



Department of Health
Agency of Human Services



Healthy Vermonters 2020 Plans, Real-Time Toolkit & Performance Dashboard Now Online

*Celebrate National Public Health Week April 1-7
Public Health is ROI (Return on Investment): Saves Lives, Saves Money.*

For Immediate Release:

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BURLINGTON – Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD unveiled three new tools designed to improve the health of Vermonters at an April 4 briefing for Health Department staff and partners.

“Even in the healthiest state, there are challenges ahead,” said Dr. Chen. “Nearly 100,000 of us still smoke. Like other Americans, we are growing more overweight. Not all babies and children are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases, and we have too-high rates of binge drinking, substance abuse and suicide. That’s why it’s so important that we very deliberately and strategically set our course for better health.”



Now available online at healthvermont.gov are two new plans and a new performance management tool:

Healthy Vermonters 2020 documents the health status of Vermonters at the start of the decade, and sets population health indicators and goals that will guide the work of public health through the decade. More than 100 goals are detailed within 21 focus areas – such as maternal and infant health, immunizations and infectious disease, alcohol and other drug use, and cancer.

State Health Improvement Plan 2013-2017 prioritizes three broad priorities for the next five years and strategies that have been proven to be effective in 1) reducing the prevalence of chronic disease, 2) reducing the prevalence of substance abuse and mental illness, and 3) improving childhood immunizations.

Healthy Vermonters Toolkit/Performance Dashboard is a new online tool to track our progress in real time for improving population health indicators (such as smoking rates) and program performance measures (such as the number of registrants with the Vermont Quit Network). Data can also be viewed on maps and as trends by county, health department district office area, and hospital service area.

Hard copy publications of *Healthy Vermonters 2020* and the *State Health Improvement Plan* will also be available at the Health Department’s 12 **district offices**.

To watch a recording of the April 4 briefing visit <http://healthvermont.gov/hv2020>.

Visit healthvermont.gov. Follow us on **Twitter** and join us on **Facebook** for up-to-date news, alerts and health information.

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