

## Board of Health

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*Promoting and Protecting the Health of Delaware County*

## January 2025 Delaware County Board of Health Meeting Delaware County Department of Health Status Report

### Administration

#### 1. Old Business

- Collaborating with County on Calendar Year 2024 budget closeout. Revenue as of 01/02/25 is \$10,469,302.62.
  - This is short of the DCHD 5124 final expense \$11,903,362.47.
  - The outstanding state payment for the ELC grant is a total of \$1,434,059.85 for the period of July 2023-June 2024 which accounts for the missing payments for final close of 5124.

#### 2. New Business

- As of 01/02/25, DCHD has a new ARPA balance from the county of \$10,734,368.22 to support DCHD for FY25, FY26, and a final available balance for close of CY26 budget.
  - 5125 - \$3,500,000
  - 5126 - \$3,500,000
  - 5127 - \$3,500,000
  - Misc balance - \$234,368.22 - Expected these funds avail for Env Health Trucks and Fleet
- The County is in progress on a major initiative to launch a new enterprise management system (Workday) that will replace all existing systems for procurement, HR, etc. Currently, the Workday launch in the County is scheduled to go live September 2025. DCHD Administration is working closely with Workday project managers/County on planning for UKG/Kronos transition to Workday.
  - County purchasing is in a period of transition and the County is working on universal purchasing/procurement best practices; DCHD is adapting accordingly.
  - As of 2/17/25, DCHD will need to onboard and train a new payroll and procurement specialist.
  - The Administrative and Environmental Health Divisions are exploring alternative office locations, with discussions taking place both internally and with other County Departments, such as Public Works.
  - DCHD's Data Modernization Specialist under the direction of the Operations Administrator completed department-wide Data Modernization Survey implementation to collect feedback from Administrators, managers, and SuperUsers. Key learnings from the discussions for all DCHD IT systems are in progress.

### 3. Highlights/Successes

- DCHD successfully achieved Council approval of a number of grants, contracts and purchases throughout calendar year 2024. In summary, DCHD’s Council approvals included CocoLife – Title V; Foundation for Delaware County; DCIU –Title V; NACCHO Grant; Kahal, Deborah-Amendment; Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Grant; Professional Services Agmt.-Agett; Immunization SAF2; TB SAF4; TGI 60 month lease; RFP-Federal-birth companion training; RFP-Federal-Doula increase; TB grant renewal; HIV SAF1; RFP- Don’t Trust the Dust; HIV Grant Renewal (7/24-6/25); Once Upon a Premie-Grant Agreement; HRSA No-cost Extension -5-14-24 - 6-30-25; PHEP SAF (7/1/23-6/30/24); Immunization Grant Renewal-7-24 - 6-25; Longview Int. Technology (Test&Go); InSync Success-Hartley; PAIC; Berkowitz, Leonard-Updated Contract; Aloysius Butler & Clark (AB&C); Making a Change Group; Agett Aggregate LLC; Pettaway Pursuit Foundation; Temple Univ. Academic Birthing Companion; ESRI; Foundation for Delaware County; and Magellan/Meridian Diagnostics blood lead testing supplies.
- In December, the Operations team addressed various facility and program-related tasks across DCHD divisions and locations. This included relocating the Vaccination Fridge unit and HVAC and plumbing repairs at the Chester Wellness Center, and HVAC repairs and installation of door sweeps at the Yeadon Wellness Center. Additionally, the team distributed over 80 County Holiday lunches across the three DCHD locations. They also begin the Safe Sex Kit assembly project, completing over 1,800 kits to date. Next step is for Personal Health to develop plan to distribute via ACG, Population Health, and DCHD clinics.
- The 2024 Staff Engagement Committee hosted several team-building programs aimed at fostering communication, collaboration, and boosting morale to create a positive and supportive work environment. These programs included “Clean the Green” (a staff-oriented initiative to clean up, paint and beautify local parks in Upper Darby, Upland and Brookhaven); “Wooder Cup Olympics (team-building games and activities inspired by the Summer Olympics such as “Eye Chart Boogle” and “CPR Compression Songs (Name That Tune); “Back to School Drive” (in collaboration with the DCHD Back to School Fair, staff collected new school supplies, stationery, and hygiene items from over 8 drop off locations). Other staff favorites included the “Eagles Tailgate Potluck”, “Halloween event”, “Spirit Week” and “Winter Wonderland.”
- DCHD’s Employee Policy Review committee and DCHD leadership finalized one new guidance document and four policy revisions. The following were rolled out at the 12/11/24 staff meeting:
  - NEW: GD 9 Trip & Travel Guidelines
  - REVISION: PER 9 Local Mileage/Expense Reimbursement
  - REVISION: PER 5 Vacation Leave
  - REVISION: PER 8 Sick Leave
  - REVISION: PER 15 Time & Attendance

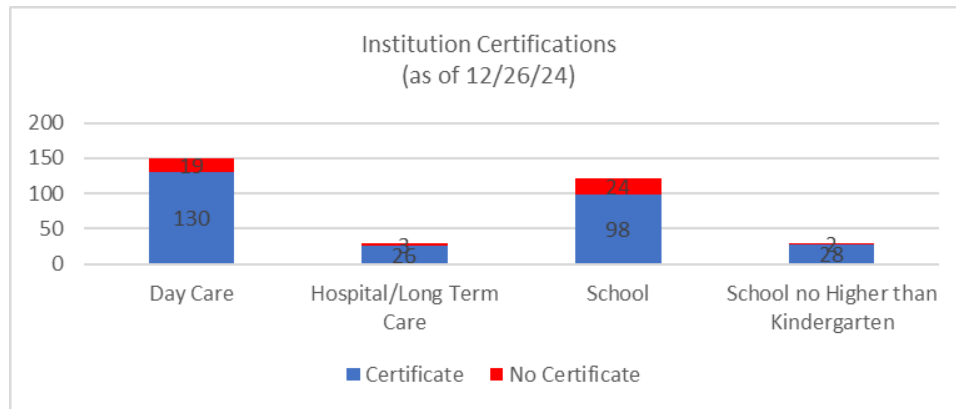
## Environmental Health

### 1. Old Business

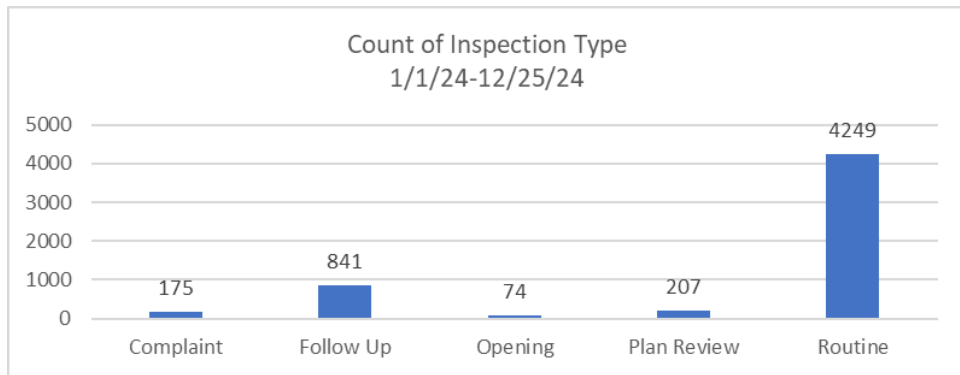
- DCHD successfully hosted three Certified Food Manager (CFM) courses in collaboration with Penn State Extension in 2024 (April 15 & 17, July 22 & 29, and October 21 & 23).

DCHD EH met with PSU to discuss having DCHD possibly lead or at least assist with classes in the future. Developing dates for 2025. Looking to continue three classes per year, 1 in each quarter except Q3 (summer). DCHD also working with PDA on developing a non-profit food volunteer class through DCHD EH.

- DCHD achieved its highest ever rate of DCHD institution certifications in 2024. Of the 48 institutions (early childcare learning centers, long term care centers, hospitals, schools) under DCHD jurisdiction in the county, 9 remain in process. All public schools have received an initial Institution Certification. DCHD EH continues to network and increase communication with the Child Care Protection Network to expand knowledge of DCHD programs and certification for Early Childhood Learning Centers.



- 2024 DCHD Septic and Well Program highlights:
  - 55 sewage permits issued; 46 sewage permits closed out
  - 62 well permits issued; 7 well permits closed out
  - 12 subdivision plans approved
  - 56 contractor licenses issued to well contractors, geothermal installers and pump installers
  - 249 liquid waste hauler permits issued from program launch on July 1st 2024
- Food Safety Highlights 2024: A total of 5,546 inspections were conducted through 12/25/24.
  - 4,237 inspections were conducted at permanent food facilities.
  - 593 inspections were conducted at non-permanent food facilities (mobile food facilities, events, and farmer’s markets).
  - 444 inspections were conducted at institutions
  - 266 inspections were conducted at public bathing places
  - 6 inspections were conducted at organized camps/campgrounds/mobile home parks



**DCHD Environmental Health Inspection Management System thru 12/31/24:**

**2024**

<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>MTD Current Year</b>	<b>YTD Current Year</b>	<b>Prior Year Total</b>	<b>Aug - Dec 2022</b>	<b>Pre CDP</b>
<b>Known Facilities (Does not include injunction)</b>	2373	2357	2676	2789	2714
<b>Number of facilities Licensed (New and Renewal)</b>	264	2941	2368	976	300 (+-50)
<b>TTL Number of Routine inspection Performed</b>	95	4094	4328	1200	502 +
<b>TTL Number of Follow up inspections Performed</b>	47	876	756	249	133
<b>Number of Complaint/Requests Received</b>	72	1496	1701	472	133
<b>Total Current Open and Active</b>	16	193	0	0	0
<b>TTL Number of Complaint Based inspections Performed</b>	10	174	481	249	133
<b>Total Inspections Performed</b>	152	5144	5565	1698	0
<b>Total Well and Septic Permits/License Issued</b>	16	126	88	0	0
<b>Accounts Receivable by Program</b>	\$ 52,761	\$ 765,239	\$ 658,909	\$ 244,985	unknwn

<b>Accounts Receivable by payment type</b>	\$ 52,761	\$ 765,249	\$ 655,893	\$ 241,705	unknwn
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**Right to Know Requests**

	Current Year	Same Month Last Year	Year to Date Current Year (Since Sept)
<b>Number of Requests Received</b>	13	0	34
<b>Number of Requests Fulfilled</b>	1	0	2

2. New Business

- 2025 PADEP Mosquito-borne Disease Control (MDC) grant was uploaded into the state’s submission portal on 11/6/24 and approved by County Council to accept in December 2024. Currently looking into trends of trap positive location and counts in 2024 and historically in Delaware County and reviewing vector disease data from 2024 season. DCHD will be assessing the five most common tick and mosquito-borne disease in PA (Lyme, WNV, St. Louis Encephalitis, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, La Crosse, and Jamestown Canyon Virus). After evaluating Delaware County data, we will be evaluating where disease is located throughout county.
- Supervisors working to expand the Daily Audit reports to include complaints responses. Also, the possibility of a Weekly or monthly performance report for each region.
- PASEO State Convention will be in Camp Hill on February 3, 2025, and DCHD EH SEO will be presenting.

3. Highlights/Successes

- DCHD’s Environmental Health team has provided high-level, consistent service to the facility owners in Delaware County throughout 2024. They have built strong relationships with owners, local municipal staff, across DCHD divisions and within the EH group.
- 2024 bathing place season went very well; all required inspections completed, and notes were collected for planning the 2025 season. EH is currently reviewing CDC Model Aquatic Codes, comparing them line by line to determine what updates are needed (if any) to current DCHD codes.
- Highest percentage of 2024 complaint inspections associated with Food Facilities >50 seats (7.35% of inspections for that facility type). Highest percentage of 2024 follow-up inspections associated with Take Out only Facilities (23.28% of inspections for that facility type), followed closely by Food Facility <50 seats (21.18% of inspections for that facility type). Some food safety improvement in Delco that DCHD was able to document from 2023 to 2024:
  - The top 10 violations in 2023 were cited a total of 3,914 times. Those same violations were only noted 2,824 times in 2024.

- Two of the violations that were in the top 10 of 2023 were not observed at all in 2024.



- In November of 2024, DCHD EH met with new leadership in Upper Darby's Licenses and Inspections Department, as well as the Fire Department and Emergency Response. The purpose of this meeting was to establish how EH and Upper Darby L&I could work together to better serve the community. By coming together the groups were able to establish proper lines of communication for emergencies, service requests, and in the event of code violations in the field. Since that meeting, Upper Darby and DCHD EH have worked together multiple times in the field. Improved communication between the departments has been able to ensure that service requests from community members are being referred to and addressed in a timely manner.

## Personal Health

### 1. Old Business

- The new School Nurse Liaison started on 1/6/24. Healthy Homes Specialist will be starting on 1/21/25. Still actively recruiting for the Perinatal Hepatitis B Nurse. This is a critical need given increase in newborn reporting due to new state guidelines about + anti-HBc cases.
- Ongoing healthcare acquired infections work including a planned C.auris screening at Crozer in late December and a multidrug-resistant organisms surveillance meeting with PA DOH and Mercy Fitz Hospital.
- DCHD's TB team is caring for 11 active TB patients and following 20 LTBI cases. We had 42 positive IGRA tests in December. We had 10 electronic notification cases that required IGRA testing and chest x-rays.

### 2. New Business

- DCHD, The Foundation for Delaware County, and City of Chester health officer are exploring the possibility of partnering with Nemours, ChesPenn, and/or CHOP to host a newborn clinic at the DCHD Wellness Center in Chester.
- DCHD staff joined the PA Maternal Health Collaborative to interface with statewide efforts, resources, the PA Maternal Health Strategic Plan, the Governor's office, and the PA Office of Health Equity.
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH) team is working on advancing connectivity and resources for people who reach out to DCHD. MCH staff members developed an MCH protocol for the wellness line and met with Epidemiology to discuss pregnant patients who have tested positive for STIs and who could benefit from additional resource/service connections beyond what the STI team is able to provide.
- DCHD has contacted all schools with 85% or lower immunization rates to provide support. DCHD is working closely with Chester Upland Charter School, Chester Upland School District, Chester Charter Scholars Academy, and Garnet Valley Middle School.
- STI team working on an Excel spreadsheet for both clinics so that DCHD will be able to better monitor to number of patients that are seen in both clinics for STD testing, treatment, condom giveaways, and counseling.

### 3. Highlights/Successes

- DCHD Personal Health hosted a number of successful immunization clinics including:
  - A flu clinic at Murphy's Giving Market, where 35 flu vaccines were administered.
  - WPSD Tdap/MCV4 Clinic
  - A TDAP/MCV4 clinic with the William Penn School District where 58 students between the high school and middle school were vaccinated.
  - A special TDAP/MCV4 clinic at Interboro High School for foster care/unhoused children where 2 students were vaccinated who otherwise would have been excluded after winter break. Prior to this clinic, DCHD attended Interboro School District ELL Night and shared vaccine schedules and DCHD clinic resources.
- One of DCHD's TB patients just completed his treatment with us. This man has shown so much dignity and grace throughout his struggle with TB and other circumstances of life. He shared with DCHD's TB team how thankful and appreciative he is for all our help and care during his treatment. He reminds us how important our work is with the community.

## Population Health

### 1. Old Business

- In support of the Delco Revive program, Population Health and epidemiology with the county Regional EMS Director to understand what data are collected by EMS during overdose responses.
- DCHD is reinitiating conversations with West Chester University to discuss MPH internship discussions; will submit a write-up to West Chester of the position opportunities by January 2025 to start recruitment and interviews for Summer/Fall 2025 placement. Population Health also met with Widener to discuss student support with smaller projects and health initiatives such as Heart Health Month or Nutritional Month events.

- DCHD is continuing collaborations with Keystone First, including cooking classes and possibly another CPR class at their Chester Wellness Center on 2/8/25.
- 416 Calls to the Call Center/Wellness Line from 12/2-12/30/2024
  - Vaccinations, Homebound COVID-19 requests, STI testing, Licensing, Environmental Health Complaints, and Information requests were the most common reasons for calls.

## 2. New Business

- Five mobile mammogram screenings are scheduled for 2025 with Jefferson:
  - 2/27/25 Yeadon
  - 4/3/25 Chester
  - 6/6/25 Yeadon
  - 8/1/25 Chester
  - 10/30/25 Yeadon
- 2 Cooking for Wellness classes scheduled (3/12 in Chester and 3/26 in Upper Darby) for March (National Nutrition Month/Colon Cancer Awareness Month) in partnership with Keystone First.
- Population Health is actively engaged in DCHD's forthcoming lead education campaign and is supporting the City of Chester Lead Task Force under Dr. Motley's leadership.
- Public Health Emergency preparedness staff are coordinating with colleagues in EMS and DES regarding the Prospect Medical Holdings bankruptcy, hospital preparedness, extreme weather planning in the county, and sheltering.
  - DCHD participated in Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) Exercise of Concepts at DES in December. Participants included 11 students and instructors from the DCIU, 13 MRC volunteers, and Emergency Services' FAST Team. DCIU students and staff were "clients" and FAST team members were divided between supporting shelter operations serving as the Mass Care shelter FAST team. FAST team completed assessments of clients using the Red Cross CMIST forms (Communication, Maintaining health, Independence, Support and Safety, and Transportation).

## 3. Highlights/Successes

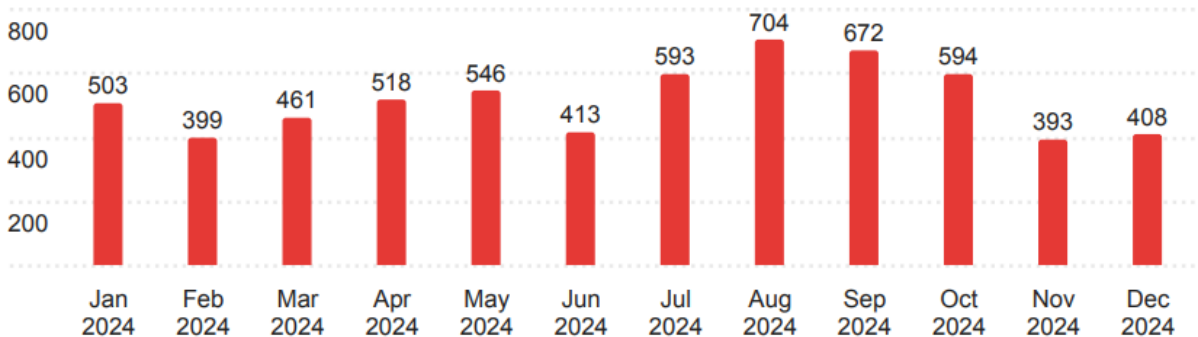
- 2024 Harm Reduction/Delco Revive Highlights:
  - Narcan kits distributed: 7,203
  - Xylazine test strips distributed: 4,745
  - Fentanyl test strips distributed: 6,721
  - Narcan trainings held/ number of people trained: 23/ 363
  - CPR classes held/ number of people trained: 24/ 229
  - Stop the Bleed' trainings held/ number of people trained: 19/ 284
  - 'Stop the Bleed' kits distributed: 77
- 2024 Wellness Line Highlights:
  - There was a total of 6,204 calls in 2024
  - Back to school season (August-September) was the busiest time for the Call Center.
  - Call volume by division remained steady until Q3 (July, August, and September) when calls significantly increased for Personal Health and Population Health.
  - The top 10 Reasons for Calls were:
    1. Vaccinations (1,209, 19.49%)



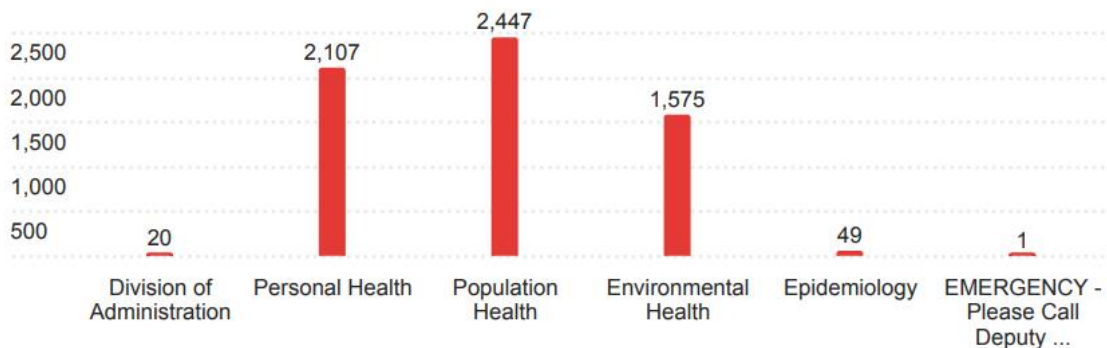
- 2. Licensing (968, 15.60%)
- 3. Information Request (769, 12.40%)
- 4. General Environmental Health Complaints (565, 9.11%)
- 5. Other (437, 7.04%)
- 6. Sexually Transmitted Infections (417, 6.72%)
- 7. COVID (359, 5.79%)
- 8. Homebound (322, 5.19%)
- 9. Tuberculosis (285, 4.59%)
- 10. Medical Services (223, 3.59%)

- "Licensing" increased slightly from April-September
- "Other" category uses significantly decreased after Q2 (April, May and June). Staff had been asked to increase call categorization.
- Call categories "Vaccinations", "Information Request" and "COVID" significantly increased during Q3 (July, August, and September)
- "Homebound" requests significantly increased during Q3 and Q4
- "General Environmental Health Complaints", "Sexually Transmitted Infections", "Tuberculosis" and "Medical Services" remained relatively consistent throughout the year

### Calls by Month



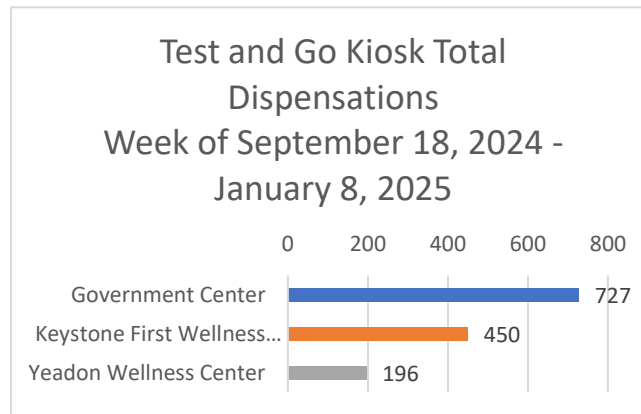
### Calls by Division

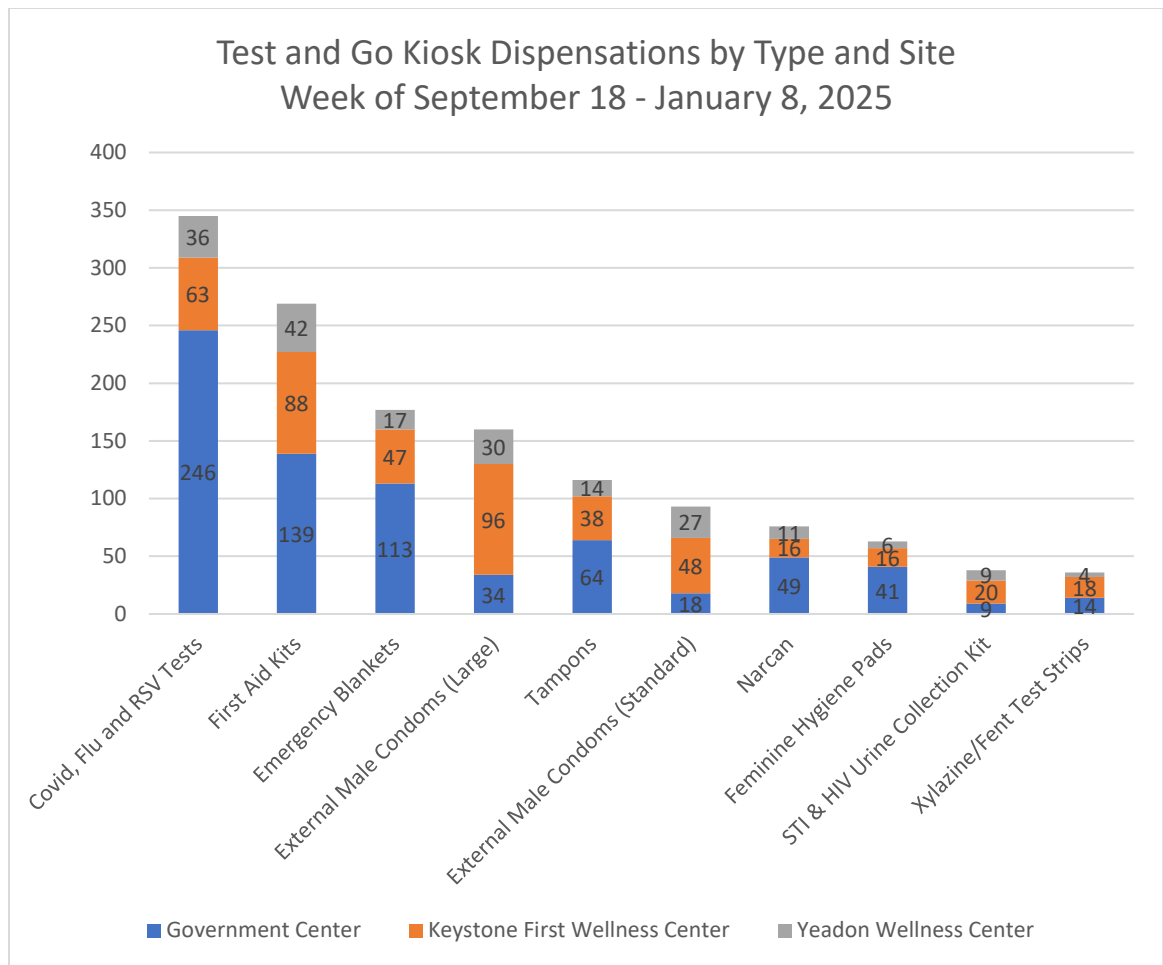


## Epidemiology

### 1. Old Business

- Conducted analyses in support of Child Death Review – homicide, suicide, gun involvement, and county-level suicide death demographics (ages, sex, race).
- Conducted analyses on number of Delco births by hospital.
- Expanding dissemination / utilization of RedCap utilities including survey questionnaires and performance/evaluation reporting measures.
- Coordinating with DCHD Personal Health, Community Health Workers regarding DCHD Community Health Assessment (CHA) /Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to implement community-based strategies.
- Exploring new methods of passive and active surveillance of communicable and chronic diseases.
- Monitoring DCHD ‘Test and Go Kiosks’ utilization data (e.g., condoms, Narcan, COVID, Flu respiratory panel kit, xylazine/fentanyl test strips, demographics). Overall, there have been 1,373 dispensations from 9/18/24-1/8/25. The Test and Go Kiosks have attracted residents from 111 different zip codes, and all ages, genders, races, ethnicities, and insurance statuses. The Government Center had the highest number of dispensations (727, 53%) followed by the Keystone First Wellness Center (450, 33%) and the Yeadon Wellness Center (89, 12%). The most frequently dispensed products were COVID, Flu and RSV tests (345, 25%), followed by first aid kits (269, 20%) and emergency blankets (177, 13%). Since STI & HIV tests began being offered in November, a total of 38 kits have been dispensed. Over half of them (20, 53%) have been from the Keystone First Wellness Center.





## 2. New Business

- Provided technical assistance and consultation on COVID testing to nursing home infection prevention nurses.
- Improving epidemiological surveillance capacity with County GIS mapping experts and Delco IT projects.
- Drafting an annual risk factor surveillance report proposal encompassing all infectious diseases to inform targeted interventions.
- Collected data on the number of physicians with active practices in Delco 2020-2023.

## 3. Highlights/Successes

- Completed DCHD's first Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) report and released it in January 2025 in recognition of National Maternal Health Awareness Day.
  - Previous PPOR reports were completed for Delaware County by The Foundation for Delaware County for the periods 2008-2012 and 2012-2016.
  - The PPOR report findings in Delaware County mirror trends found in Pennsylvania and across the United States.
  - DCHD's report identified higher rates of very low birth weight (VLBW) births as a leading factor contributing to the excess infant mortality among Black mothers. Racial disparities in fetal and infant deaths persist and, in some cases, have

increased. Chronic conditions such as gestational diabetes and hypertension were more prevalent among Black mothers, while Black infants faced higher rates of prematurity and respiratory distress. Gaps in maternal and infant medical care before, during, and after birth were associated with higher mortality rates.

- DCHD identified promoting maternal, parental, and infant health as one of the three priority areas under the department’s CHIP, and will use the PPOR findings to reinforce DCHD’s goals under this priority area to improve health outcomes through improved access to and awareness of community and medical services (including specialized perinatal care and certified doula support); decrease opioid misuse during pregnancy; and prevent infant deaths.
- On 12/10/24, DCHD Epidemiology coordinated a successful Foodborne Outbreak exercise with DCHD Environmental, Personal Health, and Epidemiology staff members at the Yeadon Wellness Center. The team discussed communication protocols, staff roles during an outbreak (across divisions), historical outbreak/foodborne incident data as well as future plans for periodic exercises for food and possible other outbreak causing scenarios.
- Designed evaluation framework for DCHD Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Workgroups to systematically collect data/information on community partners and programs. This establishes the backbone of DCHD’s ongoing efforts to implement and continuously work to improve DCHD’s CHIP.
- Provided need assessment data and evaluation plans for multiple grants and programs: vaccine hesitancy, overdose case management, EMS overdose data, and Chester City lead poisoning testing and remediation.
  - Collected need data/information, analyzed data, crafted evaluation measures/metrics, and wrote successful PADOH Bureau of Immunization supplemental funding grant (\$109,000) addressing vaccine hesitancy in Delco.
  - Collected data and provided consultation on grant application addressing overdose case management services to Delaware County Medical Examiner Office.
  - Assisted Regional EMS Director, Delaware County Regional EMS Office, with the design of data variables to better capture fatal and non-fatal drug overdose data.

## **Communications**

### **1. Old Business**

- December social media: 13 posts (images, videos, posters), including information about Test and Go Kiosks, HIV testing/STI clinics, health insurance access, holiday celebrations, holiday office closures, handwashing, norovirus, period product donation drive, and a 2024 DCHD recap.

### **2. New Business**

- Intensive work with Population and Personal Health on DCHD’s “Lead-Free 123” lead poisoning awareness campaign, which is targeted to launch in mid-February 2025.

- Testimonial videos recorded with Marcus Hook resident and East Lansdowne municipal official.
  - Collaborated with county on media and public communications related to Prospect Medical Holdings bankruptcy announcement, and logistics and promotion related to referring the public with questions or who want updates from the county regarding this matter to DCHD's Wellness Line.
- 3. Highlights/Successes
  - Collaborated with Personal Health and Administration to develop vaccine hesitancy communications and marketing plan and budget on a very short turnaround in December; successfully awarded \$100,000 from the state in Supplemental Award Funding to conduct this campaign.