



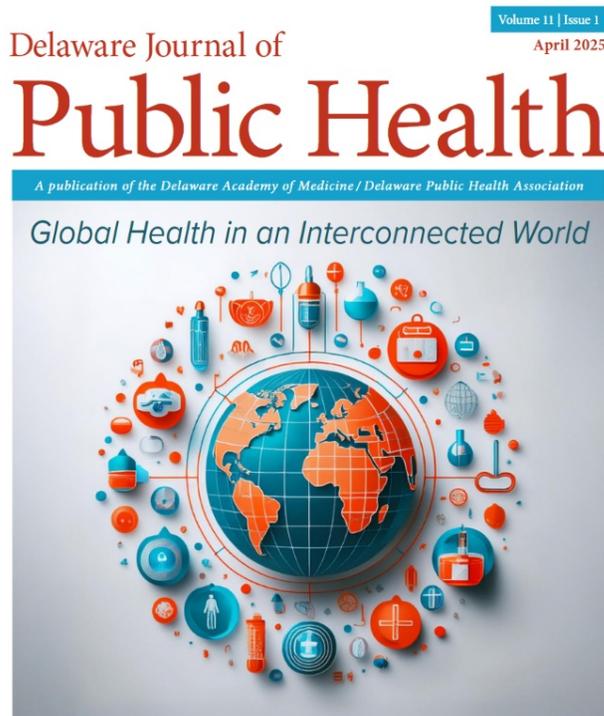
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In this newsletter:

- Academy/DPHA News: New DJPH Issue, Limited Edition NPHW Shirts, Student Summer Skills
- Delaware News: Affordable Housing (Newark), Hospitals Warn of Cuts, Food is Medicine
- National News: MAHA Report, Mental Health & Mothers. Novavax COVID Vaccine
- Global News: PNG Eliminates Trachoma, Attacks on Healthcare Workers, Africa CDC & Cholera

The Academy/DPHA News

New Issue: Delaware Journal of Public Health



The latest issue of the [Delaware Journal of Public Health](#) (DJPH), titled “*Global Health in an Interconnected World*,” explores the urgent need for international cooperation in addressing both communicable and non-communicable health threats. As 2025 begins, the U.S. is experiencing outbreaks of avian influenza and measles—measles alone has spread across 25 states, Mexico, and Canada—underscoring how quickly diseases can cross borders. But global health is not just about outbreaks. The issue also reflects on how recent U.S. policy shifts—such as proposed cuts to USAID and efforts to withdraw from the World Health Organization

—threaten global progress on HIV/AIDS, maternal health, and pandemic preparedness. With public health more interconnected than ever, this issue emphasizes the importance of sustained international engagement, data sharing, and equitable support for health systems around the world.



Wear Your Support: Limited Edition National Public Health Week T-Shirt Now Available

Celebrate National Public Health Week

in style with our limited edition grey t-shirt, featuring the winning design by **Shira Akoglu** from our NPHW Contest. The vibrant artwork on the back captures the power and purpose of public health in our communities. Whether you're a professional, student, or passionate advocate, this shirt is a great way to show your support and spark meaningful conversations.



T-shirts are available for \$24.99 each. If ordering more than one, please list all shirt sizes in the applicable field at checkout. Get yours while supplies last!

[Purchase Here](#)

The Academy/DPHA & ChristianaCare Hosts the First Student Summer Skills Session



On May 18, the Academy/DPHA and ChristianaCare hosted the first-ever Student Summer Skills Session, giving aspiring healthcare professionals an immersive, hands-on experience. Students had the opportunity to learn vital clinical skills including CPR, intubation, wound care, an introduction to radiology, and suturing.

The day also featured a special "Lunch & Listen" session, where students connected with current medical residents and students to hear firsthand about their journeys in healthcare.

Although our August session is currently sold out, you can join the waitlist by emailing nsabine@delamed.org.

Delaware News

[72 Affordable Housing Units Coming to Newark](#)

Governor Matt Meyer, Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) Director

Matthew Heckles, and local leaders gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the George Read Village redevelopment in Newark. A collaborative project between the Newark Housing Authority and Ingerman, the redevelopment is backed by nearly \$26.6 million in local, state, and federal investments. The project will deliver 72 affordable housing units—18 more than the original complex—along Newark’s Main Street, including a new mid-rise, mixed-use building and five family cottages. Targeting households earning 30–50% of the Area Median Income, this project aims to address critical housing needs and increase community diversity in Newark. Leaders emphasized the importance of expanding affordable housing options and supporting working families. Executive Director Marene Jordan called it a milestone moment, while DSHA Director Heckles noted the project’s lasting impact.

Hospitals Warn of Risks from Federal Cuts and State Budget Control Law

Following the May 13 meeting of the Diamond State Hospital Cost Review Board, Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) President & CEO Brian Frazee warned of significant threats to hospital operations and patient access due to looming federal Medicaid cuts and the continued implementation of Delaware’s HB 350 hospital budget control law. Frazee emphasized that anticipated federal reductions could increase the number of uninsured patients, strain emergency departments, and worsen health outcomes across the state. DHA raised concerns that HB 350—a law modeled after Vermont’s failing system—could compound these challenges by requiring hospitals to submit entire budgets and strategic plans to a state board, with the power to override them. Frazee noted that Vermont’s model has led to rising insurance premiums, hospital losses, and service reductions. With Delaware recently [ranked #1 in hospital quality](#) by U.S. News & World Report, Frazee urged policymakers to pursue a more collaborative and transparent approach that protects access and sustainability rather than adopting a system he argues has already failed elsewhere.

Gov Meyer Launches Delaware Food is Medicine Committee

Governor Matt Meyer has announced the creation of the Delaware Food is Medicine Committee, a groundbreaking statewide initiative aimed at improving health outcomes, reducing healthcare costs, and supporting local agriculture by integrating nutrition directly into healthcare delivery. Housed under the Delaware Council on Farm & Food Policy and chaired by Lt. Governor Kyle Evans Gay, the committee will focus on expanding access to nutrition-based interventions, particularly for high-risk and low-income populations. The initiative is grounded in the belief that food can be both nourishment and medicine, helping to manage chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. By prioritizing prevention through food, the committee aims to reduce hospital visits, cut Medicaid spending, and create new markets for Delaware farmers. Drawing inspiration from successful models in other states and national thought leaders like Tufts University and Kaiser Permanente, the committee will work to establish Delaware’s first statewide Food is Medicine framework — advancing health equity, improving care, and boosting the state’s agricultural economy.

What else we are reading:

- [DMV on the Go](#)
- [DNREC's to Offer 'Life in the Bay' Youth Seining Program](#)
- [Delaware-Grown Farmers Markets Break Records](#)
- [Wilmington Mayor John Carney Announces Residential Tax Relief Plan](#)
- [Students' Mock Continental Congress Coming to Delaware](#)
- [DSHA to Host Free Homebuyers Fair](#)
- [Summer Curfew Laws for Delawarean Minors](#)
- [Delaware SB149 Proposes Framework for Low-Income Housing](#)
- [AG Jennings Joins 15 Others to Sue Trump over Science Research Cuts](#)

National News

[**First Make America Health Again \(MAHA\) Report Released**](#)

The White House released the [MAHA report](#) on May 22nd, blaming environmental toxins, poor nutrition, and increased screen time for declining U.S. life expectancy and calling today's children the "sickest generation" in terms of chronic disease. Authored by Cabinet officials under an executive order from President Trump, the report questions vaccine safety, prescription drug use, and the widespread presence of chemical exposures in food and the environment. HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said policy recommendations will follow in August. While the report criticizes ultra-processed foods and highlights concerns about pesticides like glyphosate, it avoids direct regulation, prompting criticism from both health advocates and industry allies. Experts say the report stretches or misrepresents some scientific findings, particularly regarding vaccines, psychiatric medications, and environmental exposures. Despite lacking the force of law, the MAHA report signals a shift in federal health messaging with potentially far-reaching policy implications.

[**One in 12 U.S. Mothers Now Report Poor Mental Health**](#)

A recent study using data from the National Survey of Children's Health (2016–2023) found notable declines in self-reported mental and physical health among mothers in the U.S., with mental health showing the most significant drop. The percentage of mothers reporting excellent mental health fell from 38.4% to 25.8%, while excellent physical health declined more modestly from 28.0% to 23.9%. These declines were observed across all socioeconomic groups, but mothers who were single, had lower educational attainment, or had publicly insured or uninsured children reported significantly poorer health overall. The findings highlight a growing public health concern beyond the perinatal period and align with the U.S. Surgeon General's recent advisory identifying parental mental health as a national priority. Given the broad and deepening impact on maternal well-being, especially among low-income and marginalized groups, further investment is urgently needed to explore and address the root causes of these health declines. This research emphasizes the need for policies and programs that support maternal health throughout all stages of parenting.

[**FDA Approves Novavax Covid-19 Vaccine with Restrictions**](#)

The FDA has approved Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine, but its use is restricted to people aged 65 and older, and to individuals aged 12 to 64 who have at least

one medical condition that increases their risk of severe Covid illness. These limitations set Novavax apart from the other two Covid vaccines authorized for use in the U.S., which face no such restrictions. In related vaccine news, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has signed off on three vaccine recommendations passed last month by the CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#), specifically for newly licensed chikungunya vaccines and who can receive them. Notably, this approval received no public announcement, with the information quietly posted on the ACIP website. However, three other recommendations from April—covering a new meningococcal vaccine and expanded eligibility for RSV vaccines among adults—have yet to receive Kennedy's approval and remain pending. This partial endorsement raises questions about delays in adopting broader immunization measures amid ongoing public health concerns.

What else we are reading:

- [Girls with Healthier Diets Experience Later Onset of Menstruation](#)
- [USC & UCLA Perform World's First Bladder Transplant in Human Patient](#)
- [ORR, Meant for Protecting Immigrant Children, Now Aids Immigration Enforcement](#)
- [RFK Jr Removes COVID-19 Vax Recommendation for 'Healthy Children & Pregnant Women'](#)
- [Rural Montana Lab Becomes Flashpoint in War on Research](#)
- [Trump Lays Off CDC Drowning-Prevention Team](#)
- [RFK Jr Says NIH May Publish 'In-House' Rather than in Medical Journals](#)
- [Researchers Working Toward Nausea-Free GLP-1s](#)
- [Over 1000 Measles Cases Reported Across 31 States](#)
- [Texas Bill Could Broaden Vaccine Exemptions for Kids](#)

Global News

Papua New Guinea Eliminates Trachoma as a Public Health Threat

Papua New Guinea has been officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, as a public health problem. This milestone, celebrated during the 78th World Health Assembly, marks the country's first elimination of a neglected tropical disease (NTD). PNG's success is attributed to strong disease surveillance and targeted epidemiological studies, rather than mass interventions. The achievement reflects the collaboration between PNG's National Department of Health, WHO, and global partners, advancing the global goal of ending NTDs by 2030.

Record Level Attacks on Health Workers and Facilities in 2024

A record-breaking 3,623 attacks on health workers, hospitals, and clinics occurred in 2024, according to a new report by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, signaling a sharp rise in violence against medical services in conflict zones. The figure represents a 15% increase from 2023 and a 62% increase from 2022. Hotspots included Gaza and the West Bank, which alone accounted for over 1,300 incidents, with significant numbers also reported in Ukraine, Lebanon, Myanmar, and Sudan. Explosive weapons—often deployed through increasingly common drone strikes—were used in nearly half of all

attacks. Christina Wille, who led the report's data collection, warned that the findings reflect a "complete erosion in the respect for international humanitarian law" and the growing failure to protect health care in conflict. The report also notes the figures likely underestimate the true scale of violence due to underreporting.

[Africa Applies Mpox Response Lessons to Combat Cholera](#)

Facing a rapid cholera spread across 16 African countries, including severe outbreaks in Angola, DRC, South Sudan, and Sudan, the Africa CDC is leveraging strategies from the recent mpox outbreak to coordinate a continent-wide response. Since January 2024, over 178,000 cholera cases and 1,600 deaths have been reported. Building on the successful Incident Management Support Team (IMST) model used for mpox—which emphasized partner collaboration, unified planning, and resource sharing—Africa CDC aims to strengthen surveillance, health systems, and local vaccine manufacturing to better tackle cholera and other concurrent outbreaks. Experts stress that beyond outbreak response, addressing underlying factors like water quality, sanitation, conflict, and vaccine access remains critical for long-term control.

What else we are reading:

- [DRC Reports of Sexual Violence Surge by Almost 700%](#)
- ['Dieselgate' Pollution Killed 16k and Caused 30K Cases of Asthma in the U.K.](#)
- [New WHO Climate Change & Health Action Plan Approved](#)
- [Argentina Withdraws from WHO \(During RFK Jr Visit\)](#)
- [Painkillers, Vaccines, and Equipment are Critically Low in Gaza](#)
- [MRI May Be More Effective Than Ultrasound for 2nd Screening in Dense Breasts](#)
- [Rat-borne Diseases Spreading in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [PAHO Warns Risk of Yellow Fever Remains High South America](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health - [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

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