



Florida Department of Health
Aachua County Health Department
2017 ANNUAL REPORT
To the Community

DOH Alachua 2017 Annual Report to the Community: Accomplishments

Clinical Care

More than 11% of Alachua County residents received services from the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County (DOH-Alachua), with over 28,000 active clients access-

School attendance was supported with clinical services provided by 14 DOH-Alachua nurses in 12 area schools. Out of 31,422 student visits to these clinics, fully 91% 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 2017, the number of participants with desirable HbA1c (blood sugar) measurement at or below the goal level increased from 12.91% to 30.95% and those with desirable LDL levels went from 37.22% to 58%. All participants have met or exceeded the benchmark for success with their goals related to healthy eating, medications, healthy coping and reducing risks for complications.

The Southwest Dental Clinic continues to increase the community's access to the oral health by providing 18,399 dental procedures in 3,590 visits to 1,729 clients. Clinic staff also continues to collaborate 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, performing over 11,550 services in 2017. A NELAC certified bacteriological water lab is maintained with two EPA certified lead inspectors as a part of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Disaster Preparedness

Enhanced capacity to respond to public health emergencies and mass casualty incidents has been achieved through infrastructure development and multi-agency mock disaster exercises. This capacity was put to the test in the 2017 hurricane season when Hurricane Irma tracked the length of the state. In Alachua County, three Special Needs Shelters operated for eight days, sheltering 268 medically fragile people. In addition, a biomedical equipment laboratory continues to maintain the state's emergency cache of equipment. 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 over \$200,000 in medical services to the citizens of Alachua County. Coordinated by the Planning Department of DOH-Alachua, this group of volunteer medical personnel provided 394 medical services in 240 visits to the Fearnside Family Center medical clinic for the underserved.

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, 66.5% of people with HIV have a suppressed viral load, 6.5% 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. Launched in 2016, the innovative Antiretroviral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) clinic program for people who are at high risk of acquiring HIV served 86 clients. The Test & Treat program for people who are newly diagnosed with HIV infection served over 100 clients.

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.

Successfully striving to raise awareness of individual disease status, staff provided direct and technical assistance to 34 community/faith based organizations that partner with DOH-Alachua in counseling/testing for HIV/AIDS and STD's. As of September 2017, the program conducted 7,125 HIV tests.

Charged with controlling the spread of sexually transmitted infections, the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Program investigated over 10,000 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 and assisted with test and treat.

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.

Successful surveillance and response efforts by the Epidemiology Program in 2017 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 caring for pregnant women and those involved in our community's mosquito control efforts through our routine surveillance and reporting mechanisms.

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 10,891 services to 933 clients in 2017.

Minority AIDS Program: Charged with minority community mobilization against the spread of HIV/AIDS, the program provided health education at over 26 events in 2017. Volunteers donated over 730 hours to health education outreach and counselling/testing in our community.

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

DOH Alachua 2017 Annual Report to the Community: Programs

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. The total percentage of students (1st, 3rd, and 6th grade) in either the overweight and obese range decreased by 2.21% since 2013-14 school year.

Tobacco Free Alachua: The Tobacco Prevention Program promotes local policy, systems, and environmental change initiatives which reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke for Alachua County residents. Notably, in 2017, the program assisted Santa Fe College in becoming a tobacco free campus, protecting their 23,000 students, faculty, and staff from the dangers of secondhand smoke. The program also assisted the Alachua County Housing Authority in implementing a smokefree housing policy which will protect residents and families in their 276 public housing units.

Green Dot GNV: Green Dot GNV is an evidence-based violence prevention program that seeks to permanently reduce violence in Alachua County. In 2017, Green Dot GNV trained 284 people to make violence less likely to occur and to send the 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. Dieticians, Nutrition Educators and Lactation Consultants DOH-Alachua WIC provided 161,672 services to 11,958 participants and participated in 172 events and outreach opportunities. . In addition, agency wide, Alachua WIC issued 19,500 Farmer's Market Nutrition coupons and clients redeemed approximately \$20,532 dollars' worth of coupons. In December of 2017, DOH-Alachua became the first Health Department hosted Farmer's Market to accept SNAP benefits, thanks to a partnership with Florida Organic Growers and Alachua WIC.

The We Care Program: The We Care network of volunteer physicians provided over \$2.7 million dollars in medical services and dental care to poor uninsured residents in Alachua County. In addition, Florida Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provided access to mammograms and pap smears to eligible residents. The Florida Colorectal Cancer Control Program LIFT project provided colorectal cancer screening at no cost to DOH-Alachua clients.

The Car Seat Safety Program: The DOH-Alachua Car Seat safety program provides timely safety education to families and caregivers, and strives to improve the culture of car seat safety in Alachua County. In 2017, the program checked and installed 87 car seats at 14 checkpoint events, and provided two special needs car seats to families in Alachua County through a new special needs car seat loaner program.

Vital Statistics: The Vital Statistics department answered 28,796 requests 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 continue to be 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.

FDOH-Alachua continues the fight against influenza via an innovative partnership with Alachua County's Public Schools and the University of Florida. In 2017, 8,798 flu vaccines were administered in 59 schools, including public, private, and charter. Due to the severity of this year's flu activity, 51 schools were re-visited and an additional 1,433 flu vaccinations were administered to students, school staff, and parents who had yet to be vaccinated. This annual program continues to grow and serve as a platform for building an infrastructure that equips FDOH-Alachua with the ability to respond quickly and effectively to any vaccine-preventable disease threat.



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