



Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County
ANNUAL HEALTH PROFILE
2023

A circular portrait of Dr. Jyothi Gunta, a woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing a blue top with white lace. The background of the portrait is a city skyline at dusk.

Jyothi Gunta, M.D., MPH

Director
Florida Department of Health
Palm Beach County

Dr. Jyothi Gunta MD, MPH has been Director of the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County (FDOH-PBC) since April 2023. She is board certified in Preventive Medicine/Public Health, as well as Occupational/Environmental Medicine. Dr. Gunta has practiced in various clinical and non-clinical settings to included family medicine, evidence-based preventive care, occupational medicine, epidemiology, research, education, and policy.

Dr. Gunta received her medical degree from Saint Petersburg State Medical Academy (I.I. Mechnikov), in St. Petersburg, Russia and earned her master's in public health from Nova Southeastern University. She completed her internship at Tripler Army Medical Center, in Honolulu, where she trained in pediatrics. Her passion and drive for public health originally brought her to the FDOH-PBC, in 2016, for its Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program, where she served as chief resident. Following her residency training, Dr. Gunta joined the City of Delray Beach as Medical Director for Employee Health and Wellness. She was the primary care physician for city employees and their families.

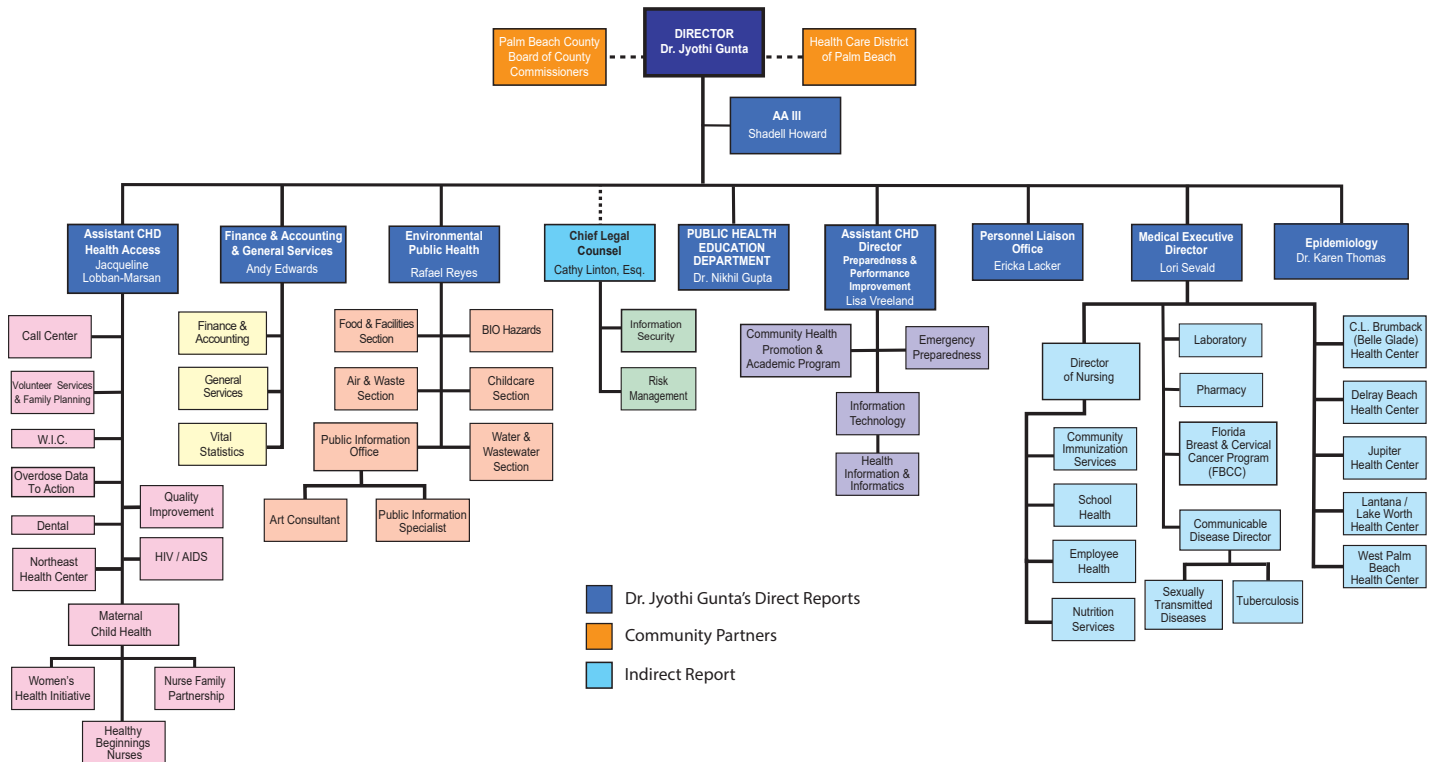
Later, she played an integral part in one of the most intensive projects of COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring. Her data regarding the description of health and functional outcomes following vaccination was published in the Lancet Child and Adolescent Health Journal. Her demonstrated leadership within multiple healthcare systems and outpatient practices includes the Veterans Health Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She also is a certified Medical Review Officer (MRO) and a certified Department of Transportation Medical Examiner. In her role as Director of FDOH-PBC, Dr. Gunta serves with a deep and vested interest in public health as an essential component to our individual and community needs.

As an accredited Health Department by the Public Health Accreditation Board, we stand as a trusted source of information for our community leaders.

Our mission is to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. Our vision is to be the healthiest state in the nation.



DOH-PALM BEACH COUNTY Functional Organizational Chart



rev. 08/09/2024

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and 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 and solve problems.

Accountability:

We perform with integrity and respect.

Responsiveness:

We achieve our mission by serving our customers and engaging our partners.

Excellence:

We promote quality outcomes through learning and continuous performance improvement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

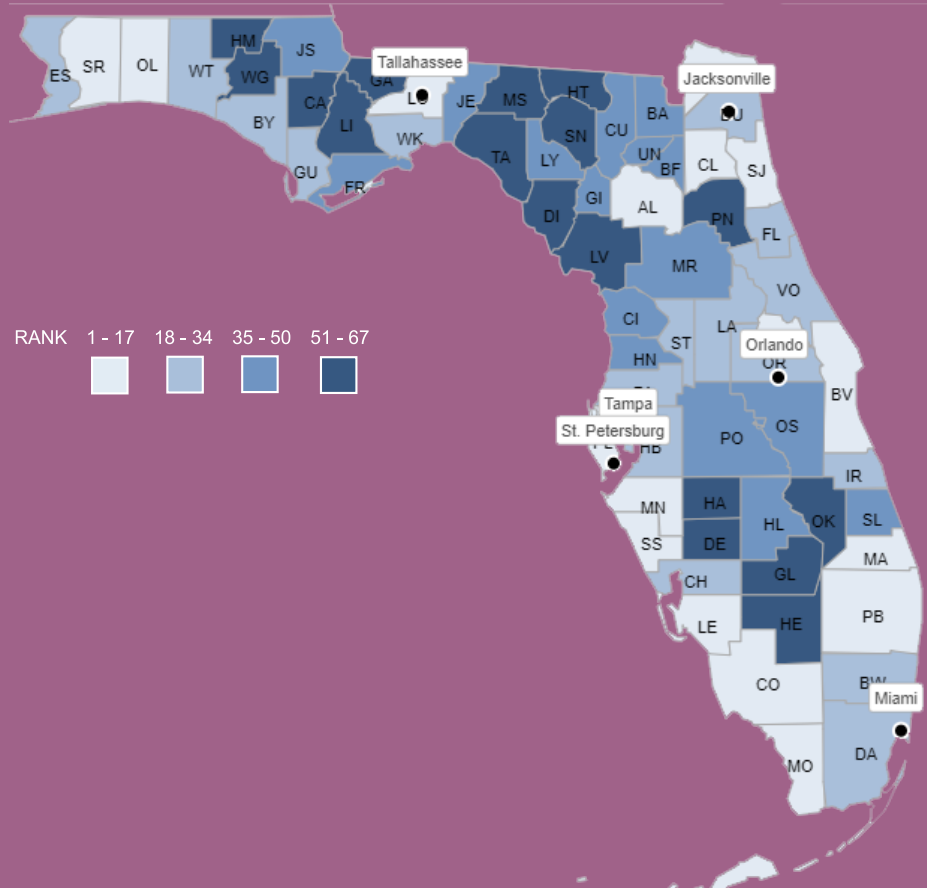
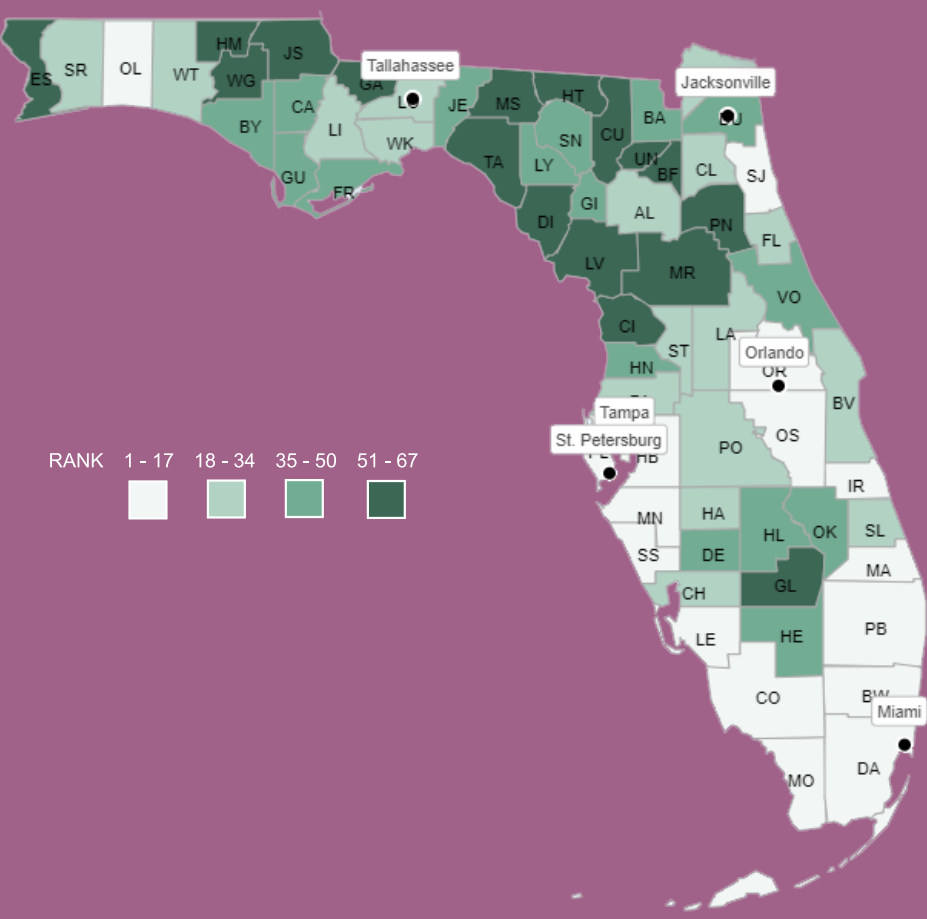
Director’s Introduction	1
County Health Ranking, Florida.....	5
Administration	6
Vital Statistics	6
Finance & Accounting.....	6
General Services.....	7
Epidemiology.....	7
TB Control Program	9
Sexually Transmitted Disease	9
HIV/AIDS.....	10
Public Health Dentistry	12
Community Health Promotion & Academic Division	13
Infant Mortality/Safe Sleep.....	13
Tobacco Program	13
Healthy Communities.....	13
School Health Program	15
Health Access.....	16
Overdose Data to Action	16
Community Immunization Services.....	18
Comprehensive Nutrition Program.....	18
Environmental Public Health	20-23
FDOH Palm Beach Laboratory	23
Maternal Child Health.....	24
Performance, Improvement and Preparedness.....	26
Volunteer Health Care Provider Program.....	26
WIC	27

HEALTH OUTCOMES

Collier (CO).....	1
St. Johns (SJ).....	2
Seminole (SO).....	3
Monroe (MO).....	4
Martin (MA).....	5
Miami-Dade (DA).....	6
Orange (OR).....	7
Osceola (OS).....	8
♦ Palm Beach (PB).....	9
Indian River (IR).....	10
Lee (LE).....	11
Sarasota (SS).....	12
Broward (BW).....	13
Manatee (MN).....	14
Hillsborough (HB).....	15
Okaloosa (OL).....	16
Pinellas (PL).....	17
Walton (WT).....	18
Santa Rosa (SR).....	19
Flagler (FL).....	20
Clay (CL).....	21
Lake (LA).....	22
St. Lucie (SL).....	23
Leon (LO).....	24
Charlotte (CH).....	25
Sumter (ST).....	26
Wakulla (WK).....	27
Brevard (BV).....	28
Polk (PO).....	29
Nassau (NA).....	30
Alachua (AL).....	31
Liberty (LI).....	32
Pasco (PA).....	33
Hardee (HA).....	34
Franklin (FR).....	35
DeSoto (DE).....	36
Hernando (HN).....	37
Gilchrist (GI).....	38
Calhoun (CA).....	39
Volusia (VO).....	40
Lafayette (LY).....	41
Gulf (GU).....	42
Hendry (HE).....	43
Bay (BY).....	44
Baker (BA).....	45
Duval (DU).....	46
Suwannee (SN).....	47
Okeechobee (OK).....	48
Highlands (HL).....	49
Jefferson (JE).....	50
Escambia (ES).....	51
Glades (GL).....	52
Marion (MR).....	53
Levy (LV).....	54
Citrus (CI).....	55
Taylor (TA).....	56
Columbia (CU).....	57
Bradford (BF).....	58
Washington (WG).....	59
Hamilton (HT).....	60
Jackson (JS).....	61
Holmes (HM).....	62
Dixie (DI).....	63
Gadsden (GA).....	64
Madison (MS).....	65
Putnam (PN).....	66
Union (UN).....	67

HEALTH FACTORS

St. Johns (SJ).....	1
Sarasota (SS).....	2
Alachua (AL).....	3
Seminole (SO).....	4
Martin (MA).....	5
Monroe (MO).....	6
Collier (CO).....	7
Nassau (NA).....	8
Okaloosa (OL).....	9
♦ Palm Beach (PB).....	10
Santa Rosa (SR).....	11
Clay (CL).....	12
Manatee (MN).....	13
Leon (LO).....	14
Brevard (BV).....	15
Pinellas (PL).....	16
Lee (LE).....	17
Hillsborough (HB).....	18
Indian River (IR).....	19
Charlotte (CH).....	20
Walton (WT).....	21
Orange (OR).....	22
Broward (BW).....	23
Flagler (FL).....	24
Gulf (GU).....	25
Bay (BY).....	26
Wakulla (WK).....	27
Lake (LA).....	28
Pasco (PA).....	29
Duval (DU).....	30
Volusia (VO).....	31
Miami-Dade (DA).....	32
Escambia (ES).....	33
Sumter (ST).....	34
St. Lucie (SL).....	35
Hernando (HN).....	36
Baker (BA).....	37
Polk (PO).....	38
Gilchrist (GI).....	39
Osceola (OS).....	40
Columbia (CU).....	41
Jefferson (JE).....	42
Citrus (CI).....	43
Marion (MR).....	44
Union (UN).....	45
Highlands (HL).....	46
Jackson (JS).....	47
Lafayette (LY).....	48
Franklin (FR).....	49
Bradford (BF).....	50
Okeechobee (OK).....	51
Holmes (HM).....	52
Suwannee (SN).....	53
Taylor (TA).....	54
Calhoun (CA).....	55
Glades (GL).....	56
Levy (LV).....	57
Hardee (HA).....	58
Liberty (LI).....	59
Dixie (DI).....	60
DeSoto (DE).....	61
Washington (WG).....	62
Madison (MS).....	63
Hendry (HE).....	64
Gadsden (GA).....	65
Hamilton (HT).....	66
Putnam (PN).....	67



Administration

Vital Statistics 2023

**RESIDENT
BIRTHS**
15,072

**RESIDENT
DEATHS**
16,011

**FETAL
DEATHS**
102

**INFANT
DEATHS**
82



Finance & Accounting

Financial resources for the Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County (DOH-Palm Beach) are funded from multiple sources. These sources include fees, grants, local contributions and budget allocations from County, State and Federal governments.

Some of the budget and revenue changes affecting our services and programs in Palm Beach County includes an increase in non-categorical General Revenue of \$1,508,215 in 2023. Over the last five years we continue to receive funding from our local partner the Health Care District of Palm Beach County.

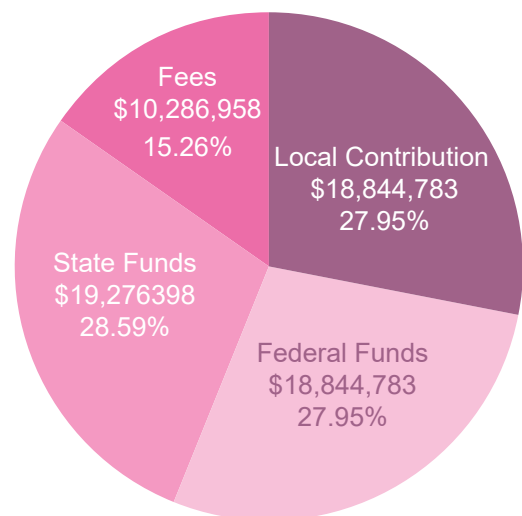
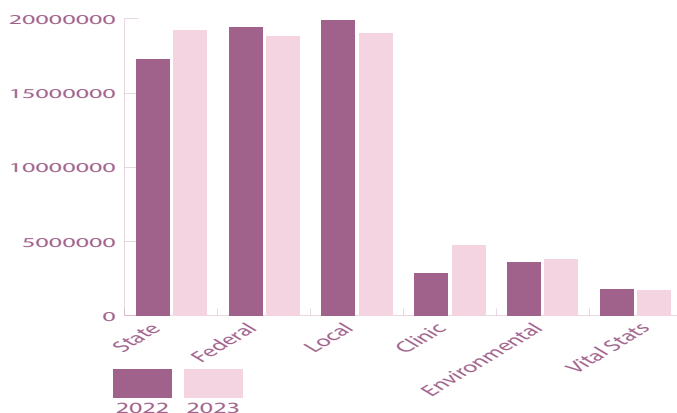
Additionally, over Fiscal Years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023, the department has received approximately \$19,444,302 for COVID grants and \$9,875,415 for Overdose Data to Action grant. The COVID grants are expected to continue through 2027 and the Overdose Data to Action grant is expected to continue through 2029.

Over the past five years DOH-Palm Beach experienced rising cost of goods and services above the Federal Reserve two percent price stability mandate. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index cost of goods and services the cumulative price increase was 21.30% from July 2018 to June 2023, averaging 3.93% per year.

	2022	2023
State Funds	17,290,607	19,276,398
Federal Funds	19,465,427	18,844,783
Local Contribution	19,924,403	19,016,231
Clinic	2,879,150	4,741,803
Environmental	3,573,942	3,816,116
Vitals	1,806,497	1,729,039
	\$64,940,026	\$67,424,370

Local Contribution	\$19,016,231	28.20%
Federal Funds	\$18,844,783	27.95%
State Funds	\$19,276,398	28.59%
Fees	\$10,286,958	15.26%

(Fees include vital statistics, clinical and environmental)



General Services

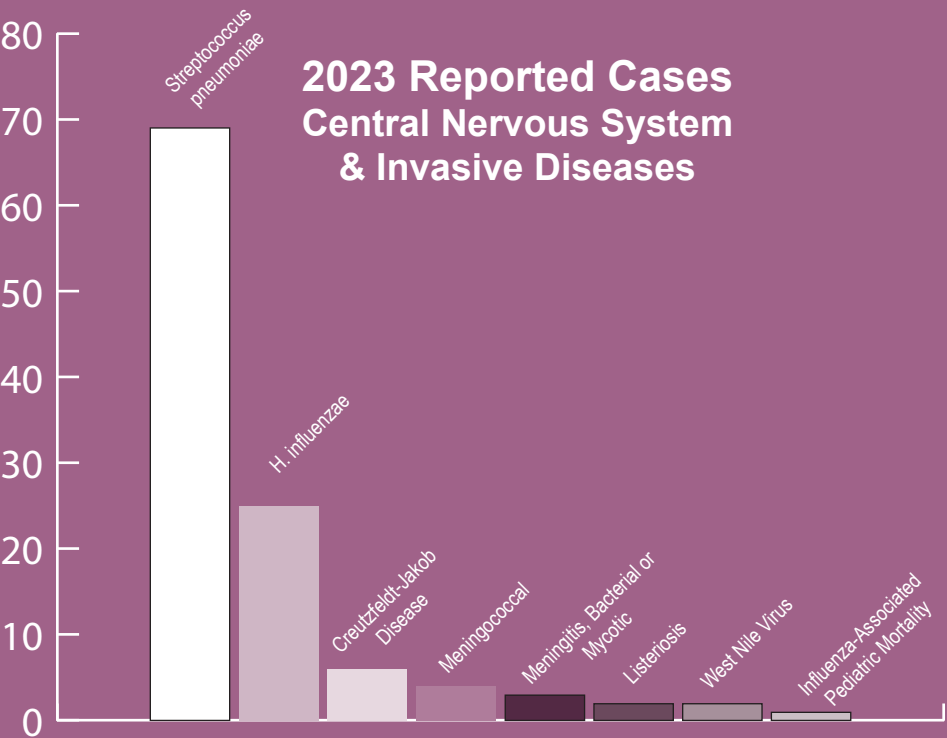
January 2023 saw the fiscal roll out of the new Fixed Asset inventory known as the Radio Frequency Identification System or RFID. This new system was implemented to expedite the inventory process in the future. RFID implemented new scanning technologies allowing inventory scanning by areas picking up multiple asset identification tags and storing them in the RFID system greatly enhancing the accuracy and reducing the time taken to scan multiple assets.

Staff training with the scanners and new system along with installing new tags on all fixed assets took several months to complete. This effort modernized our fixed asset inventory capabilities, allowed better accuracy, tracking and significant time savings for the agency.



Epidemiology

The Division of Epidemiology is responsible for monitoring, investigating, and reporting to the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) all communicable diseases that appear on the Reportable Diseases/Conditions in Florida Practitioner List. This list identifies conditions or clusters that may be of public health concern. Epidemiology complies with Florida Statutes 64 D-3, "Any practitioner, licensed in Florida to practice medicine who diagnoses or suspects the existence of a disease of public health significance shall immediately report the fact to the Department of Health." The Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach County, serves as the FDOH representative in meeting this reporting requirement and conducts surveillance for more than 90 reportable diseases, to rapidly identify outbreaks, educate the public, and mitigate further transmission. One of the most notable changes that was observed for annual year 2023 was the sharp increase in all vaccine preventable diseases, in particular varicella (chicken pox). This is consistent throughout Florida and appears to have a direct correlation to the increase in the number of religious exemptions, which allows parents the ability to decline traditional vaccine administration for their school aged children.



2023 Reported Cases Central Nervous System & Invasive Diseases

112

H. influenzae Invasive Disease	25
Meningococcal Disease	4
Listeriosis	2
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae Invasive Disease	69
West Nile Virus Disease	2
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	6
Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality	1

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

73

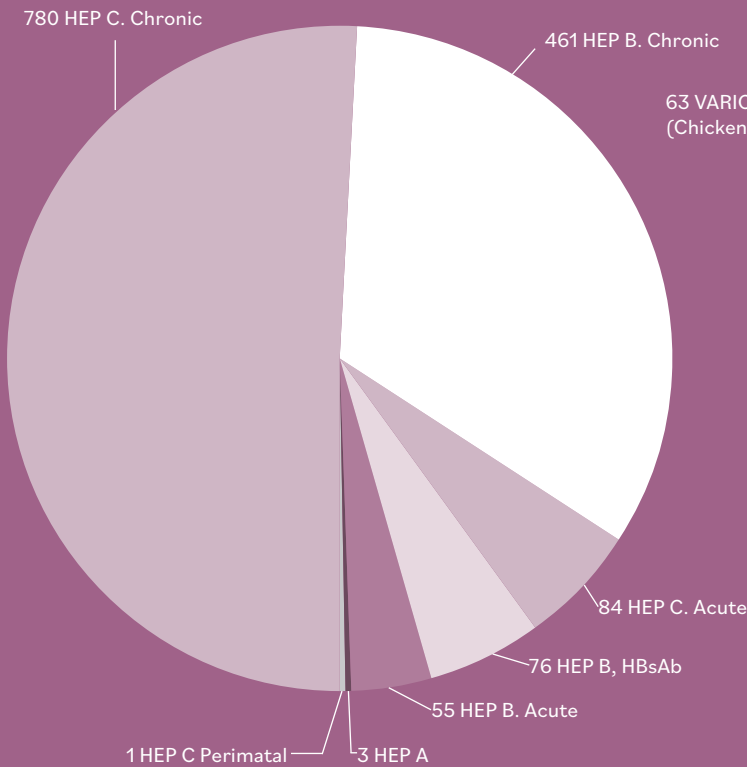
Mumps	3
Pertussis	6
Rubella	1
Varicella (Chickenpox)	63

Hepatitis

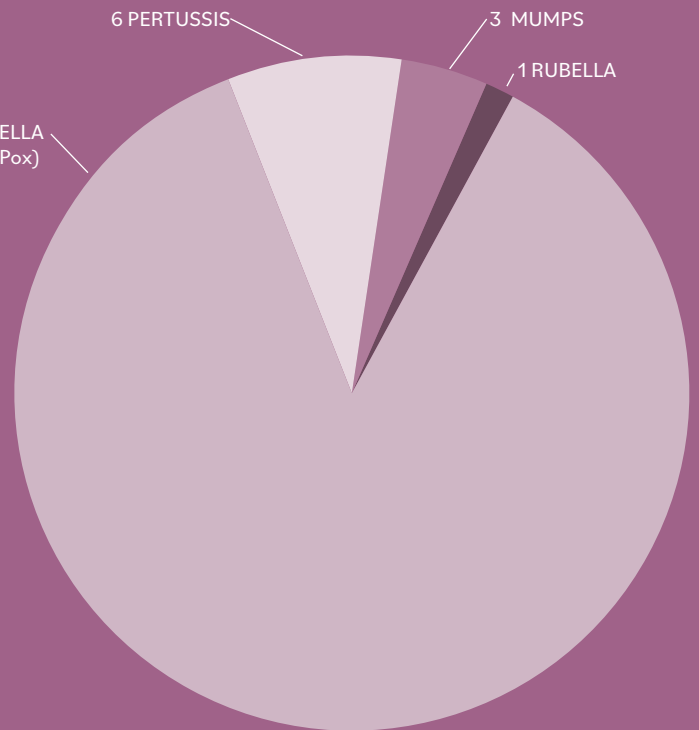
1,383

Hepatitis A	3
Hepatitis B, acute	55
Hepatitis B, chronic	461
Hepatitis B, pregnant women	76
Hepatitis C, acute	84
Hepatitis C, chronic	780
Hepatitis C, perinatal	1

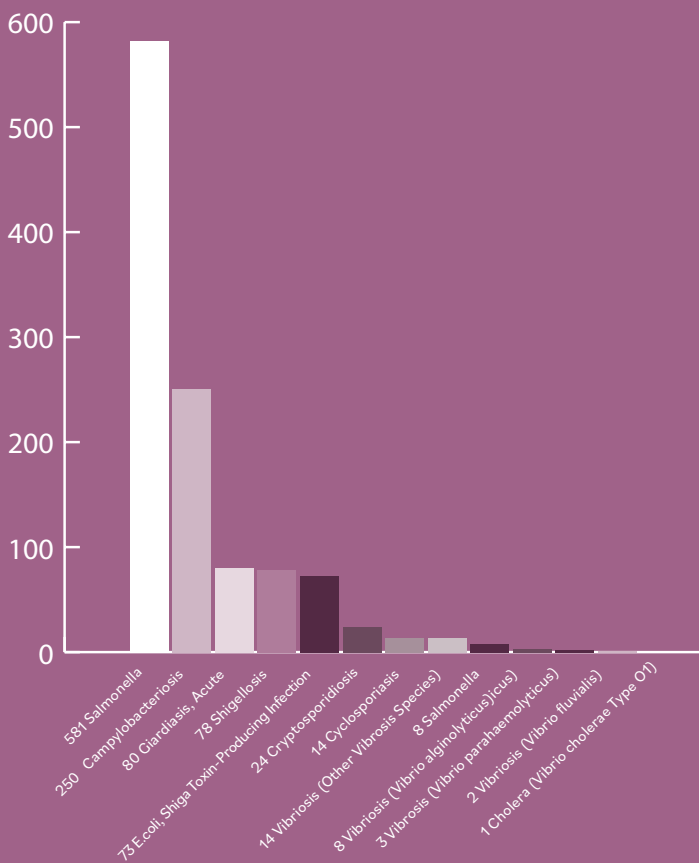
Hepatitis 2023



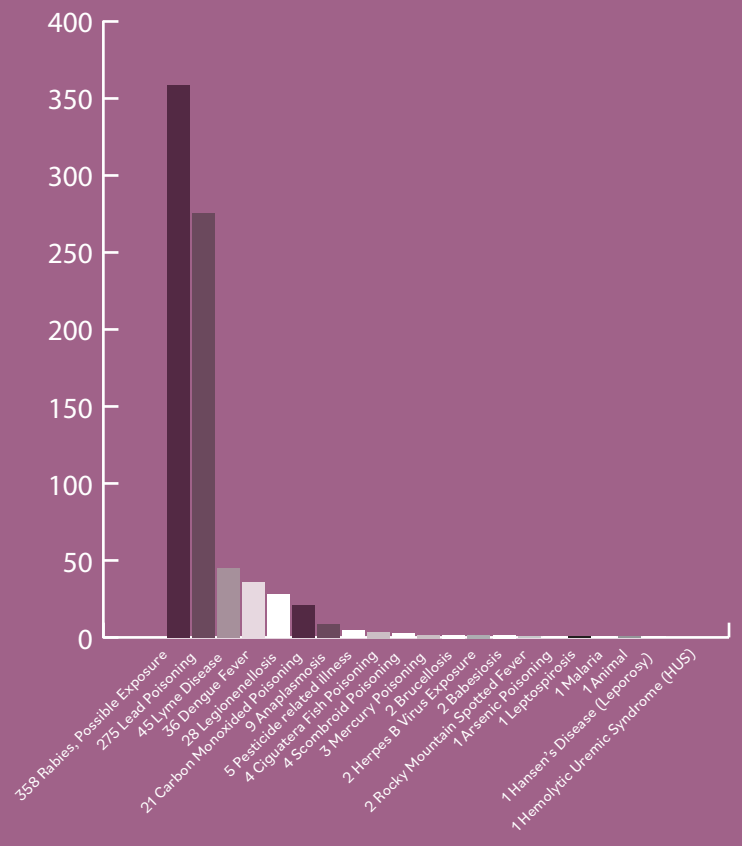
Vaccine Preventable Disease 2023



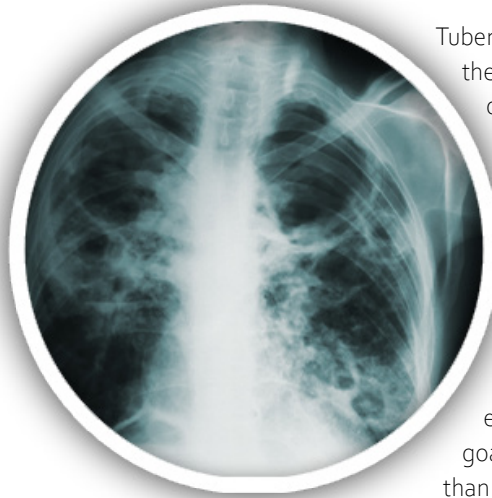
Enteric Disease 2023



Other Diseases/Conditions 2023



Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program

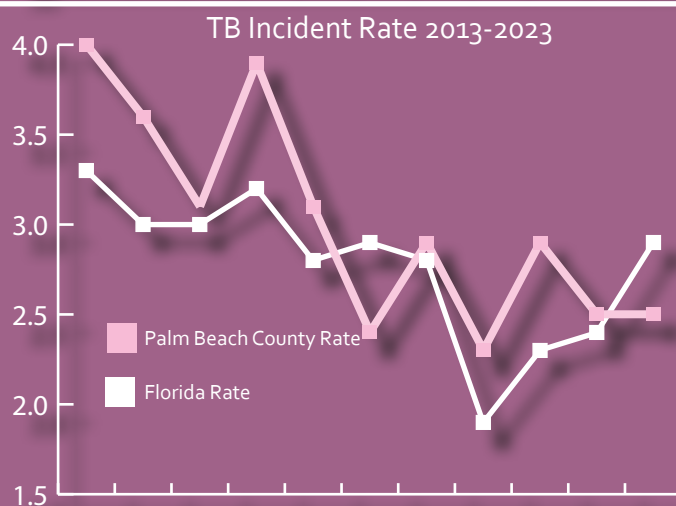
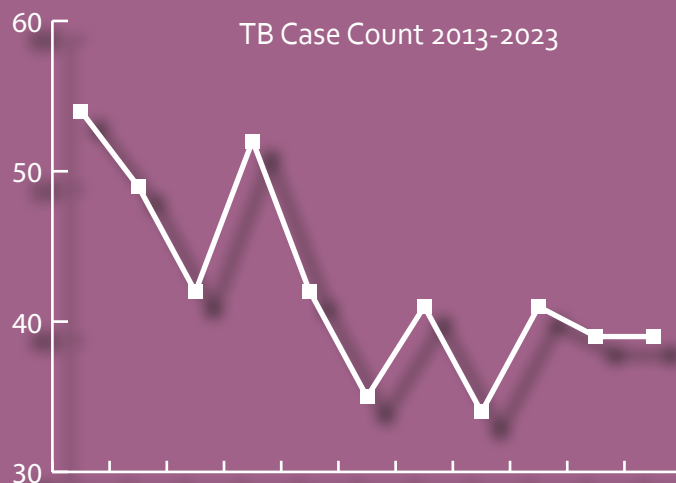


Tuberculosis remains one of the world's most prevalent diseases. Florida's yearly TB occurrence has steadily declined to the current incidence rate of approximately 2.9 cases per 100,000 persons. The TB Control Program in Palm Beach County engages in the overarching effort to achieve the national goal of TB elimination with less than 1 case for every 1 million persons.

The TB Control Program maintains a surveillance system and is responsible for the control and prevention of TB disease throughout the county. Despite prevention and intervention efforts, the percentage of cases seen in our area continues to be higher among minority groups and those born outside of the United States.

The Florida Department of Health is committed to ensuring every individual with active disease is treated to cure and ensuring anyone exposed receives proper care by offering clinical services for screenings and evaluations, identifying contacts to cases and providing Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for individuals receiving treatment.

At 38 new tuberculosis cases reported in 2023 Palm Beach reported the 6th highest number of cases in the State of Florida but Palm Beach



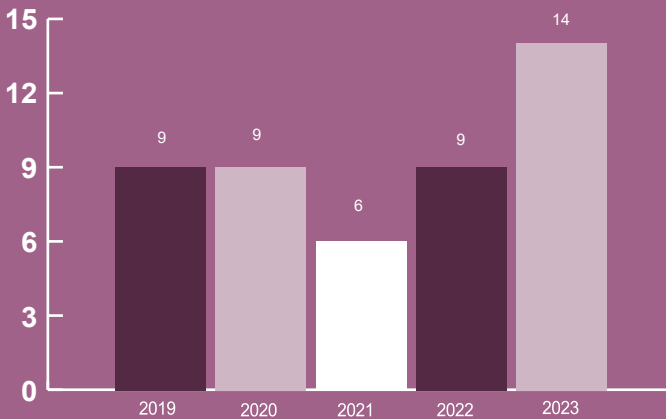
Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Program

The rates of bacterial STIs (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis) continue to increase in Palm Beach County (PBC) and statewide. As a result, there has been an increase in early syphilis and Congenital Syphilis cases in our county. Our team works diligently to combat these increases with dedicated efforts in surveillance, case management, partner services, community outreaches, and quality improvement and research efforts to ascertain recent STIs' epidemiological changes which drive our effectiveness. Our 2023 highlights included:

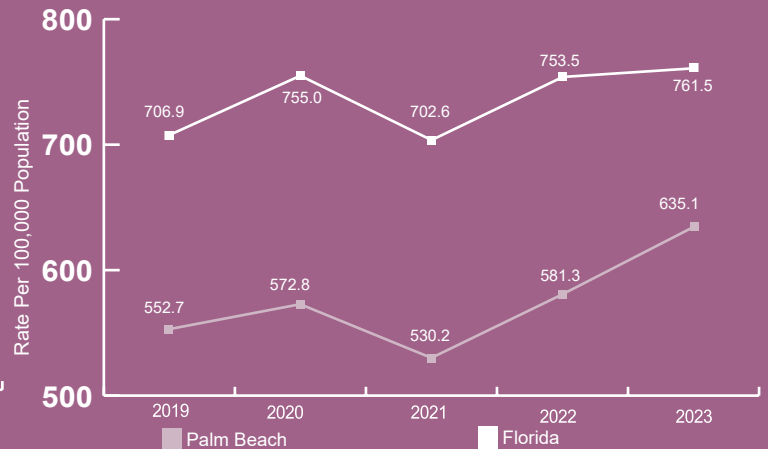
2023 highlights include:

- Congenital Syphilis (CS) cases increased from 6 cases in 2021 to 9 cases in 2022, our surveillance team is in constant communication with OB providers, hospital infection preventionist to coordinate care and stimulate timeliness of disease reporting.
- Research study reviewing seven-year cases of congenital Syphilis in PBC to identify missed opportunities.
- Early syphilis cases continue to increase from 408 in 2021 to 523 cases in 2022.
- Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) are in the frontline providing partner services, case management, counseling, referrals, and field screenings for Syphilis, HIV, and Hepatitis to identify positive cases and individuals at risk of infection.
- Held provider outreaches to strengthen partnerships for STI prevention and increase awareness of Partner Services.
- Updated provider reporting form to streamline the reporting process.
- Conducted community outreaches at addiction treatment centers, health fairs, providing STI prevention, education, and screenings.
- The program is working diligently to fill vacant positions to continue the workflow and to meet the needs of rising STI cases in Palm Beach County.

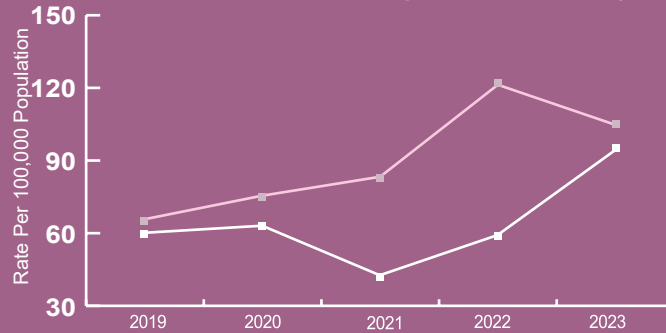
Congenital Syphilis Count in Palm Beach County



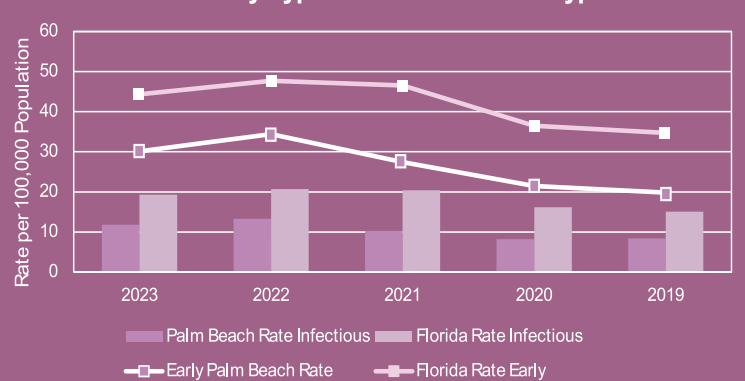
Bacterial STI Rates (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis)



Bacterial STI Rates (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis)



Rates of Early Syphilis and Infectious Syphilis



HIV Program

The county's HIV Program is implementing Ending the Epidemic: A Plan for America, the goal of which is to reduce new HIV infections by 75% by 2025, and by 90% by 2030.

Through collaboration with community partners, the HIV Program focuses on the four pillars established for ending the HIV epidemic:

- Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible after infection.
- Treat people with HIV rapidly and effectively to achieve sustained viral suppression.
- Prevent new HIV transmission by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs.
- Respond quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.
- In 2023, the county saw a 3.8% decrease in newly diagnosed HIV cases, from 293 to 282; a 4.7% decrease in new AIDS cases, from 148 to 141; and a 30% decrease in HIV-related deaths, from 40 to 28.



2021-2023 HIV Epidemic in Palm Beach County				
Population	2001 1,487,272	2022 1,519,461	2023 1,538,719	Trend 1.3% ▲
People with HIV (Prevalance)	8,711	8,805	8,880	0.9% ▲
New Diagnosis HIV Cases	276	293	282	3.8% ▼
New Diagnosed AIDS Cases	114	148	141	4.7% ▼
HIV Related Deaths	39	40	29	30.0% ▼
New Perinatal HIV Cases	1	1	0	100.0% ▼

Figure 2 PWH Along the HIV Care Continuum, Living in P. B. County

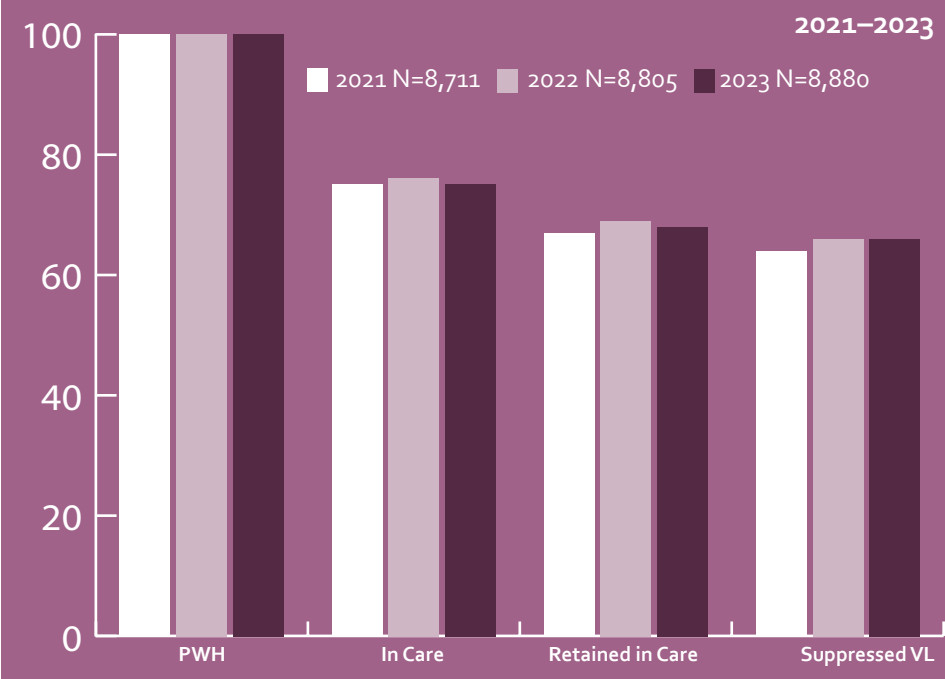
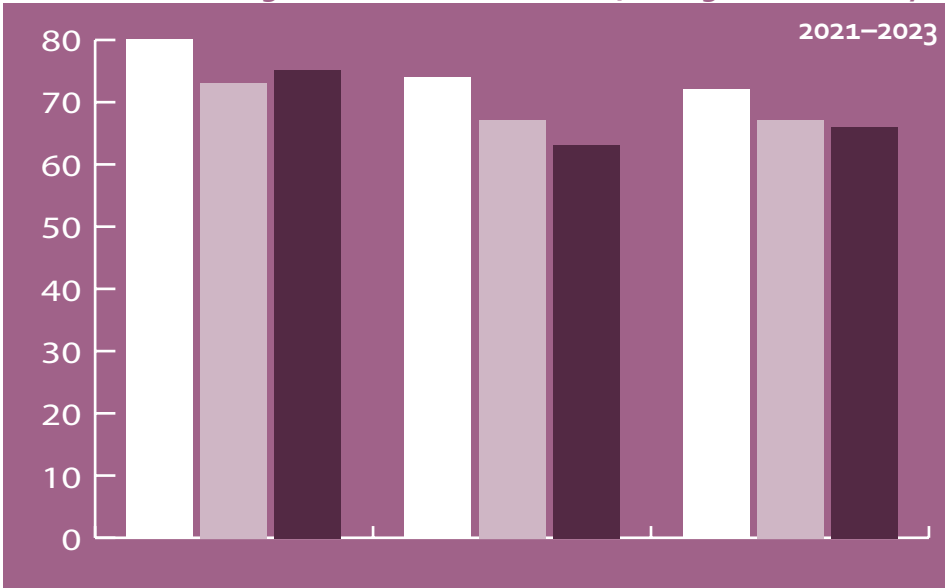


Figure 3 PWH Along the HIV Care Continuum, Living in P. B. County



- Blacks represent the highest number of persons with HIV (PWH): 57% Blacks, 22% Whites, and 19% Hispanics. There was a 10% increase in HIV diagnoses for Blacks in 2023, but a 24% and a 21% decrease in new HIV diagnoses for Whites and Hispanics, respectively.
- The most common mode of HIV transmission is heterosexual contact (55%), followed closely by male-to-male sexual contact (41%).

We continue to make significant strides with pediatric HIV/AIDS cases and perinatal HIV transmission. 43 HIV-exposed babies were delivered in 2023 with zero mother-to-child transmissions. Staff works to link patients to care, confirm existing care, and facilitate services for expectant mothers in clinics and hospitals county-wide.

The HIV continuum of care is closely tied to the nationwide plan to end the epidemic and to 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.

Figure 2 and Figure 3 show 2023 HIV care Continuum data. Of the 8,880 PWH in the county, 75% were in medical care during 2023, as defined by at least one documented medical visit, lab, or prescription; 68% were retained in care as defined by two or more medical visits, labs, or prescriptions, at least three months apart; and 66% of those treated experienced a suppressed HIV viral load with <200 viral copies/mL.

Among the 282 persons diagnosed with HIV in 2023, the care continuum displayed 91%, 75%, and 69%, respectively. Statewide, the care continuum profile for newly diagnosed HIV is 90%, 74% and 70%, respectively.

Care continuum data are part of how we monitor progress both toward the 2030 Ending the Epidemic goal and the global target of 95-95-95, where 95% of all PWH know their HIV status, 95% of all people with diagnosed HIV receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 95% of all people receiving ART achieve viral suppression.

New methods of prevention and treatment have delivered hope and enhanced quality of life. We now have our first long-acting injectable medications for both HIV treatment and PrEP. But these treatments can only help individuals if they know their HIV status and are linked rapidly to medical care.

We are working to reduce stigma around HIV. Clinical evidence has firmly established that PWH who achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load by taking ART daily as prescribed cannot sexually transmit the virus to others. This is known as undetectable=untransmittable (U=U) and is a powerful tool in the fight to end the HIV epidemic.

The HIV Program continues to run Raising Ongoing Adherence & Resilience (ROAR), a psychoeducational, evidence-based, therapeutic intervention for clients and the community (Figure 4). Through this intensive one-on-one approach, we empower clients to shift from living reactive lives to living pro-active lives, instilling within them a greater sense of purpose, identity, and self-value. We have the right tools in our arsenal to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S.

Dental Program

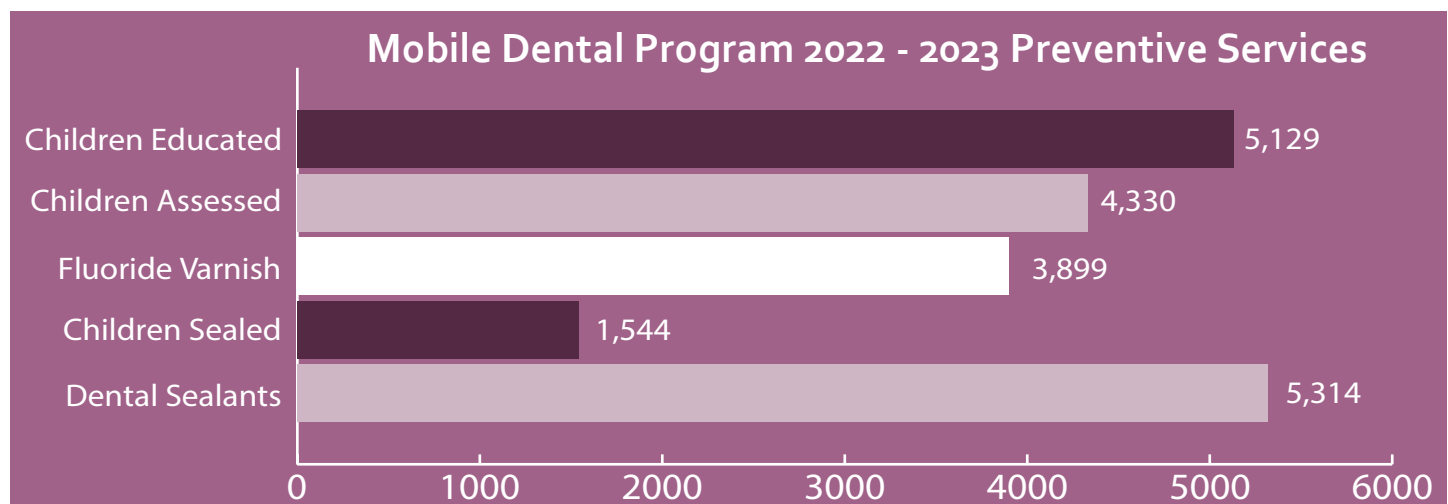
The Dental Program's goal is to reduce the oral disease burden in underserved school-aged children and adults living with HIV in the county.

The Marjorie S. Fisher Tooth Fairy Mobile Dental Program and the School Oral Health Preventive Program provide school-based preventive services and referrals for urgent needs.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the mobile program worked in 41 Title 1 schools (those with high percentages of low-income families), offering dental sealants, fluoride varnish, oral health assessments, and oral health education to children in grade 2 and grade 5. Oral health education was delivered in classrooms to increase reach. 250 students with urgent dental needs were referred for emergency care. Figure 1 summarizes outputs.

The mobile program also provided 668 dental assessments and 645 fluoride varnish treatments for children enrolled in Head Start and other community programs in the county. Since inception in 1997, the mobile program has screened nearly 39,168 students and provided more than 106,314 sealants.

The HIV Oral Health Care Program provides comprehensive dental care, including preventive, diagnostic, restorative, and surgical services for uninsured adults living with HIV. During 2023, this program provided 3,869 dental services to 320 adults with HIV in 1,143 scheduled visits.



Community Health Promotion and Academic Division

Highlights

- Graduation Ceremony Completed on June 26, 2023
- NOVA Southeastern, Kiran Patel University Contract; Final Invoice Received.
- The month of July, Community Health Outreach Activities throughout the county.
- Public Health Journal Club Presentation on Burden of Illness and Healthcare Disparities on Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD), in Palm Beach County, presented on July 17, 2023, By Johnson & Johnson/Jansen by Dr. Anita Ziboh et. al.

Fetal Infant Mortality (FIMR)

- The FIMR-PBC team will be presented at the Perinatal Grand Rounds for St. Mary's Hospital, Good Samaritan, and West Boca Medical Center on July 26th at 7:30am.
- The FIMR-PBC team held their Community Forum on 08/23/2023 from 12:30-2:30pm: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Stronger Together Doula Program and why is important towards the FIMR goals.



Safe Sleep Awareness

to Healthy Start Coalition held on October 11, 2023

By the FIMR Team Merlene Ramnon, Daniza Robinson, Maricor Wall, Martine Jolicoeur.

Tobacco

- Tobacco delivered 2500 end teen vaping posters to be placed in all our Palm Beach County School District public schools.
- Tobacco team is working closely with iHeart on a tobacco campaign with an aim to gain partnership visibility within the county.
- Tobacco providers are having ongoing discussion with two municipalities (The Village of North Palm Beach and The Village of Palm Springs) to support their tobacco free public spaces policy revisions.
- Tobacco team is working closely with North end RISE to support their policy adoption under cessation access policy area as well as incorporate a tobacco referral process.
- Two tobacco staff attended an event organized by the Palm Beach State College called Harvest Festival. The students and staff at Palm Beach State College were informed on the current tobacco free policy they have on campus and encouraged to promote a tobacco free policy to help eliminate tobacco off their campus grounds. In addition, the event allowed the Tobacco Providers engaging with the students and helping to promote the opening of a student led tobacco task force on campus.



Healthy Communities

- Working Closely with Early Care Centers with the GONAPSACC: Five Palm Beach County ECE applied for the Recognition.
- GO NAPSACC is a flexible program designed to help ECE centers and child-care providers to improve the health of young children. The program allows providers to assess their childcare programs and implement practices, policies, and environments that support

lifelong health and well-being in all areas of child health. Go NAPSACC includes a digital platform which provides all ECE centers in the state access to online tools and resources for the purpose of promoting nutrition and physical activity best practices.

- Supporting School Health Services; Reducing Chronic Absenteeism; Addressing School Discipline; Fostering Positive School Climate and Culture; Building Staff Capacity.



- Outreach Events, Palm Beach County, Community Health & Epidemiology Staff
- The Divisional staff participated in eight Back to school county wide events.
- Immunization Flyers for Department of Health Back to school Point of Dispensing were provided to participants at all events.
- Changing tables and baby bags provided to clinics for clients served to support Florida Healthy Babies

Picture of Community Health Staff at Palm Beach State College in Pahokee, FL

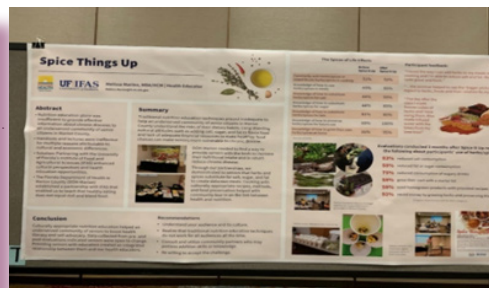
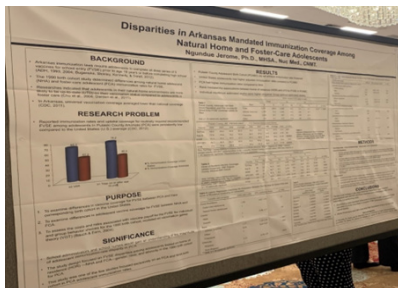


- Community Health will be participated in Health Care District series of Injury Prevention activities held in September 2023 in various locations of the county.
- Tobacco Intercoastal Clean up activity September 23, 2023, SWAT participation
- Tobacco Program participating in Club Rush at Palm Beach State College
- SWAT Team Clean up pre-Earth Day
- 15 youths and DOH staff attended Okeetee Park
- Increase in Tobacco Partnership

Big Brothers Big Sisters/Beyond School Walls Mentorship Program planning

Florida Public Health Association Conference in Orlando, FL July 25 and 26, 2023: Highlights

I. Poster Presentations



II. Keynote Speaker: Unleashing the Potential of Forest & Trees to Reduce the Public Healthcare Costs; Forest is critical to human health. Urgency to address human health.

- III. Climate Change: Air Pollution, Communicable Diseases, Non-communicable diseases, Unsafe drinking water and Mental Health
 - IV. Breakout sessions: Addressing Health & Safety in Underserved Communities; Maternal and Child Health Disparities
 - V. NACCHO (National Association of County & City Health Officials) MAPP 2.0 (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership framework used in community health improvement frameworks in the field, to assist communities to improve population health, the importance of Community Engagement is tested and uses a data driven approach to address social and economic factors.
 - VI. Loneliness and Social Isolation Epidemic in Public Health: USF Speakers: Impacts our health and identify how age friendly environments that can promote social health.
- Child Abuse Death Review Summit in Orlando, FL August 3-4, 2023:
 - I. Topics Period of Purple Crying: Phases of Crying Curve: Increases at 2 weeks. Peaks in the 2nd month of life and decreases in months 3-5. The biggest stressor for parents is the normal period of increase crying, all babies experience in the 1st few months of Life.
PURPLE: P-peak, U-Unexpected, R-Resists soothing, P-Painlike Face, L-long lasting, E-Evening
 - II. Consumer Safety Product: Related injuries and Reported Deaths in 2021; 55,000 deaths; 12 million ED attended injuries, 31 million medically attended injuries. Product related crib deaths -44 crib deaths after 2021.
 - III. Data quality and Data Entry in Child Deaths Review: Completeness, accuracy, consistency, and timeliness
 - IV. Cribs for Kids: SUID Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, the umbrella that includes any unexpected death in infancy before 1 year of age and has multiple subcategories.

- New Pilot Weight Watchers Program for Palm Beach, Leon, and Hillsborough County to be launched in May 2023. Start date notification from DOH State Office. 7,000 participants from each county listed to be enrolled. Total of 21,000 enrollees.

Criteria for participants

- a) => 18Yrs*
 - b) BMI >25*
 - c) underinsured/uninsured*
 - d) Not for DOH employees*
- Minority Health Month
 - a) Healthy Families Lead to Healthy Communities- Events
 - b) West Palm Beach-April 22, 2023, 10:00am to 2:00pm
 - c) Belle Glade April 29, 2023, 10:00am to 2:00pm
 - Health and Wellness Fair
 - a) Wellington City April 13, 2023, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm
 - b) Santalaceous High School Wellness Fair-Courtyard, Partner with School Health and Community Health, April 17, 2023, from 11:00am to 12:30pm
 - Pace-EH on Healthy Homes Series- Pahokee City; Presentation on Asthma on April 18, 2023, 6:00pm
 - Fetal Infant Mortality fully staffed; funded 3.25% staff salary.
 - CDC score card completed.
 - a) A tool designed to help employers assess whether they have implemented evidence-based health promotion interventions or strategies in their worksites to prevent heart disease, stroke, and related conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity.
 - b) Provides guidance on key evidence-based strategies that employers can put in place to promote a healthy workforce, increase productivity, and reduce the risk and associated cost of poor employee health.
 - Diabetes Prevention Program Session on Engaging Providers Referral



West Boca Family Fest

- Staff participated in the event Held on Friday, March 17, 2023, to Sunday, March 19, 2023.

South Florida Fair: Theme Din-Myte

- South Florida Held at the South Florida Fair Grounds on January 13-29, 2023. The various Department of Health program staff attended the event throughout the length of the fair. A total of 5603 attendees stopped by the booth to receive educational information and promotional items to support all areas of public health.

School Health

The Palm Beach County School Health Program is a collaborative partnership of the Department of Health with the School District of Palm Beach County and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. The Department of Health 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.

Registered nurses train designees to provide safe medication administration in all schools when or where a nurse may not be present. For 2023 ending school year, the School Health Program staff included 185 nurses. - There were 190,068 students in pre-k through 12th grade. - Nearly 304,000 health room visits with 14,987 students requiring medication administration or medical procedures.

School health services including health screenings 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 and perform COVID -19 and/or Influenza testing with parent permission.

Department School Health staff target efforts to increase immunization compliance in the county through continued monitoring, 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. To avoid delays in school registration and education interruption, Health Department staff transcribed out-of-state immunization records and obtained immunization records from the state registry for students to remain in compliance for school attendance. A review of 34,945 student school health records from K-12 found 90.19% meeting state health requirement.

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
- * Immunization Services (Adults & Children)
- * Nutrition Services (Dietary Counseling)
- * Volunteer Services
- * WIC (Women, Infants and Children) on site
- * On site Laboratory Services

People Served in 2023
Clients = 35,671
Visits = 119,854

Services Expanded to Better Serve
 Through seven Health Center locations the Department served over 29,000 clients in 2022.
 Services Provided by location can be found on the chart below.



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

Overdose Data to Action – OD2A

A major, grant-funded initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) supports jurisdictions in implementing prevention activities and in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and timely data on nonfatal and fatal overdoses and in using those data to enhance programmatic and surveillance efforts. OD2A focuses on understanding and tracking the complex and changing nature of the drug overdose crisis by seamlessly integrating data and prevention strategies.

CDC launched the first multiyear OD2A cooperative agreement in 2019 with 66 recipients comprising state, territorial, county, and city health departments. This cooperative agreement lasted for four years. In August 2023, the CDC awarded a new five-year cooperative agreement under two distinct OD2A programs; one designed for states, and one designed specifically for localities and territories. This latter program, called OD2A Local, funds Department of Health Palm Beach County for the next five years.

The Department of Health Palm Beach County has contracted with the Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) to conduct prevention, education, outreach and to coordinate community-based partner efforts. Community-based partners include Living Skill in the Schools, Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition, Health Care District Palm Beach County, Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Palm Beach County Medical Society, Palm Health Foundation, Rebel Recovery, T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society, and Trinity Counseling Center.

Through these partnerships with HCSEF and our community-based prevention work and sub-contracts, OD2A accomplishments include:

ANNUAL HEALTH PROFILE

- Trained and certified over 1,200 individuals in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA).
- Reached over 600,000 residents through media exposure.
- Educated over 60,000 youth, parents, and community members with prevention and harm reduction messaging.
- Completed 989 presentations at 74 schools.
- Launched 'Talk with Your Mouth Full' podcast to encourage families to engage in conversations about substance use <https://talkwithyourmouthfull.org/>
- Community Health Advocates reached over 13,000 individuals through combined outreach with OD2A, HIV and Covid vaccines.
- Conducted prevention activities, mental health services, community education in the faith-based community. Engaged over 1,900 individuals and distributed over 700 Narcan kits.
- Educated over 3000 medical professionals offering on-demand and in-person sessions.
- Distributed over 1000 educational brochures and resources to medical professionals.
- Engaged 1146 individuals in the Mobile Integrated Health Addiction Program, referred 301 to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- Hosting Narcan training and harm reduction training.
- Participated in 20+ community events (health fairs, state fairs, college fairs etc. Reached over 5000 individuals who came to the table, conversed, and or took materials.

What is Overdose Surveillance?

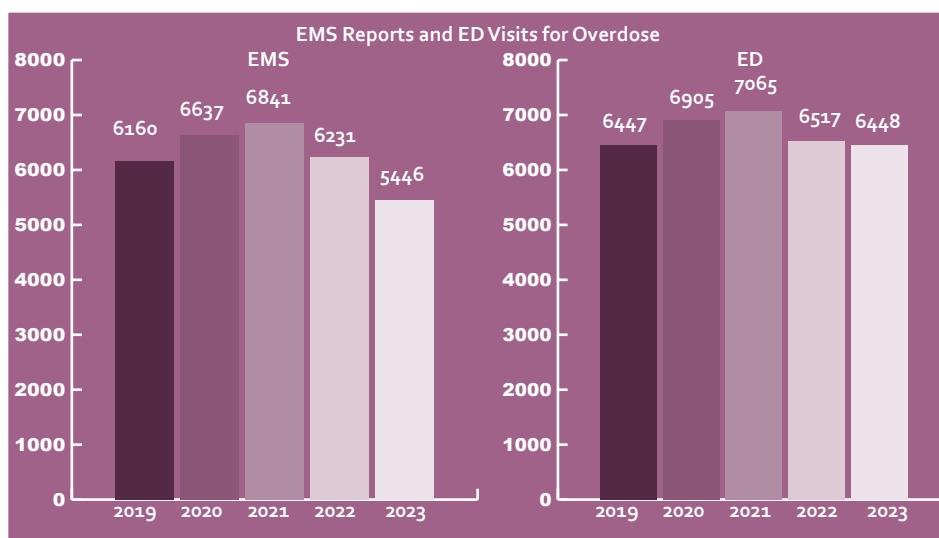
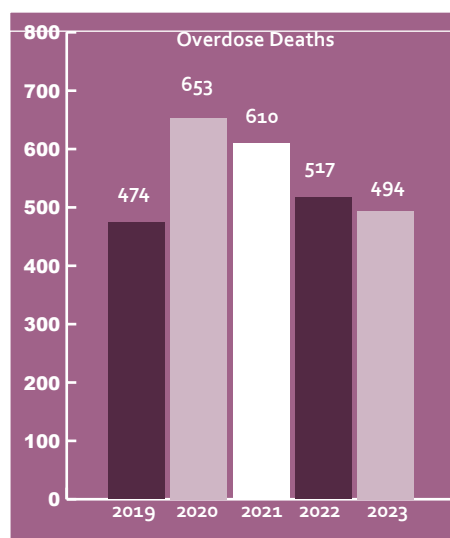
Data on non-fatal and fatal overdoses. The data provides information about trends, hotspots, risk factors and focuses on the social/environmental factors that impacts a person's health and health outcomes. The OD2A surveillance staff integrates data from 7 sources including hospital emergency department records, EMS, the medical examiner's office/vital statistics, and poison control to understand the overdose and substance use disorder crisis through a whole-person perspective. Who is experiencing overdose and why? What strategies can be implemented to prevent, treat, support harm reduction and aid recovery? What are the gaps in services? What policies should be implemented/adopted?

During 2023, the OD2A Surveillance staff disseminated successes, lessons learned and findings at 5 national conferences. Monthly surveillance reports which allows for timely data to reach the community, can be found at OvercomeOverdosePBC.com webpage. The webpage also has detailed annual reports with in-depth analysis of the shift in demographics and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) in the population. There are additional resources and links to community-based partners as well.

At the time of publication, OD2A 2023 data are considered provisional. 494 people died from overdoses in the county in 2023, the majority from fentanyl. This was a 4% decrease from 2022. Initial emergency medical system data show 5,446 suspected overdoses. Initial hospital emergency department data show 6,448 suspected overdoses.

Overdoses in Palm Beach County 2019 – 2023

- 3 consecutive years of decreases in the number of overdose deaths.
- 2023 had 4% less overdose deaths than 2022.
- Continued decreases in EMS and ED visits for overdose.
- While EMS cases saw a notable decrease (13%) from 2022 to 2023, ED cases remained relatively stable, with only a slight decrease.



Community Immunization Services

The immunization program staff and nurses remain committed to protect the residents of Palm Beach County by providing immunizations to decrease the incidence of disease and prevent community spread of vaccine preventable diseases.

2023 Highlights:

- Immunization Training: Training provided by CIS team for new immunization staff.
- Vaccine Inventory management: DOH countywide Vaccine inventory management/ordering
- Mentor/resource: for clinic nurses, school nurses and community partners.
- CIS also provided staff support in many of the DOH immunization clinics.

Productivity:

- Number of immunizations provided: 14497
- Numbers of clients served: 7536
- Number of outreach events: 137
- Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP): Continue to provide case management to HbsAg positive pregnant women throughout Palm Beach County.

An Immunization Portal was activated for Palm Beach County Health Department. This provides clients a secure information exchange when requesting record transfers, certificates of immunization (DH680), religious exemptions DH681, college forms, and immunization histories. This process eliminates the need for an appointment for those individuals who are up to date with immunizations, or only requesting forms, and/or expedites the visit when vaccines are required by pre-registering clients into FLSHOTS immunization registry so that records are available at time of appointment.

Information regarding the portal can be found at: Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach (floridahealth.gov) Childhood Immunization Requirements.

The vaccine program components are:

- PC01 (Vaccines for Children [VFC]-18 years and younger)
- PC05- Non-VFC vaccine
- PC09 – Hepatitis Program
- PC17 (Vaccine for Adults [VFA] -19 years and older who are uninsured, or underinsured)
- PC17.01(VFA, MCV outbreak)
- PC17.02 (VFA-Hepatitis A outbreak)
- PC17.04 (COVID-19)
- PC17.05 (VFA, monkeypox outbreak) and,
- PC18.01(Refugee-Adults 19 year and older)

If in need of vaccinations, please contact the Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County appointment line at 561-625-5180 to schedule your appointment. Follow all immunization activities in Palm Beach County at: <https://palmbeach.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/immunizations/index.html>

Comprehensive Nutrition Program

The Comprehensive Nutrition Program of the Health Access Division provide a variety of nutrition services to our community . . . Services include nutrition consultations, the Ryan White Therapeutic Nutrition Treatment (TNT) food pantry, preceptors of dietetic interns, staff wellness, and community presentations. The program is staffed by registered and licensed dietitians /nutritionist (LDN/RDN) called Senior Public Health Nutritionists at the health department.

The Registered Dietitians provide nutrition consults using Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT). MNT is a plan of care that consist of four steps: nutrition assessment, nutrition diagnosis, nutrition intervention and nutrition evaluation and monitoring. The goal of MNT is to prevent or manage medical conditions using nutrition interventions. The clients are diagnosed by the medical provider with a chronic medical condition who

refers to the registered dietitian for Medical Nutrition Therapy. In 2023, the conditions referred to the Palm Beach County Health Department dietitians by medical providers include: Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, prediabetes, Gestational Diabetes, HIV, Obesity, underweight, hypertension, Anemia, high cholesterol and triglycerides, Crohn's disease, IBS, and Chronic Kidney Disease. The registered dietitian supports the treatment provided by the physicians and educates the client to manage their conditions using proper dietary habits.

The Registered Dietitians are credentialed by Medicare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ambetter, and Clear Health. Sources of revenue are insurance reimbursements, self-pay clients, contracts and grants. This includes the Health Care District and Family Planning Contracts as well as the Ryan White HIV grant. Other community referrals include Found Care and medical private practices.

We have three new staff who are registered and licensed dietitians. They cover Belle Glade, Delray Beach, Delray Beach Annex, Lantana Lake Worth, and West Palm Beach health centers. The RDN/LDNs at the centers are Stacie Wertheim (1 Year), Wynna Dunmyer (1 Year), and Megan Perez (6 months). We have a nutrition vacancy at Delray Health Center. To volumize our efforts, the nutritionist team collaborates with Physicians and APRN's, Volunteer Services, and the nursing staff to provide clinical services. Telehealth enables the nutritionist team to serve multiple sites. Most of our clients are referred from Maternity, HIV/AIDS program, and the outside provider Health Care District.

Our new staffing enhanced our ability to increase services when comparing year 2022 to 2023. The table below reflects our activities in 2022 to 2023.

Service	2022	2023
Nutrition assessment and/or counseling sessions.....	1,313	2222
Unduplicated number of clients	557	1714
Case management	2,014	3420
Community and/or employee wellness presentations	8	6
# of attendees	89	415

The Therapeutic Nutrition Treatment (TNT) food pantry addresses the chronic problems of food insecurity and hunger that is estimated to affect at least 132,000 in the county. Part B of the Federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS program funds the distribution of groceries valued at approximately \$90 per month for each participant. The grocery package includes coupons for purchasing fresh, canned, or frozen fruits and vegetables at the local supermarket, as well as nutrition education, storage guidelines, and recipes. The TNT food pantry is viewed as a best practice by the federal bureau of HIV/AIDS. The table below compares the number of people with HIV/AIDS who received services in 2022 to 2023.

Service	2022	2023
HIV nutrition assessment and/or counseling	531	733
TNT foods provided	783	837
Nutritional supplements provided	283	446

Maternity services also increased with improved staffing. During fiscal year 2023, more maternity referrals to the nutritionist was possible with nutritionist located at the two largest sites (Lantana and West Palm). Table below demonstrates the difference between year 2022 and 2023.

Year	2022	2023
maternity clients	710	1129

In addition to providing consultations, the nutritionist performed other activities such as serving as preceptors to 3 Pasco County Dietetic Interns and providing nutrition education to the staff and the public. Below is a list of activities performed by the nutritionist team to enhance the health of our community.

Nutrition Activities:

- Diabetes Awareness Day Health Fair at the Riviera Beach Marina Sunday, January 29, 2023
- Lutheran Service of Florida Health Fair February 2023
- Northwest Community Health & Wellness Fair: April 1, 2023
- Healthy Families Leads to Healthy Communities Health Fair at Belle Glades 6/2023
- Tweets for Healthy Hearts by Dietetic Intern 2-2023

Presentations:

- Nutrition and HIV presented at IDC Providers Meeting on 9-15-2023.
- Mediterranean Diet – Dr's Day presentation on 3-31-2023
- Eating on a Budget presented at the Marriot Hotel for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Club on 12-2023

Employee wellness Activity:

These activities focused on encouraging physical activity and on nutrition education messages about healthy eating for the heart and the immune system.

- Let's Move Campaign Sponsored by Digital Vibez and Palm health Foundation-March 2023
- Healthy breakfast and Lunch food demonstration presented by dietetic Intern D. Walker at the Mount Botanical Garden for the WIC All Staff Meeting focusing on the National Nutrition Month theme- Fuel for the Future 3-31-23.
- Nutrition Bites Entitled-Enjoying food That Fuels the body and Sustains the Earth was a fast information appearing on the locked screen of DOH staff computers on 3-2023.
- Healthy Immune System for a Healthy You Lunch and Learn presentation by Dietetic Intern J. Doman on 10-2023
- A Balanced Meal -Nutrition Bites information by Dietetic Intern T.Gordon on locked screen 3-2023
- The Art of Eating for A Healthy Heart by Dietetic Intern T.Gordon on 2-10-2023

Environmental Public Health

Air and Waste Section

The Air and Waste Section processes and issues permits for air pollution sources within Palm Beach County to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. The county has 173 regulated facilities, 154 minor facilities and 19 major facilities. In 2023, Staff conducted 224 facility inspections, reviewed 31 air pollutant tests and 83 visible emissions tests, and reviewed 205 compliance reports, such as continuous monitoring reports, semi-annual monitoring reports, annual operating reports, and statement of compliance reports. The program issued 11 air pollution permits, including construction, operation, and title V operation permits.

The program monitored 74 regulated demolition/renovation asbestos projects and conducted 162 compliance inspections at these projects. 116 air pollution-related complaints were investigated. 8 open burning sites, for activities associated with residential and non-residential land clearing, were authorized, and inspected. The program collected \$10,400.00 from 6 enforcement actions, all resolved through consent agreements.



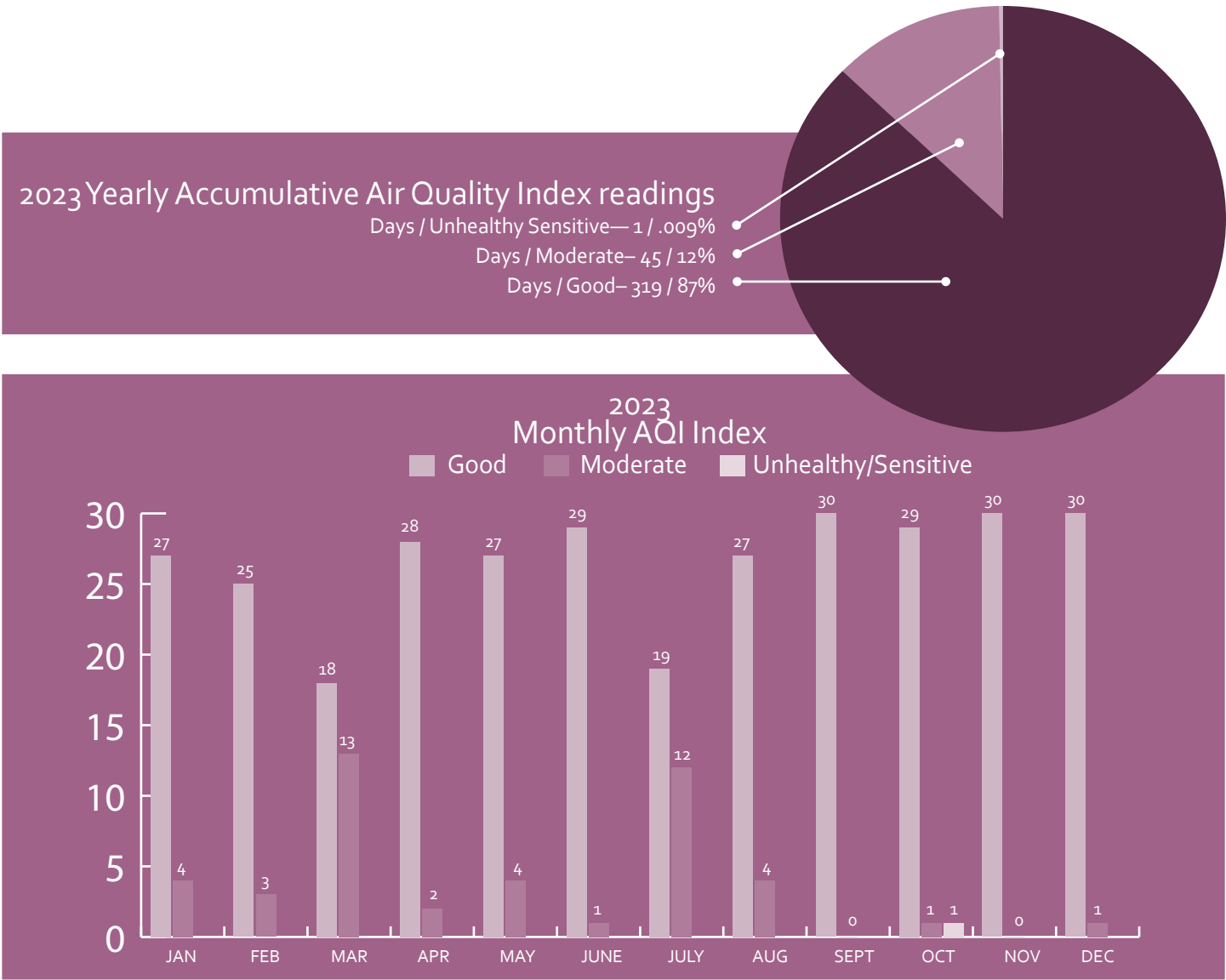
Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Program regulates construction and demolition debris recycling facilities, yard trash processing facilities, landfills, and waste tire processing facilities. Groundwater is sampled and analyzed at some regulated facilities to evaluate any impact on groundwater quality from those operations. In 2023, the program monitored 63 regulated facilities. Staff conducted 64 facility inspections and responded to 14 solid waste-related complaints. The department issued 4 solid waste permits.



Disaster Debris Management Sites

Disaster Debris Management Sites function as an intermediate staging area between the initial removal and the disposal or recycling of the debris (e.g., vegetative debris, construction and demolition debris, white goods, and vehicles and vessels) during storms. In 2023, 45 preauthorization disaster debris management sites were reviewed.



Biomedical Waste

The Biomedical Waste Program minimizes the risk posed by potentially infectious medical waste to health care workers, environmental services and treatment personnel, transporters, and the public. The section regulates the biomedical waste program’s appropriate segregation, packaging, storage, transport, and treatment at permitted facilities. In 2023, staff conducted 3,733 routine inspections. Staff processed 590 applications, including 430 for new facilities, and responded to 2 complaints.

Hazardous Waste

The Hazardous Waste Program oversees the generation and management of hazardous waste in the 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. 340 routine inspections were conducted on permitted facilities, and 30 applications processed.

Body Art Program

The Body Art Program regulates body piercing and tattooing businesses to protect the public from infectious diseases. The regulation of these establishments and education and licensure of practitioners can reduce not only the occurrence of procedure site infections, but also transmission of blood-borne pathogens, such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and other communicable diseases. In 2023, 410 routine inspections were conducted on new and permitted tattoo and body piercing establishments; 120 new tattoo establishment applications were processed; 920 tattoo practitioner applications were processed, including 228 for new practitioners; and staff investigated 10 body art complaints.

Tanning Facilities Program

Similarly, the Tanning Facilities Program 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 (ultraviolet) radiation, but also to prevent communicable diseases associated with unsanitary. Routine inspections were conducted at all permitted facilities, and 11 new applications were received.

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 429 childcare facilities and 197 family childcare homes. It also inspects 191 license-exempt sites that offer Voluntary Prekindergarten or After School program for compliance with School Readiness Health and Safety Standards.

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.

The Child Care program includes the fundamental activities of licensing and inspecting Child Care arrangements. Highlights of these activities include:

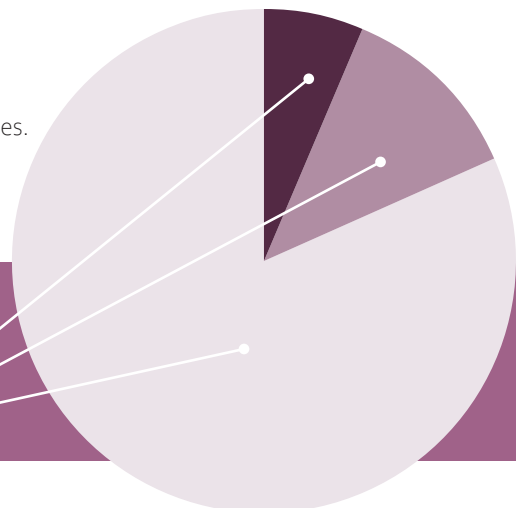
- Inspections, licensing, monitoring, and enforcement activities in child care facilities and family child care homes.
- Acting as staff to the Child Care Advisory Council.
- Conducting plan reviews and licensing consultations.
- Investigation of reports of complaints.
- Providing public information and support to Child Care programs.

In 2023, Childcare program staff:

- Performed 2977 licensing inspections in childcare facilities and family childcare homes.
- Conducted 235 School Readiness inspections in license-exempt sites.
- Investigated 434 Complaint Reports
- Presented 39 programs to the Childcare Advisory Council

2023 CHILD CARE INSPECTIONS

School Readiness / 235
Complaint / 434
Consultation / 2977



Food & Facilities Section

- The Food & Facilities Section 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, 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, residential 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 2023, staff performed 3,195 routine inspections in 1,684 facilities and investigated 153 foodborne illness complaints.	Complaint Investigations 2023				
	Program	Abated	Invalid	Referred	Total
	Communicable Disease (6)	0	0	0	0
	Food Hygiene (48)	7	4	5	16
	Group Care (51)	3	10	1	14
	Migrant Labor (52)	2	0	0	2
	Housing/Public Building (53)	1	2	7	10
	Mobile Home/RV Park (54)	6	4	1	11
	Sanitary Nuisance (65)	21	36	5	62
	Rabies Control (66)	0	0	0	0
	Arbovirus (67)	7	13	0	20
	Rodent/Arthropod Control (68)	0	5	2	7
	Total	47	74	21	142

Zoonotic Disease Program

- The Zoonotic Disease Program coordinator is responsible for monitoring, tracking, and reporting zoonotic diseases (e.g., rabies and mosquito-borne diseases) and coordinating with local government partners (Palm Beach County Mosquito Control and the Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control) to control their spread. This also includes the use of “sentinel chickens” that are strategically located throughout Palm Beach County to monitor the presence of mosquito-borne “arboviruses”. The coordinator also provides leadership training to division staff. In 2023-2024, this program:
- Tracked 86 cases of suspected vector-borne diseases in humans (dengue, West Nile virus and malaria) and referred them to Mosquito Control.
 - Sampled and analyzed the blood serum of 64 chickens on a biweekly basis for the presence of arboviruses.
 - Generated and disseminated 50 weekly sentinel chicken arbovirus reports.
 - Worked with Animal Control to track and ship 141 tissue specimens from 62 dogs, 39 raccoons, 31 cats, 8 bats and 1 otter for rabies testing.
 - Created and disseminated 19 zoonotic diseases reports of 254 abstracted articles.
 - Created and disseminated 4 sets of leadership tips for department leaders.

Laboratory

The Main Laboratory in the West Palm Beach Health Center is licensed as a highly complex laboratory in accordance with the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA). Satisfaction of proficiency testing for all testing specialties is required; also required is staffing by state licensed technical and testing personnel. Federal licensure inspection is scheduled bi-annually and was last successfully completed in January 2023. Next bi-annual inspection due January 2025.

The Laboratory Program embarked on a new project to upgrade and implement a new Laboratory Information System (LIS) scheduled to go-live in 2024. This new more sophisticated system will replace existing LIS for handling of electronic laboratory orders and results.

The Laboratory Program supports diagnosis, testing, and treatment for public health services offered at the county's Health Centers, including prenatal and postnatal maternity care, care for pregnant women eligible under the Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act or SOBRA, family planning, women's health, sexual health, dental, HIV and the AIDS drug assistance program, refugee health, and tuberculosis screening.

Satellite lab locations at clinics offer phlebotomy services and CLIA-waived testing, including urine screens, pregnancy tests, and glucometer glucose testing. Testing services are also provided to the county's Healey Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and several community-based organizations (CBOs). The laboratory provides HIV Ag/Ab confirmatory testing for CBOs performing rapid HIV tests.

Test orders are generated through the clinical health management system (HMS) and sent electronically to our laboratory information system (LIS). After testing is completed, results are released from the LIS, reported back to HMS electronically, and merged into the patient's medical record for provider review. Florida statute requires electronic laboratory reporting of certain test results to state surveillance systems, including STARS, Merlin, and e-HARS.

All specimens collected in satellite locations are sent to the main lab via courier for processing and testing. In-house testing and related services include:

Chemistry: Routine and urine chemistry, thyroid, hormones, tumor markers, diabetes, therapeutic drugs, vitamins, virology, hepatitis, drugs of abuse, urinalysis, syphilis confirmatory, and 4th generation HIV testing with confirmation.

Hematology: Complete blood count with or without automated differential, manual differential, sed rates, reticulocyte; protime and partial thromboplastin and hemoglobin electrophoresis to screen maternity patients for abnormal hemoglobins like sickle cell.

Immunology: Rapid plasma reagin for syphilis screening and titer, general immunology, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, differentiated herpes simplex virus, COVID-19 total antibody, Strongyloides, and QuantiFERON for tuberculosis.

Blood bank: ABO and Rh groups and antibody screening on maternity patients for detection of antibodies that cause hemolytic disease in newborns.

Microbiology: Detection of pathogenic bacteria in urine, throat, and group B strep cultures, mycology, parasitology; fecal immunochemical testing for colorectal cancer screening; monitoring autoclaves used for instrument sterilization in the clinics and dental program.

Molecular biology: CD4 T cell monitoring for people with HIV, HIV viral load; gonorrhea and chlamydia RNA by polymerase chain reaction on urine or provider-collected samples; human papilloma virus testing and genotyping of high risk strains.

Processing and send-out: Receive all samples delivered to main lab, package, and ship for transport following U.S. Department of Transportation and/or International Air Transport Association regulations.

Maternal Child Health Division

Maternal Child Health Division (MCHD) provides no-cost, voluntary nurse home visiting programs for pregnant women and families with newborns in Palm Beach County. Programs are managed by FDOH-PBC and funded by the Healthy Start/Healthy Beginnings Coalition of Palm Beach County and the Children's Services Council (CSC) of Palm Beach County.

The Healthy Start Coalition of Palm Beach County Inc., also known as the Healthy Beginnings Coalition, was created to provide a cohesive system of care in the county. Healthy Beginnings seeks to improve birth outcomes by providing access to direct health and social services for pregnant women whose chances of having a healthy baby are hampered by such risk factors as poverty, limited access to health care, poor nutrition, age, substance abuse, homelessness, domestic violence, and more.

Public health registered nurses provide health education, care coordination, case management, screenings and interventions, referrals, and linkages to needed services, anticipatory guidance, and ongoing support to participants who have risk factors associated with an increase in preterm delivery, low birth weight delivery, and infant mortality. Nurses help families identify and mitigate the risk factors that can lead to maternal mortality and morbidity and conduct comprehensive nursing assessments to identify concerns that could lead to poor health outcomes.

Our 3 nursing programs, Healthy Beginnings Nurses, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Women's Health Initiative, meet the individual needs of each family by actively engaging with them, listening to their needs, understanding their strengths, and advocating on their behalf.

Our Data Team receives, processes, and enters countywide Florida Healthy Start Prenatal and Infant Risk screens that are signed and authorized to release information in various databases. The information entered is then retrieved by the Healthy Start Coalition and providers so that families can be linked to direct health and social services.

Program goals:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes.
- Improve child health, development, and safety.
- Improve life-course development by promoting pregnancy planning, educational achievement, and employment.
- Promote supportive relationships among family and friends.



Healthy Beginnings Nurses

Healthy Beginnings Nurses (HBN) is a home visit program offering a wide range of services to high-risk pregnant women at any gestational age, newborn – 1 year, and women of childbearing age who have experienced a pregnancy loss.

HBN offers 3 programs: Prenatal Plus, Nurse Supporting Families Prenatal, and Infant, and Interconception Care for women who have experienced pregnancy loss. Services include case management, nutrition and breastfeeding guidance, and psychosocial referrals. Services support the family by addressing risk factors to improve birth outcomes, improve child development, improve child safety, and build healthy relationships.



Nurse-Family Partnership

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based nurse home visit program for first-time mothers. Specially trained registered nurses provide home visits to pregnant moms-to-be prior to 28 weeks and serve families through the child's second birthday. Pregnant moms-to-be receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy—everything from safely caring for their child to how to provide a stable, secure future for their families.



Women's Health Initiative

Women's Health Initiative (WHIN) is a home visit program for Black families in Zip Codes 33401, 33403, 33404, 33407, 33426 & 33435. Service is provided to moms-to-be during any stage of gestation, newborn – 1 year, and to mothers who have experienced pregnancy loss. The case management team includes a registered nurse, a nutritionist, and a mental health counselor. Services are delivered through a trauma-informed lens that recognizes the realities of racism and the impact of toxic stress on women and girls during pregnancy and child rearing. WHIN also provides monthly community education through partnerships with other CSC funded programs.

2023 Highlights

- The WHIN program expanded to zip codes 33426 & 33435.
- Healthy Start Fatherhood initiative program 'TEAM DAD' implemented in PBC.
- 86.97 % of Clients enrolled completed services.
- 27,533 - Total Florida Healthy Start Infant & Prenatal Risk Screens received.
- 14,923 - Florida Healthy Start Infant Risk Screens entered.
- 12,610 - Florida Healthy Start Prenatal Risk Screens entered.
- 12,424 - Face-to-face visits completed.
- 5,500 - Educational items provided.
- 1,043 - Clients served.
- 60 - Community engagement & outreach activities completed. A

Performance Improvement and Preparedness Division

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Following the Community Health Assessment process, local partners, stakeholders, and residents developed the 2022 – 2027 Palm Beach County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The Assessment process included focus groups with residents, key informant interviews with local decision-makers and stakeholders, and a Local Public Health System Assessment. The final Community Health Assessment report provided insights on key health issues, giving the Advisory Council the necessary information to make informed decisions about the focus of the CHIP. Partners developed the CHIP in Spring 2022, and beginning in July 2022, partners from across the county came together to implement the CHIP. Throughout the implementation of this Plan, partners, stakeholders, and residents have come together to impact health and quality of life in Palm Beach County. Specifically, the CHIP focuses on the following Priority Areas:

- Chronic Disease Prevention and Self-Management
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Access and Linkage to Health and Human Services

Alongside the Advisory Council, the Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) works to engage new partners, track progress on CHIP activities, and communicate updates with partners across the county. Additionally, the Advisory Council meets bi-annually to review progress, make updates to the Plan, and discuss opportunities for collaboration and new-partner engagement. HCSEF actively recruits and engages new partners, and maintains and enhances existing partnerships to ensure the inclusion of diverse perspectives and engage partners with different lived experiences and expertise. The following report outlines the work done by this partnership, which continues to prioritize resident's quality of life in an effort to make Palm Beach County a healthier place to live, work, and play.

Workforce Development

In late 2023, DOH-Palm Beach created the Workforce Development Program. This is a multi-year grant funded program that is designed to create workforce resiliency and capacity. The office of Workforce Development led the agency's inaugural Annual meeting which celebrated employees and their dedication to the agency and the community we serve. This event also served also collected data on employee satisfaction as well as collecting information on training and department needs for the following year.

Volunteer Health Care Provider Program

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program (Program) Annual Report is provided in accordance with Section 766.1115(8), Florida Statutes, to summarize contributions achieved by the Program.

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program improves access to health care for uninsured and underserved low-income residents. To encourage practitioners to volunteer, the state protects them from lawsuits under a Florida sovereign immunity provision when providing free medical and dental services to underserved populations. These professionals provide volunteer services primarily in community and faith-based medical clinics. The program also trains non-licensed volunteers to determine eligibility for services and refer individuals to providers.

Individuals eligible for medical and dental services must meet one of these financial criteria:

- Those who do not have health insurance that covers the treatment being sought and have a gross family income that is less than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL), or
- Those who meet Medicaid-eligibility under Florida law and meet the Program's income eligibility criteria (less than 200% FPL). Medicaid clients are eligible to receive services through a free clinic when there is no Medicaid provider available in the area.

The Program is administered by the Florida Department of Health State Health Office and managed by regional coordinators across the state. Regional coordinators prepare and manage the contracts with volunteer health care professionals that provide for sovereign immunity. Regional coordinators also ensure compliance with sovereign immunity requirements, conduct quality assurance monitoring of patient's medical records at the clinics and organizations where clients receive services and train non-licensed volunteers in eligibility determination and referral procedures.

To summarize contributions achieved by the Program, during Fiscal Year (FY) 2022–23 a total of 437 licensed health care professionals and 86 Eligibility and Referral Specialists volunteered in the Program throughout Palm Beach County. These volunteers served at 12 clinics and organizations across Palm Beach County. The clinics and organizations reported that they provided 63,420 health care services to eligible individuals. In addition, they reported that the Program’s value of health-related goods and services provided to Palm Beach County residents totaled more than \$39 million.

Volunteer Health Services Program

The Chapter 110 Volunteer Program, an internal state agency program, provides opportunities for anyone who wants to donate goods and/or their services to those in need under the supervision of the Department of Health. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available in many DOH facilities throughout Palm Beach County to individuals with clerical, administrative, technical, and professional skills. Volunteers are vital to the Department of Health, they are an integral part of the agency and assist in expanding our resources to improve the quality of life and health of the residents of our community. Each clinic, division and program are supported by a Volunteer Services Center Specialist who implements special initiatives to enhance the lives of our clients and community. The Volunteer Services Center Specialist oversee our food, clothing, and diaper pantries, solicit donations, and organize special events to improve the wellbeing of our clients.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)



WIC is a federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children that provides healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals for health care and community services at no cost. Since 1974, WIC has supported families and breastfeeding mothers, serving over 90 percent of eligible clients in Palm Beach County.

The Mission of WIC - Assuring healthy pregnancies, birth outcomes, growth and development for mothers, babies, and young children to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. Providing nutritious supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, education on health eating, and referrals to healthcare and critical social services.

WIC is one of the most effective public health programs, known for improving health and developmental outcomes for children. Participants receive tailored food packages, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, immunization screening, and referrals to health and social services. Working alongside other USDA nutrition assistance programs, WIC contributes significantly to building a healthier future for America’s children.

- 44% of Infants Born in Florida Participate in WIC
- 95.5% of Eligible Individuals in Palm Beach County Participate in WIC
- 90% of WIC Infants initiate Breastfeeding

Palm Beach WIC		
	2022	2023
Enrollment	35,390	35,809
Participation	32,485	32,703

Fruits and Vegetable Benefits: Congress enhanced WIC’s fruit and vegetable benefit to align with scientific recommendations. Current monthly benefit amounts are \$26 for children, \$47 for pregnant and postpartum participants, and \$52 for breastfeeding participants.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Florida WIC will continue operating under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) waivers through September 30, 2026. The ARPA waivers provide WIC the opportunity to continue to waive the requirements for clients to be physically present at certification, recertification and during benefit issuance.

Modernizing WIC The Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service is investing in WIC outreach and modernizing the program by prioritizing outreach, improving the shopping experience, investing in, and diversifying the WIC workforce, and modernizing technology and service delivery. These projects aim to enhance the experience for current participants, reach more eligible families, and support them throughout their eligibility period.

Modernization Projects include:

- Improving the WIC shopping experience by making it easier to identify WIC products, streamlining checkout processes with innovations like mobile pay, and working toward online shopping.

- Enhancing WIC accessibility through technologies such as text messaging, mobile-friendly websites, appointment scheduling, and language tools.

"USDA is working hard to ensure that every child receives the nutrition they need to achieve their full potential, and WIC's proven benefits are vital to that effort," said Stacy Dean, Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. "We have been actively listening to our WIC participants and designed these funding opportunities to address their needs. We're committed to supporting a modern WIC program that is well-suited to serve WIC moms and their little ones today and for generations to come."

HEALTH CENTERS

C. L. Brumback Health Center (Belle Glade)

**38754 State Road 80
Belle Glade, FL 33430
561-983-9220**

Delray Beach Health Center

**225 S. Congress Ave.
Delray Beach, FL 33445
561-274-3100**

Jupiter Auxiliary Health Center

**6405 Indiantown Road
Jupiter, FL 33458
561-746-6751**

Lantana Lake Worth Health Center

**1250 Southwinds Dr.
Lantana, FL 33462
561-547-6800**

Northeast Health Center (Riviera Beach)

**851 Avenue P
Riviera Beach, FL 33404
561-803-7300**

West Palm Beach Health Center

**1150 45th St.
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
561-514-5300**

Greenacres WIC Center

**5985 10th Ave.
Greenacres, FL 33463
561-357-6000**