



**CHAAP Community Health Issue
Prioritized Problem Statements:**

*Protect Against Environmental Health Hazards
And
Assure an Adequate Local Public Health Infrastructure*

**For the Counties of:
Carlton, Cook, Lake and St. Louis**

December, 2008



CHAAP Environmental Health Prioritized Problem Statements – 2008 CARLTON County

Community Environmental Health Issue Problem Statements:

- 1. Many streets, roads and neighborhoods are inaccessible and unsafe places to walk and bike**
Related to inadequate street lighting, no shoulders on road, lack of sidewalks, lack of knowledge of where to walk, overgrown bushes, unclear signs, untimely or inadequate plowing, inadequate snow removal, etc.
- 2. Garbage not being properly disposed (burning/burying garbage, not enough recycling, inappropriately disposing of medications)**
Related to cost of disposal, lack of education, apathy, etc.
- 3. Failing Septic Systems are occurring**
Related to high cost of system replacement, lack of knowledge regarding testing, lack of knowledge regarding potential health threats, etc.
- 4. Garbage houses pose a health threat**
Related to accumulation of garbage, owner apathy, harboring of rodents, etc.
- 5. People are being exposed to mold which negatively impacts their health**
Related to poorly maintained housing, prolonged exposure to moisture, lack of knowledge regarding abatement, etc.
- 6. The presence of animal waste along roads and in yards present a potential health risk (potential transmission of disease)**
Related to lack of removal by pet owners, close neighborhoods, lack of removal services, etc.



CHAAP Environmental Health Prioritized Problem Statements – 2008 COOK County

Community Environmental Health Issue Problem Statements:

- 1. Many Cook County residents are not disposing of hazardous waste and unused medications correctly**
Related to a lack of knowledge regarding the potential health effects as well as the lack of knowledge regarding where, when and how to dispose the items, etc.
- 1. Potential drinking water contamination**
Related to failing on-site septic systems secondary to high cost of system replacement or repair, lack of knowledge regarding need for regular maintenance, lack of knowledge regarding the potential health threats.
- 2. Potential Contamination of Drinking Water in Grand Marais and Lake Superior**
Related to excessive water run-off, sewage overflows, erosion issues, lack of knowledge regarding current efforts, etc.
- 3. Potential Contamination of the Water in Lake Superior**
Related to dumping of sewage in Lake Superior by boats, ships, etc.
- 4. Lack of Information (especially water testing) regarding Food, Beverage and Lodging Inspections completed in Cook County**
Related to a lack of communication between the Minnesota Department of Health and the county.



CHAAP Environmental Health Prioritized Problem Statements – 2008 LAKE County

Community Environmental Health Issue Problem Statements:

1. **Potential poor quality in ambient air**

Related To: local industry, lack of knowledge regarding data that is collected, lack of communication regarding the monitoring surveillance system, potential weak sanctions, etc.

2. **Potential for contaminated drinking water (E. Coli, Coliform, etc.)**

Related To: failing septic systems, cost of septic system replacement, lack of knowledge regarding the need for regular well testing.

3. **Many Lake County residents are not correctly disposing of their garbage (burning/burying garbage, decreased recycling, inappropriately disposing of medications, etc.)**

Related to: cost of disposal, lack of education regarding negative effects on health and environment, apathy, inconvenient time and location of disposal sites, etc.

4. **Potential for foodborne illness from unsafe food preparation**

Related To: lack of knowledge regarding proper food handling; employees needing training and education on food preparation and safety. Unclear policies, etc.

5. **Potential adverse health effects from lakeshore development**

Related To: not adhering to local, state and federal regulations.



CHAAP Environmental Health Prioritized Problem Statements – 2008 ST. LOUIS County

Community Environmental Health Issue Problem Statements:

1. **Second Hand Smoke Exposure**

Related to: household smoking where children and the rest of the family are exposed; smoking in cars with others present; smoking in public areas like parks, doorways/entrances, bus stops, sidewalks, etc.

2. **Excessive Lakeshore/Land Development**

Related to: families selling the house in town and moving to the lake where the original cabin is now used for year round and the use is substantially expanded; increased recreational taxes so that a family has to homestead the property to be able afford it; rapidly increasing property values adds pressure for investment development; relatively weak land-use regulations; more development equals more tax base and many citizens feel this is more important than protecting the environment.

3. **Carbon Monoxide Exposure**

Related to: lack of maintenance on heating appliances; inadequate knowledge and understanding of CO issues; cost of CO detectors.

4. **Illegal Dumping of Garbage**

Related to: high cost of collection and disposal; there are many places to dump free where no one will see; many in the rural areas have always done it that way.

5. **Indoor Lead Exposure**

Related to: there are still some older homes in disrepair where there are remnants of lead paint; some lead is uncovered through remodeling; lead in soil is hard to remove and often resurfaces; and some people immigrate with pre-existing elevated levels.

6. **Failing Septic Systems**

Related to: high cost of repair, use beyond original design, and no immediate consequence for the homeowner, i.e. it runs off in the woods where they can't see or smell it so there is no impetus to fix it unless someone complains.