

# A YEAR IN HEALTH

**2017/2018 Annual Report**

Florida Department of Health in Marion County



# A Message from the Health Officer

The Florida Department of Health in Marion County serves residents with a broad array of services that act to protect, promote and improve the health of all of Marion's residents. Our health services are preventive in nature and seek to control the spread of contagious disease, reduce the number of people who develop chronic disease, and prevent illness from occurring (when possible). We deliver these needed services to Marion County's residents through local and state initiatives that include communicable disease prevention, environmental health protection, clinical care, mother and infant care, and emergency response.

The department operates on the principles of the community's needs and expectations as identified through collaborative community planning. As such, community partners play an invaluable role in helping us enact our mission in the community and in developing plans to address local health challenges. It is by uniting and working together with our community partners that we will achieve the vision of being the healthiest county in Florida as we strive to protect Marion County's most valuable natural resources (its residents), making our county a safe place to live, work and play!

Mark Lander  
Health Officer

Department of Health in Marion County

## Leadership

**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Dr. Celeste Philip, MD, MPH**  
State Surgeon General and  
Secretary of the Florida  
Department of Health

## Mission

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

## Vision

To be the healthiest state in the nation.

## Values

**Innovation** - We search for creative solutions and manage resources wisely.

**Collaboration** - We use teamwork to achieve common goals and solve problems.

**Accountability** - We perform with integrity and respect.

**Responsiveness** - We achieve our mission by serving our customers and engaging our partners.

**Excellence** - We promote quality outcomes through learning and continuous performance improvement.



# Services and Programs

The Florida Department of Health in Marion County provides public health services for Marion County's 350,000-plus residents. These core services include clinical and nutrition services, emergency preparedness and response, environmental health, infectious disease services and wellness programs. The department also issues birth and death certificates.

## Clinical and Nutritional Services

The department's clinical and nutritional services are varied and include: dental, family planning, Healthy Start, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, medical records, the Mobile Health Unit, school health, sexually transmitted diseases and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The department offers its services at different locations across Marion County.

### Dental

In partnership with the College of Central Florida (CF), the department operates a dental clinic at the CF Hampton Center. The clinic sees clients of all ages and provides diagnostic, restorative, preventive and educational services. It also provides basic dental care education, exams and fluoride varnishes and sealants through its school-based and Head Start program. In Fiscal Year

2017/2018, the program:

- Provided 32,436 services to 4,578 clients across 6,644 encounters. This is an average of 4.88 services per client visit.
- Treated 2,500 students through its school-based and Head Start sealants program.

### Family Planning

Family Planning provides education, counseling, medical services, referrals and more. Staff also provide info on baby spacing, abstinence, birth control methods, avoiding sexually transmitted diseases, and sterilizations. All services are provided confidentially. In FY 17-18, the program:

- Saw 4,497 clients in 8,165 visits.
- Provided 254,532 services in clinic.
- Gave 3,189 pregnancy tests.



The department's revamped Mobile Health Unit officially launched in FY 17-18. The bus takes department services out to underserved parts of the county to increase access to health care and improve health equity.

### Healthy Start

The Healthy Start program provides education, resource information, case management and care coordination services to improve birth outcomes and decrease infant mortality. The program helps pregnant women, women between pregnancies, infants and children up to age 3. In FY 17-18, Healthy Start:

- Served 3,450 clients, mostly in clients' homes.

### HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS Clinic offers patient care, HIV counseling and testing, case management, and nutritional services. The department also offers access to AIDS Drug Assistance Program medications, referrals for patients to access pharmaceuticals through the federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which can help prevent someone from contracting HIV when used as prescribed. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Saw 1,432 clients across a total of 1,778 visits.
- Tested 3,150 individuals for HIV/AIDS.

### Immunizations

The Immunizations Clinic provides vaccinations for the following vaccine-preventable diseases: diphtheria, haemophilus influenza type B, hepatitis A and B, human papillomavirus, influenza, measles, meningitis, mumps, pertussis, pneumonia, polio, rabies, rotavirus, rubella, tetanus, and varicella. In FY 17-18 at both the Immunizations Clinic and outreach events, staff:

- Administered 13,233 vaccines.

### Medical Records

The Medical Records program processes requests for medical and immunization records. Clients and customers include individuals, physicians, medical offices, attorneys, Social Security Disability Determination, the Florida Department of Children and Families, and more. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Processed 1,497 medical records requests.

### Mobile Health Unit

Launched on the road in 2018, the Mobile Health Unit provides department services at off-site locations across the county to improve access to core public health services. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Provided 661 services to 287 clients at various sites throughout Marion County.

### School Health

School Health services help minimize health barriers to facilitate learning for public school students. They serve students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grades. Health personnel administer medications and watch over those

with diabetes by carb counting and administering insulin for diabetic students. Some staff also help students by performing specialized nursing services; this can include helping students who may need tube feedings, catheterizations, nebulizer treatment, and care for tracheostomies. School Health staff also conduct many health screenings. In FY 17-18, School Health:

- Served more than 48,000 Marion County Public Schools students.
- Provided 95,034 doses of medication.
- Completed 111,167 first aid and specialized complex medical procedures.
- Conducted 12,766 vision screening tests.
- Held 9,241 hearing screening tests.
- Provided 9,867 nutritional screenings.
- Screened 3,231 students for scoliosis.
- Completed 20,169 health assessments.
- Reviewed 17,880 health records.
- Taught 394 health education classes.
- Developed 2,648 student care plans.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The department's Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Clinic provides STD screening, counseling, treatment and partner notification services for people who have (or suspect they may have) an STD. All clients are ensured confidential STD clinical services by Florida law. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Served 3,907 clients across 5,792 visits.
- Provided a total of 33,305 services to clients.

### WIC

The federally-funded Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, is a nutrition program for women, infants and children under age 5. WIC provides healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals for immunizations, health care and community services at no cost to participants. In FY 17-18, WIC:

- Served 13,314 clients.
- Generated the spending of nearly \$6.4 million in the local economy through nutrition program benefits.
- Held 36 events that promoted and supported breastfeeding.

### Emergency Preparedness & Response

The Public Health Preparedness program protects the health of Florida's residents and visitors from the effects of man-made and natural disasters.

### Medical Reserve Corps

The department manages the Marion County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) as part of the Florida MRC. The MRC

# Public Health in Action



In response to a local surge in flu cases, the department held a drive-through flu shot clinic on Feb. 10, 2018. A total of 189 residents received flu shots during the special event.



The department holds free diabetes education classes to help residents learn more about their disease and the types of changes diabetics need to make in their daily lives to successfully manage the chronic illness.



The Mobile Health Unit provided 661 services to 287 clients in 2018 at sites across Marion County.



Enhancing preparedness, staff learned how to use nearby defibrillators in combination with CPR chest compressions during a department training.



The department's Mamava suite is a standalone area for mothers who would like to breastfeed or pump. The department promotes breastfeeding as an important part of improving health outcomes in babies, children and mothers.



Through leading the Safe Kids Marion coalition, the department works to keep children safe from injuries that are preventable. Program efforts focus on topics such as biking safety, car seat safety, safe sleeping environments and drowning prevention.



Photo: Hurricane Irma as it approached Florida  
(credit National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

# Hurricane Irma Tests Special Needs Sheltering

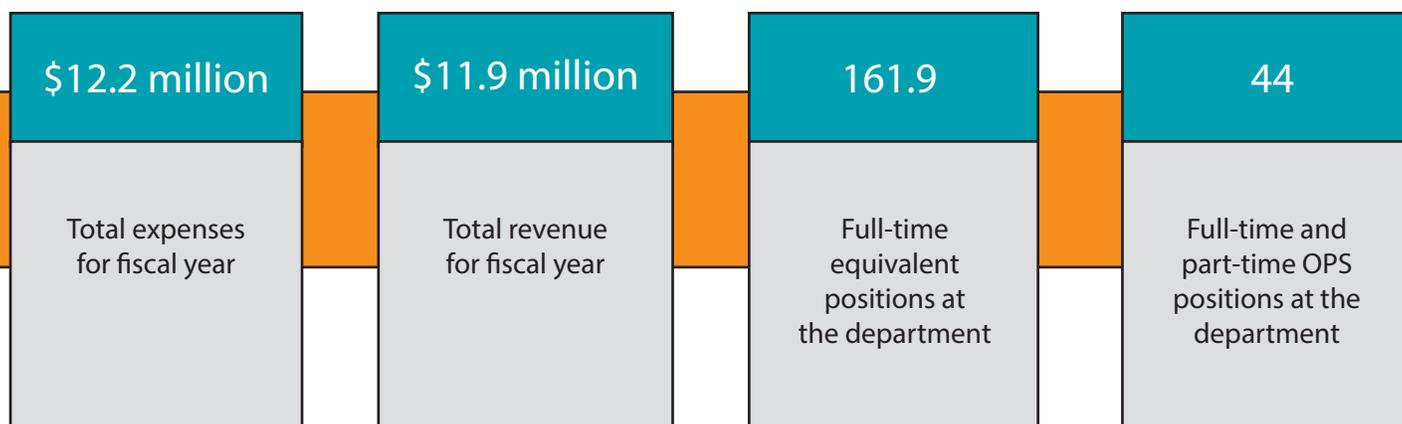
Hurricane Irma's ever-changing track and massive size meant nearly every Florida county planned for at least some impact. Department of Health in Marion County employees staffed the county's special needs shelters, where more medically vulnerable locals and out-of-county residents could safely ride out the storm's impact. Below find key special needs shelter dates, information and numbers.

- **9/8/18:** Date Marion special needs shelters opened.
- **3:** Total number of special needs shelter locations for immediate impact of storm (Bellevue Middle School, Bellevue High School and West Port High School).
- **453:** Number of clients at local special needs shelters.
- **160:** Number of employees staffing the special needs shelters.
- **8:** Minimum number of agencies department staff coordinated with to address special needs shelter client needs (for example: Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Public Schools, more than three local utilities, Ocala Police Department, Ocala Fire Rescue, Marion County Fire Rescue, etc.)
- **2:** Locations after Irma that staff operated special needs shelters until shelter clients could safely return home.
- **21,413:** Total number of hours staff worked while responding to Hurricane Irma.
- **9/18/18:** Date special needs shelter operations ended in Marion County.

## Changes Implemented Post-Irma:

- Improved oxygen distribution capabilities for future sheltering.
- Enhanced communications abilities for better flow of information among staff at the shelter locations and the Emergency Operations Center.
- Increased electrical capacity and purchased new back-up generator for shelters and department.
- Implemented regular staff trainings on special needs shelter-specific job responsibilities.

# At a Glance: Key 2017/2018 Figures



augments local community health and medical services staff with pre-identified, trained and credentialed MRC volunteers in the event of a large-scale medical or public health emergency. In FY 17-18, MRC participants:

- Volunteered 250 hours.

## Response Training

The department helps coordinate disaster response training efforts in Marion County. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Provided 189 flu shots through a real-time point of dispensing (POD) event. This was held in response to a spike in local flu cases. Staff held the POD as a drive-through flu shot clinic at the department.
- Tested their ability to respond to an emergency health issue by holding an additional POD exercise so staff who were unable to participate in the initial POD event were able to learn POD processes.

## Special Needs Sheltering

The department sets up and staffs special needs shelters within Marion County in case of a man-made or natural disaster. In FY 17-18, the department:

- Cared for 453 shelter clients pre- and post-Irma.
- Updated the special needs registry database to ensure residents who needed services could quickly be identified.

## Environmental Health

Environmental Health programs seek to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the community. Staff accomplish this by monitoring conditions that could threaten the public's health and safety. Environmental Health's work involves oversight over a wide variety of establishments ranging from tattoo parlors to mobile home parks.

## Biomedical Waste

Environmental Health manages the biomedical waste program for sites such as hospitals, nursing homes, veterinary offices and pharmacies. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Regulated 664 biomedical waste sites.

## Body Piercing/Tattoo Parlors

For annual license purposes, in FY 17-18 Environmental Health staff:

- Performed inspections for 40 tattoo parlors and eight body piercing establishments.

## Drinking Water

Environmental Health staff inspect and take test samples for limited use public water systems. In FY 17-18, the department:

- Inspected 675 limited use public water systems.

## Food Hygiene

Staff inspect food operations serving schools, assisted living facilities, detention facilities and similar group care environments. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Conducted 1,277 inspections and complaint investigations at 234 institutions (mostly at schools).

## Group Care Establishments

To prevent or minimize the risk of transmitting disease, injury or bodily harm, Environmental Health staff inspect school and residential group care facilities for concerns including mold, vector control, and lighting. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Inspected 162 group care establishments.

## Mobile Home Parks

Semi-annually, Environmental Health staff visit Marion

mobile home and RV parks to ensure safety and sanitary rules are being met. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Performed 524 inspections and complaint investigations at 180 RV and mobile home parks.

### Mosquito-borne Disease Prevention

The department monitors the location and frequency of mosquito-borne diseases to protect and promote public health. Primary diseases of concern in FY 17-18 included: West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus, and Zika virus. In FY 17-18, the department:

- Reached out to more than 50 community businesses and partners to increase knowledge of the EEE virus and how to prevent its spread.

### Pools and Spas

Part of Environmental Health's mission involves checking pools and spas twice a year to ensure they have the proper signage, adequate safety equipment and proper chemical disinfection. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Performed 752 inspections and complaint investigations at 305 public pools and spas.

### Septic Systems

The department issues permits to build, repair or modify septic systems. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Permitted 2,323 on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems.
- Inspected and permitted 353 systems required to have annual operating permits
- Regulated 20 local septic contracting companies that provide services such as system pumpouts, tank manufacturing, and maintenance entities.

### Tanning

Tanning establishments are regulated and inspected annually to ensure the facilities have properly trained employees, safe and well maintained equipment and properly cleaned beds. In FY 17-18, the department:

- Regulated 22 establishments that provide tanning services.

### Well Construction Permitting

The department has delegation agreements with both water management districts to allow the department to permit most wells drilled here. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Permitted the drilling of 1,272 wells for both domestic and commercial uses.

## Infectious Disease Services

Monitoring communicable diseases and taking action to prevent its spread are core public health functions.

## Disease Reporting and Epidemiology

The department works with local medical professionals to track more than 90 reportable diseases and conditions. Due to potential seriousness/fatality, some diseases must be reported immediately 24/7. Staff investigate and identify reportable communicable diseases (other than STDs and HIV/AIDS) and acts to prevent disease spread. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Conducted 1,268 epidemiology investigations.
- Initiated 486 additional epidemiology investigations.

### Hepatitis

The department provides tests for hepatitis and provides hepatitis vaccines for at-risk individuals and people identified as contacts for existing hepatitis cases. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Performed 16 hepatitis screenings and provided 12 hepatitis vaccines.

### Rabies

Staff investigate animal bites due to the potential for rabies exposure. Staff also educate the public on proper behavior to avoid being bitten by potentially rabid animals. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Investigated 1,321 animal bites to assess potential rabies exposure.

### Tuberculosis

The tuberculosis control program identifies, tests and treats people exposed to tuberculosis. In FY 17-18, the department:

- Tested 28 individuals for tuberculosis.
- Identified eight people with non-contagious tuberculosis.
- Identified and treated seven individuals with active (contagious) tuberculosis.

## Wellness Programs

The department operates several health education programs that are dedicated to helping younger and older residents alike live healthier lives. The department also offers services and presentations on topics outside of those specific program areas, such as water safety, fall prevention and puberty.

### BRAZEN

BRAZEN is a grant-funded sexual risk avoidance program. It teaches healthy decision-making and seeks to build awareness, character and self confidence in pre-teens and teens. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Gave 324 presentations to 2,789 students on BRAZEN-related topics.

# Goada's Frog Pose

Good for your heart and your legs!

- 1. Bend your knees and sit down
- 2. Place your hands on the ground
- 3. Lean onto your hands
- 4. Push your heels up
- 5. Lower them



VISITOR  
In the Office of  
Jesse Driggers  
Marion Center  
Educational Development

During Every Kid Healthy Week, department staff met and educated young students on healthy behaviors. Activities were held in partnership with Marion County Public Schools and the Marion County Hospital District.



# 21,413

Total hours Department of Health in Marion County staff spent responding to Hurricane Irma

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### Chronic Disease Management and Prevention

To help reduce the impact and prevalence of chronic disease, staff coordinate and hold chronic disease education classes that focus on managing symptoms and preventing disease progression. The program also holds events in the community focused on chronic diseases, such as diabetes. To further build impact and reach into the community, staff seek and train community health workers to lead health educational efforts in different parts of the community. Highlights from FY 17-18 include:

- Trained 84 community health workers, including students.
- Educated 82 individuals in chronic disease or diabetes management classes.
- Held six rounds of chronic disease/diabetes ed classes (36 individual classes).

### Healthiest Weight Florida

Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, nonprofit agencies, businesses, and entire communities to help Florida's children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living. In FY 17-18, Marion's Healthiest Weight program:

- Participated in programming educating 4,682 school children.
- Educated 121 residents in-person on strokes and provided mailed information on strokes to more than 31,000 households.
- Partnered with 27 agencies.
- Participated in 67 events.
- Distributed 5,216 Healthiest Weight educational and informational materials.

### Safe Kids Marion County

Safe Kids Marion County is a coalition of community partners led by the Department of Health in Marion County. The program is dedicated to preventing injuries in children. Its initiatives include car seat safety, drowning prevention, fire safety, safe sleep and pedestrian and bike safety. In FY 17-18, the program:

- Participated in or held 34 events.
- Served 3,993 with programming.

### Other Programs and Services

#### Public Information

Sharing health information with the public is a key way staff protect, promote and improve residents' health. One way this is achieved is through sharing timely and vital health news and information with media and community partners. Public Information staff create and coordinate advertising, press releases and website content and work together with media through interviews to ensure residents have access to health information they need. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Sent 41 news releases on health topics.
- Secured coverage more than 110 times of department items in local media outlets.

#### Vital Statistics

Residents obtain certified Florida birth and death records at the department. In FY 17-18, staff:

- Provided 49,121 birth and death certificates.

# Florida Department of Health in Marion County locations

## **Main Office**

1801 SE 32nd Ave.  
Ocala, FL 34471

## **Belleview WIC Clinic**

7055 SE 110th St. Road  
Belleview, FL 34420

## **Reddick WIC Clinic**

4500 NW 152nd Ave.  
Reddick, FL 32686

## **Dental Clinic**

College of Central Florida Hampton Center  
1501 W. Silver Springs Blvd.  
Ocala, FL 34475

## **Septic Permitting**

Marion County Growth Services  
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd.  
Ocala, FL 34470





**Florida Department of Health in Marion County**

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