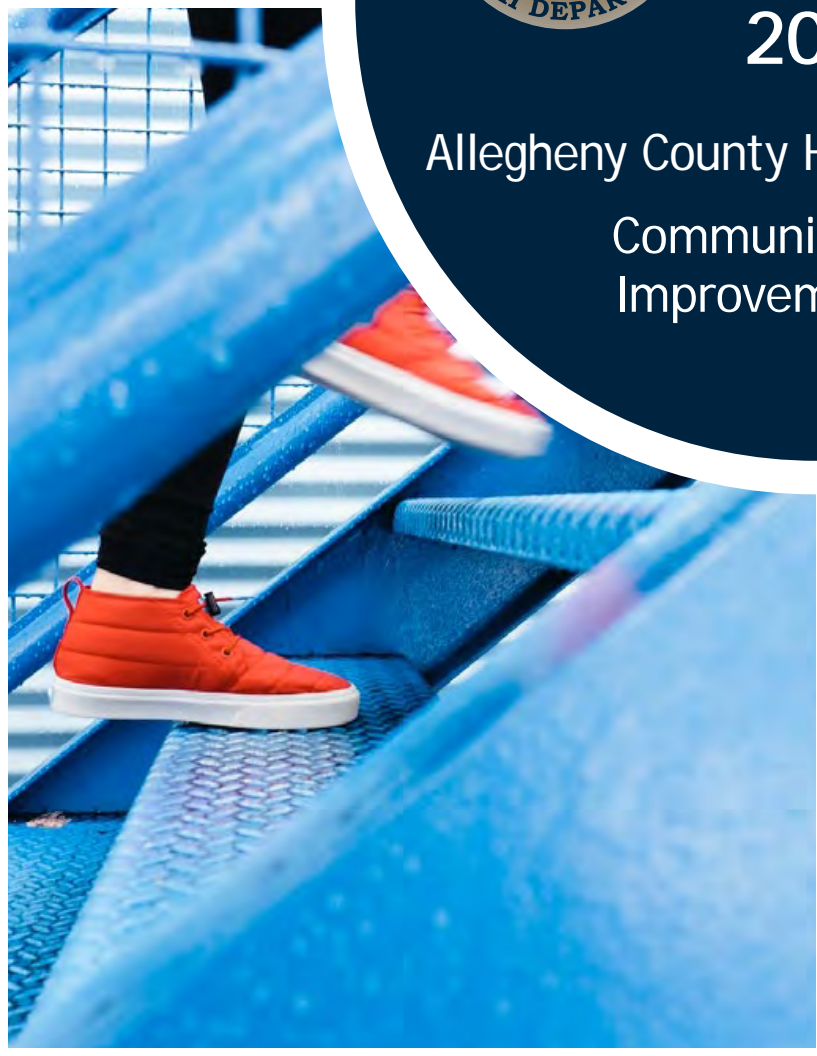# Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-2027

Allegheny County Health Department

Community Health Improvement Plan

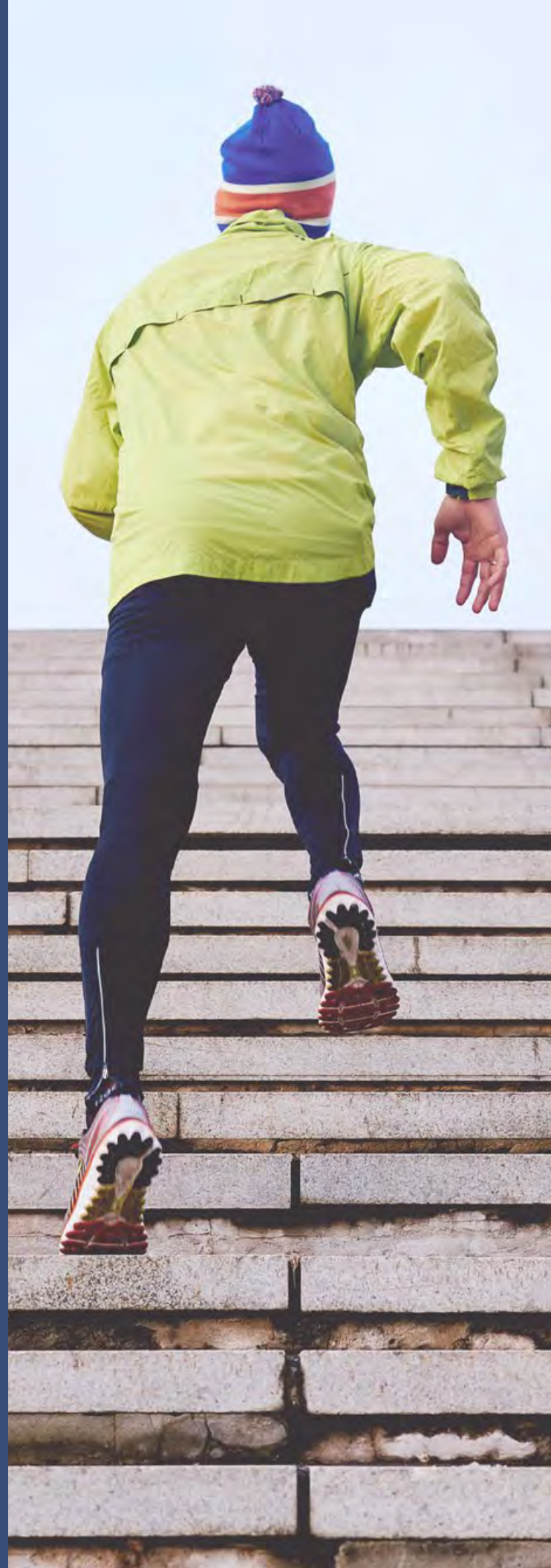# ACHD Vision

Healthy people in healthy communities

ACHD Mission

Protect, promote, and preserve the health and well-being of all Allegheny County residents, particularly the most vulnerable.

Table of Contents

Goal for *Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-2027*

Allegheny County residents lead healthy lives as demonstrated by their physical and behavioral health and the environments in which they live, learn, work, and play.

Guiding Principles

Equity Driven

Everyone deserves a chance to lead a healthy life regardless of who they are or where they live.

Data Supported

Actions based on research and established best practices.

Community Engaged

Public health information is made available to everyone.

Policy Oriented

Strengthen infrastructure and policy that improve health and safety where residents live, learn, work and play.

Overview

Overview

Executive Summary

Every five years, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) engages the community in an assessment and the development of a plan to improve the health of residents. The resulting document is our community health improvement plan, which we call **Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-27**. The plan prioritizes issues identified by residents from the 2019 and 2021 community health surveys and in the 2022 Community Health Assessment. The purpose is to establish goals and objectives for improving health outcomes, and metrics for evaluating progress. At the same time, the plan identifies strategies, lead county agencies, and the organizations that are currently, or could contribute to the advancement of the health of our community.

Process

The Health Department developed the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-27 by engaging the community and responding to their priorities. The plan required goals and objectives that were specific, measurable, relevant and time-bound. The plan needed to be data-supported, equity-driven, policy-oriented and community-engaged.

The plan's foundation is the 2022 Community Health Assessment, which the ACHD began developing in 2019 when it launched a survey to gather information from residents about their priorities. More than 4,000 residents responded by identifying the issues that mattered most to them. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACHD postponed further work on the plan until mid-2021. By then, it was clear that conditions had changed. To assess the difference and understand how the pandemic had affected the priorities of residents, the ACHD fielded a supplemental survey in 2021, to which more than 2,000 people responded.

Concurrently, ACHD staff compiled data about the health of the county's residents, focusing on priority areas identified in the 2017 Plan for a Healthier Allegheny: access, chronic disease health risk behaviors, environment, maternal and child health, and mental health and substance use. The data were examined to identify populations that are at increased risk of poor health outcomes, as well as areas where better information is needed.

In the summer of 2022, with all the data compiled, the ACHD hosted virtual listening sessions for stakeholders. Throughout the meetings, residents shared health concerns, highlighted community health risks and outcomes, and identified areas of improvement. Sessions focused on chronic disease and prevention, environmental health, overdose prevention, family and child health, and violence prevention. In all, the ACHD engaged 245 residents. At the same time, the ACHD offered and promoted a survey that allowed people unable to attend the sessions to provide feedback. More than 400 residents responded. The department also conferred with many organizations working in these fields and partner agencies in county government.

The 2022 Community Health Assessment, engagement with stakeholders, feedback received from the listening sessions, and surveys served as guideposts for creating the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-27. The resulting draft plan had eight goals, 37 objectives, and 59 metrics. In the fall of 2022, the draft plan was shared with the same organizations and individuals who had participated in the surveys and listening sessions. The ACHD received robust feedback from nearly 200 individuals and incorporated many suggested changes into the final plan.

Goals, Objectives, and Metrics

Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-27 has three priority areas: **physical health, behavioral health, and the environment**. For each area, there is one overarching goal with a set of supporting goals. The overarching goal has one metric that will be used for evaluating progress. For each subordinate goal, there are multiple objectives, each of which is tied to one or more metrics for evaluation. In addition, potential or actionable strategies have been identified. This list is meant to be suggestive, rather than exhaustive. For each priority area, the ACHD has identified a lead county agency that will help coordinate the communication of the plan, the gathering of data, and the reporting of progress.

Overarching Goal:

Allegheny County residents live healthy lives as demonstrated by their physical and behavioral health and the environments in which they live, learn, work and play.

Summary of Priority Goals

Physical Health Goals:

Goal 1. People of all ages engage in behaviors that promote physical health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Goal 2. All people have appropriate places to obtain medical and dental care.

Goal 3. Decrease disparities in life expectancy and chronic diseases in Allegheny County.

Behavioral Health Goals:

Goal 4. People have access to behavioral health services, including treatment for substance use disorders.

Goal 5. People will participate in programs and activities that support mental health and well-being.

Environmental Goals:

Goal 6. More people live in stable and safe housing.

Goal 7. Fewer people experience violence in their homes and communities.

Goal 8. More residents live in communities that are prepared to adapt to and absorb the impacts of climate change.

Guiding Principles:

- Equity driven
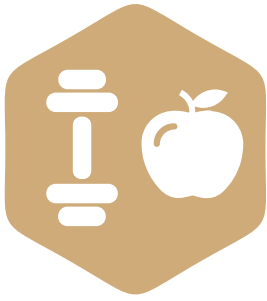- Community engaged
- Data supported
- Policy oriented

Community Health Priorities

Community Health Priorities

Physical Health

Priority Area: PHYSICAL HEALTH

More Allegheny County residents are physically healthy.

Key Metric: By 2027, more than 90% of Allegheny County residents will report having good, very good, or excellent health (baseline 87.4%, 2019)
Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Goal 1. People of all ages engage in behaviors that promote physical health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

1.1 More infants are fed human breastmilk.

1.1.1. Increase human breastmilk feeding from 81.7% (2019) to 84% (2027).
Source: PA Birth Certificate

1.1.2. Increase the proportion of infants who receive human breastmilk for eight or more weeks.
Source: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Baseline PA 60.7% (2015) – await 2022 Allegheny County Pregnancy Risk Assessment

1.2 More children, teens and adults have healthy eating behaviors.

1.2.1. Increase proportion of children and teens who weekly consume fruit from 91% (2018) to 93.7% (2027) and vegetables from 84% (2018) to 86.5% (2027).
Source: Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System (YRBS)

1.2.2. Decrease the proportion of children and teens who weekly consume sugar sweetened beverages from 68% (2018) to 64.6% (2027).
Source: YRBS

1.2.3. Increase the proportion of adults who consume at least five servings of fruits and/or vegetables per day from 11% (2019) to 16% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

1.2.4. Decrease the proportion of residents who are food insecure from 11.2% (2020) to 10.1% (2027).
Source: Feeding America

1.3 More children, teens and adults are physically active.

1.3.1. Increase the proportion of children and teens who report being physically active each week from 84% (2018) to 88% (2027).
Source: YRBS

1.3.2. Reduce the proportion of adults who report no leisure-time physical activity in the past month from 22% (2020) to 20% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

1.3.3. Add at least 50 miles of accessible trails for recreational use by 2027, with at least 15 miles in environmental justice communities.
Source: Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED)

1.4 Fewer people use tobacco products, including vaping.

1.4.1. Reduce the proportion of children and teens who report tobacco use from 12% (2018) to 10.8% (2027) and e-cigarette use from 27% (2018) to 24.3% (2027).
Source: YRBS

1.4.2. Reduce the proportion of adults who report daily tobacco/e-cigarette use from 12% (2020) to 10.8% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

Strategies

a. Increase the number of trained lactation support professionals, especially people of color.

b. Increase healthy food choices at child care programs, preschools, schools, after-school programs, family centers, senior centers, home-delivered meals and health care facilities.

c. Provide assistance to community groups to promote healthier food and drink choices.

d. Expand access to and affordability of groceries that include fresh fruits and vegetables in the county, including increasing WIC approved grocery stores.

e. Expand participation in Live Well Allegheny, and similar programs that promote physical activities, and increase access to outdoor and indoor walking paths or sites that include access for those with physical and behavioral needs.

f. Promote the use of tobacco free services and the PA Quit Helpline and educate the community on the impact of second-hand smoke.

g. Support health insurer and employer-based wellness programs, including programs that support breastfeeding, healthy diets and physical activity.

Partners

Allegheny County Departments: Children Initiatives (DCI), ACED, Human Services (DHS), Parks, Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC)

Health systems and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

Community-based organizations focused on public health and healthy living

Culinary training programs

Programs that support local farming

Organizations that support lactation services and education

Organizations that encourage and support physical activity

Goal 2. All people have appropriate places to obtain medical and dental care.

2.1   More infants and children have age-appropriate preventive medicine visits as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

2.1.1. Increase by 5% the proportion of infants and children who meet Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) criteria for preventive medicine visits.
Source: Pennsylvania Pediatric Health Network (expect baseline data in early 2023)

2.1.2. Increase the proportion of teens who report having an annual preventive medicine visit from 72% (2018) to 78% (2027).
Source: YRBS

2.2.   More people have at least one dental visit a year.

2.2.1. By 2027, increase by 5% the proportion of children who had a dental visit in the past year.
Source: PA Medicaid data, Pennsylvania Pediatric Health Network (pending baseline data for comparison)

2.2.2. Increase the proportion of teens who had a dental visit in the past year from 71% (2018) to 74.5% (2027).
Source: YRBS

2.2.3. Reduce the proportion of adults who did not have a dental visit in the past year from 31% (2020) to 28% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

2.3.   More adults identify a usual source for primary care services.

2.3.1. Increase the proportion of adults who report having a personal health care provider from 83% (2020) to 87% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

2.3.2. Decrease the proportion of adults (age 18-64) who report not having health insurance from 6% (2020) to 5.4% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

Strategies

a. Increase the use of community health workers (CHWs), peer navigators, or other services that connect individuals to needed health care services, especially preventive care.

b. Advocate to get the work of CHWs designated as reimbursable costs by Medicare and Medicaid.

c. Increase the number of dental providers who accept Medicaid.

d. Increase the number of dental providers (dental assistants, dental hygienists and dentists) in the county.

e. Promote the use of Pennsylvania's online health and dental insurance marketplace (PENNIE) and the work of community-based organizations to help enroll people in health insurance, including Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the marketplace, including people recently released from incarceration.

f. Promote and support use of telemedicine when appropriate, especially for primary care clinics, that care for people with public health insurance or are uninsured.

g. Identify and reduce gaps in care needs and support policy changes to Medicaid and Medicare.

h. Increase access to transportation to get people to medical appointments.

Partners

Allegheny County Departments: DCI, DHS

Commonwealth Departments of Health and Human Services (PA DoH and PA DHS)

Health systems, Veterans Administration (VA), FQHCs

Community-based organizations that focus on public health and healthier living

CHW organizations, PA Coalition for Oral Health, PA Dental Task Force

Health care providers (especially primary care providers) and dental health care providers

Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) and other transportation agencies

Goal 3. Decrease disparities in life expectancy and chronic diseases in Allegheny County.

3.1. Reduce the racial disparity in infant and maternal mortality.

3.1.1. Reduce the infant mortality rate for Black children from 16.2 per 1,000 live births (2019) to 10 per 1,000 live births (2027).
Source: PA Death Certificate

3.1.2. Reduce the number of sleep-related infant deaths from a 3-year average of 7.5 per 10,000 live births (2017-2019) to 6.0 per 10,000 live births (2025-2027).
Source: PA Death Certificates and Child Death review team

3.1.3. Reduce the disparity in 5-year average death rates among people who gave birth within the past three years.
Source: PA Death Certificates and Child Review Team (5-year average, pending baseline data)

3.2. Reduce the disparity in mortality rates from chronic diseases (diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer).

3.2.1. Reduce the heart disease mortality rates for residents from 186 per 100,000 (2019) to 170 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: PA Death Certificate

3.2.2. Reduce the heart disease mortality rate for Black residents from 267.9 per 100,000 (2019) to 250 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: PA Death Certificate

3.2.3. Reduce the diabetes mortality rate for residents from 17 per 100,000 (2019) to 15 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: PA Death certificate.

3.2.4. Reduce the diabetes mortality rate for Black residents from 34.1 per 100,000 (2019) to 30 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: PA Death Certificate

3.3. Reduce the disparity in life expectancy.

3.3.1. Increase life expectancy for Black residents from 71.4 years of age (2018-2020) to 74 years of age (2025-2027).
Source: County Health Rankings

3.3.2. Reduce premature mortality rates for Black residents from 660 per 100,000 (2018-2020) to 620 per 100,000 (2025-2027).
Source: County Health Rankings

3.3.3. Increase life expectancy for all residents from 77.9 years of age (2018-2020) to 79 years of age (2025-2027).
Source: County Health Rankings

Strategies

a. Support and promote the Allegheny County BIRTH Plan for Black Babies and Families: Battling Inequities & Realizing Transformational Health Outcomes.

b. Increase participation in Allegheny County's Hello Baby program and other programs that support the creation of healthy and safe family environments, including those that work to reduce sleep-related deaths.

c. Increase community-based screening and education for diabetes, hypertension and cancer.

d. Support and promote programs that reduce all tobacco product use.

e. Support regional transportation providers to expand services in areas with a higher proportion of residents of color and reduce fares for low-income residents.

f. Support and promote efforts to reduce air pollution and other environmental exposures in environmental justice communities.

g. Increase the number of health care providers of color.

Partners

Allegheny County Departments: DCI, DHS

Healthy Start of Pittsburgh and organizations focused on family and child health

Partner organizations for Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funded programs like Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH), CHW, and Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

Organizations focused on health equity

Health care organizations, including FQHCs and VA

Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE)

PRT and transportation agencies

Community Health Priorities

Behavioral Health

Priority Area: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

More Allegheny County residents experience mental well-being.

Key Metric: By 2027, fewer than 11% of residents will answer 'not good' for 14 or more days to the following question: "Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good? (Baseline 14%, 2019).
Source: BRFSS

Goal 4. People have access to behavioral health services, including treatment for substance use disorders.

4.1. More people receive mental health or substance use treatment.

4.1.1. Increase the proportion of teen and adult Pennsylvania Medicaid recipients who receive mental health services in the past year from baseline of 19 per 100 (2021) to 21 per 100 teen and adult Medicaid recipients (2027).
Source: PA Medicaid

4.1.2. Increase the proportion of teen and adult Pennsylvania Medicaid recipients with a substance use disorder who participate in a treatment program in the past year from baseline 6 per 100 (2021) to 7 per 100 teen and adult Medicaid recipients (2027).
Source: PA Medicaid

4.2. Fewer teens use alcohol and drugs.

4.2.1. Reduce the proportion of teens reporting alcohol use in the past month from 30% (2018) to 27% (2027).
Source: YRBS

4.2.2. Reduce the proportion of teens reporting cannabis use in the past month from 32% (2018) to 29% (2027).
Source: YRBS

4.3. Fewer adults use alcohol and drugs in ways that are hazardous to themselves or others.

4.3.1. Reduce the proportion of adults who are at risk for heavy drinking (averaging more than two drinks a day) from 9% (2020) to 7% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

4.3.2. Reduce the proportion of adults who report using pain medicine not prescribed to them in the past year from 7% (2020) to 5% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

4.4. Fewer people die from an overdose.

4.4.1. Reduce the overdose mortality rate from 58.8 per 100,000 (2021) to 53 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: Allegheny County Office of Medical Examiner (ACOME) (Allegheny County Overdose Dashboard) and PA Death Certificates

4.5   Fewer people die from suicide.

4.5.1.   Reduce the suicide mortality rate from 14.5 per 100,000 (2019) to 13 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: PA Death Certificates

4.6.   The racial disparity in deaths from overdose decreases.

4.6.1.   Reduce the overdose mortality rate for Black residents from 115.3 per 100,000 (2021) to 100 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: ACOME (Allegheny County Overdose Dashboard)

Strategies

a. Support the Department of Human Services, and others, in efforts to expand access to behavioral health services, including the creation of additional crisis support services and mobile units.
b. Promote access to mental health and substance use treatment through low-barrier, technology-supported strategies.
c. Increase the number of certified recovery specialists, peer support specialists and community health workers who help facilitate access to behavioral health and substance use services.
d. Increase access to medication for opioid use disorder by:
    i. Working with community providers to conduct outreach and training to health care providers to normalize medication for opioid use disorder prescribing in primary care settings.
    ii. Supporting overdose education and reducing stigma through direct education and ad campaigns, including referral to recovery counseling services.
    iii. Increasing accuracy of active practitioner lists through provider outreach.
e. Incorporating people with lived experience into all areas of the work.
f. Revise Allegheny County Health Department Article II: Syringe Services to make it easier for programs and municipalities to support sterile syringe programs.
g. Conduct workshops on the safe administration of Narcan.
h. Support and expand efforts to promote social connectedness for seniors.
i. Increase educational and communication efforts to destigmatize behavioral health needs.

Partners

Allegheny County Departments: ACOME, DCI, DHS

Health care organizations, including FQHCs, academic health programs and behavioral health care organizations

Community Health Worker Collaborative

Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) partners

Organizations with a focus on aging

Health communications organizations

Substance use treatment program providers

Goal 5. People in Allegheny County will participate in programs and activities that support mental health and well-being.

5.1. More families with infants/toddlers participate in programs with demonstrated effectiveness to improve outcomes..

5.1.1. Increase the number of children served by evidence-based home visiting models from 6,600 (2019) to 7,300 (2027).
Source: ACDHS and ACHD

5.1.2. Increase the number of Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership slots from 388 (2022) to more than 500 (2027).
Source: DCI or Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC)

5.2. More children, birth to five years old, attend high-quality early learning programs.

5.2.1. Increase equitable enrollment in high-quality child care programming for children birth to age 5 from 33% (2022) to 43% (2027) for children accessing state funded subsidized child care (Child Care Works) or Allegheny County's Child Care Matters Pilot program.
Source: PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (PA OCDEL).

5.2.2. Increase equitable enrollment in high-quality child care programming for children ages 5 to 12 from 24% (2022) to 40% (2027) for children accessing state funded subsidized child care (Child Care Works) or Allegheny County's Child Care Matters Pilot program.
Source: PA OCDEL

5.3. More children and teens have access at their schools to a social and emotional health curriculum or services.

5.3.1. Develop and deploy by 2027 a standard for determining the number of schools and early learning providers that offer social and emotional health curricula or services.

5.3.2. Decrease the proportion of teens who report depressive symptoms that interfere with their activity in the past year from 39% (2018) to 29% (2027).
Source: YRBS

5.4. More adults have better mental health.

5.4.1. Decrease the proportion of adults who report having poor mental health (not good 14 or more days in the past month) from 13% (2021) to 11% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

Strategies

a. Support the Department of Children Initiatives to increase the number of children served in quality child care, preschool and after-school programming.
b. Support the Department of Human Services in efforts to expand access to behavioral health services, including services for children in schools and the community.
c. Support the work of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide evidence-based social and emotional programming in schools and the community.
d. Increase participation in Allegheny County's Hello Baby program and other programs that support the creation of healthy and safe family environments.
e. Increase the availability of community-led, informal supports that individuals or families can use for mental health and well-being and smooth pathways to more formal services.
f. Continue to promote Stand Together, an anti-stigma campaign in Allegheny County schools.
g. Increase the pipeline of behavioral health professionals trained to work in early learning and school settings.

Partners

Allegheny County Departments: DCI, DHS

Schools and intermediate units

Family support centers

Child care, preschool, afterschool providers, and organizations that support them

Community-based organizations and foundations focused on children and children's advocacy, including those focused on anti-bullying and inclusion

Higher education focused on teacher training and training school-based staff

Community Health Priorities

Environmental Health

More people in Allegheny County live in safe and resilient communities.

Key Metric: By 2027, at least 98% of people in Allegheny County will respond "safe" or "extremely safe" to the following question, "How safe from crime do you consider your neighborhood to be?" Baseline was 95% in 2017.
Source BRFSS

Goal 6. More people live in stable and safe housing.

6.1. More people are stably housed.

6.1.1. Reduce by 2% each year the Point-in-Time (PIT) homeless count in shelters or transitional housing programs and unsheltered homeless population.
Source: DHS

6.1.2. Reduce the percentage of households that are rent-burdened from 47.7% (2021) to 42% (2027).
Source: 2021 American Community Survey 1-year Selected Population Profile

6.1.3. Reduce the number of teens who report having unstable housing from 16% (2018) to 12% (2027).
Source: YRBS

6.1.4. Add at least 450 affordable housing units by 2027.
Source: ACED

6.2. Fewer people live in housing that does not meet health standards.

6.2.1. By 2027, increase compliance for abatement for complaint housing cases with Class 1 or Class 2 violations by 15% from 60% (2021) to 75% (2027) in compliance.
Source: ACHD Housing Program

6.3. Fewer children have elevated blood lead levels.

6.3.1. Reduce the proportion of children with an elevated blood lead level (above 3.5µg/dL) from 2.7% (2021) to 2.0% (2027).
Source: PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA NEDSS)

Strategies

a. Update the Allegheny County Health Department's regulations Article VI: Housing & Community Environment and Article XXIII: Universal Blood Lead Level Testing.
b. Support and grow programs that work with people using shelters, living on the streets or unstably housed to achieve stable housing.
c. Educate families, child care and early learning providers about the need for lead screening in young children.
d. Link those with elevated blood lead levels to services to identify and remediate sources of exposure.
e. Support policies that reduce the amount of blighted and abandoned properties.
f. Support policies that increase the availability of affordable and safe housing.
g. Support community safety and accessibility by improving lighting, expanding tree canopy, planting gardens and enhancing parks.

Partners

Allegheny County Departments: DCI, ACED, DHS, Parks and Sustainability

Allegheny County Authorities: RAAC and Housing

Local government units, councils of government

Community-based organizations focused on urban development, tree and garden planting and maintenance

Environmental and housing advocacy organizations

Goal 7. Fewer people experience violence in their homes and communities.

7.1. The number of gun-related injuries decrease.

7.1.1. Reduce the number of people who have an emergency department visit for a gun-related injury from 33 per 100,000 (2021) to 30 per 100,000 (2027) and hospitalizations from 15.9 per 100,000 (2021) to 14 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: EpiCenter and PA Health Care Cost Containment Council Inpatient Hospitalizations

7.1.2. Reduce calls for "shots fired" from 523 per 100,000 (2021) to 400 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: 911/EMS

7.2. The number of homicides decrease.

7.2.1. Reduce the number of homicides from 9.7 per 100,000 (2021) to 6 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: PA Death Certificates

7.3. The number of people experiencing violence in their homes decrease.

7.3.1. Reduce the number of adults reporting ever having experienced threats of physical violence from an intimate partner from 5% (2015) to 3% (2027).
Source: BRFSS

7.3.2. Reduce the number of children who were victims of substantiated child abuse from 82 per 100,000 children (2021) to 61 per 100,000 (2027).
Source: Allegheny County Dashboard for Child Fatalities and Near-Fatalities

7.3.3. Reduce the number of fatalities, and near fatalities, from suspected child abuse from 25 (2021) to 20 (2027).
Source: Allegheny County Dashboard for Child Fatalities and Near-Fatalities

7.3.4. Reduce the number of domestic violence (DV)/intimate partner violence (IPV) related homicides from 18 (2021) to 9 (2027).
Source: PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV)

Strategies

a. Provide training and technical assistance for organizations looking to implement the Cure Violence Model and other evidence-based violence prevention programs.
b. Expand the scope of work for the Office of Violence Prevention beyond gun violence to include additional aspects of violence.
c. Strengthen partnerships between government and local organizations that address violence.
d. Support evidence-based programs to improve self-regulation, conflict resolution, bystander response and others that disrupt the cycle of violence.
e. Implement recommendations made by Child Death Review and Act 33 Review processes.

Partners

Allegheny County Departments: Courts, DHS

Allegheny County IPV Taskforce

Local government units, councils of government

Community-based organizations focused on violence prevention, domestic violence and gun safety

Goal 8. More residents live in communities that are prepared to adapt to and absorb the impacts of climate change.

8.1.   Develop a municipal-level climate resilience index.

8.1.1. By 2024, a climate resilience index will be developed and posted to the Allegheny County website.
Source: ACHD and Allegheny County Department of Sustainability

8.2.   Increase the number of communities planning for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

8.2.1. By 2027 and in response to the climate resiliency index, at least 25% of communities will have action plans designed to improve climate resiliency.
Source: Local government units, councils of government

8.3.   Air quality continues to improve.

8.3.1. By 2027, reduce the annual average PM2.5 concentration by at least 12% (from 9.7 μg/m³ in 2021 to 8.5 μg/m³ in 2027, on a countywide average basis).
Source: ACHD Air Quality Planning and Data Analysis Program

8.3.2. By 2027, reduce the number of days per year when sulfur dioxide (SO2) exceeds an AQI of 50 (from 36 in 2021 to 26 in 2027).
Source: ACHD Air Quality Planning and Data Analysis Program

Strategies

a. Review national examples of climate resiliency indices, adopt and develop best practices.
b. Expand awareness and engagement of vector control strategies and programs.
c. Support local governments in updating local codes or incentivizing the adoption of practices that mitigate climate change.
d. Expand community participation in low-cost air monitoring programs, especially those focused on sensitive populations and environmental justice communities (e.g., schools, childcare centers and senior facilities).
e. Support local governments in expanding and strengthening emergency preparedness planning and preparation for climate-related events.

Partners

Allegheny County Departments: ACED, Emergency Services (ACES), Parks, Sustainability

Allegheny County Authorities: PRT, Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN)

Local governments

Community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and foundations focused on public health, the environment, and climate resiliency

Next Steps

Next Steps

Although dozens of organizations and hundreds of residents participated in the development of both the 2022 Community Health Assessment and the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-27, the ACHD plans to expand outreach to share the community's plan, encourage those already working to achieve the goals and objectives, and recruit new parties to the effort.

Each year the ACHD will report to the community on the progress made towards improving the health of residents. In those areas with the greatest need for additional work, the ACHD will explore the formation of new strategic partnerships and initiatives. In this way, the ACHD will seek to apply its resources where they are most needed and encourage others to do the same.

Currently, the ACHD produces a variety of reports and maintains updated data on the health status and outcomes in the region, but tackling many of the metrics for the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-27 will require ongoing and regularly scheduled surveys. The ACHD and county partners are developing strategic and long-term plans to track the metrics identified in the Plan for Healthier Allegheny 2023-27. Potential strategies include oversampling county residents using ongoing national surveys or alternately fielding a county-specific survey every 3 to 4 years.

Allegheny County Health Department

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alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/