The Wisconsin AHEC Community Health Internship Program (CHIP) 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 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 3 - JULY 26, 2013 (8 weeks)**

During summer 2013, 56 students were placed in 39 Wisconsin counties. Statewide CHIP had 16 new sites serving rural and underserved populations.

**Milwaukee CHIP**

**JUNE 3 - JULY 26, 2013 (8 weeks)**

A group of 27 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**

The UW-Oshkosh Environmental Intern Program placed 12 students at four sites to conduct environmental health inspections. These interns participate in statewide CHIP curriculum and online webinars, coordinated by the AHEC statewide program office.
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 307 interns in more than 61 participating health departments and 28 other agencies. Milwaukee CHIP has placed 387 students at Milwaukee area sites since that program began in 2000.

Statewide CHIP
56 students
Undergraduates  53
(Includes RUSCH students - UW SMPH pipeline program)
Graduate students  3

Milwaukee CHIP
27 students
Undergraduates  24
(Includes RUSCH students - UW SMPH pipeline program)
Graduate students  1
Medical Students  2

Counties with Placements

In 2013, there were 44 counties with at least one AHEC intern. Some counties hosted more than one intern.
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.”

“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)**

Alexandria Berg (Barron County)
Dominic Dharam (Buffalo County)
Kelsey Scherer (Shawano-Menominee Counties)

**Environmental Health**

Jessica Duma (Ashland County)
Shannon Johnson (Bayfield County)
Zachary Brylski (Brown County)
Ashley Wolf (La Crosse County)
Heather Smaby (Madison/Dane County)
Abby Kohlenberg (Madison/Dane County)
Siobhan Kelley (Ozaukee County)
Lara Rubinyi (Pepin County)
Alayna Spengler (St. Croix County)

**Assessments: Community, Quality, and Accreditation**

Brett Carr (Clark County)
Lena Swander (Dodge County)
Isaac Pierre (Vilas County)
Tyler Grunow (Jackson County)
Tara Lamb (Monroe County)
Pa Chang (Sheboygan County)
Elizabeth Jacobs (Sheboygan County)
Bryan Nothem (Watertown)

**Health and Wellness**

Kelsey Sweeney (Family Health/Waushara)
Kim Schwarzkopf (Fond du Lac Schools)
Emily Ryan (Forest County)
Joseph Mueller (Grant County)
Victoria Shereshevsky (Green Lake County)
Shruthi Murali (Iron County UW-Extension)
Steve Lisser (Oneida County)
Chelsey Turner (Polk County)
Rebecca Kemnitz (Red Cliff/Bayfield County)
Megan Hofmann (Rusk County)
Lisa Ruff (Sawyer County)
Joanna Tess (WI Alliance Womens Health/Dane County)
Nathan Larson (Jefferson/Walworth)

**Policy, Research, and Evidence-Based**

Emily Leung (Affordable Care Act; Covering Kids and Families - Dane County)
Taylor Waterstradt and Elizabeth Wildenberg (Fox Valley Memory - Outagamie County)
Nikki Klucas (Marshfield Clinic Research)
Brenna Redemann (Scenic Bluffs CHC - Monroe County)
Ashley Rome (Watertown)

**Community Building: Coalition and Strategic Planning**

Hannah Imhoff (Chippewa City/County)
Molie Meagher (Eau Claire City/County)
Emily Young (Fond du Lac County)
Ryan Goggins (Fox Valley End-of-Life; Outagamie County)
Sue Lee (Lakeshore CHC - Sheboygan Cty)
Victoria Strutz (Langlade County)
Nathan Watson (Madison/Dane County)
Sarah Trentadue (Trempealeau County)
Rachel Umhoefer (Waushara County)
Kamariah Bailey (Winnebago County)

**Obesity Prevention, Nutrition, and Physical Activity**

Nic Werbeckes (Family Center - Wood Cty)
Brittany Shaw (Green Bay Schools - Brown County)
Emily Klimmek (La Crosse County)
Caitlin Baker (Lincoln County)
Olivia Ramoino (Live 54218 - Brown Cty)
Allison Freeman (West CAP - Dunn Cty)
Kaitlin Wollack (Wood County)

**UW-OSHKOSH SITES:**

**Environmental Health**

Dane County
Door County
Manitowoc County
Vilas County
Orientation Day
(Statewide)
Friday, May 31, 2013
UW-Madison campus
Interns and mentors were invited for this day-long session.
Agenda topics included:
• Local Public Health Panel
• County Health Rankings
• Advocacy and Leadership
• Identities Awareness
• Mentoring Relationships
• InformedCaring.org
• CHIP 2012 Experiences
• Poverty Simulation - presented by the state public defender’s office.

Learn @ UW
(Statewide)
Throughout the summer, Wisconsin AHEC provides online instruction about community health principles and practice. CHIP interns participated remotely from their sites. 2013 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, at a weekly meeting, including:
• Poverty and Health
• Dental Health needs
• Cultural and health beliefs of Hmong
• Domestic Violence
• Epidemiology
• Challenges of public health
• Alternative health services

---

MILWAUKEE CHIP

Eric Banik, “Community Outreach Around Implementing the Affordable Care Act”
Community Advocates
Ciara Beckers, “Assessing Statistics of Health (ASH) at a Free Clinic: Bread of Healing Clinic at Florist Avenue Lutheran Church” Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church
Cali Bemis, "Integrating Health Education and Community Health Assessment Activities”
Greenfield Health Department
Cynthia Castillo, “Community Mental Health Improvement Project” Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic
Chen Cui, “Population Health Improvement for Patients and Employees with Diabetes” MCW Institute for Health and Society
Laura Eirich, “Eastbrook / Agape Liaison Manager (ELM): Bread of Healing Clinics” Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church
Cynthia Henderson, “Clinical Approach to Non-Responsive Pneumonia Diagnosis in the Primary Care Office: A Retrospective Feasibility Study” Center for Urban Population Health
Bao Her, “Milwaukee Health Department Wellness Committee / WIC” City of Milwaukee Health Department
Mauly Her, “Advancing Community Understanding of Adolescent Reproductive Health Issues Through PREP Talk” City of Milwaukee Health Department
Dana Iverson, “Implementation of Mitigation Strategies at Sanitary Survey Evaluated Beaches in SE WI (Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha Counties)” Racine Health Department, Lab
Christian Jones, “Water Quality Monitoring in the Pike River Watershed (Racine and Kenosha Counties)” Racine Health Department, Lab
Nayab Khan, “Community Clinic Mission Sustainability Project” Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic
Olivia Knier, “Organizing and Koordinating (OAK) a Free Clinic: Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church” Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church
Jody Lemmer, “Advancing Health Equity Through Global Health Partnerships” Medical College of Wisconsin Global Health Program
Brian Lloyd, “Public Health Strategic Communications for Emergency Preparedness” City of Milwaukee Health Department
Rachel Ludke, “Medical Specialty Access Improvement Project” Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic
Jamie Moon, “Facilitating Service Access to Hispanic Families in an Urban WIC Clinic” Central Racine County Health Department
Hillary McLaren, “Milwaukee AHEC Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) Program Evaluation” Milwaukee Area Health Education Center
Matthew Reel, “UWM House of Peace Community Nursing Center Loan and Gift Closet for Breast Cancer Survivors” UWM College of Nursing, House of Peace Community Nursing Ctr.
Aaron Roesler, “Clinic Workflow Standardization to Improve Patient Experience” Aurora UW Medical Group at ASMC
Brenna Smith, “Community Assessment to Improve Operation of a Regulatory Food Inspection Program” City of Milwaukee Health Department
Catherine Vu, “Environmental Assessment of the Midwifery and Wellness Center” Aurora Sinai Medical Center
Danielle Washington, “Preventing Recurrent Sexually Transmitted Infections” City of Milwaukee Health Department
Leslie Weiss, “Chronic Disease Management Program Assistant” Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.
Chee Xiong, “Health Promotion in the Hmong Community” UWM College of Nursing
Caitlin Zuehlke, “Introducing Milwaukee Fatherhood Agencies to Child Development Screeing Standards” City of Milwaukee Health Department
Impact (Comments from summer 2013 CHIP interns)

After exposure to dental care for underserved and low-income individuals during my CHIP experience, my eyes have been opened to the importance of improving dental access in our nation. This experience has influenced the type of practice and patient population I would like to engage in and care for as I pursue a career in dentistry.

— Nikki Klucas, Marshfield Clinic / Dental Informatics

This internship is the backstage pass of public health. Behind the scenes may not be exactly as you expect, but there is certainly more for you to learn than you can anticipate. An illuminating internship that facilitates professional experience and connections, Wisconsin AHEC delivered on a rewarding couple of months.

— Nic Werbeckes, Family Center / Wood County

Staff Transitions

Mandy Meloy
Statewide CHIP Coordinator, 2010-2013
Her passion for public health and eagerness to make connections across the state of Wisconsin helped Mandy successfully oversee the statewide internship program during her four summers at the helm. She recently began a new adventure as a middle school teacher / librarian in the Madison Metropolitan School District.
Mandy's successor is Courtney Saxler, WI AHEC Program Office.

Virginia Thomas
Milwaukee CHIP Coordinator, 2001-2013
During her 13-year tenure, Virginia demonstrated an unwavering commitment to student development and the transformative effect of educational opportunities. Virginia's leadership and vision will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her retirement.
Virginia's successor is Melanie Berg, Milwaukee AHEC.