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## Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Awareness and Support Program



The Pennsylvania [Breastfeeding Awareness and Support Program](#) provides new baby feeding education and resources to mothers and their families through a community partner outreach pilot with the Keystone 10 Initiative (K10). K10 helps birthing hospitals adopt and implement evidence-based maternity care practices aimed at improving breastfeeding care and rates and the health of mothers and babies. Participating hospitals focus on breastfeeding initiation, exclusive breastfeeding, skin-to-skin contact, rooming-in and other elements. In 2018, the program began conducting a three-year community outreach pilot designed to aid counties with breastfeeding rates below the statewide average. Organizations are awarded funds to provide breastfeeding education and outreach in communities to help raise breastfeeding rates. By educating hospital staff, new mothers and their communities on the benefits of breastfeeding, rates have never been higher. For more information, contact Joseph Wagner at [josewagner@pa.gov](mailto:josewagner@pa.gov).

## Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

The [Pennsylvania Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program](#) (PA-BCCEDP) has

operated for over 25 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 income that is less than 250% of the federal poverty income guidelines, meet gender requirements, be uninsured or underinsured (such as 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 [BCCPT](#), administered by the PA Department of Human Services.



- Grant Opportunities

## National Health Observances

### August

National Immunization Awareness [Month](#)

National Breastfeeding [Month](#)

### September

National Childhood Obesity [Month](#)

National Recovery [Month](#)

National Food Safety Education [Month](#)

### October

National Breast Cancer Awareness [Month](#)

National Health Literacy [Month](#)

National Healthcare Quality [Week](#)

## Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity Strives to Prevent and Control Childhood Obesity

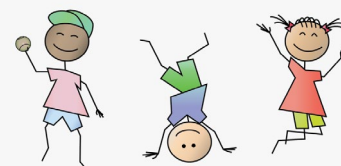
Nationwide, childhood obesity prevalence was 18.5% in 2015-2016 among children and adolescents aged 2-19, compared to Pennsylvania at 17.4%. In Pennsylvania in 2016, 12% of children aged 2 to 4 who received Women, Infants, and Children benefits had obesity.

Initiatives to improve obesity prevalence include the [Growth Screening Program](#), the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning [Keystone Kids Go!](#) Initiative, and the [Pennsylvania Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care](#) training and technical assistance program for early childhood education providers.

Using the [School Health Index](#) and School Health Guidelines, school districts develop and implement continuous quality wellness improvement programs to evaluate school-based nutrition and physical activity policies and practices. A school wellness consultant supports district wellness councils to build district capacity to create healthier school environments.

For more about these and other strategies, please visit the [State Physical Activity and Nutrition](#) webpage or e-mail [RA-DHSPAN@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHSPAN@pa.gov).

SEPTEMBER



CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

## Opioid Strategic Plan



The opioid disaster declaration has now been renewed 10 times since it was first signed by the governor two years ago. A strategic plan to fight this epidemic was released on July 6. The strategic plan continues the Opioid Command Center and implements new policies to remove barriers and develop additional initiatives to address the need for support and resources.

Stakeholders were consulted throughout the process of developing the plan to understand the unique challenges facing communities in Pennsylvania. While opioids remain a large public health and safety threat, much of the feedback indicated a need to include other substances that are commonly misused, so the scope has been expanded beyond opioids to encompass other urgent emerging trends, such as the use of stimulants and polysubstances, and other concerns. The plan is available [here](#) and includes five goal areas: prevention, rescue, treatment, recovery and sustainability. Support for individuals needing assistance can be found by calling 1-800-662-4357.

## Events

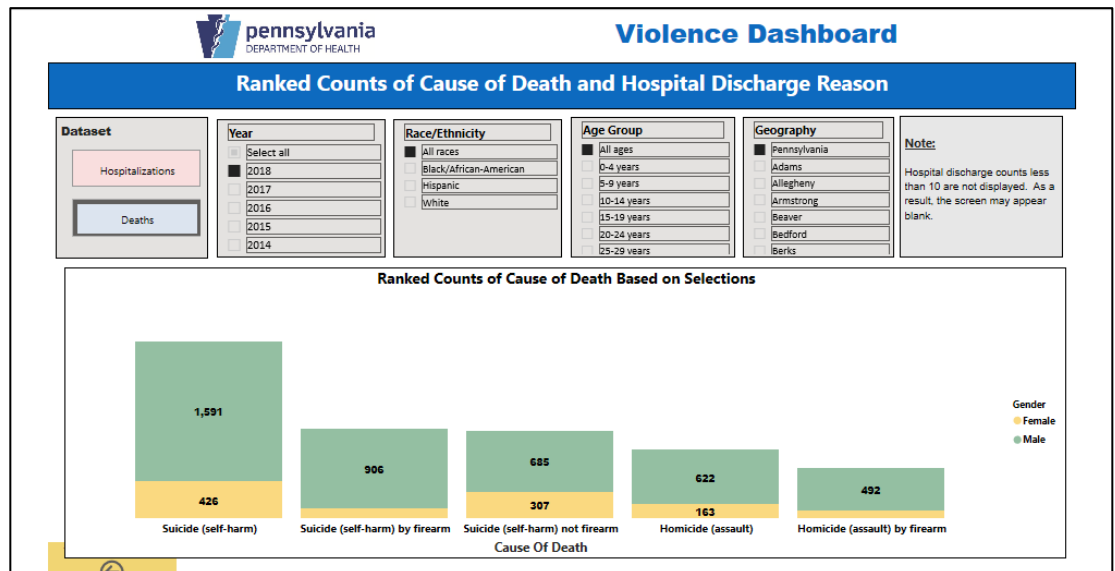
Healthy People 2030  
Launch [Webcast](#),  
August 18

National Rural Health  
Day, November 19

## New Violence Data Dashboard Launched

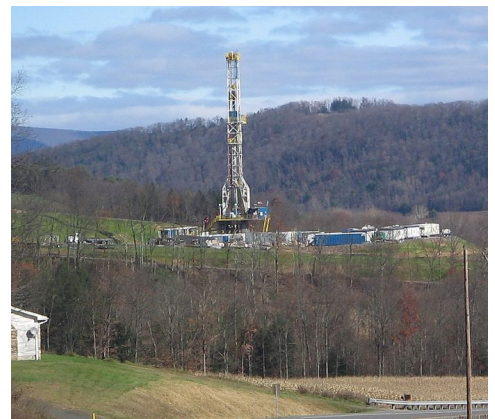
The Department of Health launched a public [violence data dashboard](#) to collect data on the scope, frequency, geography and populations affected by violence in Pennsylvania. One of the mandates in the governor's executive order last August to reduce gun violence, the dashboard provides data on victims, rates of violence and contributory factors. Data includes death cause and hospital discharge summary statistics for homicide, suicide, self-harm, poisonings and suicide, and is broken down by gender, race/ethnicity, age group and geography to the county level.

This dashboard illustration shows ranked deaths in 2018 for the state for all races/ethnicity and age groups. Currently hospital discharge and death data are available from 2010 through 2018.



## Oil and Natural Gas Production Health Concerns

The Department of Health's environmental health staff manage the Oil and Natural Gas Production ([ONGP](#)) [health registry](#). This voluntary and confidential registry electronically documents ONGP-related health concerns of residents in Pennsylvania. A trained employee conducts a telephone interview to document environmental media of concern (e.g., water, air, etc.), demographic information, and health symptoms. DOH evaluates environmental and clinical data when available to determine individuals' health risk and develop recommendations to protect the public's health. Between March 2011 and March 2020, DOH received 127 formal health complaints representing 265 individuals. Most of the complaints have come from Washington,

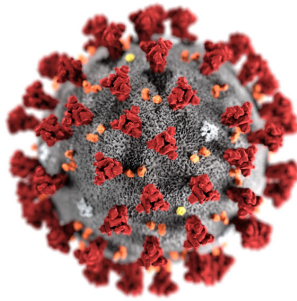


## Disclaimer

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

Susquehanna, and Bradford counties that have the first, second and fourth highest number of active unconventional oil and gas wells in the state (total is close to 11,000 wells). Individuals that would like to participate, or for additional questions about the registry, please call 717-787-3350 or email [env.health.concern@pa.gov](mailto:env.health.concern@pa.gov).

## Acute and Ambulatory Care Licensure COVID-19 Response



The Division of Acute and Ambulatory Care (DAAC) is responsible for the licensing and oversight of [hospitals](#) and [ambulatory surgical facilities](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated some operational changes by DAAC to adjust to the needs of health care providers. Facilities were kept up to date on the ever-changing guidance via email and message board posts. Staff worked with facility administrators to minimize regulatory barriers so that timely and

effective solutions could be implemented. Facilities were encouraged to amend their emergency plans to give them flexibility to design plans that fit their needs and their communities. Modifications for the pandemic included reviewing records remotely, completing virtual site visits whenever possible and implementing a paperless filing system thus reducing exposure for facilities and staff. DAAC has taken this as an opportunity to identify new processes that can be beneficial to operations after the pandemic has passed. For more information on licensing health care facilities, call 717-783-8980.

## PA 211 Information and Referral to Meet Public Needs

[PA 211](#) provides information and referrals to connect people to resources and services in their community through a [state-wide database](#) by calling 211 or texting



United Way  
of Pennsylvania

your zip code to 898-211. Programs and resources in 211 include referrals to maternal and child health services, diabetes prevention programs, nutrition education, immunizations, behavioral health care and other public services and programs. To improve access to health and human services programs, organizations are encouraged to [list or update](#) their 211 listings.

Organizations can help improve awareness and access to services by sharing [PA 211 information](#) with your partners. [Marketing material](#) is also available to promote 211. For more information, contact the [United Way of Pennsylvania](#).

## Contact Us

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## 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health

The [1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health](#) in Johnstown is launching the [Community Care HUB](#), utilizing the nationally-recognized Pathways Community HUB model to enhance community-based care coordination and social determinants of health intervention efforts for Cambria and Somerset counties' most vulnerable residents.



A HUB is an organized, outcome-focused, pay-for-performance network of community-based organizations. It hires and trains community health workers (CHWs) to reach out to those at greatest risk, identify risk factors and assure people are connected to medical, social, behavioral and oral health services. The HUB utilizes a value-based care payment model to support CHWs and care coordination agencies who work with high-risk individuals based on meeting certain objectives and the completion of Pathways.

HUB CHW training begins July 20, and the HUB will begin taking referrals in September 2020.

1889 JCPH is a partnership between [1889 Foundation](#) in Johnstown and [Jefferson College of Population Health](#) of Thomas Jefferson University. For more information contact Jeannine McMillan at [Jeannine.McMillan@jefferson.edu](mailto:Jeannine.McMillan@jefferson.edu).

## Cumberland County Health Improvement Partnership Program

In Cumberland County, the Health Improvement Partnership Program (CC-HIPP) offers opportunities for partners to discuss critical issues that extend beyond the county lines.

Last fall, the CC-HIPP learned about how they could help promote the completion of the 2020 census and provide key services to Medicaid and Medicare dual eligible clients in the Department of Human Services [Community HealthChoices Program](#).



In the spring, despite COVID-19 and through online video conferencing, UPMC Pinnacle Carlisle, a local health care system participating in the partnership, provided an update about what was then its evolving efforts to address COVID-19 in various communities. Following, there was discussion of how COVID-19 was affecting the various partner organizations and how to share resources.

Until the CC-HIPP meets again this fall, the partners continue to be involved in collaborative efforts to address the many issues related to

COVID-19, including addressing basic human needs to bolstering contact tracing efforts. For more information, contact Carol Thornton at [Carol@ForBetterHealthPA.org](mailto:Carol@ForBetterHealthPA.org).

## Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations – Alliance Recovery Update



The focus of Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations – Alliance (PRO-A) is to increase opportunities for individuals to obtain and sustain long term recovery as envisioned in our [five point recovery](#) focused care system plan. Statewide COVID-19 community recovery [support calls](#) are facilitated weekly. The alliance has been active in supporting virtual recovery support services through technical assistance efforts to recovery community organizations. It also assisted in facilitating two webinars for SAMHSA and has coauthored a paper with well-known recovery thought leader Bill White on [who is left behind](#) as services have shifted into the digital realm. Another project in collaboration with the Tobacco Recovery & Wellness Initiative is to expand tobacco recovery education, resources and support for the recovery community of Pennsylvania. Recovery is the probable outcome, given the proper services and support. For more information contact Bill Stauffer, [billstauffer@rcn.com](mailto:billstauffer@rcn.com).

## Nominate a Rural Health Leader

The [Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health](#) (PORH) presents awards to individuals and organizations in the state that have made substantial contributions to rural health in Pennsylvania. Recognition is made for the state rural health leader of the year, community rural health leader of the year, rural health program of the year, legislator of the year and rural health hero of the year. Rural Health Awards will be presented in the honoree's community during the week of National Rural Health Day on November 19. The deadline for submissions is September 11, 2020. For more information, contact PORH Outreach Coordinator Terri Klinefelter at (814) 863-8214 or [tjc136@psu.edu](mailto:tjc136@psu.edu).



## Grant Opportunities

- **Strengthening economic supports for working families:** The [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and the Office of Minority Health](#) are providing funding of up to \$450,000 to governments, school districts higher education, and nonprofit organizations. The focus is to improve the health of racial and

ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities. Applications are due August 17.

- **Health center grants:** The Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Center Program is funding the [Service Area Competition](#). Over \$4 million is available for two awards over a three-year period. Funding is for public and private nonprofit community-based and patient-directed organizations to provide comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services to medically underserved populations. Applications are due August 24.
- **COVID-19 grants:** Funding to address the adverse psychosocial, behavioral and socioeconomic effects on disparate and vulnerable populations of up to \$500,000 is available from the [National Institutes of Health](#) to organizations, governments, higher education institutions and others. Applications are due August 28.
- **Pharmaceutical care innovation grants:** Funding in varying amounts is available from the [American Pharmacists Association Foundation](#). These support initiatives with community ambulatory practices in the areas of behavioral health, diabetes, cardiovascular care, pain management, immunizations, COVID-19 testing and treatment and other innovations. Applications from pharmacy residents and preceptors are due September 9.
- **Cross-jurisdictional public health grants:** The [Center for Sharing Public Health Services](#) is providing five grants up to \$10,000 to support work on cross-jurisdictional sharing arrangements designed to advance health equity by addressing social determinants of health. Eligible organizations include governments and nonprofits. Applications are due September 11.
- **Rural community grants:** The [Foundation for Rural Service](#) is providing funding up to \$5,000 for community development programs including telecommunications projects to support telehealth and other efforts. A 10% match is required. Grants are available to public and nonprofit organizations, communities and schools. Applications are due by September 13.
- **Health center grants:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) is providing two grants totaling \$6,062,934 to public and private nonprofit community-based and patient-directed organizations. The focus is on providing primary health care services to the nation's medically underserved populations. Applications are due September 14.
- **Postpartum mental health care prizes:** Two \$50,000 and five \$15,000 awards are being offered by the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#) to improve postpartum mental health care for rural American families. Applicants may submit both success stories that highlight community achievements and program proposals that

demonstrate innovative planning for community action to improve postpartum mental health. Entries are due September 15.

- **Mental health and childhood hunger grants:** The [Cigna Foundation](#) is providing a total of \$5 million in funding to nonprofit organizations that focus on the mental health and well-being of children including working to improve childhood hunger. Applications are due September 30.
- **Child health project grants:** The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) is providing ten awards averaging \$50,000 per year for five years to support innovative, community-based initiatives. The focus is on improving the health status of infants, children, adolescents, and families in rural and other underserved communities by increasing their access to preventive care and services. Community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations are eligible to apply. Applications are due October 6.
- **Culture of Health Prize:** The 2021 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [Culture of Health Prize](#) provides \$25,000 to governmental entities of charitable organizations operating in its community. Recognized are whole community efforts to transform education, jobs, transportation, housing, and more so better health flourishes for all. Communities are recognized for access to affordable homes, quality schools, good jobs and reliable transportation that affects how long and how well people live. Letters of interest are due October 15.
- **Telecommunications infrastructure loans:** The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) provides a loan and loan guarantee program to offer financial assistance to eligible service providers, including cooperatives, nonprofits, state and local governments. Projects funded are to construct, improve, or expand telecommunication and broadband networks in rural areas such as networks for health care and public safety. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.