



Harford County Health Department LHIC E- Newsletter

January , 2015



E-Cigarette Concerns

The Aberdeen City Council received a presentation about e-cigarettes on November 10, 2014 by Tobacco Workgroup Chair, Vickie Bands, Health Officer Susan Kelly and Deputy Health Officer Dr. Russell Moy. In its [e-cigarette position paper](#), the Workgroup explains that there is currently not enough research to know the effects of

e-cigarettes, and recommends that they be treated as other tobacco products regarding use restriction and policies.

This sentiment is echoed by the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), who issued a [joint news release](#) on January 8, 2015 to guide policymakers and "minimize the potential negative consequences of electronic cigarettes."

Maryland Cancer Fund Award

The Health Department was awarded a Maryland Cancer Fund grant on January 5, 2015 to operationalize a Faith Communities Health Program. The goal of this program is to provide primary prevention services to local faith based organizations on nutrition, physical activity and healthy lifestyles, paying particular attention to minority populations that have disproportionately high rates of cancer. Key agency partners for this project include Harford County Government, Harford Community College, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health and Healthy Harford.

Public Health Data Update

- The Health of Harford County Residents - 2014. This [PowerPoint](#) is a compilation of the latest public health data for Harford County. A number of sources are reviewed, including the State Health Improvement Process, County Health Rankings, Vital Statistics and Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey - 2013. The full [Youth Risk Behavior Survey report](#) is also included. This is the first time that there has been a large enough sample size to provide county level data. This survey asks youth important questions about health risk behaviors, such as physical activity, nutrition, tobacco and alcohol use, sexual behavior, bullying, harassment and suicide.
- MD Infant Mortality Report - 2013. The latest version of the [Infant Mortality Report](#), compiled by the State of Maryland Vital Statistics

Administration, notes a 22% decrease in Harford County and 15% decrease State-wide of infant deaths. This percent decrease was found in a comparison of two 5 year intervals: 2004-2008 and 2009-2013.

National Public Health Accreditation Update

The Harford County Health Department (HCHD) underwent a 2-day national accreditation site visit conducted by three reviewers from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on January 15 and 16, 2015. HCHD staff members, community partners and County Government representatives, including Health Officer Susan Kelly and Board of Health Chairman Richard Slutzky met with site reviewers during the visit.

The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, and tribal public health departments. To achieve accreditation status, the Health Department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted peer-reviewed process that only 60 of the more than 3,000 public health departments in the nation have so far achieved.

HCHD thanks everyone who contributed to this process and hopes to hear of a favorable review decision later this year.



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**Harford County
Health Department**