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## Department of Health News

### Breast and Cervical Cancer

The [PA Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program](#) (PA-BCCEDP) has been in operation for 30 years with the goal of reducing mortality from breast and cervical cancers. PA-BCCEDP provides digital and 3D mammograms, ultrasounds, MRIs and biopsies to detect breast cancer; Pap tests, HPV tests and biopsies to detect cervical cancer; and a range of other diagnostic and referral services. Clients must have incomes of less than 250% of the federal poverty income guidelines, meet gender requirements, be uninsured or underinsured (high co-pays or deductibles) and live in Pennsylvania. The age range for breast services is 40-64 and for cervical services the range is 21-64. Younger high-risk clients may also be eligible. Those diagnosed with cancer are referred to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment program, administered by the PA Department of Human Services. PA-BCCEDP urges those that postponed screening due to COVID-19 to reschedule their appointments.

For more information contact [rekishbaug@pa.gov](mailto:rekishbaug@pa.gov).



### Well Water Testing



Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology is sponsoring private water testing in collaboration with Penn State Extension through 2025. From January to June 2021, Penn State Extension conducted 15 virtual workshops with private well owners and completed 309 water tests in 14 counties. Underserved counties with high proportions of private well users and limited past safe water programming were prioritized (e.g., Berks, Columbia, and Dauphin). Each water supply received

## National Health Observances

### **September 2021**

[Blood Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[Childhood Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month](#)

[National Cholesterol Education Month](#)

[National Recovery Month](#)

[National Sickle Cell Month](#)

[Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[Pain Awareness Month](#)

[Prostate Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[Sexual Health Awareness Month](#)

[World Suicide Prevention Day; Sept. 10](#)

### **October 2021**

[Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)

[Health Literacy Month](#)

[National Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[National Dental Hygiene Month](#)

[Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month](#)

[Sudden Infant Death Syndrome \(SIDS\) Awareness Month](#)

[Mental Illness Awareness Week; Oct. 3 - 9](#)

[National Primary Care Week; Oct. 4 - 8](#)

testing through a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection accredited laboratory for coliform bacteria, *E.coli* bacteria, nitrate, manganese, arsenic, lead, and copper. Registrants were required to attend the one-hour initial webinar to learn about the testing program and were either mailed water testing kits or picked them up at a designated location in their county. Registration and further information for these county testing programs will be announced as they become available at Penn State Extension's [events page](#). For more information, contact [dehe@pa.gov](mailto:dehe@pa.gov).

## Health Partners

### Health Equity Analysis Tool

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has published a new interactive mapping tool in collaboration with the Department of Health and other commonwealth agencies, called the [PA Health Equity Analysis Tool](#), or HEAT. It is now available publicly. By combining health and social data across multiple public and state databases, the tool allows for an interactive visualization of health inequities across the commonwealth.

For example, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a newborn in certain neighborhoods of North Philadelphia has an average life expectancy of 64 years, when just a couple miles to the south, newborns are expected to live to 87, a difference of 23 years. In one census tract in the City of Erie, a newborn's life expectancy is 62, compared to an adjacent census tract, where a newborn's life expectancy is 83, a difference of 21 years.

Assessing why we see such profound differences in life expectancy in these communities and others is important. Downstream health outcomes, such as chronic disease prevalence, are often related to upstream social factors such as food, housing, financial strain, employment opportunities, environmental factors and more. This tool allows for interactive, overlaid mapping of many factors, drawing from public databases such as the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Census, Childhood Opportunity Index, the EPA Environmental Justice Screen measures, three years of Pennsylvania Medicaid claims data, and more.

The [Regional Accountable Health Councils](#) are utilizing this tool to identify where across the commonwealth should be Health Equity Zones, the upstream root causes in these areas, and what stakeholders can collaboratively do to address these inequities. Commonwealth agencies are collaborating on the review of these

[National Physician Assistant Week; Oct. 6 – 12](#)

[National Depression Screening Day; Oct. 7](#)

[National Prescription Drug Take Back Day; Oct. 24](#)

## November 2021

[American Diabetes Month](#)

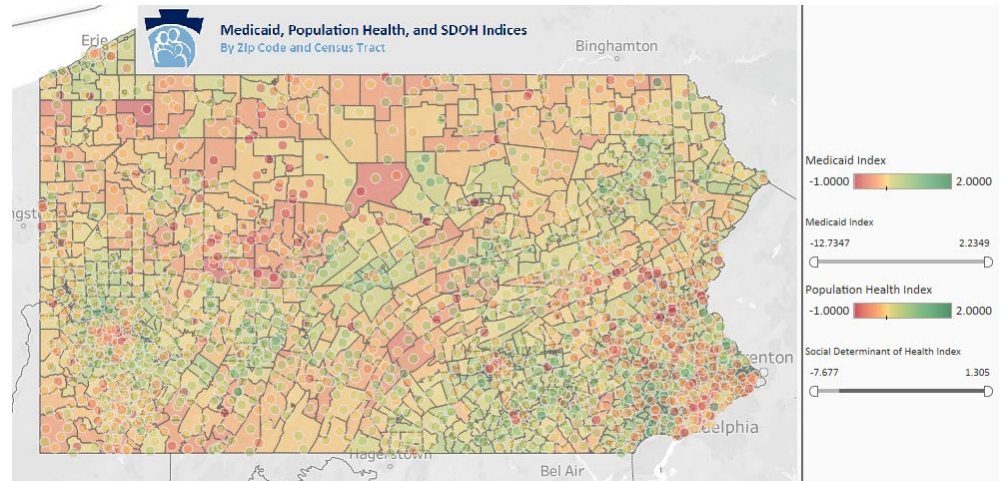
[Lung Cancer Awareness Month](#)

[National Diabetes Education Week; Nov. 1 - 7](#)

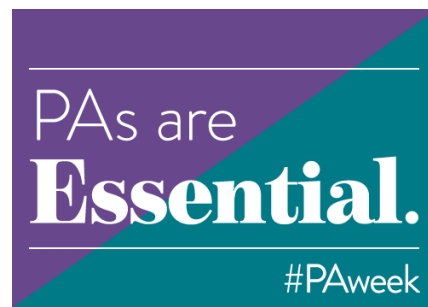
[National Nurse Practitioner Week; Nov. 7 - 13](#)

[Great American Smokeout; Nov. 19](#)

proposals, to be released publicly near the end of the year. These efforts are all part of the larger Whole Person Health Reform agenda announced by Governor Wolf in October 2020. The Department of Human Services also recently released a [Roadmap to Whole Person Health](#), which outlines how many of these initiatives fit together.



## National Physician Assistant Week



Physician Assistants (PAs) are important affiliates of the healthcare team and productive members of the workforce in Pennsylvania. According to the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, there are approximately 7,400 PAs employed in the

commonwealth. Most of these clinicians (53 percent) are employed within hospitals. Approximately 20% work in primary care, while another 19 percent work in surgical subspecialties. PAs in the state report evaluating an average of 68 patients per week, and 10 percent report communicating with patients in a language other than English, with the most common languages being Spanish, French and Russian. The physician assistant profession is quite popular and has a projected 10-year growth projection of 30 percent. Nationally, 73 percent of PAs report being completely or mostly satisfied with their present job. [National Physician Assistant Week](#) is celebrated Oct. 6 – 12, 2021. For more information about PAs in Pennsylvania, visit the PA Society [website](#).

## Events

Vaccines [Summit-2021](#), Sept. 20 - 22, 2021, virtual

PCOH stakeholder meetings: [western](#), Sept. 21, 2021, hybrid virtual and Ellwood City; [central](#), Sept. 22, 2021, hybrid and State College

Family Medicine Education [Consortium](#), Oct. 8 - 9, Pittsburgh

2021 Annual Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers [Conference and Clinical Summit](#), Oct. 12 - 14, Lancaster

Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants 2021 [conference](#), Oct. 27 - 30, Mount Pocono

2021 Virtual Rural Human Trafficking [Summit](#), Nov. 9 - 10, 2021, virtual

2021 PA Oral Health [Summit](#), Nov. 11 and 12, Harrisburg

Family Health [Conference](#), Nov. 12 - 14, Pittsburgh

## Family Health Conference in Pittsburgh

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) will host a hybrid (live and virtual) conference, Nov. 12 - 14, 2021, at the Westin in downtown Pittsburgh. The robust agenda includes Act 31 child abuse recognition and reporting education mandated by the state for all health-related licensees, as well as required opioid prescribing and risk-reduction education. Early childhood illnesses, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, mental health, COVID-19, health equity and more will also be covered. The PAFP and the Westin will follow CDC safety recommendations for an expected 200-300 attendees at this event. The PAFP invites health care professionals from across the state to attend; non-members are welcome. Learn more and register at [www.pafp.com](http://www.pafp.com). For more information about PAFP, contact Cathy Stamm, Director of Public Relations at [cstamm@pafp.com](mailto:cstamm@pafp.com).



## Population Health Management Certificate



[Harrisburg University of Science and Technology](#) is planning to start offering a certificate in population health management

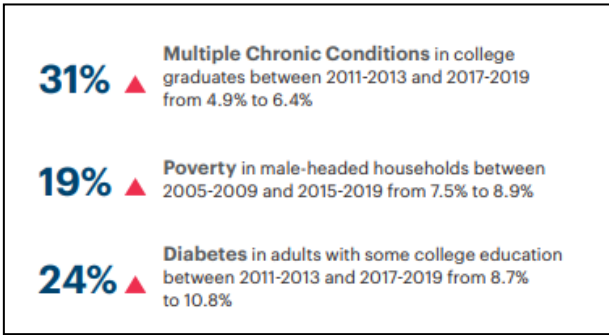
beginning in January 2022. It is an 18-semester hour program to provide students with the core knowledge needed to improve population focused solutions. The certificate provides an interdisciplinary teaching focus that teaches the needed methodologies of population health management and the application and evaluation of population health management. For information on this new program, contact [nmimm@harrisburgu.edu](mailto:nmimm@harrisburgu.edu).

## Data

### Health Disparities

America's Health Rankings has published its 2021 [Health Disparities Report](#). This report provides data-driven insights to support better health outcomes, build healthier communities, and to inform action for advancing health equity. Some key findings for Pennsylvania include high disparities between those with less than a high school education and college graduates for high

health status and between Black and White people for food insecurity. Diabetes in adults with some college education has increased by 24 percent between 2011-2013 and 2017-2019, from 8.7



percent to 10.8 percent. Multiple chronic conditions in college graduates have increased by 31 percent between 2011-2013 and 2017-2019, from 4.9 percent to 6.4 percent. These data indicate that there are opportunities to implement strategies to improve health outcomes.

## Become a Healthy People 2030 Champion



The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is inviting organizations to become Healthy People 2030 Champions. HHS will recognize champions on **health.gov**, and champions will receive a digital badge to highlight their participation on their own websites. Champions will also get information, tools, and resources to help them promote Healthy People 2030 among their communities, partners, and others. HHS will review submissions on a rolling basis.

For more information and to apply, visit the Healthy People 2030 Champion [website](#) or contact [HP2030@hhs.gov](mailto:HP2030@hhs.gov).

## Grant Opportunities

**Primary care health center grants:** the [Bureau of Primary Health Care](#), Health Resources and Services Administration is offering 58 awards to health centers for comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population. Nonprofit organizations are eligible. Applications are due Sept. 7, 2021.

● **Opioid use disorder and overdose prevention grants:** The [Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts](#) is providing grants for projects to develop, adapt, and/or evaluate promising evidence-based models of family and community-based prevention for opioid use disorder and overdose for children and families. Awards of up to \$500,000 per year for three years are available

to nonprofit organizations and government units. Applications are due Sept. 20, 2021.

● **Primary care residency training program grants:** The [Bureau of Health Workforce](#), Health Resources and Services Administration is offering 85 awards to community-based ambulatory patient care centers for four-year medical and dental primary care training programs. Applications are due Sept. 21, 2021.

● **Opioid use disorder prevention grants:** The [Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts](#) is offering \$500,000 per year for three years to nonprofit organizations and universities for opioid prevention programs. Grants are targeted toward family- and community-based programs. A concept note is due Sept. 20, 2021.

● **Access to dental care grants:** The [American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry](#) offers matching grants to support community-based initiatives that provide dental homes to children who are underserved and/or have limited access to oral health care. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to nonprofits, hospitals, clinics, and local health departments. Applications are due Oct. 1, 2021.

● **American Rescue Plan Act grants:** Recovery grants from the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) are available for up to \$1,000,000 over three years. Impact grants are up to \$10,000,000 over three years. Grants are available to public bodies and nonprofit organizations serving rural communities of no more than 20,000 residents. Projects can include access to COVID-19 vaccines, testing, health care services (including telehealth), and food assistance. Applications are due Oct. 12, 2021.

● **Small town volunteer service awards:** The [Small Town America](#) Civic Volunteer Award recognizes extraordinary volunteer service in areas with 25,000 people or less. Cash awards of \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively will be given to the local governments represented by the top three national honorees. Local governments may submit up to two nominations. Nominations are due Oct. 15, 2021.

**Quest for Quality Prize:** The [American Hospital Association](#) offers a prize to hospitals and health systems that have demonstrated organization-wide commitment to and participation in improving quality and safety, innovating to improve care, addressing disparities, and working with other community

## 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.

## Contact Us

Office of Operational Excellence Pennsylvania  
Department of Health  
Room 1031, Health and Welfare Building  
625 Forster St.  
Harrisburg, PA, 17120  
717-772-5298  
Please send comments, articles, and subscription requests to:  
RA-DHHIPP@pa.gov

organizations and agencies to improve health status. Applications are due October 15, 2021.

- **Transportation for vaccination:** [Local Initiatives Support Corporation](#) is coordinating with Uber, PayPal, and Walgreens to support low-wealth, Black, Brown, and Latinx communities to assist with rides, childcare options, providing language translation, and delivering other vital services for vaccination. Funding is available through Dec. 31, 2021 or as long as resources are available.
- **Culture of health grants:** The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) Pioneering Ideas program is funding projects to influence health equity in the future. Preference will be given to applicants that are nonprofit organizations. The average Pioneering Ideas grant in 2019 was \$315,031, however, there is not an explicit range for budget requests. Proposals will be accepted throughout the year on a rolling admission.
- **Health center facility loan guarantee program:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) has an ongoing program that supports access to capital funding by guaranteeing up to 80 percent of financing needed to support capital infrastructure projects. Active Health Center Program awardees under section 330 of the Public Health Services Act are eligible. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.
- **Oral health grants:** [CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#) is sponsoring small grants for activities that support organizations, activities, and events that address access to needed oral health care and community resources that improve oral health. Nonprofit organizations are eligible. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.