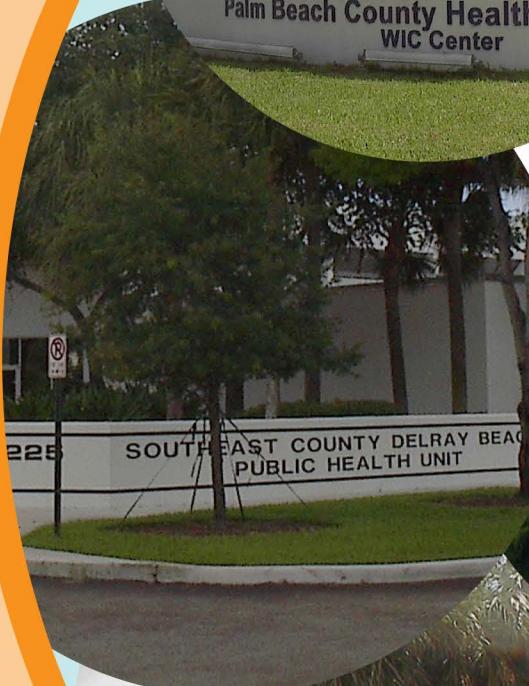


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PALM BEACH COUNTY





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)

- I**nnovation: -----We search for creative solutions and manage resources wisely.
- C**ollaboration:-----We use teamwork to achieve common goals & solve problems.
- A**ccountability: --We perform with integrity & respect.
- R**esponsiveness: We achieve our mission by serving our customers & engaging our partners.
- E**xcellence: -----We promote quality outcomes through learning & continuous performance improvement.

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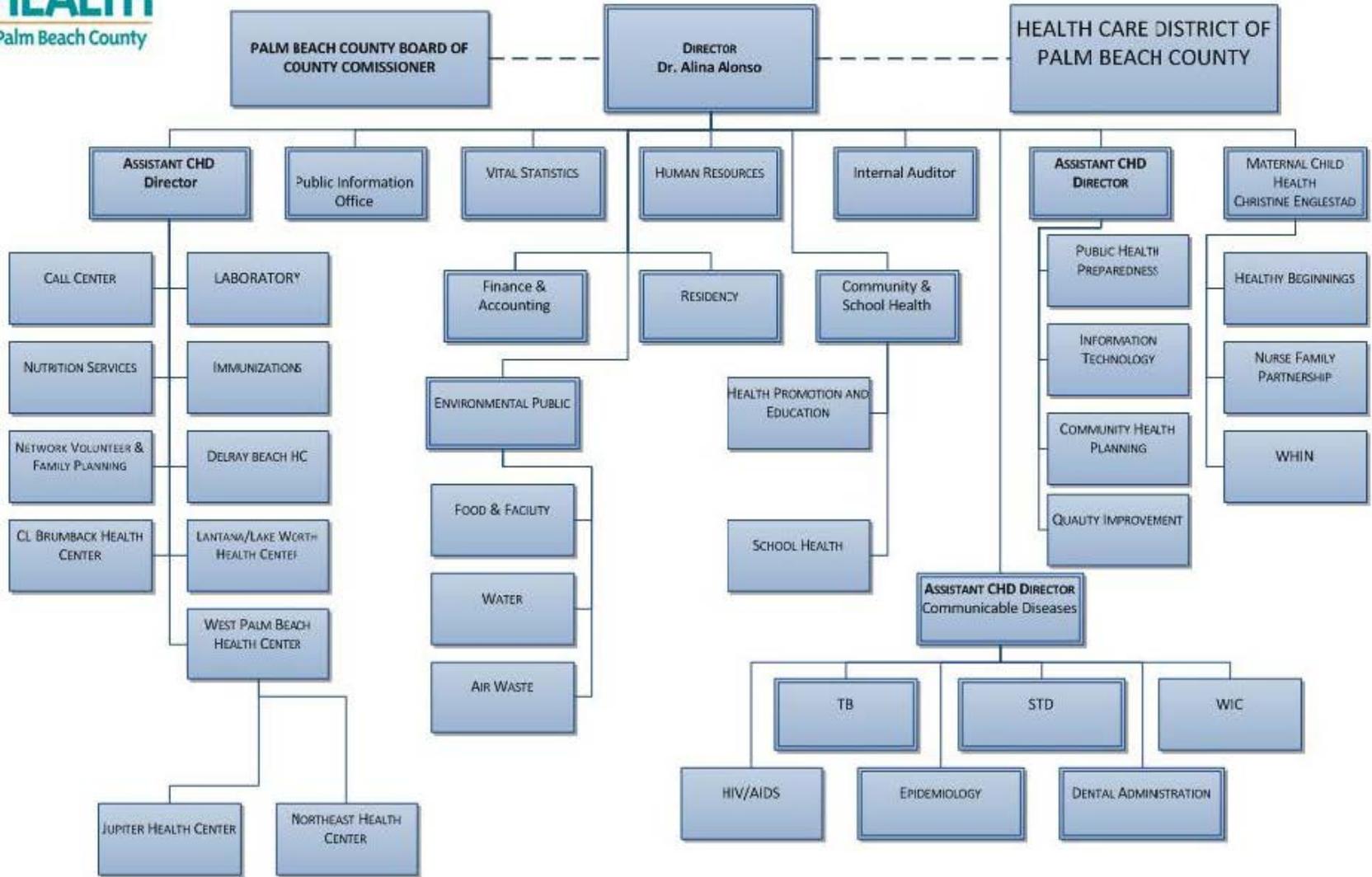
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**FUNCTIONAL CHART
FDOH PALM BEACH COUNTY
800 CLEMATIS STREET
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401-5107**



2015 Annual Health Profile Palm Beach County, Florida



Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County's mission is to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts. Our vision is to be the Healthiest State in the Nation. We do this following these values (ICARE):

- I**nnovation: We search for creative solutions and manage resources wisely.
- C**ollaboration: We use teamwork to achieve common goals & solve problems.
- A**ccountability: We perform with integrity & respect.
- R**esponsiveness: We achieve our mission by serving our customers & engaging our partners.
- E**xcellence: We promote quality outcomes through learning & continuous performance improvement.

Currently, only 35% of Floridians are at healthy weight. One quarter are obese, and the rest are overweight. On our current trend, by 2030, almost 60% will be obese. Addressing the public health threat of weight is a priority for the Department of Health. In response to the obesity epidemic, the department launched the Healthiest Weight Florida initiative in early 2013. Healthiest Weight Florida brings 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. We are glad to see progress being made towards a healthier weight for our community and the nation.

We have accomplished much in shaping the health profile of our community and bringing partners together to accomplish the goal of a healthier community. Our Healthier Weight Initiative is seeing a reduction in obesity rates in our children, long term reduction in diabetes, hypertension, cancer and many more chronic diseases. Our 5-2-1-0 message is getting recognition across our county and even being exported to other parts of the country. This website provides the community a tool to get on the right track to a healthier lifestyle and change unhealthy behaviors by creating supportive environments where people live, work and play.

We recognize that in addition to reaching out to our communities we must also invest in our most valuable resource, our employees. An integrated approach to employee health, safety, and well-being lead to better business outcomes. The benefits of a healthy workforce show up in increased productivity, lower absenteeism, improvements in talent acquisition and retention, and other areas not directly reflected in health care costs.

Join us as we go forward, making all our communities healthier by making healthier choices every day.

Alina Alonso, M.D.
Director
Palm Beach County Health Department

Administration

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS 2015

White	Black/Other	Unk	Total
9922	4922	20	14,864

DEATHS 2015

White	Black/Other	Unk	Total
12,802	1572	48	14,422

Did you know?

Leading Causes of Death

■ Cardiovascular Disease	4,761
■ Cancer	3,311
■ Respiratory Disease	1,201
■ All other Causes	1,146
● Poisoning	271
● Suicide	228
● Falls	203
● Motor Vehicle	193
● Homicide	101

[More Information on Vital Statistics online at http://www.pbchd.com/vitals/birth_death.html](http://www.pbchd.com/vitals/birth_death.html)

Preventive Medicine / Public Health Residency Program

Residency Program

60 Years Old

Still moving forward with new innovations



Dr. Carl L. Brumback, Founder of the Public Health Residency Program

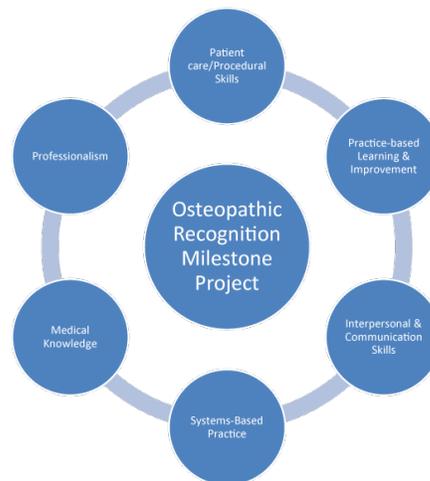
Our Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program is an important part of the Health Department. Started by Carl Brumback, MD, MPH in 1956, it has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Osteopathic Association

(AOA) since the 1970s. Until recently, there has been too little recognition of the need for personnel trained in preventive medicine and public health.

We are excited for a new era in medicine. As of July 1st 2015, the ACGME and AOA have begun unification. Falling in line with this paradigm shift, our program plans to complete the transition process by 2020 and with a robust integrative medicine program. The next step is to establish objectives using the S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time sensitive) philosophy. Major domains of integrative medicine will be interwoven within our curriculum. Domains include content areas of dietary supplements, botanicals and other natural products; mind-body medicine and spirituality; complementary and alternative therapies;

whole medical systems; lifestyle, prevention and health promotion.

The path to full implementation will begin with seeking and obtaining Osteopathic Recognition via the protocol established by ACGME.



We are working with our key community partners to ensure the outcome will be successful and sustainable. Training in the Residency Program will continue to provide instruction in the core areas of administration (including problem identification

and analysis, program planning, management and evaluation, policy development and analysis, fiscal and personal components, legislative and political aspects, development of leadership skills, and inter-agency cooperation); epidemiology and biostatistics; environmental sciences; behavioral science, and clinical preventive medicine.

County Health Rankings

Palm Beach County Moves Up in Health Rankings

Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and again this year acknowledged the 2016 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, to enlist a ranking among counties and the state. Palm Beach County has retained its 9th rank for Health Outcomes like length of life and moved up to number 9 in Health Factors like healthy behaviors.

“We are always reviewing our Community Health Improvement Plan and encouraging all to improve their health and adopt a healthy lifestyle,” said Dr. Alina Alonso, Director of Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County. “With help from our community partners and as these health rankings indicate, we continue to improve health outcomes in Palm Beach County making it a healthy place to live, work and play.”

These rankings are a snapshot of the health of counties across the country and they emphasize that

health is not a singular effort but a combined work in progress across all community partners. The department works in collaboration with local governments, non-profit organizations, health care facilities, business groups, schools, faith-based organizations and many other stakeholders to improve the health of all people in Palm Beach County. These rankings use data related to physical environments, social and economic factors, health behaviors and clinical care.

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.

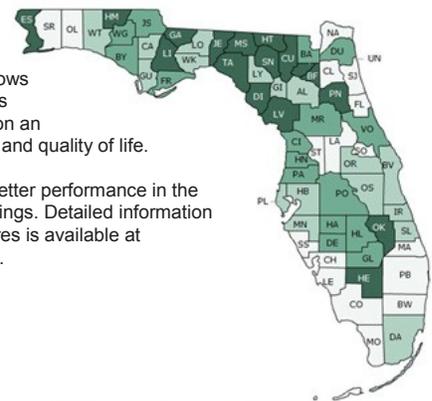
The department has partnered with many stakeholders to implement the CHIP and collaborates regularly to track progress. Many municipalities have adopted the Healthiest Weight Initiative by improving parks, adding walking paths and adding public use outdoor exercise equipment. Other initiatives have included the Let’s Move Campaign and 5-2-1-0 Let’s Go. Both programs encourage a balance of exercise and diet. The rankings indicate that these combined efforts resulted in 98% of residents having access to exercise opportunities.

County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Alachua	25	Franklin	39	Lee	16	Pinellas	26
Baker	50	Gadsden	67	Leon	23	Polk	36
Bay	38	Gilchrist	30	Levy	57	Putnam	65
Bradford	61	Glades	47	Liberty	51	Santa Rosa	8
Brevard	20	Gulf	31	Madison	64	Sarasota	3
Broward	11	Hamilton	63	Manatee	24	Seminole	5
Calhoun	33	Hardee	46	Marion	49	St. Johns	1
Charlotte	15	Hendry	53	Martin	4	St. Lucie	29
Citrus	44	Hernando	43	Miami-Dade	19	Sumter	17
Clay	6	Highlands	41	Monroe	7	Suwannee	56
Collier	2	Hillsborough	28	Nassau	10	Taylor	52
Columbia	54	Holmes	58	Okaloosa	12	Union	66
DeSoto	35	Indian River	18	Okeechobee	62	Volusia	40
Dixie	59	Jackson	45	Orange	21	Wakulla	22
Duval	48	Jefferson	60	Osceola	32	Walton	34
Escambia	55	Lafayette	27	Palm Beach	9	Washington	42
Flagler	13	Lake	14	Pasco	37		

HOW DO COUNTIES RANK FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES?

The green map below shows the distribution of Florida’s health outcomes, based on an equal weighting of length and quality of life.

Lighter shades indicate better performance in the respective summary rankings. Detailed information on the underlying measures is available at countyhealthrankings.org.



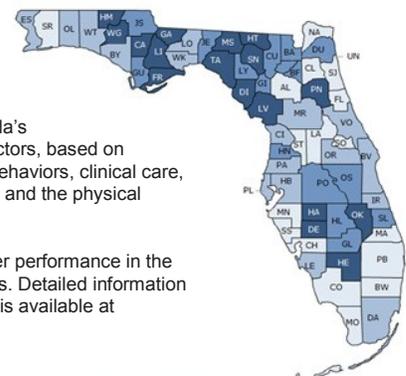
Rank 1-17 Rank 18-34 Rank 35-50 Rank 51-67

County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank	County	Rank
Alachua	10	Franklin	59	Lee	22	Pinellas	20
Baker	46	Gadsden	65	Leon	24	Polk	38
Bay	31	Gilchrist	39	Levy	51	Putnam	66
Bradford	45	Glades	47	Liberty	58	Santa Rosa	14
Brevard	19	Gulf	43	Madison	57	Sarasota	2
Broward	12	Hamilton	64	Manatee	15	Seminole	3
Calhoun	56	Hardee	62	Marion	34	St. Johns	1
Charlotte	7	Hendry	67	Martin	4	St. Lucie	37
Citrus	33	Hernando	36	Miami-Dade	28	Sumter	13
Clay	11	Highlands	41	Monroe	8	Suwannee	54
Collier	5	Hillsborough	26	Nassau	6	Taylor	52
Columbia	50	Holmes	55	Okaloosa	18	Union	48
DeSoto	61	Indian River	23	Okeechobee	63	Volusia	29
Dixie	60	Jackson	44	Orange	21	Wakulla	27
Duval	35	Jefferson	49	Osceola	40	Walton	30
Escambia	32	Lafayette	42	Palm Beach	9	Washington	53
Flagler	16	Lake	17	Pasco	25		

HOW DO COUNTIES RANK FOR HEALTH FACTORS?

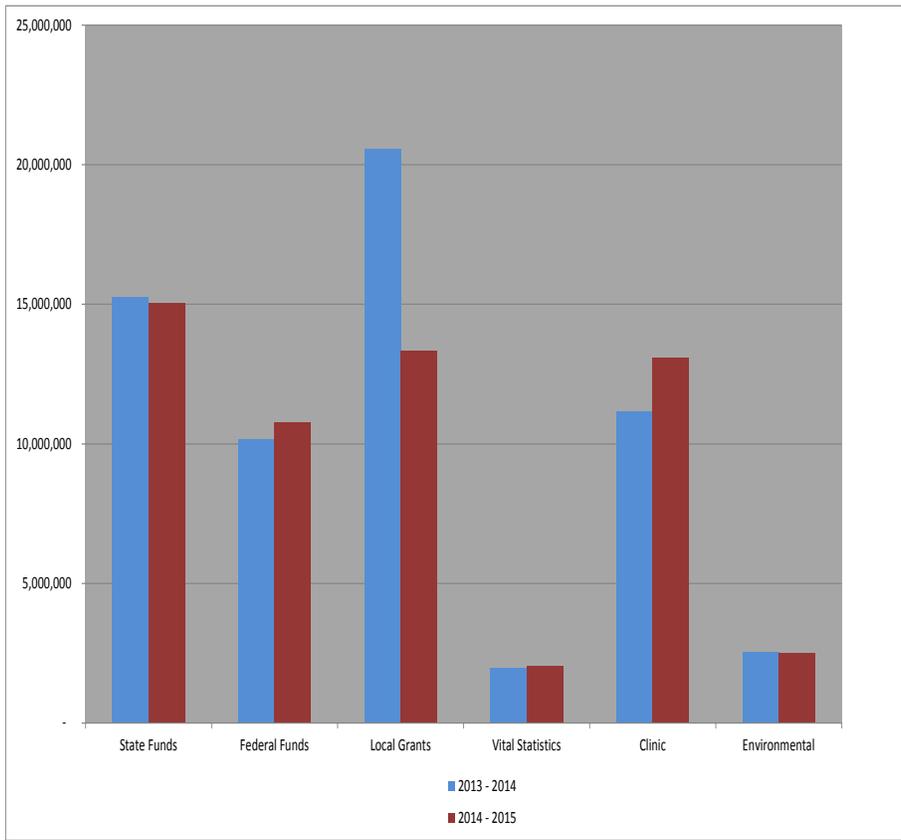
The blue map displays Florida’s summary ranks for health factors, based on weighted scores for health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.

Lighter shades indicate better performance in the respective summary rankings. Detailed information on the underlying measures is available at countyhealthrankings.org

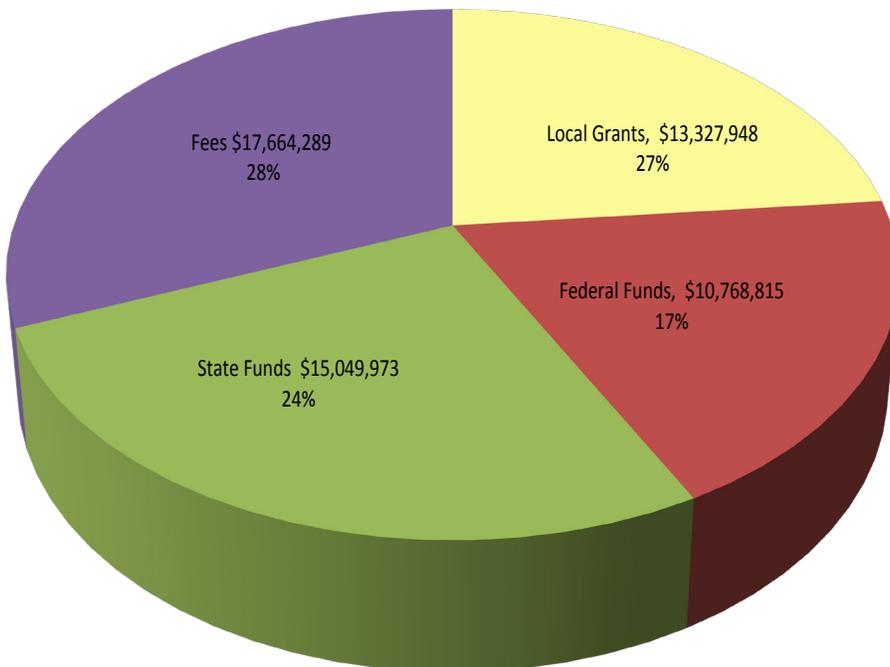


Rank 1-17 Rank 18-34 Rank 35-50 Rank 51-67

Finance & Accounting



Revenue % by Source



State Funds
\$15,049,973

Federal Funds
\$10,768,815

Local Grants
\$13,327,948

Vital Statistics
\$2,044,940

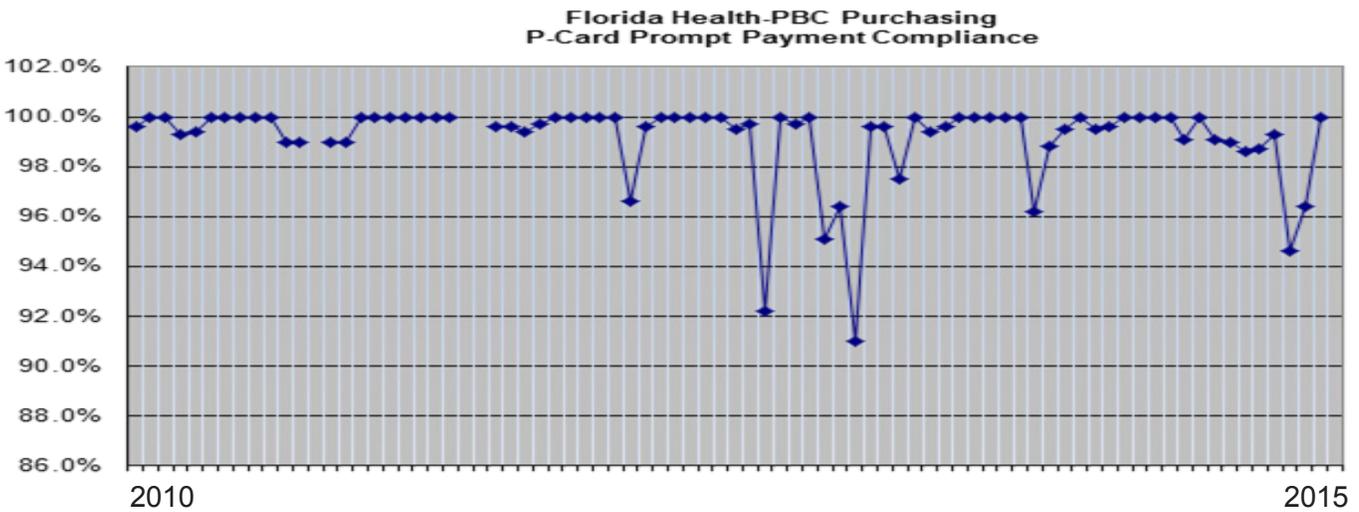
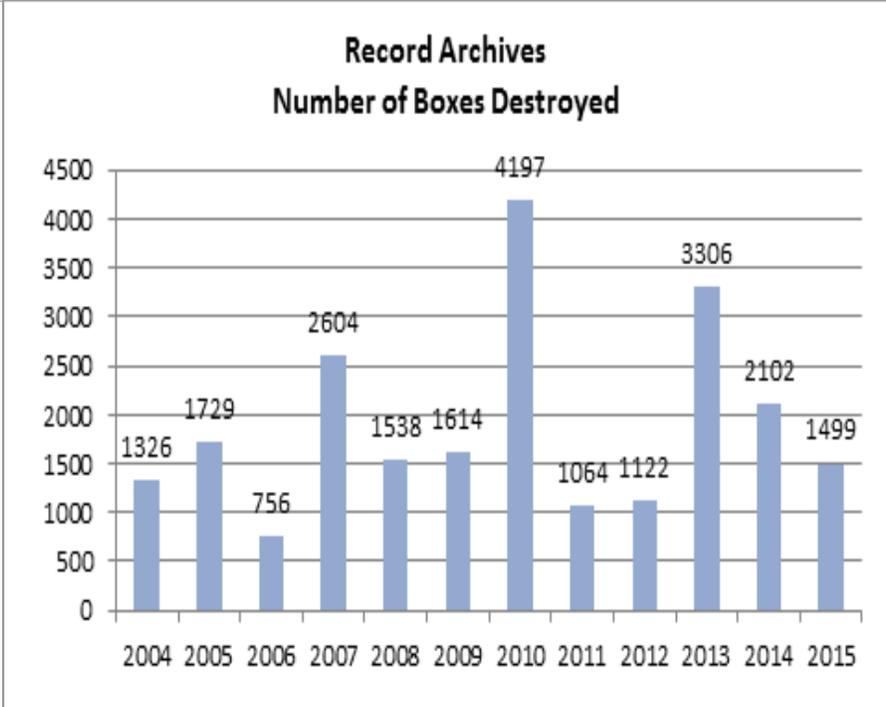
Clinic
\$13,098,949

Environmental
\$2,520,400

TOTAL INCOME 2015
\$56,811,025



General Services



Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases

The Division of Epidemiology is responsible for monitoring, investigating and reporting to the Florida Department of Health all communicable diseases which appear on the “Reportable Diseases/ Conditions in 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 and intervention measures, further transmission into the community can be averted.

The Division complies with the Florida Statutes 64 D-3 which states, “Any practitioner, licensed in Florida to practice medicine, chiropractic, naturopathy or veterinary medicine, who diagnosis or suspects the existence of a disease of public health significance shall immediately report the fact to the Department of Health. Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County serves as the representative in this reporting requirement.

EBOLA MONITORING

Beginning in October 2014 and continuing until December 2015, as part of Florida’s response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, individuals traveling to Florida from Ebola impacted countries were monitored twice daily for symptoms consistent with Ebola (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and/or fever) for a 21 day period. These travelers visited the impacted areas of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea or Mali. Over a total of 735 monitoring days, Palm Beach County performed 1,328 in-person temperature checks for 64 visitors. The World Health Organization declared the last country, Guinea, to be Ebola-free on December 29, 2015, thereby completing Florida’s enhanced monitoring of travelers to these regions.

INFLUENZA

2014-2015 Influenza Season Surveillance Report.

The influenza season typically starts in October and ends in May of each year, and is comprised of collaborative of data collection sources. The Epidemiology program utilizes multiple surveillance systems to monitor influenza activity. The systems are:

- ESSENCE System (Syndromic surveillance system that monitors emergency room (ER) visits through chief complaint data)
- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and assisted living facilities (ALFs) weekly influenza-like illness (ILI) reports and outbreaks
- Viral surveillance from local hospitals and specimens submitted to the Florida Department of Health
- Bureau of Laboratories
- Students with ILI reported by school nurses in Palm Beach County
- Other influenza or ILI outbreaks
- ESSENCE-FL Pneumonia & Influenza Mortality
- Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

ILI is defined as fever $\geq 100^{\circ}$ F and cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause other than influenza)
 Figure 1: Counts of Influenza-like Illness emergency room visits during 2014-2015 Flu Season

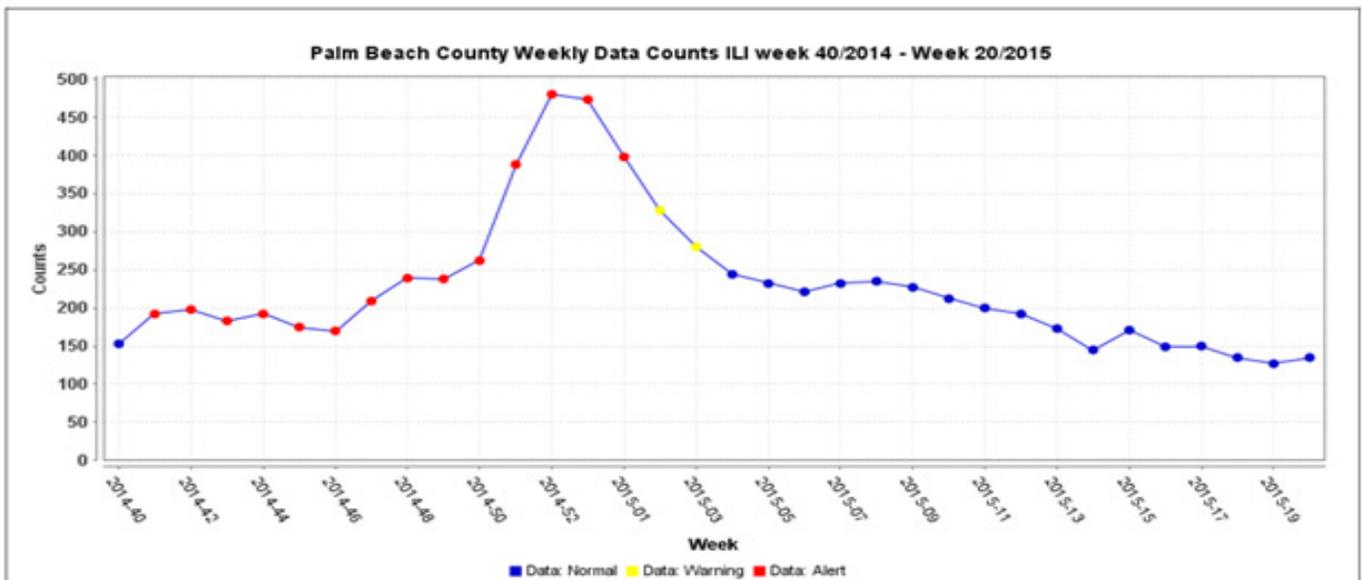
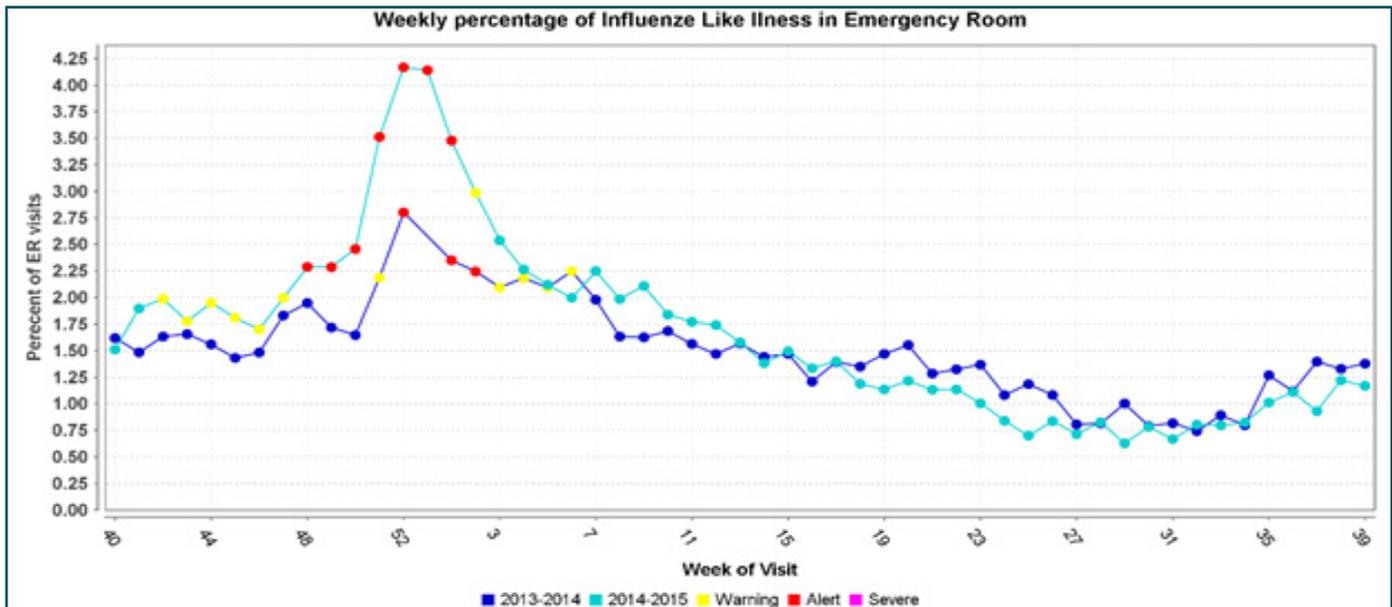


Figure 2: Influenza -like Illness as a percentage of emergency room visits comparing the 2013-2014 and the 2014-2015 Flu Seasons



Influenza illness in the 2013-2014 season and the 2014-2015 season, increased during similar weeks (week 50 and week 51, respectively). However, a higher percentage of ER visits being ILI visits was found in the 2014-2015 compared to the previous season. This season's peak was in week 52 and 53, falling to the lowest point during week 29 of 2015. From there, ILI morbidity percentages increased as the beginning of the next influenza season began. A total of 4 outbreaks were reported during the 2014-2015 flu season.

MENINGITIS

Meningococcal Disease - *Neisseria meningitidis*

Two cases of *Neisseria meningitidis* were identified in Palm Beach County residents. *Neisseria meningitidis* can be fatal or very severe in which close or prolonged contact with individuals in the same household or in daycare settings may result in spread of the disease.

- 1. May**-received notification from the Medical Examiner of the death of a six month old infant with *Neisseria meningitidis*. Days earlier, the infant was taken to the ER with respiratory distress, grunting, and fever. The infant was intubated and treated with in the ER but was unable to recover. A total of twenty five persons were identified as contacts and all, including the mother and father of the infant, received antibiotic prophylaxis at our health clinics. No further transmission was identified.
- 2. October**-a five year old child diagnosed with bacterial meningitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*. This child, who attended elementary school and an aftercare program, passed away from this infection. A total of 74 persons received prophylaxis after contact, including household members, neighbors, elementary school classmates, aftercare classmates, EMS staff, and hospital staff. No further transmission was identified.

Bacterial Meningitis – Other Bacterial/Mycotic Causes

1. *Staphylococcus Epidermidis* was identified in a seven month old male. This child did not recover from the illness and passed away in May.
2. *Streptococcus Agalactiae* Group B was identified in a one month old female. This child was hospitalized and recovered with antibiotic treatment.

NOROVIRUS

There were six gastrointestinal illness (GI) outbreaks reported this year in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, four of which were confirmed to be associated with norovirus. Two GI illnesses were reported in elementary schools this year, both confirmed to be norovirus outbreaks. In all outbreaks, the epidemiology team closely monitors, recommends exclusion policies, aids in information dissemination, and cleaning protocols until the transmission is mitigated and the outbreak ends.

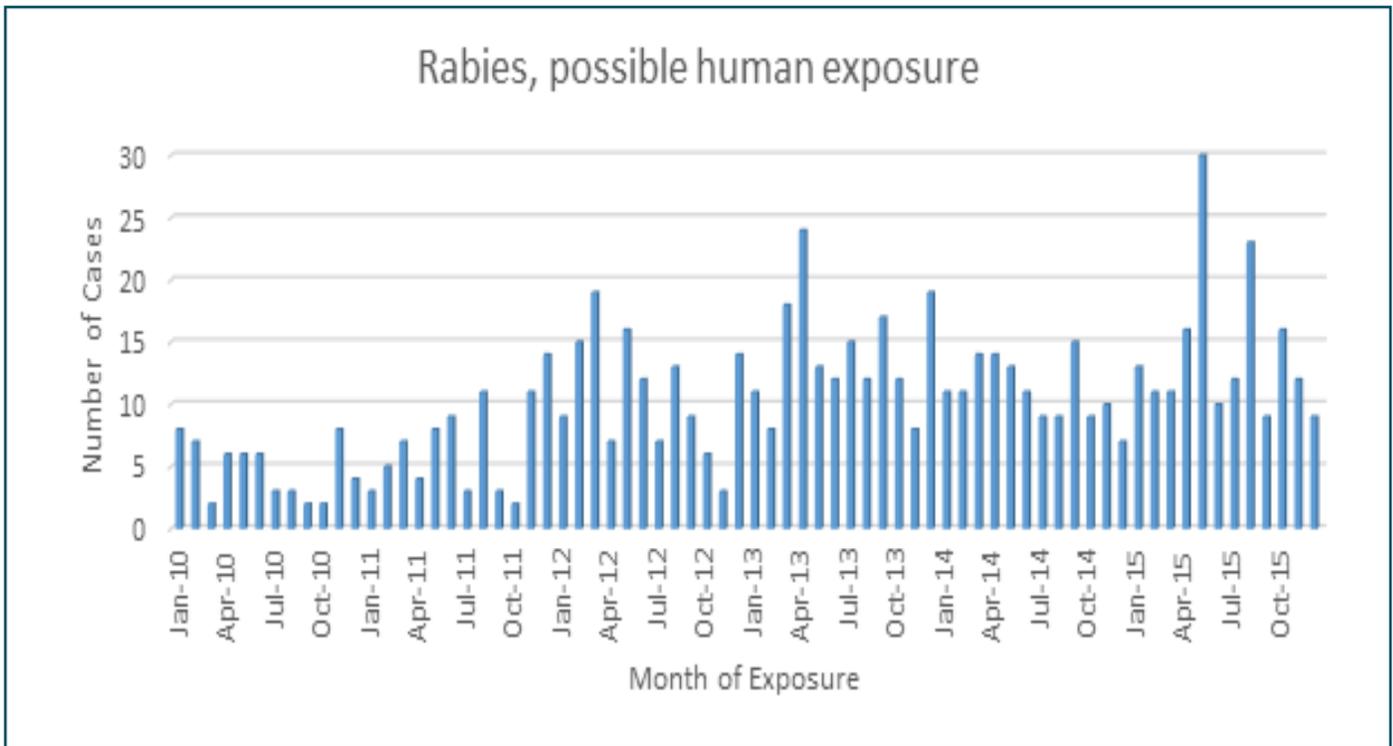
PERTUSSIS

December, a local pediatrician confirmed a case of pertussis in a 15 year old male who attended High School. One hundred and fourteen students were identified as contacts by virtue of sharing seven classes with the child. A complete review of these students' records revealed 28 children were under-immunized; three of which had documentation of religious exemptions, equating to a total of 25% of at-risk students being under-immunized. Control measures included case findings, isolation, prophylaxis, education and treatment. An immunization outreach was set up at the school where the Tdap vaccine was offered to any close contacts and prescriptions were prescribed for Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) treatment to at-risk students and staff. All children who had close contact with case and who have pregnant women in the household were recommended to see their obstetrician immediately for follow up care. These high school children were also recommended to have PEP. Students having close contact with case and have an infant <1 year in their household, were also recommended PEP. Twelve (43%) of the 28 children who were under-immunized received Tdap during the immunization outreach. Household contacts and at-risk healthcare staff were also prophylaxed. Ongoing community surveillance continued past the end of the calendar year.

RABIES

August- received notification of 24 persons who had slept in a cabin where a bat was found while attending a summer camp in Georgia; 11 were Palm Beach County teenagers. The Georgia DOH reported the bat exposure occurred in July. We were able to reach eight of the 11 teenagers within a day of notification. Hospitals were alerted to ensure individuals were appropriately managed. Rabies prophylaxis education was offered to physicians who had concerns or questions about the post exposure treatment. By mid-month, interviews for all thirteen cases were completed and PEP was recommended for all cases.

May registered the highest number (30) of potential rabies exposure cases that Palm Beach County investigated in the previous five years (see graph below).



Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program

TB is a disease caused by a germ called Mycobacterium tuberculosis that is spread from person to person through the air. When a person with active TB coughs or sneezes, droplet nuclei containing M. tuberculosis are expelled into the air. If another person (contact) inhales air containing these droplet nuclei, he or she may become infected.

However, not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. As a result, two TB related conditions exist: latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB disease.

Persons with LTBI do not feel sick and do not have any symptoms. They are infected with M. tuberculosis, but do not have TB disease. The general symptoms of TB disease include feelings of sickness or weakness, weight loss, fever, night sweats, coughing, chest pain and coughing up blood.

TB disease occurring in the lungs is contagious and requires immediate isolation to protect others. The Palm Beach County Tuberculosis Control Program is responsible for TB prevention and control countywide.

Goals:

- Identify and treat TB disease until cured
- Provide preventive treatment to those with LTBI, most at risk of developing TB disease

TB Control Program oversees, manages and facilitates the various activities and interventions necessary to assure identification and proper treatment of all individuals with TB to eliminate its subsequent spread to others. Additionally, it assures adherence to the TB Control Act in the Florida Statute Chapter 392.

The TB Program also maintains a surveillance system for TB in the health department's service area. One of the National TB Program Objectives and Performance Targets for 2015 is to increase the proportions of patients who complete treatment within 12 months to 93%.

**The goal of TB elimination in the United States is:
< 1 case per 1,000,000 population.**

The Palm Beach County TB Control Program aims to prevent the transmission of TB and the progression of Latent TB Infection to TB disease. In recent years, the TB Control Program has achieved important improvements.

The reduction of the burden of TB disease by early detection and completion of TB treatment and the prevention of transmission to close contacts of infectious TB patients are just some of them. These improvements were achieved while facing and overcoming a

challenging scenario of constrained resources and decreased categorical funds for previous fiscal years.

TB Program Accomplishments:

- The number of new TB cases in the county, has been reduced from 92 in the year 2005 to 43 cases in 2015. The TB case rate was estimated at 3.1 per 100,000 in the year 2015 compared to 7.2 per 100,000 in the year 2005.
- 96% of TB patients were started on the recommended initial four drugs regimen when suspected of having TB in the year 2015. The national target for the year 2015 was 95.2%. In the year 2014, 91.3% of TB patients were started on the recommended initial four drugs regimen when suspected of having TB in Palm Beach County.
- The percentage of eligible TB patients completing therapy within 12 months was 93.02% in the year 2014. Data for the year 2015 for this indicator, is still preliminary. The national target for completion of TB treatment is 93% for the year 2015.

TB Laws and Rules

Florida State Statutes – Tuberculosis Control Act, Chapter 392

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. Note that Tuberculosis disease has to be reported immediately.

TB Reporting Requirements for 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.

TB Reporting requirements for 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 Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach County. The phone number for reporting purposes is: (561) 803-7342, and the fax number (561) 840-0171.

NEW TB CASES & RATES

YEARS	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
PBC TB CASES	43	50	55	40	59	69	58
INCIDENCE RATE*	3.1	3.7	4.1	3	4.4	5.4	4.5
FLORIDA CASES	602	595	652	679	753	835	821
FL INCIDENCE RATE*	3	3	3.39	3.5	4	4.4	4.4
US CASES	9,563	9,412	9,588	9,951	10,521	11,182	11,537
US INCIDENCE RATE*	3	3	3	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8

*RATE PER 100,000

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Palm Beach County reported 6876 Sexually Transmitted Disease cases in 2015 (Syphilis – under one year duration, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea), which is above the 2014 number of 6419. Specifically, Gonorrhea cases in 2015 increased to 5375, an increase from the 4977 cases reported in 2014. Gonorrhea increased in 2015 to 1277, from 1132 in 2014. There was a decrease in Syphilis cases in 2015 to 224, down from the 310 cases in 2014. With the successful implementation of the PROTEXT Project (patients received their Chlamydia and Gonorrhea test results via coded text messaging), the DOH has authorized the expansion of this project (PROTEXT Plus) to include notification of HIV and Syphilis, as well as Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

PROTEXT Option

The Private Reporting Option through coded TEXT messages (PROTEXT) notifies clients of their STD results using coded text messages, this lessens the time between laboratory result availability and treatment. Over 66% of the chlamydia and gonorrhea cases in Palm Beach County are from clients' ages 15 – 24 years. In order to limit transmission, it is imperative that there is timely treatment. A coded text message was sent to the client for negative or positive lab results; this was done in English, Spanish or Haitian Creole.

Patients with positive results would call to make an appointment for treatment. Over 1800 individuals chose to be notified of their results using PROTEXT. Of those clients who had PROTEXT notification and called for appointment, none exceeded the Florida Department of Health STD Program recommended treatment goal of less than 14 days, all were treated within 12 days. This was statistically significant when compared to all notification groups and the PROTEXT group that did not call back.

PROTEXT has proven to be an efficient notification system that informs clients of their results and whether or not they need to return for STD treatment, ultimately shortening the period between notification and treatment. Utilizing PROTEXT provided cost savings to the clients and the health department of \$148,504.00 and a reduction in time spent by clinic staff following up with clients with negative results.

Another Innovative Project

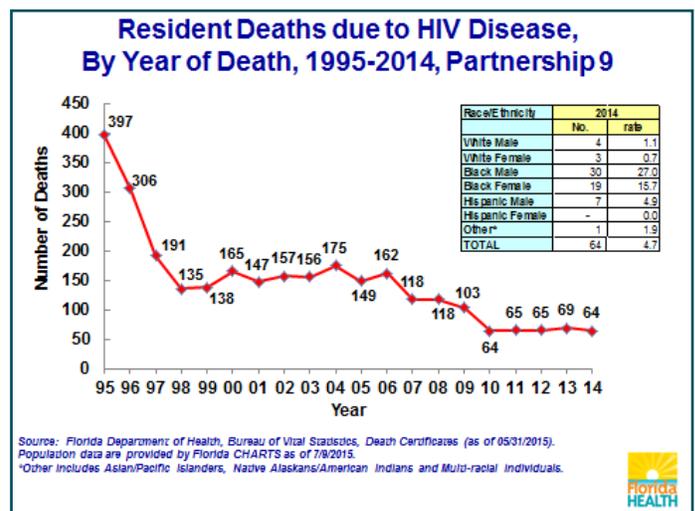
This pilot project involves targeted screening of gonorrhea and chlamydia among juvenile clients at local detention centers. Detainees routinely have a urine drug screen at intake. Those clients who volunteer would also have their urine screened for gonorrhea and chlamydia. Those found to be positive would be linked to partner service and treatment.

Telephone Linkage to Care (TLC) Project

With the increasing number of STD clients, there is a need for a more efficient system of client notification and linkage to care. The traditional method of interviewing clients who are less than or equal to 15 years of age and/or pregnant is face to face. The health department will embark on a pilot project using telephone interviews. We will use as outcome measures timeliness to treatment and quality of actionable data as it relates to the number of partners identified and number of partners treated.

HIV/AIDS

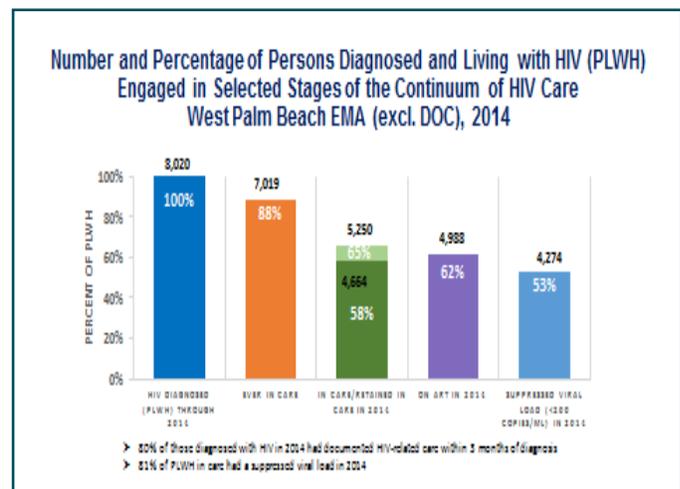
1. Resident Deaths due to HIV Disease: The data represents an 84% decline in HIV resident deaths due to HIV disease from the peak year of 1995 to 2014. This is much higher than the 79% decline observed by the state. In order to estimate the current burden of HIV/AIDS care and treatment needs within Palm Beach County, it is important to analyze the HIV/AIDS case deaths over a period of time. Expanded prevention and treatment advances have significantly reduced HIV related deaths and have extended the quality of lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS.



2. The Continuum of HIV Care in Palm Beach County, 2015

Why should we be concerned with the continuum of HIV Care in Palm Beach County?

- 1.) The continuum of care is closely tied to the National HIV/AIDS strategy goals, which include:
 - a. Reducing the number of people who become infected with HIV
 - b. Increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV.
 - c. Reducing HIV-related health disparities.
- 2.) The continuum of HIV care is vital to improving engagement at every stage in the continuum of care including:
 - a. HIV testing and subsequent diagnosis
 - b. Linkage to HIV medical care
 - c. Continuous engagement in HIV medical care (retention)
 - d. Initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART)
 - e. A suppressed viral load (undetectable HIV viral load < 200 copies/mL) which indicates that the person's HIV medications are working.



- (1) **HIV Diagnosed:** There were 8020 (100%) persons known to be diagnosed and living in Palm Beach County with HIV disease through 2014, regardless of AIDS status or where diagnosed, as of June.
- (2) **Ever in Care:** 7019 (88%) of those persons living with HIV disease in Palm Beach, who had at least one documented viral load or CD4 lab, medical visit or prescription since HIV diagnosis.
- (3) **In Care:** 5250 (65%) of those persons living with HIV disease in Palm Beach County who had at least one documented viral load, CD4, medical visit or prescription.
- (4) **Retained In Care:** 4664 (58%) of those persons living with HIV disease in Palm Beach County who had 2 or more documented viral load or CD4 labs, medical visits or prescriptions (at least 3 months apart).
- (5) **On ART:** An estimated 4988 (62%) of those persons living with HIV disease in Palm Beach County were on ART. The 2013 Florida Medical Monitoring project (MMP) was used to estimate the number and percentage of persons receiving medical care and who have documented ART prescriptions in their medical records in the observed year. FL MMP data indicated that 95% of those in care were on ART.
- (6) **Suppressed Viral Load:** 4274 (53%) of those persons living with HIV disease in Palm Beach County had a suppressed viral load (<200 copies/mL) on last viral load.

3. Palm Beach County is using GIS mapping for HIV/AIDS Planning Interventions.

HIV Disease in Palm Beach County is caused by a complex combination of social determinants of health, with multiple agencies responsible for Strategic HIV prevention planning of affected communities. In the past, data for planning was collected using zip codes of clients and physical address of the servicing providers. This information did not allow an accurate depiction of HIV service delivery available for the community affected with HIV/AIDS since the population size at-risk was not taken into consideration. The creation of density maps using GIS assisted in evaluating changes in geographical and epidemiological concentration with distribution of HIV disease in Palm Beach County.

DOH Palm Beach and the Palm Beach County Department of Community Services partnered together to present an abstract entitled "Using GIS for Spatial Innovations for HIV/AIDS Planning Interventions." The abstract was presented during the South Florida GIS Expo in October 8.

The GIS mapping in 2014 revealed that there is a direct correlation between elevated community viral load and new HIV infections. It also identified three geographical areas of concern. In 2015, the mapping was further analyzed by overlaying testing sites, condom distribution sites and Ryan White medical and support services in the three geographical areas of concern. Further analysis is needed to evaluate the utilization of Ryan White medical and support services in the three areas of concern. We will continue to focus in the following areas:

- a.) Our linkage to care services and continue to identify barriers that keep individuals from accessing and staying in care.
- b.) To provide a coordinated approach in reducing disease incidence with our community partners.
- c.) To continue to support HIV prevention planning
- d.) To leverage resource allocation funding across multi-organizational systems of care for HIV.

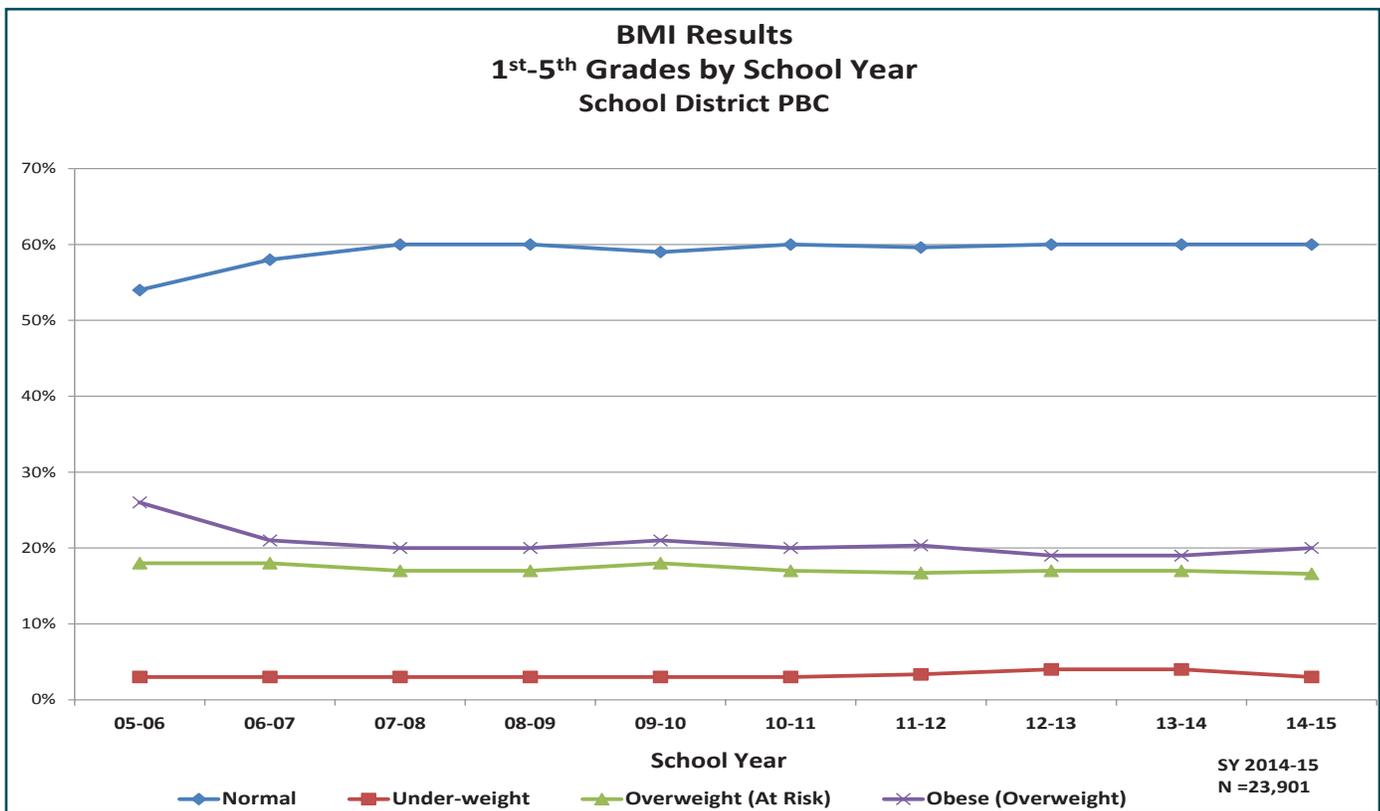
COMMUNITY & SCHOOL HEALTH

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.

For school year 2014-2015, there were a total of 186,598 students in pre-k through 12th grade. The school health program staff included 228 nurses and 10 health aides that provided a total of 1,352,110 school health services and administered 192,156 medication doses during the school year. 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. The Health Care District monitors and reports to the health department the incidence of influenza like illness (ILI) recorded weekly by the school nurses.

Mandatory health screenings for vision, hearing, scoliosis and growth and development are provided in designated grades. The screening of student's height, weight, and BMI has been helpful in tracking the obesity rate among school children in our county. School nurses counsel and educate parents and their children on healthy eating and the health benefits of increased physical activity. For students with underlying health problems related to weight, the school nurse's case management can be helpful in impacting positive health outcomes later in life.



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 2014-15, a review of 11,443 student school health records from K-12 found 94.38% meeting state requirements for immunization.

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.

Community Health



We made great strides in promoting healthy weight strategies focused on the importance of physical

activity and healthy eating in early learning centers, youth empowerment centers, school settings, worksites, and local governments. The Community Call to Action has been instrumental with supporting awareness and environments of change.



A grant award from the Quantum Foundation made it possible to increase awareness and education about the 5-2-1-0 Let's Go! Initiative to:

- Implement a baseline, awareness survey with 7448 residents responding.
- Launch of a commercial which garnered 273,000 TV impressions from residents and over 100,000 banner video impressions through the website.
- Purchase Palm Tran bus wraps that impacted 730,374 bus riders and onlookers on average of 27,050 per day for five weeks.
- Design an improved 5-2-1-0 Let's Go! website which had over 23,000 hits in just less than 3 months with unique visitors from over 24 countries.
- Launch the first 5-2-1-0 Let's Go! Healthy Habits to Live By All Summer Long Community Kick Off event with 500 in attendance and over 25 vendors.
- Work with Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation to implement the 5-2-1-0 Let's Go! Healthy Habits to Live By during summer camp to over 400 students.
- Created an exhibit for the Palm Beach County Pediatric Society's annual meeting.

Other accomplishments :

- Facilitated 4 diabetes prevention classes with a total loss of over 300 lbs. among the graduates.
- Provided diabetes education and screenings in partnership with the Community Call to Action and the Diabetes Coalition of Palm Beach County during Diabetes Month.
- Facilitated a National Diabetes Prevention Program Lifestyle Coach class to employees from Genesis Community Health.
- Worked with Palm Healthcare Foundation, WPEC Channel 12 and the Diabetes Coalition to support their annual "Let's Move Commit to Change Challenge" with residents documenting over 3,605,805 minutes of physical activities.

Tobacco Free Florida Palm Beach County

Tobacco Free Florida Palm Beach County is dedicated to creating a tobacco free future for all who live, work, and play focused on policy areas to address Tobacco Free College Campuses, Smoke-Free Multiunit Housing, Tobacco Free Worksites, Maintaining a Local Tobacco Free Partnership and Maintaining Local Students Working Against Tobacco Chapters.



TOBACCO FREE FLORIDA CONTINUED....

Accomplishments

- Awarded a \$4,250 mini-grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to support tobacco retailer point of sale advertising surveillance efforts.
- Awarded a six-year, \$359,586.35/year grant from the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida to continue local efforts.
- Proclamations from the Town of South Palm Beach and the Village of Royal Palm Beach encouraging tobacco retailers to refrain from selling flavored tobacco products.
- Conducted two Town Hall Forums on smoke-free multiunit housing policies at Century Village West Palm Beach to support their work on smoke-free condo policies.
- Implementation of a smoke-free condominium policy at Ocean Pines Condominiums.
- Provided support to The Quaye at Palm Beach Gardens, the first tobacco-free community in Palm Beach Gardens.
- Presented the Florida Tobacco Cessation Alliance's Worksite Wellness Gold Level Award to the Board of County Commissioners and the School District of Palm Beach County.
- Established 31 Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Clubs, including a community-based club at COMPASS Gay and Lesbian Center.
- Monthly beach cleanups at Ocean Ridge Park hosted by John I. Leonard SWAT to raise awareness about the environmental toll of tobacco use.
- Sponsorships at Roger Dean Stadium, SunFest of the Palm Beaches, and Fright Nights.
- Not a Replacement campaign, a campaign designed by students and staff at Florida Health in Broward, Collier, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties, was selected by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids as the official Kick Butts Day 2015 National Advocacy Campaign.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH (EPH)

Environmental Public Health Permit holders can now pay for their annual license renewals and complete renewal applications online! A secure online bill payment system was initialized in 2014, allowing permit holders to pay invoices and print their permits, saving time and mailing costs for both clients and the department. There is no sign up cost, and clients can pay their renewals by credit card or e-check at their convenience, 24 hours a day. Renewal reminders for payments made online will be sent via email in subsequent years, further improving efficiency. During the most recent renewal cycle using the new system, 10% of our funds were received through the online payment portal. The website can be found at www.MyFloridaEHPermit.com.

Community Sanitation Program Highlights

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

- Inspections, licensing, monitoring, and enforcement activities of food service operations in schools and college cafeterias, assisted living facilities, adult day care, group homes and residential treatment facilities, civic/ fraternal organizations, bars, and detention facilities
- Investigation of reports of food borne illnesses in restaurants, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other food service establishments
- Inspections and monitoring of sanitation and safety at schools and colleges, foster homes, adult family care homes, assisted living facilities, and other residential facilities
- Inspections, licensing, and monitoring of sanitation and safety at mobile home parks, recreational vehicle parks, migrant housing and migrant labor camps
- Investigations of complaints from the public regarding allegations of sanitary nuisances and other health related issues across the county. Staff continued to respond to a large number of complaints related to rodent infestations and stagnant swimming pools in abandoned or foreclosed properties.

Child Care Program

Under Chapter 2010-249, Special Acts, Laws of Florida, the Environmental Public Health Division administers the Child Care Licensing program for Palm Beach County's 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 regulates 434 licensed child care centers and 268 licensed family day care homes countywide.

Three main types of child care arrangements are licensed: Child Care Facilities which provide care for six or more children in a commercial or institutional setting, Family Child Care Homes in which care is provided for 1-6 children, and Large Family Child Care Homes, in which care is provided for up to 12 children. 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.

Child care licensing remains an important element in the local and statewide systems designed to ensure the health and safety of children while they are in out-of-home care.

Water Programs

Healthy Beaches Program

Monitors 13 beaches for potential bacteriological contamination (enterococci) by collecting samples every two weeks.

- A total of 351 samples were collected and analyzed. Based on the data, beach advisories were issued for a total of 12 days during the year. For the 13 beaches, the water quality was considered good to moderate 96.7% 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 program is funded through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) so the division can conduct well surveys and sampling.

- The division was assigned 161 facilities and located 171 wells within the designated facility areas. Samples were collected from 49 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

Monitors compliance of the 243 active public water systems and the construction of water wells through the review of permit applications and monitoring reports, conducting site inspections and investigating complaints.

- The division issued a total of 1425 water well water , conducted 222 facility inspections, investigated 47 complaints and initiated 98 enforcement cases.

Domestic Wastewater Program

Monitors for compliance the collection, transmission, treatment and disposal of domestic wastewater. The program includes implementation of the Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System (Septic Tank) program and portions of the DEP's domestic wastewater program through the review of permit applications and monitoring reports, conducting site inspections and investigating complaints.

- Issued 1166 permits for the construction, repair and modification of septic tank systems, conducted 1488 system-related inspections, conducted 249 facility inspections, investigated 119 complaints and initiated 96 enforcement actions. In addition, under the delegated DEP program, 219 permit applications were processed, 206 facilities inspections conducted, 554 private lift stations inspected, 40 complaint/spill response investigations conducted and 163 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 41 initial operating permit applications, conducted 10,183 inspections and reinspections, investigated 79 complaints and initiated 22 enforcement actions. The EPH division was required to close 1245 pools for violations of either a health or safety requirements or both.

Air & Waste Section

Solid Waste

Regulates construction and demolition debris of recycling facilities, yard trash processing facilities, landfills, and waste tire processing facilities. Groundwater is sampled and analyzed at some of the regulated facilities to evaluate the impact, if any, on groundwater quality from those operations. In 2015 the Waste Program conducted 36 inspections of regulated solid waste facilities and responded to 12 solid waste related complaints.

Air Pollution Control

Monitors air pollution sources within the county for compliance with state regulatory requirements. The air program inspected all 191 regulated facilities, monitored the activities of 169 regulated demolition/renovation projects for asbestos, and responded to 101 air pollution related complaints. Staff conducted 254 regulated facility site visits, witnessed 21 air pollutant tests and witnessed 186 visible emissions tests, and reviewed 282 reports. The air program collected \$22,650 from enforcement actions resolved through consent agreements.

Biomedical Waste

Functions to minimize the risk from potentially infectious medical waste to health care workers, environmental services and treatment personnel, transporters and the general public. The section regulates all aspects of the biomedical waste program as it relates to segregation, packaging, storage, transport and treatment at permitted facilities. The programmatic staff conducted 2629 routine inspections and processed 261 new applications. The staff also responded to 14 complaints related to biomedical waste in the community.

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. 971 routine inspections were conducted on permitted facilities and six new applications were processed. Staff also responded to 22 hazardous waste complaints during the year.

Body Art

Encompasses both body piercing 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 or C and other communicable diseases. Routine inspections were conducted on all permitted body piercing salons and tattoo establishments. Tattoo facilities: 151, Inspections conducted: 151. This program continues to grow with 181 new Artists and 47 new facilities in 2015.



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. There were 63 inspections conducted at the 34 permitted facilities; six new applications were processed.

HEALTH ACCESS

Services Expanded to Better Serve

Through seven Health Center locations the Department continues to serve over 46,000 clients annually. Services provided by location can be found on the chart below.

	FL DOH PBC HEALTH CENTERS						
	Belle Glade	Delray	Jupiter	Lantana	Northeast	Riviera Beach	West Palm 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	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Maternity Prenatal and Postnatal	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Maternity Centering Program				✓			
Nutrition	✓	✓		✓			✓
Overseas Immunization				✓			
PEPW (Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for Pregnant Women)	✓	✓		✓			✓
Refugee Program					✓		
Ryan White Referral Services	✓	✓					✓
Sterilization Referrals	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
STD	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
TB	✓	✓			✓		✓
TB Testing	✓	✓		✓			✓
Teen Clinic	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Volunteer Services	✓	✓		✓			✓
Centralized Appointment Line 1-855-GET-APPT (438-2778) or (561) 625-5180							
OTHER SERVICES							
Maternal Child Health (561) 671-4140							
WIC (561) 357-6007 or 1-877-693-6703							

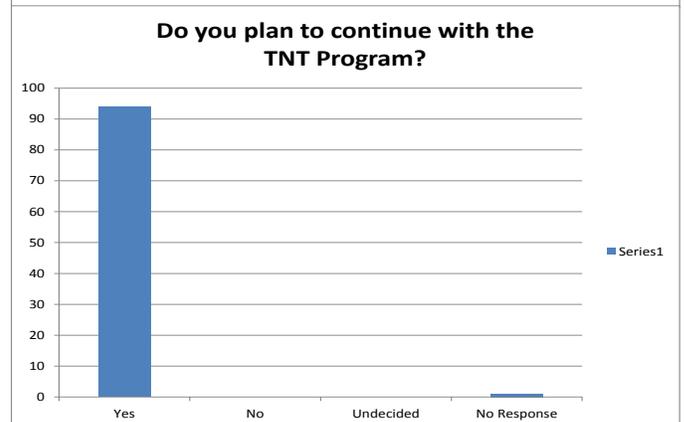
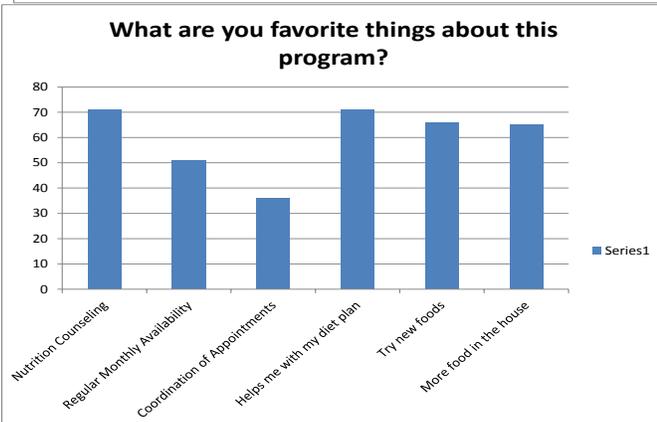
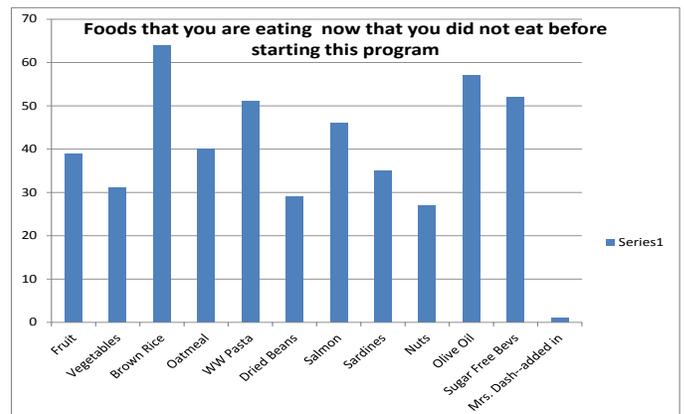
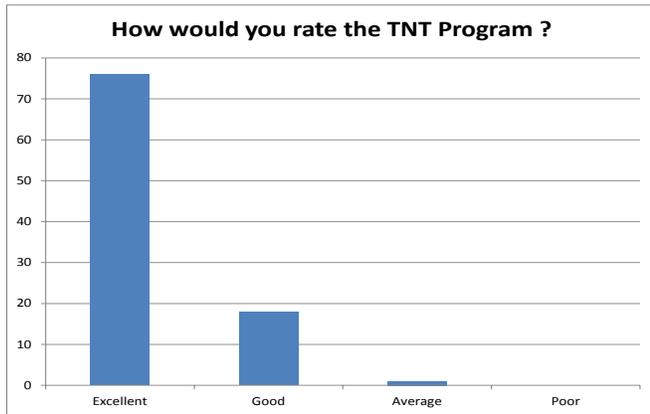
Comprehensive Nutrition Services

The Comprehensive Nutrition Program of the Health Access Division provided nutrition services in all the health centers 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) provided by Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) is a plan of care that focuses on the nutrition assessment, counseling, treatment and evaluation and continued monitoring of a patient or client. Clinical nutrition services including MNT, nutrition follow-up, case management and group education were provided in the Agency’s four large health centers. The following details nutrition services received by health department clients in 2015.

• Nutrition Assessment/ Counseling	3,379
• Unduplicated number of clients	2,476
• Case Management	5,900
• Group Education Contacts	68
• Community Presentations	23

Nutritionists were approved nutrition providers for Medicare, the Health Care District and the Genesis Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center. Additionally, nutritionists were credentialed by select Medicaid HMOs that contract with the health department. Nutrition is a core public health function and continues to be incorporated into clinical, community and outreach programs.

In 2015, the Therapeutic Nutrition Treatment (TNT) program really met its stride and achieved an important goal of integrating medical nutrition therapy and access to healthy foods. Funded by the Ryan White Part B grant, TNT is an enhanced service for HIV/AIDS clients at the West Palm Beach, Delray Beach (Annex) and C. L. Brumback (Annex) Health Centers. Clients enrolled in the TNT program receive a grocery bag of healthy foods after their medical nutrition therapy consult with a registered dietitian nutritionist which includes the following: assessment of an individual’s immune function, body weight changes, metabolic parameters and lifestyle choices, identification of nutritional goals, intervention designed to achieve these goals, and evaluation of clinical outcomes. The healthy food package is tailored to meet the specific nutritional and educational needs of the client. TNT has helped improve client dietary adherence and also helps address the problem of food insecurity that many of the clients face. A study of the TNT program along with a customer satisfaction survey indicate that clients love the program and it helps improve compliance with dietary recommendations. The following graphs review feedback from clients.



Immunization Health Profile

Prevention of disease is our priority here in Palm Beach County. The availability of safe and effective vaccines have a remarkable impact on the health of our residents.

In 2015, the immunization program administered approximately 20,375 vaccines to children from birth to 18 under the Vaccines for Children Program and gave 16,658 vaccines to adults.

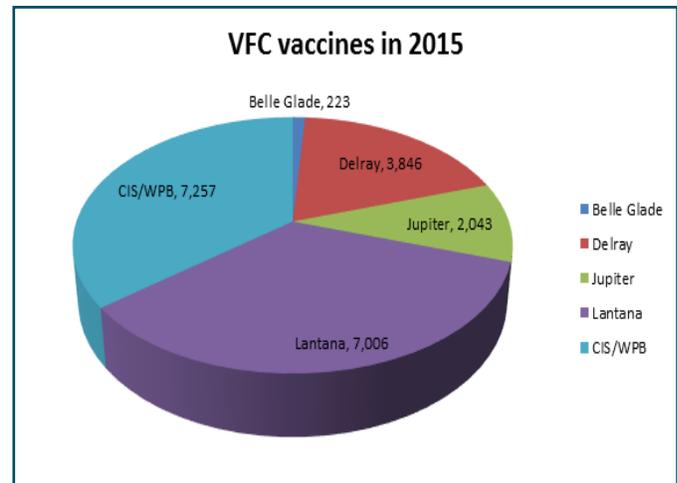
During July and August, all of the Immunization sites are very busy giving the vaccines that the children need to meet the school requirements. Together, all of the Centers and the immunization outreach van, working with schools and community agencies, gave a total of 2854 vaccines in August alone.

Adult vaccines are also important. Some 5439 adult vaccines were given under the PC 17 Vaccine program to uninsured adult clients in our clinics as well as at community sites, including programs at homeless shelters. In addition, 356 vaccines were given to protect against hepatitis A and B in our clinics and in coordination with our STD program serving clients at risk for these vaccine preventable diseases.

Case management services are provided to the infants of mothers who have hepatitis B. This program works to immunize the infants, as well as the families and their contacts throughout Palm Beach County to prevent hepatitis B infection.

Education of the community regarding the importance of vaccines is also our goal. The Immunization Program works with Environmental Health to educate Day Care and Pre K programs on immunization requirements, in partnership with the Immunization Coalition of Palm Beach County. Monthly educational meetings are held to discuss the vaccine issues that affect our county and sponsor an annual immunization update for local health care providers. This year's update was entitled, "Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy."

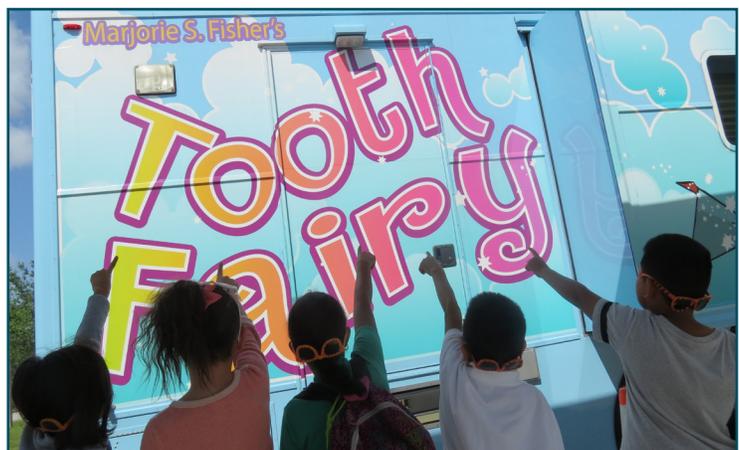
Our goal is to maintain a consistent, effective immunization program to meet the needs of our eligible pediatric population and to continue to be an educational resource regarding immunizations to our community.



Public Health Dentistry

The Dental Division provides basic comprehensive dental services including diagnostic, preventive, emergency, restorative and surgical services. The division focuses on school based preventive services and dental care for clients with HIV/AIDS. Most clients are eligible under the Medicaid program or through grant funding. In calendar year 2015, dental staff provided 13,541 dental services to 801 HIV infected clients during 3049 dental appointments.

The school based services are provided by the Marjorie S. Fisher Tooth Fairy Mobile Dental Program. During the 2014/2015 school year, 2037 second graders at 29 Title 1 schools received oral assessments. 5323 dental sealants were placed on the first molars of 1592 of these students. This program also provided preventive services to 846 children at 23 Headstart and community centers throughout the county. Most of these children received an assessment and application of fluoride varnish. Children with immediate dental needs were referred for further treatment. It is a goal of the Dental Division to increase school based preventive services to reduce dental disease in the school aged population.



Maternal Child Health Division

The Maternal Child Health Division (MCHD) provides home visits to families throughout Palm Beach County. Services are provided by Registered Nurse Case Managers. The Division has a wide variety of clients but services are typically provided to women throughout their pregnancies and to new moms and infants after birth.

Our three programs, Healthy Beginnings Nurses, Nurse Family Partnership and Women's Health Initiative are designed to meet the individual needs of each family. MCHD Nurse visits are provided as part of the Healthy Beginnings Network funded by the Healthy Start Coalition and Children's Services Council dollars.

Services include:

- Education utilizing the Healthy Start Standards and Guidelines, The Nurse Family Partnership evidenced based curriculum and the Partners for a Healthy Baby curriculum
- Breastfeeding education
- Smoking cessation
- Parenting education and support
- Inter-conception education and counseling
- Childbirth education in Spanish and Creole
- Nurse of the Day advice line
- Nurse consultations with other network providers

Program Goals

- Improve pregnancy outcomes
- Reduce low birth weights
- Increase parenting skills and knowledge
- Establish medical homes for women and their babies
- Coordinate immunizations for children
- Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering family support
- Improve parental literacy through referrals to GED, High School and ESOL
- Promote increased levels of family self-sufficiency

Number of Families Served 2015

- Healthy Beginnings Nurses - 955
- Nurse Family Partnership - 345
- Women's Health Initiative - 92

Nurse-Family Partnership Fifth Class Graduation

The Nurse-Family Partnership, a support program for families with newborns through two years and managed through the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County and the Children's Services Council held its fifth graduation in September.

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is a voluntary prevention program that provides nurse home visitation services from the Department of Health to low income, first-time mothers. Nurses begin home visits early in the mother's pregnancy and continue visitation until the child's second birthday. Nurses provide support, education and counseling on health, behavioral and self-sufficiency issues.

In Palm Beach County, 150 families are currently served by the program. "I congratulate those participating in this program and am proud of you all for giving your child the best start in life," said Children's Services Council CEO, Lisa Williams-Taylor at the kid friendly graduation ceremony.

Nationally, mothers who have participated in the program have consistently demonstrated significantly improved prenatal health, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased employment of the moms, improved school readiness of the children, reduced involvement in crime by the mothers and their children, and less child abuse, neglect and injuries.

"The Nurse Family Partnership program promotes positive change for both mother and child, benefiting future generations," says Dr. Alina Alonso, M.D., "By ensuring a solid foundation for these mothers with support to this vulnerable population, we can greatly improve their health, educational and economic outcomes."

The Children's Services Council brought the national evidence-based Nurse-Family Partnership to Palm Beach County in 2009. Since then, 300 families have completed the two year program and graduated.

Performance Improvement and Preparedness

Office of Public Health Preparedness

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

Preparedness staff participated at the Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center as members of the Health and Medical Unit during the statewide hurricane exercise. Staff collaborates with partners like the Medical Reserve Corps and the Division of Emergency Management during this exercise and many others. This exercise is in conjunction with the annual Mini EOC conducted at the Department.



In late 2015, staff participated in full scale bioterrorism exercise with the Florida Department of Health-Martin County staff and its partners. The exercise involved receiving and distributing emergency medication. Every year staff participates in an annual St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant exercise. This exercise assesses the county's response to a failure at the plant. Palm Beach County has been designated as the Host County with two Radiological Emergency Reception Centers. Those who may have been exposed to radiation will be evaluated, decontaminated, and offered treatment and housing assistance. Once authorized by Florida Department of Health Bureau of Radiation Control, the Public Health Preparedness Office, working with the Medical Reserve Corps, operates the dispensing area which includes basic forms triage, medical records capturing, and medication dispensing.

The Preparedness staff continuously provides support for real world events and public health emergencies such as Zika Virus, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), and Tuberculosis events. Preparedness staff works closely with the Epidemiology staff to plan and implement a response.

The goals of the office of Preparedness is to continue to train and exercise with our partner agencies to respond to disasters and public health emergencies. Additionally, Preparedness will continue to be involved in All Hazards planning to meet public health responsibilities in the event of a man made or natural disaster.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

The Palm Beach County CHIP is a comprehensive, achievable plan that is used in the community's health planning activities over several years. The health priorities addressed in this plan emerged from an analysis of the Community Health Assessment.

The CHIP is the product of much collaboration, brainstorming, review, and discussion by many dedicated individuals representing several organizations which included state and local government, hospitals, and community organizations who came together to form an Advisory Council that meets regularly to work on CHIP implementation.

While the Health Department is acting in the role of facilitator for implementation of the plan, it is important to note that the CHIP is a Palm Beach County community plan.

The Top 3 Health Priorities Identified by the CHIP Advisory Council:

- Obesity (including childhood and adult obesity and associated co-morbidities)
- Shortage of Primary and Oral Healthcare Providers for the uninsured and underinsured
- Mental and Behavioral Health

In 2015, the Advisory Council revised the CHIP, implemented a monitoring tool, and conducted a CHIP Annual Review. The tool and Annual Review are used to monitor activities related to the CHIP and measure success at achieving the targets. In 2016, the community will complete a new Community Health Assessment (CHA), which will be used to develop a new CHIP.

Accreditation

The Health Department continued its preparation for accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), the national accrediting organization for public health departments. Our accreditation efforts fall under the State of Florida Department of Health integrated application. By becoming an accredited agency, we will demonstrate our ability to meet the three core functions of public health and the associated 10 essential public health services. In 2015, DOH-Palm Beach submitted official documentation to PHAB, which entailed identifying and uploading documents that demonstrate our conformity with the 32 standards and 104 measures set by PHAB. A decision on our accreditation status is expected in the first half of 2016.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC, The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children helps safeguard the health of low income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women as well as infants and children up to the age of five who are at nutritional risk by providing healthy foods, nutrition education and health care referrals at no cost. WIC's monthly food prescriptions are tailored to supplement the dietary needs of participants ensuring good health, growth and development. Nutrition education provided by nutrition professionals along with access to healthier foods improves food choices made by WIC families. WIC is one of the Public Health Programs that is believed to impact obesity.

WIC endorses and supports breastfeeding as the normative method of infant feeding. The program provides a clinic environment in which women feel comfortable breastfeeding their infants. Breastfeeding promotion and education is provided by staff in all locations during each visit. WIC offers Breastfeeding group education and the Breastfeeding Peer Counselors provide Breastfeeding assistance. For clients needing more support, intense assistance is available at the Lactation Center by an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC).

During 2015, Palm Beach County WIC Program aggressively focused on client recruitment and retention; addressing participation and caseload while increasing positive program perceptions. The agency sponsored a local community partner and provider open house. Over 60 community partners and providers participated in the open house where WIC information was shared, questions were answered and referral systems were developed and renewed. We continue to be visible in the local communities, participating in numerous fairs, meetings, and orientations. Outreach as well as appointment availability and customer service is emphasized at all WIC locations. Palm Beach County WIC provides services at six sites: Belle Glade, Jupiter, Lantana, Delray Beach, Greenacres and West Palm Beach. All of the WIC locations with the exception of Greenacres are located within Florida Health Palm Beach County Health Department clinics. The Greenacres WIC location is a stand-alone WIC site that serves 30% of the WIC Caseload.

Percentage of WIC Caseload by Location

- 30% Greenacres
- 22% West Palm Beach
- 20% Lantana
- 17% Delray
- 6% Belle Glade
- 5% Jupiter

Racial Distribution 2015

- 45% White
- 41.9% Black or African American
- 5.3% American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 6% Multi-Racial
- 1.2% Asian

Palm Beach County WIC enrollees increased by more than 1% but, overall, participation decreased slightly during 2015. Despite the decline in client participation, the agency served 8.7% more unduplicated participants than the previous year. The approved vendor list increased to 138 stores and food prescription redemptions increased by 1.2 million dollars in 2015. WIC monthly food prescriptions are nutritious foods tailored to supplement the dietary needs of participants ensuring good health, growth and development. The foods are specifically chosen to provide consistency with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and establish dietary recommendations for infants and children less than 5 years of age. The selected foods also reinforce WIC nutrition education messages, address emerging public health nutrition related issues and provide wide appeal to the diverse WIC population.

WIC Accomplishments

- WIC Infants Ever Breastfed increased from 76.7% to 79.5%
- WIC Overweight and Obese children decreased 32.3% to 31.3%
- Partnered with 138 vendors; added 2 during 2015
- Provided \$23,013,441 of nutritionally appropriate foods to local participants

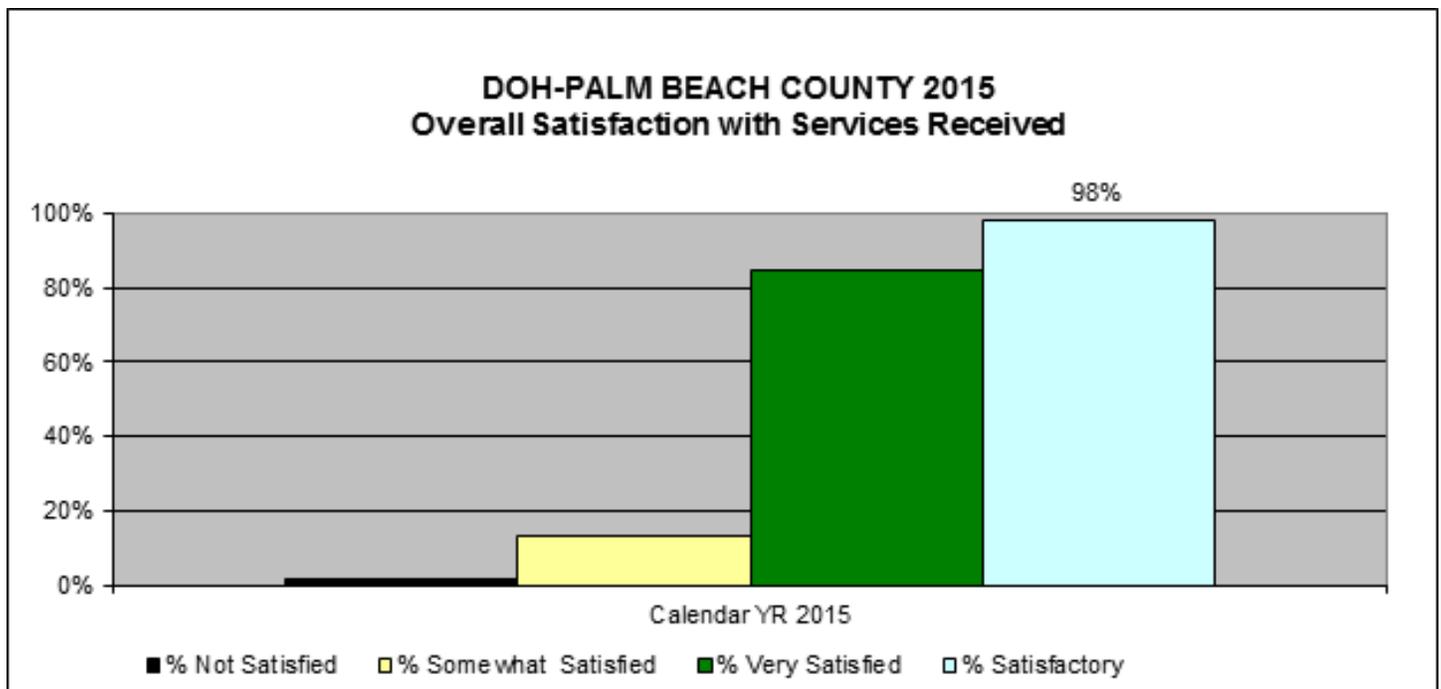
Quality Improvement

Quality practices continue to be the way business is conducted. The DOH-Palm Beach Strategic Plan starts with a focus on our agency mission, vision, and values. It then lists strategic issues areas that identify key priorities for action. Each issue area has associated goals. Aligned to the goals are objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART), allowing us to track progress and make “course corrections” as needed. In 2015, our agency continued implementation of the Strategic Plan, conducted an Annual Review of the plan, and extended the Strategic Plan into 2016 in order to better align with the Florida DOH Strategic Plan. Strategic planning is an integral aspect of the FDOH performance management system.

DOH-Palm Beach published an updated Quality Improvement (QI) Plan, which is used to describe the integration of quality improvement processes throughout the county health department. Implementing the QI program described in the plan will result in improvement of the health of Palm Beach County’s residents; more effective and efficient operations; a common set of tools, skills, and terminology for staff to use to improve performance; and help leadership maintain a workforce culture of action, continuous improvement, and performance excellence. The QI plan is evaluated monthly, and is on track for meeting its goals.

The QI program at DOH-Palm Beach continues to participate in statewide quality improvement projects, local QI projects, and provide training to staff on quality improvement tools and techniques.

Numerous formal teams are utilized to focus on performance improvement. The members of one of these teams, Customer Satisfaction, continue their efforts working to identify customer service needs and ensure superior response to customer service-related issues. The team consists of members from all staff levels. Survey results continue to reflect a high level of satisfaction with the excellent quality of service provided, as shown below.





800 Clematis Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401