

Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County



2025 Annual Health Profile

Message from the Director

Dr. Jyothi Gunta MD, MPH, has been director of the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County (DOH-Palm Beach) since April 2023. She is board-certified in preventive medicine and public health, as well as occupational and environmental medicine. Dr. Gunta has practiced in various clinical and non-clinical settings to include 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, Hawaii, where she trained in pediatrics.

Her passion and drive for public health is what brought her to DOH-Palm Beach in 2016, to serve as the chief resident for the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Residency Program. Following her residency training, Dr. Gunta joined the city of Delray Beach as the medical director for employee health and wellness, serving as the primary care physician for city employees and their families.

Dr. Gunta has demonstrated leadership within multiple health care systems and outpatient practices, including the U.S. Veterans Health Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and has published findings in the Lancet's Child and Adolescent Health Journal.

In her role as director of DOH-Palm Beach, 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.

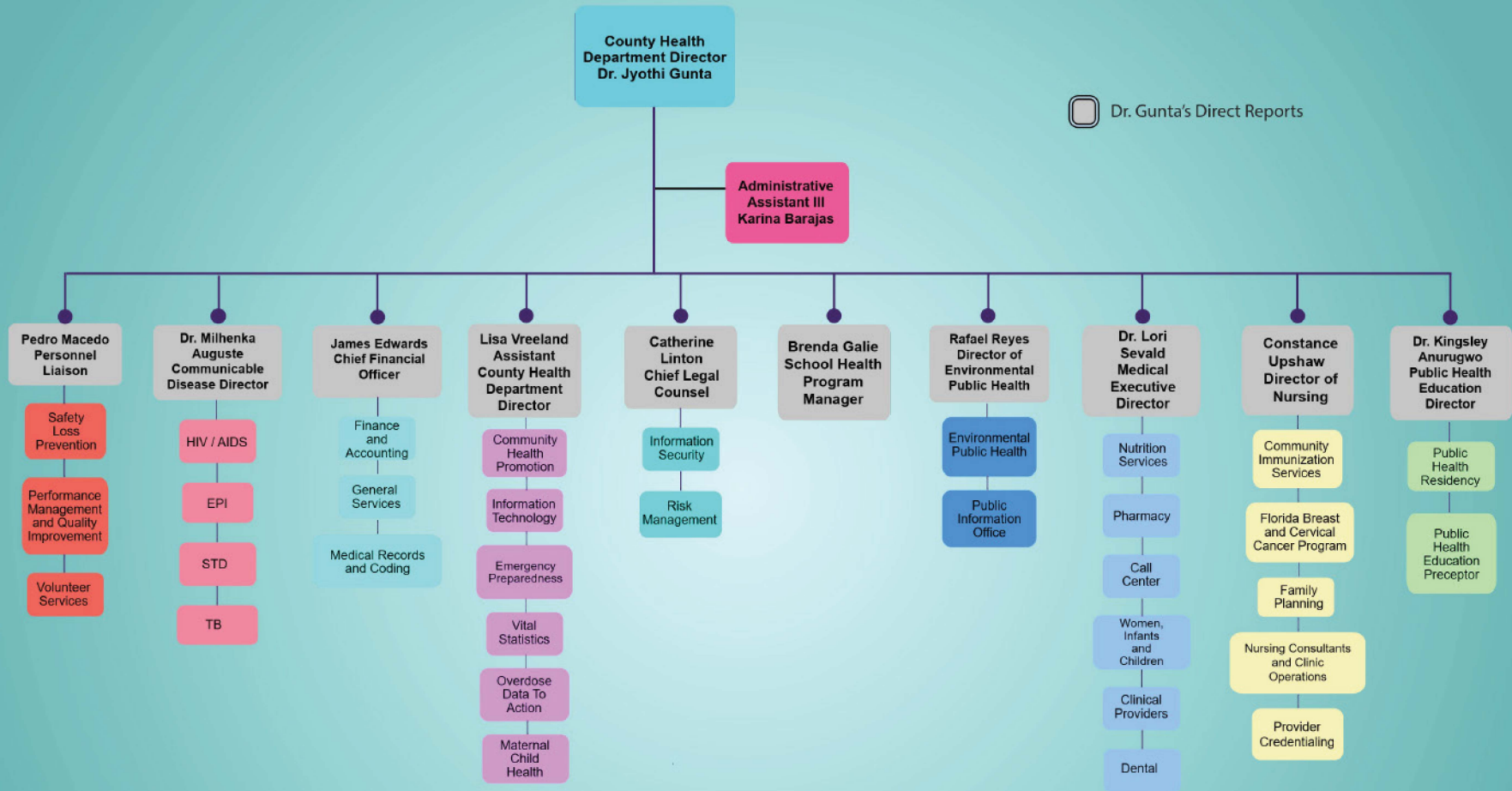


Dr. Jyothi Gunta MD, MPH
Director

*Florida Department of Health
in Palm Beach County*



DOH-PALM BEACH COUNTY Functional Organizational Chart



FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County (DOH-Palm Beach) began the reporting year in a stable financial position, supported by the state’s strong fiscal outlook and the Department’s ongoing focus on strategic planning and operational efficiency. A diversified funding structure— combining fees, grants, and county, state, and federal support—continued to provide resilience and ensure the delivery of essential public health services.

In 2025, revenue sources experienced modest shifts. State funding increased by 6.01%, while federal revenues declined by 4.28% and local contributions decreased by 5.11%, following changes within the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. Fee collections fell 7.78% overall, driven by flat to declining environmental health and vital statistics activity and reduced third-party reimbursement in clinical services.

	2024	2025
State Funds	20,457,176	21,686,702
Federal Funds	20,256,349	19,389,745
Local Contribution	21,778,897	20,665,656
Clinic Services	4,136,418	3,682,619
Environmental Public Health	4,032,204	3,726,532
Vital Statistics	1,856,969	1,836,840
	\$72,518,013	\$70,988,094

	2025	
Local Contribution	\$20,665,656	29.11%
Federal Funds	\$19,389,745	27.31%
State Funds	\$21,686,702	30.55%
Fees	\$9,245,991	13.02%

Fees include vital statistics, clinical and environmental

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County remained a key partner throughout the year. Although funding for uninsured maternity care transitioned to the district as it assumed direct responsibility for that service, the partnership continued to provide vital support and is expected to remain strong in the years ahead.

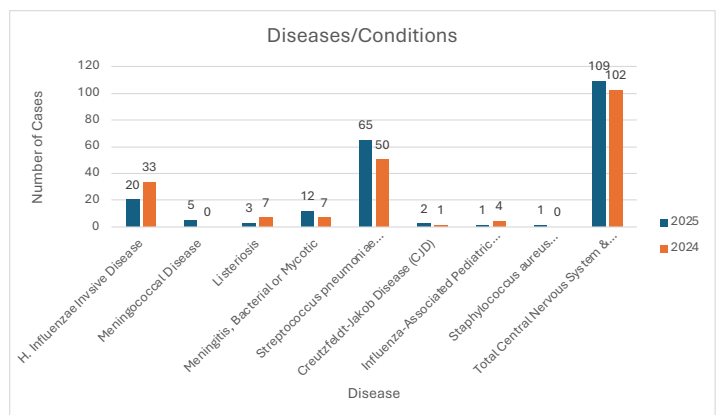
DOH-Palm Beach remains committed to strong financial stewardship and collaborative partnerships that support the sustained delivery of essential public health services.

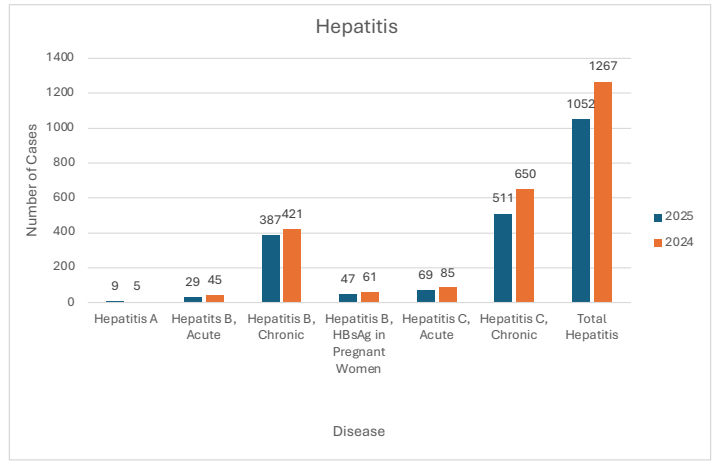
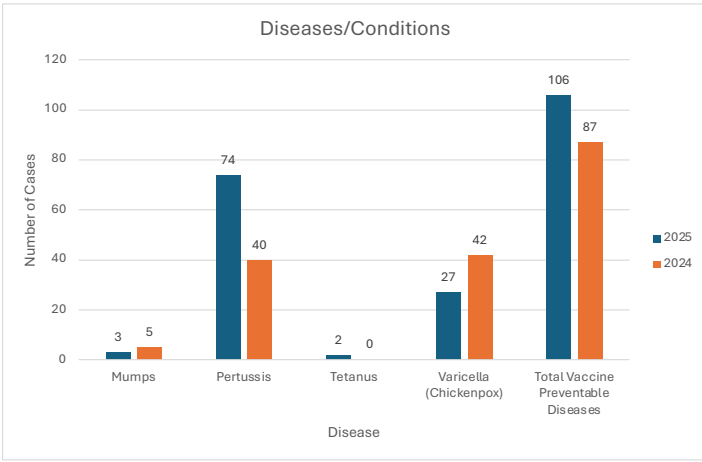
EPIDEMIOLOGY

The Division of Epidemiology is responsible for monitoring, investigating, and reporting to the Florida Department of Health’s (DOH) State Health Office all communicable diseases that are reflected on the reportable conditions in Florida, as required by law. This list identifies conditions or clusters that may be of public health concern.

Epidemiology complies with Rule 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code, which states, “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 in Palm Beach County contributes to in meeting this reporting requirement and conducts surveillance for more than 90 reportable diseases, with the goal of rapidly identifying outbreaks, educating the public, and mitigating further transmission.



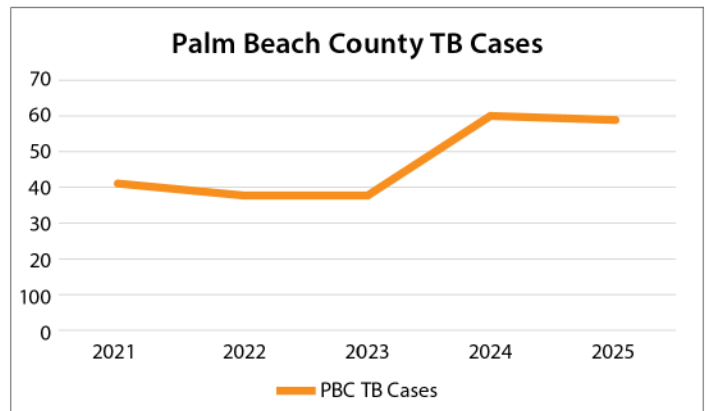


Tuberculosis Control Program

The program maintains a surveillance system and is responsible for the control and prevention of tuberculosis (TB) 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 U.S. (79.7% in 2025).

Tuberculosis remains one of the world’s most prevalent diseases. The TB Control Program engages in an overarching effort to achieve the national goal of TB elimination of reaching less than 1 case, per 1 million people.

DOH-Palm Beach is committed to ensuring every individual with active TB disease is treated to achieve cure and those exposed receive proper care by offering clinical services for screening and evaluation. The treatment of active TB cases is provided through directly observed therapy and video directly observed therapy along with other necessary clinical and social services.



At 59 new tuberculosis cases reported in 2025, Palm Beach County had the third highest number of TB cases in Florida. The TB case rate estimated at 3.8 per 100,000 population based on Palm Beach County demographic estimate statistics (according to the U.S. Census Bureau). In 2024, 60 new TB cases were reported.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

Florida’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (also known as the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program), is outlined in section 381.93, Florida Statutes.

The Florida Department of Health administers the funding that supports 18 lead county health department regional coordinators that manage service provision to assure statewide access. Palm Beach has served as a stand-alone county since 2024, proudly representing the program. We exceeded our goal of screening 630 women in our inaugural year and have an increased goal of screening 790 women this fiscal year. We identified three women with breast cancer and connected them with treatment. We have strengthened partnerships with nine breast screening and diagnostic sites as well as seven sites that provide cervical screening.

Current eligibility criteria for free breast and cervical cancer screenings are women ages 40-64. This includes women with catastrophic or no health insurance who meet income guidelines (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level) and reside in Palm Beach County.

Services provided to eligible woman include:

- Breast and cervical cancer screening exams (clinical breast exams, mammograms, and Pap tests)
- Breast and cervical diagnostic funds
- Care coordination to all clients with abnormal exams
- Women screened through the program and diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer are referred to Florida Medicaid for eligibility determination



For more information, please contact the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program's county coordinator at 561-497-4840.

Community Immunization Services

DOH-Palm Beach's Immunization Program provides immunization services to the community, including:

- Immunization record translations, record transfers
- Issuance of the Florida certificates of immunization and exemptions to meet daycare and school entry requirements
- Immunization resources for internal and external partners
- Management of Palm Beach County vaccine inventory
- Provision of staff support for agency immunization clinics
- Perinatal hepatitis B prevention and case management to HBsAg-positive pregnant women

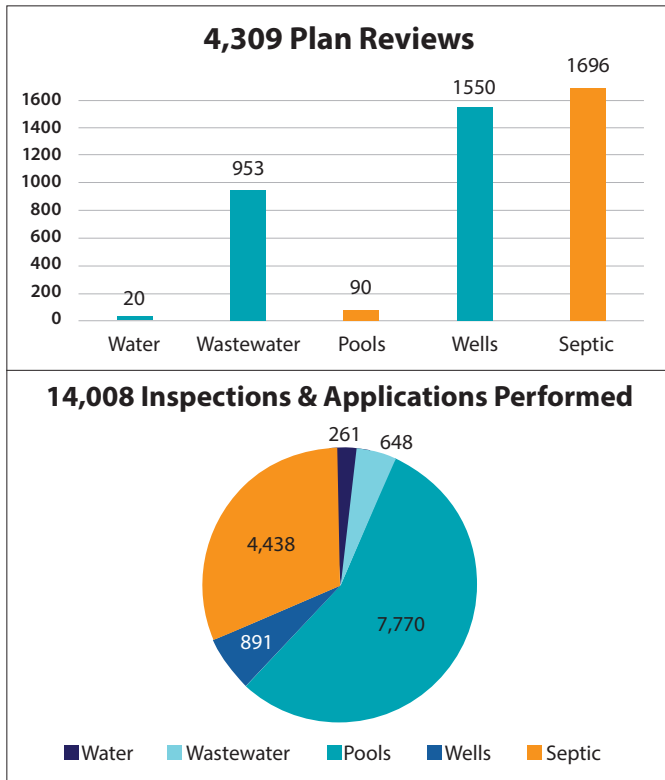
Our immunization portal continues to provide clients with a secure information exchange when requesting record transfers, certificates of immunization, religious exemptions, college forms, and immunization histories. This process eliminates the need for an appointment for those individuals who are current with immunizations, only requesting forms, and/or expedites the visit by pre-registering clients into the FLSHOTS immunization registry, so records are available at the time of visit.

In 2025:

- 14,842 Immunizations Administered
- 10,686 Clients Served
- 199 Community Outreach Events

To learn more about immunization services at DOH-Palm Beach and to access the portal, visit PalmBeach.FloridaHealth.gov/Immunizations. To schedule an appointment, call 561-625-5180.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH



Water and Wastewater

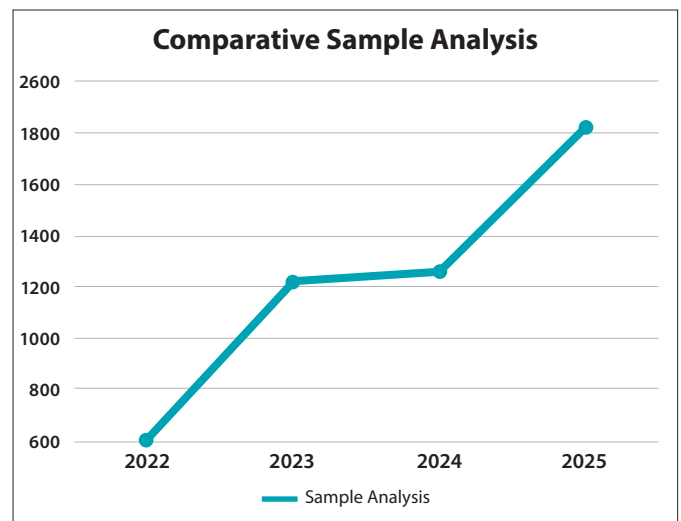
The Water and Wastewater Section protects public health by ensuring compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. This includes the oversight of construction and operation of treatment facilities, private wells, septic systems, public swimming pools, and bathing places. The section also monitors beach water quality and provides timely information to the public about potential health risks, including sewage spills, water quality concerns, and harmful algal blooms. Additionally, staff investigate and respond to public complaints to ensure environmental and community safety.

Throughout the year, staff completed 4,309 plan reviews, issued 1,405 permits, and performed 14,008 inspections and applications to support the safe construction and operation of these systems. In addition, 173 complaints were investigated, and 61 enforcement actions were taken to address public concerns, support compliance, and help maintain a safe and healthy environment.

Environmental Laboratory in West Palm Beach

The Florida Department of Health’s Environmental Laboratory in West Palm Beach is certified to perform microbiological testing on water. Our trained staff analyzes samples for bacteriological contamination in drinking water, coastal water, and non-potable water. DOH-Palm Beach routinely monitors beach water for *Enterococci* bacteria, which is an indicator of fecal pollution. If these bacteria are present in high concentrations in coastal water and are ingested while swimming, or enter the skin through a cut or sore, they may cause human disease or infections. The laboratory also monitors for *E. coli* levels in recreational water, such as swimming ponds and lakes.

DOH-Palm Beach monitors drinking water for fecal contamination, analyzing for total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria. In 2025, the laboratory analyzed drinking water samples for limited use water systems, public water systems, private clients, clearance samples, and construction projects. Although groundwater is naturally clean and generally free of contaminants, contamination with microbes and chemicals can occur, which may cause people to become ill if the water is ingested. Illness may be severe or potentially fatal for those with a weakened immune system, the very young, or the elderly. DOH strongly recommends that private well owners be aware of these risks and test their water at least once a year.



Throughout 2025, a total of 1,820 samples were analyzed by the environmental laboratory in West Palm Beach. Of the total number of samples, 727 analyses were conducted on coastal water samples to ascertain *Enterococci* levels; among these, 38 samples required for resampling. Furthermore, 1,093 samples of drinking water were analyzed to detect the presence of total coliforms and *E. coli* bacteria. This dataset comprised 437 samples sourced from limited use public water systems and an additional 656 samples from private customers. Among the private samples, 132 requests for specialized sample collection were accommodated. A significant increase in sample analysis has been observed since 2022.

Air and Waste

Air Pollution Control

The Air and Waste Section provides permitting services within Palm Beach County to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. The county has 173 regulated facilities (155 minor and 18 major). In 2025, staff conducted 215 facility inspections, reviewed 109 air pollutant compliance tests and 302 visible emissions tests, and reviewed 381 compliance reports, such as continuous monitoring reports, semi-annual monitoring reports, annual operating reports, and statements of compliance reports. The program issued 22 air pollution permits, including construction, operation, and Title V operation permits.

The program monitored 336 regulated demolition/renovation asbestos projects and conducted 126 compliance inspections for these projects. A total of 68 air pollution-related complaints were investigated. Three open burning sites, related to residential and non-residential land-clearing activities, were authorized and inspected. The program collected \$41,350 from 14 enforcement actions, all of which were resolved through consent agreements.

Solid Waste

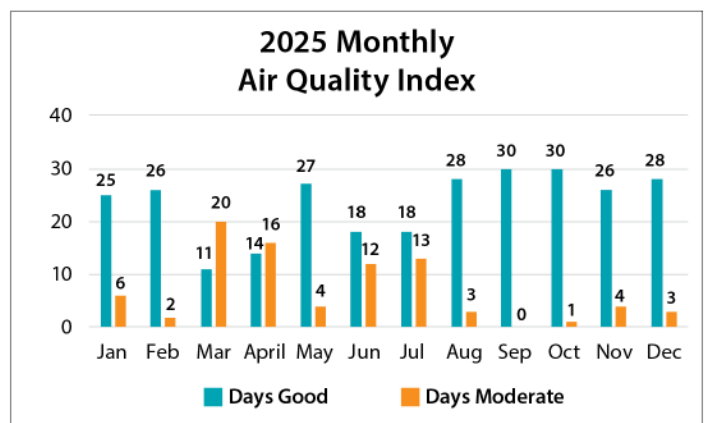
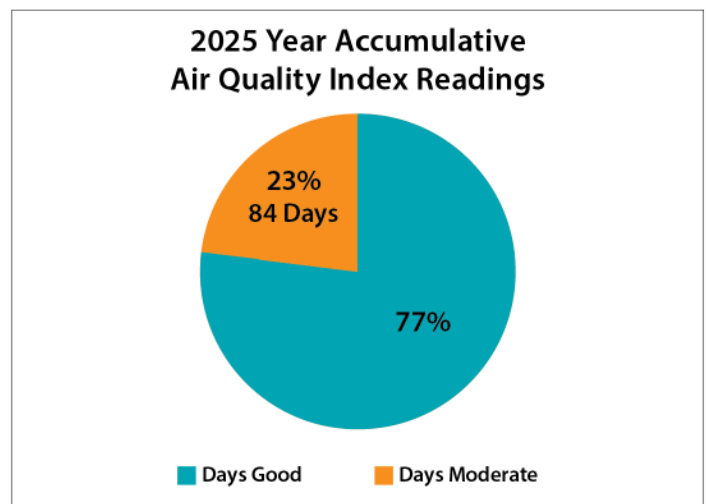
The Solid Waste Program regulates construction and demolition debris recycling facilities, yard trash processing facilities, landfills, and waste tire processing facilities. In 2025, the program monitored 57 regulated facilities. Staff conducted 57 facility inspections and responded to 15 solid waste-related complaints. DOH-Palm Beach issued two solid waste permits.

Disaster Debris Management

Disaster debris management sites function as intermediate staging areas between the initial removal and the disposal or recycling of storm-generated debris (e.g., vegetative debris, construction and demolition debris, white goods, vehicles, and vessels). A total of 47 preauthorization disaster debris management sites were reviewed in 2025.

Air Monitoring/Air Quality

The Air Monitoring Program operates four stations to monitor air quality in the county. The stations are located in Lantana, Royal Palm Beach, Delray Beach, and Belle Glade, to monitor the concentrations of fine particulate matter and ozone in ambient air. The air quality data for Palm Beach County in the first graph indicates the county was in the 'Good' range 77% of the year, and in the 'Moderate' range for the remaining 23%. The second



graph provides a breakdown of air quality by month. Data is collected hourly and reported to the [AirNOW.gov](https://airnow.gov) website for public viewing.

Biomedical Waste

The Biomedical Waste Program minimizes the risk posed by potentially infectious medical waste to health care workers, environmental services and waste-treatment personnel, transporters, and the public. The section regulates proper segregation, packaging, storage, transport, and treatment at permitted facilities. In 2025, staff conducted 3,763 routine inspections, and processed 648 applications, including 346 for new facilities, and responded to 11 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 permitted through County Ordinance 97-58. In 2025, staff conducted 719 inspections, processed 86 permit applications, and investigated one complaint.

Tattooing and Body Piercing

DOH-Palm Beach regulates body piercing and tattooing businesses to protect against infectious diseases. The regulation of these establishments, public education initiatives, and licensure of practitioners help 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 2025, 306 routine inspections were conducted for new and permitted tattoo and body piercing establishments; 63 new tattoo establishment applications were processed; three new body piercing salon applications were processed, 838 tattoo practitioner applications were processed, including 142 for new practitioners; and staff investigated 13 body art complaints.

Tanning Facilities

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 overexposure to non-ionizing (ultraviolet) radiation, but also to prevent communicable diseases associated with unsanitary conditions. A total of 54 routine inspections were conducted at all permitted facilities, six applications were processed, and staff investigated two tanning facility complaints.

Food and Facilities

The Food and Facilities Program includes the fundamental activities of community environmental health. Highlights of these activities include:

- Inspections, licensing, monitoring, and enforcement activities in food service operations in schools and colleges, assisted living facilities, adult day care centers, residential treatment facilities, detention facilities, civic and fraternal organizations, migrant labor camps, prescribed pediatric extended care centers, bars and lounges that do not prepare food, and theaters that limit their food service to items customarily served at theaters.
- Investigation of reports of foodborne illnesses in restaurants, grocery stores, assisted living facilities, schools, and other food service establishments.
- Inspections and monitoring of sanitation and safety at schools and colleges, adult family care homes, assisted living facilities, residential treatment facilities, and other residential facilities.
- Inspections, licensing, and monitoring of sanitation and safety at mobile home parks, recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, residential migrant labor housing, and migrant labor camps. The Florida Department of Health does not license non-hand-labor migrant housing camps; however, inspections are performed when requested by the U.S. Department of Commerce for camps housing workers under the H-2A visa program.
- Investigations of complaints from the public regarding allegations of sanitary nuisances and other health related issues across the county.

- In 2025, program staff performed 3,389 routine inspections in 1,671 facilities.
- The program hosted an national environmental public health intern, a student completing a Master of Public Health degree. Throughout the internship, the student shadowed and observed environmental public health inspectors across all program areas, gaining hands-on experience with routine inspections and field operations. As part of their special project, the intern developed a comprehensive curriculum for a food worker training program. This curriculum will support future education and outreach efforts by strengthening food safety knowledge among food service employees and contributing to improved public health outcomes.

Program	Abated	Invalid	Pending	Referred	Total
Communicable Disease (06)	0	0	0	0	0
Food Hygiene (48)	3	12	0	2	17
Group Care (51)	10	12	0	0	22
Migrant Labor (52)	1	0	0	0	1
Housing/Public Building (53)	1	1	0	0	2
Mobile Home/RV Park (54)	2	2	0	0	4

Zoonotic Disease

The program is responsible for monitoring, tracking, and reporting zoonotic diseases (such as, rabies and mosquito-borne diseases), and coordinates with local government partners (Palm Beach County Mosquito Control and Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control) to control their spread. This includes the use of sentinel chickens strategically located throughout Palm Beach County to monitor the presence of mosquito-borne diseases, known as arboviruses.

In 2025, the program:

- Tracked 66 cases of suspected vector-borne diseases in humans (dengue, Oropouche, chikungunya, and malaria) and referred them to mosquito-control authorities
- Sampled and analyzed blood serum from 64 sentinel chickens on a biweekly basis for the detection of arboviruses
- Generated and disseminated 52 weekly sentinel chicken arbovirus reports
- Worked with local animal control on rabies testing by providing 160 tissue specimens from 62 dogs, 43 cats, 44 raccoons, 3 bats, 3 squirrels, 2 opossums, 1 coyote, 1 skunk, and 1 bobcat
- Created and disseminated 15 zoonotic-disease reports summarizing 255 abstracted articles



MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

The Division of Maternal Child Health offers no-cost, voluntary nurse-home visiting programs for pregnant women and families with newborns in Palm Beach County. Programs are managed by DOH-Palm Beach 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, provides a cohesive system of care across the county. Healthy Beginnings aims to improve birth outcomes by providing access to direct health and social services for pregnant women whose chances of having a healthy baby may be affected by risk factors such 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, 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, and infant mortality. Nurses help families identify and mitigate 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 three 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.

After obtaining authorizations, staff receives, processes, and enters countywide Florida Healthy Start Prenatal and Infant Risk screens into various databases. The information is then retrieved by the Healthy Start Coalition and providers so that families can be linked to health and community resources in Palm Beach County.

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 is a home visit program offering a wide range of services to high-risk pregnant women at any gestational age, newborn to one year, and women of childbearing age who have experienced a pregnancy loss. Healthy Beginnings Nurses offers three programs: Prenatal Plus; Nurse Supporting Families—Prenatal and Infant; and Interconception Care. Services include case management, nutrition and breastfeeding guidance, and additional support referrals. Services support families by addressing risk factors to improve healthy births, support child development and safety, and strengthen relationships.

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

Women's Health Initiative is a home visiting program for English-speaking families residing in zip codes 33403, 33404, and 33407. Service is provided to expectant mothers during any stage of gestation, newborn to one year, and to mothers who have experienced pregnancy loss. The case management team includes a registered nurse, nutritionist, and mental health counselor. Services are delivered through a trauma-informed lens that recognizes the realities of the impact of stress during pregnancy and child-rearing. The program also provides monthly community education through partnerships with other Children's Services Council programs.

2025 Highlights

- 1,404 - Referrals Received (Prenatal and Infant)
- 85% - Clients Completed Services
- 26,344 - Florida Healthy Start Infant and Prenatal Risk Screens Conducted
- 14,545 - Florida Healthy Start Infant Risk Screens Conducted
- 11,799 - Florida Healthy Start Prenatal Risk Screens Conducted
- 10,080 - Face-to-face Visits Completed
- 5,040 - Educational Items Provided
- 65 - Community Engagement and Outreach Activities Completed

GENERAL SERVICES

In 2025, the approval, planning, and implementation for three capital improvement projects for DOH-Palm Beach were conducted. The 800 Clematis Street building serves as the administrative headquarters for public health services within the county and received two capital improvement projects.

The first was the replacement of the two existing chiller units that had provided air-conditioning service since June 2009 when the building was first constructed. The two new chillers were installed and are now providing service to the building. An advanced control system is scheduled for installation in 2026 and will provide upgraded air conditioning control, enhanced efficiency, and improved performance.

The second was a paint and seal project which is now underway. This was a much-needed project, as over time the South Florida weather conditions can cause paint fading and moisture intrusion. It is extremely important that the painting is maintained, and the building sealed against weather conditions and the inevitable tropical weather.

West Palm Beach Health Center received one capital improvement project to replace the roof. This is a critical investment that protects structural integrity, prevents costly water damage, and enhances energy efficiency. This project is set to begin in 2026 with an anticipated completion prior to hurricane season and the peak rainy months.

In addition to approved capital improvements, many upgrades took place and continue to occur throughout the facilities. As we move into 2026, these upgrades improve the operational ability and the ongoing sustainability of DOH-Palm Beach and the continued delivery of essential public health services.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

The Office of Public Health Preparedness responds to hazards to safeguard the well-being of residents in our community. Through strategic planning, resource allocation, and collaboration with partners, by using preventive measures, early detection, and rapid response, we mitigate the impact of public health emergencies and protect the most vulnerable populations.

In 2025, in coordination with members of the Hospital Emergency Response Coalition (HERC), DOH-Palm Beach participated in a controller-evaluated, full-scale exercise, "Operation Coastal Collision," to allow HERC participants to practice and validate existing health care plans, policies, and procedures regarding a mass casualty incident. The scenario involved a passenger train colliding with a fully occupied commuter bus at the grade crossing in downtown West Palm Beach. This exercise occurred in November and partnered with numerous county health care facilities, as well as several community partners, including Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Emergency

Management, Fire Rescue, Found Care, and Palm Beach County Medical Society. The Florida Department of Health, under our Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) duties, oversaw the Health and Medical Unit led by Lisa Vreeland.

In July and August, the team collaborated with the Community Immunization Services section for their annual back-to-school wellness event by training staff participants and assisting with the point of dispensing (POD) process.

The team continues to coordinate training with our partners to prepare DOH-Palm Beach and community partners for a wide range of hazards from biological incidents to explosive incidents. Many of these training courses are open to all county health department employees. Attendance by interested individuals is highly encouraged. For instance, “MGT 319—Medical Countermeasure: Point of Dispensing, Planning and Response” is one class we offer that we recommend all employees take to better understand how PODs operate. As always, our team continues to update and review plans to remain prepared for all hazards and to protect our residents.



SCHOOL HEALTH

The Palm Beach County School Health Program is a collaborative partnership between the DOH-Palm Beach (providing administrative oversight), School District of Palm Beach County, and Health Care District of Palm Beach County. The goal of the program is to promote student health through prevention, education, early intervention, and referral for acute or chronic health conditions.

Registered nurses train designees to provide safe medication administration in all schools, especially when or where a nurse may not be present. During the 2024–25 school year, the School Health Program staff included 148 nurses that oversaw 190,890 students in pre-K through 12th grade.

- More than 334,000 children health room visits conducted
- 7,228 students required medication administration or medical procedures

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

To avoid delays in school registration and education interruption, DOH-Palm Beach staff obtained immunization and exemption records from the state registry and updated the health data in the student information system for students to remain in compliance with school attendance. A review of 11,497 student health records from grades K through 12th found 92.2% met state health requirements.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Section demonstrated strong operational performance and exceptional team commitment throughout Fiscal Year 2025–26. Our focus on service quality, rapid resolution, and continuous improvement resulted in measurable achievements and organizational recognition.

Key Achievements

Quality Improvement Recognition

- Awarded second place in the quality improvement story board competition for initiatives that enhanced departmental workflows and service outcomes

Employee Excellence

- Employee of the Year: David Castlen, systems programmer II was recognized for outstanding dedication, technical expertise, and consistent delivery of high-quality support

Service Desk Performance

- Total IT Tickets Processed: 5,957
 - Average Customer Satisfaction Score: 4.8 out of 5
 - Average Resolution Time: 0.38 hours per request
- This rapid resolution rate highlights effective prioritization, teamwork, and optimized troubleshooting processes

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION: CLINICAL SERVICES

The Comprehensive Nutrition Program provides a variety of nutrition services for our community. Our primary role is to provide nutrition consultations to clients referred to from various clinics in DOH-Palm Beach, as well as by private practices within the community. We offer other services, including the Ryan White Therapeutic Nutrition Treatment Food Pantry, preceptorship for dietetic interns, staff wellness activities, and community presentations upon request. The program is staffed by registered and licensed dietitians/nutritionists (LDN/RDN).

The registered dietitians provide nutrition consultations using medical nutrition therapy, a plan of care that consists of four steps: nutrition assessment, nutrition diagnosis, nutrition intervention, and nutrition monitoring and evaluation. The goal of the therapy is to prevent or manage medical conditions using nutrition interventions. Clients are diagnosed by a health care provider, who refers them to the registered dietitian.

In 2025, the conditions referred by medical providers include: type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus, prediabetes, gestational diabetes, HIV, obesity, underweight, cardiovascular diseases, anemia, hyperlipidemia, Crohn's disease, irritable bowel syndrome, and chronic kidney disease. The registered dietitian educates the client on managing their condition using the appropriate nutrition plan.

As providers for the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County, the registered dietitians are credentialed with Medicare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ambetter, Clear Health, and Oscar. We obtain revenue from insurance reimbursements and self-pay clients. However, the program is primarily funded by general revenue, Title X Family Planning, and Ryan White HIV grants.

In October 2025, we were awarded a two-year grant by the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners to provide nutrition education to clients enrolled in the Palm Beach County Food Bank Food and Nutrition Program. The Program is a new venture between the Palm Beach County Food Bank and DOH-Palm Beach to address food and nutrition insecurity. Registered and licensed dietitians provide nutrition education in group classes at distribution sites or individual nutrition consultations. The only requirement for participation is to be a resident of Palm Beach County and to apply through the OSCARSS platform. Our goal is to reach at least 300 clients from all districts of Palm Beach

County. Our first session was held at the West Palm Beach Health Center on November 12, 2025. Data collected will include changes in nutrition program activities.

Our 2025 staffing consisted of two RDN/LDN senior public health nutritionists and one senior public health nutritionist supervisor. To expand our reach, the nutritionist team collaborated with physicians and APRNs, volunteer services, nursing, and administrative staff to provide clinical services. Telehealth enabled the nutritionist team to serve multiple sites. Most of our clients are referred by maternity services for high-risk consultations, HIV/AIDS program, and community partners, such as the Palm Beach County Health Care District.

In 2025, the number of consultations provided by nutritionists decreased by 29%, compared to 2024. We continue to provide nutrition education classes for the HIV program and the community. We provided public nutrition education sessions at the South Florida Fair. This year we reached 150 adults and children.

The Ryan White Therapeutic Nutrition Treatment Food Pantry addresses the chronic problems of food insecurity and hunger that are estimated to affect over 173,000 county residents ([PBCFoodBank.org](https://www.pbcfoodbank.org)). Part B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funds the distribution of groceries valued at up to \$90 per month for each participant. The grocery package includes coupons for purchasing fresh, canned, or frozen fruits and vegetables at local supermarkets, as well as nutrition education, storage guidelines, and recipes. The food pantry is recognized as a best practice by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The number of clients who received nutrition consultations and food pantry services decreased by 20%.

Nutrition services collaborated with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program to provide nutrition consultations to low-risk maternity clients. Maternity clients with acute or chronic medical conditions are still referred to nutrition services, while low-risk clients are referred to WIC. As expected, the number of consultations provided by nutrition services has decreased by 56%. The table below shows the difference from 2024 to 2025.

In addition to providing consultations, the nutritionists performed other activities, such as serving as preceptors for dietetic interns from coordinated dietetic internship programs and providing nutrition education to staff and the public. Below is a list of activities performed by the nutritionist team to enhance the health of our internal and external community.

Nutrition Activities and Community Presentations

- Hosted a nutrition table at South Florida Fair (150 attendees)
- Hosted a children’s nutrition table at Head Start (40 attendees)
- TLJ Medical Society Back-to-School Fair (150 attendees)
- First Food and Nutrition Program event held at the West Palm Beach Health Center
- Group session topic: MyPlate for a Balanced Meal (16 attendees)
- FNP meal-planning group session, WPB (6 attendees)

Employee Wellness

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

- Let’s Move Campaign (sponsored by Digital VibeZ and Palm Health Foundation), participants received t-shirts, and winners received a prize (25 participated)
- National Nutrition Month presentation and activity at Delray monthly staff meeting on heart health, in partnership with WIC registered dietitians (30 attendees)
- Virtual Lunch-and-Learn for Nutrition Month, DOH-Palm Beach staff (10 attendees)
- “What We Do” presentation for WIC, all-staff meeting at Clayton Hutchinson (80+ attendees)
- Virtual Hypervitaminosis Grand Rounds, DOH-Palm Beach staff (24 attendees)

Service	2024	2025
Nutrition assessment and/or counseling sessions	3,111	2,185
Number of clients	1,646	1,608
Case management (minutes)	6,451	4,777
Nutrition Education classes (AHA-Mini Grant -HIV)	9	4
Attendees	29	22
Community and/or employee wellness presentations, food and nutrition programs	8	6
Attendees	449	414
HIV nutrition assessment and/or counseling	1,394	1,104
Food	1,346	1,068
Supplements	671	546
Maternity clients served	945	414

CLINICAL SERVICES

The Division of Clinical Services provides comprehensive nutrition, laboratory, family planning, immunization, and additional support services.

Medical care is provided by highly skilled physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, licensed dietitians, and technicians. Staff members perform their roles with integrity and respect. Programs are designed to serve the entire community while also meeting the individual needs of each patient.

Services and programs available through the clinics include family planning, gynecology services, prenatal and postnatal care, HIV/ AIDS testing and medical care, sexually transmitted infection screening and treatment, tuberculosis screening and treatment, immunizations for children and adults, nutrition services, dietary counseling, refugee health care, civil surgeon examinations, and on-site laboratory services.



In 2025, the Division of Clinical Services served 27,678 individuals across a total of 89,794 visits.

Services Expanded to Better Serve

Through seven health center locations, DOH-Palm Beach served over 27,000 clients in 2025 providing 1,814,959 services.

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		✓					
Dental (Infectious Disease)						✓	
Family Planning	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Gynecology	✓	✓			✓		✓
Health Education	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
HIV AIDS Medical Care	✓	✓	✓				✓
HIV STD Screening and Prevention	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Immunizations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laboratory Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prenatal and Postnatal Care	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Maternity Centering Pregnancy®		✓			✓		
Nutrition Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Overseas Immunizations					✓		
PEPW (Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for Pregnant Women)	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Refugee Program						✓	✓
Ryan White Referral Services	✓	✓	✓				✓
Sterilization Referrals	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
STD Screening and Treatment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TB Treatment		✓	✓				
TB Screening and Testing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Volunteer Services							
Centralized Appointment Line	561-625-5180						
Other Services							
WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
	561-357-6007 or 877-693-6703						

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION

Big Brother Big Sister — Inlet Grove High School

Ten students in the medical/LPN program were mentored monthly by DOH-Palm Beach staff. Four students earned their licensed practical nurse credentials before age 18. Students also received awards and a scholarship. DOH-Palm Beach mentors included Reginald Brown, Karen McClintock, Merlene Ramnon, and Inez Williams.

Child Abuse Death Review (CADR)

The CADR committee reviews child deaths (ages 0-18) to identify preventable factors and recommend improvements. Meetings occur monthly and include representatives from medical, child welfare, mental health, and community agencies. Closed sessions follow Florida law to protect confidential information.

Diabetes Prevention

The in-person Diabetes Prevention Program at ARC South, funded by Special Olympics, enrolled 16 participants with intellectual and physical disabilities. Sessions occurred weekly, biweekly, and monthly over a year, focusing on healthy lifestyle changes led by a certified lifestyle coach.

Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

FIMR reviewed 15 fetal deaths for ages 20 weeks or less and 21 infant deaths less than a year in age. Highest impacts were in ZIP codes 33426 and 33407, with disproportionate losses among Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Black families.

Community Action Group

- Increase community awareness and use of maternal/infant resources
- Evaluate community impact using FIMR surveys

Medical Contributing Factors

Limited or delayed prenatal care
Prematurity-related complication
Substance use
Mental health concerns
Poor monitoring/understanding of symptoms
High risk pregnancy complications poorly managed

Social Contributing Factors

Unsafe sleep environments
Delays in seeking emergency care
Barriers to access health care
Social stressors
Communication challenges between parents and providers
Inadequate documentation or follow-up
Unsafe supervision or accidents

The team attended more than 20 outreach events and continues efforts to improve maternal health, access to care, and social determinants.

Health Education Liaison Program

Partnership with American Heart Association to educate on metabolic syndrome
Collaboration with United Way on hunger relief initiatives

Healthiest Communities Program

Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care supports healthy eating and physical activity in childcare settings, serving 1,904 children across 31 centers. Activities included childcare support, community outreach, and faith-based heart health education.

South Florida Fair 2025

The Community Health Team staffed the DOH-Palm Beach booth, providing health education and resources during the fair's "Imagine the Future" theme event.



Swim Lesson Voucher Program

Provides free swimming lessons for eligible children under age 5 in low-income households, with priority for autistic children and military families. Palm Beach County distributed 145 vouchers in FY 2024/25 and 174 in FY 2025/26 (as of March 2026), with seven approved vendors.

Tobacco Free Florida Program

Activities included college and high school outreach, SWAT youth recruitment, vaping prevention education, and a statewide youth advocacy conference. Partnerships expanded cessation education and supported movement toward tobacco-free campuses.

Outreach Events

Attended more than 50 county-wide events across diverse communities and organizations.

Brain Health Conference

Attended sessions on memory loss detection, dementia risk, and Alzheimer’s research, with wellness activities and community engagement.



South University: School of Nursing

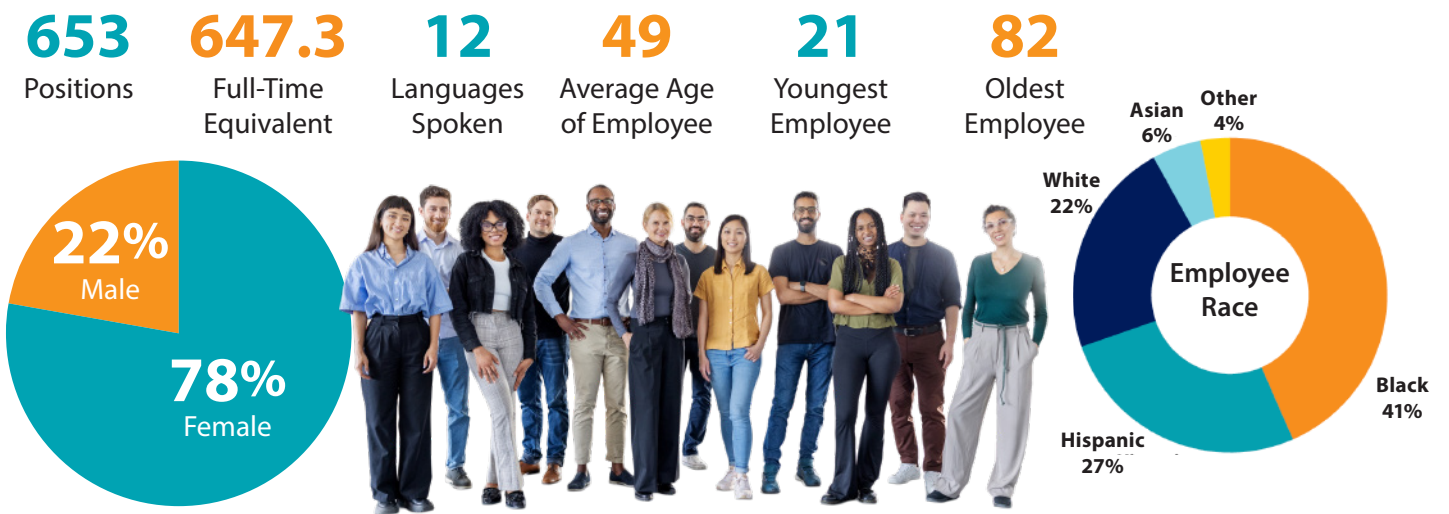


4th Annual Conference for the Comprehensive Center for Brain Health and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

PERSONNEL LIAISON, SAFETY LOSS PREVENTION, AND PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE

The Personnel Liaison, Safety Loss Prevention, and Performance Excellence Office is responsible for overseeing personnel actions and related matters, as well as providing support to employees and supervisors. It ensures the effective implementation and operation of the Safety Loss Prevention Program and promotes a culture of continuous performance improvement.

The office oversees worker’s compensation and employee incidents, ensuring that issues are addressed appropriately and that preventive measures are implemented. Additionally, it ensures that safety committees are established and function properly, meeting periodically in accordance with policy. The office fosters innovation, collaboration, and shared accountability across all programs. It promotes quality improvement initiatives across the organization, providing training opportunities and tools to support and strengthen the pursuit of excellence. During 2025, the office managed more than 3,000 personnel processes, including recruitment, classification, professional license compliance, and more.



Performance Excellence Initiatives

DOH-Palm Beach hosted the Quality Improvement Storyboard Showcase, highlighting staff-led initiatives focused on strengthening operations and enhancing service delivery to better support the community. Community partners served as guest judges, promoting transparency and strengthening collaboration. Following the review process, three storyboards were selected for recognition, with winners announced in December 2025.

*First Place: Sexual Transmitted Infection
STI Staff: Guadalupe Mendez, Cameron Rivas, and Joseph Whiting*

*Second Place: Information Technology
IT Staff: Eric Kelly Sr., and Ivan Zyrianov*

*Third Place: School Health
Staff: Kara Cecchini, Brenda Galie, and Karen McClintoc*

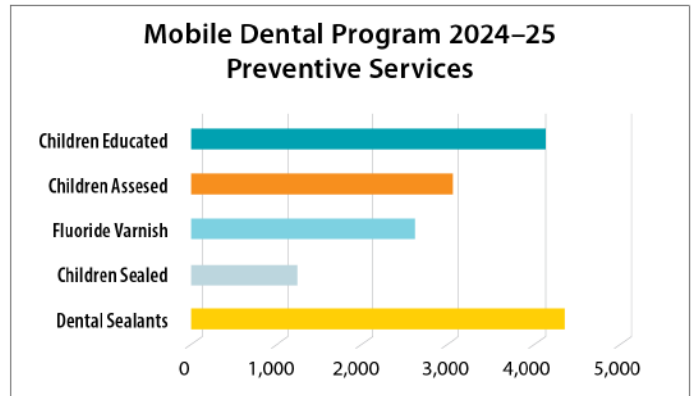


DENTAL HEALTH

The program works to reduce the oral disease burden in underserved school-aged children, and adults living with HIV in Palm Beach County.

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

During the 2024-25 academic year, the mobile program worked in schools with high percentages of low-income families, offering dental sealants, fluoride varnish, oral health assessments, and oral health education to children in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades. Oral health education was delivered in classrooms to increase reach. A total of 105 students with urgent dental needs were referred to emergency care. Figure 1 summarizes outputs.



The mobile program provided 816 dental assessments and 742 fluoride varnish treatments for children enrolled in Head Start and other countywide programs. Since its inception in 1997, the mobile program has screened nearly 46,673 students and provided more than 112,478 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 2025, this program provided 6,976 dental services to 382 adults living with HIV across 1,957 scheduled visits.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN

This federal special supplemental nutrition program provides nutrition education, healthy foods, breastfeeding support, and health care referrals to eligible pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children under age 5. In Palm Beach County, the WIC Program continues to demonstrate a strong public health impact, all while maintaining steady client participation across its service sites.

In 2025, the DOH-Palm Beach's WIC program strengthened maternal and child health by expanding access to nutritious foods, breastfeeding support, and nutrition education. The local agency also enhanced service delivery by extending hours at the Jupiter WIC site, updating the approved WIC food list, and introducing self-service registration kiosks to streamline the in person check in process. Updated food packages and stable clinic operations supported thousands of families across Palm Beach County.

WIC 2025

- Enrollment: 35,605
- 6 WIC locations including two stand-alone sites
- Participants redeemed \$37,115,745 in benefits
- 144 WIC approved vendors in Palm Beach County
- 15% of WIC infants were fully breastfed
- Completed breastfeeding needs assessment

WIC Food Updates

Florida WIC, including all DOH-Palm Beach WIC sites, updated its approved food list to begin aligning with the new USDA's WIC food package regulations. These changes were designed to help families, retailers, and clinics transition smoothly to stronger nutrition standards, including expanded wholegrain options, updated infant feeding guidelines, and revised milk allowances. As part of this statewide update, Florida added foods that meet the new federal nutrition criteria, removed items that no longer qualify, and adjusted food package categories for pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and breastfeeding parents. The federal rules now require that at least 75% of WIC approved cereals list a whole grain as the first ingredient, and Florida's October 2025 update reflects this by adding more whole grain first cereals and discontinuing those that no longer meet the requirement. The revisions also modernized milk allowances and expanded acceptable milk alternatives. For Palm Beach County WIC families, this meant the addition of fortified plant-based milk options, updated milk quantities based on age and breastfeeding status, and coordinated work with local retailers to ensure benefits load and scan correctly at checkout.

WIC Registration Kiosks

This addition has been a major step forward in making appointments faster, smoother, and more convenient for families. This upgrade modernizes the way participants register when they arrive at a WIC clinic and creates a more welcoming, efficient experience.

The WIC kiosks allow families to check in independently and confirm their appointment details without waiting in long lines. For many parents juggling work, childcare, and transportation, this small change makes a big difference. The AI enabled Willow kiosks also reduce paperwork, cut down on manual data entry, and help staff focus more on personalized support rather than administrative tasks.

Participants benefit from clearer instructions, shorter wait times, and a more private, stress-free way to complete the first steps of their visit. The system is user-friendly, available in multiple languages, and designed to guide families through the process at their own pace. According to client feedback, the WIC kiosks make registration feel less intimidating and more accessible.

Overall, adding kiosks to WIC's in person registration enhances the entire clinic experience — speeding up check-ins, improving accuracy, and giving families a smoother, modernized way to access services.

Palm Beach WIC	2020	2024	2025	Change
Enrollment	32,182	36,956	35,605	-1351 (-3.66%)
Participation	30,157	33,671	32,687	-964 (-2.92%)
Unduplicated Count	44,499	51,130	49,768	-1362 (-2.66%)
% of Eligible Served	76%	98.50%	97.10%	-1.4% decrease

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION

A major grant-funded initiative of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) supports Florida in implementing prevention activities and in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and timely data on non-fatal and fatal overdoses and in using those data to strengthen 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 DOH-Palm Beach for the next five years.

DOH-Palm Beach has contracted with the Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) to conduct prevention, education, outreach, and coordination of community-based partner efforts. Community-based partners include Living Skills 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, Rebel Recovery, T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society, and Trinity Counseling Center.

Through these partnerships and our community-based prevention work, OD2A accomplishments include:

- Distributed 17,645 naloxone doses and fentanyl test strips in the community
- 10,118 overdose-prevention intervention encounters
- 20,119 drug-related encounters involving individuals at the highest risk of overdose across 20 unique ZIP codes
- Distributing more than 15,000 educational materials and resources
- 2,310 linkages to care, connecting individuals to treatment and services
- Created and distributed educational handouts
- Clients are also linked to services and/or care or receive referrals to recovery services, shower-truck access, meal distribution sites, homeless outreach, medication for opioid use disorder, etc.
- Community health advocates from the Health Council of Southeast Florida Department of Health, Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network, and Trinity Counseling Center participated in targeted outreach efforts within identified vulnerable ZIP codes across the county
- Connected with individuals through combined outreaches conducted at convenience stores, apartment complexes, public libraries, college campuses, homeless shelters, etc.
- As of August 2025, Rebel Recovery had 300 drug-checking and paraphernalia results received from the University of North Carolina Street Drug Analysis Lab:
 - ◊ 73% of drug-checking participants in the follow-up survey reported that the results encouraged them to continue testing
 - ◊ 89% reported they would change their use behaviors for safety after receiving results
 - ◊ 88% expressed interest in receiving more education about overdose-prevention strategies
- Palm Beach County Fire Rescue executed strong linkage-to-care activities in emergency departments, residential settings, and through remote communication, with a focus on direct referral to medication for opioid use disorder. In June 2025, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue achieved a 45% success rate in linking patients directly to care.
- The Palm Beach County Health Care District maintains a robust pipeline for connecting high-risk individuals to care through structured coordination and emergency department integration. Nine health care district care coordinators consistently managed high patient volumes, serving 268 and 885 individuals per month. Linkage efforts focused on a comprehensive care model including outpatient/inpatient treatment, medication assisted treatment, and peer counseling.
- Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition and Living Skills in the Schools reached over 7,000 students, 100 parents, and nearly 1,000 community members through prevention and awareness activities.

Overdose Surveillance

Collecting and analyzing data on non-fatal and fatal overdoses provides information about trends, hotspots, and risk factors, and focuses on the social/environmental factors that affect a person’s health and health outcomes. The OD2A surveillance staff integrates data from seven sources, including hospital emergency department records, EMS, medical examiner’s office/vital statistics, and poison control to better understand the overdose and substance use disorder crisis through a whole-person perspective.

Questions that guide this work include: Who is experiencing an overdose and why? What strategies can prevent, treat, and support overdose prevention and aid recovery? What gaps exist in services? What policies should be implemented/adopted?

The OD2A program launched a publicly accessible overdose data dashboard, an innovative tool designed to provide critical insights into emergency room overdose data. OD2A information on our website at [PalmBeach.FloridaHealth.gov/OD2A](https://www.palmbeach.floridahealth.gov/OD2A) features detailed annual reports with analysis of shifting demographics and social factors affecting community health, along with links to community-based partners.

Overdoses in Palm Beach County, 2019–2025

Overall Trends

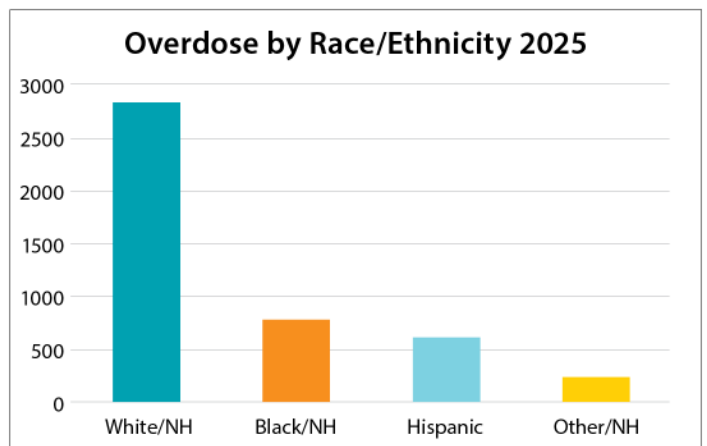
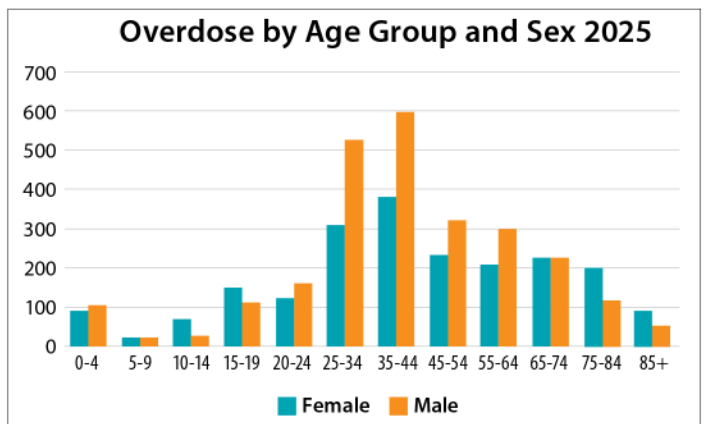
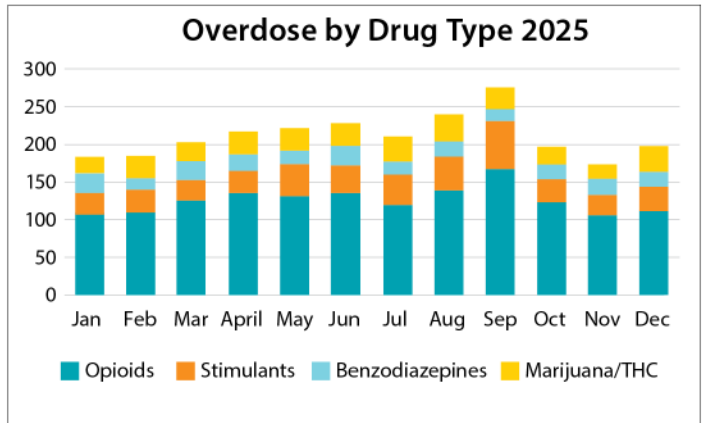
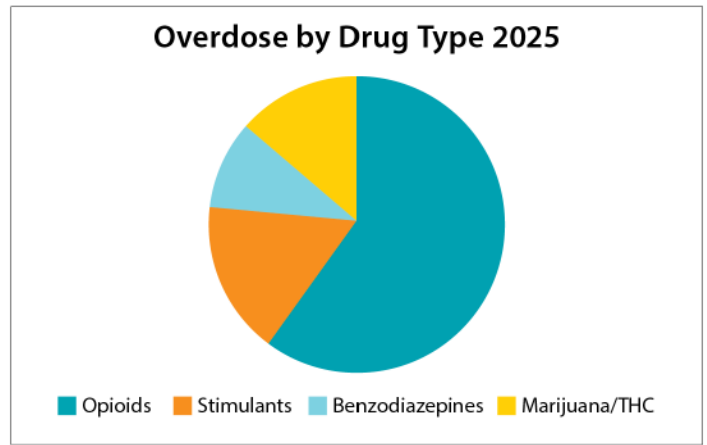
- Overdose deaths have decreased for four consecutive years
- Both EMS and emergency department overdose visits continue to decline

2025 Overdose Data

- Emergency department cases: 4,305 suspected overdoses (18% decrease from 2024)
- Emergency medical system cases: 3,871 suspected overdoses (10% decrease from 2024)

Substance Breakdown

- Opioids remain the most common substance involved (1,516 cases), compared to stimulants, benzodiazepines, and marijuana/THC, each ranging from 300–500 cases



Sex and Age Distribution

- The largest gaps occur in the 25-34 and 35-44 age groups, with males significantly outnumbering females (531 vs. 312 for ages 25-34; 601 vs. 384 for ages 35-44)
- In middle-aged groups (45-64), males still outnumber females, but the gap narrows with age

Hospital emergency department data for suspected drug overdoses are collected through the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics in Florida (ESSENCE-FL). All overdoses are classified as suspected and have not been individually verified. These data include all drug types: illicit drugs, prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, and other substances, unless otherwise specified.

HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

The county's HIV Program is implementing Ending the Epidemic: A Plan for America, which aims 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 and provide prevention and treatment services

The chart below provides county summary data for 2024, the most recent year available.

- 26.8% increase in newly diagnosed HIV cases, from 269 to 341; a 35.8% increase in new AIDS cases, from 137 to 186; and a 75% increase in HIV-related deaths, from 28 to 49.
- Blacks represent the highest number of persons with HIV: 58% Blacks, 22% Whites, and 19% Hispanics. There was a 6% increase in HIV diagnoses for Blacks in 2024, but a 4% and a 1% decrease in new HIV diagnoses for Whites and Hispanics, respectively
- Most common mode of HIV transmission is heterosexual contact (64%), followed by male-to-male sexual contact (35%)

	2022	2023	2024	Trend
Population	1,519,461	1,538,719	1,554,160	+1.0%
People with HIV (prevalence)	8,894	8,968	9,175	+2.3%
New Diagnosed HIV Cases	292	269	341	+26.8%
New Diagnosed AIDS Cases	147	137	186	+35.8%
HIV-Related Deaths	40	28	49	+75%
New Perinatal HIV Cases	1	0	0	0.00%

We continue to make significant strides with pediatric HIV/AIDS cases and perinatal HIV transmission. A total of 39 HIV-exposed babies were delivered in 2024 with zero mother-to-child transmissions. Staff work to link patients to care, confirm existing care, and facilitate services for expectant mothers in clinics and hospitals countywide.

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 issues

The bar graph shows 2024 HIV care continuum data. Of the 9,175 individuals with HIV in the county, 76% were in medical care during 2024, 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 67% of those treated experienced a suppressed HIV viral load with less than 200 viral copies/mL.

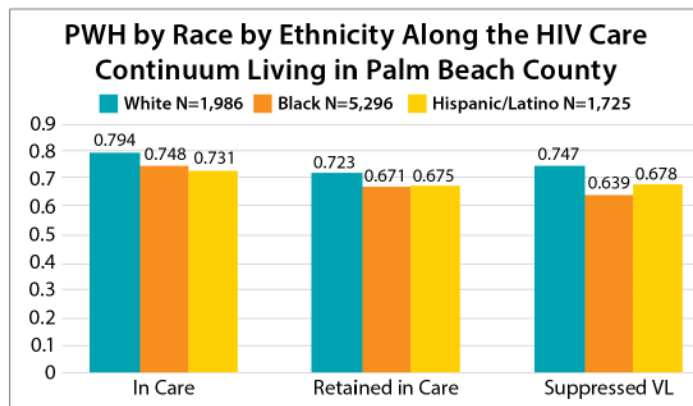
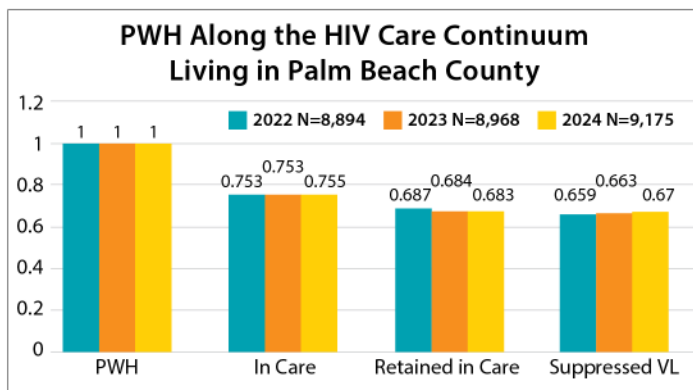
Among the 341 persons diagnosed with HIV in 2024, the care continuum displayed 94%, 77%, and 68%, respectively. Statewide, the care continuum profile for newly diagnosed HIV is 90%, 73% and 69%, respectively. We also monitor the timeliness of our ability to link clients to medical care, and in 2024 we linked 48% of persons newly diagnosed to medical care within seven days, 85% were linked to care within 30 days, and 94% linked to care within 90 days. In 2023, our timeliness linkage achievements were 49%, 80%, and 91%, 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 individuals with HIV know their 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 individuals with HIV 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 and Resilience (ROAR), an evidence-based therapeutic intervention for clients and the community. Through this intensive one-on-one approach, we empower clients to shift from living reactive to proactive lives, instilling within them a greater sense of purpose, identity, and self-value.



VITAL STATISTICS

Resident Deaths by Leading Causes of Death by Year

CAUSES OF DEATH	Resident Deaths 2025 (provisional)
Acute Bronchitis and Bronchiolitis (J20-J21)	1
Alzheimer's Disease (G30)	286
Anemias (D50-D64)	30
Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection (I71)	57
Appendix Diseases (K35-K38)	4
Atherosclerosis (I70)	15
Cerebrovascular Diseases (I60-I69)	1,476
Cholelithiasis and Other Gallbladder Disorders (K80-K82)	29
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis (K70, K73-K74)	202
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases (J40-J42, J43, J44, J45-J46, J47)	632
Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00-Q99)	41
COVID-19 (U07.1)	53
Diabetes Mellitus (E10-E14)	383
Essential Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal Disease (I10, I12, I15)	171
Female Pelvic Organ Inflammatory Diseases (N70-N76)	2
Heart Diseases (I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51)	3,791
Hernia (K40-K46)	21
Homicide (U01-U02, X85-Y09, Y87.1)	68
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Disease (B20-B24)	40
Hyperplasia of Prostate (N40)	5
In Situ, Benign and Uncertain or Unknown Behavior Neoplasms (D00-D48)	108
Influenza and Pneumonia (J09-J11, J12-J18)	218
Kidney Infections (N10-N12, N13.6, N15.1)	3
Malignant Neoplasm (Cancer) (C00-C97)	3,135
Medical and Surgical Care Complications (Y40-Y84, Y88)	15
Meningitis (G00, G03)	2
Meningococcal Infection (A39)	1
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis (N00-N07, N17-N19, N25-N27)	236
Nutritional Deficiencies (E40-E64)	34
Other Causes of Death	2,643
Parkinson's Disease (G20-G21)	293
Peptic Ulcer (K25-K28)	15

CAUSES OF DEATH	Resident Deaths 2025 (provisional)
Perinatal Period Conditions (P00-P96)	34
Pneumoconioses and Chemical Effects (J60-J66, J68, U07.0)	3
Pneumonitis Due to Solids and Liquids (J69)	78
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (O00-O99)	5
Septicemia (A40-A41)	101
Suicide (U03, X60-X84, Y87.0)	216
Unintentional Injury (V01-X59, Y85-Y86)	893
Viral Hepatitis (B15-B19)	5

VITAL STATISTICS	2024	2025
Number of Marriages by Year	10,384	10,522
Resident Infant Deaths	93	76
Resident Fetal Deaths	100	99
Number of Dissolutions by Year	4,158	3,960
Resident Births	14,919	14,617
Population by Count by Year	1,554,160	1,571,812

All numbers are provisional

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