



2024

Allegany County Health Department 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WILLOWBROOK
OFFICE COMPLEX



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER



Gena M. Spear, Health Officer

Standing in the gap between available services and community health needs, the Allegany County Health Department (ACHD) carries out essential public health functions which touch the lives of every county resident. We investigate health hazards, provide health education, enforce health laws and regulations, link people to needed services, and provide health care when it is otherwise unavailable.

Addressing health issues in our community is a collaborative effort. We work with many partner organizations including health care providers, social service agencies, schools, law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations, and more. The Allegany County Health Planning Coalition, co-chaired by the health department and UPMC Western Maryland, takes the lead on assessing community health needs and implementing local health improvement strategies.

ACHD is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our communities. Our mission is to promote physical, behavioral, and environmental health, and prevent disease and disability in Allegany County.

We are proud to share information on the health department's many programs and services in the Allegany County Health Department FY 2024 Annual Report.

Gena M. Spear
Health Officer

Health Department Overview



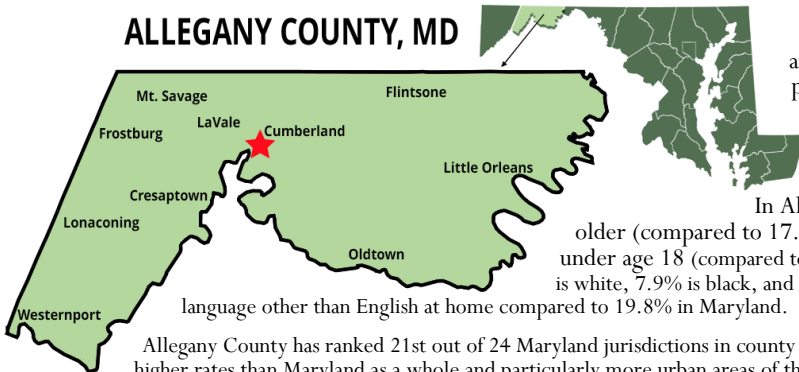
Allegany County
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"Healthy People, Healthy Communities"

The Allegany County Health Department is located in Cumberland, Maryland and serves Allegany County residents and visitors. With a staff of about 270 employees, the health department provides a wide range of public health programs and services. In fiscal year 2024, the Allegany County Health Department budget totaled \$31,625,051. The health department's operating budget is comprised of state funds, county funds, grants, and collections. The Allegany County Health Department is led by Health Officer Gena Spear, Medical Deputy Health Officer Dr. Jennifer Corder, Deputy Health Officer for Operations Becki Clark, and a team of department directors (see the organizational chart on Page 4). The health department is governed by the Maryland Department of Health and the Allegany County Board of Health which is comprised of the Allegany County Commissioners and the Health Officer. The Allegany County Health Department is nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, and the behavioral health programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The health department participates in continuous quality improvement efforts to ensure that it is making ongoing improvements to enhance services and meet the needs of the community.

Allegheny County Overview

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD



Allegheny County is located in rural Western Maryland and has a population of approximately 67,270 people. As part of the Appalachian region, the county has a larger elderly population, less racial diversity, and lower household incomes and education levels than the state of Maryland as a whole.

In Allegheny County, 21.4% of the population is age 65 and older (compared to 17.3% in Maryland) and 17.9% of the county population is under age 18 (compared to 22% in Maryland). In Allegheny County, 88% of the population is white, 7.9% is black, and 2.1% is Hispanic or Latino. Only 3.3% of residents speak a language other than English at home compared to 19.8% in Maryland.

Allegheny County has ranked 21st out of 24 Maryland jurisdictions in county health rankings since 2015, with most health factor data showing higher rates than Maryland as a whole and particularly more urban areas of the state. The most recent community health needs assessment identified four health priorities in Allegheny County:

1. Substance Abuse

In 2022, Allegheny County's drug-induced death rate was 52 deaths per 100,000 population. From 2017 to 2021, opioid-related deaths in Allegheny County increased by 11.11%. The number of *specifically* opioid-related deaths in Allegheny County averaged 36 per year from 2017 to 2021. Of those opioid-related deaths, 86.67% were white non-Hispanic, 11.67% were black non-Hispanic, and 1.67% were Hispanic. Persons under 55 accounted for 84.4% of opioid-related deaths, while 15.56% were individuals ages 55 and older.

2. Poverty

In Allegheny County 18.8% of residents live in poverty. According to 2023 U.S. Census data, the median household income in Allegheny County was \$57,393 and the per capita income was \$30,046. Also at that time, 22.4% of Allegheny County children lived in poverty. The poverty rate in Allegheny County is more than double the rate in Maryland (9.5%) and about 1.5 times the rate in the United States (12.5%).

3. Heart Disease

Heart disease, stroke, and diabetes are among the leading causes of death in Allegheny County. According to data from the National Institutes of Health, from 2018 to 2022, the age adjusted death rate for heart disease in Allegheny County was 234.3 per 100,000 population compared to 161.5 in Maryland.

4. Access to Care and Health Literacy

In Allegheny County limited resources, geography, lack of transportation, and lack of insurance coverage all impact access to health services. Data shows that 35% of county residents live in low population density areas. Residents in outlying areas of the county are especially impacted by lack of transportation and their remoteness from many healthcare centers and providers. Low health literacy (the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions) also contributes to poor health outcomes in Allegheny County as in other rural areas.

ALLEGANY **SPEAKS**.COM

Want to learn about health issues that impact Allegheny County?

Join the conversation!

Allegheny County HEALTH DEPARTMENT
"Healthy People, Healthy Communities"

2023 County Population: 67,273

ACHD Employees:

County – 0

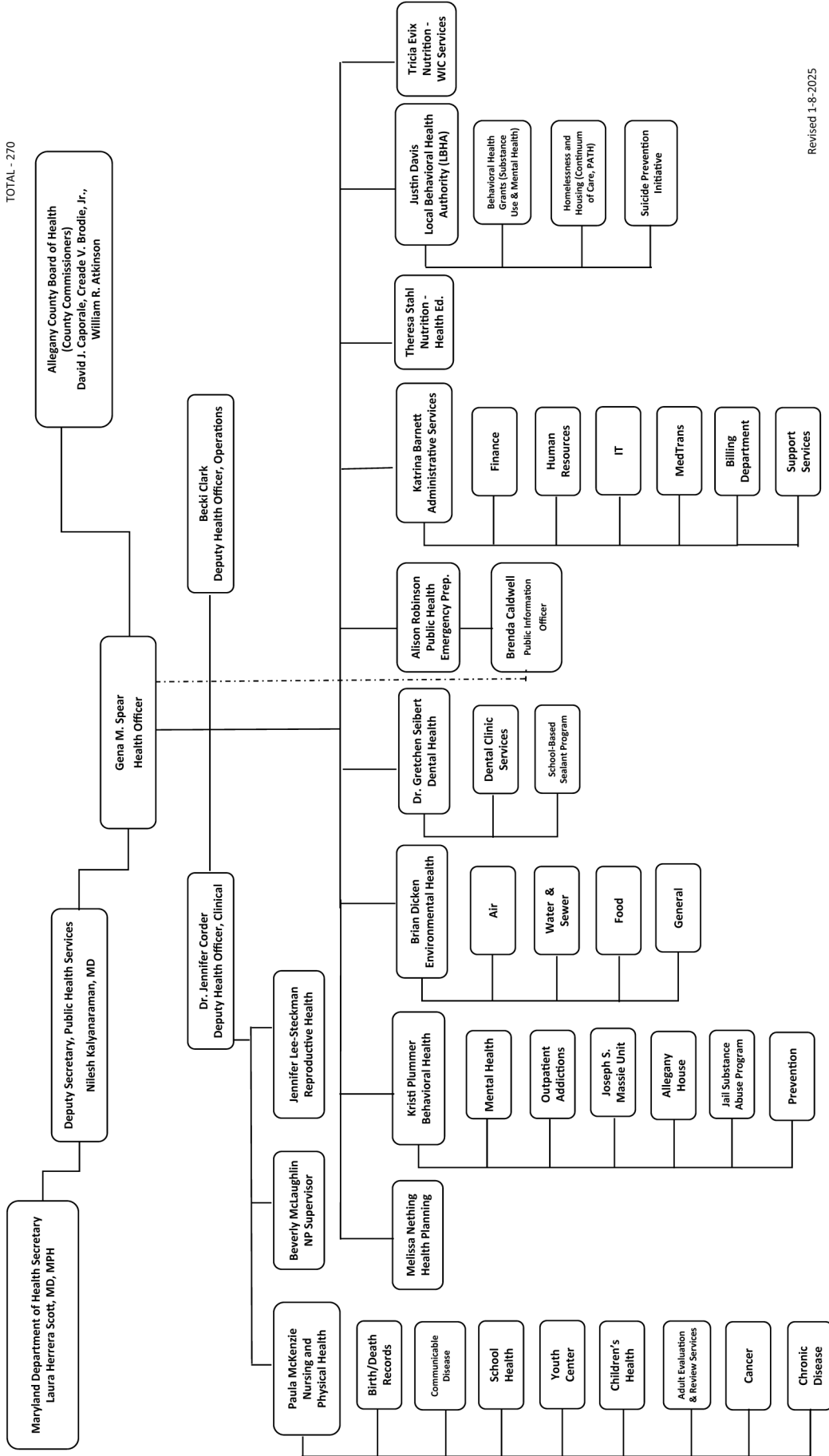
State – 270

TOTAL - 270



ACHD Organizational Chart

<https://health.marvland.gov/allegany/Documents/AboutUs-Administration/ACHDorgchart.pdf>



Revised 1-8-2025

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

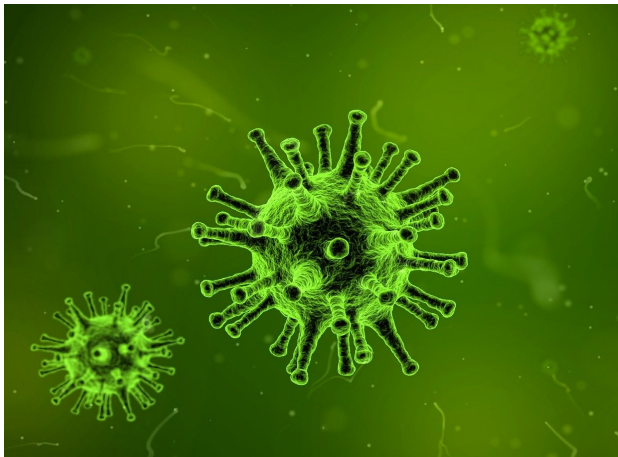
Assessing and Addressing Service Quality and Community Health Needs

HEALTH PLANNING

The Health Planning department was reinstated at ACHD in the spring of 2023. It is composed of a director, a health planner, and a coordinator of special programs. The Health Planning department uses data, community input, and community partnerships to formulate strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of all individuals in Allegany County. Health Planning coordinates activities to maintain accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and also coordinates Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) initiatives throughout the health department. ACHD's Health Planning department is also a co-chair of the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC).

- September 2023 PHAB Annual Report submitted and accepted
- New ACHD Customer Satisfaction Survey launched May 2024
- 18 community partners and 8,987 people reached through the Health Disparities Partnership Program
- 286 planning partners on AlleganySpeaks.com
- 12 LHIC meetings and/or workgroups
- Coming soon: LHIC Community Needs Assessment

Preventing the Spread of Disease



IMMUNIZATIONS

Vaccination is the best way to prevent life-threatening diseases. The health department immunization program provides vaccinations for children and adults through a weekly immunization clinic. Overseas immunizations are scheduled as needed and influenza vaccinations in schools are conducted each fall.

- 1,678 vaccinations were given in FY24

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Reporting cases of known or suspected infectious diseases allows public health authorities to ensure proper identification and follow-up to protect the public's health.

The Communicable Disease program follows individual cases to ensure proper treatment, identify potential sources of infection, provide education to reduce the risk of transmission, and take measures to reduce the spread of disease.

- 675 communicable disease cases were investigated in FY24

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI)

Allegany County has seen a rise in sexually transmitted infections. In 2019, there were 264 chlamydia infections and 40 gonorrhea infections reported. The STI program operates a walk-in STI Clinic every Tuesday to provide comprehensive testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. The program also follows up with partners to arrange for testing and treatment.

- 398 individuals were seen in the STI Clinic in FY24

Ensuring Healthy Pregnancies, Healthy Infants and Healthy Families



THE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM

WIC is a federally funded program that provides nutrition and breastfeeding education and support, supplemental food and referrals to community resources. Those eligible are pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children up to age 5 who meet income and residency guidelines.

WIC works to promote healthy pregnancies, prevent health problems in children, and improve the long-term health, growth, and development of all WIC participants.

- 2,241 WIC participants were served at six clinic sites in FY24
- 7,451 participant visits in FY24

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

Breastfeeding is one of the most effective preventive measures a mother can take to protect the health of her infant. The WIC program begins breastfeeding education with each pregnant woman in the program during her initial certification to assist her in making an informed decision about feeding her baby. The WIC Breastfeeding



Peer Counselor program works one-on-one with breastfeeding moms and babies, providing education and support with the goal of maintaining breastfeeding for at least six months.

- 126 breastfeeding moms received breastfeeding support in FY24
- 21.25% of Allegany County WIC infants were exclusively breastfed in FY24

HOME VISITING

In Allegany County, 18.5 out of every 1,000 children experience maltreatment compared to 10 out of every 1,000 in Maryland. Healthy Families Allegany is a voluntary home visiting program designed to help parents get their children off to a healthy start. The program promotes positive parenting as well as child health and development.

- 973 home visits were completed in FY24

Enhancing the Health of Children and Adolescents

LEAD POISONING

Childhood lead exposure continues to be a priority in Allegany County due to the many homes built prior to 1950. The lead poisoning program provides comprehensive nurse case management for children with lead poisoning. Efforts include: working with a team of professionals to conduct home lead inspections, facilitating the steps to reduce lead levels in the home, and assisting with follow-up care.

- 51 children (including 26 new cases) were provided comprehensive case management for lead poisoning in FY24



SCHOOL HEALTH

Allegany County has 22 public schools and approximately 8,181 students. The Allegany County Health Department collaborates with the Allegany County Public Schools to provide student health services through the School Health program. School nurses care for students with acute illnesses and injuries, manage chronic health conditions, administer medications, conduct health screenings, and take part in health education and wellness activities.

- 50,700 visits were made to school nurses during the 2023-2024 school year
- School nurses administered 38,475 doses of prescription medication during the 2023-2024 school year

Improving Access to Care for Underserved Populations

MARYLAND MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY UNIT (MCHP)

According to data from the American Community Survey, it is estimated that 4% of Allegany County residents were uninsured in 2022. In other words, there are approximately 2,427 uninsured county residents that could qualify for free Maryland Medicaid or a low-cost health insurance plan with financial assistance. The Maryland Medicaid Eligibility Unit can help by providing one-on-one enrollment help through the Maryland Health Connection.

- New Medicaid applications were processed for 1,459 families, 856 children, 245 pregnant women, and 964 adults in FY24
- 1,279 individuals received assistance renewing their Medicaid eligibility in FY24
- 415 individuals were approved for private health plans with financial assistance in FY24



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE CARE COORDINATION

As of April 2024, 36.33% of Allegany County residents were receiving some form of Maryland Medical Assistance. In an effort to improve access to health care and decrease unnecessary hospital visits, the Administrative Care Coordination Unit (ACCU) program provides short-term care coordination for Medical Assistance enrollees. Services include education regarding health coverage, assistance in obtaining medical providers, and help resolving access to care issues.

- 753 clients were assisted through service coordination in FY24
- 157 education and outreach visits were made to health care provider offices in FY24

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION

Each year, lack of available transportation causes a significant percentage of Allegany County residents to miss important healthcare appointments. Getting to medical appointments can be especially difficult for individuals who have limited income, do not own a vehicle, lack access to public

transportation, or have physical limitations. To improve access to care, the Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation program provides clients with Medical Assistance transport to medical appointments.

- 14,113 appointment trips provided in FY24



ASSESSMENT EVALUATION AND REVIEW SERVICES (AERS)

Assessment Evaluation and Review Services provides no-cost evaluations for frail, aged, and disabled individuals who require long-term care and are at risk of institutionalization. The AERS assessor conducts an on-site comprehensive evaluation to identify available community resources to help individuals remain in the least restrictive environment, with as much independence as possible. AERS is a Maryland program based in local health departments. AERS is also the lead agency for the Senior Care Program and the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

- 570 client assessments were completed in FY24

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The National Family Caregiver Support Program conducts in-home and on-site visits to evaluate individuals and refer them for services they may be eligible to receive. NFCSP employs a Certified Nursing Assistant and a nurse case manager. The care recipients must have a caregiver who needs respite to be eligible.

- 780 hours of respite were provided to caregivers in FY24

NURSE MONITORING

The Nurse Monitoring program provides case monitoring for personal care for clients approved for services through Community First Choice, Community Personal Assistance Services, or the Community Options Waiver Program. Personal care includes help bathing, dressing, and other activities of daily living to prevent individuals from needing to move into a nursing home or other institution.

- 1,314 hours of Nurse Monitoring services were provided in FY24

SENIOR CARE

More than 21.1% of Allegany County's population is age 65 or older compared to 1.9% in Maryland. Some older adults experience functional limitations that prevent them

from carrying out everyday tasks. The senior care program provides assistance with chores, respite, personal care, personal emergency response systems, limited medical supplies, and medication copayments for low-income adults ages 65 and older with functional impairments.

- 4,351 hours of in-home services were provided in FY24



Preventing and Managing Chronic Disease

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

The Community Health Worker Improving Health and Resilience Program is a chronic disease prevention program funded by the Maryland Department of Health's Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control. Through the program, trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) who are trusted community members serve as liaisons between community medical and social resources and persons at the highest risk for poor health outcomes. CHWs work to increase community and individual health literacy and self-sufficiency through outreach activities, education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy. Some examples include finding food or housing resources for clients and providing support for patients with chronic diseases.

- 152 community outreach activities and events were completed by CHWs to provide educational materials and resources to 3,763 community members in FY24
- 73 individual clients were provided with prevention and disease management resources, educational materials, and community resources in FY24

NUTRITION PROGRAM

(NOTE: ACHD's Nutrition Program was introduced in late January 2024, with community nutrition classes beginning shortly thereafter. ACHD group nutrition classes and individual nutrition counseling were introduced in July 2024. Data for this program is partial for FY24 and covers January 2024 to the end of the calendar year.) The ACHD Nutrition Program is dedicated to promoting health and wellbeing in Allegany County, with initiatives designed to improve health outcomes, ensure access to healthy foods, and strengthen the local food system. A registered dietitian provides group nutrition education classes at the health department and in the community; nutrition counseling for ACHD clients/program participants; and collaboration with community programs to improve the food system and overall health.

Community partners include the Western Maryland Food Council, Maryland Food System Resiliency Council, University of Maryland Extension Advisory Committee, and Allegany College of Maryland's Community Resilience Network.

Data from January 2024 through December 2024:

- 11 community programs have been offered (5 in FY24)
- 24 on-site (ACHD) classes have been held (4 in FY24)
- 335 individuals have attended classes and events (119 in FY24)
- 12 referrals were received for individual nutrition counseling (1 in FY24)

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



TAKING OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS)

Obesity and Type 2 diabetes can lead to many other severe health complications over time. The Allegany County Health Department works with Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) to provide weight management support groups on-site and within the community. Organizations can apply for funds to open their own TOPS chapters or direct clients to existing chapters in the area. TOPS chapters meet once a week for weigh-ins, group discussions, and accountability.

- 3 TOPS chapters were active in Allegany County in FY24
- TOPS had 24 members across all three chapters in FY24



BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in Maryland after lung cancer. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program provides breast and cervical cancer education and funds screening and diagnostic services for Allegany, Garrett, and Washington County residents who meet the age and income guidelines. Patient navigation services are also provided to those who have health insurance but need assistance navigating the complex health care system to fully complete screenings for breast and cervical cancer.

- 100 clients were screened for breast and cervical cancer in FY24

COLORECTAL CANCER



Colorectal cancer can be prevented with early removal of polyps from the rectum and colon before they become cancerous. The Colorectal Cancer Screening Program provides education and funding for colorectal cancer screening and treatment services for adults who meet residency, age, and income guidelines. Patient navigation services are also provided to those who have health insurance

coverage but need assistance navigating the complex health care system to fully complete screenings for colorectal cancer.

- 9 clients were screened for colorectal cancer in FY24
- 9 clients received navigation support

SKIN CANCER

There are three major types of skin cancer. Basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas are the most common types of skin cancers. Melanoma is less common but is the most serious. The Skin Cancer Screening program provides education and funding for skin cancer screening, diagnostic services, and treatment services for adults who meet residency, age, and income guidelines.

- 27 clients were screened for skin cancer in FY24

LUNG CANCER

The Lung Cancer Screening Program screens individuals who have a higher risk for lung cancer. High risk is defined by age and smoking history as well as family history of lung cancer or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Clients are seen by a primary care provider to determine if they meet the high-risk criteria for lung cancer screening. If at high risk, a low-dose CT scan is performed. This screening is recommended yearly.

- 1 client was screened for lung cancer in FY24

MARYLAND CANCER FUND

Clients who live in Maryland and have been diagnosed with cancer are eligible to apply for this fund. They must have lived in Maryland for at least six months and received their cancer diagnosis within the last six months. Clients must also meet income guidelines. If eligibility is met, a grant application is completed and if approved the client receives a one-time \$20,000 grant to help pay for cancer treatment.

- 24 clients received Maryland Cancer Fund grants in FY24

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

Approximately 108 people are living with HIV in Allegany County. The HIV program provides free HIV testing and ongoing support for clients living with HIV. In collaboration with Johns Hopkins Hospital, a clinic is held two days per month to provide specialized HIV care.

- 74 clients received HIV case management in FY24
- 86 clients received specialized HIV clinical care through the Johns Hopkins Clinic in FY24
- 531 HIV lab tests were conducted in FY24

PrEP

The health department also provides PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis), a medication taken once per day to help prevent HIV.

- 21 clients received PrEP in FY24

Preventing Substance Use

TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION

In Allegany County, the health department implements tobacco prevention campaigns, educates youth and adults on the dangers of tobacco and e-cigarette use, empowers community groups to address tobacco issues, provides resources for pregnant women, works to prevent sales to youth, and provides free cessation services. Cigarette use among youth has declined to 5.4% while electronic vapor products among youth has also declined to 19.9% in Allegany County according to the 2022-2023 Youth Risk Behaviors Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey.

- 85 adults participated in tobacco cessation services in FY24
- 1,959 adults, 2704 school youth and 242 pregnant women received education in FY24
- 191 tobacco compliance checks were conducted by law enforcement in FY24 to prevent tobacco sales to minors

TOBACCO & CHRONIC DISEASE

The Tobacco and Chronic Disease Program manages funds for community organizations in Allegany County to assist with tobacco cessation education and works with schools to educate youth about the dangers of nicotine use. Direct outreach is also part of the program, connecting community members with tobacco cessation services.

- 2 community organizations received minigrants in FY24
- 33 outreach events were attended in FY24

OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER (OCC)

In FY 2024, the OCC program focused on three projects: EMS utilizing lifesaving medical devices to reduce Opioid overdose deaths; funding for a peer recovery specialist through the Department of Social Services; and creating accurate and data-driven messaging for the general public.

EMS reported that usage of the equipment will continue for several years to come. The Department of Social Services Peer exceeded the original goal for helping families within the county. Allegany County residents were reached via Facebook ads, radio ads, and awareness events

- 80,533 Facebook ads and 136,131 radio ads placed in FY24
- 21 awareness events held in FY24
- 10 digital displays placed in the community to provide education and information: locations include the county courthouse, Allegany College of Maryland, Frostburg State University Police Station, and more.

OPIOID MISUSE PREVENTION

The Opioid Misuse Prevention Program continued to address the community overdose epidemic by implementing outreach efforts to inform the public about the dangers of fentanyl, xylazine, and other drugs. The team also supplies naloxone and training in administering it, as well as information about the Good Samaritan Law.

- 2,091 naloxone kits were given out in FY24, including 644 kits distributed through three vending machines placed around the county

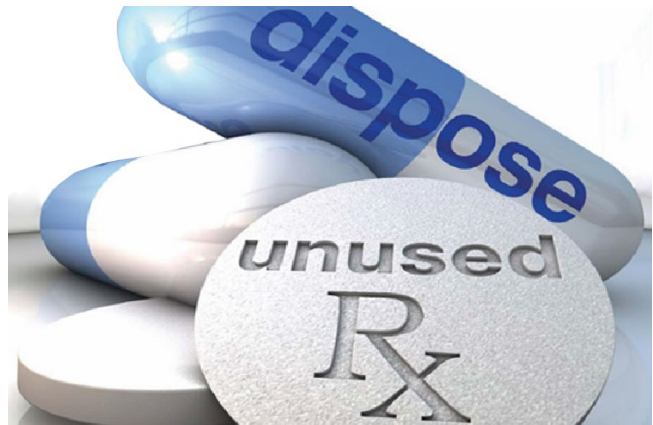


- Prevention team handed out 22,985 informational materials in FY24

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK

Allegany County continues to partner with local law enforcement agencies with permanent prescription drug drop-off sites at law enforcement offices in Cumberland (2 locations), LaVale (1 location), and Frostburg (2 locations). These locations are safe places for community members to dispose of unused or expired medications. Law enforcement agencies also partner with pharmacies and community groups to conduct mini take-back events for medication disposal. Law enforcement also arranges pick-up services for homebound individuals wanting to dispose of medications.

- 1,223.33 pounds of medication were collected in FY24



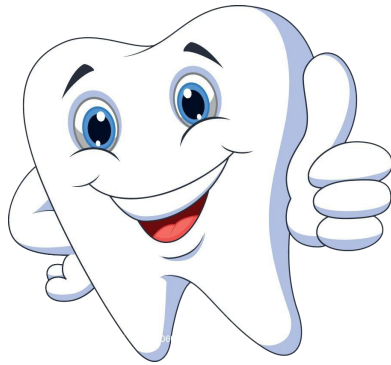
OVERDOSE PREVENTION

The county Overdose Prevention program has implemented strategies to help reduce overdose deaths within the county. In FY23, three naloxone vending machines were placed around Allegany County. The amount of naloxone distributed in FY24 since the introduction of the vending machines has increased significantly. The vending machines distributed close to 650 naloxone kits in FY24. The Prevention Team hopes that the number of people utilizing the machines continues to increase as awareness of their availability spreads. Naloxone provided through the vending machines is free, as is naloxone provided to the public through community training events and scheduled in-person trainings with Prevention staff.

Providing Clinical Services That Are Limited in the Community

DENTAL HEALTH

In Allegany County, low-income, uninsured children and adults are most likely to experience poor access to dental care. We provide care to these patients through collaboration with community partners like Mountain Laurel Medical Center and AHEC West. The Dental Program



provides regular comprehensive clinical services for children and adults with Medical Assistance, extractions for adults, urgent care for low-income adults and Department of Juvenile Services youth, dental sealants in schools, screenings and fluoride varnish for Head Start children, and oral health education. The Dental Program also provides immediate emergency dental treatment to patients reporting to the UPMC Western Maryland emergency department with dental pain.

- 8,648 clinical visits for low-income children and adults in FY24
- 1,372 children received dental sealants on 6,584 permanent teeth in the School-Based Sealant Program in FY24

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

(NOTE: Because this is a new program, statistics are not available for FY24.) Beginning in June 2024, the Allegany County Health Department introduced the Reproductive Health Program. This program is supplemented by Title X funding which means services are available for individuals from any county or state at low-cost to no-cost, including contraception, with priority given to low-income individuals. The most recent teen birth rates for Allegany County were 19.0 per 1,000 compared to the state of Maryland teen birth rate of 13.0 per 1,000 in 2020 (Kids Count Data Center). Allegany County had 41 teen births to county residents, or 7.1%, which is more than double the state rate of 3% (Maryland Annual Vital Statistics Report 2021). With a county poverty rate much higher than the state average, the Federal Title X program is an integral part of efforts to decrease teen births and increase access to quality healthcare.

INPATIENT ADDICTION TREATMENT

The Joseph S. Massie Unit, an adult inpatient substance use disorder treatment program located in Cumberland, MD, is run by the Allegany County Health Department. The Massie Unit serves Maryland adults with a maximum capacity of 45 patients. The Massie Unit provides ASAM Withdrawal Management, ASAM 3.7, and ASAM 3.5 Levels of Care. Treatment includes individual, family and group counseling; alcohol and drug education; medications for opioid and alcohol use disorder (MOUD/MAUD); medical care; psychiatric evaluation; aftercare planning; and much more in a holistic treatment approach.

- 501 patients were admitted to the Massie Unit for inpatient treatment in FY24

RESIDENTIAL ADDICTION TREATMENT

The Allegany House is an adult residential ASAM 3.1 treatment program operated by the Allegany County Health Department. The Allegany House opened in January 2018 and offers clients in early recovery a safe environment to reside and continue outpatient treatment for substance use disorder and mental health issues. Residents live at the Allegany House for a period of 3 to 6 months.

- 51 clients were assisted with their recovery in FY24

OUTPATIENT ADDICTION TREATMENT

Addiction affects people from all walks of life. National data shows that more than two-thirds of American families have been touched by alcohol or drug addiction. The health department provides outpatient addiction treatment services for adolescents and adults, an Intensive Outpatient Program for adults, peer support, gambling treatment, DWI education, and medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) services. New clients can walk in Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm and be seen right away.

- 4,102 outpatient addiction visits by 385 individuals in FY24



JAIL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM (JSAP)

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, approximately 85% of incarcerated individuals meet criteria for a substance use disorder or are incarcerated for substance-related crimes. The health department has a JSAP program located at the Allegany County Detention Center. This program consists of assessment, IOP group, individual counseling, referral to post-release substance use services, and offering families of inmates the opportunity to receive naloxone training.

- 81 inmates received 1,513 JSAP services in FY24

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experience mental illness in a given year, and approximately 1 in 5 youth experience a severe mental disorder at some point during their life. Mental illnesses include many different conditions that vary in degree of severity from mild to severe. The Outpatient Mental Health Program provides mental health services for individuals ages 3 and over including individual, family and group therapy, intensive outpatient, school-based services and medication evaluation and management.

- 1,362 individuals (926 adults and 36 children/adolescents) were served in FY24
- 37,514 services were provided (14,117 for adults and 23,397 for children/adolescents) in FY24



Supporting Mental and Behavioral Health

LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Local Behavioral Health authority (LBHA) is responsible for planning, managing, and monitoring publicly funded mental health and substance use disorder services within the county. The LBHA works collaboratively with community partners to meet the needs of individuals with mental health issues and substance use disorders and promotes public education related to behavioral health. Currently, the LBHA directly administers 10 grants and oversees funding for an additional 14 grants which are administered by other service providers in the community. These additional grants offer services such as opioid and stimulant use disorder crisis beds, peer services, medication for opioid use disorder, the Jail Substance Abuse Program, transportation to behavioral health treatment, therapeutic outings for children, services for youth in out-of-home placements or at risk of out-of-home placement, crisis response, and more.

In FY24, the LBHA accomplished the following:

- Continuum of Care: Provided rental assistance to 16 adults and 5 children who were previously experiencing homelessness.
- Continued development of the county's Crisis Intervention Team, which is a community partnership of law enforcement, behavioral health professionals, individuals who have lived experience with behavioral health disorders, and other partners to improve community responses to mental health crises.
- Homeless ID Project: Provided birth certificates to 24 individuals who were experiencing homelessness and had a mental health diagnosis.
- Maryland Community Criminal Justice Treatment Program: Provided case management to 84 adults with serious mental illness who were being released from incarceration.
- Maryland RecoveryNet: Provided emergency goods/services or recovery housing funding to 18 adults

receiving substance use treatment.

- Mental Health Client Support: Provided emergency goods/services to 112 adults who were receiving mental health treatment.
- Mental Health First Aid Training: 44 individuals in the community were trained in Mental Health First Aid.
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness: Provided case management to 39 individuals experiencing homelessness and diagnosed with a serious mental illness.
- State Care Coordination: Provided care coordination to 173 individuals receiving substance use treatment.
- Suicide Prevention Initiative: Provided six trainings on evidence-based practices to 478 behavioral health professionals; distributed 82 gun locks, cases, and safes.

Protecting Against Environmental Hazards

FOOD PROTECTION

In FY24, Allegany County had 498 food service facilities operating in the county. The Food Protection program issues annual permits to each of these facilities and conducts inspections to ensure food is prepared in compliance with State of Maryland regulations. Temporary facilities, such as food stands at fairs and events, are also inspected for compliance.



- 918 food service inspections were conducted in FY24
- 174 temporary facilities were inspected and permitted in FY24

PUBLIC POOLS AND BEACHES



Allegany County has 17 swimming pools and beaches open to the public. The health department inspects public pools and beaches to ensure their safety for community use.

- 180 inspections were conducted on public swimming pools in FY24
- 108 bathing beach inspections were conducted in FY24

WATER AND SEWER

In Allegany County, 13% of residences have private septic systems and 10% have private wells. The Onsite Water and Sewer program reviews and approves properties in the county for installation of onsite wells and septic systems.

- 13 septic system construction permits were issued in FY24
- 27 well permits were reviewed and processed in FY24

RABIES

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of all mammals that is transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal. The Rabies and Zoonosis Control program protects the animals and residents of the county by investigating potential rabies cases and conducting public rabies vaccination clinics.

- 229 rabies investigations conducted and 43 specimens submitted for testing in FY24
- 2,000 rabies vaccinations provided to the Mountain Maryland Innovative Readiness Training public rabies clinic held at the Allegany County Fairgrounds from July 27th to August 5th, 2024

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

The health department investigates public nuisance complaints. Public health nuisances include conditions that affect health, safety, or welfare such as an excessive accumulation of garbage, unsanitary animal enclosures, a contaminated water supply, a mosquito or vermin harborage, or improper handling of substances that are poisonous to humans or animals.

- 71 public health nuisance complaints were investigated in FY24
- 2,533 burning permits were issued in FY24

Preparing for Emergencies



PREPARING FOR AN OUTBREAK

The Health Department is responsible for preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease. Multiple health department programs collaborate on surveillance, prevention, and control of infectious diseases. Efforts include educating health care providers and the public, developing policies and protocols, and working with partners to develop community response plans. These surveillance and response efforts were highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic from November 2020 to August 2024. During

that time, ACHD provided the following services:

- Administered 30,894 COVID-19 vaccines
- Managed 479 mass testing clinics
- Administered 18,608 COVID-19 PCR tests
- Dispensed 127,753 over-the-counter COVID-19 tests

TRACKING ILLNESS IN SCHOOLS

The Maryland Department of Health Office of Preparedness and Response partners with Boards of Education, acute care hospitals, and the poison control center to track potential illnesses across the State. Using a web-based computer program called ESSENCE, which stands for the Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics, the Allegany County Health Department tracks the number of students absent from local public schools, as well as emergency room visits, as a means to monitor potential outbreaks of illness.

- 22 public schools and 1 hospital reported ESSENCE data during the 2023-2024 school year

Issuing Vital Records



VITAL RECORDS

The Allegany County Health Department issues birth certificates to individuals who request a certificate and were born in the state of Maryland. Death certificates are issued to funeral directors and family members upon request.

- 3,048 birth certificates were issued in FY24
- 4,453 death certificates were issued in FY24



Allegany County
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"Healthy People, Healthy Communities"

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