2025

PLAN FOR A HEALTHIER ALLEGHENY - UPDATE

2023-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan

Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2025 Update

Introduction

Every five years, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) works with residents to assess community health needs and develop a plan to address them. The result is the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), known as the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny (PHA) 2023–2027. This plan reflects priorities identified through the 2019 and 2021 community health surveys and the 2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA). It outlines goals, measurable objectives, strategies, and the county and community partners positioned to advance this work. The full plan is available here: Allegheny County Health Department Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023–2027.

This annual report provides an update on progress made in 2025. This report highlights key achievements from ACHD and the essential contributions of external partners, including county agencies, community organizations, and health systems – whose collaboration continues to strengthen the county's public health efforts.

Priorities

The goal of the PHA is that Allegheny County residents will live healthy lives as demonstrated by their physical and behavioral health and the environments in which they live, learn, work, and play. To achieve this goal, there are three identified priority areas: physical health, behavioral health, and environmental health. Each priority area has specific metrics and actionable strategies. The county continues to invest extensive resources (personnel, time, and finances) into these issues.

Vision

Healthy people in healthy communities.

Allegheny County Health Department Values

ACHD Values Statement
The Allegheny County Health Department serves the county with pride, embodying the following values in everything we do.

Respect
The department values the individual abilities, qualities, and traditions of our community, workforce, and clients.

Inclusivity
Public Health is a system that leverages all resources and partnerships to care for all persons.

Equity
We understand that advancing the health of our community means advancing the health of all, ensuring everyone has the right to and opportunity for optimal health.

Accountability
We ensure that we follow through with actions that support our values, understanding our obligation to serve the community and fulfill lawful requirements.

Competence
The department consistently maintains the ability, knowledge, and skills necessary to advance public health.

Community-Centered
The people in our community are at the core of everything we do.

Letter from the Director

It is my pleasure to share the 2025 Annual Report for the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny (PHA) 2023–2027. This report reflects not only the progress we have made over the past year, but also the collective commitment of our staff, partners, and communities to improving health outcomes across Allegheny County.

Over the past year, we have continued to build momentum across all three priority areas - physical health, behavioral health, and environmental health. Despite ongoing challenges, including evolving public health needs and resource constraints, our team has remained steadfast in delivering impactful, data-driven, and equity-focused initiatives. From expanding access to preventive care and strengthening clinical-community partnerships, to advancing overdose prevention efforts and investing in youth mental health, we are seeing meaningful progress in areas that matter most to our residents.

Importantly, this work is not done in isolation. Our progress is made possible through strong collaboration with community-based organizations, healthcare systems, schools, local governments, and residents themselves. Together, we are translating data into action - ensuring that programs are responsive to community needs and that interventions reach those most affected by health disparities.

This year's report highlights both measurable improvements and the ongoing work required to address persistent inequities. While we have seen encouraging trends - such as reductions in overdose mortality and continued expansion of prevention-focused initiatives - we recognize that significant work remains, particularly in closing gaps in chronic disease outcomes and ensuring equitable access to care and healthy environments.

As we move forward in our implementation, we remain focused on sustaining progress, strengthening partnerships, and continuing to innovate in how we serve our community. Our vision remains clear: healthy people in healthy communities. Achieving this requires not only continued investment, but also shared accountability and collective action.

I am deeply grateful to our staff and partners for their dedication, and to the residents of Allegheny County for their engagement and trust. Together, we will continue to build a healthier, more equitable future for all.

Sincerely,
Dr. Iulia Vann
Health Director
Allegheny County Health Department

Plan for a Healthier Allegheny (PHA) Goals Summary

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.

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 Health 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

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.

Infants that are fed breastmilk in Allegheny County

1.1.1. **Infants that are fed human breastmilk**
PA Birth Certificates

81.7% 2019 → 81.6% 2023

In 2023, 81.6% of mothers who gave birth in Allegheny County intended to breastfeed their infants.

Investing in Early Nutrition: ACHD's Growing Network of Breastfeeding Support Programs

The Bureau of Community and Family Health has several initiatives that work towards improving early-life nutrition and increasing the percentage of infants in Allegheny County who are fed breast milk. All three programs, including the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program, the Family and Child Health (FCH) program, and the Chronic Disease, Violence, and Injury Prevention (CDVIP) program, provide community education and ongoing breastfeeding family support through various channels and partners. Two highlights from this work include the Annual Breastfeeding Friendly Place Awards- in partnership with the Allegheny County Breastfeeding Coalition (ACBC) and the new collaborative initiative between ACHD WIC and Healthy Start – Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program. (Continued on the next page.)

Breastfeeding Friendly Place Award Business Winner OneValley at the Roundhouse Staff & WIC Staff

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.

29th Annual Breastfeeding Friendly Place Awards
The ACHD WIC Program partners with the Allegheny County Breastfeeding Coalition (ACBC) to host the Annual Breastfeeding Friendly Place Award each year. These awards spotlight community leaders working to normalize and support breastfeeding in everyday spaces. The 2025 winners include Thermo Fisher Scientific (Workplace), Pittsburgh International Airport (Public Space), and OneValley at the Roundhouse (Business). For more details check out the press release here.

Breastfeeding Friendly Place Award Workplace Winner Thermo Fisher Scientific & WIC Staff

The Health Department hopes to see more infants exclusively breastfed for the first six months and continued breastfeeding with the addition of solid foods for at least the first year of life.

Breastfeeding Friendly Place Award Public Space Winner Pittsburgh International Airport, WIC Staff, Kim Joyce- Health Department COO & Dr. Iulia Vann - Health Department Director

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program

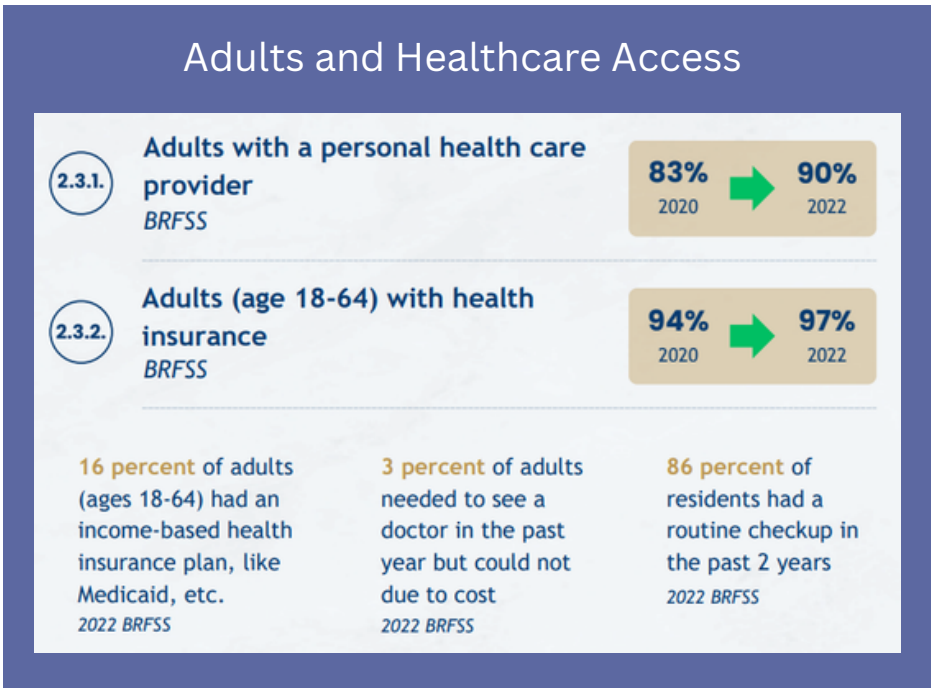
On December 9, 2025, ACHD WIC Program and subcontracting agency Healthy Start, Inc. (HSI) started the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program with a combined launch and hiring event. The program has plans to expand its program to designate all eligible ACHD WIC mothers (pregnant and breastfeeding) with a breastfeeding peer counselor by the end of 2026.

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

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

Rebuilding Bridges to Care: Strengthening Clinical-Community Partnerships Across Allegheny County

In August 2025, the Chronic Disease, Violence, and Injury Prevention (CDVIP) program re-engaged its relationship with Allegheny County's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) through the Three Rivers Alliance of Community Health Centers (TRACHC). FQHCs offer primary care, behavioral health, dental services, substance use support, and more across more than 45 sites and four mobile units. Many locations also provide specialty services such as optometry, podiatry, nutrition, and social work, serving patients of all ages on a sliding fee scale based on what they can afford.



This renewed collaboration has strengthened CDVIP's — and now other ACHD programs' — ability to guide residents toward affordable care and help them understand which FQHC locations best meet specific health needs. In turn, FQHCs now have a clearer understanding of ACHD services and can better connect their patients to public health resources. The relationship has led to more coordinated education, information sharing, and cross-promotion. ACHD highlights FQHC services through its communication channels, and FQHCs do the same for ACHD. Outreach staff also distribute FQHC materials at community events, helping residents learn about available care where they already are. (Continued on next page).

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

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

The CDC-Funded BOLD Grant

CDVIP's BOLD (Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure) Coalition, also called ABC (Allegheny BOLD Coalition), has also prioritized strengthening clinical-community linkages in its strategic plan, which was formally approved by the CDC in September of 2025. These linkages — formal or informal connections between healthcare providers and community resources — are designed to improve access to care, support prevention, and enhance chronic disease management.

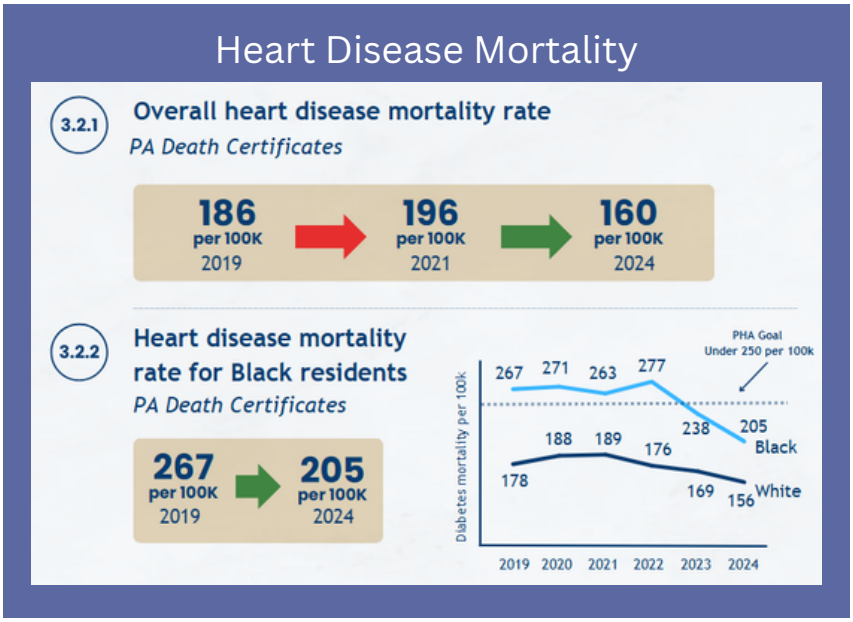
The coalition meets bi-monthly to identify strengths, gaps, and challenges in the dementia prevention infrastructure and to coordinate strategies that encourage healthier behaviors. Stronger linkages will help ensure that community members have consistent access to personal healthcare providers and can follow through on recommended care. Similarly, CDVIP is re-engaging with the Duquesne Center for Integrative Health and the ACHD-run Asthma Taskforce to reinforce community-clinical connections and promote programs across organizations.

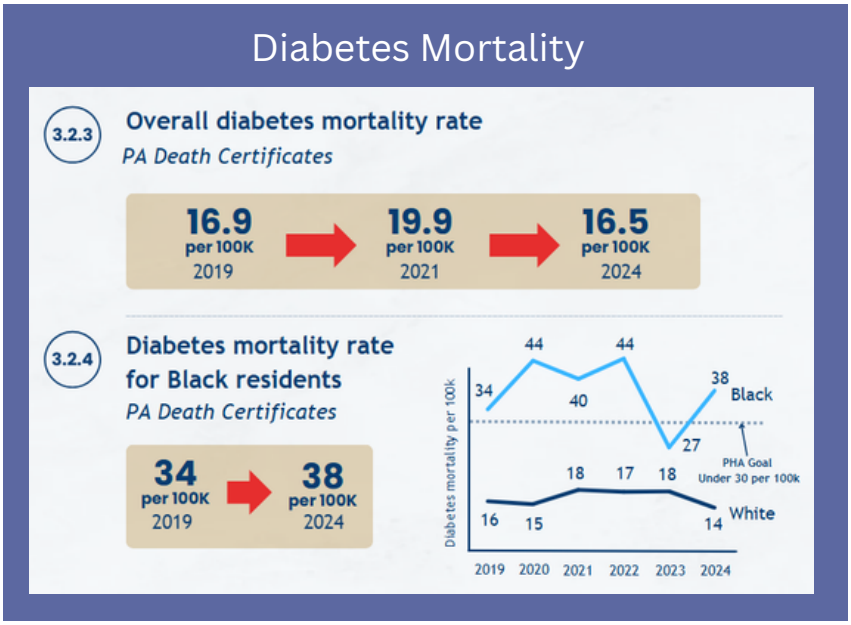
Goal 3. Decrease disparities in life expectancy and chronic diseases in Allegheny County.

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

Advancing Prevention and Equity: How ACHD Strengthens Community Health Through Data and Collaboration

The Chronic Disease, Violence, and Injury Prevention (CDVIP) program works to reduce long-standing disparities in chronic disease mortality rates across Allegheny County through a number of different strategies. Although its programs are available to all residents, CDVIP uses data to focus its efforts on neighborhoods that consistently experience the highest burdens of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancers, and other chronic conditions. The program strategies rely on evidence-based interventions and deep partnerships with community organizations to address social determinants of health (SDOH) and prevent disease before it develops. (Continued on next page).





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

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

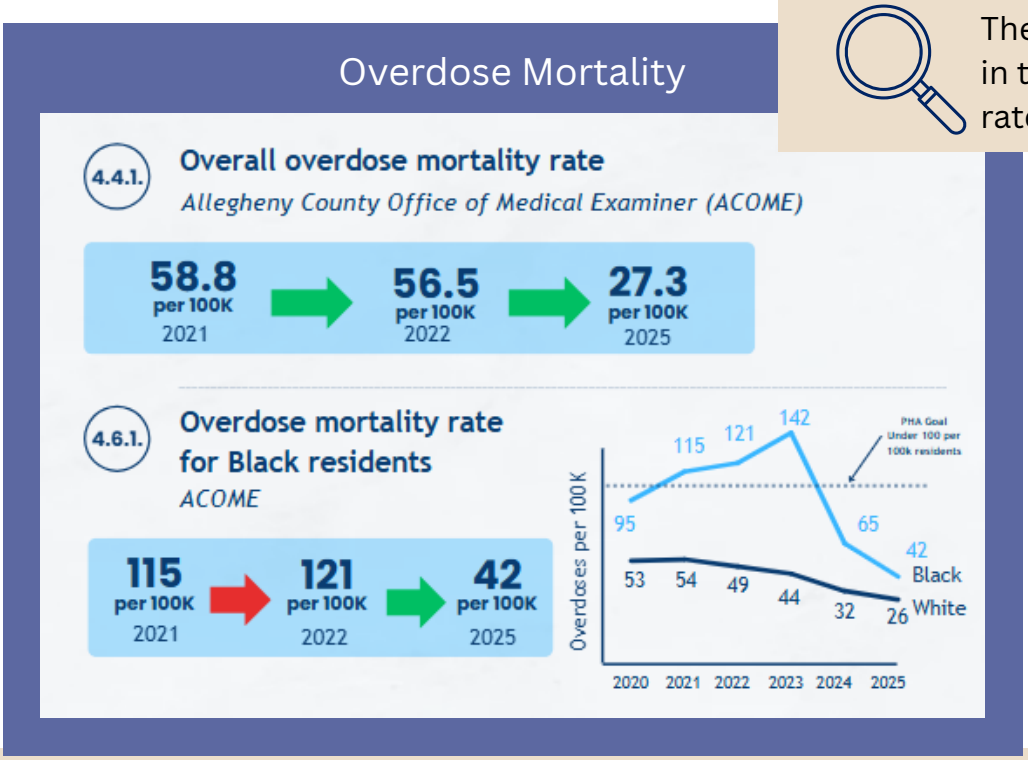
(Continued) **Live Well Allegheny (LWA)**, ACHD's countywide initiative, promotes the three behaviors most strongly linked to chronic disease prevention: regular physical activity, healthy nutrition, and smoking cessation. LWA partners with schools, workplaces, municipalities, and community groups to support both education and environmental changes that make healthy choices easier. Examples include schools reducing sugar-sweetened beverages, municipalities restricting smoking near playgrounds, and restaurants offering healthier menu options. In 2025, LWA added one new municipality, nine new community partners, two new restaurants, and many more partner applications pending approval in 2026. They currently reach 191 schools across 19 districts. The LWA team also hosted nine "Live Well Learning Collaboratives," which are open to all and well-attended by partners and community members alike. They cover topics such as getting outside and safely enjoying our parks system, eating well, overdose prevention education, understanding heart health strategies, and much more. Check out the Live Well Allegheny website: https://livewellallegheny.com/.

The CDC-funded **REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) Coalition** advances health equity by improving access to fresh produce and nutrition education, expanding opportunities for physical activity through built-environment changes, and increasing breastfeeding support through stronger peer networks and clinical-community linkages. With more than 10 partners across community organizations, government, and healthcare systems, the coalition was forced to adapt creatively in 2025 to navigate significant funding and policy challenges while maintaining momentum across all strategy areas. You can read more about the county's REACH program here: REACH – Live Well Allegheny.

Together, these initiatives reflect CDVIP's long-term investment in reducing chronic disease disparities and expanding equitable access to prevention and care. Over time, this upstream work will support healthier communities and narrow gaps in health outcomes across generations.

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

4.4. Fewer people die from an overdose.



There was a 53% reduction in the overdose mortality rate from 2019 to 2025.

Strengthening Community Overdose Prevention: 2025 Naloxone Distribution and Low-Barrier Access Expansion

In 2025, the Allegheny County Health Department's Overdose Prevention team distributed 23,820 naloxone (Narcan/RiVive) kits to community members and partner organizations. A total of 3,035 Narcan kits were distributed during targeted outreach to areas with higher rates of overdose through 65 pop-up community events in these areas. Additionally, there were 72 overdose prevention training sessions with 1,072 naloxone kits distributed to attendees.

The program increased the number of low-barrier access naloxone in 2025 by adding five additional newspaper-style naloxone stands and five wall-mounted cabinets. In 2025, a total of 3,139 naloxone kits were distributed through these low-barrier dispensers. Drug testing strips (fentanyl, xylazine) were distributed at various community events, health fairs, libraries, parks, and more.

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

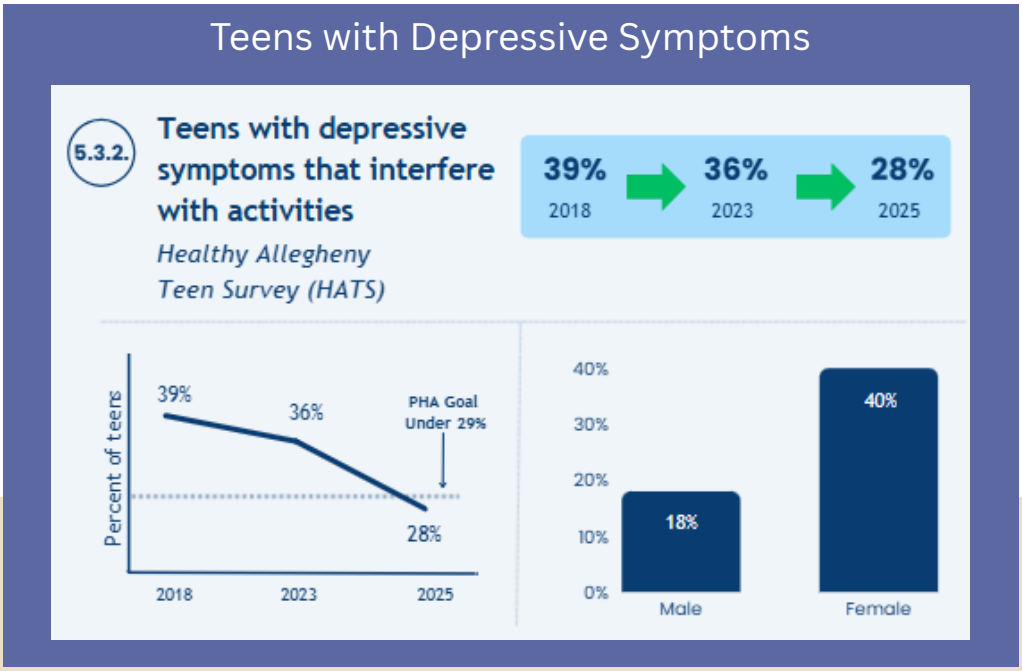
4.4. Fewer people die from an overdose.

"When someone walks through the doors of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, they are entering a trusted community space. Through our partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department that trust now includes access to life-saving support. Our staff have received comprehensive Overdose Prevention Training, and many of our libraries provide free Narcan kits, test strips and connections to essential services through County Resource Fairs. With the Health Department's support, we have distributed more than 1,200 Narcan kits across Pittsburgh, reducing barriers to overdose reversal medication and empowering neighbors to respond in critical moments. This work reflects our shared commitment to meeting people with dignity, compassion and the resources they need to stay safe."

– Beth H., Community Resources Coordinator at the Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh

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

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



Scaling Support for Students: How SEEKS Is Transforming Social Emotional Learning and Opioid Prevention in Five Districts

The SEEKS (Supporting Expansion and Enhancement of K-12 School-Based Social, Emotional Supports) program is an initiative to expand social-emotional health supports in Allegheny County school districts by increasing access to evidence-based curricula, staff training, peer leadership programming, and school-community resources. The Allegheny County Health Department awarded the SEEKS program additional funding to expand the programming to address opioid use prevention in five county school districts: Cornell, East Allegheny, Penn Hills, Steel Valley, and Woodland Hills. This was done in partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) through strategic education and awareness, training and professional development, support services and outreach, and data collection and continuous improvement strategies. (Continued on the next page).

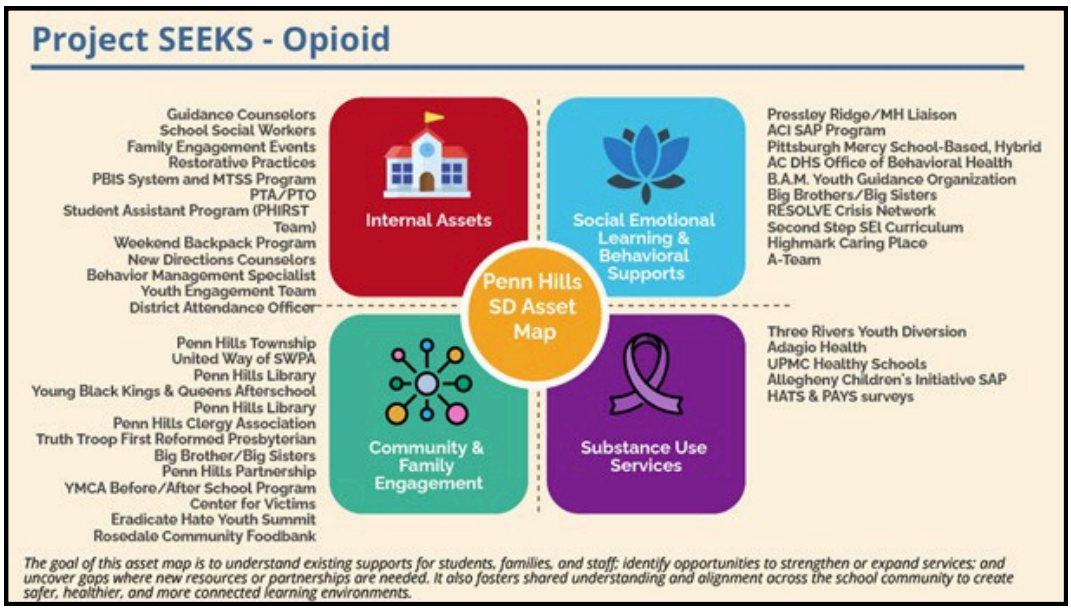
Goal 5. People in Allegheny County will participate in programs and activities that support mental health and well-being.

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

(Continued) The districts started out by having monthly Community of Practice (CoP) meetings, developed asset maps, a logic model, and Equitable Participation surveys. Asset mapping identified 101 supports across districts — including internal Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs, behavioral health services, and community partnerships—giving schools clearer pathways to connect students with help. Open Up was contracted to provide the five identified districts with a variety of programming to meet individual needs across the districts. Programming includes trauma-informed mindfulness and yoga-based practices to teach emotional regulation, self-awareness, co-regulation, stress management, community care, and more. Additionally, three of the school districts chose to implement the HOPE (Health and Opioid Prevention Education) curriculum starting in February of 2026.

Since June of 2025, two school districts have trained 30 staff members, a Stop the Judgment training session at Cornell School District reached 250 middle and high school students, and two school districts have implemented five peer leadership activities that reached at least 250 students.

ACHD is looking forward to continuing this project alongside AIU and will continue to provide funding through June 30, 2027.



Example of one school district's Asset Map through the SEEKS program.

Strengthening Housing Safety: Advancing Community Health Through Regulation and Resident Support

The Allegheny County Health Department Housing and Community Environment Program works to reduce community public health risks and ensure safe housing through enforcement of health regulations, conducting lead assessments, and vector control. Two major wins from 2025 that support the PHA goal for more people live in stable and safe housing would be the update to Article VI – Housing and Community Health Regulation and the distribution of free radon test kits for residents during National Radon Action Month.

Updated Article VI:

In early 2025, the Housing and Community Environment Program (HCE) convened a Housing Advisory Committee for the first time. With the help of the County Executive's Office, a panel of 13 individuals were chosen to represent tenants, landlords, and other community stakeholders in Allegheny County. The main function of the committee is to advise on and recommend changes to Article VI, the Allegheny County Health Department's housing code – you can read the regulation here: Article VI.

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, meetings of the committee are open to the public and agendas are posted beforehand. One of the first projects undertaken by the committee was to solidify and provide recommendations for a new section of Article VI. This update addresses nuisance issues that affect the health of a whole neighborhood, providing a procedure for hiring a third-party contractor to abate the issue and bill the costs of remediation to the property owner. With the committee's help, our program was able to bring this update to the Board of Health where it was ultimately approved. This change to Article VI went into effect in December of 2025. You can read the official press release here: Exec. Innamorato Announces Health Dept. Will Clean Up Health Hazards – Allegheny County, PA. The department is looking forward to continuing to work alongside the committee in the next year.

Free Radon Test Kits:

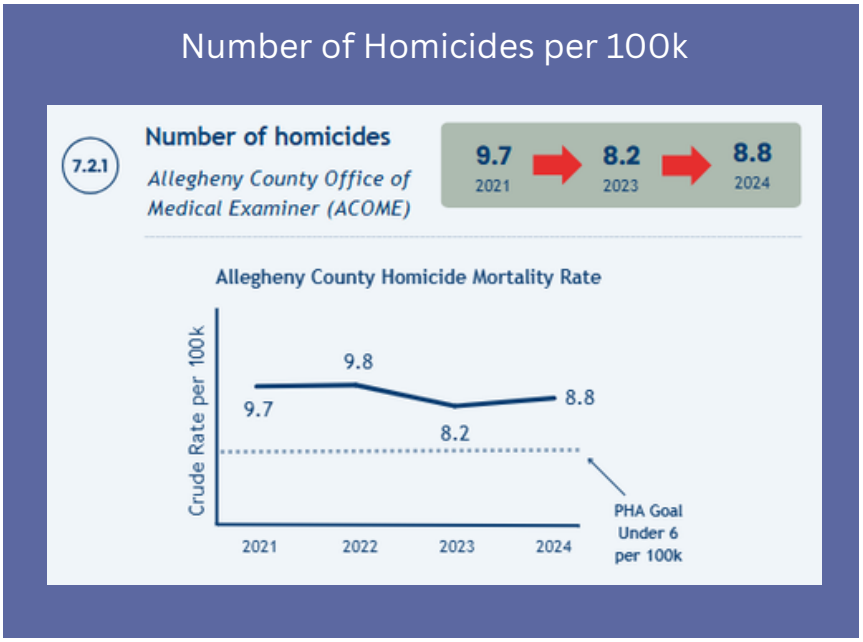
In honor of National Radon Action Month – the ACHD Housing and Community Environment Program (HCE) provided free radon test kits for residents during the month of January. The tests were provided to residents for informational and awareness purposes only, as ACHD does not regulate indoor radon levels. To read the complete press release click here**.**

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

7.2. The number of homicides decreases.

Community Voices at the Center: How CABs and Youth Leaders Are Shaping Violence Prevention

Community Advisory Board (CAB)
In 2025, the Allegheny County Health Department's Violence Prevention Program held quarterly Community Advisory Board (CAB) meetings with community partners, school board members, county colleagues, and other key stakeholders. Approximately 30 community organizations participate in the CAB regularly. The CAB is designed to:
1) Provide guidance to ACHD regarding how they engage with the community,
2) Review and offer input on applications for violence prevention mini-grants,
3) Monitor gun violence data regularly to determine progress and identify emerging trends, and
4) Network and find potential opportunities to collaborate with fellow violence prevention stakeholders. (Continued on the next page).



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

7.2. The number of homicides decreases.

Community Mini Grants
The Violence Prevention Mini-Grant Initiative was created to support community-based organizations (CBOs) that are actively engaged in violence prevention efforts in Allegheny County. Through this initiative, the Violence Prevention team provides small grants to six organizations, many of whom are represented within the Community Advisory Board (CAB). These are predominantly small, grassroots groups working on early intervention strategies at a hyper-local level where the data indicates the highest rates of gun violence and violent behaviors. By investing in local leaders and organizations with established relationships in their neighborhoods, the initiative strengthens the broader violence prevention ecosystem and expands access to programming. To date, the mini grants have reached approximately 850 youth and young adults.

Youth Advisory Boards (YABs)
The Violence Prevention team leads and mentors a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in one school district. The district was selected based on data indicating high levels of violent behaviors among students. The group calls itself the "Peace Panel," which is split into two arms: 42 Peace Ambassadors and 25 Divas of Peace. The students meet weekly, as the school schedule allows, to discuss challenges within their school community and identify ways to address them.

Environmental Goal Update – Goal 7 (Continued)
The program recently expanded to a second school district, where the group operates as the Youth Advisory to the Superintendent, with 12 students regularly participating. Conversations are underway with a third school district interested in launching a similar youth advisory group, with ACHD to provide guidance and support for its development.

Summary
The public health approach to violence prevention aims to address the underlying risk factors that influence the likelihood of someone becoming a perpetrator or victim of violence before it happens. The ACHD team will continue to use the upstream approach, focusing on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) to decrease the number of Allegheny County residents who experience violence in their homes or communities.

Please visit this webpage to learn more and to submit comments to our Violence Prevention team: Violence Prevention

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

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

As of the end of 2025, **13 municipalities and the City of Pittsburgh** have created and formalized Climate Action Plans, putting the county at just over **10%** of communities having **Climate Action Plans** designed to improve climate resiliency. (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Local Climate Action Program (LCAP) and CONNECT, the Congress of Neighboring Communities)

Allegheny County Health Department's Clean Air Fund Projects

The **Clean Air Fund** was created to distribute penalty money collected by the Allegheny County Health Department Air Quality Program. This money is invested back into the communities of Allegheny County to support projects to improve air quality. This is accomplished through grants to replace fossil fuel vehicles with electric models, install solar panels, plant trees, support air quality education, and other projects. Since 2020, the Fund has distributed over $5 million inclding supporting a solar panel project for Sharpsburg, deploying the first electric street sweeper in the US for the Steel Rivers Council of Governments, and tree planting projects in the Mon Valley.

Pitcairn Borough's new electric mowers and equipment.

In 2025, Sharpsburg received a $1 million grant to install a solar panel and battery storage system. This system will provide a significant amount of power for borough buildings and the battery system will allow them to operate in the event of natural disasters and other power outages so they can continue to provide services to their residents. The project will provide clean, renewable power to Sharpsburg and reduce the need for fossil fuel power plants.

To view more details about the projects that have been funded, you can visit our website: Clean Air Fund

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

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

Allegheny County Department of Sustainability's Climate Action Plan Launch

With support from ACHD and other key departments, the Allegheny County Department of Sustainability completed the first two phases in the development of the county's Climate Action Plan (CAP). ACHD is supporting the process via public meeting staffing, participation in the CAP's Technical Advisory Group, and coordination on key issues.

The CAP planning process kicked off in April 2025. During Phase 1 (April to September), the team attended over 40 community events, directly engaging with over 2,500 residents and 80 organizations. Allegheny County residents shared their vision for a more sustainable future and identified priority values. Phase 2 kicked off in October with a series of four family-friendly public meetings. Health Department staff supported the Healthy Communities & Healthy Environment engagement station, where members of the public provided feedback on how they'd like to see emissions reduced while also improving community and ecosystem health. View the presentation from those meetings: allegheny-county-climate-action-plan-fall-public-meeting.pdf.

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

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

(Continued) Ultimately, the developing CAP will include ways to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, including strategies for county government and community-wide. Part of this initiative aims to create new jobs, help people save money on energy bills, support local businesses, protect parks and natural areas, and improve people's health. All of this will make life better for everyone in Allegheny County.

You can stay informed about the CAP and other sustainability news by subscribing for updates: Climate Action Plan.

Next Steps

The fourth year of implementation of the 2023-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) began in January 2026. During the year, ACHD task forces and coalitions will continue working on the goals and strategies identified in the workplans. The community will continue to be informed of the progress on the ACHD website: Plan for a Healthier Allegheny.