

# Preventive Services Use

## Goal

Increase the number of Delawareans who benefit from preventive services by increasing consumer demand and overcoming barriers to service delivery.

## Objectives

1. By 2010, increase the proportion of non-institutionalized adults ages 65 years and older who are vaccinated annually against influenza from 67.7% to 90%. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 14-29a]
2. By 2010, increase the proportion of children under 35 months of age who receive all vaccines that have been recommended for universal administration from 80% to 90%. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 14-24]
3. By 2010, increase the proportion of adults who have ever had a blood cholesterol screening from 77% to 90%. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 12-15]
4. (Developmental) By 2003, establish a state plan to help health care providers adopt practices and training programs to improve cultural competency.
5. By 2010, increase the screening of adults for colorectal cancer per recommendations. Increase among adults age 50 years and older the proportion who have had the hemocult test in the past two years from 28.5% to 50% and the proportion who have ever had a sigmoidoscopy from 44.9% to 50%. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 3-12a/b]
6. (Developmental) By 2003, increase provision of health screenings in the context of community-based health promotion programs. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objectives 7-10]
7. By 2010, increase the proportion of school-based health centers in middle schools in Delaware from 0% to 20%; and include reproductive health services in high school school-based health centers in areas with high adolescent pregnancy and STD rates.

### Notes:

The numeral assignment of each objective does not indicate priority, simply enumeration.

“Developmental” objectives are those that currently do not have state baseline data and, therefore, have no operational definitions. The purpose of developmental objectives is to identify areas of emerging importance and to drive the development of data systems to measure them.

## Important roles for each sector\*

### Business

- Promote employee use of appropriate preventive services, and negotiate for preventive service coverage in benefits packages matched to employee needs.

### Community

- Provide cultural competency training and health literacy classes and market preventive services, particularly to underserved populations.

### Health Care

- Encourage health professionals to offer and patients to use appropriate preventive services, help expand school based health centers, and increase transportation services to visits.

### Education

- Educate students, professional trainees, and faculty on consumer roles and needs in preventive service delivery, and promote immunizations at all ages.

### Government

- Adopt exemplary employer practices, and encourage private employers to include recommended screenings and immunizations in health promotion and insurance programs.



# Healthy Delaware Hero



## Maureen Lauterbach

Maureen Lauterbach single-handedly started the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC) and as a result of her efforts, the agency is a key player in the field of breast cancer education in Delaware.

DBCC has offices in Wilmington and Dover and produces an annual panel discussion on breast cancer to bring Delawareans the most up-to-date information on the subject.

Maureen is president of the board and is integrally involved in education, outreach, fundraising and expansion. She developed "Living and Giving," a pictorial exhibit featuring breast cancer survivors that travels state-wide. A widow who lost her husband to colon cancer in 1994, Maureen served two years as president of the American Cancer Society's Delaware Chapter.

## Resources (General)

- Christiana Care & Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Institute (PMRI), (302) 661-3000, fax (302) 661-3470, [www.christianacare.org/health\\_guide/health\\_guide\\_pmri.cfm](http://www.christianacare.org/health_guide/health_guide_pmri.cfm), Bayhealth, (302) 744-4401, [www.bayhealth.org](http://www.bayhealth.org) and other hospitals - direct preventive services, educational programs, community outreach including health fairs
- Division of Public Health, (302) 739-3033, fax (303) 739-6617, [www.state.de.us/dhss/irm/dph/hmpc.htm](http://www.state.de.us/dhss/irm/dph/hmpc.htm) - direct services and screenings, literature, data, program consultation, educational programs
- MCOs & HMOs/Insurersæeducational programs
- Medical Society of Delaware, (800)348-6800, fax (302) 658-9669, [www.medsocdel.org](http://www.medsocdel.org) - professional training, legislative and policy information

The mentioning of specific programs does not connote endorsement and was not meant to be exclusionary. We apologize for any unintentional omissions; please bring these to our attention.

## Closing the Gap

African American and Hispanic Delaware adults use of preventive services (such as screening and adult immunizations) are often lower than the white population, while minorities bear a disproportionate burden for disability and premature death from chronic diseases which can be reduced by preventive services.

In Delaware, about 20% of white adults have never had a cholesterol test, but 31% of African Americans and 43% of Hispanics have never had one. About 31% of whites 65 and older have not had a flu shot in the past year, compared to 40% of African Americans. (99 BRFSS)

To eliminate disparities, Delaware must focus on improving access to preventive services, increasing insurance coverage for preventive services, improving cultural competence of health care providers, professional education, ensuring community participation in planning and implementation of prevention programs at the community level, and funding preventive services at the local level.

