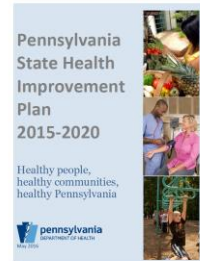


NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

State Health Improvement Plan Update

The 2016-2017 [State Health Improvement Plan](#) (SHIP) Annual Report has been published. The report includes examples of successful strategies that have been implemented in the first year and their impact. Several new opportunities that may impact goals have been considered by the SHIP task forces, and recommendations to improve the SHIP have been adopted by the SHIP advisory committee. This report is the product of assessment of the most current data reporting on the health outcome measures identified in the SHIP; reports from stakeholders on the implementation of, and progress made on, strategic initiatives; and consideration of current health policy issues affecting Pennsylvania. Summary tables for each of the three SHIP priority issues show at a glance the changes in outcomes and the progress toward meeting the objectives that are identified in the SHIP.

**State Health Assessment Update**

The 2017 [State Health Assessment](#) (SHA) update is in progress and planned to be published at the end of the calendar year. The update this year will focus on updating the context of health and general health status sections. Additionally, a new section on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program will be added. Finally, the key findings section is being updated to identify the latest measures for each topic.

HealthyWoman Program

Breast cancer is the second most common type of cancer for women in the U.S. It accounts for one-third of cancer deaths in females in Pennsylvania. If a mammogram is needed, the Pennsylvania Department of Health's [HealthyWoman Program](#) (HWP) is here to help. HWP offers free clinical breast exams, mammograms (including 3D) and follow-up exams. Women may qualify for free mammograms if they:

- are age 40 to 64 (women under 40 may also qualify if having symptoms);
- have no health insurance;
- have health insurance, but are not able to afford high deductibles or co-pays;
- have low to moderate income, at or below 250 % of federal poverty guideline; and
- live in Pennsylvania.

Why should women receive regular screenings? Early detection saves lives! Call 1-800-215-7494 for more information about qualifying for a free mammogram and Pap test or to refer women to HWP.



Diabetes Prevention Program

The [Diabetes](#) Prevention Program (DPP) statewide engagement meeting took place on Aug. 15-16 in Harrisburg.



Organized by the Department of Health (DOH) in collaboration with Health Promotion Council and with support from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), the meeting was held to draft a DPP action plan to scale and sustain the [National DPP](#) in Pennsylvania. Day one was an educational call to action session with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other national partners presenting the “national landscape” of DPP, DOH and Philadelphia Department of Public Health presenting the “state landscape,” and statewide stakeholders highlighting state specific DPP successes. Day two was focused on action planning, with the NACDD consultants facilitating a series of small group sessions. The DPP Action Plan will be finalized and implemented through a collaborative effort between the department and its partners and stakeholders. Contact [Camelia Rivera](#), public health program administrator, for more information.

Zika Prevention Kits

Prevention kits are available free [at various locations](#) statewide to provide education about the virus, list the steps that can be taken to avoid mosquito bites and prevent the insects from multiplying around homes. The kits include insect repellent, permethrin spray, condoms and standing water treatment tablets. Zika virus is mainly spread from the bite of an infected mosquito to a person. Zika virus can spread through sexual contact from a partner who has been infected with Zika virus. Although less common, Zika virus can also be spread from a mother to baby during pregnancy or during the time of birth or through blood transfusion. Pregnant women who are infected with Zika virus have a greater risk of babies born with microcephaly. Travelers to certain countries in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, Africa and Southeast Asia, as well as certain parts of Florida and Texas should take precautions.



OTHER NEWS



Local Walk to End Alzheimer's Events

October was National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, and many local communities conducted walks to raise awareness and support for Alzheimer's. To find a future event, go to the [walk map](#) and select a walk near you. The DOH calculated that, in 2015, there were 11 deaths per day attributed to Alzheimer's disease and that it was the sixth leading cause of death in the commonwealth, with a greater risk to women than men.

America Walks Grants

America Walks offers \$1,500 micro-grants to improve walkability, make walking safer and improve access. One grant recipient, Wilkes-Barre YMCA Y-Walk Wednesdays program, is profiled in a [recent news story](#). A series of free, guided, early evening walks were held though the summer that featured downtown neighborhoods, history, walking and health, architecture, wildlife, nature, and new development in the city. The program was developed by the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA and sponsored by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Wilkes-Barre City Health Department.





2017-2018 Influenza

The CDC has announced the strains of influenza to be targeted by this year's vaccine. CDC has released the following statement: Resources are available through DOH for providers seeking information on how to acquire and administer this year's flu vaccine, with guidelines at the [CDC website](#). The [Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children \(PA VFC\)](#) program orders influenza vaccine each year in preparation for the influenza season. This vaccine is for distribution to state health centers, county/municipal health departments, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics and private VFC providers. Once a provider is enrolled with the VFC program, the [vaccine order form](#) can be used to review the current influenza information and request vaccines. In Pennsylvania, pharmacists are permitted under their scope of practice to be certified to immunize individuals 9 years of age and older with the influenza vaccine. Pharmacists are also able to immunize individuals 18 years of age and older with all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices-recommended vaccines. Pharmacists certified to immunize can be found at the [Immunization Locator website](#).

Health Observances

November

[American Diabetes Month](#)

[Lung Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month](#)

December

[Safe Toys and Gifts Month](#)

4-11 [National Influenza Vaccination Week](#)



EVENTS AND TRAININGS

Pa. Coalition for Oral Health Quarterly Meeting

The Pa. Coalition for Oral Health will hold its [quarterly meeting](#) online from 1 to 2 p.m. on Dec. 8. A 2017 year-in-review update will be provided as well as a sneak peek into plans for 2018 and beyond.



Training Opportunities from the Pennsylvania Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition

Programs offered by the [Pennsylvania Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition](#) are available at various locations on topics such as question, persuade and refer; how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis; and how to question, persuade and refer someone to help. Another is entitled "Dementia Live," where participants are immersed into life with dementia to gain a deeper understanding of what it is like to live with a cognitive impairment and sensory change. "Trauma Informed Care" is to better understand trauma experiences or events. "Compassion Fatigue" supports understanding of burnout and vicarious/secondary trauma vs. compassion fatigue in caregivers. "Mental Health First Aid Training" is to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. There are also other training programs scheduled for health care professionals and the public. Some programs offer continuing education credits. Information and more listings are available at the calendar on the linked website.

Mental Health Resources in Pennsylvania

DOH provides links to many [mental health resources and programs](#) that can help people find resources available including the Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention program. The STAR Center at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic supports teens experiencing depression and suicidality. Other information available includes links to other organizations and national programs providing services for families, adults, special populations and communities to address depression and prevent suicides.

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

School Resource Guide

The “back-to-school” time of the year is often a stressful season for students, teachers and parents alike. Under the direction of the Pennsylvania Interagency Health Equity Team (PIHET), a [school resource guide](#) was created to provide school communities with a collective listing of resources that various state agencies can offer. Initiatives and programs offered by the departments of Health, Drug and Alcohol Programs, Education, Aging, Labor and Industry, Conservation and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, Community and Economic Development, Agriculture, Corrections, Transportation, and Human Services, as well as the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, are laid out in this guide for easy utilization and access to school communities.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Equity and Inclusion Toolkit

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has published a [toolkit](#) for schools to help prevent and address bias and discrimination. These evidenced-based resources can also be adapted and implemented by agencies and organizations to prevent bias, harassment, prejudice, and discrimination within organizations and in communities. Besides aiding in the prevention of incidents, the toolkit offers methods to respond and recover from an incident and plan for better policies for communities affected.

LiveHealthyPA

LiveHealthyPA is a communications hub connecting communities, schools, organizations and health teams to share what’s happening to keep Pennsylvanians healthy. Healthy living practices are “real-life examples” of programs, activities or campaigns created and executed to improve the health of participants. Log onto [LiveHealthyPA.com](#) to review available resources and search healthy living practices that could help inform your work. Join one of the communities that has promoted its good work. Help inform and inspire others, and get the attention your campaign deserves. Learn what’s working and submit a Healthy Living Practice today.



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Blair County Rural Impact County Challenge Summit

Blair County was one of 12 counties from across the country to be chosen by the National Association of Counties in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Programs to receive community coaching on efforts to reduce childhood poverty. A summit was held in Altoona on Oct. 27 to address issues including school attendance, workforce development and business, school and community interventions, mentoring and pro-social activities, community engagement, and health care. More information about the coalition is available on the [Healthy Blair County Coalition](#) website.

Suicide Intervention Training in Honesdale

A two-day suicide intervention skills training workshop will be presented at the Park Street Complex – Children and Youth Library in Honesdale by the Wayne/Pike County Northeast Suicide Prevention Initiative on Dec. 11 and 12. The program teaches participants to recognize when someone may have thoughts of suicide and work with them to create a plan that will support their immediate safety. For more information on the program, contact Michelle Valinski at mvalinski@waynecounty.gov.



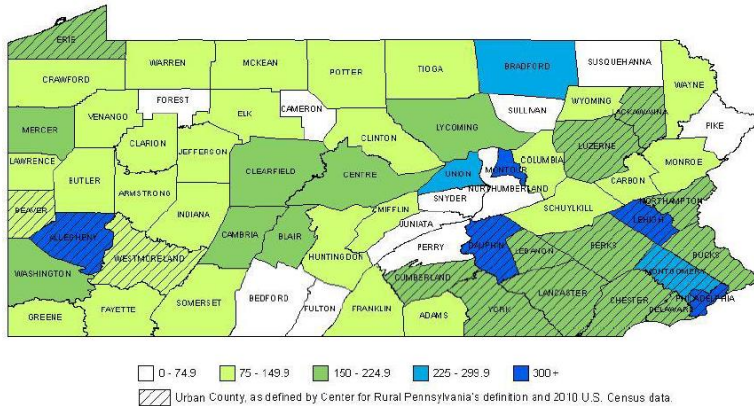
2018 NACo Achievement Awards

The [National Association of Counties](http://www.naco.org) is accepting nominations for its awards program to recognize innovative county government programs. In addition to health and human services, programs in related areas that impact community health outcomes are recognized, including children and youth, criminal justice, libraries, parks and recreation, transportation, and volunteers. Applications are accepted from county governments and or association of counties. Nominations are due March 26, 2018.



DATA AND STATISTICS

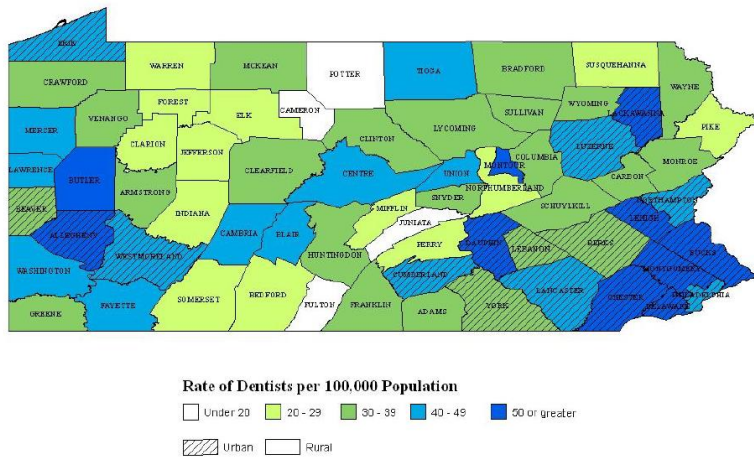
Access to Primary Care Physicians



Physicians Practicing Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania per 100,000 Population by County of Primary Practice, 2014 Physician Survey

Source: [A Report on the 2014 Surveys of Physicians and Physician Assistants Volume 6, August 2017](#)

Access to Dentists



Respondents Who Provided Direct Patient Care in Pennsylvania per 100,000 Population by County of Primary Practice, 2013 Dentist Survey

Source: [A Report on the 2013 Survey of Dentists and Dental Hygienists Volume 6, September 2014](#)

Access to Primary Care Physicians and Dentists

Oct. 1-7 was [National Primary Care Week](#). Its goal is to promote the role of primary care in our health care system with the general public, as well as with physicians-in-training and students across the health care spectrum. In addition to the American Medical Student Association, the [American Academy of Family Physicians](#) also supports the week. The Pennsylvania Department of Health engages with various agencies and professional associations to develop [primary care resources](#) to help address shortages.

Call for Abstracts: Understanding Public Health in Pennsylvania

Abstracts are now being accepted for the [Understanding Public Health in Pennsylvania: A Retrospective Review and Forecast for the Coming Year](#) conference, to be held April 3, 2018, in Lancaster. Topics for consideration include community and public health advocacy; best practices in improving the health of special and underserved populations, with a special focus on migrant and immigrant farmworkers; and the use of data-driven and evidence-based practices in public and community health.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.

AmeriCorps Grants

Local, regional and national organizations are eligible to apply for [AmeriCorps](#) services in a variety of categories including disaster services, economic opportunity, education, healthy futures, veterans and military families, governor and mayor initiatives, rural intermediaries, safer communities, intervention planning, and encore programs. Eligible organizations include nonprofits, schools, public agencies, community and faith-based groups. A notification of intent to apply should be filed by Dec. 13.



Oral Health Grants

Various grants are available for oral health projects from the [DentaQuest Foundation](#).



Opportunities include Oral Health 2020, a multi-year project to achieve specific targets by 2020; the Community Response Fund, to address acute, short-term care delivery problems faced by underserved populations; and the Executive Director's Fund, supporting efforts to reduce oral health disparities, promote community involvement and foster person-centered care. Details on each opportunity are available at the DentaQuest website.



Community Impact Grants

The [Home Depot Foundation](#) offers grants of up to \$5,000 in gift cards to nonprofit organizations for the purchase of tools, materials or services to improve the physical health of communities by providing volunteer opportunities to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications and weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools and other facilities. Priorities include low-income and transitional housing, ADA compliance and veterans. Applications are due by Dec. 31.

Community Food Projects Grants

The [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) is accepting grant applications for community food projects and planning projects to meet the needs of low-income individuals. Projects being considered include food distribution, increasing self-reliance of communities in providing for feed needs, project equipment and marketing. Grants in the amounts of \$35,000 are available for planning projects, \$125,000 maximum for single-year programs and \$400,000 for four-year programs; applications are due by Dec. 4.



**CENTER FOR
TOBACCO
CONTROL**

Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative (TFGCI) Grant

The American Cancer Society Center for Tobacco Control has launched a [request for proposals](#) for the TFGCI grant program to provide grants to accelerate and expand the adoption and implementation of 100 percent smoke- and tobacco-free policies on college and university campuses across the nation. Applications are due by Jan. 15, 2018.

Talk to Your State Senator Drug Prevention Video Competition

The Pennsylvania State Senate is sponsoring a video competition for youth in grades six to eight and nine to twelve to create a video on how to prevent students becoming involved in drugs and to prevent drug use and addiction. Winners in both grade categories will receive prizes of \$2,500 for first place, \$1,500 for second place and \$1,000 for third place deposited into a TAP 529 account in the winner's name. More information and contest rules are available at the [ACommonwealthCrisis.com](#) program website. The deadline for entry is December 10.



Kids Gardening Youth Garden Grant

[Grant](#) packages of \$1,000 and \$600 plus gardening tools and supplies will be awarded for school and youth educational community garden projects. Eligible organizations include nonprofits, public and private schools and youth programs and may include new garden projects or expanding existing gardens. Applications are due by Dec. 8.



COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please send any comments or suggestions for this and future newsletters to ra-dhhipp@pa.gov. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Disclaimer:

The information provided in this newsletter is intended to be of general information to Pennsylvania's HIPP partnerships. It is not intended as an endorsement or recommendation of any specific process, service, product, company, or funding source outside of the Department of Health auspices. Further examination and research of information is recommended.

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Subscribe to the Health Improvement Partnership Program newsletter by sending a blank email to hipnewsletter-subscribe@health.pa.gov and reply to the confirmation email. To unsubscribe send a blank email to hipnewsletter-unsubscribe@health.pa.gov.

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