



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County  
Health Department**

# Harford County Health Department

## ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2016

*July 1, 2015 -  
June 30, 2016*

*Healthy people in a healthy environment*

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# LETTER

## *from the Health Officer*

Fiscal Year 16 (FY16) is not just another year in public health. Each year is different, bringing new challenges and new opportunities. Of particular interest and concern in FY16 was the emergence of Zika virus in the United States. Zika spurred preparation, prevention, and response planning on a national, state, and local level and Harford County Health Department was no exception. We have been, and will continue to be involved in outreach, education, planning and response activities, which underscore the importance of our ongoing collaborations and partnerships with Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Maryland Department of Agriculture. But Zika response and control is not merely the responsibility of government. Each person in our community plays a critical role in reducing the mosquito population and implementing measures to prevent the transmission of Zika. We are all in this together, and I encourage you to view the YouTube video on our website to find out what you can do to help us in this endeavor.

Quality Improvement has been taken to a new level at the health department, making a difference in the way we approach delivery of services. As a segue from our Public Health Accreditation last year, the Division of Behavioral Health applied for CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation in FY16, and our Healthy Families Home Visiting program is looking forward to an accreditation site visit in FY17. As we continue to raise the bar for delivery of services, we are mindful that customer service is a critical element. In the next fiscal year, customer service training as a quality improvement initiative will be a priority throughout the health department. Stay tuned!

On behalf of the staff at Harford County Health Department, I would like to express my appreciation to Harford County Government and Harford County Council for their support in relocating WIC and Care Coordination to the beautiful new office space in the Swan Creek Village Center. We also appreciate the patience of our clients as we transitioned these services to our new home.

Please keep in contact with us through Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and our website to keep abreast of all of the happenings in the public health arena.



Harford County Health Officer



# BOARD OF HEALTH

Richard C. Slutzky  
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## MISSION

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

## VISION

To make Harford County the healthiest county in Maryland.

## WIC and Care Coordination Services Relocation

The Division of Care Coordination and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program opened their doors at new facilities in the Swan Creek Village Center in Havre de Grace in June 2016. Their previous location in Aberdeen experienced a flooding event that displaced employees for over a year. These employees were temporarily assigned to either the Bel Air or Edgewood location. The new location makes health department services more accessible to clients living in Havre de Grace and Aberdeen.



# FY 2016 Snapshot of Services

## ADMINISTRATION

Birth Certificates Processed	6,626
Death Certificates Processed	908
MA Transportation Taxi Rides Scheduled	93,961

## CARE COORDINATION

Clients Navigated through Health Choice Health Care System	3,121
High-Risk Postpartum & Infant Hospital Referrals	155

## CLINICAL SERVICES AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Breast/Cervical/Colorectal Cancer Prevention Screenings	62
Children's Dental Clinic Visits	4,669
HIV Client Case Management Encounters	5,276
Individuals Provided Behavioral Health Services	9,520
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Visits	643
WIC Program Average Monthly Caseload	5,389
Women's Wellness Clients Served	2,403

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

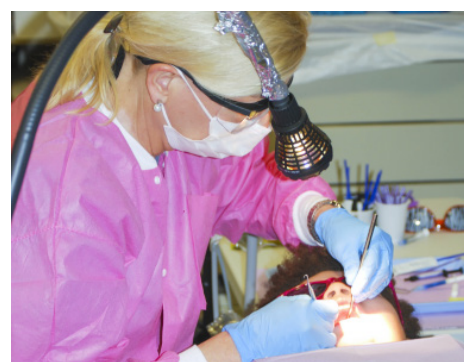
Inspections of Licensed Food Service Facilities	1,912
Investigations of Insect and Vector Control Complaints	194
Well Permits Issued	184

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Individuals Educated - Colorectal, Breast, Cervical & Skin Cancer	8,934
K-12 Public & Private School Students Educated on Tobacco	12,845
Tobacco Cessation Class Participants	160

## SOCIAL WORK

Average Monthly Family Service Coordination - Infants & Toddlers	446
Student Visits to School-Based Health Centers	1,710
Teen Diversion Day Program Clients	22





## Highlight: Zika Virus

Zika Virus Disease emerged as a global concern in the Spring of 2015. The virus is spread through the bite of infected *Aedes* species mosquitoes, and can be transmitted from person-to-person via sex, blood transfusion, and pregnancy. Only 20% of people who are infected with the virus show mild symptoms including fever, rash, conjunctivitis, and joint pain. Of major concern is the virus's ability to cause the birth defect microcephaly if a woman is infected during pregnancy. Central and South America, as well as several Caribbean countries, encountered local transmission of the virus in FY16. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported travel-related infections in the United States, with state and local governments actively preparing for the possibility of locally transmitted cases. The Harford County Health Department (HCHD) participated in weekly Zika calls with representatives from all Maryland counties and multiple state agencies to communicate the latest information and guidance, as well as response actions that are currently taking place. For more information, visit [harfordcountyhealth.com](http://harfordcountyhealth.com).

### Protecting Our Community

The most important step in preventing the risk of local transmission is to eliminate standing water near households. These locations are known to create breeding grounds for mosquitoes. In addition, the public is encouraged to use insect repellent to avoid being bitten, and to use screens and air conditioning when possible. HCHD has developed a Zika Awareness YouTube video, which outlines precautions residents can take to prevent the spread of Zika virus by eliminating mosquito breeding grounds.



### Zika Town Hall Meeting

In June 2016, Dr. Howard Haft, Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, spoke at a Zika Town Hall Meeting in Harford County. The meeting served to educate the public on the epidemiology of the virus, as well as ways to prepare for a local response. The discussion was supplemented by a presentation from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, in which living and breeding habits of mosquitoes were explored.



## TECHNOLOGY



### ***Electronic Health Records***

The health department adopted the Patagonia and Celerity electronic health records (EHRs) for clinical services. Both systems aim to provide the health department with improved billing capacity and patient care management.



### ***New Online Timekeeping***

The health department implemented a new online timekeeping system for all staff as part of the State of Maryland's timekeeping initiative. Timekeeping functions in the new system replaced paper-based time recording, modernizing the tracking of attendance and requests for leave and time off.

## ***Community Partnerships***

### **Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) Access Expansion**

MCHP now provides walk-in service for clients to access insurance enrollment assistance and eligibility screening. These services are provided at three health department locations, including Bel Air, Edgewood, and Havre de Grace. Services were also available in the home for home-bound residents, and in several community locations, including county libraries and the Detention Center.

### **Health Service Cost Review Commission Grant (HSCRC)**

As part of a regional planning grant awarded to University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health and Union Hospital of Cecil County, the health department and hospital will partner with local agencies to address the aims of the HSCRC to improve health care quality and reduce health care costs. This program will link frequent visitors of emergency departments with community health workers to help them navigate the complex healthcare environment.

### **Connecting Criminal Justice to Healthcare**

Harford County was one of three counties in the Maryland selected to participate in the Connecting Criminal Justice with Health Care (CCJH) Initiative. CCJH brings together state and local corrections and health care officials to develop and implement strategies for connecting justice-involved individuals with health care. The initiative will improve health outcomes for these individuals, enhance public safety, and conserve taxpayer resources.



# *Harford County Opioid Initiatives*

## **Harford County Adult Opiate Recovery Court**

The Harford County Adult Drug Court Program, which provides residents with alternatives to traditional incarceration for drug offenses, plans to modify the program in order to better serve the needs of Harford County residents. Instead of primarily focusing on alcohol and marijuana charges, the program will address rehabilitation in the form of medication and counseling for opioid-dependent participants.

## **Naloxone Training**

The health department, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, provided Naloxone trainings to employees and residents of Harford County in an effort to educate people about the prevention of opioid overdose deaths in the county. Naloxone serves as a fast-acting reversal agent for opioid overdose and can be administered by emergency medical services, school employees, law enforcement, and the loved ones of heroin users.



## **Heroin Town Hall Meeting**

On September 9, 2015 HCHD, as part of the Heroin Overdose Prevention Effort (HOPE), participated in a town hall meeting to raise awareness about the growing heroin epidemic in the county. The meeting educated residents about the dangers of opioid use, and promoted the expansion of treatment and prevention efforts.



## **Overdose Fatality Review Team**

The Harford County Overdose Fatality Review Team holds quarterly meetings to review a sample of overdose cases reported throughout the county. The role of the team is to collaboratively address strategies that can be used to prevent future overdoses through community engagement. Member organizations include the Health Department, Harford County Sheriff's Office, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health/Harford Memorial, and Probation & Parole Office, among others.



## Accreditation Opportunities

### Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Accreditation

The Division of Behavioral Health applied for CARF Accreditation for its services at the health department's Bel Air location. By achieving accreditation, the division will continue to improve the quality of their services by meeting internationally recognized standards. Some benefits of accreditation include: business improvement, service excellence, positive visibility, and peer networking.



### Harford County Healthy Families Accreditation

The Harford County Healthy Families Program is scheduled for an accreditation site visit August 2017. At the end of May, several HCHD Healthy Families employees graduated from the first UMBC Home Visiting Certificate Program. The program consisted of a series of trainings designed to enhance and support home visitors and supervisors in evidence-based home visiting programs. Healthy Families currently serves residents of Aberdeen to promote positive parenting, enhance child health and development, and prevent child abuse and neglect.



## Quality Improvement: Expanding Partnerships

Since receiving Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Accreditation in the spring of 2015, the Health Department has cultivated a culture of quality improvement (QI) with annual projects taking place in each division. This formal approach of analyzing and improving performance measures was continued this year with new projects that focused on expanding the health department's internal and external partnerships. Some of the projects included improving chlamydia monitoring with local physicians, expanding patient participation at new locations, increasing staff participation in emergency preparedness drills, and decreasing temporary food service violations in the community.



# Bringing the Community and Partners Together for Public Health

## Faith Communities Health Program

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The Harford County Health Department partnered with faith leaders to start a Faith Communities Health Program for supporting local faith-based organizations to promote improvement in health behaviors and outcomes in Harford County. Ten local organizations were awarded mini-grants for initiating and developing health ministries to improve nutrition, physical activity, and overall health of their communities.



### Run 4 Recovery

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Harford County held its 2nd annual 5K Run 4 Recovery and fun walk on September 10, 2015. The run brought awareness to the community regarding mental health problems and addressed stigmas associated with seeking treatment. Over 50 runners participated in the event and were able to raise money to help individuals seeking drug and alcohol treatment.

## Colorectal Screening Navigation Program

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In response to the changing climate of health insurance, the health department has been encouraging clients to enroll in Expanded Medicaid, as well as apply through the Maryland Health Exchange. The subsequent increase in medical assistance patients has paved the way for Harford County residents to take advantage of recommended colorectal cancer screenings starting at age 50.



### Dental Sealant Program

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Beginning in 2014, the Health Department launched a school-based Dental Sealant Program that provides dental services, including fluoride treatments, to 2nd and 3rd graders in Title I schools. In observance of this year’s National Dental Hygiene Month, local government leaders and Harford County Public School representatives visited William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary School to take part in a dental sealant event that highlighted the expansion of the dental program. In attendance were Maryland Secretary of Health Van Mitchell, Harford County Executive Barry Glassman, Harford County Council President Richard Slutzky, and several others.

## Public Health Matters

HCHD, in partnership with the Harford Cable Network, continued production of the *Public Health Matters* series. Each episode, hosted by the Harford County Health Officer, takes a closer look at the public health issues that matter to the citizens of Harford County. Topics taped this year included: human trafficking, digital safety, Lyme disease, child dental health, and trauma related to abuse and neglect.



## Peach Bottom Exercise

On March 30th, the Harford County Health Department and Harford County HAZMAT participated in a FEMA graded exercise for the purpose of demonstrating Harford County's Mass Monitoring and Decontamination Plan at Fallston High School. The full-scale exercise required the support of multiple partners, including Harford County Department of Emergency Services, representatives from MEMA, Office on Mental Health/Core Service Agency, and the local RACES- Ham radio group.

The health department also supported the local Department of Social Services at Patterson Mill Middle/High School during their shelter full-scale exercise.



The Department of Emergency Services led county representatives in a third FEMA full-scale exercise on April 27th to demonstrate the decision-making process involved in a radiological event associated with a fixed nuclear facility. The Harford County Health Department, along with multiple county partners, participated in the exercise at the county Emergency Operation Center and demonstrated actions they would take if such an event were to occur in the county.

## Public Health Week

2016 National Public Health Week took place April 4th through April 10th, with a focus on the "Goal of making the U.S. the Healthiest Nation in One Generation, by 2030". The Health Department offered employees a variety of seminars featuring quality improvement, domestic violence awareness, suicide risk intervention, and personal and community health promotion.







# Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)

Harford County's Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) was created in 2011 as a local extension of the State Health Improvement Process. The LHIC brings together representatives from across the community to address three priorities: Behavioral Health, Tobacco, and Obesity.

## Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training for Suicide Prevention

The health department, in partnership with the Harford County Mobile Crisis Unit, conducted Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) training to over 300 professionals and residents in Harford County. The training teaches individuals how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to navigate someone to help when there is any risk of suicide. The training is geared to all residents, regardless of their role in the behavioral health community.

## Informing Tobacco Vendors of Retail Laws

Because Maryland's rate of illegal (underage) tobacco sales exceeded national standards in FY14 and FY15, HCHD was part of a collaborative statewide effort to enhance awareness efforts and enforcement of youth access laws. In FY16, the Health Department's Tobacco Program collaborated with the Harford County Sheriff's Office in conducting 202 compliance checks, resulting in 20 citations for illegal sales to youth. Additionally, over 500 educational visits to tobacco vendors provided information about youth access laws, tips to train staff about checking ID, and the importance of complying with state and federal laws.

## Healthy Harford Day

In 2015 over 2,500 residents attended the 5th annual Healthy Harford Day, where they learned about ways to stay healthy in Harford County. The event brought together resources from all over the county, including vendors promoting physical activity, nutrition, and chronic disease management. Interactive activities included cooking demonstrations, exercise classes, and health screenings.



# Locations & Directory of Services

## **CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

Division of Social Work Services  
253 Paradise Road  
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001  
(410) 273-5681

Fax: (410) 273-5556

Services: Teen Diversion Program, School Health Readiness Program

## **DENTAL CLINIC**

2204 Hanson Road  
Edgewood Plaza Shopping Center  
Edgewood, Maryland 21040  
Phone: (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  
Phone: (410) 638-3060

Fax: (410) 638-4927

Services: HIV Case Management, Homeless Service Coordination, Tuberculosis (TB) Program

## **SWAN CREEK VILLAGE CENTER**

Care Coordination Services  
2015 Pulaski Highway, Suite D/E  
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078  
Phone: (410) 942-7999

Services: Administrative Care Coordination Unit (ACCU), Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS), Hospital Outreach Program (HOP), Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP), Medical Assistance Personal Care (MAPC), Community First Choice, Harford County Healthy Families

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)  
2027 Pulaski Highway, Suite 107  
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078  
Phone: (410) 939-6680

Services: WIC

## **THOMAS HAYS BUILDING**

120 South Hays Street  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
Phone: (410) 838-1500

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

## **WOODBRIIDGE STATION**

1321 Woodbridge Station Way  
Edgewood, Maryland 21040  
Phone: (410) 612-1779

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



***HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT***



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