

Overview

The Pennsylvania State Health Assessment (PA SHA) will provide a “one-stop” summary of information on health status, health risks and healthcare services in Pennsylvania. It will also identify areas for health improvement; determine factors that contribute to health issues; and identify assets and resources that can be mobilized to address population health improvement. This assessment is scheduled to be completed by fall, 2013.



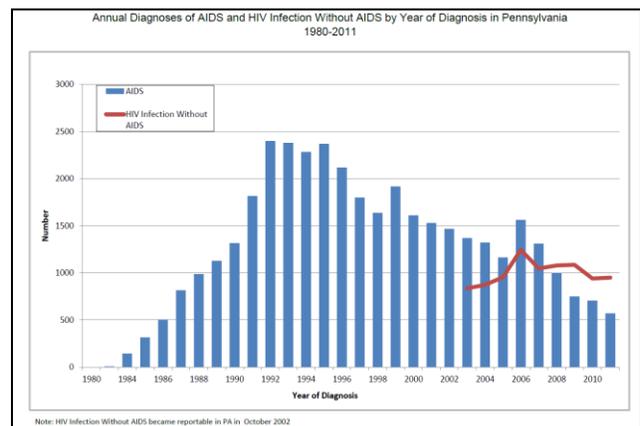
Collaborative Project

The PA SHA is being developed through a collaborative process with department bureaus and programs, other state agencies, and organizations that represent diverse state populations and state health challenges. National standards for public health departments, developed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Public Health Accreditation Board, are being used to identify best practices for the assessment.

Assessment Data

The PA SHA will be a primary source document for some topics. For others, it will be more of a “gateway” document providing basic information and leading readers to detailed information elsewhere. To the extent that data permit, each section will include:

- State and county health rates comparing the state to the nation or counties to the state.
- Time-series measures showing how the health issues have changed over time.
- National and state measures for Healthy People 2010 and progress toward Healthy People 2020.
- Measures identifying disparities by demographics.
- Factors that increase risk or protect individuals from the disease or condition.
- Research-based information on effective programs to reduce illness and injury and to optimize health.
- Reference to resources for additional information.



Major Topics

The major topics will include:

- The Context of Health
- General Health Status
- Major Risk and Protective Factors
- Infectious Diseases
- Chronic Diseases
- Injury and Violence
- Maternal and Child Health
- Environmental Health
- Healthcare Services
- Occupational Health

