



Florida Department of Health  
**Alachua County Health Department**  
**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Community

# Florida Department of Health—Alachua County: Accomplishments

## Clinical Care

**More than 13% of Alachua County residents** received services from the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County (DOH-Alachua), with over 34,000 active clients accessing more than 521,923 services in health care.

**School attendance was supported with clinical services** provided by 14 DOH-Alachua nurses in 12 area schools. Out of 34,420 student visits to these clinics, fully 92% of the issues were resolved and students returned to class that day.

**Participants in the Diabetes Case Management Program** made significant progress towards achieving healthy blood sugar levels. In 2016, the number of participants with a desirable HbA1c (blood sugar) measurement at or below the goal level increased from 14% to 45%. These participants are now at a lower risk of experiencing renal failure, blindness or amputation.

**The Southwest Dental Clinic increased** the community's access to the oral health by providing 12,815 dental procedures in 3,068 visits to 1,406 clients. Clinic staff also collaborated with the UF College of Dentistry to complete oral health screenings to over 1,200 third graders at 22 Alachua County Public Schools.

## Environmental Health

**Environmental Health (EH) programs minimized exposure** to disease-causing vectors through regulatory inspections, investigations, and environmental surveillance. The EH section provides services in 16 program areas, covering 13 counties. A NELAC certified bacteriological water lab is maintained with two EPA certified lead inspectors as a part of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The EH Section performed over 8,333 services in 2016.

## Disaster Preparedness

**Enhanced capacity to respond to mass casualty incidents** and public health emergencies has been achieved through infrastructure development and multi-agency mock disaster exercises. A biomedical equipment laboratory has been established to maintain the state's emergency cache of biomedical equipment at the ready. Two caches of medical supplies and equipment have been developed to further increase the region's capacity to respond to disasters. Mobile medical clinics have been equipped and remain ready to deploy where needed, and a proven network of community partners are poised to respond as a high-functioning team.

**The Alachua Area Medical Reserve Corps contributed \$278,505 in medical services** to the citizens of Alachua County. Coordinated by the Planning Department of DOH-Alachua, this group of volunteer medical personnel provided 331 medical services to the underserved, as well as 2,693 clients served in over 50 flu vaccination clinics conducted in area schools, businesses, government office and homeless shelters.

## Communicable Disease

**Health outcomes have improved** for people living with HIV/AIDS in Alachua County as a result of clinical care and case management. In our 15-county service area, 67% of people with HIV have a suppressed viral load which is 8% higher than the state rate. HIV-positive people with a suppressed viral load live longer, healthier lives and are 96% less likely to transmit the virus to someone else in the community. In 2016 two new innovative treatment programs were launched— Antiretroviral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for people who are at high risk of acquiring HIV, and a Test and Treat program for people who are newly diagnosed.

**In addition, 26 at-risk infants were born HIV-negative** with the help of the Perinatal Prevention Program. This program is instrumental in preventing the transmission of HIV from mother to infant through supportive intervention. The program was awarded the 2015 Prudential Productivity Award on the merit of service delivery and cost savings of over 14 million dollars to tax payers.

**The risk of exposure to tuberculosis (TB) has been reduced in Alachua County** because of a 25% decrease in active TB cases since 2011. This can be credited to increased field activities and targeted use of resources through the Florida Tuberculosis System of Care in Alachua County

**Successful surveillance and response efforts** by the Epidemiology Program in 2016 minimized and controlled disease outbreaks. The Epidemiology Program identifies, assesses, and controls the presence and spread of over 90 communicable diseases. The Program responded to the ongoing threat of Zika virus by communicating with community partners involved in our community's mosquito control efforts whenever a potential case was identified through our routine surveillance and reporting mechanisms.

**Successfully striving to raise awareness** of individual disease status, staff provided direct and technical assistance to 32 community/faith based organizations that partner with DOH-Alachua in counseling/testing for HIV/AIDS and STD's. In 2016, the program conducted 7,369 HIV tests.

**Charged with controlling the spread of sexually transmitted infections**, the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Program investigated over 9,300 cases of STDs in Area 3/13. Staff contacted clients, interviewed partners, offered treatment and provided risk reduction education. Staff also implemented result notifications by text, as well as assisted with Test and Treat.

**DOH-Alachua continues to lead nation in the fight against influenza** via an innovative partnership with Alachua County's public schools, the University of Florida and local pediatricians. In 2016, over 8,300 school children in Alachua County received the flu vaccine through school-located "Control Flu" clinics. This represents an approximately 40% drop in participation from 2015 that is attributed to the unavailability of the popular intranasal flu vaccine known as FLUMIST. Despite logistical challenges, this annual program continues to be embraced as a national model and provides an infrastructure that equips DOH-Alachua with the ability to respond quickly and effectively to any vaccine-preventable disease threat.

## A Chronic Disease Success Story—Tragedy Prevented

### A Letter from a Client to the Physician's Assistant

"A year ago you gave me a work physical and found a significant heart murmur. You spoke with me regarding the severe aortic stenosis. You emphasized the need for cardiac surgery. I had the procedure done, and the surgery was a success. It was a tough road to recovery. Now I look back and realize you saved my life. "Thank you" for your excellent skills, knowledge, and compassion. Thank you again."

# Florida Department of Health—Alachua County: Program Highlights

**Florida's Healthiest Weight Initiative in Alachua County:** Established in 2014, Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration to help children and adults of Alachua County make informed choices about healthy eating and active living. HWF implements a collective impact approach by focusing efforts on targeted Healthy Places: birthing facilities, early care and education centers, schools, worksites, communities, and health care settings.

**DOH/DOC 340B Program:** An HIV/STD screening and treatment program, the 340B program in Alachua County currently holds clinics in nine correctional institutions.

**Minority AIDS Program:** Charged with minority community mobilization against the spread of HIV/AIDS, the program provided health education at over 35 events in 2016. Volunteers donated over 750 hours to health education outreach and counselling/testing in our community.

**Case Management:** The Ryan White and Project AIDS Care HIV/AIDS case management programs assist with access to medical appointments, medicines, transportation, dental services, and other critical support for people living with HIV/AIDS. These programs provided 10,067 services to 844 clients in 2016.

**Tobacco Free Alachua:** The Tobacco Free Alachua program promotes local policy, systems, and environmental change initiatives which reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke for Alachua County residents. Notably, in 2016, the program assisted the Gainesville Housing Authority in implementing a smoke-free housing policy which will protect residents and families in all 635 living units.

**Green Dot GNV:** Green Dot GNV is a new evidence-based violence prevention program that seeks to permanently reduce violence in Alachua County. The program is led by a partnership of professionals and everyday citizens working together to send a message that (1) violence is not acceptable in our community, and (2) everyone is expected to do their part.

**The WIC Program:** . The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) works to reduce the percentage of infant deaths, pre-mature births, and low birth weight babies in the communities we serve. Dietitians, Nutrition Educators and Lactation/Breastfeeding Consultants DOH-Alachua WIC provided 221,741 services to over 12,000 participants and participated in 199 events and outreach opportunities.

**The Mom Care Program:** In 2016, the North Central Florida MomCare program provided services for 5,773 women who qualified for SOBRA, or pregnancy Medicaid, across Alachua and 11 surrounding counties. These efforts have been proven to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality rates.

**The Car Seat Safety Program:** The Car Seat Safety Program provides timely safety education and strives to improve the culture of car seat safety in Alachua County. Since February of 2016, the program checked and installed 83 car seats.

**Vital Statistics:** The Vital Statistics department served 27,173 applicants in Alachua County for birth, death and fetal death records. Service was rendered from the DOH-Alachua facilities in Gainesville and the city of Alachua. As an added convenience, birth certificates are now available from the three Alachua County Tax Collector offices locations.

**Operations:** A robust infrastructure ensures continuity of supporting operations. The FDOH-Alachua Information Technology and Human Resources departments support and facilitate all public health functions for a multiple-county consortium. This service structure provides cost savings and efficiencies gained from economies of scale, while maintaining a standard of excellence in customer care. The Business Office monitors the fiscal health of the agency, working with Administration to balance a budget of over 13 million dollars. Major sources of funding are Federal, State and County, while the largest expense line items include Direct Services, Disease Control, and Community Health.



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