



## Longest-running DPH program, Delaware WIC, reaches 50 years

Since 1974, the National and Delaware Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Programs have championed access to healthy food, breastfeeding support, health screenings, and referrals. On September 12, the Delaware WIC Program within the Division of Public Health (DPH) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a fun family event on Legislative Mall in Dover, Del. Delaware WIC supports 15,000 to 18,000 families every year.

Photos, clockwise, from top: Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long, center, presents a tribute. (From left to right: DPH Director Steven Blessing, First Spouse Tracey Quillen Carney, Delaware WIC Program Director Joanne White, former WIC director Deborah Clendaniel, Lt. Governor Hall-Long, former WIC director Beth Freeh, Dr. Patty Bennett, Regional Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Mid-Atlantic Region, and Christine Berberich, Branch Chief, Supplemental Food Programs.) The First Spouse reads her children's book, *Books for Blue*. Spiderman danced. WIC Nutritionist Natasshia Nealous, left, and Social Service Technician Julia Toalongo greet attendees. Photos by Alyssa Imprescia, DPH

## DPH publishes cancer data report

Delaware's cancer mortality rate continues to decline, according to the latest data from the Division of Public Health (DPH).

According to the DPH report, [Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Delaware, 2017-2021](#), Delaware and U.S. mortality rates dropped by an average of 1.8% and 1.5%, respectively, between 2007 and 2021. In the 2024 report, which looked at the 2017-2021 time period, Delaware ranked 16th among the states for highest all-site (i.e., all cancer types) cancer mortality, with lower rankings indicating cancer mortality rates.

"The decrease in cancer deaths in Delaware reflects earlier cancer detection, prevention, and better access to timely care and quality of life among cancer survivors," said Governor John Carney. "Thanks to the Delaware Cancer Consortium and the Division of Public Health, our cancer mortality rate has declined because they have worked diligently to prevent cancer, primarily through cancer screening."

Key findings include:

- Between 2007 and 2021, mortality rates for all-site cancer decreased among non-Hispanic White males, non-Hispanic White females, and non-Hispanic Black males year over year. All-site cancer mortality rates were stable among non-Hispanic Black females, Hispanic males, and Hispanic females in Delaware.
- Delaware has a lower prostate cancer mortality and a lower colorectal cancer mortality rate compared to the U.S.
- Uterine cancer is the fifth most diagnosed cancer in Delaware, followed by melanoma as the sixth most diagnosed cancer in Delaware.

"DPH is developing innovative approaches to reduce disparities in cancer outcomes," said DPH Director Steve Blessing. "It is our mission to continue to reduce preventable cancers, make sure all people get the right screening at the right time and that we support cancer survivors in living longer, healthier lives."

Read the report by visiting DPH's Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control at

<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/cancer.html>.



## Lung cancer screenings offered Saturday, Nov. 9

To reduce disparities, improve access to care, and save lives, the Division of Public Health (DPH) Screening for Life (SFL) Program is promoting lung cancer screening throughout the month of November. SFL will join its Delaware partners to commemorate National Lung Cancer Screening Day on Saturday, November 9, 2024.



[CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

This partnership, established by the American Cancer Society, asks health care providers to open their doors on the second Saturday in November to give low-dose CT lung screenings (LDCT) to referred individuals. For screening locations, visit the American College of Radiology's [Lung Cancer Screening Locator Tool](#).

“Delaware is proud to support National LCS Day, as this proactive approach is vital in saving lives and reducing the burden of lung cancer on families and communities within our state,” said Dawn Hollinger, chief of the DPH Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control. “Screenings are used to find cancer early when it is more treatable and even curable. Through this collaborative effort, we hope to increase awareness about the lifesaving benefits of lung cancer screening and encourage individuals at risk to take action.”

Lung cancer is one of the [deadliest forms of cancer](#). According to the [Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Delaware, 2017-2021](#) report, lung and bronchus cancer accounted for 28% of all new cancer deaths in the First State in the 2017-2021 time period. Lung and bronchus cancer was the second most common type of cancer after female breast cancer. Regarding incidence, of the 23 site-specific cancers analyzed during the 2017-2021 time period, lung and bronchus cancer accounted for 14% of all newly diagnosed cancer cases in Delaware after female breast cancer, which accounted for 17% of all new cancer cases.

For information about lung cancer screening, visit [www.healthydelaware.org/individuals/cancer/lung#intro](http://www.healthydelaware.org/individuals/cancer/lung#intro) or <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/lung-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/detection.html>. For SFL eligibility guidelines for Delaware adults, visit <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dph/dpc/sfl.html>. Follow [DPH Facebook](#) and [DPH Instagram](#) for screening events, educational materials, and more.

## Delaware Cancer Treatment Program helps over 2,000 people in 20 years

The [Delaware Cancer Treatment Program](#) (DCTP) is celebrating its 20th year ensuring that those diagnosed with cancer can access necessary medical care without the burden of overwhelming treatment costs. Since its inception in 2004, DCTP has served 2,088 people as of September 25, 2024.

DCTP works with health care providers across Delaware to ensure high-quality care is provided to Delawareans. Its financial assistance covers timely medical intervention, including doctor visits, medications related to treatment, and supportive care. Dependent upon enrollment status, it can provide up to two years of free cancer treatments, such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery, and other medically necessary treatments.

DCTP enrollees diagnosed with any type of cancer must meet specific benchmarks, including income eligibility, being uninsured, and being ineligible for Medicaid. Individuals who have insurance but face substantial out-of-pocket costs may also qualify for assistance.



To be considered for this program, applicants must submit the [DCTP application](#) within one year of their cancer treatment start date.

DCTP offers peace of mind during this major life challenge. It extends informative resources and counseling to help Delawareans know their treatment choices and direct patients through complex cancer care.

For more information about DCTP and to access application forms in English and Spanish, visit [HealthyDelaware.org](http://HealthyDelaware.org). Delawareans can also call 1-302-844-245-9580 to apply and 2-1-1 (toll-free) for more information.

**Learn how to prevent, detect, and treat chronic diseases and get help scheduling with a cancer screening.**  
**Visit Healthy Delaware at [www.healthydelaware.org/Individuals](http://www.healthydelaware.org/Individuals) or call the Delaware Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 302-744-1040.**

## Join the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Delaware Diabetes Wellness Expo on Nov. 12

The Delaware Diabetes Coalition proudly presents the 22nd Annual Delaware Diabetes Wellness Expo, an event that unites health care providers, businesses, and diabetes-related organizations in a celebration of wellness and resilience.

The Expo will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Delaware Technical Community College in the DEL-ONE Conference Center, located on the Terry Campus at 100 Campus Drive, Dover, Del. 19904.

The Delaware Diabetes Wellness Expo is a beacon of hope and empowerment for those affected by diabetes: individuals living with diabetes, caregivers, and those eager to learn more about prevention and management. Attendees will experience a day filled with inspirational educational sessions on managing diabetes, nutrition, and physical activity.

From health screenings to interactive exhibitor booths, attendees will discover practical tools for thriving with diabetes. With plenty of giveaways and demonstrations, it is a vibrant space for learning, networking, and taking the first step toward a healthier future.

Admission and lunch are free. Pre-register at <https://www.dediabetescoalition.org/> to skip the check-in line.

Vendors have the chance to showcase their offerings at one of Delaware's most impactful health events. Vendor registration closes on November 5, or once spaces are filled. [Click here](#) for the online vendor registration form.



The Division of Public Health provides helpful resources at the annual Delaware Diabetes Wellness Expo. DPH photo.

The Delaware Diabetes and Heart Disease Prevention and Control Program (DHDPCP), located within the Division of Public Health, is sponsoring this event. For more information about diabetes, including materials and classes, [click here](#) or call 302-744-1020.

## DPH accepting public comment

The Division of Public Health (DPH) seeks public comment until November 1, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. on proposed revisions to the following two regulations in Title 16 of the Delaware Administrative Code:

**4103 Inherited Metabolic Disorders** – DPH proposes to repeal the regulation because DPH no longer has designated funding for formula and cannot guarantee formula availability.

**4470 State of Delaware Marijuana Code** – Proposed revisions include, but are not limited to:

- Allowing health care providers to make the determination of whether a patient has a diagnosed medical condition for which the patient would receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the use of medical marijuana.
- Allowing patients aged 65 and older to self-certify their qualification for a Medical Marijuana Registry Identification Card without a written certification from a health care provider.
- Authorizing the Department of Health and Social Services to issue Medical Marijuana Registry Identification Cards with 1-, 2-, or 3-year expiration dates.

The proposed revisions are available online in the October 1, 2024 [Delaware Register of Regulations](#), accessible online at <http://regulations.delaware.gov> or by calling DPH at 302-744-4951.

Public comment is accepted in written form via email to [DHSS\\_DPH\\_regulations@delaware.gov](mailto:DHSS_DPH_regulations@delaware.gov), or by U.S. mail to: Vicki Schultes, Hearing Officer, Division of Public Health, 417 Federal Street, Dover, DE 19901.

Written comments on proposed amendments to [4465 Delaware Radiation Control Regulations](#) and [4466 Radiation Technologists/Technicians \(Certification\)](#) were reviewed by DPH, including amending the definition of “licensed practitioner” to be consistent with Title 16 of the Delaware Administrative Code. The proposed amendments became effective October 11, 2024.

DPH received one comment on the proposed new [4306 Stroke System Regulation](#) and determined that no changes will be made. The proposed regulation will become effective November 11, 2024.

## Cancer information available at community events

The Division of Public Health's Cancer Prevention and Control Program will have an information table at these public events:

- Monster Mile Walk for A Cure, Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Homestead Gardens, 5580 Dupont Highway, Smyrna, Del. 19901.
- Multi-Cultural Community Wellness Fair, Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lulu M. Ross Elementary School, 310 Lovers Lane, Milford, Del. 19963.

Information will be provided about Screening for Life and Health Care Connection programs that can provide eligible Delawareans with cancer screening tests and health care services through a network of providers at reduced cost.

## November 21 Working4Equity lecture spotlights antimicrobial stewardship

The Division of Public Health offers the virtual Working4Equity Lecture Series through its Health Equity Institute of Delaware and in partnership with the Medical Society of Delaware (MSD). The lectures are designed for working physicians and clinicians, and may appeal to scholars, practitioners involved in public health and health disparities work, community members, and for-profit businesses.

Jasmine Riviere Marcelin, MD, FACP, FIDSA will present "[How Antimicrobial Stewardship Can Influence Health Equity](#)" on November 21 at 6 p.m.

Dr. Marcelin is an Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is Vice Chair for Equity & Inclusiveness Excellence, Department of Internal Medicine, Associate Medical Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, and Co-Director, Digital Innovation & Social Media Strategy, Division of Infectious Diseases.

The lecture is free. Registration is required at <https://reg.planetreg.com/AntimicrobialStewardship>.

View all lectures at [MSD Events](#). Accredited continuing Medical Educational credits are available from MSD at nominal cost.

RECENTLY  
PUBLISHED



The Division of Public Health's Health Systems Protection Section published two reports:

- [State of Delaware Public Drinking Water Annual Compliance Report and Summary for 2023](#)
- [Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance in Delaware, 2023 Annual Report](#).

DPH's Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Section published the report, [Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Delaware, 2017-2021](#).

DPH staff co-authored three cancer articles published in the August 2024 issue of the *Delaware Journal of Public Health* (DJPH), [Cancer and the Power of Preventive Screening](#) (Volume 3, Issue 3):

- "Development of Sub-County Cancer Reporting Zones in Delaware and Example Use Case for Targeted Interventions"
- "Sustaining Improvements in Colorectal Cancer Across Delaware: A Look at Racial Disparities a Decade Later"
- "Evaluating Quality of Cancer Care in Delaware using Commission on Cancer (CoC) Quality Measures, 2018-2019."

DJPH published the [Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Delaware, 2016-2020](#) report in the same issue.

## Assistive technology devices available

Amplified phones, ergonomic computer equipment, and Smart home technology are provided by the Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative (DATI).

Individuals who can benefit from such AT tools can contact DATI at 800-870-3284 or [dati-ud@udel.edu](mailto:dati-ud@udel.edu). They can visit the New Castle or Kent/Sussex Assistive Technology Resource Centers to borrow AT tools to test in real-life settings. Transportation services to the resource centers can be provided.

This program is available through 2024 at no cost to Highmark Health Options members referred by their Long Term Services and Supports case manager, care coordinator, or service coordinator.