

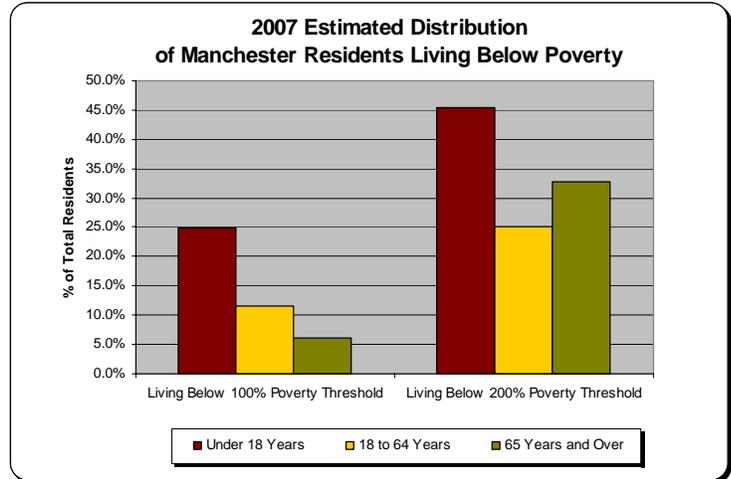


Chronic Disease Prevention & Neighborhood Health Division

Household Income and the Health Of the City of Manchester

The health status of any community is strongly correlated with the income of its population. Based on newly released 2007 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, over 32,500 Manchester residents are living within some level of poverty (as defined by the 200% threshold or \$42,054 total annual household income for a family of four).

Over the past several years, Manchester has witnessed both an increase in poverty levels among the population and variations in access to care by neighborhoods. In addition, disparities in income and education levels are associated with differences in the occurrence of illness and death, including heart disease, diabetes, obesity, elevated blood lead level, and low birth weight. Higher incomes permit increased access to medical care, enable people to afford better housing and live in safer neighborhoods, and increase the opportunity to engage in health-promoting behaviors (Healthy People 2010 Objectives).



Of even greater concern is the fact that over 45% of Manchester’s children under the age of 18 years are now estimated to be living below the 200% poverty threshold and one in four are estimated to be living below 100% of poverty (or \$21,027 annual household income for a family of four). As of school year 2007-2008, 36.3% of Manchester’s school children were receiving free/reduced meals, a measure highly correlated with poverty and with barriers to access to medical care. These socio-demographic indicators suggest that this places children at risk for poorer health outcomes and may have implications for their health later in adulthood.

Community Health Division

DTaP-IPV/Hib Vaccine Approved for Infants and Toddlers

On June 20, 2008, the Food and Drug Administration licensed a combination vaccine, which includes diphtheria/tetanus toxoid, acellular pertussis, inactivated poliovirus (IPV) and Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine. Known as Pentacel, the new vaccine is for use as a four-dose series for infants and children at 2,4, 6 and 15-18 months of age. Having been licensed and used in Canada for a decade, Pentacel has a good record of effectiveness and safety. The use of combination vaccines can decrease the number of injections required to complete the immunization schedule and can improve vaccine coverage rates among young children. For more information, please contact the Community Health Division at 624-6466.

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

Arboviral Surveillance Activities (Mosquito trapping and Testing)

During the summer months, the Manchester Health Department conducts routine mosquito trapping and testing, also known as arboviral surveillance. The Department traps at 3 consistent locations distributed throughout the city in an effort to identify mosquitoes that may be carrying West Nile Virus (WNV) or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

As of September 10, 2008 the Department has submitted over 23,000 mosquitoes for testing at the NH Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Laboratory. There, the mosquito "pools", or groups of like mosquitoes, are tested for West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). To date, there have not been any mosquitoes in Manchester identified as carrying WNV or EEE. The Department will continue its testing until the region experiences a "killing frost" or freeze in conjunction with guidance from NH DHHS.

In addition, the Department continues its educational outreach by posting signage at all public parks, schools and athletic fields across the city. The Department also investigates and enforces the City Ordinance which prohibits artificial breeding sites for mosquitoes such as unmaintained swimming pools and tire dumps. If you have a concern regarding WNV or EEE, please call 624-6466 x325.

School Health Division

Certified School Nurses

While schools were closed during the summer months, four members of the school health staff prepared for the National Certification in School Nursing Examination. This examination represents the formal credentialing process of recognizing the specialized skills, knowledge, and experience required for the practice of school nursing. Carol Guinta, RN (West High School), Lisa Hunter, RN (Weston Elementary School), Mary Johnson, RN (Hallsville Elementary School), and Nancy Wells, RN (Supervisor of School Health) were successful in passing National Certification in School Nursing Examination. The School Health Division now has seven nurses certified in this specialty area of nursing.

Monthly Spotlight

Health Department Welcomes Dr. Laurie Forlano

The Manchester Health Department is pleased to announce that Laurie Forlano, DO, MPH has joined the staff as Medical Director. Dr. Forlano is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed two years of clinical training in Family Medicine in the Jefferson Health System of Philadelphia and the University of Vermont. In addition, she completed a residency in Preventive Medicine/Public Health Practice at the University of Massachusetts, where she also attained her Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree. Dr. Forlano has previously worked in local, state, and federal health departments in chronic disease programming, prevention planning, and public health preparedness. She brings a passion for prevention combined with a clinical perspective, and is committed to promoting health, preventing disease, and improving the health of the city of Manchester and its surrounding communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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