

# PLAN FOR A HEALTHIER ALLEGHENY

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Allegheny County Health Department

**Our five-year roadmap to improve our County's health**



Healthcare Access



Chronic Disease  
Health Risk Behaviors



Environment



Maternal & Child Health



Mental Health and  
Substance Abuse

# The Plan for a Healthier Allegheny

The Plan for a Healthier Allegheny (PHA) is Allegheny County’s roadmap for improving health for all residents. Developed by a large community advisory coalition, this community health improvement plan aims to develop new opportunities and enhance existing programs to better serve the residents of Allegheny County.

The PHA Advisory Coalition, currently consisting of over 100+ organizations, identified five priority areas: Access, Chronic Disease Risk Behaviors, Environment, Maternal and Child Health, and Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. The Advisory Coalition established working groups to help reach the goals and objectives for each priority area. The groups have been working diligently to identify gaps in existing work, build on existing community efforts, shape innovative and collaborative interventions, and build momentum to improve the health of Allegheny County. Now in the third year of work, it’s important to take stock and determine the progress made to date.

The PHA and all its members will continue to monitor progress and collectively work toward improving health in Allegheny County.

The following report highlights the progress made to date on PHA goals and objectives.

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# Access

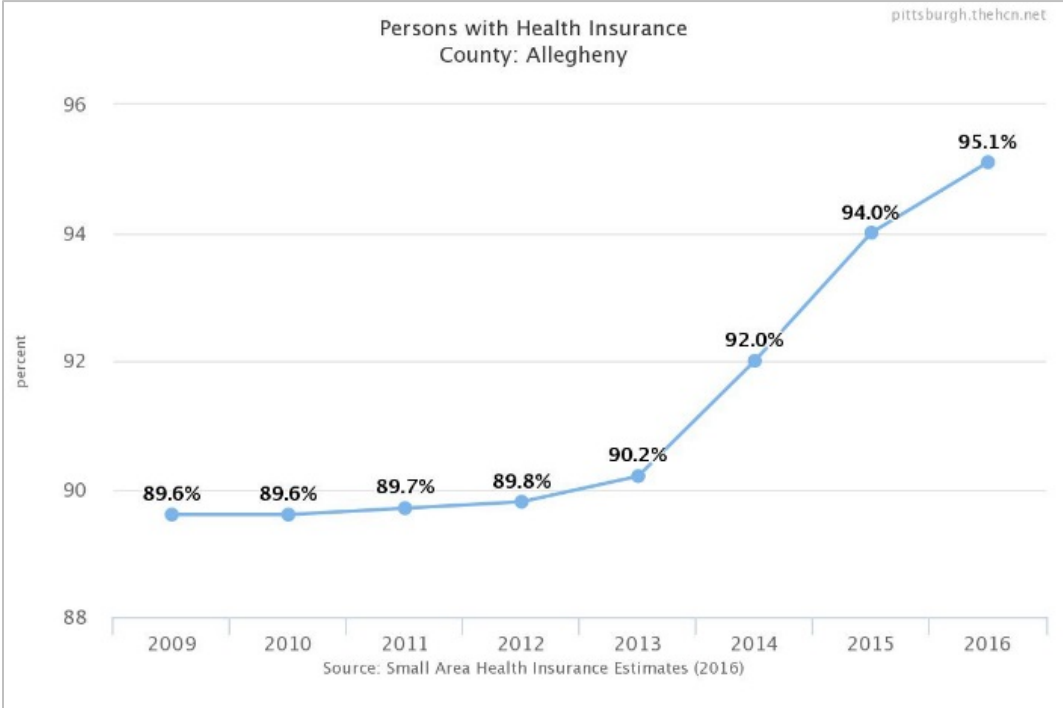
*Goal: Identify and address gaps in and barriers to accessible and affordable, person-centered, high quality health care.*

**Objectives:**

- 1.1: Increase the number of Allegheny County residents receiving preventive healthcare services, as recommended by United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)
- 1.2: Increase the percent of residents who have health insurance coverage
- 1.3: Increase the number of Allegheny County residents receiving dental care
- 1.4: Improve access to health care services, through improved transportation options in Allegheny County

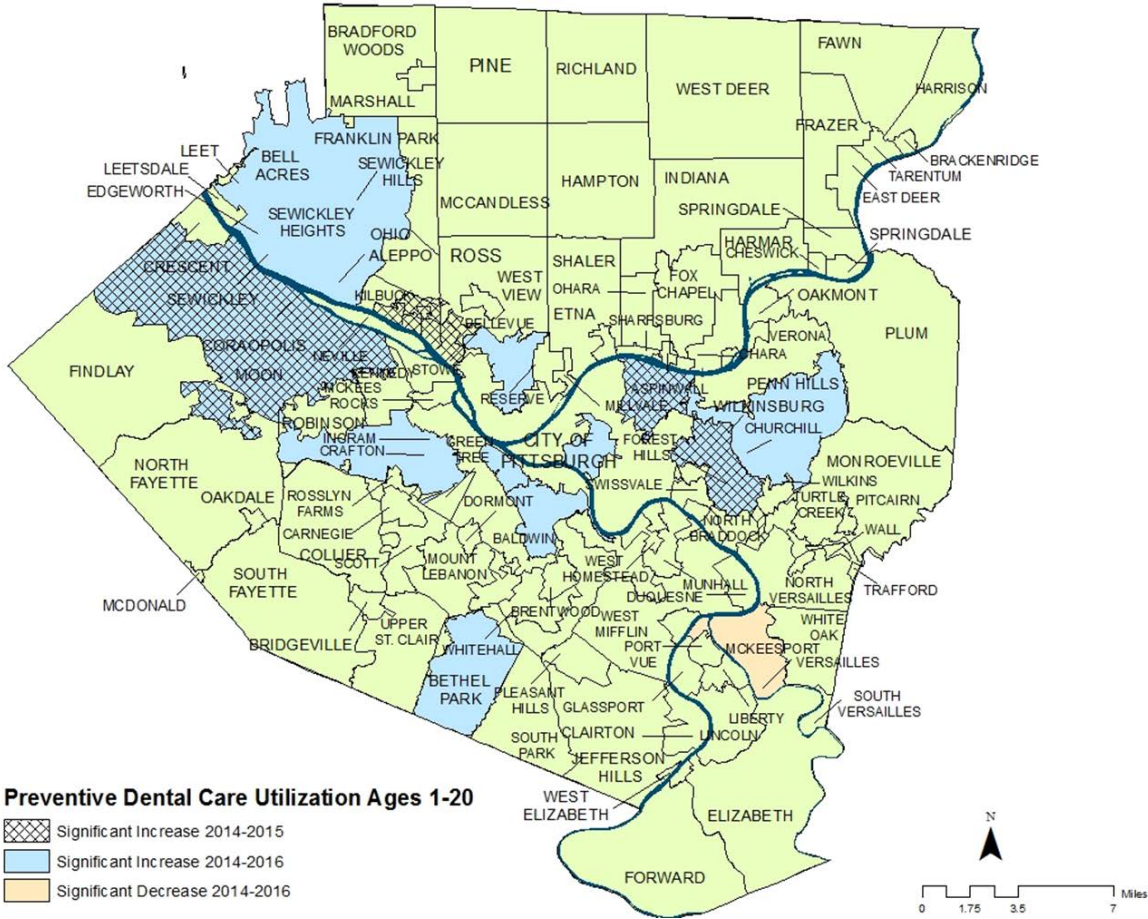
**Accomplishments:**

⇒ According to the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates from the United States Census, rates of uninsured Allegheny County residents decreased from 6% in 2015 to 5% in 2016.



- ⇒ ACHD’s Guide to Health Care Resources in Allegheny County, a document containing information and resources for the under and uninsured, was updated in September of 2018. It can be found online at [www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/)
- ⇒ Steel Rivers and Turtle Creek Councils of Governments, in collaboration with ACHD, received a grant to assess current access to health services, define the gaps, and ultimately develop a regional approach to ensure access to healthcare services for the residents of 39 communities of the Monongahela Valley and eastern suburbs. Appropriate, affordable, and accessible health services are a necessary component to improve overall health outcomes in the most vulnerable communities in Allegheny County.

- ⇒ Allies for Children and numerous partners advocated for reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Project through a variety of means, including press events with elected officials. After 114 days, Congress reauthorized the CHIP in late January 2018. This affects 13,778 children in Allegheny County who receive their health insurance through CHIP.
- ⇒ The PHA Dental Task Force continued to meet throughout 2018. After focusing on increasing pediatric preventive dental care utilization rates for Medicaid insured children, the group has begun to focus on reducing emergency room utilization for dental care, a growing concern among members. Data was mapped and analyzed by ACHD for initial discussions with the group, and work is expected to continue into the next year.



Source: Administrative claims data (Medicaid only); UPMC for You, Aetna, United, and Gateway

- ⇒ On June 29 & 30, ACHD participated in the Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh. In total, 1,103 patients were treated. Cleanings, fillings, root canal treatments on selected teeth, extractions, oral hygiene instruction and a limited number of temporary partial dental appliances were provided to patients for a total of 4,483 procedures. The total monetary value of the donated treatment was \$754,715 for an average of \$684 per patient. A survey of the patients determined that 73% of them had not seen a dentist previously because they had no insurance and did not think they could afford it. Participation in this humanitarian program was in line with the PHA goal of increasing the number of Allegheny County residents receiving dental care.

- ⇒ Due to their participation in a transportation navigator pilot project in 2017, the East Liberty Family Healthcare Center (ELFHCC) continued to identify patients throughout 2018 who expressed an interest in receiving help with transportation to appointments, and have revised job descriptions for two staff members to include assisting patients who have transportation needs. ELFHCC also implemented a transportation partnership with Traveler's Aid for patients who receive Medical Assistance. These patients are able to sign up for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) and can receive bus tickets on site. Through 2018, 31 patients have been enrolled on-site through this process.
- ⇒ Heritage Community Initiatives continued to survey residents of the 20 Monongahela River valley neighborhoods they serve to identify transportation needs. They saw a downward trend in missed appointments.
  - Missed 2-5 Appointment:
    - 2016: 32%
    - 2017: 17%
  - Missed more than 5 Appointments
    - 2016: 8%
    - 2017: 8%
- ⇒ In early 2018, ACHD applied for funding to support an initiative to simplify transportation to medical appointments. This project will identify and catalogue all available transportation options for medical appointments in order to surface gaps and opportunities, and includes an educational campaign for early 2019. This campaign will focus on patients, clinic staff, and other key stakeholders as identified throughout the process.
- ⇒ In November 2017, 80 attendees participated in the first Complete Streets Workshop in Allegheny County. The workshop was organized by several partners including: American Heart Association, American Planning Association - Pennsylvania Chapter, Southwest Section, Allegheny County Economic Development, Allegheny County Health Department, Bike Pittsburgh, Local Government Academy, Live Well Allegheny, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, Port Authority of Allegheny County, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and WalkWorks. Attendees learned what the Complete Streets movement is, the benefits of Complete Streets, how to enact Complete Streets policies and ordinances, and opportunities for funding Complete Streets implementation projects. The long-range relationship to the PHA is that communities will develop and improve their built infrastructure in such a way that facilitates an active lifestyle for residents. More information about the workshop, including all of the technical assistance materials, are available at this link: <http://www.connect.pitt.edu/Events/Complete-Streets-Workshop-2017>.
- ⇒ 4 municipalities passed Complete Streets Resolutions: City of Pittsburgh in 2016 and Etna, Millvale and Sharpsburg in 2018.

# Chronic Disease



*Goal: Decrease preventable chronic disease by assuring access to resources, knowledge, and opportunities for residents to adopt healthy behaviors*

## Objectives:

- 2.1: Decrease obesity in school-age children
- 2.2: Increase fruit and vegetable consumption among adolescents and adults
- 2.3: Increase the number of residents by who participate in either moderate or vigorous physical activity in a usual week
- 2.4: Reduce county cigarette smoking rate among all residents and reduce racial disparities
- 2.5: Reduce smoking during pregnancy

## Accomplishments:

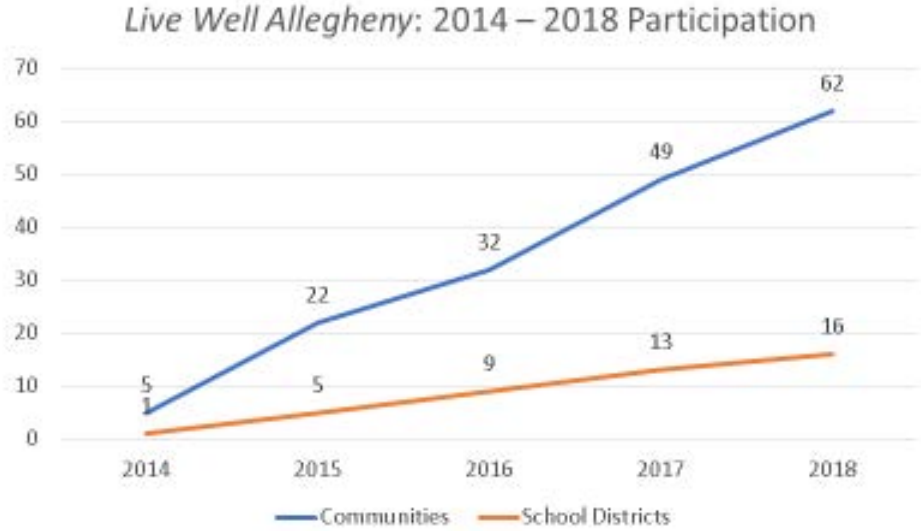
- ⇒ In early 2018, ACHD applied for funding to support a project on reducing childhood obesity rates. Several outcomes are expected as a part of this project: an asset map and gap analysis of current interventions to reduce childhood obesity across the county, an analysis of BMI data in Allegheny County, a database of evidence-based interventions, and a collective impact strategy.
- ⇒ *Live Well Allegheny*, the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania's fitUnited, and Let's Move Pittsburgh developed a Summer Food Toolkit, a resource for staff and volunteers to engage children at summer food service program locations. The toolkit includes interactive activities related to nutrition, physical activity, crafts, and puzzles, and can be viewed here: <http://www.livewellallegheny.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Summer-Food-Toolkit-Final.pdf>
- ⇒ Allies for Children's School Breakfast Campaign has been a strong advocate for incentivizing using alternative breakfast models by sharing evidence-based research and having multiple conversations. For the first time in history, the Pennsylvania Department of Education has provided additional funding for schools to implement new breakfast models. Allies for Children advocated for the passage of these funds and is providing technical assistance to grant recipients in Allegheny County, ensuring school districts create a system that ensures more students eat breakfast each day.
- ⇒ As a result of funding from the Safe and Healthy Communities grant, ACHD started a new partnership with Grow Pittsburgh to increase access to healthy foods by implementing and maintaining community gardens in low income/low access neighborhoods. Through this grant, ACHD is also partnering with Just Harvest to expand Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) transactions at four Fresh Access farmers' markets in Allegheny County: Swissvale, West Homestead, Wilkinsburg, and Carrick.
- ⇒ The Food Trust has expanded Food Bucks programming in several areas:
  - **Corner Stores:** Shoppers who utilize SNAP benefits can now earn \$1 Food Buck for every \$2.00 they spend on SNAP-eligible items at three corner stores: Dylamato's Market in Hazelwood, Carl's Cafe in Rankin, and Rocks Express in McKees Rocks. Each of these neighborhoods is considered a "food desert."
  - **Shop 'n Save:** The Food Bucks program at Shop 'n Save supermarkets continues, with over \$5,000 of Food Bucks redeemed. Nutritional education is also provided at these locations through a partnership with Adagio Health.
  - **Food Bucks Rx:** Launched this year with the General Academic Pediatrics clinic at UPMC Children's Hospital and with the Healthy Food Center at West Penn Hospital, patients who receive SNAP benefits can receive Food Bucks Rx, which are redeemable for fresh produce at participating farmers markets, corner stores, and supermarkets. Over \$3,000 worth of Food Bucks have been distributed to date.
  - **Farmers Markets and Mobile Markets:** Shoppers who use SNAP benefits earn a \$2 Food Buck for every \$5 they spend using their benefits. Since programming began in 2015, over

\$50,000 worth of Food Bucks have been redeemed among these sites. 82.15% of respondents to Just Harvest's customer surveys at farmer's markets who used their SNAP benefits said that Food Bucks were either very important or important in helping them purchase produce.

- ⇒ The United Way of Southwestern PA's fitUnited's hosted six Lunch and Learns, reaching 89 community partners. Topics included: mindfulness, Pittsburgh Parks Rx program, healthy eating, creating a toxin free environment, and stress management.
- ⇒ Working together, Allies for Children and nine nonprofits successfully placed a question on the November 6, 2018 ballot to support an Allegheny County Children's Fund, which would support early learning opportunities, after school programs, and nutritious meals for children Allegheny County. Unfortunately, this referendum was not passed.
- ⇒ Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC) launched the clinical pilot of Parks Rx in five pilot clinics through which doctors will provide prescriptions for park use and outdoor physical activity, targeted toward children ages 3-12 during well-child visits. In addition, the PPC collaborated with the Greater Hazelwood Family Support Center to offer a series of Parks Rx group outings to parks in Hazelwood and around the City. About 25 families have participated in one or more trips to parks and experienced outdoor recreation and nature play activities.
- ⇒ The PPC also engaged 867 participants in the Healthy, Active, and Green program, which includes events and classes geared toward older adults ages 50+ such as monthly fitness hikes, nature walks, and water color painting classes; distributed 200 Pittsburgh Parks Prescription Toolkit for Schools and Out-of-School Time; provided Parks Rx training to 100 educators in schools, afterschool sites, and recreation centers; and distributed over 1,000 Parks Rx activity packets to school-aged children and their caregivers.
- ⇒ Trying Together and the Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative convened a recess advocacy team, seeking to educate and advocate for the importance of recess, specifically related to the health and wellness, education, and play. The team focuses on recess practices and policies throughout Allegheny County. <http://www.playfulpittsburgh.org/recess-advocacy-team/>
- ⇒ United Way of Southwestern PA's fitUnited Day of Action engaged 132 volunteers to renovate a play space in the Borough of Homestead, which is a *Live Well Allegheny* Community, increasing access to play for 800 youth.
- ⇒ Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) awarded ten Active Allegheny grants during the year. Across 14 municipalities, the grants will fund bicycle and route planning and design initiatives, many of which will seek to connect to local and regional destinations and transportation systems. One Open Street event was funded.
- ⇒ In April 2018, representatives from ACHD, *Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED)*, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, PA WalkWorks, and Wilkesburg Borough attended "Step It Up – Action Institute to Increase Walking and Walkability." This multi-day conference provided hands-on learning about policy, systems, and environment changes that can be made to foster walking in our communities. As a team, the participants developed an action plan that will involve developing new tools for walkability over the next year, including walkability audit and zoning analyses.
- ⇒ Allegheny Quits for Life was November 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The fourth annual smoking cessation awareness week is designed to support residents' efforts to quit smoking and using tobacco products. <http://www.tobaccofreeallegheny.org/AlleghenyQuitsforLife2018.asp>
- ⇒ ACHD's Chronic Health Prevention Departments' Point of Sale project focused on retail stores - the primary channel used by the tobacco industry to promote and market their products. Exposure to "point of sale" marketing tactics have been shown to increase youth smoking initiation, prompt cravings, discourage quitting, and distort perceptions about product availability and popularity. These tactics also contribute to social and environmental injustices; communities with higher proportions of African American residents, lower SES, and lower educational attainment are exposed to more tobacco marketing. This summer, 16 Pitt Master of Public Health Students

surveyed 924 stores (75.6% of Allegheny County’s tobacco retailers) to capture the availability, placement, promotion, and price of cigarettes, cigars, chew, and electronic cigarettes. To supplement the survey data and add a personal dimension to the project, a group of 8 African American youth (ages 14-18) interviewed store owners and took photos of tobacco exposure in their East End neighborhoods. In the coming months, all of this data will be synthesized and analyzed to create neighborhood-specific profiles of tobacco exposure, identify policy opportunities, and engage community leaders in the issue of reducing tobacco use.

- ⇒ A Department of Housing and Urban Development federal policy to make public housing smoke free was passed in late 2016, and required all housing authorities to implement smoke-free housing no later than July 31, 2018. <http://www.achsng.com/smokefree.asp>
- ⇒ ACHD and numerous partner agencies were the recipient of a Center for Disease Control (CDC) grant under the Racial and Ethnic Approached to Community Health (REACH) program. This program supports work to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations with the highest burden of chronic disease through culturally tailored interventions to address preventable risk behaviors (i.e., tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity). ACHD and multiple partners will collaborate to improve nutrition, physical activity, and community-clinical linkages for African Americans living in target communities through a variety of activities, ranging from expanding healthy food policies to implementing a pharmacist navigation and referral program.



Source: Allegheny County Health Department, Chronic Disease Prevention Program





## Environment

*Goal: To enhance quality of life by reducing pollution and other environmental hazards using coordinated, data-driven interventions*

### Objectives:

- 3.1: Assure that unconventional oil and gas production (UOGP) within Allegheny County is conducted responsibly
- 3.2: To protect and improve water quality in Allegheny County to ensure clean water for drinking, recreation, and economic development
- 3.3: Attain and maintain all national air quality standards within five years of setting the new standards for Allegheny County and effectively communicate actions to the public
- 3.4: Reduce local emissions in high priority communities in Allegheny County
- 3.5: Encourage and support a county-wide Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

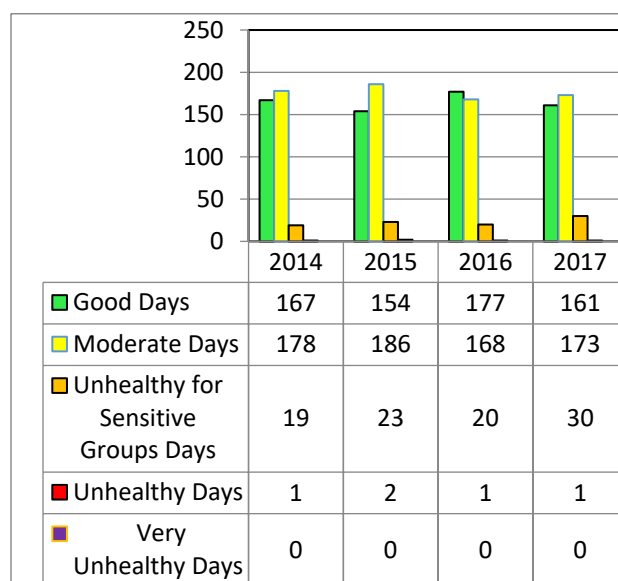
### Accomplishments:

⇒ Though Allegheny County does not have the authority to regulate unconventional oil and gas production, ACHD continues to monitor methane emissions via Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Data. Well activity can be tracked by using [Fractracker](#) or NPR's [State Impact](#).

⇒ Using a consensus-based approach, Three Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW) collaborated with ALCOSAN, PWSA, municipalities, and other stakeholders to develop a standardized approach and report template for municipalities to use in identifying areas of high sewer flows and overflows and to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of source reduction projects that municipalities have implemented or may implement as required by their consent orders. Each municipality submitted their "Source Reduction Study" to PADEP in December 2017.

⇒ 3RWW has been collecting and evaluating municipal flow monitoring data to help identify high priority areas in the region that are most appropriate for source reduction projects to reduce the amount of extraneous water entering the wastewater system and which would provide a high return on investment for scarce municipal dollars. 3RWW also continues to be a key partner in several integrated watershed planning efforts by other environmental nonprofits through tools, data, and input at meetings to assist with studies and the implementation of projects to address sewer overflows and flooding, and to improve water quality.

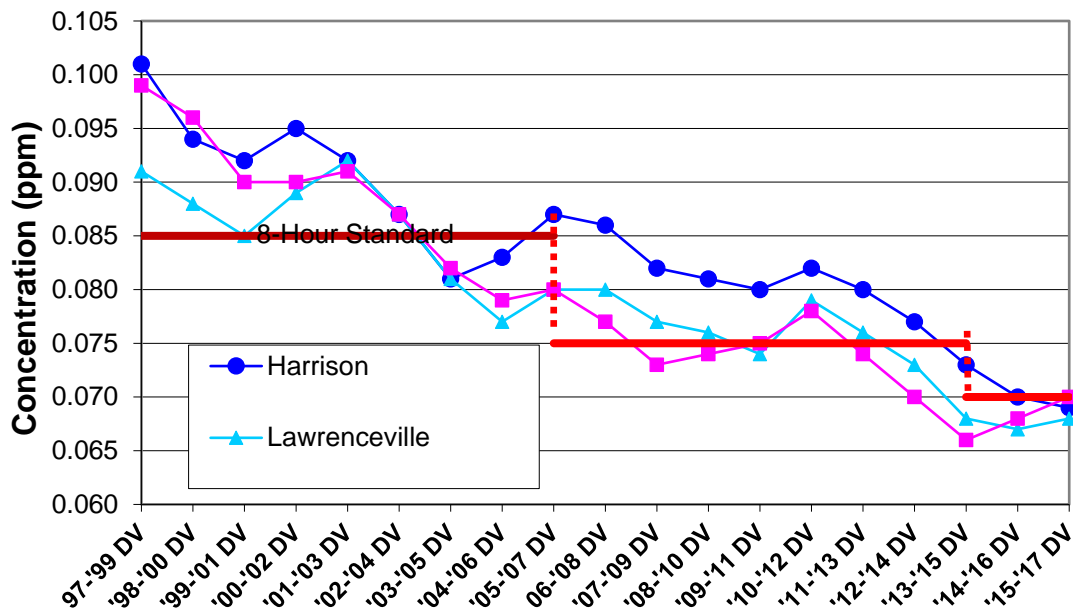
⇒ The update to Sustainable Pittsburgh's *Green Workplace Challenge* (now called the Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge) has seen increased participation by businesses and municipalities in Allegheny County, many of who report successes in water savings and green infrastructure investment. The name change reflects a broadened scope which also measures impacts in social equity and workplace diversity efforts. This shift reflects the importance of social equity in addressing upstream barriers that affect individual's lives, and our impact on the environment. The challenge continues to



Above: A breakdown of Air Quality Index (AQI) figures from 2014 - 2017. Source: Allegheny County Health Department, Air Quality Program

track impacts in the areas of energy and water use, materials management, transportation, and air quality. Winners will be announced in early 2019.

### 8-Hour Ozone Design Values, ACHD Sites, 1997 to 2017



Source: Allegheny County Health Department, Air Quality Program

- ⇒ In 2017, ACHD met the EPA's 8-hour ozone requirement. However, recent trends show ozone levels rising. ACHD will continue to track changes in ozone levels across the County.
- ⇒ 2017 air quality data showed a continued downward trend in fine particulate pollution (PM2.5) at all monitors but Liberty, which began a slight upward trend. A direct result of this was a major enforcement action taken against a source near the monitor, requiring significant changes to be made so as to resume decreasing emissions from the region.
- ⇒ ACHD applied for and received funding to support the development of a public health-focused climate change action report. This report will review the potential impact climate change will have on our region, and how it will affect public health issues. The report will be developed with a specific focus on equity – how will climate change exacerbate health issues that are already impacting citizens disproportionately? It is expected that this work will begin in 2019.
- ⇒ The US Environmental Protection Agency approved ACHD's SO2 SIP in 2018. This SIP demonstrates that ACHD will meet federal standards for SO2 levels by the required date.
- ⇒ Allegheny County's Lead Task Force published a series of recommendations for addressing lead exposure issues in Allegheny County. The report can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2E1NfP>
- ⇒ The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority published their Long-Term Infrastructure Improvement Plan in September of 2018. This plan outlines how PWSA will implement a program "to rehabilitate, improve, and replace aging infrastructure at an accelerated pace for the five-year period from 2019 – 2023." <https://pgh2o2030.com/>
- ⇒ The Local Government Academy has added a content "Pillar of Good Government" to their future certification program titled "Resident Health and Well-Being". This content will provide awareness to local elected and appointed officials on the relationship between strategic decision-making, environmental consequences, and long-term resident health.

# Maternal & Child Health



*Goal: Reduce morbidity and mortality, by improving the health and quality of life of women, infants, children, caretakers, and their families, especially in vulnerable communities*

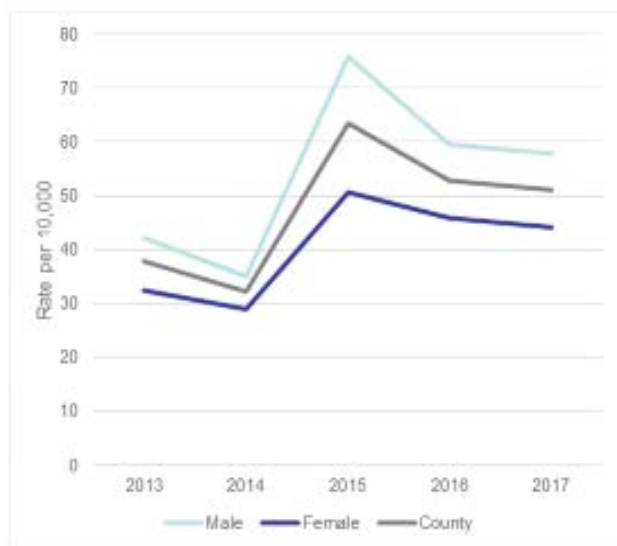
## Objectives:

- 4.1: Reduce asthma-related emergency room visits and hospitalizations among all children (age 0-17), particularly targeting the Medicaid population
- 4.2: Increase the proportion of mothers with intent to breastfeed when leaving the hospital, and reduce the disparity between White and Black populations
- 4.3: Reduce the proportion of preterm, low birth-weight, and very low birth-weight births
- 4.4: Reduce the overall infant mortality rate and the disparity in rates between White and Black populations

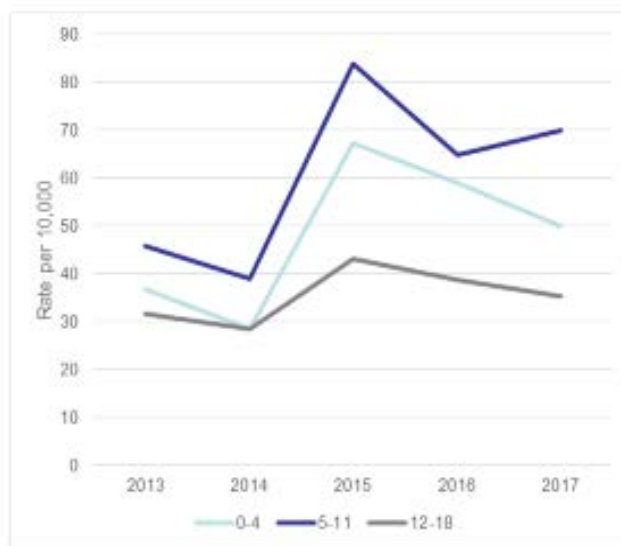
## Accomplishments:

- ⇒ Healthy Start opened its Center for Urban Breastfeeding, providing lactation support to new moms, with the intent to improve breastfeeding initiation and duration rates.  
<https://www.healthystartpittsburgh.org/center-for-urban-breastfeeding/>
- ⇒ In 2017, ACHD identified Objective 4.1, “Reduce asthma-related emergency room visits and hospitalizations among all children (age 0-17), particularly targeting the Medicaid population,” as a priority, but also recognized a lack of data that could be used to identify potential interventions to reduce emergency room visits. As such, ACHD applied for a grant to coordinate an Asthma Task Force. This Task Force is comprised of health care professionals working to create common definitions and data sources, develop a more robust understanding of childhood asthma in Allegheny County, and plan appropriate interventions to reduce asthma emergency room visits for children. The Task Force began meeting in the early spring of 2018 and plans to continue work into 2019. <https://bit.ly/2Uj2w5K>

### Asthma ED Visit Rates by Gender

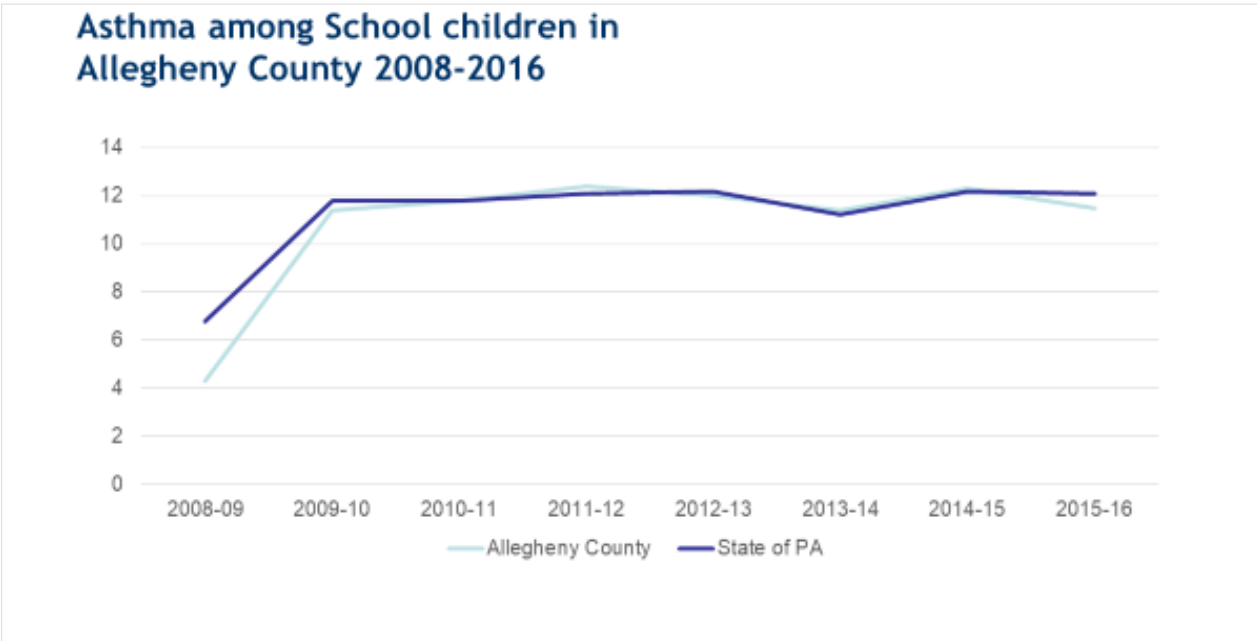


### Asthma ED Rates by Age Group



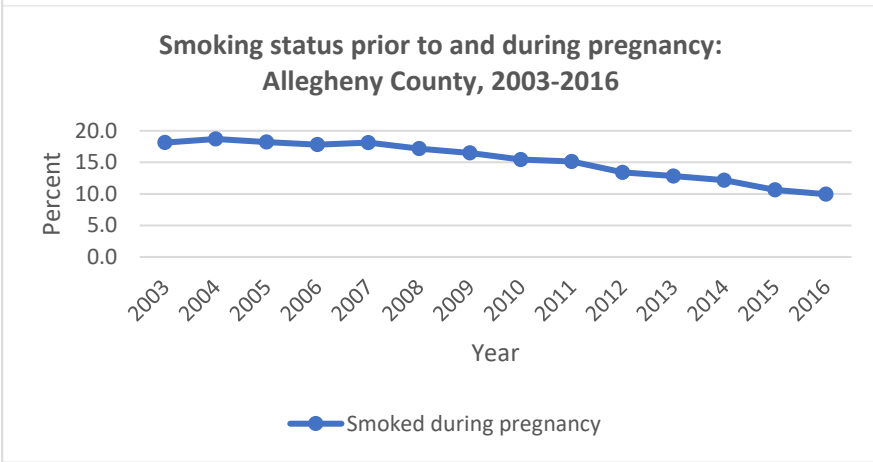
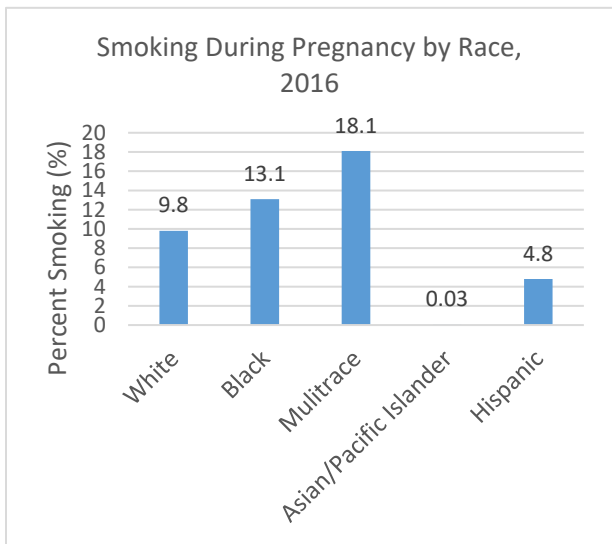
Source: EpiCenter, Health Monitoring Systems

⇒ In early 2017, the MCH work group developed a survey to identify potential messaging strategies to improve breastfeeding initiation and duration rates in Allegheny County. The survey questions were finalized and initially distributed among clients at ACHD’s Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) clinics. These data are currently being analyzed to help partners understand how to better target information to moms so as to encourage breastfeeding.



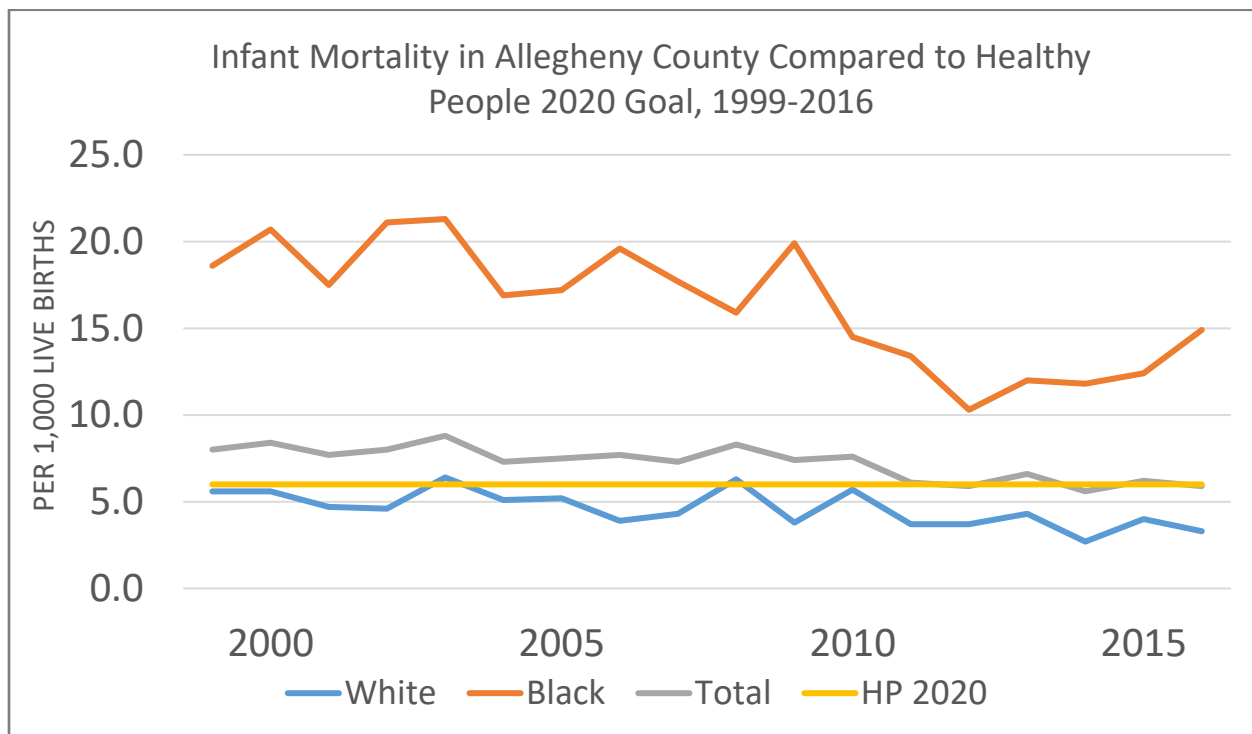
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Community Health Systems, Division of School Health

⇒ The Allegheny County Breastfeeding Coalition continued to expand its scope, after reestablishing itself in 2016. Ads and promotional materials showing breastfeeding in classic art were developed to promote breastfeeding as a longstanding norm and tradition.



Source: Pennsylvania Birth Certificates Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research

- ⇒ ACHD's Maternal and Child Health Program has been working on smoking cessation. Health Educators and one of the home visiting nurses are Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialists. In July 2017, they started taking referrals for their 1-on-1 smoking cessation program, Smoking Cessation and Reduction in Pregnancy Treatment (SCRIPT.) Since the start of the program, 29 referrals have been received. In September, they had a 5-week group smoking cessation class for pregnant women at Genesis. They have other smoking cessation efforts for non-pregnant women as well.
- ⇒ ACHD's Maternal & Child Health Program, in collaboration with the Allegheny County Infant Mortality Collaborative, invited attendees to participate in a one-day think-tank platform around infant mortality. The All-for-One Summit was an inaugural event to engage citizens and providers in transforming our response to reducing racial disparities. A diverse set of talented speakers framed the discussions and brought their own perspectives and expertise. Participants learned, shared, and connected with others from across the region, and beyond.
- ⇒ The MCH work group collaborated with Cribs for Kids to help launch their new Safe Sleep Academy. The new website, [www.safesleepacademy.org](http://www.safesleepacademy.org), provides information and resources on issues such as: infant sleep positions, cribs, swaddling, and other important information to keep infants safe as they sleep. The website is also available in dozens of languages.



Source: Pennsylvania Death Certificates, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research



# Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

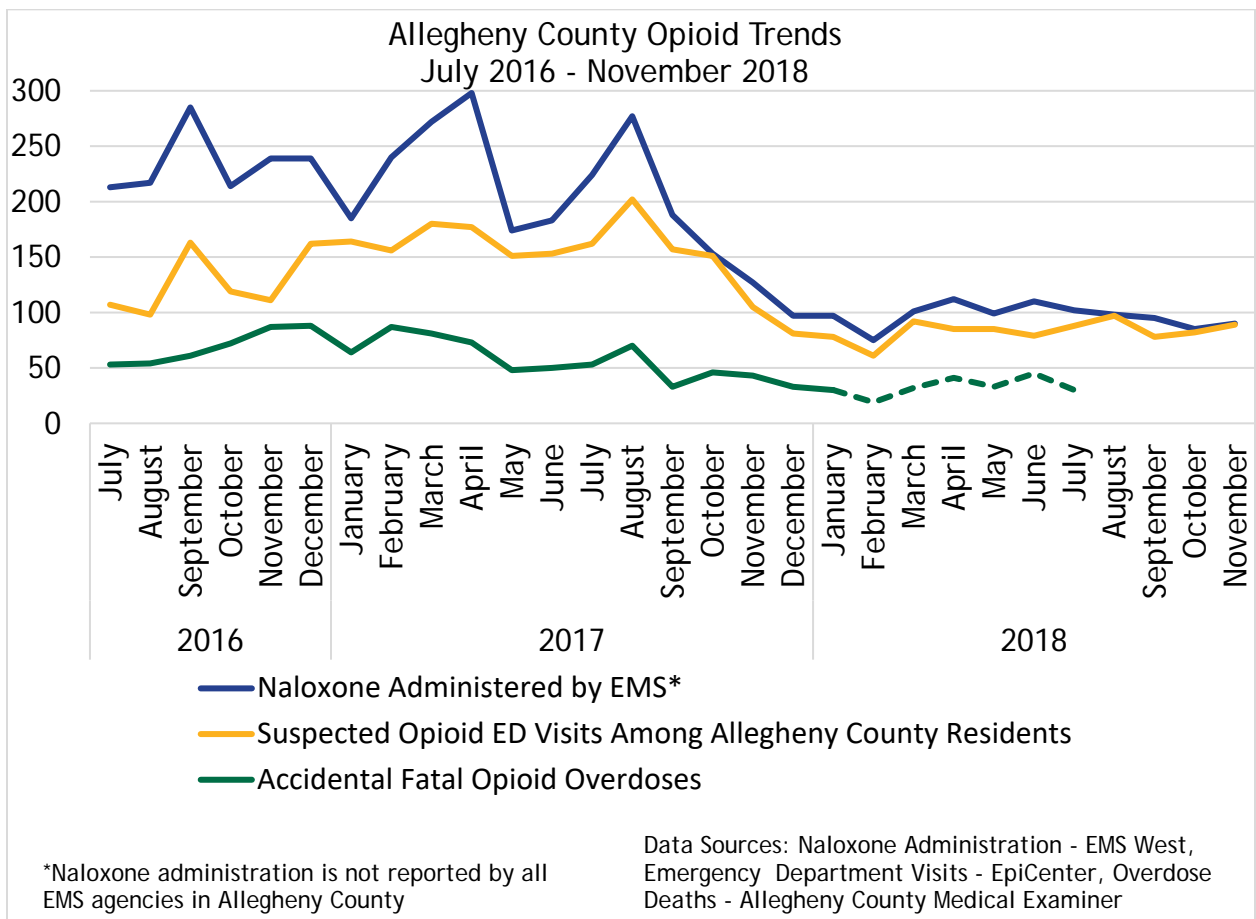
*Goal: Reduce mortality and morbidity related to mental health and substance use disorders*

## Objectives:

- 5.1: Increase utilization of outpatient behavioral health services, particularly for the most vulnerable populations
- 5.2: Increase knowledge and skills of first responders, primary care providers, and community members around behavioral health
- 5.3: Increase the number of healthcare providers integrating children's behavioral health and physical health
- 5.4: Decrease the number of opiate-related drug overdose deaths
- 5.5: Monitor use and increase prevention efforts for substance abuse in Allegheny County high and middle schools

## Accomplishments:

- ⇒ In early 2017, the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders working group facilitated a discussion with behavioral health providers to identify possible gaps in school-based behavioral health service utilization. Feedback was shared with partners for their consideration as they implement programs. Some key takeaways included:
  - Matching students with the right services for their needs
  - Maximizing schools as a place where behavioral health can thrive
  - Making school staff champions for behavioral health
  - Making space – literally – for behavioral health in schools
- ⇒ The number of law enforcement officers certified in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) continued to rise throughout the year. CIT is a first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention training to help persons with mental disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment rather than be placed in the criminal justice system due to illness related behaviors. It also promotes officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis. In 2014, 624 officers had received the training. As of 2017, the number has risen to 1074 officers in Allegheny County.
- ⇒ The number of individuals trained in Mental Health First Aid has risen dramatically since 2014, when 1,560 people were trained in Allegheny County. As of 2017, 6,474 individuals had completed the training. Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches individuals the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The evidence behind the program demonstrates that it does build mental health literacy, helping the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness.
- ⇒ Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Project LAUNCH) promotes the wellness of young children ages birth to 8 by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of their development. LAUNCH continues to track the number of pediatric practices in Allegheny County that integrate behavioral health resources to meet the needs of children and their families. In 2015, only one practice was categorized by LAUNCH as addressing this need. The number of clinics has risen to 11 practices as of 2017. These practices are defined as individual business entities in Allegheny County, and does not reflect the number of satellite locations a provider may operate.



- ⇒ The number of opiate-related overdose deaths continued to rise in 2017, though the increase from 559 in 2016 to 624 in 2017 was not as sharp as 352 in 2015 to the 559 in 2016. The continued trend shows a downward trajectory of total opiate-related overdose deaths, suggesting that the trend may be on the decline.
- ⇒ The number of overdose-related visits to emergency departments saw a decline, from 6,013 visits in 2016 to 5,518 visits in 2017.
- ⇒ As of September 2018, 108 police departments in Allegheny County carry Naloxone. Over 1,980 individuals have been trained by ACHD in the use of Naloxone.
- ⇒ In 2017, Prevention Point Pittsburgh (PPP) provided naloxone to a total of 704 individuals, distributing 3746 doses of naloxone. PPP targets naloxone provision primarily to individuals who use drugs, themselves, as they are the most likely people to witness and be able to respond quickly to an overdose. In 2017, 73% of people who received naloxone from PPP reported opioid use and we are documenting 635 overdose reversals.
- ⇒ In the first 6 months of 2018, Prevention Point Pittsburgh (PPP) increased the number of new individuals reached by 22% and the number of doses of naloxone distributed by 8%. This was, in part, due to the implementation of a Peer Health Outreach program which has gradually grown to help reach individuals at risk in communities not easily served through Prevention Point's Syringe Access sites. Additionally, starting in October of 2017, PPP began distributing fentanyl test strips to help people increase the information they have about the drugs they use. Of the reports received from participants in this service, 87% reported that they felt better able to protect themselves from overdose as a result of having the tests.
- ⇒ Allegheny County Health Department's Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) team aimed to assess opioid overdose awareness in a highly burdened area of Allegheny County and provided educational materials and resource guides for overdose prevention,

response and treatment. They randomly selected 30 census blocks to be surveyed. They aimed to complete seven surveys per block. Highlights of the preliminary survey results:

- 44% said that opioids are a major problem in their neighborhood (24% said minor problem, 9% said not at all).
  - 78% had heard of Narcan.
  - 73% reported that Narcan is an overdose reversing drug that can save lives.
  - 59% said they could administer Narcan to someone overdosing.
  - 12% said they would like to receive Narcan training.
  - 65% would support a needle exchange program in their neighborhood.
  - The following percentages of respondents said that they would like following actions taken:
    - Improved access to treatment (88%)
    - Prevention education for children (94%)
    - Harsher drug sentencing (30%)
    - More lenient drug sentencing (40%)
    - More community educational events (89%)
    - Improved access to Narcan (85%)
    - Other (21%)
  - 48% of respondents know someone personally who has overdosed.
- ⇒ Previously, the MH/SUD work group identified a need to purchase and distribute the opiate overdose-reversal drug naloxone to community members in need. \$50,000 was requested from the Public Health Improvement Fund in September 2016. Naloxone was distributed to a number of community organizations over the period of the grant, though a frequently-reported barrier to naloxone access was lack of transportation. In the spring of 2018, the remainder of the grant was allocated to purchase bus tickets for individuals to travel to Prevention Point Pittsburgh as part of their peer program, as well as to purchase for informational cards on rehabilitation services to be distributed to individuals utilizing naloxone.



## Available Data:

- ⇒ Community health data, disparity data, and PHA indicator data can be reviewed on the Allegheny Community Indicators Dashboard. Visit <https://bit.ly/2EI1NfP> to explore the data.
- ⇒ ACHD partners with the University of Pittsburgh to develop a series of Health Equity Briefs representing the five priority areas of the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny. The briefs can be reviewed and shared from [www.achd.net/PHA/](http://www.achd.net/PHA/).
- ⇒ Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) Data: [www.wprdc.org](http://www.wprdc.org)
  - 22 datasets on health determinants, and nine datasets related to insurance have been added to the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC).
- ⇒ Allegheny County Datasets: <https://data.wprdc.org/organization/allegheny-county>

## Next Steps for 2019

### Allegheny County's next Community Health Assessment

In 2014, the Allegheny County Health Department developed its first Community Health Assessment (CHA). A CHA is part of an ongoing broader community health improvement process. This process CHA data to identify priority issues, develop and implement strategies for action, and establish accountability to ensure measurable health improvement, which are often outlined in the form of a community health improvement plan (CHIP). With the guidance of partner organization, the health needs and community priorities identified in the 2014 CHA process were synthesized into five focus areas for our CHIP, the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny.

It is now time to revisit our health assessment and begin thinking of what our next CHIP will look like. Given what we now understand about health in Allegheny County, ACHD and partners will conduct the next health assessment using a health equity lens. "Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care."<sup>1</sup> ACHD will begin data collection for our next assessment in 2019, with the next CHIP to be drafted in 2020.

To start, ACHD has reconvened the Planning Subcommittee. This Subcommittee will serve as champions of the CHA and CHIP development process and provide guidance on public engagement, data collection, and more. Planning Subcommittee meetings will be held throughout 2019 and will be in addition to quarterly PHA work group meetings.

ACHD intends to develop its community engagement strategy in late 2018, with the goal of engaging citizens in early summer, 2019. The data from community members will be used to inform the next CHA, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2019. The process of developing the next Plan for a Healthier Allegheny will begin in earnest in 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Braveman P, Arkin E, Orleans T, Proctor D, and Plough A. What is Health Equity? Robert Wood Johnson Foundation May 1, 2017 <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/05/what-is-health-equity-.html>

## Advisory Coalition Partners:

|                                               |                                                  |                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 Rivers Wet Weather                          | Community College of Allegheny County            | Pennsylvania Health and Wellness                          |
| 412 Food Rescue                               | Consumer Health Coalition                        | Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force                                |
| ACCESS                                        | Cribs for Kids                                   | Pittsburgh Food Policy Council                            |
| Access Co-Chair                               | Duquesne University-Mylan School of Pharmacy     | Pittsburgh Mercy Health System                            |
| ACHD                                          | Early Head Start, COTRAIC                        | Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy                              |
| ACHD, Live Well Allegheny                     | East Liberty Family Health Care Center           | Pittsburgh Public Schools                                 |
| ACHD, WIC                                     | Enroll America                                   | Planned Parenthood                                        |
| ACHD, WIC                                     | Family Support Centers (DHS)                     | Port Authority                                            |
| Adagio Health                                 | Gateway Health                                   | Prevention Point Pittsburgh                               |
| Adagio Health                                 | Giant Eagle                                      | Quartet Health                                            |
| Aetna                                         | Grable Foundation                                | Riverlife Pittsburgh                                      |
| Air Quality Collaborative                     | Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank                     | South West Pittsburgh CDC                                 |
| Alcosan                                       | Group Against Smog and Pollution                 | Southwest PA Area Health Education Center (AHEC)          |
| Allegheny Conference on Community Development | Grow Pittsburgh                                  | Squirrel Hill Health Center                               |
| Allegheny County                              | Growth Through Energy & Community Health (GTECH) | STARS Program                                             |
| Breastfeeding Coalition                       | Gwen's Girls                                     | Staunton Farm Foundation                                  |
| Allegheny County Dental Association           | Healthcare Council of Western PA                 | Steel Valley COG                                          |
| Allegheny County                              | Healthy Start, Inc                               | Sustainable Pittsburgh                                    |
| Department of Human Services                  | Heritage Foundation                              | The Food Trust                                            |
| Allegheny County Economic Development         | Highmark Foundation                              | The Midwife Center                                        |
| Allegheny County Executive's Office           | Hillman Family Foundations                       | The Pittsburgh Foundation                                 |
| Allegheny County Library Association          | Human Service Center Corps                       | Tobacco Free Allegheny                                    |
| Allegheny County Medical Society              | Jefferson Regional Foundation                    | Uber                                                      |
| Allegheny County Parks Foundation             | Jewish Family & Children's Service               | United Healthcare                                         |
| Allegheny Health Network                      | Jewish Healthcare Foundation                     | United Healthcare (Dental)                                |
| Allegheny Intermediate Unit                   | Just Harvest                                     | United States Steel Corporation                           |
| Allegheny Health Network                      | Let's Move Pittsburgh                            | United Way of Allegheny County                            |
| Allies for Children                           | March of Dimes                                   | University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health |
| American Diabetes Association                 | Miracle Dental Care                              | University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine        |
| American Heart Association                    | Neighborhood Allies                              | UPMC                                                      |
| Bike Pittsburgh                               | North Side Christian Health Center               | UPMC Magee                                                |
| Black Breastfeeding Circle                    | Nurture PA                                       | UPMC Health Plan                                          |
| Catholic Charities                            | Office of Child Development                      | Urban League of Pittsburgh                                |
| Center for Responsible Shale Development      | PA Coalition for Oral Health                     | Wellbridge Health                                         |
| Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh             | PCRG                                             | Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic                  |
| Clean Water Action                            | Penn Future                                      | Women and Girls Foundation                                |
| CLEAR                                         |                                                  | Women for a Healthy Environment                           |
| Common Threads                                |                                                  | YMCA                                                      |