



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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## **County Announces 2023-2027 Plan for a Healthier Allegheny**

**PITTSBURGH** – The 2023-2027 *Plan for a Healthier Allegheny* is now complete. The plan will drive efforts, led by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), to make the county a healthier place to live, learn, work and play over the next five years. It was created through a community process that included input from residents and community partners.

“We are fortunate that Allegheny County is now ranked among the healthiest counties in Pennsylvania by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, but we know that we can do even better,” said County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. “Our residents are seeking an active, healthy lifestyle and are taking proactive steps to improve their health and we want to do everything we can to encourage that interest. The *Plan for a Healthier Allegheny* provides a roadmap to do exactly that.”

The *Plan for a Healthier Allegheny 2023-2027* is the cornerstone of the county’s community health improvement process. The new plan, which was completed under the guidance of former director and now acting Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Debra L. Bogen, contains eight goals, 37 objectives, and 59 metrics designed to guide and measure the health and well-being of Allegheny County residents. The guiding principles of the plan are that it is equity driven, data supported, community engaged, as well as policy oriented.

“Over the past several years, we have worked to ensure that the services the Health Department offers, as well as those we support in the community are equitable,” remarked acting ACHD Director Patrick Dowd. “All residents should have the opportunity to lead a healthy life and that is why equity is one of the guiding principles of the plan.”

The *Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, 2023-2027* focuses on three priority areas: physical health, behavioral health and the environment.

To improve the physical health of Allegheny County residents, the department and its partners aim to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce the risk of chronic disease. The plan also includes goals to ensure that residents have a place to obtain medical and dental care and to decrease the disparities in life expectancy and chronic diseases.

“The need for a comprehensive and transformative plan that solicits the input and expertise of the entire community and its stakeholders to improve the health of our communities is self-evident. There is no question that such a plan that involves the partnership and collaboration of our community nonprofit leadership as well as leadership with ACHD that includes the tracking of outcomes is also needed, said Primary Care Health Services CEO Dr. Jerome Gloster. “Together our combined efforts can work to truly reverse the effects of the years of health disparities that have been negatively impacted by the contributions of racism, the lack of culturally appropriate health access and equity as well as the mental and behavioral Health crisis and how it impacts our physical health on a daily basis.”

In the area of behavioral health, the plan outlines efforts needed to ensure residents have access to behavioral and mental health services, including treatment for substance use disorders. The plan calls for expanded participation in existing programs and activities that support mental health and wellbeing.

Environmentally, the plan identifies strategies to ensure that more people live in safe and resilient communities. This will be accomplished by helping people live in stable and safe housing, that fewer people experience violence in their homes, and that more residents live in communities prepared to adapt and absorb the impacts of climate change.

“Improving the environmental health of the citizens of Allegheny County is more than any single variable, it is truly the sum is greater than the parts,” stated ACHD Bureau of Environmental Health Deputy Director Geoffrey Rabinowitz. “Adapting to the effects of climate change and improving air quality are two major components of environmental health. The Plan for a Healthier Allegheny prioritizes these and several other environmental health issues.”

The full text of the [Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, 2023-2027](#) can be viewed on the ACHD’s website.

Thousands of residents and numerous organizations participated in the creation of both the community health assessment and community health improvement plan, but the process does not end with the publication of the two documents.

Residents interested in helping improve the health of the region should follow the ACHD’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts for upcoming opportunities to get involved.

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