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MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 1978

ANNUAL REPORT
1978

Mobile County
Health Department

248 Cox Street
P.O.Box 2867
Mobile, Alabama 36601

Mobile County Health Department

P. O. BOX 2867 MOBILE, ALABAMA 36601 (205) 690-8158

Alfred R. Stumpe, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

L. Gerald Lightsey, M.P.H.
Assistant Health Officer

BOARD OF HEALTH
Henry C. Mostellar, Jr., M.D., Chairman
Daniel F. Sullivan, M.D.
David M. Mullins, M.D.
Sidney J. Gray, Jr., M.D.
Robert S. Harlin, M.D.
Bay Haas, Pres., County Commission

The Mobile County Health Department devotes its efforts and activities to the betterment and enrichment of the lives of those making up our community. These ends, both necessary and desirable, can be achieved only through the loyal support and cooperation of you, the citizens of Mobile County.

We renew our pledge to address the health problems of Mobile County, and to realize the goals made imperative by these problems.

It is with pride in the work accomplished in 1978 that we present this report for your information.

Alfred R. Stumpe, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

John M. McGehee, M.D.
Chairman, 1978

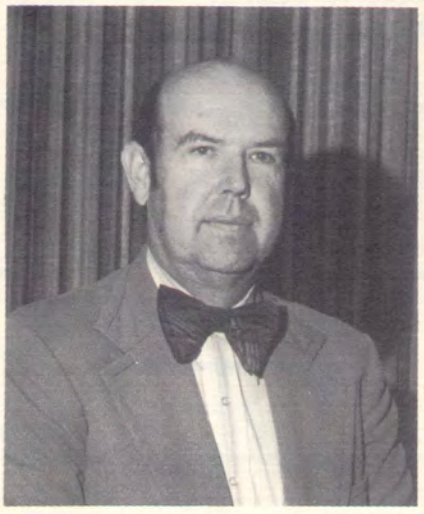
Board of Health

John M. McGehee, M.D.
Chairman

Henry C. Mostellar, Jr., M.D.

Daniel F. Sullivan, M.D.

David M. Mullins, M.D.



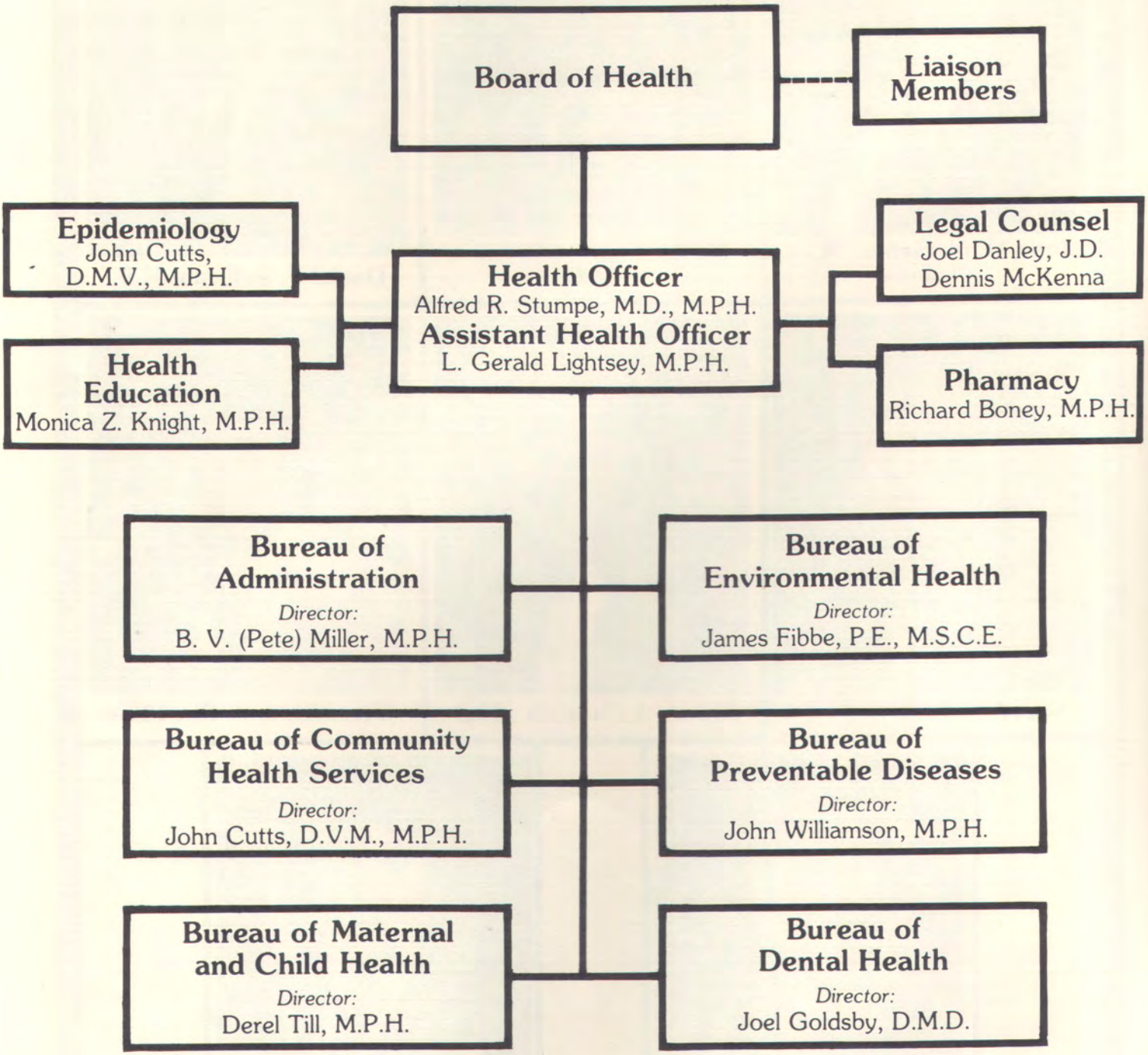
Sidney J. Gray, Jr., M.D.

Commissioner Bay Haas

Alfred R. Stumpe, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

L. Gerald Lightsey, M.P.H.
Assistant Health Officer

MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

John M. McGehee, M.D. Chairman	December, 1978
Henry C. Mostellar, Jr., M.D.	December, 1979
Daniel F. Sullivan, M.D.	December, 1980
David M. Mullins, M.D.	December, 1981
Sidney J. Gray, Jr., M.D.	December, 1982
Honorable Bay Haas	Mobile County Commission

LIAISON MEMBERS

Joseph W. Gunter, Jr., D.M.D.	David de Gruy , R.Ph.
Glenn M. Yelverton, D.D.S.	John Finley, R.Ph.

Clarke Yarbrough, D.V.M.

STAFF

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

1978 HIGHLIGHTS

1. A federal grant in the amount of $25,000 was received to plan for the expansion of the Maternity and Infant Care (MIC) Project.
2. The Geriatric Program was established to provide services to the elderly in Mobile County.
3. Family Planning was the recipient of a federal grant in the amount of $54,038 designed to provide family planning services to fill the unmet needs of teenagers in Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia counties.
4. A new pneumococcal vaccine was made available in the Immunization Clinic for the first time. This vacine provides protection against pneumococcal diseases, the most important of which is pneumococcal pneumonia.
5. C.E.T.A. (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) funds in the amount of $221,000 were received to implement a Rodent Control Project in the Toulminville and Crichton neighborhoods.
6. Full time legal counsel was employed to provide legal services for health department activities.

MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF LOCAL FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 1977-1978
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1978

SOURCE OF FUNDS

APPROPRIATIONS:

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS		
COUNTY OF MOBILE	$317,308	
CITY OF MOBILE	530,622	
OTHER MUNICIPALITIES	68,734	
STATE OF ALABAMA	203,199	
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS	19,670	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		**$1,139,533**

OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED:

FEDERAL, STATE AND OTHER PROJECTS (REIMBURSEMENTS)	1,336,424
OIL & GAS SEVERANCE TAXES	152,795
SALES OF SERVICES & SUPPLIES	76,591
LOCAL FEES, PERMITS, MISCELLANEOUS	259,328
MEDICAID/MEDICARE	369,495
SCHOOL HEALTH	37,533
RENTALS	64,866
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS	84,200
SALE OF FIXED ASSETS	1,566
REFUNDS AND INTEREST	20,487
REVENUE FROM PRIOR YEARS	30,261
TOTAL REVENUE FOR YEAR	**$3,573,079**

LESS: APPLICATION OF FUNDS:

PERSONNEL COSTS INCLUDING FRINGE BENEFITS	$2,794,905	
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES INCLUDING CLINICIAN FEES	187,545	
LOCAL MILEAGE	66,286	
EQUIPMENT	17,538	
OUT OF COUNTY TRAVEL	69,095	
SUPPLIES & OTHER	408,714	
TOTAL APPLICATION OF FUNDS		**3,544,083**
REVENUE EXCEEDS EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977-1978		**$28,996**

Bureau of Administration

Brasher V. Miller, M.P.H.
Director

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

The Bureau of Administration consists of the following divisions: Personnel and Training, Data Processing, Accounting, Records and Statistics and Building Maintenance.

DIVISION OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

The 1977-78 fiscal year ended September 30, 1978 with a total of 243 employees requiring an annual payroll of $2,331,528. During the calendar year 82 persons terminated for various reasons, resulting in an annual turnover rate of 24.7% which is comparable to that experienced by other health care facilities. The annual turnover rate for calendar year 1977 was 22.2%.

DIVISION OF DATA PROCESSING

The Division of Data Processing is responsible for data processing functions at the Health Department. These functions are data recording, data entry, computing, programming, and systems analysis. The division provides service to all bureaus as needed to fulfill the health mission.

The equipment used to accomplish the data processing functions are as follows: IBM 3780 terminal, two 129 data recorders, one 029 key punch, one 082 sorter, and one Rexon data modem. The 3780 terminal is located in the Newburn Health Center. The central computer is an IBM 3700148, and is located on the main campus of the University of South Alabama. All data transmission and receiving originates and concludes at the terminal site in the Newburn Health Center.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTING

Annual revenue for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 1978, from local funds amounted to a total of $3,573,079.

Sources of these revenues were as follows: Mobile County—$317,308; City of Mobile—$530,622; Other Municipalities—$68,734; State of Alabama—$203,199; Other Appropriations—$19,670; Federal, State and Other Projects (reimbursements)—$1,336,424; Oil and Gas Severance Taxes—$152,795; Sales of Services and Supplies—$76,591; Local Fees, Permits, Miscellaneous—$259,328; Medicaid/Medicare—$369,485; School Health—$37,533; Rentals—$64,866; Transfers from Other Funds—$84,200; Sale of Fixed Assets—$1,566; Refunds and Interest—$20,487; Revenue from Prior Years—$30,261.

In addition, aggregate project funds amounting to $1,877,310 were received during the fiscal year from federal agencies to operate federal projects as well as $635,933 received from ad valorem tax receipts.

DIVISION OF RECORDS AND STATISTICS

There were 7,021 live births recorded in Mobile County during 1978. A total of 6,199 of these births were to parents whose residence was in Mobile County for an annual birth rate of 19.4. This rate represents a decrease from the 1977 birth rate of 21.4. While data for 1978 are not available as yet it appears that the birth rate for Mobile County continues to be higher than for the State of Alabama and for the nation as a whole (Table I).

There were 3,236 deaths recorded in Mobile County during 1978. A total of 2,798 of these deaths were residents of Mobile County for a death rate of 8.7. This rate is only slightly lower than the 1977 death rate of 8.9. While data for 1978 are not available as yet, it appears that the death rate in Mobile County is lower than that for the entire State and indeed, is comparable to the national death rate (Table I).

The ten leading causes of death in 1978 for residents of Mobile County are listed in Table II.

The Division collected $163,911 for issuance of certified birth and death certificates to 37,385 citizens in 1978 compared to receipts of $156,078 from 35,468 individuals in 1977.

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF VITAL EVENTS
RESIDENTS OF
MOBILE COUNTY; ALABAMA; UNITED STATES
1977 - 1978

VITAL EVENT	Mobile County				Alabama		United States	
	1978*		1977		1977		1977*	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Births	6,199	19.4	6,827	21.4	61,927	17.3	3,313,000	15.3
Deaths	2,798	8.7	2,838	8.9	34,772	9.7	1,898,000	8.8
Infant Deaths	104	16.8	106	15.5	1,053	17.0	46,500	14.0
Neonatal Deaths	76	12.3	63	9.2	628	11.2	32,720	9.8
Perinatal Deaths	104	16.6	103	15.0	1,086	17.4	NA	NA
Fetal Deaths	51	8.2	67	9.8	759	12.3	NA	NA
Maternal Deaths	2	3.2	0	0.0	10	1.6	310	0.9

*Provisional

Rates: Births and deaths per 1,000 population.
Infant, neonatal and fetal deaths per 1,000 live births.
Maternal deaths per 10,000 live births.

Definitions: Infant Deaths—Deaths to children under 1 year of age.
Neonatal Deaths—Death to children under 28 days of age.
Perinatal Deaths—Deaths to fetuses over 28 weeks gestation and infants under 7 days of age.
Fetal Deaths—Deaths to fetuses after 28 weeks or more of gestation.

TABLE II
TEN LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH
RESIDENTS OF
MOBILE COUNTY; ALABAMA; UNITED STATES
1977 - 1978

	Mobile County				*Alabama*		*United States*	
	1978*		1977		1977		1977*	
	Number	Rate**	Number	Rate**	Number	Rate**	Number	Rate**
Diseases of the Heart (410-429)	928	290.2	1,051	329.0	11,210	313.8	717,320	331.6
Malignant Neoplasms (140-209)	607	189.8	568	177.8	6,278	175.7	387,430	179.1
Cerebrovascular Diseases (430-438)	185	57.8	159	49.8	4,052	113.4	182,840	84.5
Accidents (800-949)	159	49.7	130	40.7	2,459	68.8	105,020	48.5
Diseases of Arteries (440-448)	63	19.7	120	37.6	817	22.9	54,620	25.2
Homicide (960-969)	68	21.3	83	26.0	546	15.3	21,090	9.7
Diabetes Mellitus (250)	88	27.5	75	23.5	654	18.3	33,570	15.5
Influenza and Pneumonia (470-486)	83	26.0	69	21.6	880	24.6	49,960	23.1
Certain Causes in Early Infancy (760-779)	79	24.7	67	21.0	480	13.4	23,310	10.8
Bronchitis, Emphysema and Asthma (490-493)	27	8.4	46	14.4	435	12.2	22,220	10.3
All Other Causes	511		470		6,961		299,690	
Total	**2,798**	**874.9**	**2,838**	**888.3**	**34,772**	**973.7**	**1,898,000**	**877.4**

*Provisional

**Rate per 100,000 population

Bureau of Environmental Health

James E. Fibbe, P.E., M.S.C.E.
Director

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Bureau of Environmental health includes the following divisions: Air Pollution Control, Water Supply and Waste Disposal, Land Resource Development and Inspection Services. The mission of the Bureau is to carry out environmental programs within the jurisdiction of the Health Department.

DIVISION OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

The goal of this division is to achieve and maintain national standards of ambient air quality by conducting an air pollution control program within the framework of federal, state and local laws, and rules and regulations. Progress toward this goal has been made through the engineering, enforcement, and air monitoring activities of the division. Only two major industrial sources in Mobile County continue to operate out of compliance, but under legal orders. Several other sources present problems not addressed by present regulations.

Activities of the division in 1978 included:

Inspections of industrial air pollution sources conducted	311
Source emission tests conducted under Health Department observation	13
Complaints investigated	209
Open burning permit requests processed	267
Permits to Construct issued	95 (13 facilities)
Continuous monitoring sites operational	4
High volume particulate sites operated on a six day schedule	10

In addition to the routine workload activities, the following significant events relative to air pollution control occurred in Mobile County during the year.

Delayed compliance orders were issued to two major industrial sources of air pollution.

Issuance of abatement orders to two major industrial sources.

Volatile Organic Compound Emmission inventories were completed during the year to assist in preparing the revision to the State Implementation Plan.

Adoption of a resolution for the payment and collection of reasonable fees for the review of plans and specifications of new air contaminant sources.

Participation in the preparation of the revision to the State Implementation Plan.

Hosted a joint meeting of two national organizations, the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials and the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators.

DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY AND WASTE DISPOSAL

This division is concerned with private water supply and waste disposal systems. It is responsible for insuring that the water supply is safe, that plumbing facilities are adequate and that sewage waste is being properly disposed of without creating health hazards. Activities of the division for the year were:

Plumbing permits issued	1,805
Plumbing inspections conducted	5,771
Septic tank permits issued	2,023
Septic tank inspections conducted	2,360
Educational and informational visits	4,148
Septic tank and well complaints investigated	992

The moratorium on septic tank installations on Dauphin Island continued. Twenty-two holding tanks were approved for use on Dauphin Island as temporary sewage disposal systems.

DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

This division is responsible for the review of plans for:
- Proposed subdivision of land
- Commercial developments
- Industrial facilities
- Residential construction
- System designs for sewage disposal and water supplies
- Coordination of solid waste programs with State of Alabama Solid Waste Management Plans

Services rendered by this division in 1978:

Recommended preliminary actions for plans for 59 subdivisions consisting of 1,298 acres for a total of 2,012 lots. Average subdivision size was 22.4 acres with the average lot size 0.645 acres. Forty-one subdivisions would be with public water and 17 would use private wells representing a 13% increase in use of public water supplies by new subdivisions compared with last year.

Reviewed 940 individual water supply and sewage disposal reports for residences and small businesses.

Reviewed 80 special designs for sewage disposal systems for commercial and industrial developments.

Conducted 1,315 field visits for the study and evaluation of individual lots relative to sewage disposal and private water use.

Conducted 200 field visits for the purpose of evaluating subdivisions and making recommendations to the Alabama Department of Public Health for decisions on sewage disposal and water supply.

Special studies on water usage for various type installations were continued. Actively participated in the revision of State Rules and Regulations governing sewage disposal systems.

DIVISION OF INSPECTION SERVICES

The division inspects facilities serving or used by the public and investigates all complaints received concerning these facilities. Included in the list of facilities inspected on a routine schedule are food establishments, schools, jails, motels, hotels, swimming pools and recreational areas.

Workload for 1978 was as follows:

Food establishment inspections	10,800
Food Handler classes conducted	110
School inspections	1,075
Motel and Hotel inspections	188
Recreational area and pool inspections	1,050
Investigations of public health nuisances and complaints	1,364
Court cases initiated or participated in	3

For the second consecutive year, the division in conjunction with the Mobile Innkeepers Association sponsored a seminar for public and semi-public swimming pool operators. Numerous representatives from local apartment complex management offices, city recreation department staff, pool product manufacturers and private pool owners were among the attendees.

Bureau of Community Health Services

John E. Cutts, D.V.M., M.P.H.
Director

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

The Bureau of Community Health Services includes the following divisions: Veterinary Public Health, Mosquito Control, Rodent Control and is responsible for Epidemiology.

DIVISION OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

In 1978 this division made 95 inspections of milk plants, 259 inspections of producer dairies, as well as 172 inspections of ice milk manufacturers and 95 inspections of frozen dessert plants. Fifty-two water samples, 1,110 milk samples and 73 cottage cheese samples were submitted to the state laboratory. Also, 21 milk surveys were conducted with 4 milk distribution stations being inspected. Unpasteurized (raw) milk was excluded from the retail market in Mobile County effective October, 1978.

One hundred seventy-four (174) specimens were submitted to the state laboratory for rabies examination, with a bat (submitted in April) the only specimen reported as positive. This was the first report of rabies in Mobile County since 1967 (which also occurred in a bat).

DIVISION OF MOSQUITO CONTROL

The Mobile County Mosquito Control Program completed its first full year of operation in 1978. Funding for the program is provided through a one mill ad valorem tax approved by Mobile County voters in 1976.

The many benefits of an organized mosquito control program far exceed the cost. Those benefits include freedom from persistent mosquito annoyance, increased utilization of area recreational facilities, preparedness to combat mosquito-borne disease epidemics, reduction in mosquito-borne diseases in livestock and pets (such as heartworm infection), increased tourist potential in the Mobile County area, and increased land development potential. It should be noted that there have been no primary encephalitis cases reported in Mobile County in the last 2 years.

The Mobile County program is organized into five functional areas. They are: (1) Survey and Inspection, (2) Identification, (3) Chemical Control, (4) Source Reduction, and (5) Health Education.

Survey and Inspection activities include locating and mapping actual and potential mosquito breeding areas

throughout the county. This information becomes the groundwork for planning future activities. During 1978 mosquito control inspectors spent a total of 6,480.5 man hours surveying and inspecting.

Surveillance and identification reveals the species and approximate number of mosquitoes in a given area. It's function is to determine the scope and magnitude of the mosquito problem.

Chemical control involves the use of various chemicals to kill mosquito larvae (larviciding) and adults (adulticiding). Large scale larviciding was made possible this year through the acquisition of pressurized larviciding spray equipment and special equipment such as four-wheel drive trucks and all terrain vehicles. Mosquito Control personnel spent a total of 1,923.5 manhours conducting larviciding activities during 1978.

Adulticiding is accomplished by spraying chemicals in an ultra low volume mist from moving vehicles and is most effectively performed at dusk and during early morning hours. Over 38,130.4 miles and 1,520.4 man hours of spraying were logged conducting this phase of the control program. In addition to the actual spraying conducted by the Health Department, support was provided to communities for individual efforts. Insecticides and spray apparatus were supplied for vehicles owned by Dauphin Island, Coden, Bayou La Batre, Saraland, Satsuma, and Mt. Vernon for assistance in Health Department spraying efforts.

The source reduction phase of the program deals with permanent modification or elimination of breeding areas. The process of developing a permanent Source Reduction Advisory Committee made up of local governmental and regulatory officials began in 1978. This committee will assist the Health Department in setting priorities for source reduction and developing long range source reduction plans.

Health Education activities are directed toward informing the public about mosquito control activities. Through these efforts the public can play a significant role in assisting the Health Department in achieving a relatively mosquito-free community. During the past year the Health Education staff has been responsible for 12 presentations, 8 news releases, 4 television and radio programs, 1 feature newspaper article, and distribution of 4,600 pieces of educational material.

DIVISION OF RODENT CONTROL

In 1978 the Mobile County Health Department conducted three separate and distinct but coordinated rodent control programs:

(1) Federal Rodent Control Project (Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, and Center for Disease Control supported)

(2) C.E.T.A. Rodent Control Project (Department of Labor supported through Mobile Consortium)

(3) Mobile county-wide Rodent Control Project (Supported by 1 mill ad valorem tax).

The federal rodent control project was conducted within a seven hundred (700) block target area in Prichard and Mobile encompassing a total population of 59,415. During the year this program placed 395 of the 700 blocks (57%) into maintenance (rat-free blocks). This means that approximately 33,867 people in this federal project target area now live in a rat-free environment. This was accomplished by instituting new baiting techniques and intensified code enforcement. In addition, 224 of the 700 blocks (34%, estimated population 20,200) were classified as Environmentally Improved Blocks (rat-free blocks in a contiguous area).

The C.E.T.A. Rodent Control Project serviced an additional population of 19,000 people in the Toulminville and Crichton areas of Mobile. Since August, 1978, when the project was initiated, over 1,500 active rat infestations were identified in this target area. Results of the first baiting in this area indicated that over one-third (1/3) of the rat infestations found were eliminated.

The local county-wide rodent control program is designed to provide services to individuals that are not served by the other programs. Services were provided on a first come, first serve basis.

This year the Rodent Control Division surveyed 34,728 premises; inspected 29,828 premises; received 2,893 complaints; investigated 2,369 complaints and treated 8,488 premises.

OFFICE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

There were 12,374 communicable diseases reported in 1978. The division made 976 epidemiological investigations and 1,333 follow-up nursing visits for reported diseases. Table III shows the number of cases of selected diseases reported for 1978 as well as for 1977 and 1976.

TABLE III
SELECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED
MOBILE COUNTY, 1976 - 1978

DISEASES	*1978*	*1977*	*1976*
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Encephalitis			
Primary	0	0	21
Secondary	3	4	26
Gonorrhea	3094	3713	3788
Hepatitis			
A	67	89	67
B	29	29	58
Other	15	35	28
Malaria	0	0	0
Measles			
Rubella	7	65	4
Rubeola	1	0	1
Meningitis			
Meningococcal	18	30	14
Tubercular	0	0	0
Other	52	57	75
Mumps	27	227	331
Pneumonia	971	617	913
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever & Streptococcal Infections	1403	1116	2798
Salmonella, Shigella & E. Coli	76	54	32
Syphilis, Primary and Secondary	64	12	15
Tetanus	0	0	0
Typhoid	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	80	51	83
Whooping Cough	0	1	4

Bureau of Preventable Disease

Walter Minor, M.D.
Medical Director

John R. Williamson, M.P.H.
Director

DIVISION OF NURSING

In January, 1978, the Nursing Division was subdivided into three distinct service areas: Clinical Services, Maternity & Infant Care Services and Home Care Services. Nurses were reassigned to those specific areas for designated service activities.

Continuing education programs were provided to the staff throughout the year. Each program received certification approval through the Alabama State Nurses' Association. In addition, several staff members received advanced education.

The following statistical report reflects the general activities of the home care program for the calendar year:

Communicable Diseases	
Gamma Globulin given in office	329
Tuberculosis home visits	1,950
Home Health Services	
Medicare	2,358
Medicaid	961
Disease and Disability	7,858
Visits by Type	
Health care screening	2,937
Homemaker	1,693
Maternity	1,526
Family Planning	110
Health Complaints	6
Child Health	3,416
Mental Health	29
Total patient contacts	22,838
Health Education	
Planned lectures	38
Attendance at above	598
Accident prevention taught	4,300

DIVISION OF TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

The Division of Tuberculosis Control continued to locate, treat and follow-up cases in Mobile County. There were 80 new cases of tuberculosis reported in Mobile County in 1978 for case rate of 25.0. This was an increase of 29 cases from 1977 when the case rate was 15.9 (Table IV). There were approximately 28,133 clinic visits in 1978. The open case register contained 135 active tuberculosis cases compared to 141 active cases in 1977.

The Public School employees skin testing program is conducted as an annual program. The Mobile County School Board notifies the teachers in the month of their birthday to come to the Tuberculosis Clinic for their skin test. X-ray and clearing of positive reactors continues. This program contributes about 13,000 visits per year to the division's workload.

On July 28, 1978, a special Tuberculosis Clinic was established to treat those tuberculosis patients who have special medical problems, (including those with Atypical disease). It was felt that more time could be devoted to these patients in a special clinic than what could be provided in a regular out-patient clinic. The special clinic is staffed by physicians training in Pulmonary Diseases at the University of South Alabama Medical Center.

TABLE IV
NEW TUBERCULOSIS CASES
MOBILE COUNTY
1974 - 1978

YEAR	*NEW CASES*	*NEW CASE RATE PER 100,000 POP.*
1974	106	32.6
1975	83	26.2
1976	81	25.4
1977	51	15.9
1978	80	25.0

DIVISION OF VENEREAL DISEASE

During 1978, Mobile County experienced a 500 percent increase in primary and secondary syphilis. A majority of the 64 cases occurred in the homosexual and prostitution communities. Also, early latent syphilis increased from 19 to 38 cases. A total of 855 individuals were interviewed as possible contacts to patients with syphilis.

During the year the staff increased with the addition of one (1) State Representative being assigned to the Mobile area.

TABLE V
VENEREAL DISEASES
MOBILE COUNTY
1974 - 1978

YEAR	*GONORRHEA*	*PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SYPHILIS*
1974	2,566	48
1975	3,503	22
1976	3,788	15
1977	3,713	12
1978	3,094	64

DIVISION OF IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

During 1978, 1,034 clinics offering immunization services were held, with 19,425 patients receiving a total of 36,483 immunizations. Listed below are the immunizations administered during the year.

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DPT)	11,875
Oral Polio	12,411
Tetanus, Diphtheria (TD)	1,785
Tetanus toxiod	624
Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MM&R)	3,888
Mumps	4,740
Rubella	78
Rubeola	68
Smallpox	374
Cholera	183
Influenza	344
Pneumococcal vaccine	113

1978 saw the continuation of the nationwide Two Year Immunization Initiative Program. This program begun by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare had as its goal to totally immunize 90 percent of all children under the age of 18 by October of 1979. During 1978, all students in the public school system were offered immunizations. The summary below depicts the number of students immunized as well as immunizations given. This program was accomplished by a systematic assessment of the immunization needs of each child. After the assessment was accomplished parental consent was obtained and clinics were held in each public school.

1978 IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVE PROGRAM

Students administered immunizations—23,590 (39.2% of school population)

Tetanus/Diphtheria	11,233
Polio	14,093
Measles	5,062
Rubella	75
Mumps	11,078

During 1978, a program of follow-up on all high risk babies was intensified. This program allows for follow-up on all children born in Mobile County who are at high risk of not obtaining complete immunizations. Also, a program of follow-up of delinquent measles and rubella immunizations was continued. All children who began immunizations at the Health Department and who have reached eighteen months of age without having measles vaccinations are contacted to return to the clinic to complete their immunization schedule. Immunization clinics were also established in the Women, Infants and Children (W.I.C.) Program in order to provide immunizations for all children enrolled in the Program.

The Health Department was officially designated as a Yellow Fever Vaccination Center in 1978 and the vaccine is now available in our clinic.

The preschool immunization law proved beneficial in that 97.5 percent of all Mobile County children entering school during 1978 were completely immunized.

DIVISION OF GERIATRIC HEALTH SERVICES

The Mobile County Health Department realizes that one of the unmet needs in the county is health care for the elderly. As a result, a division of Geriatric Health Services was created in 1978. Nursing clinics have been established in several locations throughout the county and nursing services are rendered including: hypertension screening; preventive health teaching; emphysema screening, nutrition education; and health referrals.

Number of clinics held	176
Number of patient visits	3,872

Nursing clinics are held at Dawes, Coden Community Building, Wilmer, Citronelle, Belle Fountain (St. Phillip's Community Center), as well as at the Keeler Memorial Building.

DIVISION OF PHARMACY

The Mobile County Health Department Pharmacy continued in 1978 to provide prescription drugs for prenatal patients, infants of the Maternal and Infant Care Program (MIC), and Family Planning patients. During 1978, the Rheumatic Fever Control Program was established in the pharmacy. This program provides prophylactic penicillin for rheumatic fever patients and currently has approximately 100 patients who are receiving the prophylactic penicillin. Also, the pharmacy provides prescription drugs for the Diabetic Clinic. A program of drug sampling was begun in which local physicians donate drug samples to the pharmacy. The samples are used to provide prescription drugs for the indigent. During the year 2,766 prescriptions were filled.

The Project laboratory, which provides service for patients attending Project clinics, conducts the following laboratory work: (1) Hemoglobin; (2) RH typing; (3) Blood Grouping; (4) Pack Cell Volume; (5) Sickle Cell; (6) Glucose; (7) Routine analysis; (8) Pregnancy tests—two minutes and two hours; (9) SGOT; (10) BUN; (11) Creatinine; (12) Total Bilirubin; (13) Lipids; (14) RBC indices; (15) Throat cultures; (16) Urine cultures; (17) CBC; (18) Urine colony count on all intake patients, followed by culture sensitivity on those counts greater than 100,000; and (19) Cervo-vaginal preps.

The workload for the Maternal and Infant Care Laboratory during 1978 was as follows:

Number of patient visits	11,550
Number of tests conducted	16,668

FAMILY PLANNING PROJECT

The Family Planning Project provides contraceptive information and medical services to women of child-bearing age in Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia counties. The project strives to provide women with the freedom to determine the number and spacing of their children.

Family Planning was the recipient of a federal grant in the amount of $54,038 designed to provide family planning services to fill the unmet needs of teenagers in Mobile, Baldwin and Escambia counties.

Caseload statistics for 1978 were as follows:

New Patients	2,237
Continuing Patients	7,146
Total Visits	24,331

In addition to routine procedures in clinics, the nursing staff provided services such as counseling; history taking; referrals with follow-up for other services; follow-up on delinquent appointments and abnormal test results; and special counseling on sickle cell disease.

The Project also provided health information and education to area schools, civic organizations and the general public. During the past year, lectures, presentations and film showings were made to over 3,000 persons.

The staff of the Project also coordinated the activities of the District VIII Family Planning Advisory Council. The Council is composed of agency representatives, consumers, and concerned health personnel. Four general meetings of the Council were held during the year in addition to various committee meetings. Council projects for the year included presentation of the "Family Life and Today's Youth" Symposium, promoting community awareness of project services, and increasing consumer participation in Council activities.

DIVISION OF CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) INFORMATION AND COUNSELING PROJECT

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is the sudden and unexpected death of any infant for which a post-mortem examination fails to reveal a cause of death. The SIDS Project at the Mobile County Health Department provides information for all groups and agencies, and counseling to parents and families of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome victims. Autopsies are carried out by the Mobile County coroner at no cost to the family of the victim. The Project area is made up of an eight (8) county area including in addition to Mobile County; Clarke, Conecuh, Baldwin, Escambia, Monroe, Washington and Choctaw counties.

In 1978, twenty-five (25) deaths of infants less than one (1) year of age were reported as suspected SIDS deaths to the SIDS Project. Fourteen (14) of these deaths were listed as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, with thirteen (13) of these confirmed by autopsy and one (1) diagnosed without autopsy findings. Autopsies were refused by the families of three (3) of the twenty-five (25) deaths reported to the Project. The other eight (8) deaths were determined to be non-SIDS deaths (due to other causes).

Bureau of Maternal & Child Health

Beverly Boyd, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Director

Derel Till, M.P.H.
Director

MATERNITY AND INFANT CARE PROJECT

The Mobile County Maternity and Infant Care (MIC) Program started in September, 1966. Services provided include prenatal, inpatient hospital care, post-partum care, pediatric care and family planning. The majority of the patients live in census tracts designated as medically underserved areas, although the Project receives patients from throughout Mobile County. There is a contractural arrangement with the University of South Alabama Medical Center for hospitalization of high risk expectant mothers and infants up to one year of age. Outpatient clinics for Project patients are located at the Maternity and Infant Care Clinic located at the Keeler Memorial Building and at the University of South Alabama Medical Center.

Presented below are Project statistics for the period January 1, 1978 through December 31, 1978.

Maternity Clinics		289
New patients admitted to Project		1,335
Ante-partum visits		10,687
Post-partum Clinics		50
Post-partum visits		1,095
MIC Deliveries at USA Medical Center		1,259
Birthweight		
0-2000 grams	51	
2000-2500 grams	58	
2500 grams and over	1,150	
Stillborn	9	
Infant Clinics		128
Infant Clinic visits		4,437

The Nursing Section of the Project was responsible for providing direct nursing services to patients in the following settings: (1) Maternity Intake Clinics (new patients); (2) Maternity Clinics; (3) Post-Partum Clinics; (4) Well-Baby Clinics; (5) Hospital Obstetrical Clinics; (6) in homes. In the clinic setting, the nurse interviewed patients and obtained histories of past medical problems, past obstetrical history, family history and a brief social history relating to drug usage, smoking and birth control.

MEDICAID SCREENING

Each child in Mobile County less than 21 years of age and covered under Medicaid, is eligible to receive a free physical examination once each calendar year. If a physical, mental or behavioral abnormality is detected through the examination, a referral appointment is made with either a physician or the proper agency.

In addition, each child screened who is 3 years of age or older automatically receives a dental appointment.

Clinic Activity for 1978

	Number	Percent
Clinic appointments made	14,303	
Clinic attendance	7,333	51%
Average daily attendance	30	
Persons age 0-5 screened	3,278	45%
Persons age 6-11 screened	1,839	25%
Persons age 12-20 screened	2,216	30%
Number persons referred for treatment	5,635	77%
Number referrals for treatment	6,976	
Number appointments kept	4,247	61%

Number of referrals for treatment and source of care for 1978:

Source	Number
Dentist	
Private	2,617
Health Department	2,318
Physician	
Private	668
USAMC	486
Health Department	823
Other	64

DIVISION OF NUTRITION

Nutrition counseling was provided to maternity patients during the initial visit and at follow-up clinics. A total of 8,081 dietary instructions (7,408 prenatal and 541 post-partum) were given to the patients by the staff. About one-half of all dietary instructions were for specific problems such as anemia, obesity, underweight, diabetes, etc. Throughout all counseling, emphasis is placed on the inclusion of adequate amounts of high quality protein in the diet during pregnancy.

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), a federally funded program, was continued in Mobile County in 1978 with an approved caseload of 2,300 participants. 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, began in February, 1974 and is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Public Health. The total food cost (issued) for the twelve month period was $618,904. Participation in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program for 1978 (averaged monthly) is women, 593; infants, 886; children, 731. Pregnant women and children (ages 1-5 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.

Nutrition education is integrated into all aspects of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Maternal and Infant Care (MIC) Programs. Patients and participants are counseled individually and in groups. Approximately 8,600 nutrition pamphlets were distributed, 75 posters displayed, 1,041 classes held with an attendance of 5,100.

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Service Division provides services to the total family unit rather than to the patient alone. Service begins with intake screening. Following intake, services and counseling interviews are provided according to need, with each social worker having a specific assignment area.

One clinical social worker is assigned to the High Risk Clinic at the University of South Alabama Medical Center. Each high risk patient is seen at each clinic visit during the prenatal period for supportive counseling and problem solving processes. There were 712 High Risk Clinic patient contracts.

Another clinical social worker is assigned to provide follow-up services on referrals from the Intensive Care Nursery staff at the hospital. Forty-one (41) infants with problems at birth were referred. The social worker completed seventy-eight (78) personal contacts with these family units, assessing the home situations and providing resources for the physical and emotional welfare of the infant. Services are coordinated with the Social Service staff in the Intensive Care Nursery.

The third clinical social worker is assigned to the Family Planning Clinic. This worker provides individual and group counseling for all teenagers using a Family Planning method. Six hundred seventy-six (676) single patient contacts were completed in the clinic.

The adolescent patient continues to be a major focus of concern and treatment. The following table indicates the problems experienced by the patient under 18 years of age:

Number of pregnant adolescents (under age 18) admitted to MIC Project	467
Number of such adolescents reporting anger or depresssion when pregnancy determined	329
Number of planned adolescent pregnancies	45
Adolescents under age 18 who felt that lack of necessary biological information led to pregnancy	119
Number reporting lack of use of Birth Control due to fear	90
Number previously using a Family Planning Method	99

Bureau of Dental Health

Joel W. Goldsby, III, M.S., D.M.D.
Director

BUREAU OF DENTAL HEALTH

The Bureau of Dental Health offers to Mobile County a program for improving community dental health using established public health measures. These include prevention of dental disease, dental health educational activities, dental treatment and studies.

DIVISION OF DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Divison personnel presented workshops and oral health instruction in schools, agencies and in all clinics including Medicaid screening. This program of teaching proper oral hygiene techniques reached 241 teachers and 2,860 children. One (1) television program was presented during National Children's Dental Health Week.

Over 20,000 dental health education materials were distributed including materials developed by the dental staff and the Office of Health Education.

Mobile County dental professionals assisted the division in providing dental health education to school children. The voluntary services of the First District Dental Society, First District Dental Auxiliary, and First District Dental Assistants Association were greatly appreciated.

The division also provided assistance in determining dental health needs for the elderly. Four (4) nursing homes were visited by staff who helped organize a program of information to staff and residents on dental care needs and the importance of good oral hygiene techniques for the elderly.

DIVISION OF PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY

The division continued endeavors to provide topical flourides in areas where community fluoridation does not exist. The fluoride mouth rinse program was continued in three Mobile County schools; Belsaw School in Mt. Vernon, Dixon School in Irvington, and Alba School in Bayou La Batre. The division worked in conjunction with the Mobile County School Board, Health Services Division. Children, who participated with parental permission, were enrolled in the Alabama Migrant Workers Program.

The director, with the assistance of the State Dental Director, worked with the City Councils of Prichard and Saraland to pass resolutions which recommend adding fluoride in optimal levels to the communal drinking water. These resolutions were passed unanimously.

DIVISION OF DENTAL SERVICES

Dental treatment projects, which include the Maternal and Infant Care Project, Alabama Medicaid Program, Children's Dental Clinic, Special Children's Dental Project and the Adult Emergency Program, accounted for 16,217 dental visits which met the complete dental needs of 1,102 children and partial dental needs of 3,750 children and adults. All completed chlidren were placed on a recall registry for necessary follow-up and maintenance treatment.

Dental services were provided by 29 practicing dentists on a rotational basis, private dental practitioners on a referral basis and the dental director.

CLINICAL DENTAL SERVICES *(1978)*	*Total County*	*MIC*	*United Fund Children's Dental Clinic*	*Medicaid*	*Title V Special Children*
New Patients—First Visit	4,470	583	1,166	2,321	400
Continuing Patients	8,040	1,558	1,410	4,494	578
Rescheduled Patients	217	147	6	64	0
Examinations	5,255	498	2,226	1,687	844
X-Rays	7,166	1,527	1,184	3,989	466
Prophylaxes	2,373	418	271	1,536	148
Restorations	11,785	2,161	2,182	5,648	1,794
Extractions	2,891	469	1,726	551	145
Miscellaneous Services	6,145	1,147	1,597	2,695	706
Completed Patients	1,102	135	132	751	84

DIVISION OF PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

The division assisted the First District Dental Society and First District Dental Auxiliary in a dental health emphasis program during Children's Dental Health Week. During the week dental screening examinations were provided to 68 schools and 13 kindergartens. Dental health education materials were also provided to 8,500 children and 340 teachers. Other activities included a "SMILE" contest for third grade students, 3 television presentations and the airing of five 60-second radio spot announcements on dental health.

Office of Health Education & Public Relations

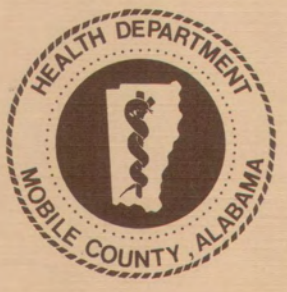
Monica Z. Knight, M.P.H.
Director

OFFICE OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The office is responsible for all health education programs for the Health Department. This includes research, development and implementation, as well as publicity, public information and resource referral for all bureaus and divisions. A primary function continued to be the production and hosting of the "Your Health" show, a weekly public affairs presentation of the Mobile County Health Department aired over WKRG television (local CBS affiliate). The "Your Health" show continues to be a leader in community health affairs, combining the education and information efforts of the Health Department with those of the many allied health agencies and institutions in the tri-state area. This program has maintained number one (1) rating status in its time period, being viewed in over 17,000 homes each week.

Another pertinent function is the dissemination of news material to local press and broadcast media. During 1978, 40 various news releases appeared in print with 6 major news conferences scheduled. The office also arranged appearances on 8 regular radio talk shows.

The graphic art section of the Office of Health Education and Public Relations carries on a program of in-house art and graphic work as requested by all bureaus and divisions. Some of the more notable projects were: design, lay-out and final drafting of health education pamphlets and literature; slide and photograph work; and maintenance of all audio-visual equipment.



The **Mobile County Health Department** is operated in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All facilities and services of this agency are available to all patients without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or political affiliation. In addition, no person shall, solely by reason of his/her physical handicap, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of this agency.

Report Prepared By:
the Office of Health Education and Public Relations