



Charles County Department of

Health

2011 Annual Report

C. Devadason, MD, DPH
Health Officer



Standing Left to Right - Bobby Rucci, Ken Robinson, Candice Quinn Kelly, President Reuben B. Collins, Esq., Vice President, Debra M. Davis, Esq.



County Commissioners of Charles County

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The mission of the Department of Health is to protect the health of our citizens and promote wellness and positive habits. The various programs contained in the annual report highlight the accomplishments of the department. The Commissioners appreciate the work of the department especially under difficult financial conditions.

We thank the health officer and his staff for the dedication they have shown in improving the health and wellbeing of our community.

Candice Quinn Kelly, President

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., Vice President

Ken Robinson

Debra M. Davis, Esq.

Bobby Rucci



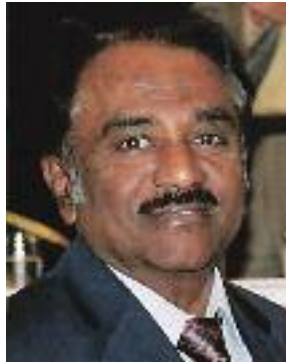
Mission

Our Mission

The mission of the Charles County Department of Health is to protect and promote the health and well being of the citizens. The Department of Health also responds to the healthcare needs of county residents by providing selected services both physical and mental as well as assuring needed services in the community in concert with physicians and healthcare providers.

The services of the Department are provided in a non-discriminatory way and by highly qualified and committed professionals.

The Charles County Department of Health is a unit of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and an equal opportunity employer.



From the Health Officer:

It is with much pleasure that I present the annual report of the Department of Health for the year 2011.

2011 was a difficult year for the department, county and the state and we had to operate with reduced budget and staff. Much was accomplished in spite of these limitations.

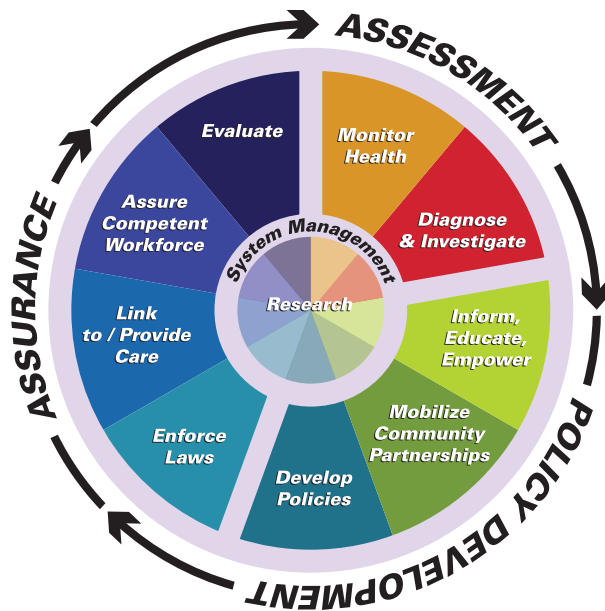
The annual report is but a summary of a variety of programs and services provided to the community. I extend our gratitude to our community partners whose partnership makes it possible to do more with less.

To our elected officials, community physicians, voluntary agencies and sister departments, we record our thanks. Last but not least, I thank the staff of the health department for their dedication and commitment to serve the citizens of Charles County.

Respectfully,

Chinnadurai Devadason, MD, DPH
Health Officer

Paul



Essential Public Health

Essential Public Health System

The system of public health conducts activities in research, education and program implementation. In the United States this system includes federal agencies such as the CDC, state and local government agencies, nongovernmental organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving and academic institutions. This complex array of institutions has achieved success through research, political action and gains in scientific knowledge. This system has and will continue to improve the health of our citizens by:

- Preventing epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protecting against environmental hazards
- Preventing injuries
- Promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors
- Responding to disasters and assist communities in recovery
- Assuring the quality and accessibility of health services

Essential Public Health Services

Public health is the science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals. It is concerned with threats to the overall health of a community based on “population health” analysis. The population

in question can be as small as a handful of people or as large as all the inhabitants of several continents. The services to achieve the optimal health of a population are accomplished by:

- Monitoring health status to identify community health problems
- Diagnosing and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Sources: United States Department of Health and Human Services

Public Health

Spotlight on Accomplishments of 2011

Healthy Stores Project

Maryland Healthy Stores was a pilot program from the Charles County Department of Health (CCDH), Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) and part of Maryland's Communities Putting Prevention to Work Initiatives. Four stores in Charles County participated in the program. The goal was to decrease obesity in low-income areas through environmental change in corner / convenience stores by stocking healthy foods, providing nutrition education to consumers and using signage to identify healthy choices at the point-of-sale. Four intervention phases were conducted over a four month time period in each of the participating stores. Data indicates positive impacts were made as a result of this pilot program.

HIV/AIDS Testing Services Expanded

The HIV/AIDS program at the Department of Health has expanded its testing services. Off-site test locations now include the Waldorf Mall, College of Southern Maryland, Charles County Department of Social Services, Charles County Fair, community fairs and other events.

Division of Substance Abuse Services Offers Continuing Care

The Division of Substance Abuse Services is now part of a State wide Recovery Oriented System of Care and offers continuing care to all clients, this allows a client to move within the continuum of care easily and access services quickly. The division is assisted by two specialty courts, Juvenile Drug Court and Family Recovery Court providing treatment to clients who are participating in these systems as they stabilize and successfully meet the mandates of the courts. The division's prevention program is now focused on environmental strategies; making larger impacts on the local communities as it works to prevent residents from abusing substances in partnership with the Drug and Alcohol Coalition

Improving Mental Health Services

During the first full year of the Core Service Agency (CSA) being managed by the Charles County Department of Health, the CSA collaborated with local, regional and state agencies on a wide range of projects. The CSA worked with the Office of Transportation Services and Department of Health to educate the public about transportation resources to ensure consumers eligible for MA transportation accessed this service, and for those not eligible for MA transportation, the CSA provided grant funded transportation services to mental health appointments. In collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, a Health Professional Shortage Area application was submitted, and ultimately approved, to designate Charles County as a federally under-served area for psychiatry. In collaboration with the Mental Hygiene Administration, the CSA worked with the Supported Employment Provider to establish a physical office in Charles County in order to begin offering Evidence Based Supported Employment Services. In collaboration

with the Crownsville Five County Project, a new provider was selected to provide In Home Intervention services for Children, and the CSA worked to ensure a smooth transition for consumers between providers and that there were no gaps in services. The CSA, in collaboration with the Office of Health Care Quality and the Mental Hygiene Administration, oversaw the closing on one Outpatient Mental Health Clinic. The CSA supported the licensing application for two new OMHCs and a new Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program in Charles County, which were all ultimately approved.

Influenza Vaccination in the Public Schools

Following the success of last year's school flu immunization program the Department of Health and Charles County Public Schools again collaborated to provide nasal flu vaccine to all public elementary schools in the county. A team of nurses traveled from school to school during the month of October 2011 providing immunization to children who had returned permission slips. 1,886 children from pre-k to fifth grade were immunized. This is an increase of over 14% from last year.

More Outreach for Children's Oral Health

The dental staff of the health department's dental treatment program visited all Head Start Centers and Title I elementary schools in Charles County to provide dental screening and Fluoride varnish to children under 5 years of age. A total of 356 children received prevention services.

Assistance to the Homeless

In an effort to assist homeless individuals and families in Charles County, the department participated in the Homeless Resource Days held in May and October, 2011 sponsored by the United Way of Charles County. The department's mobile clinic offered a number of services to the homeless including immunizations for flu, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and hepatitis. Additionally HIV testing was offered, birth certificates were issued and individuals were able to apply for Maryland State Health Insurance. Information was provided for other services offered by the department including WIC, family planning and mental health services. The department intends to continue to participate in this bi-annual event.

Reducing Teen Substance Abuse

The Department of Health in alliance with the Charles County Substance Abuse Advisory Council and the College of Southern Maryland continued its efforts to reduce alcohol and drug use among teens in the county. The recently completed Charles County Health Needs Assessment identified three areas of concern: underage use of alcohol, binge drinking and marijuana use. The department, in collaboration with the College of Southern Maryland, has applied for funding to respond to these areas of concern. A number of programs are currently in place to respond to this problem. They are: Transition dinners for 5th graders and parents, Project

Graduation and presentations to community, school and parent groups. Through additional funding the department hopes to continue to support the programs in place and develop additional interventions to respond to this identified problem among youth in the community.

WIC Program Establishing Healthy and Smart Practices

Breast Feeding Peer Counselor Program: WIC recipients are educated, supported and counseled to consider breast feeding. This effort is promoted through dedicated staff personnel “Breast Feeding Peer Counselor”.

Smart Shopping: using WIC vouchers and focusing on selection of healthy nutritional food items, program nutritionists’ visited the stores with WIC recipients to provide education concerning different food items that are purchasable through WIC vouchers promoting smart shopping and healthy eating.



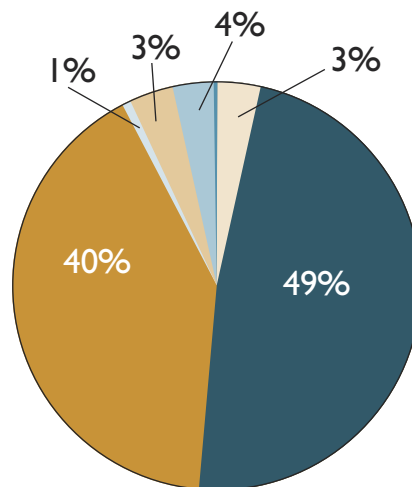
Vital Statistics:

Demographics:

Population Data	Charles County	Maryland
Population, 2000	120,546	5,296,486
Population, 2010	146,551	5,773,552
Male, 2010	70,784 (48.3%)	2,794,399 (48.4%)
Female, 2010	75,767 (51.7%)	2,979,153 (51.6%)
Economic Indicators		
Median Household Income, 2006-10 average	\$88,825	\$70,647
Persons below poverty, 2006-10 average	5.2%	8.6%
Homeownership Rate, 2006-2010 average	81.1%	69.0%
In labor force, 2006-2010 average	73.8%	69.6%
Other Indicators		
Foreign Born Persons, 2006-10 average	4.9%	13.2%
High School Graduate, 25 yr+, 2006-10 average	90.4%	87.8%

Source: US Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts: 2010 Census and 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5 year estimates

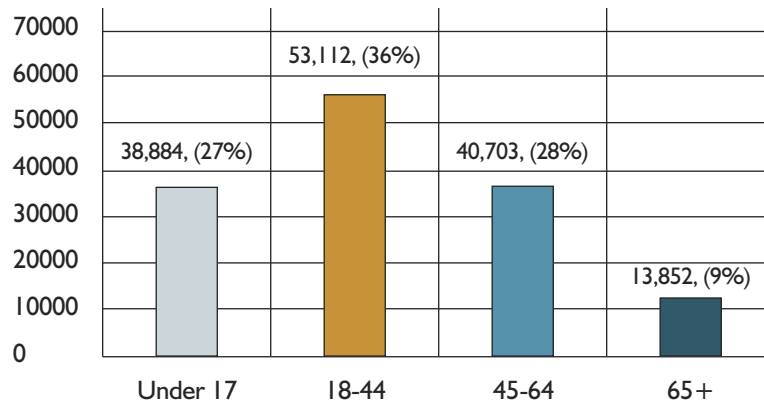
Race of Charles County Population, 2010



Non- Hispanic Caucasian.....70905	Hispanic.....6259
African-American.....59201	Other.....243
American India877	2 or More Races4683
Asian/Pacific Islander.....383	

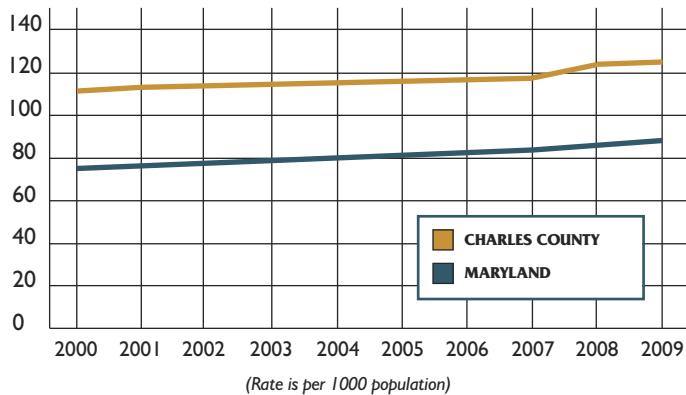
Source: 2009 Maryland Vital Statistics Report

Charles County Population by Age-group, 2010



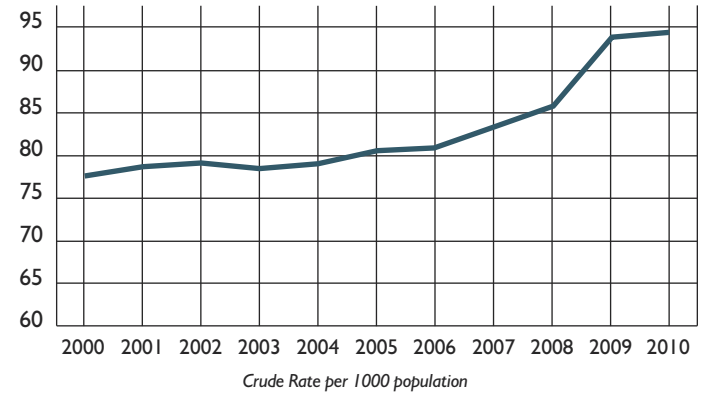
Source: Maryland DHMH 2005 Vital Statistics Report

Rate Trends for the 65 years and older population: 2000-2009, Charles County vs. Maryland



(Rate is per 1000 population)

Trends in Rate of 65+ population, 2000-2010, Charles County, MD



Crude Rate per 1000 population

Source: 2009 Maryland Vital Statistics Report

Maternal and Child Health Data 2010

	Charles County	Charles County Rate***	Maryland Number	Maryland Rate***
Live Birth Rates (per 1000 population)	1,801	12.3	73,783	12.8
Low Birth Rate* (per 1000 live births)	177	98.3	6,490	88.0
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	10	5.6	496	6.7
Early Prenatal Care** (Rate per 1000 population)	1,076	597.4	41,999	569.2

* Defined as weighing less than 2499 grams at birth

** Defined as starting prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy

***Crude rate calculated per 1000 live births

Sources: 2010 Maryland Vital Statistics Preliminary Report, Maryland Vital Statistics Birth and Death Data by Jurisdiction, 2010, and 2010 Maryland Infant Mortality Report.

Vital Statistics:

Top 10 Leading Causes of Death:

Cause of Death	Charles County Number, 2009	Charles County Number, 2007-2009*	Maryland Number, 2009	Maryland Rate 2007-2009*
All Causes	883	845.2	43,256	768.4
Cancer	237	199.3	10,158	179.3
Diseases of the Heart	182	228.5	10,772	196.8
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	44	42.8	2030	35.6
Cerebrovascular Disease	34	39.5	2239	40.0
Accidents	31	29.8	1382	25.3
Diabetes mellitus	31	34.1	1178	21.8
Septicemia	19	**	872	17.4
Influenza and Pneumonia	14	**	915	17.8
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	14	**	446	13.5
Alzheimer's Disease	12	**	980	16.9

* All age-adjusted rates calculated per 100,000 population.

**Death rates are not calculated with fewer than 20 deaths.

Source: 2009 Maryland Vital Statistics Report

Cancer Data:

Incidence (# of new cases) 2007*

Type of cancer	Charles County Number	Charles County Rate	Calvert County Rate	St Mary's County Rate	Maryland Rate	US SEER
All cancers	554	468.9	515.0	492.1	455.3	458.0
Lung/Brochus	56	50.4	76.9	61.8	62.4	59.9
Colorectal	52	48.7	47.8	44.8	41.6	45.5
Female Breast	76	109.7	142.4	138.0	123.2	123.4
Prostate	109	205.4	147.2	190.8	162.5	159.8
Oral	11	**	**	**	9.6	10.3
Melanoma of skin	17	12.4	47.3	24.9	21.2	20.4
Cervical	7	**	**	**	6.4	7.8

Incidence (# of new cases) 2007*

Type of cancer	Charles County Number	Charles County Rate	Calvert County Rate	St Mary's County Rate	Maryland Rate	US SEER Rate
All cancers	2521	449.3	479.6	459.2	458.9	461.6
Lung/Bronchus	330	64.5	76.1	73.1	66.6	62.5
Colorectal	301	60.3	54.3	50.0	46.4	47.9
Female Breast	368	109.3	119.8	105.9	122.4	122.9
Prostate	417	168.5	124.1	151.2	157.6	156.9
Oral	64	10.5	11.9	13.1	9.6	10.4
Melanoma of skin	83	12.7	41.5	25.4	20.1	20.1
Cervical	22	6.8	8.6	8.3	7.6	8.1

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Cancer Reports, Cigarette Restitution Fund Programs, 2010

*Rates per 100,000 population.

** Rates based on cells with 25 or fewer cases are not presented.

Community Health Profile:

Cancer Mortality 2002-2006*

Type of cancer	Charles County Number	Charles County Rate	Calvert County Rate	St Mary's County Rate	Maryland Rate	US SEER Rate
All cancers	1067	220.3	222.7	216.5	193.0	186.7
Lung/Bronchus	331	68.9	64.6	66.8	55.1	53.2
Colorectal	136	29.4	25.4	22.8	19.3	18.2
Female Breast	88	29.2	34.1	20.0	26.8	24.5
Prostate	48	31.3	41.0	34.9	28.3	25.5
Oral	18	3.7	**	**	2.7	2.6
Melanoma	13	**	**	4.1	2.8	2.7
Cervical	7	**	**	**	2.2	2.5

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Cancer Reports, Cigarette Restitution Fund Programs, 2009
 *Rates per 100,000 population.
 ** Rates based on cells with 25 or fewer cases are not presented.

Focus on Assessing the Health of Charles County

In October 2010, the Charles County Department of Health and Civista Health, Inc. collaborated to complete a comprehensive assessment of the health needs of Charles County, Maryland. To provide a comprehensive assessment of the health needs of the county, a four-method plan was developed which included four different sources of data:

- a long online survey of Charles County residents perceptions of health and health behaviors,
- a short paper survey on health perceptions throughout the county
- seven focus groups with community leaders, citizens, and stakeholders
- a quantitative data analysis.

Data was collected between December 2010 and April 2011. The use of the multiple data collection methods strengthened the validity of the assessment's findings as well as ensuring that Charles County residents had an opportunity to participate in the assessment process and to feel invested in its outcome. Seven focus groups were performed throughout the county between December 2010 and March 2011. The focus group topics included: age-related health issues, chronic disease specific health, special populations, county leadership, substance abuse, youth through the school nurses, and the Partnerships for a Healthier Charles County (community leaders and stakeholders). Approximately 165 people participated in the county focus groups.

Following the four step survey process, the latest data was gathered and analyzed. Quantitative and qualitative data identified the top 10 health needs of Charles County:

- Obesity
 - Adult and Childhood
- Heart Disease Mortality
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Cancer
 - Prostate Cancer Incidence
 - Lung Cancer Mortality
 - Colorectal Cancer Incidence and Mortality
- Access to Healthcare
 - Physician shortage: Specialists, PCP's, OBGYN's
 - Transportation
 - Uninsured Population
 - Limited Access for Those with Medical Assistance
- Diabetes Mortality
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
 - Access to Pediatric Services
 - Lack of Psychiatric Services in County
 - Lack of Transportation to Services
- Dental Health
 - Pediatric Dentistry
 - Dental Services for Pregnant Women
- Accidents/Injuries
 - Falls Among Elderly
 - Motor Vehicle Traffic Incidents

The health needs assessment also identified areas of health in which Charles County is in good standing. These health topics include:

- Diabetes Prevalence
- Adult Asthma Prevalence
- Stroke Mortality and Prevalence
- Hypertension Prevalence and Mortality
- Tobacco and Cigarette Use Among Youth and Pregnant Women, Decreased Initiation, Increased Cessation
- Reducing Animal Rabies Cases
- Low Incidence of Tuberculosis Cases

- HIV/AIDS Diagnosis and Prevalence Rates
- Infant Mortality Rates Now Below State Rates
- Low Prevalence of Limited Activity Levels Among Those with Arthritis

These assessment findings serve as a baseline for future program development as well as provide benchmarks for program implementation.

Focus on Improving the Health of Charles County

The Charles County Health Needs Assessment was presented to the public in June 2011. Following the release of this information, the Partnerships for a Healthier Charles County (PHCC), the local community health coalition, assumed the primary role in developing a plan to improve those areas of health identified as deficient.

A comprehensive Community Health Improvement Plan was developed to respond to all areas within the Health Needs Assessment. This plan was developed utilizing a best practice approach toward community improvement. In addition to the goals established within Charles County, the Improvement Plan encompassed the Maryland State Health Improvement Process (SHIP) goals as well as the Federal Healthy People 2020 goals. A variety of strategies will be employed to assist and engage the residents of Charles County to move toward healthier living.

These strategies include:

Providing Information— Educational presentations, workshops or seminars or other presentations of data (e.g., public announcements, brochures, dissemination, billboards, community meetings, forums, web-based communication).

Enhancing Skills— Workshops, seminars or other activities designed to increase the skills of participants, members and staff needed to achieve population level outcomes (e.g., training, technical assistance, distance learning, strategic planning retreats, curricula development).

Providing Support— Creating opportunities to support people to participate in activities that reduce risk or enhance protection (e.g., providing alternative activities, mentoring, referrals, support groups or clubs). Providing alternative activities and use of intervention services, referrals for services, support groups, youth clubs, parenting groups.

Enhancing Access/Reducing Barriers— Improving systems and processes to increase the ease, ability and opportunity to utilize

those systems and services (e.g., assuring healthcare, childcare, transportation, housing, justice, education, safety, special needs, cultural and language sensitivity).

Changing Consequences— Increasing or decreasing the probability of a specific behavior that reduces risk or enhances protection by altering the consequences for performing that behavior (e.g., increasing public recognition for deserved behavior, individual and business rewards, taxes, citations, fines, revocations/loss of privileges).

Physical Design— Changing the physical design or structure of the environment to reduce risk or enhance protection (e.g., parks, landscapes, signage, lighting, outlet density).

Modifying/Changing Policies— Formal change in written procedures, by-laws, proclamations, rules or laws with written documentation and/or voting procedures (e.g., workplace initiatives, law enforcement procedures and practices, public policy actions, change of systems within government, communities and organizations).

The Charles County Department of Health recognizes that the process of improving the health of Charles County residents is a long term commitment. Improving the health outcomes county residents will require a commitment of the medical community, local and state health agencies, community leaders, private, public and governmental organizations, elected officials and the people of the county. The Department of Health is dedicated to serve as a leader in this process.

Go to the Charles County Department of Health www.charlescountyhealth.org for more information regarding:

- Charles County Health Needs Assessment
- Charles County Health Improvement Plan
- Charles County Action Plans for Health Improvement
- Partnerships for a Healthier Charles County

Charles

Charles County Department of Health

Public Health Services

The Charles County Department of Health continues to offer a wide range of public health services via seven program divisions. Below is a description of each division and examples of some of the services provided for 2011.

Administrative Services

This division provides support to all other divisions within the department by maintaining budgets, payroll, timekeeping, collections, purchasing and receiving, by overseeing the vehicle pool, by providing information technology services and human resources services. Copies of birth and death certificates are also available to the community.

- Birth Certificates Provided3,587
- Death Certificates Provided5,143
- Health Department Personnel250
- Total Budget\$15 Million

Core Service Agency

The Core Service Agency is responsible for developing, managing and monitoring a full range of treatment and rehabilitation services for persons with mental illness. The agency serves more than 2,200 children and adults through a variety of programs including Targeted Case Management, Individual and Group Treatment, Residential and Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Peer Support and Housing Assistance.

Services include:

- Care coordination for individuals with mental illness including those who are homeless, transitioning out of State and Local Hospitals, Residential Treatment Centers, the Charles County Detention Center and the Maryland Department of Corrections.
- Promote mental health awareness and education to reduce stigma.
- Review consumer and provider satisfaction, and process grievances and complaints.
- Sponsor and provide training programs for staff of provider agencies.

- Contract with public and private agencies to provide services.
- Evaluate the cost effectiveness and quality of services delivered, and safeguard against unnecessary utilization of publicly funded services.

Disability Services

This division provides services to individuals with disabilities of all ages in one or more of five programs:

1. Access and Eligibility
2. Resource Coordination
3. Individual Support Services
4. Family Support Services
5. Infants and Toddlers Services

Services are provided to infants and toddlers, birth through three years who may be delayed in development or have disabilities. Access and eligibility is the point of entry into the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) system in seeking services provided in community programs under the jurisdiction of the Administration.

- Number of Referrals385
- Number of Eligible Individuals Receiving854
Resource Coordination
- Number of Individuals Receiving Support Services97
- Number of Infants and Toddlers Receiving Services350
- Number of Participants in Parenting Classes57

Environmental Health Services

This division conducts inspections and issues licenses and permits in addition to regulatory functions. Other services include the inspection and licensing of food establishments, swimming pools and public campgrounds, subdivision approvals, soil evaluations, water supply surveillance and rabies control.

- Soil Tests and Evaluations283
- Water Samples Collected993
- Permanent Food Licenses Issued566
- Animal Bites (Rabies) Investigations750

County



- On-Site Sewage Disposal Permits119
- Well Construction Permits143

Mental Health Services

This division provides comprehensive outpatient services including: psychiatric evaluation and assessment, medication management, individual and group psychotherapy, testing, and referral to community services. In response to Charles County Court needs, anger management groups also meet on a regular basis serving over 250 patients annually.

- Clients treated1,447
- Individual visits23,430

Nursing and Community Health Services

The Nursing and Community Health Services Division provides various clinical case management, care coordination, disease screening, diagnostic and treatment, health education and surveillance services to meeting health care needs of individuals in the community with-a population based approach. The services are made possible to uninsured, underinsured, and Medicaid recipients and uninsured individuals. No one is denied service because of the inability to pay. Most of these services are exclusive to public health departmental services are not available in the community. These services are not competitive with other organizations or health care providers. Programs under the supervision of the Nursing and Community Health Services include: Adult Evaluation and Review Service (AERS), Personal Care Program, Breast and Cervical Cancer, Colorectal and Prostate Cancer Programs, Dental Health, Maternal/Child Health Program, Healthy Start, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment, Child Immunization, WIC, Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHIP), HIV/AIDS Prevention and Case management Services, School Health and Student Clinical Rotations. These preventive and proactive services meet the health care needs of people at various stages of life focusing on health improvement and promoting well being and preventing early diagnosis of certain illnesses.

The number of individuals serviced by divisional programs is:

- Breast and Cervical Cancer screening clients227
- Colorectal screenings provided39
- Sexually transmitted diseases treated873
- Rabies pre-exposure vaccine provided37
- Age appropriate vaccination provided1,176
- Tuberculosis screening (PPD)646
- Positive TB treated6
- Family Planning Services1,581
- Colposcopy39
- HIV/AIDS testing and counseling1,320
- HIV/AIDS outreach and education6,000
- Adult evaluations and review services495
- Personal care program recipients70
- Seniors receiving preventive health services1,381
- Prostate Cancer screening110
- Child Abuse & Neglect exams22
- Maternal & Child Health case management services260 & ACCU
- Babies Borne Healthy/reproductive health education487
- Number of MCHP applications received5,756
- Eligible children received MCHP2,872
- Eligible prenatal received MCHP519
- Individuals insured through2,365 Family Expansion (Medicaid)
- Student health room visits in county schools194,281
- WIC services recipients6,335

Dental Clinic visits

- Adults528
- Children2,658
- Oral Health Education1,092
- Off site screenings and fluoride varnish13 schools

Public Health Preparedness & Response Services

The focus of this department centers on response and planning. At the onset of a public health emergency, and even dealing with

Charles County Department of Health (cont.)



day-to-day public health challenges, the Charles County Department of Health is tasked with protecting the health of the community. In order to respond accordingly, this department has developed response plans with the participation and cooperation of other divisions including the covering of distribution of emergency medications, pandemic influenza, severe weather events and crisis communications. Planning has also expanded to cover all hazard events that could potentially occur within the county. Participation in the National Capital Region's Council of Government emergency planning meetings is a priority due to the proximity of the county to the Nation's Capital. A nationwide planning structure under the Department of Homeland Security is the model used for all plans and response activities. Department staff is trained to utilize this system and continuous efforts to collaborate with response agencies from Charles County and neighboring jurisdictions is paramount to its overall functionality.

Promote:

- Distributed educational materials at community events, community centers, the Charles County Fair and Homeless Resource Days
- Posted public health information through the department web site, signage, lobby displays and local media
- Launched a volunteer program to build awareness of how volunteers would be needed in case of health emergencies

Prepare:

- Participated in local, regional and state emergency planning groups and training sessions
- Coordinated training for all department staff in the National Incident Management System (NIMS-is700a), Point of Dispensing (POD) and "Just in Time" training for vaccination clinics
- Posted public health information via the department web site, signage and local media
- Joined neighboring jurisdictions in a tabletop exercise designed to gauge ability to respond to a bioterrorism attack in Washington, DC

- Took part in an area wide exercise in which a natural disaster destroyed the local hospital – played out roles in crisis communication, surge plans

Respond

- Participated in local, regional and state emergency planning groups and training sessions
- Coordinated training for all department staff in the National Incident Management System (NIMS-is700a), Point of Dispensing (POD) and "Just in Time" training for vaccination clinics
- Posted public health information through the department web site, signage and local media
- Established working relationship with local Ham radio operators to enhance communication redundancy in times of emergency when needed

Substance Abuse Treatment & Prevention Services

This division is the primary publicly funded addictions provider in Charles County and provides a wide range of treatment programs and prevention services for county residents. As a key partner in the Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council this division works cooperatively with many local and state agencies to address community needs. The council focuses on assessing needs, identifying strengths and problems and developing resources for both adult and adolescent clients. Screening for substance abuse is provided for adults seeking several types of services at the Department of Social Services and the Charles County Court House. A full range of services are provided to county residents incarcerated at the detention center.

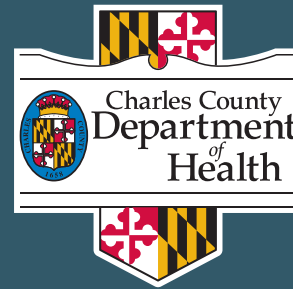
- Clients served2,276
- Treatment Services Attended24,066

Your Local Health Department

The Department of Health is responsible for creating and maintaining conditions that keep people healthy and safe within Charles County. As a governmental entity, the Department of Health derives its authority from state and local laws. The Department of Health assists in resolving medical, environmental, educational, mental health, developmental disability, emergency preparedness and substance abuse issues within the constraints of money and manpower. Some specific functions performed by the Charles County Department of Health include:

- Investigating health problems and threats.
- Preventing, minimizing and containing adverse health effects from diseases, disease outbreaks, from unsafe food and water, chronic diseases, environmental hazards, injuries and risky health behaviors.
- Providing mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment services to members of the community in need.
- Leading planning and response activities for health related emergencies.
- Collaborating with other local, state and national response agencies to intervene during emergencies.
- Implementing health promotions programs.
- Providing a limited range of clinical services, in communicable diseases, family planning and child health.
- Inspecting septic systems.
- Engaging the community to address public health issues.
- Developing local data and statistics that identify and mitigate health disparities in the community.
- Providing science-based, timely and culturally competent health information to the community and the media.
- Planning, developing and directing a statewide system of services for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Administering a food program for women, infants and children.

As a long-standing member of local governmental services, the Department of Health recognizes and understands the particular needs of the local community and develops strategies to respond to the cultural, economic, behavioral and social conditions that may affect the health of the citizens of Charles County.



www.charlescountyhealth.org

Acknowledgements

- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Cover photo of Health Department building by Conni Leigh James, copyright 2003

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Charles County Department of Health

General Information	301-609-6900	HIV/AIDS	
Health Officer	301-609-6900	Prevention Education	301-609-6811
Administration	301-609-6900	Counseling & Testing	301-609-6900 ext. 6025
Adult Evaluation & Review		Services & Case Management	301-609-6811
Services (AERS)	301-609-6817	Infants & Toddlers	301-609-6808
Cancer Screening:		Maryland Children's Insurance	
Breast & Cervical	301-609-6816	Program	301-609-6837
Colorectal	301-609-6843	Maternal/Child Health, ACCU,	
Prostate.....	301-609-6832	Child Abuse/Neglect	301-609-6900 ext. 6024
Child Immunization.....	301-609-6900 ext. 6024	Mental Health	301-609-6700
Adult Immunization.....	301-609-6900 ext. 6025	Personal Care Services	301-609-6879
Communicable Disease Control &		Public Health Preparedness	301-609-6761
Prevention/STD Services.....	301-609-6900 ext. 6025	School Health	301-609-6866
Dental Clinic.....	301-609-6886	Substance Abuse.....	301-609-6600
Disability Services	301-609-6830	Vital Records.....	301-609-6919
Environmental Health.....	301-609-6751	Women, Infants and Children's	
Family Planning, Colposcopy &		Program (WIC)	301-609-6857
Women's Health.....	301-609-6900 ext. 6018	877-631-6182