

The Plan

Lancaster County Public Health

Overview of the Community

Lancaster County is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, encompassing about 950 square miles. Its extensive, productive agricultural soils are considered to be some of the best non-irrigated farmland in the world. Agriculture is central to its identity and agricultural industries as a whole are important to Lancaster's economy - 63% of land is devoted to agriculture and 20% of the workforce is engaged in production agriculture or a related agricultural occupation. A range of other business and industry sectors join with tourism to build a healthy economy.

Within the past few years, an increasing demand for housing development for commuters to near by areas has pushed the county to be intentional in its plans for growth, to assure preservation of agricultural areas and natural resources.

Lancaster County is the 6th most populous county in Pennsylvania, with a population of 470,658 measured in 2000, a growth of 11.3% since the previous census. Twelve percent of its residents live in the City of Lancaster, of whom 20% (12,000 people) live in poverty, compared to 8% (37,650 people) in the county as a whole. The county is culturally and linguistically diverse, with increasing numbers of immigrants from Russia and Asian countries. The racial makeup is 91.5% White, 2.8% African American, 0.1% Native American, 1.5% Asian, 2.9% from other races, and 1.2% from two or more races. Hispanics of any race are 5.7% of the population.

Of the 172,560 households in the county, 34% have children under the age of 18 living in them. Nine percent of households have residents age 65 or older. 21% of Lancastrians over age 85 live in a long term care facility, compared to 16% in Pennsylvania. The median age of county residents is 36 years.

Lancaster County has four hospitals that provide an array of in-patient and out-patient medical services both in Lancaster City and throughout the county. There are two federally qualified health clinics, one in the city and one in the eastern part of the county. Although generally perceived as meeting the needs of its residents, existing healthcare providers

struggle to care for those without the ability to pay for services, especially in areas of medical specialties and dental care. Numerous coalitions and collaborations address issues of disparity and unmet need in an attempt to maximize existing community resources.

Sixty municipalities form the local government structure of Lancaster County, ranging in population from 1,120 to 56,300. They are supported in their planning efforts by Lancaster County Planning Commission. Although most municipalities provide independent public services, several have joined together to address regional needs.

Community Public Health Statistics

The following statistics provide a picture of what we know about public health status in Lancaster County from a range of sources. Some of the data is compared to other counties or the state as a whole to give a context to local measures. In addition, the 2010 national target is included when it is available. (In January 2000, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched Healthy People 2010, a comprehensive, nationwide health promotion and disease prevention agenda to serve as a road map for improving the health of all people in the United States during the first decade of the 21st century. The goals are to increase quality and years of healthy life, and eliminate health disparities. The data serves as a means for measuring achievement of those goals across the country.) Local data is not available to show if there are variations within the county.

Maternal, Infant and Child Health

Data from PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Healthy People 2010

(per 100,000 unless otherwise indicated)

	Lancaster 2000-2004		Pennsylvan ia 2000-2004	2010 National Target
	Number	Rate	Rate	Rate
Fetal death rate (per 1,000)	223	6.6	6.2	4.1
Perinatal death rate (per 1,000)	257	7.6	7.1	4.5
Infant death rate (per 1,000)	256	7.6	7.2	4.5
Neonatal death rate (per 1,000)	183	5.4	5.1	2.9
Postnatal death rate (per 1,000)	73	2.2	2.1	1.2
Child death rate for ages 1-4	57	43.0	28.0	18.6
% of births to mothers beginning pre-natal care in first trimester	14,181	78.3%	82.7%	90%
% of live births to mothers who received early & adequate prenatal care	8,803	50.8%	66.6%	90%
% of infants born at low birth weight	1,259	6.2%	8.4%	5.0%
% of infants born at very low birth weight	236	1.2%	1.8%	.9%
% of preterm live births	1,640	8.2%	10.1%	7.6%
% of live births to mothers who did not smoke during pregnancy	5,928	87.1%	82.1%	99%

Communicable Diseases

Data from PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics
(per 100,000 unless otherwise indicated)

	Lancaster 2000-2004	Pennsylvania 2000-2004	2010 National Target			
AIDS incidence rate	7	14	1			
HIV disease death rate	2	3.9	0.7			
Tuberculosis incidence rate	1.7	2.7	1			
	1994-1996	1997-1999	1998-2000	1999-2001	2000-2002	2001-2003
Syphilis	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Measles	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.07
Chlamydia	91.3	114.9	133.2	157.3	154.3	176.1
Giardiasis	18.1	9.6	9.5	8.1	7.3	9.0
Gonorrhea	37.1	34.8	43.3	57.1	57.1	62.7
Hepatitis: Type A	2.1	2.3	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.3
Hepatitis: Type B	3.1	2.8	2.2	1.9	1.2	1.2
Shigellosis	5.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	2.0

Chronic Diseases

Data from PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics
(per 100,000 unless otherwise indicated)

	Lancaster 2000-2004	Pennsylvania 2000-2004	2010 National Target
Diabetes death rate	75.8	80.7	45
Coronary heart disease death rate	151	180.9	166
Stroke death rate	57.8	54.6	48
Asthma death rate	1.3	1.2	na

Cancer

Data from PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics
(per 100,000 unless otherwise indicated)

	Lancaster 2000-2004	Pennsylvania 2000-2004	2010 National Target
Cancer death rate	186.4	200.8	159.9
Lung cancer death rate	47.3	54	44.9
Breast cancer death rate	26.6	27.6	22.3
Cervical cancer death rate	1.9	2.4	2
Colorectal cancer death rate	20.3	21.4	13.9
Prostate cancer death rate	26	28.7	28.8
Melanoma (skin) cancer death rate	3.5	2.8	2.5

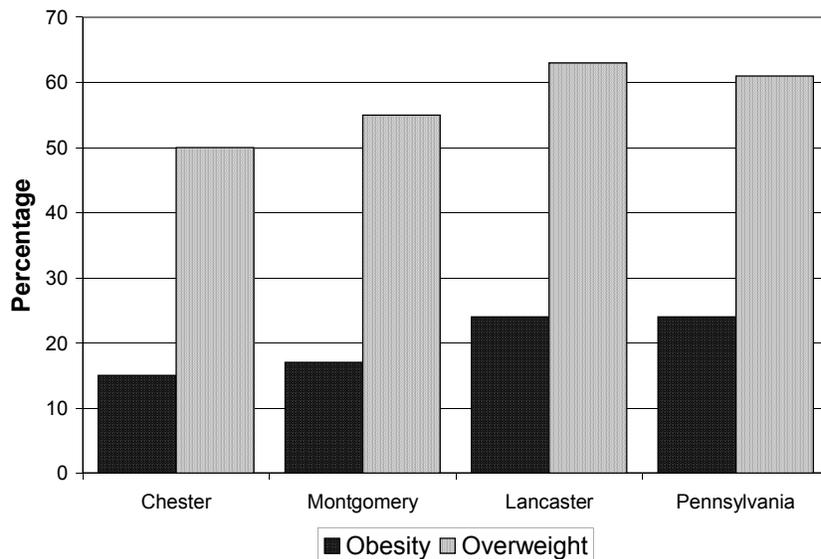
Areas of Education and Prevention

*Data from PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Lancaster Planning Commission
(per 100,000 unless otherwise indicated)*

	Lancaster 2000-2004	Pennsylvania 2000-2004	2010 National Target
% public school districts with nurse-to-student ratio of 1:75 or less	35.3	54	50
Pregnancy rate among adolescent females ages 15-17 (per 1,000)	19.1	24.9	43
Firearm-related death rate	5.8	9.8	4.1
Poisoning death rate	7.7	10.9	1.5
Unintentional injury death rate	31.9	35.9	17.5
Motor vehicle crash death rate	12.3	12.3	9.2
Accidental fall death rate	3.8	5.4	3
Homicide rate	2.5	5.5	3
Maltreatment of children under 18 (per 1,000)	5.1	8.2	10.3
Death rate for alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes	3.7	4.5	4
Cirrhosis death rate	7	8	3
Suicide rate	8.9	10.6	5
Animal bites (total – 2005)	652	na	na
Lyme disease incident rate	34.6	34.1	9.7

Rate of Overweight and Obesity in Adults

*Data from PA Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
2005*



Water

(Information from Lancaster Planning Commission Water Resources Plan 1996 and Lancaster County Growth Management Element Update 2005)

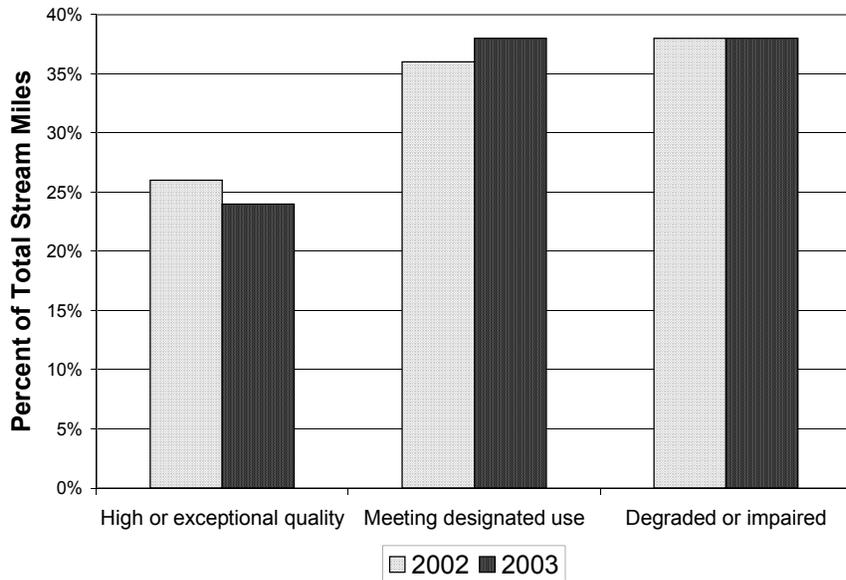
Approximately 64% of Lancaster County's households are served by public water suppliers. Private on-lot water wells serve the remaining 36%. Most residents of the County receive their water from one of 34 large community water suppliers. There are 870 active/inactive water systems throughout Lancaster County that require annual inspection. Seventeen municipalities do not have public water systems and four have only limited access to public water. Private wells continue to be the main source of water supply in rural areas of the County. There is no data on the number of private wells; licensing and inspection is not required, unless the water is used as drinking water in a public establishment or by a dairy that sells milk.

There is no county-wide water supplier or county water authority in Lancaster County. Lancaster County Planning Commission provides a county-wide framework and recommended guidelines for local and regional water supply planning. The most recent analysis of water resources for which data was available, was completed in 1996.

All of Lancaster County's public water suppliers are subject to regulation under the PA Safe Drinking Water Act and must be able to provide adequate supply, treatment capacity, treated storage capacity, and fire flow. An analysis of the County's large community water suppliers indicates that approximately one third has sufficient water to meet 2010 demands. One third may lack sufficient water for this period, while the remaining systems have an excess supply.

Water quality risks are a concern for private wells and public water providers. Potential sources of contamination include nutrient and chemical pollution from agriculture, on-lot disposal systems, and home landscaping; erosion and sedimentation of surface water; concentrated point sources; and new development.

Lancaster County Stream Quality
Total Stream Miles Measured = 1,364.85
(Data from Lancaster County Conservation District)



Sewer

(Information from Lancaster County Planning Commission Water Resources Plan 1996)

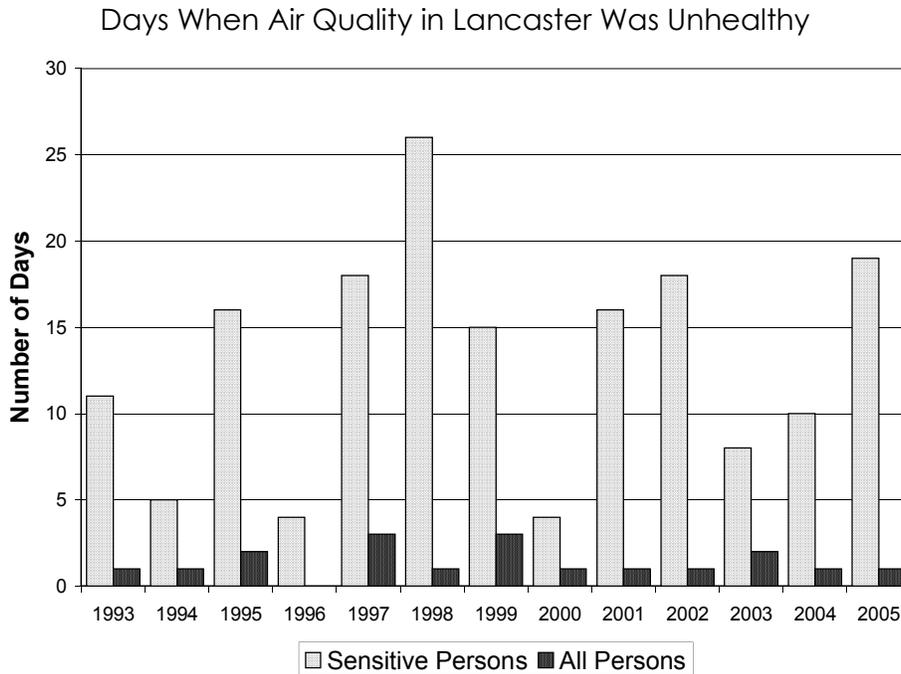
On-lot septic systems are another significant source of nitrate, fecal coliform and fecal staphylococcus bacterial contamination of groundwater. On-lot sewage disposal system malfunctions may or may not be noticeable to property owners. Many on-lot sewage disposal systems and cesspools were either improperly sited, have outlived their useful lives, are improperly utilized, or are not properly maintained. On-lot sewage disposal systems were not regulated by the DEP until 1966. Few municipalities require on-lot sewage disposal systems to be pumped out and maintained on a regular basis. The result has been widespread system failure and polluted groundwater in many areas of the County which has necessitated the extension of public water and sewer lines at public expense.

Air

(Data from US EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards)

Airborne nitrogen and sulfur, created by cars, trucks, power plants, and industries, cause acid rain and excess nutrients in County streams and groundwater. It is estimated that approximately one-third of nitrogen pollution may come from airborne pollutants. Pennsylvania has one of the highest levels of acid rain in the country. Lancaster County is classified as a "marginal non-attainment area" (meaning it does not meet standards) for compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, a

pollutant which is formed in the air by chemical reactions primarily involving volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.



(Sensitive persons are children, the elderly, and persons with asthma, emphysema, or chronic bronchitis.)

Food Safety

(Data from PA Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, and Lancaster City Health)

There are approximately 1,350 licensed food establishments in Lancaster County, with inspections conducted by PA Department of Agriculture. In addition, Elizabethtown, Columbia, and Lancaster City have trained health officers who conduct inspections within their jurisdictions. Inspection of 241 county food establishments in the first quarter of 2006 resulted in 8% with food code violations and 55% with violations of the PA Employee Certification Law.

Statistics for food-borne infectious diseases include:

	Lancaster 2000-2004	Pennsylvania 2000-2004	2010 National Target
Campylobacter species incidence rate	21.3	11.3	12.3
Salmonella species incidence rate	17.9	14.3	12.3

Institutional Environment and Lead

Bathing areas

Lancaster County has over 300 pools considered available for public use that require annual inspection. In 2005 about 30% needed minor corrections which were made prior to providing public access. In the city, one out of seven pools consistently tested positive for coli form throughout the summer. *(Data from Lancaster County Planning Commission and Lancaster City Health)*

Lead Poisoning

About 5.2% of tested children had a blood lead level above acceptable standards *(data from PA-NEDSS)*. Those tested below 5 years of age represent about 7.3% of the total number of children in that age group in the County.

Specimen Collection Dates in calendar year 2005

Numbers of Patients	Blood Lead Level (BLL)			
	Not Elevated 0 – 9 µg/dL	Elevated		Total
		10 – 19 µg/dL	≥ 20 µg/dL	
Age				
< 6 Yrs (0-71 months)	2,325	107	23	2,455
6 thru 15 Yrs (72-191 months)	175	7	0	182
Total < 16 Yrs (0-191 months)	2,500	114	23	2,637
Note: The information contained within this table reflects the data within PA-NEDSS (Lead Annual Report Cube) on April 3, 2006. The patient records underlying this information have not been fully duplicated at this point.				

Analysis and Recommendations for Addressing Public Health Needs

Analysis of health trends indicates that Lancaster County is improving in many public health areas, especially overall cancer mortality rates and average annual rates of infectious diseases. However, statistics show reason for concern in the following areas:

Personal Health

- Inadequate early pre-natal care
- High rate of infant mortality
- High rate of heart disease
- High rate of death from stroke
- Increase in asthma death rate
- High rate of death from melanoma cancer
- High rate of illness from vaccine preventable diseases
- High rate of overall child death
- Increase in sexually transmitted diseases gonorrhea and chlamydia

Environmental Health

- High incidence rate for Lyme disease throughout Pennsylvania, including in Lancaster County
- High lead levels in children
- Food borne contamination from salmonella and campylobacter
- Increase in giardiasis incidences, diarrheal illness caused by water borne parasite
- Increase in stream pollution
- Widespread failure of on-site sewer systems
- Increase in number of days air quality exceeds moderate levels

As evidenced by the challenge to secure up-to-date local public health statistics, there is a need for a centralized, neutral entity to collect and analyze data beyond what is mandated and collected by the PA Department of Health. Numerous providers collect data for use in developing and refining their service delivery, but for reasons of market share and confidentiality, the data remains proprietary, of little use to the general community for identifying broader trends and areas of need.

Lancaster County is fortunate to have an abundance of health care providers that are concerned about the well-being of its residents. In addition to the efforts of individual providers, numerous coalitions meet

regularly to monitor health needs and develop strategies to fill gaps. However, the needs are great and the ability to meet them is negatively impacted by decreasing numbers of health care professionals and dwindling funding resources. Historically schools have offered children some basic screening and preventive care, but local school districts currently provide a ratio of nurses to students that is significantly below the state average or the national target.

Environmental health needs are currently addressed in Lancaster County by numerous organizations operating with unique purposes and focus. Primary for public health issues is the PA Department of Environmental Protection, tasked with safe guarding air, water, and sewer. In recent years, they have reduced their workforce and their activities throughout individual counties, in spite of population and construction growth, leaving gaps in the provision of mandated services. In addition, individual municipalities play a role in oversight and enforcement. With 60 different entities and a wide range of expertise, there is much fragmentation of effort with wide-ranging inconsistencies across the county.

As stated in the 2002 Lancaster Health Improvement Partnership *Plan for Creating a Healthy Lancaster Community-2010*, "continuum of care is possible when all four components of the health care system (clinical preventive care, primary care, emergency services, and long-term and rehabilitative care) are working together and seamlessly with community support services. The public health system educates people about prevention and addresses the need to eliminate disparities by working to provide access to preventive services for everyone..... Major changes in the structure of the U.S. health care system, including the increasing influence of market forces, changes in payment and delivery systems, and welfare reform, have significant implications for vulnerable and at-risk populations. In light of these systems changes, federal, state, and local public health agencies must redouble their efforts to address access barriers and reduce disparities for these populations."

Lancaster County Public Health is a vehicle for helping to address some of the county's health concerns and access issues. Rather than attempting to duplicate or replace existing services, it offers the opportunity to support and enhance an over-burdened system. In addition, it brings government control to a county, rather than state level, for decision-making and prioritization, which results in less fragmentation and diffusion. Currently, public health needs are addressed primarily by three state departments – Health, Environmental Protection, and Agriculture, with divisions and staff that are responsible for services in other counties as well as Lancaster.

Lancaster County Public Health would address:

- promotion of good health throughout the life span
- safe drinking water
- clean and safe eating establishments
- availability of maternal and child health care
- protection against infestations of rats and other vectors
- collection and analysis of health statistics
- good air quality
- management of communicable diseases and prevention of outbreaks
- safe sewage disposal
- preparing for threats to our health and safety

We need to be more intentional in safe-guarding the health of all residents. Lancaster County relies on the efforts of independent private and public systems to address public health matters. In the face of increasing threats of disease outbreaks, municipalities struggling to resolve sewer challenges, and decreasing resources from State departments to provide services in our county, it is time to assume local responsibility for our public health.

Description of Local Public Health Department Functions

County government is given the authorization through PA Act 315 of 1951 to administer health laws and to provide public health services historically delivered through State agencies. The Act further authorizes State grants to enable counties to “reach or maintain a high level of performance of health services.” To receive those funds, local health departments are required to deliver services in three specific areas that include programs to address specific public health concerns. Those mandated functions would be delivered by Lancaster County Public Health as detailed in the following sections.

1. Administrative and Support Services

Lancaster County Public Health will rely on the capable and skilled administrative staff to secure adequate funding and allocation of resources for quality delivery of public health services. The administrative staff will be responsible for developing plans, assessments, budgets, and reports that reflect the health needs of the community and assure that services are provided through sound public health practices. In addition, they will serve as the focal point for public health involvement in local preparedness and response in the event of a bioterrorism or pandemic incident.

The proposed budget for public health during the first year is \$1.5 million, with revenue from State and Federal grants, fees, private grants, the County’s operating fund, and the State Act 315 and Act 12 allocations. Subsequent years will show a nominal increase for inflation and a few additional staff to keep up with anticipated county population expansion.

The staff that will provide administrative services includes the director of health (a physician), support and fiscal staff, and additional staff to fulfill the functions of the division. Staff throughout the department may need to be available 24/7 to respond to outbreak or investigation emergencies.

Administration

The administrative and support function of Lancaster County Public Health is to provide leadership to both the staff and the community on public health issues. Administrative staff will conduct the daily financial and operational functions, including responsibility for directing personnel activities such as job descriptions, performance evaluations, complaints, attendance records, payroll, and professional development of staff.

Other duties include office operations such as purchasing and clerical duties, as well as contract and fiscal management.

Program Goal: To provide leadership and direction for the provision of high quality public health services

Objective 1: Oversee department programs, staff, budget, policies & procedures, codes & enforcement

Activities:

- Comply with merit system requirements for personnel administration
- Submit annual program plans to PA DOH
- Provide support for Board of Health
- Report department activities to Commissioners on a regular basis

Evaluation Methods: Department delivers services effectively, within fiscal and program guidelines

Health Statistics

Data collection is critical for mapping disease trends and activity throughout the county, to provide support for appropriate response, treatment, and containment. In addition, health statistics inform grant and program development, program evaluation, and help in identifying target populations for chronic disease management and other public health services. In general, public health data is available for Lancaster County from PA Department of Health. Health data that is collected locally is often resident with health care providers for purposes of business development and is not available for community use. Lancaster County Public Health could serve as a neutral entity to collect, analyze and disseminate aggregate health data to identify disparities in healthcare delivery.

Program Goal: To direct data collection and analysis of health statistics

Objective 1: Assess the health of Lancaster County residents through collecting and interpreting data, case-finding, monitoring and reporting trends

Activities:

- Utilize data collected through PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS) for reporting lab results and Real

Time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance (RODS) for emergency department visit information

- Submit monthly reports to identified stakeholders (including physicians and other health and environmental service providers) with statistics on new and year-to-date cases of reportable diseases, animal bites, farm accidents, etc. and any appropriate analysis
- Submit annual summary report to the community

Evaluation Methods: Utilization of information gathered for grant applications, program development, and service delivery

Community Coordination/Collaboration and Prevention

The ability of Lancaster County Public Health to provide quality services in the community is enhanced by effective working relationships with other service providers. The cooperation and involvement of other health professionals is essential. This positive environment promotes timely and accurate reporting of diseases, cooperation with public health interventions, value for public health concerns, and a community-wide commitment to improved health outcomes.

Program Goal: To provide leadership for community coordination and collaboration of public health concerns and to join in educating the public about important public health concerns

Objective 1: Assure that public health is represented in the community and that public health services are informed by issues and concerns of the community and driven by reported public health data

Activities:

- Maintain a centralized information data base on health and environmental services
- Participate on coalitions, task forces, etc.
- Identify partnership opportunities
- Provide support to local health-related coalitions such as immunization coalition

Evaluation Methods: Community members look to Lancaster County Public Health as a leading source of information on public health issues

Objective 2: Increase public awareness of health concerns and resources available to address teen pregnancy, poison control, accidental injury, child abuse, alcohol, animal bites, and other public health concerns

Activities:

- Provide information about compelling health and environmental issues of concern through TV ads, newspaper articles, billboards, public forums, web sites, or other media
- Assure the availability of regular classes on a range of topics through contract with existing providers with outreach efforts to populations at risk
- Monitor contracts and coordination with providers
- Maintain an up-to-date web site

Evaluation Methods: Regular hits on the web site; attendance at educational sessions and high customer satisfaction; media attention for public health issues

Bio and Agri-terrorism and Pandemic Preparedness

Lancaster County Public Health will participate with other community service providers in preparing for health disasters. The department will link with local, county, state, and federal authorities to ensure that local surveillance and response measures address any and all possible threats from bioterrorism or a flu pandemic.

Program Goal: To protect the public in the event of a health disaster

Objective 1: Ensure that resources are in place, staff is trained and the community is prepared

Activities:

- Establish an identification and control program designed to create awareness, education, and surveillance of potential bioterrorism and pandemic threats
- Utilize data collected through PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS) for reporting lab results and Real Time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance (RODS) for emergency department visit information
- Link with all applicable local, county, regional, state, and federal authorities
- Coordinate local communication and response efforts

- Develop and conduct regular practice drills for emergency response

Evaluation Methods: Existence of a plan with established links, roles, and personnel for responding to a threat

2. Personal Health

The personal health needs of Lancaster County residents are generally well served through an array of high quality health care providers. The role of Lancaster County Public Health is not as a primary provider, but rather as a central point for focusing health issues for residents and assuring that they are able to access the services they need. In addition, there are several report and enforcement roles reserved for a county health department. The areas of personal health addressed by public health are maternal, infant and child health, communicable disease control, and chronic disease management.

Maternal and Child Health

Services directed toward mothers and babies are well provided for in the private sector by existing healthcare providers. However, it is the role of public health to assure that those who need care are able to secure it. This includes immunizations and other early childhood screenings. For those services currently provided by the PA DOH in Lancaster County, contracts will be secured with existing providers to assure continuation of those services and Lancaster County Public Health will monitor the contracts.

Program Goal: To expand the capacity of existing providers to reduce infant mortality and improve pregnancy outcomes, and the health and life-course of Lancaster County families

Objective 1: Establish contract(s) with existing provider(s) to continue the maternal and child health services currently provided by the state health department

Activities:

- Identify potential providers
- Disseminate a Request for Proposals
- Choose provider(s) and finalize contracts
- Monitor services provided by contractors
- Develop a contingency plan if no providers are found

- Identify and address disparities in access to services

Evaluation Methods: Monthly reports from providers with measurement against a pre-determined set of criteria for achievement of outcomes

Communicable Disease Control

The role of Lancaster County Public Health in controlling communicable disease is to assume the responsibilities previously held in the county by PA Department of Health. These include surveillance of all reportable diseases and control and prevention of outbreaks and unusual occurrences, including animal bites. Testing, treatment and counseling for people with sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS is provided through contracts with several local providers. In addition, there are 77 providers who participate in the federal Vaccines for Children program. The unique role for Lancaster County Public Health is to regularly analyze and disseminate for use by local health care providers the data reported by law to the PA DOH. In addition, Lancaster County Public Health has the responsibility to protect the public from possible spread of diseases by contacting those who are carriers or exposed and ensuring that they do what is necessary to contain any outbreaks.

Program Goal: To survey, detect, control, prevent, and analyze the incidence of reportable diseases and conditions that pose a significant risk to the health of the public

Objective 1: Investigate and provide follow-up for all reportable diseases and conditions

Activities:

- Employ an epidemiologist
- Report findings as required to PA DOH
- Implement procedures to control and prevent further outbreaks
- Interview those affected with the disease to determine the source, possible spread, and required follow-up
- Identify others who might be infected and inform them of steps to take
- Provide education to promote understanding of basic hygiene practices and disease prevention Participate in the US Center for Disease Control National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) as part of the Public Health Information Network (PHIN)
- Assure timely reporting from mandated reporters in compliance with state guidelines

Evaluation Method: Track diseases and activities to control them and measure against data for other areas and prior time frames; track timeliness of reporting from mandated reporters

Objective 2: Make available vaccines for preventable diseases to appropriate health care providers and assure equitable distribution

Activities:

- Identify those who provide immunizations
- Monitor contracts for quality service delivery and compliance with regulations
- Educate the public on access points for needed vaccines and importance of securing immunizations
- Develop a plan for emergency mass immunization as needed
- Assure equitable distribution of vaccines across populations
- Participate in data collection and dissemination through the Statewide Immunization Information System (SIIS)

Evaluation Method: Monthly reports on the amount of vaccine disseminated and those served

Objective 3: Assure the continuation of services for people with tuberculosis infection either through a contracted provider, or direct delivery of services

Activities:

- Perform active case finding and epidemiological investigations of a case or suspected case of tuberculosis
- Assure that proper protocols are followed
- Provide assessment, diagnosis and treatment in compliance with CDC guidelines
- Monitor completion of treatment in compliance with guidelines
- Provide TB training and education to clinical staff and community health care providers as well as those with active or latent infection to prevent transmission

Evaluation Method: Monthly activity reports that measure progress toward expected outcomes

Objective 4: Ensure that providers of services for communicable disease control, including sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, maintain a high level of care

Activities:

- Monitor contracts and collaborations
- Secure ongoing funding

Evaluation Method: Monthly reports from providers with measurement against a pre-determined set of criteria for achievement of outcomes

Chronic Disease Management

The role of Lancaster County Public Health in chronic disease management is to support and participate in the efforts of community healthcare providers to educate the public on the benefits of early detection and treatment. In addition, Lancaster County Public Health will secure available funding to help underwrite the cost of public education campaigns.

Program Goal: To decrease the incidence of death and disability caused by chronic diseases through outreach and education

Objective 1: Collaborate with existing health care providers to inform residents of the value of early identification and treatment of cancer, stroke, diabetes, osteoporosis, asthma, obesity, and other chronic diseases, as well as the risks of tobacco use and preventable injuries

Activities:

- Promote prevention and early detection
- Identify support services
- Secure funding to support efforts

Evaluation Methods: Monthly and quarterly measurements of activities throughout the community

3. Environmental Health

Lancaster County Public Health will provide environmental services in partnership with existing local, state, and national organizations to address the health concerns of residents. The two primary areas of involvement will be 1) water and sewer (which includes pollution control, drinking water quality, issuance of permits, inspecting private water supply and on-lot sewers, responding to sewage and water quality complaints, and reviewing planning modules of new land development); and 2) environmental field services (which includes inspecting food establishments, health and safety inspections of organized camps, campgrounds, public bathing facilities, mobile home parks, and schools,

investigating and abating environmental and general nuisance complaints).

Water and Sewer

Municipal and state entities have generally been responsible for water and sewer services for residents. Several municipalities have worked together to develop combined systems. The county planning commission has offered some assistance in gaining a county-side perspective on planning, but efforts and authority are held at the municipal level, with a range of codes and enforcement. For some this works well; for others it is difficult to secure the expertise needed to maintain quality systems. There are 33 sewage enforcement officers certified by the state. For those municipalities that would like to avail themselves of the opportunity, Lancaster County Public Health can provide some of the licensing, monitoring, and enforcement currently provided by municipal staff.

Program Goal: To transfer responsibility from PA DEP those duties that are permitted under law and that enhance environmental health services in Lancaster County

Objective 1: Protect the public from potential communicable disease outbreaks via direct contact with untreated human waste through malfunctioning on-lot sewage disposal systems

Activities:

- Conduct site evaluations for on-lot sewage disposal systems in those municipalities that request the service
- Issue or deny on-lot sewage disposal system permit applications
- Inspect on-lot sewage system for proper installation
- Review planning modules for land development and municipal official plan revisions and submit recommendations for PA DEP review
- Ensure proper administration of the on-lot sewage disposal program
- Respond to complaints regarding on-lot sewage disposal systems in a timely manner and suspected disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies as an agency priority
- Provide outreach, literature distribution, program direction, and current operational procedure of on-lot sewage disposal systems to municipal officials, environmental consultants, and residents

Evaluation Methods: Analyze monthly statistics and compare them to previous months and years, as experience grows

Objective 2: Promote safe and potable drinking water for residents served by individual water wells and transient (water system that serves the public on an irregular basis, such as a restaurant, motel, shopping center, etc.) and non-transient (water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same people over 6 months per year) non-community public systems

Activities:

- Investigate individual water supply contamination complaints and provide outreach to municipal and state officials and affected water supply users
- Provide outreach to residents, well-drillers, municipal officials, realtors and other interested parties on individual water supplies
- Conduct regular water testing of eating establishments served by on-site water supplies and/or sewage disposals
- Provide water sampling, water analysis and result interpretations for residents with private wells in partnership with a local lab
- Inspect and monitor transient and non-transient non-community public systems for compliance with the PA safe drinking water regulations
- Provide education on best practices for private wells

Evaluation Methods: Compile and analyze monthly statistics that measure test results

Objective 3: Maintain and improve the quality of surface and ground waters

Activities:

- Monitor sewage treatment plants and industrial waste treatment plants operating under PA DEP permits for compliance with permit conditions and carry out any needed enforcement
- Evaluate and follow-up on reported water pollution incidents
- Evaluate Act 537 planning module submissions and waste-load management reports
- Submit monthly narrative and statistical reports to PA DEP and other entities as required

Evaluation Methods: Compile and analyze monthly statistics that measure monitoring results

Food Protection

Lancaster Public Health will assume responsibility from the PA Department of Agriculture and those local municipalities who so choose, for inspecting and licensing food establishments that serve the public. In addition, it will assure that managers are properly certified to oversee the work of food handlers and investigate any allegations or suspicions of disease outbreaks. The Department will also investigate establishments allegedly operating without appropriate inspection and licensing and will investigate suspected outbreaks of food contamination.

Program Goal: To protect the public who eat in licensed food establishments from food borne illnesses

Objective 1: Maintain or improve the sanitary operations of the approximately 1,350 food establishments in the county

Activities:

- Provide regular inspections of all licensed food service providers, except where conducted by municipality
- Investigate reports of food-borne diseases
- Assure training of food handlers in food safety
- Review and approve applications for food vendor licenses
- Convene an advisory group to address fees, frequency of inspections, codes, and consistency within the county and the region.

Evaluation Methods: monthly measurement of compliance and comparison to previous months and years, as experience grows

Objective 2: Investigate suspected unlicensed establishments and reported outbreaks of food contamination.

Activities:

- Respond to reports of suspected food contamination and investigate
- Respond to reports of food establishments serving the public without proper inspection or licensing

Evaluation Methods: track investigation reports to assure compliance with established standards for proper response and follow-up

Nuisance and Vector Control

Lancaster Public Health will address concerns related to vector borne diseases such as rodent infestations, flies, and mosquitoes. Currently Penn State Extension receives a grant from PA DEP for West Nile virus prevention to monitor and test insects and spray or abate the nuisance as needed. The City of Lancaster through a grant from a local source provides a service to eradicate rodent infestations and mosquitoes. However, throughout the county, there are gaps in nuisance and vector control.

Program Goal: To protect the health and public safety of residents from health nuisances and vector borne diseases

Objective 1: Investigate and eliminate nuisances and vectors

Activities:

- Respond to complaints from residents and implement plan for abatement
- Educate public and private sectors in their efforts to control infestations
- Identify potential breeding sites and areas for infestations and treat them appropriately to eliminate the threat

Evaluation Methods: Monthly measurement of activity and comparison with previous months for trends

Institutional, Recreational, and Housing Environment

The focus of this service is to assure that institutions such as schools, skilled nursing facilities, child care facilities, mobile home parks, camps and campgrounds, and public bathing areas are free of public health hazards, including lead.

Program Goal: To maintain or improve the environmental sanitary conditions of institutional-type facilities

Objective 1: Conduct seasonal and routine sanitation and safety inspections

Activities:

- Respond to complaints from PA DEP or DOH, or private citizens regarding specific health or safety concerns
- Assess the facilities' compliance with applicable rules and regulations and initiate action as required to resolve offenses
- Educate staff of facilities to increase awareness of environmental issues

Evaluation Methods: Monthly measurement of complaints and inspection results as compared with prior months

Objective 2: Ensure the investigation of reports of high lead levels and test children for lead poisoning

Activities:

- Continue contracts with current providers of this service to assure seamless continuity of service
- Monitor contracts for service quality
- Identify any gaps in service areas and fill them
- Educate the public on the hazards of lead poisoning

Evaluation Method: Monthly reports from providers with measurement against a pre-determined set of criteria for achievement of outcomes

Sources of Information

1. Local Health Administration Law – Act 315, August 24, 1951 P.L. 1304
2. Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act 537, 1967
3. Healthy People 2010 – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2000
4. Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics at www.dsf.health.state.pa.us
5. Lancaster County Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan, Growth Management Element Update 2005
6. Lancaster General Lancaster County Health Data Report 2005
7. Measure Up Lancaster! Lancaster County Indicators Report 2003
8. Lancaster Health Improvement Partnership 2005 Behavioral Health Risks and A Plan for Creating a Healthy Lancaster Community 2010
9. Lancaster County Conservation District County Implementation Plan 2006
10. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
11. NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officers) National Profile of Local Health Departments 2005
12. City Profile-Lancaster, PA – cityoflancasterpa.com
13. Rose Long, Lancaster County Planning Commission
14. Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Food Safety
15. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
16. Annual Health Plan City of York 2004
17. Montgomery County Health Department 2005 Program Plans

18. Bucks County Department of Health Program Plans 2006

19. Drexel University School of Public Health Feasibility Study: Establishing a Department of Public Health in Lancaster County April 2005

Steering Committee Members

Volunteers

Sally L. Craig, DO – Penn State; Elizabethtown Board of Health

Lamonte Garber – Environmental Consultant

Vincent Glielmi, DO – Ephrata Community Hospital

Sharon Greelish Cody – Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation

Marla Konas – Lancaster Regional Health

Robert Krissinger, MD – retired

Jim Laughman – Lancaster County Human Services

JoAnn Lawer – Lancaster General Hospital

Jeff Martin, MD – Lancaster City Board of Health

Albert Price, MD – retired

Daniel Schlegel, MD – Resident, Lancaster General Hospital

Carol Simpson – Manheim Township Commissioner

Charles Stream, PA-C – Drexel University

Jennifer Thompson – St. Joseph Health Ministries

Nikitas Zervanos, MD – semi-retired

Staff

Pixie Berman –Success by Six

Susan Eckert – President, United Way of Lancaster County

Greg Freedland – Communications

Joe Quattrocchi – Vice President, Community Impact

Hilda Shirk, PhD – Project Manager