

# Taylor County

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## Community Health Needs Assessment Snapshot

### Promote Healthy Behaviors

Problems/Needs:

- Mental Health services insufficient in our county

### Prevent Injuries

Problems/Needs:

None identified

### Protect Against Environmental Hazards

Problems/Needs:

- Many homes in our community were built prior to 1976, when lead based paint was used. Testing needs to be completed for all 4-5 year olds.
- Iowa is rated # 1 in the country for homes that have elevated radon levels over 4.
- Taylor County has a high number of waste water that drains/runs into ditches. It is a mostly rural area with a high elderly population.
- Drinking water is being taken from wells. There are many wells that have contamination. It is hard to convince homeowners to switch to rural water or to test, repair or close wells due to expense.

### Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease

Problems/Needs:

None identified

## Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from Public Health Emergencies

Problems/Needs:

None identified

## Strengthen the Public Health Infrastructure

Problems/Needs:

None identified

## Community Health Improvement Plan

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Mental Health Services - Increase the number of health care providers who screen for development, stress and caregiver depression.	More face-to-face encounters asking providers to incorporate assessment and referrals.	Agency staff	By 3/15/2012

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Environmental Hazards - 1) Drinking water protection: Increase the number of private water wells tested and rehabilitated, if needed. Grants-to-Counties provides funding for private water well testing for E-coli, nitrates and total coliform bacteria. 2) Increase number of homes tested for elevated radon levels and mitigated, if needed. 3) Onsite wastewater: Assure more septic systems are inspected and upgraded/repared; educate homeowners regarding potential contamination. 4) Lead poisoning	1) Distribute brochures and posters about quality of private water wells, testing, rehabilitation of wells throughout the county, including ISU Extension, hardware stores; articles in newspapers.	Tami Blunt, Angela Green, Joan Gallagher and other staff members	Monthly for 12 months, then will assess effectiveness
	2) Apply for available radon grants yearly. Promote radon testing during National Radon Action Month (January) using displays, radio public service announcements, press release through newspapers.	Angela Green	On-going
	3) Time of Transfer requires that septic systems be inspected; this requirement will continue. Educate public of potential for health hazards with inappropriate systems through use of newspaper articles and brochures	Angela Green	On-going
	4) Agency will continue to offer lead level testing for children 12 mo, 18 months and 2-5 years of age annually. Continue to educate homeowners of the importance of keeping their homes in better repair to eliminate potential lead exposure.	Agency staff trained in lead level testing	Twice monthly clinics are held
	Rotate responsibility for distributing literature (pamphlets, posters, etc), press releases to newspapers, public service announcements to radio stations, etc., regarding all health issues.	Tami Blunt, Angela Green, Joan Gallagher and other staff members	Monthly for 12 months, then will assess effectiveness