



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

---

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.

Nancy McKenney, RDH, MS, Director of Workforce Development  
Wisconsin Division of Public Health  
Telephone: 608-266-7901  
E-MAIL: [Nancy.McKenney@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Nancy.McKenney@dhs.wisconsin.gov)  
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/Health/workforce/index.htm>

**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.