

# FY 22 Annual Report

HARFORD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Harford County  
Health Department**



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# Letter from the Health Officer

Our Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report offers an overview of the Harford County Health Department's efforts to advance health and wellness. The report will provide insight into the successes achieved and diverse opportunities presented during the last year (July 2021 - June 2022). The Harford County Health Department is committed to making Harford County the healthiest community in Maryland.

When we entered FY 22, the COVID-19 pandemic was still a high priority for the Harford County Health Department. The pandemic required extensive coordination between our communicable disease, emergency response, environmental health, health education, health planning, outbreak investigation, and population health units. The health department will continue to provide COVID-19 response and partnerships as necessary in FY 23 and will continue utilizing lessons learned from the pandemic to strengthen existing programs.

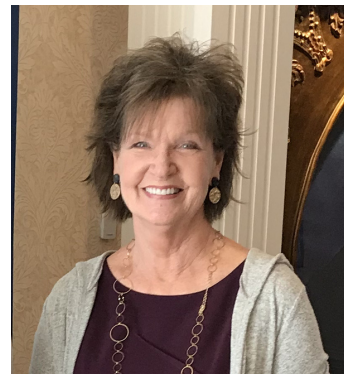
The aim of FY 22 was to continue to strengthen wraparound services. Our 1 N. Main Family Health Center began offering Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Care Coordination services at the beginning of FY 22 and pediatric dental services in late May 2022. In FY 22, an average of 4,055 WIC clients were seen and 3,126 dental visits were completed. The health department Clinical Health Bureau assisted in providing 2,524 flu vaccinations in Harford County elementary schools and completed 1,689 family planning visits. We have increased our clients seen in many of our programs, specifically, we have increased the number of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) clients seen and provided 2,796 translation or interpretation services.

We anticipate these programs to continue to excel in FY 23 with the 1 North Main Family Health Center continuing to evolve and provide families access to wraparound services in one convenient location.

Thank you for your part in advancing Harford County's public health. The Harford County Health Department looks forward to continuing our work and meeting challenges together in the Fiscal Year 2023.

## **MARCY AUSTIN**

Harford County Health Department  
Acting Health Officer





# About the Health Department

The Harford County Health Department is the local operating arm of the Maryland Department of Health. The health department employs more than 190 committed professionals to deliver a vast array of services in Aberdeen, Bel Air, Edgewood, and Havre de Grace.

- **Mission:** To protect, promote, and improve the health, safety, and environment of Harford County residents.
- **Vision:** To make Harford County the healthiest community in Maryland.
- **Values:** Teamwork, Leadership, Collaboration, Integrity, Commitment, & Cultural Sensitivity

## Board of Health:

- Patrick S. Vincenti, President
- Andre V. Johnson
- Joseph M. Woods
- Tony Giangiardano
- Chad R. Shrodes
- Robert S. Wagner
- Curtis L. Beulah





# Local Health Improvement Coalition

HCHD directs the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) and hosts the coalition's annual meeting each year. During the virtual October 2020 meeting, LHIC members shared individual work group plans to address behavioral and mental health, family health and resiliency, and chronic disease prevention and wellness priorities within Harford County.

## Behavioral Health

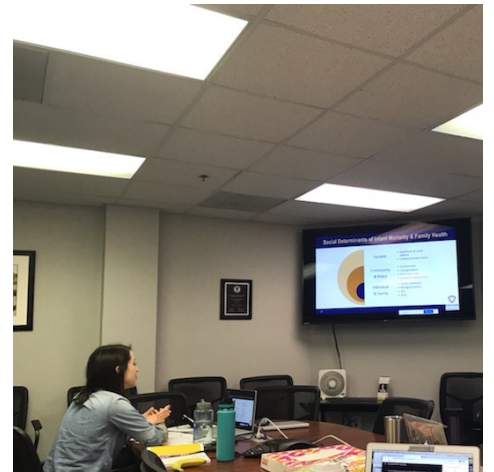
- The Behavioral Health workgroup focuses on addressing mental and behavioral health needs in the community, including overdose prevention.

## Family Health & Resiliency

- This work group's primary focus is connecting pregnant and postpartum women experiencing substance use disorders (SUD) to essential services, treatment, and resiliency resources.

## Chronic Disease Prevention & Wellness

- This workgroup has three main areas of focus: healthy eating and active living, cancer prevention and screening, and tobacco use Prevention. The workgroup is also dedicated to improving health literacy within each focus area. Most recently, the group has placed a focus on diabetes prevention.





# Snapshot of Services

## Administration

**4,829**

Birth Certificates  
Issued

**7,195**

Death Certificates  
Issued

**35,571**

Medicaid Transport  
Rides

## Behavioral Health

**3,440**

Psychiatric Visits  
Completed

**14,283**

Total Services  
Provided

**2,030**

Substance Use  
Appointments Held

## Care Coordination

**799**

New CC+ Referrals

**581**

Navigated Through  
Health Care System

**2,796**

Translation/Interpretation  
Services Used

## Clinical Health

**2,524**

Flu Vaccinations  
Elementary School

**1,689**

Family Planning Visits

**755**

Client kept  
immunization visits

## Environmental Health

**1,297**

Total Food  
Inspections

**599**

Animal Bite  
Investigations

**1,742**

Total Building Permit  
Reviews

## Family Health

**3,126**

Dental Clinic  
Visits

**4,055**

WIC Clients Seen  
Monthly (Avg)

**718**

MCHP  
Applications

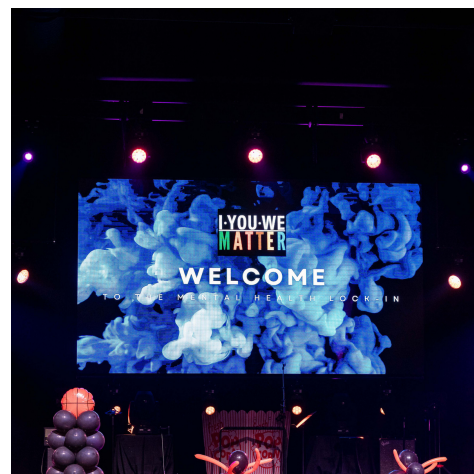
**890**

Family Home  
Visits

# Spotlight: Minority Health Program

The Minority Health Program completed its first full year as an established program at the Harford County Health Department in FY 22. This program aims to reduce health disparities in the total population to improve the county's health. The two Community Health Workers provide care coordination services, monthly events, bi-weekly talk shows, attend community events, host community advisory meetings with key minority health stakeholders, CBOs, church leaders, community members, and more to build trust with the community, reach vulnerable populations who are hesitant in receiving the COVID vaccine, and help individuals with access to care. HCHD's Minority Health Program completed outreach to four principal ZIP codes in Harford County that were shown to have high health disparities (Edgewood 21040, Aberdeen 21001, Havre de Grace 21078, and Joppa 21085).

In FY 22, the Minority Health Program held 12 monthly events to educate the public on important health topics such as COVID-19, healthy eating, active living, gun violence, diabetes, mental health, and more. Their most successful event was held in May 2022 at the Aberdeen EpiCenter and focused on mental health and wellness in middle and high school young men titled I\*WE\*YOU MATTER. The event had over 50 participants who spent the night learning about mental health and self-care, all while providing them with a safe and fun space to learn and grow. The program will continue to host this event twice a year moving forward adding on a special focus for middle and high school females.





# Spotlight: Homebound COVID Vaccinations

The Harford County Health Department Care Coordination Bureau partnered with the Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS Association (HCVFA) to provide homebound individuals with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters in FY 22.

The homebound population in Harford County was able to contact the health department and register to receive their COVID-19 vaccine or booster in their home. As the word got out, the number of calls increased and the health department began partnering with HCVFA to administer doses. At the beginning of FY 22, it was uncertain still how much the pandemic would play a role in the everyday lives of health department employees. As the Omicron variant arose, there was an uptake in the need for vaccines and boosters. The health department was able to vaccinate over 400 homebound individuals and about 200 of them were attributed to the partnership with HCVFA.



# Administration

The Bureau of Administration supports all HCHD programs and continues to provide excellent customer service to the public. Administration collaborates with each HCHD program to ensure that their administrative needs are met, enabling programs to provide clinical and preventive community health services throughout Harford County.

## Administration services include:

### Internal Support Services:

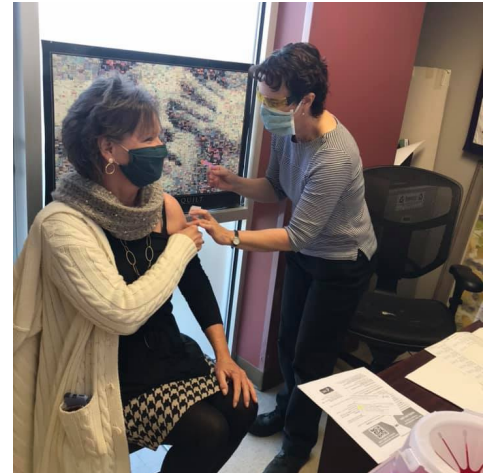
- Budget & Procurement
- Facilities Management
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Billing
- Compliance

### Public Services:

- Birth Certificates
- Certificates of Death
- COVID-19 call center support

## Highlight: MCHP

The Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) was able to assist 718 new applicants for health insurance in FY 22, despite being closed for walk-ins and in-person appointments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a 15% increase compared to FY 21. MCHP was able to assist new and existing consumers via telephonically for the first part of FY 22 and in-person services resumed in March 2022. Additionally, they were able to assist 2,127 walk-ins at their multiple locations throughout the county.





# Behavioral Health

The Bureau of Behavioral Health provides comprehensive mental and behavioral health services to Harford County residents. Behavioral Health has integrated services within the county through partnerships with the Detention Center, OB/GYN offices, the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health, and other valued community service providers. In August 2020, the bureau was informed of their successful 3-year CARF reaccreditation.

## Behavioral Health services include:

- Addiction Resources
- Medication Management
- Mental Health Counseling & Group Therapy
- Opiate Recovery Court
- Peer Recovery & Support
- Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery
- Teen Diversion



## Highlight: Telehealth

The Bureau of Behavioral Health has transitioned all staff back into the office in order to resume in-person services. The Bureau performed over 14,000 behavioral health encounters in FY22 both virtually and in-person. Our Teen Diversion program provided its day treatment services by utilizing a hybrid approach, administering 1,045 psychiatric rehabilitation services and 1,807 therapeutic services over the course of the year.

## Looking Ahead

An additional certified psychiatric nurse practitioner will be joining our team this fall to increase our services for both our adult and adolescent programs in order to provide more access to care for our clients. The Bureau has begun to expand its child and adolescent services at our 120 S. Hays location as we prepare to offer an intensive outpatient program, as well as a support group for adolescents who identify as LGBTQ. We will also begin offering adolescent mental health services and referrals to treatment at the 1 N. Main Family Health Center. We are also looking ahead as we develop a mental health intensive outpatient program and expansion of our integrated behavioral health and primary care model we started earlier in FY22.

# Care Coordination

The Care Coordination Bureau is committed to ensuring that Harford County residents have access to comprehensive preventative health services to improve and maintain their health and wellness.

## Care Coordination services include:

- Care Coordination Plus (CC+)
- Administrative Care Coordination (ACCU)
- Adult Evaluation Review Services (AERS)
- Nurse Monitoring (NM)
- Lead Case Management
- The Lead & Asthma Program (LAP)



## Highlight: Home Care

These programs provide comprehensive assessments, care management, nurse monitoring, preventive education and healthchoice education. The goal is to maintain Harford County residents in their own homes, prevent emergency department admissions and hospitalizations, decrease the risk of long-term care placement and improving and promoting optimal health and wellness no matter the age of the resident. The bureau programs have provided direct services to over 2,500 Harford County residents in FY 22.



## Looking Ahead

The Care Coordination Bureau will launch the Older Adult Home Modification Program for eligible Harford County low-income elderly homeowners in the fall. The goal of this is to make safety, functional home modifications and limited repairs to meet their needs, enabling them to age safely in their homes. The second is to provide linkage to care for Mom's with substance use disorder and their substance exposed newborns to improve the overall health and wellness of both and their families. The bureau will continue to play a role in the expansion of the 1 N. Main Street Family Health Center by providing families linkages to care.



# Clinical Health

The Bureau of Clinical Health encompasses direct clinical services, preventive clinical and educational services, infectious disease, and emergency preparedness.

## Clinical Health services include:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Family Planning
- Health Services
- Infectious Disease
- Cancer Prevention
- Tobacco Use Prevention

## Highlight: Mass Vaccination Clinics

In November and December 2021 Clinical Services held mass vaccination clinics for children 5-11 years. We vaccinated about 1800 children. We also started doing boosters in December for adults at Woodbridge by appointment. Our latest vaccination initiative is the 6 months to 4 years old children for COVID-19. We are currently seeing children by appointment on Fridays.

## Looking Ahead:

Our STI clinic is currently having walk in services at the 1 North Main Family Health Center on Wednesday afternoons. This is for teens and young adults. We are planning to expand these clinics to Harford Community College twice per month in the fall. We are also working closely with the 1 North Main Family Health center to develop the Pediatric clinic which plans to open in September.



# Communications

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for all communications-related activities across the Harford County Health Department. The focus of HCHD communications is to provide cultural and linguistically competent health messaging to the general public in order to improve health literacy throughout the county.

## Communications services include:

- Branding & Content Development
- HCHD Webpage Content Management
- Media & Promotional Campaigns
- News Releases
- Social Media Management
- Joint Information Center

## Highlight: Social Media

In FY 22, the communications team worked on boosting the amount of followers on our Facebook page. Since hiring a Communications Specialist back in December 2021, the Harford County Health Department's Facebook page has received 1,191 new likes. In addition, one of our posts about COVID-19 even went viral! It was a graphic showing some reasons why people might still wear face masks even though they are no longer required. The post received over 11,000 shares, 225 comments and 585 likes.

We will continue to work on increasing our followers in FY 23.





# Environmental Health

The Bureau of Environmental Health is responsible for Land & Water Resources, Permits and Plan Review, and Inspections in the county.

## Environmental Health services include:

### Land & Water Resources:

- Perc Testing
- Septic System Inspections
- Septic System & Well Complaints
- Well Permits & Water Quality

### Permits & Plan Review:

- Building Permits & Review
- Food Facility Plan Review

### Inspections:

- Food Service Facility Inspections
- Rabies, Vector Control, & Zoonotic Diseases
- Nuisance Complaint Investigations
- Public Pool & Spa Inspections

## Highlight: Emergency Preparedness Training

The Bureau of Environmental Health in conjunction with Emergency Preparedness received training in Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination on March 22, 2022. Then on April 27, 2022, we demonstrated our abilities to operate a simulated Monitoring and Decontamination Center to a team of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluators. FEMA was very impressed with our execution and we passed their evaluation with flying colors.

Additionally in FY22 we were able to recruit and hire four (4) Environmental Health Specialist Trainees in order to fill existing vacancies within the Environmental Health Bureau. Many Environmental Health Bureaus within Maryland have had difficulty filling vacancies, but the Harford County Health Department provides a location and professional opportunities that job seekers find desirable.



# Family Health

The Bureau of Family Health provides comprehensive wraparound services to Harford County families. Families may access preventive health services, recovery support, home visiting programs, and services that empower them to access additional community and health resources that they might need.

## Family Health services include:

### Family Services

- Dental
- School-Based Health Centers
- MA Trans

### Maternal Child Health

- Healthy Families and Home Visiting
- Helping Families Recover
- MEGAN's Place
- MC Surveillance
- WIC
- MCHP

## Highlight: Dental

In May, the Harford County Health Department Office of Dental Care opened its second location in Bel Air, at our 1 N. Main Family Health Center. This new clinic will provide an array of dental services to families across Harford County. We were also excited to welcome Dr. Rojas who is fluent in English, Spanish, and German to our dental team to provide pediatric dental care and oral health education to families in our community.





# DIRECTORY OF SERVICES



## Aberdeen

253 Paradise Rd. Aberdeen, MD 21001  
Phone: 410-273-5681  
Services: School Health Readiness, Teen Diversion

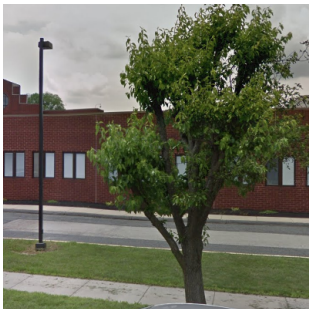


## Bel Air

120 S Hays Street Bel Air, MD 21014  
Phone: 410-838-1500  
Services: Administration, Behavioral Health, Environmental Health, MA Transportation, Walk-in Health Insurance Assistance (MCHP) & Vital Records



1 North Main Street Bel Air, MD 21014  
Phone: 410-638-3060  
Services: New services coming soon!



## Elkton - Cecil County

401 Bow St Elkton, MD 21921  
Phone: 410-996-5255  
Services: WIC

## Edgewood

1321 Woodbridge Station Way Edgewood, MD 21040  
Phone: 410-612-1779 410-612-1776 (WIC)  
Services: MEGAN's Place, Family Planning, Immunizations, Infectious Disease, PrEP, STI Testing, WIC, Walk-in Health Insurance Assistance (MCHP), HIV Testing, Hepatitis C testing, Tuberculosis Services



2204 Hanson Rd. Edgewood, MD 21040  
Phone: 443-922-7670  
Services: Dental

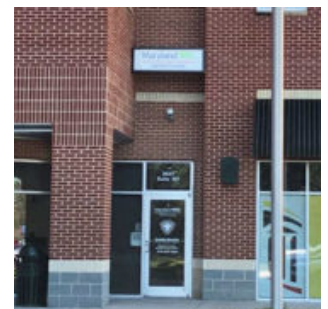


## Havre de Grace

2015 Pulaski Highway Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
Phone: 410-942-7999  
Services: Care Coordination, Cancer Prevention, Tobacco



2027 Pulaski Highway Suite 107 Havre de Grace, MD 21078  
Phone: 410-939-6680  
Services: WIC





# THANK YOU!

The Harford County Health Department would like to extend a special thank you to its employees, our valued community partners, frontline workers, and to all Harford County stakeholders who contributed to advancing the health of Harford County residents in Fiscal Year 2022. Your efforts, insights, and innovative ideas are an essential part of our success as a county. Thank you to Harford community members who shared their voices with us throughout the past year. We look forward to sharing progress with you again next year.



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