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1976 ANNUAL REPORT

mobile county board of health

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ANNUAL REPORT

MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
248 COX STREET · MOBILE, ALABAMA 36604

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Mobile County Board of Health

248 COX STREET MOBILE, ALABAMA 36604 (205) 690-8158

Henry C. Mostellar, Jr., M.D. John M. McGehee, M.D., Chairman Daniel F. Sullivan, M.D.
David M. Mullins, M.D. Commissioner Bay Haas Sidney J. Gray, Jr., M.D.
George W. Newburn, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer
L. Gerald Lightsey, M.P.H.
Chief Administrator

Dear Friends:

The Mobile County Board of Health is a service agency. Our purpose is to provide quality health care to the people of our community.

In 1976, as in the past, response to a growing public need has generated new and expanded services to the citizens of this area.

With the continued support of the people of Mobile County, we will be able to assure the same high quality health care and service for the future that has been our aim and endeavor in the past.

Sincerely,

Geo. W. Newburn, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

O. M. Otts, Jr., M.D.
Chairman, 1976

MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

O.M. Otts, Jr., M.D.	December, 1976
Sidney J. Gray, Jr., M.D.	December, 1977
John M. McGehee, M.D.	December, 1978
Henry C. Mostellar, Jr., M.D.	December, 1979
Daniel F. Sullivan, M.D.	December, 1980
David M. Mullins, M.D.	December, 1981
Honorable Bay Haas	Mobile County Commission

LIAISON MEMBERS

Charles Chambliss, D.M.D.

Frederick Cushing, Jr., D.M.D.

David de Gruy, R.Ph.

Herbert R. Nelson, R.Ph.

Allison D. Reed, D.V.M.

STAFF

George W. Newburn, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.	Health Officer
L. Gerald Lightsey	Chief Administrative Officer
Brasher V. Miller, M.P.H.	Bureau of Administration
John E. Cutts, D.V.M., M.P.H.	Bureau of Community Health Services
Joel W. Goldsby, III, M.S., D.M.D.	Bureau of Dental Health
James E. Fibbe, P.E.	Bureau of Environmental Health
Derel G. Till, M.P.H.	Bureau of Maternal and Child Health
John R. Williamson, M.P.H.	Bureau of Preventable Diseases

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

The Division of Support Services is completing installation of an automated budget reporting system which will reduce manual accounting practices in the Finance Office, and will furnish financial information in a more accurate and timely manner.

During the 1975-76 fiscal year, the Board of Health spent $1,889,872 on locally funded programs, as against local revenues of $1,923,059. Of this total, $826,912 was contributed by local governments in Mobile County and $250,050 was received from the State of Alabama. In fiscal 1974-75, local governments provided $876,214 and the State of Alabama provided $214,400 in unearmarked support.

In addition to this state and local support the Board of Health also budgeted $2,203,524 in fiscal 75-76 for services financed from various federal grants.

Annual Revenue Fiscal Year 1976

$ 337,652	Mobile, County
442,554	Mobile, City
71,590	Other Municipalities
250,050	State of Alabama
17,107	United Fund (Children's Dental Clinic)
60,985	Oil Severance Tax
24,000	Local TB Association
21,843	State Reimbursement for School Immunizations
10,944	State Reimbursement for School Lunchroom Inspections
145,615	Reimbursements of services and supplies rendered to special projects
255,307	Local fees, permits and miscellaneous income
325,571	Medicare and medicaid fees
1,968,502	Federal-State project funds received
$3,931,720	Total Revenue

In calendar 1976, a total of 29,017 customers were issued certified copies of birth and/or death certificates. We also registered 13,297 applicants for foodhandlers permits, and 3,459 private physicians' patients were referred in for chest x-rays and/or blood tests.

The following compares certain vital events in Mobile County in 1976 with other areas and time periods:

Vital Event	Calendar 1975	Calendar 1976	Alabama Calendar 1975	United States Calendar 1975
Live Births	6,680	6,305	57,922	3,149,000
Stillbirths	78	69		

Infant Deaths	130	121	1,130	50,700
Infant Death Rate 1/	17.7	19.2	19.5	16.1
Total Deaths	2,985	2,789	33,629	1,910,000
Deaths from Selected Causes:				
Cancer 2/	148.0	177.6	166.5	174.4
Diabetes 2/	16.0	11.6	20.5	16.8
Heart Disease 2/	260.3	303.9	310.0	339.0
Cerebrovascular Disease 2/	88.4	95.6	111.9	91.8
Diseases of the Arteries 2/	15.1	17.5	23.7	25.6

1/ Per 1,000 live births

2/ Per 100,000 population

The 1975-76 fiscal year ended with a total of 222 employees requiring an annual payroll of $1,934,468.00. During the year 56 persons terminated for various reasons, resulting in an annual turnover rate of 23.6% which is comparable to other health care facilities.

Activities of the Division of Health Education and Public Relations are publicity, public relations, public information and health education; television tapings of the "Your Health" show; participation in local career fairs; coordination of the audio-visuals and learning resources for teaching at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine; press and broadcast news releases; visits to local elementary and secondary schools and the local colleges and university; dissemination of pamphlets and literature on health and health related subjects; coordination of programs and presentations for various groups on the general activities of the Board of Health; and participation in local events relevant to the Division of Health Education (i.e. Advertising Federation of Greater Mobile, Public Relations Council of Alabama and the Mobile Press Club). A major area of emphasis this year has been in the structuring of the Centrex telephone system. The Division of Health Education and Public Relations continues to expand into new programs as Health Education becomes a much thought of addition to public health service programs.

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

The Division of Food Inspection inspects 1,287 food establishments in Mobile County, plus the itinerant food establishments at the Greater Gulf State Fair, during Mardi Gras, food and beverage vending machines, soft-serve ice milk machines, and food transportation vehicles.

Food Establishment Inspections - 1975-76	
Restaurants	11,020
School Lunchrooms	898
Itinerant Food Establishments	404
Meat Markets	2,255
TOTAL	14,577

The food inspectors condemned and destroyed 34,057 pounds of contaminated food. The inspectors taught 79 foodhandler classes to 6,309 new foodhandlers. The inspectors collected 1,110 water samples from the food establishments.

The Division of Veterinary Public Health, during the fiscal year of 1976, inspected 97 milk plants and 306 producer dairies as well as 219 retail ice milk manufacturers and frozen dessert plants. Fifty-six (56) water samples, 1,128 milk samples and 1,087 soft-serve samples were submitted to the laboratory. Seventy-three (73) animal bite complaints were also received.

The Mobile County Mosquito Project engaged in adulticiding activities only, during fiscal year 1976. During this time trucks were in operation 2,288.5 hours and spent 2,971 hours spraying, totaling 23,579 miles.

The Division of Epidemiology had 13,429 reportable diseases, which includes dog bites and poisonings. The Division made 2,328 epidemiological investigations and 2,321 follow-up nursing visits of reported diseases.

The following table gives the incidence of diseases reported for 1974-1976.

DISEASES	1974	1975	1976
Diphtheria			
Cutaneous	0	0	0
Pharyngeal	0	0	0
Encephalitis			
Primary	4	6	9
Secondary	4	5	32
Hepatitis			
A	74	70	76
B	43	57	64
Other	33	26	34
Measles			
Rubella	41	13	4
Rubeola	9	1	1

Meningitis			
Meningococcal	4	9	15
Tubercular	0	0	0
Other	39	66	86
Mumps	332	367	300
Pneumonia	1440	1092	1041
Scarlet Fever and Strep Infections	2499	2407	3007
Salmonella, Shigella and E. Coli	84	29	28
Tetanus	0	1	0
Typhoid	0	1	0
Tuberculosis	114	83	83
Whooping Cough	3	3	4

The Lead Poisoning Control Program is in the third year of operation. The program operates on a $131,237.00 annual budget, with $115,000.00 being provided by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and $16,237.00 by local matching funds.

Testing children ages 1-6 consists of drawing blood samples with finger sticks and capillary tubes. Children having blood lead levels of 30ug/100ml to 49ug/100ml are retested in 3 months; those having blood lead levels of 50ug/100ml to 59ug/100ml are retested in 6 weeks; and those having blood lead levels of 60ug/100ml and greater are referred to the Pediatric Director for clinical evaluation. Children who have possible symptoms of lead poisoning are also referred for clinical evaluation regardless of their lead elevations.

Follow-up tests are continued on all children with elevated blood lead levels until a normal level is reached. Five hundred eighty six (586) children were observed this year. Hospitalization and treatment with chelation therapy for 4-5 days is the treatment for elevated blood lead.

1976

Total Tested	4879 children
30ug/100ml-49ug/100ml	327 children
50ug/100ml-59ug/100ml	8 children
60ug/100ml-greater	6 children
Clinical Evaluation Referrals	15 children
Hospitalization and Chelation	14 children
Housing Abatement	182 houses

The Mobile Area Rodent Control Program is in the second year of operation. The program is operating on a total budget of $228,000. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare contributes $171,000 and $57,000 is provided by local matching funds.

During the 1976 calendar year this program served a total population of 53,623 in 16,874 premises, and 700 blocks in Mobile and Prichard. A total of 7 clean-up campaigns have been held in various census tracts to remedy the sanitary conditions that are conducive to rats. A total of 257 blocks during this period have met CDC requirements for the maintenance phase of operation.

The program utilizes an Advisory Council to promote community involvement. This council consists of fifteen (15) total members, with ten (10) members from the census areas in which we are working and five professional members.

BUREAU OF DENTAL HEALTH

The Bureau of Dental Health offers to Mobile County a program for improving the dental health of the community using established public health measures. These include methods designed to prevent dental diseases, dental health educational activities and the provision of dental treatment services.

The Bureau of Dental Health enlarged its Dental Health Education Program in terms of new school and agency programs as well as in its existing clinical programs. The Dental Bureau is currently responsible for a Maternal and Infant Care Program, Children's Dental Clinic Program, Medicaid Dental Program, Adult Emergency Program, Special Children's Dental Program, and a Dental Health Education Program.

The new mobile unit is equipped for preventive treatment and dental health education and used on location at the Board of Health and also at various other sites in the county. The purpose of the mobile unit is to teach children how to prevent dental disease in their own mouths and to increase their appreciation of good oral health. The dental bus is staffed by a dental assistant and the hygienist-educator. Prophylaxis, radiographs, and fluoride treatments can be performed in the mobile unit under the supervision of a dentist.

1976 Annual Workload

Group Dental Health Education Presentations	413
Individual Dental Health Education Presentations	780
Dental Health Education Materials Distributed	37,500
Television Programs	2
Patient Visits	14,540
Clinical Dental Exams	5,964
X-rays	8,976
Oral Prophylaxis	2,604
Dental Restorations	11,736
Oral Extractions	3,135
Miscellaneous Dental Procedures	12,180
Medicaid Dental Screenings	3,880
School Dental Inspections	8,500

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Division of Air Pollution Control is responsible for preventing, controlling, and monitoring air pollution from 68 major point sources, 145 minor point sources, and a variety of area sources throughout the county. Control of point sources is maintained through a permit program. There are currently 825 permits in effect.

The most common enforcement tool is the industrial site visit inspection. Air pollution personnel conducted 821 such inspections last year. Another tool is to require the source to test for actual emissions. This staff conducted or observed 73 such tests last year. Major enforcement action in the form of an Enforcement Order was taken against the Alabama State Docks. They installed air pollution control equipment on their old house grain elevator. The bulk materials handling facility equipment is in the installation phase at present.

Six air pollution public hearings were held last year. Most of these dealt with revisions to control regulations. The large number of oil and gas wells recently drilled in Mobile County led to new regulations to control sulfur dioxide emissions from petroleum processing plants. The air pollution program has requested delegation of authority to enforce New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants regulations. Enforcement of these regulations has previously been a function of the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Mobile now has three sources subject to NSPS and six sources subject to NESHAPS regulations.

An annual emissions inventory is conducted to determine the actual amount of pollutants being emitted from major and minor point sources. The inventory of this past year showed only a slight increase. The ambient air monitoring program has continued with four continuous monitoring stations and fifteen random samplers located throughout the county. Overall air quality was good even though occasional violations of the ambient air quality standards for particulate and ozone have occurred.

Protection of water supplies and waste disposal also fall under this Bureau. The following is a comparison of inspection activities:

	1975	1976
Septic Tank Inspections	1,669	2,124
Plumbing Inspections	2,825	4,548
Well Inspections	510	855

During the past year this Division has monitored development utilizing septic tanks on Dauphin Island and conducted testing to determine the extent of contamination of surface and subsurface waters from septic tank effluents. Results of this testing led to the Board's taking necessary measures to ban the installation of any further septic tanks on the Island. At the request of the Board of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency conducted a more extensive study of the problem. Published results of that study are still pending.

During the past year this Division was designated as the inspection and reviewing authority for individual sewage disposal and water supply systems by VA and FHA. Approximately 10 such reviews are conducted each week. Other activities include processing of complaints involving malfunctioning sewage systems or water supplies, and conducting promotional or educational type visits to assist persons with problems in these areas.

The Division of General Sanitation in this past year has operated a comprehensive public facility inspection and public health nuisance complaint investigation program. This Division made 8,252 inspections of schools, jails, motels, hotels, swimming pools, recreational areas and camps during the year. The inspectors made 3,008 investigations during this past year of these public health nuisance complaints.

Enforcement of the State Health Laws and Board of Health Rules and Regulations during this year was primarily through the educational efforts of the environmentalists. The Division of General Sanitation participated in 16 court cases during this past year in an effort to abate health hazards.

The Division of Land Resource Development carries out many services, such as the review of plans on all proposed subdivisions of lands, or development of land for commercial, industrial or residential use to determine feasibility of private water and waste disposal.

The Division also reviews all Special Designs of sewage disposal systems primarily for commercial and industrial development. Numerous contacts in the field and office with engineers, architects, and the general public are also made in regard to the services rendered. Planning Commission meetings, Soil Conservation Service contacts and other meetings pertaining to land development are attended in order to better serve the public.

Kind and number of services rendered through 1976, are as follows:

(1) Reviewed preliminary plans for 89 subdivisions consisting of 2,606 acres and a total of 3,232 lots.

(2) Approved 532 individual lots for septic tank systems for residence and small business use.

(3) Reviewed 63 special designed plans of sewage disposal systems primarily for commercial and industrial development.

(4) Made 878 visits in the field for the study of industrial lot approval for septic tank systems and private water use.

(5) There were approximately 193 visits to the field for the purpose of evaluating subdivisions and making recommendations to the State Office for the approval of sewage disposal and water supplies.

BUREAU OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The primary objective of the Maternal and Infant Care (MIC) project is to reduce peri-natal mortality through comprehensive periodic pre-natal care to both mother and infant. Services provided by this project include: outpatient maternity clinics, outpatient infant clinics, medical care (medicine, vitamins, lab work), inpatient hospital care, infant care from birth to one year, family planning services and dental services.

Those patients (pediatric and maternity) who are at high-risk are referred to the University of South Alabama Medical Center. Daily visits are made to post partum patients, maternity patients, and infants who are confined to the University of South Alabama Medical Center (USAMC). Through joint efforts of USAMC and the Nursing staff, a rubella vaccination program is provided, requiring close coordination after release from the hospital.

This year a new program was begun where a urine culture and sensitivity is done on all new maternity patients. Those patients with positive reports are brought in for immediate treatment.

Further medical supervision is provided to the babies for one year. They receive a complete physical examination, PKU, on the initial visit. Routine immunization, hemoglobin, urinalysis are given at return visits. Those babies who are high-risk are seen at the USAMC. Also home visits are made if a problem arises which requires special attention.

Nursing Statistical Report

Clinic Sessions:

Total Clinics	553
Maternity Intake	112
Maternity	203
Post-partum	48
Well baby	189

Clinic Visits:

Total Clinic Visits	22,094
Maternity Intake	1,814
Maternity	10,280
Post-partum	1,419
Well baby	6,737
Office visits	1,844

Deliveries:

Total live birth	1,556
0-2000 grams	58
2000-2500 grams	113
Over 2500 grams	1,385

Total Stillborn ---------- 12

New Maternity Patients Admitted ---------- 1,546

The Medical Social Service Division is staffed by three Social Workers. Social Services are provided to patients in the MIC Maternity and Pediatric Clinics, the High Risk Maternity Clinic at the University of South Alabama Medical Center and the Family Planning Clinics. Short term crisis oriented counseling is the major method of service.

New procedures were developed and implemented during this period to provide greater impact in problem areas. These include: 1) Adolescent Data Base Patient Profile. This profile of every adolescent patient is used as a tool for planning individualized treatment for these young mothers and also as a base for gathering information for future research and planning, 2) Preapplication High Risk Identification - a new screening system used prior to the initial visit to find the more vulnerable patient earlier in pregnancy. This system assesses the patient not only from a socio-economic base but includes nutritional and medical factors to determine patients who will need earlier intervention, 3) Drug Abuse Identification - a coding system devised to alert the medical care team both in the clinic and the hospital to the misuse of drugs during pregnancy. Follow up services to the mother and infant are now better coordinated between the MIC Clinic and hospital staff.

The Social Service Staff also served as a resource in the total community through orientation sessions for other agency personnel; serving as evaluators for new programs being initiated by community groups and medical social work education classes in area high schools and lecturing on the college level.

The Social Service Division completed screening interviews with 1,549 Maternity patients and 2,120 Family Planning patients. Consultations with other agencies to coordinate services were completed for 352 individual patients.

Nutrition counseling is provided to maternity patients during the initial visit and the follow-up maternity clinics. A total of 10,170 dietary instructions were given to the patients. About one-half of these dietary instructions were for specific problems such as diabetes, obesity, underweight, anemia, etc. Throughout all counseling, emphasis is placed on the inclusion of adequate amounts of high quality protein in the diet during pregnancy.

Infant feeding instructions appropriate for the infant's age are given by a nutritionist in the well-baby clinic. A total of 5,655 infant feeding instructions were given. Mothers are instructed in small groups and given a feeding guide for each age group. Three infant feeding guides were revised during 1976.

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program) was continued in Mobile County in 1976. The participants are maternity patients, their infants and children who are certified for participation in the program. The program, funded through an amendment to the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, was begun in February, 1974 and is administrated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State Health Department. Participation in the

WIC Program for 1976 (averaged monthly) was: Women, 752; Infants, 653; Children, 630; Total, 2,035. Pregnant women and children (ages 1-3 years) are provided milk, cheese, eggs, cereal and juice. Infants are provided iron-fortified formula, infant cereal and juice. Participants receive a voucher each month to obtain food items from approved stores in Mobile County. The total food cost for the twelve month period, October, 1975-September, 1976, was $463,556.81. A nutritionist was employed by the WIC Program in May, 1976 to provide nutrition education to the Program recipients. A study was begun in May to compare methods of counseling maternity patients; it will be completed in September, 1977.

Other activities of the nutrition division include (1) providing special dietary counseling to individuals upon request by a physician or public health nurse, (2) providing programs on specific areas of nutrition to requesting agencies or groups, (3) presenting a monthly program to SAIL Program in Bayou La Batre, (4) presenting periodic television programs on nutrition information and (5) participation in the programs and activities of the Mobile County Nutrition Council.

The Family Planning Project has continued its primary function of providing safe and effective methods of contraception and educational information to interested couples and individuals. The project functions to insure that all women of child-bearing age have the freedom of choice in the number and spacing of their children.

The funding sources of family planning continues to be the original Title X monies along with local funds from the Board of Health used as matching money. Approximately fifteen per cent (15%) of this year's budget was generated through medicaid (Title XIX) funds, and beginning in November of 1975 a contract was signed with the State Department of Pensions and Security to provide family planning services for Title XX (income supplement) eligibles.

The nursing staff provides contraceptive instruction and related nursing services such as counseling, history taking and referrals with follow-up. In addition to routine clinics and home visits, emphasis is being placed on preventing complications of hypertension, detecting breast mass or abnormalities and special counseling on sickle cell disease. There has been an increase in the number of high schools requesting family planning presentations.

Family Planning Health Education personnel act in coordinating the District VIII Family Planning Advisory Council. The Council held four (4) general meetings during the year with meetings of standing and special committees, and meetings with concerned agencies operating within the framework of the Council. The Council has continued its advisory support in the planning and operation of the Family Planning Project.

Family Planning goals are accomplished through continued liaison between the Project and clinic patients, mass media, clubs and organizations, concerned public agencies, state and local governments, and community leaders.

The Laboratory at the MIC Center continues to function as a clinical aid to the physician in providing test results for the diagnosis of illness and disease.

The routine maternity tests performed on the first visits are: hemoglobin, hematocrit, blood grouping, and RH factor, VDRL, H.I. titer and hemoglobin electrophoresis.

An additional urine culture test has been established. Any bacterial count over 100,000 colonies is referred to the physician.

Other services include: total bilirubin, sickle cell, glucose tolerance, fasting and two hour postprandial blood glucose tests, 2 minute and 2 hour pregnancy tests, urinalysis, urine cultures, CBC, cervo-vaginal preps and on occasions, gonorrheal smears.

Services provided for the Family Planning Clinics are hemoglobins and urine sugar and protein, VDRL's and electrophoresis. Hemoglobin, urinalysis, sickle cell and electrophoresis are provided for the Well Baby Clinic.

Number of Lab Patient Visits - 12,347
Number of Lab Tests Conducted - 18,389

The primary duties of the Pharmacy are to purchase, dispense, control and maintain the drug and medical supplies required by the various departments of the Board of Health. The one exception is drugs and supplies that are obtained free from state and federal health departments, these items are ordered and received by the using divisions.

Prescription drugs are dispensed by registered pharmacists to patients who are enrolled in the Maternity and Infant Care and Family Planning Projects. However, some prescription drugs are stocked at the satellite clinics and on the mobile unit and are dispensed to the patients by registered nurses on the instructions of the attending physicians.

The Pharmacy orders and furnishes disposable hypodermic syringes and needles to the nurses in the Maternity and Infant Care and Family Planning clinics. These supplies are checked out and checked in daily, and a record is kept as to the quantity used. The proper disposal of the used syringes and needles is carried out under the supervision of the pharmacist.

The Pharmacy also provided information on drugs and drug identification to all divisions of the Board of Health that required this service.

Statistical Report - January 1, 1976 - December 31, 1976 - Total Prescriptions Dispensed----------4,157.

BUREAU OF PREVENTABLE DISEASES

On July 1, 1976, the Mobile Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Information and Counseling Project was expanded to include Mobile, Escambia, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Choctaw, Conecuh, and Monroe counties. The Board of Health received an increased grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in the amount of $85,910 for fiscal year 1977. The goal of the program is to provide

means for positive identification of cause of death in infants suspected of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, to educate the public about the disease, and to make available counseling services for those families affected by Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. During fiscal year 1976 there were twenty (20) SIDS deaths in Mobile County.

In the Immunization Division, a program of follow-up on children delinquent for measles and rubella immunization was begun. A computer listing of all children reaching the age of 15 months without having been immunized for measles and rubella is provided by the Data Processing Division. This list is used to follow-up on these children in an attempt to encourage them to return for measles-rubella vaccine, which is due at age one. Also, a program of follow-up on "high-risk" infants born in Mobile County was continued.

Due to the compulsory immunization law, the number of pre-school immunizations was very high during the months of August and September.

Beginning in January of 1976, the Tuberculosis Control Program discontinued the use of the 70mm x-ray film and began a policy of using the skin test as the primary screening procedure with 14 x 17 P.A. and lateral chest films being taken on positive reactors. A contract was made with Dr. Arvin Robinson, Chairman of the Department of Radiology, University of South Alabama to read and interpret x-ray film for the Tuberculosis Program. Also, the intermittent drug therapy program continued, which provides for home visits by Board of Health nurses to administer drugs to recalcitrant tuberculosis patients.

The Medicaid Screening Project was expanded on July 1, 1976, to five clinics weekly. The project is now screening approximately 175 Medicaid eligible children each week, with follow-up diagnosis and treatment being provided for those children found to need such treatment.

The Venereal Disease Control Project was deemed the best venereal disease control district in the State of Alabama at the annual Alabama Public Health Association Convention in April of this year. The reduction in syphilis cases continued in 1976 with only 15 cases of primary secondary, or early latent syphilis being found and treated.

The Nursing Division initiated a Homemaker's program on August 17, 1976. The program compliments the present home visiting component and is designed to provide homemaker services to individuals 60 years of age and above who are not medicaid eligible but are in need of assistance. There are a number of activities involved including routine light housekeeping, light laundry, purchase and preparation of foods, and simple personal care procedures. An anticipated number of 70 persons will receive approximately 500 visits during the fiscal year.

In October, the Nursing Division established a procedure to acquire credit through the Alabama State Nurses Association for continuing education programs conducted by the Nursing Division. CEU certification has been approved for .1 units per hour. Programs have been prepared and .1 units have been awarded for October and November, 1976.

The medicare-medicaid home visiting program has been re-certified by the State Health Department for another year. No deficiencies were cited in the approval.

The Board of Health participated in a federally sponsored Swine Flu Immunization Program during November and December, 1976. Approximately 46,000 immunizations were administered in Mobile County during the duration, with the univalent(swine) or bivalent(swine and A Victoria strains).

MOBILE BRANCH LABORATORY

The Mobile Branch Laboratory, one of nine State Public Health Laboratories in Alabama, is located in the Mobile County Board of Health. This Branch Laboratory receives specimens from Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe and Washington Counties.

During the period from January, 1976 through December, 1976, we examined 129,008 specimens requiring 156,405 examinations. Of this number, 107,420 specimens were from Mobile City and County.

Drinking water samples continued to increase, showing an all time high for this laboratory. There were also notable increases of specimens in the following categories--cultures for N. gonorrhea, syphilis serology and intestinal parasites.

In some categories the number of specimens, for this period, remained approximately the same as in 1975, namely--cultures for beta-hemolytic streptococci, milks and milk products, venereal smears, animal heads for rabies and cultures for diphtheria.

The Laboratory continued to check water samples from the oyster growing areas in Mobile Bay and oysters harvested from these areas. We also did bacteriological examinations on oysters and crabmeat shipped into Alabama shops. There was an increase in the number of oyster samples examined during 1976. We participated in a comparison water study for FDA. We continued to participate in various State Evaluation Programs.

During the year of 1976, there were 174 animal heads examined for rabies by the FA technique with no positive results. There were no positive examinations for diphtheria in 1976.

The Laboratory Personnel consists of the Director and seven other Microbiologists, four Laboratory Technicians and two clerk-typists.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER