

Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition

April, 2013

Spring Update

Harford County's Local Health Improvement Coalition workgroups have been busy this spring! Here are a few updates.



The Behavioral Health Workgroup

The Behavioral Health Workgroup will be hosting the conference "[Embracing Change](#)" Tuesday, June 11 at Harford Community College. This conference will provide addictions and mental health counselors an opportunity to begin preparing for Behavioral Health Integration.

Obesity Task Force

The Obesity Task Force's Community Engagement Subcommittee is focused on creating Healthy Designation programs to help local residents make the healthy choice the easy choice in their daily lives.

The Tobacco Workgroup

The Tobacco Workgroup is launching an anti-tobacco media campaign. Be on the lookout for billboard, transit and movie theater ads linking tobacco users to the [Health Department's Cessation Services](#).

If you are interested in getting involved in any of these initiatives, please contact Laura McIntosh at laura.mcintosh@maryland.gov

Data Updates

- The [2013 County Health Rankings](#) produced by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are now available. A summary report of [Maryland Rankings](#) shows how Harford County fares relative to the rest of the state. Harford achieved its highest rankings (6th best in the state) both in mortality and clinical care. Its lowest rankings were 12th in morbidity (defined as the percentage of adults reporting fair or poor physical or mental health) and 17th in physical environment. That criterion is based upon limited air and water quality data, access to recreational facilities and healthy foods, as well as the percent of all restaurants that are fast-food establishments.

Regarding almost all measurement criteria, Harford's data and rankings remained remarkably consistent with its 2012 rankings as compared to other Maryland counties that experienced wider variability. However, among those measurements earmarked for special consideration in Harford were higher rates of adult smoking and obesity in the County's population, both of which are being addressed through the Health Department's Local Health Improvement process initiatives.

- According to a new Centers for Disease Control report, "Infant mortality is an important indicator of the health of a nation" ([NCHS Data Brief, April, 2013](#)). Nationally, the rate of infant mortality has been declining since 2005. Harford County has seen a similar decline, however, racial disparities remain. A fact sheet from the latest [2011 Maryland Vital Statistics Infant Mortality Report](#) is available.

Stay up to date

- **Local Health Improvement Coalition** meeting dates and past minutes are available on the Harford County Health Department's [website](#).
- **Healthy Harford** - for the latest information on health and wellness in Harford County, "like" Healthy Harford on [facebook](#), or visit their [website](#).
- **State Health Improvement Process** - stay up to date on health outcome data at the SHIP [website](#).

Harford County Health Department

120 South Hays Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

