



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015

### NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### **2015-2020 Pennsylvania State Health Improvement Plan Update**

Over the summer, three task forces met to develop the 2015-2020 Pennsylvania State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). One hundred individuals representing 11 commonwealth departments and 51 organizations served on one of three task forces for the identified SHIP priorities: 1) mental health and substance use; 2) obesity, physical inactivity, and nutrition; and 3) primary care and preventive services. Staff from the Bureau of Health Planning and the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Public Health Practice convened and facilitated the task forces' efforts. The task forces developed problem statements, goals, objectives, strategies, assets, and performance measures to address each SHIP priority. In addition, the task forces identified lead partners to implement each strategy. The strategy lead will also serve as a statewide contact for those interested in implementing the strategies in their communities. The final five-year SHIP will be released in the fall.

#### **Eighty Percent By 2018 Forum**

The [Pennsylvania Comprehensive Cancer Control Program](#) (PCCP) was one of 11 state programs selected from among 34 applicants nationwide to participate in the 80 percent by 2018 Forum: Increasing Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates through Enhanced Partnerships between Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalitions and Federally Qualified Health Centers. The forum is sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Cancer Institute. The PCCP team will include representatives from Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, American Cancer Society, Pa. Association of Community Health Centers, Esperanza Health Center, and Dr. Carmen Guerra from University of Philadelphia. The PCCP team will attend the September forum to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania to implement evidence-based interventions designed to increase colorectal cancer screening rates. In 2012, the prevalence of Pennsylvania residents aged 50 to 75 years who have had a blood stool test in the past year, sigmoidoscopy in the past five years, and blood stool test in the past three years, or a colonoscopy in the past 10 years was 66.8 percent.

#### **County Health Profiles, 2014**

The [2014 County Health Profiles](#) are available on the Department of Health website. County Health Profiles are a series of 68 individual statistical reports, one for each county and one for the state. Numerous statistics are provided for various health-related subject areas including: demographics and population, nationality, reported pregnancies, morbidity (cancer incidence and selected diseases), mortality, adult behavioral health risk factors, hospitals, nursing homes, ambulatory surgery centers, drug and alcohol abuse treatment facilities, injury hospitalization, and health care workforce.

### OTHER NEWS



**pennsylvania**  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

#### **Seeking Members for County/Local Advisory Councils**

The [Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission \(PHRC\)](#) is responsible for enforcing Pennsylvania's antidiscrimination laws and promoting equal opportunities for all residents. PHRC is in the process of strengthening and expanding its county/regional advisory councils. Each advisory council forms partnerships and educates community members, businesses, state and local government, law enforcement, organizations, and schools about the services of the PHRC. The issues addressed are: antidiscrimination, equal educational opportunities for all individuals, fair housing, and access to public facilities and services at the local level. PHRC is seeking community leaders to voluntarily serve and, in some instances, help establish

county/regional advisory councils throughout the state. All advisory council members will receive training from PHRC in regard to their roles and responsibilities as a member. If you, or someone you know might be interested, send a resume and background information to [phrc@pa.gov](mailto:phrc@pa.gov).

### **The Role of Community Health Workers in Strengthening Health Status**

In May, 2015, the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health, East Central Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (AHEC), DOH, and other stakeholders collaborated to offer a Community Health Workers (CHW) Summit in State College, Pa. The goals of the summit were to define the role of CHWs, compile resources on evidenced-based practices, provide information on certification and training programs, identify reimbursement models, and consider the establishment of a statewide CHW professional organization. After the summit, stakeholders formed workgroups to address the following issues: policy, workforce and training, and employers. The goal of the workgroups is the integration of the CHW model into clinical and social service care delivery throughout the commonwealth. These groups are currently meeting and are identifying other agencies to be a part of the process. For information on CHW training, contact Debra Youngfelt, East Central Pa. AHEC at [dyoungfelt@ecpaahec.org](mailto:dyoungfelt@ecpaahec.org) or call 610-379-2001.

### **September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month**

One in three children in Pennsylvania is considered to be overweight or obese. Obesity puts children at risk for health problems that were once seen only in adults. Some of these health problems are type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. Childhood obesity can be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for kids to eat healthier and move more. To make a difference, you can spread the word about strategies for preventing childhood obesity and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved. The CDC provides a [toolkit](#) to raise awareness about the obesity epidemic and advise how to take steps toward a solution.



### **Oral Health Preventive Programs Available**

The [Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health](#) (PCOH) is a diverse group of leaders from across the state from schools of public health, philanthropic organizations, businesses, dental organizations, health insurance firms, advocacy organizations, state agencies, and other champions. PCOH supports advancing policies and practices that increase access to oral health services and prevention education, especially for the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. For more information about access to dental care, preventive educational programs, and oral health information, contact Lisa Schildhorn at [paoralhealth@gmail.com](mailto:paoralhealth@gmail.com) or [www.paoralhealth.org](http://www.paoralhealth.org).

### **Cavity Free Kids**

The Pennsylvania Head Start Association (PHSA) is educating parents, teachers, and children using the Cavity Free Kids curriculum to prevent dental disease. The trainers of Cavity Free Kids provide evidence-informed and consistent oral health education to parents and adult caregivers of children from birth to 5 years old who are enrolled in early childhood education and child development programs. Cavity Free Kids-eligible programs include Head Start, Early Head Start, infant/toddler programs, child care programs, pre-K programs, home visiting programs, and preschools and other community health settings. For more information, contact Amy Requa, PHSA State Oral Health Coordinator at [amy.cnpn@gmail.com](mailto:amy.cnpn@gmail.com).

### Healthy Teeth, Healthy Children

Healthy Teeth, Healthy Children (HTHC), a program of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PAAAP), is a medical-dental partnership designed to improve oral health care for children by providing oral health education to primary care providers. Through the Educating Physicians in the Community (EPIC) model, HTHC delivers free on-site training across the state to pediatric and prenatal clinicians through three educational programs: 1) Oral Health in Your Medical Office -- conducting pediatric oral health screenings, fluoride varnish application, and technical assistance; 2) Oral Health in your Prenatal Office -- promoting good oral health practices for pregnant women; and 3) Oral Health -- the Integration Of Oral Health In Medical Residency Programs. For more information, contact Kristin Haegele Hill at [hthc@paaap.org](mailto:hthc@paaap.org) or call 484-446-3059.

### EVENTS AND TRAININGS



#### The CDC Learning Connection

[The CDC Learning Connection \(CDC LC\)](#) connects the public health and health care workforce to quality public health and health care training opportunities and educational tools. The trainings and educational tools are developed by CDC, CDC partners, and other organizations recognized for developing public health training resources. The CDC LC website features announcements of current public health events and observances, social media, and an [e-newsletter](#). CDC LC provides new public health learning opportunities through [CDC TRAIN](#), including many that offer free continuing education.



#### Got Coverage? Next Steps in Using Your Health Insurance

On [September 22, 2015, at 3:00 PM](#), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) technical assistance resources is presenting the webinar, "Got Coverage? Next Steps in Using Your Health Insurance." Many people now have health insurance but may not know how to use it. This webinar will discuss how to read an insurance card, how to find a doctor, what a person needs to know to make an appointment and what to do in case of a health emergency. Key terms will be discussed as well as recommended health screenings. The [Coverage to Care](#) materials on health insurance literacy will be highlighted during the webinar. In addition, the presenters will discuss how faith and other community-based organizations are using these tools to help those in their congregations and communities.

#### 2016 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize Phase One Informational Webinar

On September 10, 2015, at 3:00 PM, the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps will host the [informational webinar](#) to apply for the 2016 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize Phase One. The prize is awarded annually to honor communities that are building a culture of health by implementing solutions that give everyone the opportunity for a healthy life. To earn the prize, communities will be judged by [six criteria](#). The [2015 Call for Applications](#) is open. Up to 10 winning communities will each receive a \$25,000 cash prize. Each winning community will share its stories to inspire other communities to weave health into all decisions and ensure all residents have an opportunity to make healthy choices.

#### Improving Quality Of Care: Integrating Behavioral Health And Primary Care

On September 15, 2015, at 3:00 PM, the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps will host the webinar, "[Improving quality of care: Integrating behavioral health and primary care](#)." This webinar will explore [quality of care data](#) included in the Rankings (i.e., preventable hospital stays, diabetic screening, mammography screening), as well as some of the policies and programs from [What Works for Health](#) that communities can use to improve quality of care. Dr. Claire Neely, Chief Medical Officer at the [Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement \(ICSI\)](#), will discuss [COMPASS: Mind and Body Health initiative](#), which is a team-based model designed to improve the care of patients with depression and other chronic diseases. Dr. Neely will share key considerations for effectively integrating behavioral health into primary care.

## RESOURCES AND TOOLS

### What Works: Evidence-Based Interventions for Your Community

The Community Preventive Services Task Force, established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), identifies population health interventions that are scientifically proven to save lives, increase lifespans, and improve quality of life. [What Works fact sheets](#) are colorful, easy-to-read summaries of the task force findings and the systematic reviews on which they are based. Each fact sheet has two separate pieces: a bi-fold brochure about the topic and an insert that lists the Task Force findings on that topic. Topics include excess alcohol consumption, cancer, diabetes, health communications and social marketing, motor vehicle-related injury, obesity, physical activity, tobacco use and secondhand smoke, vaccinations, and violence.



### Community Resources for Veterans

Approximately 18.5 percent of service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression, and [19.5 percent report experiencing a traumatic brain injury](#) (TBI) during deployment. Resources are available to communities to assist returning veterans with PTSD or TBI. The VA [Community Provider Toolkit](#) features key tools to support mental health providers who treat veterans in local communities. The [Military Culture: Core Competencies for Health Care Professionals](#) is a web-based curriculum designed to help health care professionals more effectively work with service members and veterans. The course offers a total of eight free continuing education credits. In addition, the [PTSD Consultation Program](#) is available to any provider who treats veterans. Experts from the National Center for PTSD answer questions and provide free consultation. For more information, contact [PTSDconsult@va.gov](mailto:PTSDconsult@va.gov) or call 866-948-7880. As of September 30, 2013, there were approximately 693,000 wartime veterans in Pennsylvania.



### Vaccine Schedules Application

Health care professionals who recommend or administer vaccines can immediately access all recommended vaccination schedules and footnotes using the [CDC Vaccine Schedules app](#). Optimized for tablets and useful on smartphones, the app displays the child, adolescent, and adult vaccines recommended by the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#). The app visually mimics the printed schedules, which are reviewed and published annually. Users can identify correct vaccine, dosage, and timing with two or three clicks. Any changes in the schedules will be released through app updates. [Immunization Schedules for Health Professionals](#) are available on the CDC website.



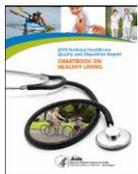
### MyPlate in 20 Languages

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) released the translation of the Choose MyPlate, 10 Tips Nutrition Education Series, and MyPlate icon into [18 additional languages](#). The HHS, Office of Minority Health and CNPP co-branded the translated tip sheet and are working together to promote these newly translated documents to ensure that individuals, nutrition and health professionals, and other community leaders have access to these helpful resources for healthy eating. The languages available are: English, Spanish, Chinese (standard), Chinese (traditional), Korean, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Malaysian, Pashto, Tagalog-Filipino, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Russian.

### Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Tool For Health Disaster Readiness

An interactive online tool sponsored by the HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) was released to aid in community disaster preparedness. The [HHS emPOWER Map](#) will assist community health agencies and emergency management officials as they plan ahead to

meet the emergency needs of community residents who rely on electrically powered medical and assistive equipment. The emPOWER Map displays the monthly total number of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries' claims for electricity-dependent equipment at the national, state, territory, county, and zip code levels. The tool incorporates these data with severe weather tracking services from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in a GIS. This information can help community organizations, including hospitals, first responders, and electric utility officials, work with health officials to prevent health impacts of prolonged power outages on vulnerable residents.



#### **Chartbook on Healthy Living**

The [Healthy Living chartbook](#) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is part of a family of documents and tools that support the National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report. This chartbook includes a summary of trends and figures illustrating select measures of healthy living. Information on maternal and child health, lifestyle modification, and clinical preventive services is included. A PowerPoint version is available that users can download for presentations.

### DATA AND STATISTICS



#### **An Analysis of Cancer Incidence in Pennsylvania Counties 2008-2012**

The DOH has released [An Analysis of Cancer Incidence in Pennsylvania Counties 2008-2012](#). This report, created by the Bureau of Informatics and Information Technology, Division of Health Informatics, contains numbers for observed and expected cancer cases for 23 primary sites by county and sex. Standardized incidence ratios are also calculated and used to determine counties with a statistically significantly higher or lower number of cases than expected. This data is available for all 67 counties in Pennsylvania in various formats, including maps, graphs, and tables.



#### **Americans Do Not Eat Enough Fruits and Vegetables**

Approximately one in 10 Americans consumes the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables. According to the article, [Adults Meeting Fruit and Vegetable Intake Recommendations — United States, 2013](#), Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, July 10, 2015 issue, it is recommended that adults should consume 1.5–2.0 cup equivalents of fruit and 2–3 cups of vegetables daily. In the United States in 2013, 13.1 percent of adults met fruit intake recommendations, and 8.9 percent of adults met vegetable intake recommendations. That year, 12.7 percent of Pennsylvania adults met fruit intake recommendations, and 7.5 percent of Pennsylvania adults met vegetable intake recommendations. The researchers recommended increased attention to food environments in multiple settings, including child care, schools, communities, and worksites, might help improve fruit and vegetable intake and thus help prevent chronic disease.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance**

Application deadline: September 15, 2015

[Local Foods, Local Places Program](#) is inviting communities to apply for direct technical assistance to create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods through the development of local food systems. The program is supported by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#), the [USDA](#), the [CDC](#), the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#), the [Appalachian Regional Commission](#), the [Delta Regional Authority](#), and the [White House Rural Council](#). A team of experts will help community members develop action plans that use local foods to support healthy families and communities and to drive downtown and neighborhood revitalization. The assistance process features a community workshop that brings people together to develop shared goals and steps to achieve them. Local Foods, Local Places encourages applications from communities that are economically challenged and in the early phases of their efforts to promote local foods and community revitalization. **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

### Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program

Application deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

The [USDA Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program](#) provides loans, grants, and loan guarantees for essential community facilities in rural areas. Priority is given to health care, education, and public safety projects. Funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve facilities. Projects that are more typical to receive funding include hospitals, health clinics, mental health facilities, schools, fire houses, community centers, and other community-based initiatives. **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

### PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

#### Health Improvement Partnership Program (HIPP) Partnership Registration and Annual Report

A health improvement partnership is a local collaborative organized to improve the health of the respective community. Each health improvement partnership is unique in size, membership, operating structure, and area of focus. To become a new partnership or to annually update current partnership information, a representative from the HIPP partnership submits the [Partnership Registration and Annual Report](#) to [ra-dhhipp@pa.gov](mailto:ra-dhhipp@pa.gov). As of August 1, 2015, 32 partners serving 40 counties were registered with the HIPP program. These partners have reported their most successful efforts to improve health in their communities. Many of those efforts have been featured in previous HIPP newsletters' Partnership Spotlights. If you are a partnership and have not registered or have not updated your information in more than a year with the HIPP program, contact the [HIPP program manager](#).

### COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please send any comments or suggestions for this and future newsletters to [ra-dhhipp@pa.gov](mailto: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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