2018 Health Highlights

Minneapolis Health Department

February 2018 • Final report
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A Public Health Perspective

“In 2017, the Health Department celebrated 150 years of service to the community. Our public health challenges have evolved over time, but one constant has been the Department’s commitment to innovation, collaboration, and using the best science to support health. As we look to the future, we recognize that Minneapolis is in an era of growth accompanied by opportunities to address new challenges and longstanding inequities. Our collective action will frame the health of our community and create lasting impact for generations. I look forward to working with the new mayor, city council members, community partners, and residents to build a healthy foundation for a vibrant Minneapolis now and into the future.”

– GRETCHEN MUSICANT, Commissioner of Health
Minneapolis Health Department

Creating health together

Health is an essential asset for a thriving city. If we are healthy, we can attend school, go to work, care for our families, be active with our friends, and actively contribute to our community. Decades of research have shown that a small proportion of our health is determined by health care; a larger proportion is determined by conditions within our community. Many of those conditions are created by policies and systems (economic, educational, social, and more) influenced at the local level. Creating health for us all requires investing in healthier communities by ensuring safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, accessible transportation, child-supportive spaces and clean environments.

About this report

This report will highlight some of our most pressing issues as a city. It is does not provide a comprehensive overview of health indicators, nor a strategic plan for action. It does not provide a detailed overview of the many programs and initiatives at the Health Department. This information can be found in other documents that can be shared and is also available online.
Minneapolis Health Department

The Minneapolis Health Department is recognized as a place of innovation, leadership and quality. We create health by protecting the environment, preventing disease and injury, promoting healthy behaviors and access to services, and creating a city that is a healthy place to live, work, and play.

- We use community input to inform our activities and decisions.
- We support health within the context of families and communities, and across the lifespan.
- We bring people and resources together to achieve our common goals and address the conditions that influence health.

The value of a local public health department is our accountability directly to Minneapolis residents and city leadership, and our capacity to provide core public health functions.

**CORE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS:**

- Promote healthy communities & healthy behaviors
- Prevent the spread of infectious disease
- Protect against environmental health hazards
- Prepare for and respond to diseases & assist communities in recovery
- Assure the quality & accessibility of health services
- Assure an adequate public health infrastructure

The Minneapolis Health Department leverages about $12 million from federal and state sources, approximately half of its annual budget.

In 2017, the Health Department funded 67 non-profits for a total of $4.624 million.

The Minneapolis Health Department is a nationally accredited institution, ensuring the core public health functions for our vibrant urban city.
Examining & Addressing Health Inequities

Public health focuses on the entire population or distinct subpopulations to effect the changes necessary to improve overall health. Significant historic public health achievements include sanitation, fluoridation of drinking water, a safe food supply, vaccinations, and control of infectious diseases. Accurate and timely data are essential to public health progress. Data allows us to track trends over time and determine whether health concerns are changing. Health indicator data and data related to health risk factors and protective factors give us a glimpse as to how health is experienced throughout our city.

Data shed light on health inequities

Substantial differences exist among various groups of people with respect to rates of illness, injury and death, whether comparing groups who differ by sex, race or ethnicity, education level, income level, and area of residence. In the United States, differences in a variety of health indicators between the majority white population and populations of color or American Indians have roots in the colonization and founding of this nation, institutionalization and enforcement of racial segregation, and all the other remnants of racial discrimination that still affect society today through our institutions, policies, practices, and personal behavior. The residual effects can be seen today in Minneapolis in the intersection of three key indicators: concentrations of minority populations, concentrations of poverty, and higher death rates at younger ages.

These indicators illustrate health inequities, a term used to describe a difference in health status between groups when that difference is known or believed to be caused primarily by unfair or unequal access to the opportunities and resources that promote and sustain health.

In response to inequities, public health officials nationally and even globally have increasingly focused on the social determinants of health: those complex and overlapping social structures, economic systems, and physical environments, which in turn affect access to housing, education, jobs, transportation, recreation, and health care.

Community engagement and collaboration

Data can provide an accurate assessment of some situations but even then cannot by itself explain the cause for differences seen between groups. That requires deeper study and discussion. Health Department staff members engage residents and representatives of the institutions that serve them to deepen our understanding of community health, cultural histories, health assets, and challenges. This engagement fosters collaborative efforts to develop innovative and culturally appropriate programs and services to address underlying causes of poor health. This report highlights many of our collaborative efforts.
In Minneapolis, American Indian babies and black babies die at 3-4 times the rate of white babies. Infant mortality, death in the first year of life, is a strong indicator of population health, because it is affected by policies, access to health care, economics, environment, social well-being and general living conditions.

Minneapolis neighborhoods with a high proportion of residents of color tend also to have high proportions of residents in poverty and high rates of premature death, as well as other poor socioeconomic conditions and adverse health outcomes.

N=Number of infant deaths during the 3-year period of 2014-2016.
*Rate is not stable, because there were fewer than 20 infant deaths during the 3-year period.
Housing

“Housing is the essential platform by which we accomplish everything else in our lives and impacts every outcome we can measure.”

– MIKKEL BECKMAN, Hennepin County Housing Coordinator

Throughout our many health department programs, lack of housing is one of the main concerns we hear from community members—expectant parents especially fathers, those previously incarcerated, youth, low-income seniors, and others. Without a stable safe place to live, raising a child, attending school, securing a job, aging well, and maintaining health become incredibly difficult.

Instability. Experiencing housing instability or homelessness can force choices between essentials such as food and housing, split up families, and disrupt attendance at school and work. For children, unstable housing has been shown to negatively affect their development. For adults with specific physical or mental health conditions, unstable housing can exacerbate those conditions, or lead to incidents such as hospitalizations or encounters with police. When housing in a community becomes less affordable, more families are pushed toward housing instability and may be displaced. Consequently, the social and physical environment of entire neighborhoods and schools may change.

Poor Quality. Even when housing is secured, it may be of poor quality which also harms health. Substandard housing contributes to health problems such as infectious and chronic diseases, injury, and poor childhood development. For example, lead poisoning permanently impairs brain development in children, affecting IQ and ability to pay attention. Deteriorating lead-based paint in homes is the main source of lead poisoning. Another example is asthma.

Asthma attacks can be triggered by poor housing conditions such as indoor allergens, pests and dampness. These health conditions may increase medical costs as well as school and work absenteeism.

Stable, healthy housing can prevent lead poisoning and asthma hospitalizations which can reduce chronic school absenteeism, ultimately affecting graduation rates and the likelihood of health issues in adulthood.

An example of how children could benefit if we improve housing

- Eliminate lead & asthma triggers
- Prevent asthma hospitalizations & missed school
- Improve 3rd grade reading levels
- Increase likelihood of high school graduation
- Improve overall health & well-being
Minneapolis housing: past & present

In our city, due to discriminatory housing practices, low-income residents and persons of color have limited access to homeownership and high quality housing. Neighborhoods that have a high proportion of residents of color tend to have a high proportion of cost-burdened households.

Additionally, the housing stock in many of the neighborhoods is the focus of lead remediation and asthma prevention efforts due to the high prevalence of lead poisoning in children and asthma hospitalizations.

What we’re doing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECT SERVICES TO RESIDENTS</th>
<th>HOUSING HAZARD PREVENTION</th>
<th>LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing referrals to youth</td>
<td>Free lead remediation services to income-qualifying residences</td>
<td>City of Minneapolis 2040 Comp Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening mothers for housing instability during perinatal home visits</td>
<td>Promoting smoke-free multi-unit rental housing</td>
<td>Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee; Community Health Improvement Partnership for Hennepin County – Prioritizing housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free lead testing for children</td>
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Fast facts

- **11,500 affordable rental housing units** in Minneapolis were lost since 2000 (Met Council 2014 estimate).
- **Over half of families** served by the Health Department’s perinatal home visiting programs in 2016 were at risk of housing insecurity.
- **The highest rates of asthma emergency department visits** statewide were in Minneapolis zip codes in 2016.
- The Health Department helped **30 multi-unit housing buildings** adopt smoke-free policies in 2017.

Looking to the future

Our challenge is to ensure both high quality and affordable housing for all Minneapolis families. Meeting this challenge will take a broad array of strategies, including gathering community input especially from our most affected residents.

Moving forward, the Health Department will continue working with partners across the city to reduce barriers to high quality housing and preserve affordable housing. Some strategies under consideration include programs to help expectant parents secure housing and the creation of a resident committee to inform housing policy.

The Health Department will also continue responding to reports of childhood lead poisoning as well as provide free lead testing to children. This year the Health Department will also pilot a program for home inspections related to asthma triggers as part of the Northern Metals settlement.
Public Safety

“Sometimes we hear gunshots … And that just kind of frightens my family, and I want my neighborhood to be a safe environment.”

— MINNEAPOLIS YOUTH RESIDENT, 2015 Voices of Our Generation Project

Violence in all its forms, including gun violence, community violence, sexual violence, intimate partner violence or group/gang violence, profoundly affects the immediate and long-term health of individuals and the community as a whole. While the overall level of violent crime and youth-related crime has declined in the city, paralleling national trends, residents in certain parts of the City continue to be disproportionately victims or perpetrators of multiple forms of violence and crime.

Health Department activities

A public health approach to preventing violence focuses on increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors for violent behavior. Since 2008, the Minneapolis Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence (the Blueprint) serves as a guiding framework for collective action. Health Department activities include:

- **Coaching Boys into Men**, an evidence-based violence prevention curriculum for high school athletes, is being implemented in Minneapolis high school athletic programs. Coaches are trained in administering the curriculum and incorporate lessons into weekly practices.

- **Youth Outreach Initiative** provides trained youth workers in community spaces to engage young people, community organizations and businesses in creating safe and welcoming environments.

- **Inspiring Youth** provides mentorship and case management services for young people referred by schools and juvenile diversion programs.

- The **Juvenile Supervision Center** provides resources and case management services to young people who encounter law enforcement officers as a result of curfew violations, truancy or other status offenses.

- **Next Step** provides an in-hospital intervention for youth admitted as a result of violence-related injury with the aim of interrupting a cycle of retaliatory violence. The program has so far served 150 victims of violence.

- **Group-Violence Intervention** engages young persons who are involved with street groups to deter violence and provide a pathway out of this involvement. Since GVI’s launch in 2017, 55 individuals have reached out to the GVI social service team and half have obtained employment.
Youth violence prevention milestones

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>City Council declares youth violence a public health issue</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Health Department leads a coalition of City and community partners in developing a Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Minneapolis was one of 15 cities invited by the Department of Justice to join the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>The Health Department was one of 5 cities awarded CDC 5-year funding to prevent multiple forms of violence affecting young people</td>
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Partnership

Through the Blueprint, the Health Department has engaged neighborhood associations, faith communities, schools, libraries, parks, police, corporate and local businesses, and youth development organizations in working together with one common theme: the eradication of youth violence. These efforts have resulted in new and enhanced activities to reduce youth violence. In addition, the Health Department is represented on city and community workgroups such as the Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force and the City Attorney’s Juvenile Sex Trafficking Work Group.

Capacity building

The Health Department regularly provides training and technical assistance to key internal and external partners. Since 2015, the Health Department has sponsored 846 events and trained 286 professionals on best practices, emerging research, and other critical needs to ensure a wide network of support for the community. In preparation for the 2018 Super Bowl, the Health Department trained over 100 health inspectors in Minneapolis and other jurisdictions on commercial sexual exploitation. Staff also trained 30 Minneapolis School-based clinic staff on identifying and working with at-risk and trafficked victims.

Fast facts

- From 2005 to 2014, homicide was the leading cause of death among residents aged 15-24 years old.
- 98 victims of gunshot, stabbing, or serious assault were served during the Next Step hospital program’s first year.
- Arrests of Minneapolis youth possessing a firearm decreased from 765 in 2007 to 279 in 2016, or approximately -64%.

Looking to the future

Advancing the work with communities around safety requires responding to violence as well as trauma. Minneapolis is home to racial and cultural communities who have been deeply affected by historical trauma; recent law enforcement-involved events in our city have exacerbated existing distrust between community members and police. The Health Department will continue to serve as a resource around adolescent brain development, healthy youth development strategies, and trauma-informed approaches for working with young people. We will continue our work with the City Coordinator’s office and Police Department around improving police/community relations and creating spaces where youth and young adults can have positive dialogue with law enforcement and further our efforts to better understand and address the underlying causes of violence.
Neighborhood Landscapes

“We talk to everyone we can about the problems our senior citizens in highrises face with things like having trouble crossing the street—so we can work together to make change.”

– MARY MCGOVERN, MPHA resident

The layout and design of our neighborhoods can make it easy or challenging to be healthy in our daily life. Access to healthy food outlets, such as stores, farmers markets and community gardens, can reduce the risk for diet-related diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity. Opportunities for physical activity, such as parks and bike/walk infrastructure, also play an important role in obesity prevention.

Minneapolis neighborhood landscapes

Historically, lower-income communities experience more challenges accessing affordable healthy food. For example, as seen in the map, residents in the blue-shaded areas face greater challenges accessing healthy food in their neighborhood. While Minneapolis is recognized as a good city for walking, some areas of the city experience more vehicle pedestrian crashes per capita than other areas of the city. Some residents are also concerned about possible violence and harassment. However, through the collective work of City and community partners, there has been much progress to address the barriers and leverage the assets for healthier neighborhoods.

Sources: Minneapolis Health Department, 2016 | American Community Survey, 2011-2015 | mncompass.org, 2017

Neighborhoods shaded blue have many residents in poverty and households without a vehicle. These areas also tend to have many convenience stores and fewer grocery stores, as compared to other areas in the city.
Community-driven strategies for healthy neighborhoods

The Health Department’s Healthy Living Initiative partners with residents and institutions to make sustainable, community-driven changes that help everyone eat healthy and be active. Strategies are informed by community interest and needs and are often implemented hand-in-hand with residents. Recent efforts include:

- Cultivating a partnership with residents in public housing high-rise buildings to improve health and well-being. As a result, residents now have access to fitness classes, visits from a mobile grocery store, community gardening, and more. Residents have also successfully advocated for pedestrian safety improvements near their buildings.

- Engaging residents in developing conceptual plans for a street-to-greenway conversion in north Minneapolis that would create new space to be active and healthy. In 2016-2017, the Health department led the implementation of a first-of-its-kind five-block pilot greenway.

- Collaborating with community organizations to increase physical activity opportunities in Cedar-Riverside based on residents’ priorities. Accomplishments in 2017 include offering Somali traditional dance classes and learn-to-ride bicycle classes, as well as adding a fleet of bicycles to Sports Check Out’s equipment lending library.

In addition to over 35 Healthy Living strategies taking place in the community, the Health Department actively supports city agencies and initiatives that affect our neighborhood landscapes, such as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees, the Food Council, the Minneapolis 2040 Comp Plan, and many other ad hoc planning processes.

Fast facts

- **97% of the population** is within a 10 minute walk to a park, a great asset for residents to be active and have fun.
- **2 grocery stores** recently opened in north Minneapolis, an area with historically low healthy food access.
- **200 food retailers** are now required to stock a minimum amount of healthy food.
- **18% of Minneapolis residents** do not have a vehicle. Access to public transportation and bike/walk infrastructure is especially important for these residents.

Looking to the future

In 2018, the Health Department will expand existing partnerships with community-based organizations to improve the availability and affordability of healthy food options for low-income residents in Northeast Minneapolis and in the Wenonah neighborhood of south Minneapolis. The Health Department will continue to engage and support residents in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and in Minneapolis Public Housing, as well as employ other strategies to improve healthy eating, physical activity and tobacco-free living.
Nature & Climate Change

“They [my employees] need to be healthy to come to work and be able to stay here for years. Cutting down on what they breathe in is really important.”

– RAMIN HAKIM,
Oscar’s Auto Body

Our interactions with nature greatly impact our health. Exposure to pollution in the air, water, soil can cause a range of illnesses, while access to clean, healthy environments promotes good physical health and mental well-being. Ensuring we all have access to unpolluted environments now and into the future is a critical issue for the City, especially considering the impact of climate change.

Environmental challenges

Our environment is changing as the city continues to grow; as residential and industrial areas intersect, climate change compounds the challenges. Additionally, some areas of our city have higher exposure to pollution due to factors such as proximity to roadways and industry. Soil quality and water quality are impaired by legacy pollution from historical practices, and are also vulnerable to current situations such as underground storage tanks, or improperly sealed wells.

Climate change can adversely affect health by increasing the severity or frequency of health problems that are already affected by climate factors; or by creating unanticipated health threats in places where they have not previously occurred. In Minnesota, our average temperature is rising. Some of the effects include a longer allergy season, an increased likelihood of extreme heat, and an increase in air pollution. Some of us, such as the elderly and those with asthma or allergies, are more affected by these changes.

Protecting our environment and fighting climate change

Monitoring pollutants and enforcing environmental protections

The Health Department conducts inspections annually including spill response, erosion control, rock crushing, well water testing, and noise monitoring. These regulatory activities help ensure Minneapolis continues to meet environmental standards for water and air quality. The Health Department has conducted one of the most comprehensive air quality studies of any major city, leading to new programs to improve air quality in partnership with local businesses.

Climate change mitigation

Energy use is the main force behind climate change. The Health Department is driving citywide climate mitigation through the most aggressive solar and energy efficiency incentives in the county. As a pilot, the Green Business Energy Efficiency Cost Share has reduced over 10,000,000 lbs of carbon through our community based businesses and partners.

In the fight against climate change, pollution reduction is only half the solution; we also need strategies that involve mending and growing our environment assets.

• Through the use of biochar, the Health Department and partners such as Mdewakanton Sioux are making our soil more healthy and resilient to the effects of climate change.
Pollinators are the key to our food supply and enhance community gardening. Over the last 18 months, the City of Minneapolis Bees program has installed 150 pollinator patch gardens at schools, businesses, and community spaces.

Through tree planting programs, the Health Department combats the effects of emerald ash borer, improves air quality, and fights climate change.

Preparing our community for environmental change and stewardship

The Health Department engages businesses, youth and other community members in exploring their roles in addressing environmental concerns, and preparing for the effects of climate change.

The Energy Benchmarking Program tracks energy and water usage for large buildings to determine opportunities for improvement, recognize high performers, and determine progress towards the City’s Climate Action Plan goals.

Minneapolis Environmental Education program engages children in local schools including Anderson Elementary and North Community High in experiential ways to connect science with their lives.

The Health Department is leading a project to address climate change resiliency in the city. After completing a vulnerability assessment with local partner University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute, the Health Department and community-based organizations are engaging specific communities to prepare for weather-influenced emergencies.

Fast facts

- More than 9,000 inspections conducted annually, an increase of 300% since 2010.
- Over $2.0 million annually processed in permit and impact fees for the general fund.
- More than 50,000 lbs of criteria pollutants reduced through the Health Department’s Green Business Cost Share program.
- Approximately 14,000 trees distributed over the last 13 years through Health Department and City Coordinator’s programs.

Looking to the future

The Health Department is a progressive leader in local environmental work. In 2018, the Health Department will launch the Healthy Nail Salon program to reduce workers’ exposure to harmful chemicals. As a partner in developing the Green Zones, the Health Department will look at how we can bring an environmental justice lens to all of our programs. Through Health Department programs, we hope to more than double our citywide solar production within the year, scale up our climate change work through the Clean Energy Partnership, and continue our role in making Minneapolis a national leader in climate mitigation.
Healthy Babies & Thriving Youth

Early childhood and adolescence are critical periods of development, both of which require targeted prevention and intervention strategies, as well as intensive efforts to promote health and well-being.

Early childhood health

Supporting pregnant women, expectant fathers, new parents, infants and toddlers is critical to children’s physical, mental, and social development. Home visiting programs that begin during pregnancy and continue for several years after a child is born are a key investment the Health Department makes in family and community health.

Minneapolis has been awarded a Healthy Start federal grant since 1999. This program serves pregnant and postpartum women and their families, with a primary aim to reduce infant mortality among racial and socioeconomic populations at higher risk.

Over the years, the Health Department has consistently looked to improve and enhance support around early childhood health. Most recently, the Focus on Fathers research grant has examined how we can support both parents around preparing for a birth in terms of economic and social support, ensuring stable housing and food security, and dealing with other stressors they may face.

Early childhood fast facts

- Over half of Minneapolis births, or about 3,000 per year, are to mothers of low income (as measured by the receipt of WIC or Medicaid as the principal payer at the time of birth); 86% of these were births to mothers of color.
- Black babies in Minneapolis die at more than three-fold the rate of white babies (11.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births vs. 3.5 per 1,000 in 2016).
- In 2017, 248 mothers of low income in Minneapolis were provided targeted, evidence-based home visiting services through the Nurse-Family Partnership model.
- Housing instability and lack of social support were the top two risk factors for pregnant mothers enrolled in Minneapolis home visiting programs.

Timeline of early childhood research & programs

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<tr>
<td>Awarded federal research grant to validate psychosocial risk screening tools for pregnant women &amp; mothers</td>
<td>Awarded 5-year state-administered, federally-funded Maternal and Child Health Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant to provide evidence-based home visiting services (to serve 24 mothers)</td>
<td>Awarded 5-year federal grant for Healthy Start, a program that the city has had since 1999, to expand &amp; support home visiting services</td>
<td>Awarded 5-year MIECHV expansion grant to provide expanded evidence-based home visiting services (to serve 275 mothers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>...Awarded 5-year MIECHV expansion grant (to serve 175 mothers)</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...Awarded 3-year federal research grant for Focus on Fathers study to examine the effects of case management services for dads and analyze barriers to involvement with their children</td>
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Healthy youth development

Adolescence and emerging adulthood are periods of increasing independence and exposure to greater risks, including substance use and sexual activity. The leading causes of death among young people ages 15-24 years are homicide, accidents, and suicide. To counter risk, positive youth development efforts support healthy behaviors and lifestyles into adulthood, generate positive outcomes around education, employment, and civic engagement, and contribute to a more productive generation of adults.

Providing physical and mental health clinical services onsite to high school students

The Health Department provides health services to students at 7 Minneapolis public high schools. These School Based Clinics provide convenient, youth-friendly services in a familiar environment: physical exams, immunizations, treatment for minor illness/injury, pregnancy tests, STI testing and treatment, mental health services, social work, nutrition counseling, and health education. Services are provided regardless of insurance status.

Providing community-based sexual health

Through the CRUSH Initiative, the Health Department engages stakeholders and youth to develop strategies that address sexual and reproductive health disparities. The Health Department is also represented on the Urban Initiative, which helps create policies that support the sexual and reproductive health needs of youth.

Engaging youth on the issues they face in their community

Since 2013, the Health Department has engaged Minneapolis Youth Congress members to leverage the youth voice on tobacco prevention. Their recommendations helped inform a new tobacco sales ordinance in Minneapolis. In 2015, the Voices of Our Generation project highlighted diverse and authentic experiences of youth in Minneapolis. Currently, the ReThink Your Drink initiative engages youth in schools and out-of-school time settings, and the School Based Clinics sponsor a teen council.

Key partners

The Health Department regularly works with institutions and organizations to engage youth, provide youth services, and create healthier environments for their benefit. The Youth Coordination Board, Minneapolis Public Schools, as well as many youth serving community-based organizations are working together to address a variety of health priorities such as violence prevention, STI prevention, physical activity and healthy eating, and more.

Youth fast facts

- Minneapolis had the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea infection in the state in 2016, and the cases were disproportionately among youth.
- From 2000 to 2016, the annual number of births to teen mothers, ages 15-19 years, decreased from 820 births to 228 births.
- Over 12,000 students were served through health initiatives such as Safe Routes to School, the Bike! Walk! curriculum and school wellness policies in 2016 and 2017.
- Minneapolis School Based Clinics provided 12,285 student visits during the 2016-2017 school year.

Looking to the future

The Health Department is seeking to serve more families through evidence based home visiting. An additional focus of our work is to address social conditions of health such as housing instability in order to help families with young children thrive. To support thriving youth, the Health Department aims to ensure sustained mental health and physical health services for teens through the School Based Clinics, as well as ensure comprehensive sexual health education especially in light of federal policy changes.
Partnering with the Business Community

“This is the best organized and executed food safety defense operation for such a large event I have seen [regarding Minneapolis Super Bowl].”

– DR. AMY KIRCHER,
Food Protection & Food Defense Institute,
University of Minnesota

Our business community offers jobs, foods, and other goods and services integral to a thriving city. Businesses fit into the public health infrastructure because their services, products, and policies can impact public health. Health inspections are a core public health service, and the Health Department is committed to partnering with our business community and providing assistance and resources so businesses can thrive and ensure safety and health.

Ensuring food services and other businesses are safe.

The food and lodging industries are a vibrant part of our local economy and contribute to Minneapolis as a destination city. The Health Department protects community health by assuring commercial and institutional food services, lodging, and pools are safe and in compliance with state and local health codes. Our food service industry supplies over 28,000 jobs in the city, an important job sector for immigrants as well as new entrepreneurs.

Ensuring health and safety compliance in these establishments is critical to public health; equally important is our mixed-strategy of regulation, education and support which helps new business owners and their employees be successful.

Tailoring outreach and education initiatives to local business needs

Eighty percent of food establishments in our city are independently owned. Independent businesses are typically small businesses that often lack the infrastructure, compared to corporate establishments, to train staff on optimal safe food handling practices. The food service industry is also culturally and linguistically diverse. To increase compliance with safety protocols, the Health Department is committed to providing training and assistance in needed languages, offering vouchers for online training, and providing assistance onsite to restaurant staff.

As needed, city health inspectors conduct investigations in response to food-borne illness. The Health Department also inspects tanning and body arts establishments, day care centers, farmers markets, groceries, and stadiums.
Supporting businesses on health-related priorities

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<th>2007</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2017 and beyond</th>
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<tr>
<td>Launched Green Business Cost Sharing awards for businesses to invest in cleaner, greener, or more efficient technology</td>
<td>Began Healthy Corner Store program to help small business offer fresh produce and nutritious food in their stores. The program helped 45 stores</td>
<td>Provided education and assistance in implementation of Green-to-Go ordinance which requires environmentally acceptable packaging in food service establishments</td>
<td>Offered assistance to convenience stores as part of implementation of the Staple Food Ordinance which requires licensed grocery stores to stock a minimum amount of nutritious food</td>
<td>Created a certified food manager class in the Somali language, the first in the nation and nationally recognized by the US Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>... Released guidelines for food establishments to safely donate surplus food</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>... Offering resources and technical assistance to Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce businesses to create healthier worksites</td>
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Fast facts

- Our health inspectors oversee food safety in 5,900 facilities.
- Over 100 food safety training workshops were held onsite at licensed food businesses in Spanish, Somali or Bengali.
- 70 businesses have participated in Green Business Cost Share program.
- 230 food retailers have received education and assistance to comply with the Staple Food Ordinance.
- 746 food risk inspections were conducted during the Super Bowl in Minneapolis.

Looking to the future

Most recently, the Health Department revved up inspections and business outreach for the duration of the Super Bowl and related activities. The Health Department will continue to look for ways to improve support for the business community, such as re-writing and translating permit applications into Spanish in 2018. The Health Department is also engaging the business community on identifying how the city can support stores in response to the tobacco sales restriction ordinance, creating a healthy nail salon program to address environmental concerns, and looking for other win-win solutions in supporting health and our business community.