



Asian American Health Initiative

Montgomery County, Maryland

Department of Health and Human Services



Annual Report FY2014

Together to Build a Healthy Community

Message from Leadership

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services' (MCDHHS) Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) is proud to release its Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014) Annual Report to highlight its strategic efforts to eliminate health disparities affecting the Asian American community in Montgomery County. In FY2014, AAHI implemented programs to improve access to culturally and linguistically competent care as well as promoted health equity through community empowerment. AAHI also continued its efforts to enhance data collection and strengthen partnerships with key County stakeholders.

With the committed leadership and support of MCDHHS, the AAHI Steering Committee, community partners, multilingual Health Promoters, and dedicated volunteers, AAHI concluded another remarkable year of serving the community. Due to the changed demographics in the state of Maryland and Montgomery County, the minority population has diversified. This has had a profound impact on the delivery of service and coverage to minorities. In FY2014, at the conclusion of major group work involving County and community participants, MCDHHS established the Leadership Institute for Equity and the Elimination of Disparities (LIEED). LIEED's mission is to address social determinants of health, with the goal of eliminating disparities and achieving equity among Montgomery County residents. In this groundbreaking work, the AAHI Steering Committee and staff contributed a significant amount of time to the planning and implementation of LIEED. The effort of MCDHHS' Minority Health Initiatives/Program, Equity Work Group, and Office of Community Affairs, combined with that of local community members and professionals, shall advance LIEED closer to its goal of achieving equity in Montgomery County.

FY2014 also marked a historic year with the launch of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) open enrollment, which aims to provide health care coverage to uninsured Americans. Because of the ACA, approximately 2 million uninsured Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders now have new opportunities for affordable health insurance. Asian Americans in Montgomery County and across the nation are benefiting from the stronger coverage and consumer protections made possible by the ACA. Since MCDHHS served as the health insurance marketplace Connector Entity for the Capital Region, AAHI was actively engaged in ACA outreach, education, and enrollment efforts for the Asian American community.

On behalf of AAHI leadership, we hope that you join us in celebrating our progress and achievements from the past year. While we recognize much work remains to be done, we are dedicated to working alongside our committed partners and community members to achieve our vision to *build a healthy community*.


Sam Mukherjee, PhD, CLTC
AAHI Steering Committee Chair


Chun Man (Perry) Chan, MS, CHES
AAHI Program Manager

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Alternative formats of this document are available upon request by calling 240-777-4517. TTY users can call Maryland Relay at 711 (in-state calls) or 1-800-735-2258 (out-of-state calls).



About AAHI

BACKGROUND

[AAHI](#) was established in FY2005 under [MCDHHS](#) with the support of the Montgomery County Executive, the County Council, and community leaders. Since its inception, AAHI has worked to address the unique health needs of the County's Asian American residents and eliminate the health disparities between them and their non-Asian counterparts. To do this, AAHI partners with various community- and faith-based organizations to identify health care needs of the Asian American community and implement culturally competent and linguistically appropriate programs.

MISSION

To identify the health care needs of Asian American communities, develop culturally competent health care services, and implement health education programs that are accessible and available to all Asian Americans in Montgomery County.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial population in the nation. Montgomery County's Asian American population reflects this rapid growth, increasing 37.3 percent between 2000 and 2010, making it the second fastest growing minority group in the County. The County's Asian American residents represent 13.9 percent (135,451) of the County's total population and 42.5 percent of Maryland's total Asian American population. Asian Americans are a linguistically and culturally diverse group with unique needs within each subgroup. The 2010 American Community Survey data shows that almost 75 percent of Montgomery County's Asian population are foreign born and almost 35 percent are linguistically isolated.

Fiscal Year 2014 at a Glance



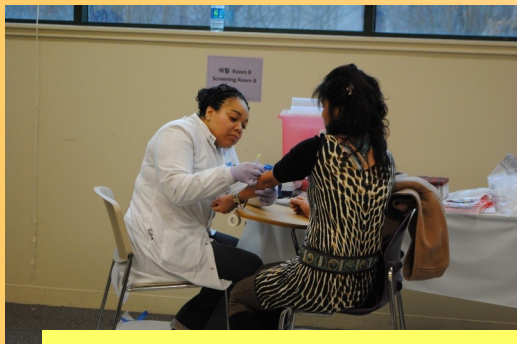
Health Education Workshops



Health Promoters Program



Community Outreach Events



Hepatitis B Prevention Projects



Connecting Communities to Services



Empowering Community Health Organizations Project

Fiscal Year 2014 Accomplishments at a Glance

Enhancing Access to Culturally and Linguistically Competent Care

- **Patient Navigator Program**
7,969 clients encountered
 - 5,432 calls received
 - 1,441 on-site medical interpreting sessions conducted
 - 1,096 medical interpreting sessions conducted by phone96% of clients linked to County services
70% of callers reported not having insurance
- **ABCS Heart Health Project**
11 small businesses reached
46 educational encounters conducted
65 pieces of literature distributed
5 health service referrals provided
100% of referrals resulted in appointments
- **Smoking Cessation Services**
122 pieces of literature distributed
95 educational encounters conducted
19 carbon monoxide screenings provided
- **Affordable Care Act Awareness**
3 presentations given
32 outreach events attended
692 educational encounters conducted
698 pieces of English literature distributed
343 pieces of Asian language literature distributed
133 referrals to a certified ACA Health Navigator
- **AAHI in the News**
1 article published
5 media sources

Enhancing Data Collection and Reporting

- 1 Hepatitis B Project Evaluation Report published electronically
- 2 action plan reports created by Healthy Montgomery Work Groups
- 1 Annual Report published electronically

Promoting Community Mobilization and Empowerment

- **Health Promoters Program**
34 Health Promoters
14 languages and dialects spoken
14 ethnic communities represented
5 trainings offered
5 new Health Promoters recruited in FY2014
16 Health Promoters with 1-2 years of experience in the program
18 Health Promoters with 3+ years of experience in the program
- **Community Outreach Events***
58 resource information tables hosted at outreach events
12 ethnic communities reached
1,863 community members assisted
6,842 pieces of literature distributed
4,429 educational encounters conducted
193 breast self-exams demonstrated
1,167 health screenings and vaccinations given
475 health service referrals provided
- **Empowering Community Health Organizations Project**
2 workshops conducted
238 individuals attended
105 organizations represented

Connecting Communities to Services

75 small businesses and communities reached
4 clinic outreach events attended
11 resource information tables hosted
481 community members assisted
1,633 pieces of literature distributed
800 educational encounters conducted
162 health service referrals provided

Hepatitis B Prevention Projects

359 community members educated
296 community members screened
79 community members completed or in the process of completing vaccination series
14 community members referred to treatment

Health Education Workshops

2 workshops conducted
2 topics covered
35 community members assisted
220 pieces of literature distributed
200 educational encounters conducted
5 health service referrals provided

*Cumulative total from ABCS project, smoking cessation services, Affordable Care Act awareness, Connecting Communities to Services, hepatitis B prevention projects, and health education workshops.

Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations

- **AAHI 101 Presentations**
6 presentations given
- **AAHI in Social Media**
6 AAHI e-newsletters sent
3 AAHI media sources: Facebook, Twitter, Blogger
346 social media updates posted
10,258 views of AAHI's Facebook and Blogger posts

Enhancing Access to Culturally and Linguistically Competent Care

Montgomery County's Asian American community originates from over a dozen countries, speaking more than two dozen languages and dialects. As the County's Asian American population grows, health care systems and services must reflect the community's cultural and linguistic diversity in order to respond effectively. Language and cultural barriers can make navigating the health care system very daunting. In the Asian American Health Initiative's (AAHI) 2008 County-wide health needs assessment, Asian Americans reported experiencing challenges to accessing quality health care due to a lack of health insurance, inadequate coverage, financial difficulties, transportation (particularly for seniors), language barriers, and limited access to health care providers who speak an Asian language.

In Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014), AAHI continued working with existing partners and forging new collaborations in order to enhance access to culturally and linguistically competent care. AAHI's key initiatives — the Patient Navigator Program, ABCS heart health project, smoking cessation services, Affordable Care Act awareness, and health education media campaign — help inform and empower community members and their families to achieve better health outcomes and optimize available resources.

Enabling services such as the Patient Navigator Program and ABCS heart health project help build AAHI's capacity to reach underserved segments of the Asian American community by reducing barriers and improving access to free or low-cost preventive screenings and services.



Highlights: Patient Navigator Program

The 2011 American Community Survey reported that 76.7% of Asian Americans spoke a language other than English at home. Of those individuals, 47% spoke English less than "very well."
- [2011 American Community Survey](#)



In 2008, AAHI established its [Patient Navigator Program](#) (PNP) to provide medical interpretation services to community members in Montgomery County with limited English proficiency (LEP). Communication issues between patients and health care providers can lead to poor health outcomes. Communication problems may also result in inaccurate diagnoses, decreased treatment adherence, and reduced patient satisfaction.

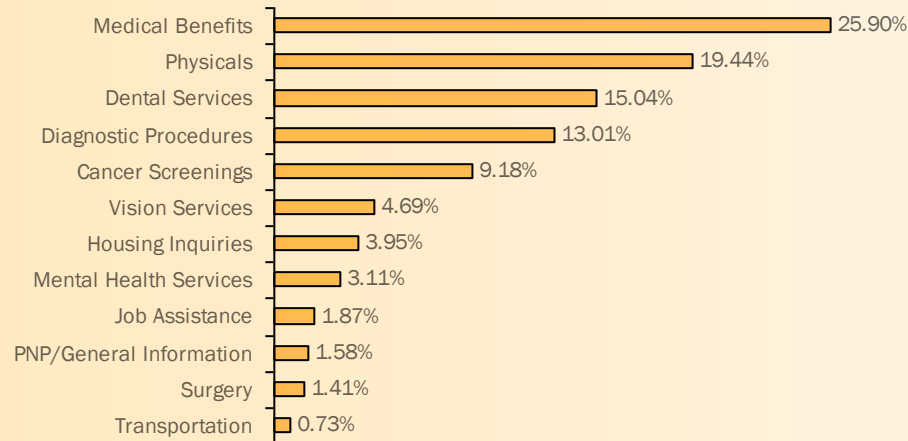
PNP is comprised of two components: (1) the Multilingual Health Information and Referral Telephone Line, which provides general health information and navigates callers through Montgomery County's extensive health and social services network and (2) Trained Multilingual Medical Interpreters who accompany clients to medical appointments, providing face-to-face interpretation and translation of medical forms. Interpretation is available in four Asian languages: Chinese, Hindi, Korean, and Vietnamese. AAHI Patient Navigators are multilingual and multicultural members of the community. They complete rigorous training and certification in order to provide high quality services to the County's Asian Americans in need.

- 7,969 clients encountered
 - 5,432 calls received
 - 1,441 on-site medical interpreting sessions conducted
 - 1,096 medical interpreting sessions conducted by phone
- 96% of clients linked to County services
- 70% of callers reported not having insurance

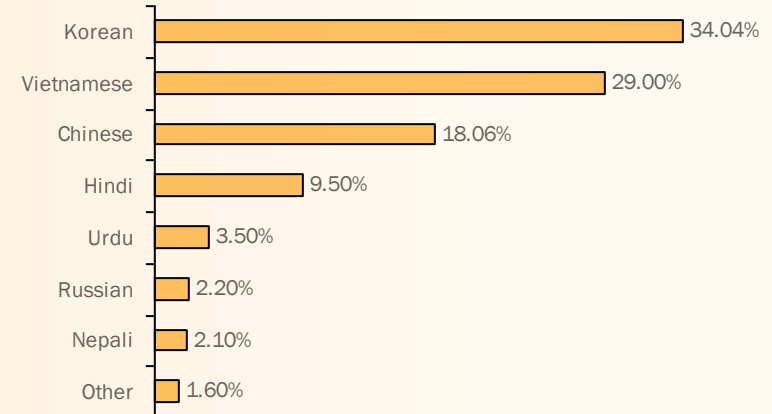


Highlights: Patient Navigator Program

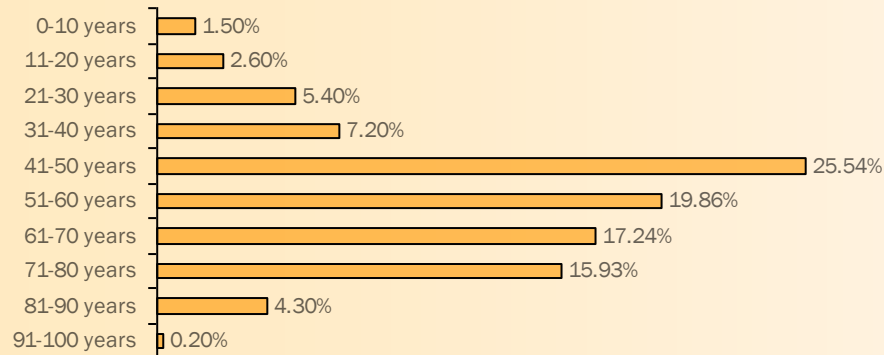
Percentage of Calls by Category



Percentage of Calls by Language



Percentage of Calls by Age Group



Highlights: ABCS Heart Health Project

Heart disease is the second leading cause of death for Asian Americans.
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)



ABCS is part of the [Million Hearts](#) Initiative, a national effort launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with the goal to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017. One way the [Maryland's Million Hearts](#) campaign plans to achieve this goal is by improving the quality of care for ABCS, which stands for:

- Appropriate Aspirin Therapy
- Blood Pressure Control
- Cholesterol Management
- Smoking Cessation

AAHI's goal with the ABCS project is to connect underserved Montgomery County residents with participating community clinics to receive services that help prevent heart disease and strokes. AAHI Health Promoters visit local small businesses, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations to conduct brief health education sessions on ABCS and work with them to schedule follow-up clinical appointments, as needed. AAHI received a grant for the ABCS project that lasted through September 2013.

- 11 small businesses reached
- 46 educational encounters conducted
- 65 pieces of literature distributed
- 5 health service referrals provided
- 100% of referrals resulted in appointments

Be One in a Million Hearts™

About Heart Disease & Stroke

Risk Factors

We're all at risk for heart disease and stroke. However, certain groups—including African Americans, older individuals, and women—are at higher risk than others. With more than 2 million heart attacks and strokes happening every year in the United States, it's important to know the risks.

Heart Disease and Age

Many people mistakenly think of heart disease and stroke as conditions that only affect older adults. However, a large number of younger people suffer heart attacks and strokes. More than 150,000 heart disease and stroke deaths every year are among people younger than 65.

Heart Disease and Race

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States for adults of all races. However, there are big differences in the rates of heart disease and stroke between different racial and ethnic groups. Some minority groups are more likely to be affected by heart disease and stroke than others—which contributes to lower life expectancy found among minorities. As of 2007, African American men were 50% more likely to die from heart disease than were non-Hispanic white men. African American adults of both genders are 40% more likely to have high blood pressure and 10% less likely than their white counterparts to have their blood pressure under control. African Americans also have the highest rate of high blood pressure of all population groups, and they tend to develop it earlier in life than others.

Highlights: Smoking Cessation Services



*Marylanders have a new way to live smoke-free.
When you are ready to quit, call 1-800-784-8669.*

Quitline hours:
7 a.m. to 3 a.m.
7 days a week

This is a free service provided by the
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
TTY # 1-877-777-6534



Since its inception, AAHI has engaged in tobacco use prevention and smoking cessation outreach. In FY2014, AAHI continued to promote the statewide Maryland Quitline service and the nationwide Asian Smokers' Quitline program to County residents. The goal of AAHI's partnership with these two smoking cessation services is to increase Asian Americans' access to linguistically competent care.

- The [Maryland Quitline](#) is a free service that offers one-on-one telephone counseling 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Eligible callers can receive a free supply of nicotine patches or gum. Asian Americans who are fluent in English are referred to the Maryland Quitline.
- The [Asian Smokers' Quitline](#) is a free nationwide program that offers self-help materials, one-on-one telephone counseling, and a free two-week starter kit of nicotine patches. The Asian Smokers' Quitline has been proven to double a smoker's chance of quitting. Services are available in four languages: Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, and Vietnamese. AAHI received a mini-grant to promote the Asian Smokers' Quitline through October 2013.

More About the Quitline

How can the Asian Smokers' Quitline help you to quit?

Self-help materials, if you would like to quit on your own.

A referral list of other programs in your area, if you would like to attend a group or a clinic.

Confidential, one-on-one telephone coaching, if you are ready to quit smoking and want some help.

Free nicotine patches, if eligible, to improve your chances of successfully quitting.

Does the telephone coaching really work?

Yes. People who receive coaching are twice as likely to stay quit as those who try to quit on their own. These results are from a research study of over 3,000 smokers.

Will some insurance programs pay for the abstinence patch?

Many insurance programs will pay for the patch for those enrolled in a quit smoking program, such as the Asian Smokers' Quitline. Check with your insurance company to find out whether you are covered for Zynrel, Chantrel, or a nicotine replacement product such as the gum, inhaler, patch, or spray.



Call Today!

Mandarin & Cantonese
1-800-838-8917

Vietnamese
1-800-778-8440

Korean
1-800-556-5564

Visit www.asiansmokersquitline.org

Want to Quit Smoking?




- 122 pieces of literature distributed
- 95 educational encounters conducted
- 19 carbon monoxide screenings provided

Highlights: Affordable Care Act Awareness



On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law. The ACA establishes comprehensive health insurance reforms to improve access to quality health care, lower health care costs, and provide new consumer protections. Open enrollment through federally- or state-facilitated health insurance marketplaces launched in October 2013. Uninsured Maryland residents signed up for health coverage via the Maryland Health Connection, the State's insurance marketplace. The Connector Program in Maryland was established to provide target populations with in-person education, eligibility, and enrollment assistance.

This year, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) served as the Connector Entity for the Capital Region, which includes Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. As part of the MCDHHS, AAHI participated in ACA outreach and education by sharing updates and raising awareness on health care reform as well as facilitating health coverage enrollment. AAHI also assisted with document creation and translation to help the Capital Region meet the diverse needs of the Asian American community.

**Health Coverage Enrollment
for Residents of Montgomery and
Prince George's Counties**

*The Affordable Care Act—Quality Health
Coverage That Fits Your Budget*

Get covered...enroll now!
By law, under the Affordable Care Act, most people over age 18 must have health insurance beginning in 2014 or pay a fine. The new health care law offers individuals and families access to affordable health coverage, including private insurance and Medicaid.

If you need health coverage, you can go to the Maryland Health Connection to shop, compare and enroll in quality health coverage. Other related information such as federal tax credits, subsidies, and public health programs is also available.

Who is eligible?

- For Medicaid enrollment, legal residents of Montgomery and Prince George's counties living in the U.S for more than five years.
- For qualified health plan through Maryland Health Connection, legal resident of Maryland.
- Age 18-64
- Do not have access to health coverage through their employer.
- If you or your children are currently enrolled in Medicaid, you do not need to do anything. You will be contacted when it is time to renew your coverage.
- Active Primary Adult Care (PAC) enrollees will be automatically transitioned to full Medicaid benefits.
- If you have Medicare, you are already covered and do not need to make any changes.

What information do I need to provide?

- Social Security Numbers (or documented numbers for any legal immigrant who need insurance)
- Birth dates
- Employer & income information for everyone in your family (for example, paystubs or W-2 wage & tax statements)
- Policy number of any current health insurance
- Information about any job-related health insurance available to your family

For more information-
Visit www.capitalhealthconnection.org, or call 240-773-8250.

1/18/13 English

What if I can't afford health insurance?
You may qualify for help paying for health care costs, depending on your income and family size.

If your household size is this:	You may be eligible for Medicaid if your income* is this:	You may be eligible for reduced premiums and/or lower insurance costs if your income is this:
1	Less than \$15,856	\$15,857 – \$45,960
2	Less than \$21,484	\$21,485 – \$62,040
3	Less than \$26,951	\$26,952 – \$78,120
4	Less than \$32,499	\$32,500 – \$94,200
5	Less than \$38,047	\$38,048 – \$110,280
6	Less than \$43,595	\$43,596 – \$126,360
7	Less than \$49,143	\$49,144 – \$142,440
8	Less than \$54,691	\$54,692 – \$158,520

*Source: Maryland State Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, Medicaid Planning Administration
*Household eligible for ACA and program within an eligible

- Three ways to enroll:**
- Phone:** 1.855.642.8572 (TOLL FREE) 1.855.642.8573 (TTY)
 - Online:** www.marylandhealthconnection.gov
 - In-person:** Staff is available in different locations at various hours.
- If you need language assistance, please do not hesitate to ask or point this to the staff "May I have an interpreter?"

This information is available in alternate formats by calling 240-773-8250. For TTY, call Maryland Relay at 711 and an operator will assist you.

- 3 presentations given
- 32 outreach events attended
- 692 educational encounters conducted
- 698 pieces of English literature distributed
- 343 pieces of Asian language literature distributed
- 133 referrals to a certified ACA Health Navigator

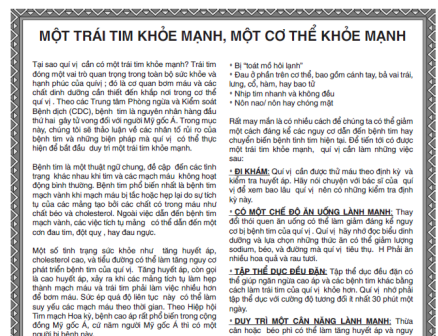
(Flyer also available in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese)

Highlights: AAHI in the News

“To develop effective health communications, you must understand key aspects of the cultures influencing the intended audience and build that understanding into the communication strategy.”
 - [National Cancer Institute](#)

AAHI develops educational articles on various health topics affecting Asian Americans. AAHI also works with experts in the health care field to review the content. The culturally- and linguistically-tailored articles are published in a number of print and online media news sources, in both English and multiple Asian languages.

Many Asian Americans look to local media as a reliable source of news and information. Asian newspapers are widely distributed, allowing AAHI to reach hundreds of readers and provide information on free or low-cost resources, screenings, and other health services in the community.



■ 1 article published on heart health

■ 5 media sources:

- The Epoch Times
- India This Week
- Korea Daily
- Migrant Heritage Chronicle
- Tre MDVADC Magazine

Promoting Community Mobilization and Empowerment

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Mobilization Guide](#), community involvement promotes empowered decision making and the creation of a unified effort. Through targeted efforts such as the hepatitis B prevention projects and the Empowering Community Health Organizations (E.C.H.O.) workshops, the Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) works to empower both community members and leaders to define and address their own health priorities for more sustainable outcomes.

In Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014), AAHI continued to actively engage and mobilize Asian Americans to be well-informed about their own health. AAHI provided technical assistance to local Asian American community- and faith-based organizations with aims to enable community members to share their needs, express their concerns, devise strategies for involved decision-making, and ultimately, to take action.

Moreover, the Health Promoters Program, community outreach events, the Connecting Communities to Services Program, and health education workshops inform and advise AAHI on the emergent health concerns and issues across the County's diverse Asian American community.



Highlights: Health Promoters Program

AAHI Health Promoter:

A bilingual and bicultural health advocate who receives training to assist with outreach activities, provide language assistance, conduct health screenings, connect residents to County services, and promote the overall health of their community.



The purpose of the [Health Promoters Program](#) is to help reduce cultural and linguistic barriers to accessing relevant health education and services for Asian Americans in Montgomery County. As gatekeepers to their respective communities, Health Promoters volunteer their time and enable AAHI to better understand and serve a larger network of the County's Asian American population.

Health Promoters can also be known as community health workers (CHWs). In FY2014, two AAHI Health Promoters participated in Holy Cross Hospital's *CHWs: Community Health Education Course*. This course provided Health Promoters with an opportunity to participate in an interactive class that covers the identified health priorities in Montgomery County: cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, behavioral health, cancer, and maternal and child health.

FY2014 Health Promoters

Shahin Azam	Jennifer Lung
Shamim Begum	Kanan Mahendru
Binh Cao	Sufia Mannan
Jennifer Chang	Cathy Ng
Leigh Chang	Ryan Nguy
YuTing Chen	Udara Perera
Jammie Cheung	Visvas Patel
Joyce Choi	Peter Pei
Rose Anne Felipe	Phi Quang
Maggie Fu	Ammar Rai
Jean KoKo Gyi	Sau-Man Lily Shen
Carolyn Ho	Simran Singh
Chi Hon	Tin Truong
Molly Hong	Maggie Tung
Tasneem Hussain	Kusuma Udagedera
Lester Jao Lacorte	Peter Uran
Meilan Kathy Lee	Tammy Wan



- 34 Health Promoters
- 14 languages and dialects spoken
- 14 ethnic communities represented
- 5 trainings offered
- 5 new Health Promoters recruited in FY2014
- 16 Health Promoters with 1-2 years of experience in the program
- 18 Health Promoters with 3+ years of experience in the program

Highlights: Community Outreach Events

Throughout the year, AAHI coordinates and collaborates on various community outreach events to promote prevention, screening, and general health and wellness.



AAHI engages in health fairs, resource information tables, and outreach to small businesses as well as community- and faith-based organizations. Through these activities, AAHI helps to promote the latest health information and connect Asian American community members to free or low-cost screenings and health services in the County. Additionally, AAHI convenes planning meetings with leaders from community- and faith-based organizations seeking technical assistance to develop and implement activities that empower their respective groups.



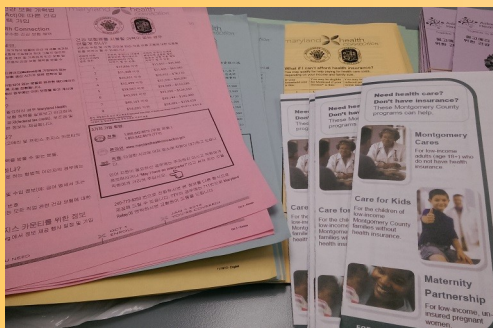
- 58 resource information tables hosted at outreach events
- 12 ethnic communities reached
- 1,863 community members assisted
- 6,842 pieces of literature distributed
- 4,429 educational encounters conducted
- 193 breast self-exams demonstrated
- 1,167 health screenings and vaccinations given
- 475 health service referrals provided

In FY2014, AAHI's community outreach events included the ABCS project, smoking cessation services, Affordable Care Act awareness, Connecting Communities to Services, hepatitis B prevention projects, and health education workshops.



Highlights: Connecting Communities to Services

In 2007, 12.1% of the businesses in Montgomery County were owned by Asian Americans.
- [Survey of Business Owners, 2007](#)



AAHI's Connecting Communities to Services (Connect) Program includes small business outreach, outreach to [Montgomery Cares Clinics](#), and resource information tables. The purpose of Connect is to reach out to smaller communities and underserved small business owners and employees.

In FY2014, the **small business outreach** model was revamped and piloted. Instead of periodic encounters throughout the year, AAHI coordinated one intensive outreach day where bilingual volunteers visited businesses throughout Montgomery County. Through this new model, AAHI found that health information was more widely accepted by the community. There continues to be a great need for this type of focused outreach in Montgomery County, as a high percentage of small business owners are Asian American.

For **clinic outreach**, bilingual Health Promoters provide one-on-one health education to patients at Montgomery Cares Clinics and inform them of local health services. AAHI also coordinates **resource information tables** at local celebrations and festivals that are not health-related. Similar to clinic outreach, Health Promoters inform the community of health resources in Montgomery County.

- 75 small businesses and communities reached
- 4 clinic outreach events attended
- 11 resource information tables hosted
- 481 community members assisted
- 1,633 pieces of literature distributed
- 800 educational encounters conducted
- 162 health service referrals provided

Highlights: Hepatitis B Prevention Projects

Approximately 1 in 12 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is living with hepatitis B.
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)



Although Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) comprise less than 5 percent of the total U.S. population, they account for more than 50 percent of Americans living with chronic hepatitis B. In addition, the death rate from hepatitis B among AAPIs is 7 times greater than rates among White Americans.

In response to this health disparity, AAHI created a hepatitis B prevention project model with four components: education, screening, vaccination, and treatment referral. AAHI provides these free hepatitis B services to Asian American Montgomery County residents over the age of 18, regardless of income level or insurance status. To date, over 850 community members have been screened for hepatitis B through AAHI's collaborative projects.

To further reinforce the importance of hepatitis B prevention projects, screening and vaccination for hepatitis B can produce long-term cost savings. According to the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, the approximate costs associated with the screening blood test for hepatitis B is \$8 and the three-shot vaccination series for hepatitis B is \$180. In contrast, end stage liver disease costs approximately \$30,980 – \$110,576 per hospital admission.

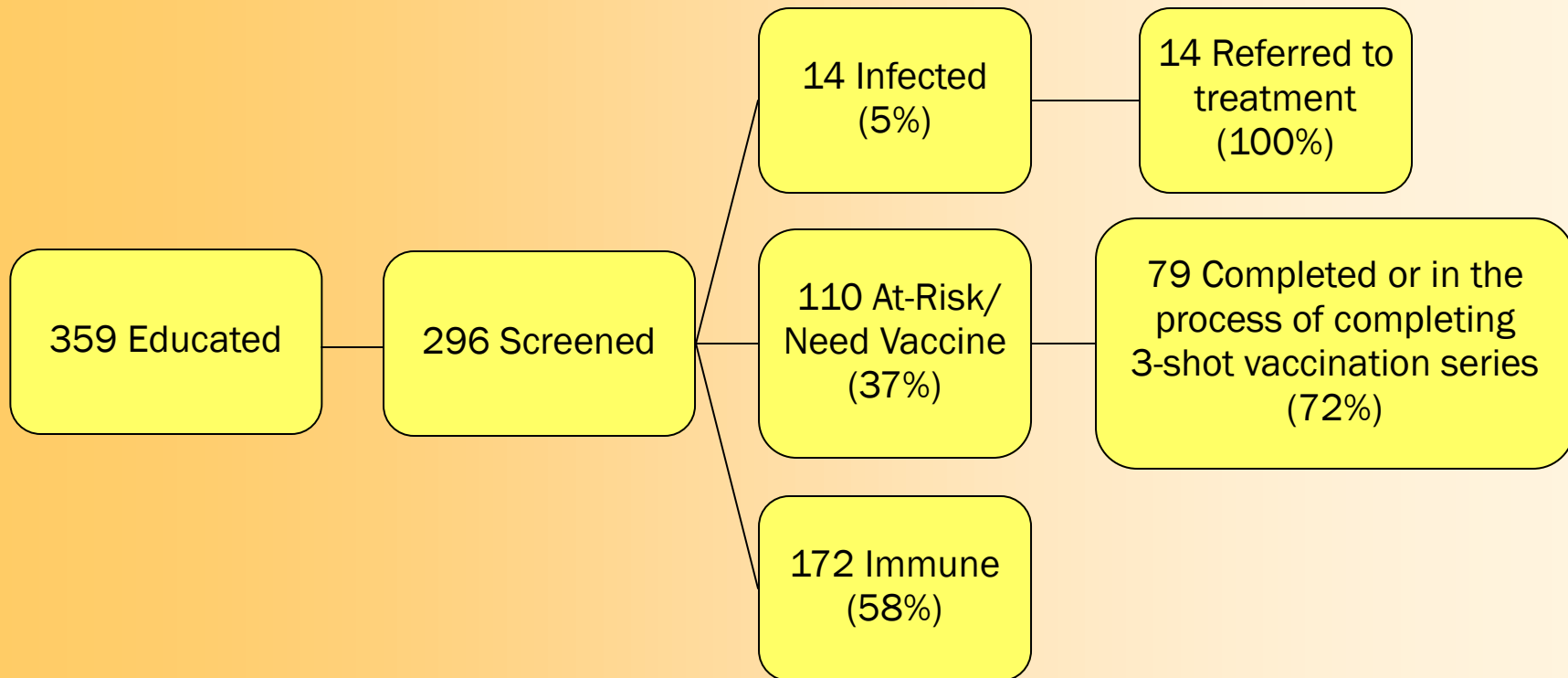
In order to provide culturally and linguistically competent hepatitis B services, AAHI partners with local community- and faith-based organizations. AAHI is committed to empowering organizations with the technical skills needed to develop, implement, and evaluate successful hepatitis B prevention projects. In FY2014, AAHI re-strategized its approach to hepatitis B prevention projects and teamed up with three previous partner organizations: the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC), the Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington (KCSC), and the Viet Nam Medical Assistance Program (VNMAP).



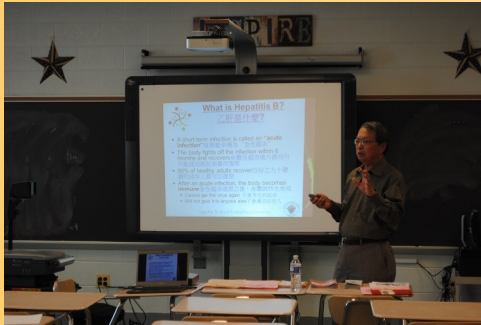
- 359 community members educated
- 296 community members screened
- 79 community members completed or in the process of completing 3-shot vaccination series
- 14 community members referred to treatment

Highlights: Hepatitis B Prevention Projects

Hepatitis B Prevention Projects Process Flow Chart



Highlights: Health Education Workshops



The goals of AAHI's health education workshops are to inform Asian American communities on various diseases, to promote the importance of preventative screenings for better health outcomes, and to link the Asian American community to screening opportunities and available County resources. Unlike traditional large-scale health fairs or outreach events, these workshops are smaller, in-depth sessions intended to create a more interactive learning environment.



In FY2014, AAHI partnered with the Hope Chinese School and the Muslim Community Center on health education workshops. AAHI and community partners worked with experts in the field to facilitate and inform the community on various health topics as well as link them to local services. Each workshop was tailored to meet the linguistic and cultural needs of the audience.



- 2 workshops conducted
- 2 topics covered: heart health and hepatitis B
- 35 community members assisted
- 220 pieces of literature distributed
- 200 educational encounters conducted
- 5 health service referrals provided

Highlights: Empowering Community Health Organizations Project

As one of its strategic targets to promote community mobilization and empowerment, AAHI created the Empowering Community Health Organizations (E.C.H.O.) Project to provide practical and professional workshops for community leaders. The goal of E.C.H.O. is to encourage community leaders to spread the knowledge gained at the workshop to their respective communities. The E.C.H.O. Project is a series of technical assistance and training workshops aimed to build the capacity and sustainability of community organizations that serve the County. Through the E.C.H.O. Project, AAHI seeks to empower and enhance the ability of community leaders to develop culturally and linguistically sensitive health programming.



In FY2014, AAHI hosted two workshops in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services' (MCDHHS) African American Health Program and Latino Health Initiative. The fall 2013 workshop was entitled **"The Affordable Care Act in the Capital Region: How to Enroll"** and consisted of an interactive panel of certified Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Navigators. Each ACA Health Navigator provided an overview of their ACA enrollment efforts for communities in the Capital Region (Montgomery and Prince George's Counties). In addition to the panel, the Lead Health Navigator of Interfaith Works demonstrated how to enroll for health coverage through the Maryland Health Connection.



The spring 2014 workshop was entitled **"Mental Health in Our Communities,"** which consisted of a presentation on mental health, what a typical encounter with a mental health professional is like, and support services in Montgomery County. The presentation was followed by interactive group discussions on the linguistic and cultural challenges of accessing mental health services.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Affordable Care Act in the Capital Region: How to Enroll

Join the African American Health Program, Asian American Health Initiative, and Latino Health Initiative for our 6th Empowering Community Health Organizations (E.C.H.O.) Workshop

This free workshop will consist of an interactive panel of the Affordable Care Act community partners who will provide an overview of their current tailored efforts to enroll the community in the Capital Region (Montgomery County and Prince George's County). In addition to the panel, a presenter will show how to enroll for health coverage on the Maryland Health Connection.

Mon., November 18, 2013
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
(Light dinner at 5:30 pm and program at 6:00 pm)
 Silver Spring Civic Building
 Great Hall
 One Veterans Place
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

RSVP by Friday, November 8, 2013
Space is limited. Register online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/aca or contact Tae Kim at t.kim@montgomerycountymd.gov or 202.772.3243
For TTY, call Maryland Relay at 711 and an operator will assist you.

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services presents

"Mental Health in Our Communities"
 Empowering Community Health Organizations (E.C.H.O.) Workshop for Community Leaders

Wednesday, May 21st
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
(Light dinner at 5:30 pm and program at 6:00 pm)
 Silver Spring Civic Building
 Great Hall
 One Veterans Place
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

RSVP by Friday, May 10th
Space is limited. Register online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mentalhealth or contact Shannon Lee at shannon.lee@montgomerycountymd.gov or 202-772-4615

This free workshop will provide an overview of mental health, its disparities, and support services in Montgomery County. Participants will have the opportunity to share their communities' experiences with accessing mental health services.

November 2013:
ACA: How to Enroll

- 138 individuals attended
- 62 organizations represented

May 2014:
Mental Health

- 100 individuals attended
- 43 organizations represented

Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations

In order to better serve the community, the Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) has sought, developed, and nurtured a range of partnerships at the local, state, and national levels. Through strategic collaborations across public and private sectors, and with traditional and non-traditional entities, AAHI leverages resources to improve the health and well-being of the Asian American community.

In Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014), AAHI continued to partner with organizations of similar visions in order to more effectively meet the health needs of Asian Americans. This year, AAHI forged new partnerships with a number of local faith-based organizations and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) School Health Services. AAHI organized resource information tables, health fairs, and presentations on Affordable Care Act (ACA) outreach, education, and enrollment with its new partners. Additionally, AAHI provided technical assistance to organizations on cultural competency and shared its expertise on implementing health projects in the community.

AAHI would like to extend its sincere appreciation to its partners and collaborators for committing time, energy, and hard work to advance AAHI's mission of working together to build a healthier community.



Highlights: Minority Communities Empowerment Project



Since FY2005, AAHI has been a part of the Minority Communities Empowerment Project (MCEP), a partnership with the Community Health Department at Holy Cross Hospital. MCEP is funded through the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Minority Outreach Technical Assistance (MOTA) grant.



MCEP is a multi-organizational collaborative that includes Holy Cross Hospital, MCDHHS' AAHI and African American Health Program, Community Ministries of Rockville, and Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. The grant targets underserved African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans in Montgomery County. MCEP's ethnic Health Promoter Program supports community-based health promotion and education in a culturally competent and linguistically sensitive manner. This year, partners developed a standardized public health and population-focused curriculum to further enhance the training and outreach capacity of Health Promoters.



Over the past nine years, MCEP/MOTA has helped AAHI develop long lasting partnerships and culturally competent outreach that address multiple health disparities in Montgomery County.

Highlights: Leadership Institute for Equity and the Elimination of Disparities



Mission of the Leadership Institute for Equity and the Elimination of Disparities:

To address social determinants of health with the goal of eliminating disparities and achieving equity among residents of Montgomery County

The Leadership Institute for Equity and the Elimination of Disparities (LIEED) is supported under the auspices of the MCDHHS' Office of Community Affairs. AAHI and its Steering Committee have worked closely with community members and professionals on the development of this new organization.

The overall functions of LIEED are to:

- Provide strategic leadership and coordination;
- Serve as a capacity builder;
- Act as a resource partner and collaborator;
- Promote effective community engagement;
- Promote innovation and support linkages/opportunities; and
- Support community advocacy.

Launched in July 2013, the establishment of LIEED will be incrementally phased-in over the span of two to three years. The inaugural year of the Institute was devoted to developing basic infrastructure required to operate successfully. This included the establishment of the LIEED Advisory Committee, a committee that consists of ten community members and ten content area experts who provide advice and support to the Institute. LIEED also pursued two projects, the first being the Behavioral Health Workforce Diversity project which helps address the lack of diversity in behavioral health care. This is addressed through the Welcome Back Center, which integrates internationally trained behavioral health professionals into the public and private workforce. The second was LIEED's active participation in outreach activities to educate and promote health insurance enrollment for the ACA.



Highlights: Equity and Social Justice Initiative

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services' Definition of Equity:

Fair policies, decisions, and actions that guide the way that we work with our customers, our colleagues, and our community to promote health, safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency

Equity Principles:

- **Dignity** – We believe that all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect;
- **Elimination of Disparities** – We believe in preventing and eliminating social and health disparities to achieve optimal health and well-being;
- **Access** – We believe in ensuring access to effective and high quality services that meet people's needs, when they need them, delivered by a professional workforce which is competent to provide those services in a caring and respectful manner;
- **Distribution of Resources** – We believe that the resources of the Department should be distributed in a manner that maximizes the health, safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency of the community as a whole; and
- **Community Engagement and Participation** – We believe that our diverse communities should be meaningfully engaged in providing input and feedback on policies, practices, and services.

AAHI continued to take part in the MCDHHS' Equity and Social Justice Initiative. Its mission is to improve the Department's capacity to serve the community and fulfill its goal to eliminate inequities in health and human services, including child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health services, and employment and housing assistance. This work involves engaging in systematic planning, implementation, and evaluation to help the Department understand and integrate equity in all of its activities.

The Equity Work Group implemented its equity awareness training program, "Creating a Culture of Equity," to promote awareness and expand knowledge about equity amongst all levels of staff within MCDHHS. The overarching goal is to understand and adopt equity as a value in all of the Department's work and to successfully integrate equity.

Accomplishments to date include:

- Convened an equity knowledge workshop to the MCDHHS senior leadership team;
- Organized an Equity Forum for HHS Excellence Quarterly;
- Conducted a train-the-trainer on equity awareness to nine MCDHHS peer facilitators;
- Developed a peer facilitator equity training notebook; and
- Convened five capacity building equity trainings to MCDHHS peer facilitators.

Highlights: AAHI 101 Presentations



In FY2014, AAHI continued to deliver educational presentations to community partners on Asian American health. AAHI 101 presentations include local and national level perspectives of the health needs and concerns of the Asian American community. Presentations cover demographics, access to care challenges, health disparities, the importance of cultural and linguistic competency, as well as an overview of AAHI and its programs. Furthermore, AAHI 101 presentations provide a valuable opportunity to discuss potential ways to work together to address specific needs of the respective community.



- **6 presentations given to:**
 - Hope Chinese School
 - Interfaith Works
 - Islamic Center of Maryland
 - Muslim Community Center Medical Clinic
 - National Council of Asian Indian Associations
 - National Library of Medicine



Highlights: AAHI in Social Media

As an emerging trend in public health, health communication tools, such as social media and e-newsletters, are a powerful method to engage community leaders and partners to work together to build a healthier community.

Social media allows AAHI to promote local health events, share information on wellness resources, and increase awareness of volunteer opportunities in the community.



[Like AAHI on Facebook](#)



[Follow AAHI on Twitter](#)



[Read AAHI's community blog](#)

- 6 AAHI e-newsletters sent
- 3 AAHI media sources: Facebook, Twitter, Blogger
- 346 social media updates posted
- 10,258 views of AAHI's Facebook and Blogger posts

The collage displays various AAHI communications:

- Newsletters:** 'Asian American Health Initiative Newsletter' (May 2014, Volume 4, Issue 6) and 'Recap: Health Promoter Celebration' (July 2, 2014).
- Social Media:** Facebook and Twitter posts from AAHI, including a post about a health education event on June 16 and a post about a health promoter celebration.
- Event Flyers:** 'Mental Health in Our Communities' workshop (May 21, 2014) and 'Hepatitis B Project in Action' flyer.
- Other Content:** 'Quick Links' section with links to About Us, Contact Us, Facebook, Twitter, AAHI Resource Library, Health Montgomery, and Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services. 'Upcoming Events' list includes 'May 30 - Muslim Community Center (MCC) Senior Program Health Fair', 'May 31 - Korean Community Service Center (KCSC) Active Care and Treatment of Hepatitis B (ACT Hep B) Vaccination Day at St. Andrew Kim Catholic Church', 'May 16 - Watkins Mill High School Health Fair', 'May 21 - Empowering Community Health Organizations (E.C.H.O.) Workshop: Mental Health in Our Communities', and 'May 31 - Pre-Registration for Head Start Family Health & Wellness Day'.

Highlights: Local, State, & National Collaborators

Please note this is not a comprehensive list of all AAHI partners.

- Adventist HealthCare
- African American Health Program
- America-Nepal Women's Association of Greater Washington, DC
- Asian American Political Alliance
- Asian Indians for Community Service
- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association
- Asian Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health in official relations with the American Public Health Association
- Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
- Association of Vietnamese Americans
- Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque
- Bethany Presbyterian Church
- Boat People, SOS
- Burmese American Buddhist Association
- Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc.
- Chinese Culture and Community Service Center, Inc. Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Chinese American Senior Services Association
- Chinese Culture and Community Service Center, Inc.
- Chinmaya Mission
- Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research
- Community Ministries of Rockville
- Cultural Infotech
- DC Japanese Mental Health Network
- Filipino-American Ministry of Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
- Gaithersburg Chinese Alliance Church
- Germantown Baptist Church
- Global Mission Church
- Guru Gobind Singh Foundation
- Guru Nanak Foundation of America
- Hepatitis B Initiative-DC
- Holy Cross Hospital
- Hope Chinese School
- Hopeside Community Church
- Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County
- Idara e Jaferia Islamic Center
- Indian American Medical Association
- India This Week Newspaper
- Indonesian Muslim Association in America
- Interfaith Works
- International Buddhist Center
- International Rescue Committee
- Islamic Center of Maryland
- Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington
- Japanese Americans Care Fund
- Japanese Christian Community Center of Washington DC
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Korea Daily Newspaper
- Korean Community Services Center of Greater Washington
- Latino Health Initiative
- Manila Mail
- Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs
- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities
- Maryland Insurance Administration
- MedStar Montgomery Medical Center
- Migrant Heritage Chronicle Newspaper
- Migrant Heritage Commission
- Mobile Medical Clinic
- Montgomery College
- Montgomery County Cancer Coalition
- Montgomery County Commission on Aging
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services School Health Services, School Based Health Centers
- Montgomery County Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships
- Montgomery County Public Schools, Division of Family and Community Partnerships
- Muslim Community Center
- Muslim Community Center Medical Clinic
- National Council of Asian Indian Associations
- National Library of Medicine
- New Covenant Fellowship Church
- National Institutes of Health
- Our Lady of Vietnam Church
- Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County
- Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
- Southern Asian Seventh Day Adventist Church
- St. Andrew Kim Catholic Church
- St. Rose of Lima Church
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Suburban Hospital
- The Epoch Times Newspaper
- Tre MDVADC Magazine
- University of Maryland College Park, School of Public Health
- U.S. Public Health Service-Asian Pacific American Officers Committee
- Viet Nam Medical Assistance Program
- Washington Adventist Hospital
- Washington Spencerville Korean Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Wat Thai Washington, DC
- Woman's Cancer Control Program



Highlights: Work Group Participation

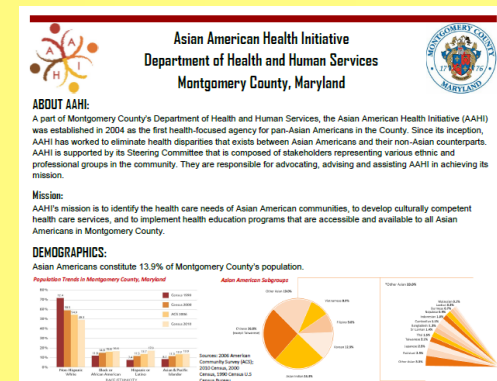
- Adventist HealthCare Center for Health Equity and Wellness – Advisory Group
- Asian Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health in official relations with the American Public Health Association – Executive Committee
- Capital Region Health Connector – Collaborative Meeting
- Healthy Montgomery Community Health Improvement Process
- Maryland Million Hearts Initiative – ABCS Heart Health Project
- Minority Communities Empowerment Project/Minority Outreach Technical Assistance
- Minority Communities Empowerment Project – Local Health Disparities Coalition
- MCDHHS Cancer Coalition
- MCDHHS Equity and Social Justice Initiative
- MCDHHS Healthy Montgomery Data Project Team
- MCDHHS Tobacco Free Coalition
- Montgomery County DHHS Quality Service Review
- National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease – Multicultural Outreach Workgroup

Enhancing Data Collection and Reporting

Data are used to guide and inform decision making, develop and prioritize goals, and monitor progress. Data may support health organizations to better understand areas of need, as well as offer insight on how to tailor programs to be responsive to such needs.

Disaggregated data, especially for the heterogeneous Asian American community, are critically important to accurately capture and measure the health status of each unique Asian American subgroup. Aggregated data can mask the health needs and challenges with access to care experienced by Asian American subgroups. As a result, the health needs of specific subpopulations may remain unrecognized or inadequately understood.

The Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) recognizes that the availability of accurate data is important to community leaders, government officials, and policymakers. Thus, AAHI continues to collect both qualitative and quantitative data to enhance the breadth and depth of Asian American health data in Montgomery County. For example, AAHI created the Hepatitis B Project Evaluation Reports to not only disseminate data with existing project partners, but also to provide other community organizations with a framework on how to plan, implement, and evaluate hepatitis B prevention efforts in their own communities.



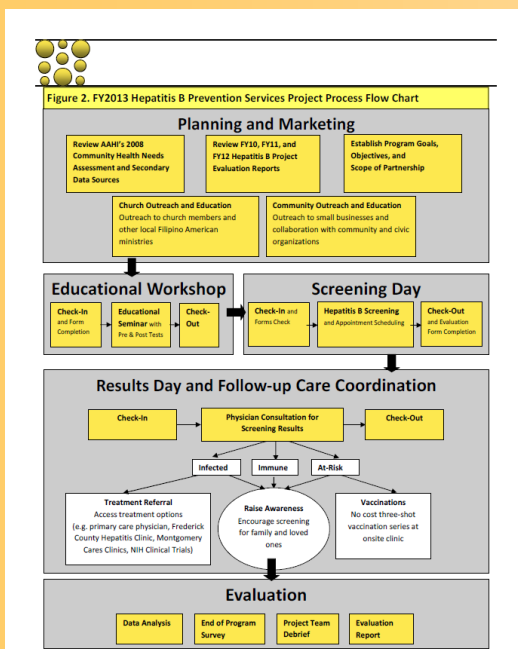
Highlights: Hepatitis B Project Evaluation Report



In an effort to enhance access to culturally and linguistically competent hepatitis B services, AAHI collaborated with local community- and faith-based organizations to develop a successful program model in Montgomery County. In the past few years, AAHI has been involved in several public-private partnerships to expand hepatitis B education, screening, vaccination, and treatment referral for Asian American communities in Montgomery County. AAHI incorporated data collection tools and evaluation measures throughout each project.

In Fiscal Year 2013 (FY2013), AAHI collaborated with the Filipino American Ministry of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, a local faith-based organization, on a hepatitis B outreach project for the Filipino American community in Montgomery County. The [Hepatitis B Prevention Services Project Evaluation Report](#) was released and is now available electronically. Similar to previous publications, the report outlines program implementation steps, outcome data, recommendations, and lessons learned. Through the lessons learned from each project, AAHI is able to further identify gaps and continue efforts to eliminate hepatitis B disparities in the Montgomery County Asian American community.

The evaluation reports of AAHI's other hepatitis B projects can be viewed on [AAHI's website](#).



Highlights: Healthy Montgomery



Launched in June 2009, Healthy Montgomery's community health improvement process aims to achieve optimal health and well-being for Montgomery County residents.

Healthy Montgomery's three goals are to:

- Improve access to health and social services;
- Achieve health equity for all residents; and
- Enhance the physical and social environment to support optimal health and well-being.

The [Healthy Montgomery website](#) is a one-stop, online resource for population-based data and information about the County's health.

Its governing body, the Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee (HMSC), is comprised of representatives from the local public health system. This includes government agencies and commissions, hospitals, community-based health and social service organizations, the County planning agency, and development agencies. AAHI's Steering Committee continued to participate on the HMSC during FY2014.

The HMSC identified priority areas for action, focusing its initial efforts on two specific topics: [Behavioral Health](#) and [Obesity](#). In FY2014, the HMSC approved two action plan reports – the [Behavioral Health Action Plan Report](#) and [Obesity Action Plan Report](#).



Professional Development

The Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) is committed to the development and empowerment of future public health professionals. Through the AAHI Internship Program and its own staff development initiatives, AAHI actively supports continuous learning, mentoring, and skill-building for its interns and employees.

Every year, the AAHI Internship Program offers fall, spring, and summer internships for students and recent graduates who are interested in the community health field, as well as those who are seeking firsthand experience and practical skills. Through this program, interns are given opportunities to be involved in a variety of AAHI projects ranging from research, to educational material development, to program implementation. For a meaningful experience, AAHI tailors the internships to meet both programmatic needs and the interns' interests. Interns learn about public health in a community setting while also building professional relationships across public and private sectors. AAHI's vision is for interns to expand their field experience, knowledge, and professional connections for future career development.

AAHI and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) encourage staff to further their professional development and training. Such opportunities allow staff to be familiar with emerging health trends and to exchange ideas with other public health professionals, ultimately benefiting program development and refinement.



Highlights: AAHI Internship Program



The goal of the AAHI Internship Program is to provide students and recent graduates with hands-on experience and insight into the dynamics of community health. The program presents students with a multifaceted opportunity to learn about public health from a community-based approach.

FY2014 INTERN

Sarah Tran

University of Maryland, College Park, School of Public Health

Highlights:

- Provided health education and information on local resources at faith-based organizations, small businesses, and cultural events
- Designed promotional materials for the Empowering Community Health Organizations (E.C.H.O.) workshop
- Created interactive osteoporosis game to help community members identify foods that are high or medium sources of calcium so they can incorporate them in their diets
- Developed AAHI Outreach Portfolio, a visual tool used by AAHI staff when conducting AAHI 101 presentations to new community partners



Highlights: Staff Development/Trainings



Throughout the year, AAHI staff participate in professional development opportunities through MCDHHS and other local, state, and national partners. The benefits of trainings are experienced by both the staff and the organization.



- Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum Webinars
 - How to Find Your Data – Navigating American FactFinder
 - How to Make Your Data Look Pretty – Creating Tables, Graphs, and Infographics
 - How to Share Your Data – Using Social Media and Other Forms of Communication
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
 - Ambassador Training on the Affordable Care Act Meeting
 - Montgomery County Affordable Care Act Leadership Summit
- Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities Conference: Partnering Toward a Healthier Future – Addressing Disparities in Behavioral Health
- Hep B United Webinar: Hepatitis B Data Collection and Management
- United States Census Webinar: ACS 5-Year Technical Webinar
- White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders - Hep B United Webinar: Hepatitis B and Reducing Perinatal Transmission – An Overview and Discussion of New Tools





Financials

The Asian American Health Initiative's (AAHI's) core budget went from \$413,836 in FY2013 to \$464,073 in FY2014. FY2014 expenses for core appropriated funds were captured in two broad categories:

1. In-House Programs and Administrative: These include program staff, special projects, office equipment, supplies, printing, and mileage. This category accounts for 32.9% of AAHI's core budget expenditures.
2. Contract with Primary Care Coalition: This category accounts for 67.1% of AAHI's core budget expenditures.

Through collaborations with Holy Cross Hospital and other community partners, AAHI also received a \$11,700 grant from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance program. In addition, AAHI received a \$2,354.31 grant from the Million Hearts Initiative and a \$857.15 mini-grant from the Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Leadership to promote the use of the Asian Smokers' Quitline.

AAHI Steering Committee

The [Asian American Health Initiative \(AAHI\) Steering Committee](#) consists of 16 professionally diverse individuals from the local community who advocate, advise, and assist AAHI staff in their efforts to achieve health equity in Montgomery County. They represent a range of ethnic groups and serve as voices for their respective communities. With expertise and intimate knowledge of various communities, the Steering Committee provides invaluable insight and support to the work of AAHI and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS). In FY2014, the Steering Committee members continued to work diligently with their unwavering motivation and efforts to serve the Asian American community. Some of their efforts included:

- Volunteered over 390 hours in support of AAHI's programmatic efforts
- Advocated in meetings with key leaders and policymakers in Montgomery County
- Advised AAHI programmatic efforts throughout the year
- Heavily involved on the MCDHHS Advisory Board assessing the evolving role of the Minority Health Initiatives/Program (MHI/P) in addressing racial and ethnic health disparities and well-being with the leadership of the African American Health Program Executive Committee and the Latino Health Initiative Steering Committee
- Served as liaisons to external community workgroups including the Asian American Advisory Group to the County Executive, Maryland Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, County Commission on Health, and Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee
- Assisted AAHI in reviewing ethnic health media for accuracy of content and cultural competency
- Supported planning of two Empowering Community Health Organizations workshops, "The Affordable Care Act in the Capital Region: How to Enroll" and "Mental Health in Our Communities"
- Presented with a proclamation by the Montgomery County Council in recognition of National Minority Health Month with other MHI/P

Members

Chair: Sam Mukherjee
Anis Ahmed
Ji-Young Cho
Nerita Estampador-Ulep
Wilbur Friedman
Yan Gu
Lester Jao Lacorte
Meng K. Lee
Sunmin Lee
Michael Lin
Mayur Mody
Nguyen Nguyen
Wendy Shiau
Ashraf Sufi
Stan Tsai
Sovan Tun





How to Get Involved

HEALTH PROMOTERS

Applications for the Health Promoters Program are accepted on a rolling basis. Health Promoters are trained by the Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) in areas of health education, health resources, and County and AAHI services. Health Promoters, in turn, educate and connect their communities to these sources. For more information about the program, or to apply, visit the [AAHI website](#) to download an application form.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have the opportunity to assist with health fairs and outreach events. Participation ranges from translation and cultural competency support to event planning and implementation. AAHI is continually searching for dedicated volunteers. [Please contact AAHI staff](#) if you are interested.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AAHI has long-standing partnerships with many community- and faith-based organizations. With these organizations, AAHI plans health events and participates in cultural festivities. If you are interested in partnering with AAHI or would like AAHI to visit your community, [please contact AAHI staff](#).

INTERNS

AAHI seeks interns during the summer, fall, and spring semesters. Interns have a multifaceted opportunity to assist staff with research, develop educational materials, and implement outreach programs. Interns gain hands-on experience in the areas of public and community health. If you are a current student or recent graduate interested in a meaningful internship at AAHI, visit the [AAHI website](#) for details and to download an application form.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The AAHI Steering Committee is comprised of a professionally and ethnically diverse group of stakeholders from the local community who advocate, advise, and assist AAHI with its efforts to attain health parity in Montgomery County. The dedicated members of the Committee provide a wealth of expertise and intimate knowledge of their respective communities. AAHI is currently recruiting additional members who can actively support the organization to achieve its mission and goals. If interested, please download an application form from the [AAHI website](#).

Acknowledgements

The Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) would like to express its deepest appreciation to the County Executive, the Montgomery County Council, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, the AAHI Steering Committee, the AAHI Health Promoters, community partners, staff, and volunteers for their support and dedication during FY2014.

AAHI Staff

Chun Man (Perry) Chan, MS, CHES
Program Manager

Sierra Jue-Leong, MPH
Program Specialist

Jasmine Vinh
Program Coordinator

Tae Kim
Program Coordinator

Shannon Lee
Office Services Coordinator

Contributor & Design

Jamie Lok Weng, MPH
Former AAHI Staff

Special Thanks

Betty Lam
Chief, Office of Community Affairs
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Health and Human Services

Sanjana Quasem
Former AAHI Staff

Contact Information

Asian American Health Initiative
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Health and Human Services
1335 Piccard Drive, Lower Level
Rockville, MD 20850
Telephone: (240) 777-4517
Fax: (240) 777-4564
Website: www.AAHIinfo.org
General info: info@AAHIinfo.org

