



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2006

July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006



Preserving, Protecting and Promoting the Health Of All County Residents

Message from Health Officer Frances B. Phillips, R.N., M.H.A.

This Annual Report is designed to give you an understanding of how public health affects life in Anne Arundel County. With the support of County Executive John R. Leopold, the Department of Health is successfully meeting the public health needs of a changing and growing community. In Fiscal Year 2006, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health provided more than 1,300,000 personal and environmental health services to County residents and businesses.

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, community organizations 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 health disparities
2. Being prepared for emergencies
3. Preventing and managing chronic illnesses
4. Keeping children healthy
5. Maintaining a safe and healthy environment

This report identifies specific accomplishments in each of these areas during Fiscal Year 2006.

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.

County Executive John R. Leopold and
Health Officer Frances B. Phillips



Eliminating Health Disparities

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

- 2,093 minority individuals attended tobacco education sessions, 2,794 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

- 139 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

- 11,572 children and 1,134 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

- 1,722 individuals enrolled and 725 health care providers participated

Prescription Discount Program (PDP) – Offers County residents discounts on prescription drugs

- 5,738 County residents had PDP cards for use at pharmacies nationwide

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

- 25,274 client trips made

Being Prepared for Emergencies

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.

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

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.

- 2,011 investigations were conducted on reportable diseases



The Department of Health provided staffing, displays, brochures, fact sheets and health information kits for more than 45 community health fairs throughout the County with more than 12,000 attendees during Fiscal Year 2006.

Preventing and Managing Chronic Illnesses

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

- 11,012 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
- 7,610 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

- 220,694 interactions with students through smoking prevention and cessation activities

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program – Partners with physicians to provide education, free screening, diagnosis and treatment services for breast and cervical cancer 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

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

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

- 340 adult clients attended 4,873 individual, 2,665 group and 177 family counseling sessions
- 518 children and adolescents received 4,191 individual, 37 group and 2,302 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.

- 5,565 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

- 6,889 immunizations administered to children

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

- 360 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
- 10,320 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

- 1,200 individual patients seen at the Annapolis and Glen Burnie Dental Clinics
- 9,500 schoolchildren participated in oral health education presentations

School Health Services – Provides nursing and other health services at the County’s 119 public and charter schools

- 655,500 student visits to school health rooms and 139,800 medications administered

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

- 5,900 clients received reproductive health services
- 225 births to maternity clients



In 2005, the Department and the Annapolis Quilt Guild sponsored a Bra Art Contest to raise awareness about the importance of breast cancer screening.

Maintaining a Safe and Healthy Environment

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

- 3,477 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

- 4,316 food facility inspections conducted
- 2,070 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

- 876 septic system permits and 878 well permits issued
- 2,841 percolation tests performed

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

- 81,144 raccoon rabies vaccine baits distributed
- 1,435 potential rabies exposures investigated



The Department of Health conducted free water quality sampling of more than 100 community beaches during Summer 2006. The Department established a water quality e-alert system in April 2006 to send County residents, workers and tourists e-mail when a closure or advisory is issued for a County waterway. To sign up for free water quality e-alerts, visit www.aahealth.org.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2006

Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Department of Health provided County emergency responders who went to areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina with vaccines including hepatitis A, hepatitis B, tetanus/diphtheria and typhoid. The Department assisted displaced individuals and families affected by Katrina with immunizations and access to health care in Anne Arundel County.

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, 3,364 blood pressure screenings were completed. Through the School Health Program, nearly 1/3 of public school students received vision and hearing screenings.

Healthy Lifestyles

Information promoting healthy lifestyles is available on the Department's Web site, www.aahealth.org, which received 1,475,658 visits in Fiscal Year 2006. 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 296 participants climbed a total of 217,479 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 seventh year of providing free or low-cost health services to income-eligible uninsured Anne Arundel County residents. More than 1,700 individuals were enrolled in Fiscal Year 2006, receiving services from more than 725 participating providers including a new partnership with the Kaiser Bridge insurance plan.

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 second Korean Girls' Night Out. The event informed approximately 52 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: (from top) Dental Health Services Oral Hygiene Presentation, Tobacco-Free Kids Week Activity,
Raccoon Oral Rabies Vaccination Project**

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

Photographers: Rian Almon and Charles Herbert