



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

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Scott Walker, Governor  
Dennis G. Smith, Secretary

MEMO

DATE: March 28, 2011

TO: Special Committee on Health Care Access

FROM: Kevin Moore, Executive Assistant *KEM*  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

RE: Response to Requests from the Committee on Health Care Access

This memorandum responds to requests from the Special Committee on Health Care Access to assist in their review of proposal: WLC: 0098/1, *Expansion of the Health Care Provider Loan Assistance Program to Include Public Health Professionals*. This response was prepared by the Division of Public Health.

In response to your requests, attached you will find:

Table 1 *Employee Occupational Classifications, Wisconsin Division of Public Health, 2010*  
Source: Bureau of Human Resources, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, September 2010.

Table 2 *Local Health Department Workforce by Occupational Classification, Wisconsin 2008*  
Source: Wisconsin Local Health Department Survey, 2008; Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services.

Table 3 *Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, **Orientation for New Public Health Employees, Participation by Occupational Classification, 2010***  
Source: TRAIN WI, Learning Management System.

Please contact Nancy McKenney if there are additional questions or if you need clarifying information.

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**1. How many public health professionals in State and local health departments, by provider type are there are in Wisconsin?**

Tables 1 and 2 provide comprehensive information about Wisconsin's State and local health department workforce, by occupational classification.

**Table 1. Employee Occupational Classifications, Wisconsin Division of Public Health, 2010**

<b>Occupational Classification</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Administrative and clerical personnel	155	33%
Environmental health workers	68	14
Epidemiologists	30	6
Health educators	61	13
Public health information system specialists	75	16
Nutritionists	18	4
Public health managers	32	7
Public health nurses	22	5
Public health physicians	7	1
Dentists	1	<1
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Bureau of Human Resources, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, September 2010.

**Table 2. Local Health Department Workforce by Occupational Classification, Wisconsin 2008**

<b>Occupational Classification</b>	<b>Total LHD Workforce</b>	<b>Number</b>		<b>Percent</b>	
		<b>LHD Staff</b>	<b>Contract Staff</b>	<b>LHD Staff</b>	<b>Contract Staff</b>
Public health nurse	655	638	17	97%	3%
Administrative/clerical	575	548	27	95	5
Bilingual health aide					
Interpreter/translator	148	47	101	32	68
Nutritionist/dietitian	147	121	26	82	18
Registered sanitarian	134	124	10	93	7
Health educator	79	61	18	77	23
Other registered nurse	73	70	3	96	4
Environmental health worker	66	64	2	97	3
Laboratory worker	44	42	2	95	5
Dentist	39	1	38	3	97
Epidemiologist	23	16	7	70	30
Dental hygienist	20	8	12	40	60
Nurse practitioner	19	14	5	74	26
Public health physician	18	2	16	11	89
Licensed practical nurse	13	13	0	100	0
Public health computer specialist	12	8	4	67	33
Other public health professional	193	170	23	88	12
Other public health paraprofessional	111	95	16	86	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>2,042</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>

Source: Wisconsin Local Health Department Survey, 2008; Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services. Note: In this table, counts indicate the number of people in the occupational classification, not positions or full-time equivalents.

**2. How many public health professionals, by occupational classification, participate in the Division of Public Health Orientation for New Public Health Employees each year?**

The Division of Public Health conducts *Orientation for New Public Health Employees* twice each year. Table 3 describes 2010 participation by occupational classification. Participants are primarily from the State or local health departments.

**Table 3. Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Orientation for New Public Health Employees, Participation by Occupational Classification, 2010**

<b>Occupational Classification (Primary and/or Secondary)</b>	<b>Total Number Trained</b>
Public health official	13
Administrative/clerical	10
Bilingual health aide	
Interpreter/translator	
Nutritionist/dietitian	
Registered sanitarian	
Health educator	21
Other registered nurse	38
Environmental health worker	14
Laboratory worker	3
Dental professional	1
Epidemiologist	6
Dental hygienist	
Nurse practitioner	
Public health physician	
Licensed practical nurse	
Public health computer specialist	2
Communicable disease and infection control	6
Total number of trained	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>114*</b>

Source: TRAIN, Wisconsin Learning Management System.

\*This count is duplicated, since one person can have two different classifications, one primary and one secondary. The total number of public health employees trained in 2010 was 104.