

Annual Report

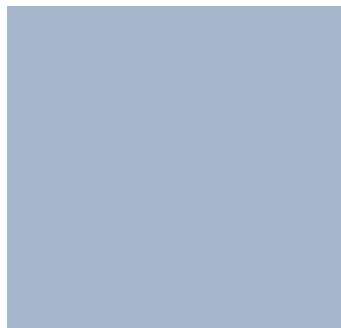
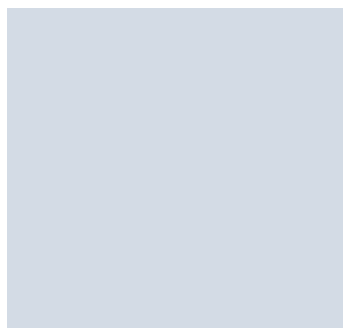
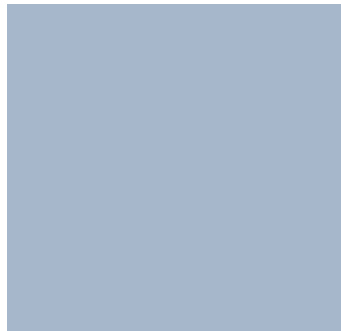


Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County
Health Department**

Harford County Health Department

2014



A Letter from the Health Officer

Fiscal Year 2014 ushered in many changes for the Harford County Health Department including the new look for the annual report. In addition to our website and traditional print media, we actively began using social media - Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest - as our modes of communication. These social media outlets appeal to a segment of our population that we had not previously reached.

The public health symbol was adopted as the Department's logo. Although we do an excellent job of providing services to the community, we have fallen short in providing education about public health and our role as a public health department. We initiated the public health conversation through branding on signs, banners, and publications. This can be seen through our new signage inside and outside of the 120 S. Hays Street Building. We are in transition, but as the community becomes familiar with the public health symbol, we will use it more extensively. I invite you to check out the public health logo video on our website.

And while on our website, click on the *Data and Reports* tab to access county level data, charts, graphs, and trends made available by the State of Maryland. It provides information about the health of our community in comparison to the state and other Maryland counties. This is a great resource for citizens, elected officials, community partners, and anyone interested in public health. Technology has assisted us in other ways as well. A new practice management system was introduced to assist with billing, increasing efficiency and maximizing reimbursements.

The Division of Addiction Services made great strides by creatively addressing behavioral health issues. The Division submitted its application to become an Outpatient Mental Health Center, partnered with the Detention Center to implement the Vivitrol Project, and began naloxone trainings to protect against overdose deaths. More information on these initiatives can be found in this report.

Preparation for Public Health Accreditation culminated in May when we pushed the "submit" button and provided documentation to satisfy 97 measures. The submission consisted of 11,623 pages of documentation! The site visit by the Public Health Accreditation Board is scheduled for January 2015. Stay tuned for results.

This has been an exciting, innovative, and challenging year filled with many "firsts." Please continue your read and explore the many facets of public health outlined in this annual report. As always, your feedback is appreciated. For more information about our programs, please visit our website www.harfordcountyhealth.com and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest.



Harford County Health Officer



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Vision

To make Harford County the Healthiest County in Maryland.

Mission

To protect, promote and improve the health, safety, and environment of the citizens of Harford County through community assessment, education, collaboration, and assurance of services.

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This report includes some key public health news and accomplishments from the past fiscal year (July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014), as well as some programmatic data. For more information on our programs, please visit our website at www.harfordcountyhealth.com.

FY2014 Snapshot of Services



Administration

Birth Certificates Processed	5,384
Death Certificates Processed	596
MA Transportation Taxi Rides Scheduled	50,859

Care Coordination

Clients Navigated through HealthChoice Health Care System	2,581
Medical Assistance Personal Care Services	124
High-Risk Postpartum & Infant Hospital Referrals	246
Evaluations for Aged and Functionally Disabled Adults	388
New Applications Processed - Maryland Children's Health Program	1,826

Clinical Services and Communicable Disease

Children's Dental Clinic Visits	4,216
Sexually Transmitted Infection Clinic Visits	893
Colorectal Cancer Prevention Screenings	52
Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Screenings	146
HIV Client Case Management Encounters	4,985
Addiction Services Admissions	895
Investigations of Reportable Diseases	171
WIC Program Average Monthly Caseload	5,781
Women's Wellness Visits	3,426
Clients Received Immunizations Services	673

Environmental Health

Rabies Vaccinations Administered	1,913
Percolation Tests/Soil Evaluations	496
Licensed Food Service Facilities Inspections	2,372
Building Permits Reviewed	1,232

Health Education

Community Education - Colorectal, Breast, Cervical & Skin Cancer	6,050
Tobacco Cessation Class Participants	194
K-12 Public and Private School Students Educated on Tobacco	9,610

Social Work

Teen Diversion Day Program Clients	34
School-Based Health Center Visits	1617
Avg. Monthly Service Coordination for Families - Infants & Toddlers	521

Developing Opportunities to Expand Behavioral Health Efforts

Naloxone Trainings to Protect Against Overdose Deaths

The Division of Addiction Services was authorized by the Maryland Overdose Prevention Program to direct an Overdose Response Program that includes Naloxone Training and Certification. Naloxone is a drug used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Naloxone Certification Trainings began in May 2014 and are held on a monthly basis. Training includes information about addiction and mental health treatment resources in Harford County as well as instructions on the treatment of an opioid overdose. Upon completion of the training, a two-year certificate is issued, which enables certificate holders to access prescription Naloxone, as well as to carry and administer the prescription in the event of an emergency.



Vivitrol Project Partnership with Harford County Detention Center

Over the past several years, the Division of Addiction Services and the Harford County Detention Center have collaborated on various efforts to address the substance use disorder treatment needs of inmates. As a result of these efforts, a formal relationship was established between the Detention Center and the Division to implement the Vivitrol Project, a treatment modality that specifically addresses alcohol and opioid dependence. The goal of the Vivitrol Project is to prevent relapse, reduce recidivism or re-incarceration and prevent opioid overdoses. The Project is designed to be initiated while the clients are incarcerated. This process expedites the engagement of the client in a therapeutic relationship with their counselor and facilitates a medication regime, so upon release inmates will be inclined to continue treatment with the Health Department or another appropriate substance use disorder program. The Vivitrol Program is completely voluntary. Staff members from the Division work with Detention Center staff to identify inmates who are eligible for the program. Inmates who elect to participate in this program will receive individual and group substance use disorder counseling as well as counseling on Vivitrol prior to their release. Within five days of the inmate's release, Vivitrol is administered to the inmate. If an inmate chooses to use an opioid or alcohol within 30 days of receiving the medication, any effects will be blocked.

Application Submitted to Become Outpatient Mental Health Center (OMHC)

In June of 2014, the Division of Addiction Services submitted an application to the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality to become an OMHC. The application process was tedious, which required staff to attend an interest meeting and complete a rigorous application. Policies and procedures needed to be provided to show that COMAR standards were met. Being an OMHC would enable the Division to treat and get paid for those clients diagnosed with mental disorders. The OMHC would be a one-stop shop for clients to receive services for both substance use disorders and mental illness.

Improving Access to Care for Harford County Residents

Navigating Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Program

In FY14, HCHD contracted with Seedco, Inc, a Connector Entity enrolled with Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Connector Program, to provide Assister services. Staff assisted Harford County residents in applying for insurance and facilitating their understanding and use of the state based exchange to ensure access to health benefits, medical assistance, and Qualified Health Plans. Assisters were mobile, with a focus on education and outreach, and met clients in their homes, the community, and providers' offices.

Aiming to Improve Health Outcomes for High Risk Residents

The HCHD began a new program in fiscal year 2014 titled Care Coordination Plus (CC+). The purpose of the program was to improve overall outcomes for high risk residents by providing comprehensive coordinated care and preventive mental health services to decrease unnecessary and inappropriate use of hospital emergency departments. Through this project, staff helped connect individuals to health insurance and safety net services as well as other community resources, which ultimately would improve their access to health care. CC+ was unique in that staff not only referred but also followed-up with clients regarding accessing care and resources. This project was funded by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission stemming from Harford County's Local Health Improvement Plan.

Partnering with Harford County Public Schools to Keep Children Healthy

Expansion of School Dental Screening Program

The School Dental Screening Program completed 777 screenings and applied 712 fluoride varnish applications to all pre-K children in Harford County Public Schools and kindergarten and third grade students in all Title 1 schools. Oral health education was also provided to over 1,500 pre-K, kindergarten, and third grade students. Each child in these grades received an oral health goody bag consisting of a new toothbrush, fluoride toothpaste, floss, and literature for parents. Additionally, the Dental Program was awarded grant funding from the Maryland State Office of Oral Health to begin a School Dental Sealant Program in the Title 1 schools in the second and third grade. Dental sealants have shown to significantly prevent tooth decay on permanent molar teeth.



Vaccination Opportunities Offered to Children at School

The Health Department's School-Based FluMist program is planned and implemented by the Communicable Disease Unit in collaboration with the Emergency Preparedness Program. This year staff administered 10,786 doses of FluMist to elementary school students in the fall of 2013. Additionally, new immunization requirements for the 2014-2015 school year require all seventh graders to have their Tdap and meningitis vaccinations. In response to this requirement, Communicable Disease staff conducted clinics at all Harford County middle schools in May of 2014. Approximately 528 sixth graders received the Tdap vaccine and 542 received the meningitis vaccine.



Staff Participates in the 2014 Peach Bottom Exercise

The Health Department participated in the 2014 Peach Bottom Exercise. This was the first FEMA graded Hostile Action Radiological Functional Drill for Harford County. This exercise focused primarily on how law enforcement would work with other county agencies to manage a terrorist event that may result in the release of radiation from the power plant. The exercise demonstrated how all entities, including Harford County agencies, Cecil County agencies, state representatives and Peach Bottom power plant employees, would work together to manage this type of

event. The Health Department was also able to demonstrate to FEMA, with no noted deficiencies, how the Harford County Radiological Monitoring and Mass Decontamination plan would be executed.

“Get the Lead Out” Research Study Released

The Health Department's Bureau of Environmental Health completed a study, in cooperation with the Maryland Geological Survey, on the sources of lead in private wells in Harford County. The results of the study, known as “Get the Lead Out”, were published and presented at the Maryland Groundwater Symposium in September 2013. The study confirmed that risk of lead in drinking water from private wells comes from plumbing distribution systems and not the geological formations found in Harford County.



Improving Public Health Services Through the Use of Technology and Social Media

Transitioning to a MedHelp Billing System




With the face of public health consistently changing, and in light of health care changes occurring due to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Health Department understands the importance of ensuring their programs can be self-sustaining. Therefore, the Health Department saw an opportunity to explore the possibility of establishing a new practice management system to assist with billing practices. Staff from a few of the Health Department's programs, Addictions, Communicable Disease and Women's Wellness, convened to discuss current workflow and practice management software and explore the availability of new software. MedHelp was selected as the new billing system. Staff from all of these programs have been receiving training and making necessary changes to fully adopt the MedHelp billing system beginning in July 2014.

Providing Accessible Data to the Community

The Health Department now has a Harford County Local Health Improvement Process data webpage available through the Network of Care data platform. This was made available to all Local Health Departments across Maryland through a collaboration between the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Trilogy Integrated Resources LLC. This webpage provides more detailed county-level public health data to the community. Data for 40 health measures in five focus areas, including healthy beginnings, healthy living, healthy communities, access to health care, and quality preventive care, are provided. To access this data, visit the *Data and Reports* section on the Health Department's website (www.harfordcountyhealth.com).

Establishing a Presence on Social Media

Realizing the importance of social media in today's society, the Health Department has been striving to establish a presence through three social media outlets: Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. During the past fiscal year, the Health Department has come a long way in utilizing social media as another avenue to share pertinent information with the public. All of these social media platforms are accessible on the Health Department's homepage.

	Followers	Posts
	279	360
	28	221
	64	152

Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)

The LHIC, launched in December 2011, continues to remain active in the Harford County community focusing on its three priorities: Obesity, Tobacco, and Behavioral Health. During this fiscal year, the priority workgroups incorporated creative efforts to educate the community.



Keeping Physicians Informed About the Obesity Problem

In collaboration with the LHIC Community Engagement Workgroup and Healthy Harford, the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center hosted a presentation to local physicians on the issue of obesity on May 7, 2014. Dr. Russell Moy, Deputy Health Officer, and Dr. Peter Gaskins, a University of Maryland Pediatric Cardiologist, gave the presentation.

Taking a Position on E-Cigarettes

Given the growing popularity of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) over the past few years, the LHIC Tobacco Workgroup drafted a position paper to clarify its views on the topic. In general, the Tobacco Workgroup recommends that until regulating authorities say otherwise, e-cigarettes should be treated as other tobacco products in terms of policies and restrictions. The position paper will be finalized in the summer of 2014 with the intention of widespread publication to stakeholders and the community in the fall.

Ensuring Access to Suicide Prevention Resources

On March 21, 2014, the Health Department hosted a webinar in partnership with the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health and the Harford County Department of Community Services. The webinar provided primary care and mental health providers with skills and resources needed to employ more effective intervention strategies to deal with cases of depression where suicide screening is indicated. Sixteen primary care staff were trained in addition to 36 mental health and human service professionals. This effort was funded through the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission.





Healthy Harford Day Brings Community Together for Health

Healthy Harford, a nonprofit organization established by leaders from the Harford County Health Department, Harford County Government, and University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health, held the third annual Healthy Harford Day on September 28, 2013. Healthy



Harford Day is a family friendly event where the community can learn about ways to get and stay healthy in Harford County. Held in partnership with the Bel Air Farmer's Market, over 45 vendors were in attendance. Vendors provided activities, demonstrations, and information including Zumba workouts, healthy cooking demonstrations, obstacle courses, and services such as bicycle helmet fittings and blood pressure

screenings. Approximately 1,000 community members were in attendance, triple from previous years, and the number of vendors nearly doubled.

Pursuing Accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)

Staff has been actively preparing for PHAB Accreditation for the past few years. Prerequisite documentation, including a Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and Strategic Plan, was submitted in December of 2012. Over the past fiscal year, staff was busy collecting and developing documentation to show compliance with the 97 performance measures. This included the development and enhancement of a multitude of policies and procedures. All documentation was submitted to PHAB in May of 2014, and the Health Department will receive a site visit from PHAB reviewers in January 2015.



Utilizing a Performance Management System to Track Progress

The Health Department has established a formal data collection and monitoring system, or a performance management system, to help guide its work. Realizing the importance and value of a performance management system, a workshop was held in September 2013 with a consultant from the Public Health Foundation to provide assistance to senior level staff in establishing goals, objectives and performance measures for their programs. Throughout the rest of FY14, senior level staff met on a quarterly basis to review program outcomes. The performance management system is closely aligned with the continuous quality improvement initiative, which is implemented when an area of potential improvement is identified.

Expanding Continuous Quality Improvement Efforts

Building off of prior year successes, the Health Department continues to expand continuous quality improvement efforts. The Department's 2013 project improved its capacity to serve clients with limited English proficiency. This project, which was conducted with the support of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant award, was presented in November at the 2013 National Network for Public Health Institute's *Open Forum for Quality Improvement in Public Health* in Memphis, TN. In the spring of 2014, the Quality Improvement team hosted a community focus group to better understand the needs of the local community. The results of this focus group led to the current QI activities which aim to improve the Department's communication efforts in the community.

Establishing a Workforce Development Plan

To determine the Health Department's training needs as they relate to the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, staff completed a workforce assessment in the fall of 2013. Core competencies include analytical/assessment, policy development/program planning, communication, cultural competency, community dimensions of practice, public health science, financial planning and management, and leadership and systems thinking. Due to initial results from the assessment, a workshop was held on December 17, 2013 with upper level staff to learn more about the core competencies and how they relate to their work. Staff again took the assessment. Based on the two assessments and a prioritization activity held with senior staff, training priorities were identified as: financial planning and management, analytical/assessment, community dimensions of practice, and

leadership and systems thinking. A workforce development plan was finalized in the Spring of 2014 that includes a training schedule for these competencies as well as other trainings important to Health Department staff.



Additional Accomplishments for FY14



The Division of Addiction Services, in collaboration with Father Martin's Ashley, sponsored a pre-release screening of the feature documentary *The Anonymous People* in September 2013. The film was about the 23.5 million Americans living in long-term recovery and the emerging movement that will transform how alcoholism and drug addictions are viewed in the community.



Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the inaugural Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and in observance of "National Kicks Butts Day", the Public Health Education Unit sponsored a public viewing of the nationally acclaimed documentary *Addictions Incorporated* in January 2014 to call attention to the manufacturing and advertising practices of Big Tobacco Companies.



In early 2014, the Dental Clinic began implementing the Reach Out and Read Program, which promotes early literacy and school readiness by giving new books to children (ages 0-5) and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud.



The WIC program celebrated National Nutrition Month in March 2014 by teaching nutrition lessons at the Boys and Girls Club of Bel Air and the Mountain Christian EpiCenter in Edgewood. Nutrition health fairs were also hosted at the Edgewood and Aberdeen clinics.

In April 2014, Emergency Preparedness received a score of 100 on its Cities Readiness Initiative Plan for the third year in a row. This plan demonstrates how the County will distribute large amounts of medication in a short period of time to all Harford County residents should a public health threat arise.

The Division of Food Control completed the Self-Assessment for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standard. The staff has since completed two of the standards and expects to be audited in the fall of 2014.



During Lyme disease awareness month in May 2014, the HCHD partnered with the Harford County Public Library and Harford Lyme Advocates to disseminate messages of tick-borne disease prevention and awareness. Educational materials were on display at all eleven branches. This came as a partial response to the CDC announcement that the real number of Lyme disease cases is largely underreported. In Harford County, the Communicable Disease Unit investigated 98 cases of Lyme disease in FY14.



The Harford County Cancer and Tobacco Community Coalition hosted its annual Joint Coalitions Seminar in May 2014 at the new Kaufman Cancer Center at University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health. Presentations were given on Behavioral Health Integration as well as Cancer: Man and his Environment.



The Bureau of Environmental Health worked with the Harford County Council to revise and update Chapter 216 of the Harford County Code (Sewage Disposal). Bill 14-10 was passed in May of 2014. Highlights of the new code include incorporation of the state's Best Available Technology (BAT) regulations, reduction of the Septic Reserve Area to 10,000 square feet, and incentives for citizens to install BAT on their existing on-site disposal systems.



In May of 2014, the HCHD launched its worksite wellness initiative. A wellness champion was identified at each location to implement wellness activities. Thus far, some of the wellness activities have included: local produce available on-site weekly, Couch to 5k Program, planking challenges, and 10-minute exercise breaks.

The HCHD received funding to institute a Healthy Families America Home Visiting Program. The purpose was to initiate the availability of home visiting programs to improve outcomes and reduce health and developmental disparities for at-risk expectant families and families with young children in the Aberdeen Area. Full implementation of services will begin in FY15.

Locations and Directory of Services

WOODBRIIDGE STATION

**1321 Woodbridge Station Way
Edgewood, Maryland 21040
410-612-1779**

Services: Cancer Prevention, Communicable Disease, Women's Wellness and Colposcopy Services, Immunization, Public Health Education, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Testing, Tobacco Cessation and Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

DENTAL CLINIC

**2204 Hanson Road
Edgewood Plaza Shopping Center
Edgewood, Maryland 21040
443-922-7670 • Fax: 443-922-7673**

Services: Dental Care for Children and Pregnant Women on the MCHP Program

HEALTH SERVICES

**1 North Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-638-3060 • Fax: 410-638-4927**

Services: HIV Case Management and Homeless Service Coordination

ABERDEEN COMMUNITY CENTER

**34 North Philadelphia Boulevard
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001
410-273-5626 • 410-273-5656 (WIC)**

Services: Administrative Care Coordination and Child & Family Services, Adult Evaluation Review Services, Medical Assistance Personal Care, Hospital Discharge Program, Senior and Disability Services, Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and WIC

THOMAS HAYS BUILDING

**120 South Hays Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-1500**

Services: Administrative Services, Addiction Services, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation and Vital Records

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

**Teen Diversion
253 Paradise Road
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001
410-273-5681 • Fax: 410-273-5556**

Services: Group, Family and Individual Therapy, Medication and Case Management and Day Treatment for Adolescents, Psychiatric Rehabilitation