



## Fond du Lac County Health Department

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**Public Health**  
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**Fond du Lac County  
Health Department**

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### **FOND DU LAC COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AWARDED FUNDING TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Fond du Lac County Health Department was awarded \$10,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to improve environmental public health in Fond du Lac County. The environmental health project focuses on improving local sun safety practices and increasing awareness of the importance of sun protection. Fond du Lac County has the 7th highest rate of melanoma skin cancer out of the 72 counties in WI.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. The main cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sunlight. There are several ways to protect your skin from UV rays, such as using sunscreen and wearing clothing to cover your skin. However, according to the 2017 Fond du Lac County Community Health Survey Report, half of adults in Fond du Lac County never or rarely wear sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or higher when outside on a warm, sunny day. The CDC recommends using a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 or higher.

As part of the project, Fond du Lac County Health Department will be working with community partners over the next year to offer free sunscreen at parks, playgrounds, and community pools, encourage businesses with outdoor worksites to offer sunscreen to workers, and implement a public awareness campaign to highlight the importance of being sun safe outdoors and protecting yourself from skin cancer.

The project in Fond du Lac County is one of seven environmental public health projects being funded throughout the state through the Taking Action with Data funding opportunity from the [Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program](#), which is housed at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

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