

2018 Annual Report on the Virginia's Plan for Well Being

Together with its partners, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) aims to make Virginia the healthiest state in the nation. Using Virginia's Plan for Well Being (The Plan) as a guidance document, VDH monitors its shared progress for population health improvement as measured by multiple health indicators outlined in the 2018 Annual Progress Report. Using data to evaluate progress helps VDH to assess whether its strategies and systems are effective, and to make adjustments when needed.

As part of this continual improvement process, VDH is committed to the ongoing assessment and mitigation of health inequities that exist across the Commonwealth. The measures presented in the Annual Progress Report are at a state level; different communities may have different population health concerns. Health disparities and health inequities analyzed at lower geographic levels (e.g., county, health district, etc.), or within subpopulations, are more meaningful to guide action. This work is inculcated at the local level through community health assessment and community health improvement planning processes, which is driven by collective impact.

Progress on Metrics

The Plan outlines a path for improving the health and well-being of Virginians through four aims, 13 goals, and 29 measures. The table attached indicates the updated figure for each measure in The Plan, with the most current data available. The accompanying technical document provides more detail on values, data sources, and descriptions of each measure.

Of the 26 measures for which there is available data at the time of this report, 11 are showing marked improvement, although at different degrees. Of these, one measure (pregnancies per 1000 females ages 15-19 years old) has exceeded the goal that was originally set forth in The Plan. The remaining 15 measures persist as areas of focus, in that they have evidenced little to no change, or in some cases, have decreased further away from the intended goal. The measure regarding mental health and substance use hospitalization rate, marked with an asterisk, is one that is markedly worsening.

Improving Measures

- Ongoing collaborative community health planning process
- Pregnancies per 1,000 females ages 15-19 years
- Percent of third graders who pass the Standards of Learning Third Grade reading assessment
- HPV vaccine-girls
- HPV vaccines- boys
- Healthcare providers with a certified electronic health record
- Entities connected through the Health Information Exchange
- Hospitals meeting state goal for prevention of C Diff infections
- Avoidable deaths from heart disease, stroke, or HTN
- Adults using tobacco
- Infant mortality of black infants

Areas of Focus

- Percent of high school graduates enrolled in higher education within 16 months of graduation
- Percent of cost burdened households
- Percent of adults not participating in any physical activity
- Percent of adults overweight/obese
- Percent of adults receiving an annual influenza vaccine
- Percent of adults who receive colorectal cancer screening
- Percent of adults with a regular healthcare provider
- Percent of adults reporting 1+ days of poor health that kept them from doing usual activities
- Local health departments with an electronic health record
- Children not meeting the PALS-K Benchmark
- Percent of adults reporting at least one (1) adverse childhood experience
- Mental health/substance use hospitalization rate*

Further investigation into the drivers behind this lack of improvement in many areas is warranted. Many factors play into these measures and improvement will require a more holistic, cross-sector approach to observe positive change in these areas of focus.

Inventory of Local Community/Population Health Initiatives and Strategies

In 2018, VDH completed a project to inventory community-based collaborative activities and population health initiatives, plans, and coalitions that local health districts (LHDs) participate in or lead throughout the Commonwealth. VDH is identifying initiatives with common goals, objectives, and metrics. A comparison of the activities and projects in the inventory to metrics within The Plan will allow for alignment and intentionality of effort and shared results. Of the 492 efforts collected from LHDs, Aims 1 (70%) and 3 (67%) were more widely represented across the efforts than Aims 2 (36%) and 4 (32%). The majority of efforts seek to benefit these community sectors: health, parents and families, youth and children, education, human services, and government.

Next Steps:

Partnership for a Healthy Virginia

The Partnering for a Healthy Virginia Initiative is a new collaboration between the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. This partnership is aimed at improving Virginia's performance on population health metrics through building a broad-based, multi-sector coalition. The initiative is founded on the shared goal of making Virginia the healthiest state in the nation and is designed to build upon the existing strong partnership between these two organizations. The work will have a focus on coordinating the implementation of programs and services to improve population health across the Commonwealth with community health assessments serving as the primary driver of these efforts.

Virginia's not-for-profit hospitals complete community health needs assessments every three years as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Through this process, hospitals assess the health needs of the communities they serve and obtain data necessary to develop implementation strategies for priority areas. At the same time, other agencies, coalitions, and organizations also prepare local and statewide health improvement plans, which all address prioritized community health needs. Although these plans often overlap and share common goals, they can be better aligned and coordinated to achieve optimal performance on improving the population's health. The Partnership Advisory Committee, which already involves many of these local and state-level organizations, has convened twice, and the partnership is working to establish a shared agenda, performance metrics, and select potential demonstration projects.

State Health Assessment:

The next State Health Assessment is underway with an estimated completion date in December 2019. VDH staff are collecting and analyzing quantitative data as part of the Title V Needs Assessment. The State Health Assessment will build upon the Title V assessment (which has a focus on Maternal and Child Health populations) with other data sources to ensure a comprehensive assessment of health and well-being in Virginia. After the quantitative data is organized into population domain briefs, key populations of interest will be asked to consider the data and offer feedback and input into what they need to live healthy lives in Virginia. Stakeholders, including the Board of Health, will help review the data and consider the final development of the assessment recommendations and report.

The State Health Assessment will prioritize population health focal areas. In turn, VDH will lead the development of a new State Health Improvement Plan, using data to decide where to focus collective efforts and resources for the following five years. This improvement plan will include agreement on measures for monitoring and evaluation and will provide recommended strategies, systems level changes, and policy priorities to address needed areas of health improvement. Ownership of the identified strategies will fall on all collaborators involved in the process, as this work requires team effort. The state health assessment and improvement process will include a reinvigorated focus on health equity, and will address upstream drivers including the social determinants of health.