Community Health Internship Program (CHIP)
Statewide • Milwaukee • Environmental • SEARCH

2012 Summary Report

The Wisconsin AHEC Community Health Internship Program links undergraduate and graduate student interns with health departments, community health centers, tribal health centers, and community service agencies throughout Wisconsin to address a variety of public health issues. Projects vary widely to suit interns’ interests and abilities, as well as local program needs.

On-site mentors provide technical support and assistance and help interns to gain an understanding and appreciation of the broad range of public health activities undertaken at the local level. The program would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of these community health professionals, who enrich the educational experience for CHIP participants.

In turn, there is also a benefit to the communities where interns are placed. Projects are proposed by the sponsoring agency or health department, and address local health priorities. Each intern’s work typically has an immediate direct impact on the local community or region, as highlighted in this report.

The program is sustained through funding from the State of Wisconsin and from federal and other grants, including WiCPHET (the Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training).

AHEC Statewide CHIP
JUNE 4 - JULY 27, 2012 (8 weeks)
During summer 2012, 50 students were placed in 37 Wisconsin counties. Statewide CHIP had 8 new sites serving rural and underserved populations.

Milwaukee CHIP
JUNE 4 - JULY 27, 2012 (8 weeks)
A group of 33 students participated in Milwaukee CHIP. Interns were placed in 4 southeastern counties (Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth). These placements are coordinated by Milwaukee AHEC.

UW-Oshkosh Environmental Intern Program
In collaboration with UW-Oshkosh, 17 students were placed at 7 sites (spanning 10 counties) to conduct environmental health inspections.

SEARCH Program
National Health Service Corps scholars and other students in selected health professions are eligible for placement in CHIP through SEARCH contract funds (Student/Resident Experiences in Community Health). AHEC filled 4 of the statewide CHIP internships with SEARCH-eligible students during 2012, placing interns in underserved areas.

What is AHEC?
The AHEC (Area Health Education Center) program is a health professions education and outreach program supported by the State of Wisconsin, federal grants, the state’s health professions training programs, and local communities. It is part of a nationwide network of programs for improving accessibility and quality of primary health care.

The Wisconsin AHEC System consists of seven regional centers located in Manitowoc, Superior, Milwaukee, Madison, Cashton, Wausau, and Marinette. A statewide office, located in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, administers state and federal contracts to the centers, and maintains several statewide programs.

The national program was designed to encourage universities and educators to look beyond their institutions to form partnerships that meet community health needs, working toward the goal of decentralizing health professions training and linking communities with academic health centers in partnerships to promote cooperative solutions to local health problems.
**Participant Profile**

Students selected for the program are usually college juniors or seniors, first-year health professions graduate students or other graduate students with a strong interest in public health. Since 2002, AHEC's statewide program has placed 261 interns in more than 50 participating health departments and other agencies. Milwaukee CHIP has placed an additional 368 students since that program began in 2000.

**Statewide CHIP**
50 students

Undergraduates 38
Graduate students 9
Going to Medical School in Fall 2012 3

**Milwaukee CHIP**
33 students

Undergraduates 31
(Includes RUSCH students - UW SMPH pipeline program)
Graduate students 1
Medical Students 1

**Counties with Placements**

Statewide CHIP
Includes environmental interns
40 counties

Milwaukee CHIP
4 counties

AHEC Regions
- Northwest
- Northern Highland
- North Central
- Northeast
- Scenic Rivers
- South Central
- Milwaukee & Southeast
Participating Sites

Statewide CHIP sites
Allied Wellness Center
Ashland County Public Health Department
Barron County Health Department
Bayfield County Health Department
Breastfeeding Alliance of Northwest Wisconsin
Brown County Public Health Department
Buffalo County Health Department
Chippewa County Health Department
Clark County Public Health Department
Dodge County Health Department
Eau Claire County Public Health Department
Fond Du Lac County Public Health Department
Oneida County Health Department
Ozaukee County Public Health Department
Pepin County Health Department
Pierce County Public Health Department
Polk County Health Department
Red Cliff Tribal Center
Rock County Health Department
Rusk County Public Health Dept.
Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center
Shawano County Public Health Department
Sheboygan County Public Health Department
St. Croix County Public Health Department
Taylor County Health Department
Trempealeau County Health Department
UW-Whitewater
Watertown Public Health Department
Waupaca County - UW Extension
Waushara County Public Health Department
West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency—Family Table
Winnebago County Public Health Department
Wisconsin Division of Public Health
Wisconsin Healthy Aging Institute
Wood County Public Health Department

Milwaukee CHIP sites
Aurora Sinai Medical Center
Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic
Bread of Healing Clinic/Agape and Eastbrook
Bread of Healing Clinic/Cross Lutheran Church Center for Urban Population Health
City of Milwaukee Public Health Department
Community Care, Inc
Greenfield Health Department
Kenosha County Division of Health
MCW Center of Advancement for Underserved Children
MCW Institute for Health and Society
MCW Department of Family & Community Medicine
Milwaukee Area Health Education Center
Racine Health Department, Lab
UW Madison College of Nursing, House of Peace
Community Nursing Center
Walworth County Health & Human Services

Comments from Mentors

“CHIP program did an outstanding job matching our needs with the intern’s skills and interests.”

“The intern we worked with was incredibly motivated and even started to find tasks to do (rather than waiting to be assigned), which was great! It was really wonderful to have some help on special programs. Without the CHIP program, we wouldn’t have been able to develop such great materials to reach out to our Spanish-speaking community.”

“The quality of the interns I have been matched with over the years have always been exceptional.”

“The placement worked well. The intern was very interested and always willing to learn. The quality of work done by the intern was also very impressive.”

“We love having an intern! Overall, it’s a great experience...we get some work completed that may not have been done before, and the intern is able to get some real life work experience.”
Projects cover themes spanning all areas of public and community health, that address current needs and priorities of the local site. Students are matched to the projects and sites based on their skills and academic interests, as well as their preference for location.

**STATEWIDE**

**Childbearing, Breastfeeding, and WIC (Women, Infant, and Children program)**
- Christina Anderson (Chippewa County)
- Shannon Carufel (Barron County)
- Emma Kane (Winnebago County)
- Ellie Krueger (Outagamie County - BFAN)
- Nora O’Reilly (Polk County)

**Environmental Health**
- Sarah Davey (Ashland County)
- Sam Flatland (St. Croix County)
- Nicole Frankfourth (Rusk County)
- Grant Gigot (Brown County)
- Jessica Korzynski (Waushara County)
- Erin Legee (Dane County)
- Lexi Leonhardt (Ozaukee County)

**Assessments: Community, Quality, and Accreditation**
- Katie Behl (Watertown)
- Allison Blumenfeld (Dodge County)
- Carlie Bohrman (Dane County)
- Laura Holt (Bayfield County)
- Lydia Lehnertz (Buffalo County)
- Steve Olson (Watertown)
- Monika Ramnarayan (Sheboygan County)
- Aubrey Stetter (Monroe County - Scenic Bluffs)
- Shawn Wayne (Green Lake County)
- Alyssa Weinrich (Pepin County)

**Policy, Research, and Evidence-Based**
- Andrew Bethke (Dane County - Wisconsin Healthy Aging)
- Erica Goodman (Grant County)
- Laura Leeson (Dane County - Wisconsin Healthy Aging)
- Meghan McClellan (La Crosse County)
- Aaron Robinson (Winnebago County)

**Community Building: Coalition and Strategic Planning**
- Nicole Cronk (Trempealeau County)
- Marci Pasquesi (Walworth/Jefferson County - UW Whitewater)
- Ashley Pettit (Dane County - Allied Neighborhood)
- Robert Ring (Clark County)
- Sarah Voet (Outagamie County - End of Life Care)
- Alyssa Walker (Eau Claire County)

**Obesity Prevention, Nutrition, and Physical Activity**
- Rebecca Amstutz (Forest County)
- Maria Brown (Monroe County)
- Dina Garcia (Dane - Wisconsin DHS)
- Allison Gilbert (La Crosse County)
- Sarah McCaulley (Brown - Live 54218)
- Ashley Ponschok (Shawano County)
- Monica Rodgers (Dunn County)

**UW-OSHKOSH SITES**
- **Ashland/Lake Superior Region**
  - Matthew Bohr, Stephanie Hands, Kirsten Jahn, Emily Novicki, and Allissa Stutte
- **Door/Kewaunee Counties**
  - Mayra Castaneda, Anthony Klebs, Whitney Thiel, Nidhi Sheth, and Kayla Wundrow
- **Marinette County**
  - Adriene Schiavo
- **Vilas County**
  - Shelby Bergum, Jennifer Kloes, Rebecca Murphy, Cassidy Walsh
- **Winnebago County**
  - Stephanie Krueger and Ashley Yancy
**MILWAUKEE CHIP**

**Children and Families**
- Breast Is Best Promotion (Kara Ackerman)
- Community Based Research to Improve Children's Health (Kathryn Kernien)
- Developing Parenting Classes for an Urban Population (Nhan Le)
- Reach Out and Read—Milwaukee (Tonia Qaisar)
- Childhood Nutrition in Milwaukee Area Community Centers (Kristin Roensch)

**Community Health Assessment**
- Community Health Improvement Plan (Kelsey Blumer)

**Environmental Health**
- Comprehensive Sanitary Survey Project for High Risk Wisconsin Beaches, Southern WI (Melissa Schwartz)

**Health Promotion**
- Health Education in Milwaukee Health Department Wellness Program and in WIC (Danielle Harris)
- Health Promotion / Disease Prevention (Emma Oanes)
- Face of Aging in Milwaukee County (Habib Rahemtulla)
- Promotion of Arthritis Programs through Various Media (TeAngelo Cargile)

**Public Health**
- Seal-A-Smile and Immunizations, Evidence-Based Prevention Programs (Kathleen Bailey)
- Community Care Inc. Employee Influenza Vaccination Study (Jamie Cummings)
- Public Health Accreditation Board Process (Nancy Retana)

**Youth**
- Leadership of Youth Health Service Corps (Katherine Carter)
- PrepTalk for Youth Implementation (Kayla Johnson)

**Research: Planning and Evaluation**
- Institute for Urban Health Partnerships
- Health Equity for Vulnerable Populations (Shannon Bjoraker)
- Developing and Implementing a Humanities Curriculum for Physicians (Nicole Chyrklund)
- Men's Health Program Client Satisfaction Survey (Peter Harper)
- Study of Successful Outcomes in Programs for Seniors (Laila Hasan)
- Community Healthcare Access Program Client Survey (Maritza Pallo)
- Population Health Management: Research and Education to Improve Outcomes, Equity and Value (Isaac Weeks)
- Improving Opportunity for Responsiveness in a Community-based Clinic (Song Xiong)

**Service / Quality Improvement**
- Expanding Specialty Access for the Uninsured (Anne Marie Cooper)
- Laboratory System Improvement Program: Strategic Planning (Patrick Heffernan)
- Aurora UW Medical Group Patient Flow Mapping and Process Improvement to Create Additional Access (Brenda Kaczmarowski)
- Aurora UW Medical Group Interprofessional Training Project (Shagufta Khan)
- Teaching Community Physicians to Diagnose, Report and Treat Tuberculosis (Rebecca Rohde)
- Eastbrook / Agape Liaison Manager (ELM): Bread of Healing Clinics (Caitlin Timmers)
- Organizing and Koordinating (OAK) a Free Clinic: Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church (Kaylin Yohn)
- Promoting Use of Social Media in Academic Research (Vivian Lee)
- Unplugged - A video series for population health research dissemination (Tim Rushmer)
- Employing Social Media in STD Partner Notification (Ashey Van Galen)

**Learn @ UW (Statewide)**
Throughout the summer, Wisconsin AHEC provides online instruction about community health principles and practice. CHIP interns participated remotely from their sites. 2012 activities included:
- Webinars
  - Policy and Social Determinants of Health
  - Environmental Health
- Letter to a Legislator
- Informational Interview
- Final Presentations
- Reflections

**Weekly Seminars (Milwaukee CHIP)**
Milwaukee interns attended community health oriented presentations, on Tuesday afternoons, including:
- Poverty and Health
- Dental Health needs
- Cultural and health beliefs of Hmong
- Domestic Violence
- Epidemiology
- Challenges of public health
- Alternative health services

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**Orientation Day**
June 1, 2012
UW-Madison campus

Interns and mentors were invited for this day-long session.

Agenda topics included:
- Local Public Health
- County Health Rankings
- Identities Awareness
- Mentoring Relationships
- InformedCaring.org
- CHIP 2011 Experiences
- Poverty Simulation - presented by the state public defender's office.
Impact  (Comments from summer 2012 CHIP interns)

I can say with 100% certainty that I can see myself being a public health nurse and I would enjoy every minute of it.

— Wendy Hilmerhausen, Lincoln County intern

I have learned things that directly correlate with my coursework, and I am excited to start my last semester of college with a better understanding of what exactly I could be doing upon graduation.

— Nicole Frankfourth, Rusk County intern

AHEC is an essential component for young pre-professionals to get involved and find something they are passionate about. It is a key component to improving the future health of Wisconsin as a whole.

— Erica Goodman, Grant County intern

I found this internship experience to be extremely valuable to my future in the health care profession. I never realized the dire importance of public health, until I was there to witness it first hand.

— Laura Holt, Bayfield County intern

I am looking forward to graduating in a year and hopefully finding a job very similar to what I was doing this summer in my internship.

— Sam Flatland, St. Croix County intern

It’s truly been an amazing summer! I’ve gained valuable microbiology knowledge, lab skills, and most importantly an overall view of the inner-workings of a public health department and what role each division plays and how they work together. I couldn't have asked for anything more out of the program. Everyone was extremely supportive and willing to share their experiences with me. I am now committed to a career in public health!

— Grant Gigot, Brown County intern

My time as an intern at the Thompson Community Center in Appleton, Wisconsin, was by far the most hands-on and engaged experience I have ever had. This internship allowed me to appreciate this segment of public health in Wisconsin and has opened many doors to new experiences.

— Sarah Voet, Fox Valley End of Life Care Coalition Outagamie County intern