

# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2008  
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008



Preserving, Protecting and  
Promoting the Health  
Of All County Residents



## **Message from Health Officer Frances B. Phillips, R.N., M.H.A.**

This Annual Report is designed to give you an understanding of how public health affects life in Anne Arundel County. With the support of County Executive John R. Leopold, the Department of Health is successfully meeting the public health needs of a changing and growing community. In Fiscal Year 2008, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health provided more than 1,300,000 personal and environmental health services directly to County residents and businesses.

The mission of the Department of Health is to preserve, protect and promote the health of all County residents. In fulfilling its mission, the Department assesses the County's health problems, needs and resources; organizes effective public and private sector strategies to address the needs; and provides services directly to County residents to achieve local health goals. County residents, private health practitioners, community organizations and government agencies are partners with the Department of Health in fulfilling this mission.

Based on community surveys and reviews of health data, the Department of Health has established five priority areas for addressing public health needs. These are:

1. Eliminating health disparities
2. Being prepared for emergencies
3. Preventing and managing chronic illnesses
4. Keeping children healthy
5. Maintaining a safe and healthy environment

This report identifies specific accomplishments in each of these areas during Fiscal Year 2008.

If you have any questions or comments about our services or would like to participate in one of our advisory groups, please call us at 410-222-7095.

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### **ASSISTANCE FOR THE UNINSURED.**

Supported by County Executive John R. Leopold, the REACH program is a partnership between the Department of Health and the County Medical Society to provide low-cost health care services to uninsured adult County residents.

From left are: REACH Program Supervisor Nanette Bellini; Surgeon James E. Chappell, M.D.; President of the Baltimore Washington Medical Center's Medical Staff James J. York, M.D.; County Executive John R. Leopold; Cardiologist Hilary T. O'Herlihy, M.D.; and Health Officer Frances B. Phillips. The physicians are past presidents of the County Medical Society.

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## Eliminating Health Disparities

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

- 2,216 minority individuals attended tobacco education sessions, 2,666 minority individuals attended cancer education sessions, 52 percent of the women who received free screenings through the Department's Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program were minorities and 43 percent of the people receiving colon cancer screenings were minorities

**Strengthening Families Program** – Provides training in parenting skills, life skills and family relationship skills for at-risk youth and their parents

- 183 family members graduated from the program

**Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)** – Processes applications for this medical assistance program for children up to age 19 and for pregnant women

- 13,871 children and 1,434 pregnant women enrolled

**Residents Access to a Coalition of Health (REACH)** – Enrolls income-eligible uninsured adults in a program offering access to primary and specialty medical care and diagnostic testing at reduced cost

- 1,582 individuals enrolled and 761 health care providers participated

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

- 9,299 County residents had PDP cards for use at pharmacies nationwide

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

- 26,720 client trips made

## Being Prepared for Emergencies

**Emergency Preparedness and Response** — The Department of Health works with other County agencies and other health departments in the region in responding to natural or man-made emergencies. The Department is available 24 hours a day for public health emergencies through the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

- 100 percent of Department of Health staff received public health emergency preparedness training and ensured federal funding compliance in National Incident Management Systems
- 90 public health nurses were trained to work in shelters, dispense large amounts of medications, vaccinate mass groups of people and assist in triaging efforts during a major public health emergency

**Communicable Disease Surveillance Program** – Collects, investigates and analyzes communicable disease data to alert physicians and the public to trends and unusual occurrences. When an outbreak occurs, appropriate action is taken to stop or control it.

- 1,839 investigations were conducted on reportable diseases



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### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL.**

In June 2008, the Department of Health partnered with Anne Arundel Medical Center, Baltimore Washington Medical Center, County Office of Emergency Management, County Police Department, and the Fort George G. Meade Military Installation to conduct a pandemic flu drill. The successful exercise tested the Department's pandemic flu plan, the hospitals' surge capacity and the ability of all participants to continue operations despite mock staff shortages.

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## Preventing and Managing Chronic Illnesses

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

- 10,127 kits distributed through the Learn To Live phone line and community events, including kits on smoking cessation, nutrition, sun safety, kids’ health, Fifty-Plus health, women’s health and more
- 36,646 students educated about healthy eating and physical activity
- 10,614 consumers at 8 local supermarkets received healthy eating tips and sampled nutritious recipes

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

- 114,883 interactions with students through smoking prevention and cessation activities
- 203 adults participated in smoking cessation classes

**Breast and Cervical Cancer Program** – Partners with local physicians to provide education, free screening, diagnosis and treatment services for breast and cervical cancer to eligible women age 40 and above

- 1,241 women received education and initial screening

**LifeScreen Colorectal Cancer Screening Program** – Partners with physicians to provide colorectal cancer education and screening colonoscopies to eligible County residents 50 and older

- 63 individuals received initial screening

**Community Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Services** – Provides drug and alcohol treatment referrals to a network of County providers

- 1,430 assessments and referrals provided through Opportunity for Treatment Funding (OTF)

**Behavioral Health Services** – Provides assessment and counseling to children and adults

- 408 children and adolescents received 3,559 individual and 2,632 family counseling sessions
- 354 adult addiction clients attended 4,481 individual, 1,382 group and 113 family counseling sessions

**HIV/AIDS Prevention and Case Management Program** – Provides free HIV counseling and testing services. Educates community groups about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention.

- 1,190 individuals received educational materials on HIV/AIDS prevention, more than 3,000 people were tested and 249 patients received HIV/AIDS case management services

## Keeping Children Healthy

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

- 23,966 immunizations administered to children

**Healthy Babies Program** – Provides information to pregnant women, parents and caregivers through a Coalition, communication resources and community outreach activities

- 15,300 Healthy Babies resource information cards distributed to County residents

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

- 492 high-risk pregnant women received case management services from the Healthy Start program
- 12,219 clients served by the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program

**Dental Health Program** – Provides dental care and education to low-income children and pregnant women

- 2,318 individual pediatric patients seen at the Annapolis and Glen Burnie Dental Clinics and 221 individual REACH program patients seen in the Glen Burnie Clinic
- 5,190 schoolchildren participated in oral health education presentations

**School Health Services** – Provides nursing and other health services at the County’s 119 public and charter schools

- 640,925 student visits to school health rooms and 131,915 medications administered

**Reproductive Health Services** – Provides maternity services, family planning services and education

- 5,449 clients received reproductive health services
- 141 births to maternity clients

## Maintaining a Safe and Healthy Environment

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

- 3,366 water samples from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and 465 samples from swimming pools were tested

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

- 4,356 food facility inspections conducted
- 1,533 housing-related inquiries and complaints handled

**Well and Septic Program** – Reviews plans for residential construction, tests well water quality and conducts soil evaluations and percolation tests to ensure proper sewage disposal in order to prevent disease and environmental harm caused by water contamination

- 794 septic system permits and 685 well permits issued
- 1,623 percolation tests performed

**Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund** – Helps pay part or all of the costs to add environmentally-beneficial nitrogen-reducing pretreatment units to private septic systems

- 44 pretreatment units installed

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

- 84,712 raccoon rabies vaccine baits distributed
- 1,184 potential rabies exposures investigated

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### **NITROGEN-REDUCING PRETREATMENT UNITS.**

In 2008, the Department of Health inspected more than 500 septic systems that had nitrogen-reducing pretreatment units. The inspections helped to ensure that the units were functioning properly and were reducing the amount of nitrogen and other harmful nutrients discharged into groundwater.

The Department's Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) helps County homeowners pay part or all of the cost to add State-approved nitrogen-reducing units to private septic systems. For information about the BRF, call 410-222-7193.

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## **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2008**

### **Environmental Health**

Anne Arundel County Executive John R. Leopold submitted emergency legislation that made it illegal to dispose of combustion ash or “coal fly ash” anywhere in the County. The legislation followed the Department of Health’s investigation of water in private wells near a mining site in Gambrills. Approximately 28 percent of the tested wells had contaminants at or above federal and state safe drinking water standards. The Department concluded that continued use of combustion ash as fill for mine reclamation presents a potential health risk and recommended emergency measures to protect public health and safety.

### **Health Screenings**

The Department of Health provided health screenings and made referrals for assessment and treatment when needed. More than 1,200 women received screenings for breast and cervical cancer. Through the Health Smart Church Program, 2,964 blood pressure screenings were completed. The School Health Program conducted more than 29,375 vision and hearing screenings on County students.

### **Healthy Lifestyles**

Information promoting healthy lifestyles is available on the Department’s Web site, [www.aahealth.org](http://www.aahealth.org), which received 1,770,513 visits in Fiscal Year 2008. The Department’s Learn To Live Program continued the Web-based Family Fitness Challenge, a program that encourages adults and children to eat more fruits and vegetables and engage in regular physical activity.

### **Access to Health Care**

The Residents Access to a Coalition of Health (REACH) Program, a partnership between the Anne Arundel County Department of Health and the Anne Arundel County Medical Society, entered its ninth year of providing free or low-cost health services to income-eligible uninsured Anne Arundel County residents. More than 1,582 individuals were enrolled in Fiscal Year 2008, receiving services from more than 375 specialists and 83 primary care providers including a partnership with the Kaiser Permanente Bridge insurance plan.

### **Minority Health**

The Department’s Office of Minority Health continued to serve as the Department’s liaison with the African-American, Korean-American and Latino-American communities. In collaboration with the County’s Hispanic Health Network, the Department held an annual Hispanic Health Festival attended by more than 400 individuals. The Department held its first Korean Health Fair and its first Hispanic Girls’ Night Out, a breast health program for women age 40 and older.

## **Anne Arundel County Department of Health**

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**410-222-7095 Fax 410-222-7294**

**[www.aahealth.org](http://www.aahealth.org)      [www.aasalud.org](http://www.aasalud.org)**

### **Cover Photos (Clockwise From Top Left)**

- **Flu Immunization Campaign '07-'08 which provided more than 32,500 doses of flu vaccine to County residents**
- **Healthy Eating Tips from the Learn To Live Program with more than 500 recipes at [aahealth.org](http://aahealth.org)**
- **Alex the “Sun Safety” Alligator on his Fun Time Public Library Tour**

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

**Photographers: Rian Almon, Lauren Fletcher and Audra Harrison**