

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2004

July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004





Message from County Executive Janet S. Owens

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health of County residents. The initiatives and accomplishments highlighted in this Annual Report are a way to share our successes and our challenges with the people we serve. By providing helpful information and broad services, the County can meet the public health needs of a changing and growing community.

Message from Health Officer Frances B. Phillips

This Annual Report is designed to give you an understanding of how public health affects life in Anne Arundel County. The Anne Arundel County Department of Health provided more than 444,100 personal health and environmental health services to County residents and businesses in Fiscal Year 2004.

The mission of the Department of Health is to preserve, protect and promote the health of all County residents. In fulfilling its mission, the Department assesses the County's health problems, needs and resources; organizes effective public and private sector strategies to address the needs; and provides services directly to County residents to achieve local health goals. County residents, private health practitioners and government agencies are partners with the Department of Health in fulfilling this mission.

Based on community surveys and reviews of health data, the Department of Health has established five priority areas for addressing public health needs. These are:

1. Eliminating disparities in health status and health care access
2. Being prepared to respond to an emergency
3. Preventing and managing chronic illness
4. Keeping children healthy
5. Maintaining a safe and healthy environment

This report identifies specific accomplishments in each of these areas during Fiscal Year 2004.

If you have any questions or comments about our services or would like to participate in one of our advisory groups, please call us at 410-222-7095.



Flu Vaccination Program 2003-2004

Immunization Services Supervisor Rebecca Asher, R.N.,
with County Executive Janet S. Owens and
Health Officer Frances B. Phillips, R.N., M.H.A.

Eliminating Disparities in Health Status and Health Care Access

Minority Health – Offers healthy lifestyle education and outreach to African American, Latino American and Korean American communities.

- 1,365 minority individuals attended tobacco education sessions and 716 minority individuals attended cancer education sessions

Strengthening Families Program – Provides training in parenting skills, life skills and family relationship skills for at-risk parents and their children.

- 78 family members graduated from the program

Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) – Processes applications for this medical assistance program for children up to age 19 and for pregnant women.

- 10,588 children and 1,158 pregnant women enrolled

Residents Access to a Coalition of Health (REACH) –Enrolls income eligible uninsured adults in a program offering access to primary and specialty medical care and diagnostic testing at reduced cost.

- 1,818 individuals enrolled and 518 health care providers participated

Prescription Discount Program – Offers low-income adults discounts on prescription drugs.

- 2,074 County residents were provided with prescription cards for use at pharmacies nationwide

Medical Assistance Transportation Program – Provides transportation to non-emergency medical appointments for Medicaid recipients.

- 26,561 client trips completed

Being Prepared to Respond to an Emergency

Communicable Disease Surveillance Program – Collects, investigates and analyzes communicable disease data to alert physicians and the public to trends and unusual occurrences. When an outbreak occurs, appropriate action is taken to stop or control it.

- 1,700 investigations were conducted on reportable diseases

Emergency Preparedness and Response — The Department of Health works with other County agencies and other Health Departments in the region in responding to natural or man-made emergencies. The Department is available 24 hours a day for public health emergencies through the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

- 430 Department of Health staff received emergency preparedness training
- All 117 County public school health rooms were equipped with emergency response supplies



Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness

“Learn To Live” Healthy Living Program – Offers information and activities promoting healthy living to children, adults and families.

- 12,000 kits distributed through the Learn To Live phone line and community events, including kits on smoking cessation, weight management, sun safety, kids’ health, Fifty-Plus health, women’s health and more



Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program – Provides tobacco use prevention and cessation education and services to the County.

- 140,077 interactions with students through smoking prevention activities

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program – Provides education, free screening, diagnosis and treatment services for breast and cervical cancer in collaboration with local physicians to eligible women age 40 and above.

- 1,216 women received education and initial screenings

Community Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Services – Provides drug and alcohol treatment referrals to a network of County providers.

- 906 assessments and referrals provided through Opportunity for Treatment Funding (OTF)

Mental Health and Addictions Services – Provides assessment and counseling services to adults and children.

- 409 adult clients attended 6,233 individual, 2,934 group and 455 family counseling sessions

HIV/AIDS Prevention and Case Management Program – Educates about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention and provides HIV counseling and testing services. Education programs are available to community groups.

- 8,472 individuals received educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention and 280 patients received HIV/AIDS case management services

Keeping Children Healthy

Immunizations Program – Ensures that children are immunized appropriately.

- 5,958 children received immunizations

Child Safety Seat Program – Inspects child car safety seats for proper installation and use.

- 534 child safety seat inspections performed

Women and Children Health Services – Provides nutritional assistance, nursing services and selected clinical services.

- 317 Healthy Start home visits to pregnant women in the first trimester of pregnancy
- 5,422 clients served by the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program

Dental Health Program – Provides dental care and education to low-income children and pregnant women.

- 1,595 patients seen at the Annapolis and Glen Burnie Dental Clinics

School Health Services – Provides nursing and other health services at the County’s 117 public schools.

- 705,575 student visits to school health rooms

Reproductive Health Services – Provides maternity services, family planning services and education, and cervical cancer evaluation and treatment.

- 6,833 clients received reproductive health services
- 213 births to maternity clients

Maintaining a Safe and Healthy Environment

Rabies Control Program – Distributes raccoon rabies vaccine throughout the County, investigates exposures to animals with suspected rabies and ensures treatment for persons possibly exposed to rabies.

- 87,120 oral raccoon rabies vaccine baits distributed and 1,362 potential rabies exposures were investigated

Housing and Food Protection Services – Inspects food service facilities and ensures that food is prepared under safe and healthy conditions.

- 4,154 food facility inspections conducted

Well and Wastewater Oversight – Reviews plans for construction, tests well water quality and does soil evaluations and percolation tests to ensure proper sewage disposal in order to prevent disease and environmental harm caused by water contamination.

- 1,071 septic system permits and 998 well permits issued

Recreational Waters Monitoring – Tests water quality and inspects public recreational facilities to prevent disease

- 2,237 water samples from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and 610 swimming pool water samples were tested for water quality



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County Department of Health ▪ County Department of Recreation and Parks
Capital-Gazette Newspapers ▪ Ronna Gotthainer

Layout: Stephanie Ayers

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2004

Emergency Preparedness and Response

In response to Tropical Storm Isabel, the Department of Health tested more than 1,160 wells for bacterial contamination, inspected approximately 190 restaurants, provided more than 100 tetanus shots at community health centers and responded to more than 6,000 inquiries and complaints about mold, stagnant water and home damage. Department of Health personnel also staffed shelters and assisted residents who had lost electrical power.

Health Screenings

The Department of Health provided health screenings and made referrals for assessment and treatment if needed. More than 1,200 women received screenings for breast and cervical cancer. Through the Health Smart Church Program, 4,765 blood pressure screenings were completed. In the School Health program nearly 1/3 of public school students were screened for hearing or vision problems. More than 1,000 youth in the Juvenile Justice System were screened for substance abuse or mental illness.

Healthy Lifestyles

Much of the Department's healthy lifestyles information was available for viewing or downloading on the Department's Web site, www.aahealth.org, which received 501,360 visits in Fiscal Year 2004. The Department's Learn To Live Program started the Web-based Family Fitness Challenge, a program that encouraged adults and children to eat more fruits and vegetables and engage in regular physical activity. Also promoting physical activity was the StairWELL Program, in which County employees competed for prizes by using the stairs at work and at home. More than 430 participants climbed a total of 151,000 flights of stairs over a 6-week period. Healthy Start nurses who visited high-risk families provided Smoke-Free Homes information to 486 individuals and smoking cessation information to 88 mothers who smoked.

Access to Health Care

The Residents Access to a Coalition of Health (REACH) Program, a partnership between the Anne Arundel County Department of Health and the Anne Arundel County Medical Society, entered its fifth year of providing free or low-cost health services to low-income uninsured Anne Arundel County residents. More than 1,800 individuals were enrolled in Fiscal Year 2004, receiving services from more than 500 participating providers. The REACH Program received the Model Practices Award from the National Association of City and County Health Officials and was featured in the March-April 2004 issue of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*.

Minority Health

The Department's Office of Minority Health continued to serve as the Department's liaison with the African American, Korean American and Latino American communities. The Department of Health launched a Spanish language telephone line and produced a Minority Health Directory in both English and Spanish. In collaboration with the County's Hispanic Health Network, the Department held a Hispanic Health Festival attended by more than 520 individuals and sponsored a Soccer Tournament in the Latino community. In partnership with the RESPECT Foundation, the Department sponsored a second annual youth anti-smoking summit for the African American community. The Department helped to create a Korean newsletter, *Stepping Stones: Understanding Cancer, Guide to a Healthy Lifestyle*, which was distributed through Korean businesses and churches.

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