



**PennState Health**

2024  
Community  
Benefit Report



**ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY.  
STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES.**

FOCUSING ON

Mental health

Health equity

Wellness and disease prevention





# INSIDE

- 4 | [Message for our community](#)
- 5 | [Community impact](#)
- 6 | [The communities we serve](#)
- 7 | [The patients we serve](#)
- 8 | [Strengthening food and nutrition security](#)
- 9 | [Progress isn't always a straight line](#)
- 10 | [What is health equity?](#)
- 12 | [Angel of Lancaster: Penn State Health community nurse addresses health inequities person by person](#)
- 14 | [Welcome to Penn State Health's flu shot drive-through](#)
- 16 | [Lessons for the mind: Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center stroke team outreach focuses on stopping strokes](#)
- 18 | ['Reapply so you don't fry': Penn State Health Dermatology educates kids about sunscreen](#)
- 20 | ['We find people who fall through the cracks': Community health workers connect care and people who need it](#)
- 22 | [Boosting a healthy community](#)
- 25 | [Improving health outcomes through health equity](#)
- 26 | [The butterfly: A symbol of transformation](#)
- 27 | [Our progress in advancing health equity](#)
- 28 | [About Penn State Health](#)
- 30 | [Thank you to our partners](#)

Cover photo: Summer Mateo, 5, left, receives an eye exam at the Lebanon Free Clinic with the help of Tara Simmons, a community health nurse from Penn State Health.



Dear Friends,

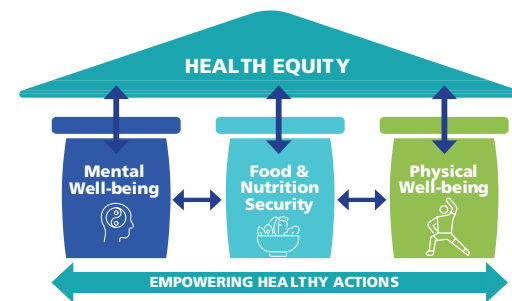


At Penn State Health, we are dedicated to being the best place to receive care, practice medicine and work, inspired by the communities we serve. Our employees go above and beyond by bringing essential health services to people beyond our hospital walls. You'll see a snapshot of our ongoing efforts in this Community Benefit Report, titled "Advancing Health Equity. Strengthening Our Communities."

By living our core "RITE" values of Respect, Integrity, Teamwork and Excellence, we address the disparities that create health inequities. We partner with community organizations, shelters, schools, faith-based organizations and others to connect low-income and unsheltered people to health care. We also teach children about stroke and skin cancer, support underserved schools with health assessments, provide free flu shots and support the mental health of people who fall through the cracks.

This year, we are proud to share a major milestone: our employees touched more than **one million lives** through our community health programs in fiscal year 2024 – a first for our health system. These programs focused on mental health, health equity, and wellness and disease prevention – the most critical needs identified in our 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment.

As we work on the third year of our current Community Health Needs Assessment cycle, we've completed the 2024 assessment, approved by the Penn State Health Board of Directors. It reaffirms the importance of mental well-being and highlights food and nutrition security and physical well-being as the most urgent needs, focused on the overarching goal of achieving health equity. The graphic on the right offers a preview of our implementation strategy for the next three years.



We are proud to have achieved 100% of the objectives we set to meet our communities' priority health needs. A heartfelt thank you goes to our community task forces for helping to make this vision a reality. In addition to these efforts, Penn State Health provided **\$165,936,729** in Total Community Benefit in fiscal year 2023, the highest amount in our history. This includes impactful programs and outreach, compassionate charity care, unreimbursed Medicaid costs and supplemental medical, dental and pharmaceutical services. We're excited to keep growing our community health efforts, as shown by how much our food access programs have expanded over the last 10 years.

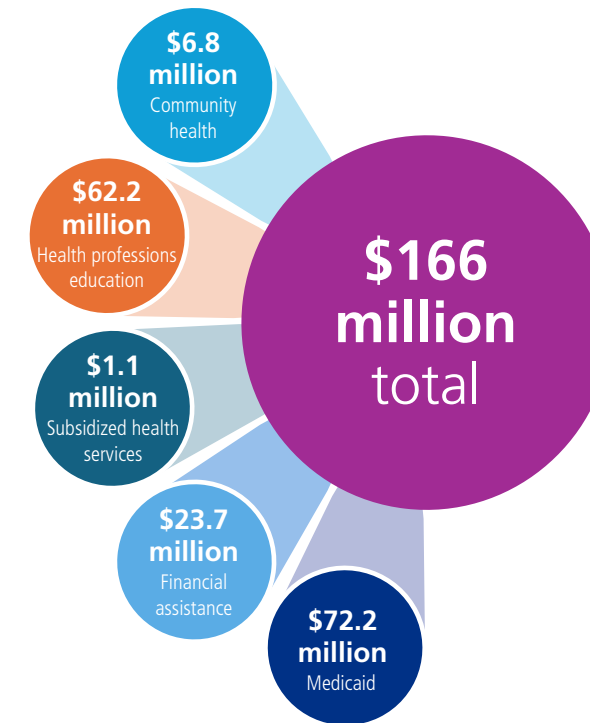
Thank you to the entire Penn State Health family for your unwavering support in improving the health of people throughout central Pennsylvania and the Berks Region. Together, we will continue building healthier, stronger communities for everyone, today and for generations to come.

Be well,

**Deborah Addo**  
Interim CEO  
President and Chief Operating Officer  
Penn State Health

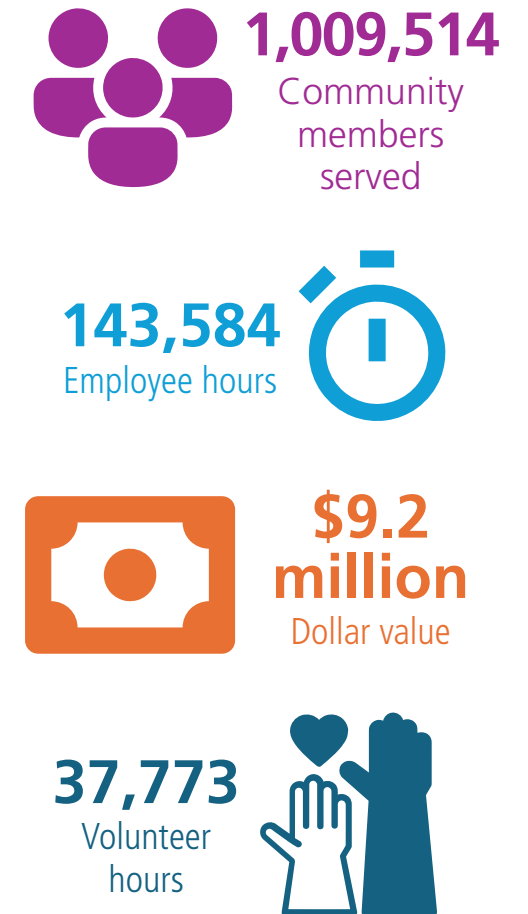
[Read 2024  
Community  
Health Needs  
Assessment](#)

## Fiscal year 2023 Total Community Benefit

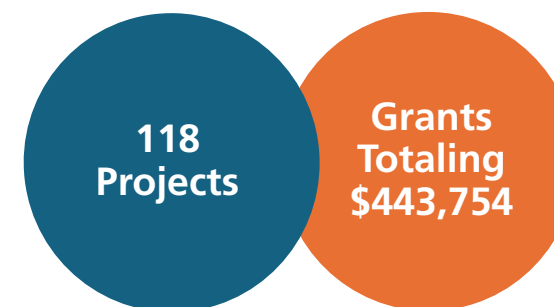


Compared to Fiscal Year 2022  
Total Community Benefit:  
\$156,730,522

## Fiscal Year 2024 Community Benefit Inventory for Social Accountability (CBISA) Totals



## Community Relations Grants



During the past nine years, Penn State Health funded **118 projects** with community grants totaling **\$443,754**.

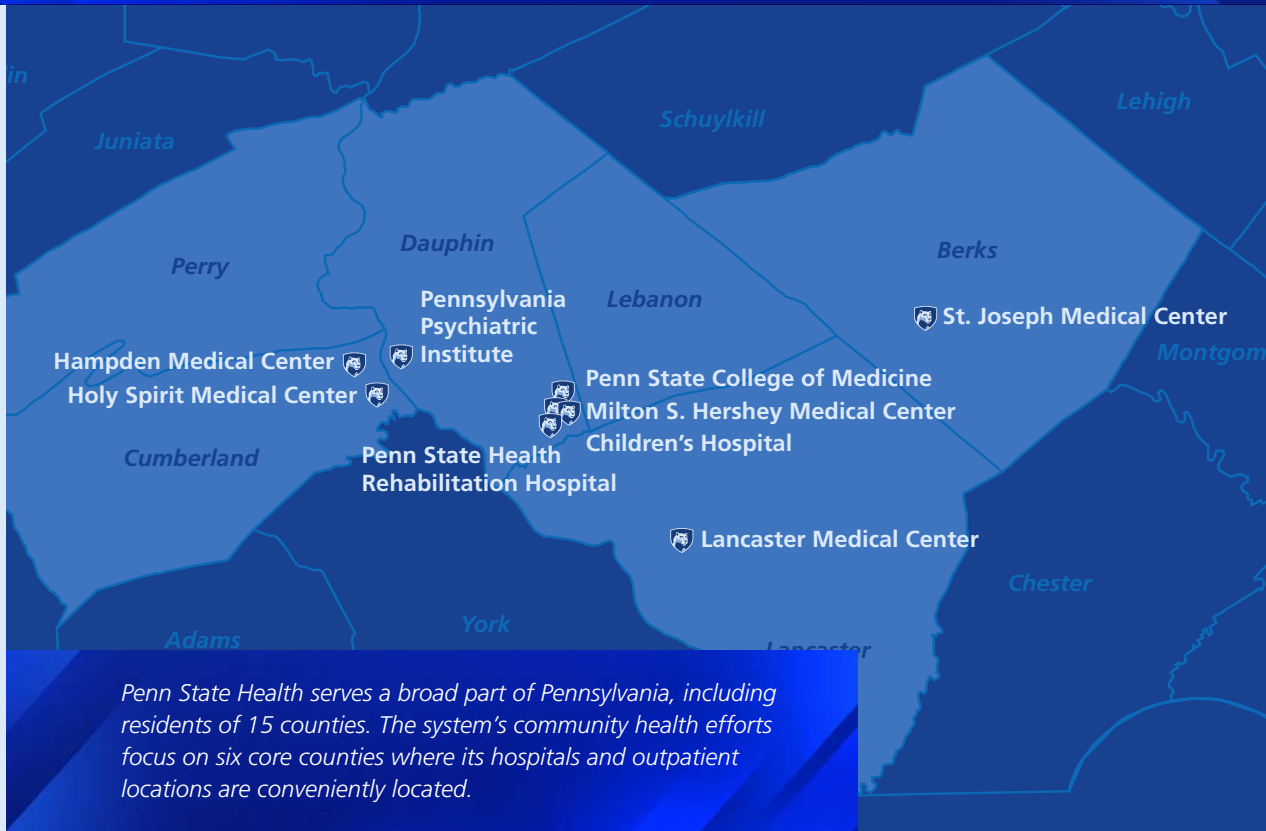
## Charitable Purpose Sponsorships



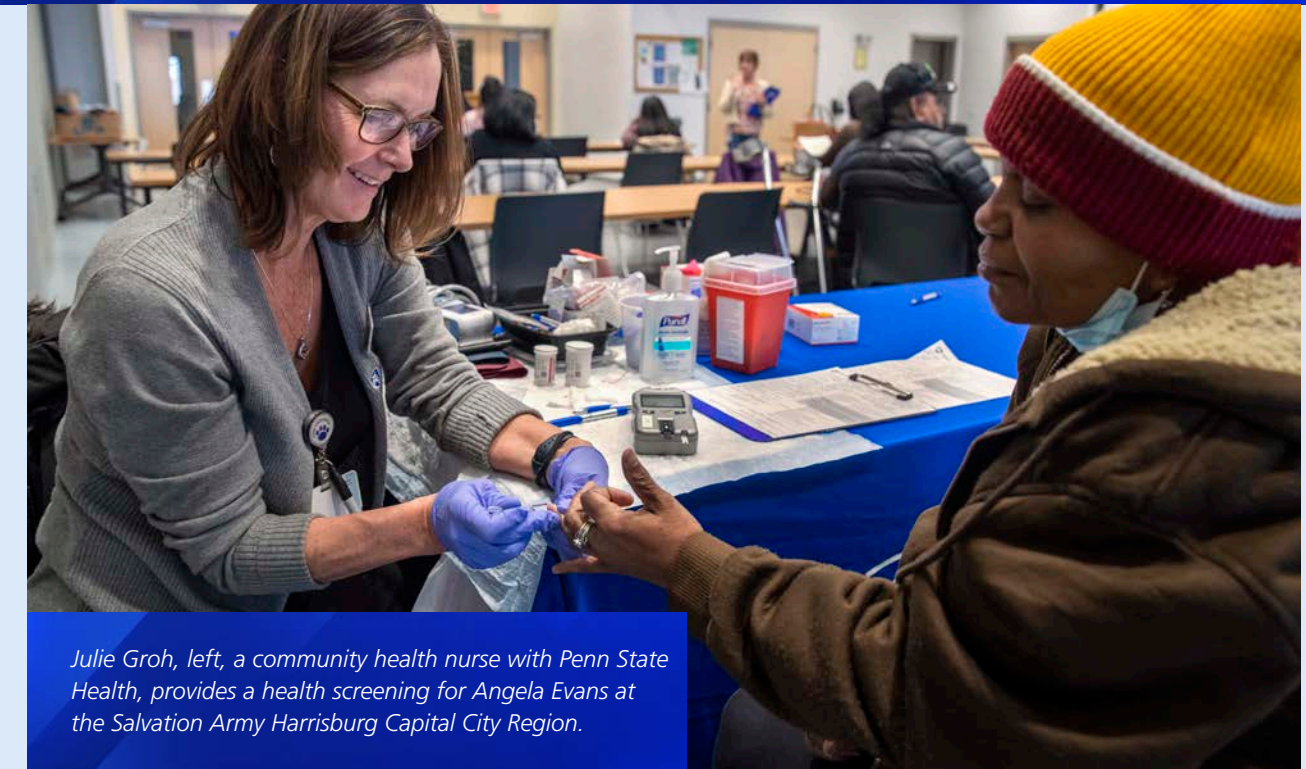
In fiscal year 2024, Penn State Health donated **\$901,854** in charitable purpose sponsorships and contributions to nonprofit organizations.

# THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

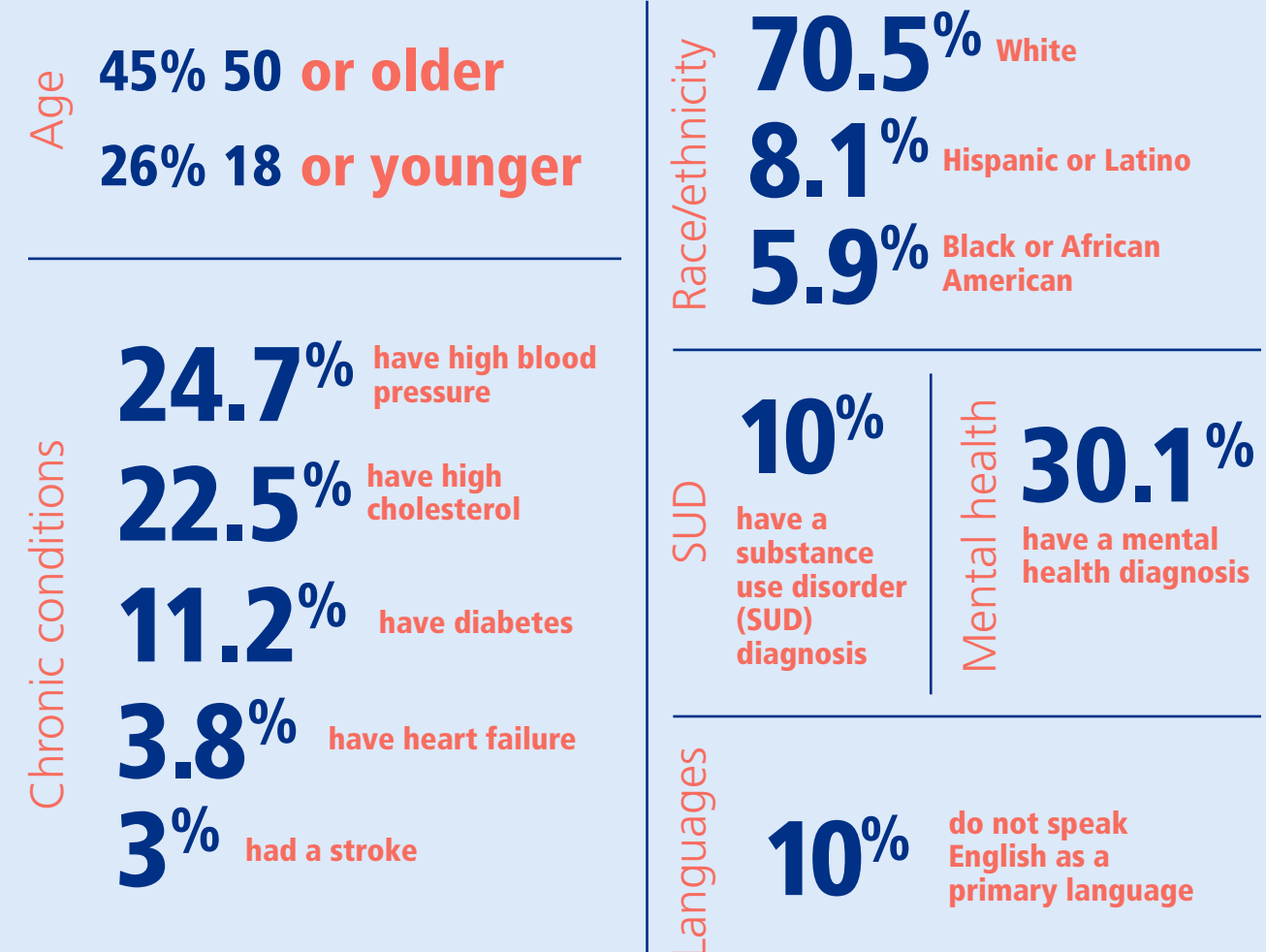
# THE PATIENTS WE SERVE



Dr. Sarah Horvath, right, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Penn State College of Medicine, talks with Dion Saunders, left, and Samaria Saunders, center. Penn State Health and the Highmark Foundation presented a free community event for Black Maternal Health Week at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in April 2024.



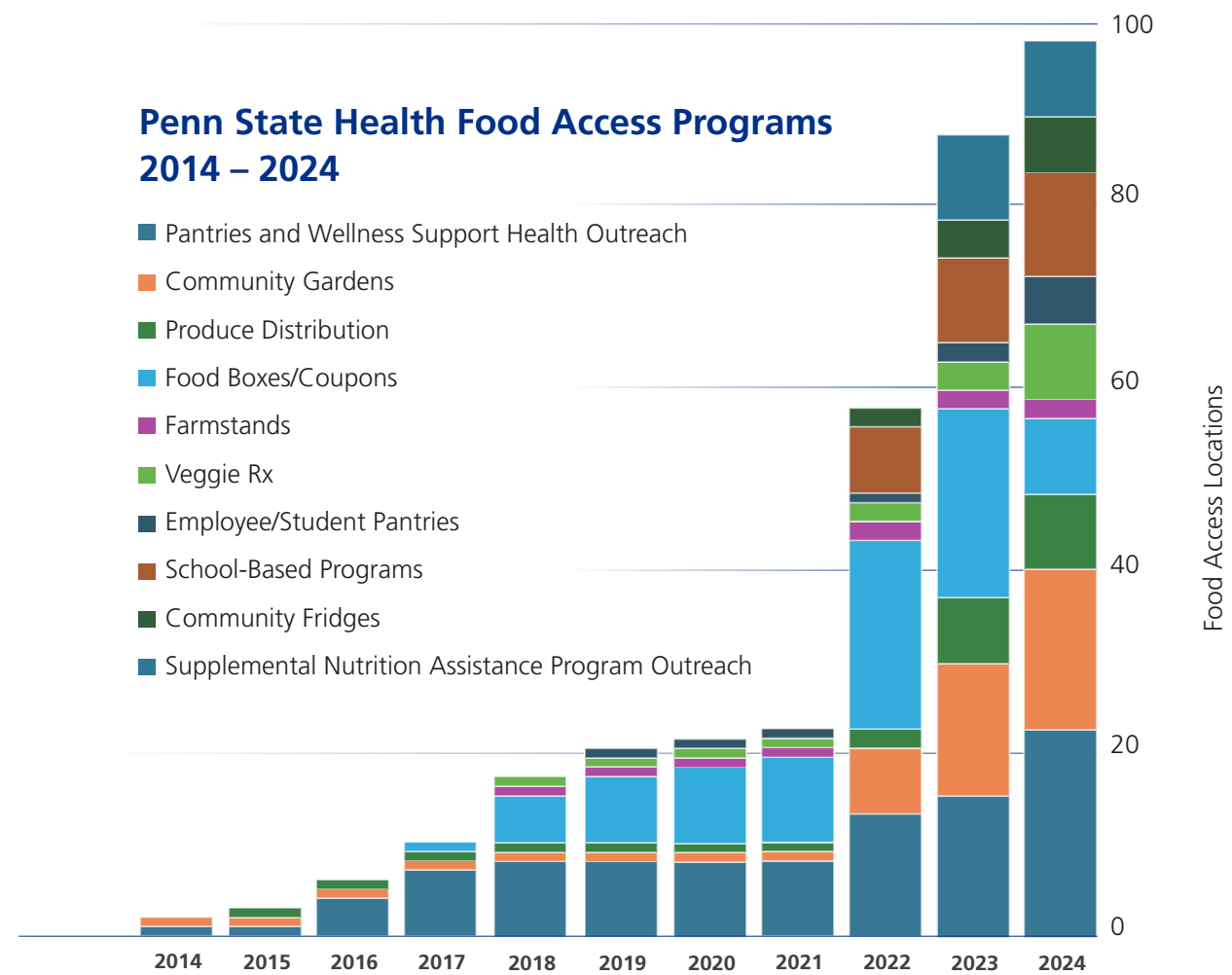
Julie Groh, left, a community health nurse with Penn State Health, provides a health screening for Angela Evans at the Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region.





# STRENGTHENING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

Penn State Health and Penn State College of Medicine are dedicated to addressing food and nutrition security within our service area. We offer more than 90 food access/health nutrition access locations across the service area, reaching over 81,500 community members in two years of the current Implementation Strategy. These efforts have grown significantly over the past 10 years, as shown in the table below.



## FOOD BOXES

Food boxes are provided to food insecure patients in eight Penn State Health outpatient practices.

In fiscal year 2024, **434** food boxes, along with food and clothing coupons, served **1,404** people.

# PROGRESS ISN'T ALWAYS A STRAIGHT LINE

Achieving health equity isn't a straightforward path from intervention to outcome. Instead, we can only help communities thrive by respecting their unique community context, community partnership dynamics, and community and client interventions. This approach is called the Community Impact Model, a framework we use to guide our community health work. The model's components function within purposeful relationships, recognizing that progress often requires moving back and forth through the model. The ultimate goal is to foster health equity, while recognizing the complex and dynamic nature of community health efforts.

## Community Impact Model



Adapted from Wallerstein 2008 Conceptual Model and 2022 ACE Conceptual Model  
Created by Ashley Visco, MSW, LCSW and Susan Veldheer, DEd, RD, LDN



# WHAT IS HEALTH EQUITY?



Health equity is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health.



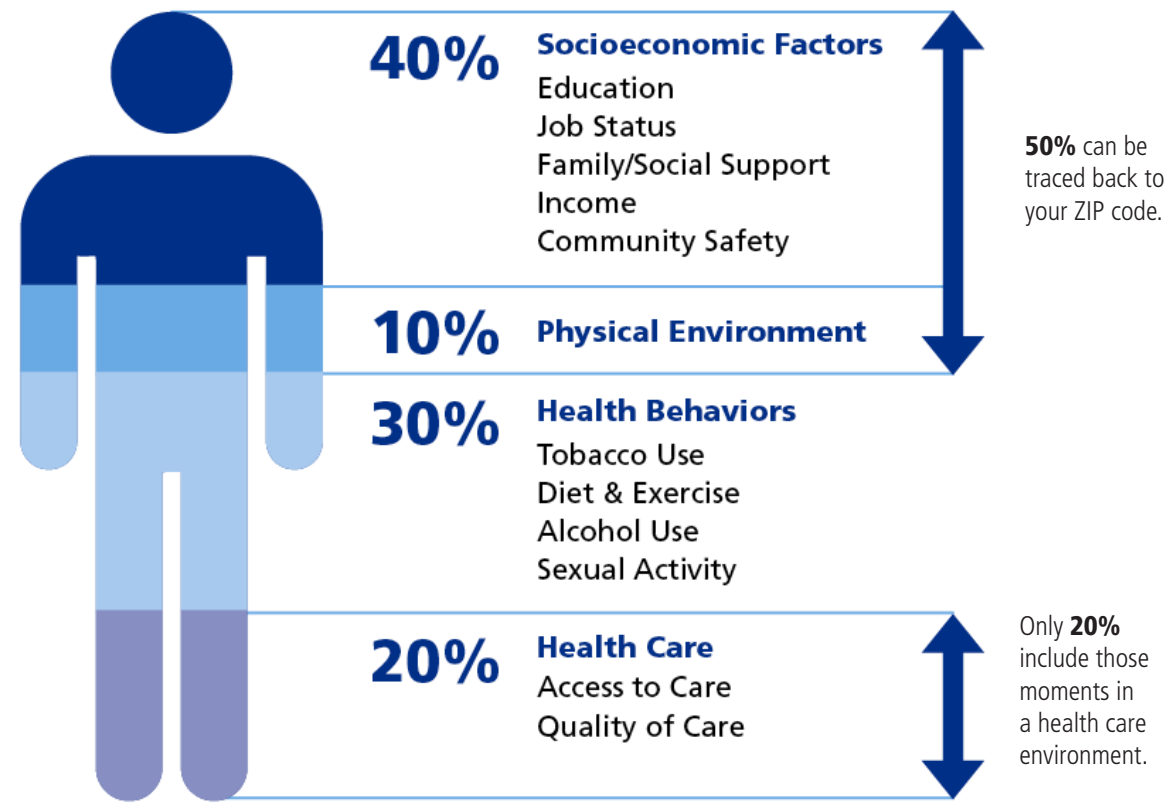
[See what Penn State Health Dermatology is doing to help improve health equity.](#)

## WHY IS HEALTH EQUITY IMPORTANT?

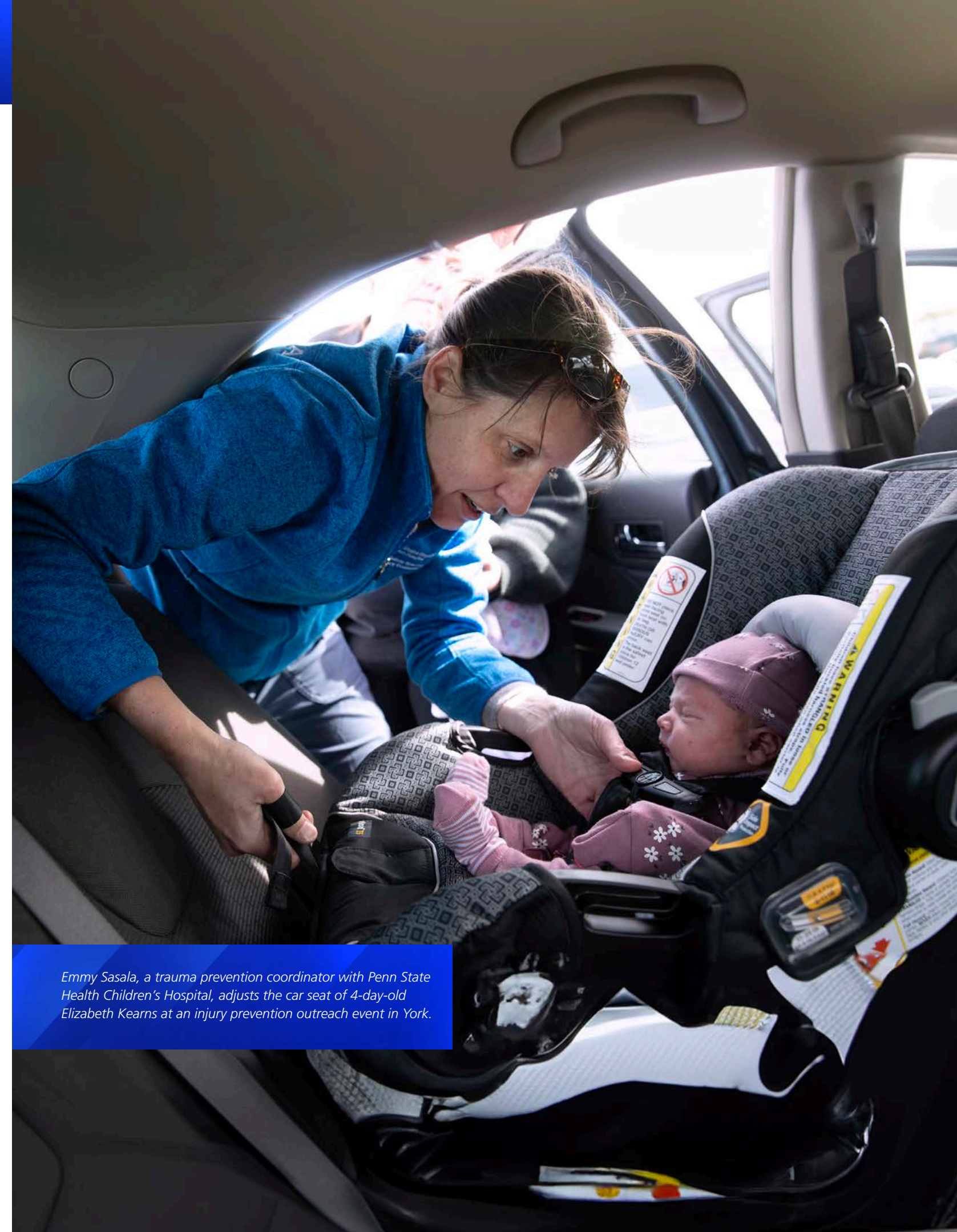
Everyone, regardless of societal circumstance such as race, ethnicity, sex, ability, income or education, should have the opportunity to avoid preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury or violence.

~The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



Adapted from ProMedica National Social Determinants of Health Institute. Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement. Going ClinicalWalls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)



Emmy Sasala, a trauma prevention coordinator with Penn State Health Children's Hospital, adjusts the car seat of 4-day-old Elizabeth Kearns at an injury prevention outreach event in York.



PRIORITY AREA: HEALTH EQUITY



Angela Shuman, left, a community health nurse at Penn State Health, helps Keith Spells with his diabetes medication at Anchor Lancaster.

# Angel of Lancaster: Penn State Health community nurse addresses health inequities person by person

For Penn State Health, where she’s worked for 22 years, Angela Shuman is a conduit to care for people who need it desperately but can’t always access it.

Welcome to the front lines of Penn State Health’s community outreach. Shuman, a community health nurse, meets people in need at places like Anchor Lancaster, a nonprofit organization in downtown Lancaster, which offers a hot breakfast, a day shelter, showers and casework. Here, community health nurses like Shuman help address local health disparities one person at a time.

In Lancaster County, conditions can change on a dime. Life expectancy varies drastically from block to block – veering from 67.7 to 88.2 years. Addressing wellness and access to care in central Pennsylvania are centerpieces of Penn State Health’s community health initiatives. In a 2021 survey of six counties in central Pennsylvania, one in seven respondents over the age of 50 had never received a colonoscopy. One in 15 women over the age of 40 had never received a mammogram – and the breast cancer rate

in Lancaster County was the highest of the counties surveyed. Forty-two percent of respondents reported having high blood pressure, and 39% had high cholesterol.

Dozens of people faced with similar problems and in need of health care have connected with Shuman through her station at Anchor Lancaster, which functions like a doctor’s office with no walls.

Sometimes guests’ needs aren’t straightforward. A woman Shuman works with is asking for help in obtaining a copy of her high school diploma. Shuman makes calls and visits websites to make it happen.

In her garage at home, Shuman has filled three garbage bags with socks gathered from nursing informatics departments across all five of Penn State Health’s acute care hospitals. Sometimes, people just swing by her table for a clean, dry pair or one of the stack of handwarmers she offers.

“Sometimes I’m just listening to people,” she said.

On other occasions, she attends doctor appointments with people who need help. She does blood pressure screenings and helps people navigate their insurance and get access to the help they need.

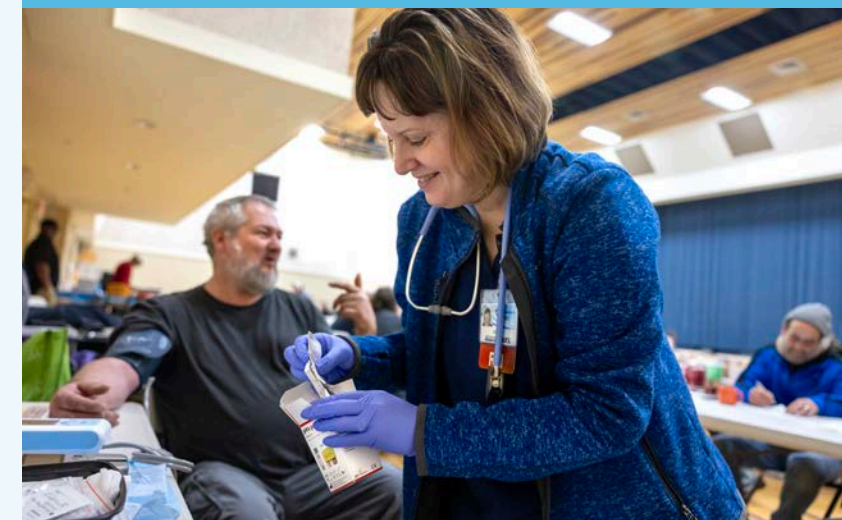
She helped Keith Spells, a man with impaired vision who lives with diabetes. When she met him, he wasn’t taking the medicine he needed. Now she helps him organize his pills and administers a weekly diabetes medication that’s a greater help to him than where he was before.

After receiving his medication one day in January, Spells nodded in Shuman’s direction.

“Take care of my angel, now,” he said.

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## COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

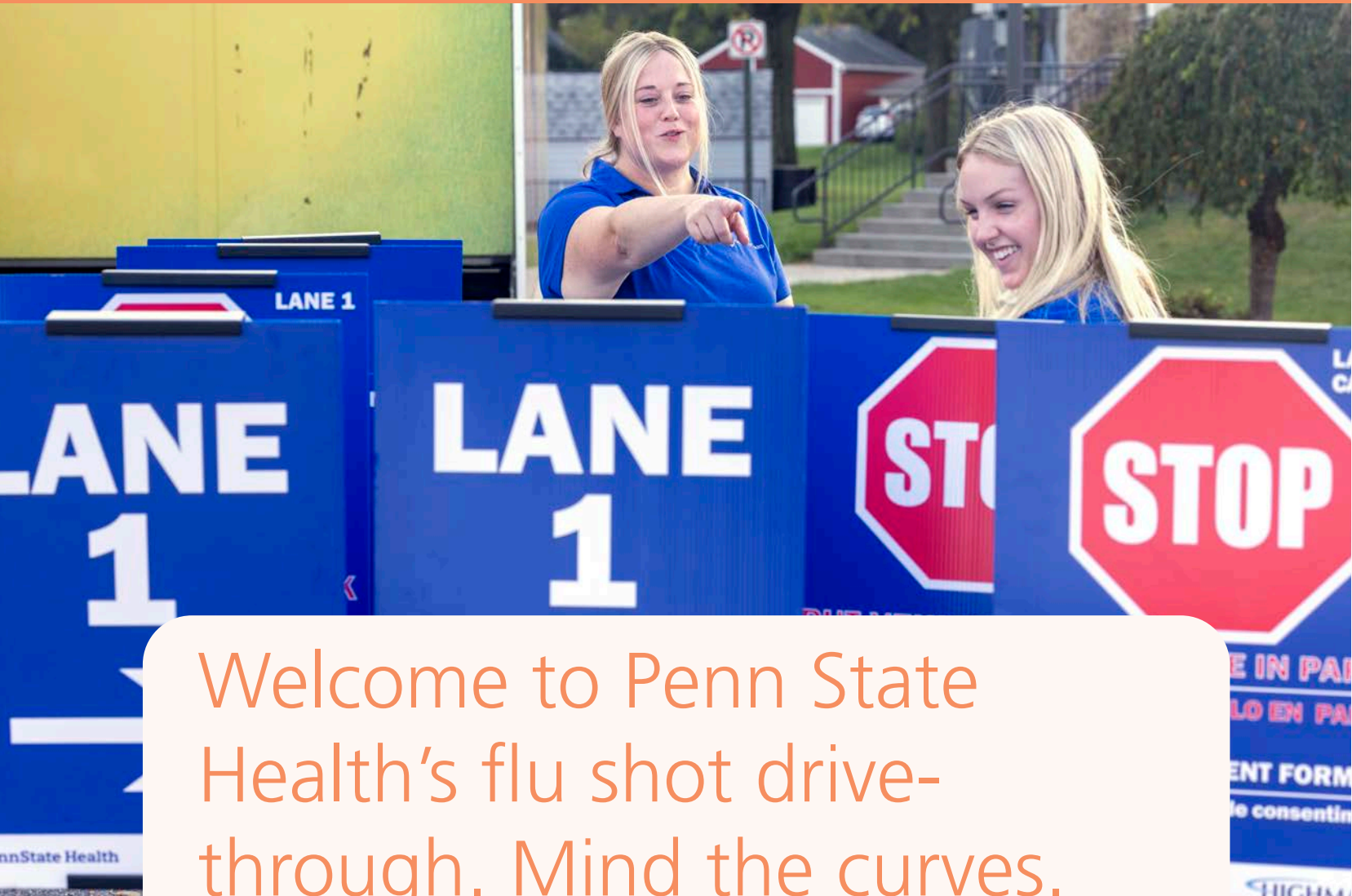


Number of people served at Anchor Lancaster:





PRIORITY AREA: WELLNESS AND DISEASE PREVENTION



Jessica Wadsworth, left, community outreach coordinator, and Emilie Woods, community health manager, set up signs for the drive-through flu shot clinic.

Free flu shots are a crucial part of the overall community health picture in Lebanon County and everywhere else. A 2021 Penn State Health survey of six central Pennsylvania counties identified wellness and disease prevention as a key area of need. Dietary issues, such as lack of access to healthy foods, and failure to screen for serious illnesses are also problems for many in the region. A flu outbreak can be devastating to already struggling populations.

That's why Penn State Health has invested so much time and effort in getting its flu shot drive-through right. And every year, the organizers learn a little more.

"Things we've learned from other experiences help us to pivot," said Ashley Visco, Penn State Health's community health director, who has helped oversee the last five flu shot drive-throughs.

Drivers enter the parking lot and roll into lanes divided by traffic cones. Four stops separate each flu shot seeker from the actual needle. About 60 Penn State Health volunteers staff tables under rain-soaked tarps to register, translate and answer questions before the final tent – the one with syringes of vaccine.

Volunteers come from the community and throughout the health system. They come from the departments of Nursing, Emergency and Pharmacy. A local tent rental company provides the tents. Penn State Health partners with the Lebanon School District and local police. Students from Penn State College of Medicine pitch in. Highmark Foundation and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield fund it. The Pennsylvania Department of Health plays a role. Each clinic has tendrils leading in countless directions.

But for Nguyen, it takes only minutes from start to finish. "I've been doing this for years," she said. "It's just very convenient."

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FLU SHOT OUTREACH CLINICS



Penn State Health offers

> 90

flu shot outreach clinics, in addition to the drive-through clinic each year.

> 1,200

Vaccines given in 2021

> 1,500

Vaccines given in 2022

> 1,500

Vaccines given in 2023

Welcome to Penn State Health's flu shot drive-through. Mind the curves.

Rather than visit a nearby doctor's office, Mei Nguyen opted to take her parents on a 30-minute drive from her home in Palmyra to a parking lot outside Lebanon High School. There, she joined the line of cars at Penn State Health's annual drive-through flu shot clinic.

For Nguyen, this step to protect her parents' health is fast and easy. For the community health nurses and volunteers who make it happen, each stop in the drive-through route is the culmination of months of planning and years of fine-tuning.

It's worth it, organizers said. This year, the clinic helped protect 583 people from possibly catching and spreading a virus that killed 41,900 people in 2022 and sickened millions more, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



PRIORITY AREA: WELLNESS AND DISEASE PREVENTION



Erin Cekovich, left, shows students what happens to a human brain during a stroke.

## Lessons for the mind: Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center stroke team outreach focuses on stopping strokes

For dozens of local residents who gather every year at Paxtonia Elementary School in Harrisburg for Science Night, crowding in close and gawking at a real human brain is tradition.

But while the novelty of getting up close to the mysterious organ responsible for your dreams, fears and chocolate cravings is tantalizing, the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center stroke program team isn't there for thrills. The brain was a gift to the health system by an anonymous donor for education purposes. And program manager Erin Cekovich and her partners hope the lessons they teach will actually help save lives.

Cekovich flips the brain over to where the stem, severed from the spinal cord, dangles that and explains sometimes a blood vessel bursts. That's called a hemorrhagic stroke. Sometimes a blockage forms within an artery. That's an ischemic stroke. Either way, the blood supply to the big computer inside your head becomes disrupted, and that can quickly lead to permanent damage. Or worse – death. And it can happen in a matter of seconds.

Cekovich and her partners are visiting Science Night for the same reason they drop by food pantries and other local gatherings – to try to stop strokes from taking lives.

Early detection can make all the difference. In a 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment survey, heart disease and stroke ranked fifth among health conditions most affecting survey respondents. People most likely to suffer strokes struggle with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, obesity and diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A stroke can strike swiftly and kill in a moment. Stopping it starts with a 911 phone call. So, it's someone nearby who knows the warning signs.

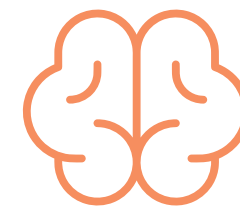
For an easy-to-remember list of symptoms, they teach the acronym BE FAST (Balance, Eyes, Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty, Time to

call 911). It's the most essential part of the stroke team's presentation. In March, they visited with hockey fans at the Hershey Bears game. This spring, they attended farmers markets and local food banks, because "we want to integrate ourselves into communities that might not have equitable access to not only health care but food," said Cesar Velasco, stroke program coordinator, since what you eat can contribute to your likelihood of having a stroke.

The idea is that just about anyone can make that 911 call – teachers, plumbers, CEOs or professional baseball players.

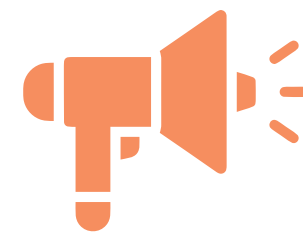
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### STROKE EDUCATION



442

outreach programs



35,637

people reached from 2015-2024

by stroke team at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center





Talia Gross, left, Dermatology medical office assistant, and Cindy Rivera, scheduler, teach students at Henry Houck Elementary School in Lebanon the importance of protecting their skin.

## 'Reapply so you don't fry': Penn State Health Dermatology educates kids about sunscreen

Dozens of third and fourth graders gathered inside the school gymnasium at Henry Houck Elementary one morning in late May. Rumor had it that the Nittany Lion was somewhere nearby.

"So, we say, 'Reapply so you don't fry!'" shouts Talia Gross, medical office assistant at Penn State Health Dermatology, who wears a T-shirt with a Penn State logo on it. She means, "Continue to put on layers of sunscreen every two hours when you're exposed to avoid a sunburn."

"REAPPLY SO YOU DON'T FRY!" the students yell back.

Finally, the Nittany Lion waltzes in, dropping for one-arm pushups and wielding an umbrella to protect himself from the cartoon sun.

Just your garden-variety, late-school-year assembly, right? But the Penn State Health employees at the event, while they grin wildly and pose for photos, brought a method along with their madness.

In Lebanon, 20.5% of respondents to Penn State Health's 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment said they had cancer, second only to Perry County among the six counties surveyed. Skin cancer is the most common form of the disease in the U.S., according to the Skin Cancer Foundation. One in five people will develop it before they turn 70 and, every hour, more than two people die from it.

"The goal is to start teaching kids about sun protection now so they'll likely continue it when they're older," said Laurie Krnjaic, a pediatric nurse practitioner in Dermatology at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. So, every year for the past four, a team from Penn State Health Dermatology has been visiting local schools for the Sun Protection Superhero T-shirt Contest with one main goal – getting into the kids' heads now. And hopefully staying there.

This year, 164 people voted for the best sunscreen-themed T-shirt designed by one of the Henry Houck students. It was fourth grader Clark Parker.

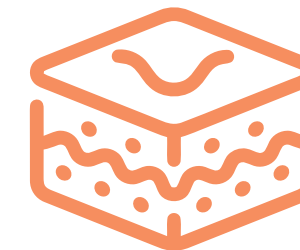
Gross and Krnjaic are two of about 20 people who helped create this event. Gross serves as the lead of Dermatology's community service committee, which has 10 members. Five others helped with research, others pitch in with odds and ends. Every year the event entails putting together gift bags, attending meetings and sending out emails – all after working long shifts at their day jobs as health care providers.

"It's the kids' faces," Gross said. "That's what I like about it."

"We want them to stay jazzed about this," Krnjaic said. "We would much rather come to the community to see people than see them come to the hospital."

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

## DERMATOLOGY EDUCATION



# 54,433

people reached at

# 190

education programs from 2017-2024

by Dermatology Department at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center



PRIORITY AREA: MENTAL HEALTH



**‘We find people who fall through the cracks’: Community health workers connect care and people who need it**

While waiting in line at the food pantry at Brethren Community Ministries in Harrisburg one morning in early August, local mother Maria Hernandez went to the table marked United Way and struck up a conversation with the young woman with the empathetic smile.

The woman was Cristel Woodcock, Contact to Care community health worker for Penn State Health, and the conversation turned out to be transformative. Woodcock is the face of the partnership between Penn State Health and United Way of the Capital Region’s Contact to Care program, which helps connect people like Hernandez with medical, dental and vision care.

“We find people who fall through the cracks,” she said.

Community health workers like Woodcock cover the front lines of Penn State Health’s grassroots efforts to extend mental health, health equity, and wellness and disease prevention to people in need in the region it serves.

Community health worker Cristel Woodcock, right, shares a connection with Maria Hernandez of Harrisburg during a visit to Brethren Community Ministries.

“They’re a conduit,” said Ashley Visco, community health director at Penn State Health.

“Community health workers are part of their communities and provide a vital connection between resources and the people who need them most. Every day, they’re bringing Penn State Health to the people who can’t get to Penn State Health.”

For Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center, community health worker Madeline Bermudez is one of the main forces behind the Walk with a Doc program, a national effort to connect doctors with their communities. For 12 weeks every summer since 2020, a different doctor from Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center takes a 2- to 3-mile stroll through a local park with a growing group of people from the neighborhood. Usually, local residents pick a topic to discuss on the walk – something like heart disease or diabetes.

She also provides key assistance with Veggie Rx. Launched in 2018, the program rewards local people who have diabetes for taking a class about healthy eating and fitness with vouchers they can use to purchase only fruits and vegetables for themselves and their families. The program is nationally recognized for lowering hemoglobin A1C levels among its participants by significant percentages.

But community health workers do more than just teach and advertise. Sometimes they help people with trouble paying an electric bill or someone who can’t catch a ride to see an out-of-the-way doctor.

When she met Woodcock in Harrisburg, Hernandez was having trouble finding care for her daughter, who has cerebral palsy. Woodcock helped connect her with a Penn State Health clinic that could provide the right care.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

**214**

actively worked with

**93**

referrals for health care/primary care

**47**

referrals for health insurance in fiscal year 2023–2024



Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, a specialty provider of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services in Harrisburg, came under the sole control of Penn State Health in July 2023.



# BOOSTING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

## Here's a snapshot of the 223 programs included in our Community Benefit Inventory for Social Accountability.

Penn State Health collaborated on physical activity programs in all six counties, reaching more than 61,000 participants in two years. They include a regional bike share program, Walk with a Doc in Berks and Dauphin counties and, new this year, a StoryWalk in partnership with Dauphin County Parks and Recreation.



Lisa Weaver, third from left, Healthy Community Program associate; Dr. Janetta Brandt, fourth from left, Family Medicine resident; and Dr. Samuel Orr, seventh from left, Family Medicine resident, join community walkers at Reading City Park.

The Walk With a Doc program features a short talk about a health topic, followed by a self-paced walk.



A child walks with the lead character of "Bear's Bicycle."

StoryWalk in May 2024 gave families an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while reading pages of the book "Bear's Bicycle" displayed along a trail at Detweiler Park in Dauphin.



Volunteer Zach Lokey, center, coaches wheelchair hockey at Penn State Health RecFest 2024.

Penn State Health Rehabilitation Hospital hosts RecFest each September, an adaptive sports and exercise event for all ages and abilities. The event showcases how to access and use adaptive equipment, attracting more than 300 participants. Adaptive Ski Day also takes place every February.



Teenline counselors help at-risk students overcome barriers to learning, including mental health issues and the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

Behavioral Health Services at Penn State Health Holy Spirit Medical Center offers Teenline, a service that provides counselors to support mental health needs in public high schools in Cumberland and Perry counties.



Liz Welch, a registered nurse, gives Paul Robinson Tylenol for his tooth pain.

Penn State Health Medical Outreach Service in Harrisburg provided 11,335 free nursing care visits in fiscal year 2024.



First responders and community members learn first aid techniques for stopping bleeding in cases of traumatic injury or accidents during a Stop the Bleed program at Central Dauphin Middle School in Harrisburg.

About 125,000 community members were reached over two years by Adult Trauma and Pediatric Trauma and Injury Prevention programs:

- Stop the Bleed
- Matter of Balance
- Senior and teen driving
- The Center for the Protection of Children
- Violence prevention
- Child safety seat inspections
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Water safety
- Safe Sitter
- Hands-Only CPR
- Tourniquet Exchange
- Trauma-Informed Care



# BOOSTING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

# IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES THROUGH HEALTH EQUITY



Sol Rodriguez-Colon of Penn State Cancer Institute leads a colorectal cancer screening program at the Latino Hispanic American Community Center in Harrisburg.



Don McKenna, left, president of Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and Dr. Jay Raman, chief of the Department of Urology, celebrate the end of "No-Shave November," an annual event promoting awareness of men's health issues.



Dr. Christopher Kosenske extracts a tooth from Betsy Torres Ortiz at the Penn State Health Dental Clinic, Downtown Campus in Reading.

Approximately 134,000 community members were reached during the past two years by cancer community education and screenings offered by Penn State Health and Penn State College of Medicine:

- Lung cancer prevention
- Tobacco cessation
- Colorectal cancer education and FIT Kit distributions
- No-Shave November
- Free prostate cancer screenings
- Breast cancer support services
- Berks Relay for Life leadership
- Free mammograms
- Breast Bingo for Latinas
- *Let's Get Educated Against Cancer* Spanish webinar series
- Cancer community health workers and advocates
- Cancer Navigation and Survivorship Network
- Cancer advisory boards and support groups
- Sun safety and skin cancer prevention initiatives
- Prescription Assistance Program

Penn State Health Downtown Campus in Reading provided seven free dental clinics this year, reaching 139 community members.

The health system's Health Equity Program works to reduce health disparities among specific population groups, most often reflected in length and quality of life, rates and severity of disease, and access to medical treatment. The program focuses on the following areas, or pillars:

<p><b>Community engagement</b></p> <p>Develop and expand external partnerships and increase visibility in diverse communities to increase the understanding and support of health needs of all communities.</p>	<p><b>Health equity research</b></p> <p>Strengthen Penn State Health's infrastructure to align with Penn State College of Medicine's academic mission to optimize and guide scholarly research and quality improvement for health equity to increase diversity in clinical trials.</p>	<p><b>Data infrastructure</b></p> <p>Use quantitative and qualitative patient data to develop, inform and measure health care improvement strategies.</p>	<p><b>Culturally appropriate patient care</b></p> <p>Deliver compassionate, quality and safe health care in both inpatient and outpatient settings to provide consistent, equitable health outcomes and patient experience across all patient populations.</p>	<p><b>Workforce diversification and workplace climate</b></p> <p>Cultivate an increasingly diverse leadership team and workforce that is thriving in a respectful, inclusive work environment.</p>	<p><b>Organizational accountability and governance</b></p> <p>Effectively use organizational health equity influencers to sustain diversity, equity, inclusion and health equity progress, and advance a commitment to business diversity for leadership.</p>
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The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) views hospital leadership as crucial in setting specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-based goals to assess progress toward achieving equity priorities and ensuring high-quality care is accessible to all.

To comply with both CMS and The Joint Commission, Penn State Health is committed to aligning with these priorities:

**CMS requirements:**

1. Expand the collection, reporting and analysis of standardized data.
2. Assess causes of disparities within Penn State Health programs and address inequities in policies and operations to close gaps.
3. Build capacity of health care organizations and the workforce to reduce health and health care disparities.
4. Advance language access, health literacy and the provision of culturally tailored services.
5. Increase all forms of accessibility to health care services and coverage.

**Joint Commission requirements:**

1. Designate an individual(s) to lead activities to reduce health care disparities for the system and specified patient populations.

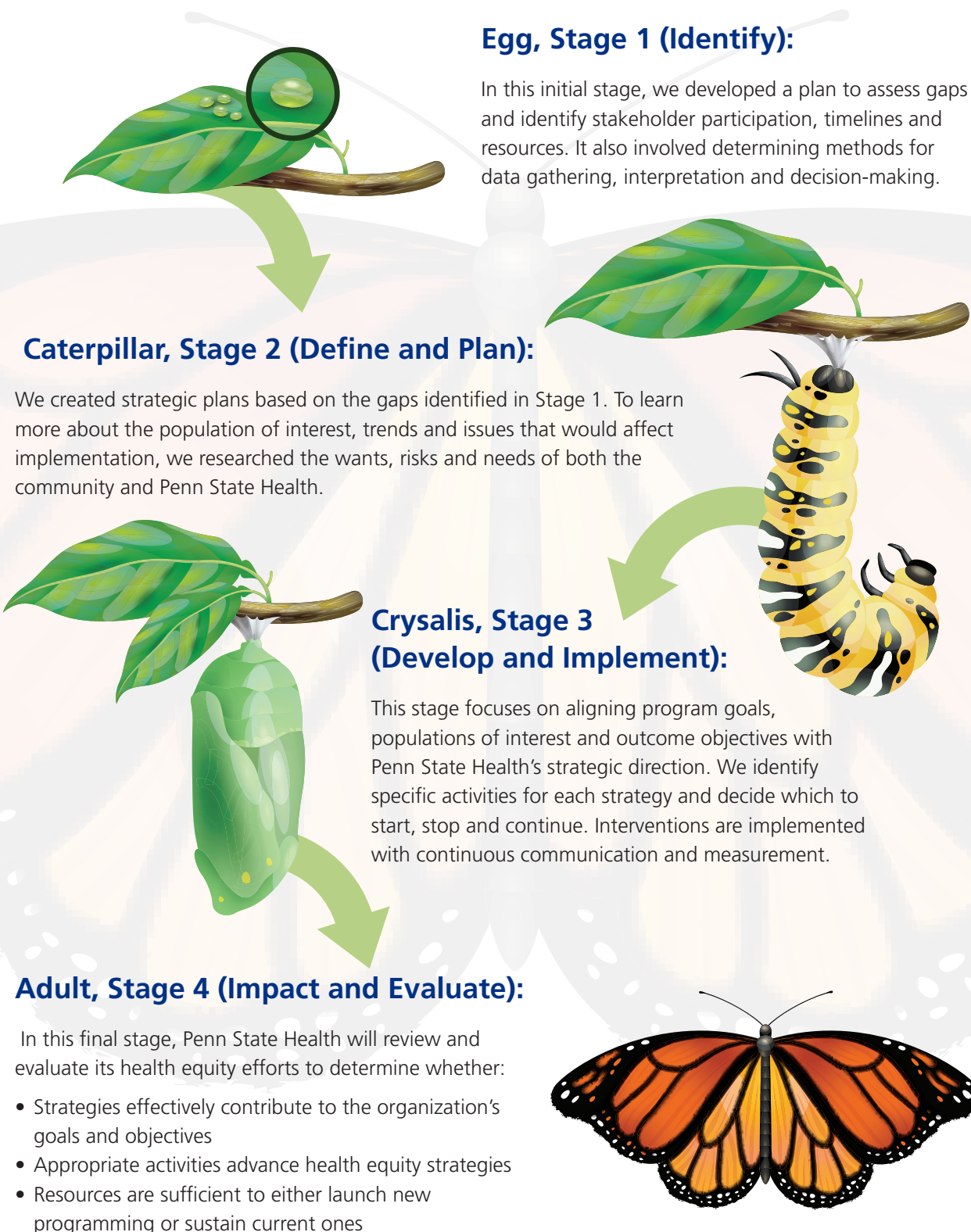
2. Assess the patient's health-related social needs and provide information about community resources and support services.
3. Identify health care disparities in our patient population by stratifying quality and safety data using sociodemographic characteristics.
4. Develop a written action plan that describes how the health system will address at least one of the health care disparities identified in its patient population.
5. Take corrective action if it does not achieve or sustain the goal(s) in its action plan to reduce health care disparities.
6. At least annually, inform key stakeholders, including leaders, licensed practitioners and staff, about its progress to reduce identified health care disparities.



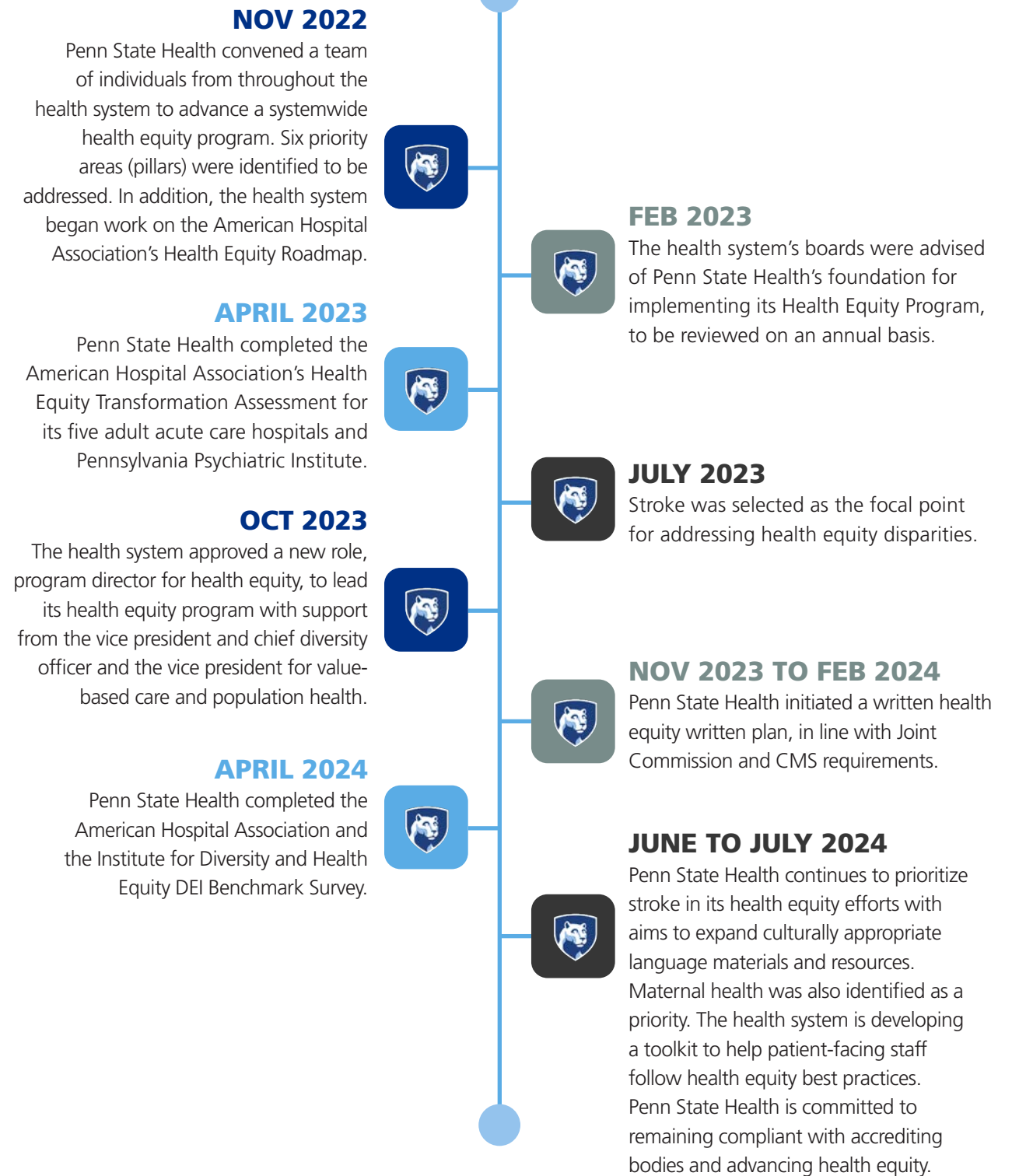
# THE BUTTERFLY: A SYMBOL OF TRANSFORMATION

# OUR PROGRESS IN ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

Penn State Health's journey to health equity is symbolized by the transformation of a butterfly from egg to adult. Each stage builds on the one prior and requires different methods of growth throughout the process.



# OUR PROGRESS IN ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY





# ABOUT PENN STATE HEALTH

Penn State Health is a multi-hospital health system serving patients and communities across 15 counties in central Pennsylvania. It employs more than 20,919 people systemwide.

The system includes Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Penn State Health Children's Hospital and Penn State Cancer Institute based in Hershey; Penn State Health Hampden Medical Center in Enola; Penn State Health Holy Spirit Medical Center in Camp Hill; Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center in Lancaster; Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading; Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, a specialty provider of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services in Harrisburg; and 2,417 physicians and direct care providers at 186 outpatient practices. Additionally, the system jointly operates various health care providers, including Penn State Health Rehabilitation Hospital, Hershey Outpatient Surgery Center and Hershey Endoscopy Center.

In 2017, Penn State Health partnered with Highmark Health to facilitate the creation of a value-based, community care network in the region.

Penn State Health shares an integrated strategic plan and operations with Penn State College of Medicine, the University's medical school.

## Our Mission

- Continually improve the health and well-being of the people of Pennsylvania and beyond
- Provide excellent, compassionate, culturally responsive and equitable care
- Educate and train health care professionals
- Advance evidence-based medical innovation through research and discovery

## Our Vision

- To be Pennsylvania's most trusted health care organization

## Our Values

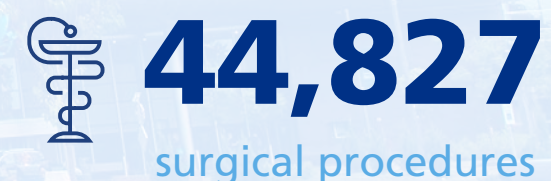
Penn State Health recognizes its employees for fulfilling the RITE values of the organization:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Teamwork
- Excellence

## PENN STATE HEALTH AT A GLANCE



## FISCAL YEAR 2024





# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Author Floyd Stokes reads "Together We Grow: A Story of Food, Support and Community" during a book release party in Reading.



Employees collect school and health supplies for local students during the 2024 United Way "Stuff the Bus" campaign.



Laurie Crawford, foreground, program manager for food access and community gardens at Penn State Health, joins others working in the Steelton Community Gardens.

The important work we do every day in our communities wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our partners who share Penn State Health's mission to continually improve the health and well-being of the people of Pennsylvania and beyond. Together, we're making our communities healthier and stronger by addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in our region.

Our partnerships with local, community-based organizations allow us to make a real and lasting impact.

This report highlights some key initiatives made possible by collaborators such as Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Highmark Foundation, Lebanon School District, Anchor Lancaster, United Way of the Capital Region, Paxtonia Elementary School and Brethen Community Ministries. However, these are just a few of the many organizations that help make this work possible.

For a list of our supporters and partners, see our [Community Health Needs Assessment](#).



**CLICK HERE TO  
SHARE YOUR IDEAS**

We would appreciate your input on Penn State Health's Community Health Needs Assessment and our plans to improve community health.



**PennState Health**

**pennstatehealth.org**