



## AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

# CREATING A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE HOME LEAD RISKS DATABASE

Menasha, Wisconsin

### THE PROBLEM

The City of Menasha has more than 7,500 housing units, more than half built before 1970. The age of these homes means they are likely to have at least some lead-based paint, which creates a health hazard. The City of Menasha is federally designated as a low income, medically underserved population and some residents are financially unable to fix lead issues. Using Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program data, Menasha Health Department staff identified several census tracts where childhood lead poisoning rates were near or above the Wisconsin average.

### THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S SOLUTION

Health department staff wanted to make it easier for residents to find and understand lead risk information. Staff had access to the Home Lead Risks database which included information about the age of homes, known renovation dates for homes, the city water service type, and the private water lateral type. However, this information was difficult to query and it was not publicly available. Health department staff worked with an IT consultant to integrate [the Menasha Home Lead Risks database](#) into their agency website, making it available to the public for the first time. The improved database gives staff and other users more comprehensive lead poisoning prevention information, including how to clean and minimize the impact of lead paint in the home.

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

Since many City of Menasha residents are unable to afford high-cost lead remediation, it is critical they know if their home has a lead risk and the steps to take to be safe around lead. The database and its health education information are housed in the same place, making it easier and more convenient for both staff and residents to use. Menasha Health Department staff are actively promoting the database with clients at their clinic, partner agencies, and health professionals in the area.

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTY'S  
LEAD POISONING DATA:

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht)

WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht) | OCTOBER 2019 | [dhstracking@wi.gov](mailto:dhstracking@wi.gov)

Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | P-02514 (10/2019)

This project funded by the Tracking team's *Taking Action with Data* program.

