



PALM BEACH COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL HEALTH PROFILE
2010

Guiding Principles

Mission

The Mission of the Palm Beach County Health Department is:
To protect and promote the health of all residents and visitors in Palm Beach County.

Our Mission articulates the purpose of our organization; it is the reason for the existence of the Palm Beach County Health Department.

Vision

The Vision of the Florida Department of Health is:
A healthier future for the people of Florida

To support the DOH Vision, the staff of the Palm Beach County Health Department are committed to being “Champions For The Healthiest Community In the Nation.” Our Vision statement defines what we want to achieve. It provides guidance and direction in fulfilling the Mission.

Our Values

Our values shaped the Goals found in our Strategic Plan, and guide us in working to achieve our them.

Accountability. Our actions will reflect taking full responsibility for our behavior and performance. Accountability is achieved by continuous improvement, performance measurement, setting clear expectations and goals, and focusing on outcomes.

Customer Centered. We dedicate ourselves to provide excellent services without bias. We focus on care and understanding of each other by being adaptive and flexible to meet the needs and exceed the expectations of our internal and external customers.

Diversity. We strive through our daily activities to create an environment where all people and cultures are respected. We accept, understand, and celebrate our differences in ideas and practices. Our actions will reflect cultural sensitivity to maintain the dignity of our staff and the populations we serve.

Empowerment. We create a culture that encourages people to exercise their judgment and initiative in pursuit of organizational goals. Empowerment is the opportunity to contribute and participate in decision making. We will achieve empowerment through sharing information, improving processes, providing training and resources, responding to staff concerns, and focusing on results.

Ethical Behavior. Our behavior and actions will reflect our moral and professional principals. We practice Ethical Behavior to make fair and honest decisions with confidence and to uphold the public trust. Ethical Behavior is achieved by doing the right thing, at the right time, all the time.

Excellence. We strive for excellence by promoting a culture of continuous improvement, outstanding customer service, and growth as an innovative learning organization. We are committed to developing a workforce that is competent, motivated, and empowered.

Honesty & Fairness. We promote honesty and fairness at all times through open communication with each other, community partners, and customers. Consistent, equitable enforcement of agency policies establishes trust with each other to ensure that we all are treated fairly.

Leadership. Leadership forms the basis for success in achieving our Mission and living our Vision and Values. We all have a role in creating a supportive, encouraging, and motivating environment. We will achieve leadership through embracing change, being visionary, and involving others in the decision-making process.

Teamwork. We, PBCHD employees, commit to actively collaborate with each other and our community partners to build relationships, solve problems, make decisions, and deliver services to achieve our Mission. We will foster an environment of open communication, continuous learning, and participatory problem solving.

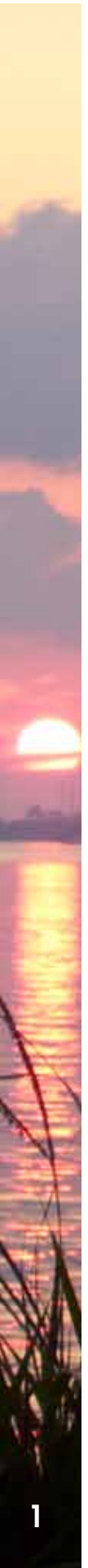


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director's Message	3
Health Status Indicators.....	3-7
Palm Beach County Demographics	
What's Killing Us	
Who Reports Good Overall Health	
Risk Factors for Premature Death	
Mortality Rates	
Diseases and Leading Causes of Death	
Health Conditions and Behavioral Risks	
Vital Statistics.....	8
Finance & Accounting	8
Health Centers	9-11
Vaccination Efforts	
Homeless Outreach	
Dental Public Health Division.....	11-12
Epidemiology	12-15
Reportable Diseases/Conditions	
Investigations	
ESSENCE Disease Surveillance	
Communicable Disease	15-17
Sexually Transmitted Disease Program	
HIV/AIDS Program	
Tuberculosis Investigations/Prevention/Treatment	
Environmental Public Health.....	18-22
Zoonotic Diseases Surveillance/Prevention	
Air & Waste Section	
Child Care Facilities	
Healthy Homes	
Lead Monitoring	
Water Programs	
Community and School Health Division.....	22-26
Quality Improvement	
Strategic Plan	
County Health Ranking	
Healthy Communities	
Customer Service	
Teen Pregnancy	
Tobacco Prevention	
School Health	
The Value of the School Nurse	26-27
Office of Public Health Preparedness	27-28
Cities Readiness Initiative	
Preparedness through Practice	
H1N1 Pandemic	
Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency.....	28
Women's Health Initiative	29
Nurse Family Partnership	
WIC Women Infants & Children	29-31
Community Nutrition	
Public Information	32
Newsworthy	
Acreage Investigation	
What's Ahead	

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.” *Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870), A Tale of Two Cities*

As I reflect back upon this year’s Annual Health Profile, I see incredible commitment from the thousands of dedicated employees who come to work every day to silently promote, protect and improve the health and lives of all residents in Palm Beach County. Together, we have faced incredible challenges and embraced countless opportunities. The richness of our diverse community and abundance of resources demands a higher sense of responsibility for all in leadership. The Palm Beach County Health Department’s long history of being the visionary leader in Public Health is more necessary than ever before.

The Palm Beach County Health Department has been a model public health agency since 1948 and is continuously evolving to go beyond the expectations of our customer’s needs and meet the demands that only Public Health can provide. As public servants, the employees of this department will work with our stakeholders towards planning a better and healthier community. It is with pride that I present the highlights of the past year and an overview of the organization’s many programs showcasing the services, performance and impact we provide as “Champions for the Healthiest Community in the Nation.”

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



Health Status Indicators

Demographics: Palm Beach County, FL

Population size	1,320,134
Population density (people per square mile)	668.7
Individuals living below poverty level.....	14.4%

Age distribution

Under Age 18.....	21.0%
Age 65-84	21.5%

Race/Ethnicity

White	73.5%
Black.....	17.3%
American Indian.....	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.5%
Hispanic /Latino.....	19%

Language Other than English Spoken.....	25.8%
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Source: US Census, 2010

What’s Killing Us

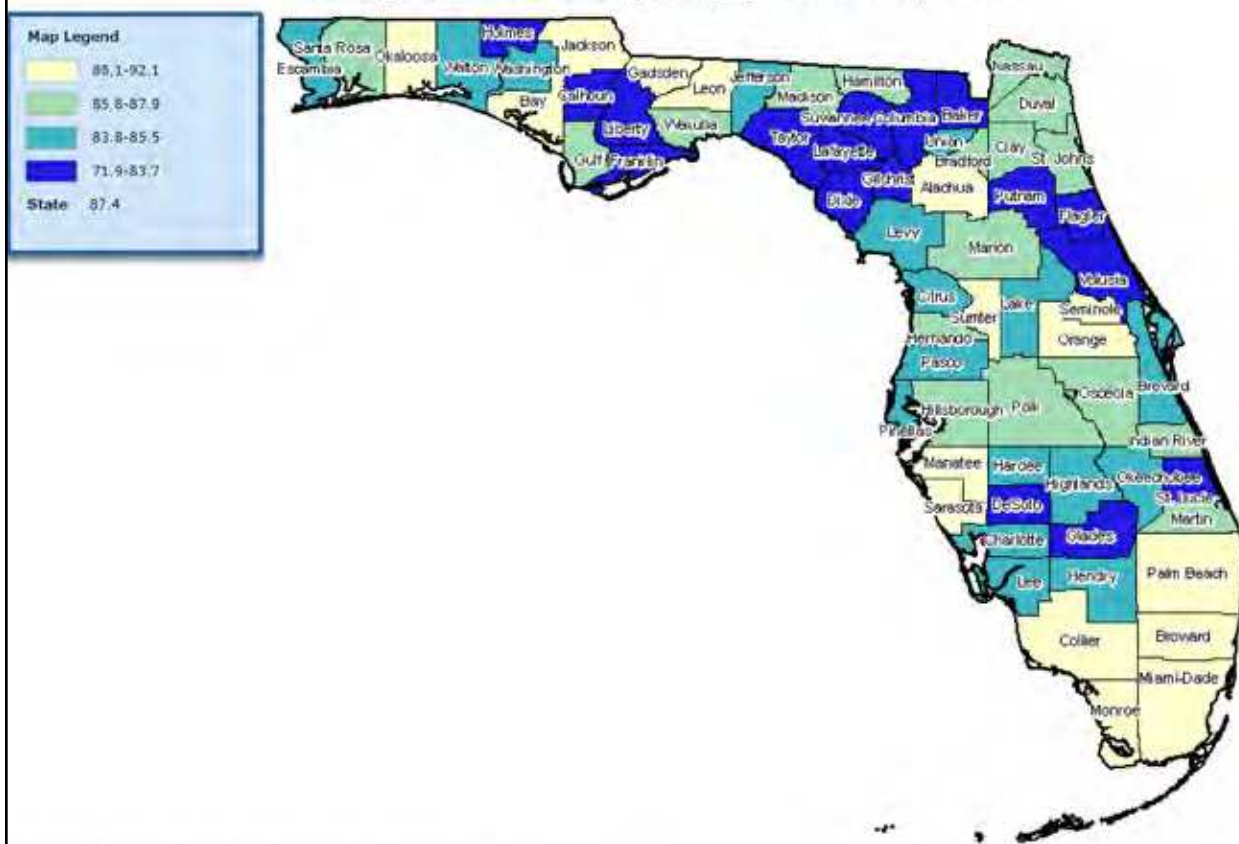
The positive effects of not smoking, eating healthy foods, getting some exercise, and limiting alcohol intake means a longer life. A new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that Americans who practiced all four of these healthy behaviors were 63 percent less likely to die early than those who practiced none of them.

Calling the healthy behaviors a “powerful protective effect on mortality,” the CDC researchers said the healthiest people never smoke or drink more than two drinks a day for men and one a day for women. They eat a healthy diet and exercise regularly and vigorously. Conversely, engaging in any of the unhealthy behaviors increased the likelihood of dying early. And that likelihood increased like a stair step as two, three or all four unhealthy behaviors were adopted.

Percentage of adults with good physical health

	2010 County			2010 State			2007 County
	Measure	95%	CI	Measure	95%	CI	Measure
Overall	88.1	84.1	92.0	87.4	86.6	88.2	88.8
Men	89.2	83.0	95.4	88.4	87.2	89.6	88.5
Women	87.0	82.1	92.0	86.5	85.5	87.4	89.2
RACE/ETHNICITY Non-Hisp. White	90.3	86.9	93.7	87.0	86.2	87.8	88.3
Non-Hisp. Black	76.2	56.8	95.5	87.6	84.6	90.5	91.8
Hispanic				89.9	87.6	92.3	89.1
SEX BY RACE/ETHNICITY Non-Hisp. White Men	93.5	88.9	98.2	87.8	86.6	89.1	87.9
Non-Hisp. White Women	87.3	82.4	92.1	86.2	85.2	87.3	88.6
Non-Hisp. Black Men				86.6	81.5	91.7	
Non-Hisp. Black Women	82.3	60.4	00.0	88.3	84.9	91.8	
Hispanic Men				93.4	89.8	96.9	
Hispanic Women				86.7	83.7	89.7	
AGE GROUP 18-44	92.4	85.1	99.6	92.4	91.2	93.6	92.9
45-64	86.3	78.9	93.6	85.0	83.7	86.4	85.1
65 & Older	85.9	81.5	90.3	83.8	82.6	84.9	87.1
EDUCATION LEVEL <High School				78.5	75.2	81.9	
H.S. / GED	87.7	80.1	95.4	83.9	82.3	85.6	81.1
Post High School	88.3	83.6	92.9	89.7	88.9	90.6	91.4
ANNUAL INCOME <\$25,000	78.7	67.3	90.1	76.1	74.0	78.2	83.0
\$25,000-\$49,999	83.5	72.8	94.2	88.1	86.5	89.7	90.4
\$50,000 or More	91.9	87.1	96.7	93.3	92.4	94.2	90.3
MARITAL STATUS Married/Couple	90.6	86.4	94.9	89.5	88.7	90.4	89.8
Not Married/Couple	83.3	75.3	91.3	83.5	82.0	85.0	87.0

Percentage of Adults with good physical health, 2010



Data source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology

Data notes: Data compiled from the Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS).

Health Status & Quality of Life

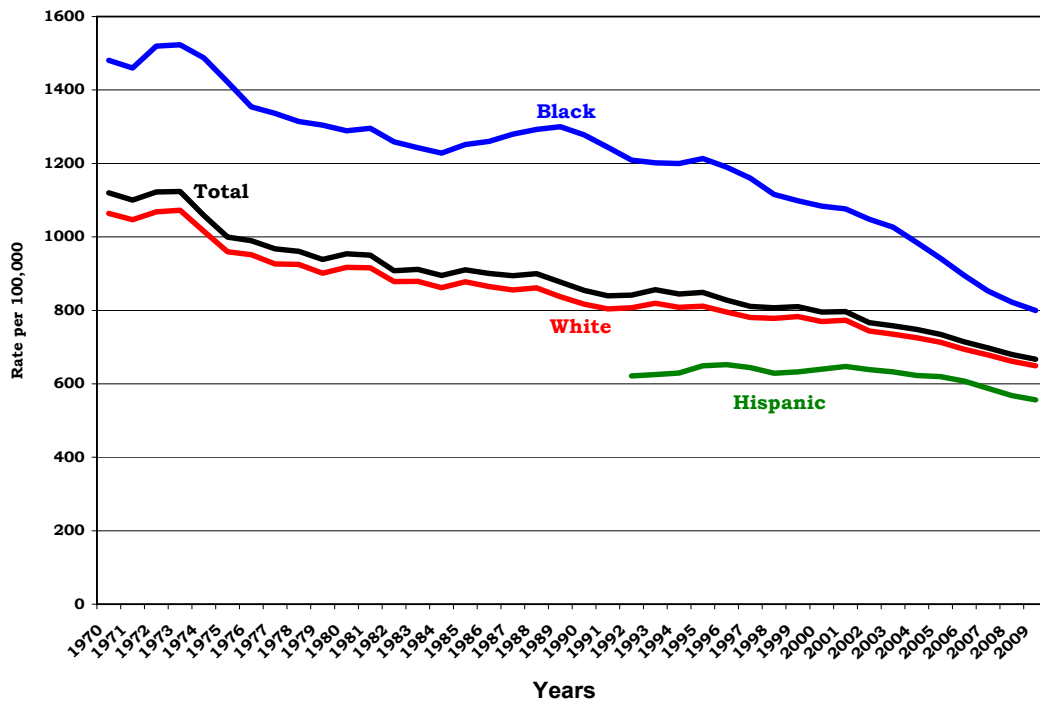
Average number of unhealthy physical days in the past 30 days

	Measure	2010 County 95%	CI	2010 State Measure	95%	CI	2007 County Measure
Overall	3.9	2.9	4.9	4.1	3.9	4.3	3.2
Men	3.7	2.0	5.4	3.8	3.5	4.1	3.3
Women	4.1	3.0	5.3	4.4	4.2	4.6	3.2
RACE/ETHNICITY Non-Hisp. White	3.2	2.3	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.4	3.4
Non-Hisp. Black	6.6	1.8	11.4	4.0	3.2	4.7	2.5
Hispanic				3.6	3.0	4.3	3.1
SEX BY RACE/ETHNICITY Non-Hisp. White Men	2.5	1.1	3.9	4.0	3.6	4.3	3.4
Non-Hisp. White Women	3.8	2.7	4.9	4.5	4.2	4.7	3.4
Non-Hisp. Black Men				4.1	2.8	5.4	
Non-Hisp. Black Women	5.0	0.0	10.2	3.8	3.1	4.6	
Hispanic Men				2.8	1.7	3.8	
Hispanic Women				4.4	3.7	5.2	
AGE GROUP 18-44	3.1	0.9	5.3	2.8	2.5	3.2	1.9
45-64	4.2	2.4	5.9	4.7	4.4	5.0	4.0
65 & Older	4.5	3.4	5.7	5.1	4.8	5.4	4.4
EDUCATION LEVEL <High School				6.6	5.8	7.5	
H.S. / GED	4.3	2.4	6.2	5.0	4.6	5.4	5.5
Post High School	3.7	2.5	4.9	3.5	3.3	3.7	2.5
ANNUAL INCOME <\$25,000	6.4	3.8	9.1	7.2	6.7	7.7	4.9
\$25,000-\$49,999	5.3	2.6	8.0	4.0	3.6	4.4	2.9
\$50,000 or More	2.9	1.6	4.3	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.7
MARITAL STATUS Married/Couple	3.2	2.0	4.3	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.1
Not Married/Couple	5.3	3.4	7.3	5.2	4.9	5.6	3.4

	Palm Beach County	Error Margin	National Benchmark *	Florida	Rank (of 67)
Health Outcomes (Overall Rank)					11
Mortality					16
Premature death	7,575	7,390-7,761	5,564	7,896	
Morbidity					10
Poor or fair health	12%	11-14%	10%	16%	
Poor physical health days	3.0	2.6-3.3	2.6	3.5	
Poor mental health days	3.1	2.6-3.5	2.3	3.5	
Low birthweight	8.9%	8.7-9.0%	6.0%	8.5%	
Health Factors					7
Health Behaviors					4
Adult smoking	18%	16-20%	15%	20%	
Adult obesity	20%	18-23%	25%	24%	
Excessive drinking	16%	14-18%	8%	16%	
Motor vehicle crash death rate	18	17-18	12	19	
Sexually transmitted infections	283		83	389	
Teen birth rate	40	39-40	22	45	
Clinical Care					12
Uninsured adults	27%	24-30%	13%	27%	
Primary care physicians	1,017:1		631:1	983:1	
Preventable hospital stays	53	52-54	52	65	
Diabetic screening	85%	82-88%	89%	82%	
Mammography screening	71%	68-73%	74%	67%	
Social & Economic Factors					24
High school graduation	65%		92%	65%	
Some college	60%		68%	58%	
Unemployment	10.8%	10.7-10.8%	5.3%	10.5%	
Children in poverty	16%	14-18%	11%	18%	
Inadequate social support	19%	17-22%	14%	21%	
Children in single-parent households	36%		20%	35%	
Violent crime rate	718		100	706	
Physical Environment					8
Air pollution-particulate matter days	0		0	0	
Air pollution-ozone days	3		0	5	
Access to healthy foods	93%		92%	82%	
Access to recreational facilities	12		17	9	

Total Mortality

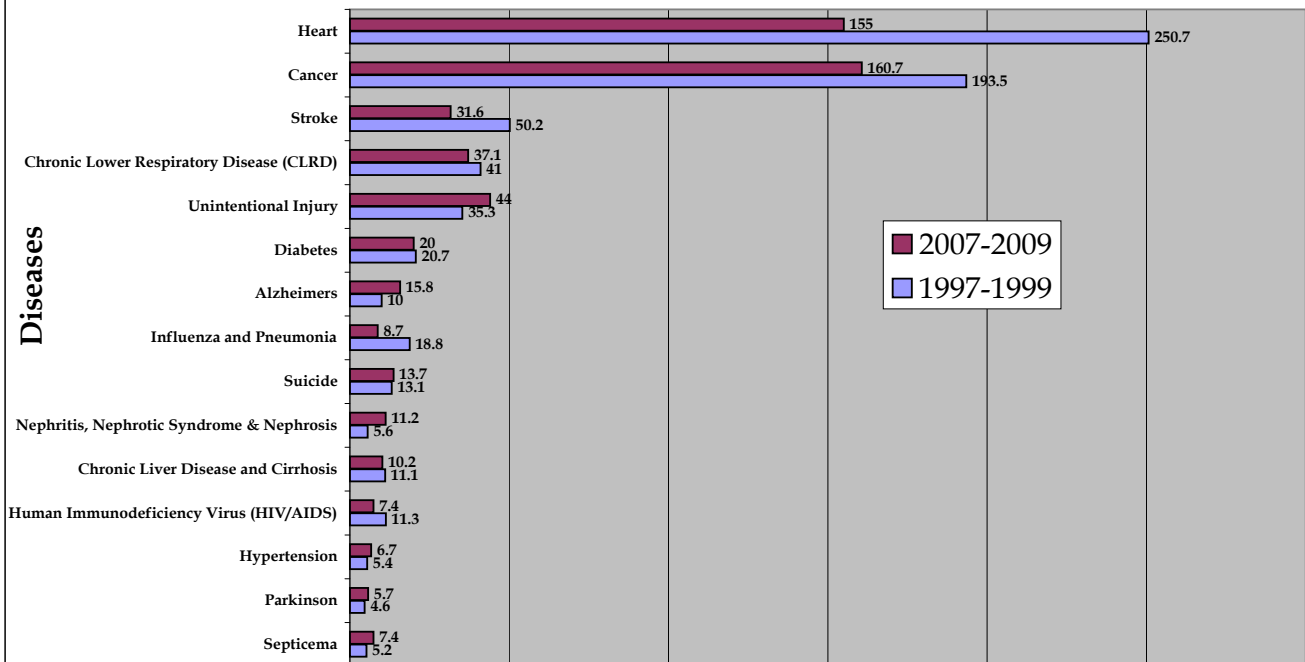
Florida Age Adjusted Death Rates by Year (1970 - 2009)*



* Age Adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population
Data Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics

Florida Leading Causes of Death

3 Year (1997 - 1999 & 2007 - 2009) Age Adjusted Death Rate Comparison
Age Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 Population



Age adjusted to the 2000 standard population.

Diseases and Causes of Death
Palm Beach County Health Indicators
Diseases and Leading Causes of Death

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Coronary Heart Disease

Location	Status	deaths 100,000 population
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	89.8

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)

County : Palm Beach	GOOD	28.8
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Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Diabetes

County : Palm Beach	GOOD	12.2
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Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Lung Cancer

County : Palm Beach	FAIR	39.9
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Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Breast Cancer

		deaths 100,000 females
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	21.2

Cervical Cancer Incidence Rate

		cases 100,000 females
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	8.4

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Prostate Cancer

		deaths 100,000 males
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	16.5

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Colorectal Cancer

		deaths 100,000 population
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	13.0

Oral Cavity and Pharynx Cancer Incidence Rate

		cases 100,000 population
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	11.2

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Influenza and Pneumonia

		deaths 100,000 population
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	7.1

Infant Mortality Rate

		deaths 1,000 live births
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	6.1

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Motor Vehicle Collisions

		deaths 100,000 population
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	13.7

Pedestrian Death Rate

		deaths 100,000 population
County : Palm Beach	FAIR	2.9

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Suicide

		deaths 100,000 population
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	14.2

Health Conditions and Behavioral Risks

Years of Potential Life Lost

		years 100,000 population
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	7285.8

High Cholesterol Prevalence

		percent
County : Palm Beach	FAIR	40.4

High Blood Pressure Prevalence

		percent
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	29.3

Adults who are Overweight or Obese

		percent
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	61.3

Teens who are Obese

		percent
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	9.2

Teens without Sufficient Physical Activity

		percent
County : Palm Beach	FAIR	39.9

Adults with Asthma

		percent
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	6.8

Teens with Asthma

		percent
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	15.9

Adults who Smoke

		percent
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	9.0

Teens who Smoke

		percent
County : Palm Beach	GOOD	11.4

Adults who Binge Drink

		percent
County : Palm Beach	FAIR	14.8

Teens who Binge Drink

		percent
County : Palm Beach	FAIR	21.0

VITAL STATISTICS

The need for accurate statistical data on epidemics and the causes of death was instrumental in establishing our present day vital statistics registration system. Before 1899, some cities enacted city ordinances requiring the recording of vital events and provided their own system for vital statistics. The City of Key West has the oldest known records, dating back to 1865. Currently, the Bureau of Vital Statistics maintains approximately 21.5 million vital records.

The Division of Vital Statistics provides certified copies of births certificates for persons born in the State of Florida from 1917 to present and deaths for Palm Beach County from 2009 to present. Applications can be requested in person, by mail, or online.

The Health Department services approximately 100 funeral homes statewide and 10 hospitals in Palm Beach County. As of October 2010, all hospitals participate in the Electronic Birth Registration System. This registration processes births filed by hospitals directly into the State e-Vitals database. This system is paperless and reduces the time of issuance.

2010

Total Births -----	12,470
Total Deaths-----	13,575
Birth Applications Processed -----	45,225
Death Applications Processed -----	112,039
Total Funds Collected -----	\$1,737,372

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

Palm Beach County Health Department
Revenue Sources
For the Calendar Year ending December 31, 2010

State Funds

Qtr3-09-10	Qtr4-09-10	Qtr1-10-11	Qtr2-10-11	TOTAL 2010
Sch C				
5,092,687	5,171,596	5,101,033	4,715,903	20,081,219
TOTAL State Funds				
5,092,687	5,171,596	5,101,033	4,715,903	20,081,219

Federal Funds

Sch C				
2,926,200	3,045,147	2,368,551	3,106,279	11,446,177
TOTAL Federal Funds				
2,926,200	3,045,147	2,368,551	3,106,279	11,446,177

Local Grants

Grants				
4,131,338	3,784,366	4,443,910	3,803,647	16,163,261
Other				
49,808	38,477	26,997	348,917	464,199
Federal direct to PBCHD				
952,550	661,482	1,108,545	1,219,460	3,942,037
TOTAL Local Grants				
5,133,696	4,484,325	5,579,452	5,372,024	20,569,497

Fees

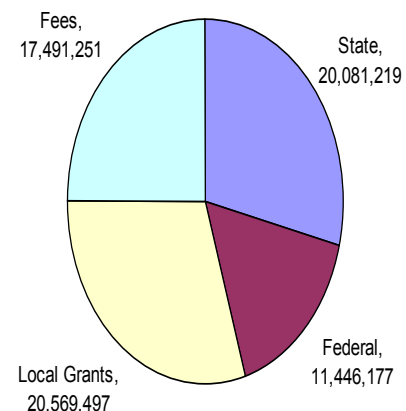
VS				
464,884	420,075	378,481	357,029	1,620,469
Clinic				
3,215,410	3,180,208	3,707,806	3,424,292	13,527,716
EH				
349,846	949,457	429,618	614,145	2,343,066
TOTAL FEES				
4,030,140	4,549,740	4,515,905	4,395,466	17,491,251

TOTAL

17,182,723	17,250,808	17,564,941	17,589,672	69,588,144
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Revenue Sources 2010



Health Centers

The Health Department operates seven Health Centers and five are Federally Qualified Health Centers providing comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services to medically underserved communities and vulnerable populations. Our Health centers are community-based and patient-driven organizations that serve populations with limited access to health care. These include low income populations, the unemployed, the uninsured, special populations, those with limited English proficiency, migrant and seasonal farm workers, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and those living in public housing.

Vaccination Efforts

According to a recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, expanded vaccination coverage is one of the “Ten Great Public Health Achievements” Worldwide between 2001 and 2010. The Palm Beach County Health Department has long been committed to its role in protecting children and adults from vaccine preventable diseases. Immunizations are provided at all of the Health Centers, and an outreach program that works with community partners throughout our community to provide access to vaccine services to children and adults who are at risk and qualify. Pediatric vaccines are also provided through our Immunization Van that goes to sites daily throughout the year.

The number of total vaccines administered totaled 80,108, with 52,475 vaccines given to children, and 27,633 given to adults. These vaccines prevent disease outbreaks, and insure that children and adults in our community remain healthy, and free of the disabling or life threatening effects of diseases which still are present in our society.

Community Immunization Services Team gave thousands of vaccines to high risk adults at treatment programs and soup kitchens to protect against flu, pneumonia and hepatitis. On our Immunization Van, some 3190 children were vaccinated against as many as 14 different diseases. Also, services are provided to pregnant mothers who are Hepatitis B positive, so that their children can be protected against the disease.

The health department continues to work with our state Vaccine for Children Program, and with the State of Florida SHOTS database to provide the immunization services that all of our citizens need. The department also supports immunization coalitions, both adult and childhood, in educating others in the community about the importance of vaccines in protecting life and health.

Homeless Outreach Program 2010

Our Health Care For The Homeless (HCH) outreach team conduct routine outreach activities that include

basic medical care, screenings, assessments, immunizations, coordination of care (case management) and insurance eligibility assistance. Homeless men comprise the largest group served by the Homeless Outreach Program, however in 2010, a trend began of entire families being displaced due to economic circumstances resulting in homelessness. The Health Department conducted 24 outreach activities and provided service a total of 1,222 people who are classified as homeless.

On a monthly basis, the Health Department offered outreach services at the local community organizations:

- The Salvation Army which shelters most of the homeless families
- St. Ann's Church which serves a population of chronic homeless
- St. George Church homeless assistance programs
- Dunbar Village, where up to 12 families live in the same apartment
- Act 2, a church based program solely for migrant workers where health screenings and flu vaccines were provided
- Jay Ministries, where health screenings were provided for men on work release programs and people who are chronically homeless
- The Jamaicans of The Palm Beaches where we provided physical exams, HIV testing, mammogram, immunization nutrition to a diverse population that included many migrant workers
- In collaboration with the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, the Health Department sponsored “Project Connect” - a program dedicated to reach and educate the Homeless and the underserved population. 421 people were offered services including: medical screenings, food, donated clothing, hair cuts, legal aid assistance referrals and, help obtaining a State of Florida State Identification card.

Other outreach initiatives with collaborative agencies included:

- Palm Beach Public County Library system where screenings of Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, nutrition, HIV, were provided along with assistance to obtain health insurance coverage and referral back to the clinics.
- The Re-Entry Transition Fair, organized by Palm Beach County Stockade is an annual event

organized for people leaving the penal system and re-entering society. The Health Department provided information to 500 people on obtaining health insurance, clinic locations and available services.

Health Center Program Fundamentals

- Located in or serve a high need community (designated Medically Underserved Area or Population)
- Governed by a community board composed of a majority (51% or more) of health center patients who represent the population served.
- Provide comprehensive primary health care services as well as supportive services (education, translation and transportation assistance, etc.) that promote access to health care.
- Provide services available to all with fees based on a sliding fee scale.
- Meet other performance and accountability requirements regarding administrative, clinical, and financial operations.

Who Health Centers Serve

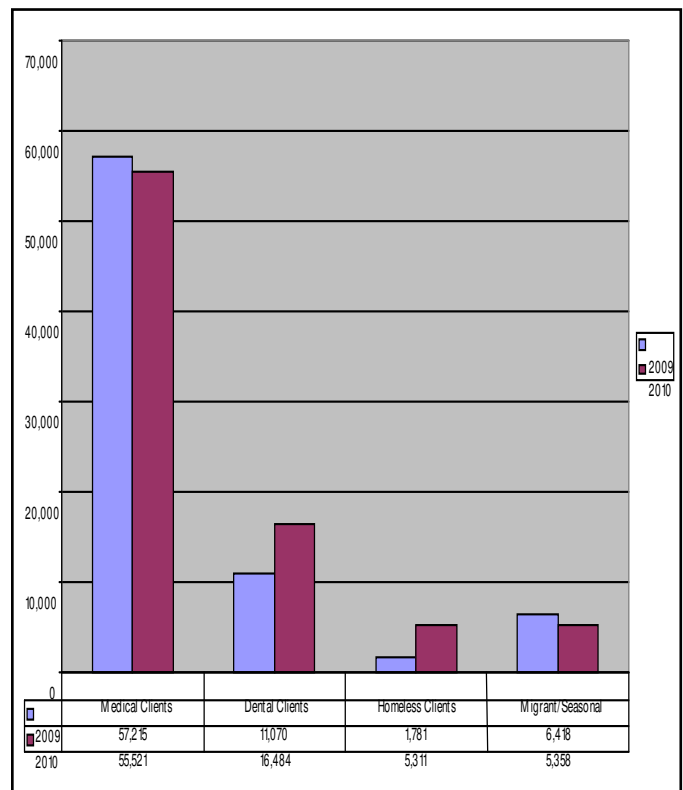
- People of all ages
- People without and with health insurance
- People of all races and ethnicities
- Special populations

Improvements and Innovations: Plans continue to move forward with re-opening the Northeast Clinic located on Avenue "P" in Riviera Beach. This facility is expected to re-open in 2011 and will offer pediatric care moving from the West Palm Beach Health Center, the Refugee Clinic moving from the Riviera Beach Health Center, and services geared to the Homeless population. Local grants provided by the Quantum Foundation assisted with the renovation. Renovations continue at the former DMV building in Pahokee to better serve residents in the Glades communities. New hurricane impact storefront doors were installed at the C.L. Brumback Health Center, the Lantana-Lake Worth Health Center and the Delray Beach Health Center funded from federal grants.

The "Centro de Bienstar Familiar" was transferred to Lantana/ Lake Health Center for cost effectiveness and better use of the clinic's resources. This unique group prenatal care program that our agency partners with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies had its first sessions in January. With this move, we expect to increase the number of women that receive prenatal care through this mode, as well as better integration and support from Health Department staff.

The Riviera Beach Health Center received a grant to provide a Health Fair targeting women and their health issues in May. Education provided was relevant to women of all ages and included presentations and information on domestic violence, educational opportunities, HIV/AIDS including VOICES, dental screening, self-breast exams, hypertension, nutrition for infants through adults and pregnancy. There were activities for the children while their moms attended the lectures and/or one-on-one educational opportunities.

2010 Clients

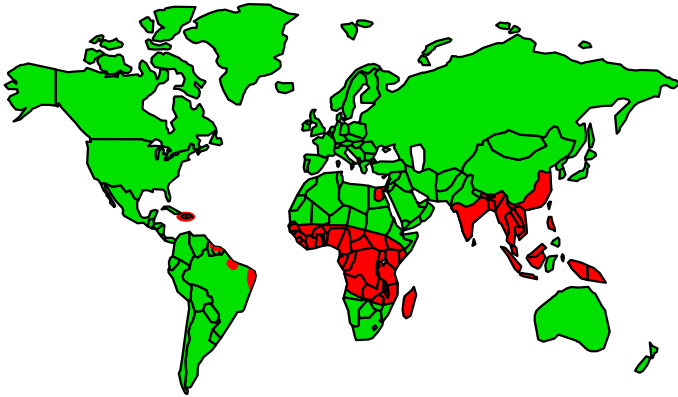


** 2009 reflects a marked increase in clients served. Additional homeless are reflected in the total but not separated categorically.*

The partnership between the Health Department and the CDC to test and treat individuals from endemic countries for the parasite, Lymphatic Filariasis began in May 2009, expanded into the Delray Beach Health Center, in November 2010. Expansion into the Belle Glade Health Center is planned for early 2011. Lymphatic filariasis is a disease caused by a worm that is spread by mosquitoes in tropical areas of the world. More than 1 billion people live in areas where this worm is a problem. More than 120 million people across the world are infected.

There are an estimated 4 million immigrants from endemic countries in the U.S. and an estimated 10,000 who carry the disease. The testing of over 160 individuals in both centers in 2010 yielded an 8 % positive rate or 13 positive individuals who received education and treatment for this disease. With the average age of the

positive individuals being 18 (only 2 positive individuals older than 20 years), this ability to test and treat has saved them from a disfiguring disease. Most people infected with the parasite that causes lymphatic filariasis have no symptoms. For those who have symptoms, this disease can be devastating. Symptoms include swelling of a leg, arm, or other body part. This swelling includes conditions like lymphedema and elephantiasis.



Lymphedema

Elephantia

The Health Department's Refugee Clinic was the first site for LF screening because the clinic had the patient population and mechanism to fit this testing and treatment process into their flow. This testing and treatment is offered at no charge. The Refugee clinic was recognized with a 2010 Davis Productivity Award for improving services without additional resources or expense and a "LF in FL" presentation was given by the CDC at the American Public Health Association conference in the summer of 2010.

Division of Public Health Dentistry

The Division of Public Health Dentistry provides oral health treatment for many eligible residents across the county. Currently, there are six dental clinics located in Health Centers. Health Centers with dental clinics include C.L. Brumback Health Center, Riviera Beach Center, Delray Beach Health Center, Lantana/Lake Worth Health Center, West Palm Beach Health Center, and Pahokee Health Center.

The Dental Division provides basic comprehensive dental services including diagnostic, preventive, emergency, restorative, and surgical services. Most clients are eligible under the Medicaid, Healthy Palm Beaches, and Health Care District programs. The Health Department delivers care for clients in the following programs: The Women's Health Initiative (through the Children Services Council), Head Start programs and Children's Medical Services, as well as programs for clients with HIV/AIDS. During 2010, the Dental Division had over 29,000 patient visits treating almost 15,000 clients.

In addition to clinical care, the Dental Division operates two community and school oral disease prevention programs: the Dental Sealant Program and Fluoride Mouth rinse Program – which provides preventive oral health services in public elementary schools. The School-based Dental Sealant Program, funded by Mrs. Marjorie S. Fisher, examines second grade schoolchildren and places tooth decay preventing dental sealants on acceptable permanent first molars. An exciting new development for the sealant program has been the addition of the "Tooth Fairy" dental coach,



which is a mobile two chair dental clinic. In 2010, the program operated in 24 schools seeing over 1700 children. The Fluoride Mouth rinse Program – in its 29th year of operation - provides weekly topical fluoride rinses for children in grades K-5. During the 2010 school year, over 40 schools had children participating in this program.

The Dental Division also provides screenings to preschool children enrolled in Head Start which reduces costs for exams and allows more resources for actual dental treatment in these children. In 2010, Health

Department dentists screened over 300 children. The WIC/Dental Oral Health Early Intervention Program is an exciting intervention that was developed by a team of Health Department Dental and WIC staffs to educate, examine, and provide preventive services for the very young, before dental disease begins.



Endodontists Volunteer to Save the teeth of Underprivileged Teens

The Dental Division honored nine endodontists who sponsor the "Save a Molar" program for the underprivileged teenagers in need of a root canal. Until these doctors began the program, the only alternative for these teens was extraction of the affected tooth through the Dental Program. Upon referral from the Health Department, young patients are treated at no charge in the private offices of these generous dentistry specialists, where the tooth is saved for the teen.

Review of the latest access to dental care for both 100% and 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) showed that access to dental care in Palm Beach County is 36.3% for 100% of FPL (goal of 35%) and is 16.7% for 200% of FPL (goal of 15%), superseding the goals set by the DOH.

A proclamation from County Commissioner Shelly Vana named October 27th "Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body Day" recognizing the good works of the Health Department, the Palm Beach County Oral Health Coalition and for Dental Hygiene Awareness Month!

EPIDEMIOLOGY

PALM BEACH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CASES OF REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

	TOTAL 2010	TOTAL 2009
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AND INVASIVE DISEASE:		
Haemophilus influenzae invasive disease	12	20
Meningococcal disease	1	4
Listeriosis	9	5
Streptococcus pneumoniae invasive disease, drug-resistant	47	45
Streptococcus pneumoniae invasive disease, susceptible	35	29
Streptococcal disease, invasive Group A	20	17
Meningitis, bacterial, cryptococcal, mycotic	11	13
St. Louis encephalitis virus, neuroinvasive		
West Nile virus, neuroinvasive		
West Nile virus, non-neuroinvasive		
Encephalitis, other (non-arboviral)	1	4
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)	1	0
Influenza-associated pediatric mortality	0	3
Influenza A, novel or pandemic strains	98	400

Staphylococcus aureus (GISA/VISA)	
Staphylococcus aureus community-associated mortality	3

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES:

	TOTAL 2010	TOTAL 2009
Congenital rubella syndrome		
Rubella (German measles)		
Rubeola (measles)		
Mumps	3	1
Pertussis	9	14
Tetanus	2	0
Varicella	63	102

HEPATITIS:

Hepatitis A	12	11
Hepatitis B, acute	26	15
Hepatitis B, chronic	278	312
Hepatitis B (HBsAg+) in pregnant women	27	64
Hepatitis B, perinatal		
Hepatitis C, acute	3	2
Hepatitis C, chronic	1522	1370

NOTE: Due to a change in reporting method, as of August 6, 2008 "probable cases" in addition to "confirmed cases" for enteric diseases will be included in the "Total this Year" columns. This is likely to increase the number of cases reported from this point forward.

TOTAL 2010 TOTAL 2009

ENTERIC DISEASES:

Giardiasis	101	123
Campylobacteriosis	76	73
Shigellosis	49	39
Salmonellosis	432	416
Cryptosporidiosis	22	43
Cyclosporiasis	6	2
Typhoid fever	2	1
Escherichia coli, Shiga toxin producing	22	9
due to Vibrio cholera	0	1
due to Vibrio cholera non-	0	1
due to Vibrio fluvialis	1	0
due to Vibrio alginolyticus	3	5
due to Vibrio hollisae		
due to Vibrio mimicus	1	0
due to Vibrio vulnificus	1	3
due to Vibrio parahaemolyticus	1	1
due to Vibrio other		

OTHER DISEASES:

Rabies, possible exposure	57	102
Animal rabies	2	4
Monkey bite		
Arsenic poisoning	0	1
Brucellosis		
Carbon monoxide poisoning	39	4
Ciguatera		
Dengue fever	10	1
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis, undetermined	0	1
Hansen's disease (Leprosy)		
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	1	0
Lead poisoning	40	45
Legionellosis	19	19
Lyme disease	5	14
Malaria	16	11
Mercury poisoning	0	3
Pesticide-related illness or injury	6	0
Rocky mountain spotted fever		
Toxoplasmosis		

NOTE: Due to a change in reporting method, as of August 6, 2008 "probable cases" in addition to "confirmed cases" for enteric diseases will be included.

Epidemiology and Disease Control 2010 Highlights

- Palm Beach County Health Department Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control provided over 20,529 services in 2010. Services included investigation, intervention, and education for

clients with diseases/conditions reportable by state law; Consultation and information to residents, visitors and medical providers on disease-related and other public health issues; Investigate food borne and waterborne complaints; Investigation/control of outbreaks.

- The most frequently reported diseases and conditions investigated were salmonellosis, giardiasis, campylobacteriosis, shigellosis, invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, animal bites, varicella (chickenpox), lead poisoning, carbon monoxide poisoning and chronic hepatitis B and C.
- Other cases of interest investigated in 2010 included pertussis, imported malaria, imported dengue fever, acute hepatitis B, *Escherichia coli*, listeriosis, scombroid fish poisoning and pesticide-related illness.
- Following the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, increased surveillance to identify reportable diseases in Haitian residents transported to the US and residing in Palm Beach County; workers and volunteers who spent time in Haiti and residents who traveled to Haiti in the aftermath to provide assistance to family members or the community. While lead poisoning, malaria and giardiasis were the most frequently reported conditions identified county and statewide, other types of cases included tetanus, typhoid fever, hepatitis A, dengue fever, cryptosporidiosis, rabies exposure, haemophilus influenza and salmonellosis. An outbreak of toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae* O1 (cholera) occurred in Haiti by the end of the year. A health advisory to all area healthcare providers and emergency facilities to ensure that high-risk situations, such as cholera in a food handler or clusters of illness were not overlooked.
- The Health Department identified 10 imported cases of dengue fever in 2010 compared to one case in 2009. A continual surveillance effort was maintained to investigate all cases thoroughly in order to identify and prevent any local transmission. Also investigated were 16 cases of imported malaria as compared to 11 cases in 2009. Three of the reported cases of malaria involved recent travel to Africa.
- H1N1 cases continued to be investigated as Novel Influenza A during the first part of 2010. H1N1 accounted for two deaths, 98 confirmed cases through May 2010, with 13 of these cases seriously ill and one outbreak in a workplace setting.
- The number of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning cases increased from four in 2009 to 39 in 2010. Of note was an increase in the number of cases

related to automobiles left running in homes with attached garages. These incidents were atypical of most CO incidents which usually occur after weather related events like hurricanes or extreme cold temperatures when generators and outdoor cooking devices are used incorrectly. In an effort to raise CO poisoning awareness within the community and throughout the state, the health department coordinated with print, broadcast, and other media to provide prevention information as well as updates on new developments in the investigation. Possible automobile related issues and risk factors associated with the increase in CO poisoning in the county and around the nation include push button starters, remote starters and distractions such as cell phone use.

- An increase in Listeriosis cases was noted in 2010. Nine cases were reported as compared to five cases in 2009. Over the past 10 years the county has led the state in an accumulated total of 80 cases. Of the nine cases reported this year, six were age 70 years or older. Two of the cases expired. Many of the individuals interviewed reported eating hot dogs, luncheon meats, deli meats or refrigerated smoked seafood. This is not unusual in an elderly population's diet as seen in the county. No particular food brand was implicated in the case investigations.
- *Vibrio vulnificus* identified in a blood culture for a 36 year old man who was admitted to a local hospital with symptoms of fever, swelling and pain in all his extremities. His symptoms started after he ate raw oysters that were purchased at a fish market in Martin County. He continued to deteriorate and was intubated in the Intensive Care Unit. The patient had a history of chronic hepatitis C infection and an alcohol abuse which are considered risk factors for the disease. The regional Food and Waterborne Epidemiologist, the Martin County Environmental Health Program and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services investigated the store where the oysters were purchased. The patient died following a month long battle.
- Investigated three unrelated cases of community associated *Staphylococcus aureus* mortality. The first case was a 55 year old woman who was seen in a local emergency department for back pain, diagnosed with sciatic nerve pain and discharged with pain medication. She was admitted to a different hospital 10 days later in respiratory failure and septic shock. Blood and urine cultures were positive for *Staph aureus*. The patient died the next day.

- The second case was an 82 year old woman treated for a urinary tract infection. She was admitted to a local hospital after being found unresponsive in her home. Blood cultures were positive for Staph aureus that were resistant to penicillin and sensitive to oxacillin. Urine cultures were also positive for Klebsiella pneumonia. She was admitted to a hospice unit and expired. The third case was a 15 year old girl who had an onset of fever, vomiting, headache and URI symptoms. She was found in the morning with seizures and admitted to a local hospital. A respiratory specimen was positive for Beta streptococcus group F and Staph aureus. The Staph aureus isolate was sensitive to all antibiotics tested. She too did not survive.
- As in past years, norovirus continued to be the suspected cause of 20 gastrointestinal (GI) illness outbreaks in long term care facilities and elsewhere in the community. Other outbreak investigations included influenza in long term care facilities.
- Possible exposure to rabies through animal bites continued to be a common occurrence. Animals that exposed humans through bites or other contact and tested positive for rabies included an otter. Raccoons are the most common source of human exposure, but were not routinely caught and tested for rabies. 57 cases of exposure to rabies through animal bite or contact were investigated and treated as indicated. 2,342 animal bites were reported to Animal Care and Control.
- Community outreach efforts included bi-annual publication of the Epi newsletter, bi-monthly web posting of Prevention Pointers, hosting a hospital infection prevention update and networking meeting for community partners.

ESSENCE Surveillance Summary Report 2010

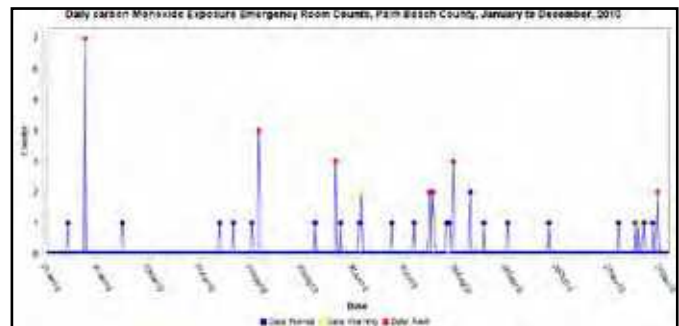
Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) plays an important role as a component of public health surveillance in Palm Beach County. This system is managed locally by the Division of Epidemiology & Disease Control. ESSENCE is a system which automatically collects information regarding patient's chief complaint (reason for the visit) from hospital emergency departments. Free text chief complaints are automatically categorized into syndromes. Syndromes generally represent potential early stages of infectious diseases or conditions prior to clinical and laboratory confirmation (a bioterrorism event or naturally occurring outbreak). Clustering of patients with similar symptoms/syndromes, zip codes, hospital, time of visit, age

and gender render the identification of possible outbreaks and early intervention. The purpose of this type of syndromic surveillance is to detect outbreaks of diseases earlier and more completely than with traditional public health surveillance (e.g., passive surveillance of reportable diseases, sentinel surveillance and telephone consultation.)

During 2010 a total of twelve hospitals participated and continuously transmitted data including Wellington Regional Medical Center which was added to the system in 2010. A new memorandum of understanding (MOU) was established between the local hospitals and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). The MOU covers a period of five years and includes direct transmission of the data to the FDOH without initial transmission to Miami Dade County. The change from the local agreement to the state agreement allows broader technical support to the local hospitals to include a set of data in the daily files that aligns with the rest of the state hospitals participating in ESSENCE. Completion for signature of the new agreement is projected to be finalized by August, 2011. At the end of 2010, only one local hospital, after signing the MOU, was unable to transmit data and is not participating.

On average, 1,254 daily emergency room visits were reported in the system from January 1 to December 31, 2010. Analyzing data from the automatically triggered alert list generated by the system, and running specific syndrome or free text queries allowed the Division of Epidemiology staff to identify events of importance occurring in the community. These events included the identification of some individuals with chief complaints related to the mandatory reportable diseases such as meningitis and carbon monoxide poisoning.

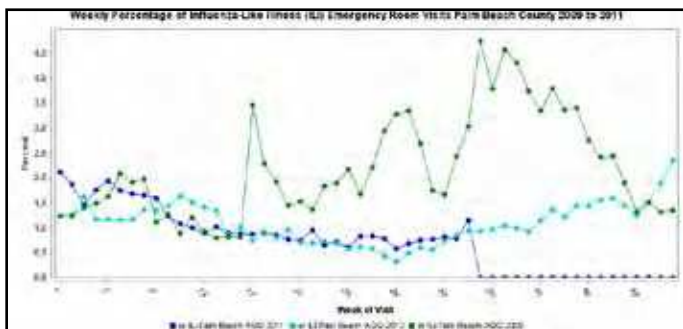
Figure 1 shows the carbon monoxide exposure chief complaints that were identified during 2010. Some of these were true cases of carbon monoxide poisoning which were investigated by the Division of Epidemiology staff.



During the influenza season 2010 and 2011 ESSENCE was used to monitor the activity of influenza in our community as one component of the influenza surveillance in Palm Beach County. The annual influenza season starts at the beginning of October and extends to the end of May of the following year. The weekly percentage of influenza-like illness (ILI)

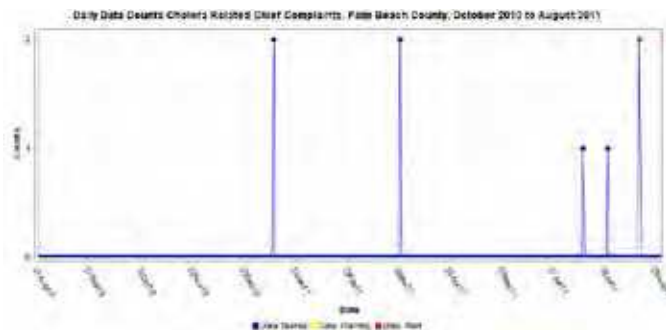
was monitored to evaluate changes in the percentage of individuals with ILI related chief complaints. A comparison with the previous seasons is also done.

Figure 2 shows the changes of the weekly ILI percentage in ESSENCE during 2009, 2010 and early 2011 in Palm Beach County.



In October 2010 increased surveillance for cholera, using ESSENCE, was implemented because of concern about the possible introduction of cholera into Florida from the outbreak occurring in Haiti. A query was created to capture data on all persons presenting to emergency departments with a chief complaint related to cholera or travel to Haiti. The purpose of this surveillance was to ensure that appropriate laboratory tests were conducted and appropriate control measures were taken for each case.

Figure 3 shows all chief complaints related to cholera captured in ESSENCE. Each hospital was contacted and follow up of each possible case was done to confirm or rule-out the disease.



In addition through ESSENCE two outbreaks of gastrointestinal disease were observed. The clusters of individuals were identified through a daily review of a query for gastrointestinal illness. The daily review is done even if an alert or warning is not elicited. The identified individuals clustered by hospital, time of visit, chief complaint and zip code. There were two household related outbreaks involving three and five individuals respectively. Follow up was done with the individuals. One health care worker was identified and excluded until resolution of symptoms.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Sexually Transmitted Disease

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) program is dedicated to providing confidential testing and education to the community. Field Operations Team members are located at Health Centers in Delray Beach, Belle Glade, and Riviera Beach. Testing for HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis is offered and screening / testing for populations at high risk for infections include teens, African Americans, and men who have sex with men. Outreach events across the county included 45 community presentations and 25 educational seminars where educational literature is distributed to at risk target audiences. Specialized programs for teens were also developed with the School District of Palm Beach County.

Syphilis is on the rise in Florida and Palm Beach County data mirrored this trend. Gonorrhea is a very complex bacterial infection – it has evolved and become resistant to every antibiotic recommended for treatment over the years. Cases in teens aged 15-24, particularly Gonorrhea & Chlamydia cases continue to rise. These account for over 60% of all cases. This local program continues to target this population. One new initiative developed to address this is the STD peer education class called CIPHER (Community Intervention Peer Health Education Representatives) is facilitated by a Health Educator. The 6-week program is designed to train teens & young adults about specifics of STDs. The class participants receive 20 community service hours upon successful completion of the class. Local groups may request these classes held at their location if they have at least 10 teens & ample space.

Collaborative partners include HIV, Immunizations, Healthy Start, Comprehensive AIDS Program (CAP), FoundCare, Compass, United Deliverance Community Resource Center (UDCRC), Palm Beach County Sheriff's office, Vickers House, Fern House, Salvation Army, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, School District of Palm Beach County, many area faith-based organizations, etc. to reach out and educate the community

HIV/AIDS Program

The Health Department is committed to lowering the HIV case rate. The HIV/AIDS Program includes prevention training, counseling, testing, surveillance, Contract Management, AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and partners with our STD Program and community based organizations to best utilize limited funding. These collaborations target at-risk populations for education and interventions that lead to the reduction of the infection rate. We have initiated CDC scientifically based interventions that target men who have sex with men (MSMs), Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, Women, Teens, incarcerated individuals, Heterosexuals, People with Disabilities, People who are HIV negative and at

risk of becoming HIV positive, and people who are HIV positive. In 2010, 314 new HIV cases and 250 new AIDS cases were identified.

	2008	2009	2010
# of unduplicated HIV+ clients	2,053	1,843	2,186
# of new clients	172	101	156
# male clients	1,185	1,039	1,260
# female clients	868	803	924
# transgender clients	Not reported	Not reported	2
# clients under 12 years of age	16	9	14
# clients 13-24 years old	61	82	123
# clients 25-44 years old	753	714	836
# clients 45-64 years old	1,115	964	1,117
# clients 65 years or older	108	74	96
# Hispanic clients	259	240	312
# Black or African American clients	1,395	1,319	1,520
# White clients	361	250	300
# clients equal to or below the Federal Poverty Level	1,712	1,355	1,626

Current and Future Collaborative Efforts in Palm Beach County:

The Health Department continued extensive HIV testing and education including the inmate testing program, HIV Testing Day initiatives and testing for pregnant women.

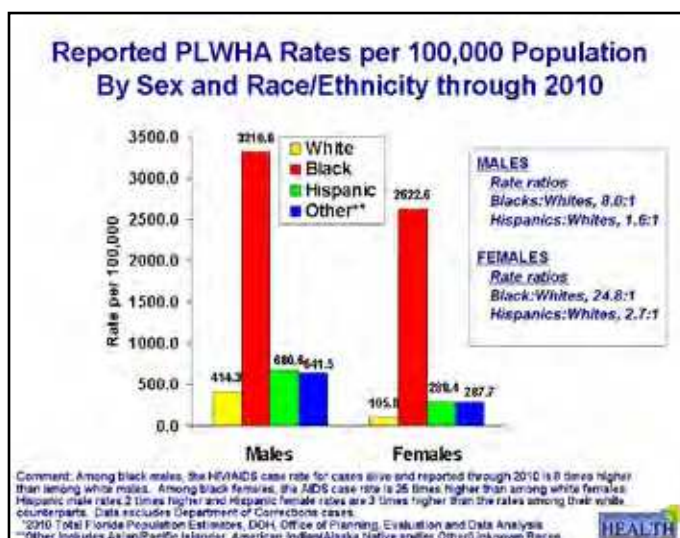
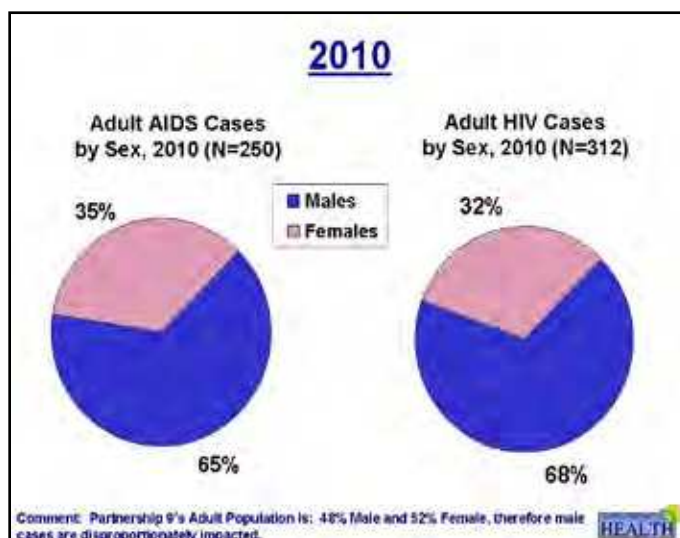
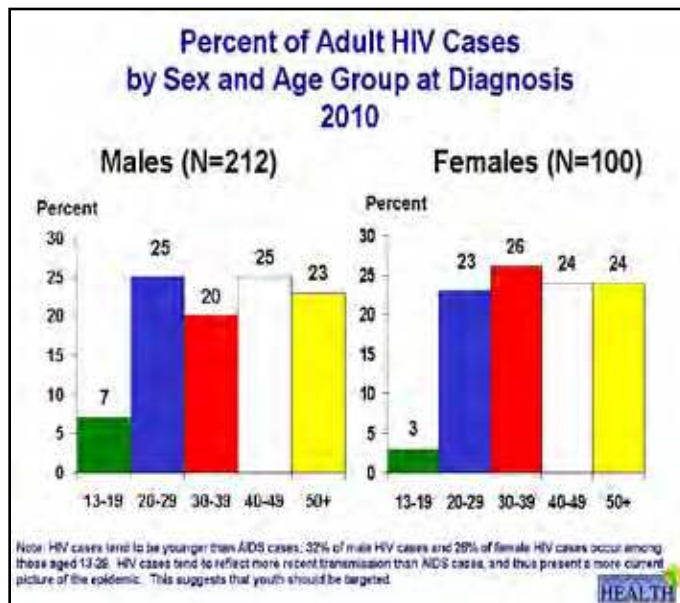
A new program started in 2010 is the Post Test Counseling Follow-Up Initiative. This is a collaborative effort with the Palm Beach Department of Community Services (Ryan White Part A grantee), the Health Department's STD and HIV Programs that link persons who recently tested positive for HIV to medical care .

The African American Testing Initiative has been implemented in the Riviera Beach Health Center as well as partner clinics located in high risk areas to expand HIV testing in the Black community. The program has proven so successful that it was expanded to include Hispanic/Latino, men who have sex with men (MSM) and Injecting Drug User populations as well.

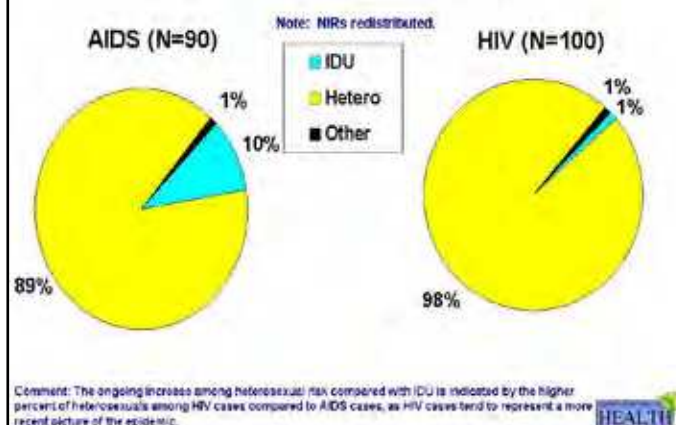
Prevention

There are several prevention outreach efforts throughout the county. These programs include several CDC Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions like VOICES, SISTA, Community Promise Making Proud Choices and Street Smart for youth, Healthy Relationships and D-up . The HIV Peer Educators Program in the county's prison system trains inmates to provide peer education, become certified mediators and to facilitate support groups within the prison system. Palm Beach County hosts the Ujima Conference, the SOS (Sistas Organizing to Survive) Conference to promote empowerment, HIV education and testing and the Youth Symposium in the Glades to empower the youth to make choices for healthier outcomes, SLAM DUNK to a Healthier Lifestyle Project (in its 3rd year) and provided Health and Wellness awareness to youth

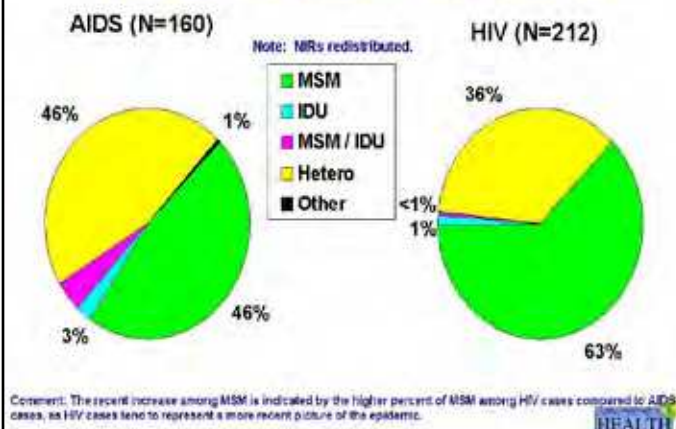
through activities and education. Also screenings of the documentary Silence is Death: Unheard Voices filmed in Palm Beach County following the lives of people living with HIV. Screenings were featured as part of World AIDS Day 2010 activities and other events throughout the year.



Total Adult Female Cases by Mode of Exposure and Sex 2010



Total Adult Male Cases by Mode of Exposure and Sex 2010



Collaboration within the HIV/AIDS Community:

Collaboration continued between the Community Prevention Partnership (CPP), the local prevention and testing planning group and the Palm Beach County HIV CARE Council, the planning body for HIV patient care services.

Major Disparities:

HIV has a significant disproportionate impact in Palm Beach County by race/ethnicity and gender, as indicated by the following findings reported by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS: The focus of all programs is to eliminate these disparities.

Tuberculosis Program

The Tuberculosis Control Program provides health services to the population through a network of health centers. The program also partners and collaborates with the network of private hospitals, doctor's offices in the area and with others programs within the Health Department. Services like monitoring Tuberculosis (TB)

patients (from the time of diagnosis until cure), Direct Observation Therapy (DOT), isolation of infectious TB cases, education of Tuberculosis patients, identification of contacts to infectious TB cases, screening and medical evaluation of contacts, treatment of persons with Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI), and screening of Refugees are among the services provided.

Florida, New York, California and Texas combined count for 50% of the TB cases nationwide. Palm Beach County is considered an area of major TB morbidity. In the year 2010, Palm Beach County ranked 4th in Florida with 69 new TB cases diagnosed and reported to the Bureau of Tuberculosis and Refugee Health in Florida and the CDC.

Identifying and treating cases of TB is a priority. By treating cases, the TB Control Program is not only assuring that cases get cured but also preventing the occurrence of new TB cases in the community.

The year 2010 was a busy year for investigation of contacts to TB cases. A total of 72 investigation of contacts were started in the year 2010 and 1,108 contacts to TB cases were identified. Large contact investigations were performed at Orchard View Elementary School, Seminole Ridge High School, Christ Fellowship Church/Day Care Center, Mi Cristo Redentor Church, Manor Care of Boca nursing home, and "La Nueva Uncion" Pentecostes Church. The investigation of contacts to TB cases in those congregate settings demanded a lot of resources and coordinated efforts with other community organizations and within the Health Department. Resources were prioritized and allocated as necessary to support those investigations.

Regarding the World TB Day activities commemorated on March 24th every year, the TB Control Program traditionally participates in health fairs where informational and educational activities are brought to the community. This year, pamphlets and information were distributed by the TB Control Program staff at two fairs: La Palma at Gaines Park Community Center and Westgate Elementary School.

Over the years, the Tuberculosis Control Program has achieved performance improvements in the following components: case reporting completeness, completion of treatment for active TB cases, initiation of treatment for suspected TB cases, contacts elicited from infectious TB cases, evaluation of contacts to cases and treatment of contacts to cases.

As a result of its activities, the Tuberculosis Control Program has reduced the burden of TB disease in Palm Beach County.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Zoonotic Diseases Surveillance/Prevention

In August, sentinel chickens in the Belle Glade coops began to test positive for West Nile virus. The Health Department took immediate action by issuing warnings urging the public to take precautions against mosquito bites, while Palm Beach County Mosquito Control focused additional resources on eliminating the mosquito populations in the western part of the county. In the following weeks, sentinel chickens throughout the county tested positive for the virus and the Health Department issued a formal Mosquito-borne Disease Advisory.

By the end of the year a total of 47 chickens had tested positive for West Nile virus, but there were no human cases of the disease reported. The program once again proved its worth to our residents and visitors.

The Health Department and Mosquito Control work closely together monitoring and taking steps to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases in the county.

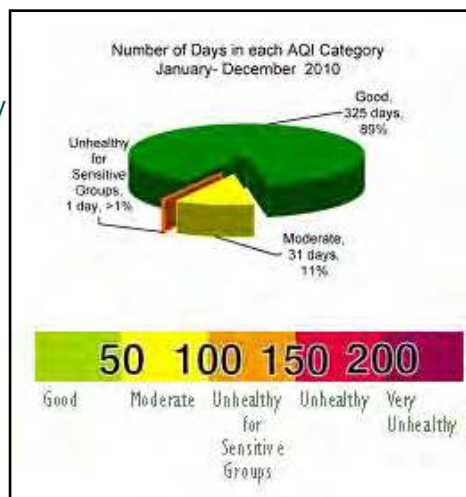
To keep residents and visitors safe from rabies infections, the Health Department teams up with Animal Care and Control to educate the public about the importance of keeping their pets' rabies vaccinations up to date, and the need to avoid close contact with wild animals. The two agencies join forces to investigate animal bites when they do occur and make sure bite victims receive post-exposure rabies vaccinations when needed and followed by the Epidemiology Department.



Air & Waste Section

Air Quality Index (AQI)

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a uniform method of reporting daily air pollution levels along with associated health effects. Air pollution levels are obtained from a network of monitoring equipment on a daily basis. An AQI value is determined for each of the monitored pollutants, and the highest value is used to describe the air quality for that day.



During 2010, there was only one day where the air quality exceeded the good or moderate range, reaching the level where members of sensitive groups may experience health effects but the general public is unlikely affected.

The AQI is provided 7 days a week, and can be obtained by calling (561) 837-5092 or visiting our website at: www.pbchd.com

Air Compliance and Enforcement

In August 2010, The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a performance review of PBCHD's Air Compliance and Enforcement program, finding no major deficiencies. In fact, DEP's review stated that PBCHD's program "is a national leader in many aspect's of air pollution prevention and control".

The air compliance & enforcement program is responsible for the compliance monitoring of approximately 220 permitted air pollution facilities. Each facility receives an annual inspection, and staff is always ready to provide assistance to ensure compliance with permit conditions. The annual compliance rate for 2010 was 95%.

Nevertheless, staff remains vigilant in identifying violations and resolving them in accordance with established policies and procedures. Minor violations are typically resolved with no formal enforcement. However, major violations generally result in enforcement action requiring a civil penalty.

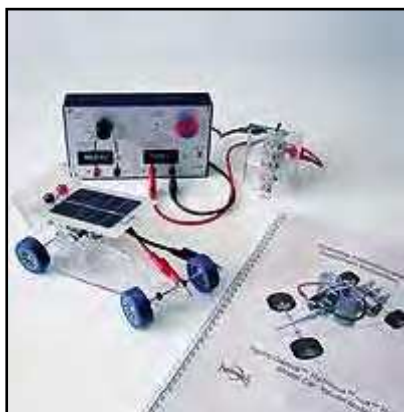
In 2010, over \$15,000 was assessed from permitted facilities for air pollution violations. However, not all

case settlements result in payment of the penalty to the agency. Air program staff instead encourage alternative settlements, whereby penalty monies are used to pay for supplemental environmental projects. These projects can be either at the facility, or the money can be used to fund an environmentally beneficial project for the community. Typically, the costs of these projects exceed the penalty amount that would have been paid to the agency. *An example of a recent innovative alternative settlement project is outlined in the following article.*

During 2010, 20 air program violations were identified. 9 cases were resolved without formal enforcement action; the other cases resulted in the collection of \$15,099 in fines plus \$2,300 for costs involved to investigate these cases. In lieu of paying a \$3,000 fine, one violator settled their case by providing the following in-kind project:

An environmental education curriculum was developed to help students learn about renewable energy and energy conversion concepts. 17 education kits were provided to county middle schools selected by the School District of Palm Beach County to enhance

the science classes. Each kit includes all necessary materials and lesson plans to teach students basic electricity and renewable energy concepts. Indications are that the kits have already been used with success in the middle schools. A final report on the project is due by the end of 2011.



Solid Waste

The Health Department regulates the construction & demolition debris recycling facilities, landfills, and waste tire facilities. Groundwater is sampled and analyzed at most of the regulated facilities to evaluate the impact, if any, on groundwater quality from these operations.

In 2010, the solid waste program spent a great deal of effort handling complaints on the use of recovered screen materials (RSM). RSM contains soil and other small materials and is used as fill material. Before the RSM can be used in residential/industrial settings as a fill material, the facility shall sample RSM for 7-14 days and submit the chemical analysis to the department. RSM is analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, and pesticides. When the RSM meets the standards for residential settings it then can be used as a fill material. In response to complaints, the department also arranges

for RSM testing through an independent laboratory, to verify that the RSM is meeting the residential standards.

The department conducted 37 inspections at regulated solid waste facilities in 2010. Palm Beach Solid Waste Authority (SWA) is a partner agency regulating the solid waste sites and utilizes department review prior to issuing the SWA licenses. In 2010, the Department inspected 25 sites at the request of SWA.

Improper disposal of manure in western

communities In 2010, there were 52 solid waste complaints logged, down from the 65 complaints received in 2009. The Village of Wellington is currently in discussions with the DEP and the department in order to regulate the manure haulers more effectively, so that improper disposal of manure is discouraged.

Air Pollution Control

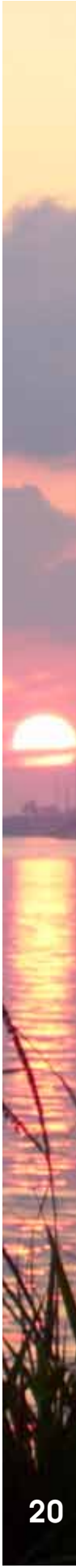
The Health Department monitors air pollution sources within the county for compliance with regulatory requirements. In 2010 the program responded to 140 air complaints; inspected 233 permitted facilities for compliance and reviewed 357 permit-required reports. In addition, 215 demolition/renovation activities were monitored for compliance with asbestos regulations; and all 331 regulated service stations regarding their regulatory status and compliance were reviewed.

Ambient Air Monitoring

The Health Department continues to provide the public with daily updates on air quality utilizing the air quality index (AQI). The AQI was in the "Good" range over 85% of the time, while only one day was the AQI above the "Moderate" range to the "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" range. The department continues to streamline and upgrade its air monitoring network that is located throughout the county. This allowed the elimination of the manual samplers employing filters that had to be collected and weighed before PM10 levels could be determined. The result, PM10 data is now obtained continuously instead of days later, and a significant savings in operational expenses.

Indoor Air and Radon Program

Indoor Air Quality studies suggest that people spend 90% of their time indoors. The air in your home can be unhealthy if it contains too many pollutants without proper ventilation or outdoor air exchange. There are many potential indoor air quality pollution sources in the home, which can create or exacerbate existing health issues, including asthma and allergies. Sensitive populations such as children, the elderly and those with immune disorders are more susceptible to the effects of poor indoor air quality. Sources of indoor air pollution include, but are not limited to: Mold and Moisture, Carbon Monoxide, Radon, Tobacco Smoke, Household Products, New Furniture and Building Materials, Pests and Imported Drywall.



The Indoor Air Quality and Radon Programs staff conducted over 75 indoor air quality inspections and assessments throughout the year and addressed over 1,220 complaint investigations. Indoor air inspections and assessments consisted of home visits to provide residents with practical and public health based advice relevant to actionable issues of concern.

The Radon Program, which is staffed by a Radon Specialist and a Radon Measurement Technician, participated in the State of Florida's Acreage investigation for possible environmental causes of cancer by testing select homes for radon gas. In total, more than 130 samples were collected and reviewed for the 2010 year. None of the results exceeded the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level.

The health department continues to recommend that all buildings (residential and commercial) be tested for radon because of potential risks associated with lung cancer. The Radon Program is currently coordinating with the Childcare Licensing Program to incorporate mandatory testing for childcare facilities into the local childcare licensing rules which would align local regulations with state-licensed childcare centers. Already, more than 200 childcare facilities have voluntarily conducted and reported their initial radon measurements to the Radon Program.

Biomedical Waste

Biomedical Waste Program prescribes minimum sanitary practices relating to the management of biomedical waste, including segregation, handling, storage, transport, and treatment. Personnel inspect and permit on an annual basis facilities that generate, store, treat, or transport biomedical waste to ensure the public's health is protected. Facilities generating less than 25 lbs of biomedical waste per month are exempt from permitting and are inspected at least once every three years. Enforcement actions are initiated as a result of noncompliance with specific rules and regulations. The type of violation determines the enforcement action taken. Penalties vary depending on the nature and severity of these violations.

Revenue generated from 1,853 permitted facilities was approximately \$164,215.00. Exempt facilities totaled 947 (no fee generated). 400 applications were processed during the year and 15 complaints were investigated.

Hazardous Waste

The Hazardous Waste Program provides oversight of the generation and management of hazardous waste in Palm Beach County. Commercial facilities such as automotive body and repair shops, dry cleaners, laboratories, and hospitals generating hazardous waste are inspected for compliance and permitted through PBC Ordinance 97-58. Waste is classified as hazardous

waste if it is specifically listed by EPA, or if the waste exhibits one or more of the characteristics of ignitability, corrosiveness, reactivity, or toxicity. This Ordinance enables the program to identify, quantify, and assure the proper management as it relates to labeling, storage and disposal of waste generated. In situations of non-compliance, enforcement actions are initiated through the PBC Environmental Control Hearing Board or referred to the local DEP District.

Revenue generated from 1,300 permitted facilities was approximately \$150,000.00. 82 applications were processed during the year and 39 complaints were investigated.

Body Piercing

The Body Piercing Program is intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public from the spread of infectious diseases. This program prescribes minimum sanitary and safety requirements as it relates to the design and operation of Body Piercing Salons. Enforcement actions are initiated as a result of noncompliance with specific rules and regulations and penalties vary depending on the nature and severity of the violations.

Revenue generated from 20 permitted facilities was approximately \$3,000.00. Four applications processed during the year and two complaints were investigated.

Tanning Facilities

Tanning facilities are regulated to prevent or reduce the risk of occurrence of those injuries and diseases that may occur due to the exposure to non-ionizing (ultra violet) radiation. The objective of this program is to establish comprehensive and uniform procedures to ensure that new and existing tanning facilities in Palm Beach County are operated in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Facilities are also regulated to prevent the occurrence of communicable diseases associated with the lack of sanitary operation of the facility. To achieve this end, the Health Department licenses and inspects tanning facilities for compliance with safety and sanitation standards.

Revenue generated from 50 permitted facilities was approximately \$12,000.00. Ten applications were processed during the year and no complaints were received.

Green Initiatives.

A new activity promoted is the benchmarking of energy usage utilizing tools developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A benchmarking informational brochure on how to save money and reduce greenhouse gasses was designed. Staff engaged several private schools to participate in benchmarking. Most private schools could not be qualified for an energy star rating (due to building qualification specifications,) but any school can

benefit from ways to reduce energy costs. Both the 800 Clematis Street Administrative Building and the West Palm Beach Health Clinic on 45th Street were benchmarked. Several meetings were held with building managers and facilities directors. Neither building received scores high enough to receive an energy star rating, but we continue to make improvements and policies to reduce energy consumption and raise our energy star rating.

Childcare Facility

In May 2010, the local law governing child care in Palm Beach County, Chapter 77-620, Special Acts, Laws of Florida was amended, causing the following changes to child care and family child care operations:

1. Family child care homes are allowed to have a maximum capacity of six (6) children instead of five (5).
2. Large family child care homes may be licensed in Palm Beach County if approved by local zoning, building, and fire authorities.
3. A family child care provider will sit on the Palm Beach County Child Care Advisory Council.

Palm Beach County Health Department inspects every licensed child care facility to ensure compliance.

Childcare Facility Licensing and Inspections 2010

	Routine	Re-Inspection	Complaints	Other	All
Inspections					
Child Care	1,264	466	203	46	1,993
Family/Home					
Day Care	1,298	229	45	39	1,619
Total	2,562	695	248	85	3,612

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention & Healthy Homes (CLPP/HH) Program

110 families with children under six who live in older homes were enrolled in the Healthy Homes Program. Home assessments were conducted at 52 of these homes and the remainder of the families were assisted over the phone or chose not to participate in the program. Staff also worked with the Palm Beach County Building Department and the Code Advisory Board to inform the construction industry and the general public about the Environmental Protection Agency's new Renovation, Repair and Paint rule (RRP).

The CLPP/HH Program continues to educate the community by updating the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention brochures to include information about the Healthy Homes and RRP components of the program. They also worked with the Public Information Office to help produce a 30 minute television show on Channel 20 about childhood lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes for the Healthy Living program.

Water System Compliance

The Health Department is the delegated authority in Palm Beach County for the regulation of drinking water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Activities include surveillance sampling for disinfectant residuals and total coliform bacteria, annual inspections, and triennial sanitary surveys of Community, Transient Non-Community, and Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems. The Health Department regulates 90 public drinking water systems (39 Community Water Systems, 18 non-transient/non-community water systems, and 33 transient/non-community water systems) and 122 limited use drinking water systems.

A system is out of compliance when significant deficiencies such as Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) violations are noted, or for operational issues like inadequate disinfection levels in the distribution system. The ratio of non-compliant systems to the total number of systems is the non-compliance rate. This rate is used as an indicator of the overall safety of the drinking water delivered to our residents and visitors. For the second half of 2010, the water system non-compliance rate was 9.8%.

The Water Section is responsible for all permitting, compliance and enforcement activities associated with the Florida Safe Drinking Water Act (FL-SDWA) within Palm Beach County. The FL-SDWA covers the public water systems regulated under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Limited Use Drinking Water Systems not regulated by the Federal Act. In addition, the Health Department issues permits and tracks the construction of all water systems and private fire hydrants regulated under ECR II. The drinking water program receives funding from the FDOH General Revenue, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Palm Beach County and various State/local fees. During the 2010 period the Health Department conducted 249 site inspections, reviewed more than 2,500 compliance reports, investigated 40 citizen complaints related to drinking water systems, and initiated 76 enforcement actions for potential violations of the FL-SDWA and the associated regulations. The Health Department issued 118 permits for the construction and/or modification of drinking water plants and distribution systems.

The Water Section is also responsible for the Well Surveillance, Healthy Beaches and Swimming Pool Programs.

Beachwater Monitoring

Ocean water sampling is conducted by the Health Department along our coastline under the federal / state Healthy Beaches program. Monitoring points at 14 locations are sampled weekly for enterococci, and bi-weekly for fecal coliform. These bacteria normally inhabit the intestines of humans and animals, and



their presence is an indication of fecal pollution from sewage, stormwater runoff, pet wastes, or wildlife. High concentrations in recreational waters may result in diseases, infections or rashes. When bacteria are confirmed at levels unhealthy for swimmers, the department issues health advisories or warnings which remain in effect until a clear sample result is obtained.

In 2010, a total of 1113 Beachwater samples were collected and analyzed. Levels are recorded as Good, Moderate, or Poor. Seven of the fourteen sites had all Good results, while another five sites had just 1 to 2 readings of Moderate. One site (Dubois Park) had several isolated Moderate or Poor readings, but repeat samples were Good, so no advisories were issued. The only advisories issued in 2010 were for Phil Foster Park on March 31 and April 21-23.

Drinking Water Systems

Drinking water regulation is mandated by state statute, and authority is delegated to the Florida Department of Health and requires inspections, data review and compliance of all public water systems:

Safe Drinking Water Act:

2010

Inspections/Sanitary Surveys	106
Complaints.....	33
Enforcement Referrals.....	32
2 news letters issued in	2010

Limited Use water systems (currently 122 facilities) – Regulation and enforcement of all limited use water systems in Palm Beach County.

Limited Use Drinking Water Program

2010

Inspections	143
Complaints.....	7
Enforcement Referrals.....	44

Well Surveillance

Well surveillance program is mandated by state statute and delegates the Florida Department of Health and the Palm Beach County Health Department responsibility for well surveys, sampling and GIS in areas of contamination.

2010

Well Surveys.....	364
Well Samples.....	204

Water Recreation Section

Swimming Pool and Public Bathing places: Regulation and Enforcement of all permitted pools and public bathing places in Palm Beach County is mandated by Florida State Statute. The pool program staff currently regulates 3780 public pools and bathing places.

The department received numerous complaints during this period concerning improperly maintained residential swimming pools. The economy down turn forced many home owners into foreclosure. Homes with swimming pools were left unattended when homeowners vacated their property. These pools posed a potential to breed mosquitoes or were breeding mosquitoes. The concern was for mosquito borne diseases from these situations. The property owners were very difficult to identify in order to abate any nuisances the department identified. The community sanitation section continues to work on this issue.

2010

Swimming Pools and Bathing Places

- 8040 Inspections
- 725 Pool Closures (closed until satisfactory)
- 19 Enforcement Actions

Fire hydrant program

Fire hydrant program mandated by Palm Beach County Environmental Control Rule and requires regulation of all private fire hydrants in Palm Beach County. 138 Private fire systems are regulated every year with a total of 1049 fire hydrants.

Community and School Health

Community Health activities in the Division focus on:

- Gathering, analyzing, and interpreting multiple sources of data
- Community health improvement planning
- Engaging and mobilizing community partners
- Putting a face to public health in the community
- Health promotion and chronic disease prevention
- Identifying customer needs and improving service
- Identifying and obtaining grant funding
- Improving processes
- Conducting training

There are activities that take place with each of these areas. For example, in the area of "Gathering, analyzing, and interpreting multiple sources of data," agency health status indicators are tracked, monitored, and reviewed monthly by the senior leadership team. An example is shown below.

In the area of "Community Health Improvement Planning" the Health Department has been working with multiple community partners to incorporate findings from the Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships (MAPPP) process to improve the efficiency

and effectiveness of the performance of Palm Beach County's public health system.

Quality Improvement

Quality practices continue to be the way business is done at the Health Department. Administrative and Health Status indicators are reviewed monthly by the Director and the agency's Executive Leadership Team. Each month, one indicator is identified for detailed discussion, allowing for a thorough review and discussion of key indicators at the senior leadership level. This discussion includes a review of factors impacting performance and strategies for improvement.

12 formal teams and councils are utilized to focus on performance improvement areas; these groups function under "Guidance Documents" which outline scope of responsibility, membership structure, and relationship to our Strategic Plan. One of these teams is the agency Quality Council, consisting of members from all staff levels. This council has the mission to ensure the needs of customers and other stakeholders are met through the provision of products and services delivered at or above the applicable standards and within time and dollar limits.

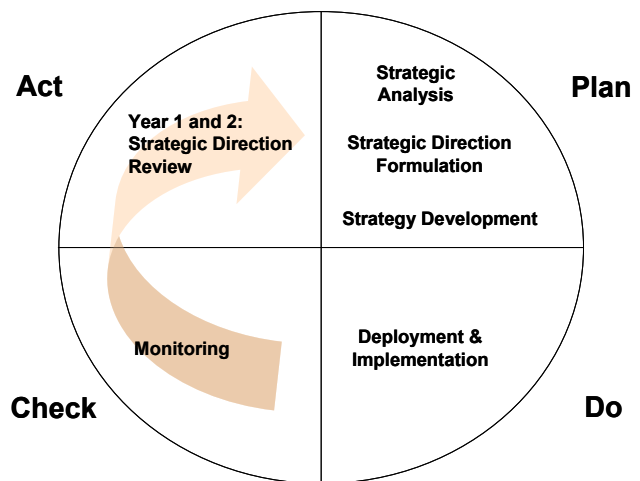
The Health Department uses a seven step problem solving/performance improvement process based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act model. Use of this model helps the agency become even more efficient and productive.

Strategic Plan

The first Strategic Plan was completed in 2002. We have since developed and implemented a comprehensive five-step process, completing a multi-month update of our Strategic Plan in 2010. For the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan, the Health Department implemented several improvements to the process. Major improvements include:

1. Streamlining the Strategic Plan by reducing the hierarchy from 3 levels to 2.
2. Creating measurable objectives, thereby adding more specificity to our priorities and increase accountability. Objectives will be documented in a Strategic Planning Database, enabling the agency to better evaluate success at achieving the goals and objectives listed in our Strategic Plan.
3. Reducing the period covered by our Strategic Plan from 5 years to 3 years. The 3-year time frame will allow us to be more agile in our response to a changing healthcare environment.

Our updated process is shown below.



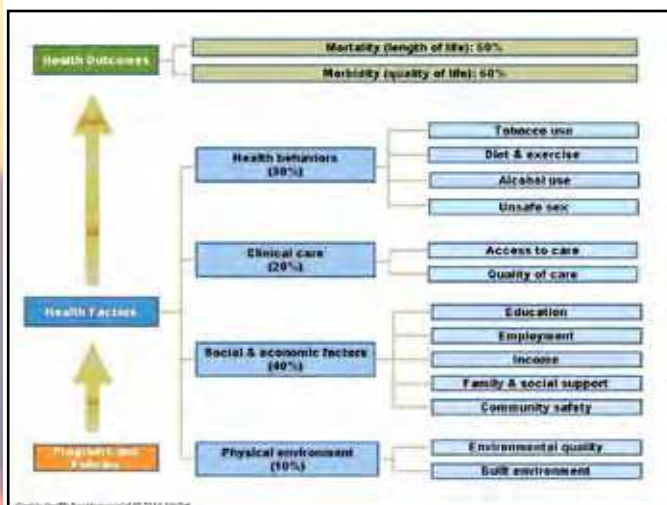
We track activities that support the Strategic Plan and measure progress toward success through a Strategic Planning Database. As a result of the improved process and the monitoring that occurs through the Strategic Planning Database, beginning in 2011 the department will be able to clearly measure our success at achieving the Goals identified in our Strategic Plan.

County Health Rankings

Where we live, learn, work, and play matters to our health. Having health insurance and good medical care are important, but much of what influences our health happens outside the doctor's office—from our access to healthy food or opportunities for physical activity, to education and jobs. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute released the second annual County Health Rankings. Nearly every county in the country is ranked on health outcomes (how healthy we are) and on health factors (how healthy we can be). Examples of specific measures used to calculate the Rankings include: adult smoking, obesity, binge drinking, access to primary care providers, rates of high school graduation, rates of violent crime, air pollution levels, unemployment rates and number of children living in poverty. This information helps counties see where they are doing well and where they are not, so they can make changes to improve health. Palm Beach County improved from last year in both of the major categories:

- Health Outcomes (how healthy we are): Rank (out of the 67 Florida Counties) improved from 12 to 11.
- Health Factors (how healthy we can be): Rank (out of the 67 Florida Counties) improved from 9 to 7.

The following chart shows the County Health Rankings model.



Healthy Communities

The Health Department continues its community-wide health and wellness efforts on numerous fronts to prevent and reduce chronic diseases associated with poor nutrition and limited physical activity. Its Healthy Communities/Healthy People program, funded through the Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention, continually collaborates with other community stakeholders from the public and private sector (including school district, faith-based community, businesses, health care agencies), with a special focus on advancing policy, environmental and infrastructure interventions that traditionally are hard to implement, but easy to sustain. For example, partnering with the Palm Beach County Coalition to ACHIEVE (Action Communities for Health, innovation and EnVironmental ChangE) Wellness, through promotion:

- Workplace wellness initiatives at various professional sites (e.g., Department of Parks and Recreation, the Health Department);
- Physical activity as the preferred alternative to a sedentary lifestyle (e.g., stairwell beautification projects in public garages, joint-use agreements allowing public use of school district grounds for recreation after school hours); and
- Adoption of policies in county and municipality master comprehensive plans that ensure new or renovated built environments are conducive to self-ambulation and active leisure activity.

Working with the School District's Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities Project has entailed serving on the Joint-Use Agreement subcommittee to identify optimum public school sites to develop a joint-use agreement allowing public use of school grounds for physical activity after school hours. The ultimate goal—to promote physical

activity and reduce chronic disease associated with obesity—will be achieved when flagship schools opening their recreational sites will serve as a model to other schools in the county.

Customer Service

Customer Service within the Health Department is "Customer Service Positive People, Positive Results" to remind employees of our commitment to customer satisfaction and the importance to provide excellent customer service. The health department will continue to explore different ways to promote and improve our customer satisfaction.

A total of 956 surveys were returned during 2010. 92.6% or 885 rated satisfactory or above!

During 2010 a new survey was developed and will be implemented in 2011. Improvements were made by reducing the number of different types of surveys from 22 to 4 that meet the needs of the agency.

During October, the staff celebrated Customer Service Week across the agency by showing appreciation to both external and internal customers.

The Customer Satisfaction Team has been busy creating ways to better serve the Health Department's internal and external customers, motivate all to be customer friendly and generate recognizable themes and programs that depict the agencies customer friendly status.

Teen Pregnancy

The Repeat Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project continues to provide case management services in the clinic, school and community settings for pregnant teens who are 10 to 18 years of age. The keys to preventing repeat teen pregnancies include providing continued education and access to reliable contraceptive methods, ensuring that teen mothers and their babies have a healthy start, encouraging educational and career goals so that teens can demonstrate the ability to be self-sufficient.

Case management services for this project are provided by a registered nurse specialist working in the West Palm Beach, Lantana/Lake Worth, and Delray Beach Health Centers. In 2010, 135 pregnant or parenting teens have been case managed; two were 14 years old; and three were reported as repeat pregnancies. In addition over 200 teens were counseled during Teen Connection at the Delray Beach Health Center. This program provides high risk teens with family planning counseling, reproductive health exams, testing for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy as well as free and low cost birth control.

The "Teen Lunch Group" educational sessions allows the registered nurse specialist to reach out to pregnant

and parenting teens in the school setting, specifically schools in the county that have shown a high number of pregnancies in their student population. This enables the registered nurse specialist to encourage and promote continued education with the goals of graduation being met. Over 60 teens attended the sessions.

The registered nurse specialist works throughout the year as an active member of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Sub-Committee, along with many of our community partners and key Health Department staff to promote “The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy” held in May. Each year the school nurses, guidance counselors, and teachers encourage teens to visit the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy website and take the national day quiz. Posters are disseminated to schools, the Boys and Girls Clubs, libraries and community centers in the county. The group effort demonstrates a true commitment and collaborative partnership to prevent teen pregnancy in our county.

To increase awareness about teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent health, additional outreach activities were conducted to groups such as the Teen Advisory Board at the Delray Library, the Wayne Barton Community Center in Boca Raton, Emerald Cove and South Grade Beacon Centers, the Juneteenth Celebration and health fair in Delray Beach and the Knights of Pythagoras Mentoring Network in Delray Beach.

TOBACCO PREVENTION

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program focuses on reducing tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure through policy and system changes. Interventions and programs under the program are funded by the Community-Based Tobacco Prevention Interventions RFA, which provides \$210,000 annually in core funding. The four goal areas of the program are: Prevent initiation of tobacco use among youth and young adults; Eliminate secondhand smoke exposure; Promote cessation from tobacco products; and maintain infrastructure.

Creating and maintaining Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Chapters in our middle and high schools are vital as they engage their peers and communities in the policy process through various school and community events. There were 18 active chapters in the school and community settings. The members work to increase peer awareness about the marketing tactics used by the tobacco industry to gain new youth users through school-based events such as Don’t Drop Dead and Sweet Deception, and through community-based events on National Tobacco Observances such as Great American Smokeout and Kick Butts Day.

Some of the highlights from 2010 include:

- Developing and implementing a Tobacco 101

educational series at the Beacon Centers (now known as Bridges), a six-week program that educated teens on the history of the industry, health effects of tobacco use, marketing practices, and peer refusal skills.

- Conducting a tobacco cessation program for the City of West Palm Beach employees.
- Funding the Families Acting Collaboratively to Educate and Involve Teens (FACE IT) Program, an alternative-to-suspension program at two schools in Palm Beach County for students caught in possession of and/or using tobacco products on School District Property.
- Began working towards tobacco-free environmental policies in Lake Worth and Wellington.
- Continued working towards tobacco-free policies at the School District of Palm Beach County; Florida Atlantic University; and Palm Beach State College.
- Began work on tobacco-free policies at multi-unit housing communities.

The Tobacco-Free Partnership of Palm Beach County meets on a monthly basis to discuss the latest issues in tobacco prevention and control and to discuss the progress of the local policy initiatives. Membership includes representatives from:

- American Lung Association
- Boys and Girls’ Clubs of Palm Beach County
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco
- Everglades Area Health Education Center
- Lakeside Medical Center
- Palm Beach County Medical Society
- Palm Beach State College
- Private citizens
- School District of Palm Beach County

SunFest of Palm Beach County (the state’s largest waterfront music and art festival) declined a six-figure sponsorship from a tobacco company after feedback and concerns of Health Department’s Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. This is a public health victory as sampling, product marketing, and free product distribution were components of the proposed sponsorship. SunFest has an average attendance of approximately 280,000 people and is heavily attended by youth and college-age adults.

SCHOOL HEALTH

Our district is fortunate to have a school nurse in every regular school including nursing support for our alternative and charter schools. Wellness is promoted through the provision of health services with our partners from the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and the School District of Palm Beach County. The primary goal of this program is to advance the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement of our students. The program supports the delivery of

basic health care to all students on a daily basis as well as supporting compliance with school entrance requirements and monitoring communicable disease in the school setting.

School Year 2009/2010:

Student Return to Class Rates:

- Returned to class79%
- Released from school21%

Health-room visits for medication and treatment within the school setting

- Medication Visits (19%) 136,723
- Non Medication Visits (81%) 529,887
- Total Visits.....666,610

Prevention health interventions:

- Hearing screening.....58,020
- Vision screening58,173
- BMI screening.....36,381
- Scoliosis screening10,260
- Total Screenings162,834

School Immunization Compliance Rate Nov. 2010

- Kindergarten -PB Co. 90.8% State 91.3%
- 7th grade -PB Co. 95.1%State 94.7%

RAMS HEALTH CLINIC

This is a school-based clinic located in Palm Beach Lakes Community High School that is a satellite clinic of the West Palm Beach Health Center . It was created to provide social and medical services for students who otherwise would have no or limited access to needed health services. The ultimate goal is to increase opportunities for academic success through maximizing student health and attendance. Clinic services are provided by a nurse practitioner, social worker, and staff assistant.

School Nursing Provides Cost-Savings to Palm Beach County

*By Joseph Maides, DO, Robert Parkes, MD, and Ronald Wiewora, MD, MPH**

Background

The National Association of School Nurses defines school nursing as a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement and health of students. School nurses enhance the academic environment in which children learn by promoting health and reducing health-related barriers to learning.

Purpose

In Palm Beach County, school nurses collaborate with educational and health care professionals to provide optimal nursing care for the School District of Palm Beach County, the 11th largest school district in the nation which has earned an overall "A" rating from the Florida Department of Education over the past five years. In 2008-2009, school nurses in Palm Beach County provided case management for a total of 17,290

students with chronic health conditions. We sought to determine the cost savings to Palm Beach County as a result of the School Nursing Program.

Methods

We obtained data on the annual cost of the School Health Program for Palm Beach County for 2008 – 2009. In the absence of this program, parents would need to access alternative sources of care including medication administration visits at retail clinics, urgent care clinics, and primary care physician clinics.

The cost per visit for retail and urgent care clinics was obtained from an internet search of local market costs. Cost savings to the community were then determined by calculating the difference between the projected costs of alternative sources of care and the annual cost of the School Health Program.

Results

There are 167 schools in Palm Beach County with a student population of 170,000. The number of school health nurses serving this population is 209.7 FTE (full-time equivalents). This gives a school health nurse FTE/student ratio of 0.9/750. The total budget for the School Health Program for Palm Beach County was \$14,251,051 for 2008-2009, of which \$13,920,851 (98%) accounted for personnel costs. Of the 682,479 total health room visits, 130,924 (19.2%) and 551,555 (80.8%) were for medication visits and non-medication visits respectively. The total savings from the school health program is the sum of the direct (\$30,110,084) and the indirect (\$1,858,610), which is \$31,968,694.

Table 2: Savings from School Health Program

<i>Direct savings</i>	<i>\$30,110,084</i>
<i>Indirect savings</i>	<i>\$1,858,610</i>
<i>Total savings</i>	<i>\$31,968,694</i>

Conclusion

The school health nurse FTE/student ratio for Palm Beach County is 0.9/750, which compares favorably to the national standard of 1/750. School nursing services for the School Health Program of Palm Beach County provide considerable costs savings to the community of \$31,968,694. This cost saving range does not take into consideration the time saved by parents not having to leave work and take their child to have medical care. Another significant cost saving is educational funding saved as a result of 80% of the students returning to class after school nurse management.

Office of Public Health Preparedness Cities Readiness Initiative

Cities Readiness Initiative is mandated from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to distribute preventive medications and vaccines to 100% of the population within a 48 hour period. To Palm Beach County it means giving meds to 1.3 million people in a short time. A minimum of 40 Points of Distribution (PODs), and over 4,800 people will be needed to accomplish this task.

The Office of Public Health Preparedness has identified 45 communities who potentially will act as their own POD and help relieve the burden on the 40 PODs and facilitate a much quicker response to the populations needs.

Health Department employees are trained in the continuity of operation and their assignment should an incident occur. Private and public PODs have been established with local governments and municipalities, large faith based groups, neighborhood and homeowner/condo associations, businesses, colleges.

TRAININGS AND EXERCISES... Being Ready through constant practice.

January..... St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant Biennial Evaluated Exercise

February Radiological Emergency Plan Functional Exercise - KI (Potassium Iodide) Distribution

March.....PBCHD H1N1 After Action Report Conference

March...Palm Beach International Airport Disaster Table Top Exercise - Mass Fatalities

March..... March "All Hazards Executive Leadership Team" Mini EOC Activation

March.....H1N1 Regional Table Top Exercise

April United States Postal Service Biohazard Detection System Table Top Exercise

May..... United States Coast Guard Mass Rescue Operations Full Scale Exercise

May..... Residential Point of Dispensing Walk Through

May.....May Executive Leadership Team Hurricane Table Top Exercise/Call Down

May..... Turbulent Tide Strike Team Full Scale Exercise

June..... Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center Branch 2 Drill

June..... Hurricane Marley Functional Exercise

July Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Radiological Exercise

August .. Local Distribution Center Field Assessment for Cities Readiness Initiative Program

August PBCHD Mini Emergency Operations Center Activation/Call Down

DecemberVeterans Affairs Hospital Drill

December ... Western Shelter Gate Keeper Tent System Deployment at Marathon of Palm Beaches

The Health Department also plays an important role in the Medical Operation and Management of the County's two Special Needs Shelters which function as pre-event shelters primarily for hurricanes and other severe weather related events. One shelter accommodates patients dependent on medical equipment such as those requiring a continuous oxygen supply and those who are just too medically frail to stay at home during a prolonged event. The second provides refuge for patients with Dementia and Alzheimer's related illnesses. All patients must be accompanied by a Caregiver. Both of these special needs shelters have auxiliary emergency power, are wind resistant, and not flood-prone.

At the shelter patients are provided with excellent medical care, basic pharmaceutical support and medical supplies. A very comfortable and compassionate environment is provided by Health Department Physicians and Nurses who remain activated until the storm has passed and patients are discharged.

Fortunately in 2010 there were no activations of the Special Needs Shelters, however, the Health Department and its partners constantly drill and exercise in order to maintain the highest level of readiness.

H1N1 Pandemic:

The Health Department was recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) as a "Best Practice in Public-Private Partnerships for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness." The case study: Local Health Departments Partner with Community Pharmacies for H1N1 and Seasonal Influenza Prevention, Vaccination, and Response can be found on NACCHO's web site at <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/DGMQ/partnersinprep.cfm>. The H1N1 Pandemic provided an excellent opportunity for the health department to partner with medical providers, hospitals, and pharmacies to meet mass vaccination campaign challenges. The public-private collaboration extended the department reach and enabled trusted information and vaccine to flow to hundreds of area pharmacies for very easy access by the public.

Our H1N1 Team was also selected as the National Influenza Vaccine Summit overall 2009-2010 season national winner from over 30 nominees. This award reflects the tremendous team efforts of so many Health Department employees working together to decrease morbidity and mortality from influenza by increasing access to vaccination and better informing the public, especially those most at-risk and vulnerable, about ways to prevent the spread of this disease. The Health Department's Flu Call Center (888-411-4FLU) was available to the public, making appointments in the health centers including evenings and weekends and providing accurate and timely information in many languages. The Health Department expanded

efforts through collaboration with community partners, especially hospitals, physicians, Fire Rescue EMS, pharmacists and other providers to offer H1N1 vaccine at open and closed community sites, including childcare centers, universities, after-school, fairs and festivals and created a wide-reaching public education campaign including television and radio spots, billboards, posters and Flu Ready Cards.

Public Health Preparedness staff authored a journal article entitled, "Extending the Reach: Local Health Department Collaboration with Community Pharmacies in Palm Beach County for H1N1 Influenza Pandemic in the Journal of Public Health Management & Practice. The partnership involving community pharmacies and pharmacy-based retail health clinics to increased access to influenza prevention through a H1N1 mass vaccination campaign and disseminated timely and accurate public health recommendations using Flu Ready Cards. Partnerships with community pharmacists can help "extend the reach" of the Health Department and pharmacists can be a first line resource for prevention, wellness and all hazard preparedness and response. The Preparedness Office continues to make advancements with these key partnerships as a prestigious 2010 - 2011 NACCHO grant recipient Advanced Practice Center Connector Site.

The Health Department became an official member to the Sheriff's Office Fusion Center, a multi-agency intelligence gathering and sharing initiative which uses state of the art surveillance and monitoring equipment primarily for terrorism and crime prevention. The department provides staffing 5 days per week from the following Divisions/Programs: Office of Public Health Preparedness, Environmental Public Health, Epidemiology, and Communicable Disease. In addition, other members include: Fire Rescue, School District Police, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Fusion Center is presently receiving National and even International attention for its current resources and capabilities.

Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program

Training Future Public Health Leaders

- Offers development and enhancement in program planning and administration.
- Master of Public Health degree provided by Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Open to both Allopathic and Osteopathic physicians.
- Accredited by both Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and the American Osteopathic Association.
- Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the preventive medicine board exams.

31 physicians have graduated the program since 2000.

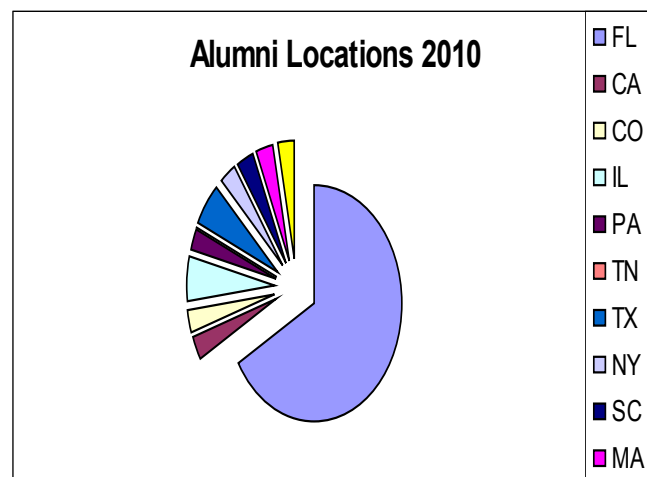
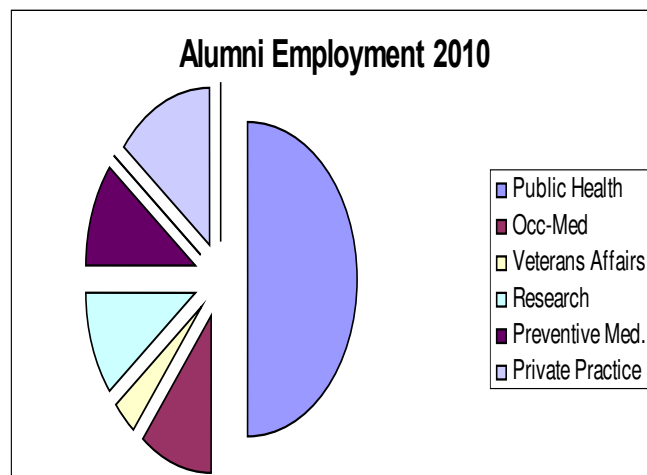
7 work in a public health setting in the state of Florida.

6 work in the field of public health in other states.

6 work in Occupational medicine and/or Preventive medicine.

8 work in research and/or medical fields outside of public health.

Seventy-five percent (75%) are now in positions of leadership in the Preventive Medicine/Public Health field.



Dr. Alonso with Residents

Women's Health Initiative (WHIN)

The Women's Health Initiative Program is an intensive home visitation model that is available to Black pre-natal and interconception women living in targeted areas of Palm Beach County with the intended outcome of reducing racial disparities. This program delivers support to families to increase health literacy, improve the number of healthy births, and improve parent-child interaction with the intended outcome of reducing the Black Infant Mortality rate in the county.

The Women's Health Initiative Program adheres to the Federal Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) guidelines and is part of several nurse home visiting programs within the Maternal-Child Health Division of the Health Department

Implementation of the Women's Health Initiative Program began in November 2009 with a team of four nurse home visitors. Each nurse has capacity for a caseload of 25 families and can remain with the family until the child turns two years of age. Program enrollment was 92 families for 2010 and 2011 should bring a full capacity of 100 families

Registered dietitians with the Women's Health Initiative grant program sponsored a six-week course called The Happy Kitchen, a nationally recognized cooking and nutrition education program offering innovative, theory-based, cost-effective solutions for chronic food and nutrition problems that impact limited resource families. This program teaches skills and self-sufficiency in preparing healthy economical meals, encourages positive changes in shopping, cooking, and eating habits, increases knowledge and awareness about nutrition, reduces diet-related diseases (diabetes, heart-disease, etc.) promotes the health and development of young children and families.

Nurse-Family Partnership in Palm Beach County

Nurse-Family Partnership® is a maternal and early childhood health program that fosters long-term success for first-time moms and their babies. It introduces a knowledgeable maternal child health nurse with first-time families early in their pregnancies. This program delivers support to families so that they can have healthier pregnancies, become knowledgeable and responsible parents and become self-sufficient members of society.

Nurse-Family Partnership an evidenced based program that is part of several nurse home visiting programs within the Maternal-Child Health Division of the Palm Beach County Health Department.

While this Nurse-Family Partnership remains the sole implementing agency of this nationally known program in Florida, it has grown in its local impact. The program

has expanded from one team of six nurses, started in 2008, to three teams totaling 15 nurses in 2010. Each nurse has a capacity for a caseload of 25 moms and can remain with the family until the child turns two years of age. 2011 should bring a full capacity of 375 families and the first cohort of graduates.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federally funded program that serves low to moderate income women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or who have recently been pregnant, infants and children under 5 years of age. Applicants must live in Florida and have a nutrition need that can be helped by WIC foods and nutrition counseling. Applicants can be income eligible for WIC if they are currently receiving Medicaid, Temporary Cash Assistance, or SNAP (food stamps). Applicants do not have to be on a public assistance program to qualify for WIC.

WIC provides the following at no cost:

- Nutrition assessment, education and counseling
- Breastfeeding information, breast pump loan program, counseling and technical support
- Healthy foods which include new WIC foods: fruits, vegetables, whole grains and baby foods
- Referrals for health care, immunizations (shots) and community services

Emphasis is placed on reaching the migrant population, as well as reaching and enrolling eligible women in their first trimester of pregnancy so that WIC's benefits can begin as early as possible in order to help improve pregnancy outcomes. Since its inception more than 30 years ago, the many studies conducted demonstrate that the WIC Program is cost effective in protecting or improving the health/nutritional status of the women, infants and children who participate.

WIC services are provided by Registered and Licensed Nutritionists, Nutrition Educators, Health Educators, Breastfeeding Peer Counselors and International Board Certified Lactation Consultants.

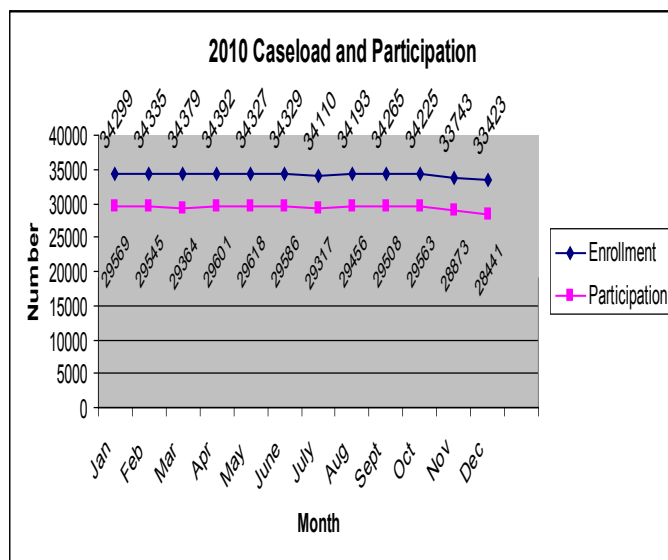
WIC partners with 127 grocery stores throughout the county to provide over \$21,500,000 worth of nutritionally appropriate food to our WIC families.

In the Spring the WIC Program opened the WIC Appointment and Information Center. The center is located at the Greenacres WIC site. WIC Appointment and Information Center staff is bilingual in English/Spanish or English/Creole. The centralized appointment and information center provides the opportunity to better serve clients in a timely, consistent manner. The staff is responsible for scheduling appointments, in-state and out-of-state transfers, providing information on the WIC program and following up on missed appointments.

Removing these activities from the WIC sites allows site staff to focus on serving the needs of the clients. Over 1000 calls are handled weekly at the appointment and information center.

In addition, Q-Flow, the clinic appointment management system was implemented at WIC sites located at the West Palm Beach, Lantana, Delray and C.L. Brumback Health Centers. Q-Flow includes an on-going electronic appointment announcement and tracking of WIC clients. Q-Flow tracks registration time, point of service time and automatically routes clients to the appropriate service while ensuring privacy and the optimum utilization of staff.

The WIC Program continues to partner with the Palm Beach County Head Start Programs throughout the county to bring the WIC Nutrition Education Campaigns to their Head Start Parent Meetings. WIC staff conducted presentations at 25 Head Start Parent Meetings and was able to document 689 nutrition education contacts in 2010.



An unduplicated total of 48,210 individuals received WIC services between January 2010 and December 2010. Of those serviced 31% were Women, 29% were Infants, and 40% were Children. The percentage of infants served decreased by 1% and the percentage of children increased by 2% since the previous year. Among the women served 60% were pregnant, 23% were Breastfeeding, and 17% were not breastfeeding. The percentage of non-breastfeeding women remains consistent, the percentage of breastfeeding women served decreased and percentage pregnant women increased.

48,210 Clients Served Unduplicated Count 2010		
Women	Infant	Children
14840	14046	19324
31%	29%	40%

Active efforts continue to focus on increasing caseload, participation, and percentage of eligible served in the WIC Program. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

The WIC and Nutrition Division coordinated many special events for "Go Red for Women" which was celebrated in February. "Go Red" events were scheduled at each Health Center and outreach community events also were sponsored at the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, The Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches and Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church.

COMMUNITY NUTRITION SERVICES

Clinical Nutrition

The Comprehensive Nutrition Programs coordinates clinical and community nutrition services at the Palm Beach County Health Department. Clinical Nutrition Services, including medical nutrition therapy, nutrition follow-up, case management and group education were provided in the Agency's five large health centers' adult medical, family planning, maternity, women's health, pediatrics and HIV/AIDS clinics. In 2010 the following services were provided in the health centers and community.

• Nutrition Assessment/ Counseling	4,935
• Unduplicated number of clients	3,315
• Case Management	3,494
• Group Education Contacts	53
• Community Presentations	20

Senior Public Health Nutritionists also provided medical nutrition therapy for non-health department members of the Health Care District's Coordinated Care and Personal Health Plans. Members with chronic disease conditions, including diabetes and cardiovascular disease, are referred for nutrition assessment, counseling and following up by registered and licensed dietitians. Medical nutrition therapy has been proven to lessen chronic disease risk, improve health outcomes as well as save health care dollars. Medical nutrition therapy generated over \$50,000 in 2010.

Food security remained a very important concern of many of our clients. To address the issue of food security, hunger and access to healthy foods, the C. L. Brumback and Riviera Beach Health Centers maintain therapeutic food pantries. Clients that receive nutrition counseling from the nutritionist are given healthy foods from the food pantry that encourage improved dietary compliance. The Comprehensive Nutrition Program also works very closely with community partners, including the Community Food Alliance, to identify additional food and nutrition resources for clients.

Community Nutrition

The Fruits & Veggies - More Matters™ campaign continued to be an important promotion along with the

5-2-1-0 program. Both initiatives address increased fruit and vegetable consumption for children and adults. The 5-2-1-0 program also addresses screen time, physical activity and consumption of sweetened beverages. Nutrition messages and information were disseminated through a variety of media outlets, including radio, television, print media and the Agency's Internet site. The Go Red for Women Campaign was also promoted in the health centers and with community agencies. Additionally, the Palm Beach County Health Department was selected by the Florida Dietetic Association to receive the award for "Overall Excellence Within a Facility" during National Nutrition Month®. National Nutrition Month® is a month long campaign in March highlighting the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

The Health Department helped coordinate Media Smart Youth: Eat, Think & Be Active! Program. Eleven, 11-13 year old students were enrolled in the program that was held at the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. Goals of the program include helping 11-13 years olds become aware of and think critically about the media's influence on their nutrition and physical activity choices, helping build the skills to make good decisions to be physically active and eat nutritiously in daily life and encouraging young people to establish healthy habits that will last into adulthood. A public service announcement was made by the students that was posted on You Tube.

The Palm Beach County Health Department received the award for "Overall Excellence Within a Facility" from Florida Dietetic Association during National Nutrition Month in July!

2010 Public Information

The community faced a number of challenges in 2010 and the Public Information Office kept residents and visitors informed and provided tips that would help keep everybody safe and healthy. Each year the Health Department informs residents of issues and incidents that have an impact on public health: from weekly monitoring of our Sentinel Chicken flocks for early warnings of zoonotic diseases to vaccination requirements for school children and the importance of seasonal flu vaccines. The Public Information Office handles extensive media requests from local to national outlets as well as produces training materials, informational brochures and signage, and produces videos for outreach, long and short form programming to reach employees, community partners, state and local agencies, and the general public in multiple languages. The Public Information Office also helps fulfill records requests from the public and the media entailing thousands of pages of documents, some of which have to be carefully redacted to comply with medical privacy and HIPAA laws.

Acreage Study:

For 18 months, the Health Department was actively involved with the Acreage community to assist them with an investigation into elevated levels of pediatric brain cancer. The Florida Department of Health in conjunction with its partners at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted extensive testing and analysis. The Study revealed no widespread ground water or soil contamination in the area, nor any evidence suggesting the existence of any localized source(s) of contamination. DEP stated, "Residential property in the Acreage is safe for families to enjoy outside activities in their yards."

A third study component, by the Department of Health, involved a case-control analysis. The conclusion summary states, "The analysis from study participants revealed a higher number of controls reported exposure to identified variables than reported by cases. These differences further revealed that controls had a longer average time in the acreage area compared to case participants. Therefore, having a longer duration of residency was not a risk factor for development of a pediatric brain tumor in the Acreage area. Including gestational exposure time did not change this conclusion.

Finally, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) lifted its cautionary warning and additional documentation requirements addressing this issue on September 15, 2010. Thus, lenders and appraisers reviewing mortgages on properties in the 33411, 33412, and 33470 zip codes will no longer need to require any additional documentation beyond what would normally be expected.

From March 2010 to November 2010 The Acreage Neighborhood Information Center was open and staffed by the Health Department's Environmental Public Health, Epidemiologist and other professionals to personalize the approach to the investigation by looking into community concerns and speaking one on one to visitors to the center.

Comprehensive testing of soils, water, radionuclides and case control reviews did not reveal any environmental concerns associated with these cancers and the decision made to continue in a surveillance mode for possible spikes, close the information center and discontinue additional testing. The Community is now working to get back to normalcy better educated on cancer and with a heightened awareness for the community they live-in.

Elements of the Study:

- Review cancer rates in Florida, Palm Beach County, and further define the suspected area within the zip codes 33411, 33412, 33470.
- Utilize Census blocks and County tracts to better

define the area within the three zip codes. Population numbers were recalculated to better reflect the current population.

- Reviewed all cancers from 1995 through 2007.
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection tested water in 50 locations throughout the community to give a baseline for industrial and agricultural products that might be found in the surficial aquifer.
- Elevated levels of pediatric brain cancer especially among females were found in the years 2005 to 2007 and prompted further environmental testing for radionuclides, soil, and water in over 70 locations.
- A case control study with the families affected in the area was conducted.
- All information, calculations, lab results, protocols from all findings were reviewed by the EPA and CDC.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta, GA 30333

October 27, 2010

Dr. Lisa Conti, Director
Division of Environmental Health
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way, BIN A-08
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Dr. Conti,

Thank you for consulting us and providing CDC the opportunity to review your investigation of childhood brain cancers in The Acreage community. My staff and I reviewed the following documents provided by the Florida Department of Health (FLDOH):

- FLDOH Acreage cancer review, Palm Beach County, August 2009
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FLDEP), Acreage investigation – water sample results, February 2nd 2010
- FLDEP, Summary of soil and drinking water sampling results for residence located in The Acreage, February, March and April 2010
- FLDEP Guide to understanding soil sampling results, July 19, 2010
- FLDEP Radon testing results
- FLDOH Acreage community case control data analysis, September 2010
- United States Environmental Protection Agency letter to Ms. Mary Jean Yon, director

The documents listed above provide results from environmental testing (drinking water and soil) for radon, heavy metals, pesticides and other potential environmental contaminants. In addition, they include results from an epidemiologic investigation to assess potential risk factors for brain tumors among children in The Acreage.

After thorough review of the documents listed above, we found that the investigation completed by the FLDOH was comprehensive and scientifically appropriate. Based on the data provided, we concur with the conclusion of the FLDOH that the investigation (including the case control study and environmental testing) did not reveal any potential risk factors for which exposure among cases was statistically significantly higher than exposure among the controls. We do not

Highlights:

Conducted Public Forums and coordinated information office to inform all on the Acreage investigation. The goal of these actions was to keep the community informed on the investigation of Pediatric Brain Cancer and to investigate possible causes of the elevation that occurred in 2005. This included residents, political entities, researchers, epidemiologists, radiation experts, water experts and more. The Health Department continues to monitor the cancers in the area.

Carbon Monoxide poisoning became a reportable condition in 2009 and in 2010 the Health Department issued its first warning following 28 reported cases, many of which resulted in deaths. A number of cases were the result of automobiles left running in closed

garages. Many in the community reported that keyless vehicles and remote starters have resulted in many leaving vehicles running or unknowingly starting them. The best defense is a Carbon Monoxide Detector placed in a garage.

The Child Care Licensing division swung into action following the tragic death of a two year old at a Day Care Center. This dedicated group of inspectors reviewed the procedures at the facility, provided education to the staff and remained on site daily while investigating to assure the safety of the children. Following the incident the Child Care Advisory Council began a complete review of licensing procedures.

Bed Bugs—A large infestation of these critters has occurred in the Northeastern United States. As a global society some of these have now hitched a ride to Florida and have shown up in group and private homes. Bed Bugs pose no health risk but are very difficult to eliminate and bite leaving an itchy sore. Finding a reputable licensed exterminator is the best recommendation we can make.

Tuberculosis—252 Students, faculty and other staff members from two schools were involved in testing for tuberculosis after being identified as possible close contacts of a person who had TB Disease. No cases were identified as a result of close contact but, others were identified with Latent TB Infection which means they had been exposed at some point in their life and their body had contained the disease.

Rabies in animals was rare in 2010 but, an unusual twist occurred when an otter attacked several people in the southern part of Palm Beach County. Animal care and Control staked out the area and finally found an otter carcass floating in a pond. The State Laboratory in Lantana confirmed that it had died of rabies. All who had contact with the otter were administered the series of rabies shots and all are okay.

What's Ahead...

The challenges of maintaining the highest quality of service to our residents and visitors remains a top priority. The Palm Beach County Health Department continues to be Champions For The healthiest Community In The Nation!

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.