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*Promoting and Protecting the Health of Delaware County*

**06/12/2025**

**Delaware County Board of Health Meeting**  
**Delaware County Department of Health Status Report**

Reporting Period: March – May 2025

## **I. Executive Summary**

DCHD sustained momentum in health programming, data modernization, and preparedness activities this quarter while being challenged by the regional crisis of the Crozer health system closure.

### **Key achievements:**

- Continued focus on operational modernization and building community trust, including a sustained focus on outreach in underserved communities.
- Provided intense responsive, data-informed public health leadership and public communications as part of County Emergency Operations Center activation in response to Chester Crozer and Taylor hospital closures, including:
  - Hosted two “Navigating Our Health Care System” public information panels - one in Yeadon on 4/5/25 (25 attendees) and the other in Chester on 4/24/25 (over 100 attendees). Partners included Keystone First, Pennie, MVP Recovery, ChesPenn, The Foundation for Delaware County, Delaware County Human Services, Woodlyn Pharmacy, and Elwyn.
  - Wellness Line answered questions and listened to concerns from community members about the closure (addressed 109 calls through June 9, 2025).
  - Analyzed and briefed on epidemiological and hospital surveillance data with the EOC team and response partners.
  - Maintaining a website with regular updates for the community on the Prospect Bankruptcy and county resources and information. Approximately 33,653 visitors representing 20,448 active website users from inception in February 2025 through June 9, 2025.
  - Managed re-homing of Crozer pediatric vaccine inventory.
- Submitted 2024-2025 Program Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Health in May 2025.
- Added two more Test and Go public health kiosks in Delaware County at high traffic locations in April 2025 at 69<sup>th</sup> Street Terminal in Upper Darby and Delaware Community College in Marple Township and continuing to provide harm reduction and health promotion products

conveniently and anonymously. Collaborated with the Delaware County District Attorney's office to include gun locks in all 5 kiosks in the county. Since being added, 128 keyed cable gun locks have been dispensed.

- Ongoing strong partnerships fueling Community Health Improvement Plan successes. Launched Delaware County Community Health Improvement Plan in DCHD's performance management platform (AchieveIt). Committee updates:
  - Maternal, Parental, & Infant Health. DCHD continues to work with MCH partners to provide educational resources to birthing people in Delaware County. This includes working toward a centralized referral system, and a perinatal service directory. Classes started on 6/2/25 with 12 students in the first cohort of the DCHD partnership with Villanova University, Temple University and Mainline Health on the Department of Labor-grant funded academic birth companion program that will serve Delaware County families.
  - Whole Person Care. DCHD has been working with county-contracted entities and community partners to bring new mental health and wellness resources to the Chichester School District, through a pilot program called "Pathways to Wellness." Regular classes were held with middle and high school students throughout the spring. Committee is collaborating with Main Line Health's Delaware County Overdose Response Team (DCORT), which is beginning a pilot program to connect people who have overdosed with resources for recovery.
  - Chronic Diseases. DHCH implemented a community survey to assess knowledge about breast cancer risk factors, prevention factors, and symptoms, and understand barriers to breast cancer screenings in May 2025. We heard from nearly 700 women. These data, along with findings from focus groups in the coming months will help us to identify specific health education and policy needs to enhance our breast cancer prevention activities. DCHD engaged 94 community members in DCHD Fitness and Me Program- a fitness and weight loss challenge- in partnership with Health Fitness Connections and other CHIP partners. The program featured community meet-ups in addition to mobile tracking of individual wellness metrics. DCHD also met with the American Lung Association to share asthma data recently reviewed, and to identify opportunities for collaboration and resource leveraging.
- Initiated Mosquito Borne Disease surveillance in the county in May.
- Successful pool opening season with 100 pools inspected for the Memorial Day opening weekend.
- Strategically directed grant funding, with improved tracking tools. This included finalizing public health programming under the DCHD's HRSA Congressionally Directed Spending Health Equity grant, scheduled to end on July 31, 2025. More details will be provided after grant close out, but implemented a range of successful projects to build infrastructure and capacity at DCHD and support health equity in Delco including:
  - Providing Delco healthcare professionals with blood lead point of care machines completing a comprehensive lead education and outreach campaign in the first half of 2025.

- Implemented the Once Upon a Premie virtual training academy focused on delivering health and racial equity educational programs for 77 healthcare professionals serving perinatal and neonatal infants in Delaware County.
- Implemented a cold storage program supporting 8 community pantries throughout Delaware County (St. Katharine Drexel, True Vine, Lifewerks, Campbell Community Center, Aids Care Group, SREHUP, Murphy's Giving Market, and Loaves and Fishes).

### Challenges:

- Compounding negative impacts countywide from the Crozer and Taylor hospital closures.
- The Commonwealth Court issued a decision supporting the 7 of the 13 the municipalities suing not to be under DCHD's jurisdiction for environmental health licenses and inspections on 5/6/25. A decision is still pending for the remaining 6 jurisdictions.
  - For now, DCHD is continuing its existing stance in all 13 of these jurisdictions (Aston, Clifton Heights, Darby Township, Eddystone, Lower Chichester, Marple, Middletown, Ridley Park, Ridley Township, Springfield, Thornbury, Tinicum, and Upper Chichester) – DCHD continues to provide non environmental health public health services in these municipalities but is not conducting any environmental health programming in these municipalities.
  - Discussions with County and the state regarding next steps are ongoing.
- Updated infant mortality data (2019-2023) from the state for the City of Chester demonstrates continued concerning levels but a decreasing trend from the previous year's data, both for all infants (18.1) and for Black infants (20.5). Babies who die with less than 28 days of life (neonatal period) remain the highest concern.
- Increased perinatal Hep B cases in Delaware County and statewide due to updated CDC guidelines – *CDC now recommends that all pregnant women be tested for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) early in each pregnancy, regardless of previous vaccination or testing.*
- Persistent infrastructure concerns at DCHD facilities.
- Increase in turnover, especially among clinical staff. Reflects ongoing challenges with competitive compensation and retention.

## II. Programmatic Updates

### Epidemiology:

- **Hospital Surveillance:**
  - Continued increased demands on other hospitals in the region post Crozer Chester (4/30/25) and Taylor Hospital (4/26/25) closures, heaviest burden on Riddle and then Mercy Fitzgerald.
  - ED visits from Chester City to neighboring hospitals (Riddle, Mercy Fitzgerald) increased substantially; abdominal/GI complaints higher.

- **Syndromic Surveillance Highlights (May 2025):**
  - Slight increase in pneumonia among adults 65+
  - Slight increase in influenza diagnoses (ages 12–17)
  - Increased rash syndrome (ages 18–24)
  - Increased GI syndrome (ages 5–11)
  - Increased injury cases (ages 12–17)
  - Sharp increase in rash syndrome (ages 0–4)
  - Sharp increase in tick bite syndrome (ages 12–17)
- **Wastewater Surveillance (May 2025):**
  - Norovirus detected at medium levels
  - All other pathogen levels remain low
- **Infant Mortality**
  - In May 2025, Dr. Rullan presented on DCDH’s Delco 2016-2020 excess infant mortality, Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) analysis to the statewide PA DOH Epidemiology meeting
  - Updated 2023 Chester City data shared by PADOH. DCHD/Dr. Rullan's review of this information detected a data error from the state; PADOH acknowledged the error and submitted an updated report on Chester City infant mortality ([https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/health/documents/topics/healthstatistics/vitalstatistics/maternalchildhealth/documents/maternal\\_and\\_child\\_health\\_chester\\_2023.pdf](https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/health/documents/topics/healthstatistics/vitalstatistics/maternalchildhealth/documents/maternal_and_child_health_chester_2023.pdf)):  
Number of infant deaths (all races) = 43  
  
Number of births (all races) = 2,373  
Infant Mortality Rate = number infant deaths / total number of births x 1,000  
**IMR = 43/2373 x 1000 = 18.12 infant deaths per 1,000**

RESIDENT INFANT DEATHS, NUMBER AND RATE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2023 AND 2019-2023				
RACE or ETHNICITY	2023		2019-2023	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
ALL RACES	7	ND	43	29.9
WHITE	0	ND	2	ND
BLACK	5	ND	34	47.2
ASIAN/PI*	0	ND	0	ND
MULTI-RACE	1	ND	2	ND
HISPANIC	1	ND	6	ND

- **Analytical Work**
  - Creating formulas to control for the effect of age in mortality, including direct age adjustment and standardized mortality ratios and measure cancer and heart disease rates by Delco municipalities.

- Building new electronic dashboard that combines reportable diseases data (from PA NEDSS) with geographical information systems (GIS) to map and display charts of reportable diseases trends and historical limits.
- Developing approaches for longer term monitoring/surveillance post Crozer closures
  - Number of STI laboratory reports in PA NEDSS after Crozer closure
  - Monitoring/reporting emergency department visits after Crozer closure
- Evaluating health outcomes before and after COVID-19 pandemic, including
  - Delco asthma rates before and after COVID-19
  - Delco measles vaccine (MMR) rates before and after COVID-19
  - Calculation of Chester City infant mortality rates before, during, and after COVID-19

## Population Health:

### Preparedness:

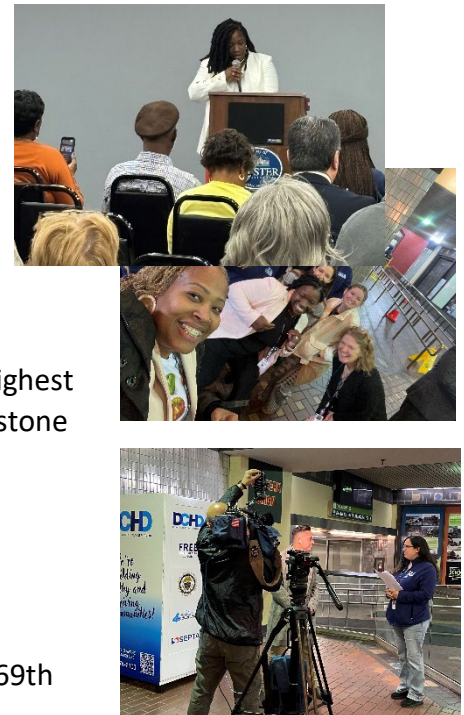
- Active planning for FEMA-supported Delaware County Medical Countermeasures exercise (June 17, 2025), which will be the first exercise in DCHD's Yeadon health department EOC.
- Significant support to Delaware County EOC activation for preparedness and then response to the Crozer hospital closures, as described in key achievements section above.

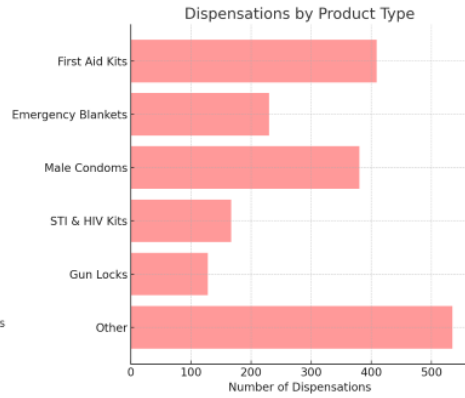
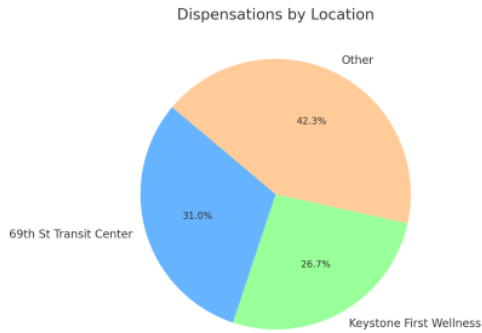
### Test and Go Kiosks: January – June 5th, 2025 Summary:

- Successful launch of two new kiosks in April 2025 – one at 69<sup>th</sup> Street Terminal in Upper Darby, and the other at Delaware County Community College in Marple Township!
- Since January, there have been a total of **1,849** dispensations. The highest volumes are from 69th Street Transit Center (**573**, 31%) and the Keystone First Wellness Center (**493**, 27%).

The most requested products were first aid kits (**409**, 22%) followed by

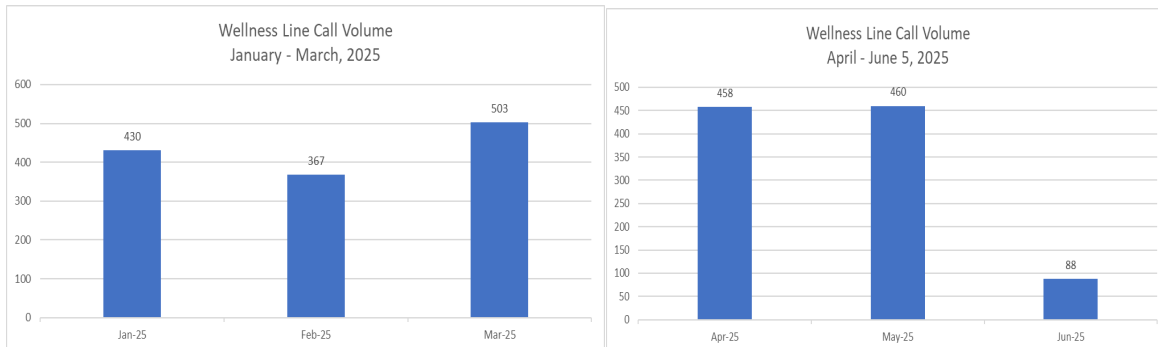
- Emergency blankets (230, 12%).
- Male condoms accounted for **380** dispensations (21%).
- There has been a total of **167** STI & HIV kits dispensed, mostly from 69th Street Station (**56**) and Keystone First Wellness Center (**47**).
- Since being added, **128** keyed cable gun locks have been dispensed.



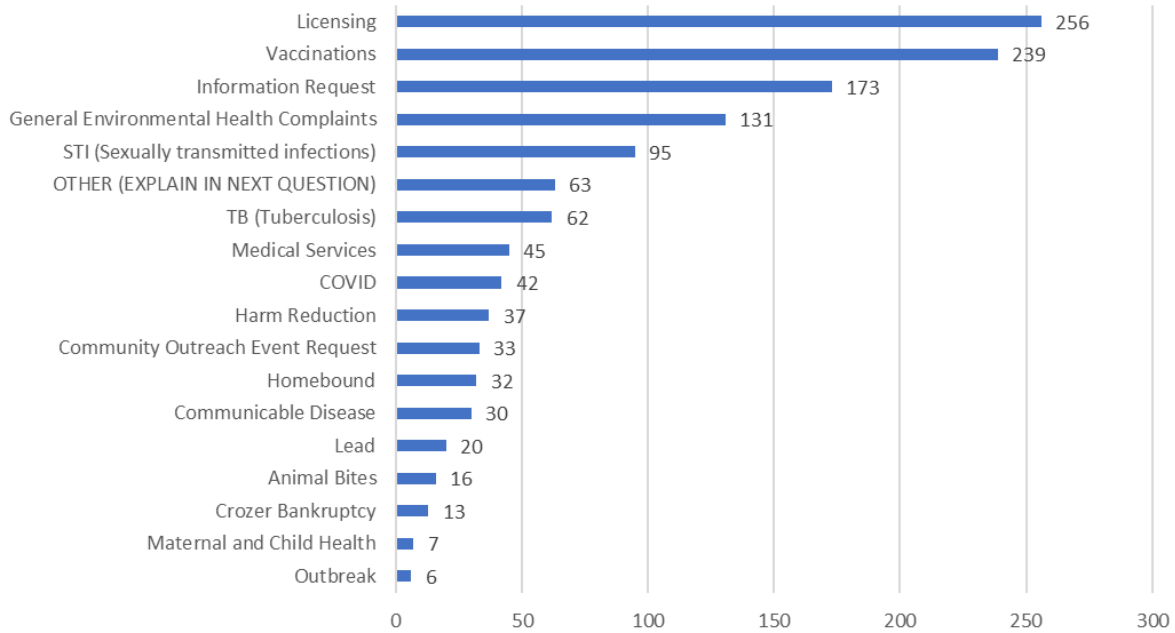


## Call Center

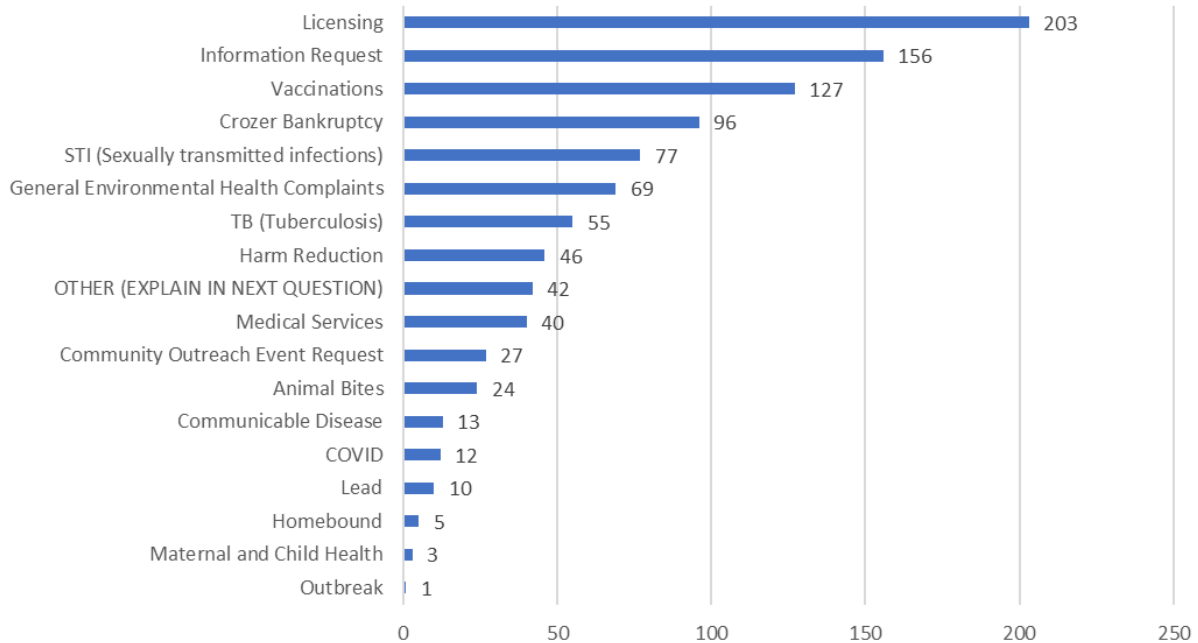
- Wellness Line call volume increased 37% from February to March and has remained steady since then.
- Most calls in both quarters related to licensing, information requests or vaccinations: 48% in Q1 and 51% in Q2.
- During Q1, only 1% of calls were related to the Crozer Bankruptcy. This increased to 10% during Q2 when Crozer closed on May 2, 2025. It was the 4th most common reason for calls in Q2.



Wellness Line Reason for Call  
January - March 2025



Wellness Line Reason for Call  
April - June 5, 2025



## Personal Health:

- **Immunization Team:**

- DCHD received a large donation of private vaccine stock from Crozer upon their hospital closures.
  - DCHD will focus on using this private vaccine stock to aid in immunization efforts in Chester City.
- Upper Darby School District Health Fair held on May 3, 2025, coordinated by DCHD School Nurse Liaison.
  - DCHD participated, offering resources and education on STI/HIV, TB, Lead, Delco Revive, and immunizations.
  - 48 students vaccinated, with a total of 62 vaccines given.
- Significant increase in HPV vaccinations (109 doses YTD vs. 12 prior year).

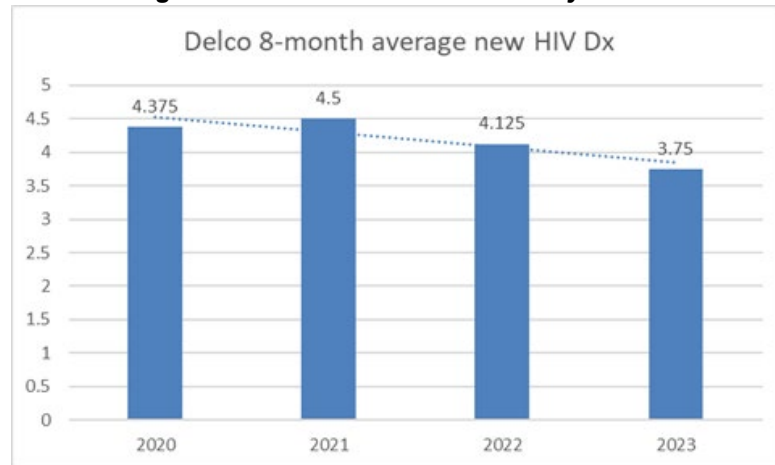
- **Tuberculosis (TB)**

- 15 active, 44 LTBI patients

- **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)/HIV:**

- Expanded high school and community education.
- 11 new HIV cases reported this quarter (*second highest in PA outside Philadelphia*).
  - Even with this increase, DCHD's number of new diagnosis of HIV is trending downward

***8-month average because the data for 2023 only included 8 months***



- **Maternal Child Health (MCH):**

- Hep A and Hep B vaccines administered at Harwood recovery homes

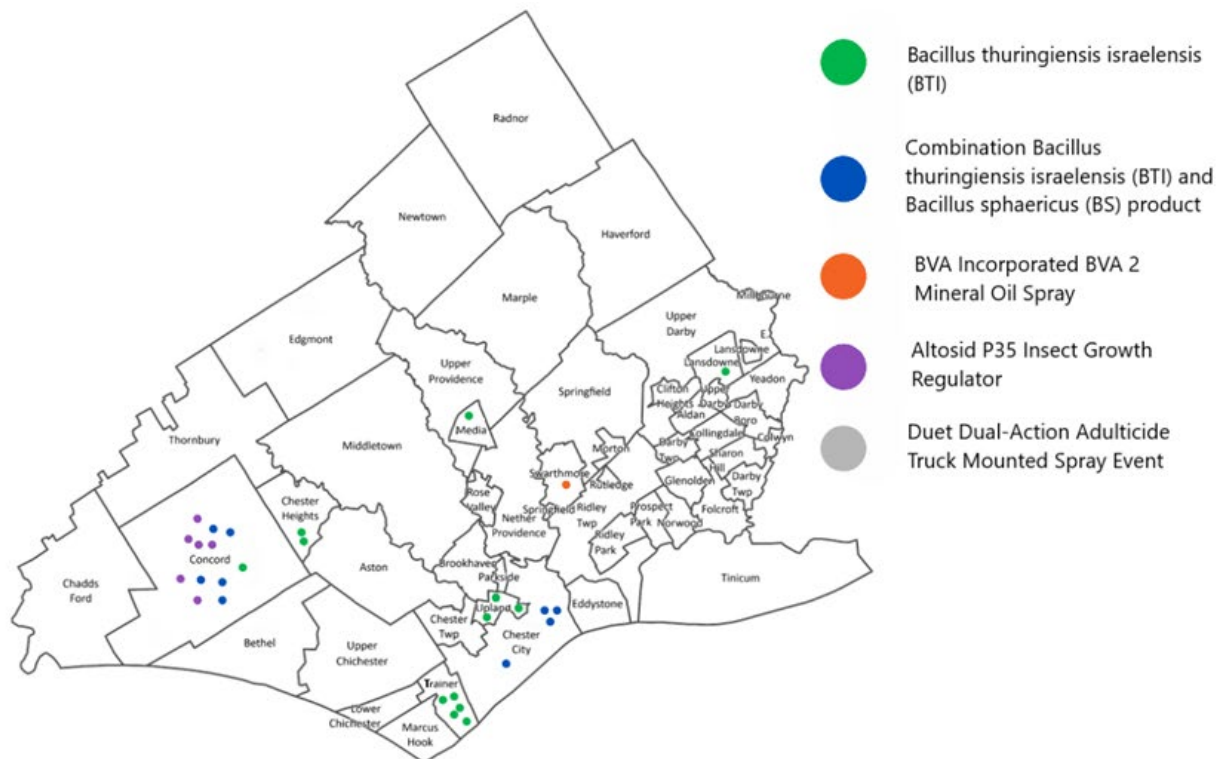
- **Lead Program:**

- Engaged pediatric providers regarding Lead Point-of-Testing Program (Lansdowne Park Pediatrics, Drexel Hill Pediatrics and Dr. Kazi Islam's office).



## Environmental Health:

- **Food Safety:**
  - Conducted 454 inspections in May.
    - 323 Food Inspections
    - 31 Institutions
  - 100 Pool inspections completed
- **Mosquito-borne Disease Control (MDC):**
  - Surveillance Data:
    - 12 Larval treatments were conducted between 5/23 – 5/30
    - Approximately 150 larvae collected 5/23 – 5/30
    - Approximately 350 adult mosquitoes collected 5/23 – 5/30
    - 62 ticks collected 5/23 – 5/30
      - Tick lab results not yet available



## MDC Treatments 5/23/25 - 5/29/25

## IT Workforce/Performance Data Systems:

- **AchieveIT Launch:**
  - Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) went live early May with 81 performance measures tracked across 3 priority areas.

- Discussions are in progress to provide DCHD all staff visibility to the program plan.
- **EzEMR (DCHD's Electronic Health Record) System Update:**
  - A comprehensive onboarding manual is being developed in collaboration with Personal Health stakeholders, covering clinical, non-clinical, and inventory workflows.
  - System testing is underway to improve appointment reminders for new patients, with a permanent upgrade expected by Q3 2025.
  - Planning is in progress to integrate inventory management and patient registration for the Mobile Health Unit.
  - Several user-identified issues have been addressed, including STI inventory transfers, parent name entry for minors, task screen refresh rates for homebound visits, and bloodwork label printing.
  - The quarterly PA Change Control Board meetings will include representatives from the Personal Health team, including Cortress Hayes and Jani Seals.
- **Workday:**
  - Intensive county wide efforts continue with target of implementation fall 2025; this includes significant time from DCHD CFO and Data Modernization Specialist every week.
  - Current focus is end-to-end testing (including user security settings).
  - Grants – build and testing remains behind schedule at a County level.
  - Inventory – DCHD Yeadon Wellness Center Warehouse inventory has been submitted to Workday to build.
- **Qualtrics Survey Alternative – JOTFORM & FRESHWORKS:**
  - DCHD is evaluating cost saving alternatives to Qualtrics for when that contract ends in December 2025.
  - Contract discussions for Jotform and Freshworks alternatives are ongoing. Estimated implementation of both systems is scheduled for August-October 2025.

## **Personnel Summary:**

- Recent Turnover Activity:
  - 3 involuntary terminations.
  - 2 retirements.
  - 5 resignations, including two nurses who left for higher-paying positions.
- DCHD is evaluating staffing structure and resource allocation to support program continuity and strategic realignment in the current environment of federal funding uncertainty. Some of the recent separations helped align staffing levels with recent grant funding reductions, supporting budget compliance.
- A subset of current and former employees attended the June 4 County Council meeting and requested Council support for DCHD employees unionizing.

## IV. Financial Report

### Budget Planning, Expenditures & Grant Drawdowns:

- Robust activity across all grants (PHIG, ELC, HIV, TB) to prepare for the end of the current fiscal year. Examples include:
  - PHIG cumulative spend: \$1.43M (remaining: \$4.53M).
  - PHEP/CRI funds utilization: 63.5%.
  - HIV program YTD spend: \$385K (75.7%).
  - HRSA Health Equity funds drawn: \$901K.
  - MRC STTRONG funding concluded 5/31; future expenses for June non-reimbursable.
- Budget planning for FY25-26 in progress for start of DCHD's next fiscal year 7/1/25.

### Revenue Collection:

- \$332K year-to-date in accounts receivable from licensing and inspections.

### Sponsorship Contributions:

- \$7,700 in ad hoc funding received from community partners (Walmart, Franklin Mint, Pennie).

## V. Challenges & Opportunities

### Crozer Closure:

- Displacement of services impacting Chester residents.
- Increased ED usage in surrounding areas.

### Perinatal Hep B Caseload:

- Reached an all-time high (104 cases), stressing program resources.

### Infrastructure Concerns:

- Persistent air quality and plumbing issues at wellness centers; mitigation efforts include HEPA filter installations and system upgrades.

### Opportunities:

- CHIP implementation allows real-time tracking of health outcomes and priorities.
- Collaborations with pediatricians and community organizations position DCHD as a local leader in wraparound health services connections.

## VI. Upcoming Highlights/Success Stories

### June Highlights:

- 17 Mosquito borne Disease Control Outreach Events planned with community partners from May through September 2025.

- Latest in Jefferson/DCHD mammogram partnership events held on 6/6/25 Chester; approximately 10 patients were screened.
- In partnership with Dr. Kristen Motley/Health Commissioner for the City of Chester, DCHD is launching Medical Records Help Sessions at senior centers in various locations in June and July to help seniors obtain their medical records after the Crozer closure. Locations include Chester Senior Center, Good Neighbor Senior Center/Sharon Hill, Upper Darby Senior Center, Access Center in Chester, Schoolhouse Senior Center/Folsom, Friendship Circle/Darby, and Surrey Services for Seniors/Media. First session on 6/12/25.
- FEMA-supported EOC functional exercise will be held on 6/17/25.
- DCHD leading health aspects of Academy Park Job and Health Fair on 6/27/25 in partnership with Councilman Womack and County HR.
- DCHD-hosted ServSafe Certified Food Manager class with PSU Extension scheduled for 6/30/25.

#### **July Priorities:**

- Ongoing Medical Records Help Sessions at senior centers.
- County Blood Drive:
  - DCHD Operations is coordinating with the County Executive Director's Office to organize a County Employee Blood Drive.
  - The event is in partnership with the American Red Cross.
  - Blood donations will take place on **July 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, at two locations: Government Center and Baldwin Tower.

#### **August Priorities:**

- Back-to-School Health Event (8/2/25 Crozer and 8/16/25 Yeadon)
  - Chester event is in collaboration with local pediatricians and Senator Kaine's office to provide physicals and vaccines to Chester residents who were affected by the Crozer closure.
  - Over 16 vendors confirmed for Yeadon event, and donations supply collection underway.

#### **October Priorities:**

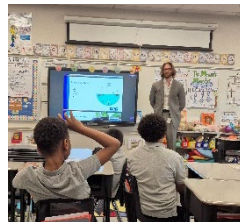
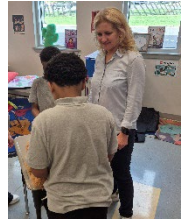
- Mass Care Functional Exercise (10/11/25)

#### **Success Stories:**

- A resident who contacted DCHD's call center for post-partum depression support was reached while receiving treatment in the emergency room. With the resident's consent, DCHD's Maternal Child Health Project Supervisor/Robert Speer shared the resident's information with partner agencies for follow-up care. DCHD was able to facilitate additional support services for the resident via the Foundation for Delaware County.
- DCHD's Data Modernization Specialist/Patrick Dupont was sponsored by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) to attend NACCHO's 1st annual

Transforming Informatics for Local Health Departments Convening in Atlanta, GA. Developed in collaboration with the CDC's Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology (OPHDST), the workshop focused on improving data collection, analysis, and utilization to strengthen public health responses. Key topics included strategic planning for informatics, data modernization, and technology solutions.

- PA DOH Epidemiology/Dr. Rullan received high praise for his presentation at a PADOH statewide epidemiology meeting with 132 attendees from across Pennsylvania on DCHD's analysis of Delco 2016-2020 excess infant mortality (Perinatal Periods of Risk, PPOR report) in April 2025.
- Environmental Health/Marie Carbonara presented at Lower Merion High School Career Symposium Career Day. Students were high school sophomores and juniors, and each session was engaging and the students asked excellent questions. Environmental Health/Marie Carbonara and Zach Babel also presented to the 2nd grade STEM class at The Chester Charter Scholars Academy about DCHD's mosquito borne disease control work. The students walked away with some great information to share with their families, friends and community. This generation is ready to make a positive impact on their environment and help DCHD continue to educate Delaware County on living their healthiest life.
- DCHD's School Nurse Liaison Diana Dur led a successful Haverford School Nurse Event – 8 school nurses from throughout the Haverford School District spent their professional development day with DCHD. They toured the Yeadon wellness center and heard presentations from across DCHD including Population Health, Epidemiology, STI, and Perinatal Hep B/Lead.



- Using HRSA grant funding, Communications Specialist/Matt Rankin led installation of an outreach campaign at 69th Street terminal to promote DCHD and the Test and Go kiosks.

