



Environmental Health Program Update

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Agenda



- Public Health Responsibilities
- Environmental Health Program History
- Revenue and Expenses
- What is Environmental Health?
- Current Program Responsibilities
- New Program Responsibilities
- Cross-Division Partnership
- Community Outreach Events
- Future Efforts

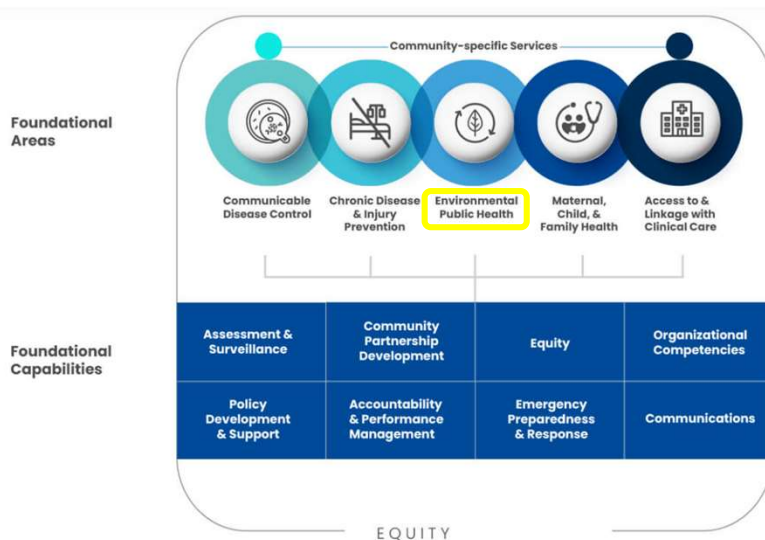
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Public Health Responsibilities



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Foundational Public Health Responsibilities



Source: Public Health Accreditation Board, February 2022, www.phaboard.org

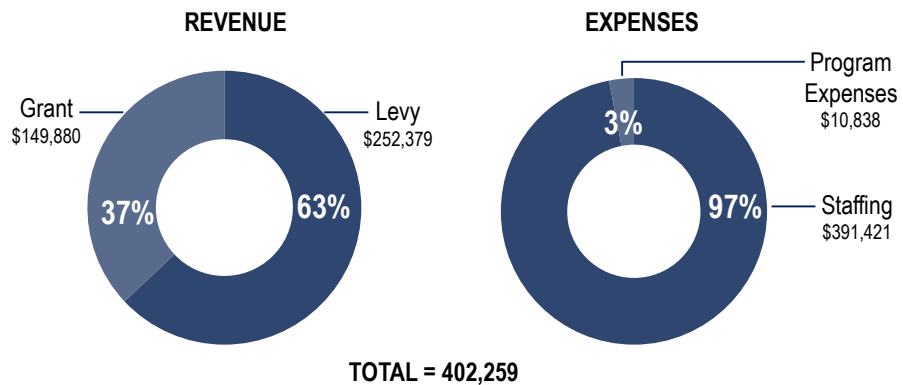
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Program History



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Revenue and Expenses



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What is Environmental Health?



Environmental Health works to prevent
and reduce exposures to environmental hazards



Air



Homes



Water



Chemicals &
Hazards



Recreation



Weather &
Climate



Communities



Licenses &
Certificates



Food, Pools
& Lodging



Radiation

★ No current DC EH work in these areas

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Current Program Responsibilities



Public Health
Nuisance

Radon

Lead Hazard
Reduction
Orders

Public Inquiries
and Complaints

Mass
Assemblage
License Reviews

Clandestine
Drug Labs

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Public Health Nuisance



Minnesota Statute

Sections 145A.02 & 145A.04

Essential partnerships

City code enforcement

County adult protection

EH conducts site visits

Order issued if property meets criteria

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE

FACT SHEET

A public health nuisance can be any of three things:

- Can make people sick,
- Can cause an infestation of insects or rodents, or
- Can pose a health threat or injury to others who may enter the home or building.

What is the role of public health departments?

Minnesota Statute 145A defines a "public health nuisance" as any activity or failure to act that adversely affects the public health. Minnesota Statute 145A gives the local board of health or its agent the authority to remove or decrease the threat within a certain time.

What are examples of public health nuisances?

Public health nuisances can be:

- Piles of trash or solid waste
- Human or animal feces
- Rotting food
- Rodent or insect infestation
- Lack of water or sewage disposal
- Limited or blocked pathways to windows and doors
- Number or type of animals that might be dangerous to people

It is important to acknowledge that a "messy" or "cluttered" work or living area is not always a public health nuisance.

How does a public health department find out that a nuisance exists?

Public health nuisance reports and referrals can come from anyone who suspects one exists. Reports may be made by property owners, tenants, neighbors, family, concerned citizens, EMS responders, or law enforcement.

All nuisance reports will be investigated. The type of investigation will be determined by the public health department and may include a variety of agencies, such as community social services, law enforcement, or the humane society.

How will a public health nuisance be addressed?

If declared a public health nuisance, the owner is given 10 days to remove, fix, or decrease the issue and have a re-inspection scheduled. If the owner declines to address the public health nuisance, the public health department has authority to do it on their own. The health department can make the property owner pay for the work needed to fix the nuisance.

REPORT A NUISANCE

To report a nuisance call (952) 891-7500 or email EnvironmentalHealth@co.dakota.mn.us

Dakota County
Public Health Department

601.554.6100
publichealth@co.dakota.mn.us

DOCHD-HB-378 (2024)



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Collaboration



PH Environmental Health
Social Services Adult Protection
Crisis Response Unit



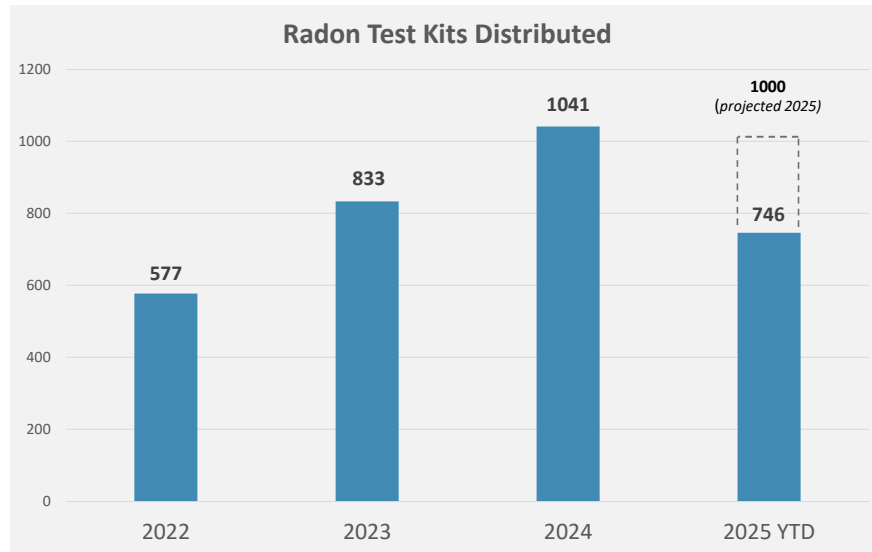
Contracted Case Worker
Mental Health Case Worker



CDA Housing Services
Apartment Owner

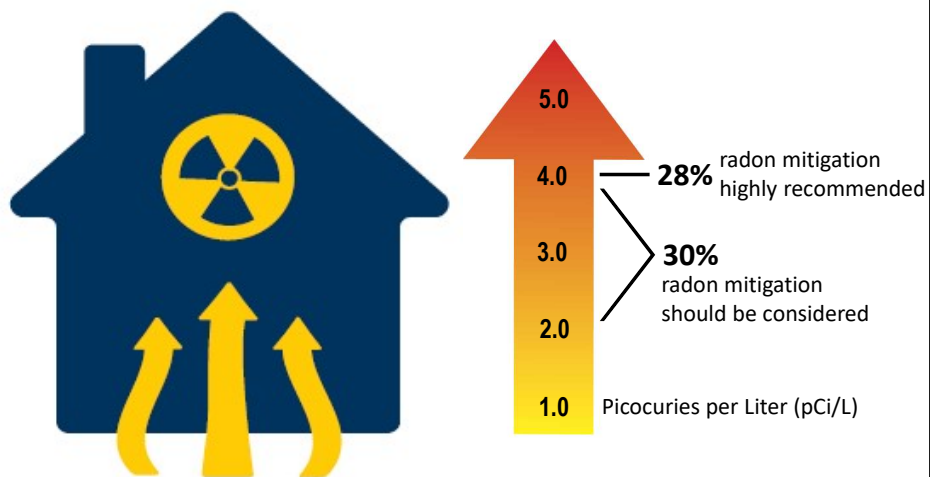
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Radon



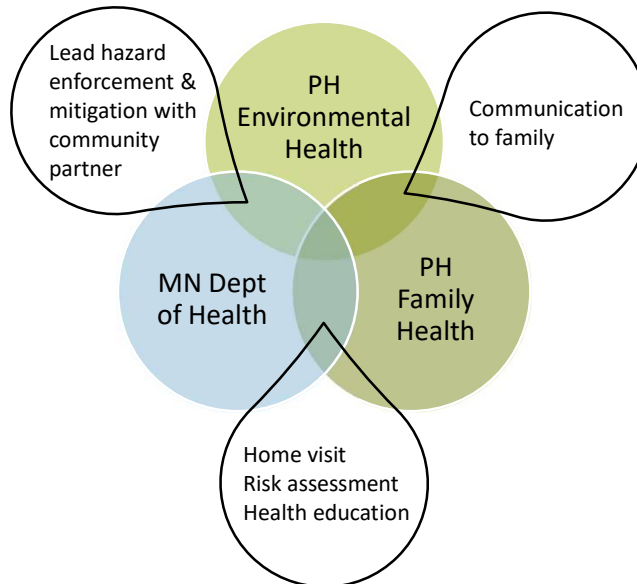
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Radon Testing Results 2024



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Lead Hazard Reduction Orders



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Other Responsibilities



Public Inquires and Complaints

118 calls resolved in 2024



Mass Assemblage License Reviews

4 reviews in 2024, 6 in 2025



Clandestine Drug Lab Clean-up Enforcement

Authority under Public Health Nuisance statute

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New Program Responsibilities



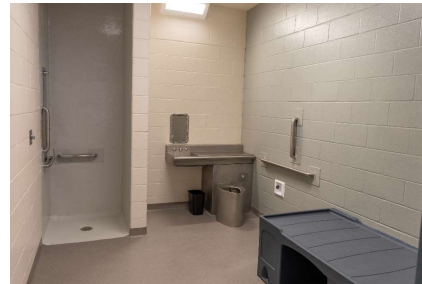
Beach Advisories/Closures

- Work with Parks & Environmental Resources Departments
- Lake Byllesby and Schulze Lake water quality monitored



Municipal Jail Inspections

- Requirement from Dept of Corrections
- 6 municipal jails to inspect annually



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Cross-Division Partnership



Environmental Resources
Technical expertise
Data collection & analysis
Regulation

Environmental Health
Risk communication
Health education
Promotion & outreach



TEST YOUR PRIVATE WELL FOR FREE

Dakota County is giving FREE WATER TESTS to private well users. The tests will measure nitrate, arsenic, manganese, lead, and coliform bacteria. You will receive sample bottles in the mail with additional instructions.

The Minnesota Department of Health recommends well users test their well water every year. The free test kit will include pre-paid postage to send back water samples. You will receive the test results in the mail. Dakota County will also provide water treatment recommendations.



For questions, contact Matthew Belanger at 952-891-7132 or matthew.belanger@co.dakota.mn.us

Scan now to begin



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Community Outreach



soilSHOP

- Partnered with MN Department of Health and City of Eagan
- 26 soil samples screened for lead, results in minutes



Gopher Resource Response

- Public meeting planning and participation
- Wescott Library soil drop-box



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Community Outreach



Mobile Blood Lead Clinic

- Partnered with East Side Neighborhood Development Company
- 28 individuals screened, 2 in-home assessments



Children's Health Month

- Tables at WSC, NSC, ADC
- EH topics: water, climate, lead, radon



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Future Efforts



Radon
Results
Follow-up



Swim
Healthy
Events



Water Testing
at the Dakota
County Fair



Emerging
Contaminants
Workgroup



Climate and
Health

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Questions?

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Thank you!