



Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County  
ANNUAL HEALTH PROFILE  
2018





There is no greater role the Department of Health in Palm Beach County (DOH-Palm Beach) can play than to be “the agent of change” for the community. We have seen the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) embraced throughout the county by countless community partners both small and large. This tool has been used as a compass steering our community away from silos and into united goals. The community has embraced implementing the lens of equity to eliminate disparities and break down barriers.

Palm Beach County’s residents and visitors have remained in the top percentile for health as seen in the Robert Wood Johnson National County Rankings. Communities are now engaged in looking at root causes to solve problems in which they choose to participate. Data driven decision making is now accepted and understood not only at the top level of management but also at the ground level where the customer has input.

The best example of the success of the community’s progress to embracing changes and taking a multisector partnership to shift mindsets and actions around resources, is the significant decrease for the past 3 years in the Black Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). The Black IMR dropped from 9.1 deaths/1000 live births in 2015 to the lowest rate of 6.0 deaths/ 1000 live births in 2017. As an agent of change, DOH-Palm Beach is bringing the issues of equity, racial disparities, and social justice to improve the health of our community. We have demonstrated that to create change we must help the community develop their own tools and skill sets to be more self-sufficient, improve their economic stability and get involved in policy changes.

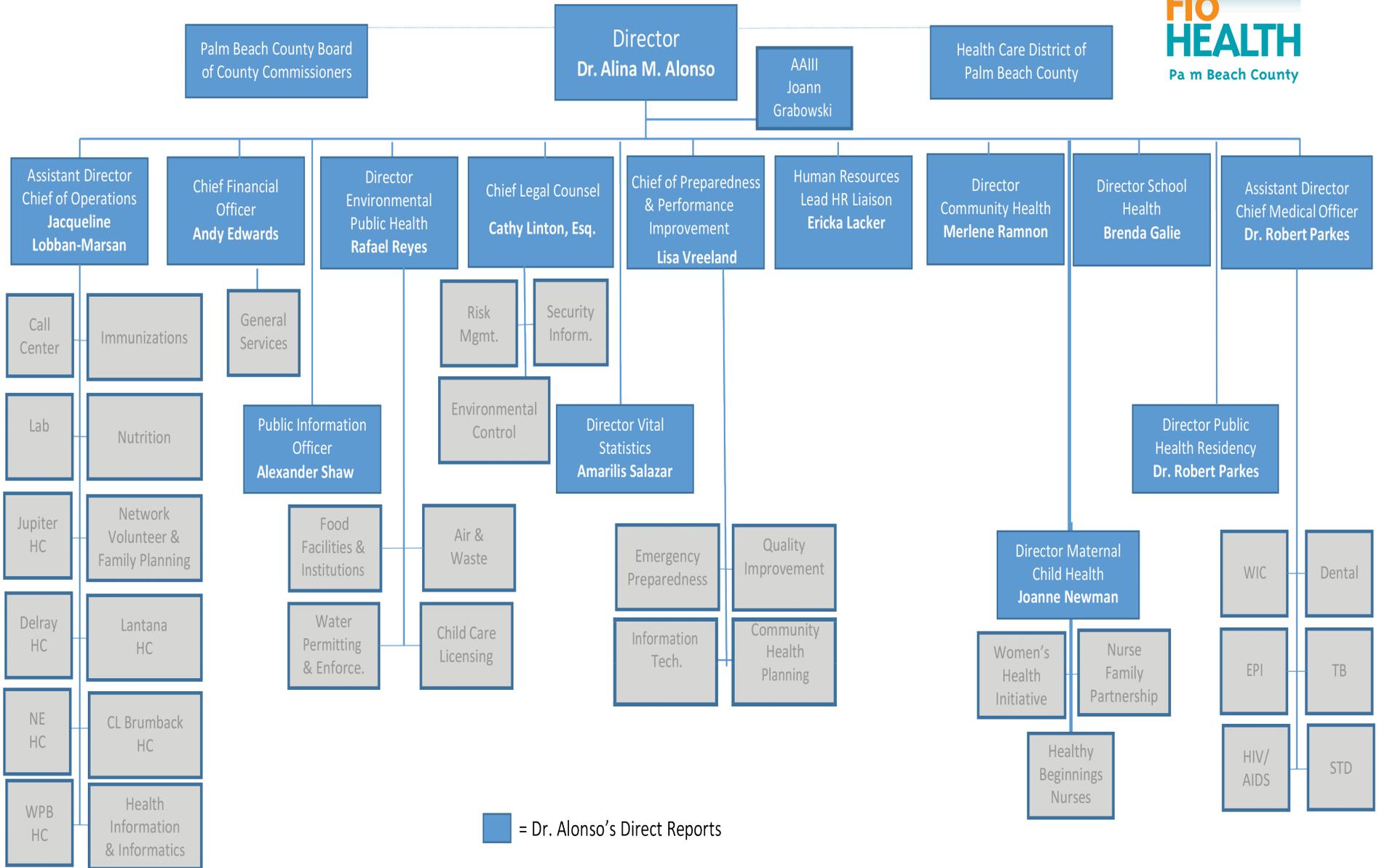
Our future looks brighter and stronger than ever. As an Accredited Health Department by the Public Health Accreditation Board, we stand as a trusted source of information for our community leaders. The public relies on our skilled and competent work force to battle emerging communicable diseases, provide life saving preventive services, maintain and protect our environment, and improve and promote a healthier lifestyle to ensure that all people have full and equitable access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthier lives.

Alina Alonso, MD  
Director  
Florida Department of Health  
Palm Beach County

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alina Alonso".



# DOH-Palm Beach Functional Organizational Chart 2018



**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts.

**Vision:**

To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**Core Values: (I CARE)**

**Innovation:** ----- We search for creative solutions and manage resources wisely.

**Collaboration:** ----- We use teamwork to achieve common goals & solve problems.

**Accountability:** ----- We perform with integrity & respect.

**Responsiveness:** We achieve our mission by serving our customers & engaging our partners.

**Excellence:** We promote quality outcomes through learning & continuous performance improvement.

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## VITAL STATISTICS

Births(Count) by Year of Birth by County of Residence (Mother)

Births=Resident

Palm Beach County 2018 (Provisional) Total 15,043

Resident Death Counts by Year by Residence County

Palm Beach County 2018 (Provisional) Total 14,727

Resident Infant Death Count by Residence County

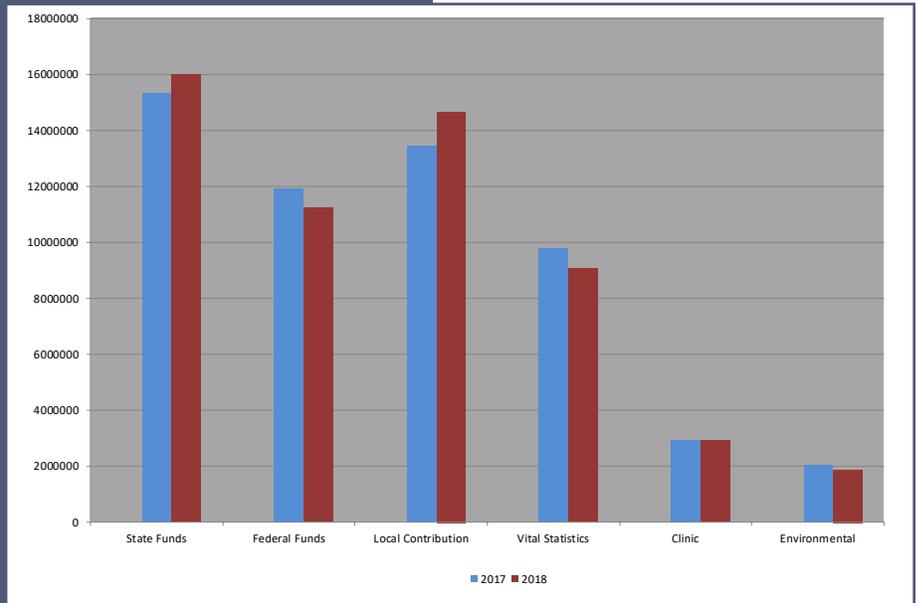
Palm Beach County 2018 (Provisional) Total 73

Resident fetal Death Count by Residence County

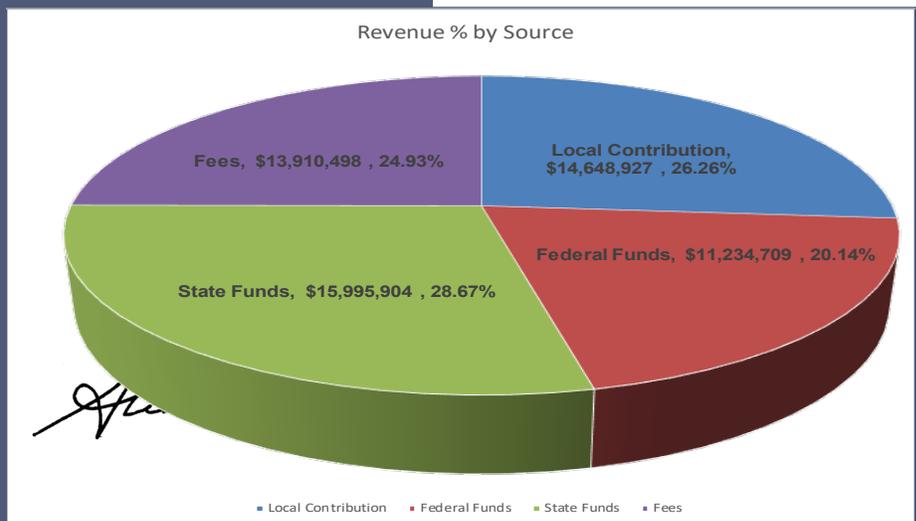
Palm Beach County 2018 (Provisional) Total 67

## FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

State Funds	15,995,904
Federal Funds	11,234,709
Local Contribution	14,648,927
Vital Statistics	9,063,952
Clinic	2,946,522
Environmental	1,900,024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,790,038</b>



Local Contribution	\$14,648,927	26.26%
Federal Funds	\$11,234,709	20.14%
State Funds	\$15,995,904	28.67%
Fees	\$13,910,498	24.93%



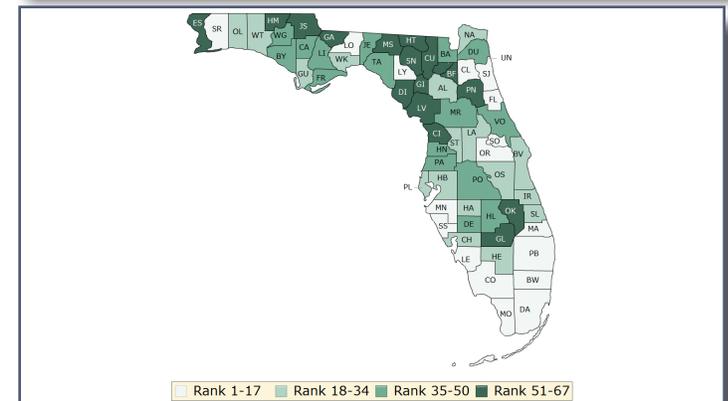
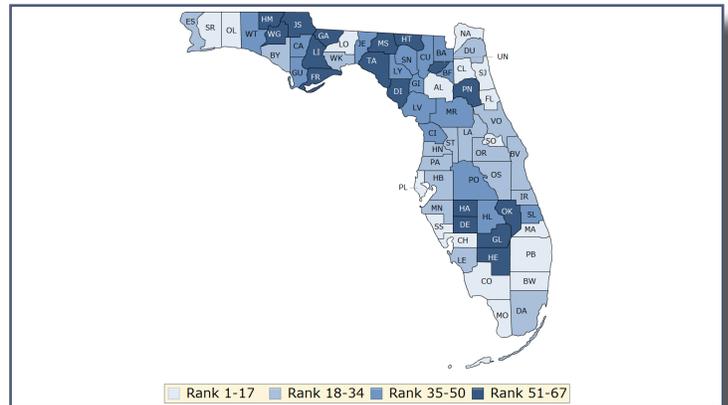
# COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and acknowledged the 2018 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps tool released by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This study highlights the many community factors that influence health and uses established data, much of which is available from the department at [www.FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://www.FLHealthCHARTS.com).

The Health Rankings in Florida demonstrated that Palm Beach County has continued to be a leader in the state as it ranked eighth for Health Outcomes (How healthy our county currently is) and seventh in Health Factors (how healthy our county might be in the future based on the many factors that influence health). Palm Beach County continues to be a leader among the 67 Florida counties and continues to rank highest among all large population counties of one million or more people.

In Palm Beach County, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is designed to address specific opportunities for improved health that have been identified by the community. The department has partnered with many stakeholders to implement the CHIP and collaborates regularly to track progress.



Adult obesity reduction is one of the focuses of the CHIP and this year's rankings show that Palm Beach County continues to improve as 22 percent of its adult population is obese versus the State and Federal level of 26 percent. Mental and Behavioral Health issues are an area that has begun to yield positive results. Palm Beach County has begun aggressively countering the substance abuse issues by adding more and better comprehensive treatment and engaging all community and mental health partners to work toward a positive outcome.

To explore more health indicators in your county, visit [www.FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://www.FLHealthCHARTS.com). The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps can be found at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

	Florida	Palm Beach
<b>Health Outcomes</b> .....		<b>8</b>
<b>Length of Life</b> .....		<b>10</b>
Premature death.....	6,800	6,200
<b>Quality of Life</b> .....		<b>15</b>
Poor or fair health.....	19%	16%
Poor physical health days.....	3.8	3.8
Poor mental health days.....	3.8	3.7
Low birthweight.....	9%	9%
<b>Health Factors</b> .....		<b>7</b>
<b>Health Behaviors</b> .....		<b>5</b>
Adult smoking.....	15%	13%
Adult obesity.....	26%	22%
Food environment index.....	6.7	7.8
Physical inactivity.....	24%	21%
Access to exercise opportunities.....	87%	94%
Excessive drinking.....	18%	18%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths.....	26%	24%
Sexually transmitted infections.....	454.8	383.9
Teen births.....	25	20
<b>Clinical Care</b> .....		<b>8</b>
Uninsured.....	16%	17%
Primary care physicians.....	1,380:1	1,260:1

	Florida	Palm Beach
Dentists.....	1,730:1	1,380:1
Mental health providers.....	700:1	570:1
Preventable hospital stays.....	54	47
Diabetes monitoring.....	86%	86%
Mammography screening.....	68%	73%
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors</b> .....		<b>22</b>
High school graduation.....	78%	79%
Some college.....	62%	63%
Unemployment.....	4.9%	4.8%
Children in poverty.....	21%	19%
Income inequality.....	4.7	4.9
Children in single-parent households.....	38%	38%
Social associations.....	7.1	6.4
Violent crime.....	500	463
Injury deaths.....	72	76
<b>Physical Environment</b> .....		<b>38</b>
Air pollution - particulate matter.....	7.4	6.0
Drinking water violations.....		Yes
Severe housing problems.....	22%	24%
Driving alone to work.....	79%	79%
Long commute - driving alone.....	40%	35%

# GENERAL SERVICES

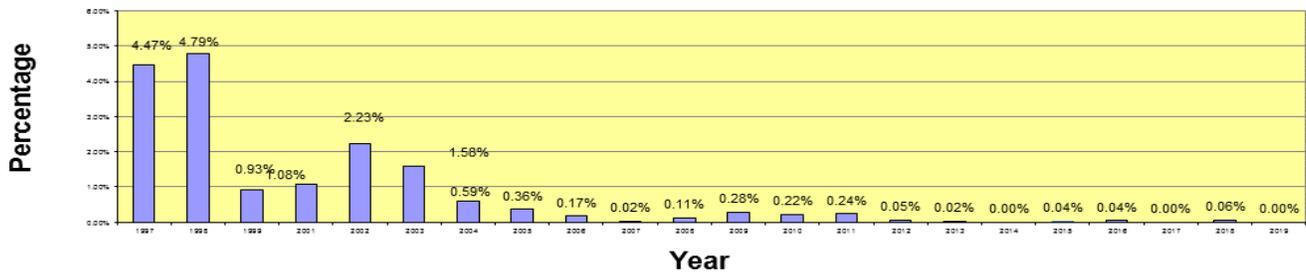
The Western Shelter Train The Trainer was a great success! The photo on the right is of the only FDOH-incident management certified team in Florida. This team is able to deploy, assemble and disassemble shelters, with electrical components, A/C System and accessories. These are not just tents. The Western Shelter System has been proven to support field applications that range from temporary housing camps, bases of operation, mobile field hospitals, POD's and more. They supported 25 IMT members for 2 weeks when we deployed to the Keys to assist with the Hurricane Irma recovery. 50 PBSO officers and dispatchers were also sheltered for over 30 days. This resource saved the State thousands of dollars and allowed us to create a secured law enforcement base camp and check in.



*For 2019 all Fixed Assets accounted for - total value of Fixed Assets over \$4m.  
For 2018 Fire Drills conducted semi-annually at all locations.*

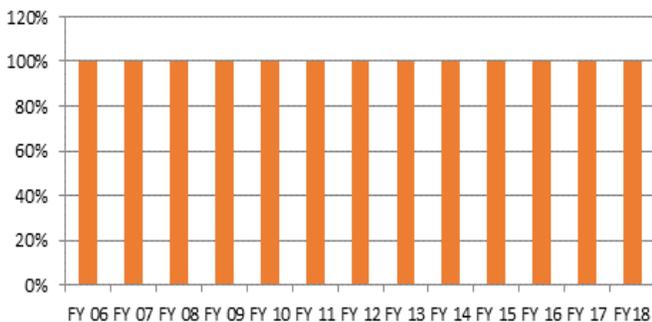
Fixed Asset Missing By % Of Total Dollar Value

Goal = 2.0%

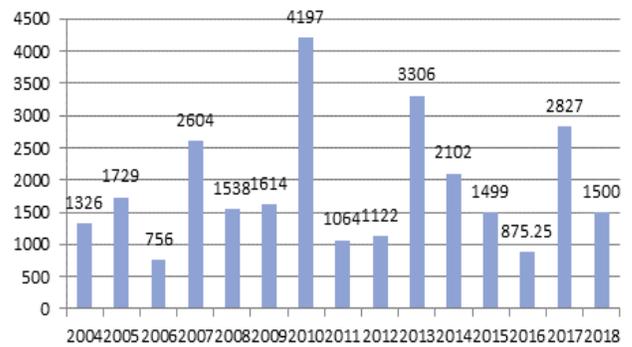


*For 2018 1500 archived records destroyed as per retention schedule.*

Florida Health - PBC  
Fire Drill Compliance



Record Archives  
Number of Boxes Destroyed



# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

## Epidemiology

The Division of Epidemiology is responsible for monitoring, investigating and reporting to the Florida Department of Health on all communicable diseases that appear on the "Reportable Diseases/Conditions in the Florida Practitioner List"\*. The intent of this list, is to identify conditions or clusters which may be of public health concern. With the institution of early detection of diseases and the application of intervention strategies, we strive to avert further transmission into the community. We comply with Florida Statutes 64 D-3 which states, "Any practitioner licensed in Florida to practice medicine, osteopathic, chiropractic, naturopathy or veterinary medicine, who diagnoses or suspects the existence of a disease of public health significance shall immediately report the fact to the department of Health. "



## 2018 Palm Beach County Communicable Disease Report

<b>CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AND INVASIVE DISEASES: -----2018</b>	<b>2017</b>		
H. influenzae Invasive Disease -----	26	32	Shiga Toxin-Producing E. coli (STEC) Infection -----
Meningococcal Disease-----	0	0	Shigellosis-----
Listeriosis-----	5	9	Vibriosis (Vibrio cholerae, Type Non-O1) -----
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic -----	3	5	Vibriosis (Vibrio alginolyticus) -----
S. pneumoniae Invasive Disease, Drug-Resistant -----	12	14	Vibriosis (Vibrio fluvialis)-----
S. pneumoniae Invasive Disease, Drug-Susceptible-----	32	29	Vibriosis (Vibrio parahaemolyticus)-----
California Serogroup Virus Neuroinvasive Disease-----	1	0	Vibriosis (Vibrio vulnificus)-----
West Nile Virus Neuroinvasive Disease -----	2	0	Vibriosis (Other Vibrio Species)-----
Amebic Infections (Balamuthia mandrillaris)-----	1	0	<b>OTHER DISEASES: -----</b>
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) -----	0	4	Rabies, Animal -----
Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality-----	1	0	Rabies, Possible Exposure -----
Staphylococcus aureus Infection, Intermediate Resistance to Vancomycin (VISA)-----	0	1	Herpes B Virus, Possible Exposure-----
<b>VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES:</b>			Arsenic Poisoning -----
Mumps -----	3	6	Babesiosis-----
Pertussis -----	25	27	Botulism, Infant-----
Varicella (Chickenpox) -----	52	43	Brucellosis -----
<b>HEPATITIS: -----</b>			Carbon Monoxide Poisoning -----
Hepatitis A -----	13	16	Chikungunya Fever-----
Hepatitis B, Acute-----	60	53	Ciguatera Fish Poisoning -----
Hepatitis B, Chronic-----	340	448	Dengue Fever-----
Hepatitis B, HBsAg in Pregnant Women -----	44	50	Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)-----
Hepatitis C, Acute-----	39	38	Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) -----
Hepatitis C, Chronic-----	1328	1724	Lead Poisoning -----
Hepatitis C, Perinatal -----	2	1	Legionellosis -----
Hepatitis E -----	0	1	Lyme Disease-----
<b>-----2018</b>	<b>2017</b>		Malaria -----
<b>ENTERIC DISEASES: -----</b>			Mercury Poisoning-----
Campylobacteriosis -----	318	230	Pesticide-Related Illness or Injury, Acute-----
Cryptosporidiosis-----	18	25	Ricin Toxin Poisoning -----
Cyclosporiasis -----	5	3	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever or Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis ---
Giardiasis, Acute -----	87	58	Saxitoxin Poisoning (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning)-----
Salmonellosis -----	562	544	Scombroid Poisoning -----
Salmonella Typhi Infection-----	9	11	Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital -----
			<b>TOTALS-----</b>

Source: Merlin. Counts presented in this table may differ from counts presented in other tables or reports, depending on the criteria used.

## Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB bacteria is spread through the air from one person to another. These bacteria usually attack the lungs and are put into the air when a person with active disease coughs or sneezes. If another person nearby breathes in the bacteria, they may become infected.

Tuberculosis is one of the world's most prevalent diseases. There are approximately 10 million people who become sick with TB disease each year. The United States saw 9,029 cases of TB disease in 2018. About half of all the cases in the U.S. were reported in California, New York, Texas and Florida. Along with the rest of the nation, Florida's yearly count of TB occurrence has steadily decreased and holds a 2018 incidence rate of 2.8 cases per every 100,000 persons. The national goal is to reach less than 1 case for every 1 million persons as the mark for TB elimination in the United States.

The TB Control Program is a part of that elimination effort. The program maintains a surveillance system for TB in the health department's service areas and is responsible for the control and prevention of TB throughout Palm Beach County. Despite prevention efforts, health disparities continue to exist among those diagnosed with TB disease. The percentage of TB cases reported are higher among Asian, African-American and Hispanic minority groups nationwide. In Palm Beach County, the number of cases reported are mostly including those born outside of the United States. The Florida Department of Health is committed to ensuring everyone exposed to TB disease receives proper care by offering clinical services for screenings and evaluations, testing for case identified contacts and Direct Observed Therapy (DOT) for individuals on TB therapy.

### Program Goals:

- Identify and treat TB disease until cured.
- Provide preventive treatment to those with latent Tuberculosis infection (LTBI) who are at most risk of developing active TB disease.

### TB Program Accomplishments:

- Palm Beach County had 35 cases in 2018 which is the lowest number on record for the area and represents a 23% reduction in the number of cases from the previous year.
  - The incidence rate of TB in Palm Beach county was 2.4 cases per 100,000 persons in the year 2018, which is lower than the state and the national rates both of 2.8 per 100,000 persons.
  - The TB Control Program performance objectives in Palm Beach County were met or exceeded in the measures for treatment initiation, use of recommended drug therapy, HIV status reporting and treatment completion (\*only those eligible for completion in 2018 were included in treatment completion counts).

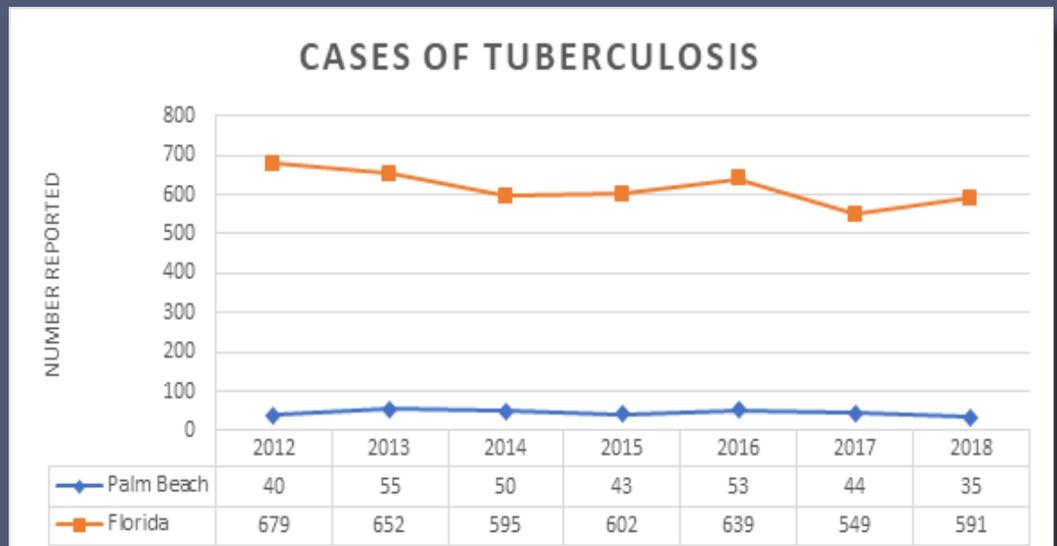
### TB Reporting

Florida law requires the Department of Health to periodically issue a list of diseases determined to be of public health significance and that are required to be reported to the County Health Departments. Strong suspects of tuberculosis disease need to be reported to the program immediately.

Health Care Providers: By law health care providers in Palm Beach County are required to report TB cases and suspects within one business day of diagnosis and must provide all supporting documentation

Laboratories: Each person in charge of a laboratory which performs cultures for mycobacteria or refers specimens for mycobacterial cultures to other laboratories is required to report all specimens positive for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex to the TB Control Program.

For additional information or to submit a report, please call (561) 803-7342 or fax the confidential line (561) 840-0171.





# HIV/AIDS

Florida's "Four Key Components" Plan to Eliminate HIV Transmission and Reduce HIV-related Deaths:

- Implement routine HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) screening in health care settings and priority testing in non-health care settings.
- Provide rapid access to treatment and ensure retention in care (Test and Treat).
- Improve and promote access to antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP).
- Increase HIV awareness and community response through outreach, engagement, and messaging.

Palm Beach has implemented all four components of the Florida Plan, and the HIV Program continues to collaborate with its community partners to expand its impact and explore new and innovative ways to stop the spread of HIV disease in Palm Beach County, and to inspire the community to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

The Situation in Palm Beach County: The table to the right provides a summary of the impact to Palm Beach County. Palm Beach had an 8.4% increase in newly diagnosed HIV cases and a 4.9% increase in newly diagnosed AIDS cases. Although we are making significant strides with reducing HIV-related deaths and pediatric HIV/AIDS cases overall, Palm Beach continues to see an increase in new HIV cases. From 2008 to 2017, HIV diagnoses decreased among Blacks by 41% and Whites by 13%, yet in contrast there was an 13% increase in HIV diagnoses among Hispanics. Despite the overall decrease in new cases, Blacks continue to be among the highest diagnosed in Palm Beach County. The majority of newly diagnosed HIV cases were among men who have sex with men.

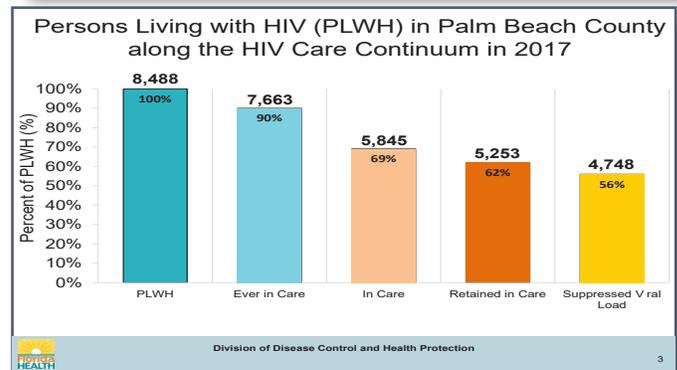
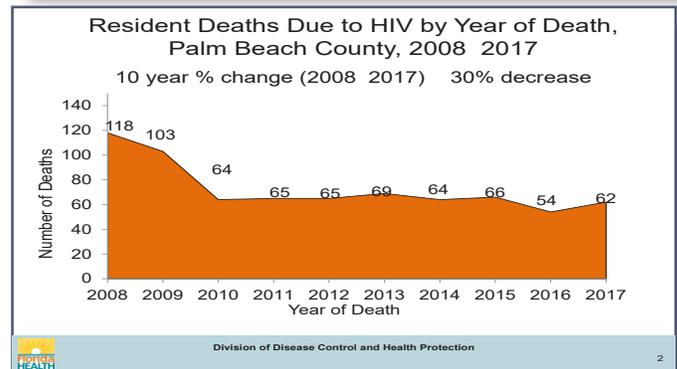
One-In-Statements for Adults (Age 13+) Living with HIV, Year-end 2017:

- One in 144 adults in Palm Beach County were known to be living with HIV.
- One in 355 Whites were living with HIV.
- One in 41 Blacks were living with HIV.
- One in 192 Hispanics were living with HIV.

The Epidemic in Palm Beach County

	2016	2017	Trend
Population	1,395,117	1,411,054	1.1% increase
Diagnosed HIV cases	298	323	8.4% increase
Diagnosed AIDS cases	144	151	4.9% increase
Pediatric AIDS cases diagnosed	1	1	
Perinatal HIV cases	0	0	
People diagnosed living with HIV (Prevalence)	8,383	8,488	1.3% increase
HIV related deaths	54	62	14.8% increase

Division of Disease Control and Health Protection



Resident Deaths due to HIV Disease: The data represents a 30% decline in HIV resident deaths due to HIV disease from 2008 to 2017. Since 2008, HIV-related deaths began to sharply decline until 2010 when deaths stabilized in Palm Beach County. The State of Florida marked 2012 as a milestone year as deaths dropped below 1,000 for the first time and have continued to decline each year since. However, Palm Beach did see a 14.8% increase in HIV-related deaths over a one-year period from 2016 to 2017. In order to estimate the current burden of HIV/AIDS care and treatment needs within Palm Beach County, it is important to analyze the HIV-related case deaths over a period of time. Expanded prevention and treatment advances have significantly reduced HIV-related deaths and have enhanced the quality of lives of persons living with HIV (PLWH).

The Continuum of Care in Palm Beach County: The continuum of care is closely tied to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the State of Florida’s Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan goals, which include:

- Reduce new HIV infections.
- Increase access to care and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV.
- Reduce HIV-related health disparities.

Monitoring the continuum of care is vital to ensuring that we’re improving engagement at every stage in the continuum, and that we’re joined in striving for the global target of 90-90-90, where 90% of all PLWH will know their HIV status, and 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 90% of all people receiving ART will have achieved viral suppression (viral load <200 copies/mL).

Significant new and highly-advanced treatments have delivered hope and enhanced the quality of life for those who are affected; however, these considerable advancements can only help individuals if they know their HIV status and are linked into lifesaving medical care.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY

The goal of the Dental Program to reduce the oral disease burden in underserved school aged children and the adult HIV population in Palm Beach County.

The Dental Program provides comprehensive dental services including diagnostic, preventive, restorative and surgical services for the adult HIV clients and focuses on school based preventive services for children including referrals for urgent dental needs. Most clients are eligible under the Medicaid program or through grant funding.

In calendar year 2018, dental staff provided over 11,000 dental services to 558 HIV clients in 2,712 dental visits.

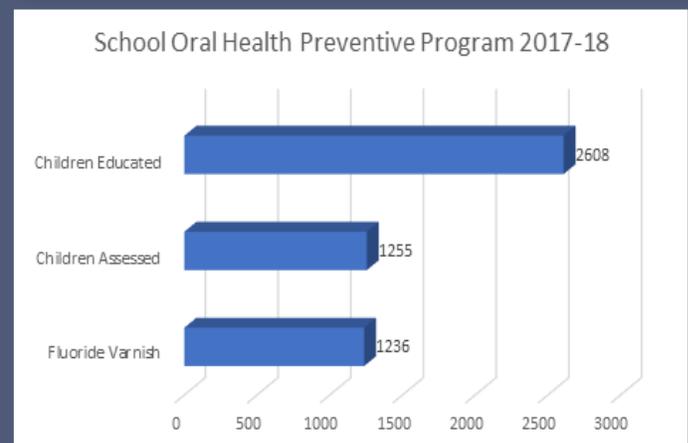
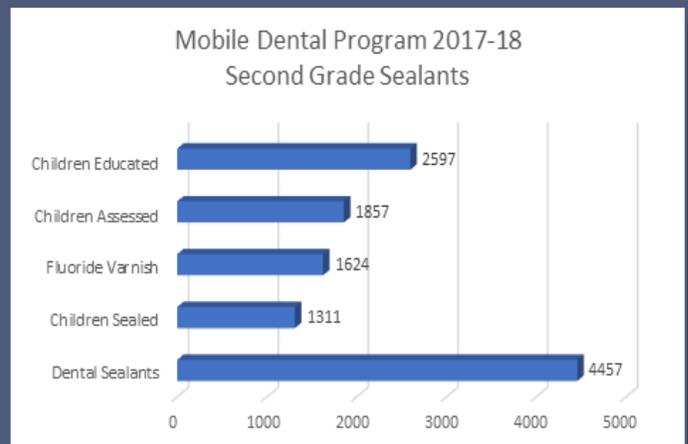
School based services are provided by the Marjorie S. Fisher Tooth Fairy Mobile Dental Program and the School Oral Health Preventive Program which began as a pilot project in 2017.

In the school year that ended in 2018, the Mobile Dental Program provided preventive services for second grade children in 31 Title 1 elementary schools. Children were provided oral health education an oral health assessment, fluoride varnish and dental sealants on first permanent molars. The numbers for each are represented below.

In addition, an urgent need was identified in 110 second grade children and they were referred for emergency care. The Mobile Dental Program also provided 862 dental assessments and 838 fluoride varnish treatments for Head Start and Community Programs in Palm Beach County. Since its inception in 1997, the Mobile Dental Program has screened over 33,000 second graders and provided 87,209 sealants.

The School Oral Health Preventive Program serves all grades in 7 Title 1 elementary schools. This program provides oral health education, oral health assessments, fluoride varnish and referrals for emergency care. The number of children served for the school year ending in 2018 are shown in the graph below.

In addition, an urgent need was identified in 123 children and they were referred for emergency care.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH

### The Child Abuse Death Review

The Child Abuse Death Review Circuit #15 committee reviewed 35 cases called in to the Florida Abuse Hotline in calendar year 2017. For the cases reviewed, there were 7 natural deaths, 16 accidental deaths, 5 homicide and one other death related to congenital abnormalities/neurological seizure/infection. The deaths among the group included children under 5 years who had the highest risk for all forms of death, noted in the number of deaths in this age group to be 24 of the 35 cases. The committee is focused on identifying the gaps, deficiencies or problems in service delivery to children and families by public and private agencies that may be related to child abuse deaths; developing strategies to bridge health disparity and equity, to continue applying health promotion and disease prevention technologies and interventions designed to improve and enhance quality of life. Continued participation with the community and working closely with the community on safe sleeping practices for our children are some of the action plan of the committee.

### Healthiest Weight Florida

Over the next 20 years in Florida, obesity is expected to contribute to millions of cases of preventable chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and cancer. The cost for these chronic diseases is estimated to be \$34 billion. The Department of Health launched the Healthiest Weight Florida Initiative in January 2013 to address the issue of obesity and chronic diseases as an aftermath to the obesity problem.

Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, not for profit organizations, businesses, and entire communities to help Florida's children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living.

Thirty six percent (36%) of Floridians are at healthy weight. Florida's current trend has predicted that by 2030, approximately 60 % will be obese. In addition, six out of ten children born today will be obese by the time they graduate from high school.

In 2013 Palm Beach County showed 36.8 % of adults, aged 18-44 years with healthy weight. Healthy weight was defined as a BMI of 18.5 to 24.9. In 2016 an increase in healthy weight of adults between the ages of 18-44 reflected 61.1 %. An increased to 24.3 % from 2013 to 2016.

It is important to note that older adults (65 years and older) in 2013 had healthy weight reflecting 38.9% and in 2016 the healthy weight among this age group decreased to 28.6%. Community health continue working with middle school on healthy weight initiatives this is reflected with an increase in 2018 showing 29.2% healthy weight among middle school children as compared in 2016 with 26.6 % healthy weight; an increase of 2.6%. Our goal is to continue increasing healthy weight for all ages in Palm Beach County.

### Florida Healthy Babies

Florida's Healthy Babies collaborative effort with key partners in the community, positively influence social determinants of health and reduce infant mortality disparities. This collaborative effort is focused on attention to implement a Safe Sleep Awareness Campaign to educate the community. Several agencies and organizations have incorporated and are still incorporating safe sleep practices. Education continue to target labor and delivery units in hospitals for parents and health care providers, health fairs, home visiting nurses who visit parents in their homes, Child Protective Investigation teams who visit homes, Medical Examiner's office, CPR classes, child and birth education classes. Florida Healthy Start Coalition and Children Services Council are partners in bridging the gap in preventing infant mortality. Community Health plans on having more educational strategies and health promotional activities to combat infant mortality; a community and social problem.

### School Health

The Palm Beach County School Health Program is a collaborative partnership of the health department with the School District of Palm Beach County and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. The health department is responsible for administrative oversight of the program.

The goal of the School Health Program is to promote student health through prevention, education, early intervention, and referral for acute or chronic health problems.



**For school year 2017-2018 the School Health Program staff included 228 nurses and 10 health aides.**

- There were 193,460 students in pre-k through 12th grade.
- Nearly 1,300,000 school health services were provided
- 231,588 medication doses were administered.

School health services including health screenings and nursing services are available to all students attending public schools in Palm Beach County. The school nurses are dedicated to promoting the well-being, academic success, and lifelong achievement and health of students. They care for students that have chronic health conditions, injuries, illnesses or communicable diseases. They provide health counseling, referral and follow-up of suspected or confirmed health problems.

School nurses from the Department of Health continue to conduct specific classes to promote student health and reduce risk-taking behaviors to high school students throughout the county. They also conduct lessons in summer camps and incorporate activities with children to promote messages from the 5-2-1-0 healthy lifestyle campaign to teach children healthy behaviors.

School health staff target efforts to increase immunization compliance in the county through education and training of school nurses, school administrative staff, local healthcare providers and their office staff, parents and the general public on vaccine standards and school requirements.

Multiple challenges exist to improving compliance rates and include a large immigrant population without immunization documentation, significant turnover of provider staff, and an increase in parents seeking religious exemptions for their children. During school year 2017-2018, review of 13,133 student school health records from K-12 found 89.39% meeting state requirements for immunization.

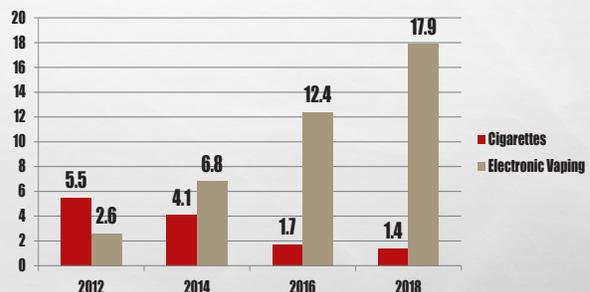
### **Tobacco Free Florida Palm Beach County**

Tobacco Free Florida Palm Beach County seeks to improve the health of our community through policy, systems and environmental change. Our program assisted the Lake Worth Draining District with their 100% Tobacco-Free Workplace Policy that went into effect on March 1, 2018. The School District of Palm Beach made minor revisions to its comprehensive tobacco-free schools' policy to strengthen definitions related to policy applicability while Leisureville Condominiums Building C Association passed a smokefree condominium policy. Key informant interviews were conducted at tobacco retailers located in Boynton Beach and Riviera Beach to gauge tobacco product marketing and youth prevention from the retailers' viewpoint and their knowledge of Florida Assurance of Voluntary Compliance agreements. The Health Care District of Palm Beach County revised its Quitline Referral Protocol to ensure accurate reporting to the service and allow the Quitline to provide follow-up to the correct providers and health centers. The Tobacco Free Partnership of Palm Beach County hosted 12 beach and park cleanups while John I. Leonard Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) hosted 10 beach cleanups to raise awareness about tobacco's environmental impact.

While traditional tobacco use has been on the decline, vaping among youth is skyrocketing. Data from the 2018 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS) shows Palm Beach County youth reporting current use of electronic vaping increased from 12.4% in 2016 to 17.9% in 2018 and youth reporting exposure to secondhand electronic vapor increased from 30.1% in 2016 to 40.7% in 2018. In October 2018 17 middle and high schools across the county participated in the inaugural Not a Lab Rat Week, a state health observance dedicated to raising awareness among youth about the harmful impact of vaping and electronic nicotine delivery systems. Approximately 7500 postcards were sent to JUUL Laboratories as part of this initiative.

To learn more about the statewide and local efforts of our program visit

**CURRENT USE OF CIGARETTES AND ELECTRONIC VAPING – PALM BEACH COUNTY (2012-2018)**



# ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

## Community Sanitation Program

The Community Sanitation program includes the fundamental activities of community environmental health. Highlights of these activities include:

- Inspections, licensing, monitoring, and enforcement activities in food service operations in schools and colleges, assisted living facilities, adult day care, group homes, and residential treatment facilities, civic/fraternal organizations, stand-alone bars, and detention facilities.
- Investigation of reports of food borne illnesses in restaurants, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, schools, child care facilities, and other food service establishments.
- Inspections and monitoring of sanitation and safety at schools and colleges, adult family care homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, and other residential facilities.
- Inspections, licensing, and monitoring of sanitation and safety at mobile home parks, recreational vehicle parks, migrant labor housing and migrant labor camps.
- Investigations of complaints from the public regarding allegations of sanitary nuisances and other health related issues across the county.
- In 2018, community sanitation program staff performed more than 4,210 inspections in 1,650 facilities.

## Child Care Program

Under Chapter 2010-249, Laws of Florida, the Environmental Public Health Division administers the Child Care Licensing program for the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (sitting as the Child Care Facilities Board). The purpose of the child care licensing program is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the children of Palm Beach County and promote their emotional and intellectual development and care. This makes child care licensing an important public health function.

The Division licenses and inspects 435 child care facilities and 253 family child care homes. It also inspects 195 license-exempt sites that offer Voluntary Prekindergarten or After School program for compliance with School Readiness Health and Safety Standards. In 2018, child care program staff conducted 2,312 licensing inspections and an additional the inspections of license-exempt School Readiness facilities.

Anyone receiving any type of compensation to care for a child or regularly offer custodial care for children must be licensed, and the license number must be included in any advertisement.

The activities for child care licensing include:

- Plan review.
- Background screening for child care personnel.
- Licensing inspections and compliance enforcement
- Complaint investigations.
- Licensing consultations and public information
- Personnel training and technical assistance.

The Division's program of regulation, monitoring, and enforcement activities helps to protect the health, safety and welfare of children in the following ways:

- Reduces risks related to communicable disease outbreaks and injuries due to unsafe physical environment.
- Protects children from various forms of harm in out of home settings due to unfit or unqualified caregivers.
- Prevents inadequate supervision, child abuse and neglect, and other general inappropriate and harmful treatment of children.

## Water Programs

### Healthy Beaches Program

A total of 351 samples were collected and analyzed. Based on the data, beach advisories were issued for a total of 28 days during the year. For the 13 beaches, the water quality was considered good to moderate 92.6% of the year.

### Well Surveillance Program

Identifies and monitors areas in Palm Beach County where groundwater contamination is suspected and may pose a threat to public health.

- The division was assigned 88 facilities and located 228 wells within the designated facility areas. Samples were collected from 59 for analysis by the Florida Department of Health's Laboratory in Jacksonville. Of the samples collected, 100% were found free of contamination or at levels below the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

### Drinking Water Program

- The division issued a total of 1,571 water well permits; issued 244 permits to water plants, distribution permits and Limited Use Systems; conducted 163 facility inspections; investigated 31 complaints and initiated 31 enforcement cases.



### Domestic Wastewater Program

Monitors for compliance the collection, transmission, treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater.

- Issued 1,226 permits for the construction, repair and modification of septic tank systems, issued 450 letters of no objections, conducted 4,594 system-related inspections, performed 100 site evaluations, issued investigated 118 complaints and initiated 23 enforcement actions.
- In addition, under the delegated DEP program, 161 permit applications were processed, 910 private lift stations inspected, 148 complaint/spill response investigations conducted and 30 enforcement actions initiated.

### Public Pools and Bathing Places Program

The division monitors compliance with the health and safety regulations for public pools and bathing places.

- Processed 133 initial operating permit applications or new or modified pools, conducted 10,325 inspections and re-inspections, investigated 69 complaints and initiated 7 enforcement actions.
- The EPH division was required to close 1,934 pools for violations of a health or safety requirement or both.

## Air & Waste Section

Processes and issues permits for air pollution sources within the County for compliance with State and Federal regulatory requirements. of the County has 197 regulated facilities including 180 minor and 17 major facilities. Staff conducted 230 facility inspections, witnessed 162 air pollutant tests and 241 visible emissions tests, and reviewed 835 compliance reports such as pollutants tests, visible emissions tests, continuous monitoring reports, annual operating reports and statement of compliance reports. The Program issued 17 air pollution permits including construction, Operation and Title V Operation permits.

The Program monitored 263 regulated demolition/renovation asbestos projects and conducted 678 compliance inspections at these projects. T 91 air pollution related complaints were investigated. 10 open burning sites, for land clearing activities associated with residential and non-residential land clearing, were authorized and inspected. The Program collected \$4,550.00 from enforcement actions, which were resolved through consent agreements.



### Ambient Air Monitoring

The Palm Beach County Ambient Air Monitoring network monitors the concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> & PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in ambient air. The air quality is reported via an air quality index (AQI) that correlates to the concentrations of seven designated priority pollutants These monitoring stations are located in Royal Palm Beach (O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>), Lantana (NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>), Belle Glade (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and Delray Beach (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). In 2018, air quality was reported 'good' for 314 (86%) days and 'moderate' for 51 (14%) days. There were no days reported as 'Unhealthy for Sensitive Persons.' AQI forecast can be obtained at [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov)

## Hazardous Waste

Provides oversight of the generation and management of hazardous waste in Palm Beach County. Commercial facilities such as automotive body and repair shops, dry cleaners, laboratories and hospitals generating hazardous waste are inspected for compliance and permitted through County Ordinance 97-58. 796 routine inspections were conducted on permitted facilities and 31 applications processed; 19 of them for new facilities. Staff also responded to 7 hazardous waste complaints during the year.

## Body Art

Encompasses both the body art and tattooing programs and is intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public from the spread of infectious diseases. The regulation of these establishments and the education and licensure of tattoo artists can reduce not only the occurrence of infection of the procedure site, but also the incidence of transmission of blood-borne pathogens such as Hepatitis B and C and other communicable diseases. 268 routine inspections were conducted on new and permitted tattoo establishments and body piercing salons. 116 new tattoo establishment applications were processed, and 796 tattoo artist applications processed; 363 of them for new artists in 2018. In addition, staff investigated 14 body art complaints.

## Tanning Facilities

Establishes comprehensive and uniform procedures to ensure that new and existing tanning facilities are operated in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. These facilities are regulated, not only to reduce the threat of over exposure to non-ionizing (ultra violet) radiation, but also to prevent the occurrence of communicable diseases associated with the lack of sanitary operation of the facility. Routine inspections were conducted at all permitted facilities with three new applications received for 2018.

# HEALTH ACCESS

### Highlights:

The Health Access Division includes seven clinic locations throughout Palm Beach County. It also includes comprehensive Nutrition and Laboratory Services, Community Immunization Services, Family Planning (Title X) Services, Volunteer Services, Centralized Scheduling (Call Center) and a host of additional support services.

Medical Care is provided by highly skilled physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, licensed dietitians and technicians. These staff perform their tasks with integrity and respect. Bi-lingual staff communicate in Spanish, French and Creole. Programs are designed to meet the individual needs of each patient. Services that are available in our clinics include:

- Family Planning
- Family Planning Waiver Program
- Sterilization Referrals
- Gynecology Services
- Maternity prenatal and postnatal
- HIV/AIDS Testing and Medical Care
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Screening & Treatment
- Tuberculosis Screening and Treatment
- Teen Clinic
- Immunization Services (Adults & Children)
- Nutrition Services (Dietary Counseling)
- Volunteer Services
- WIC (Women, Infants and Children) on site
- On site Laboratory Services

Number of People Served in 2018

- Clients = 33,224
- Visits = 101,867

### Services Expanded to Better Serve

Through seven Health Center locations the Department served over 33,200 clients in 2018. Services Provided by location can be found on the chart below.

Services	FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY HEALTH CENTERS						
	Belle Glade	Delray	Delray Annex	Jupiter	Lantana	Northeast	West P Beach
Civil Surgeon - Immigration Medical Exams	✓	✓					
Dental (Infectious Disease)						✓	
Family Planning	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Planning Waiver Program	✓	✓			✓		✓
Gynecology	✓	✓			✓		✓
Health Education	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
HIV AIDS Medical Care	✓		✓				✓
HIV STD Screening and Prevention	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Immunizations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laboratory Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maternity Prenatal and Postnatal	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Maternity Centering Program					✓		
Nutrition Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Overseas Immunizations					✓		
PEPW (Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for Pregnant Women)	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Refugee Program						✓	
Ryan White Referral Services	✓		✓				✓
Sterilization Referrals	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
STD Screening and Treatment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TB Treatment	✓		✓			✓	
TB Testing	✓		✓		✓		✓
Teen Clinic	✓	✓		✓			✓
Volunteer Services	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Centralized Appointment Line 1 855 GET APPT (438 2778) or (561 625 5180)							
<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>							
Maternal Child Health 561 671 4140							
WIC (Women Infants and Children) 561 357 6007 or 877 693 6703							

"Medical Care is provided by highly skilled Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, licensed Dietitians and Technician. These staff perform their tasks with integrity and respect. Bi-lingual staff communicate in Spanish, French and Creole. Programs are designed to meet the individual needs of each patient.

**C.L.Brumback Health Center**

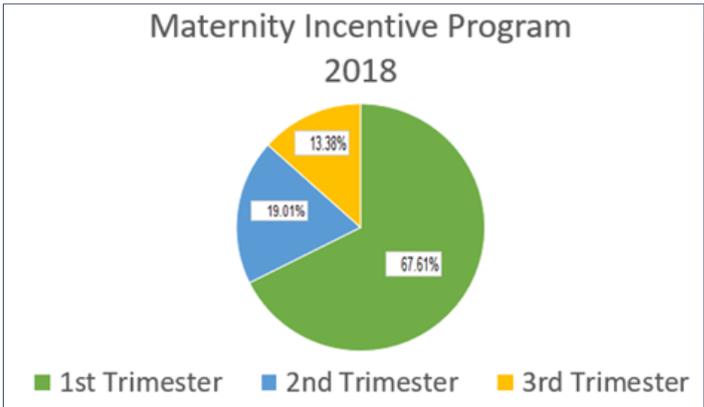
The C.L. Brumback Health Center is the oldest rural Department of Health in Palm Beach County servicing the entire Glades Community to include a large migrant population. This center provides core Public Health functions to maternity and post-partum patients, family planning services (all methods), gynecological assessments, sexual health, infectious disease management, health education (teen clinic), laboratory collection/testing, civil surgeon exams, immunizations, child birth classes, nutritional counseling and patient centered approached for the LGBTQ population.

As a unique agency working within a rural community, we recognized the many social, economic and structural determinates of health that this population is faced, as we continue to strive to improve those services we provide.

With the specification of the maternity clientele we serve, our attention is focused on reducing health inequities by encouraging early prenatal visits to ensure comprehensive services are met and reduce patient harm. One resource we use is through a Grant Funded program (2017) called the “Maternity Incentive Program”. This program encourages pregnant patients to initiate their first obstetrical visit before 12 weeks of gestation. Evidence-based practices show that early obstetrical assessments assist providers in understanding the patient needs, cultural beliefs regarding their pregnancy and to effectively communicate and diagnose any health-related condition that will optimize and improve a healthy maternal-fetal outcome. Since the implementation of this program in 2017 and despite some cultural limitations of the patients we serve, our early obstetrical visit compliance rate is now at 68% percentile which is an 8% steady increase from years 2015 and 2016 initial obstetrical visit data.

Because of the lack of transportation, another resource we offer is a valued departmental transportation system that assist patients in traveling to and from their appointments to obtain medical necessary services that are not available in the Glades area. These services are required for those patients that are considered high risk and those that are better managed by specialized providers or other clinical practices that are not offered at the Department of Health. In our drive to provide the best standards of care, we’re proud of the well-established relationships we have with the multiple community partners and the only local hospital.

With the implementation of these simple processes and services at the C.L Brumback Health Center, the goal is that we will aid in a significant effect on health outcomes to reduce inequities for this community.



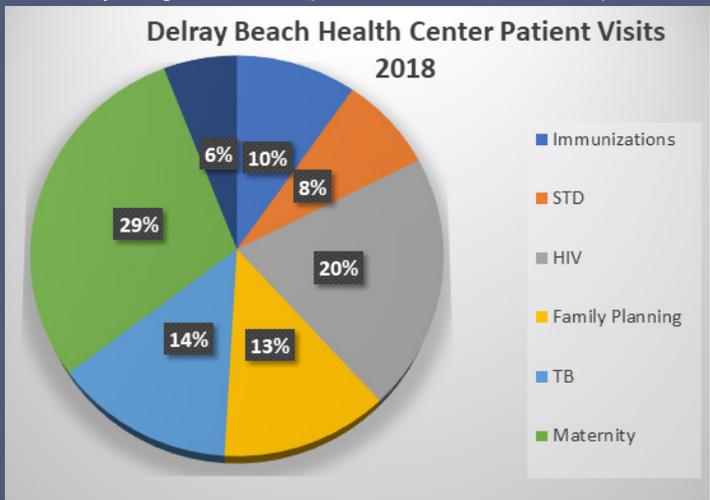
*Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County Trimester of Entry Maternity Clients for Belle Glade Health Center dates: 1/1/2018-12/30/2018.*

**Delray Beach Health Center**

The Delray Beach Health center continued to provide immunization to adults and children, testing and treatment of STD, HIV, TB, and maternity prenatal and postnatal care. The Health Center completed a total of 22,954 visits in the combined clinics areas. The clinic continued to provide Test and Treat for newly diagnosed HIV patients and HIV Pre Exposure testing and prophylaxis is available.

The Center continues to offer teen education sessions. The teens earn community service hours for school by attending weekly educational presentations. If interested, they received individual assessment, counseling and testing with one of our providers. Throughout the school year an average of 40 teens attended the weekly Wednesday afternoon sessions. Along with our own staff, several guests from various community agencies volunteered their time to speak on selected topics.

Delray Beach Health Center is one of two Department of Health centers in Palm Beach County that offers Civil Surgeon exams for external and internal clients. This is a full comprehensive service that covers the required STD testing, TB testing, physical and mental health examinations and immunizations. The competitive cost is paired with the advantage of having all services provided under one roof. It allows the community to learn more about what public health has to offer.



### Lantana Health Center

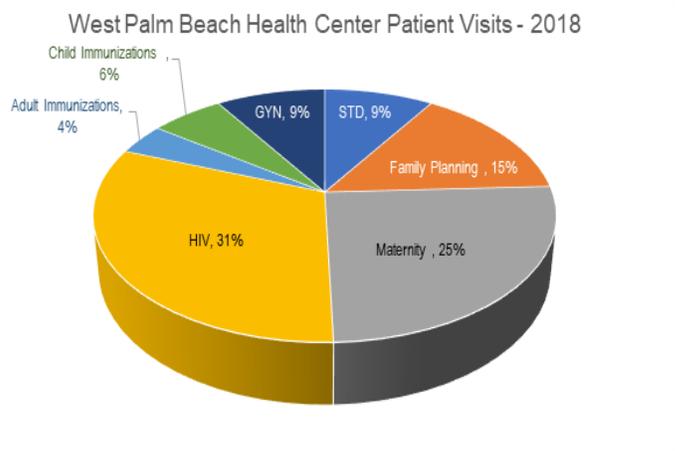
The Lantana Health Center provides clients with a variety of public health services including but not limited to family planning, women’s health, health education, nutrition, laboratory, routine & overseas immunizations, and both prenatal and postnatal maternity services. Dedicated to improving health and health outcomes, this center’s team consists of three physicians, six advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs), and over 30 medical support staff. Together, these highly-trained professionals offer over 50 years of combined experience providing quality health services to meet the daily, complex needs of a culturally diverse clientele.

During 2017, the Lantana Health Center provided 10,638 prenatal visits to expectant mothers. Representing a 2% increase from the previous fiscal year, this volume also accounted for the largest amount of total improved pregnancy outcome visits of any health center within the Department. The success of this maternity program can be attributed in part to the health center’s strong, long-standing partnership with the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc. and The Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County. Through this joint effort, the Lantana Health Center is able to offer patients the Centering Pregnancy Model.

This unique, evidenced-based, comprehensive model of care not only includes the clinical/medical aspect of pregnancy but also provides education, social support, and health promotion to participants in a group setting. By involving participants in their own care and offering a safe place for women to share knowledge and experiences with others, Lantana patient engagement has grown stronger. In fact, Lantana patient “no-show” rates for Centering during 2017 were 20% lower than the traditional maternity clinic. Additionally, recent evidence suggests that Lantana Centering patients have better prenatal knowledge, feel more ready for labor/delivery, are more satisfied with care, and initiate breastfeeding more often. As a result, Lantana health center will continue the commitment to improving birth outcomes and has future plans to expand the Centering model as a means of accomplishing this goal.

### West Palm Beach Health Center and Satellite Clinics

The West Palm Beach Health Center provides the following services: Family Planning, Sexual Health care services and treatment, Maternity which includes prenatal and postnatal services, Gynecology, HIV care, Test and Treat, Immunizations, Nutrition and on-site laboratory services. The West Palm Beach Health Center offers extended hours every Tuesday until 6:00pm for Sexual Health testing and treatment. Childbirth education classes are held every Monday from 9am to noon for Spanish speaking clients and every Tuesday from 9am to noon for Creole speaking clients. Volunteer Services is open every day to clients in need of clothes, food, and toys. Volunteer Services also offers special events and services to the clients during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and during back to school during Immunization Crunch. The West Palm Beach Health Center has satellite locations in Jupiter and Riviera Beach.



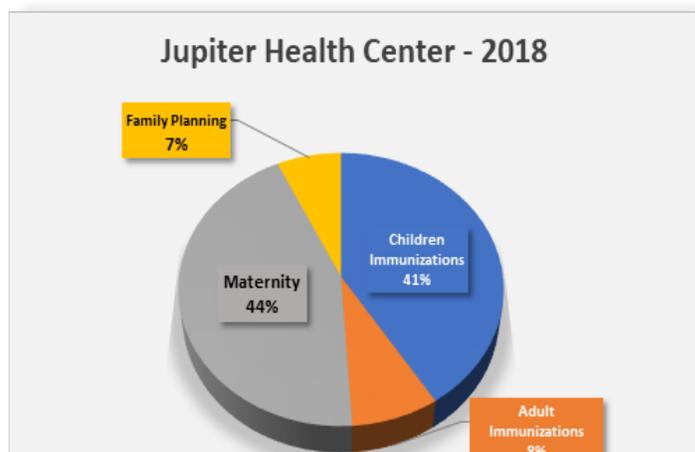
During 2018 the West Palm Beach Health Center added Immunizations for adults and children. The West palm Beach Health Center served 10,133 clients, within 35,246 visits, and provided 1,489,687 services.

### Jupiter Health Center

The Jupiter Health Center offers Immunizations, Maternity (prenatal and post-partum), Family Planning, Sexual Health, on-site lab services Monday-Friday, and a teen clinic every Monday from 4pm to 6pm.

### Northeast Health Center

The Northeast Health Center in Riviera Beach provides Refuge Services to eligible refugees, Asylees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, Amerasians, and Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visas. The Northeast Health Clinic offers comprehensive health assessments and immunizations. The refugee program helps to eliminate health-related barriers and to protect public health in the U.S. All clients regardless of their immigration status are seen within 90



days of arrival. The Northeast Health Center is the introduction of health care in the U.S. for many of the clients. The Northeast Health Center under the Refugee Health Program also provides services for clients whom are victims of Trafficking. The Northeast Health Center also offers Immunizations, Family Planning, Sexual Health Services, Pediatric Tuberculosis, and Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) care.

### Centralize Appointment Line Call Center

The Centralize Appointment Scheduling Call Center was created as part of an initiative to improve clinical efficiency and provide Palm Beach County Residents easy access to clinic appointments countywide. Since its inception September 2011, the challenge of limited access to timely appointments has been eradicated. Palm Beach County residents or anyone else outside of the county have easy access to clinic appointments and the option of being seen anywhere in the County regardless of where they live if an appointment isn't available at the clinic closest to them. This is easily accomplished by calling just one telephone number (562) 625-5180 or toll free 855-GET (438)-APPT (2778).

Since the opening of the Call Center in 2011, approximately 500,000 telephone calls have been handled and 100,000 appointments made by the team.

The Call Center remains an integral component of the 6 Health Centers throughout the county and is staffed with agents who are fluent in English, Spanish and Creole. It continues to provide callers with access to clinic appointments and general information by calling just one telephone number. Callers also have the option of communicating in other languages such as Portuguese, as we take an integrated approach by utilizing the services of a language line for interpretations.

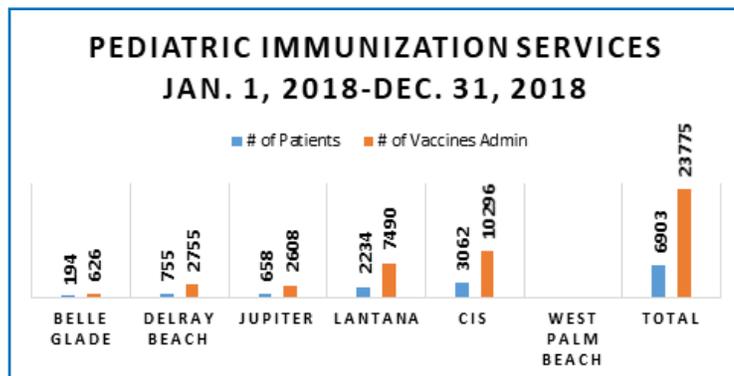
In 2018 approximately 60,000 calls were processed by the call center staff and almost 10,000 clinic appointments were scheduled. The staff also processed over approximately 2000 patient referrals received daily from different community partners.

The center also houses the main operator for the agency and in 2018 processed over 15,000 Operator related calls.

The call center continues to serve as a support for the Health Department's emergency preparedness infrastructure.

### Community Immunization Services

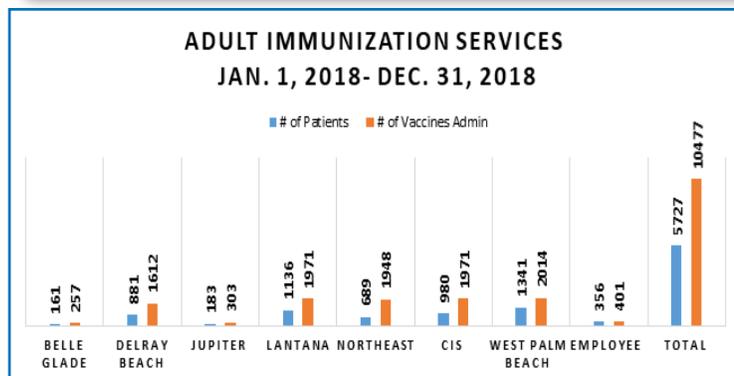
Disease prevention and health promotion are two major goals of public health and at the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County. One of the main objectives of Community Immunization Services (CIS) and the immunization program is to provide immunizations to prevent disease outbreaks for over 14 vaccine preventable diseases.



**Total Clients: 6,903**

**Total Vaccines: 23,775**

*Note: West Palm Beach Health Center was not administering Pediatric vaccines during this time frame.*



**Total Clients: 5,727**

**Total Vaccines: 10,477**

## Comprehensive Nutrition Program

The Comprehensive Nutrition Program of the Health Access Division provided nutrition services in all the health centers including the Jupiter clinic and in the community. Registered and licensed dietitians provide medical nutrition therapy for clients in the maternity, Infectious Disease Clinics, including HIV/AIDS and TB, family planning and women’s health clinics. Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) is a plan of care that focuses on the nutrition assessment, counseling, treatment and evaluation and continued monitoring of a client. The following details nutrition services received by health department clients in 2018 – 2019 Fiscal Year:

- Nutrition Assessment/ Counseling ..... 3,648
- Unduplicated number of clients ..... 2,469
- Case Management ..... 5,480
- Community Presentations ..... 15

Food security is a chronic problem in Palm Beach County and the Therapeutic Nutrition Treatment (TNT) program is a very successful initiative to address this health issue. TNT is a program designed for HIV/AIDS clients that provides healthy foods tailored to the therapeutic dietary needs of the clients. HIV/AIDS clients who are seen by the nutritionist for medical nutrition therapy can receive up to \$35.00 of healthy groceries monthly. The TNT program, funded by Part B of Ryan White, facilitates improved access to healthy foods and helps increase dietary compliance. An on-site therapeutic food pantry, including special foods for homeless clients, is maintained by the registered dietitian. The TNT program is viewed as a best practice by the Bureau of HIV/AIDS. A program evaluation survey to assess program effectiveness and client satisfaction indicated that over 98% of HIV/AIDS clients rated the TNT program as excellent or good and over 50% reported trying new foods such as brown rice, sardines, canned salmon and olive oil. In 2017, the Prudential Productivity Team Award was given to the Comprehensive Nutrition Program staff along with staff from the HIV/AIDS Program and the 1050 Service Center. The following is the number of HIV clients served during the 2018-2019 Fiscal year.

- HIV Nutrition Assessment and Counseling ..... 1550
- TNT Foods provided ..... 1290

In FY 2018-2019 the Comprehensive Nutrition Program nutritionists teamed with the Maternity and Family Planning Clinics to increase nutrition referrals for prenatal and interconceptual women. Providers were encouraged to refer all maternity clients to the nutritionist for medical nutrition therapy. For family planning clients, a focus area was maintaining or achieving a “healthy weight” and lifestyle. The number of clients that were provided medical nutrition therapy services increased by 84% in FY 18-19.

	FY17-18	FY18-19	% increase
Maternity Clinic	778	1434	84%

The nutrition component of Teen Clinic included Nutrition Resources for Teens as well as presentations and food demonstrations by our nutritionists and dietetic Interns. Teen-friendly nutrition curriculum was identified. A healthy snack option is offered at every meeting. Teens enjoyed the hands-on experience preparing a Healthy Snack -Yogurt/Fruit Parfait and a Healthy breakfast Oatmeal and fruits Parfait.

## Laboratory Services

The FDOH Palm Beach Main lab is located on second floor of the West Palm Beach Health Center, with satellite locations in all the Health Centers throughout the County.

The Main Lab is licensed as a highly complex lab by CLIA at the Federal level. We are required by licensure and law to participate and successfully pass proficiency testing in all specialties licensed in. We are inspected for licensure bi-annually.

We offer phlebotomy services and CLIA waived testing like Urine Screens, Pregnancy Tests and Glucometer testing in all satellite locations. We also provide services to RPICC and HIV confirmation testing for several Community Based Organizations (CBO’s).

We processed approx. 801,910 tests through our laboratory but performed testing in the Main Lab on approximately 769,963 and in the Satellite labs approximately 31,947 tests per year. Tests not performed in-house are sent to current FDOH State Contracted Lab.

Test orders are received electronically into our LIS (Laboratory Information System) and all test results are reported

electronically so they can merge into patient's medical record for provider to review. We are also required by Statute of Electronic Laboratory Reporting of certain test results to the different surveillance systems like STARS (previously PRISM), Merlin and e-HARS. Testing in the Main Lab is performed by State licensed Medical Technologists and Medical Technologist Supervisors. We verbally call each location for any result that falls in the critical/panic range. Once all tests are completed on the patient's order, the information is sent electronically to the lab's FIN billing system, which performs the electronic billing for all services provided.

All specimens collected in satellite locations are sent to the Main Lab via courier for processing and testing. The following is an overview of in-house testing offered:

- Chemistry:** Routine & Urine Chemistry, Thyroids, Hormones, Tumor Markers, Diabetes, Therapeutic Drugs, Vitamins, Virology, Hepatitis, Drugs of Abuse, Urinalysis, Syphilis Confirmation and HIV 4th Gen. with Confirmation.
- Hematology:** CBC with or without Automated Differential, Manual Differential, Sed Rates, Retics, Protime (PT) and Partial Thromboplastin (PTT) and Hemoglobin Electrophoresis for screening all Maternity patients for abnormal Hemoglobins like Sick Cell.
- Immunology:** RPR for syphilis, General Immunology, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella and Quantiferon (IGRA) to test for exposure of Tuberculosis.
- Blood Bank:** ABO and Rh Group and Antibody screening on all maternity patients for detection of possible antibodies that can cause Hemolytic Disease of Newborn
- Microbiology:** Bacteriology like Urine, Throat and GBS cultures, Mycology, Parasitology and FIT testing for colorectal cancer screening
- Molecular Biology:** T Cells for CD4 monitoring of HIV patients, HIV Viral load by PCR for detection of amount of HIV virus in blood. GC/Chlamydia on Urine or provider collected samples, HPV testing for 16, 18 and other high-risk genotypes.

## The Maternal Child Health Division

The Maternal Child Health Division (MCHD) provides home visits to families throughout Palm Beach County. Services are voluntary and are provided by Registered Nurse Program Specialists to pregnant women, women with newborns, and families. Our three nurse programs, Healthy Beginnings Nurses, Nurse-Family Partnership and Women's Health Initiative are designed to meet the individual needs of each family. MCHD Nurse home visits are provided as part of the Healthy Beginnings System of Care and are funded by the Healthy Start/Health Beginnings Coalition of Palm Beach County and the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach.

### Program goals are to:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes
- Improve child health, development and safety
- Improve life-course development by promoting pregnancy planning, educational achievement, and employment
- Provide families with linkage to needed health and social services
- Promote supportive relationships among family and friends

The "Florida's Infant Mortality and Low Birth Weight Actual Rate Compared with Expected Rate by County and Healthy Start Coalition Areas, 2017 update" compiled by Florida Department of Health is a county by county look at the expected values for Infant Mortality and Low Birthweight against the actual values. In 2017, Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach were the only 3 counties in the state that had significantly lower Infant Mortality rates than expected. Additionally, only Broward and Palm Beach had significantly lower than expected Infant mortality rates for 5 consecutive years. Palm Beach was one of six counties that had a significantly lower low birthweight percentage than expected in 2017, but Palm Beach County is the only county in the state that had a significantly lower low birth weight percentage than expected for 5 consecutive years.

In 2017, 1,254 Palm Beach County families participated in a one of the below programs:

### Healthy Beginnings Nurses Program

The Healthy Beginnings Nurses (HBN) Prenatal-Plus Model provides case management, nutrition guidance and psychosocial services to pregnant women in Palm Beach County who are at risk of having a low weight baby or poor birth outcome. Prenatal-Plus provides home visiting services using a multi-disciplinary team approach. Services are provided by a registered nurse, registered dietitian and a mental health clinician. Since its launch in 2013, prenatal clients receiving this service had been shown to experience a significantly higher average birthweight, a longer gestational period and lower scores on screening for postnatal depression.

## **Nurse-Family Partnership® Program**

The Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) Program promotes positive pregnancy outcomes and healthy infant development for first-time low-income mothers living in Palm Beach County. NFP is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. The program is managed through the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County and is funded through the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County. In Palm Beach County, mothers who have participated in the NFP program has consistently demonstrated significantly improved prenatal health, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased employment of the moms, improved school readiness of the children, and less child abuse, neglect, and injuries.

## **Women's Health Initiative Program**

The Women's Health Initiative Program (WHIN) focuses on reducing racial and health disparities through intensive health education and community focused activities. Black women, who are pregnant or have a newborn, residing in zip codes 33401, 33403, 33404 and 33407, are partnered with a registered nurse and receive health education home visits that continue through her child's first birthday. In addition to home visits, the WHIN program provides community education focused on how social, economic and environmental conditions can create health inequities and affect health disparities.

## **Women, Infants & Children "WIC"**

According to a study published online in Pediatrics, the 2009 changes to the U.S. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children was associated with a change in the trend of obesity prevalence among 2- to 4-year-old children. The researchers found the prevalence of obesity across states was increasing 0.23 percentage points annually among 2- to 4-year-olds before the 2009 WIC food package change. The trend was reversed after 2009 (-0.34 percentage points per year). The change in the trend in obesity prevalence was not explained by sociodemographic changes and other obesity risk factors.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - better known as the WIC Program - serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating including breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care.

Palm Beach County has six active thriving sites located throughout the county. Clients receive core WIC certification services including eligibility determination, nutrition assessment and counseling and Breastfeeding education and support. WIC nutrition services are provided by Registered and Licensed Nutritionist, Nutrition Educators, Breastfeeding Peer Counselors and International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants.

### **Palm Beach WIC 2018**

Client Type.....	Racial Distribution
18% Pregnant Women.....	52% White
13% Postpartum Women.....	46% Black
31% Infants.....	2% American Indian
37% Children.....	>1% Asian

## **WIC 2018**

- Palm Beach WIC partnered with 112 chain stores and 27 independent stores; totaling 139. 2 chain stores closed
- Palm Beach County WIC served 49,253 unduplicated participants at six clinics
- Provided \$23,431,262 of nutritionally appropriate foods to local WIC participants
- WIC Infants Ever Breastfed increased from 83.3% to 85.4%

July 2018, The Florida Department of Health conducted a WIC Program Review in Palm Beach County in accordance with policies stated in the WIC Procedure Manual. The program review team included a nutritionist and a quality assurance professional from the state WIC office in Tallahassee. The program team reviewed participant records and reports in the FL-WiSE system. The local agency operations and procedures, staff training, lesson plans and financial reports and documents were also part of the review.

### A few Key Finding noted from Review

- Required Trainings well documented for all staff
- Designated Breastfeeding Area available at all sites
- Percent of WIC Infants ever Breastfed 84.4% compared to the state average of 82.3%
- At least 2 individual nutrition education or breastfeeding contacts were provided and documented in 98% of records for clients at high or medically high nutrition risk

WIC now offers nutrition education on the internet; WICHealth.org. WICHealth.org is an online nutrition education resource that offers relevant nutrition lessons to WIC participants. The site provides a wide variety of topics for pregnant women, breastfeeding women, new mothers, infants, children and families. There are great recipes and tips on preparing healthy foods. Participants can use any computer, tablet or smart phones. Child or family lessons completed in WICHealth.org will be automatically recorded in FL-WiSE as a low risk contact for all children in the family. Completion of the prescribed online education meets the second education WIC requirements and the electronic benefits transfer card is automatically loaded without the participant coming into the WIC office. During the 2018, almost 5,000 lessons were completed by Palm Beach County WIC Participants. Although this option is available most still prefer to come into the WIC locations for live interactive group educations

WICHealth.org Lessons completed 2018	
WIC Site	Lessons Completed
Greenacres.....	2072
West Palm Beach.....	1125
Delray Beach.....	757
Lantana.....	369
Jupiter.....	328
Belle Glade.....	285
Total.....	4936

### The Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response

The Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response, which includes the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Program, continuously trains, educates, prepares, and protects the health of all people in our community.

In 2018 the Public Health Preparedness & Response staff had a robust schedule educating and preparing the community for All-Hazards and incidents. They participated in several exercises throughout Palm Beach County and the state. To name a few, these exercises include the annual St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant full scale exercise (FSE), Heatshield II law enforcement FSE, the Statewide Hurricane FSE, and planning for the Bioshield 2020 full-scale exercise. Throughout 2018 the CRI program hosted several planning meetings for the Bioshield 2020 FSE. These exercises prepare the staff and their respective community agency to better respond to real world events. After every exercise or real life event, an After Action Report and Improvement Plan is created so that best practices and areas for improvement can be collected and implemented. Training and exercising promote collaboration with key community partners such as the Healthcare Emergency Response Coalition, the Division of Emergency Management, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and private stakeholders.

In October of 2018, the Preparedness program assisted with the coordination of deploying several DOH staff to respond to Hurricane Michael in the Florida Panhandle. These staff participated in Hurricane Michael responses at Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and Special Needs Shelters. The Preparedness program also provided regional support to the Region 7 All Hazards Incident Management Team by deploying staff and the Western Shelter Tent System to the Florida Panhandle post landfall. These tents are used as dormitories, office spaces, and an Incident Command Post.

The annual Employee flu vaccination campaign had another successful year thanks to the CRI program. The Preparedness staff took the lead in the scheduling of volunteer staff and the logistic portion of the Employee Flu Point of Dispensing (POD). They also teamed up with the Community Immunization Services program to assist with the Back to School pilot POD. The goals of the pilot POD program were to decrease client wait time in clinical sites, improve the clinical flow of patients, and consolidate nursing expertise in the specialty of immunizations. To help accomplish those goals, the Preparedness program again took the lead on scheduling volunteer staff to work in the Back to School POD to assist with greeting clients and registration as well as language translation.

The Preparedness staff continuously provides support for real world events and public health emergencies such as Hepatitis, Zika

Virus, Pertussis, and Tuberculosis events to name a few. Preparedness staff works closely with DOH-Palm Beach Epidemiology and Environmental Health staff to plan and implement a response. As the Public Health Preparedness program continues to educate, train, and respond to all-hazards incidents countywide and statewide we look forward to maintaining collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.

## Quality Improvement

The Palm Beach County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) released in June 2017 is a multi-year plan lasting through 2021. The CHIP is a collaborative effort by a diverse group of community partners and stakeholders that serves as a directional roadmap committed to improving the health and quality of life of Palm Beach County residents. The Community Health Assessment (CHA) for Palm Beach County identified the current health needs and emerging health issues facing the County. The CHIP is the plan to address several of these needs; it is an action plan, detailing intervention strategies, activities, how progress will be measured, and sources of data related to each measure. Based on the CHA results and the prioritization process of our community partners and stakeholders, the CHIP priority areas are:

- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Active Living and Healthy Lifestyles
- Access to Care and Services

“The Community Health Improvement Plan sets the direction for improving the health of our community,” said Dr. Alina Alonso, Director, DOH-Palm Beach. “It focuses us on the key areas with unmet health needs.” DOH-Palm Beach, along with our community partners, will continue to work on our CHIP priority areas over the next several years.

## Preventive Medicine/ Public Health Residency Program

The 2018/19 academic year had significant changes to the residency program with a new program director and program coordinator/DIO in Robert Parkes, MD; MPH and Cynthia Oxley, BS; AA, respectively. The residency program have resolved all institutional and programmatic citations and continues to be fully accredited. The graduates of the residency program, who have been first time board test takers have achieved a 100% pass rate over the past 5 years. Drs. Peter Edemekong and Solaide Akintade, who will graduate in 2019, successfully presented posters at the 2019 American College of Preventive Medicine annual conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Akintade completed her QI project and implemented the agencies updated infectious disease control manual. Dr. Edemekong implemented his QI project, the ANTIDOTE Project, that recommends the short course 3HP as the optimal treatment option for Latent TB Infection. Drs. Tasha Alexis and Farhat Shireen are on track to be promoted to the PGY 3 year.

## Volunteer Health Care Provider Program

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program (VHCPP) Annual Report is provided in accordance with section 766.1115(8), Florida Statutes, to summarize contributions made by Volunteer Health Care Provider Program. Created by the Access to Health Care Act in 1992, VHCPP improves access to health care for uninsured and underserved low-income residents by providing sovereign immunity to licensed health care professionals in exchange for providing free medical and dental services to these underserved populations.

The Florida Department of Health promotes the use of volunteers to augment its public health duties and functions. The Department contracts with licensed health care professionals to volunteer with VHCPP. During fiscal year (FY) 2017–2018, the value of health-related goods and services provided to Florida’s citizens through volunteers and donations.

- Total Number of Volunteers: ..... 1,530
- Total Number of Licensed Volunteers: ..... 599
- Total Number of Patient Visits: ..... 41,358
- Value of Total Contributions: ..... \$13 Million

## Volunteer Health Services Program

Volunteers and public/private partnerships are an integral part of the Department’s efforts to increase access to quality health care for Florida residents. This section of the report summarizes the contributions and donations made to the Department by various volunteers, as defined in Chapter 110, Part VI, Florida Statutes.

Services Provided: Medical and Support Staff, Auxiliary Services i.e. Sponsorships, Food Pantry, Food Gift Cards, Diaper Assistance, Maternity Incentives, Clothing Closet and Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

- Total Number of Volunteers: ..... 138
- Total Number of Volunteer Hours: ..... 24,011
- Cost saving equivalents to the Department: \$1,309,965



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