

THE TRACKING TIMES

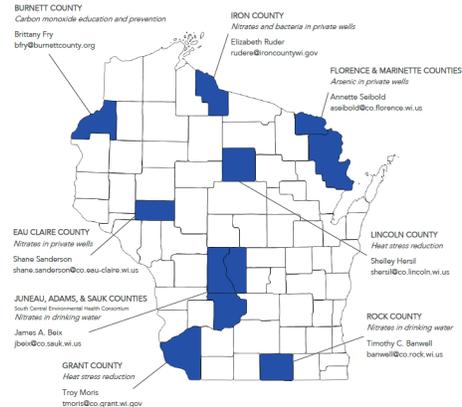
MINI-GRANT SPOTLIGHT

In [our last newsletter](#), we announced the eight grantees awarded up to \$10,500 each to work on an environmental health project.

Temperatures may be cooling down, but our grantee projects are heating up! In each newsletter during 2016, we will share a brief overview about what each grantee is doing to improve environmental public health in its community.

Florence and Marinette Counties

[Florence](#) and [Marinette](#) counties are two of the seven Wisconsin counties that have an average concentration of arsenic in private wells above the maximum level recommended by the US Environmental Protection Agency. To help address this issue, the counties are distributing and tracking free arsenic test kits to areas that have reported the highest levels of arsenic. The counties will be providing additional education and follow-up to assess changes made by homeowners in response to the test.



[View the grantee map and community contacts](#)



Health Officers Annette Seibold (Florence) and Mary Rosner (Marinette) have been very pleased with the response. Seibold stated, “We have distributed our kits sooner than we expected due to the high interest in the communities. We have been able to work against barriers such as finances and access to provide environmental health information that impacts families in their own homes. It’s a great connection for public health locally.” Rosner agreed, adding, “This project has helped us to better connect with outlying rural municipalities and start the conversation about the importance of a person’s environment on their health.”

Burnett County

The rate of emergency room visits related to carbon monoxide poisoning has steadily increased in [Burnett County](#) since 2004. Burnett County staff are working on increasing knowledge of carbon monoxide poisoning and providing carbon monoxide alarms to those in need of them. Outreach efforts will largely occur in Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinics, at school sporting events, and in senior centers in order to focus on the most vulnerable populations.



“This program is great because it allows us to provide not only carbon monoxide alarms to the community, but also education,” said Brittany Fry, Public Health Specialist and project lead for Burnett County. “The education has started conversations among participants that has led to further participant questions. In addition, we have had extremely positive feedback from participants. People have even called the office if they missed us at a location to receive the alarms and education. Moving ahead, I look forward to continuing this program and reaching even more of Burnett County’s residents to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.”

TRACKING IN ACTION

In each newsletter, we share a Tracking success story.

Better Mapping for Better Public Health Outreach

People working to address environmental public health issues in their community are often limited by data. Data are typically provided at the county level, but for many communities, county-level data do not accurately reflect the public health of their jurisdictions.

This success story details how the Tracking Program created our fully redesigned public data portal with this problem in mind. [Read more...](#)



How can we make environmental health data more meaningful for unique communities?

YOUR TRACKING TOOLBOX

In each newsletter, we share environmental health articles and resources.

Winter Weather Toolkit

Brush up on winter weather alerts, health effects, travel, and more in the [Winter Weather Toolkit](#), put together by our partners in the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) program.

January is Radon Action Month

Radon Action Month is coming to a close, but you can test your home for radon at any time! Remember that both new and old homes can have radon, which is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon test kits can be purchased from your [Radon Information Center](#) or at hardware stores for about \$20. Visit lowradon.org for more information.



Time to review that [Winter Weather Toolkit](#)!

An Invisible Killer: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Wisconsin

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is highest during winter months. This [surveillance brief](#) explores the mechanics of CO poisoning, data on CO poisoning in Wisconsin, and recommendations for preventing poisonings. Be sure to also check out our MMWR article, [Exposure to Elevated CO Levels at an Indoor Ice Arena - Wisconsin, 2014](#).



STOP BY AND SEE US SOMETIME

We'd love to talk in person.
Check out our [calendar of events](#), stop by, and say hello!



DROP US A LINE ANYTIME

Have questions about Tracking? Unsure how to use your data? Want to share a success story? Got feedback? [We want to hear from you!](#)



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Interested in Wisconsin environmental public health? Connect and share with public health colleagues by [joining the envhealth listserv](#).



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