



2025

Allegany County Health Department 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER



Gena M. Spear, Health Officer

Standing in the gap between available services and community health needs, the Allegany County Health Department (ACHD) carries out essential public health functions which touch the lives of every county resident. We investigate health hazards, provide health education, enforce health laws and regulations, link people to needed services, and provide health care when it is otherwise unavailable.

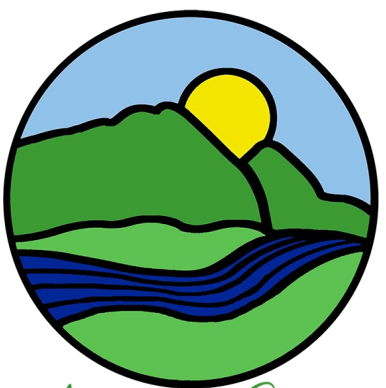
Addressing health issues in our community is a collaborative effort. We work with many partner organizations including health care providers, social service agencies, schools, law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations, and more. The Allegany County Health Planning Coalition, co-chaired by the health department and UPMC Western Maryland, takes the lead on assessing community health needs and implementing local health improvement strategies.

ACHD is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our communities. Our mission is to promote physical, behavioral, and environmental health, and prevent disease and disability in Allegany County.

We are proud to share information on the health department's many programs and services in the Allegany County Health Department FY 2025 Annual Report.

Gena M. Spear
Health Officer

Health Department Overview



Allegany County
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"Healthy People, Healthy Communities"

The Allegany County Health Department is located in Cumberland, Maryland and serves Allegany County residents and visitors. With a staff of 270 employees, the health department provides a wide range of public health programs and services. In fiscal year 2025, the Allegany County Health Department budget totaled \$32,055,804. The department's operating budget is comprised of federal, state, and county funds; grants; and collections. The Allegany County Health Department is led by Health Officer Gena Spear, Medical Deputy Health Officer Dr. Jennifer Corder, Deputy Health Officer for Operations Becki Clark, and a team of department directors (see the organizational chart on Page 4). The health department is governed by the Maryland Department of Health and the Allegany County Board of Health which is comprised of the Allegany County Commissioners and the Health Officer. The Allegany County Health Department is nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), and the behavioral health programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The health department participates in continuous quality improvement efforts to ensure that it is making ongoing improvements to enhance services and meet the needs of the community.

Allegany County Overview

Allegany County is located in rural Western Maryland and has a population of approximately 67,273 people. As part of the Appalachian region, the county has a larger elderly population, less racial diversity, and lower household incomes and education levels than the state of Maryland as a whole.

In Allegany County, 21.4% of the population is age 65 and older (compared to 17.3% in Maryland) and 17.9% of the county population is under age 18 (compared to 22% in Maryland). In Allegany County, 86.3% of the population is white, 7.7% is black, and 2.1% is Hispanic or Latino. Only 3.3% of residents speak a language other than English at home compared to 19.8% in Maryland.

According to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Allegany County is faring worse than the average county in Maryland for Population Health and Well-being, and slightly worse than the average county in the nation. The 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment identified three health priorities in Allegany County: Access to care, behavioral health, and chronic disease.

Access to Care: Allegany County faces significant challenges in healthcare access due to limited resources, geography, inadequate transportation, and insurance constraints. A disproportionately high percentage of county residents (35%) live in rural, low-population-density areas, compared to 14% statewide in Maryland. This remoteness, coupled with a lack of transportation, severely limits access to many healthcare centers and providers for those in outlying county areas. Additionally, the county has a substantial shortage of health professionals. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), 33.2% of Allegany County is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), nearly double the statewide rate of 18%. This shortage is particularly severe in the areas of mental health, dental care, and primary care.

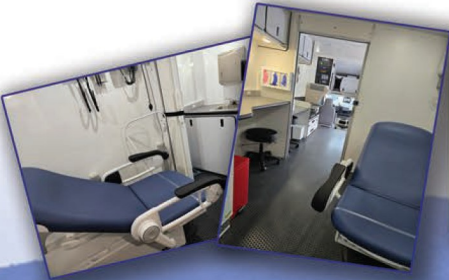
Behavioral Health: Challenges include fragmented referral systems, limited access to services, public awareness deficits, issues with youth access, and pervasive stigma. In 2023, Allegany County's drug-induced death rate was 47.7 deaths per 100,000 population, a decrease of 4.3 deaths from 2022. From 2017 to



Chronic Disease: Contributing factors include insufficient access to prevention and disease management services; the need for more cancer prevention services and awareness; and food insecurity driven by economic issues. Chronic conditions such as heart disease are among the leading causes of death in Allegany County. Heart disease impacts 8.5% of the adult population, with this figure rising to 29% among the Medicare population. Obesity is a major public health issue in the county, according to 2023 data from the Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. This data indicates that 34% of adults and 15.7% of children in the county are affected by obesity. The county's incidence rate for lung and cervical cancer is 25% higher than both state and national rates. Additionally, the mortality rates for colorectal and lung cancer in the county are 10-25% above both the state and national averages. (MDH Cancer Data, 2021)

Further impacting all of those issues is the poverty rate in Allegany County. Allegany County faces significant economic challenges, with 16.3% of its residents living in poverty. This rate is substantially higher than state (9.1%) and national (12.1%) averages. Furthermore, 27.4% of Allegany County children (under 18) live in poverty. According to 2025 U.S. Census data, the median household income in Allegany County was \$65,498.

Allegany County Health Department H.E.A.L. Mobile Health Education & Access Link



Resources • Health Education •
Outreach • Telehealth Services •
Clinical Services • Referrals

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myalleganyhealth.org/healmobile

Supported by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. The views presented here are those of the grantee organization and not necessarily those of the Commission, its Executive Director, or its staff.

2024 County Population: 67,097

ACHD Employees:

County – 0

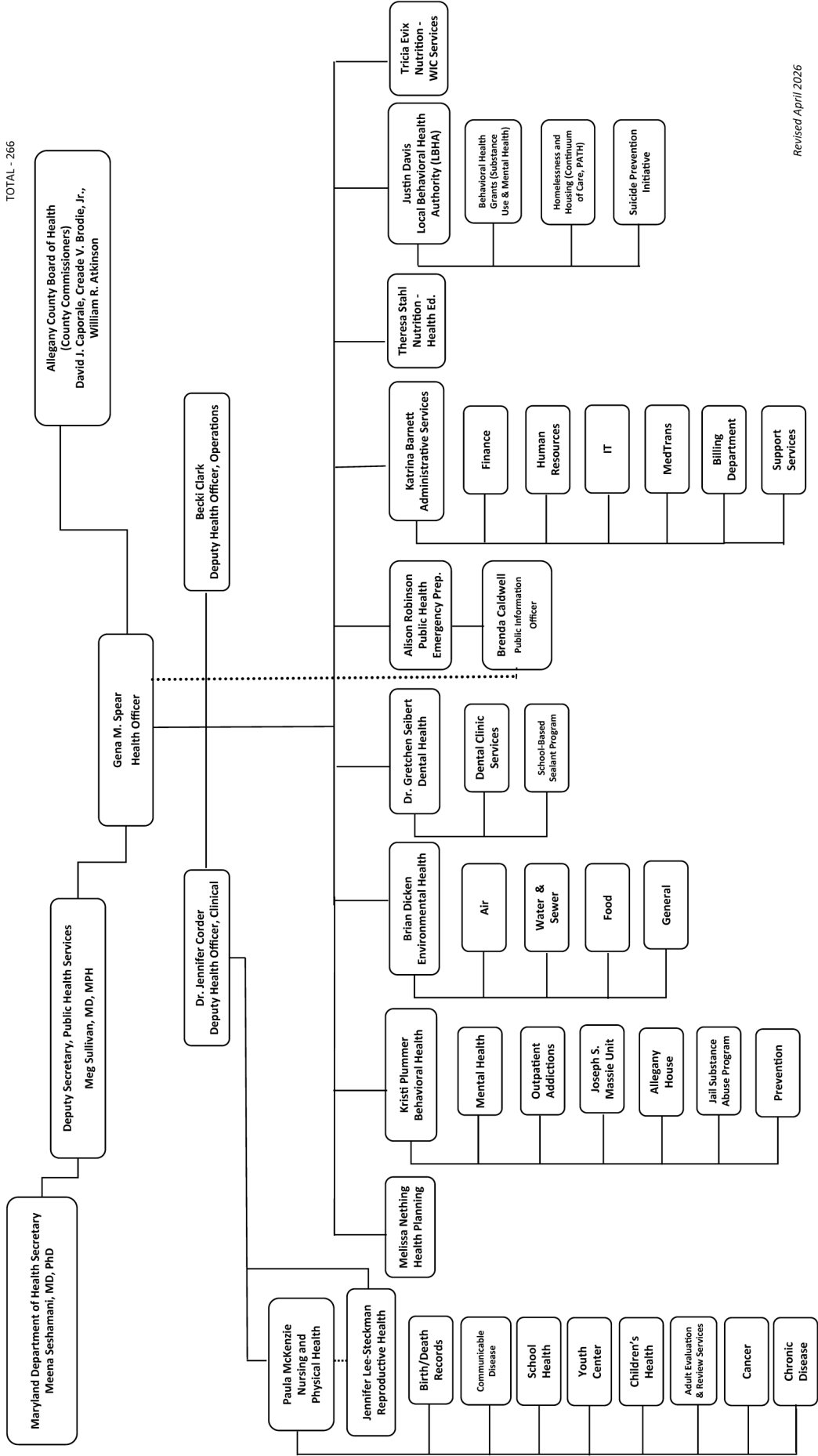
State – 266

TOTAL - 266



ACHD Organizational Chart - FY2026

<http://mvalleganhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/ACHD-Organizational-Chart-April-2026.pdf>



Revised April 2026

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Assessing and Addressing Service Quality and Community Health Needs

HEALTH PLANNING

The Health Planning department focuses on the implementation of sustainable, cross-sector solutions to ultimately enhance population health outcomes, to enhance the health and well-being of all Allegany County residents by utilizing data, community input, and strong community partnerships. This department is central to coordinating activities for maintaining accreditation with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and overseeing ACHD's Strategic Planning and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). This was the first full year collecting ACHD's new Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS). Furthermore, the Director of Health Planning serves as a co-chair of the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC).

- 270 Customer Satisfaction Survey collected in FY25, with ACHD services receiving an average rating of 4.85 out of 5.
- 1,034 Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) collected
- 9 Community listening Sessions (for CHNA and Rural Health Transformation)
- 2 Community Health Plans and Reports Published (2025 Community Health Needs Assessment and PHAB Annual Report)
- 303 planning partners on AlleganySpeaks.com.
- 12 LHIC meetings and/or workgroups.
- 2 Key Public Health initiatives led and set to launch in early 2026; ACHD Strategic Planning and the new HEAL Mobile.
- 8 outreach and community partner events, reaching a total of 2,613 individuals.

Preventing the Spread of Disease

IMMUNIZATIONS

Vaccination is the best way to prevent life-threatening diseases. The health department immunization program provides vaccinations for children and adults through a weekly immunization clinic. Overseas immunizations are scheduled as needed and influenza vaccinations in schools are conducted each fall.

- 1,333 vaccinations were given in FY25.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Reporting cases of known or suspected infectious diseases allows public health authorities to ensure proper identification and follow-up to protect the public's health. The Communicable Disease program follows individual cases to ensure proper treatment, identify potential sources of infection, provide education to reduce the risk of transmission, and

take measures to reduce the spread of disease.

- 644 communicable disease cases were investigated in FY25.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI)

The STI program operates a walk-in STI Clinic every Tuesday to provide comprehensive testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. The program also follows up with partners to arrange for testing and treatment.

- 282 individuals were seen in the STI Clinic in FY25.

Ensuring Healthy Pregnancies, Healthy Infants and Healthy Families



WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM

WIC is a federally funded program that provides nutrition and breastfeeding education and support, supplemental food and referrals to community resources. Those eligible are pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children up to age 5 who meet income and residency guidelines. WIC works to promote healthy pregnancies, prevent health problems in children, and improve the long-term health, growth, and development of all WIC participants. Over half of the infants born in the United States are on WIC.

- 2,171 WIC participants were served at six clinic sites in FY25.
- 7,925 participant visits held at six sites in FY25.
- 135 breastfeeding moms received support in FY25.
- 30.9% of Allegany County WIC infants were exclusively breastfed in FY25.

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

Breastfeeding is one of the most effective preventive measures a mother can take to protect the health of her infant. The WIC program begins breastfeeding education with each pregnant woman in the program during her initial certification to assist her in making an informed decision about feeding her baby. The WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor program works one-on-one with breastfeeding moms and babies, providing education and support with the goal of maintaining breastfeeding for at least six months.

- 135 breastfeeding moms received breastfeeding support in FY25.
- 30.91% of Allegany County WIC infants were exclusively breastfed in FY25.

HOME VISITING

The primary purpose of home visiting with Healthy Families Allegany is to provide resources at the local level to strengthen community-based services for pregnant women, parents and children, and the family unit with a focus on increasing childhood well-being. Intentional efforts are made to address childhood trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) using research-informed practices. Early intervention activities result in an increase in positive maternal health outcomes, strengthening the parent-child bond, promoting childhood well-being and school readiness. Healthy Families Allegany is an evidence-based home visiting program for improving parent and child outcomes. Weekly, hour-long home visits begin prenatally or within the first three months after a child's birth. Visit frequency decreases over time based on family progress, and services are offered through the child's 3rd birthday.

- 53 families were served in FY25.
- 851 home visits were completed in FY25.

Enhancing the Health of Children and Adolescents



LEAD POISONING

Childhood lead exposure continues to be a priority in Allegany County due to the many homes built prior to 1950. The lead poisoning program provides comprehensive nurse case management for children with lead poisoning. Efforts include: working with a team of professionals to conduct home lead inspections, facilitating the steps to reduce lead levels in the home, and assisting with follow-up care.

- 53 children (including 28 new cases) were provided comprehensive case management for lead poisoning in FY25.



SCHOOL HEALTH

Allegany County has 22 public schools and approximately 8,113 students. The Allegany County Health Department collaborates with the Allegany County Public Schools to provide student health services through the School Health program. School nurses care for students with acute illnesses and injuries, manage chronic health conditions, administer medications, conduct health screenings, and take part in health education and wellness activities.

- 51,112 visits were made to school nurses during the 2024-2025 school year.
- School nurses administered 36,075 doses of prescription medication during the 2024-2025 school year.

Improving Access to Care for Underserved Populations

MARYLAND MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY UNIT (MCHP)

Medicaid is a public health insurance program. It is free or low-cost health insurance for eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. It is the largest health care program in the United States.



In Maryland, Medicaid covers about 1.5 million people. Nearly one in four Marylanders get their health insurance through Medicaid. Half of those covered are children. Locally, people also call it Medical Assistance. The Allegany County Health Department's Medicaid Eligibility Unit can help by providing one-on-one enrollment help through the Maryland Health Connection.

- For FY2025, the Allegany County Health Department provided assistance to 3,852 individuals.
- Medicaid applications were processed for 1,257 families, 700 children, 249 pregnant women, and 1,016 adults.
- Additionally, 985 individuals received assistance renewing their Medicaid eligibility and 515 individuals were approved for private health plans with financial assistance.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE CARE COORDINATION

As of June 30, 2025, 32.61% of Allegany County residents were receiving some form of Maryland Medical Assistance. In an effort to improve access to health care and decrease unnecessary hospital visits, the Administrative Care Coordination Unit (ACCU) program provides short-term care coordination for Medical Assistance enrollees. Services include education regarding health coverage, assistance in obtaining medical providers, and help resolving access to care issues.

- 719 clients were assisted through service coordination in FY25.
- 187 education and outreach visits were made to health care provider offices.
- 22 outreach events and presentations were given/attended in FY25.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION

Each year, lack of available transportation causes a significant percentage of Allegany County residents to miss important healthcare appointments. Getting to medical appointments can be especially difficult for individuals who have limited income, do not own a vehicle, lack access to public transportation, or have physical limitations. To improve access to care,

the Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation program provides clients with Medical Assistance transport to medical appointments.

- 11,259 appointment trips provided in FY25.

ASSESSMENT EVALUATION AND REVIEW SERVICES (AERS)

Assessment Evaluation and Review Services provides no-cost evaluations for frail, aged, and disabled individuals who require long-term care and are at risk of institutionalization. The AERS assessor conducts an on-site comprehensive evaluation to identify available community resources to help individuals remain in the least restrictive environment, with as much independence as possible. AERS is a Maryland program based in local health departments. AERS is also the lead agency for the Senior Care Program and the National Family Caregiver Support Program in Allegany County.

- 477 client assessments were completed in FY25.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The National Family Caregiver Support Program conducts in-home and on-site visits to evaluate individuals and refer them for services they may be eligible to receive. The care recipients must have a caregiver who needs respite to be eligible.

- 359 hours of respite were provided to caregivers in FY25 in addition to 652 hours of chores and personal care.



NURSE MONITORING

The Nurse Monitoring program provides case monitoring for personal care for clients approved for services through Community First Choice, Community Personal Assistance Services, or the Community Options Waiver Program. Personal care includes help bathing, dressing, and other activities of daily living to prevent individuals from needing to move into a nursing home or other institution.

- 1,308 hours of Nurse Monitoring services were provided in FY25.

SENIOR CARE

The percentage of Allegany County's population age 65 or older exceeds the state average. Some older adults experience functional limitations that prevent them from carrying out everyday tasks. The Senior Care Program provides assistance with chores, respite, personal care, personal emergency response systems, limited medical supplies, and medication copayments for low-income adults ages 65 and older with functional impairments.

- 4,297 hours of in-home services were provided in FY25.

Preventing and Managing Chronic Disease



NUTRITION PROGRAM

The ACHD Nutrition Program, which restarted in January 2024, is dedicated to promoting health and wellbeing in Allegany County, with initiatives designed to improve health outcomes, ensure access to healthy foods, and strengthen the local food system. A registered dietitian provides group nutrition education classes at the health department and in the community; nutrition counseling for ACHD clients/program participants; and collaboration with community programs to improve the food system and overall health. Community partners include the Western Maryland Food Council, the Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance, the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council, the University of Maryland Extension Advisory Committee, the Allegany County Public School's Community Schools Steering Committee, and the Allegany College of Maryland's Community Resilience Network.

- 45 community programs were held in FY25.
- 95 on-site (ACHD) classes were offered in FY25.
- 1215 people attended off-site and on-site classes and events
- 43 referrals were received for individual nutrition counseling in FY25.

TAKING OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS)

Obesity and Type 2 diabetes can lead to many other severe health complications over time. The Allegany County Health Department works with Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) to provide weight management support groups on-site and within the community. TOPS chapters meet once a week for weigh-ins, group discussions, and accountability.

- 4 TOPS chapters were active in Allegany County in FY245.
- TOPS had ~50 members across all four chapters in FY25.

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program provides breast and cervical cancer education and funds screening and diagnostic services for Allegany, Garrett, and Washington County residents who meet the age and income guidelines. Patient navigation services are also provided to those who have health insurance but need assistance navigating the complex health care system to fully complete screenings for breast and cervical cancer.

- 120 clients were screened for breast and cervical cancer in FY25.
- 21 clients were assisted with breast diagnostic services in FY25.



COLORECTAL CANCER

Colorectal cancer can be prevented with early removal of polyps from the rectum and colon before they become cancerous. The Colorectal Cancer Screening Program provides education and funding for colorectal cancer screening and treatment services for adults who meet residency, age, and income guidelines. Patient navigation services are also provided to those who have health insurance coverage but need assistance navigating the complex health care system to fully complete screenings for colorectal cancer.

- 6 clients were screened for colorectal cancer in FY25.
- 12 clients received patient navigation support in FY25.

SKIN CANCER

There are three major types of skin cancer. Basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas are the most common types of skin cancers. Melanoma is less common but is the most serious. The Skin Cancer Screening program provides education and funding for skin cancer screening, diagnostic services, and treatment services for adults who meet residency, age, and income guidelines.

- 25 clients were screened for skin cancer in FY25.
- 3 clients received patient navigation support in FY25.

LUNG CANCER



The Lung Cancer Screening Program screens individuals who have a higher risk for lung cancer. High risk is defined by age and smoking history as well as family history of lung cancer or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Clients are seen by a primary care provider to determine if they meet the high-risk criteria for lung cancer screening. If at high risk, a low-dose CT scan is performed. This screening is recommended yearly.

- 1 client was screened for lung cancer in FY25.

MARYLAND CANCER FUND

Clients who live in Maryland and have been diagnosed with cancer are eligible to apply for this fund. They must have lived in Maryland for at least six months and received their cancer diagnosis within the last six months. Clients must also meet income guidelines. If eligibility is met, a grant application is completed and if approved the client receives a \$20,000 grant to help pay for cancer treatment.

- 4 clients received Maryland Cancer Fund grants in FY25.

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

Approximately 108 people are living with HIV in Allegany County. The HIV program provides free HIV testing and ongoing support for clients living with HIV. In collaboration with Johns Hopkins Hospital, a clinic is held two days per month to provide specialized HIV care.

- 71 clients received HIV case management in FY25.

- 82 clients received specialized HIV clinical care through the Johns Hopkins Clinic in FY25.
- 476 HIV lab tests were conducted in FY25.

PrEP

The health department also provides PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis), a medication taken once per day to help prevent HIV.

- 17 clients received PrEP in FY25.

Preventing Substance Use

TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION

In Allegany County, the health department implements tobacco prevention campaigns, educates youth and adults on the dangers of tobacco and nicotine product use, partners with community groups to address tobacco issues, provides resources for pregnant women, works to prevent sales to youth, and provides free cessation services. Cigarette use among youth has declined to 5.4% while electronic vapor product use among youth has also declined to 19.9% in Allegany County according to the 2022-2023 Youth Risk Behaviors Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey.

- 87 adults participated in tobacco cessation services in FY25.
- 873 adults, 2,039 students, 262 teachers, and 316 pregnant women received education in FY25.
- 143 tobacco compliance checks were conducted by law enforcement in FY25 to help prevent tobacco sales to individuals under 21 years old.



TOBACCO AND CHRONIC DISEASE

The Tobacco and Chronic Disease Program manages funds for community organizations in Allegany County to assist with tobacco cessation education and works with schools to educate youth about the dangers of nicotine use. Direct outreach is also part of the program, connecting community members

with tobacco cessation services.

- 3 community organizations received mini-grants in FY25.
- 38 outreach events were attended in FY25.

OVERDOSE PREVENTION TEAM (FORMERLY OOC)

In FY 2025, the Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) program focused on two projects, employing one full-time peer in the problem-solving court system and funding for a peer recovery specialist through the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services Peer exceeded the original goal for helping families within the county and the Mental Health and Drug Courts exceeded their goal as well. Meetings were also held and open to the public under this initiative involving several community partners.



OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

The Opioid Misuse Prevention Program continues to implement ways to address the community and the overdose epidemic. Outreach efforts are important to help educate the public about the dangers of fentanyl and xylazine, facts about the Good Samaritan Law, and Naloxone training and distribution.

- 2,134 Naloxone kits were given out to the public (excluding those distributed through three vending machines in Allegany County) in FY25.
- Naloxone vending machines distributed 339 naloxone kits in FY25.
- The Prevention team also added a newspaper naloxone box outside of a local treatment center. This box dispensed 220 doses in FY25.
- 27,621 educational materials were distributed in FY25.
- The Prevention team also incorporates an educational component into the after-school programs. Botvin Life Skills, which is held in the elementary schools, had a total of 82 students in the county participate and Project Alert, which is held in the middle school, had a total of 132 participants.

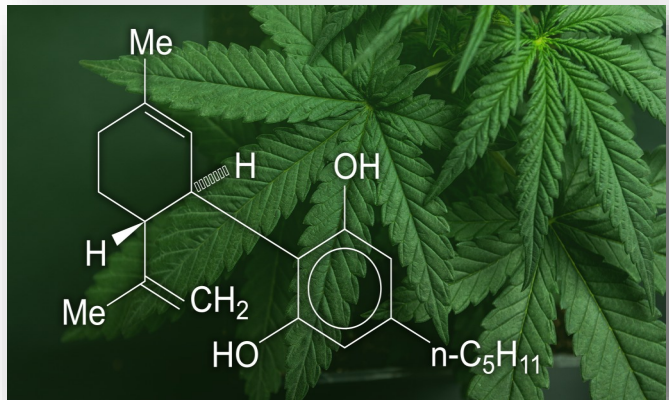
PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK

Allegany County continues to partner with local law enforcement agencies to provide permanent prescription drug drop off sites at each law enforcement location. These locations include Cumberland (2), LaVale & Frostburg (2). These locations are a safe place for community members to dispose of unused or expired medications. Law enforcement agencies also partner with pharmacies and the Lion's Club within the community to conduct mini take-back events. Law enforcement will also arrange pick-up services for homebound individuals.

- 1,284.45 pounds of medication was collected in FY25.

CANNABIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

FY25 was the first full year for Cannabis Prevention funding. The initiatives for Allegany County were Impaired Driving, Safe Storage of Cannabis and a Prevention Plus Wellness (PPW) education component that was taught in middle and high schools in Allegany County. Marijuana PPW is a positive youth development program to prevent cannabis use and promote a healthy lifestyle.



Providing Clinical Services That Are Limited in the Community

DENTAL HEALTH

In Allegany County, low-income, uninsured children and adults are most likely to experience poor access to dental care. We provide care to these patients through collaboration with community partners like UPMC and AHEC West. The Dental Program provides regular comprehensive clinical services for children and adults with Medical Assistance, extractions for adults, urgent care for low-income adults and Department of Juvenile Services youth, dental sealants in schools, screenings and fluoride varnish for Head Start children, and oral health education. The Dental Program also provides immediate emergency dental treatment to patients reporting to the UPMC Western Maryland emergency



department with dental pain.

- 8,644 clinical visits for low-income children and adults in FY25.
- 1,963 children received dental sealants on 6,401 permanent teeth in the School-Based Sealant Program in FY25.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Our Reproductive Health Clinic provides comprehensive, confidential, and affordable care. We serve individuals of all genders, with a special emphasis on adolescents, low-income individuals, and those who may lack access to traditional healthcare services. We are open to all who are in need of services, regardless of income, age, gender, or insurance status. We offer comprehensive women’s health services, including office gynecology procedures, pregnancy testing, contraception, well woman visits, infection testing and treatment, pap tests, and referrals to other providers and services. Our goal is to provide preventive care, early detection, and ongoing support for women’s health at every stage of life, while enhancing and complementing the existing services within the community.

- During the first year, we provided 490 visits for 270 clients and made 239 referrals to other healthcare providers or programs.

INPATIENT SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

The Joseph S. Massie Unit, an adult inpatient substance use disorder treatment program located in Cumberland, MD, is run by the Allegany County Health Department. The Massie Unit serves Maryland adults with a maximum capacity of 45 patients. The Massie Unit provides ASAM 3.7 Withdrawal Management, ASAM 3.7, and ASAM 3.5 Levels of Care. Treatment includes individual, family and group counseling; alcohol and substance use education; medications for opioid and alcohol use disorder (MOUD/MAUD); medical care; psychiatric evaluation; aftercare planning; and much more in a holistic

treatment approach.

- 403 patients were admitted to the Massie Unit for inpatient treatment in FY25.

RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

The Allegany House is an adult residential ASAM 3.1 treatment program operated by the Allegany County Health Department. The Allegany House opened in January 2018 and offers clients in early recovery a safe environment to reside and continue outpatient treatment for substance use disorder and mental health issues. Residents live at the Allegany House for a period of 3 to 6 months.

- 54 individuals were assisted with their recovery in FY25.

OUTPATIENT SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

Substance use affects people from all walks of life. National data shows that more than two-thirds of American families have been touched by alcohol or substance use. The health department provides outpatient substance use services for adolescents and adults, an Intensive Outpatient Program for adults, peer support, gambling treatment, DWI education, medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) services, medications for alcohol use disorder (MAUD), and vaping evaluation program. New clients can walk in Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm and be seen right away.

- 2,999 outpatient substance use visits by 327 individuals in FY25.



JAIL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM (JSAP)

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, approximately 85% of incarcerated individuals meet criteria for a substance use disorder or are incarcerated for substance-related crimes. The health department has a JSAP program located at the Allegany County Detention Center. This program consists of assessment, ASAM 2.1 (IOP), ASAM Level 1 (Outpatient), peer support services, individual counseling, referral to post-release substance use services, and offering families of inmates the

opportunity to receive naloxone training.

- 135 incarcerated individuals received 1,762 JSAP services in FY25.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Approximately 23.4% or over 60 million people in the US experience mental illness in a given year, and approximately 1 in 5 youth experience a severe mental disorder at some point during their life. Mental illnesses include many different conditions that vary in degree of severity from mild to severe. The Outpatient Mental Health Center provides mental health services for individuals ages 3 and over including individual, family and group therapy, intensive outpatient services for children and adults, school-based services and medication evaluation and management.

- 1,303 individuals (896 adults and 407 children/adolescents) were served in FY25.
- 17,702 services were provided (11,915 for adults and 5,787 for children/adolescents) in FY25.



Supporting Mental and Behavioral Health

LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) is responsible for planning, managing, and monitoring publicly funded mental health and substance use disorder services within the county. The LBHA works collaboratively with community partners to meet the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use disorders and promotes public education related to behavioral health. Currently, the LBHA directly administers 10 grants and oversees funding for an additional 16 grants which are administered by other service providers in the community. These additional grants offer crucial services to Allegany County residents, including: Buprenorphine services at the ACHD outpatient clinic and the Joseph S. Massie Unit; therapeutic and crisis services for youth and families through the Department of Social Services; peer

support services within the Allegany County Circuit Court Drug Court program; peer support services at the pre-trial release programs, in the Allegany County Detention Center, and at the Possibility Shop through AHEC West; opioid and stimulant use disorder crisis beds and behavioral health urgent care services at UPMC Western Maryland; medication for opioid use disorder at the Allegany County Detention Center; and substance use disorder counseling at the Allegany County Detention Center and transportation to behavioral health treatment, administered by the ACHD Behavioral Health Services Program. Additionally, grant funding was awarded to Archway Station Inc. which established Allegany County's first certified recovery residence for pregnant women and women with children at the end of FY25.

In FY25, the LBHA accomplished the following through their self-administered grants:

- Continuum of Care: Provided rental assistance to 7 adults and 5 children who were previously experiencing homelessness.
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT): The LBHA held a 40-hour CIT training for local law enforcement, with nine (9) officers graduating. The Crisis Intervention Team is a community partnership of law enforcement, behavioral health professionals, individuals who have lived experience with behavioral health disorders, and other partners to improve community responses to mental health crises.
- Homeless ID Funding: Provided birth certificates to 10 individuals who were experiencing homelessness and had a mental health diagnosis.
- Maryland Community Criminal Justice Treatment Program: Provided case management to 72 adults with serious mental illness who were being released from incarceration.
- Maryland RecoveryNet: Provided emergency goods/services to 4 adults receiving substance use treatment.
- Mental Health Client Support: Provided emergency goods/services to 15 adults who were receiving mental health treatment.
- Mental Health First Aid Training: 39 individuals in the community were trained in Mental Health First Aid.
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness: Provided case management to 20 individuals experiencing homelessness and diagnosed with a serious mental illness.
- State Care Coordination: Provided care coordination to 60 individuals receiving substance use treatment.
- Suicide Prevention Initiative: Provided trainings on evidence-based practices to 266 behavioral health professionals; distributed 950 gun locks, cases, safes, and lethal means materials.

Protecting Against Environmental Hazards

FOOD PROTECTION

In FY25, Allegany County had 498 food service facilities operating in the county. The Food Protection program issues annual permits to each of these facilities and conducts inspections to ensure food is prepared in compliance with State of Maryland regulations. Temporary facilities, such as food stands at fairs and events, are also inspected for compliance.

- 419 food service facilities were licensed in Allegany County in FY25.
- 934 food service inspections were conducted in FY25.
- 196 temporary facilities were inspected and permitted in FY25.

PUBLIC POOLS AND BEACHES

Allegany County has 17 swimming pools and beaches open to the public. The health department inspects public pools and beaches to ensure their safety for community use.

- There were 18 public pools and 2 bathing beaches inspected by the Allegany County Health Department in FY25.
- 163 inspections were conducted on public swimming pools in FY25.
- 129 bathing beach inspections were conducted in FY25.



WATER AND SEWER

In Allegany County, 13% of residences have private septic systems and 10% have private wells. The Onsite Water and Sewer program reviews and approves properties in the county for installation of onsite wells and septic systems.

- 13 septic system construction permits were issued in FY25.
- 26 well permits were reviewed and processed in FY25.

RABIES

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of all mammals that is transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal. The Rabies and Zoonosis Control program protects the animals and residents of the county by investigating potential rabies cases and conducting public rabies vaccination clinics.

- 248 rabies investigations conducted and 49 specimens submitted for testing in FY25.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES AND BURNING PERMITS

The health department investigates public nuisance complaints. Public health nuisances include conditions that affect health, safety, or welfare such as an excessive accumulation of garbage, unsanitary animal enclosures, a contaminated water supply, a mosquito or vermin harborage, or improper handling of substances that are poisonous to humans or animals.

- 101 public health nuisance complaints were investigated in FY25.
- 2,427 burning permits were issued in FY25 .

Preparing for Emergencies

PREPARING FOR AN OUTBREAK

The health department is responsible for preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease. Multiple health department programs collaborate on surveillance, prevention, and control of infectious diseases. Efforts include educating health care providers and the public, developing policies and protocols, and working with partners to develop community response plans.

- Post COVID-19 many of our plans and protocols have taken an all encompassing approach to include a more broad "Infectious Diseases" methodology instead of each disease having its own plan.

TRACKING ILLNESS IN SCHOOLS

The Maryland Department of Health Office of Preparedness and Response partners with Boards of Education, acute care hospitals, and the poison control center to track potential illnesses across the State. Using a web-based computer program called ESSENCE, which stands for the Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community-based

Epidemics, the Allegany County Health Department tracks the number of students absent from local public schools, as well as emergency room visits, as a means to monitor potential outbreaks of illness.

- 22 public schools and 1 hospital reported ESSENCE data during the 2024-2025 school year. In addition to ESSENCE, ACHD School Health Program employs nurses who work directly within the school system and have first hand knowledge of what illnesses and possible outbreaks are impacting our school age students and staff.
- During the 2024-2025 school year - ACHD worked with the school system, testing 52 individuals at a local high school and career center for Pertussis.
- Early testing and implementation of safety measures helped prevent a larger outbreak, thereby minimizing potential impacts on students and staff and reducing the risk of absenteeism and illness.

Issuing Vital Records

VITAL RECORDS

The Allegany County Health Department issues birth certificates to individuals who request a certificate and were born in the state of Maryland. Death certificates are issued to funeral directors and family members upon request.

- 2,695 birth certificates were issued in FY25.
- 4,341 death certificates were issued in FY25.





Allegany County
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

“Healthy People, Healthy Communities”

12501-12503 Willowbrook Road SE ♦ Cumberland, MD 21502
301.759.5000 ♦ TDD for Disabled Maryland Relay Service: 800.735.2258
Toll Free Maryland Department of Health: 877.463.3464

Visit our web site at <https://myalleganyhealth.org>, or follow
AlleganyHlthMD on Facebook and X.



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