

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Francine Axler, Senior Research Associate, PHMC
Phone (215) 985-2521 • Fax (215) 985-2550 • francine@phmc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Report Gives Perspective to Local Public Health Issues

PHILADELPHIA, PA, March 12, 2002 — Use of preventive care, ability to pay for health care, lifestyle habits such as smoking and exercise, as well as community-based issues as varied as violence and child care are the topic of a new report released today by Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC), a nonprofit public health organization serving the Southeastern Pennsylvania region.

The report, entitled *Community Health at the Crossroads*, contains an overview of local health trends from PHMC's Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey over the past decade (1990-2000) and includes health improvement goals promoted by the federal government's Healthy People 2010 initiative. The Household Health Survey is conducted by telephone and includes interviews in more than 10,000 households in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia. Maps and charts provide a closer look at the data for communities and neighborhoods in each county.

Findings contained within the *Community Health at the Crossroads* report include:

- ✍ One in four (26.1%) adults in the region have high blood pressure. This percentage does not yet meet the Healthy People 2010 objective (16%) and represents a substantial number of adults (727,400).
- ✍ Delaware County has the highest percentage of adults with no coverage for dental care (30.3%), followed by Bucks (27.9%), Chester (27.9%), Montgomery (26.4%) and Philadelphia (24.6%) Counties.
- ✍ One out of ten adults in the region have not obtained a needed prescription in the past year due to cost (10.1%); this represents 282,800 adults.

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- ✍ The percentage of women who have not had a mammogram in the past year has decreased dramatically over the past decade from 63.8% in 1991 to 31.4% in 2000, representing a 50% decline.
- ✍ Younger adults are more likely to smoke than are older adults. More than one-quarter of adults age 18-29 (27.1%) and age 30-44 (26.4%) smoke cigarettes compared to one-fifth of adults age 45-64 (21.3%). Adults 65 years of age and older are least likely to smoke cigarettes (9.7%).
- ✍ One out of twenty adults in Southeastern Pennsylvania have experienced some form of physical violence (4.6%) by friends, family members or strangers in the past year; this percentage represents 128,700 adults.
- ✍ The percentage of Southeastern Pennsylvania older adults who have used transportation services in the past year has increased slightly from 14.1% in 1994 to 15.7% in 2000.
- ✍ Children in Bucks County are slightly more likely to be overweight (7.1%) compared to children in the other counties. Children in Chester County are least likely to be overweight (4.0%).

PHMC will soon begin fielding its next Household Health Survey, during the spring and summer months of 2002. The survey data are used by health care providers, planners and policy makers from all sectors, including public, private and non-profit agencies. An excerpt from the report and more information about the survey are available online at www.phmc.org/hdrc. PHMC is a United Way member agency.

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