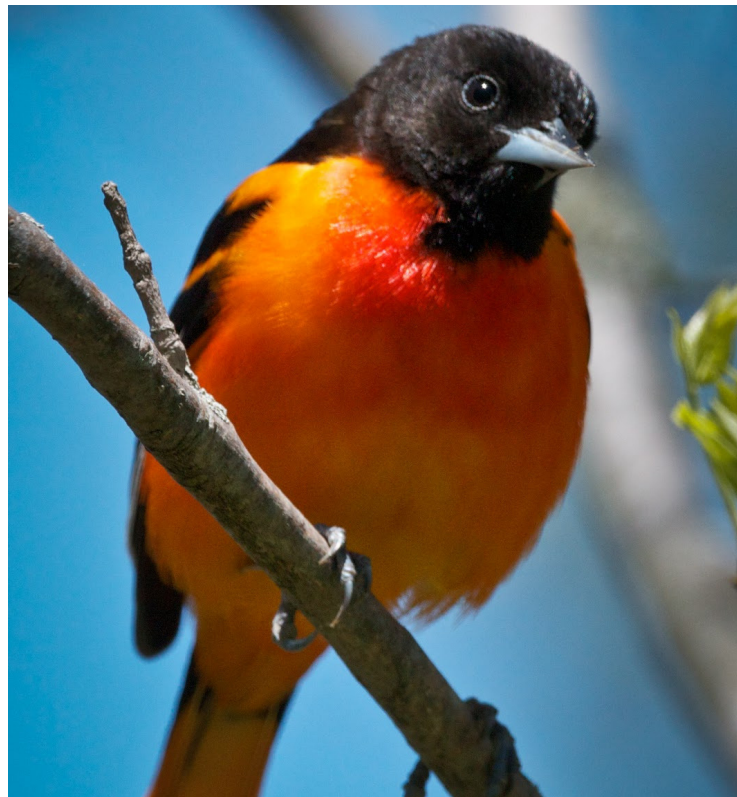




Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County
Health Department**

Annual Report 2017





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A Message from Our Health Officer

We are pleased to present Harford County Health Department's FY 2017 Annual Report. The health of Harford County residents improved in many areas, including reductions in our heart disease, cancer, stroke, and infant mortality rates. However, challenges remain, especially in the areas of substance use disorders, access to behavioral health services, tobacco use prevention, and the promotion of healthy lifestyle behaviors – areas that will take a community-wide effort to address.

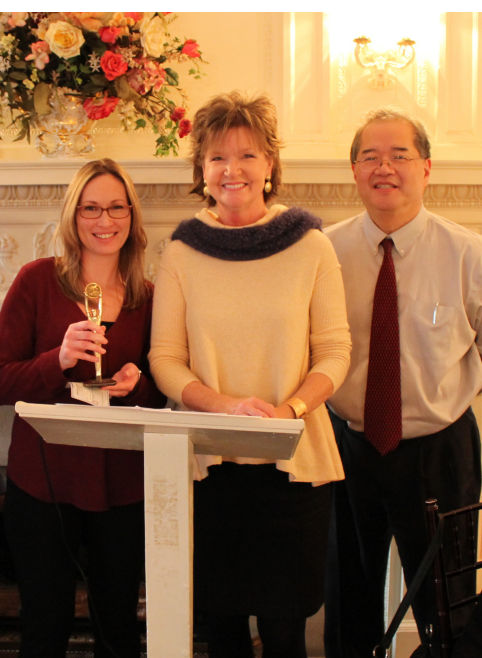
This past year brought with it a unique set of challenges for public health on the local, state, and national levels. At the local level, we thank Susan Kelly our former Health Officer for her 46 years of dedicated public health service following her recent retirement. At the state and national levels, we face uncertainties regarding the direction and financing of our health care system. Through it all, the Health Department remains committed to providing the highest quality of care to all Harford County residents.

We continue our role as the County's safety net provider for vulnerable and underserved populations. Our clinical services remain very busy, with nearly 10,000 encounters in our Behavioral Health Program, over 4,000 encounters in our Children's Dental Health Program, over 2,000 encounters in our Women's Health Program, and an average monthly caseload of over 5,000 in our WIC Nutritional Services Program. Our care coordination services are also extremely busy, with over 2,000 Medicaid participants enrolled in our MCHP Insurance Program, nearly 3,000 Medicaid care coordination encounters, over 5,000 HIV case management encounters, and over 80,000 Medicaid transportation provisions. In addition to our safety net services, we remain focused on our population health responsibilities, including our commitment to environmental health, emergency preparedness, disease outbreak investigation and control, public health education and outreach, and community health assessment and improvement.

There is much more to be done, as we work to promote and protect the health, safety, and environment of the residents of Harford County. We will do so through public health assessment, education, collaboration and assurance of services. This is our mission. Making Harford County the healthiest community in our State is our vision.

Russell Moy, MD, MPH
Acting Health Officer
Harford County Health Department





Snapshot of Services

ADMINISTRATION

6,798

Birth Certificates
Processed

1,850

Death Certificates
Processed

86,408

MA Transport
Rides Provided

CARE COORDINATION

2,970

Clients Navigated through Health
Choice Health Care System

252

High-Risk Postpartum &
Infant Hospital Referrals

SOCIAL WORK

1,509

Student Visits to
School-Based Health
Centers

457

Average Monthly Family
Service Coordination -
Infants & Toddlers

1,300

Number of Monthly
Teen Diversion
Contacts

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1,469

Inspections of
Licensed Food Service
Facilities

713

Animal Attack
Investigations

172

Well Permits
Issued

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

8,683

K-12 Public & Private
School Students
Educated on Tobacco

90

Women Screened for
Breast & Cervical
Cancer

147

Tobacco Cessation
Class Participants

CLINICAL SERVICES

2,307

Number of Women's
Health Visits

4,287

Children's Dental Clinic
Visits

5,356

HIV Client Case
Management
Encounters

9,790

Individuals Provided
Behavioral Health Services

484

Sexually Transmitted
Disease Clinic Visits

5,255

WIC Program Average
Monthly Caseload

About the Health Department

Harford County Health Department is the local operating arm of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in Harford County. It is responsible for the delivery of a wide range of preventive health care, clinical services, and environmental health services to residents living in Harford County. Employing over 170 employees, the Health Department provides services at various locations throughout the county and has Community Health Centers in Bel Air, Aberdeen, Havre de Grace, and Edgewood.

As the healthcare system faces new challenges, the Harford County Health Department is committed to ensuring that every resident in Harford County has equitable access to the care they need in order to lead their healthiest lives.

Mission

To protect and promote the health, safety, and environment of the residents of Harford County through public health assessment, education, collaboration, and assurance of services.

Vision

To make Harford county the healthiest community in Maryland.

Strategies

1. Advance the public's health.
2. Fulfill public health obligations and requirements.
3. Assure financial sustainability.

Board of Health

Richard C. Slutzky

Council President

Mike Perrone, Jr.

District A

Joseph M. Woods

District B

James V. McMahan, Jr.

District C

Chad R. Shrodes

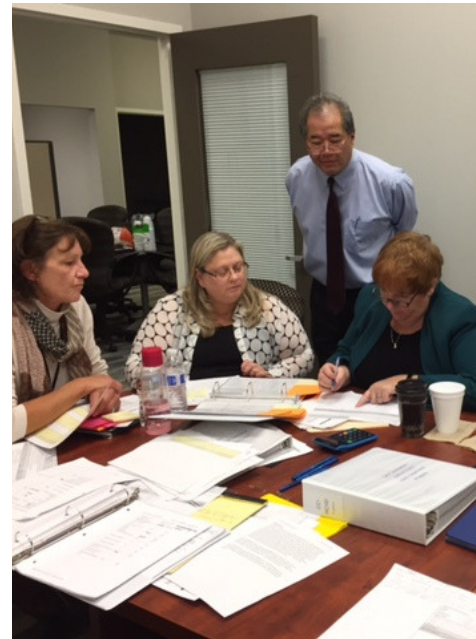
District D

Patrick S. Vincenti

District E

Curtis L. Beulah

District F



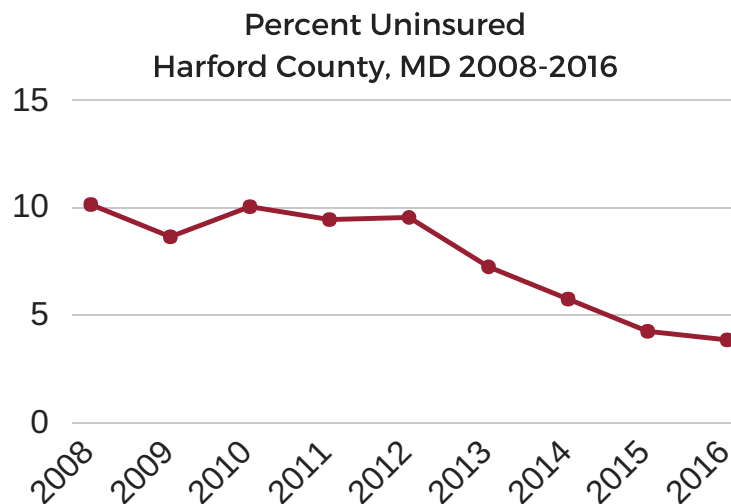
Assistance Programs

The health department offers a wide range of assistance programs to individuals and families of all ages throughout the county. Services include:

- Administrative Care Coordination
- Care Coordination Plus
- Maryland Children's Health Program
- Medical Assistance (MA) Transportation
- Nurse Monitoring Program
- Hospital Outreach Program
- Adult Evaluation and Review Services

Highlight: Care Coordination Helps to Decrease Harford Uninsured Rate

The Administrative Care Coordination Unit (ACCU) is the local arm of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland Medicaid Program. ACCU answers questions about HealthChoice, the Maryland Children's Health Program, choosing an MCO, choosing a doctor, Medical Assistance benefits, and helps with accessing care. In addition, ACCU assists in locating mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, dental services, specialty providers, and care coordination services for medical assistance recipients. This type of intensive patient navigation has helped to decrease Harford County's uninsured rate to one of the lowest in the state. The graph below shows the decrease in uninsured residents that has occurred since 2008.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States



Assistance programs have resulted in an uninsured rate of 3.8% for Harford County, compared to Maryland's average of 6.1% uninsured.

Behavioral Health Services

The Harford County Health Department's Division of Behavioral Health supports healthy recovery through its commitment to our community and the achievement of meaningful outcomes. The Division of Behavioral Health is a multifaceted program that strives to meet the ever-changing behavioral health needs of the community. Programs administered by the Division include:

- Addiction Resources
- Drug Overdose Fatality Review Team
- Mental Health Therapy
- Naloxone Training
- Opiate Recovery Court
- Peer Recovery and Support Services
- Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services

Highlight: CARF Accreditation

On September 7, 2016, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) announced that the Division of Behavioral Health has been accredited for a period of three years for its Behavioral Health Program. CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. This accreditation decision represents the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards and demonstrates that the programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

Highlight: Local Addictions Authority (LAA)

As the designated Local Addictions Authority (LAA) for Harford County, the LAA staff are responsible for planning, education and outreach, and the monitoring of publicly-funded substance use disorder services. Additionally, overdose prevention and Naloxone distribution will be a strategic aim of the LAA in FY18 and beyond until the public health crisis of opioid overdoses and deaths recedes.

The Division of Behavioral Health served 9,790 clients in individual and group appointments in FY17.



Clinical Services

The health department provides several clinical health services to Harford County residents at its Aberdeen, Bel Air, and Edgewood locations. These services are provided for clients with private insurance, Medicaid/Medicare, and those that are uninsured. Services include:

- Dental Clinic
- Family Planning
- Immunizations
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing and Treatment
- Emergency Contraception
- HIV Case Management
- Infectious/Communicable Disease Services

Highlight: Impacting HIV Rates in Harford County

The Upstream Project

This initiative aims to provide screening and education to clients on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in order to prevent infection. All clients that come in for clinical services are offered HIV screening and education on HIV prevention and risk reduction. Clients that are HIV positive are referred for case management and partner services with the HIV Health Services division.

PrEP Project

The PrEP Project offers HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis to clients who are at risk for exposure to HIV. These antiviral drugs attack the life-cycle of the HIV virus and protect the client from contracting the infection. If eligible, clients will receive a prescription for medication to be taken daily to prevent HIV infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), by taking PrEP every day, a person can lower their risk of getting HIV from sex by more than 90% and from injection drug use by more than 70%.



Up to 90% of HIV infections
can be prevented through
the use of pre-exposure
prophylaxis medication.
-CDC



Community Health Services

Community Health Services encompasses several programs including Disaster Preparedness, Health Education, Healthcare for the Homeless, Injury Prevention, and Tobacco Treatment, Education, and Enforcement.

Highlight: Educating the Public on Tobacco Sale Laws

The Public Health Education Program supports Maryland's Cigarette Restitution Fund Tobacco Program through community and school-based health education initiatives as well as treatment services for all tobacco products. In FY17, the program educated over 17,000 youth and adults, referred hundreds to the State's MD Quitline, and attracted nearly 150 participants to its cessation programs. The program aimed to reduce youth access to tobacco by partnering with law enforcement to conduct 168 tobacco licensee compliance checks. Almost 400 educational visits to nearly 200 Harford tobacco vendors provided information about compliance with state and federal youth access laws and the importance of checking ID.

During the 2017 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation was passed (HB 185 – Distribution of Tobacco Products to Minors) to establish the statewide option for enforcing existing tobacco product sales. The law provides prohibitions to persons under 18 years of age via civil monetary penalties. In Harford and throughout Maryland, the new civil framework calls for progressive fines of \$300, \$1,000 and \$3,000 for first-time and subsequent offenders. Implementation of a new Maryland-specific web-based Point-of-Sale-Toolkit (POST) will provide valuable resources to local health departments to enhance local and statewide data collection, research, and reporting.

Highlight: Emergency Preparedness

The Emergency Preparedness Division is actively engaged in aspects of public health-related planning and response activities at all jurisdictional levels that would result from a disaster. Activities during this fiscal year have included working with local partners during our incident command training day, presenting information on how the Strategic National Stockpile would be utilized to respond to an anthrax event, and assisting the development of a statewide planning effort to ensure radiological preparedness at each health department.

HCHD is also a member of the Maryland Region III Health and Medical Coalition. The Coalition has been dedicated to addressing emergency preparedness issues facing the healthcare system of Central Maryland since its establishment in 2006. This year Harford County led two large planning projects at the regional level. The first being to operationalize a regional hospital evacuation plan and second, planning for a regional healthcare recovery effort. Regional efforts continue to be the focus at the national level due to the ever-increasing size of our natural disasters.



Adolescent tobacco use
rates have decreased by 5%
in recent years.
-Maryland BRFSS

Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Division is responsible for both resource protection and consumer protection in Harford County. The services provided by each program include:

Resource Protection

- Air Quality & Solid Waste
- Building Permits and Plan Review
- Facility Inspections
- Lyme Disease
- Perc Testing
- Septic Systems
- Water and Wells

Consumer Protection

- Food Control and Plan Review
- Food Facility Inspections
- Rabies and Vector Control

Highlight: Bay Restoration Fund Prevents Environmental Pollution

In fiscal year 2017, thirty properties in Harford County received Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) grant money to upgrade their septic system to Best Available Technology (BAT units) or connect to public sewer. The BRF program money comes from the collection of the “Flush Tax” statewide and is then redistributed to individual counties to partially or fully upgrade septic systems.

Harford County is reducing the amount of nitrogen that eventually enters the Chesapeake Bay and pollutes the waters by supporting upgrades to BAT or connection to public sewers. The Health Department is pleased to announce that public health and the environment have been protected by upgrading twenty-three failing septic systems with BAT units and connecting seven properties to public sewer using the grant. Success can be achieved only by eliminating one source of pollution at a time and ultimately the BRF program positively impacts the greater Harford County Community and the Chesapeake Bay.



Each year the Bay Restoration Fund prevents over 7.5 million pounds of nitrogen and over 260 thousand pounds of phosphorus from entering the Chesapeake Bay.

Maternal & Child Health Services

Maternal and Child Health services help promote the health of Harford County families. Each program is provided to ensure that mothers and babies have access to the resources necessary to grow and thrive in the community. Services include:

- Healthy Families America Home Visiting Program
- Hearing and Vision Screenings
- Home Birth Verification
- Lead Poisoning Follow-Up
- Resources for Substance Exposed Newborns
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

Highlight: Healthy Families Harford County Celebrates Partners

Healthy Families America (HFA) Harford County hosted an event for its advisory board in September 2016 entitled the "Celebration of Partners". Advisory board members included outside agencies that provide supportive services to families in the community. To increase referrals for the evidence-based home visiting program, the Healthy Families team educated members on the type of services provided by the program, the family referral process, and presented certificates of appreciation to highlight the value of the partnerships formed. Meetings are held quarterly and the advisory board members were instrumental in preparing for the Healthy Families America accreditation process.

Highlight: New eWIC System is Improving Access to Healthy Foods

The Harford County WIC Program transitioned to its new electronic benefits system, eWIC, on June 1, 2017. Maryland WIC developed the program as a new and improved way for participants to receive their WIC food benefits. Participants use the eWIC debit card to purchase WIC foods that are approved for purchase on the card. These food benefits are loaded onto their eWIC card during scheduled clinic appointments.

The new eWIC system eliminates paper checks, making shopping easier and more pleasant for participants. Participants only need their eWIC card, PIN, the WIC authorized Foods list, and their personalized family shopping list. In addition, families now have the option to purchase only the foods they need each time they shop. Once participants check out at the grocery store, the remaining foods that can be purchased are listed at the bottom of the grocery store receipt. Participants can also check their benefit balance by either calling a customer service representative, online through the benefits portal or on their smartphone with the Maryland eWIC App.



During FY17 WIC conducted over 63,000 visits and served over 48,000 Harford County infants and children.



Preventive Health Services

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings (adults 40-65) and Colorectal Cancer Screenings (adults 50+) are available to county residents that are uninsured or underinsured and meet income eligibility requirements.

Highlight: Screenings Prevent Costs Associated with Cancer Treatment

In Fiscal Year 2017, the Office of Cancer Prevention Services piloted a program to integrate their Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program with their Colorectal CPEST Program. The integrated Cancer Prevention Program's goal is to enhance the delivery and efficiency of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening services throughout Harford County.

The Cancer Prevention Program provides access to routine cancer screenings such as colonoscopies, mammograms, and Pap Tests. Routine cancer screenings help to detect cancer at early stage or by identifying pre-cancerous tissue so it can be removed. Early detection is key to improving treatment outcomes and survival rates. This year, of the 56 clients who were screened for colorectal cancer, 19 clients were found to have adenomas (pre-cancerous polyps) and 1 client was found to have a cancerous polyp. All were removed during the procedure, eliminating the need for further treatment. Preventing the progression of cancer by removing pre-cancerous/cancerous polyps demonstrates how the screening services provided by the Cancer Prevention Program can help to save lives.

Social Work Services

The Division of Social Work provides health services to school-aged children and teens throughout the county. Three programs embedded in the Harford County Public School System include:

- Infants and Toddlers Program
- Teen Diversion Program
- School Health Readiness Program

Each program was developed to help children in Harford County reach their fullest potential, both academically and physically. Social workers and nursing staff provide a wide range of services to students and their families including individual, group, and family therapy as well as clinical health services, education, and referral services.



90 women were screened for breast and cervical cancer, and 56 clients were screened for colorectal cancer.

Directory of Services

Aberdeen

253 Paradise Rd.
Aberdeen, MD 21001
Phone: 410-273-5681

Services: School Health
Readiness, Teen Diversion

Bel Air

120 South Hays Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
Phone: 410-838-1500
Services: Administration,
Behavioral Health, Environmental
Health, MA Transportation, & Vital
Records

1 North Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
Phone: 410-638-3060
Services: HIV Testing &
Healthcare for the Homeless

Edgewood

1321 Woodbridge Station Way
Edgewood, MD 21040
Phone: 410-612-1779

410-612-1776 (WIC)

Services: Cancer Prevention,
Family Planning, Infectious
Disease, Public Health
Education, Tobacco, WIC

2204 Hanson Rd.
Edgewood, MD 21040
Phone: 443-922-7670

Services: Dental

Havre de Grace

2027 Pulaski Highway, Suite 107
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
Phone: 410-939-6680

Services: WIC

2015 Pulaski Highway
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
Phone: 410-942-7999
Services: Care Coordination and help
applying for Medical Assistance





Harford County Health Department

120 South Hays Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 838-1500