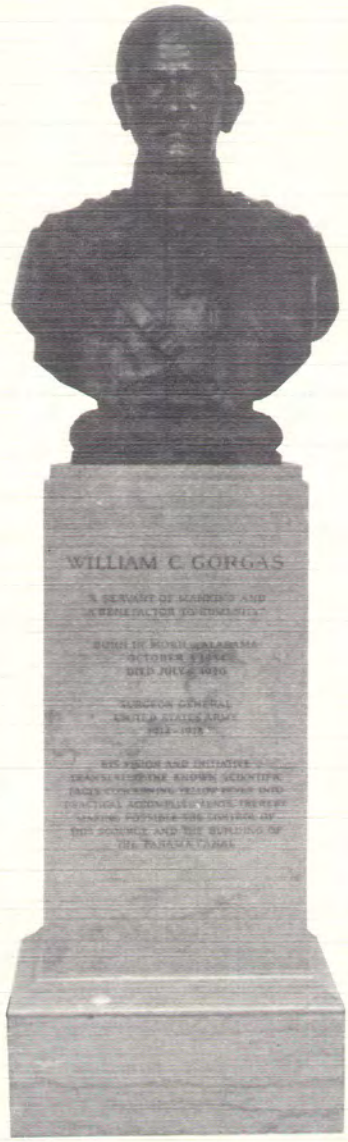


ANNUAL REPORT 1987

THE MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Major General William C. Gorgas Clinic

ANNUAL REPORT
1987

MOBILE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
251 N. Bayou Street
Mobile, Alabama 36603

Mobile County Health Department

Major General William C. Gorgas Clinic

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

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

BOARD OF HEALTH
Knut E. Mueller, M.D., Chairman
Crampton Harris, Jr., M.D.
Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr. P.H.
Donald S. Farquhar, M.D.
C. Adrien Bodet III, M.D.
Oliveth M. Archer, Pres., County Commission

The provision of high quality health care and services has long been our aim and endeavor. The Mobile County Health Department continues to strive to provide preventive health care services to Mobile County residents in an effort to reduce and/or prevent disease and illness.

The top health concern of 1987 continued to be AIDS, as the number of reported AIDS cases continued to nearly double every seven months. The challenges faced and the opportunities afforded public health for more aggressive intervention have made the Mobile County Health Department a much stronger organization.

We pledge to maintain our committment of quality health care to Mobilians who are in need of our environmental, medical and dental services in 1988 and in the future.

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

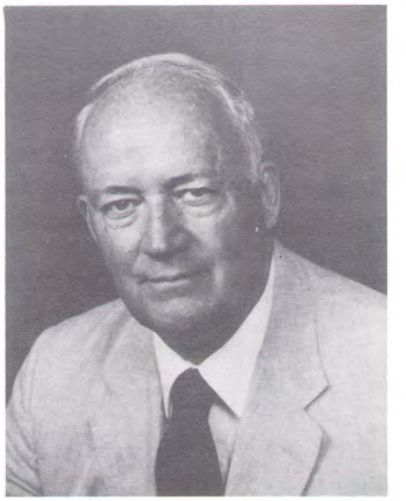
L. Steven Weinstein, M.D.

251 N. BAYOU STREET • P.O. BOX 2867 • MOBILE, ALABAMA 36652-2867 • (205) 690-8158

BOARD OF HEALTH

L. Steven Weinstein, M.D.
Chairman

Knut E. Mueller, M.D.



Crampton Harris, Jr., M.D.

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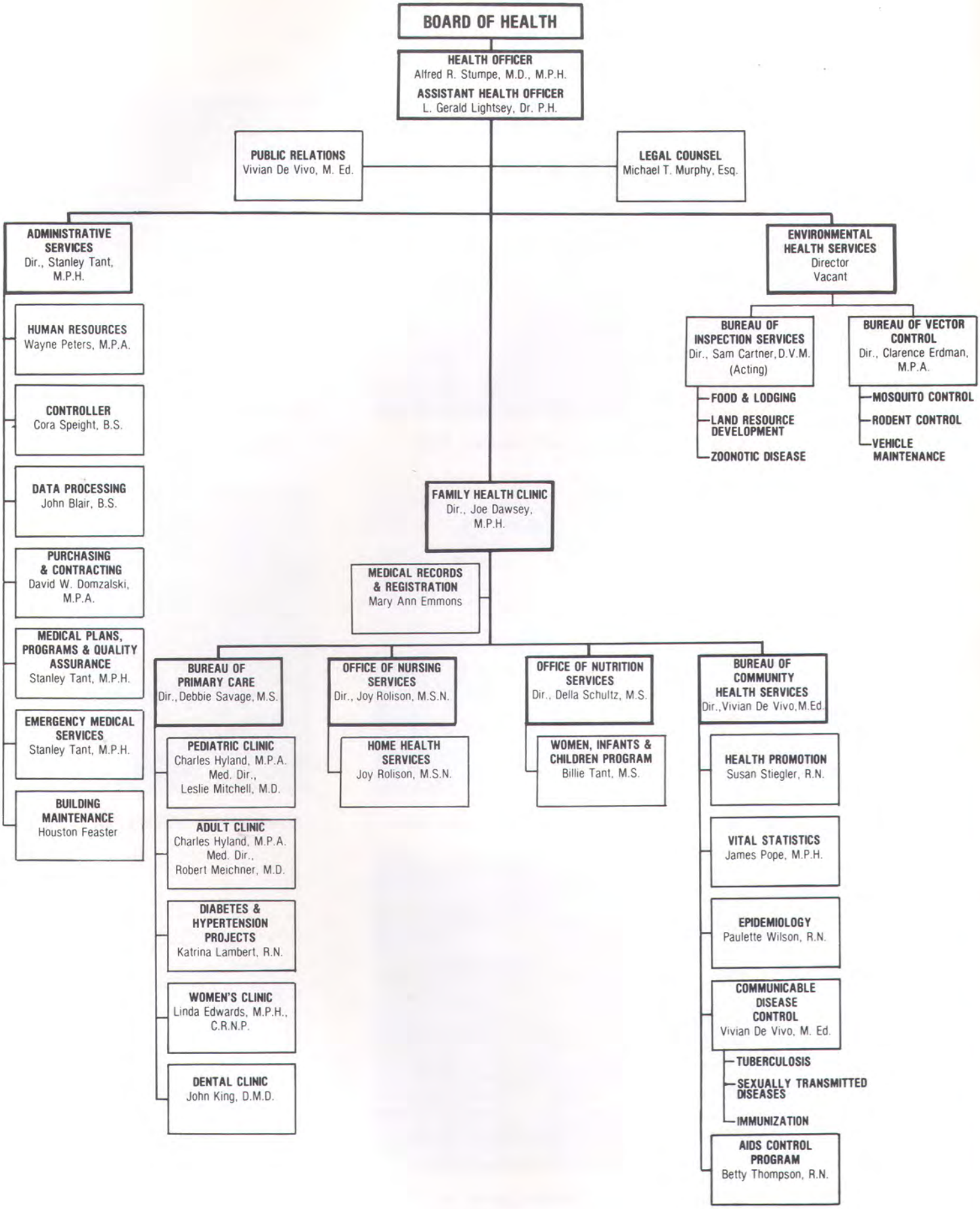
Donald S. Farquhar, M.D.

Commissioner Oliveth Archer

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

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA



APPROVED: Alfred R. Stumpe M.D.
Alfred R. Stumpe, M.D., M.P.H.
September 1, 1987

HIGHLIGHTS

- AIDS became one of the leading causes of death in Mobile County for the first time.
- Establishment of a separate and organizationally independent AIDS Control Program.
- Adoption of six position papers by the Mobile County Board of Health addressing AIDS prevention and control issues.
- A proposed city-wide smoking ordinance was developed and furnished to the City of Mobile for adoption.
- Establishment of a new and separate Medicaid Screening (EPSDT) Clinic.
- Populations of the Asian Tiger Mosquito, *Aedes albopictus,* were found for the first time in Mobile.
- The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program was awarded a WIC Expansion Grant from the Centers for Disease Control.
- The Alabama Department of Public Health reorganized, establishing Mobile County as Public Health Area VII.
- Decentralization of environmental health responsibilities to the Mobile County Health Department by the Alabama Department of Public Health.
- Proclamation of Child Restraint Awareness Week in July in conjunction with the Mobile County Commission.
- The 13th Annual Southeastern Hypertension Conference was hosted by Mobile with over 100 health professionals in attendance.

MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

L. Steven Weinstein, M.D.	December 1987
Knut E. Mueller, M.D.	December 1988
Crampton Harris, Jr., M.D.	December 1989
Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr. P.H.	December 1990
Donald S. Farquhar, M.D.	December 1991
Honorable Oliveth Archer	President, Mobile County Commission

LIAISON MEMBERS

David de Gruy, R.Ph.

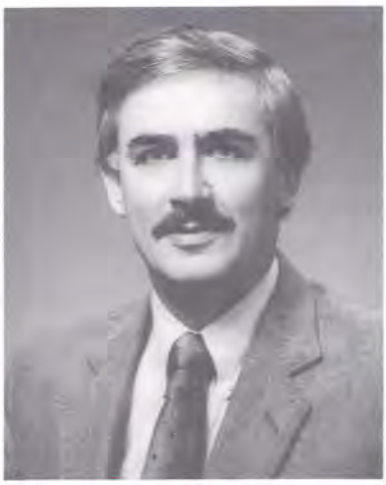
Clarke Yarbrough, D.V.M.

Glenn M. Yelverton, D.D.S.

STAFF

Alfred R. Stumpe, M.D., M.P.H.	Health Officer
L. Gerald Lightsey, Dr. P.H.	Assistant Health Officer
W. Stanley Tant, M.P.H.	Administrative Services
Joe M. Dawsey, M.P.H.	Family Health Clinic
Debbie Savage, M.S.	Bureau of Primary Care
Vivian De Vivo, M.Ed.	Bureau of Community Health Services
Sam Cartner, D.V.M.	Bureau of Inspection Services
Clarence Erdman, M.P.A.	Bureau of Vector Control

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



Stanley Tant, M.P.H.
Director

Administrative Services was responsible for providing administrative support for all programs and activities of the Health Department. This support was provided by the following offices: Human Resources; Controller; Data Processing; Purchasing and Contracting; Medical Plans, Programs and Quality Assurance; Building Maintenance and Emergency Medical Services. In addition to the internal support provided, Administrative Services was responsible for the operation and maintenance of the telephone system, in-house mailing and printing, inventory of all equipment and supplies, review and approval of all forms and the annual updating of all policies and procedures.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The year ended with a total of 226 employees and an annual payroll, including fringe benefits, of $4,318,314. A total of 36 employees terminated their employment during 1987 which included 33 resignations, 2 retirements and 1 termination.

During the year, Human Resources conducted 88 interviews of applicants from certification lists supplied by the Mobile County Personnel Board, and appointed 49 of the applicants to full-time positions. In addition, other interviews were held to select applicants for temporary assignments. The Health Department employed 45 persons on a temporary part-time basis, primarily in Vector Control during the summer months. There were 31 employees who were promoted or appointed to a higher classification through merit system examinations. This was a significant increase over previous years and should enhance retention.

The Health Department participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Thirteen students were assigned to our agency to assist in clerical functions with funding provided by the Job Training Partnership Act.

During 1987, Human Resources represented the Health Department at the Health Career Fair at the University of South Alabama, conducted campus recruitment for engineering graduates and participated in the placement service at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in New Orleans.

Six employees attended courses offered through the Training Office of the Mobile County Personnel Board to improve job performance and several clerical staff members were provided financial assistance to attend a shorthand course at the University of South Alabama. Additionally, the agency assisted one employee to enroll in a Family Practice Nurse Practitioner Program and another to pursue a Master's degree in Public Health.

All employees completed a job classification survey initiated by the Mobile County Personnel Board for the purpose of analyzing all merit system jobs. The detailed survey provided an opportunity for employees to specifically describe and prioritize all their duties as related to their job classification.

Mazie Gartman, a Public Health Nurse IV in the Women's Clinic, was selected for the David Previto Award as the Employee of the Year. Mrs. Gartman has worked for the Health Department for 34 years.

CONTROLLER

Annual revenue for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, for local funds totalled $3,046,967, a decrease of $207,533 over local funds received during fiscal year 1986. The change in revenue was due to a decrease in oil and gas severance tax money received. Table I summarizes the source and application of funds for the fiscal year.

Payments to the Mobile County Commission toward reimbursement for overpayments of oil and gas severance tax money to the Health Department in fiscal years 1980 through 1983 totalled $13,954. In addition, outstanding loans for the computer and for building construction were retired during the year. These loans totalled $246,000.

The primary care grant was audited for fiscal year 1987 as required by federal grant officials; the audit revealed sound fiscal operations.

DATA PROCESSING

The Health Department continued to expand data processing activities during 1987. During the year, the internal memory capacity was increased by adding two megs of internal memory; the control program facility (CPF) software was updated from version 7 to version 8 thus allowing for programming flexibility reducing recovery time when power loss was experienced; and two 3196 terminals were added bringing the total number of CRT terminals in use at the Health Department to 27. In addition, an IBM Personal System/2 personal computer with a modem and emulator panel was installed to permit direct communication with IBM on service calls and with the National Health Foundation for electronic mail.

New applications were developed during the year which included immunization tracking, WIC expansion and EPSDT screening letters. Application development for

a central stockroom inventory and for birth, death and fetal death certificates began in the last quarter of 1987.

The following is a brief synopsis of the new applications brought on line during 1987:

— The immunization tracking program permitted follow-up on all children delinquent in receiving their scheduled childhood immunizations. Letters were generated to notify parents of their child's delinquency status.

— The WIC expansion application and the EPSDT screening letters provided for the printing of awareness letters to all eligible patients, for both the WIC program and for the EPSDT screening program.

— To improve efficiency as well as reduce costs in the central stockroom, the central stockroom inventory application was developed. When this application goes on line in 1988, it will allow centralization of all supply issues and generate purchase orders and billing receipts.

PURCHASING & CONTRACTING

Purchasing and Contracting continued to be responsible for routine purchasing of all office, medical and dental supplies as well as the procurement of equipment at prices most advantageous to the Health Department. This office was required to develop and issue invitations to bid on items to be purchased that cost over $3,000 as outlined by State law. Vendor performance was evaluated to ensure optimal service to the Health Department.

An additional responsibility of this office was the maintenance of state and local equipment inventories of Health Department property. A semiannual inventory was conducted of all assigned State property as well as an annual inventory of locally procured and owned equipment. Newly purchased equipment was added monthly; salvaged property was deleted as required.

Regularly purchased items were stored in the stockroom and issued upon request. In 1987, the stockroom was responsible for issuing approximately one-half of all supplies used, the remainder were ordered from various vendors by individual clinics. A computer application was developed during the last quarter of 1987 to centralize all supply issues from the central stockroom. This computerized program when implemented should improve efficiency as well as contribute to cost savings.

MEDICAL PLANS, PROGRAMS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Responsibilities of Medical Plans, Programs and Quality Assurance included strategic planning, research and evaluation, resource development, grants management and coordination of a formalized and ongoing quality assurance activity in each service area.

During 1987, this Office was successful in obtaining a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program Expansion Grant from the Centers for Disease Control for $34,447. This grant made it possible to expand outreach efforts and to develop additional nutrition education materials.

The formalized quality assurance mechanisms established in 1986 were expanded and refined during 1987 placing emphasis on evaluation and follow-up in areas where corrective action was required. Audit criteria were established and tested for the Food Inspection Program and all clinical activities as well.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Building Maintenance provided daily housekeeping of all buildings and upkeep for the exterior of eight separate buildings occupied by the Health Department. The facilities include the main Keeler Building, six renovated residence buildings and the Vector Control/Motor Pool Complex totalling 112,530 square feet of floor space. In addition, the Building Maintenance staff provided security and groundskeeping for approximately 13 acres of land on and around the Keeler Complex.

TABLE I
SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 1986-1987
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1987

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Appropriations:

Local Government		
County of Mobile	$ 364,379	
City of Mobile	500,000	
Other Municipalities	31,196	
State of Alabama	378,890	
Other Appropriations	23,858	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		**$1,298,323**

Grants:

Cancer Detection	$ 20,227	
DHR Homemaker	42,500	
Diabetic Retinopathy (9/1/87-8/31/88)	77,992	
*Family Health Clinic (6/1/86-5/31/87)	835,427	
*Family Planning (7/1/86-6/30/87)	300,606	
Maternity	552,695	
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	430,126	
TOTAL GRANTS		**$2,259,573**
AD VALOREM TAXES		**$1,174,449**

Other Funds Received:

Ad Valorem Interest	$ 21,809	
Family Health Clinic Earned Income	333,231	
Local Fees, Permits, Miscellaneous	413,247	
Local Refunds & Interest	53,458	
Local Rentals	157,533	
Medicaid/Medicare	120,748	
Oil & Gas Severance Taxes	296,145	
Reimbursements (Federal, State & Other Projects)	697,918	
Sale of Fixed Assets	33	
School Health	18,627	
Transfers In	500,000	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS		**$2,612,749**
TOTAL REVENUE FOR YEAR		**$7,345,094**

APPLICATION OF FUNDS:

	LOCAL	AD VALOREM	FEDERAL	TOTAL
Personnel Costs	$2,321,518	$ 401,365	$1,586,069	$4,308,952
Contractual Services	193,158	53,336	252,576	499,070
Travel	43,660	1,454	13,289	58,403
Equipment	61,802	3,086	12,176	77,064
Supplies & Other	483,159	163,104	356,859	1,003,122
Indirect Cost	—0—	129,641	332,835	462,476
Building Expenses	26,328	—0—	—0—	26,328
Transfers Out	—0—	500,000	—0—	500,000
TOTALS	**$3,129,625**	**$1,251,986**	**$2,553,804**	**$6,935,415**

* Grant Year Ending in Local Fiscal Year.

FAMILY HEALTH CLINIC

Joe Dawsey, M.P.H.
Director
FAMILY HEALTH CLINIC

Debbie Savage, M.S.
Director
BUREAU OF PRIMARY CARE

Vivian De Vivo, M.Ed.
Director
BUREAU OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

The Family Health Clinic was administratively responsible for all clinical programs within the Health Department and consisted of the Bureau of Primary Care, the Bureau of Community Health Services, the Office of Nursing Services, the Office of Nutrition Services and Medical Records and Registration.

MEDICAL RECORDS AND REGISTRATION

Over 90,000 active patient records were maintained during 1987 by the staff. Daily activity in this area included registering patients for the various clinics; pulling, tracking and filing records; and posting laboratory results. Inactive records were routinely transferred to storage and filed for easy retrieval when necessary.

With the exception of the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic (STD) and the Dental Clinic, patient registration for all clinics was carried out at a central registration location. During 1987, over 65,000 patient visits were recorded at this central site. Computer on-line registration, through use of display terminals, provided instant access to patient data during registration. Computerization also allowed the registrar to verify, modify and delete data as necessary without having to manually resort to cumbersome printed documents.

Another integral part of the registration process was the patient interview by the social service staff to verify income and determine ability to pay. This information was then utilized in setting the pay status based on a sliding fee scale.

BUREAU OF PRIMARY CARE

The goal of the Bureau of Primary Care was to improve the health of Mobile County residents by providing acute and preventive care to children and adults through services provided by the Pediatric Clinic [including the newly established Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Clinic], Adult Clinic, Diabetes and Hypertension Project, Women's Clinic and Dental Clinic. Due to Mobile's high unemployment rate, the percentage of people living at or below the federal poverty level, and without health insurance, was high resulting in an increased demand for Health Department services. Fortunately,

the Mobile County Health Department received additional financial support this past year from the county and local municipalities to help meet the increased demand for services.

The four medical service areas in the Bureau were staffed with two National Health Service Corps pediatricians, two National Health Service Corps internists, one part-time obstetrician/gynecologist, two nurse practitioners, medical residents from the University of South Alabama and public health nurses. Services in the Dental Clinic were provided by two full-time dentists, a dental assistant and two hygienists.

All clinics in the Bureau continued to operate on a computerized registration/appointment system allowing time for walk-in patients on a daily basis.

In the fall, with reorganization and a new fiscal year, the following new goals were developed for all clinical activities of the Bureau: improve inter- and intraclinic communication, improve patient accessibility to resources, reduce patient waiting time, improve quality of care, increase productivity and integrate core services.

PEDIATRIC CLINIC

Services provided in the Pediatric Clinic included physical examinations, well baby evaluations, vision and hearing screenings, immunizations and treatment of acute episodic conditions.

During 1987, the Mobile County Health Department employed a second full-time pediatrician which enabled the Pediatric Clinic to provide more children with acute and preventive medical care. Clinic visits totalled 8,481, a 14.4% increase over clinic visits in 1986.

MEDICAID SCREENING (EPSDT)

During 1987, renewed emphasis was placed on the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program that was initiated in 1972 to serve Medicaid eligible children and young adults. This program was designed to assure access to medical care for Medicaid recipients from birth through age twenty years.

In an effort to reach more of the Medicaid eligible population, the Mobile County Health Department in September 1987 established a separate clinic for EPSDT screenings. The clinic was staffed by a pediatric nurse practitioner, a public health nurse, a nurses aide and a clerk. A total of 2,234 examinations were provided during the year with 1,453 of these conducted after the opening of the special clinic.

ADULT CLINIC

The Adult Clinic continued to serve primarily adult and geriatric patients with chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and hypertension, as well as patients with acute medical problems. Approximately 55% of the patients seen in this clinic were 45 years of age or older and most had limited incomes or were Medicare and/or Medicaid eligible. Clinic visits in 1987 totalled 8,574, a 21.3% increase over1986. Diagnostic services provided included 1,019 X-rays and 422 electrocardiograms.

In an effort to expand the clinic to meet the needs of an aging population a public health nurse, financed by the Health Department, was enrolled in a Family Practice Nurse Practitioner Program at Georgia Southern University and will be available to the clinic in June 1988.

CENTRAL LABORATORY

The Central Laboratory provided a full range of laboratory procedures as requested by clinic physicians or as required by standing orders. Tests that could not be performed in-house were forwarded to the Alabama Department of Public Health's Bureau of Clinical Laboratories or to a private laboratory.

During 1987, 200,238 laboratory tests (43.5% more than in 1986) were performed for patients in Health Department clinics. Of this number 124,931 were performed in-house, 59,434 in the State's laboratory and 15,873 in a private laboratory. In 1987, 62.4% of all tests were performed in-house compared to 53.7% in 1986.

Laboratory personnel continued to participate in the College of American Pathologists Excel Quality Assurance Program. Special precautionary efforts were also taken this year to assure the safety of staff and patients in regards to the transfer of blood-borne diseases such as hepatitits B and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections.

PHARMACY

A full-time registered pharmacist continued to staff the Mobile County Health Department's pharmacy. Patients were able to have prescriptions filled at a reduced cost. In addition, prescriptions written by physicians in the private sector were filled for patients requiring chemoprophylaxis during disease outbreaks.

Pharmacy activity increased during 1987 by 12% as compared to 1986. The pharmacy workload for 1987, by-clinic, was as follows:

Clinic	Number of Prescriptions Filled
Adult & Pediatric	7,358
Women's	1,415
Dental	631
STD	228
Disease Outbreaks/Other	1,777
Total	**11,409**

X-RAY

During 1987, X-ray services were provided for the Adult Clinic, Pediatric Clinic, Tuberculosis Clinic, as well as for barbers, beauticians and private physician referrals.

A total of 2,239 X-rays were provided this year, representing an increase of 5.4% as compared to 1986.

The workload for 1987 was as follows:

Clinic	Number
Adult and Pediatric	1,036
Maternity	56
Tuberculosis	1,047
Other	100
Total	**2,239**

DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION PROJECT

The Diabetes and Hypertension Project began its second year of operation at the Mobile County Health Department under a grant awarded by the Centers for Disease Control. The main focus continued to be the provision of health screenings, evaluations and education in an effort to prevent complications and reduce mortality due to uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension.

During 1987, 260 new patients enrolled in the program, of whom 205 qualified for eye examinations (Table II). Eye conditions requiring treatment at the University of South Alabama Medical Center included 93 retinopathy problems (Table III).

During the year, nine Accu-Chek II machines were purchased to allow patients to monitor their glucose level at home. In addition, 35 educational sessions were conducted with 589 patients participating.

TABLE III
EYE PROBLEMS TREATED
1987

Problem*	No.	%
Retinopathy	93	57.0
Cataract	15	9.2
Juvenile Cataract	15	9.2
Laser Treatment	13	8.0
Glaucoma	11	6.8
Pterygium	5	3.1
Cataract Extraction	4	2.5
Corneal Ulcer	2	1.2
Aphakia	2	1.2
Conjunctivitis, Viral	2	1.2
Benign	1	.6
Total	163	100%

*Some patients were treated for more than one condition.

TABLE II
NEW DIABETIC CLINIC PATIENTS
1987

AGE	TOTAL VISITS		MALE		FEMALE		BLACK		WHITE		OTHER	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-21	5	2.0	1	.3	4	1.5	3	1.1	2	.7	0	0
22-44	48	18.4	20	7.7	28	10.8	28	10.9	18	6.9	2	.7
45-64	146	56.2	23	8.8	123	47.4	88	33.9	57	21.9	1	.3
65 & over	61	23.4	17	6.6	44	16.9	31	11.9	30	11.7	0	0
Total	260	100	61	23.4	199	76.6	150	57.8	107	41.2	3	1.0

WOMEN'S CLINIC

MATERNITY PROGRAM

The Maternity Program's broad goal was to improve pregnancy outcomes for medically indigent women of Mobile County. More specifically, the program sought to reduce fetal, maternal and infant morbidity and mortality by providing prenatal and postpartum care to pregnant women. All patients received complete medical and social service screenings. Patients determined to be at high risk were referred to a more intensive prenatal care clinic.

The clinics were staffed with resident physicians from the University of South Alabama's Health Services Foundation, public health nurses and a certified registered nurse practitioner. Patient care followed guidelines recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Table IV reflects the patient profile for 1987 for the Maternity Program:

TABLE IV
MATERNITY CLINIC UTILIZATION
1987

Total number of maternity visits	16,100
Total number of unduplicated patients	2,293
Black patients	1,352
White patients	825
Other patients	116

In 1986, Alabama had the highest infant mortality rate of any state in the country; Mobile County's rate was higher than the state's rate. It is encouraging that the provisional statistics for 1987 indicate a significant decrease in infant mortality for the county as a whole, as well as for infants of patients attending the Women's Clinic. Table V shows the pregnancy outcomes for maternity patients who delivered in 1987.

The Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) program monitored six suspected cases reported in 1987, a significant decrease from the 10 cases followed in 1986.

TABLE V
PREGNANCY OUTCOMES
1987*

Total Births	**1,548**
White	619
Non White	929
Birth Weights	
0-2000 grams	93
2001-2500 grams	94
Over 2500 grams	1,361
Fetal Deaths	15
Infant Deaths	11
Infant Death Rate (per 1000 live births)	7.1
Maternal Deaths	0

*Provisional as of February 29, 1988.

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

The primary goal of the Family Planning Program was to provide services to Mobile County residents for the planning and spacing of their children. This service included providing medical examinations and contraceptive supplies as well as counseling and education. Natural family planning was discussed with patients as a possible alternative to contraceptives.

The program's clinics were staffed by resident physicians from the University of South Alabama's Health Services Foundation, public health nurses and a certified registered nurse practitioner. The part-time services of a private physician under contract supplemented the clinic staffing.

During 1987, the number of new patients admitted to the program increased to 2,350. Total visits decreased since patients were provided a year's supply of contraceptives at one visit.

TABLE VI
FAMILY PLANNING
1987

Total number of family planning visits	9,951
Total number of new patients	2,350
Total number of unduplicated patients	6,042
Black patients	4,592
White patients	1,389
Other patients	61

DENTAL CLINIC

The Dental Clinic continued to provide a full range of dental services to the residents of Mobile County on a sliding fee system. The services available included examination, X-ray, prophylaxis, fluoride treatment, sealants, fillings, pulpotomies and extractions.

During 1987, the employment of two full-time dentists and the addition of a dental hygienist improved the clinic staffing which resulted in an increase in the number of patients seen (7,795) and procedures performed (21,841). The emphasis of the program remained on treating patients 20 years of age and younger; however, adult appointments were also scheduled one day a week and on a space available basis.

Dental health education continued to be emphasized through patient education and community presentations. For example, classes for children and expectant mothers enrolled in the WIC program were offered to teach and encourage the development of good oral hygiene habits. All patients received instructions on proper brushing procedures, flossing and good oral hygiene practices as well.

The fluoride mouthrinse program was conducted weekly during the school year at 16 public elementary and 5 public middle schools not serviced by a fluoridated water system, reaching approximately 11,996 students. A recent study of the natural fluoridation of water supplies in Mobile County revealed that 21 of the schools participating in the program in 1986 had students that were

receiving properly fluoridated water at school and at home. As a result these schools were removed from the program in 1987.

OFFICE OF NURSING SERVICES

The Office of Nursing Services continued to fulfill its responsibilities which included: management of the Home Health Program; recruitment of public health nurses; orientation of staff and nursing students; providing continuing education activities; certification of nurses and nurses' aides in venipuncture and skin testing procedures; updating standing orders and preventive health schedules used in clinical programs; and preparation and revision of medical forms.

The Office of Nursing Services continued to manage the employee rubella and hepatitis B vaccination programs. During 1987, 41 employees completed the vaccination requirements for rubella. The total number completing this requirement since July 1981, is 477. In addition, 24 employees completed the Heptavax vaccine series for hepatitis B, bringing to 77 the total number of employees vaccinated since March 1983. Serologic evaluation to determine seroconversion continues to be done at three months post-vaccination on individuals who complete the Heptavax series. In addition, 17 public health nurses, 7 nurses' aides and 1 laboratory technician were screened this year for hepatitis B markers.

In February of this year, the Office began conducting a series of in-service education classes on AIDS for all employees assigned to the medical and dental clinics, laboratory and housekeeping functions. Specific guidelines were also developed for each of these areas. A closed system for collection of blood was established and clinical areas were assessed to ensure that proper precautions were being enforced to prevent the transmission of infectious pathogens.

HOME HEALTH SERVICES

Home Health Care was provided to patients through this program's six service areas: home health services (Medicare, Medicaid or disease and disability patients); adult services; child health services; tuberculosis services; homemaker services; and the Department of Human Resources parenting program.

Due to financial constraints in 1986, referrals for home health services were restricted to patients living outside the city limits of Mobile. In October of 1987 this restriction was lifted and all referrals were once again accepted. The University of South Alabama continued to serve as a referral source, referring 61 patients during 1987. Three public health nurses were added to the program in order to serve an increased patient workload.

The discharge planner from the University of South Alabama met on a monthly basis with the home health staff where special problems were managed. A mechanism was also developed by which public health nurses could communicate vital information to the physicians.

During the year, home care services were made available to individuals with AIDS; five AIDS patients were provided home care in 1987.

Table VII reflects the activities completed during 1987.

TABLE VII
HOME HEALTH SERVICES
1987

Service	Total Patients	Total Visits	Visits by PHN	Visits by Aides	Visits by P.T.
Home Health					
Medicare	61	3,443	1,890	1,517	36
Medicaid	51	2,806	1,795	1,011	0
Disease & Disability	41	880	547	333	0
Adult Health	28	413	354	59	0
Child Health	68	583	583	0	0
Tuberculosis	46	353	353	0	0
Homemaker	48	589	0	589	0
Parenting	74	2,739	0	2,739	0

OFFICE OF NUTRITION SERVICES

The Office of Nutrition Services continued to provide nutrition assessment, counseling and education to patients in the Women's Clinic, the Adult and Pediatric Clinics, as well as to oversee the WIC program. Program activities which began in 1986 continued and improved during 1987.

Dietary consultations were provided to 41 maternity patients attending the Women's Clinic who were also enrolled in the University of South Alabama Medical Center's study on "The Use of Prophylactic Insulin with Diet Compared to Diet Alone in the Management of Gestational Onset of Diabetes Mellitus."

Individual and group nutrition counseling was provided to participants in the Diabetes and Hypertension Project. The participants were Health Department patients and referrals from other primary health care centers or private physicians in Mobile County. Individual assessments were made and group classes were utilized for teaching. A total of 24 classes were held. Topics included basic meal planning, using the food exchange system, modification of fat and salt in the diet and increasing fiber intake.

Weight management programs for patients and employees continued to be offered. Three patient groups participated in the weight management program in 1987. A greater number of patients chose individual instruction and follow-up instead of group attendance citing work conflicts with class times. In addition, two weight management programs of ten weeks duration each were offered to employees; 43 individuals participated on their lunch hour for one day each week of the class.

Infant feeding classes and breastfeeding instructions were provided to obstetric patients in the Women's Clinic. The class included information on normal infant feeding with breastfeeding emphasized. Patients who expressed an interest in breastfeeding were scheduled to attend a class specifically on breastfeeding techniques.

Nutrition services were expanded in August 1987, offering individual nutrition assessment and counseling to patients referred from private physicians. Letters announcing this service and referral instructions were mailed to physicians in Mobile County and some referrals were received.

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM

The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) was continued in 1987. The program in Mobile County has been in operation since it was originally funded in February 1974. Thoughout the year, emphasis was placed on increasing the caseload and serving more residents in need in Mobile County. A separate grant was awarded to the Mobile County WIC Program this year that provided extra funding to increase outreach efforts in this area.

The average number of participants that received vouchers each month during the year increased from 5,498 in 1986 to 6,157 in 1987. This increase was due largely to outreach efforts and to the establishment of additional satellite clinics in the county. Vouchers were issued to a total of 73,879 participants during the year from an enrollment of 77,672. The overall participation rate was 95%.

The participant caseload was composed of three categories: (1) women (pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum); (2) infants (birth to one year); and (3) children (one to five years). Categorical participation is listed below:

TABLE VIII
WIC PARTICIPANT CASELOAD
1987

Category	Monthly Average	Annual Visits	Percentage
Women	1,467	17,602	24%
Infants	2,266	27,195	37%
Children	2,424	29,082	29%
Total	**6,157**	**73,879**	**100%**

Certification and voucher issuance were made daily at the Health Department, on a weekly basis at the Mostellar Clinic in Bayou La Batre, and on a semi-monthly basis at satellite sites in Mt. Vernon and Wilmer. Vouchers were mailed on alternate months to participants due to space limitations at the Health Department. Approximately 30% of all vouchers issued each month were issued by mail in 1987.

Fifty-two grocery stores in Mobile County contracted with the WIC Program to accept vouchers. The authorized foods for 1987 were milk, cheese, fruit juice, eggs, iron-fortified cereal and peanut butter for women and children; and iron-fortified formula, juice and cereal for infants. Federal guidelines established maximum amounts for each category, and the nutritionists and nurses planned the food package for each individual participant at the time of certification.

Program guidelines required that nutrition education be provided at the certification assessment in addition to a planned secondary encounter. The WIC nurses and nutritionists provided 4,056 basic encounters to women; 2,465 to infants; and 6,056 to children. Secondary encounters totalled 8,304. Total nutrition education encounters for 1987 were 20,881 compared to 17,468 in 1986.

TABLE IX
WIC NUTRITION EDUCATION ENCOUNTERS
1987

Category	Basic Encounter	Secondary Encounter
Women	4,056	1,857
Infants	2,465	3,338
Children	6,056	3,109
Total	**12,577**	**8,304**

BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

On September 1, 1987, the Bureau of Community Health Services was established, which assumed responsibilities for the former Bureau of Communicable Disease Control. Programs under the Bureau of Community Health Services include: Health Promotion; Vital Statistics; Epidemiology; Refugee Screening; Foodhandlers; Communicable Disease Control, which encompasses Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Immunizations; and AIDS Control. During the year, the Alabama Department of Public Health likewise reorganized, establishing Mobile County as Public Health Area VII. This change directly affected the staff of the Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Disease and Immunization Programs, which up to now, had been providing services to a 14 county area. With the reorganization, these three programs were localized and began providing services to the new Public Health Area VII only.

As the Mobile County Health Department placed greater emphasis in its AIDS related activities, an AIDS Control Program was established in April 1987. The AIDS Control Program coordinated all in-house services provided through the various clinical programs, provided antibody screening on a voluntary basis and provided education to the community at large.

HEALTH PROMOTION

During October 1987, organizational changes resulted in the separation of Health Education and Public Relations activities. Health Promotion continued to be responsible for coordinating all health education activities for the Health Department which included school health, community health and patient education.

The Family Health Program conducted at the eighth grade level in the public middle schools moved into its sixth year. The five-day program was taught at 18 schools reaching 3,009 eighth grade students. The sixth grade Family Health Program moved into its second full year. The three-day program was taught at 22 schools with 2,583 sixth graders participating. These programs were also presented to other adolescent residential programs upon request.

Community health education was provided to private and public schools, colleges and universities, community agencies, church groups, civic clubs and other groups and organizations upon request. Health educators and other professional staff conducted 51 presentations with 2,043 in attendance. In addition, 2,587 educational pamphlets were distributed through the Office.

Patient education continued to be offered in the clinic waiting areas via the closed circuit television system housed in Health Promotion. This educational system expanded to include a fourth monitor placed in the Dental Clinic and the production of a third six-hour tape covering many health related topics.

The Foodhandler's classes provided all new foodhandlers and renewals in Mobile County with a one hour educational course stressing proper foodhandling techniques. The renewal class was updated and revised to bring forth new educational information useful to foodhandlers.

The car seat loaner program, established in 1983, continued to rent infant restraints to qualifying families. A total of 128 seats were made available on a six-month loan basis. In December 1987, Health Promotion took over total responsibility of this program. Future expansion plans are to include the rental of toddler restraints.

The Health Promotion Council, consisting of representatives from all clinical programs, continued to meet to review and approve all patient education literature and audio-visual materials used for patient education. New improved brochures were utilized in various programs.

Health promotion/disease prevention activities were conducted for the employees through the monthly health promotion staff meetings. A variety of health topics was presented by professionals from the community. Several health screenings were also made available to the employees throughout the year.

The graphic arts section carried on a program of in-house art and graphic work as requested by all bureaus and programs.

The Mobile County Health Department hosted the 13th Annual Southeastern Hypertension Conference in October 1987. Over 100 health professionals attended the three-day conference, which brought attention to the complicating factors in high blood pressure control.

Some of the activities involved in the anti-smoking campaign included the presentation of Fresh Start, the American Cancer Society's smoking cessation program, to four businesses with 36 participants. The smoking survey of hotels/motels and of food establishments with seating capacity was updated during 1987. This annual survey showed that 25% of restaurants had voluntarily designated non-smoking areas as compared to 16% in 1986; and 44% of hotels/motels had voluntarily designated non-smoking rooms as compared to 33% in 1986. In addition, activities to promote the passing of a city-wide smoking ordinance to restrict smoking in public buildings were begun during the year. In October 1987, an ordinance was developed and reviewed by the Health Department attorney, then brought to the City of Mobile. These activities will continue in order to reach the national goal of having a smoke-free society by the year 2000.

VITAL STATISTICS

Organizational changes during 1987 placed Vital Statistics under the Bureau of Community Health Services. Vital Statistics joined the computer age with the installation of two CRT's where direct data input from birth and death certificates was made. The CRT's also provided an index utilized in locating birth and death records, and provided ready access to information concerning foodhandlers and clinic patient billing records. Considerable preparation was given toward implementing the new state birth and death certificates to become effective January 1, 1988.

The major responsibilities included the collection of vital records (births, deaths and fetal deaths) in Mobile County; the issuance, upon request, of certified copies of vital records; the collection of miscellaneous fees for clinical and pharmacy services provided by the Health Department; registration of applicants for foodhandlers permits and the compilation of a monthly report indicating types of Health Department services provided by municipality in Mobile County.

During 1987, a total of 11,330 vital events were recorded in Mobile County (for residents and nonresidents); 7,696 live births; 3,557 deaths; and 77 fetal deaths. Provisional data for resident births (Table X) showed that there were 6,555 births in 1987 for an annual birth rate of 16.9 per 1,000 population, very little change from the 17.3 in 1986. The birth rate in Mobile County continued to be higher than both the State of Alabama (14.5) and the United States (15.5). Of the 6,615 births, 15.9 percent (1,050) were to adolescent mothers compared to 17.8 percent in 1982. Live births to adolescents have declined slightly over the past five years.

Provisional data also showed that there were 3,004 resident deaths in 1987 for an annual death rate of 7.7 per 1,000 population (Table X). Infant deaths in 1987 totalled 77 for an infant mortality rate of 11.6 per 1,000 live births. This provisional rate is 17.7 percent lower than the infant death rate of 14.1 in 1986. There were no maternal deaths reported in Mobile County during 1987.

Death rates for Mobile County, the State of Alabama, and the United States for the period 1982-1987 are presented in Table XI. The Mobile County rate of 7.7 in 1987 is 11.5 percent lower than the 8.7 in 1986.

As in 1986, heart disease continued to be the number one cause of death in Mobile County in 1987 accounting for 944 (31%) of total resident deaths; cancer accounted for 656 deaths (22%); diseases of the arteries, 194 (6%); stroke, 195 (6%); and accidents, 87 deaths (2.9%) as shown in Table XII. Twenty-two AIDS deaths occurred in 1987 placing AIDS for the first time among the leading causes of death in Mobile County.

The issuance of certified copies of vital records upon request totalled 16,126 birth records and 19,508 death records for 1987. A total of 1,802 verification cards were issued in 1987 to those whose birth occurred between 1908 and 1952, since the Health Department does not have on file birth certificates for that time period.

TABLE X
SUMMARY OF VITAL EVENTS
RESIDENTS OF
MOBILE COUNTY; ALABAMA; UNITED STATES
1986-1987

EVENT	MOBILE COUNTY				ALABAMA		UNITED STATES	
	1987*		1986		1986		1986*	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Births	6555	16.9	6663	17.3	59,441	14.5	3,731,000	15.5
Deaths	3004	7.7	3331	8.7	37,690	9.2	2,099,000	8.7
Infant Deaths	77	11.6	94	14.1	788	13.3	38,600	10.4
Neonatal Deaths	54	8.2	74	11.1	540	9.1	25,000	6.7
Perinatal Deaths	80	12.1	95	14.2	824	13.8	NA	NA
Fetal Deaths	60	9.7	59	8.9	690	11.6	NA	NA
Maternal Deaths	0	0.0	2	3.0	12	2.0	250	0.7

* Provisional as of February 29, 1988

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
Perinatal deaths per 1,000 deliveries

DEFINITIONS: Infant Deaths - Deaths to children under 1 year of age
Neonatal Deaths - Deaths 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 20 weeks or more of gestation

TABLE XI
DEATH RATES
MOBILE COUNTY; ALABAMA; UNITED STATES
1982-1987

MOBILE COUNTY

EVENT	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987*
Deaths	7.9	8.3	8.2	8.5	8.7	7.7
Infant Deaths	15.5	10.6	11.7	12.4	14.1	11.6
Neonatal Deaths	11.8	7.4	7.6	7.7	11.1	8.2
Perinatal Deaths	17.4	11.8	13.0	13.0	14.2	12.1
Fetal Deaths	12.8	9.6	9.8	11.8	8.9	9.7
Maternal Deaths	0.0	1.5	3.1	4.5	3.0	0.0

* Provisional data as of February 29, 1988.

ALABAMA

EVENT	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Deaths	8.8	8.7	8.8	9.0	9.2	NA
Infant Deaths	13.8	13.1	12.9	12.6	13.3	NA
Neonatal Deaths	9.2	8.2	8.7	8.3	9.1	NA
Perinatal Deaths	14.1	13.5	13.3	13.1	13.8	NA
Fetal Deaths	11.2	11.1	10.3	11.1	11.6	NA
Maternal Deaths	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.8	2.0	NA

UNITED STATES

EVENT	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986*	1987
Deaths	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	NA
Infant Deaths	11.5	10.9	10.6	10.6	10.4	NA
Neonatal Deaths	7.7	7.3	6.9	7.0	6.7	NA
Perinatal Deaths	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fetal Deaths	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maternal Deaths	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.7	NA

* Provisional data as of February 29, 1988

TABLE XII
LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH
RESIDENTS OF
MOBILE COUNTY; ALABAMA; UNITED STATES
1986-1987

CAUSE OF DEATH	MOBILE COUNTY				ALABAMA		UNITED STATES	
	1987*		1986		1986		1986*	
	Number	Rate**	Number	Rate**	Number	Rate**	Number	Rate**
Diseases of the Heart (390-398) (402) (404-429)	944	243.0	949	246.8	12,887	314.2	768,350	318.7
Malignant Neoplasms (140-208)	656	168.9	749	194.8	8,206	200.1	465,980	193.3
Cerebrovascular Diseases (430-438)	195	50.2	233	60.6	3,022	73.7	147,790	61.3
Diseases of Arteries (440-448)	194	49.9	250	65.0	845	20.6	44,210	18.4
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (490-496)	121	31.1	148	38.5	1,361	33.2	75,420	31.3
Accidents (E800-E949)	87	22.4	183	47.6	2,204	53.7	95,640	39.7
Homicide (E960-E978)	56	14.4	64	16.6	465	11.3	21,400	8.9
Diabetes Mellitus (250)	56	14.4	74	19.2	712	17.4	36,340	15.1
Influenza and Pneumonia (480-487)	54	13.9	39	10.1	916	22.3	70,500	29.2
Cirrhosis of Liver (571)	40	10.3	58	15.1	374	9.1	26,210	10.9
Certain Causes in Early Infancy (760-779)	40	10.3	65	16.9	411	10.0	18,050	7.5
Suicide (E950-E959)	36	9.3	53	13.8	512	12.5	31,470	13.1
Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome (042.0-044.9)	22	5.7	5	1.3	37	0.9	8,085	3.4
All Other Diseases, Residual	503	129.5	461	120.0	5,738	139.9	289,555	120.0
TOTAL	**3,004**	**773.3**	**3,331**	**866.3**	**37,690**	**918.9**	**2,099,000**	**870.8**

* Provisional as of February 29, 1988
** Rate per 100,000 population

EPIDEMIOLOGY

There were 3,790 reported cases of communicable diseases in Mobile County during 1987. In pursuing the reported cases, 5,253 interviews were conducted by the staff.

There were 35 new cases of AIDS reported in 1987, as compared to a total of 15 cases reported from 1983 through 1986. Of these 35 cases, 19 had died by the end of the year. Of the 15 cases reported during the period 1983-1986, only one patient was still living.

A total of 53 cases of parotitis (mumps) was reported for the year. The increase in cases was attributed to a mumps outbreak among 12-13 year olds in the southern portion of Mobile County; unclear immunization status among this group was prevalent.

Shigellosis also showed a significant increase in 1987 with 53 cases reported as compared to four reported cases in 1986. A foodborne outbreak was responsible for 20 of these cases and 10 were attributed to a neighborhood/family outbreak. Shigellosis also occurred in two day care centers.

There was a total of eight vibrio infections reported during the year; three *vibrio vulnificus* septicemias occured following consumption of raw oysters which resulted in two deaths.

Giardiasis occurred in 11 day care centers, compared to 27 in 1986. During 1987, 191 cases of giardiasis were reported, compared to 254 in 1986. There were no cases of salmonellosis in day care centers or nursing homes, compared to nine each in 1986.

There were 140 cases of hepatitis B reported, 12 cases of hepatitis A, and three cases of hepatitis Non-A/Non-B reported.

Other significant reportable diseases were: amebiasis - 6; campylobacteriosis - 58; *H. influenzae,* invasive disease - 22.

TABLE XIII
SELECTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED
MOBILE COUNTY
1983-1987

DISEASES	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
AIDS	1	3	7	4	35
Encephalitis					
Primary	1	4	2	5	1
Secondary	0	1	0	0	0
Giardiasis	190	303	421	254	191
Gonorrhea	4040	3602	3698	3472	2718
Hepatitis					
A	7	16	17	24	12
B	102	117	150	238	140
Non A/Non B	35	52	83	159	140
Legionellosis	2	1	0	1	0
Malaria	0	0	1	3	0
Measles					
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0
Rubeola	1	1	0	0	0
Meningitis					
Meningococcal	8	6	5	5	5
Other	74	56	125	100	45
Salmonella, Shigella and E. Coli Infections	170	60	131	130	171
Syphilis	256	230	284	263	159
Tetanus	0	1	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	50	52	49	40	46
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	0	4**	17	4	7

**Presumptive diagnosis.

REFUGEE SCREENING

The number of Southeast Asian refugees arriving in Mobile decreased greatly in 1987. In 1986, 166 refugees were screened, while in 1987, only 47 were screened. The majority of the refugees have settled in Bayou La Batre to work in the seafood industry. Due to the high rate of hepatitis B, 23 susceptible refugees were given Heptavax as a preventive measure.

FOODHANDLERS

All Mobile County foodhandlers and day care workers handling unpackaged food items were required to have an updated foodhandlers' card. New foodhandlers were required to be screened for syphilis and tuberculosis with repeat medical screening performed every third year thereafter. All foodhandlers were required to attend a training class on an annual basis which emphasizes sanitation and safety. In 1987, 5,720 new permits and 7,006 renewal permits were issued.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

As tuberculosis has been included as a disease indicator associated with AIDS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended AIDS antibody (HIV) testing in tuberculosis patients and contacts at high risk. Following CDC's recommendations, the tuberculosis program initiated HIV testing of all tuberculosis patients as well as those contacts considered to be high risk. During the year the program provided care for five patients previously identified as being HIV seropositive.

During 1987, there were 46 new cases of tuberculosis reported in Mobile County representing a case rate of 11.8 per 100,000 population. The new cases in 1987 reflected an increase of 15 percent when compared to 1986. There were 27 cases listed in the open register as of December 31, 1987, compared to 31 cases at the end of 1986. Additionally, 51 cases of atypical tuberculosis were reported during the year compared to 42 cases reported in 1986.

The 264 tuberculosis clinics held in 1987 were staffed by contract physicians and Pulmonary Disease Fellows from the University of South Alabama Medical Center.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic saw the need to routinely screen program patients for the AIDS antibody. During February 1987, a month long testing program for the AIDS antibody (HIV) was conducted to seek further prevalence data among this clinic population. This study screened 469 patients which identified 16 or 3.4 percent to be seropositive. In February 1986, 443 patients were screened and 19 or 4.3 percent were seropositive. Based on the current data, the Mobile County Board of Health adopted a policy, effective April 1987, of routine AIDS screening, with informed consent, in the STD Clinic. During the nine month period of HIV testing, 75 or 1.8 percent of 4,252 patients screened were found to be seropositive.

Mobile County experienced a decrease in morbidity in syphilis and gonorrhea. However, congenital syphilis and resistant strains of gonorrhea were of great concern during 1987.

Primary and secondary syphilis dropped from 162 cases in 1986 to 94 cases in 1987 reflecting a 42 percent decrease. Early latent syphilis decreased from 102 cases in 1986 to 65 cases in 1987 representing a 36 percent decrease. These reductions in syphilis morbidity were attributed to an intensified case-management program, rapid epidemiology, distribution of condoms and safer sex practices widely advertised in AIDS prevention. Mobile County saw a marked increase in congenital syphilis with four cases reported in 1987 as compared to one reported case in 1986.

Uncomplicated gonorrhea in Mobile County decreased from 3,472 infected cases in 1986 to 2,718 infected cases in 1987 reflecting a 22 percent decrease. Resistant strains of gonorrhea continued to be present in Mobile County with a total of 28 cases. Penicillinase-producing *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (PPNG) saw a decrease in 1987 with 21 reported cases as compared to 42 cases in 1986. Two Tetracycline-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (TRNG) were reported as compared to one case the previous year. In addition, two cases of Chromosomally-Mediated resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (CMRNG) were reported and three cases of Penicillin/Tetracycline-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (P/TRNG) were reported in 1987.

Gonococcal Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (GPID) decreased in 1987 with 34 cases reported as compared to 86 cases the previous year.

TABLE XIV
NEW TUBERCULOSIS CASES AND DEATHS MOBILE COUNTY 1980-1987

Year	New Cases	Case Rate Per 100,000 Population	Deaths
1980	76	23.7	4
1981	65	17.4	5
1982	78	20.9	6
1983	50	13.2	3
1984	52	13.7	1
1985	49	12.6	1
1986	40	10.4	4
1987	46	11.8	3

TABLE XV
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES MOBILE COUNTY 1985-1987

Year	Gonorrhea	GPID	PPNG	TRNG	Primary & Secondary Syphilis	Early Latent Syphilis
1985	3,698	113	19	0	159	125
1986	3,472	86	42	1	162	102
1987	2,718	34	21	2	94	65

IMMUNIZATION

Immunization Clinics provided a total of 35,546 immunizations during 1987, as reflected in Table XVI. Significant increases were noted in the *Haemophilus influenzae,* Type B (Hib) with 714 vaccinations administered as compared to 151 in 1986. Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccines administered during the year totalled 339, up from 136 the previous year. As awareness continued to grow concerning the safety of the influenza vaccine, 4,231 persons were administered the flu vaccine during 1987.

The annual survey of public and private schools in Mobile County revealed that 97.4 percent of enrolled students had adequate immunization as verified on immunization certificates. One deficient area was with transfer students within the public school system where the transfer of records had not occurred at the time the survey was conducted. Of the 74,806 students enrolled in all schools, only 38 had medical or religious exemptions.

The annual survey of licensed day care centers in Mobile County showed that 78 percent of enrolled children had current immunizations. Most of the deficiencies were noted in five-year old children who were in need of boosters.

TABLE XVI
IMMUNIZATIONS ADMINISTERED
1987

TYPE OF VACCINE	NUMBER
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP)	13,059
Tetanus, Diphtheria (Td)	1,845
Diphtheria, Tetanus (DT)	47
Poliomyelitis, Oral (OPV)	11,466
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	3,232
Measles, Rubella (MR)	90
Mumps	110
Haemophilus influenzae, Type B (Hib)	714
Cholera	153
Yellow Fever	106
Pneumococcal Pneumonia	339
Influenza, trivalent	4,231
Immune Serum Globulin	154
TOTAL	**35,546**

AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM

The AIDS Control Program was organizationally established in April 1987 to serve as the focal point of all AIDS-related activities within the Health Department, as well as to provide direction for the community on AIDS prevention and control. Services provided by the Mobile County Health Department at no cost to users included AIDS antibody (HIV) testing, counseling, referrals, home care and education.

During 1987, 35 new cases of AIDS were reported bringing the cumulative total to 50 since 1983. Table XVII depicts select demographic characteristics of reported cases.

Voluntary HIV screening was offered by appointment on a confidential basis. During the year, a total of 731 persons were screened and counseled with 33 or 4.5 percent being seropositive. In addition, testing was performed for high risk patients in other clinics as reflected on Table XVIII. All those found to be seropositive were counseled and referred to either their private physician or the University of South Alabama Infectious Disease Clinic for further medical evaluation.

During the month of February an HIV seroprevalence study was conducted in the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic to seek more definitive data on the seroprevalence in this clinic population. A total of 469 patients were tested with 16 or 3.4 percent found to be seropositive. This prevalence data led the Mobile County Board of Health to institute HIV testing as part of the routine diagnostic workup performed on all patients attending the STD Clinic effective April 1, 1987. Since that time an additional 4,252 patients were tested for the HIV antibody; 75 patients or 1.8 percent were found to be seropositive.

As part of the Alabama AIDS Prevention Network, Mobile County established the Mobile AIDS Coalition to target mass educational efforts in the community. The Coalition had broad representation from agencies and groups dealing with AIDS. The Mobile County Health Department has been actively involved in the Coalition with the Mobile County Health Officer serving as Chairman.

While AIDS became a reportable disease in Alabama in 1983, HIV infections did not become reportable in the state until September of 1987. Since then, all 16 laboratories in Mobile have received training from the staff regarding the new reporting requirements and the mechanism with which to report. All laboratory reports were sent to the Alabama Department of Public Health, which will begin disseminating the information to the respective counties in early 1988.

TABLE XVII
AIDS
MOBILE COUNTY
1983-1987

I. Number of Adult Cases

1983 - 1 (1 Deceased)
1984 - 3 (3 Deceased)
1985 - 7 (7 Deceased)
1986 - 4 (3 Deceased)
1987 - 35 (19 Deceased)

A. Race:

White - 30
Black - 20

B . Sex:

Male - 42
Female - 8

C . Average Age (At time of diagnosis):

Male - 31.9
Female - 32.0

D . Risk Factors:

Homosexual or Bisexual	- 31
Homosexual/IV Drug User	- 8
IV Drug User	- 6
Blood Transfusion/Components	- 2
Heterosexual (Sexual Contact)	- 3

II. Number of Pediatric Cases

None

TABLE XVIII
HIV ANTIBODY TESTING
1987

CLINIC	NUMBER TESTED	NUMBER POSITIVE	PERCENT
AIDS Control (Alternate Test Site)	731	33	4.5
Sexually Transmitted Disease	4,721	91	1.9
Tuberculosis	19	0	0
Family Planning	44	0	0
Maternity	93	1	1.0
Adult	86	2	2.3
Pediatric	4	0	0
Epidemiology	103	4	3.8
TOTAL	**5,801**	**131**	**2.1 (Average)**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Sam Cartner, D.V.M.
Director
BUREAU OF INSPECTION SERVICES

Clarence Erdman, M.P.A.
Director
BUREAU OF VECTOR CONTROL

Environmental Health Services continued to be responsible for enforcing sanitation regulations throughout the county to protect the health of the public from potential environmental hazards. This work was done through the Bureau of Inspection Services and the Bureau of Vector Control.

The Mobile County Health Department, along with the Alabama Environmental Health Association, made a successful bid to host the 1988 mid-year conference of the National Environmental Health Association. The conference to be held in February 1988 in Mobile will focus on current methods of protecting groundwater from contamination through proper onsite sewage disposal.

BUREAU OF INSPECTION SERVICES

Personnel of Inspection Services enhanced community health by enforcing regulatory standards for food processing plants, restaurants, retail food stores, child day care centers, milk and milk processing plants, overnight lodging facilities, detention facilities, camps, swimming pools, onsite sewage disposal, plumbing installations and subdivision development. Table XIX shows the various inspection and permitting activities conducted by the Bureau in 1987.

As part of the Alabama Department of Public Health's efforts to decentralize activities previously performed by personnel at the state level, Inspection Services assumed local responsibility for food manager's certification, permitting of inter-county food processors, hotel and motel permitting and primary enforcement of subdivision development. In response to this latter obligation, the Bureau hired a public health engineer to review and inspect subdivisions and onsite sewage disposal development plans.

A growing trend of offering self-service food in the public schools required the food inspection staff to address the problem of adequately protecting food against contamination from coughs and sneezes when children of varying heights are served in cafeterias. Although some problems remain, input from the National Sanitation Foundation, the school nutrition director, various equipment manufacturers, and our local environmental health specialists, has helped establish guidelines that will be used in the future.

New food inspection responsibilities were added this year when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) contracted with the Bureau to conduct inspections at 35 food processing plants under FDA jurisdiction. Additionally, the full implementation of the new limited food service and limited retail food store regulations resulted in another 132 establishments coming within the Bureaus' inspection responsibilities.

At year's end, virtually 100% of the dwellings on Dauphin Island were connected to the public sewage treatment system. This was welcome news due to the fact that much of the land on Dauphin Island is marginal in its ability to support onsite sewage disposal.

TABLE XIX
INSPECTION SERVICES
1987

Food and Milk Sanitation	
Services Provided:	
Food establishments permitted	1093
Food establishment inspections	6906
Food establishment plan reviews	121
School lunchrooms permitted	80
School lunchroom inspections	891
Child day care centers permitted	109
Child day care center inspections	264
Food manager training courses conducted	5
Food managers trained	130
Milk and frozen dessert samples collected	2512
Milk plants permitted	2
Milk plant inspections	24
Producer dairy inspections	64
Detention facility food service permits	14
Detention facility food inspections	32
Facility Sanitation Services Provided:	
Hotel and motel inspections	60
School sanitation inspections	96
Detention facility inspections	40
Swimming pool inspections	11
General sanitation complaints investigated	865
Child day care center sanitation inspections	236
Plumbing and Sewage Inspection	
Services Provided:	
Plumbing permits issued	972
Plumbing inspections	2793
Septic tank permits issued	1028
Septic tank inspections	1121
Subdivisions given final approval	41
Other individual lots approved for septic tanks	1026

ZOONOTIC DISEASE

The Mobile County Rabies Association, comprised of private practitioners, continued to conduct the Rabies Control Program under contract with the Mobile County Health Department. Approximately 60 public animal vaccination clinics were held throughout Mobile County in 1987. The enforcement of the annual vaccination requirement was performed by a countywide surveillance program.

The Health Department's veterinarian and staff offered consultative services for 474 public inquiries received during 1987. In addition, the staff veterinarian served on the Mobile Animal Shelter Advisory Board and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of South Alabama.

Table XX indicates the number of dogs and cats vaccinated for rabies for the period 1984-1987.

TABLE XX
RABIES VACCINATIONS
1984-1987

Year	Vaccinations Public Clinics	Vaccinations Private Veterinarians	Total Number	Estimated Percentage of Pet Population
1984	6,181	36,555	42,736	35.6%
1985	2,085	46,188	48,273	40.2%
1986	2,741	59,920	62,661	52.2%
1987	3,103	59,306	62,409	52.0%

BUREAU OF VECTOR CONTROL

The Bureau of Vector Control provided comprehensive mosquito and rodent control programs and maintained all Health Department vehicles.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Adult mosquito populations were monitored through a network of 14 light traps operated semi-weekly in various areas of the county. Data gathered by this network and other field collections permitted allocation of control resources to reduce mosquito annoyance and related health problems. *Aedes aegypti* surveillance in Mobile's Historic District continued during the year in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control. Door-to-door surveys were also completed in many urban areas of the county to inform the public about control measures appropriate for this container-breeding species. A total of 28 mosquito species were identified during the year as a result of surveillance and survey activities.

Populations of the Asian Tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus,* were found for the first time in Mobile during 1987. *Aedes albopictus* is an Asian species which is suspected to have entered the United States in tire casings imported from Japan. Permanent populations of this species were first reported in Texas in 1985. Since that time, infestations have been documented in a number of cities throughout the Southeast and Midwest with dispersal apparently being aided by interstate shipments of used tires. This species is adapted to a wide variety of artificial containers such as flower pots, tin cans and bottles as well as natural habitats like treeholes. Since this preferred habitat is typically found in urban areas throughout the country, *Aedes albopictus* has the potential to develop into a major pestiferous species. Continued surveillance of this mosquito should indicate which urban areas, if any, will be affected.

Wild bird populations were sampled at 22 sites throughout the county for the purpose of assessing the frequency of arboviral exposure in avian reservoirs. Birds were collected in mist nets or walk-in traps and released after sampling. Various avian species were banded prior to their release which allowed the identification of recaptured birds. The collection and banding activities were conducted in compliance with permit requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Out of the 1,173 sera samples collected from wild bird populations, 70 were positive for either Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Highlands J Encephalitis or both. A greater frequency of avian sampling was accomplished at sites of previously recorded arboviral activity through the use of three sentinel chicken flocks. The birds used in the sentinel flocks were obtained as day old chicks and isolated from potential vectors prior to their placement in the field. Three seroconversions for Highlands J Encephalitis and one seroconversion for Eastern Equine Encephalitis were recorded during the year in the sentinel flocks. No St. Louis Encephalitis activity was found in the county.

Vector Control personnel received additional laboratory training during the latter part of the year at the Centers for Disease Control in Fort Collins, Colorado. This training will permit the incorporation of ELISA screening techniques into current laboratory procedures and provide a more timely and accurate overview of arboviral transmission within the avian reservoirs.

Comprehensive mosquito control activities included applications of chemical or biological agents to areas of standing water to limit the emergence of adult mosquitoes. Over 500 sites throughout the county were inspected on a bi-weekly basis for immature mosquito larvae and appropriate control measures were utilized as needed. While dry climatic conditions existed in much of the state, near normal precipitation amounts in Mobile provided suitable larval habitat and active mosquito populations throughout the year. Vector Control personnel drove a total of 33,941 miles in completing inspection and larvicide application activities.

The aerosol application of insecticides for control of adult mosquitoes continued during the year with truck-mounted equipment applying variable volumes of insecticide in correlation to vehicle speeds. This variable volume application provided an effective and efficient method of applying insecticides in urban environments. Locations of individuals who could be adversely affected by aerosol application of insecticides were avoided through the use of records maintained by program personnel. The adulticiding trucks were driven a total of 65,434 miles while applying 5,765 gallons of insecticides. The Health Department twin-engine aircraft was utilized on 19 flights for the aerosol application of 510 gallons of insecticide for control of adult mosquitoes. Aerial spraying operations were conducted over Federal Aviation Administration approved routes in areas of the county inaccessible to ground vehicles.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control services were provided on a county-wide basis during the year through the investigation of complaints received from the public. The association between community sanitation and rodent activity continued to be emphasized during the field investigation of complaints as residents were required to correct sanitation problems prior to the placement of rodenticides. A total of 1,821 complaints regarding rodent activity were received during the year which resulted in 8,133 premises being inspected. A total of 908 pounds of rodenticide was used to reduce rodent populations in coordination with improvements in community sanitation. Communities identified through complaint investigations as having extensive problems with rodents were selected for door-to-door surveys. An additional 733 premises were inspected for possible rodent activity through these surveys.

In addition to the public contacts through various door-to-door surveys, public information programs were conducted by Vector Control personnel at 14 schools and two community meetings. The three-panel rodent and mosquito display units were utilized in conjunction with

1987 SERVICE AWARDS

TWENTY YEARS

John Blair
Lovie Davis
L. Gerald Lightsey, Dr. P.H.
Voncile Little
Mattie Rander
Kathleen Tillman

TEN YEARS

Linda Boutin
John Johnson, Jr.
Leona Johnson
Mildred Locke
George R. Moore
John Robinson
Theodore Russell
Alfred Stumpe, M.D., M.P.H.
Gladys Young

Mazie Gartman, R.N.
Employee Of The Year

these presentations. News releases and interviews on various vector control topics were also provided to the local news media by Vector Control personnel.

Training programs in industrial and pesticide safety, as well as various vector control topics, were provided for employees throughout the year. One employee was certified by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries for application of restricted use pesticides.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Vehicle maintenance personnel assigned to the Vector Control program were responsible for repairing and maintaining the 35 vehicles and specialized spray equipment used to provide control services. The remaining 20 county vehicles utilized by other programs within the Health Department were also included in a preventive maintenance program. The majority of the repair and maintenance required on the vehicle fleet was completed in the Health Department's automotive shop. During 1987, Health Department vehicles were driven a combined total of 484,371 miles.

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.