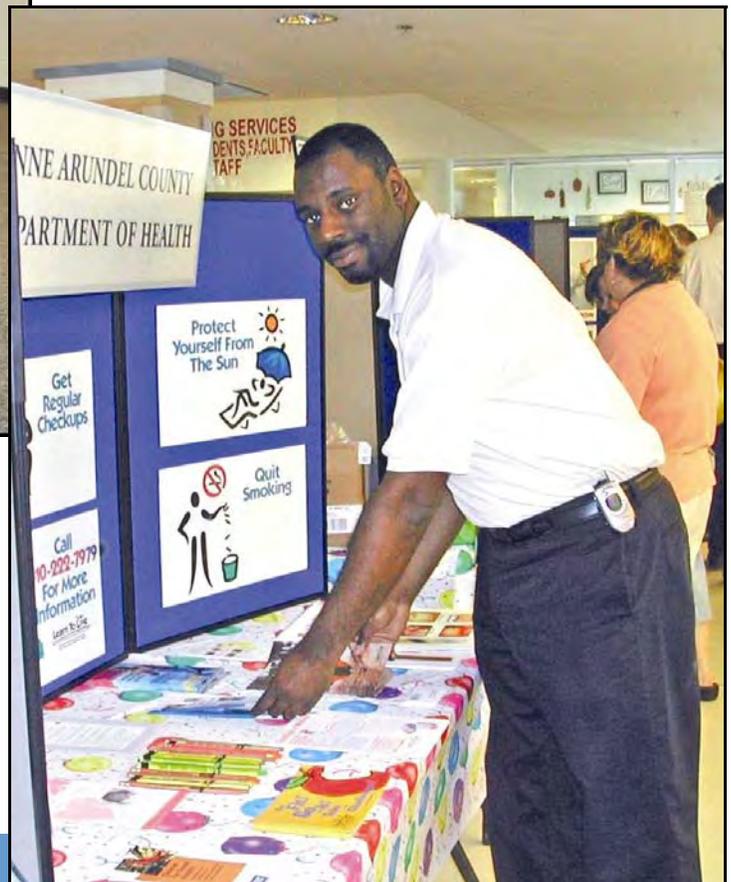


Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2005

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005



Preserving, Protecting and Promoting the Health Of All County Residents

Message from County Executive Janet S. Owens

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health of County residents. The priority areas, initiatives and accomplishments highlighted in the Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Report are a way to share our successes and challenges with the people we serve. By providing helpful information and broad services, the County can meet the public health needs of a changing and growing community.

Message from Health Officer Frances B. Phillips

This Annual Report is designed to give you an understanding of how public health affects life in Anne Arundel County. The Anne Arundel County Department of Health provided more than 1,290,000 personal health and environmental health services to individual County residents and businesses in Fiscal Year 2005.

The mission of the Department of Health is to preserve, protect and promote the health of all County residents. In fulfilling its mission, the Department assesses the County's health problems, needs and resources; organizes effective public and private sector strategies to address the needs; and provides services directly to County residents to achieve local health goals. County residents, private health practitioners and government agencies are partners with the Department of Health in fulfilling this mission.

Based on community surveys and reviews of health data, the Department of Health has established five priority areas for addressing public health needs. These are:

1. Eliminating disparities in health status and health care access
2. Being prepared to respond to an emergency
3. Preventing and managing chronic illness
4. Keeping children healthy
5. Maintaining a safe and healthy environment

This report identifies specific accomplishments in each of these areas during Fiscal Year 2005.

If you have any questions or comments about our services or would like to participate in one of our advisory groups, please call us at 410-222-7095.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY TEAMWORK

County Executive Janet S. Owens and Health Officer Frances B. Phillips (center) thank (from left) Jean Williamson and Becky Asher of the Department of Health's Emergency Preparedness/Immunization Services Program, Fire Chief Ronald D. Blackwell and Police Chief P. Thomas Shanahan for their support with the mass flu vaccination clinics in 2004.

Eliminating Disparities in Health Status and Health Care Access

Minority Health – Offers healthy lifestyle education and outreach to African-American, Latino-American and Korean-American communities

- 2,247 minority individuals attended tobacco education sessions, 3,223 minority individuals attended cancer education sessions, and 47 percent of the women who received free screenings through the Department’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program were minorities

Strengthening Families Program – Provides training in parenting skills, life skills and family relationship skills for at-risk youth and their parents

- 85 family members graduated from the program

Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP) – Processes applications for this medical assistance program for children up to age 19 and for pregnant women

- 10,639 children and 1,064 pregnant women enrolled

Residents Access to a Coalition of Health (REACH) – Enrolls income eligible uninsured adults in a program offering access to primary and specialty medical care and diagnostic testing at reduced cost

- 1,900 individuals enrolled and 587 health care providers participated

Prescription Discount Program – Offers County residents discounts on prescription drugs

- 2,700 County residents were provided with prescription cards for use at pharmacies nationwide

Medical Assistance Transportation Program – Provides transportation to non-emergency medical appointments for Medicaid recipients

- 25,056 client trips completed

Being Prepared to Respond to an Emergency

Communicable Disease Surveillance Program – Collects, investigates and analyzes communicable disease data to alert physicians and the public to trends and unusual occurrences. When an outbreak occurs, appropriate action is taken to stop or control it.

- 2,120 investigations were conducted on reportable diseases

Emergency Preparedness and Response — The Department of Health works with other County agencies and other Health Departments in the region in responding to natural or man-made emergencies. The Department is available 24 hours a day for public health emergencies through the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

- 844 Department of Health staff received emergency preparedness training and participated in bioterrorism drills



Flu Vaccination Clinic - October 2004

More than 7,000 high-risk County residents received influenza vaccinations at two mass clinics during the flu vaccine shortage in 2004. Letters, calls and electronic messages came from around the County calling the clinics “superb,” “extraordinarily well-organized” and a “terrific success.” During Flu Season 2004-05, the Department of Health provided more than 19,000 doses of flu vaccine.

Preventing and Managing Chronic Illness

“Learn To Live” Healthy Living Program – Offers information and activities promoting healthy living to children, adults and families

- 11,000 kits distributed through the Learn To Live phone line and community events, including kits on smoking cessation, nutrition, sun safety, kids’ health, Fifty-Plus health, women’s health and more
- 7,625 consumers at 8 local supermarkets received healthy eating and active lifestyle materials

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program – Provides tobacco use prevention and cessation education and services to the County

- 179,840 interactions with students through smoking prevention and cessation activities

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program – Provides education, free screening, diagnosis and treatment services for breast and cervical cancer in collaboration with local physicians to eligible women age 40 and above

- 1,326 women received education and initial screenings

Community Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Services – Provides drug and alcohol treatment referrals to a network of County providers

- 926 assessments and referrals provided through Opportunity for Treatment Funding (OTF)

Mental Health and Addictions Services – Provides assessment and counseling to adults and children

- 384 adult clients attended 5,537 individual, 3,249 group and 220 family counseling sessions

HIV/AIDS Prevention and Case Management Program – Provides HIV counseling and testing services. Educates about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention. Education programs are available to community groups

- 5,563 individuals received educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention and 255 patients received HIV/AIDS case management services

Keeping Children Healthy

Immunizations Program – Ensures that children are immunized appropriately

- 5,248 immunizations administered to children

Child Safety Seat Program – Educates parents and checks child car safety seats for proper installation and use

- 564 child safety seat inspections performed

Women and Children’s Health Services – Provides nutritional assistance, nursing services and selected clinical services

- 300 Healthy Start home visits to pregnant women in the first trimester of pregnancy
- 9,616 clients served by the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program

Dental Health Program – Provides dental care and education to low-income children and pregnant women

- 2,215 individual patients seen at the Annapolis and Glen Burnie Dental Clinics
- 11,171 schoolchildren participated in oral health education presentations

School Health Services – Provides nursing and other health services at the County’s 117 public schools

- 695,288 student visits to school health rooms and 154,039 medications administered

School-based Occupational and Physical Therapy – Provides services to children with sensorimotor and physical disabilities

- 3,134 children received 18,019 OT visits and 9,486 PT visits

Reproductive Health Services – Provides maternity services, family planning services and education, and cervical cancer evaluation and treatment

- 7,185 clients received reproductive health services
- 213 births to maternity clients

Maintaining a Safe and Healthy Environment

Recreational Waters Monitoring – Tests water quality and inspects public recreational facilities to prevent disease

- 3,228 water samples from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and 685 samples from swimming pools were tested

Housing and Food Protection Services – Inspects food service facilities and ensures that food is prepared under safe and healthy conditions

- 4,140 food facility inspections conducted
- 1,980 housing-related inquiries and complaints handled

Well and Wastewater Oversight – Reviews plans for residential construction, tests well water quality and conducts soil evaluations and percolation tests to ensure proper sewage disposal in order to prevent disease and environmental harm caused by water contamination

- 1,023 septic system permits and 956 well permits issued

Rabies Control Program – Distributes oral raccoon rabies vaccine throughout the County, investigates exposures to animals with suspected rabies and ensures treatment for persons possibly exposed to rabies

- 87,086 raccoon rabies vaccine baits distributed
- 1,180 potential rabies exposures investigated



During Summer 2005, the Recreational Water Quality Monitoring Program regularly conducted free water sampling of more than 100 community beaches.



The annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Project distributes baits containing rabies vaccine for raccoons by helicopter, plane and ground teams.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2005

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Faced with national shortages of influenza vaccine in 2004, the Department of Health tested its ability to respond in the event of a health-related emergency by implementing the Incident Management System (IMS) to help vaccinate County residents most at risk for flu complications. The IMS is a comprehensive set of concepts and principles for emergency preparedness and response. By using the IMS and utilizing partnerships with County agencies, a variety of public information tools, and well-coordinated staffing, the Department of Health held two mass flu vaccination clinics. The clinics provided more than 7,000 vaccines to high-risk County residents in Fall 2004. The Department's effective vaccination program was featured in an article in the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* in 2005.

Health Screenings

The Department of Health provided health screenings and made referrals for assessment and treatment if needed. More than 1,200 women received screenings for breast and cervical cancer. Through the Health Smart Church Program, 4,498 blood pressure screenings were completed. In the School Health program nearly 1/3 of public school students were screened for hearing or vision problems.

Healthy Lifestyles

Much of the Department's healthy lifestyles information was available for viewing or downloading on the Department's Web site, www.aahealth.org, which received 769,976 visits in Fiscal Year 2005. The Department's Learn To Live Program continued the Web-based Family Fitness Challenge, a program that encourages adults and children to eat more fruits and vegetables and engage in regular physical activity. Also promoting physical activity was the StairWELL Program, in which County employees competed for prizes by using the stairs at work and at home. More than 340 participants climbed a total of 208,448 flights of stairs over a 6-week period.

Access to Health Care

The Residents Access to a Coalition of Health (REACH) Program, a partnership between the Anne Arundel County Department of Health and the Anne Arundel County Medical Society, entered its sixth year of providing free or low-cost health services to income-eligible uninsured Anne Arundel County residents. More than 1,900 individuals were enrolled in Fiscal Year 2005, receiving services from more than 587 participating providers

Minority Health

The Department's Office of Minority Health continued to serve as the Department's liaison with the African-American, Korean-American and Latino-American communities. In collaboration with the County's Hispanic Health Network, the Department held a Hispanic Health Festival attended by more than 400 individuals. The Department held the first Korean Girls' Night Out. The event informed approximately 80 Korean-American women, who were age 50 or older, about the importance of breast cancer screenings.

Anne Arundel County Department of Health

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**On the Cover: Nutrition Coalition Culinary Program, Alex "Sun Safety" Alligator Presentation,
Health Fair Display**

**Annual Report prepared by the Health Information and Promotion Division of the Department of Health
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