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CUDAHY HEALTH DEPT COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY NOW UNDERWAY

Cudahy, WI — Hundreds of Cudahy residents may soon be contacted to participate in an important phone survey assessing the health of the community. Conducted every three years, the community health survey gathers information on health related behaviors from 400 anonymous, randomly selected residents. Their responses, along with local and state public health data contribute to the Cudahy's Community Health Assessment and helps guide its Community Health Improvement Plan.

"The survey provides valuable data for continued evaluation of community needs, and will help inform the health department, as well as other organizations in meeting the most pressing health needs of our community," says Katie Gajeski, Health Officer. "I encourage all Cudahy residents to support this meaningful research effort," Gajeski adds. "The survey takes about 18 minutes and is completely anonymous. It's important that we reach a good cross-section of the community, so whether they receive a call via cell phone or land line, I ask that residents take time to answer the survey questions."

The survey is being conducted over the next few months by Management Decisions, an independent research firm. It focuses on issues such as access to health care, tobacco and alcohol use, diet, physical activity, cancer prevention, heart health, injury prevention, immunizations, communicable diseases, mental health and chronic disease. Similar surveys are being conducted at the same time across all 12 health departments in Milwaukee County, with support from Aurora Health Care, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Columbia St. Mary's, Froedtert Health, and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare. The findings will be compared with the 2012 community health survey to analyze health trends over the last three years, and will help:

- document the community's health status related to the health priorities established by the state health plan.
- identify local health behaviors or risk factors that present opportunities for health promotion and health care cost reduction.
- track the success of community health improvement activities.