational competencies \*
- Generalized public health nursing services

\* New headings in rule

# Additional Required Services Level II Health Departments

- **Current requirements**
  - Workforce development
  - Quality improvement
  - Performance management
  - Embedded public health nursing services
- **No longer required:** quantity of services provided

# Additional Required Services Level III Health Departments

- **Current requirements**
  - Community health strategist
  - Population health expertise
  - Social determinants of health
  - Public health nursing services embedded
- **No longer required**
  - Quantity of services provided
  - Environmental health agent status

# Types of Health Departments

## **Jurisdictional**

- City
- County
- Multi-city
- Multi-county
- City-county

## **Departmental**

- Public health stand-alone
- Health and human services combined

# Wisconsin Home Rule

- Local governing structures—executive, mayor, or other elected official; administrators or administrative coordinator
- Tribal governance—federal Indian Health Service
- Shared services between jurisdictions
- Border jurisdictions



# Functions of the Public Health Officer

- Manage health department in compliance with state requirements
- Create an annual report for board of health
- Recommend long-term goals of the health department and community using:
  - Strategic planning
  - Community health improvement planning
- Recommend budget
- Recommend community-wide policies to promote health and well-being for board approval

# Local Governance

Local boards are an essential link between public health departments and healthy communities.



Source: 2015 Local Board of Health National Profile

<http://nacchoprofilestudy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Local-Board-of-Health-Profile.pdf>





# WI Governmental Public Health Resources

- Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) [www.wicounties.org/](http://www.wicounties.org/)
- Wisconsin Division of Public Health Information for Local Boards of Health [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/boh-info.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/boh-info.htm)
- Wisconsin DHS Area Administration [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/areaadmin](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/areaadmin)
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) [www.walhdab.org](http://www.walhdab.org)
- Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) <https://wchsa.org/>
- Wisconsin Statute <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/prefaces/toc>
- Wisconsin Administrative Code <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code>
- 2019-2020 Legislator briefing book on the structure of government [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/briefing\\_book/ch01\\_structure\\_government.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/briefing_book/ch01_structure_government.pdf)