



# CITY OF MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## MONTHLY BULLETIN – FEBRUARY 2010



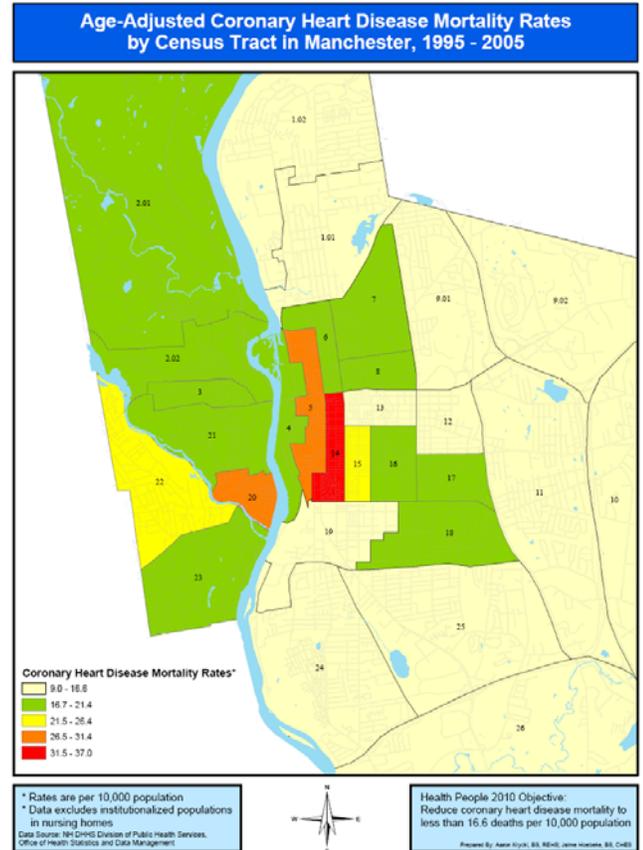
**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Chronic Disease Prevention & Neighborhood Health Division

Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) mortality is two times greater in high deprivation neighborhoods than low deprivation neighborhoods in Manchester. Approximately 70% of the variation in CHD mortality rates between these neighborhoods has been attributable to neighborhood poverty. Many of these same neighborhoods have limited availability and access to healthy, affordable foods and have very few areas that promote active transport and walkability.

In response, the City of Manchester Health Department (MHD) has been selected as one of fifteen applicants nationally to receive a grant award from the Healthy New Hampshire Foundation and the Convergence Partnership, a collaboration of six of the nation's leading funders, plus the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Manchester project will establish and coordinate a Policy Committee responsible for assessing the nutrition and physical activity environments of the center-city area. To create an opportunity for collaboration and sustainability of the project activities, center-city residents will be recruited to serve on the Committee, in addition to key community partners from health care organizations, social service agencies and representatives from local government agencies (Health, City Planning, Economic Development, Parks and Recreation, Law Enforcement, and Highway/Traffic). For more information about this project and other neighborhood health improvement initiatives, please contact the MHD's Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Neighborhood Health at (603) 624-6466.



### Community Health Division

**National Children's Dental Health Month** is held during the month of February to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. Developing good oral health habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits establishes the foundation for a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. During the past 10 years, the City of Manchester recognized significant public health achievements with community water fluoridation, the expansion of the school-based sealants program and in 2010, a full service school dental program.

The Manchester School Dental Program is a partnership between the Manchester Health Department and Easter Seals NH and the Poisson Clinic at Catholic Medical Center. During the 2009-2010 school year, the School Dental Program will continue to offer services to K-8 students who meet certain eligibility requirements. The program has achieved great success in establishing access to dental homes, as well as providing preventive services and restorative care to school children in Manchester.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*To improve the health of individuals, families, and the community through disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats.*

## Environmental Health & Public Health Preparedness Division



During the month of January the Manchester Health Department (MHD) and its regional public health partners from the Manchester All Health Hazard Region continued to deliver H1N1 vaccine to the public through a variety of settings. With the vaccine available to all residents and in ample supply, we vaccinated 1,314 people at five public clinics during the past few weeks. Clinics were held in Goffstown, Bedford, Candia, Hooksett and Manchester. The Manchester clinic was held at the Verizon Wireless Arena during the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Manchester Monarchs game and was a joint effort between the Manchester Health Department and the Monarchs Care Foundation.

In total, as of January 31, 2010, we have vaccinated 4,494 citizens during 14 successful clinics in a variety of venues. This effort has been not only an excellent way to protect the public health, but has also served to orient and train staff and volunteers in emergency public health response. Further, we have been able to cultivate the ability of our regional partner municipalities to respond to a public health emergency.

## School Health Division

The School Health Advisory Council membership consists of concerned professionals from the school department, health department, local health care agencies, and community health programs. Referred to as SHAC, this group meets monthly and facilitates discussion on those health issues impacting our school age youth and works with program implementation. At the January 13, 2010 meeting the membership looked at the Adolescent Resource Guide published in 2007 and decided that it is time for a revision. We need to include new resources and update information on the resources currently listed. SHAC has decided to work with Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic, reviewing their work on an updated community resource guide. This guide will be available to the community this spring in printed form as well as on the Manchester Health Department web site [www.ManchesterNH.gov/health](http://www.ManchesterNH.gov/health)

## Monthly Spotlight

### Andrea Iasillo Named 2009 Employee of the Year

Andrea Iasillo, BS, RDH has been named by her peers as the Manchester Health Department's 2009 Employee of the Year. Andrea is the Department's Dental Hygienist who runs the school-based oral health program. She has partnered with dentists in the community to assure that our neediest children have access to not only preventative and restorative oral health care on the dental van, but are then linked to a permanent dental home.

As one of her peers said: *"Among all of the hardworking, dedicated professionals in the Health Department, one employee stands out as exemplary. That employee is Andrea Iasillo."*



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/HLT/Home.html>, or call 624-6466