



# ALLENTOWN BUREAU OF HEALTH

2023 ACT 315/12 GRANT APPLICATION  
and  
PROGRAM PLANS



*MAYOR MATT TUERK*



**David Synnamon, MPH**

**Director of Health**

Bureau of Health

245 N. Sixth Street

Allentown, PA 18102

Office: 610-437-7708 Fax: 610-437-8799

David.synnamon@allentownpa.gov

March 31, 2023

Melisa Rader, Director  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Bureau of Community Health Systems  
30 Kline Plaza  
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Dear Ms. Rader:

In accordance with the requirement of Act 315 (Local Health Administration Law), please find attached an electronic copy of the Allentown Health Bureau's 2023 Grant Application and Program Plans. As detailed by the budget overview section of the document, in 2022 the Health Bureau anticipates an Act 315 grant of \$725,309.00 and an Act 12 grant of \$55,834.00, respectively.

Please contact my office (610) 437-7760, ext. 2833, if any questions arise. As always, thank you for your interest and assistance.

Sincerely,

David Synnamon, MPH  
Director, Allentown Health Bureau

ds/tlf

## Table of Contents

### **PART 1 Personnel Management**

Board of Health .....	1
Administrative and Supervisory Personnel and Salary.....	2
Personnel Resource Summary.....	2
Organizational Chart.....	5

### **PART 2 Fiscal Management**

Budget for 2023 .....	6
Expenditures for 2022 .....	7
2023 Estimated Budget by Unit/Revenue by Source .....	8
2022 Budget by Unit/Revenue by Source .....	9
Budget Summaries .....	10
Categorical Health Grants .....	11

### **PART 3 Program Plans**

Introduction .....	12
2023 Administrative and Supportive Services Program Plans.....	13
2022 Administrative and Supportive Services Accomplishments .....	20
2023 Personal Health Services Program Plans	
Chronic Disease Control .....	27
Communicable Disease .....	31
Maternal and Child Health .....	37
2022 Personal Health Services Section Accomplishments	
Chronic Disease Control .....	46
Communicable Disease .....	49
Maternal and Child Health .....	53
2023 Environmental Health Services Program Plans	
Environmental Health Services Section.....	60
Food Protection.....	63
Environmental Control .....	71
Institutional Sanitation and Safety .....	78

Injury Prevention .....	85
Public Health Emergency Preparedness .....	91
2022 Environmental Health Services Section Accomplishments	
Food Protection.....	98
Environmental Control .....	102
Institutional Sanitation and Safety .....	106
Injury and Violence Prevention .....	108
Public Health Emergency Preparedness.....	111
 <b>PART 4 Appendices</b>	
Appendix A	
Heart Disease Deaths .....	A-1
Overweight and Obesity rates for Youth.....	A-2
Overweight and Obesity rates for Adults.....	A-3
 Appendix B	
Active Tuberculosis and Latent Tuberculosis Infection Cases .....	B-1
 Appendix C	
HIV Tests Performed/New HIV Positives .....	C-1

# Part 1

## Personnel Management

## Board of Health

---

NAME	PROFESSION	TERM OF OFFICE
David Bausch	Retired Administrator	January 8, 2018 through January 8, 2023
Paul K. Gross, MD	Physician	January 1, 2020 through Jan 1, 2025
Oscar A. Morffi, MD	Pediatrician	January 2, 2021 through January 2, 2026
Rajika Emily Reed, PhD, MPH, MEd	Vice President, Community Health at St. Luke's University Health Network	January 1, 2021 through January 1, 2026
Kevin A. Vrablik, MD	Occupational Medicine/ Medical Examiner/ Medical Review Officer	January 1, 2019 through January 1, 2024

## Administrative and Supervisory Personnel and Salary

---

Name	Position	#FTE	Salary
David Synnamon	Director	1	\$94,034
Marcelo Gareca	Medical Advisor	On Call	Gratis
Belle P. Marks	Associate Director for Personal Health	1	\$100,412
Garry Ritter	Associate Director for Environmental Health	1	\$96,122
Terry Fasano	Operations Manager	1	\$71,942
	Clerk III	6.0	\$316,014

---

### Personnel Resource Summary

---

#### Personal Health Services

Functional Unit	Classification	#FTE	Salary
Nutrition & Physical Activity Program	Program Manager	1.0	\$91,936
	Dietician/Nutritionist	1.0	\$71,526

---

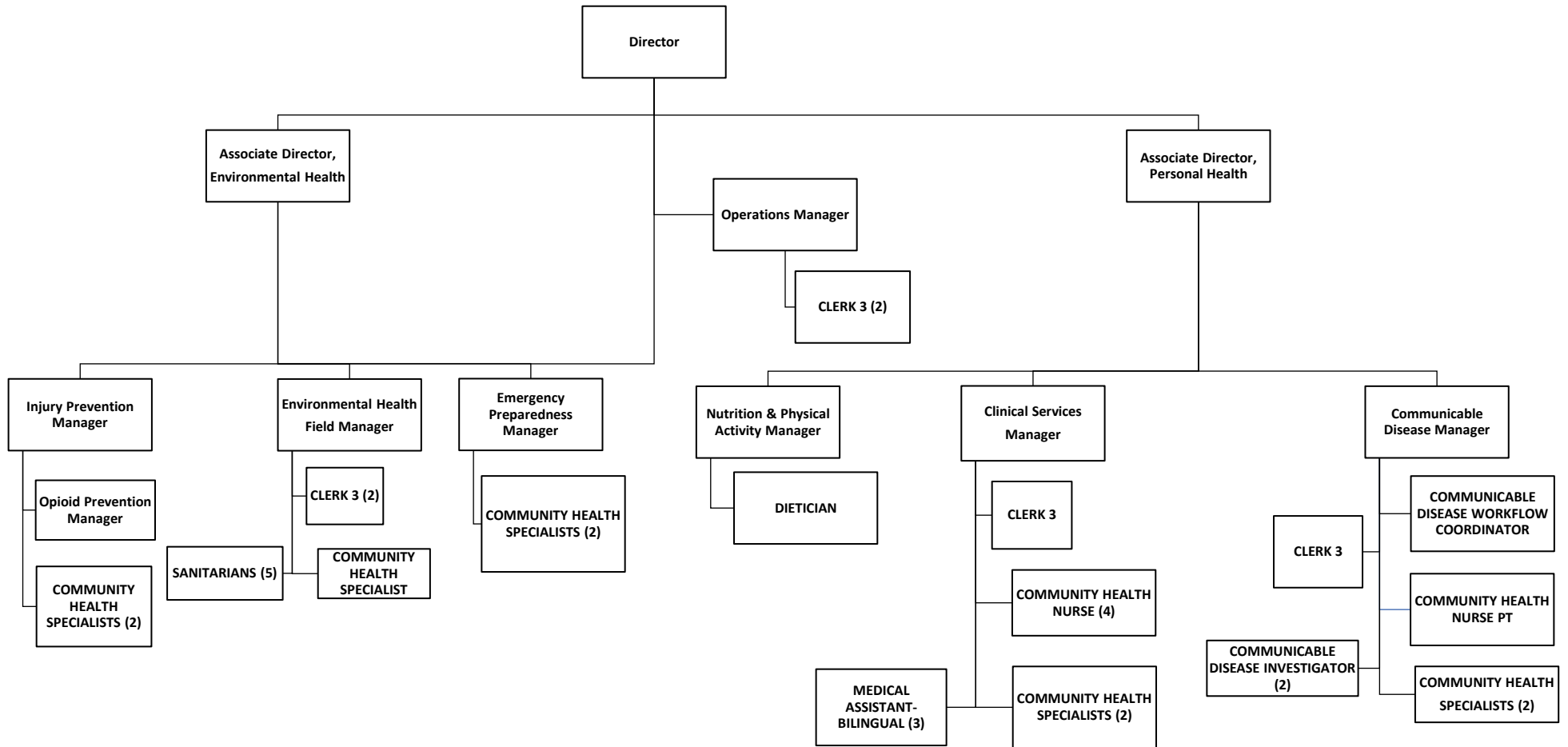
Functional Unit	Classification	#FTE	Salary
Communicable Disease	Communicable Disease Manager	1.0	\$78,832
	Communicable Disease Workflow Coordinator	1.0	\$75,010
	Communicable Disease Investigator	2.0	\$113,518
	Community Health Nurse	1.0	\$70,850
	Community Health Specialist	3.0	\$ 122,720
	<u>Community Health Nurse (P.T.)</u>	0.5	<u>\$34,178</u>
Maternal Child Health/Lead Poisoning/Immunization	Clinical Services Manager	1.0	\$82,394
	Community Health Specialist	2.0	\$122,720
	Community Health Nurse	2.0	\$139,204
	<u>Medical Assistant Bilingual</u>	3.0	<u>\$148,112</u>



**Environmental Health  
Services**

	Environmental Field Services Manager	1.0	\$80,665
Food Service Sanitation	Sanitarian	2.0	\$133,380
Environmental Protection	Sanitarian	1.5	\$105,242
Institutional Sanitation and Safety	Sanitarian	1.5	\$105,242
Injury Prevention	Injury Prevention Services Manager	1.0	\$74,838
	Community Health Specialist	2.0	\$122,240
	Opioid Prevention Manager	1.0	\$59,618
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	Program Manager	1.0	\$89,882
	Community Health Specialist	2.0	\$121,580
<b>Totals</b>		<b>41.0</b>	

# ALLENTOWN HEALTH BUREAU



# Part 2

## Fiscal

## Management

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET & EXPENDITURE  
Acts 315, 12, PA Code: Title 28, Chapter 15

2023 Budget X Expenditure \_\_\_\_  
ALLENTOWN/LEHIGH COUNTY

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Program Description	Total Funds	Exclusions Grants, etc.	Subsidy Base	Act 12 Funds	Act 315 Funds
Administration *	3,169,798	1,400,000	1,769,798		1,769,798
<b>TOTAL Administration (Sec 15.12)</b>	<b>3,169,798</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,769,798</b>		<b>1,769,798</b>
Child/Family Health	1,102,191	935,860	166,331		166,331
Communicable Disease	2,797,989	1,899,445	898,544		98,544
Chronic Disease Control	295,204	220,000	75,204		75,204
<b>TOTAL Personal Health (Sec 15.13)</b>	<b>4,195,384</b>	<b>3,055,305</b>	<b>1,140,079</b>		<b>1,140,079</b>
Injury Prevention	518,995	383,375	135,620	6,749	128,871
Food Protection	428,000		428,000	21,298	406,702
Environmental Protection	228,542		228,542	11,373	217,169
Institution Sanitation and Safety	329,859		329,859	16,414	313,445
<b>TOTAL Environmental Health (Sec 15.14)</b>	<b>1,505,396</b>	<b>383,375</b>	<b>1,122,021</b>	<b>55,834</b>	<b>1,066,187</b>
<b>TOTAL: Administration</b>	<b>3,169,798</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,769,798</b>		<b>1,769,798</b>
<b>TOTAL: Personal Health</b>	<b>4,195,384</b>	<b>3,055,305</b>	<b>1,140,079</b>		<b>1,140,079</b>
<b>TOTAL: Environmental Health</b>	<b>1,505,396</b>	<b>383,375</b>	<b>1,122,021</b>	<b>55,834</b>	<b>1,066,187</b>
<b>SUM: Qualifying Health Program</b>	<b>8,870,578</b>	<b>4,838,680</b>	<b>4,031,898</b>	<b>55,834</b>	<b>3,976,064</b>
<b>SUM: Local Health Dept. Program</b>	<b>8,870,578</b>	<b>4,838,680</b>	<b>4,031,898</b>	<b>55,834</b>	<b>3,976,064</b>
<u>Analysis by</u> David Synnamon, MPH	<u>Position</u> Director of Health		<u>Agency</u> Allentown Health Bureau		<u>Date</u> 3/9/2023

\*Includes indirect administrative cost center allocations of \$2,082,563 (information systems, communications, fleet vehicle purchase and maintenance, HR services, AP/AR, et.al.).

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET & EXPENDITURE**  
Acts 315, 12, PA Code: Title 28, Chapter 15

2022 Budget\_Expenditure\_X  
ALLENTOWN/LEHIGH COUNTY

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Program Description	Total Funds	Exclusions Grants, Etc.	Subsidy Base	Act 12 Funds	Act 315 Funds
Administration *	2,438,546	100,000	2,338,546		2,338,546
<b>TOTAL Administration (Sec 15.12)</b>	<b>2,438,546</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>2,338,546</b>		<b>2,338,546</b>
Child/Family Health	1,020,934	451,384	569,550		569,550
Communicable Disease	1,534,038	1,476,294	57,744		57,744
Chronic Disease Control	267,102	140,772	126,330		126,330
<b>TOTAL Personal Health (Sec 15.13)</b>	<b>2,822,074</b>	<b>2,068,450</b>	<b>753,624</b>		<b>753,624</b>
Injury Prevention	389,254	362,584	26,670	2,168	24,502
Food Protection	240,707		240,707	19,570	221,137
Environmental Protection	206,574		206,574	16,795	189,779
Institution Sanitation and Safety	179,982		179,982	14,633	165,349
<b>TOTAL Environmental Health (Sec 15.14)</b>	<b>1,016,517</b>	<b>362,584</b>	<b>653,933</b>	<b>53,165</b>	<b>600,768</b>
<b>TOTAL: Administration</b>	<b>2,438,546</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>2,338,546</b>		<b>2,338,546</b>
<b>TOTAL: Personal Health</b>	<b>2,822,074</b>	<b>2,068,450</b>	<b>753,624</b>		<b>753,624</b>
<b>TOTAL: Environmental Health</b>	<b>1,016,517</b>	<b>362,584</b>	<b>653,933</b>	<b>53,165</b>	<b>600,768</b>
<b>SUM: Qualifying Health Program</b>	<b>6,277,137</b>	<b>2,531,034</b>	<b>3,746,103</b>	<b>53,165</b>	<b>3,692,938</b>
<b>SUM: Local Health Dept. Program</b>	<b>6,277,137</b>	<b>2,531,034</b>	<b>3,746,103</b>	<b>53,165</b>	<b>3,692,938</b>
<u>Analysis by</u> David Synnamon, MPH	<u>Position</u> Director of Health	<u>Agency</u> Allentown Health Bureau		<u>Date</u> 3/9/2023	

\*Includes indirect administrative cost center allocations of \$1,473,696 (information systems, communications, fleet vehicle purchase and maintenance, HR services, AP/AR, et.al.).

# ALLENTOWN HEALTH BUREAU

## BUDGET BY UNIT

2023

<u>BUDGET BY UNIT - FY 2023</u>	<u>BUDGET TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Administration & Support Services	\$3,169,798	35.7%
Personal Health Services	\$4,195,384	47.3%
Environmental Health Services	\$1,505,396	17.0%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,870,578</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ESTIMATED REVENUE BY SOURCE FOR YEAR 2023

<b>Budget by Unit</b>	<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Grants - Federal	\$4,687,619	52.8%
Grants - State	\$151,061	1.7%
State Reimbursement (Act 315)	\$725,309	8.2%
State Reimbursement (Act 12)	\$55,834	0.6%
Fees, Licenses and Services	\$721,770	8.1%
Local Allotment*	\$2,528,985	28.6%
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$8,870,578</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Includes General Fund, service fees, private grants, and administrative cost allocations.

# ALLENTOWN HEALTH BUREAU

## BUDGET BY UNIT

2022

<u>BUDGET BY UNIT FY – 2022</u>	<u>BUDGET TOTAL</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Administration & Support Services	\$3,158,139	34.6%	\$2,438,546	\$719,593
Personal Health Services	\$4,820,275	52.8%	\$2,822,074	\$1,998,201
Environmental Health Services	\$1,153,528	12.6%	\$1,016,517	\$137,011
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,131,942</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$6,277,137</b>	<b>\$2,854,805</b>

## ACTUAL REVENUE BY SOURCE FOR YEAR 2022

<b>Budget by Unit</b>	<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Grants – Federal	\$2,304,121	36.7%
Grants - State	\$226,913	3.6%
State Reimbursement (Act 315)	\$578,095	9.2%
State Reimbursement (Act 12)	\$53,165	0.8%
Fees, Licenses and Services	\$505,766	8.1%
Local Allotment*	\$2,609,077	41.6%
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$6,277,137</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Includes General Fund, service fees, private grants, and administrative cost allocation.

CITY OF ALLENTOWN  
BUREAU OF HEALTH

2023 BUDGET  
LOCAL - STATE - FEDERAL FUNDS

	Administration and Support	Personal Health	Environmental Health	Total
Personnel - Salary and Benefits	\$957,301	\$2,541,169	\$1,200,337	\$4,698,807
Operation	\$2,199,568	\$1,568,215	\$303,309	\$4,071,092
Equipment	\$12,929	\$86,000	\$1,750	\$100,679
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,169,798</b>	<b>\$4,195,384</b>	<b>\$1,505,396</b>	<b>\$8,870,578</b>

2022 BUDGET  
LOCAL - STATE - FEDERAL FUNDS

	Administration and Support	Personal Health	Environmental Health	Total
Personnel - Salary and Benefits	\$871,731	\$2,449,714	\$911,189	\$4,232,634
Operation	\$1,565,142	\$228,983	\$103,516	\$1,897,641
Equipment	\$1,673	\$143,377	\$1,812	\$146,862
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,438,546</b>	<b>\$2,822,074</b>	<b>\$1,016,517</b>	<b>\$6,277,137</b>



CITY OF ALLENTOWN  
BUREAU OF HEALTH

CATEGORICAL HEALTH GRANT CONTRACTS – 2023

CONTRACT	FEDERAL/ STATE	TERM OF CONTRACT	AMOUNT
Safe & Healthy Communities #4100085926 SAF 3	100% Federal	July 1, 2022-June 20, 2023	\$255,352
HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention #4100079935 R1	36.5% Federal 63.5% State	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	\$740,000
Immunization #4100089410 C-3	100% Federal	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	\$954,986
Opioid PDMP #4100085604 Amendment 2	100% Federal	July 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023	\$224,698
Title V – Maternal Child Health #4100080468 R2	100% Federal	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	\$149,779
Prevent Injuries in Children #4100090758	100% Federal	October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024	\$206,250
Tuberculosis #4100092066	100% State	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	\$16,011
Child Lead Poisoning Prevention #4100082847 R4	100% Federal	July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023	\$24,721
PHEP #4100093220	100% Federal	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	\$218,536
PHEP Enhancing Detection #4100087739 Amendment 2	100% Federal	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023	\$3,234,989
FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model G-BDEV1-202209- 0279	100% Federal	January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023	\$23,580
Lehigh Co. Health Promotion Services 22-AGING-298	100% Federal	September 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024	\$400,000

# Part 3

## Program Plans

# Introduction

---

The City of Allentown is the third largest city in Pennsylvania and is a core city of the third largest urbanized area in the state. It is located 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia and 80 miles southwest of New York City. Allentown has challenges like other cities including poverty, education, health and social service needs.

Allentown has a land area of approximately 17 square miles. The July 1, 2021, population estimate of the city is 125,835. The demographic breakdown is: 62.3% White, 14.7% Black or African American, 0.7% American Indian and Alaska Native, 2.9% Asian, 0.1% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 4.6% Two or More Races, 52.5% Hispanic or Latino, 32.4% White, not Hispanic or Latino (source: U.S. Census Bureau, Allentown city, PA, Population estimates, July 1, 2021).

The Allentown Health Bureau (AHB) was established on January 1, 1980. The Health Bureau's mission is to prevent disease and injury and to protect and promote the public's health. The Health Bureau derives its authority to function as a local health department from Act 315, the Local Health Administration Law, and is comprised of Environmental Health and Personal Health sections which provide population-based public health services and prevention programs.

For the past decade, staff of the Allentown Health Bureau has engaged in long-term planning to address both organizational capacity and the priority public health problems of City residents. To assess the health status of Allentonians, causes of premature deaths have been analyzed for over 40 years. In addition to premature mortality, the bureau utilized input from key community informants to devise its list of priority public health concerns.

The Allentown Health Bureau will continue to use local community health data, in conjunction with the Healthy People 2030 National Health Objectives, to inform AHB projects, strategic priorities, and programming. AHB programs address the enforcement of laws to protect the public's health, the prevention of chronic diseases, injuries, infectious diseases, and the promotion of healthy behaviors.

In 2023, the Allentown Health Bureau will launch the COVID 19 After Action Report and the Community Health Needs Assessment. These will inform the development of AHB's Community Health Improvement Plan by justifying how and where resources should be allocated to best meet City of Allentown needs.

# Administration and Support Services

---

## Overview

The Administration and Support Services Staff, primarily comprised of departmental management, provides executive oversight in the development and implementation of public health programs in the City of Allentown. This section assures that all Bureau services are delivered in accordance with current standards of public health practice and with the intent of accomplishing the Healthy People 2030 Objectives at the local level. This section also reviews appropriate federal, state, and local health legislation for the City Administration. Included in support services are the Community Health Education Program and Laboratory Services. In addition, the Administration and Support Services Section oversees the personnel and fiscal management of the Bureau.

## Program Goal:

The goal of the Administration and Support Services Section is to assure that the **three core public health functions** are accomplished in the City of Allentown. These core functions are **assessment** of the population's health status; **development** of the public policies to maintain and promote health; and **assurance** that the population has access to public health services. The administration and support staff are also responsible to make sure that the **Bureau's mission** is continually pursued: **to prevent disease and injuries and to protect and promote the public's health.**

The administration program assures that the **Ten Essential Public Health Services** are provided in the City of Allentown:

- Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
- Inform, educate, and empower people about public health issues
- Mobilize community partnerships and actions 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 competent public and personal health workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

# 2023 Administration and Support Services Objectives

---

## *Objective 1*

Evaluate the performance of Allentown Health Bureau staff during 2023 with reference to the core competencies for public health workers; these competencies represent a set of skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health as identified by the Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice.

### *Activities*

1. Assess the level to which each core competency is needed to perform the various jobs in the Health Bureau when job descriptions are reviewed. The Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (rev. 2021) are divided into skills in eight domains: Data Analytics and Assessment, Policy Development and Program Planning, Communication, Health Equity, Community Partnership, Public Health Sciences, Management and Finance, and Leadership and Systems Thinking.
2. Develop and implement an annual training plan for each individual staff member based on needs identified during performance evaluations and training needs assessment. The training plan will address:
  - a) Skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for the competent performance of job duties.
  - b) Job category needs (clerical, professional staff, management, administration).
  - c) Time allocated to accomplish specified training.
3. Enhance training capacity to provide new staff with a better introduction to the concepts contained in the core public health competencies.
4. Develop job specific performance measures for each staff person and review progress quarterly.

## *Objective 2*

Continue to evaluate all Bureau programs and operations and assure that they meet or exceed local, state, and national public health standards during 2023.

### *Activities*

1. Revise personal health and environmental health procedures, protocols as needed to assure compliance with state and national standards of public health practices. Maintain evaluation measures to assure that the standards are consistently met.

2. Assess the degree to which the Allentown Health Bureau meets Local Public Health Department standards utilizing the definition of a functional local health department developed by The National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) and the metrics designed to measure performance.

### *Objective 3*

Seek to maintain the percentage of the Health Bureau's operating budget that is generated from sources other than the City's General Fund during 2022.

#### *Activities*

1. Prepare and submit the 2023 Act 315/12 grant application by March 31, 2023.
2. Submit new and renewal grant applications to address public health concerns facing the City of Allentown with an emphasis on best practice models or demonstrated behavioral intervention programs.
3. Conduct an ongoing review of grant resource publications, including the Pennsylvania Bulletin [www.pabulletin.com](http://www.pabulletin.com) and Grants.gov [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), to identify grant opportunities that would help the Bureau meet public health objectives.
4. Assess grant opportunities offered through the PA Department of Health (PADOH), National Association of City and County Health Officials, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other sources that are congruent with Allentown Health Bureau goals and objectives.
5. Develop and maintain partnerships with community agencies to avoid duplication of services and to reduce cost.
6. Collaborate with other City departments (Parks/Recreation, Planning, and DCED bureaus) to apply for grants that will provide a maximum benefit to the General Fund and will integrate public health goals into other areas of service.

### *Objective 4*

Continue to enhance the Bureau's capacity to electronically communicate, analyze data and generate reports during 2023.

#### *Activities*

1. Continue to work with the City's Bureau of Information Systems and the Pennsylvania

Department of Health's Network Connection to assure computers, software, databases, and web-based applications are functioning properly

2. Continue to expand database capabilities in the areas of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Communicable Disease Control, Maternal and Child Health, Chronic Disease Control, Environmental Field Services, and Injury Prevention.
3. Utilize social media to promote public health campaigns and to raise awareness about public health topics related to COVID 19, nutrition, injury prevention, preparedness, and other areas.
4. Assure that Health Bureau program staff, managers, and administration receive available information and communication technologies training as needed.
5. Assure that an updated inventory of Health Bureau audiovisual and computer equipment, including licensed software in conjunction with the City of Allentown's Information Technology Department is maintained.
6. Participate in the Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PAHAN) through monitoring and posting alerts as needed.
7. Maintain the capacity to work electronically from off-site locations.

### *Objective 5*

Maintain a directory of local, state, and federal agencies that support activities of the Allentown Health Bureau during 2023.

#### *Activities*

1. Update the referral directories used in both personal and environmental health programs to support program activities.
2. Update the Public Health Emergency Preparedness contact list on a periodic basis including community contacts such as local laboratory, hospital, media, PADOH and Emergency Management Agency numbers.

### *Objective 6*

Prepare and maintain population and capabilities-based initiatives required for AHB to achieve national certification and accreditation status.

### *Activities*

1. Review and update the City's all-hazards public health emergency response plan to meet the standards reflected in the Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) recertification process.
2. Conduct the COVID 19 After- Action Report to learn from actions taken during the COVID 19 response and make improvements in our preparedness, response and recovery.
3. Conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment to provide comprehensive information about the City of Allentown's current health status, strengths, needs and issues.
4. Gather and analyze data from the Community Health Needs Assessment to inform a multi-year Community Health Improvement Plan by justifying how and where resources should be allocated to best meeting City of Allentown needs.

### *Objective 7*

In conjunction with the City Administration, ensure that the financial health of the Health Bureau is maintained at a level that will enable the provision of mandated public health services to the community.

### *Activities*

1. Complete the timely preparation and submission of monthly invoices to grantor and the accurate and timely billing of license fees to regulated facilities to ensure that the Health Bureau's various revenue streams are fulfilled to meet budgetary projections.
2. Monitor program performance and manage programs within budget constraints (e.g., continually monitor program expenditures) to identify the need for budgetary transfers to address potential shortfalls resulting from unanticipated, unbudgeted expenses.
3. Utilize appropriate budget processes such as cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and cost-utility analysis (e.g., review and alter fee schedules as appropriate) to develop and present an annual budget to the city administration.
4. Negotiate and develop contracts, letters of agreement, and memoranda of understanding for the provision of population-based services by public health partners to the community.



5. Maintain an in-house financial record system of reports which can be reconciled monthly with the financial records maintained by the City's Finance Department to identify errors in the posting of receipts and enable the completion of an annual audit.

## Program Evaluation:

Conduct a quarterly review of the 2023 program plans to assure that substantial progress is being made in accomplishing stated objectives. All public health program operations and budget requirements shall be met by December 31, 2023.

## 2023 Laboratory Services Objective

### *Objective 8*

Maintain an effective laboratory services system including proficient on-site laboratory testing during 2023.

### *Activities*

1. Comply with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act and State guidelines to maintain necessary licensure by the Bureau of Laboratories, PADOH and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
2. Routinely perform control testing and have equipment calibrated, as necessary.
3. Perform satisfactorily on proficiency tests.
4. Monitor and record refrigeration temperatures to ensure vaccine integrity.
5. Maintain an inventory of laboratory services available in the community to support public health programming.
6. Review and revise the Laboratory Procedure Manual as necessary.
7. Maintain laboratory equipment including vaccine refrigeration systems and the universal power source to assure vaccine integrity.

## Program Evaluation:

Review policies to determine compliance with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act and Pennsylvania Bureau of Laboratories. Review proficiency test logs and quality assurance system quarterly during 2023.

2022

Administrative  
and

Support Services  
Accomplishments

# Administrative and Support Services 2022

## Performance Review: Accomplishments by Objective

---

The Allentown Health Bureau's 2022 Program Plans contained 72 specific and measurable public health objectives to improve the health of Allentonians. Of the 72 objectives in last year's plan 68 were completely achieved and four (4) were partially achieved.

### Administration and Support Services Section

#### *Objective 1 – Partially Achieved*

Evaluate the performance of Allentown Health Bureau staff during 2022 with reference to the core competencies for public health workers. The core competencies represent a set of skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health as identified by the Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice.

- Professional development plans for staff were reviewed and training opportunities sought.
- AHB orientation and training documents updated and completed by new staff members.
- All staff completed assigned Public Health courses and training needed to conduct their job responsibilities.

#### *Objective 2 - Achieved*

Continue to evaluate all Bureau programs and operations and assure that they meet or exceed state and national public health standards during 2022.

- Maintained a system of records management that is consistent with the State's municipal records management manual.
- Reviewed and revised, as necessary, the job descriptions of Health Bureau personnel.
- Reviewed and updated programmatic and personal health policies and procedures.
- Conducted quarterly progress evaluations of each program's annual objectives and activities.

#### *Objective 3 - Achieved*

- Seek to maintain the percentage of the AHB's operating budget that is generated from sources other than the City's General Fund during 2022.
- Bureau staff prepared and submitted the Act 315/12 application on March 31, 2022.
- Revenue sources other than the General Fund represented approximately 58.4% of the Health Bureau's public health programs' total expenditures.

- Bureau staff prepared letters of intent, budgets, and/or grant applications in the following program areas:
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  - Maternal Child Health Grant - PA DOH
  - Immunization Grant, BRR1 – PA DOH
  - Tuberculosis, SAF – PA DOH
  - HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention – PA DOH
  - Bed Risk Reduction: LC C&Y
  - Expanding Public Health Workforce in Aging and Disability Networks (L.C. Aging)
  - STD/Safer Sex & MCH Services: (LC D&A)
  - Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)
  - Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): PA DOH
  - Crisis Cooperative Agreement (Crisis CoAg)
  - ELC Cares
  - ELC Enhancing Detection
  - ELC Enhancing Detection Expanded
  - COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Development
  - Retail Flexible Funding Model (FDA)

#### *Objective 4 - Achieved*

Continue to enhance the Bureau's capacity to electronically communicate, analyze data and generate reports during 2022.

- During 2022, the Bureau worked with the City's Bureau of Information Systems and the PADOH to assure that computers and software and internet applications functioned properly.
- AHB continues to utilize ESRI as a tool for mapping COVID 19 and other Reportable conditions.
- The PA National Electronic Data Surveillance System (PA NEDSS) was utilized for communicable disease, COVID 19, Tuberculosis, HIV investigations and elevated blood lead levels.
- AHB participated in the development and launch city-wide EnerGov database.
- The City's EDEN accounting and ADMINS data collection systems continued to be utilized for financial records and environmental program data analysis, respectively. PAFoodSafety software was utilized in the food service program.
- Utilized the City of Allentown social media to promote public health campaigns and to raise awareness about public health topics related to COVID 19/flu, nutrition, injury prevention, preparedness, and other areas.
- Staff completed database training: EPIC, ESRI, COVID 19 databases related to contact-tracing and vaccination registration, PA Statewide Immunization Information System

PA SIIS), PANEDSS database – TB, and communicable disease data, HIV Surveillance, HIV Navigation, HIV Data-2-Care, SERVPA – volunteer registration data, PA Food Safety, and EnerGov a database to manage licensing, permitting and plan inspections.

- EPIC and public health database (PA Food Safety, SIIS, PA NEDSS, PA Health Alert Network (PA HAN), GIS EnerGov and ESRI) concerns were addressed on a continual basis.
- Updated links on the City's Webpage to promote AHB Flu Clinics, Allentown Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, COVID 19 Vaccination, Million Clicks for a Million Hearts, a Prescription Drug Abuse prevention message in conjunction with the City's web manager.
- Updated the Allentown Health Bureau website.
- Public health messages and initiatives such as COVID 19/Flu Vaccination Clinics, National Public Health Week, Infant Immunization Week, Million Clicks, and Allentown Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps were promoted through the City of Allentown Social Media accounts including Facebook and Instagram.

### *Objective 5 - Achieved*

Maintain a directory of local, state, and national resources which support Health Bureau programs and services during 2022.

- Each program maintains referral directories to support its program services.
- AHB utilizes the PA 2-1-1 service to find and connect individuals to community resources.
- Various emergency contact lists, both internal and inter-agency, were updated on a regular basis.
- The Public Health Emergency Preparedness contact list is updated on a periodic basis.

### *Objective 6 – Partially Achieved*

Prepare and maintain population and capabilities-based initiatives required for AHB to achieve national certification and accreditation status.

AHB continued to review, implement, and update elements of Project Public Health Ready. The City's all-hazards public health emergency response plan, to meet the standards reflected in the Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) recertification process, was reviewed, and updated. AHB implemented the strategic plan to address public health priorities in the City of Allentown. AHB continued the Continuous Quality Improvement process, the Annual Improvement plan, and conducted a Kaizen event related to the inventory and storage of PHEP supplies at an off-site location.

During 2022 AHB responded to the COVID 19 Pandemic while maintaining public health programming. The following elements of the Annual Improvement Plan were addressed:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Community based nutrition and physical activity

- External Marketing
- Communications
- Continuous Quality Improvement (ongoing)

AHB continued to participate in local community health workgroups developed in response to the Community Health Needs Assessments t conducted by Lehigh Valley Health Network and St. Luke's University Health Network.

### *Objective 7 - Achieved*

In conjunction with the City Administration, ensure that the financial health of the Health Bureau is maintained at a level that will enable the provision of mandated public health services to the community.

- AHB staff prepared and submitted monthly invoices to grantors and billed license fees to regulated facilities to ensure that the various revenue streams were fulfilled to meet budget projections.
- Utilized budget processes to develop and present an annual budget to the City of Allentown administration.
- Developed and negotiated contracts and agreements for the provision of population-based health services by public health partners in the community i.e., LVHN, and SLUHN.
- Maintained in-house financial record system of reports which were reconciled monthly with City financial records in preparation for the completion of an annual audit.

## Community Health Education

### *Objective 8 - Achieved*

Continue to implement health education activities in all programs within the Health Bureau.

- Health education activities for various populations and target audiences are reported in each program section.

## Laboratory Services

### *Objective 9 - Achieved*

Maintain an effective laboratory services system including proficient on-site laboratory testing during 2022.

- The Bureau's lab complied with CLIA and State guidelines and maintained its licensure by the Bureau of Laboratories, Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services.
  - (CLIA ID# 39D0692389)
- Routinely performed proficiency testing and calibrated equipment, as necessary.
- Performed acceptably on American Proficiency Institute quarterly tests.
- Medical Advisor observed Allentown Health Bureau staff as they conducted proficiency testing to assure proper technique was utilized.
- Continued to track patients' laboratory tests by date collected, analyzed, and result received.
- The electronic monitoring and alarm system equipment for the vaccine refrigerator and freezer was maintained along with a daily vaccine temperature log.
- During 2022, the internet based Sensaphone alarm system was routinely tested to assure that vaccine monitoring was maintained.
- The DC Uninterrupted Power Source was operational and provides electricity in the event of AC power loss.
- Maintained an inventory of laboratory services available in the community to support public health programming. (See Chart 9.1)



CHART 9.1  
BUREAU OF HEALTH  
AVAILABLE LABORATORY SERVICES

Laboratory	Public	Private	Personal Health Services	Environmental Health Services	Laboratory Services
Allentown Health Bureau	X		X		Wet mounts, pregnancy screening, and capillary blood lead tests.
Environmental Hazard Services		X		X	Lead environmental samples: dust, soil, and paint - chips.
Health Network Laboratory		X	X		Herpes cultures, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C tests, HCV Viral Loads, CD4/CD8 Profile, HIV Antibody Profile, Syphilis, QuantiFERON – TB Gold tests, Bilirubin Total, Alk Phos Total and AST (SGOT) tests and Blood Lead tests.
Lehigh Valley Health Network Radiology		X	X		Performs chest x-rays and CAT Scans.
St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) - SHH Laboratory		X	X		Lipid profiles, glucose blood tests, Pap tests, QuantiFERON – TB Gold tests, Bilirubin Total, Alk Phos Total and AST (SGOT) tests.
SLUHN - SHH Radiology		X	X		Performs chest x-rays and CAT Scans.
St. Luke's University Health Network – Allentown Campus		X	X		Performs chest x-rays, CAT Scans, Bilirubin Total, Alk Phos Total and AST (SGOT) tests.

CHART 9.1  
BUREAU OF HEALTH  
AVAILABLE LABORATORY SERVICES

Laboratory	Public	Private	Personal Health Services	Environmental Health Services	Laboratory Services
Lehigh County Penn State Agricultural Extension Office	X			X	Entomological identification
CDD Laboratory		X			Syphilis, HIV 4 <sup>th</sup> generation, HIV Viral Load, CD4 tests and Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cultures. Liver function panel, Renal Function Panel, HbSA, HbAg, HCV, Basic Metabolic Panel, Comprehensive Metabolic Panel,
PA Department of Agriculture Laboratory	X			X	Unknown contamination of food from retail operators, canned food chemical and microbiological analysis, examination of animal rabies specimens.
PA Department of Health, Bureau of Labs, Exton, PA	X		X	X	Examination of animal rabies specimens, Gonorrhea cultures, sputum samples for AFB smear and cultures. Biological/Chemical analysis of BT agents via law enforcement chain of custody protocol.
US Food & Drug Administration, Philadelphia, PA	X			X	Physical, chemical, and microbiological analysis of manufactured food products in interstate commerce.
Contract Laboratory		X		X	Required bathing place coliform sampling.
Oxford Diagnostic Laboratories		X	X		Performs T-SPOT TB tests.

2023

Personal Health

Services

Program

Plans

# Chronic Disease Control

---

## Overview

**Chronic diseases**, such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes, are among the leading causes of death and disability in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), chronic diseases are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health problems. The actual underlying causes of these diseases are often risk factors that could have been prevented. Obesity and behaviors such as poor nutrition, physical inactivity, tobacco use and excessive alcohol-consumption are major contributors to cardiovascular disease, our nation's leading killers.

The City of Allentown Bureau of Health continues to address heart disease as the leading cause of premature death in Allentown.

The Nutrition and Physical Activity Program will address the following chronic diseases:

- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Obesity

**Heart disease** is the leading cause of death and disability in the nation. According to the CDC (2020), 696,962 people died of heart disease in the United States, which is 20.6% of the total number of deaths in 2020. Several lifestyle factors can put people at a higher risk for developing heart disease. These include high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, and unidentified or poorly controlled diabetes. The Nutrition and Physical Activity Program offers nutrition and lifestyle counseling for adults and youth with cardiovascular risk factors, as well as advocates for policy and environmental changes in the community to support good nutrition and physical activity.

**Diabetes** is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. According to the CDC (2022), it affects more than 37 million people or 11.3% of the population and 1 in 5 of them don't know they have it. Additionally, 96 million adults have prediabetes, (38% of the population), a condition in which blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be considered diabetes (National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2022). Prediabetes raises a person's risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Lifestyle change has been proven effective in reducing the incidence of diabetes and risk of complications resulting from diabetes. The Nutrition and Physical Activity Program includes nutrition and lifestyle counseling for adults and youth, as well as advocating for policy and environmental changes in the community to support good nutrition and physical activity.

**Obesity** rates doubled for adults and tripled for children between 1980 and 2008. As of 2017-2020, 41.9% of US adults are obese (CDC/NHANES). Obesity among our nation's young people, aged 2 to 19 years was 19.7% in 2017-2020. The prevalence of obesity among adolescents aged 12-19

years (22.2%) and school-aged children 6-11 years (20.7%) was higher than among preschool-aged children 2-5 years (12.7%) (Childhood Obesity Facts CDC). Obesity increases the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, liver and gallbladder disease, sleep apnea, osteoarthritis, infertility, and mental health issues. Healthy lifestyle habits including healthy eating and physical activity can lower the risk of becoming obese and developing related diseases. The Nutrition and Physical Activity Program has formed strong partnerships with other city departments, the school district, and the community to develop programs, policy initiatives, and changes in our built environment which strongly support increased physical activity and good nutrition.

## Program Goals:

Decrease chronic diseases by collaborating with community partners to support environmental and policy changes that promote healthful behaviors and assure access to screening for the identification of chronic diseases that are preventable or more successfully treated if detected early.

## 2023 Chronic Disease Control Program Objectives

### *Objective 9*

Provide screenings/assessments for individuals in the community to assure that all individuals regardless of insurance and socioeconomic status have access to heart disease and diabetes screenings according to national guidelines.

#### *Activities*

1. Heart Disease and Diabetes
  - a. Promote cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure screening for 150 program participants in conjunction with Clinical Services.
  - b. Offer individual dietary/lifestyle counseling session(s) for participants screened in the Clinical Services Program with abnormal glucose and/or lipid levels.

### *Objective 10*

Conduct community awareness initiatives and/or campaigns to reduce chronic disease incidence and mortality.

#### *Activities*

1. Collaborate with community partners to implement initiatives that coincide with state and nationally recognized health awareness campaigns.

### *Objective 11*

Educate the community on methods to reduce chronic disease risk factors (e.g., nutrition, physical activity, and other lifestyle changes).

#### *Activities*

1. Conduct or participate in a minimum of 20 chronic disease risk reduction presentations/events.
2. Implement strategies to decrease the problem of overweight youth in the City of Allentown.
  - a. Offer weight loss counseling services to a minimum of 15 adolescents at school, home, and community sites.
  - b. Conduct a month-long summer recreation program for approximately 150 center-city children.
  - c. Participate as active members of various committees/coalitions focused on youth (i.e. Allentown Community Garden Coalition, Healthy Kids Healthy Allentown, Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council, School Advisory Boards, etc.).

### *Objective 12*

Implement policy, environment, and systems changes that support healthy eating and increased physical activity.

#### *Activities*

1. Network with city officials, schools, and or community organizations on efforts that foster safe walking, biking, or free play.
2. Increase access to fresh, local produce and other foods in the community through community gardens, fruit and veggie mobile, farm market programs, and other related initiatives.
3. Decrease food insecurity and support food recovery through federal nutrition programs and other related initiatives.
4. Continue initiatives such as Million Clicks for Million Hearts walking program that support physical activity and impact other risk factors for chronic diseases in Allentown.

5. Participate in state and national phone conferences and webinars related to nutrition and physical activity.

### *Objective 13*

Monitor chronic disease morbidity and mortality.

#### *Activities*

1. Compile national, state, and local heart disease data and review trends.
2. Compile national, state, and local/regional overweight and obesity rates for adults and youth and review trends.

### *Objective 14*

Maintain current certifications and licenses and assure staff knowledge of current public health issues and practices.

#### *Activities*

1. Inform staff about relevant educational, training, and professional development opportunities.
2. Assure that the training log reflects individual staff members' participation in certification programs, public health core competency training sessions, public health emergency preparedness trainings and drills.

### *Program Evaluation:*

The Chronic Disease Control Programs will be evaluated through quarterly assessments of program activities. In addition, the Chronic Disease Control Programs will submit reports to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and other grant funders as required. All activities will be completed by December 31, 2023.

# Communicable Disease Program

---

## Overview

The Communicable Disease Program consists of the primary prevention and epidemiologic investigation of communicable disease and reportable conditions. Primary prevention includes community immunization and targeted education efforts. Epidemiology defines the occurrence of the disease, its clinical manifestations and management, characteristics of the affected population, the mechanisms of transmission, the characteristics of the causative agent, and identifies exposed individuals so that measures may be taken to prevent spread.

The Communicable Disease Program has six components:

- Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance
- Community Immunization
- Animal Bite Epidemiology
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Control
- HIV/AIDS Program
- Tuberculosis Control Program

The epidemiology of reportable conditions defines prevalence and incidence trends in the community. The analysis is used to assess at-risk populations and to target prevention, education, and treatment efforts.

The Communicable Disease investigation protocol is based on PA Code: Title 28 Chapter 27, Communicable/Noncommunicable Disease regulations, promulgated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Health's Policy and Procedures Manual for the Identification, Investigation and Control of Reportable Diseases, the PA DOH Epidemiology Manual for the Identification, Investigation and Control of Infectious Diseases, and the CDC's Nationally Notifiable Diseases and Conditions and Current Case Definitions (NNDSS) are also used. Sexually Transmitted Disease prevention, investigation, and treatment activities are based on CDC's STI Treatment Guidelines (2021). Tuberculosis (TB) screening and treatment activities are conducted based on 2020 PA DOH Tuberculosis Manual.

Communicable disease investigations that meet CDC's case definitions, are investigated with the National Electronic Data Surveillance System (NEDSS). Local Communicable Disease statistics are routinely analyzed to determine trends. Allentown Communicable Disease Surveillance Data are presented at quarterly hospital infection control meetings.

The HIV/AIDS Program focuses on 1) disease investigation and surveillance, 2) prevention education, 3) Counseling, Testing, and Referral services (CTR) and 4) Partner Services (PS) 5) PrEP



services and HIV Navigation. HIV education is provided to Allentown and Lehigh County residents through presentations and individual or small group risk reduction sessions. Confidential HIV counseling, testing, partner notification and referral services are offered in AHB Clinics and the community. AHB also conducts the Safer Sex Intervention and Communicable Disease presentations at Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol facilities.

# 2023 Communicable Disease Program Objectives

---

## *Objective 15*

All reports of communicable disease or reportable conditions in the City of Allentown will be epidemiologically investigated and appropriate control methods and interventions will be instituted in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Policy and Procedures Manual for the Identification, Investigation and Control of Reportable Diseases.

### *Activities*

1. Conduct epidemiological interviews of individuals with communicable disease and institute appropriate control measures (approximately 1600 per year).
2. Review disease surveillance data, daily, to promptly identify communicable disease outbreaks, and/or surveillance system problems.
3. Determine the priority of case and outbreak investigations based on established protocols, including the PADOH Epidemiology Manual for the identification, Investigation and Control of Infectious Diseases.
4. Analyze, interpret, and report communicable disease investigation activities to the PADOH Bureau of Epidemiology through PA NEDSS.
5. Investigate and treat clients that test positive for sexually transmitted diseases per protocol.
6. Collaborate with community partners to reduce the rate transmission of HIV/AIDS through the implementation of prevention/intervention activities.
7. Continue to provide HIV counseling and testing for all clients attending STD clinic (a minimum of 1500 per year).
8. Promote HIV Risk Reduction activities among partners, known to be HIV positive, using Partner Services guidelines.
9. Provide HIV Navigation services to high-risk HIV negative clients including Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and needed referrals.
10. Support and participate in the PADOH Data to Care (D2C) initiative.

11. Conduct Tuberculosis assessment, diagnosis, treatment, education, case management, and epidemiological services for clients referred to AHB's TB Clinic and TB Program.
  - Screen individuals at risk for TB to locate persons infected with TB and assure that they complete therapy; screening may also identify cases of active disease.
  - Conduct contact investigations to identify persons who have active TB and infected persons at high risk for developing TB.
  - Identify and completely treat all persons who have Tuberculosis.
12. Continue COVID 19 response, in conjunction with PA DOH and CDC guidelines, including case surveillance and vaccination.
13. Collaborate with the Immunization and Public Health Emergency Preparedness efforts to provide mass vaccination clinics.
14. Continue to promote information about communicable disease prevention services, and disease information to the community.

### *Objective 16*

Assure the prevention and containment of infectious and vaccine-preventable diseases in conjunction with local health care professionals.

#### *Activities*

1. Reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases as outlined in the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Guidelines.
2. Increase the number of communicable diseases, specifically STD infections, by promoting, advertising, and conducting no cost testing clinics
3. Report disease trends and provide in-service briefings for local hospital infection control committee meetings at area hospital networks.

### *Objective 17*

Provide communicable disease clinical services: sexually transmitted disease, tuberculosis, child and adult immunization clinics. Incorporate health education into each clinic visit, home visit, and community outreach activity.

### *Activities*

1. Provide screening, treatment and/or vaccination services for:
  - Sexually Transmitted Disease clients
  - Tuberculosis clients
  - Child and Adult Immunization clients
2. Offer HIV risk reduction education, up to and including HIV Navigation services, to promote and increase proper condom use among all sexually active individuals.

### *Objective 18*

Enhance data management, in conjunction with the PA Department of Health, to better reflect disease surveillance, communicable disease investigation, and prevention activities.

### *Activities*

1. Utilize the PA NEDSS and Epi Center databases for communicable and reportable disease investigations.
2. Analyze selected communicable disease trends and modify prevention and outreach efforts based on the results.

### *Objective 19*

Maintain staff knowledge of communicable disease epidemiology including procedures and resources, current public health issues and practices, and certifications and licensure.

### *Activities*

1. Schedule relevant staff for training related to communicable disease prevention, communicable diseases tracking systems and programs for receiving public health alerts.
2. Assure that the training log reflects individual staff members' participation in certification programs, public health emergency preparedness training and drills (e.g., CPR/AED certifications, NIMS, conference CE credits, etc.).
3. Assure exposure control services for Allentown Health Bureau personnel.

## Program Evaluation:

Evaluation will be accomplished through monthly and quarterly assessment of activities, quality assurance review of all patient care and laboratory results, and routine patient/audience satisfaction surveys throughout 2023.

# Maternal and Child Health Programs

---

## Overview

The Healthy People 2030 Objectives' maternal, infant, and child health goal is to improve the health and well-being of women, infants, children, and communities. Services critical to health promotion and disease prevention include prenatal home visits and newborn home visitation, immunization, identification of special health care needs, referral, and health education. The Allentown Health Bureau continues to be the local Title V Agency for the Pennsylvania Department of Health and receives funding for programming to monitor health needs of pregnant women, infants, children, and adolescents in the City of Allentown. AHB collaborates with the Allentown Bureau of Building Standards and Safety to identify and prioritize homes of children with elevated blood lead levels, which may require remediation. In addition, the Allentown Health Bureau strives to improve the immunization rates of infants, children, adolescents, and adults and provides all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended and required vaccines for City of Allentown residents. The Maternal and Child Health Program strives to assure that all women, children, and families have access to health services in the community.

The Allentown Health Bureau continues to address infant, child, and adolescent health as a priority. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Priorities 2020-2025, along with the Healthy People 2030 Objectives guide our community efforts to enhance infant, child, adolescent, and adult health among Allentown residents.

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program includes:

- Child and Adolescent Health Advocacy and Home Visitation
- Title V Maternal and Child Health
- Immunization
- Lead
- Dental Health Education
- Child Death Review

The Child and Adolescent Health Advocacy and Home Visitation component provides home visitation, referral, education and support to parents, pregnant teens, and children from infancy to age 18. Health Needs Assessments provide opportunities to link families to health care and social services to promote positive outcomes. Prenatal Visits deliver vital health education, direction, and support to pregnant mothers and families. Newborns and new parents are provided essential health information and anticipatory guidance and advocacy during each Newborn Home Visit. The MCH Program continues to enforce the personal health provisions of the childcare ordinance in Allentown's childcare facilities through inspections and educational programming for childcare center staff. The Title V Maternal Child Health and Special Health Care Needs portion of the MCH Program includes Newborn Screening Follow-Up.

The Immunization Program strives to improve the immunization coverage rate for children and adolescents in accordance with the Recommended Immunization Schedules, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Healthy People 2030 Objectives. Comprehensive immunization services are provided for infants, children, adolescents, and adults. Vaccines are provided in accordance with the patient eligibility screening criteria from PADOH's 2020 Vaccines for Children Program Provider Handbook. AHB utilizes the Statewide Immunization Information System (SIIS) database to record all vaccinations and to monitor vaccine inventory. In addition, the program strives to reduce or eliminate Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) in accordance with the CDC, as well as the Healthy People 2030 Immunization Objectives; all VPD cases are investigated in accordance with approved protocols including the PADOH Epidemiology Manual for the Identification, Investigation and Control of Infectious Diseases. AHB co-chairs the Lehigh Valley Immunization Coalition in conjunction with the Bethlehem Health Bureau; many MCH community representatives serve on the coalition.

AHB provides outreach to children, younger than seven years of age, with elevated blood lead levels. Environmental management includes investigations to determine sources of lead exposure to apply administrative and legal actions to assure hazard reduction.

The Dental Health Education component strives to increase access to dental services for children and adolescents, to promote positive oral health habits, and to advocate for improvement in the dental health status of our population. AHB links children and adolescents with area dental providers, dental clinics, and the Allentown School District to assure that City children have access to dental care.

The purpose of Child Death Review, a multidisciplinary process, is to help better understand why children, age 21 and under, in our community die and to determine how future deaths can be prevented. The Lehigh County team meets quarterly and includes agencies involved in the safety, health, and protection of children. An AHB representative participates in the Lehigh County Act 33 Case Review Team which conducts Fatality and Near-Fatality case reviews.

## Program Goal:

To improve the health of pregnant women, infants and children and families by 1) promoting positive health behaviors, 2) assuring that all pregnant women and children have access to primary and specialty health services, and 3) improving systems of care to promote healthy outcomes.

## 2023 Maternal and Child Health Program Objectives

---

### *Objective 20*

Assure access to primary and specialized health care services for the children and families of Allentown.

#### *Activities*

1. Perform health needs assessments (500) with families during immunization clinics and assist families to obtain health insurance and primary and specialized health care.
2. Continue to collaborate with the health care community and non-traditional community partners to reduce the incidence of prematurity and/or low birth weight among infants and improve infant and child health outcomes.
3. Participate in local, state, and national initiatives to promote maternal and family health.

### *Objective 21*

Provide pregnancy testing, education, and advocacy for women of childbearing age.

#### *Activities*

1. Provide free urine pregnancy tests for 20 women during Early Pregnancy Testing (EPT) clinics. Counsel pregnant women about positive health behaviors and refer for prenatal care or options counseling.
2. Counsel women with negative test results about conception and/or family planning.
3. Offer HIV tests to all women in EPT clinics.
4. Utilize the One Key Question (OKQ) process, to promote maternal and family health, and ensure that more pregnancies are *wanted, planned, and as healthy as possible*.

### *Objective 22*

Assess and promote positive health habits, disease prevention and parenting behaviors through the MCH home visitation program for expectant mothers, newborns, infants, children, and their



families. Incorporate health education into each MCH clinic visit, home visit, and community outreach activity.

### *Activities*

1. Promote healthy behaviors among expectant women, in collaboration with community partners, during the pregnancy and postpartum periods.
2. Promote recommended newborn and infant care as well as postpartum care, breastfeeding and family planning education, and assessment of behavioral health, including perinatal and postpartum depression.
3. Inform the community and provide educational information about Shaken Baby Syndrome in accordance with the PADOH Shaken Baby Syndrome Education and Prevention Program.
4. Screen expectant and new mothers for substance abuse and mental health concerns.
5. Screen expectant and new mothers for Intimate Partner Violence using a validated screening tool, such as the 5 P's tool to assess (Parents, Peers, Partner, Past, Present).
6. Assess immunization records, normal growth and development, and well-baby visits with families during all MCH home visits.
7. Collaborate with Injury Prevention staff to promote and implement the Safe and Healthy Homes Program.
8. Provide breastfeeding education and support to increase access to resources needed to initiate and continue breastfeeding.
9. Provide safe sleep education utilizing the "Back to Sleep" campaign for infants and conduct follow up bed risk assessments.
10. Utilize the Bright Futures Guidelines, provide anticipatory guidance for families during home visitation.

### *Objective 23*

Educate the public and professional communities about selected topics to improve the health status of children and families in Allentown.

### *Activities*

1. Provide educational sessions and act as a resource for health care professionals, childcare agencies, human service agencies, community organizations, and the public regarding:
  - Immunization guidelines,
  - Childhood lead poisoning prevention,
  - Oral health habits,
  - Risk factors that affect infant and child health outcomes, and
  - MCH Intervention/education sessions.
  - Child health and development
  - Breast feeding
  - Family planning
  - Communicable disease control
2. Conduct childcare center inspections of Allentown facilities (50) in conjunction with Environmental Field Services.
3. Inform health care providers about pressing public health issues, for example, changes in vaccine eligibility criteria.
4. Promote child and family health through participation in public awareness campaigns including National Infant Immunization Week and National Immunization Awareness Month.
5. As part of the Lehigh Valley Immunization Coalition, provide periodic updates on immunizations to interested agencies and continue to develop community-wide strategies for improving immunization rates.

### *Objective 24*

Promote Maternal and Child Health screening programs and assist families in gaining access to needed resources.

### *Activities*

1. Promote Newborn Screening and Follow-Up (NSF) through the following steps:
  - a. Locate newborns lost to follow-up.
  - b. Provide information to families about screening and local resources.

2. Assist families of children with Special Health Care needs in locating health care coverage for screening, re-screening, diagnostic tests, related MCH services, community services, and medical homes.

### *Objective 25*

Provide services to children with elevated blood lead levels, including environmental management.

#### *Activities*

1. Provide lead education and home visits to families of children with elevated blood lead levels in conjunction with Environmental Field Services staff.
2. Assure children with elevated blood lead levels are linked to pediatric care and are receiving medical case management:
  - For lead levels 3.5 -14µg/dL: Educate parents, guardians, and caregivers regarding sources, effects, and prevention of lead poisoning. Home visits will be offered and conducted as requested.
  - For lead levels 15-19µg/dL: Educate parents, guardians, and caregivers regarding sources, effects, and prevention of lead poisoning. A child with two consecutive venous blood lead levels between 15-19µg/dL within three months will result in having an environmental investigation and healthy homes visit.
  - For lead levels 20µg/dL and above: Collaborate with Environmental Field Services to conduct a healthy home visit, environmental investigation and obtain a parental agreement for action. The need for remediation is determined by the results of the environmental investigation. Ensure child receives Early Intervention referral.

### *Objective 26*

Continue to perform community-wide assessments to determine the number of Allentown residents who have received age-appropriate immunizations.

#### *Activities*

1. Complete the annual immunization record assessment and compare results to local, state, and national benchmark data.
2. Monitor and evaluate AHB childhood and adult vaccinations via the Statewide Immunization Information System (SIIS) database.

## *Objective 27*

Increase immunization rates and reduce vaccine-preventable diseases among infants, children, and adults.

### *Activities*

1. Promote immunization activities for children, adolescents, and adults in the Allentown community as part of the state-wide effort to improve immunization rates across the lifespan.
2. Participate in the LVHN community Flu Clinic in November 2023.
3. Conduct weekly clinics during the influenza immunization season to vaccinate children and adults. Encourage influenza immunizations for patients and family members during Tuberculosis Clinics and Childhood Immunization Clinics.
4. Conduct weekly adult immunization clinics providing all ACIP recommended and required vaccines for City of Allentown residents.
5. Provide vaccine information to WIC, HeadStart and other local agencies that serve children and families.
6. Collaborate with agencies, such as Lehigh Valley Hospital Street Medicine and The Bradbury Sullivan Center to provide vaccines at drive--through and indoor clinics.
7. Conduct mass vaccination clinics as needed.
8. Assess immunizations at city of Allentown childcares.
9. Perform VFC Compliance and IQIP visits at city of Allentown VFC practices.

## *Objective 28*

Promote dental health for children, adolescents, and adults in Allentown.

### *Activities*

1. Provide individual education to 300 parents with children about: a) nutrition and oral health, b) the importance of early dental check-ups, and c) the prevention of nursing bottle syndrome through advocacy and outreach efforts.

2. Encourage the community to utilize fluoridated tap water rather than bottled water to mix baby formula or to drink.
3. Conduct age-appropriate presentations on oral hygiene for children at twenty Child Care facilities.

### *Objective 29*

Coordinate Lehigh County Child Death Review Team and implement the team's recommendations to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and to reduce child fatalities.

#### *Activities*

1. Convene Lehigh County agencies involved in the safety, health, and protection of children.
2. Conduct quarterly Lehigh County Child Death Review Team meetings.
3. Analyze child deaths from birth through the age of 21 years to determine factors that could prevent future deaths among children/adolescents.
4. Follow up on prevention recommendations made by the Lehigh County Child Death Review Team.
5. Utilize aggregate data for public health planning, prevention programming and to inform policy discussions.

### *Objective 30*

Improve data collection efficiency and capabilities and monitor data related to maternal child health and dental health.

#### *Activities*

1. Continue to analyze vital statistics, maternal child health indicators, census, and programmatic data to determine maternal and child health priorities.
2. Continue staff training in web-based research and data analysis: EPIC, SIIS, NEDSS and PA Child Death Review databases.
3. Update and streamline all MCH program databases to align with monthly reporting requirements.

### *Objective 31*

Maintain staff knowledge of current public health issues, practices, certifications, and licensure.

#### *Activities*

1. Offer staff relevant educational, training, and professional development opportunities.
2. Provide quarterly immunization in-services for staff who administer vaccines.
3. Assure that the training log reflects individual staff members' participation in certification programs, public health training sessions, public health emergency preparedness training and drills.

### Program Evaluation

Evaluation will be accomplished through monthly and quarterly measurement of MCH activities, a demonstrable improvement in child immunization rates, quality assurance review of all patient interactions and electronic medical record review through 2023.

2022

Personal

Health

Services

Accomplishments

# Personal Health Services

## 2022 Accomplishments by Objective – Chronic Disease Control

---

### *Objective 10 – Partially Achieved*

Provided screenings/assessments for individuals in the community to assure that all individuals regardless of insurance and socioeconomic status have access to heart disease, diabetes, and cancer screenings according to national guidelines.

Activities	2022 Total
<b>Heart Disease and Diabetes</b>	
Cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings.	84
Individual dietary / lifestyle counseling session(s) for participants with abnormal glucose and/or lipid levels.	62

### *Objective 11 – Achieved*

Conducted community awareness initiatives and/or campaigns to reduce chronic disease incidence and mortality.

- o Participated in the national Go Red for Women campaign to raise awareness of heart disease in women. All City of Allentown employees were encouraged to wear red on February 4.

### *Objective 12 – Partially Achieved*

Educated the community on methods to reduce chronic disease risk factors (e.g., nutrition, exercise, and other lifestyle changes).

	Activities	2022 Total
1	Chronic disease risk reduction presentations/events.	11
2	Implement strategies to decrease the problem of overweight youth in the City of Allentown.	
2a	Adolescents receiving weight loss counseling services.	2
2b	Youth participating in summer recreation program	111



2c	Committees/coalitions meeting (i.e. Allentown Community Garden Coalition, Healthy Kids Healthy Allentown, Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council, School Advisory Boards, etc.).	43
----	---	----

### *Objective 13 – Achieved*

Implement policy, environment, and systems changes that support healthy eating and increased physical activity.

- Continued to network with city officials, schools, and community organizations on efforts that foster safe walking, biking, or free play.
  1. Contracted with Community Bike Works to provide bike education to youth.
  2. Supplied an 8-capacity bike rack to a local middle school.
  3. Fitted 20 bike helmets for youth and provided 24 bike locks to a middle school.
  4. Partnered with Lehigh Valley Health Network on the Million Clicks for Million Hearts Walking Program to rebrand the program. Launched a Walk with a Doc program in conjunction with LVHN.
- Increased access to fresh, local, produce and other foods in the community through initiatives such as community gardens, fruit and veggie mobile, farm market programs and other related initiatives.
  1. The Allentown Community Garden Coalition continued to meet virtually or through email during 2022 supporting efforts to sustain 13 community and school gardens.
  2. The “Fruits and Veggies on the Move” truck delivered fresh produce to 1,152 youth at 16 summer playground sites, 4 community sites, and 4 community events.
  3. One local hospital subsidized “farm shares” to meal site patrons and a local farm positioned a mobile market at one of the hospital meal-sites. In addition, the Kellyn Foundation stationed a mobile market at two community sites weekly using an online order ahead system. SNAP, EBT and WIC were accepted at all mobile markets.
- Continued efforts to decrease food insecurity and hunger through participation in federal nutrition programs and other related initiatives.
  1. Four community open meal sites and three Allentown School District open meal sites served congregate and grab and go style meals to children ages 18 and younger this summer.
  2. The Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council/Healthy Kids Healthy Allentown anti-hunger task force met throughout the year to mobilize partners to address unmet needs, assist agencies to maintain public access to federal meals and to support operation of food banks.
  3. Full Cart Pantry, a virtual food pantry delivered 133 boxes of easy to cook shelf stable foods right to a person’s door.
- Supported food recovery efforts in schools and the community to foster a healthy food economy. This took place through Grab & Go meals served at community sites, the use of a share table at one community summer program, and the offer vs serve method utilized in the Allentown School District.

- Continued the city-wide free walking program Million Clicks for Million Hearts. The program utilizes unique “click to walk” technology that enables participant walks to be tracked. By the end of 2022, 4158 participants registered for the program and 279,891 clicks were clocked.
- Participated in numerous webinars and conference calls that address childhood obesity, nutrition, and physical activity. (e.g., White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, Pennsylvania Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics State Conference, etc.)

#### *Objective 14 – Achieved*

Monitor chronic disease morbidity and mortality.

- Compiled data comparing heart disease mortality, number, and rate for Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and the United States, 1999-2020. (See Appendix A-1)
- Compiled national, state, and local/regional overweight and obesity rates for youth and adults. (See Appendix A-2 & A-3)

#### *Objective 15 – Achieved*

Maintain current certifications and licenses and assure staff knowledge of current public health issues and practices.

- Staff completed required and recommended educational, training, and professional development sessions/ conferences.
- Maintained a training log that reflects individual staff members’ participation in certification programs, public health emergency preparedness trainings.

## 2022 Accomplishments - Communicable Disease

### *Objective 16 - Achieved*

All reports of communicable disease or reportable conditions in the City of Allentown will be epidemiologically investigated and appropriate control methods and interventions will be instituted in accordance with the PA DOH's Policy and Procedures Manual for the Identification, Investigation and Control of Reportable Diseases (2008), *PA Code/Chapter 27 and the Epidemiology Manual for the Identification, Investigation and Control of Reportable Diseases (2021)*.

Chart 16.1 below illustrates City of Allentown Communicable Disease & Reportable Conditions: 2018-2022.

DISEASE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Animal Bites	252	301	202	186	208
Infant Botulism	0	0	0	0	0
Campylobacter	5	15	3	25	4
Chlamydia	1181	1222	86	961	1074
COVID 19 (confirmed)	0	0	9,570	15592	16514
Cryptosporidium	1	5	1	6	6
E coli O157-H7	0	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis	7	0	7	5	5
Gonorrhea	261	235	79	371	347
Hepatitis A	2	2	2	2	1
Hepatitis B	11	4	1	1	1
Hepatitis C	191	206	74	255	36
Legionella	8	5	5	4	0
Lyme	4	32	26	49	29
Malaria	0	2	1	0	0
Meningitis – Aseptic	4	3	1	1	1
Mpox	0	0	0	0	7
Mumps	1	1	0	0	0
Pertussis	7	7	4	1	0
Salmonellosis	14	13	11	20	15
Shigellosis	4	13	1	7	3
Syphilis Infectious	46	52	66	84	109
Tuberculosis Active	8	3	0	3	6
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0	0

- Epidemiological interviews were conducted in accordance with the PA DOH Epidemiology Manual for the Identification, Investigation and Control of Reportable Diseases.
- Conducted reviews of disease surveillance data at least once daily via PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance system (PA-NEDSS).
- Conducted reviews of frequently released Epi Center reports: these highlighted emerging infections within Pennsylvania and the United States.
- Conducted more than 1,400 reviews of ongoing surveillance investigations for previously positive HIV cases, to ensure complete case documentation.
- ⊕ Identified 6 newly diagnosed individuals with HIV infection.
- Conducted 20 Partner Services interviews to elicit sex/needle-sharing partners of HIV positive patients.
- Conducted epidemiological investigations related to 6 active Tuberculosis (TB) cases; five cases were pulmonary, and one case was extra-pulmonary. (See Appendix B-1 for Active TB and Latent TB Infection Data (2013 – 2022)).
- Conducted epidemiological 144 investigations and initiated treatment for latent TB cases; 19 clients completed treatment.
- Allentown's continued to track and monitor COVID 19 through in 2022. In addition to case investigation, staff counseled and education citizens and businesses about COVID 19 safety protocols updates.

### *Objective 17 - Achieved*

Assure the prevention and containment of infectious and vaccine-preventable diseases in conjunction with health care professionals.

- Gave 3,510 COVID 19 vaccinations at mass vaccination clinics, employers, schools, and as walk-in appointments at the Allentown Health Bureau.
- Communicable Disease related health alerts were discussed at four local infection control meetings with health care professionals on a routine basis.
- Provided HIV counseling and testing for 1,049 individuals at risk for HIV infection.
- Promoted communicable disease reporting through participation in three hospitals' Infection Control meetings, St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) – Allentown Campus and SLUHN - Sacred Heart Campus, Good Shepherd Rehab Hospital (GSRH) and Cedarbrook Nursing Home.

### *Objective 18 - Achieved*

Assure the prevention and containment of infectious and vaccine-preventable diseases through community education.

- Provided disease education for the public and community groups: 39 sessions were conducted and a total of 748 individuals were educated.

- Provided HIV counseling and testing for 1,049 individuals at risk for HIV infection. (See Appendix C-1 for HIV data 2013 – 2022)
- Distributed condoms with instructional material including, but not limited to, colleges, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers, STD/HIV Clinic patients and community partners.

### *Objective 19 - Achieved*

Provide communicable disease clinical services: sexually transmitted disease, tuberculosis, and adult immunization clinics. Incorporate health education into each clinic visit, home visit, and community outreach activity.

- See Clinical Services Delivery Report Chart, page 59 for service delivery information for STD, TB and Immunization Clinics as well as Clinical Services activities.
- The CDC's STD Treatment Guidelines and AHB STD standing orders were utilized for all clients screened and/or treated for STDs.
- Of the 1,049 patients tested in our STD Clinics.
- The CDC's Tuberculosis Treatment Guidelines were used for all clients screened and/or treated for active or latent Tuberculosis.
- A total of 214 people were screened for Tuberculosis; of these 13 individuals were at risk for TB.
- Provided T-SPOT and QFT-Plus TB tests to patients.
- There were 463 visits to TB RN/MD Clinics for Tuberculosis Treatment.
- HIV Navigation is offered in all our of STD clinics, which include PrEP consultations and linkage to care, and general HIV/safe sex education.
- Offered and provided Mpox vaccine to qualified persons attending clinic and via request. Investigated and closed 6 Mpox cases.

### *Objective 20 - Achieved*

Enhance data management, in conjunction with the PA Department of Health, to better reflect disease surveillance, communicable disease investigation, and prevention activities.

- AHB staff utilized PA-NEDSS to investigate all suspected or laboratory confirmed cases of reportable communicable disease.
- Communicable Disease staff (2) are approved to use the joint HIV/STD PA-NEDSS database for HIV case investigations, data collection, and entry.
- AHB enters all HIV positive patients who accepted Partner Services in the PA-NEDSS database to document partners elicited, partners referred for testing, and HIV positive partners referred to treatment.
- Data management for COVID case investigation, contact tracing and surveillance was accomplished with PA NEDSS, EPIC and ESRI. The PA Statewide Immunization Information System (PA SIIS) was used for vaccine database/registry.

### *Objective 21 - Achieved*

Maintain staff knowledge of communicable disease epidemiology including procedures and resources, current public health issues and practices, and certifications and licensure.

- AHB Communicable Disease staff attended training related to COVID 19 epidemiology, infection control, HIV and PHEP.
- Working with PA DOH the City of Allentown utilized the SARA ALERT system for contact tracing.
- City of Allentown worked with and developed the ESRI platform to track trends and employee assignments related to COVID cases.
- Worked with PA DOH to learn the current EBOLA monitoring system in the event an Allentown resident or traveler needed to be monitored for an EBOLA exposure.
- Communicable Disease staff (3) attended annual PA DOH STD field staff meeting.

## 2022 Accomplishments by Objective - Maternal and Child Health

---

### *Objective 22 - Achieved*

Assure access to primary and specialized health care services for the children and families of Allentown.

Chart 22.1 below outlines Health needs assessments conducted in 2022:

Health Needs Assessments	2022 Total
Health Needs Assessments performed	912
Referred to health care provider	202
Provided insurance information/CHIP	202
Referred to social service agencies	151

\*Referrals are approximate

- Please refer to the Clinical Services Delivery Report on page 59 for summary.
- Performed 281 health needs assessments with families during immunization clinics (see chart 22.1) and assist families obtain health insurance, and primary and specialized health care.
- MCH staff participated in community-wide efforts to improve maternal and child health including: Lehigh Valley Immunization Coalition, Lehigh County Child Death Review, Lehigh County Child Advocacy Center Case Review Team, Pennsylvania Perinatal Partnership, CityMatch, Nurse Family Partnership Advisory Board, Lehigh Valley Breast Feeding Coalition, Maternal Family Health Services Q. A. Committee, Community Services for Children Health Services Advisory Committee, Project Child of the Lehigh Valley, the Allentown School District Immunization Advisory Group, and Safe Kids Allentown-Bethlehem.

### *Objective 23 - Achieved*

Provide the following MCH clinical services: childhood immunizations and urine pregnancy tests. Incorporate health education into each MCH clinic visit, home visit, and community outreach activity.

Chart 23.1 below outlines Early Pregnancy Testing Clinic activity for 2022:

<b>Early Pregnancy Testing Clinic Activity</b>	<b>2022 Total</b>
Pregnancy tests performed	22
Prenatal care appointments made	7
Confirmed entrance into care	8
Family planning/healthcare referrals	7

- Preventive health education was provided during each MCH Clinic visit, home visit and community outreach activity.
- Of the 22 pregnancy tests performed, 16 were positive. Pregnant women were assisted with scheduling prenatal care appointments at the provider of their choice, with follow up provided to confirm entrance to care.
- Educated 22 women about HIV during Early Pregnancy Testing Clinics.
- Utilized the One Key Question Initiative (OKQ) during MCH clinic visits, home visits, and community outreach activities, making women and families healthier and ensuring that more pregnancies are *wanted, planned, and as healthy as possible*.
- Utilized Motivational Interviewing (strengths-based) approach, with MCH clients and their families.
- Utilized the 5 P's Tool (Parents, Peers, Partner, Past, Present) to screen for interpersonal violence, substance abuse, and mental health.

### *Objective 24 - Achieved*

Assess and promote positive health habits, disease prevention and parenting behaviors through MCH home visitation programs for infants, children, and their families. Incorporate health education into each MCH clinic visit, home visit, and community outreach activity.

Chart 24.1 outline MCH Referrals and Home Visit Activity respectively for 2022:

<b>MCH Referrals</b>	<b>2022 Total</b>
Prenatal Referrals	76
Newborn/Child Referrals	515
<b>MCH Home Visits</b>	<b>2022 Total</b>
Prenatal	146
Newborn/Child	202

- Reviewed 202 immunization records during MCH home visits and made referrals to immunization services as needed.
- Educated 18 pregnant women about nutrition, preterm labor, labor, and delivery. Smoking cessation, abstinence from drug and alcohol use, folic acid, healthy weight gain, HIV education and testing and educated them about the importance of prenatal care visits.



- Promoted recommended newborn and infant care to 182 families of newborns as well as postpartum care, breastfeeding and family planning discussions and assessed for postpartum depression.
- Promoted the “Bright Futures Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants and Children during all MCH home visits.
- Provided safe sleep education to each of the families of newborns, utilizing the “Back to Sleep” campaign for infants, and conducted follow up bed risk assessments with families identified as at risk.
- A Community Health Nurse is a certified breastfeeding counselor and is a member of the Lehigh Valley Breast Feeding Coalition. She is available to provide counseling or discuss solutions to any breastfeeding problems that may arise.
- Collaborated with Injury Prevention staff to conduct 40 Preventing Injuries in Children Visits.

### *Objective 25 - Achieved*

Educate the professional community about selected topics to improve the health status of children and families in Allentown.

- Served as a resource for health care professionals, childcare agencies, human services agencies, the Allentown School District, Lehigh Valley Immunization Coalition (LVIC), and community organizations about topics including immunization guidelines, COVID-19 vaccinations, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and screening, hand washing, oral health resources and risk factors that affect infant and child health outcomes.
- Conducted Child Care inspections for 45 Allentown childcare centers in conjunction with Environmental Field Services.

### *Objective 26 - Achieved*

Educate the public about selected topics to improve the health status of children and families in Allentown.

- Provided educational sessions for children and families related to immunizations guidelines, lead poisoning prevention, oral health habits, child health and development, and communicable disease control e.g., hand washing, and cough etiquette as needed.
- AHB conducted an Influenza and COVID 19 Awareness campaign in November 2022.

### *Objective 27 - Achieved*

Promote Maternal and Child Health screening programs and assist families gain access to needed resources.

- Assisted families in locating health care coverage for screening, rescreening, diagnostic tests, related MCH services and medical homes. Identified medical providers, educational and community services for children with Special Health Care needs.
- Provided supplementary child health visits to families of children with special healthcare needs.
- MCH staffs provide information about Newborn Screening and Follow-up (NSF) through the following steps: locate newborns lost to follow-up, distribute Newborn Screening brochures, and provide information to families about screening and local resources. AHB did not receive any inquiries in 2022.

### *Objective 28 - Achieved*

Provide services to children with positive lead screening test results including environmental management in accordance with the Lead and Healthy Homes Program.

Chart 28.1

Lead Activity	2022 Total
Lead Home Visits (>5mcg/dL)	42
Number of Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	0

- Collaborated with Environmental Field Services staff who conducted environmental investigations in homes of children with elevated blood levels.
- Coordinated Lead Home Assessments and facilitated property renovation and remediation for homes that were identified to contain lead via the City's Lead Program.

### *Objective 29 - Achieved*

Continue to perform community-wide assessments to determine the number of Allentown residents who have received age-appropriate immunizations.

- Immunization Program staff continued to monitor and evaluate AHB childhood and adult vaccinations via the Statewide Immunization Information System (SIIS) database.
- All children who received VFC vaccines were screened for VFC eligibility prior to vaccination.
- Families were given information about how to obtain health insurance and primary care and staff offered to assist them with getting linked to health care as needed.

### *Objective 30 - Achieved*

Increase immunization rates and reduce vaccine-preventable diseases among infants, children, and adults.

- Promoted immunization activities for children, adolescents, and adults in the Allentown community as part of the state-wide effort to improve immunization rates across the lifespan.
- Immunized 912 children with 2615 immunizations.
- Immunized approximately 2476 adults with 4033 vaccines.
- Conducted weekly child and adult immunization clinics providing all ACIP required and recommended vaccines.
- Provided 647 seasonal flu vaccines to children and adults, including City of Allentown employees and their families during clinics at AHB, City work sites, and throughout the community. Conducted two (2) on-site Immunization clinics to catch up students for back to school.
- Collaborated with the Allentown School District to meet the Pennsylvania School Immunization Law regulations.
- Collaborated with the Allentown School District in preparation for ASD to become a Vaccines for Children (VFC) Provider site.
- Provided vaccine information to WIC, HeadStart and other local agencies that serve children and families.
- Participated in the LVHN Community Flu Clinic in November 2022.
- Collaborated with the Allentown Volunteer Medical Reserve corps, the Pennsylvania EMS Society, Citizens Emergency Response Team, Allentown Paramedics, and Parish Nurses of St Luke's/Sacred Heart to promote and conduct multiple COVID-19 mass vaccination clinics in 2022.

### *Objective 31 - Achieved*

Promote dental health for children, adolescents, and adults in Allentown.

- Provided dental education during all MCH visits.
- Reached 379 parents with children about nutrition and oral health, the importance of early dental check-ups and the prevention of nursing bottle syndrome through advocacy and outreach efforts.
- Encouraged the community to utilize fluoridated tap water rather than bottled water to mix baby formula or to drink.

### *Objective 32 - Achieved*

Coordinate Lehigh County Child Death Review Team and implement the team's recommendations to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and to reduce child fatalities.

- Convened Lehigh County agencies involved in the safety, health, and protection of children.
- Conducted Lehigh County Child Death Review Team meetings during 2022.
- Analyzed child deaths from birth through the age of 21 years to determine factors that could prevent future deaths among children/adolescents.
- Utilized aggregate data for public health planning, prevention programming and to inform policy discussions.

### *Objective 33 - Achieved*

Improve data collection efficiency and capabilities and monitor data related to maternal child health and dental health.

- Continued to analyze vital statistics, maternal child health indicators, Census, and programmatic data to determine Maternal and Child Health priorities.
- Continued staff training in web-based research and data analysis: EPIC, SIIS, PA NEDSS and PA Child Death Review databases.
- Updated and streamlined all MCH databases to match monthly reporting requirements and grant deliverables.

### *Objective 34 - Achieved*

Maintain staff knowledge of current public health issues, practices, certifications, and licensure.

- Offered staff relevant educational, training, and professional development opportunities.
- Provided immunization in-services for staff who administer vaccines.
- Assured that the training log reflects individual staff members' participation in certification programs, public health training sessions, public health emergency preparedness training and drills (e.g., CPR/AED) certifications, conference CE credits, etc.
- Completed in "Immunization: Storage and Handling" and "Immunization: You Call the Shots" webinars presented by the CDC.

## Program Evaluation

Evaluation was accomplished through monthly and quarterly measurement of activities, a demonstrable improvement in child immunization rates, quality assurance review of all patient interactions and charts through 2022.

### Clinical Services - Service Delivery Report 2018-2022

Clinical Services	Total 2018	Total 2019	Total 2020	Total 2021	Total 2022
Number of Childhood Immunizations	2273	2498	1052	2624	2615
Number of Adult Immunizations (Total)	1582	1223	1092	49542	4033
Number of Influenza Immunizations	1003	890	1158	794	647
Number of COVID Vaccines given	NA	NA	125	50436	3510
Number of Communicable Disease Reports Investigated (other than STDs)	1191	1610	9917	361	16736
Number of COVID Case Investigations	-	-	9570	15592	16514
Number of HIV Tests Performed	2009	2085	661	682	1049
Number of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Investigations Initiated via NEDSS: (GC, CT, HIV/AIDS, Syphilis)	1886	1509	231	1416	1535
Number of Patient Visits to Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic	2262	2319	682	800	1291
Number of Partner Services interviews for new or previously HIV infected	17	20	6	12	20
Number of previously positive HIV ongoing surveillance cases investigated	1307	1380	1400	1405	1405
Number of newly diagnosed HIV cases investigated	4	1	0	1	6
Number of Patient Visits to TB Clinic (total visits to RN & MD clinics)	424	330	111	179	463
Number of TB Tests Performed	1262	777	163	62	227
Number of active TB clients followed	8	3	2	3	8
Number of latent TB clients followed	41	61	81	53	60
Number of Reported Tuberculosis Investigations Initiated via NEDSS	277	255	214	239	313
Number of MCH Health Needs Assessments Conducted in Clinics	843	632	402	281	912
Number of MCH Referrals Received:	735	783	331	471	591
Maternal Child Health Home Visits:	336	295	281	211	348
Number of Pregnancy Tests in Early Pregnancy Testing Clinic	64	36	7	2	22
Number of Children Screened for Lead Poisoning (Venous)	14	50	50	2	0
Number of Lead Home Visits	56	85	54	60	42
Number of Visits to Inspect Child Care Centers	56	58	31	54	45

2023

Environmental

Health

Services

Program Plans

# Environmental Health Services Section

---

## Overview

The Environmental Health Services Section of the Bureau of Health conducts those mandated Act 315 environmental health programs pertinent to the City of Allentown.<sup>1</sup> The Environmental Health Services Section is comprised of the Environmental Field Services Division, the Injury Prevention Division and Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

Organizationally, the Environmental Health Services Section is under the administrative direction of the Bureau's Associate Director for Environmental Health Services. The Environmental Field Services Manager directs the day-to-day activities of 5 Sanitarians and 1 Community Health Specialist in 3 primary programs – Food Protection, Institutional Sanitation and Safety, and Environmental Control as described below. The Injury Prevention Services Manager directs the activities of two Community Health Specialists in the Injury Prevention Program. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Manager plans, coordinates and assesses initiatives and trainings to ensure local readiness.

## Bureau of Health Environmental Health Services

### *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Mandated Environmental Health Programs*

State Mandated (Act 315) Environmental Health Programs <sup>1</sup>	Health Bureau Program
1. Food Service Sanitation	Food Protection
2. Institutional Sanitation	Institutional Sanitation and Safety
3. School Sanitation	Institutional Sanitation and Safety
4. Public Bathing Place Sanitation and Safety	Institutional Sanitation and Safety
5. Vector Control	Environmental Control
6. Water Pollution Control	Environmental Control
7. Organized Camp	Environmental Control
8. Recreation Area	Environmental Control
9. Housing Environment	Environmental Control

1. There are no bottled water plants, mobile home parks or campgrounds in the city, precluding the need for such programs. The City leases its Water and Sewage Treatment plants to the Lehigh County Authority, which is regulated by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The Environmental Field Services Division conducts the following programs to meet the basic environmental health requirements of the citizens of the City of Allentown.

1. Food Protection Program
  - a. Food Service Establishment Inspection and Licensing
  - b. Food-borne Disease Surveillance and Investigation
  - c. Food Safety Training and Public Awareness
2. Environmental Control Program
  - a. Housing Hygiene and Sanitation
  - b. Lead Source Reduction
  - c. Vector Control
  - d. Noise Control
  - e. Indoor Air Quality
  - f. On-Lot Sewage Disposal
  - g. Pollution Incident Response
  - h. Public Health Nuisances
3. Institutional Sanitation and Safety Program
  - a. Child Care Facility Inspection and Certification
  - b. Public Bathing Place Inspection
  - c. School Inspection
  - d. Long Term Care Facility Inspection

The Injury Prevention Division's mission to reduce unintentional and intentional injury is accomplished through a comprehensive strategy including, in-home education and assessments, community programs and collaborative work with community programs to promote injury prevention education and interventions to as many individuals as possible.

#### Injury Prevention Program

1. Traffic Safety
  - a. Motor Vehicle Safety
  - b. Pedestrian Safety
2. Residential Safety
  - a. Child Home Injury Prevention
  - b. Senior Falls Prevention
3. Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention
4. Poison/Overdose Prevention
5. Violence Prevention
  - a. Suicide Prevention
  - b. Child Maltreatment/Abuse Prevention



The mission of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program is to lead the City in preventing, responding to and reducing the public health consequences of emergencies and disasters. Through collaboration with local and regional preparedness and response partners, the PHEP addresses public health preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capabilities
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

# Food Protection Program

---

## Overview

The Food Protection Program services include:

- Food Service Establishment Inspection and Licensing
- Food-borne Disease Surveillance and Investigation
- Food Safety Training and Public Awareness

Food safety is a common concern now shared by most Americans. Nationwide recalls in recent years of a wide variety of food products, including hard-boiled eggs, cut fruit, romaine lettuce, deli-sliced meats and cheeses, and ground beef among others, has led to an increased awareness and concern by the public about food safety. National, state, and local resources devoted to the prevention of food-related disease and to further educate consumers about food safety issues increase annually. The food industry expends a significant percentage of their collective budgets to developing new methods of safe food production and new food technologies. Despite these efforts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than 48 million cases of food-borne illness occur annually resulting in 128,000 hospitalizations and more than 3,000 deaths. Even with increased surveillance activities, the underreporting of food and waterborne illnesses is a recognized fact. Consequently, it is likely that the number of cases of potential food and waterborne illnesses reported to the Allentown Health Bureau represents only a fraction of the actual number of occurrences.

The broad objective of the Food Protection Program is to reduce the risk of food-borne illness by assuring that food and beverages sold for public consumption has been stored, prepared, and served in a safe manner and is wholesome and unadulterated. This program's primary activities are inspecting and licensing all eating and drinking establishments, large and small retail grocers, cafeterias, commissaries, food vendors at special events and certain food vending machines. Investigations of potential food-borne disease outbreaks within the City of Allentown are conducted. A major emphasis of the program is to educate food handlers and food service operators in proper food protection techniques as well as public education efforts to promote food safety.

## Program Goal:

Assure a high level of food safety and sanitation practices in all licensed food service operations utilizing an inspection protocol based upon a food hazard identification and risk assessment and providing food safety education to the food handlers and the community.

## 2023 Food Protection Program Objectives

### *Objective 32*

License and inspect all food service establishments subject to the City of Allentown Food Code, including but not limited to, restaurants, retail food facilities, mobile food units, temporary food stands and potentially hazardous food vending machines.

#### *Activities*

1. Inspect all permanent structure and mobile food service establishments in accordance with a risk-based inspection schedule to assure compliance with applicable food safety standards:
  - a. All low-risk facilities shall be inspected at least once annually.  
(Approximately 520 in 2022)
  - b. All moderate risk facilities shall be inspected at least 2 times annually.  
(Approximately 364 in 2022)
  - c. All high-risk facilities shall be inspected at least 3 times annually.  
(Approximately 155 in 2022)
2. Utilize Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles as warranted in the investigation of suspected food-borne disease outbreaks.
3. Conduct a comprehensive plan review of each proposed new facility, facilities undergoing extensive renovations, and facilities undergoing changes of ownership.
4. Evaluate applications by food service establishments who seek inclusion in the City's municipal waste collection system in cooperation with the Bureau of Solid Waste and Recycling.
5. Inspect (or otherwise assess compliance with the applicable Food Code) all temporary food facilities at special events prior to the serving of food to the public.
6. Maintain specific geographic inspection areas for each of the 5 Sanitarians.
7. Respond as required to reported emergencies that affect licensed food service establishments (e.g., power outages, sewage overflows) within 4 hours of notification.

### *Objective 33*

Continue to utilize a web-based inspection software to enable mobile data management in the field as well as in the office environment. Begin to work with EnerGov to build inspection software that connects to the City's licensing software.

#### *Activities*

1. Facilitate technical support for *PAFoodSafety* system through PDA to provide for the administrative and field utilization needs of AHB food inspection activities.
2. Assure continued use of compatible support documents with the field inspection software on PCs in the field.
3. Utilize *PAFoodSafety* functions to reduce paperwork and archived facility documents by scanning applications and other relevant documents.
4. Maintain GIS spatial software and the quarterly updating of associated food establishment data files on PC's.
5. Begin to work with EnerGov to build inspection software that connects to the City's licensing software.

### *Objective 34*

Maintain standardized food service plan review, licensing, and inspection procedures.

#### *Activities*

1. Conduct a supervisory review of food service inspection reports prior to submission to the PDA public access website to assure staff consistency and competency in the interpretation and documentation of violations and the corrective actions required for compliance.
2. Conduct inspections alongside a representative from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to assure staff consistency with the State's interpretation and documentation of violations and the corrective actions required for compliance.
3. Utilize the food service policy and procedure manual to ensure consistency in program delivery by each Sanitarian.
4. Conduct supervisory review of each completed plan review and conduct a supervised food service establishment inspection semi-annually with each Sanitarian to assure compliance with established policy.

5. Conduct at least 2 peer standardization inspections with each Sanitarian annually.
6. Actively participate in the City's ongoing efforts to further refine the "one-stop-shop" permit process in cooperation with other City bureaus.

### *Objective 35*

Enhance staff knowledge of current food safety principles, code interpretations, food recalls and regulations through training opportunities.

### *Activities*

1. Assure each Sanitarian attends at least 1 CASA - sponsored training and completes at least 3 food protection training opportunities on-line such as courses offered through Department of Agriculture, FDA's ORAU or the AFDO "Virtual Access" on-line training sites.
2. Assure ongoing training for Sanitarians in the provisions and applicability of the City's Food Service Sanitation Ordinance No. 14189, PA Act 106 of 2010 (PA 3 C.S.A. § 5701 – 5714), Title 7 Chapter 46 - The Food Code, and the most current version of the FDA Model Food Code.
3. Fully review the food service policy and procedure with Sanitarian staff and revise where warranted.
4. Encourage and provide support to each Sanitarian who pursues professional credentials and certifications such as NEHA's Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) and Pennsylvania Department of Health Local Health Officer.
5. Assure each Sanitarian maintains current ServSafe credentials.
6. Assure the Environmental Field Services Manager routinely accesses websites for FDA, USDA, PDA and DOH to check for food recall notices, food safety alerts, interpretation memos and enforcement actions and relays relevant information to the Sanitarians.
7. Accurately compile and record all staff training acquired during the year.

### *Objective 36*

Allocate program resources in an efficient manner using food hazard risk assessment.

#### *Activities*

1. Assure that a food hazard risk assessment utilizing the current risk assessment tool is performed annually on each facility to determine annual inspection frequency.
2. Review and revise as necessary the risk assessment tool to assure relevance to current food safety concepts and Food Code regulations.

### *Objective 37*

Maintain efforts to ensure compliance in licensed food service facilities where chronic or severe violations are identified during inspections.

#### *Activities*

1. Utilize the various enforcement actions sanctioned by law (i.e., violation tickets, citations, and administrative conferences) as per established policy to address non-compliant facilities.
2. Maintain cooperative efforts with other City bureaus to assure compliance by licensed facilities with other applicable ordinances and regulations.
3. Document compliance status on each facility's inspection report in accordance with established guidelines.
4. Maintain and utilize violation ticket software to assure the prompt issuance of tickets to food service operators for non-compliance with the Food Code.
5. Assure compliance with the state's Food Employee Certification requirement by taking appropriate enforcement action against chronic violators discovered during routine inspections.
6. Conduct timely re-inspections in non-compliant facilities in accordance with Bureau policy to assure compliance.

### *Objective 38*

Fulfill the obligations for uniform food service regulatory activities consistent with Title 7, Chapter 46 - The Food Code and the most current version of the FDA Model Food Code.

#### *Activities*

1. Maintain full responsibility for food protection program activities in all eating and drinking places, retail food stores and farm market stands within the City.
2. Monitor the operation and sanitation of frozen dessert machines located in food establishments in the City and report any violations not under the regulatory control of the City to PDA.
3. Submit inspection data to PDA as required.
4. Assure food service regulatory uniformity with PA Code Title 7, Agriculture Chapter 46.

### *Objective 39*

Maintain a food-borne disease surveillance system to appropriately respond to food-related complaints or reports of illnesses attributed to food.

#### *Activities*

1. Respond within 24 hours to all food-related consumer complaints alleging unsanitary food facilities, unsanitary food handling practices, and potentially adulterated, mislabeled, or misbranded foods, including commercially processed food products.
2. Maintain a computer-based food-related complaint log to expediently identify individual complaints that may be linked to a single source food-borne disease outbreak.
3. Initiate a food safety investigation within 4 hours notification of any suspected food-borne disease outbreak.
4. Communicate all reports of suspected and/or confirmed food-related illnesses to the Communicable Disease staff to assure that an appropriate epidemiologic investigation is initiated.

### *Objective 40*

Educate food service operators and personnel in safe food handling practices and sanitation.

#### *Activities*

1. Conduct Person-in-Charge training sessions when requested or required, preferably prior to their first regularly scheduled routine inspection.
2. Conduct a minimum of 30 on-site food safety training sessions for food handlers at facilities with marginal sanitation history, those facilities where food handlers exhibit insufficient food safety knowledge.
3. Promote and advise food service operators about the availability of food employee certification courses required by 3 Pa. C.S.A. §§ 6503.
4. Assure the continued distribution of instructional posters (e.g., manual dishwashing poster), food safety education materials and regulatory updates to all licensed operators in their primary language whenever possible.
5. Assess essential food safety practices during routine inspections to evaluate the level of food safety knowledge of food service facility managers and persons-in-charge.
5. Create an email group, updated quarterly, to be utilized for notification of emergency advisories (boil water, power outages, etc.), local food safety training opportunities, technologies, food advisories and recalls, and other pertinent information to all food service establishments.

### *Objective 41*

Conduct public awareness activities about safe food handling practices.

#### *Activities*

1. Continue to distribute appropriate signs to promote handwashing for use in public restrooms of food service establishments.
2. Increase awareness of safe food handling practices by updating consumer and food industry information and resources on the City's website.
3. Explore funding opportunities which may assist in the delivery of the food safety messages to the community.



## *Objective 42*

Meet all deliverables of the NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Track 1 Development Base Grant awarded for project period 1/1/2023-12/31/2023.

### *Activities*

1. Work with the project team to complete a Self-Assessment against all 9 standards outlined in the grant.
2. Work with the project team to complete a Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan from the data collected from the Self-Assessment.
3. Attend the Self-Assessment and Verification Audit Workshop.
4. Work with the assigned Mentor to ensure project stays on track.

## *Program Evaluation:*

All permanent and temporary food service establishments will be operated in a state of compliance with the applicable food service laws and regulations to reduce the risk to the public of food-borne illness during 2023. All permanent and temporary food service establishments will be inspected in 2023. Investigate all incidents of reported food-borne illnesses. Investigate all food service establishment-related complaints in 2023.

# Environmental Control Program

---

## Overview

The Environmental Control Program addresses the following environmental health issues:

- Housing Hygiene and Sanitation
- Lead Source Reduction
- Vector Control
- Noise Control
- Indoor Air Quality/Asthma
- On-Lot Sewage Disposal
- Pollution Incident Response
- Other Public Health Nuisances

The Environmental Control Program investigates not only traditional environmental health problems such as vector control, housing hygiene and sanitation issues, but also responds to emerging environmental health hazards which were previously underestimated or unrecognized. These hazards include sources of lead exposure, excessive noise, West Nile virus and indoor air quality concerns. Additionally, referrals for *Safe and Healthy Homes* environmental assessments for eligible residents are offered, providing consultative services and supplies where appropriate to address household environmental conditions that may have an adverse effect, particularly to children. And, while not traditionally considered vectors, bed bug infestations are investigated, and where possible, remediation is enforced.

This program primarily serves the community by conducting field investigations in response to complaints of a variety of public health-related nuisances. The goal of each investigation conducted by the staff Sanitarians is to reduce health risks through problem resolution, enforcement action or referral to the appropriate agency. Consultative services are available to the public for a variety of other environmental health issues, such as indoor air quality (IAQ), radon, and asbestos. The Sanitarian staff works closely with Housing Inspectors of the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety to address certain health-related complaints involving property.

Investigations limited to the 'Discovery' and 'Notification' phases are initiated in response to reports or complaints about environmental pollution incidents of air, soil or water, and the improper storage or disposal of toxic or hazardous materials. These preliminary investigations typically result in a referral to the Allentown Fire Department, Lehigh County Emergency Management, PA DEP, US EPA or other agency for appropriate action.

Although nearly all properties in the City are connected to the public water supply and sewage systems, a Sewage Enforcement Officer is available through the City's Water Resources Department to review applications and issue permits for the construction of new on-lot sewage disposal systems and the repair of existing systems which malfunction. Awareness and

educational activities are conducted and coordinated with services to protect the public health by the reduction or elimination of hazardous environmental conditions.

### Program Goal:

Seek to eliminate or reduce the environmental factors or conditions present in the community which have been identified as potential threats to human health through the enforcement of applicable laws, codes and regulations and the education of the public at large.

## 2023 Environmental Control Program Objectives

### *Objective 43*

Investigate and successfully abate all complaints regarding housing sanitation, public health nuisances and vector control in a timely manner.

#### *Activities*

1. Coordinate cleanup activities and enforcement actions with the appropriate Lehigh County social service agencies (i.e., Agency on Aging, Children and Youth, MH/MR, etc.) to satisfactorily address unsanitary housing complaints involving dysfunctional families or individuals.
2. Investigate, or refer to the appropriate agency, all public health nuisance complaints received and assure their timely and satisfactory abatement.
3. Assure the review, revision, if necessary, and maintenance of an interdepartmental agreement with the city's Bureau of Building Standards and Safety and the SWEEP program to assure the City's adequate response to public nuisance complaints.
4. Investigate rodent sightings and conduct rodent surveys as needed; implement intervention strategies (i.e., public information campaigns, rodent harborage, and food source elimination, etc.) or enforcement action where required.
5. Investigate reports of bed bug infestations, consulting with residents and property owners on control measures, and taking enforcement action when warranted to eliminate infestations.
6. Coordinate with the City's Office of Compliance to respond as appropriate to water shut offs to residences and regulated facilities.

### *Objective 44*

Utilize Tyler Eden CE Case complaint software to maintain digital records of all complaints received and investigated. Provide training to all staff on new EnerGov complaint software prior to implementation. Utilize EnerGov complaint software after all staff are trained and complaint software is live.

#### *Activities*

1. Facilitate technical support to Eden CE Case to provide for the administrative and field utilization needs of AHB complaint response activities; assure training for all environmental health staff in its use.
2. Assure continued use of compatible support documents on tablet PC's.
3. Utilize Eden CE Case functions to reduce paperwork and archive relevant documents.
4. Provide training to all staff on new EnerGov complaint software prior to implementation. Utilize EnerGov complaint software after all staff are trained and complaint software is live.

### *Objective 45*

Conduct appropriate actions to control the potential spread of mosquito-borne diseases including Zika Virus and West Nile virus in the City.

#### *Activities*

1. Investigate all mosquito-related complaints and assure their timely and satisfactory abatement.
2. Aid the Lehigh County West Nile Virus Program to identify and reduce or eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites in the City as grant funding permits.
3. Train staff and maintain necessary certifications (e.g., pesticide applicator's license, etc.) to enable staff to provide appropriate mosquito control activities.

## *Objective 46*

Assure that all dwelling units or other structures occupied or frequented by children diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels (EBL) undergo appropriate lead hazard risk assessment and hazard controls in accordance with HUD grant guidelines and/or City ordinance.

### *Activities*

1. Assure that at least three sanitarians maintain or acquire necessary training and remain competent in the use of an x-ray fluorescence device used to determine lead levels present on painted surfaces.
2. Assure that at least three sanitarians maintain state-issued certification in the performance of lead inspections and lead risk assessments and that all such inspections and assessments are conducted by a certified individual in accordance with established standards.
3. Assure that all dwelling units or other structures occupied or frequented by children diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels (EBL) of 20µg/dl and above or chronically above 15µg/dl (or as otherwise determined by CDC guidelines) undergo appropriate lead hazard risk assessment within 15 days of Health Bureau notification.
4. Monitor lead hazard reduction projects ordered by this Bureau to assure they are completed in compliance with the applicable state and federal regulations and guidelines.
5. Prosecute the owners of any property who fail to complete lead hazard reduction projects in accordance with all applicable standards.
6. Coordinate with the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety to identify and refer eligible properties where a child with an EBL of 20µg/dl and above or chronically above 15µg/dl (or as otherwise determined by CDC guidelines) resides or frequents for grant funding through a HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant to remediate lead hazards in homes in specified target areas.

### *Objective 47*

Investigate and abate, in a timely manner, all commercial and industrial noise-related complaints.

#### *Activities*

1. Investigate or refer to the appropriate agency (OSHA, Allentown Police Department) all commercial and industrial sites which create noise resulting in complaints from the surrounding community and assure their satisfactory abatement.
2. Assure the continued competency of the Sanitarians in noise measurement by conducting an in-service training session to review noise investigation protocols and policy; assure that at least one Sanitarian maintains certification as a Noise Technician and receives required continuing education.

### *Objective 48*

Provide the public with a local resource for information about radon and promote radon testing awareness.

#### *Activities*

1. Promote radon awareness and testing using local media and through participation at local health fairs and similar events.
2. Provide information and materials about radon and radon testing in response to inquiries.

### *Objective 49*

Investigate all reported indoor air pollution complaints and educate City residents about the relationship between indoor air quality (IAQ) and asthma.

#### *Activities*

1. Acquire current training in the NEHA Healthy Homes Specialist Credential curriculum for environmental staff not previously trained/certified.
2. Provide consultative services to the public about common indoor air pollutants and problems and suggest potential solutions.
3. Distribute environmental asthma triggers information to the public when investigating complaints in which indoor air quality is an issue.

4. Assure that all Health Bureau outreach workers are knowledgeable about environmental asthma triggers to enable them to educate clients about asthma prevention during home visits.
5. Provide consultative services to the administrative and custodial personnel of institutional facilities about IAQ issues in their facilities.
6. Evaluate IAQ/environmental asthma triggers as part of all annual inspections of regulated institutional facilities (e.g., schools, childcare facilities, nursing homes).

### *Objective 50*

Assure that all reported air, water, and soil pollution incidents are referred to the appropriate emergency management agency in a timely fashion.

#### *Activities*

1. Immediately forward all air, water and soil pollution reports to the appropriate municipal, county, state, or federal emergency response agency of any condition discovered to be potentially harmful to the environment or to the human population.

### *Objective 51*

Assure all new on-lot sewage system installations in the City are conducted in compliance with current state regulations and that reports of existing system malfunctions are addressed expeditiously.

#### *Activities*

1. Assure the City has continuous availability of a state-certified Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) and an alternate SEO who have been certified by the State of Pennsylvania to conduct plan reviews for proposed repairs and new systems, to conduct all necessary field work and evaluations, and to ensure permit compliance.
2. Refer all reported incidents of on-lot sewage system malfunctions to the City's state-certified Sewage Enforcement Officer.
3. Maintain appropriate records and files of all on-lot sewage system permit applications and related documentation.

## *Objective 52*

Maintain standardized environmental control investigation procedures.

### *Activities*

1. Review and revise, where necessary, each environmental control policy and procedure.
2. Conduct an annual review of all investigation policies and procedure with Sanitarian staff and conduct a minimum of 3 supervised complaint investigations with each Sanitarian; conduct supervisory review of randomly selected investigation reports for completeness and adherence to policy.
3. Assure the biweekly supervisory review of all complaints which are open to assure a timely resolution.
4. Maintain a computer file of all complaint investigations and assure prompt and accurate data entry of all enforcement activities.

## *Objective 53*

Increase staff awareness of new information about existing and emerging environmental health issues.

### *Activities*

1. Assure the timely review of a variety of official agency websites (e.g., NIOSH, EPA, etc.) and all environmental health periodicals received for relevant and/or new information about environmental health issues.
2. Assure the distribution to each Sanitarian of all relevant news releases and other communications received from PA DOH, FDA, TSCA, EPA, ATSDR, et al.
3. Conduct weekly staff meetings to serve as a forum for the discussion of new information pertaining to environmental health issues.

## *Program Evaluation:*

Resources will be utilized in the appropriate manner (i.e., investigation, education, referral) to reduce public health risks posed by potentially hazardous environmental conditions throughout the City during 2023. Respond to and address all public health-related nuisance complaints in 2023.



# Institutional Sanitation and Safety Program

---

## Overview

The Institutional Sanitation and Safety Program services include:

- Child Care Facility Inspection and Certification
- Public Bathing Place Inspection
- School Inspection
- Long Term Care Facility Inspection

The Institutional Sanitation and Safety Program fulfills the program requirements of three mandated Act 315 programs. Public bathing places and long-term care facilities are subject to regulations promulgated by the State. Childcare facilities and schools are subject to regulation under the City's Child Care Facility Ordinance and School Ordinance, respectively.

Institutional communities face the same environmental health concerns as any other community since the existence of humans congregating in such facilities introduces the potential for the spread of disease or the occurrence of injury. Problems which may be found in institutions are not limited to safety and sanitation issues but also include indoor air quality concerns, personal health matters (e.g., immunizations) and occupational health hazards (e.g., chemical exposures).

The primary objective of the program's activities in each of the institutional settings is to protect the public from health and safety hazards which could result in illness or unintentional injury. Specific activities include identifying hazards and determining appropriate intervention strategies with facility operators to reduce the risk of injuries and illnesses.

## Program Goal:

Assure that the community is provided healthful and safe institutional facilities through regular inspections and operator education.

## 2023 Institutional Sanitation and Safety Program Objectives

### *Objective 54*

License and inspect all childcare facilities in the City subject to regulation under the City's Child Care Facility Ordinance.

#### *Activities*

1. Inspect all childcare facilities in the City to ensure compliance with sanitation and safety standards.
  - a. All childcare centers shall be inspected at least once annually (49 in 2022).
  - b. All family childcare homes shall be inspected at least once annually (85 in 2022).
  - c. All group childcare homes shall be inspected at least once annually (4 in 2022).
2. Assure that all childcare facilities located in the City of Allentown are licensed or registered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and are certified under the Allentown Child Care Facility Ordinance.
3. Conduct timely re-inspections in non-compliant facilities in accordance with Bureau policy to assure compliance.
4. Assist the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety in the performance of all plan reviews for the construction of all new childcare centers or the alteration of existing facilities.
5. Respond to citizen complaints regarding potentially unsafe conditions and/or practices in each type of childcare facility.
6. Review and revise the childcare inspection policy and procedure.
7. Continue to utilize the inspection software in PAFoodSafety system.
8. Begin to work with EnerGov to build inspection software that connects to the City's licensing software.

## *Objective 55*

Inspect all regulated bathing place facilities in the City subject to regulation under the PA State Public Bathing Place Code.

### *Activities*

1. Inspect all public bathing place facilities in the City to ensure compliance with sanitation and safety standards (23 in 2022).
2. Conduct timely re-inspections in non-compliant facilities in accordance with Bureau policy to assure compliance.
3. Assist the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety in the performance of all plan reviews for the construction of all new public bathing place facilities or the alteration of existing facilities. Coordinate with PA Department of Health to assure the issuance of a PA State Public Bathing Place permit upon final approval of construction for any new public bathing facilities.
4. Respond to citizen complaints regarding potentially unsafe conditions and/or practices in public bathing places.
5. Educate the operators of public bathing places about the requirements of the public bathing place regulations.
6. Conduct safety and sanitation training sessions for Recreation Bureau employees who oversee the city-owned and operated public bathing places.
7. Continue to utilize the software in PAFoodSafety system.
8. Review and revise the public bathing place inspection policy and procedure as needed.
9. Begin to work with EnerGov to build inspection software that connects to the City's licensing software.

### *Objective 56*

Inspect all school facilities in the City subject to regulation under the City's School Sanitation Ordinance.

#### *Activities*

1. Conduct a minimum of 1 routine inspection in all public-school facilities in the City to ensure compliance with sanitation and safety standards (32 in 2022).
2. Provide non-regulatory courtesy inspections to private schools as requested (7 in 2022).
3. Conduct timely re-inspections in non-compliant facilities in accordance with Bureau policy to assure compliance.
4. Assist the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety in the performance of all plan reviews for the construction of all new school facilities or the alteration of existing facilities.
5. Perform a risk assessment survey as part of the routine inspection at each playground located on school property to identify hazards and conduct appropriate follow-up with ASD to confirm repairs or the development of plans to address any unsafe equipment or conditions.
4. Respond to citizen complaints regarding potentially unsafe conditions and/or practices in school facilities.
5. Continue to utilize the software in PAFoodSafety system.
6. Review and revise the school inspection policy and procedure as needed.
7. Begin to work with EnerGov to build inspection software that connects to the City's licensing software.

### *Objective 57*

Inspect all regulated long-term care facilities in the City subject to regulation under the PA State Long Term Care Facilities regulations.

#### *Activities*

1. Inspect all long-term care facilities in the City to ensure compliance with sanitation and safety standards as found in PA Code Title 28, Chapters 205 and 207 (5 in 2022).

2. Conduct timely re-inspections in non-compliant facilities in accordance with Bureau policy to assure compliance.
3. Respond to citizen complaints regarding potentially unsafe conditions and/or practices in long term care facilities.
4. Continue to utilize the inspection software in PAFoodSafety system.
5. Review and revise the long-term care facility policy and procedure as needed.
6. Research and develop new inspection software program in EnerGov.

### *Objective 58*

Maintain standardized institutional facility inspection procedures.

#### *Activities*

1. Conduct an annual review session to assure that each Sanitarian is knowledgeable of and adheres to the established policies and protocols for the inspection of childcare facilities, public bathing places, schools, and long-term care facilities.
2. Conduct a supervisory review of each completed inspection report to assure staff consistency in the interpretation and documentation of items identified in non-compliance and the required corrections.
3. Provide update training as needed for staff in the inspection of each type of institutional facility and the equipment used in the inspection process.

### *Program Evaluation:*

All institutional facilities will be inspected and operated in substantial compliance with all applicable health and safety ordinances and regulations during 2023.

# Injury Prevention Program

---

## Overview

Injury, both intentional (assault, homicide, and suicide) and unintentional (accidents), is the leading cause of death, disability, and hospital visits for ages 1–44 years old. For all age groups in Allentown, injury is the fourth leading cause of death. According to 2020 Hospital discharge data available through the PA Department of Health, nearly 5,000 individuals were seen for injuries in Lehigh County. Nearly 90% of these injuries were unintentional and over half were from some sort of fall.

Injury due to falls, is a huge problem---it is the leading cause of unintentional injury in every age group. This issue disproportionately effects seniors and may lead to further injuries, or long-term care needs. The Allentown Health Bureau conducts fall prevention activities, including the Matter of Balance course to help educate seniors and prevent falls.

Residential safety programming focuses primarily on identifying and reducing safety hazards in the homes of children 18 years and younger, homes with pregnant women and the homes of older adults (55 years and older), and adults with physical challenges. AHB also continues to conduct a Shared Bed Risk Reduction initiative which includes a sleeping practices assessment, education for parents on the injury hazards associated with the practice of children sharing a bed with an adult, and the distribution of cribs to families in need.

According to the Poison Prevention Week Council, more that 2 million poisonings are reported each year to Poison Prevention Centers nationwide. Drug overdose deaths have continued to rise in recent years. In Pennsylvania, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), overdose deaths rose 19% from 2019 to 2020. AHB will continue to partner with many other agencies to address the current Heroin/Opioid problem within the county and state through a Heroin/Opioid Taskforce and an Overdose Fatality Review Team.

Suicide prevention has been part AHB programming program since the mid-1990s. Suicide takes the lives of over 2,000 Pennsylvanians every year. Based on the CDC's 2020 data, Pennsylvania had a suicide rate of 14.0 per 100,000 people which is higher than the Healthy People 2030 goal of 12.8 per 100,000 people.

The Safe Kids Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Coalition, a local affiliate of Safe Kids Worldwide, is a multi-agency organization led by the Allentown Health Bureau and dedicated to the reduction of injury deaths in children 19 years and younger. Activities include safety carnivals, safety training, exhibits, distribution of safety devices (e.g., smoke detectors and bicycle helmets), advocacy for legislative and engineering safety initiatives, and data collection.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation reported a total of 1,230 motor vehicle crash fatalities and 117,899 total reported crashes in 2021. According to the CDC, motor vehicle crashes were the second leading cause of injury death for children aged 1-4 and the leading cause of injury death for children ages 5 through 14 in 2020. Parental clients surveyed by AHB staff indicate that nearly 15% do not have age-appropriate car seats for their children and cite cost as a major reason. To address this need AHB distributes car seats purchased with PADOH grant funds to qualified clients.

According to PennDOT's Crash Information Tool, in the City of Allentown in 2020~~21~~ there were 1836 crashes, 44% of which resulted in injury. Over 12% of all drivers involved were over the age of 65. AHB has implemented the Car Fit program aimed at educating and protecting older drivers.

## 2023 Injury Prevention Program Objectives

### *Objective 59*

Promote motor vehicle safety to reduce child occupant and senior driver injuries.

#### *Activities*

1. Collaborate with *Operation Safe Ride*; a community-based safety initiative, to increase the availability of car seats to qualified clients who receive injury prevention or maternal and child health services and provide technical assistance on proper installation upon request.
2. Participate in a local child passenger safety check-up event during National Child Passenger Safety Week in September.
3. Assure each Community Health Specialist certified as a Car Seat Technician completes at least 3 car seat installations, including attending one car seat check, and attends required update training opportunities.
4. Distribute 160 car seats to community members utilizing Health Bureau car seat technicians and community partner agencies (Sixth Street Shelter, Vida Nueva, and VNA of St. Luke's Hospital). Contact every car seat recipient by phone 3 months after the issuance to verify continued proper use and installation; determine whether the car seat was involved with a crash.
5. Ensure that community partner agencies provide AHB contact information to car seat recipients so they can schedule a seat installation if needed.

6. With the help of community partners, schedule and hold at least 4 car seat check-up events in the City of Allentown for individuals in the community to attend.
7. With the help of community partners schedule and help facilitate one Child Passenger Safety Car Seat Technician course and one Update course to enhance and expand child passenger safety to more professionals in Allentown and the Lehigh Valley.
8. AHB will host four (4) CarFit events for seniors in the Allentown community to help educate them on safe driving practices for seniors.

### *Objective 60*

Promote safe traveling habits among children and teens specifically aimed at pedestrian and bicycling behavior.

#### *Activities*

1. Work with the Bureau's Safe and Healthy Communities program to promote policies and education based on Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)
  - a. (See Chronic Disease Objective 12 for related activities)

### *Objective 61*

Reduce pediatric in-home injury due to falls, fires, scald burns, poisonings, chokings, suffocations, drowning and other hazards.

#### *Activities*

1. Serve as chairperson of the Safe Kids Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Coalition: conduct six (6) coalition meetings, coordinate subcommittees, produce reports, and keep the members informed through minutes and other news.
2. Conduct a minimum of 40 Preventing Injuries in Children (PIC) home visits in Lehigh County in homes of pregnant women or with children under the age of 9. Conduct pre and post visits over the phone.
3. During the PIC visit, provide and explain the use of approved intervention supplies approved by PA Dept. of Health.
4. Refer clients who require additional services or assistance to area agencies including code enforcement, social service organizations and/or home remediation services.



5. Maintain relationships with 20 public community, social service, or medical care organizations to provide referrals for safe and healthy home assessments.
6. Coordinate the *Shared Bed Risk Reduction* activities of all health bureau outreach workers to promote safe sleep practice and to assure their clients are educated about the risks of shared family beds to prevent “rollover” deaths of infants and young children. Follow-up each of the assessments with clients who receive a crib or have a recorded bed risk behavior to determine their compliance with our recommendations and to develop a quarterly outcome report. Complete semi-annual reports tabulating results and evaluating program procedures. Evaluate data collection and procedures with Clinical Services manager and staff every other month.
7. Provide window falls prevention and safety information explaining the danger of children falling out of windows to landlords of multi-unit homes by census track throughout the city and to 25 child-oriented agencies; issue a news release to the media about this program.
8. Participate in bi-monthly Lehigh County Child Death Review team meetings.

### *Objective 62*

Reduce all senior injuries, with a special focus on fall injuries through the A Matter of Balance (MOB), senior falls prevention presentations and senior home safety surveys.

### *Activities*

1. Conduct recruiting activity as needed to maintain a roster of at least 6 certified MOB coaches.
2. Host two training updates for MOB certified coaches and maintain a roster of 6 MOB certified coaches.
3. Conduct at least 4 coach-led MOB programs to reach adult participants who are 55 years and older.
4. Observe and evaluate MOB certified coaches using prescribed coach evaluation tools.
5. Collect and input MOB survey materials into Project Enhance data software.

6. Maintain relationships with 20 public community, social service or medical care organizations to provide referrals for home surveys.
7. Conduct safety surveys upon request in the homes of older (55+) or physically challenged adults to identify and eliminate hazards that could lead to injuries, including falls. Attempt to conduct follow-up surveys of all clients (by telephone or in-person visits) to ascertain whether hazards were corrected after the initial survey.
8. Provide and explain the use of safety devices such as emergency contact cards, whistles, bathmats, anti-slip rug pads, and other fall prevention items at all home safety surveys.
9. Provide home modification and vision referrals, as needed, to home safety survey participants.
10. Distribute falls prevention information for seniors at exhibits and presentations.
11. Promote and conduct at least 4 falls prevention presentations for seniors at sites (e.g., senior housing, church, and neighborhood groups) throughout the City.

### *Objective 63*

Reduce the number of unintentional poisonings and drug overdoses through education and participation in poison and drug prevention initiatives.

### *Activities*

1. Collaborate with the Allentown Police Department, Lehigh County District Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to promote proper disposal of unwanted medications and to educate the healthcare providers and public regarding the safe use and disposal of medications; conduct two Drug Enforcement Administration-sponsored community drug-take-back events.
2. Conduct four (4) prescription medication management educational sessions for seniors in a community setting.
3. Conduct safety surveys by request in the homes of older (55+) or physically challenged adults to identify and eliminate hazards that could lead to injuries, including poisonings. Attempt to conduct follow-up surveys of all clients (by

telephone or in-person visits) to ascertain whether hazards were corrected after the initial survey.

4. Promote the availability of all medication disposal boxes within the City of Allentown and Lehigh County.
5. Educate parents about the Poison Helpline via the distribution of decals and cabinet safety locks during child home safety surveys.
6. Coordinate the Heroin/Opioid Task Force to reduce the number of overdose deaths in the City of Allentown by promoting educational opportunities for community groups and disseminating relevant educational materials.
7. Chair the Allentown Overdose Fatality Review Team to review individual opioid overdose deaths in the City of Allentown.
8. Provide a minimum of 8 educational sessions aimed at opioid and pain management awareness to seniors, community members, and professional groups including end of life professionals and manual laborers.

### *Objective 64*

Collaborate with community partners to increase public awareness about suicide.

### *Activities*

1. Participate in the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP-LV) Board.
2. Participate in the planning and implementation of AFSP-LV events:
  - the *Out of the Darkness Walk* in October
  - the International Survivors of Suicide Day webcast in November
3. Participate in the community suicide prevention task force to review local suicide rates, current programming, and prevention strategies.
4. Partner with the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP-LV) to promote, schedule and facilitate “Talk Saves Lives” presentations and “More than Sad” presentations aimed at professional groups, community groups and student groups.

### *Objective 65*

Facilitate a comprehensive child maltreatment prevention program utilizing “Parents in the Know” classes.

#### *Activities*

1. Ensure that all Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Injury Prevention (IP) staff will receive child abuse mandatory reporting training as new hires and receive updates annually.
2. Train relevant AHB staff in the “Parents in the Know” curriculum and incorporate violence against children prevention education and awareness component into all MCH & IP client encounters.
3. Co-facilitate two (2) “Parents in the Know” classes in Allentown with the Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley.

### *Objective 66*

Provide training for the injury prevention staff and promote workplace Health Bureau staff safety.

#### *Activities*

1. Review, revise or devise as needed policy and procedure protocols for all aspects of injury prevention programming (safe sleep, car seats, SHHP activities, etc.)
2. Assure that each AHB staff member who conducts injury prevention-related program activity has been trained in all injury prevention policies and procedures.
3. Participate in scheduled meetings and conference calls in relation to the SHC grant, PIC grant, and the Safe Kids coalition.
4. Injury prevention staff shall participate in at least one (1) injury prevention webinar quarterly.
5. Injury prevention staff shall attend in-person injury and violence prevention training opportunities dependent on availability and accessibility.
6. Maintain email or mail notification subscriptions to organizations that provide injury-related news, recalls and research.

7. Accurately compile and record all staff training acquired during the year.
8. Maintain membership in the Safe State Alliance and submit an abstract on one of AHB's measurably successful injury prevention programs for their annual meeting; attend the annual meeting.
9. Review and update as needed, the Alliance Hall Emergency Plan.
10. Conduct semi-annual evacuation drills at Alliance Hall.

### *Objective 67*

Improve program management through enhanced data collection and standardization of work.

#### *Activities*

1. Hold monthly staff meetings with Injury Prevention staff
2. Assure the quarterly review of all program activities to assure compliance with annual program plan objectives.
3. Assess the competency and effectiveness of field staff in relating to their clients through a client satisfaction survey of 5% of all survey participants.
4. Conduct a supervisory review of completed home safety surveys to assure staff consistency and competency in the interpretation and documentation of hazards and the corrective actions required for compliance.
5. Conduct a minimum of one (1) supervised in-home safety surveys and two (2) community presentations with each Community Health Specialist.
6. Review and revise the home safety survey check lists as needed to ensure the inclusion of newly identified home hazards.

### *Program Evaluation:*

Each request for home injury prevention services will be met, public education campaigns will be conducted, and violence prevention and partnering advocacies will be further developed.

# Public Health Emergency Preparedness

---

## Overview

The Allentown Health Bureau (AHB) fulfills an important role in all-hazards emergency preparedness and response. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program coordinates preparedness and response planning, training, and exercise development, and facilitates the City of Allentown's (City) response and recovery activities to the public health and medical consequences of natural or man-made disasters and emergencies.

The PHEP Program is responsible for maintaining an All-Hazards Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP). The PHERP is designed to guide the AHB in determining the type and nature of its response as an agency when a public health emergency occurs. The plan provides guidance to the AHB in its responsibilities in areas including but not limited to surveillance, investigation, public information dissemination, disease investigation and collaboration with other agencies. The goal of the PHERP is to protect and maintain the public's health, and to reduce the incidence of morbidity and mortality in the event of a public health emergency.

Since public health threats are always present, AHB's ability to prevent, respond to and recover from public health threats is vital for protecting our community's health. The PHEP Program uses the 15 public health preparedness capabilities identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as the guiding principles for local preparedness and response to multiple public health threats including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events.

Citizen preparedness is an important component of a community's resiliency. AHB maintains a robust Allentown Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (AVMRC), a group of medical and non-medical volunteers who are available to assist with the public health response and recovery. In addition, AHB collaborates with City, county, local, regional, and state emergency preparedness, and response partners, and engages subject matter experts to plan and implement preparedness initiatives for public health staff, volunteers, and community members. Through presentations, awareness campaigns, trainings and exercises the four (4) components to be ready for an emergency are addressed on an ongoing basis. The four components are: be informed, plan, build an emergency supply kit, and get involved by finding opportunities to support community preparedness.

## Program Goal

Build, maintain and strengthen the ability of public health staff, volunteers, and community partners to work both independently and collaboratively to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, and reduce the incidence of, and the morbidity and mortality from, public health threats.

## *Objective 68*

Prepare for public health emergencies through coordinated efforts with local, regional, and state partners.

### *Activities:*

1. Complete and submit to Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) a Capabilities Planning Guide Assessment.
2. Utilize Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) guidance to review and update the City's All-Hazards PHERP and Annexes. Provide the plan to PADOH, if requested.
3. Respond to requests for assistance made by local emergency management organizations and/or state government, by providing staff, volunteers, equipment, and supplies, when available and as needed.
4. Attend the PADOH Statewide Advisory Committee for Preparedness (SACP) meetings.
5. Participate in PA DOH-Bureau of Public Health Preparedness (BPHP) county and municipal health department conference calls and meetings.
6. Review, conduct training needs assessments, update, and implement the trainings and exercises in the public health workforce development and multi-year staff and volunteer Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP). Assure access and functional needs (AFN), and mental/behavioral health are included in the IPP.
7. Prepare an HSEEP compliant After-Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP) following exercises or events and incorporate lessons learned into the into the AHB's updated All-Hazards PHERP.
8. Maintain a minimum of five (5) staff registered on the Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PA HAN).
9. Maintain active membership and participate in joint trainings and exercises with the regional Health Care Coalition (HCC).
10. Attend PHEP related conferences, meetings, and training sessions.

## *Objective 69*

Build and sustain the PHEP capabilities as outlined by the CDC's Public Health Preparedness Capabilities, Standards for State and Local Planning.

### *Activities:*

1. Participate in local public health and emergency preparedness and response activities.
2. Participate in meetings with public health, emergency preparedness/response, healthcare, and community partners to build local response coordination and communication capabilities and build upon the community's ability to prepare for, withstand and recover from public health incidents, and natural and manmade emergencies.
3. Meet with the City of Allentown and Lehigh County emergency management teams to coordinate efforts and ensure that community preparedness activities are coordinated and deliver a unified message.
4. Promote citizen preparedness via education, media campaigns, and targeted outreach.
5. Collaborate with the Lehigh County Office of Emergency Management Agency (LCEMA) and emergency response partners to conduct preparedness educations and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings.
6. Identify and engage community groups, faith-based organizations, professional organizations, and mental/behavioral health service agencies to build partnerships that support public health and emergency preparedness, response and/or recovery efforts.
7. Promote available trainings to community partners that may have a supporting role to public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health sectors.
8. Review and update the AHB's Recovery Annex and the contact lists of organizations and agencies that want to collaborate on recovery planning and implementation to ensure the provision of health services needed to recover from an event.
9. Collaborate with the City's Emergency Management Coordinator to update contact information for key response personnel and to discuss any events which could result in protocol changes.



10. Maintain a minimum of two staff members that are trained to lead exercises in accordance with Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation (HSEEP) policies and procedures.
11. Assure emergency public information and warning procedures are established to coordinate and disseminate information, alerts, warnings, and notifications to the public.
12. Promote the CodeRED emergency alert notification system and assist with registration, as needed.
13. Review and update the Lehigh County Health Information Center (LCHIC) Plan.
14. Collaborate with community partners to develop, implement, and evaluate a communications drill utilizing the AHB's Communications Plan (Annex L) and the Continuity of Operations Plan (Annex V).
15. Provide opportunities for staff with public information responsibilities to complete training and participate in exercises and/or real-world events to demonstrate their abilities to communicate health information and public health guidance, recommendations, and messages.
16. Orient new public health staff and AVMRC volunteers to the Lehigh County's fatality management plans and procedures to understand their role(s), if any, during a public health response that includes fatalities.
17. Continue to disseminate information and alerts to community partners.
18. Participate in PADOH initiated tests communication exercises and drills.
19. Maintain AHB staff that are proficient in the use of software, operating systems, and technology to ensure situational awareness, early disease detection, investigation, and control, and emergency preparedness and response activities.
20. Participate in the development and implementation of an information sharing plan for the exchange of health-related information and data among federal, state, local agencies, and the private sector.
21. Collaborate with LCEMA, the American Red Cross and local emergency response partners to review and update, as needed, the Mass Care and Sheltering Plan for our community.

22. Participate in the planning and coordination of a minimum of one training on shelter operations for public health staff, partners, and volunteers.
23. Review the sites selected for City of Allentown Points of Dispensing (PODs); maintain or revise the POD plan, as needed.
24. Conduct one full-scale exercise, functional exercise, or real-world event, which tests key components of the City's mass prophylaxis/dispensing plans and includes all pertinent jurisdictional leadership and emergency support function leads, planning and operational staff, and other applicable personnel.
25. Complete the three public health drills in accordance with grant requirements and provide reports to the PADOH-BPHP on the drills using the CDC-required drill forms provided by the Department.
26. Participate in the planning and implementation of Lehigh Valley Health Network's Community Flu Campaign.
27. Assure staff are updated on the PHEP inventory management system and supply list; order additional supplies as needed.
28. Inform staff of trainings, exercises and real-world events that enhance their knowledge and ability to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions.
29. Promote awareness level training opportunities for staff about the role and responsibilities of Public Health Laboratories in the public health system.
30. Through AHB's communicable disease program, maintain surveillance systems to identify health problems, threats, and environmental hazards, and maintain communication with PADOH and neighboring jurisdictions during emergency and non-emergency situations.
31. Participate in conference calls and meetings to monitor, prevent, and control infectious disease outbreaks.
32. Collaborate with other City Bureaus to plan and implement a mosquito and tick bite prevention and control education and awareness campaign.
33. Review responder safety and health risks and provide appropriate training and personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies.
34. Assure Fit testing for AHB staff and volunteers who are required to use N-95 respirators as part of their roles in public health responses.

35. Provide Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Awareness training opportunities for public health staff and volunteers.
36. Coordinate volunteer and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) recruitment, engagement, communications, trainings, and deployments in accordance with PADOH and City of Allentown guidelines.
37. Review and update procedures for managing spontaneous volunteers.
38. Collaborate with jurisdictional authorities and partner groups to review and update community resources that can support volunteer post-deployment medical and mental/behavioral health services.

### *Objective 70*

Utilize the Allentown Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (AVMRC) to enhance the emergency response capacity by increasing the availability of a trained and skilled workforce of medical and public health professionals and lay volunteers.

#### *Activities:*

1. Maintain accurate and up-to-date contact information on the AVMRC Unit in the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Pennsylvania (SERVPA), and on the national MRC web site.
2. Maintain 100% of AVMRC Unit membership as registered and accepted within AHB's MRC Unit in SERVPA.
3. Participate in the PADOH MRC conference calls.
4. Include AVMRC members and personnel from other local, state, or regional assets in community training exercises.
5. Conduct a minimum of one AVMRC recruitment activity.
6. Conduct a minimum of one orientation training for new AVMRC members.
7. Conduct a minimum of one refresher training for existing AVMRC members to assure awareness of the MRC Volunteer Core Competencies, the use of SERVPA, and NIMS compliance.
8. Provide notice, via SERVPA to the AVMRC members and via email to PA DOH, of training session dates, locations, and agenda.

9. Participate in a minimum of one exercise that utilizes public health emergency scenarios or respond to a real-life public health event utilizing the AVMRC.
10. Participate in at least one SERVPA call-down notification drill and SERVPA operational drill of active AVMRC volunteers.

### Program Evaluation:

The City's All-Hazards Public Health Emergency Response Plan will be reviewed and updated; and the NIMS plan will be compliant and coordinated with state and city emergency plans. Health Bureau staff and AVMRC volunteers will complete trainings, exercises, and drills with a focus on preparedness for and response to multiple public health threats. Further evaluation will be accomplished through quarterly measurements of activities throughout 2023.

2022

Environmental

Health

Services

Accomplishments

# Environmental Health Services

## 2022 Accomplishments by Objective - Food Protection

---

### *Objective 35 – Achieved*

License and inspect all food service establishments, including restaurants, bars, markets and other retail food facilities, mobile food units, temporary food stands and potentially hazardous food vending machines.

- Responded to 7 reported emergencies, (e.g., power outages, sewage overflows, flooding), within 4 hours of notification. These emergencies included 4 fires, 1 water supply line issue and 2 power outages.
- Chart 35.1 below illustrates primary program activities – 2018 through 2022:

Chart 35.1

Activities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Food Service Establishments Inspected	884	913	839	922	905
Number of Routine Food Service Establishment Inspections	1184	1030	846	880	1039
Number of Temporary Food Service Inspections	495	501	74	313	336
Number of Potentially Hazardous Food Vending Machine Inspections	24	5	0	0	10
Number of Plan Reviews Conducted	111	86	88	118	108
COVID-19 Safety Consultations	N/A	N/A	749	313	15

### *Objective 36 - Achieved*

Continue to utilize *PAFoodSafety* web application inspection software maintained by agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), and other software, to enable mobile data management in the field as well as in the office environment.

- Maintained the *PAFoodSafety* inspection system and coordinated system updates through PDA, and the City's IT support.
- Continued use of new computers capable of running the updated version of *PAFoodSafety* software to generate inspection report narratives in the field.
- Reduced hard copy paperwork for documents available digitally.
- Maintained and updated a food establishment GIS locator program on field staff PC's which can be utilized when responding to emergencies.
- Provided in-house training as needed for all staff on the use of the inspection report narrative form and the GIS Program.
- Maintained an agreement with PA Department of Agriculture for the sharing of inspection software and databases.

### *Objective 37 - Achieved*

Maintain standardized food service plan review, licensing, and inspection procedures.

- One hundred eight (108) plan reviews were conducted to assure that food service design criteria, equipment and materials complied with current standards.
- Site checks were conducted during the construction or renovation of food service establishments to assure adherence to the approved plans.
- Inspection reports underwent supervisory review to assure staff consistency in regulation interpretation and documentation.
- Supervised food service inspections were conducted with Sanitarians.
- Peer standardization inspections and trainings were conducted with staff.
- Maintained a licensing software module as part of the City's "one-stop-shop" permit process.

### *Objective 38 - Achieved*

Enhance staff knowledge of current food safety principles, code interpretations, food recalls and regulations through training opportunities.

- Each Sanitarian attended at least three (3) training opportunities off-site or on-line devoted to food safety issues. This included trainings listed on the Pennsylvania's Local Health Officer Guide, Department of Agriculture webinars, and online trainings through Tulane University.
- Forty-eight (48) staff meetings were conducted to review current information and introduce new concepts in food protection.
- Five (5) Sanitarian positions were fully staffed through most of 2022, and one (1) Community Health Specialist position remained fully staffed.
- Seven (7) staff members maintained ServSafe certifications.
- Sanitarians routinely accessed websites for all pertinent FDA, USDA, PDA and DOH food recall notices, alerts and interpretation memos issued.

### *Objective 39 - Achieved*

Allocate program resources in an efficient manner using food hazard risk assessment.

- A risk analysis utilizing a food safety assessment tool was performed in each new facility and those which underwent a change of ownership to determine the frequency of annual inspections.
- Each existing facility's risk analysis was reviewed for accuracy at the time of inspection and the facility's inspection frequency was adjusted accordingly.

### *Objective 40 - Achieved*

Maintain efforts to ensure compliance in licensed food service facilities where chronic or severe violations are identified during inspections.

- Ninety-seven (97) re-inspections were conducted in facilities with violations to ensure compliance was achieved.
- Ninety-seven (97) facilities received notices of violation because of non-compliance; 4 citations were issued for chronic or severe violations.
- One hundred fifty-four (154) food service violation tickets issued to food service establishments in violation of the Food Service Sanitation Ordinance.
- Eighty-six (86) conditional licenses were issued to operators in non-compliance with other City ordinances or regulations; each subsequently complied and was granted an annual license, the facility permanently closed, or legal action was taken.

### *Objective 41 - Achieved*

Fulfill the obligations for uniform food service regulatory activities consistent with Title 7, Chapter 46 - The Food Code and the most current version of the FDA Model Food Code.

- Submitted all inspection data to PDA via the *PAFoodSafety* inspection system.
- Trained staff in the use of PDA's food regulations Title 7, Chapter 46 – The Food Code.

### *Objective 42 - Achieved*

Maintain a food borne disease surveillance system to appropriately respond to food-related complaints or reports of illnesses attributed to food.

- Eighty-seven (87) food-related consumer complaints were investigated.
- Thirteen (13) cases of potential foodborne illness outbreak cases were reported or determined to have occurred.
- A computer-based food-related complaint log was utilized to identify potential food-borne disease outbreaks.



### *Objective 43 - Achieved*

Educate food service operators and personnel in safe food handling practices and sanitation.

- Conducted 43 on-site trainings during inspections for 127 food handlers.
- A variety of posters, flyers and fact sheets regarding food safety issues were distributed to all licensed operators.
- Promoted the availability of Food Service Manager Certification training as required by Act 131 of 1994; promoted compliance with the requirements of the Act, as amended by Act 106.

### *Objective 44 - Achieved*

Conduct public awareness activities about safe food handling practices.

- Continued to distribute to all licensed facilities decals that promote hand washing for placement at all hand sinks.
- Responded to approximately 75 public inquiries about safe food handling.
- Distributed posters notifying the public of food facility inspection report availability at license issuance or renewal.

## 2022 Accomplishments by Objective - Environmental Control

### *Objective 45 - Achieved*

Investigate and successfully abate all complaints regarding housing sanitation, public health nuisance and vector control complaints in a timely manner.

- Maintained working relationships with social service agencies (e.g., Children and Youth, Area Agency on Aging) aiding in the investigation of problems involving unsanitary housing.
- Fifty-six (56) notice of violations and two (2) citations were issued regarding community health nuisances.
- Chart 45.1 below illustrates primary program activities – 2018 through 2022:

Chart 45.1

Complaint Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Community Health Nuisances	210	200	89	198	274
Bed Bug Infestations	50	57	27	18	23
Indoor Air Quality	92	62	37	27	15
Environmental Lead	24	19	6	13	14
WNV Control / Mosquito Harborage	38	36	19	21	16
COVID-19 Safety	N/A	N/A	162	31	0
Total	414	374	406	308	342

### *Objective 46 - Achieved*

Utilize Tyler Eden CE Case complaint software to maintain digital records of all complaints received and investigated.

- Facilitated technical support to Eden CE Case to provide for the administrative and field utilization needs of AHB complaint response activities, assured training for all environmental health staff in its use.
- Assured continued use of compatible support documents on computers.
- Utilized Eden CE Case functions to reduce paperwork and archive relevant documents.

### *Objective 47 - Achieved*

Conduct appropriate actions to control the potential spread of West Nile Virus in the City.

- Investigated and abated 16 complaints of mosquito harborage on residential and commercial properties.
- Two (2) staff members maintained a pesticide applicator's license and two (2) staff obtained a pesticide applicator's license to provide mosquito control activities.
- Cooperated with the Lehigh County West Nile Virus program in their efforts to identify and reduce or eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites in salvage yards in the City.

### *Objective 48 - Achieved*

Assure that all dwelling units or other structures occupied or frequented by children diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels of 20 µg/dl and above or chronically above 15 µg/dl undergo appropriate lead hazard risk assessment within 15 days of Health Bureau notification.

- Maintained risk assessor certification for three (3) Sanitarians through appropriate recertification training. One Sanitarian obtained the Lead Risk Assessor Credential.
- Seven (7) notices of violation were issued to owners of properties identified with environmental lead hazards.
- Twelve (12) lead hazard reduction projects were completed in dwellings which contained lead paint.
- Coordinated lead inspection and risk assessment activities with the City's Lead Hazard Control program through a HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant.
- Distributed Healthy Homes Toolkits to the families of each residence where an environmental assessment was completed.

### *Objective 49 - Achieved*

Investigate and abate, in a timely manner, all commercial and industrial noise-related complaints.

- Seven (7) noise-related complaints were investigated and successfully abated.
- One (1) Sanitarian maintained a Noise Technician Certification.

### *Objective 50 - Achieved*

Provide the public with a local resource for information about radon and promote radon testing awareness.

- Responded to approximately 50 public inquiries pertaining to radon-related issues.

### *Objective 51 - Achieved*

Investigate all reported indoor air pollution complaints and educate City residents about the relationship between IAQ and asthma.

- Fifteen (15) investigations of properties with suspected indoor air quality problems were conducted and abated.
- Responded to approximately 100 public inquiries regarding indoor air quality issues or referred callers to other sources of information.
- Distributed environmental asthma triggers information to the public when investigating indoor air quality complaints.

### *Objective 52 - Achieved*

Assure that all reported air, water, and soil pollution incidents are verified and referred to the appropriate municipal, state or federal agency in a timely fashion.

- Referred seven (7) Department of Environmental Protection notices and three (3) reported releases to the City of Allentown Storm Water compliance department.

### *Objective 53 - Achieved*

Assure all new on-lot sewage system installations in the City are completed in compliance with current state regulations and existing system malfunctions are addressed expeditiously.

- Two (2) City employees maintained a Sewage Enforcement Officer license to assure prompt response to inquiries about existing and new on-lot sewage systems.
- No new on-lot systems were installed, and no existing systems required replacement.

### *Objective 54 - Achieved*

Maintain standardized environmental control investigation procedures.

- Each environmental control policy and procedure received an administrative review and was updated, as necessary.
- Supervised complaint investigations were conducted with Sanitarians.
- Investigation reports were reviewed for completeness and policy adherence.
- Progress reviews of unresolved complaints were conducted; two (2) lead complaint investigations remained open at the end of the year.
- All complaint investigation data were entered in a computer data base for tracking purposes.

### *Objective 55 - Achieved*

Increase staff awareness of new information about existing and emerging environmental health issues.

- Forty-eight (48) staff meetings were conducted to allow for the discussion of environmental health issues, policy clarification and planning purposes. All appropriate information updates were circulated to staff for review.

## 2022 Accomplishments by Objective - Institutional Sanitation and Safety

### Objective 56 - Achieved

License and inspect all childcare facilities in the City subject to regulation under the City's Child Care Facility Ordinance.

- Investigated nine (9) complaints regarding unhealthy or unsafe conditions or practices in institutional settings.
- Chart 56.1 below illustrates primary program activities – 2018 through 2022:

Chart 56.1

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities (2022)	Number of Routine Inspections				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Child Care Facilities*	151	149	153	146	160	138
Public Bathing Places	22	50	28	14	23	23
Public & Private Schools	36	34	33	31	30	32
Long Term Care	6	6	5	3	1	5
School Playgrounds	12	12	12	12	12	12

\*Child Care Centers, Group and Family Child Care Homes and Other Child Care Facilities

### Objective 57 - Achieved

Inspect all regulated bathing place facilities in the City subject to regulation under the PA State Public Bathing Place Code.

- Twenty-three (23) routine inspections were conducted at 22 public bathing facilities.

### Objective 58 - Achieved

Inspect all school facilities in the City subject to regulation under the City's School Sanitation Ordinance.

- Twenty-five (25) routine inspections were conducted in public schools. Courtesy inspections were offered to all private schools; seven (7) courtesy inspections were conducted upon request.
- Twelve (12) school playgrounds were surveyed for safety hazards and subsequently rechecked to determine if repairs were made where necessary.

### *Objective 59 - Achieved*

Inspect all regulated long-term care facilities in the City subject to regulation under the PA State Long Term Care Facilities regulations.

- Five (5) routine inspections were conducted in long term care facilities. Due to COVID-19, one long-term care facility was not inspected by the City of Allentown.

### *Objective 60 - Achieved*

Maintain standardized institutional facility inspection procedures.

- A staff review session of policies and regulations was held for each institution category.
- One hundred ninety-eight (198) institutional inspection reports underwent supervisory review to assure staff consistency and standardization in the interpretation and application of regulations.

## 2022 Accomplishments by Objective - Injury Prevention

### *Objective 61 – Achieved*

Promote motor vehicle safety to reduce child occupant and senior driver injuries.

	2020	2021	2022
Car seats distributed to clients by AHB certified car seat technicians	110	124	193
Car seat vouchers distributed through the Operation Safe Ride Program.	6	2	10
Car seats distributed through partners (Center for Women’s Medicine, Sixth Street Shelter, Vida Nueva, and VNA of St. Luke’s Hospital)	11	10	9
Car Seat Follow-Ups Performed	68	80	109
Car Seat Check Events	0	2	3
Car Fit Events	0	2	2

### *Objective 62 – Achieved*

Promote safe traveling habits among children and teens specifically aimed at pedestrian and bicycling behavior. (See Chronic Disease Accomplishments Objective 13 for related reporting.)

### *Objective 63 – Achieved*

Reduce pediatric in-home injuries due to falls, fires, scald burns, poisonings, choking, suffocations, drowning and other hazards.

	2020	2021	2022
Preventing Injuries in Children Home Visits	n/a	n/a	40
Parents/Caregivers Educated about preventing childhood injury	312	520	563
Safety Supplies Distributed	1567	1627	851
Bed Risk Assessments Performed	126	199	234
Bed Risk Follow-Ups Performed	90	156	95
Cribs distributed	74	75	123
Agency contacts made to promote IP services	32	26	19
Safe Kids Meetings	3	4	3



- Information was provided to agencies and groups associated with housing, childcare and injury prevention and advising about the dangers of children falling out of windows. “Kids Can’t Fly” brochures containing window safety information were distributed in response to requests from landlords and social service agencies.
- Educated home safety survey clients and the public at-large about these issues: falls, the poison control hotline, Fight BAC! Food safety materials and proper storage of household cleaners, medications and other poisonous substances and child maltreatment issues.
- Attended three (3) Lehigh County Child Death Review team meetings.

### *Objective 64 – Achieved*

Reduce senior fall injuries through the A Matter of Balance course, senior falls prevention presentations and senior home safety surveys.

	2020	2021	2022
8-week Matter of Balance (MOB) Classes	1	5	6
MOB class attendees	15	43	57
Home safety surveys for older adults	6	7	13
Home safety survey follow-ups for older adults	6	7	10
Presentations for seniors on fall prevention	-	-	6
Older adults educated through presentations, home visits, etc.	45	124	301

### *Objective 65 – Achieved*

Reduce the number of unintentional poisonings and drug overdoses through education and participation in poison and drug prevention initiatives.

	2023
Opioid Overdose Prevention Presentations	4

- AHB chaired and participated in six (6) Heroin/Opioid Allentown Taskforce meetings in 2022. These meetings were attended by area agencies that practice substance abuse prevention and treatment, area health systems as well as Allentown law enforcement, Allentown EMS, the Lehigh County Coroner, and area hospitals.
- AHB continued a city-wide anti-opioid marketing campaign aimed at substance abusers and their families utilizing social media and billboard marketing.
- AHB continued to facilitate an Opioid overdose fatality review team with area partners in 2022 and held four (4) meetings.

### *Objective 66 – Achieved*

Collaborate with community partners to increase public awareness about suicide.

- Allentown Health Bureau partnered with local organizations to develop and implement strategies to reduce suicides and to review suicide data. Partners include representatives from Lehigh County Mental Health, Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol, the Lehigh County Coroner, Pinebrook Family Answers, and other community organizations.
- During 2022 the community suicide prevention task force reviewed local suicide rates, local programming and analyzed suicide prevention strategies.
- AHB partnered with the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP-LV) to promote “Talk Saves Lives” presentations.

### *Objective 67 – Achieved*

Facilitate a comprehensive child maltreatment prevention program utilizing “Parents in the Know” classes.

- Partnered with the Lehigh Valley Crime Victims council to perform outreach concerning the program. Three (3) AHB staff are trained in presenting the program.
- All AHB staff are trained on the Pennsylvania child abuse law.

### *Objective 68 – Achieved*

Provide training for the injury prevention staff and promote workplace Health Bureau staff safety.

- The IP Manager participated in four (4) state-wide SHC conference calls.
- Injury Prevention staff participated in six (6) injury prevention webinars.
- The Alliance Hall Emergency Plan was reviewed and updated.
- AHB was successful in renewing two grants (Bed Risk Reduction, Safe & Healthy Communities) to financially support our ongoing programming.

### *Objective 69 – Achieved*

Improve program management through enhanced data collection and standardization of child and older adult safety survey procedures.

- Reports were submitted on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis as required by grant deliverables.
- A quarterly sampling of completed home safety forms surveys was reviewed and critiqued with the community health specialist.
- All injury prevention policies and procedures were reviewed.

## 2022 Accomplishments by Objectives

### Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

---

#### *Objective 70 - Achieved*

Prepare for public health emergencies through coordinated efforts with local, regional, and state partners.

Status of Capabilities Planning Guide Assessment submission to PADOH	Completed
Status of AHB Public Health Emergency Response Plan review/updates	Reviewed
Requests for AHB assistance: ---Events ---Exercises	2 5
PADOH Statewide Advisory Committee for Preparedness (SACP) meetings	2
PA DOH-BEPR county-municipal health department meetings / conference calls	11
Status of emergency preparedness training needs assessment	Postponed
Status of training and exercise plan updates and implementation	Ongoing
Exercise/event After-Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP)	2
Status of Incorporating AAR lessons learned into AHB's PHERP	Completed
Staff registered on the Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PA HAN).	11
Status of membership and participation in Northeast PA Health Care Coalition	Active
Status of PHEP conferences / meetings/ training sessions: Frequency of PADOH-Epi meetings	Bi-weekly
Status of COVID-19 SitRep preparation and distribution	Weekly

#### *Objective 71 - Achieved*

Build and sustain the 15 PHEP capabilities as outlined by the CDC's Public Health Preparedness Capabilities, Standards for State and Local Planning.

Public health and emergency preparedness exercises / drills	4
Engaged public health, emergency preparedness/response, healthcare, and community partners: ---Meetings ---Partners	21 7
Meetings with Allentown Emergency Management Team	8
Meetings with Lehigh County Emergency Management	3
Citizen preparedness education events	2
COVID-19 outreach events	10

Status of Lehigh County Emergency Management trainings for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).	Postponed
Build partnerships supporting public health and emergency preparedness, response and/or recovery efforts: ---Trainings ---Meetings	2 2
Status of promoting trainings to community partners	Complete
Status of recovery planning and implementation contact lists	In-Progress
Status of Recovery Plan updates	Initiated
Status of mental/behavioral health training opportunities	Ongoing
Status of collaboration with Allentown EMC to update key response partner contact lists	Ongoing
Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation (HSEEP) policies and procedures ---AHB staff trained	2
Status of emergency public information and warning procedures	Ongoing
Status of promoting CodeRED emergency: ---Social media posts ---Community events ---Educations/outreach	8 3 5
Status of Lehigh County Health Information Center Plan update	Pending
Status of communication drill with community partners	Initiated
Software systems that assure situational awareness	16
Status of public information officer training for AHB staff	Postponed
Trainings on Lehigh County's fatality management plan	2
Frequency of COVID-19 Situation Report distribution to community partners	Weekly
Completed communication drills coordinated by PADOH	2
Status of staff proficiency in use of software, operating systems, and technology for infectious disease and PHEP and response	Complete
Status of situational awareness sharing platform local, regional, state, and federal agencies / organizations	Ongoing
Lehigh Valley Disaster Work Group meetings	10
Shelter dill planning meetings	2
Shelter training(s)	1
Shelter exercise	1
Status of POD site review and updates.	Initiated
Point of Dispensing (POD) sites tested using the City's mass prophylaxis/dispensing plans in real-world COVID-19 and Flu vaccine clinics	8
Public health exercises / drills: ---Staff Notification drill ---Facility Set-Up drill ---Site Activation drill	1 1 1

Lehigh Valley Health Network's Community Flu Campaign:	
---Staff on planning committee	6
---Staff participated in the implementation	2
Inventory management system:	
---Status of inventory management system updates	Complete
---AHB staff trained	44
Status of PHEP inventory updates and ordering needed supplies	Ongoing
AVMRC recruitment initiatives	9
Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions:	
---COVID-19 Real-World Response	Ongoing
---Trainings / Exercises	Postponed
Status of new AHB staff completing Public Health Laboratory awareness training	Complete
Surveillance systems to identify health problems, threats, and environmental hazards	14
PADOH-BEPR and Bureau of Epidemiology Conference calls	12
Mosquito and Tick Bite Prevention and Control:	
---Events	1
---Partners engaged	3
Status of incorporating responder safety and health risk training into trainings, exercises, and real-world responses.	Completed
AHB staff who completed Fit testing	32
Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Awareness:	
---Trainings	2
---Trained	32
Status of PADOH and City compliance during volunteer recruitment, engagement, communications, trainings, and deployments	Ongoing
Status of updating the spontaneous volunteer management plan	Initiated
Status of the volunteers' post-deployment medical, and mental/behavioral health services plan	Initiated

### *Objective 72 - Achieved*

Utilize the Allentown Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (AVMRC) to enhance the emergency response capacity by increasing the availability of a trained and skilled workforce of medical and public health professionals and lay volunteers.

Status of AVMRC updates in SERVPA and national MRC website	Completed
AVMRC volunteers in SERVPA	269
PADOH-MRC conference calls	8
National MRC Webinars	6
Trainings for AVMRC volunteers	10
AVMRC recruitment activities	6

Orientation Sessions for new AVMRC volunteers	3
AVMRC Orientations Attendees	7
Refresher training for existing AVMRC volunteers	2
SERVPA Messages Sent to AVMRC*	102
Real-Life Deployment Events	2
Exercise/Drill Deployment Events	2
SERVPA call-down drills for AVMRC volunteers	2

\*This number includes announcements, updates, and volunteer availability requests. It does not include the confirmation and deployment messages.

# Part 4

## Appendices

**HEART DISEASE DEATHS, NUMBER AND RATE**  
**UNITED STATES, PENNSYLVANIA AND LEHIGH COUNTY, 1999 - 2020**

	UNITED STATES		PENNSYLVANIA		LEHIGH COUNTY		ALLENTOWN	
YEAR	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
1999	725,192	267.8	41,420	268.1	997	245.2	364	282.7
2000	710,760	257.6	40,446	270.2	967	242.1	359	277.4
2001	700,142	247.8	39,408	255.3	969	234.9	350	271.6
2002	696,947	240.8	38,291	257.9	888	226.1	314	243.9
2003	685,089	232.1	37,805	250.1	884	220.9	303	237
2004	652,486	217	36,063	234.1	816	201.8	282	217
2005	652,091	211.1	35,896	229	786	191.8	279	214
2006	631,636	200.2	33,414	225.6	784	204.3	260	205
2007	616,067	190.9	32,517	214.9	734	188.1	240	185
2008	617,527	186.7	33,179	207.3	719	168.4	240	192
2009	599,413	180.1	32,056	190.8	660	146.7	206	161
2010	595,444	178.5	31,274	185.3	728	158.6	217	166
2011	596,339	173.7	31,643	184.1	702	149.7	214	164
2012	599,711	170.5	30,522	175.2	729	152.4	213	162
2013	611,105	169.8	31,537	178.4	694	144.7	182	140
2014	614,348	167	31,179	174.7	750	152.2	217	168
2015	633,842	197.2	31,875	176.8	748	151.7	246	188.9
2016	635,260	165.5	31,899	175.8	769	154.1	211	163.2
2017	647,457	165	32,237	175.7	737	148.9	197	156
2018	655,381	163.6	32,715	175.8	754	150	209	159.8
2019	659,041	161.5	32,250	172.7	735	143.4	209	162.8
2020	NA	NA	32,880	181.8	742	154.3	201	160.7

\* Rate per 100,000 population (age adjusted)

Source: National data obtained from CDC website

State and County data obtained from Pa Dept of Health Website

Allentown data obtained from Pa Dept of Health Website and Penn State Data Center



**OVERWEIGHT AND OBESE RATES FOR YOUTH**  
**PENNSYLVANIA, LEHIGH COUNTY, ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADES K-12**  
**2007-2022**

YEAR	PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS			LEHIGH COUNTY SCHOOLS			ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT	
	Overweight	Obese		Overweight	Obese		Overweight	Obese
2007-08	15.5%	16.9%		21.2%	17.8%		22.0%	26.0%
2008-09	15.8%	16.8%		19.7%	16.8%		18.0%	22.0%
2009-10	16.3%	17.5%		20.4%	19.0%		17.0%	23.0%
2010-11	16.3%	17.1%		16.2%	18.2%		18.0%	24.0%
2011-12	16.1%	17.0%		18.3%	16.4%		16.0%	20.0%
2012-13	22.0%	17.1%		18.2%	16.6%		18.0%	23.0%
2013-14	15.8%	17.2%		16.3%	17.8%		17.4%	22.5%
2014-15	15.6%	17.4%		16.0%	17.8%		17.4%	22.5%
2015-16	15.8%	17.8%		17.3%	17.8%		16.5%	22.6%
2016-17	16.0%	17.5%		16.0%	17.3%		16.7%	22.2%
2017-18	16.3%	18.0%		15.7%	18.1%		16.8%	22.5%
2018-19	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		16.4%	23.4%
2019-20	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		14.7%	21.4%
2020-21	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		Incomplete data due to COVID	Incomplete data due to COVID
2021-22	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A		13.0%	23.7%

BMI Definitions: Overweight- 85th to less than the 95th percentile, Obese- equal to or greater than the 95th percentile

[https://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens\\_bmi/about\\_childrens\\_bmi.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens_bmi/about_childrens_bmi.html)

Sources: Pennsylvania and Lehigh County data- PaDOH School Health Statistics Growth Screening Program

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/school/Pages/Statistics.aspx>

Allentown School District- Sapphire data

**OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY RATES FOR ADULTS**  
**UNITED STATES, PENNSYLVANIA, LEHIGH COUNTY, REGIONAL DATA 2007-2022**

	US		PA		LEHIGH COUNTY		LEHIGH VALLEY		LEHIGH, NORTHAMPTON CARBON COUNTIES	
YEAR	Overwt	Obese	Overwt	Obese	Overwt	Obese	Overwt	Obese	Overwt	Obese
2007	N/A	N/A	63%	28%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65%	28%
2008	N/A	N/A	64%	28%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
2009	N/A	N/A	64%	28%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
2010	N/A	N/A	66%	29%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	62%	29%
2011	N/A	36.5%	65%	29%	N/A	27%	N/A	N/A		
2012	N/A		65%	29%	N/A	29%	N/A	28%		
2013	N/A		65%	30%	N/A	29%	N/A	N/A	68%	30%
2014	N/A	39.8%	64%	30%	N/A	28%	N/A	N/A		
2015	N/A		66%	30%	N/A	29%	N/A	N/A		
2016	N/A		65%	30%	N/A	29%	N/A	N/A	63% (2016-18)	31% (2016-18)
2017	N/A	41.9%	67%	32%	N/A	30%	N/A	N/A	67%	32%
2018	N/A		66%	31%	N/A	31%	N/A	N/A		
2019	N/A		68%	33%	N/A	30%	N/A	N/A		
2020	N/A		67%	31%	N/A	31%	N/A	N/A	68% (2019-21)	31% (2019-21)
2021	N/A	N/A	66%	33%	N/A	31%	N/A	N/A		
2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	37%* not to b	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

BMI Definitions: BMI 25.0 to <30 falls within the overweight range. BMI 30.0 or higher falls within the obese range.

<https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult/defining.html>

Sources: United States: Ogden CL, Carroll MD, Fryar CD, Flegal KM. Prevalence of obesity among adults and youth: United States, 2011–2014. NCHS data brief, no 219. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2015.

United States, 2015-16: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db288.pdf>

United States, 2017-2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>

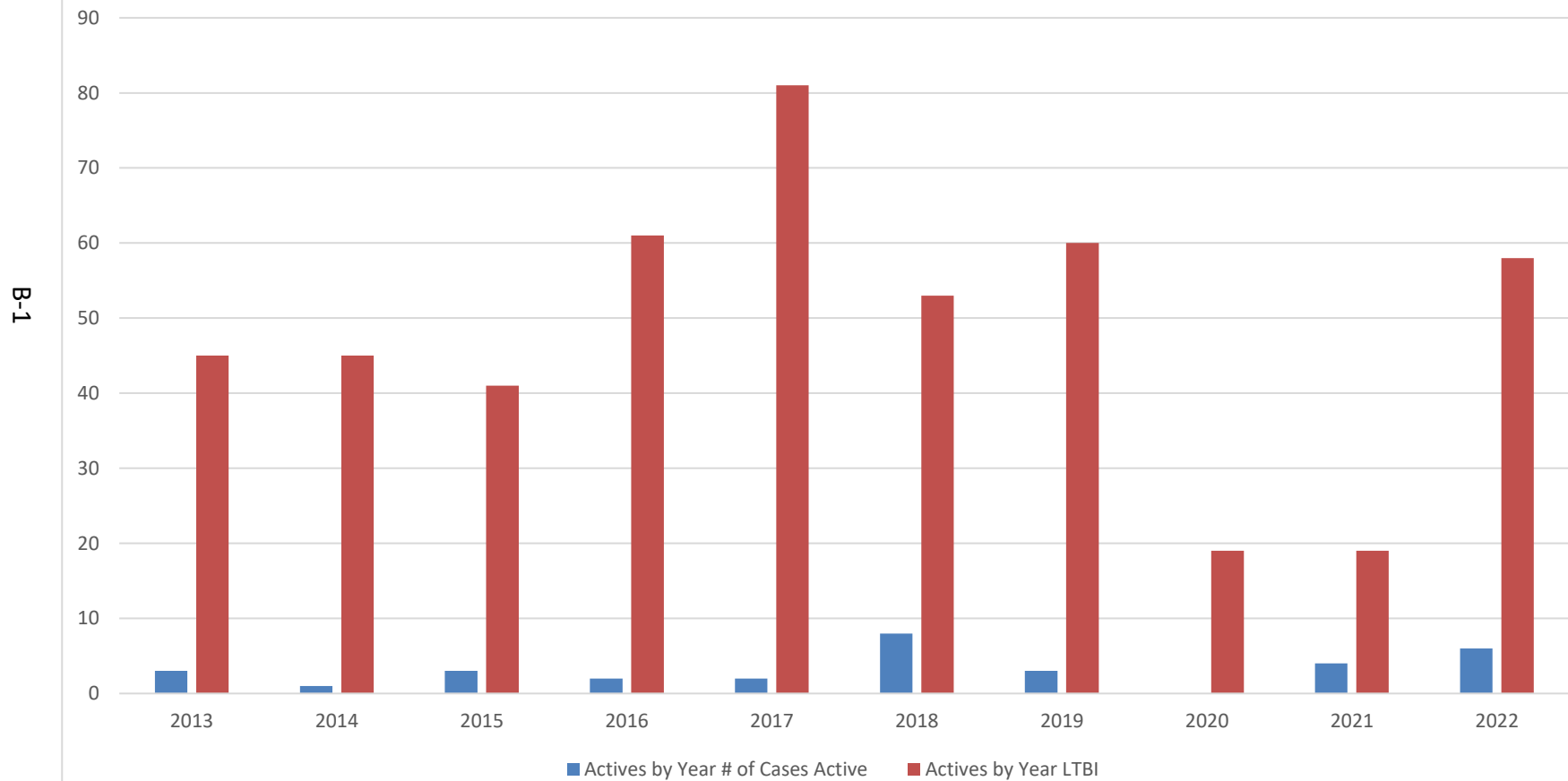
Pennsylvania Rates: PaDOH EDDIE- BRFSS- STATE

Regional Rates (Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton Counties): 3 year summary period -PaDOH EDDIE- BRFSS- REGION

Lehigh County Rates: County Health Rankings, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Lehigh Valley Rate (Lehigh and Northampton Counties): 2016 Community Health Profile

## Active and Latent TB by Year 2013-2022



City of Allentown  
Bureau of Health  
HIV Test Performed & Number of HIV Positive Test Results  
2013-2022

■ HIV Test ■ # of Positive

