2009 Annual Report

Mobile County Health Department

Major General William C. Gorgas Clinic

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Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr. P.H., F.A.C.P.
Health Officer

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We are pleased to present to you the Mobile County Health Department's Annual Report for the October 2008-September 2009 fiscal year.

The year saw the Health Department increase in many ways its efforts to promote, improve and protect the health of Mobile County. One high point came in January when the Health Department the Health Department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the renovation and expansion of its Eight Mile Clinic. The $462,000, six-month project nearly doubled the clinic's size. The need for the project was illustrated by the fact that the clinic recorded a 24.1 percent increase in medical visits in 2008 over 2007.

Another high point came in July when the Family Oriented Primary Health Care Clinic was awarded $1,244,620 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to construct a new facility in Mt. Vernon. It will consolidate the services of the existing Mt. Vernon and Calcedeaver clinics and is projected to accommodate more than 6,500 patient visits per year. Completion of the project is scheduled for the end of next year.

In April, the first cases of a new influenza virus known as Novel H1N1, or "swine flu," were detected in the United States. In response, our Emergency Preparedness Team began preparing for what the World Health Organization would soon declare to be a pandemic and President Barack Obama would call a national emergency. Our team did a tremendous of job of enhancing preparedness at all levels —personal, business, and governmental—and putting plans in place for conducting H1N1 vaccine clinics in public and private schools and in locations throughout the county.

As you read through this report, you will read about other high points and see facts and figures about all the activities throughout the Health Department. We would like to reiterate one that we believe illustrates the dedication of the Health Department's professionals and other staff members: The Mobile County Health Department recorded 429,123 encounters with people seeking its services during the fiscal year.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Mobile County for assisting us in our continuing efforts to achieve a healthy community.

John R. Russell, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.R.O., F.A.C.R.
Chairman, Board of Health

Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr. P.H., F.A.C.P.
Health Officer

The Mobile County Health Department has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval.

Mobile County Board of Health

October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

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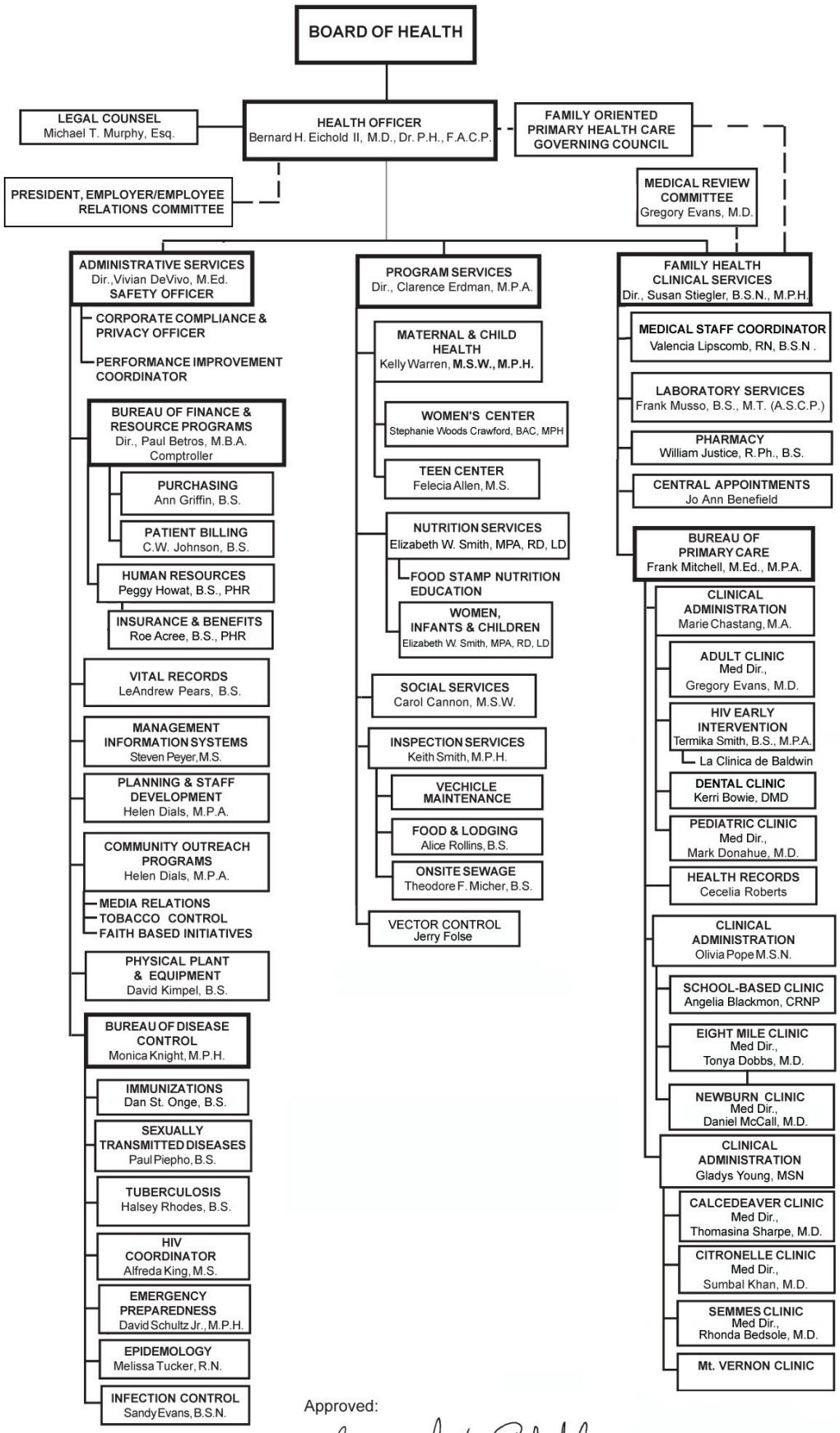
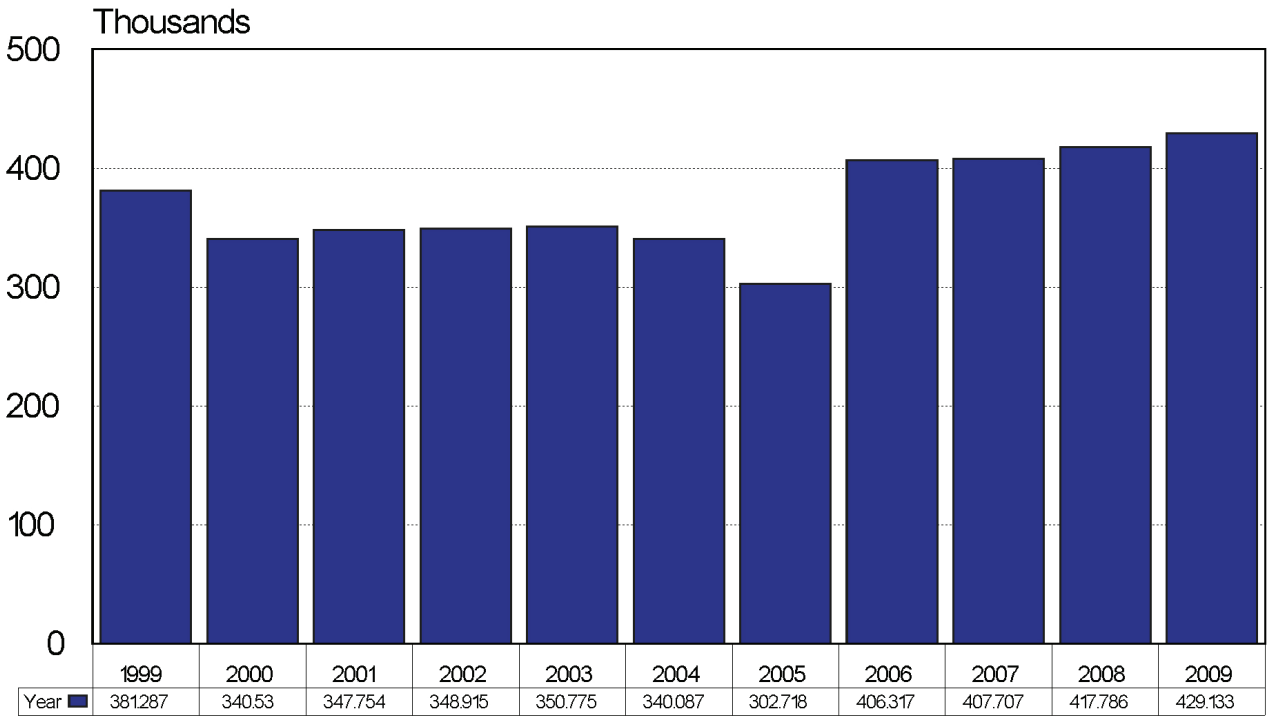
President, Mobile County Commission



Approved:

Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr. P.H.,F.A.C.P.
Health Officer
January 23, 2009

Community Contacts 1999-2009



FY2008 (Excluding Social Services Elderly & Disabled Waiver Program and TEEN Center)

Keeler Adult and Pediatric Clinics	35,364	TB Clinic - Skin tests	4,812
Saturday Clinic	1,148	TB Clinic - Readings	4,353
Newburn Clinic	4,757	WIC	156,196
Calcedeaver Clinic	5,946	Food Stamp Program	23,933
Citronelle Clinic	5,512	HIV/AIDS - HIV antibody tests	9,277
Eight Mile Clinic	9,441	Vital Records	21,982
School-Based Clinic	2,274	Vector Control - Mosquito	1,005
Semmes Clinic	16,090	Vector Control - Rodent	7,687
Mt. Vernon Clinic	706	Onsite Sewage Inspections - Lot/plumbing inspections	3,082
Women's Center - Family Planning	13,085	Onsite Sewage Inspections - Septic tank inspections	814
Women's Center - Maternity	10,045	Onsite Sewage Inspections - Complaint investigations	147
Women's Center - Home Visits	1,608	Food & Lodging - Food handler trainees and Beverage Handler trainees	13,648
Dental Clinic	8,280	Food & Lodging - Inspections	14,237
Immunizations	44,833	Rabies Control	690
STD Clinic	8,181		

Total: 429,133

2009 Highlights

2009 Highlights

- 2009 marked the 165th year that the Mobile County Health Department has provided health and environmental services to our community. Its 411 employees staffed the department's nine clinics and other facilities and recorded 429,123 community contacts. Under the guidance of the Mobile County Board of Health, the Health Department ended Fiscal Year 2008-2009 with revenue exceeding expenditures.

- In January, the Health Department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the renovation and expansion of its Eight Mile Clinic. The $462,000, six-month project nearly doubled the clinic's size. The need for the project was illustrated by the fact that the clinic recorded 6,486 medical visits in 2008, a 24.1 percent increase over 2007.

- The clinical laboratories, which are licensed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, were surveyed by the Joint Commission in March and secured accreditation for an additional two years.

- In April, the first cases of a new influenza virus known as Novel H1N1, or "swine flu," were detected in the United States. In response, the Emergency Preparedness Team began preparing for what the World Health Organization would soon declare to be a pandemic and President Barack Obama would call a national emergency. The team was instrumental in enhancing preparedness at all levels—personal, business, and governmental—and putting plans in place for conducting H1N1 vaccine clinics in public and private schools and in locations throughout the county.

- In July, Family Oriented Primary Health Care Clinic was awarded $1,244,620 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to construct a "green" facility in Mt. Vernon. It will consolidate the services of the existing Mt. Vernon Clinic and the Calcedeaver Clinic and is projected to accommodate more than 6,500 patient visits per year. Completion of the project is scheduled for the end of next year.

- August saw the beginning of a $130,000 drainage rehabilitation project authorized by the Mobile City Council that will eliminate the flooding problem that arises at the Bayou Street facility whenever there is heavy rainfall. The flooding has hampered people visiting the Bayou Street facility during the past 30 years. Last year alone, there were more than 70,000 visits to the facility.

- During the year, Central Appointments received approximately 150,000 calls. The "open access" appointment model, which allows for same day or next day appointments, resulted in an 80 to 85 percent patient show rate.

2009 Highlights

- The primary care clinics provided 131,278 medical, dental and ancillary services to 35,920 unduplicated patients.
- The Women's Center recorded 13,085 family planning patient encounters and 10,045 maternity care patient encounters, and home visit nurses completed 1,608 visits.
- The TEEN Center's Health Education Department presented 712 sessions reaching 12,985 students in 30 schools and an additional 1,530 young people through organizations, churches and other agencies.
- The Patient Billing Department audited and processed claims for clinical services and billed 143,458 claims.
- Social Services coordinated social service case management for 5,951 patients.
- Immunizations personnel administered 44,833 shots (34,623 to pediatric patients and 10,210 to adults) and issued 9,195 Blue Cards.
- The Vital Records Department issued 51,706 copies of certificates, which included birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates.
- The Food and Lodging Department completed 14,237 inspections.
- A total of 13,016 participants received Women, Infants and Children food instruments during the year. This resulted in $9,371,520 in WIC food dollars being spent in Mobile County.
- The Tuberculosis Clinic administered 4,812 skin tests.

Immunization Report

	FY 2009		FY 2008	
	PED	Adult	PED	Adult
Diphtheria/Tetanus (DT)	6	-	5	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Acellular Pertussis (DTaP)	1,663	-	1,663	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Acellular Pertussis - Haemophilus B Conjugate (DTaP/Hib)	110	-	723	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Acellular Pertussis Haemophilus B Conjugate - Polio Vaccine, Injectable (DTaP/Hib/IPV)	1,385	-	2,242	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Acellular Pertussis Hepatitis B Conjugate - Polio Vaccine, Injectable (DTaP/Hep B/IPV)	1,411	-	2,858	-
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Acellular Pertussis - Polio Vaccine, Injectable (DTaP/IPV)	1,098	-	n/a	-
Hepatitis B/Haemophilus B Conjugate (Hep B/Hib)	20	-	n/a	-
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	4,099	166	3,687	480
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	2,085	488	970	654
Hepatitis A/B Combo (Hep A/B)	3	272	3	374
Haemophilus influenza Type B (Hib)	1,372	-	8	-
Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)	1,083	28	764	88
Influenza	429	7,430	354	8,402
Polio Vaccine, Injectable (IPV)	1,234	130	1,894	124
Meningococcal Vaccine	2,581	28	2,333	329
Measles - Mumps - Rubella (MMR)	3,579	210	3,122	371
Measles - Mumps - Rubella - Varicella (MMRV)	-	-	9	-
Prevnar (PCV)	3,101	-	3,020	-
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV 23)	69	231	3	296
Rabies	-	-	-	-
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)	3,107	116	2,561	266
Rotovirus	1,251	-	1,148	-
Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td)	116	555	209	647
Typhoid	16	226	35	295
Varicella	4,803	147	4,068	197
Yellow Fever	2	155	12	113
Zostavax	-	28	-	4
Subtotal	**34,623**	**10,210**	**31,691**	**12,640**
Total	**44,833**		**44,331**	

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Time Period	Early Syphilis Primary & Secondary	Late Syphilis	Gonorrhea	Chlamydia
CY 2005	11	1	1,667	2,035
FY 2006	26	31	1,769	2,785
FY 2007	17	37	1,061	1,974
FY 2008	15	27	1,205	2,869
FY 2009	25	22	669	2,690

HIV/AIDS

Time Period	AIDS Cases	HIV Infections
CY 2005	70	68
FY 2006	81	70
FY 2007	55	76
FY 2008	40	89
FY 2009	42	91
Total	**288**	**394**

HIV Antibody Testing

Clinic	# Tested	# New Positives
TB Clinic	207	0
Women's Ctr.	3,595	1
STD Clinic	5,475	28
Total	**9,277**	**29**

Tuberculosis Cases and Deaths

Time Period	New Cases	Case Rate*	Deaths
CY 2005	27	7.5	0
FY 2006	19	4.8	0
FY 2007	18	4.5	0
FY 2008	17	4.2	0
FY 2009	19	4.7	0

* Per 100,000 population

Administrative Services

Administrative Services

- The areas overseen by Administrative Services included the areas of Corporate Compliance and HIPAA Privacy Officer, Performance Improvement, Finance, Purchasing, Patient Billing, Human Resources, Insurance and Benefits, Vital Records, Management Information Systems, Planning and Staff Development, Community Outreach Programs, Physical Plant and Equipment, and the Bureau of Disease Control, which encompasses Immunizations, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Tuberculosis, HIV Prevention and Surveillance, Emergency Preparedness, Epidemiology, and Infection Control.

- Performance Improvement involved an ongoing, comprehensive approach to improving the quality of care provided to the patients of the Health Department. Under the guidance of the Performance Improvement Leadership Committee, five high priority performance improvement teams worked on some of the most pressing issues of 2009. The teams were the Standing Orders Team, Anticoagulation Therapy Team, Electronic Medical Record Team, Pharmacy Review Team, and the Southeast Atlantic Health Disparities Collaborative.

- Total revenues were $ 28,248,046.

- The year ended with a total of 411 employees, 286 of whom were merit employees (64 part-time and 125 of whom were serving in non-merit classifications. There were 49 new employees hired and 6 employees promoted to higher classifications. Additionally, there were 52 separations, which included 9 employees who retired and 2 who died.

- The Patient Billing Department audited and processed claims for clinical services. Claim types included medical, dental, family planning, EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening Diagnoses Treatment), immunizations, maternity, and lab. Claims were reviewed for proper coding, insurance coverage, and grant statistical reporting. Over 143,4588 claims were billed to Medicaid, Medicare, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, ALL Kids, Mom Care, private pay, and other third-party payers. Claims were filed electronically to most payers, and payments were posted electronically for Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue.

- Vital Records issued 51,706 copies of certificates, including birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates for events that occurred in Alabama.

- Because of the emergence of novel 2009 H1N1 influenza, Emergency Preparedness personnel made up part of the team that provided N95 protective mask “fit testing” of Health Department providers who might come in contact with people who might be infectious.

Administrative Services

- The Emergency Preparedness Team received a second Medical Needs Shelter trailer from the federal government's Metropolitan Medical Response System program and an additional emergency generator from the Alabama Department of Public Health.

- The Wellness Health Screening Program in Mobile County provided more than 2,000 health screenings for state employees.

- One hundred employees received CPR certification, 77 employees completed defensive driving training, and 15 completed Basic First Aid training.

- New Employee Orientation was presented to 55 employees.

- Physical Plant and Equipment consisted of custodial, security, maintenance, grounds keeping, and painting personnel. The maintenance of 20 sites throughout Mobile County including 25 acres and approximately 260,000 square feet of building under roof comes under its purview. This included clinics, office space, non-clinical facilities, storage areas, grounds, and parking areas.

- In January, the Health Department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the renovation and expansion of its Eight Mile Clinic. The $462,000, six-month project nearly doubled the clinic's size. The need for the project was illustrated by the fact that the clinic recorded 6,486 medical visits in 2008, a 24.1 percent increase over 2007.

- The refurbishing of all elevators in the Keeler Building was completed.

- Immunizations personnel administered 44,833 vaccines (34,623 to pediatric patients and 10,210 to adults) and issued more than 9,195 Blue Cards.

- During the year, efforts continued to identify underserviced locations and populations throughout Mobile County and to bring HIV and syphilis testing to those communities. In June, STD Clinic personnel began conducting monthly clinics at South Alabama CARES. (Community AIDS Resources, Education & Support). Free tests for HIV, gonorrhea, hepatitis, chlamydia, and syphilis were offered, and Hepatitis A/B and TDaP vaccinations were also available.

- Through a partnership with drug treatment centers in Mobile County, homeless and substance abuse clients were offered HIV education and testing, and syphilis and tuberculosis screening. Participating agencies included the Haven of Hope, Mission of Hope, Franklin Primary Health's Drug Treatment Center, and Emma's Harvest Home.

- Other community HIV Intervention activities, including HIV/AIDS education and testing at health fairs, churches, community organizations, drug treatment centers, street outreaches, and gay bars, reached more than 3,000 persons.

- The Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic recorded 8,181 contacts.

- The Tuberculosis Clinic administered 4,812 skin tests and performed 4,353 readings.

- The Tuberculosis Clinic completed evaluation of 99 percent of contacts to infectious cases of TB and, as a result, exceeded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's goal of 95 percent.

Administrative Services

- The X-ray suite was renovated and updated with digital technology. Image scans can be reviewed almost instantaneously, and there will be significant cost savings compared to conventional X-ray costs. This year, 10,015 X-ray images were taken.

- The Health Department saw a decrease in salmonella cases with 98 reported cases as compared to 102 last year. With 11 cases reported, shigellosis cases decreased considerably from 20 cases last year.

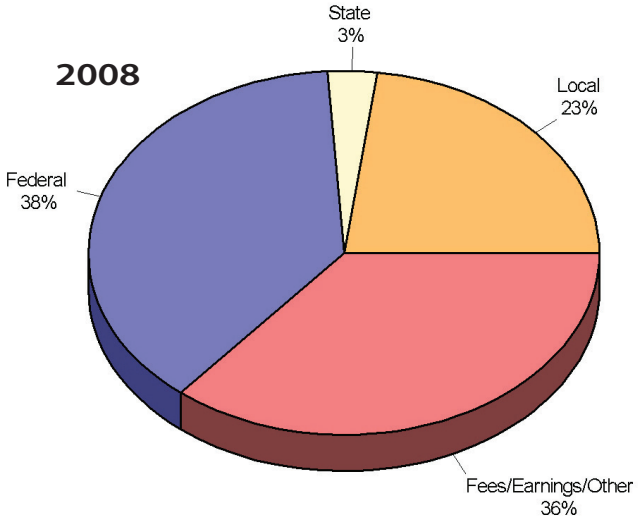
- The Epidemiology Department followed three cases of E. coli 0157:7, and three cases of Vibrio were reported.

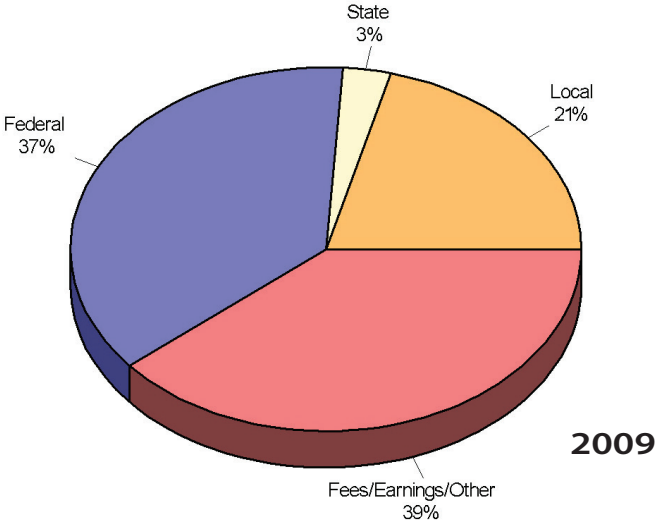
- The Maternal Hepatitis B Program followed 68 pregnant women found to be carriers. Priority was given to newborn infants to ensure they were properly immunized within 12 hours of birth. This was a 41.7 percent increase over the previous year. Sixty-eight babies born to Hepatitis B positive mothers were monitored by the program, and all were immunized. All babies responded to the vaccine.

- The number of rabies exposures investigated was 690. Dogs and cats remained the most common cause of potential rabies exposures. Bites and scratches from wild animals were managed with the highest priority. Over 90 percent of all reported bites were followed to completion.

- The number of bids requested by the Purchasing Department was 24. The total number of project contracts was 22. The total amount of expenditures for project contracts was $951,388.56

- At the annual awards program, 4 employees received recognition for 30 years of service; 6 employees received recognition for 20 years of service; and 12 were recognized for 10 years of service.





Sources of Revenue
FY 2008 and FY 2009

SOURCE	FY 2008	FY 2009
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	$ 6,121,196	$ 6,053,589
STATE OF ALABAMA	703,285	723,529
FEDERAL GRANTS	10,166,708	10,503,256
FEES/EARNINGS/OTHER	9,555,635	10,967,672
TOTALS	**$ 26,546,824**	**$ 28,248,046**

REVENUES	APPROPRIATIONS	Local Government-County of Mobile	$ 799,686	FY 2008	$ 799,686	FY2009
		Local Government-City of Mobile	$ 600,000		$ 600,000	
		Local Government-Other Municipalities	$ 126,322		$ 45,196	
		State of Alabama	$ 489,404		$ 489,404	
		TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		**$2,015,412**		**$1,934,286**
	GRANTS	Eliminating Disparities	$ 1,501,711	FY 2008	$ 1,468,821	FY2009
		Diabetic State Funding	$ 13,000		$ 38,045	
		Incarcerated Youth- AIDS Education	$ 49,378		$ 12,675	
		Food Stamp Nutrition Education	$ 90,741		$ 96,781	
		Primary Care	$ 3,424,549		$ 3,613,125	
		ARRA	$ 0		$ 163,266	
		Migrant Health	$ 126,152		$ 127,575	
		Family Planning	$ 367,339		$ 371,178	
		Maternity	$ 328,182		$ 302,600	
		Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	$ 1,720,207		$ 1,904,635	
		HIV/AIDS	$ 854,751		$ 1,325,320	
		Youth Empowered Tobacco Policy Initiatives	$ 63,657		$ 74,503	
		Tobacco Control	$ 61,857		$ 62,856	
		Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	$ 81,341		$ 115,410	
		Bioterrorism	$ 465,911		$ 335,917	
		Ryan White Title II	$ 262,093		$ 0	
		Breast and Cervical Cancer	$ 58,137		$ 37,687	
		Southern Community Cohort Study	$ 64,364		$ 0	
		Alabama Baby Coalition	$ 10,453		$ 0	
		Cancer Registry	$ 51,145		$ 54,186	
		Pandemic Influenza	$ 87,994		$ 22,656	
		Pumper Program	$ 33,735		$ 5,265	
		Teen Fund	$ 58,428		$ 43,362	
		Immunization	$ 106,605		$ 215,124	
		AAP HIV Surveillance	$ 85,394		$ 87,406	
		Refugee Preventive Health	$ 21,360		$ 23,357	
		Mosquito Control Grant	$ 68,876		$ 0	
		Child Health Wellness Program	$ 43,862		$ 6,000	
		STD Control	$ 50,000		$ 131,965	
		AIDS Control	$ 88,994		$ 0	
		Three Mile Creek/Wetlands	$ 0		$ 25,000	
		State Employee Wellness Screening	$ 0		$ 87,516	
		HIV Family Planning	$ 200,000		$ 145,685	
		TOTAL GRANTS		**$ 10,440,215**		**$ 10,897,916**
	OTHER	Ad Valorem Taxes	$ 3,890,577	FY 2008	$ 4,103,671	FY2009
		Oil & Gas Severance Tax	$ 670,690		$ 459,912	
		Medicaid and Medicare	$ 6,386,873		$ 7,371,429	
		Reimbursement (State)	$ 120,000		$ 0	
		Reimbursement (Other)	$ 7,820		$ 7,626	
		Clinic Fees (Private Pay, Other Insurance)	$ 1,213,955		$ 1,173,635	
		Local Fees, Permits, Misc.	$ 1,364,525		$ 1,426,371	
		Refunds and Interest	$ 390,687		$ 200,562	
		Sale of Fixed Assets	$ 6,690		$ 625,525	
		Rent	$ 39,131		$ 46,814	
		Donations	$ 250		$ 300	
		TOTAL OTHER		**$ 14,091,198**		**$ 15,415,844**
TOTAL REVENUES				**$ 26,546,824**		**$ 28,248,046**
EXPENDITURES		Personnel Costs	$ 18,258,578	FY 2008	$ 19,125,693	FY2009
		Contract Services	$ 2,142,480		$ 2,369,080	
		Travel	$ 205,363		$ 180,255	
		Equipment	$ 695,751		$ 794,371	
		Supplies and Other	$ 3,290,597		$ 3,418,444	
		Land and Buildings	$ 822,813		$ 288,717	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				**$ 25,415,582**		**$ 26,176,559**

Program Services

- During the year, the Women's Center provided family planning services to 5,178 family planning patients, which resulted in 13,085 encounters. Of those visits, 5.3 percent were patients from private providers seen under Medicaid's Plan First refill services. The remaining 12,394 visits were to Women's Center patients. Of the family planning visits at the Women's Center, 37.7 percent had no insurance coverage; 55.7 percent had some form of public insurance, such as Plan First Medicaid; and, 6.6 percent had some type of private or commercial insurance. Eighty-seven percent of family planning patients had incomes at or below 150 percent of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Poverty Guidelines.

- Family Planning clinical capacity was expanded at the end of the fiscal year when three additional family planning exam rooms were equipped and opened for the three mid-level providers. In addition to the increase in clinical space, reduction of patient appointment durations led to an increase in available appointments slots on the mid-levels' appointment templates. A significant increase in family planning productivity is expected in Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

- The Women's Center Billing Committee, an interdisciplinary group of individuals, began meeting regularly to address billing and receivables issues related to the Women's Center. Due to the significant decrease in funding for the maternity program, the committee developed and implemented the Antepartum Care Payment Plan. The plan was developed as a means of collecting for prenatal care services from individuals who are uninsured or are uninsurable. The policy was written, approved, translated into Spanish and Vietnamese, and implemented into agency policy in March.

- During this reporting period, the Women's Center completed 10,045 maternity care encounters on 1,841 maternity patients. Of the 10,045 visits, 59.3 percent were covered by Medicaid; 1.8 percent was covered by private insurance; and 38.9 percent were "private pay." There were 541 deliveries during the fiscal year.

Insurance Status/Carrier	Number of Deliveries	Percentage
ALL Kids	4	00.7%
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	8	01.5%
Commercial Insurance	5	00.9%
Medicaid MOM Care	434	80.2%
Medicare	2	00.4%
Private Pay	88	16.3%

Program Services

Program Services

- Health Department deliveries comprised 19 percent of deliveries at USA Children's and Women's Hospital. Hospital visits and home visits were made to maternity patients following deliveries in order to provide family planning counseling and follow-up. The home visit nurses received referrals from various community providers and completed home visits within 60 days of the delivery date. During the reporting period, the home visit nurses received 2,366 referrals and completed 1,608 (68 percent) home visits.

- The TEEN (Teens Empowered through Education and Nurturing) Center continued its mission to eliminate racial disparities in perinatal care as well as to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and infant mortality.

- Case Management had a successful year with a total of 224 referrals from outside agencies, self-referrals, and physicians' offices being received. Also, Case Management had a total of 268 participants sign up for TEEN Center programs (110 for Healthy Start and 158 for Program Services). Outreach and Recruitment received 108 referrals and had 259 new in-takes (109 for Healthy Start and 150 for Program Services). There were 123 new recruits.

- Student Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) completed its seventh year. Funded by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, and the DeBakey Foundation, it is a peer-led group of 150 students from Bryant, LeFlore and Murphy high schools, and Phillips Preparatory Middle School. During FY 2008-2009, SWAT members made 90 representations that reached a total of 10, 208 students in grades 4-8 at 42 public schools. The project also began implementation of the Life-Skill Training curriculum for Mobile County 6th graders at Alba and Hillsdale middle schools. Funded by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Life-Skill Training is an evidence-based curriculum with emphasis on proven skills-training methods to reduce substance abuse, including tobacco use.

- There were positive changes made to the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review process. Cases of a qualifying infant or fetal death are now sent directly to the Alabama Baby Coalition office at the TEEN Center with the birth abstract/death certificate or report usually within 60 days of occurrence. This process helps to eliminate cases being reported unfiltered and required additional investigation and manpower to eliminate or confirm as true cases. The BASSINET system is a new Web-based data base and data-sharing system that allows Mobile County to contribute to the statewide data on infant deaths, which has led to an all-new data abstraction tool and case review process. The following issues and concerns identified related to maternal and infant health were the most significant within the community: low birth weight babies; extreme prematurity, preterm babies; maternal infections; abruption of placenta; sleep-related deaths; and inadequate prenatal care.

- The Alabama Baby Coalition held it first Infant Mortality Conference in February. The revised Fetal and Infant Mortality Review process received excellent ratings from the 86 attendees.

- The TEEN Center's Health Education Department enjoyed a productive year. Its Health Educators completed 594 sessions to 12, 985 students in 30 schools. There was also an increase in the number of presentations in the community. The educators also completed 118 sessions for 13 organizations/agencies, and 1,530 students were seen. The monthly group meetings also saw an increase in attendance. There were 12 childbirth sessions and 12 Healthy Start meetings reaching a total of 423 students. The Health Educators received great reviews from school nurses, counselors, and teachers. The Health Education has developed strong, working relationships with public and private schools, the Mobile Housing Authority, GROWTH Aftercare, and the Girl Scouts. These relationships have contributed to the increase of participants in other departments within the TEEN Center.

Program Services

- The TEEN Center's Career Center had103 students utilize its services. Ninety-seven were enrolled in the GED program. There were a total of 261 GED academic classes including science, math, language arts, social studies, and writing); 15 job-prep classes; and 15 life-skills classes.

- The TEEN Center's Counseling Department saw a tremendous increase in referrals from the Mobile County Public School System. Of its 168 participants 137 received an initial in-take. Forty-one participants needing more in-depth assessments and/or treatment were referred to AltaPointe Health Systems. Seventy-six participants were screened for postpartum depression.

- The TEEN Center's Family Support Department had 109 in-takes resulting in 272 active clients. During the reporting period, the Family Support workers completed 2,879 home visits and assisted 42 with housing, 5,377 with transportation (duplicated), and 124 with employment. There were 63 babies born (48 normal weight, 14 low birth weight, and 1 very low birth weight). Family Support started a Parents of Teen Parents group for the grandmothers and also had 39 participants complete the Parents As Teachers curriculum.

- A total of 13,016 participants received Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food instruments during the year. This was a seven percent increase in caseload over the previous year and resulted in an estimated $9,371,520 in WIC food dollars being spent in Mobile County. The participation caseload included three categories that included women (pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum), infants (birth to 1 year), and children (1 to 5 years).

- The WIC Program expanded services to three days per week at the Semmes Clinic to accommodate the growth of the clinic.

- The WIC nutrition education plan worked toward increasing the awareness among postpartum and breastfeeding women of WIC and parents/caretakers of WIC participants age 1-5 years regarding the need to balance food intake and daily physical activity. Also, staff promoted increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables among WIC participants and increasing the awareness of breastfeeding benefits.

- A total of 852 patients received individualized dietary counseling. These counseling sessions included diabetic instructions, hypertension care plans, weight management and HIV nutrition assessments, and follow-ups. Nutrition supplements prescribed by physicians were given to HIV patients. Also, weight loss and diabetic diet and management classes were offered and attended by 122 patients.

- The Office of Nutrition Services provided newsletters to 40,000 participants through a partnership with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Fact sheets were developed, printed and distributed to the Mobile and Prichard SNAP offices. Display boards were displayed monthly at both sites, and the staff distributed additional educational materials. Nutrition outreach was conducted at food pantries in Mobile and Baldwin counties. Nutrition Services personnel made 22,173 direct contacts with SNAP recipients. Thirteen Mobile County public schools received nutrition education targeting elementary and middle school age students.

- The Office of Social Services coordinated social service case management activities throughout the Health Department in order to reduce the barriers and increase access to health care.

Program Services

- The Maternity Care Coordination Program provided support and follow-up to 1,841 maternity patients with 541deliveries at the Women's Center. To help patients focus on good health care during pregnancy, the Maternity Care Coordination Program assisted patients in keeping appointments, arranging transportation, and other needs.

- The Family Planning Care Coordination Program assisted 393 women in applying for Medicaid's Plan First program, and 766 Plan First patients were assessed for risk factors for unintended pregnancy. Care coordination services were provided to 1,509 patients determined to be high risk for an unintended pregnancy. Patients were assisted with compliance with their chosen birth control method, with reminders of appointments, and with transportation and other psychosocial issues.

- The Patient First Children's Care Coordination Program provided case management services for children up to their 21st birthday. Services were provided to 983 patients. Patients were referred for missed appointments, immunizations, EPSDT visits, and, for patients needing referrals and assistance, to specialists for those who may have difficulty coordinating for themselves. Family planning care coordination was offered to teens seeking family planning services. Case management in this program was primarily provided in the patients' homes.

- The Patient First Adult Care Coordination Program provided case management services to adults who were enrolled into the Patient First Program. Under this program, services were provided to 233 patients. Patients were assessed for unmet needs, and services were provided to assist them with transportation, referrals to needed agencies, and appointment reminders. For women under Medicaid's Patient First program who presented for family planning services, case management was provided.

- A total of 226 patients were served by the Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program. It is a community-based program that is an alternative to nursing home care for patients at risk of nursing home placement. Patients are monitored for health and safety. Services are placed in the home to assist the patient in maintaining independent living for as long as possible. Services include case management, personal care, homemaking, skilled and unskilled respite, companion services, home-delivered meals, and adult day health care.

- The Health Department teamed up with ALL Kids and Medicaid to pilot a new program that enables people to use an online kiosk to apply for Medicaid, ALL Kids and the Alabama Caring Foundation Children's health insurance programs. The program, named the Audio-Visual Application Assister Program, was rolled out at the Women's Center in May and expanded to the Semmes Clinic in September.

- The Food and Lodging Division of Environmental Health Services remained committed throughout the year to maintaining sanitation levels in food service establishments, retail food stores, lodging facilities, body art facilities, day cares operations, and schools.

- The Alabama Department of Public Health adopted rules concerning informing consumers in food establishments as to the origin of catfish and other seafood. The number of inspections per year for full-service food establishments was changed from four per year to three and hotel inspections from two to one. Inspection of limited food service establishments was increased from one to two.

- Handouts were produced and distributed to food vendors at all special events to encourage them to place pump bottles of hand sanitizer in locations convenient for customer use.

- Planning began for the implementation of a totally electronic inspection system that will convert the current paper system into one that can be installed in "tablet" personal computers carried into the field by our environmentalists. When fully implemented, this will place the department on the cutting edge of today's environmental inspection technology with the capability of inspecting establishments, printing inspection sheets in the field, and loading data into the data base.

- With the approval of the Board of Health and the Mobile County Commission, the department increased fees for environmental health services.

- One of Food and Lodging's senior environmentalists, in the company of City of Mobile environmentalists and fire department representatives, conducted mold and mildew inspections in 12 fire stations and made recommendations for the abatement of the problems found.

- The Small Business Administration, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Mobile County Commission invited Food and Lodging personnel to speak at three workshops to inform potential small business owners of the proper procedures they needed to follow in order to open a business in Mobile County.

- Food handler classes were offered at three satellite locations. Classes were also offered onsite at individual establishments and at central locations for groups of workers for special events. The Food and Beverage Handler Program, now accepts valid Alabama Responsible Vendor certification in lieu of the beverage portion of the program. The Food Handler Program can be accessed on the Internet.

- Restaurant scores continue to be posted at mobilecountyhealth.org.

- The Onsite Division of Program Services continued its quest to provide healthy environmental conditions for the residents of Mobile County. This was achieved by monitoring the installation of onsite sewage disposal systems and enforcing the Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Rules and Regulations of the Alabama Department of Public Health.

- The Onsite and Food and Lodging divisions continued to be a part of the South Alabama Growth Task Force, which consists of local health departments effected by the growth associated with the construction of the ThyssenKrupp steel plant. The divisions also participated in a series of small business workshops sponsored by the Small Business Administration, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Mobile County Commission that were designed to facilitate economic growth in Mobile County.

- The Plumbing Inspection Department continued the use of the 2003 ICC Plumbing Code with local amendments. Plumbing inspectors used these codes to enforce and monitor the installation of both residential and commercial plumbing systems.

Program Services

- The Onsite Division entered into a contract with Garrison Enterprises that will enable it to combine all functions of the division in a single Web-based platform.

- The Onsite Division's office staff continued its efforts to digitize all existing and new records of onsite sewage disposal systems. This will eventually eliminate the need for storing paper records and will also facilitate the rapid retrieval of onsite records. Funding for this project was made possible by a grant obtained by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

- As part of its mosquito control activities, the Vector Control Division continued to aggressively treat areas of standing water. The division also made mosquito minnows available to the public for use in ornamental pools, animal troughs, and unused swimming pools.

- Vector Control continued its arboviral surveillance for West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and St. Louis Encephalitis. Eastern Equine Encephalitis was detected in sentinel chickens in the Grand Bay area, the Eight Mile/Whistler area near Chickasabogue Park, and Bayou La Batre. Sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile Virus in the Citronelle area and the Mt. Vernon area.

Onsite Sewage Division

Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSS)	
Applications to Install/Repair OSS	882
Septic Permits Issued	814
Complaint Investigations	147
Advanced Treatment Systems Approvals	52
Plumbing	
Permits issued	1,161
Inspections	3,082
Subdivisions	
Large Flow Developments - Phase 1	19
Large Flow Developments - Phase 2	21
Large Flow Development Lot Inspections	172

WIC Participation Caseload

Category	Monthly Average	Annual Visits	Percent
Women	3,284	39,408	24%
Infants	3,905	46,860	28%
Children	6,568	78,816	48%
Total	**13,757**	**165,084**	**100%**

WIC Voucher Dollars Spent

Category	Amount	Cost for patient per month
Women	$2,561,520	$65
Infants	$3,045,900	$65
Children	$5,123,040	$65
Total	**$10,730,460**	

Nutrition Education Contacts

(Alabama Cooperative Extension Services Grant)

Number of food stamp recipients	
Direct	23,597
Indirect	120,902
Total	**144,499**

Vector Control

Mosquito Control Activities	
Mosquito Service Requests Investigated/Treated	1,005
Mosquito and Arboviral Surveillance	
Mosquito Species Identified	30
Adult Mosquitoes Identified (Permanent Sites)	1,000
Adult Mosquitoes Identified (Variable Sites)	827
Mosquito Pools Tested	25
Mosquitoes Tested	625
Mosquito Pools Positive	0
Sentinel Sera-Samples Tested	546
Positive Sentinel Samples (titers > 40)	11
West Nile Virus	2
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	9
Number WNV + Dead Birds	0
Total Dead Birds Submitted	15
Larviciding	
Larviciding Applications	6,621
Gallons of Liquid and Diluents	1,953
Pounds of Granular Larvicide	9,266
Number of Briquets	41,863
Ground Adulticiding	
Adulticiding Routes Run	779
Gallons of Adulticiding & Diluents	6,910
Aerial Adulticiding	
Number of flights	8
Acres treated	31,379
Rodent Control Activities	
Service Requests Received	1,425
Residential Inspections	7,687
Pounds of Rodenticide Used	2,989

Food, Milk & Lodging

Food and Lodging	
Food Establishments Permitted and Permits Pending	2,022
Food Inspections	11,396
Plans Received	117
Food Establishment Plan Review Sessions	497
Hotels/Motels Permits or Permits Pending	82
General Sanitation Inspections	
Hotels/Motels	119
Number Of Schools	89
School Sanitation Inspections	178
Detention Centers	29
Swimming Pools Permitted or Permits Pending	269
Swimming Pool Inspections	918
Child Day Cares	174
Child Day Care Sanitation Inspections	482
Camps	4
Other Sanitation Inspections	259
Water Samples	37
Total	**1,989**
Special Events	
Number of Events	28
Inspections	225
Milk and Frozen Desserts	
Milk Plants	1
Dairies Permitted	4
Inspections	76
Samples	154
Water Samples	7
Sanitation Courses	
Trainees	13,648
Off Premises Courses	89
On Premises Courses	1,026
Complaints	
Food Service Complaints	429
Other	78
Total	**507**
Tattoo Parlors	
Tattoo Parlors Permitted and Permits Pending	19
Inspections	44
Number of Establishments Inspected	**2,664**
Total Food and Lodging Inspections	**14,237**

Family Health Clinical Services

Family Health Clinical Services

- Family Oriented Primary Health Care Clinic (FOPHCC) made significant strides in 2009. The Federally Qualified Health Center and its parent organization, the Mobile County Health Department, collaborated on three successful funding opportunities. Two were direct allocations associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 2009, and the third was a competitive funding award. The two ARRA allocations included Increase Demand for Services (IDS) and Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The IDS award allowed FOPHCC to hire 3.4 new providers and support staff to provide medical care to uninsured adults. The CIP award will enable FOPHCC to construct a new state-of-the-art "green" medical clinic in Mt. Vernon and to purchase a 36-foot, 2-exam room, mobile medical van. The Calcedeaver Clinic and the current Mt. Vernon Clinic will be merged into one larger, more accessible clinic. FOPHCC was also awarded an Expanded Medical Capacity grant that allowed for expansion of providers and support staff at three clinical sites and extended hours of operations at one site. In addition, a bid was awarded for the purchase of a Dental Electronic Chart and Digital X-ray. A pharmacy bill passed by Alabama House of representatives and Senate that allowed FOPHCC to reinstate prescription transport services via courier to all satellite clinics.

- At FOPHCC's downtown clinic location, almost 36,000 medical and dental patient encounters were recorded through providers of the Adult Clinic, Pediatric Clinic, and Dental Clinic. In addition, approximately 2,900 case management encounters and almost 900 nutrition encounters were provided to FOPHCC patients.

- A total of 606 HIV infected people received direct primary health care services through Ryan White Parts B and C grant funds. During 2009, there was no significant shift in new users or established patients with regard to gender, age distribution, or ethnic background. All HIV-related medications continued to be provided at no cost or little cost to uninsured patients. Collaboration contracts continue with the University of South Alabama, AltaPointe Health Services, and Catholic Social Services. The satellite clinic co-located with La Clinica de Baldwin in Foley continued in 2009.

- All dental delivery sites began the process of upgrading in 2009 from a paper chart to a Dental Electronic Record and digital dental X-ray with a target of early winter for full implementation of the system. The Dental Clinic downtown is staffed with two full-time dentists,

two full-time hygienists, and support staff. The dental staff provided almost 6,000 dental encounters for the year and continued to target children 3-20 years of age and special populations.

- The Mt. Vernon Clinic, co-located within the Shepard Lake Community Center, operated on a part-time basis during 2009. More than 700 patients visited the clinic during the year. This Mt. Vernon Clinic will merge with the Clacedeaver Clinic once the new Mt. Vernon Clinic is completed in 2010.

- Approximately 6,000 medical visits were provided by a full-time physician and a midlevel provider at the Calcedeaver Clinic, located on the Mowa Choctaw Indian Reservation in north Mobile County.

- The Citronelle Clinic, located in north Mobile County, provided almost 6,000 medical encounters during the year with a staff of two full-time midlevel providers and support personnel.

- The Semmes Clinic (La Clínica de Semmes) continued to target for services the migrant and seasonal farm workers in northwest Mobile County. The clinic staff provided services to over 16,000 patients during 2009. Staff included a full-time pediatrician, part-time family practice physician, full-time midlevel, medical support staff and a full-time dental team. The support staff included several full-time Spanish linguists/clerks and a bilingual case manager who provided ancillary services to all patients.

- The Newburn Clinic is located in the same building as the Healthy Start-funded TEEN Center. Newburn Clinic staff provided medical care to almost 5,000 patients during the year. The targeted population is children, adolescents and women. The clinic was staffed with a full-time pediatrician, part-time midlevel, and support staff. The clinic hours of operation are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and serves as an emergency room diversion clinic for the University of South Alabama Children's and Women's Hospital.

- The Saturday Clinic operated from 8 a.m. to noon in the Keeler Building targeting those who are unable to attend weekday clinics. The clinic staff provided medical services to almost 1,200 patients who received services including internal medicine, pediatrics, dental, immunizations, family planning, and laboratory services.

- In 2009, the Eight Mile Clinic relocated to an adjacent space that was newly renovated to accommodate a 4,800-sq. ft. medical facility providing pediatric, women's health, and dental services to the community. There were approximately 9,441 patient medical and dental visits provided at the clinic, which is staffed by a full-time pediatrician, full-time midlevel, part-time dental team, and support staff.

- Co-located at the Mobile County Training Middle School in the Plateau community, the School-Based Clinic provided year-round medical, dental, counseling, and case management services to the students, their families, and community members in need of a primary care home. A full-time midlevel, part-time pediatrician, and part-time dentist served 2,674 patients during the year. Mental health services were also provided on site.

- FOPHCC continues to perform on-site diagnostic testing and phlebotomy services for tests sent to several reference laboratories and to the Alabama Department of Public Health laboratories. These activities led to a combined total of more than 550,000 determinations. The clinical laboratories, which are licensed by the Centers for Medicare

and Medicaid under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, were surveyed by the Joint Commission in March 2009 and secured accreditation for an additional two years.

- The Pharmacy, located at the Keeler facility downtown, operated three days per week to dispense prescription medications to Health Department patients at all clinical sites as prescribed by their providers, It was staffed with one part-time pharmacist and two part-time pharmacy technicians. As a federally-funded health care agency, all dispensed medicines are sold at a greatly discounted rate. Approximately 160 prescriptions were filled daily.

- Central Appointments staff answered over 150,000 calls during the year. The "open access" appointment model, which allows for same day or next day appointments, has resulted in an 80-85% patient show rate in the clinics.

Our Vision

"The Vision of the Mobile County Health Department is a healthy community."

Our Mission

"The Mission of the Mobile County Health Department is to promote, improve, and protect the health of Mobile County."

Our Values

"The Values of the Mobile County Health Department are Improved Performance, Customer Focus, Accessibility, Ethical Practices, and Fiduciary Responsibility."

Accredited by
The Joint Commission

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