

Annual Report 2019 Executive Summary



Delaware State Health Improvement Plan

www.delawareship.org



**DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the first year of implementation within a five-year cycle, this 2019 Annual Report assesses policy improvements and the alignment of activities among nine key Delaware stakeholder groups (see Table 1, below) with the [2018-2023 Delaware State Health Needs Assessment](#) (DSHNA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). A SHIP is best practice for state health departments and is required for accreditation by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB).

The DSHNA identified and prioritized local and statewide strategies that address critical health needs. This data was gathered with four nationally recognized [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships](#) assessments: forces of change, local public health assessment, community themes and strengths, and community health status. The DSHNA identified four areas of priority focus: chronic disease; maternal and child health; substance use disorders; and mental health. Fourteen recommendations were provided to address these four priority areas (See Table 2, opposite).

Table 1. Key Stakeholder Groups

- [Addiction Action Committee](#)
- [Delaware Behavioral Health Consortium \(BHC\)](#)
- [Delaware Cancer Consortium \(DCC\)](#)
- [Delaware Chronic Disease Coalition](#)
- [DPH- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Section](#)
- [DHSS- Substance Use Disorder Strategy Mapping Team](#)
- [Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium \(DHMIC\)](#)
- [Delaware Healthy Neighborhoods \(SIM grant\)](#)
- [University of Delaware Partnership for Healthy Communities \(PHC\)](#)

Source: Summary of Delaware State Health Needs Assessment and Delaware State Health Improvement Plan Recommendations Report 2017

There is substantial alignment underway across each of the Delaware SHIP priority areas, with most emphasis on chronic disease. SHIP Team members assessed the extent to which planned or implemented strategies discussed at stakeholder meetings aligned with the SHIP recommendations and priority areas. The greatest degree of alignment within the chronic disease area was observed in “making the healthy choice the easy choice.” The least amount of alignment is occurring around efforts to increase the number of Medicaid dental providers in underserved areas.



Table 2. SHIP Priority Areas and Recommendations

Chronic Disease

1. Reduce obesity by promoting healthy diet and exercise
2. Increase access to healthy foods
3. Improve the built environment
4. Promote access to remote patient monitoring for patients with chronic conditions
5. Increase access to community health workers and care coordination
6. Reduce lung disease (e.g. asthma, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
7. Increase the number of primary care physicians in underserved areas
8. Increase the number of Medicaid dental providers in underserved areas
9. Develop a focused effort to “make the healthy choice the easy choice”

Maternal & Child Health

10. Embed education for pre- and inter-conception care in schools

Substance Use Disorders

11. Reduce tobacco and tobacco-substitute use
12. Reduce substance use

Mental Health

13. Improve access to behavioral and mental health services

System-wide Recommendations

14. Adopt a Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) change approach to promoting health in all policies, incorporating a social marketing approach, and addressing the social determinants of health

Source: Summary of Delaware State Health Needs Assessment and Delaware State Health Improvement Plan Recommendations Report 2017

In the area of maternal and child health, stakeholder groups were more aligned to promote health education and emphasize healthy parenting in schools and less aligned around efforts to incorporate graduated levels for health education in schools. In addressing substance use disorder, stakeholder groups were in strong alignment to reduce substance use disorders and were very focused on opioid use disorder in the wake of the current epidemic.

There was less alignment to reduce tobacco and tobacco substitute use; however, the passage and signing of Senate Bill 25 in 2019 raised the minimum age to buy tobacco and vape products from 18 to 21, a sign of great progress.

In the area of mental health, stakeholders were most aligned around improving access to behavioral and mental health services, with less alignment on providing each school with a trained mental health provider. However, efforts to help fund and/or expand these type of services are underway through the FY2020 Delaware budget and the federal State Opioid Response grant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (continued)

Despite extensive coordination, gaps in alignment remain across the following SHIP recommendations (see Figure 1, opposite):

- Increase access to healthy foods to reduce heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes;
- Improve the built environment to promote walking, biking, and other forms of active transportation;
- Promote access to remote patient monitoring for patients with chronic conditions;
- Increase access to primary care by increasing the number of primary care physicians in underserved areas; and
- Increase access to dental care by increasing the number of Medicaid dental providers in underserved areas.

The DSHNA also determined that none of these recommendations can or should be implemented separately. To receive the biggest benefit, the Delaware SHIP recommended a policy, systems and environmental (PSE) approach. System-wide, stakeholders have promoted health in all policies, engaged in social marketing campaigns, and addressed the social determinants of health. Strategies are underway to make neighborhood-level data more transparent and accessible, while working to align efforts and investments in improving social determinant conditions. SHIP processes (including statewide gatherings and webinars; a new SHIP website with information, resources, and stakeholder spotlights; and increased efforts to expand and grow engagement and alignment) will help refine and realize SHIP goals for a healthier Delaware.



“making the healthy choice the easy choice”

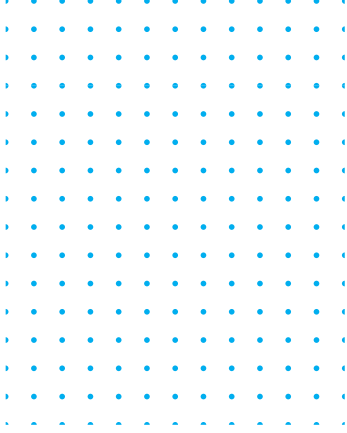
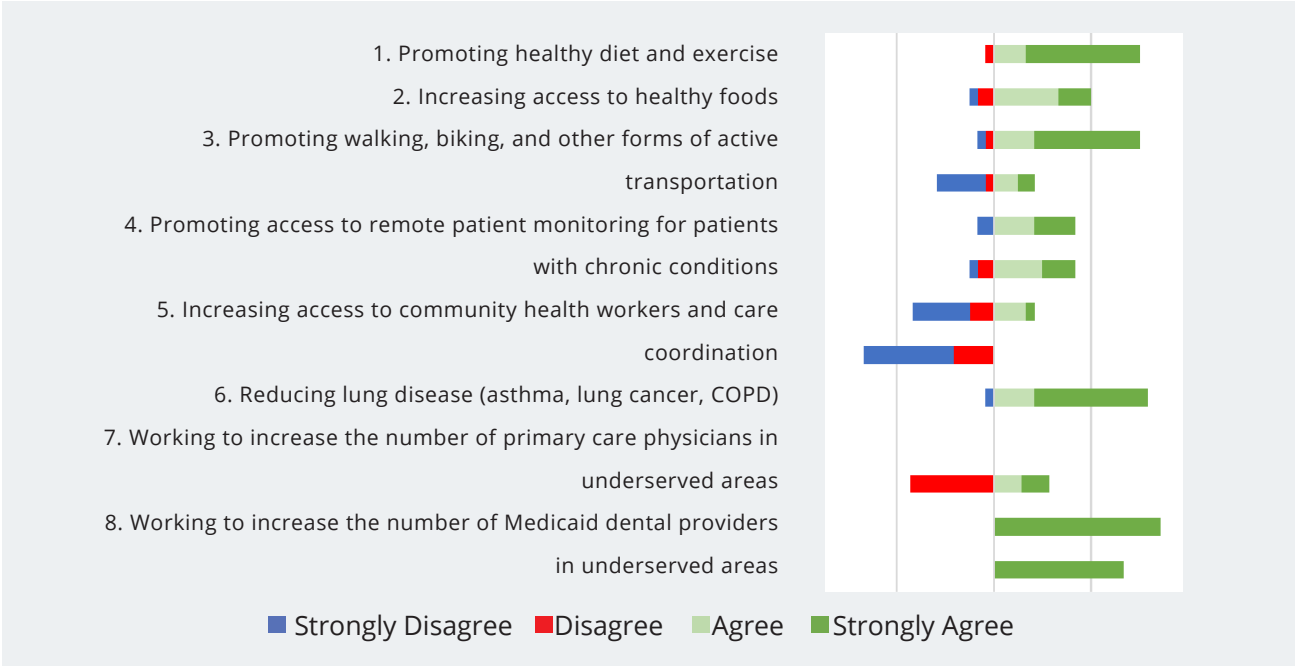
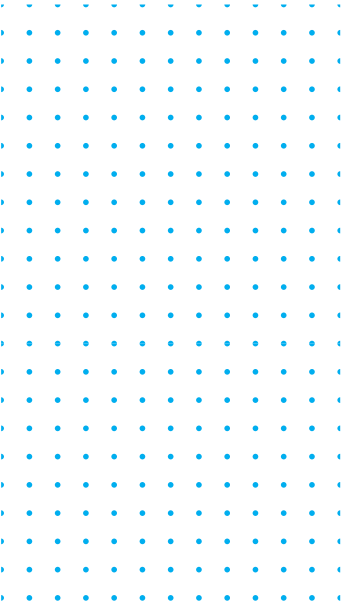


Figure 1. Alignment of Programs with SHIP Recommendations, 2018-2019



Source: STAT Summary Observations from 38 Stakeholder Meetings conducted between May 2018 and June 2019



2019

**ANNUAL
REPORT
Executive Summary**

for complete report visit the website.

Delaware State Health Improvement Plan

www.delawareship.org



*DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES*
Division of Public Health