Director's Office Report

Patrick Dowd

Acting Director &

Chief Operating Officer

Board of Health Meeting

November 1, 2023

2023 Highlights

ADMINISTRATION

- Grants
  - 12 grant proposals
  - 11 funded for a total of $34 million

- Internal Systems Improvements
  - Hearing Docket
  - Permitting & enforcement software systems
  - Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

ADMINISTRATION

- New & Improved ACHD Locations
  - Air Quality Program Move to Fulton Street
  - McKeesport Office Upgrade
  - Public Health Laboratory
  - Drop-In Spaces

- Human Resources
  - Record Hiring
  - Human Resources Process Digitization
    - Massive change
    - Greater access for all involved in hiring

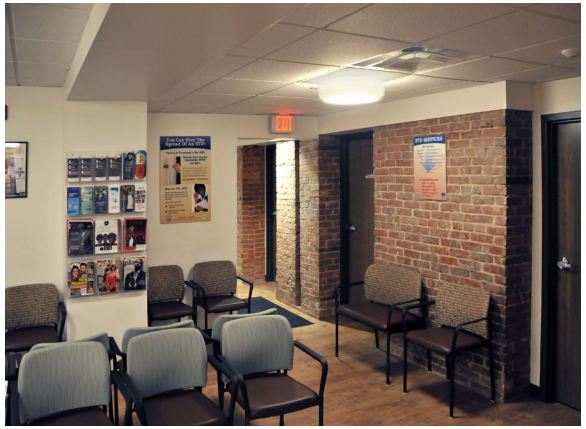
ADMINSTRATION

- Workforce Development
  - Public Health Workforce Infrastructure Grant
    - Lab Leaders ABMM certification classes
    - Dental Assistants
    - Lactation Consultant Certifications
  - New partnerships with institutions looking for public health experience and learning opportunities
    - More than 100 students participating in a wide array of programs and areas
  - Training

- Reaccreditation

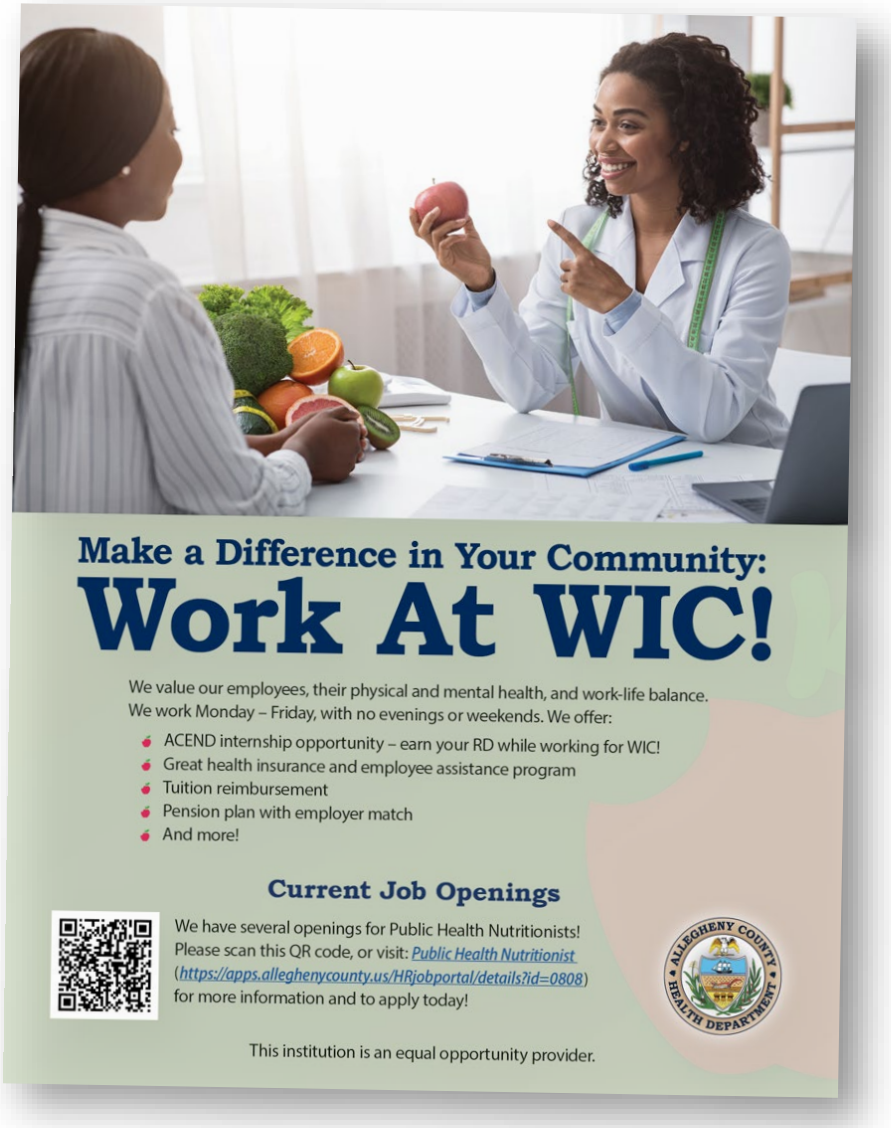
CLINICAL SERVICES

- Expanding service and increasing convenience
  - Expanded At-Home STI testing
  - Expanded & hired advanced practice providers
  - Immunization launches new online scheduling option
  - Dental scheduling software
  - Digital dental xrays



COMMUNITY & FAMILY HEALTH

- Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention
  - BOLD grant ($1.85 million)
  - REACH grant ($5.5 million)
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
  - WIC Expansions
  - Corner store expansion
- Violence Prevention
  - Important transition
- Family Child Health
  - Launched a virtual breastfeeding support program for working parents.



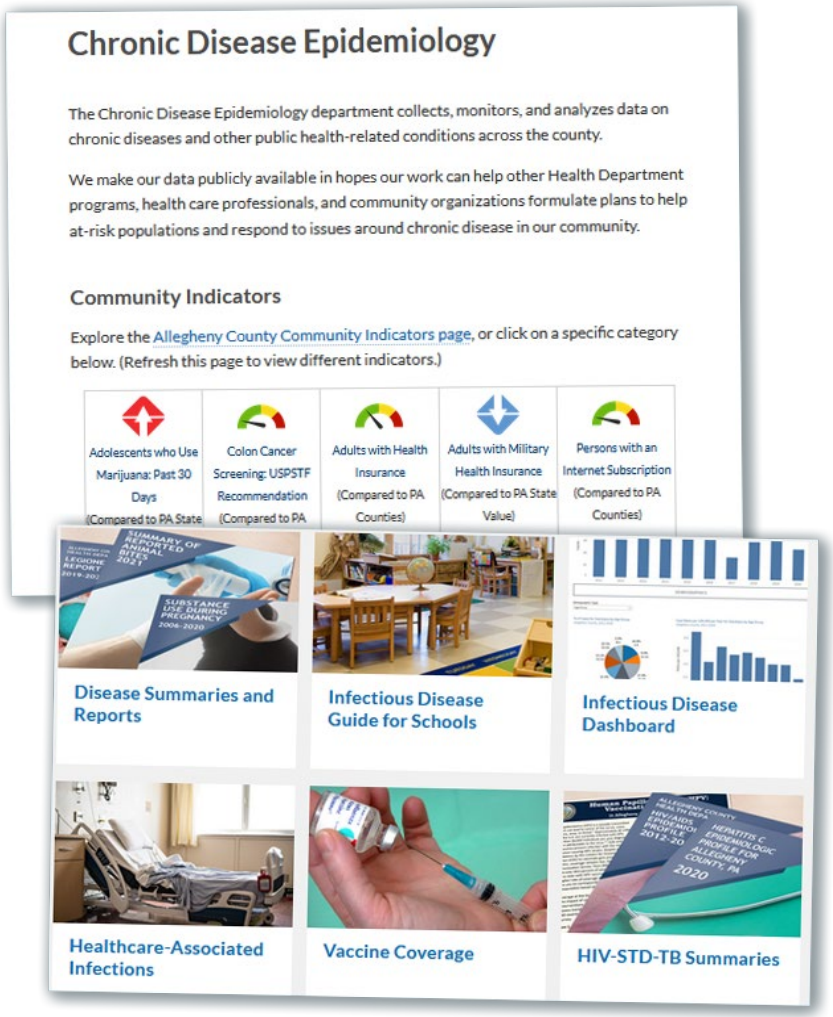
DATA, REPORTING & DISEASE CONTROL

- Lucchino Award Recipients (November 2022)
- Essential Public Health Plans
  - Allegheny County Community Health Assessment, 2022
  - Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, 2023-2027
- New Approaches to Data Collection

DATA, REPORTING & DISEASE CONTROL

- Participant in the CDC Outbreak Analytics & Disease Modeling Network grant
  - Enable ACHD to plan for future public health crises through the review of newly developed infectious disease surveillance, modeling, and forecasting

- Numerous Reports & Dashboards
  - Resources, Reports & Publications



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

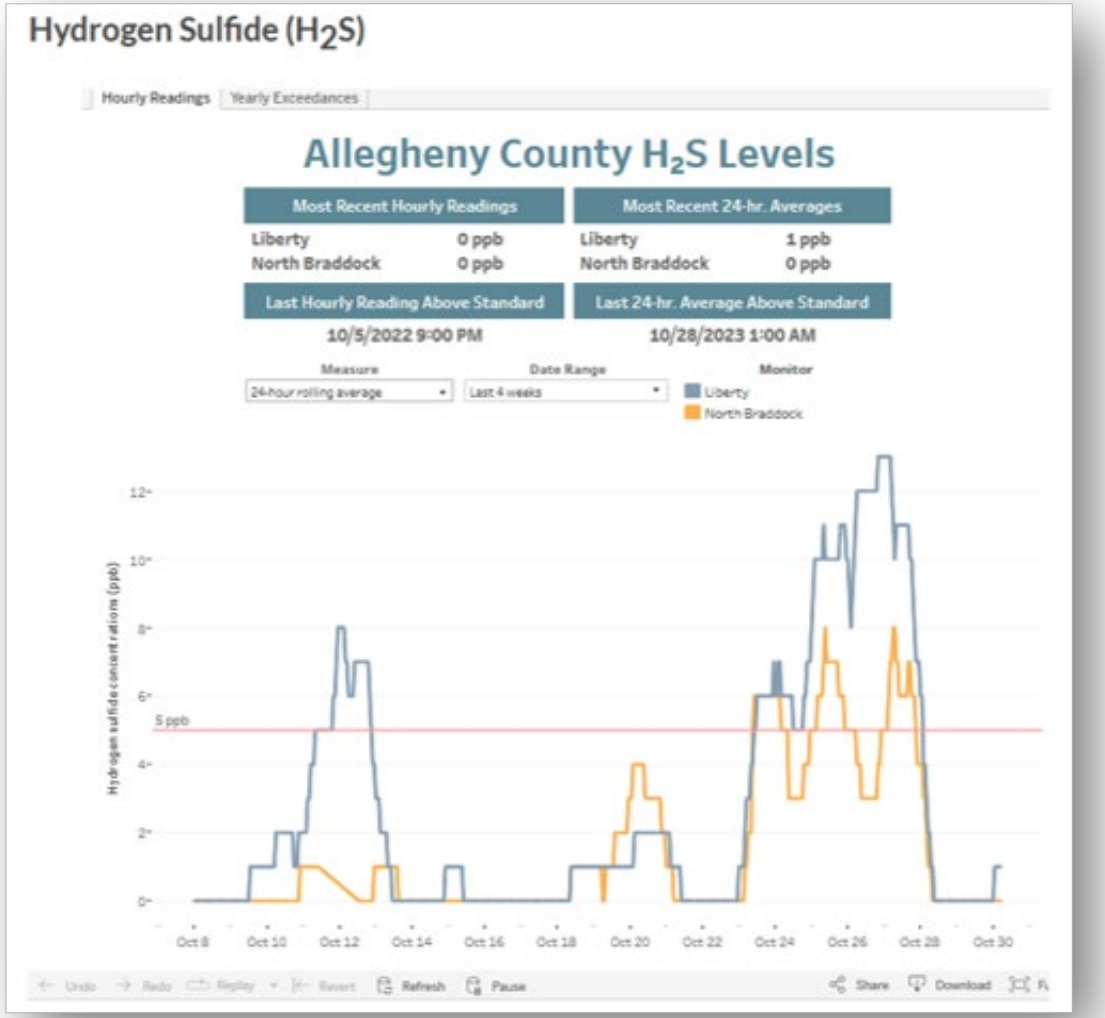
- Air Quality: Planning
  - PM 2.5 Redesignation Request (November 2022)
  - SO2 Redesignation Request (October 2023)
  - H2S Dashboard & Emissions Inventory Dashboard
  - Targeted Airshed Grant for Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) totaling $10 million for electrification of bus fleet
  - Clean Air Fund Requests to Mon Valley municipalities totaling $2.3 million for municipal fleet electrification and canopy restoration
- Air Quality: Enforcement
  - In addition to other work, over 700 asbestos permits inspections conducted in 2023
  - More than 500 asbestos permits issued in 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Air Quality: Monitoring
  - Allegheny County currently monitors in attainment for all criteria pollutants

- Air Quality: Permitting
  - Title V (29 Facilities)
    - 2019 unissued: 8/31 = 25.8%
    - 11/01/23 unissued: 7/29 = 24.1%
    - 01/31/24 unissued: 4/29 = 13.8%

  - Minor Permits (348 Facilities)
    - 2020 unissued: 179/202 = 88.8%
    - 11/01/23 unissued: 61/348 = 17.5%
    - 01/31/24 unissued: 35/348 = 10.1%



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Plumbing
  - Approximately 2,000 virtual inspections conducted so far in 2023
  - On track for 22,000 total inspections in 2023

- Wastewater & Solid Waste Management
  - The recycling program is evaluating ways to enhance the overall recycling activities in the county:
    - Additional materials
    - Education
    - Revising our Solid Waste Management Plan

FOOD, HOUSING & POLICY

- Food Safety
  - Implementation of Article III
  - Revision of job specifications
  - Food Safety by the Numbers

- Housing
  - Outreach initiative for multi-family housing
  - Tenant Resource Guide distribution
  - Treating >10,000 catch basins during mosquito season

FOOD, HOUSING & POLICY

- Overdose Prevention
  - Adding test strips to harm reduction
  - Revision of Article II
  - Awarded new CDC Overdose Data to Action Grant ($14.5 million over 5 years)

- Policy
  - New policy coordinator
  - Regulations are on schedule now for regular revisions
  - Up in 2024
    - Plumbing, Housing & Community Environment, HIV Reporting Rules
    - Continual revisions to Air Pollution Control, Food Safety and others

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

- New Public Health Laboratory
- Middle Hill District Laboratory
  - Inspection in October
  - No Deficiencies
- BSL3 Select Agents Program coming up
- Wastewater Testing
  - Enrolled Johnstown
  - Added Enterovirus EVA71 and new COVID variants
- Self-Testing

ALLEGHENY COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Director's Report

Barbara Nightingale, MD
Deputy Director
Bureau of Clinical Services

Outline

- Review of PHA Goals
- Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR) Grant
- Supporting Expansion and Enhancement of K-12 School-Based Social, Emotional Supports (SEEKS) Initiative
- Improving Air Quality in Childcare Programs in the Mon Valley Project

Plan for a Healthier Allegheny (2023-2027)

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)

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).

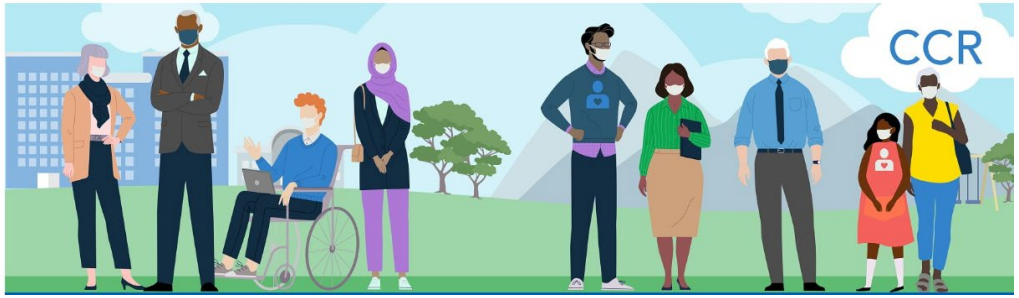
Priority Area: ENVIRONMENT

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.

Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR) Grant

- 3-year grant (2021-2024) from Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Purpose- Support training/deployment of community health workers (CHWs) and build/strengthen community resilience to COVID-19
  - Priority populations
    - Increased risk/prevalence of COVID-19
    - Risk for poor health outcomes from COVID-19 due to long-standing health disparities
- Partnership with 22 organizations, University of Pittsburgh, and Southwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center
- Strategies
  - Train CHWs
  - Expand deployment of CHWs
  - Support engagement of CHWs



Source: CDC

Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR) Grant

- What is a CHW?
  - Member of community who serves as advocate and liaison between community and health/social services

Facilitate access to services
↑ uptake and access to health care services ↓ need for emergency and specialty services ↑ adherence to health recommendations

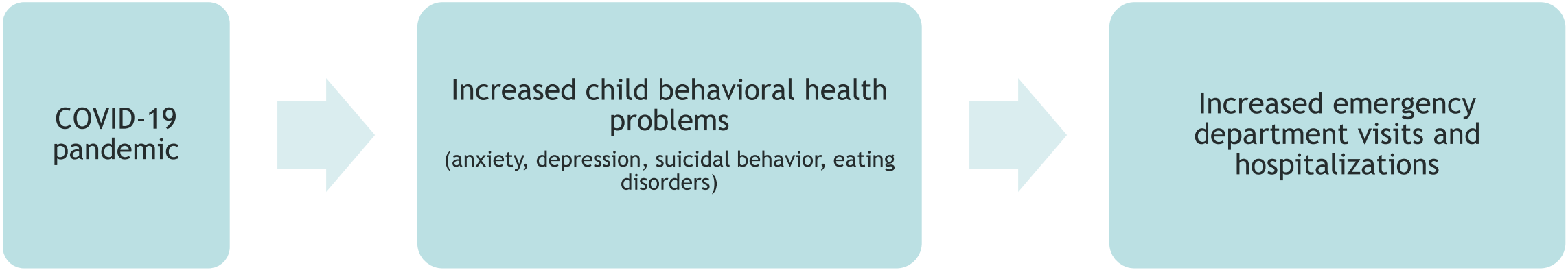
Communicate between community members and health providers
↑ quality ↑ cultural competence of service delivery

- Challenges facing widespread use of CHWs
  - Low numbers of trained individuals
  - Funding/reimbursement
  - Poor integration of CHWs into teams and system

Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR) Grant- Outcomes

- Partnership with 22 organizations
- 33 active CHWs
- 101 CHWs completed training
- 25 Lunch and Learns taught (>15 CHWs/session)
- 16,412 referrals across health and social service topics
- CHW Coalition and Community of Practice established

Supporting Expansion and Enhancement of K-12 School-Based Social, Emotional Supports (SEEKS) Initiative



Exacerbated for children living in poverty or members of minority group

Source: 2021 Surgeon General Advisory

- Goals
  - Support social/emotional learning for K-12 students
  - Build pipeline of professionals
  - Partnerships: AIU3, 10 pilot school districts, higher education
  - Funding: 2-year project (2022 – 2024), CDC Expanding Lab Capacity grant

Supporting Expansion and Enhancement of K-12 School-Based Social, Emotional Supports (SEEKS) Initiative

- Examples of Projects
  - Community of Practice
  - School Districts
    - Curricula
    - Mentoring Programs
    - Behavioral Health Specialists

Supporting Expansion and Enhancement of K-12 School-Based Social, Emotional Supports (SEEKS) Initiative

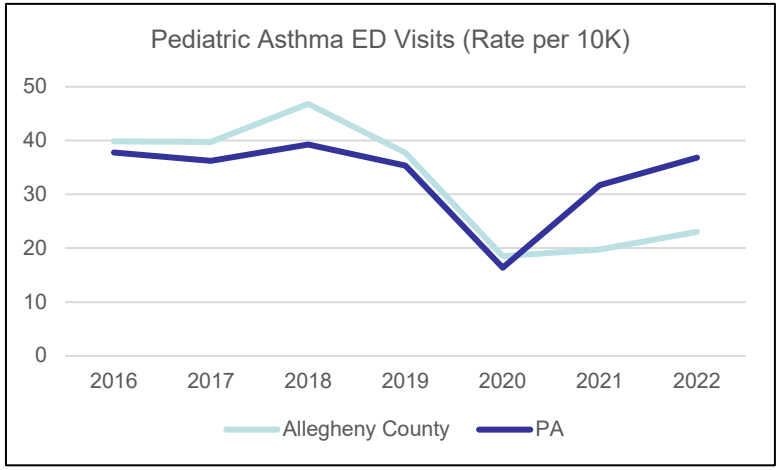
- Higher Education
  - Building capacity of pre-service education students
  - Social Emotional Learning Certificate/Endorsement
  - Improving university faculty expertise in Social Emotional Learning

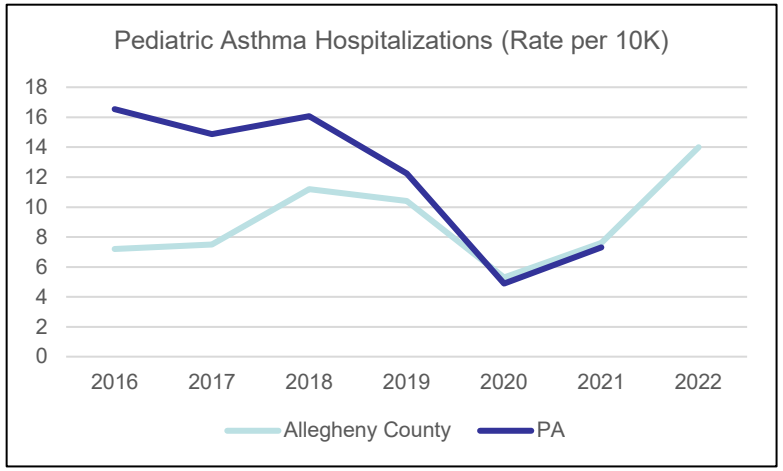
- Community Partners
  - Increasing awareness

Source: AIU

Improving Air Quality in Childcare Programs in Mon Valley Project

- Background
  - Indoor air pollution is a serious health risk
    - Indoor gases and particles
      - allergens, smoking, cooking, mold, chemicals from consumer and building products
    - Outdoor air pollutants
  - Children at high risk due to developing respiratory and immune systems
    - ↑ risk for severe respiratory infections and asthma exacerbations
  - Air quality can by improved by source reduction, ventilation and filtration





Source: EPA

Improving Air Quality in Childcare Programs in Mon Valley Project

- Goal
  - Improve indoor air quality in childcare programs located in environmental justice communities*
- Funding- 2-year project, PADOH and foundation support
- Specific aims
  - ↓ spread of respiratory infections and frequency/severity of asthma flares
  - Measured by rates of absenteeism due to chronic respiratory illness
- Project management
  - Allegheny County Department of Children's Initiatives
- Evaluation of facilities
  - STANTEC engineering firm

**Identified by ACHD Environmental Justice Index*

Improving Air Quality in Childcare Programs in the Mon Valley Project

- Outcomes thus far
  - Department of Children Initiatives received 80 applicants at early after application opened → closed application
  - STANTEC now completing 3 evaluations per day
  - Report on 1st 25 facilities in Nov
    - Recommendations for air filtration and/or reconfigure of air systems

ALLEGHENY COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Request Permission To Go To Public Comment

Public Comments

- Commenters will be allowed 3 minutes each to address the Board