

# Annual Report

**Fiscal Year 2007**

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007



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 2007, 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 residents to achieve local health goals. County residents, private health practitioners, community organizations and government agencies are partners with the Department in fulfilling this mission.



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**Frances B. Phillips**  
Health Officer

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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 2007.

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.



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**MEETING PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS:** (from left) Health Information and Promotion Deputy Division Director Nancy Tucker, County Executive John R. Leopold and Community Health Nurse Amy Kane discuss the LifeScreen colorectal cancer screening program, a public health initiative supported by Mr. Leopold through County funding.

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## Eliminating Health Disparities

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

- 2,776 minority individuals attended tobacco education sessions, 2,723 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

- 143 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

- 13,199 children and 1,399 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

- 1,464 individuals enrolled and 761 health care providers participated

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

- 7,514 County residents had PDP cards for use at pharmacies nationwide

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

- 25,304 client trips made

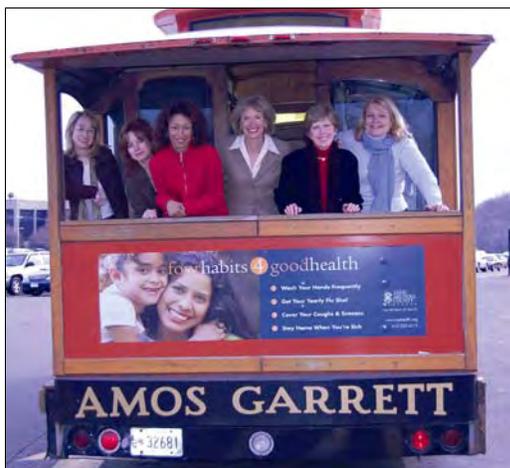
## Being Prepared for Emergencies

**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.

- 2 new plans, the All Hazards Emergency Preparedness Plan and the Continuity of Operations Plan, were developed to strengthen the Department’s preparedness infrastructure
- 845 radio-flashlight units distributed to high-risk County residents

**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.

- 2,290 investigations were conducted on reportable diseases



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**HEALTHY HABITS.** In 2006, The Department of Health launched the “Four Habits 4 Good Health” campaign with signs on trolleys and buses and at the BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport. The Four Habits are:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Get your yearly flu shot.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home when you’re sick.

During flu season 2006-2007, the Department provided more than 35,000 doses of flu vaccine at health centers, schools, senior centers, fire stations and other community-based locations.

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## Preventing and Managing Chronic Illnesses

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

- 12,227 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
- 23,085 students educated about healthy eating and physical activity

**Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program** – Provides tobacco use prevention and cessation education and services

- 115,788 interactions with students through smoking prevention and cessation activities
- 132 adults participated in smoking cessation classes

**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

- 1,481 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

- 1,054 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
- 437 children and adolescents received 3,753 individual, 37 group and 2,235 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.

- 5,473 individuals received educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention and 265 patients received HIV/AIDS case management services

## Keeping Children Healthy

**Immunizations Program** – Ensures that children are immunized appropriately

- 21,137 immunizations administered to children

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

- 171 child safety seat inspections performed

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

- 708 Healthy Start home visits to pregnant women in the first trimester of pregnancy
- 11,387 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

- 2,007 individual patients seen at the Annapolis and Glen Burnie Dental Clinics
- 7,400 schoolchildren participated in oral health education presentations

**School Health Services** – Provides nursing and other health services at the County’s 118 public and charter schools

- 636,000 student visits to school health rooms and 131,000 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
- 208 births to maternity clients



**DURING LEARN TO LIVE’S**  
Good Food for Good Health  
Weekends in 2007, more than 7,754  
County residents received eating tips  
and sampled nutritious recipes at  
eight local supermarkets.

## Maintaining a Safe and Healthy Environment

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

- 3,684 water samples from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and 545 samples from swimming pools were tested

National organization American Rivers' 2007 report, "What's in Your Water? The State of Public Notification in 11 U.S. States" recognized Anne Arundel County's recreational water quality Web site, e-mail alert system and phone line as "exemplary" and a model for other counties in distributing information about beach closures and sewage spills.

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

- 4,296 food facility inspections conducted
- 1,716 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

- 792 septic system permits and 787 well permits issued
- 2,025 percolation tests performed
- 82 wells tested in an investigation of private well water near a Gambrills coal ash fill site

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

- 81,973 raccoon rabies vaccine baits distributed
- 1,365 potential rabies exposures investigated



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**NITROGEN-REDUCING PRETREATMENT UNITS.** In Fiscal Year 2007, the Department of Health began the state-funded Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) program to help County residents pay part or all of the cost to add nitrogen-reducing pretreatment units to private septic systems. Projects to repair or upgrade systems in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area were given the highest priority. The units reduced the amount of harmful nitrogen discharge and helped protect water quality.

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## **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2007**

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

The Department of Health, in partnership with the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce, held a symposium on pandemic flu preparedness for County government agencies and private businesses. This event provided participants with an overview of pandemic flu issues including preparation strategies and the uninterrupted delivery of key services. The Department, in partnership with Anne Arundel Medical Center and Baltimore Washington Medical Center, held town hall meetings to educate Anne Arundel County residents on pandemic flu.

### **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, 114 community members from 31 churches were trained in blood pressure measurements and 2,964 blood pressure screenings were completed. The School Health Program performed 35,600 vision and hearing screenings on County students.

### **Healthy Lifestyles**

Information promoting healthy lifestyles is available on the Department's Web site, [www.aahealth.org](http://www.aahealth.org), which received 1,524,671 visits in Fiscal Year 2007. 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.

### **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 eighth year of providing free or low-cost health services to income-eligible uninsured Anne Arundel County residents. More than 1,464 individuals were enrolled in Fiscal Year 2007, receiving services from more than 761 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 800 individuals. The Department also held the second Korean Girls' Night Out. The event informed approximately 98 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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**[www.aahealth.org](http://www.aahealth.org)    [www.aasalud.org](http://www.aasalud.org)**

**On the Cover: (from top) Healthy Babies Campaign Kickoff, Summer Recreational Water Quality Sampling, Nasal Spray Flu Vaccination Program at Public Elementary Schools**

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

**Photographers: Rian Almon and Elizabeth Bergstrom**