

Lincoln County

Public Health Division

2015 Annual Report



Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Message from the Director: Welcome to the first annual report on the State of Public Health for the Lincoln County Board of Health. The landscape for public health in Oregon and really nationally is changing and we are on the cutting edge of this change. Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2011, we have seen seismic alterations of the health system, it is not just “Obama Care” which assures most people can have affordable health care insurance but it recognizes that we need to invest in preventative care and coordinate services so the whole person can be healthy where they live, learn, work and play. When the legislators passed HB3100 last year, Oregon launched a very proactive response to modernizing the Public Health system along with two other states, Washington and Ohio. This legislative process is dedicated to assuring that public health can meet the ever increasing demands to prevent disease, promote health and protect the public through regulation and health education. This report reviews all the services that public health provides in accordance with statute, recognizes quality improvement and highlights challenges that we hope to address in the future. Business as usual is not something we strive for any longer. We are functioning in a world that demands we collaborate, that we measure success and that we constantly improve our services to our community. These are exciting times and demand that we each take full responsibility for our roles in assuring a healthy community.

Rebecca Austen, RN, MSN, Public Health Division Director

Mission

Lincoln County Public Health, in collaboration with our community partners, provides leadership to assure the conditions for healthy communities.

Vision

A thriving community of active, healthy people of all ages, abilities and cultures who are living, learning, working and playing together in a safe environment.

Guiding Principles

Respect: We honor the dignity and diversity of all people regardless of sex, race or ethnicity, age, language, religion, national or social origin, physical or mental disability, health status, sexual orientation or civil, political, or social status.

Honesty: We serve our community in a manner that is truthful and allows for transparent processes and decisions in order to be accountable to those we serve.

Collaboration: We strive to work as a team within Public Health and with community partners in order to achieve our vision.

Compassion: We serve the community in a caring and supportive manner that seeks to prevent and resolve the issues that contribute to poor health outcomes.

Trust: We strive to build confidence with our community and clients through the use of evidence-based practices and demonstrated success.



Strengthening Our Foundation: Assessment to Plans to Accreditation & Modernization



The Lincoln County Community Health Assessment (CHA) provides an accurate and current overview of the county’s health and is used in the development of health related goals and plans and informs the work of the Public Health Division.



The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) uses the CHA to inform and outline the top public health priorities and defines objectives and strategies community partners will accomplish.



The Regional Health Assessment (RHA) allows Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties to have better access to a broader array of information about the health of our community and allows us to look at information about our community and our region in a new way.

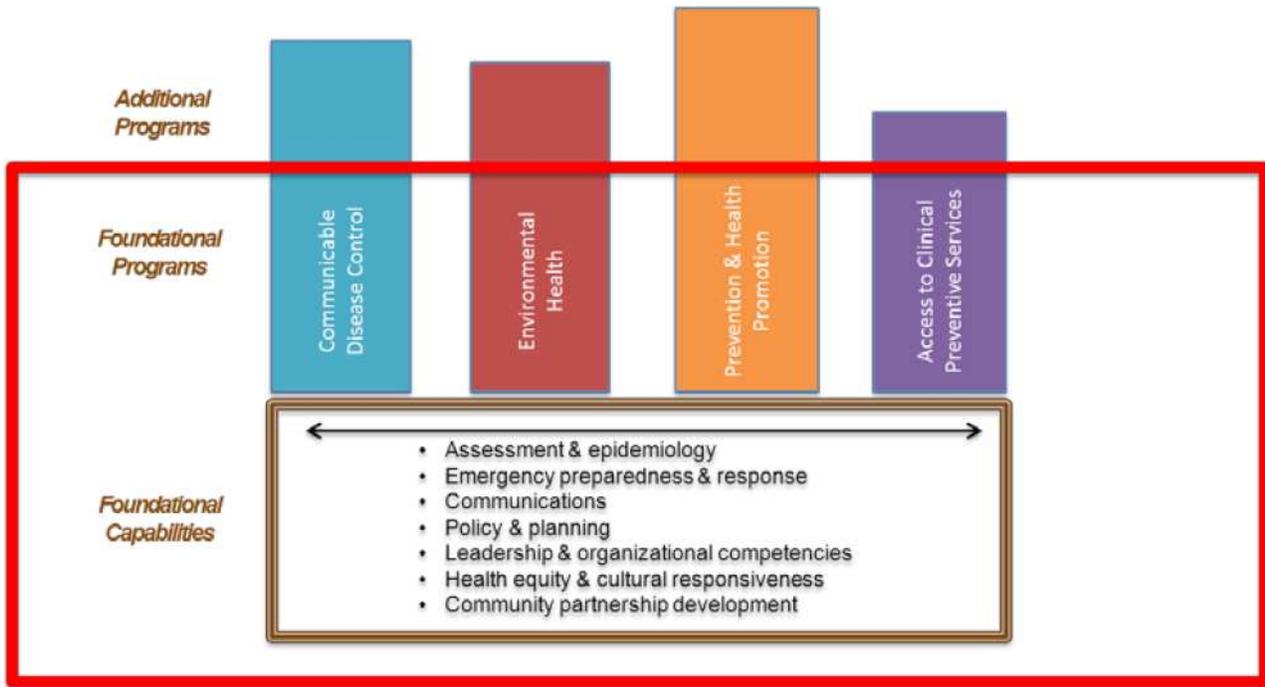
The development of the CHA, CHIP, and the RHA is leading the Public Health Division toward becoming a nationally accredited public health department through the Public Health Accreditation Board. Accreditation means that we will be better able to provide quality services that will protect and improve the health of Lincoln County residents. By meeting a nationally held set of standards we will join health departments large and small across the nation who have been reviewed by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

We developed the *Public Health Division Strategic Plan for 2015-2020*. Our primary focus for the five year plan:

- Improve our customer service.
- Excel as an organization through workforce development and improving organizational performance.

The 2015 Oregon State Legislative Session passed HB3100, which aims to kick off the statewide effort to “Modernize the Public Health System.” Each health department in the state conducted an extensive self-assessment to understand what their current capacity and knowledge was for each of the 11 Foundational Capabilities and Programs. Traditionally, public health has been functioning as a “safety-net” in order to meet the needs of the growing number of uninsured people. The goal of modernization is to switch from direct individual service to assure the whole community is healthy.

Conceptual Framework for Governmental Public Health Services



Who is Public Health?

Board of Health: The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners (BOC) serves as the Board of Health (BOH) for Lincoln County in accordance with ORS 431.410. They shall appoint a Public Health Administrator, Cheryl Connell and a Health Officer, Dr. David Long. They may also appoint a Public Health Advisory Committee.

Public Health Advisory Committee: The Public Health Advisory Committee serves to advise, review, and guide the BOH and the Public Health Department. The Public Health Advisory Committee meets monthly and has been responsible for leading major initiatives related to county health efforts. The Public Health Advisory Committee regularly reviews how the agency is performing and reviews the Public Health Annual Report before the report is submitted to the BOH.

Prevention Section: Public Health prevents illness by addressing the risk factors that can cause illness. Prevention work in Lincoln County focuses on families and young children because the first few years of life have proven to have a significant impact on the health of a person later in life.



Home Visiting: Public Health offers at least one home visit to every new and expectant parent in Lincoln County. Home visiting staff can provide information on child development, nutrition, how to find a primary care provider, and can connect clients with resources. Home visiting is provided through: Nurse Family Partnership, Maternity Case Management, Babies First!, CaCoon, and Healthy Families Oregon

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): WIC is a nutrition education program that helps families to make healthy food choices and improve lifetime nutrition in targeted populations. The program provides WIC and eWIC vouchers to purchase healthy foods, provides breastfeeding help, and extra foods for moms who are breastfeeding.

Promotion Section: Public Health aims to promote the health of the population by improving everyone's ability to engage in healthy behaviors. Through community education and policy work, Health Promotion addresses behavioral factors (like smoking, exercise, and diet), social factors (like shared health habits of families and friends), and environmental factors (like sidewalks, parks, and reducing exposure to second-hand smoke) that influence health. Health promotion currently works in the following areas:

Tobacco Prevention & Control: Raises awareness in the community about the harms of new products, how the tobacco industry uses marketing tactics that appeal to youth, and works to increase the number of tobacco-free indoor and outdoor properties.

Mental Health Promotion: Utilizes community trainings and educational materials to increase the awareness of trauma and its lifelong impacts and how service providers and community members can work with those who have experienced past trauma.

Addiction, Substance Abuse, & Problem Gambling: Addresses multiple risk factors and protective factors using strategies including public awareness campaigns, partnerships with schools and other entities to provide education and information, public policy development, and assessments of community needs.

Colorectal Cancer Screening: Uses community education and collaboration with local clinics to educate the public on the importance of regular colorectal cancer screenings and to increase screening rates.

Protection Section:

Drinking Water, Solid Waste, & Facility Inspections: Environmental Health ensures proper sanitation to prevent the spread of disease. This is done by:

- assuring that public drinking water is in compliance with the Safe Water Drinking Act,
- routinely inspecting and licensing food service, schools, organizational camps, day cares, swimming pools and spas, and traveler's accommodations for safe practices and sanitation standards, and
- working to reduce solid waste accumulated on properties.

Vital Statistics: Vital Statistics services include registration of all births and deaths in Lincoln County. Vital Records are tracked as a means of gauging health markers.

Emergency Preparedness: Develops and implements practices and protocols to prepare for and respond to major, sudden threats and emergencies that affect the health of citizens and visitors of Lincoln County. This includes:

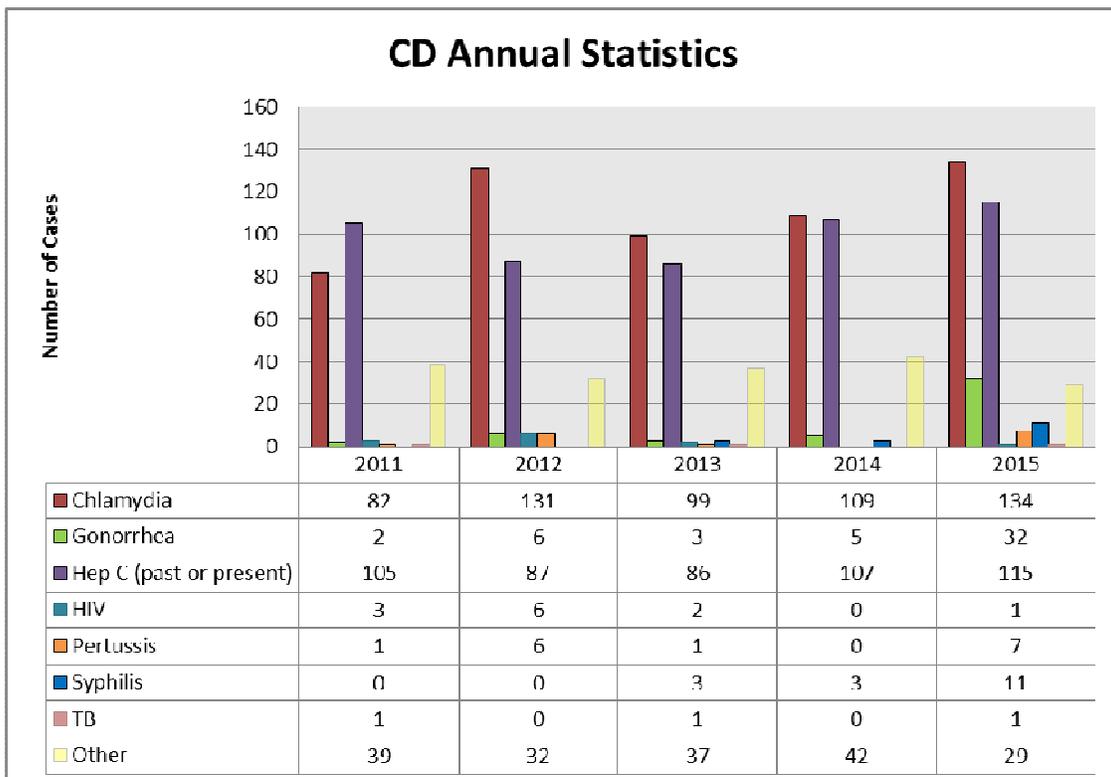
- ensuring sufficient health resources are available, and
- training health care providers to prevent, respond to, and recover from public health incidents.

The program also identifies strategies to address the needs of higher risk populations, such as those with a disability, and ensures the capacity to manage and support displaced populations.

Immunizations: Lincoln County Public Health works in partnership with the school district, School Based Health Centers, and the Federally Qualified Health Centers to ensure that immunizations are up to date for infants, children, and adults.

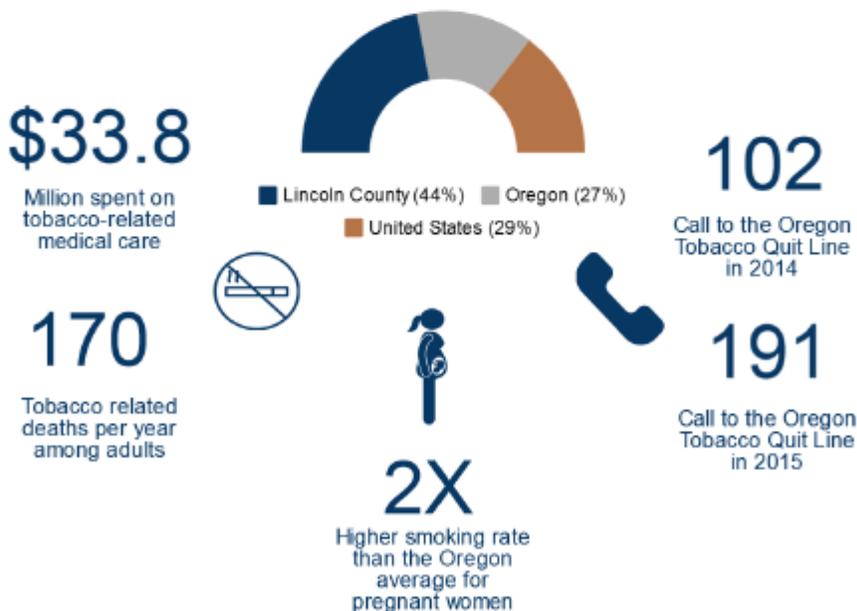
Communicable Disease: The Communicable Disease program identifies, monitors, and reports all diseases of public health significance as described by Oregon Health Authority Guidelines. This process includes

- contact investigations
- notifying partners
- testing
- treatment to limit the spread of disease.





Percent Population Smoking Cigarettes (Age Adjusted)



Data Sources: American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates 2010-2014; 2014 WIC Factsheet from OHA, 2014 Tobacco Factsheet from OHA, 2015 Housing Factsheet from the Oregon Housing Alliance

717

Students identified as homeless in Lincoln County



72

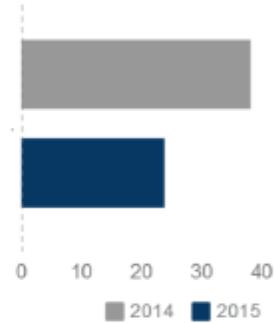
Work hours needed for a minimum wage earner to afford 2 Bedroom Apartment

Vacant Housing Units, Percent



■ Lincoln County (60%) ■ Oregon (18%)
 ■ United States (23%)

11th Graders who reported using alcohol in the last 30 days, Percent



333

Births in Lincoln County



157

Birth Certificates Issued

509

Deaths in Lincoln County



2,466

Death Certificates Issued

609

Licenses issued for restaurants, lodging, pools, and spas

50

Median Age as compared to Oregon's median age of 39

15%

Veteran population as compared to Oregon's 10.3% and the Nation's 8.65%

119

Animal Bites



5

Confirmed rabies cases in surrounding counties



18%

Percent of population with a disability as compared to Oregon at 14.2%

Public Health at Work

Immunization Program: Decreasing the Rate of Students Excluded from School

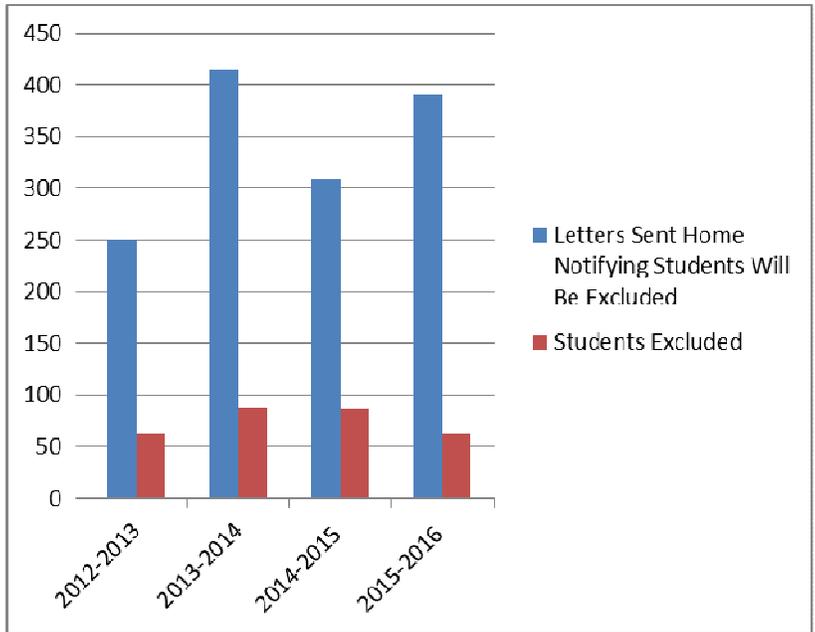
Every year students are excluded from public and private schools, preschools, Head Start, and certified child care centers for either not getting vaccinations or not applying for an exemption.

Changes in state law no longer allow for a religious-exemption, and parents must have a consultation with their primary care provider or watch an online educational video before applying for an exemption. Letters were sent to all school districts reminding them of the changes.

From 2013 to 2015, the county

saw a jump in the rate of students excluded from school. The Immunization Team collaborated with key players in the exclusion process, learning roles of each; the public health department, the school district, the school-based health centers, and parents.

By improving these connections, the Immunization team was able to bring the exclusion rate down to pre-2013 levels. In a school district with 5,300 students, only 62 were excluded—a 28% decrease in the number of students excluded from the previous year. Decreasing the rate means that more children will not miss out and fall behind in school and child care can be provided for working parents.



Environmental Health: Reaching Out to Those We Serve

As part of the customer service satisfaction priority goal in the *Public Health Division Strategic Plan for 2015-2020*, the Environmental Health office created a survey that was sent out with the annual license renewals.

This survey asked questions about their most recent inspection, their interaction with their inspector, and accessing Environmental Health services in general.

The majority of feedback was positive, particularly regarding interactions with inspectors. Our Environmental Health team will continue to collect the surveys to assess how they can improve their work and relationships with customers.



Closing Statements:

The Path Forward

The world of Public Health is changing and Lincoln County Public Health Division is changing along with it. In the next few years we will continue on our path of becoming a nationally accredited public health department, we will adapt to the changing landscape that modernization calls for, and will continue to improve the quality of our work. We won't be alone on this path though. We will work to involve even more community members in our Community Health Improvement Plan and to further build cross-jurisdictional partnerships in our County and in the region.

