

Harford County Health Department

# ***Board of Health Presentation***

October 8, 2024

Marcy Austin, Health Officer



# Agenda

- About the Health Department
- 2024 CHNA
- Recovery Month
- Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month
- Program Updates:
  - Snapshot of Services
  - Hispanic Heritage Month
  - Youth Symposium
  - Civil Surgeon
  - Outreach Van
  - Immunization Efforts
  - COVID Shots
  - Flu Shots for Homebound
  - Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care
  - School Based Health Centers
  - Water PFAS



# About the Health Department

## Mission

- To protect, promote, and improve the health, safety, and environment of Harford County residents

## Vision

- To make Harford County the healthiest community in Maryland

## Values

- Teamwork, Leadership, Collaboration, Integrity, Commitment, and Cultural Sensitivity



# 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment

The Harford County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) provides a thorough evaluation of the health status of Harford County. The report includes both primary and secondary data in qualitative and quantitative forms.

**This important document is produced by an amazing partnership with HCHD, UM UCH, and Healthy Harford!**



## 2024 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

HARFORD COUNTY, MD

JULY 2024

Full report can be found here: [harfordcountyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CHNA-2024.pdf](https://harfordcountyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CHNA-2024.pdf)



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**Harford County**  
Health Department

# Recovery Month

Wear Purple  
FOR RECOVERY

September 20, 2024



Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those in recovery, just as we celebrate improvements made by those who are managing other health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and heart disease.

#Harford4Recovery





# Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month



## Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland  
INFANT SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH  
OCTOBER 2024

WHEREAS, Every year in the United States, around 3,500 infants die of sleep-related deaths; and  
WHEREAS, In Maryland, on average 46 infants died of sleep-related deaths annually between 2018-2022; and  
WHEREAS, 78% of infant sleep-related deaths from 2012-2022 in Maryland were deemed preventable; and  
WHEREAS, Parents, families, childcare providers, and hospitals should engage in safe sleep practices by placing babies on their back for all sleep times on a firm and flat sleep surface that is free of blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and toys; and  
WHEREAS, Parents, families, childcare providers, and hospitals should place babies in a smoke-free environment; and in a shared room, but on a separate surface such as crib that meets the safety standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for infants, ideally for at least the first 6 months; and  
WHEREAS, Parents, grandparents, relatives, childcare providers and everyone caring for infants are encouraged to learn more about how to keep infants safe when they sleep; and  
WHEREAS, All people should help spread awareness of infant safe sleep practices to help babies sleep safely and reduce the risk of sleep-related deaths.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 2024 as INFANT SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October  
Two Thousand and twenty-four

Governor

Lt. Governor

Secretary of State



- The Governor of Maryland has proclaimed October 2024 as Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month.
- In Maryland, an average 46 infants died of sleep-related deaths annually between 2018-2022. 78% of infant sleep-related deaths from 2012-2022 in Maryland were deemed preventable.
- Harford County Health Department's Safe Sleep Program provides extensive education and presentations regarding safe sleep practices to families in our community at places such as MEGAN's Place, Judy Centers, and any other sites upon request. In addition, our program provides sleep sacks to families.

[https://www.nichd.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/NICHD\\_STS\\_2022\\_Handout\\_English508\\_0.pdf](https://www.nichd.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/NICHD_STS_2022_Handout_English508_0.pdf)



# Program Updates

# Harford County Health Department FY24 Snapshot of Services



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<b>Administration</b>			
<b>9,880</b> Birth Certificate Copies Issued	<b>9,161</b> Death Certificate Copies Issued	<b>30,073</b> Medicaid Transport Rides	
<b>Behavioral Health</b>			
<b>3,964</b> Psychiatric Visits Completed	<b>15,734</b> Total Services Provided	<b>1,496</b> Substance Use Appointments Held	
<b>Care Coordination</b>			
<b>981</b> New CC+ Referrals	<b>685</b> Navigated Through Health Care System	<b>5,288</b> Translation Services Used	
<b>Clinical Health</b>			
<b>318</b> Flu Vaccinations Ages 1-18	<b>2,067</b> Family Planning Visits	<b>2,799</b> Client Case Management Emcounters	
<b>Environmental Health</b>			
<b>1,147</b> Total Food Inspections	<b>800</b> Animal Bite Investigations	<b>1,403</b> Total Building Permit Reviews	
<b>Family Health</b>			
<b>6,938</b> Dental Clinic Visits	<b>4,166</b> WIC Clients Seen Monthly (Avg)	<b>1,437</b> New MCHP Applications	<b>553</b> Family Home Visits



# Hispanic Heritage Month



- The Harford County Health Department held the second annual Hispanic Heritage Month Event on September 28th at our Woodbridge location in Edgewood.
- The event offered FREE live music, kids activities, health resources, flu shots (courtesy of UM UCH), STI screenings, clothing donations, giveaways, and Italian Ice and snacks.
- We are grateful for the 12 community partners and, for our own staff, who attended and provided information to our over 50 attendees!



# 2024 Youth Symposium for Middle & High School Girls



## SAVE THE DATE!



2024 YOUTH SYMPOSIUM  
6-10:30 PM

NOV  
22

ALL HARFORD COUNTY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS ARE INVITED!

WARD Y IN ABINGDON  
1001 WALTER WARD BLVD  
ABINGDON, MD 21009

RESOURCES, GIVEAWAYS,  
WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT,  
MUSIC, FOOD, GAMES,  
AFFIRMATION BOARDS,  
AND MORE!



[WWW.HARFORDCOUNTYHEALTH.COM](http://WWW.HARFORDCOUNTYHEALTH.COM)



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# Civil Surgeon



## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

- Applying for a green card (adjustment of status) in the United States, requires undergoing an immigration medical examination.
- The examination must be done by a doctor who is designated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- USCIS approves certain doctors (known as civil surgeons) to perform the immigration medical examination required for most green card applicants.
- HCHD is excited to offer this new program at our Woodbridge location soon!





# Outreach Van

- The Harford County Health Department has purchased a Community Outreach Van to increase health accessibility in our community.
- Nurses, harm reduction staff, and others will provide health screenings including rapid HIV/Hep C and other STI testing, immunizations, Naloxone education and distribution, and other community health services.
- We appreciate our partnership with the Harford County Government to procure this van to help meet the health needs of Harford County residents.



# Immunization Efforts

- The State of Maryland has established immunization requirements for all students entering or enrolled in Maryland schools.
- The HCHD Clinical Services team is dedicated to ensure students are kept in school.
- We continue to host our immunization clinic every Tuesday from 8:30 – 3:30 and the first and third Wednesday of the month from 3:00 – 6:00.
- Last month, additional clinics were added on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to help students who still needed their required immunizations.



# COVID Vaccination

## Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccine!

- Everyone ages 6 months and older should get a 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine.
- The COVID-19 vaccine helps protect you from severe disease, hospitalization, and death.
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer, more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19.
- Getting the 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine is important because:
  - Protection from the COVID-19 vaccine decreases with time.
  - COVID-19 vaccines are updated to give you the best protection from the currently circulating strains.
- Getting the 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine is especially important if you:
  - Never received a COVID-19 vaccine
  - Are ages 65 years and older
  - Are at high risk for severe COVID-19
  - Are living in a long-term care facility
  - Are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant, or might become pregnant in the future.
  - Want to lower your risk of getting Long COVID

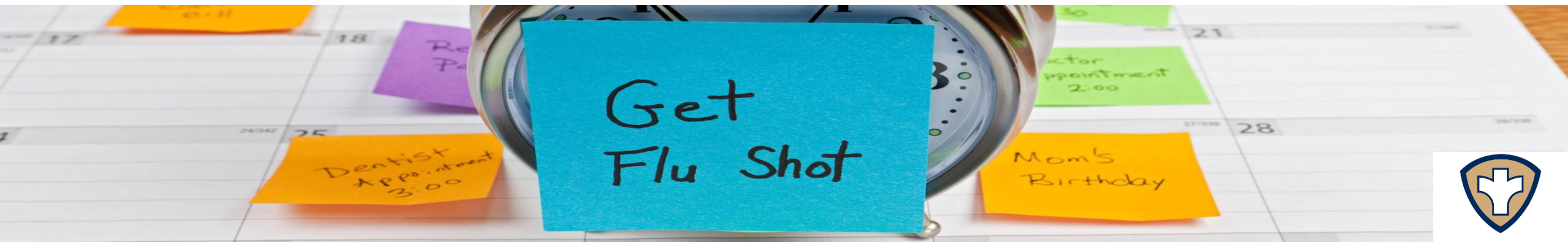
AND DON'T FORGET YOUR FLU SHOT TOO (which you can get together!)





# Flu Vaccination for Homebound Individuals

- The Care Coordination Plus team is back out in the community this flu season to help vaccinate homebound individuals.
- We recommend a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important action in reducing your risk of flu and its potentially serious outcomes.
- For 2024-2025, all flu vaccines will be designed to protect against three influenza viruses- A(H1N1) virus, A(H3N2) virus, and influenza B/Victoria lineage virus.
- Homebound individuals who need a flu vaccine should contact the HCHD CC Plus Program: 443-252-7438.



# Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care

- We are pleased to offer integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care at HCHD!
- One of our certified psychiatric nurse practitioners on staff is also a board approved general medicine practitioner.
- For those clients enrolled in our behavioral health services, we are able to coordinate providing primary care medical services to them as well. *Given the comorbid nature of mental health, substance use, and medical conditions, this was a much-needed service we have been pleased to offer our clients.*
- These services are provided in conjunction with behavioral health care received at our facility and covered by insurance.



# School Based Health Centers

- Schools we serve:
  - Edgewood Elementary School
  - Halls Cross Roads Elementary School
  - Magnolia Elementary School
  - Old Post Elementary School
  - Swan Creek School
- *We are excited to announce that in September our School Based Health Center Program expanded at Swan Creek for Aberdeen High School students!*



## School-Based Health Center Program

### What is the School-Based Health Center Program?

The School-Based Health Center Program is a no fee health care service offered by the Harford County Health Department in partnership with Harford County Public Schools. The School-Based Health Center provides health services such as exams, physicals, sick visits, preventative care, diagnosis, prescriptions, and supportive counseling on site to keep all children healthy and ready to learn!

*A new consent and health history must be filled out each school year.*



SCAN ME

If you would like to sign up for your child's School-Based Health Program, please click the link in the caption and fill out the consent and health history forms.



# Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced finalized regulations for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water.
- Public water systems affected by these regulations will be required to begin monitoring for PFAS by 2027 with requirements to be in full compliance by 2029.
- The Maryland Department of the Environment initiated a PFAS monitoring program of public water systems in September 2020. Though additional monitoring needs to be completed, it is important that residents are being educated about PFAS/PFOA chemicals.
- August 5, 2024, Five Harford schools prohibited students from consuming water due to PFAS contamination.
- Harford County Executive Bob Cassilly issued an Executive Order establishing the Drinking Water PFAS Task Force in Harford County on August 30, 2024. The Health Department attended the first meeting on September 5, 2024.
- The Harford County Health Department links to the Maryland Department of Environment's PFAS pages on our website.
- Private wells are not regulated by the state or federal government with respect to PFAS monitoring. It is the responsibility of the individual homeowners to test and maintain their well and water supply piping.



*Thank you!*

410-838-1500

[www.harfordcountyhealth.com](http://www.harfordcountyhealth.com)

