

2009

ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING A GREENER TOMORROW



JEFFERSON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



EASTERN
HEALTH CENTER



JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Michael E. Fleenor, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

The 2009 Jefferson County Department of Health's Annual Report enumerates the efforts of the public health department to build a "greener" tomorrow for our community. This work cannot be done without a community-wide effort that focuses on environmental factors that adversely affect human health. In 2009, we concentrated on efforts to build a greener tomorrow through promotion of better community design that encourages exercise and healthy eating habits, improved healthcare services, and prevention against infectious diseases and chronic illness.

We have long supported strategic efforts to make Jefferson County a healthier community by investing in a variety of initiatives and organizations which are working with us to ensure that the community is greener. These initiatives included constructing community gardens, enhancing neighborhood parks, constructing walking trails and other "built space" that encourage healthy and environmentally responsible living. Our hope is that through these prototypic investments in community design, we will stimulate expanded use of best "green" and healthy practices and as a consequence encourage other communities to apply our experience to expand these efforts for a healthier and safer Jefferson County.

Community design serves as the foundation for a greener tomorrow, on which health care provision and service should be built. For that reason, JCDH remains committed to providing a safety net for health care services to the citizens of Jefferson County who cannot afford other options.

But provision for today's healthcare needs is not enough and, in fact, is not as important as prevention of illness to assure a healthier tomorrow. Along with environmental programs that assure good air and water quality, we have worked just as hard to prevent illness in the community through county-wide immunization clinics in schools and other venues, nutritional and health screenings, restaurant and hotel inspections and a wide variety of other activities.

With your help, we can be successful in our efforts to ensure greener, healthier tomorrows for our community. We look forward with optimism into 2010; and beyond that, by working alongside you, our citizens, we will all enjoy a longer and higher quality of life for ourselves and for our children.

Michael E. Fleenor, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

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A TRIBUTE TO DR. SAMUELSON

One person who represented Jefferson County Department of Health commitment toward environmental public health was former Health Officer, Dr. Carole Samuelson. Dr. Samuelson came to the Jefferson County Department of Health in 1975 and served until her retirement in 2002. She began her career at JCDH as a pediatrician at the Bessemer and Western Health Centers where her strong work ethic, innovative leadership and passionate care for her patients quickly set her apart. From 1979 to 1985, she served as Medical Director at JCDH, where she again maintained an excellent service record. Her tenure as Health Officer for Jefferson County, began in 1985 until retirement in 2002. During her time at JCDH, she supported efforts to prevent illness through programs like Birmingham Healthy Start and the establishment of adult health services at JCDH health centers. She acted on behalf of others to protect lives by developing programs to respond to disasters and by supporting efforts to maintain excellence at JCDH through the Joint Commission accreditation process. Her commitment to increasing health care value was evident in her efforts toward bridging gaps and creating dialogue in health care between public and private healthcare sectors in support of health as a holistic and communitywide effort. Dr. Samuelson also held appointments at UAB's School of Public Health and Department of Pediatrics, and served on the medical staff of Children's Hospital while serving at JCDH. Her inspirational legacy and commitment to the health of the community will continue, in part, through the walking trails and ecoscape adjacent to the new Eastern Health Center, developed through a personal donation prior to her death. The Eastern Health Center building was named in her honor by the Board of Health and along with the walking trails and ecoscape, serve as a tribute to a public servant who spent her life committed to the health of our community.



In memory of Dr. Carole Samuelson, former Jefferson County Health Officer from 1985 to 2002.



Artist's rendering of the Samuelson ecoscape located adjacent to Eastern Health Center.

Eastern Health Center

In November 2008, the Jefferson County Department of Health was pleased to open a new Eastern Health Center. Previously, Eastern Health Center was located at 5720 First Avenue South in a facility built in 1955 that was becoming inadequate for the increasing number of patient visits to the center. In preparation for building a new facility, JCDH began to look at the placement of Eastern Health Center as it related to patient's address of residence. In 1999, these addresses indicated that the former First Avenue South location was central to the majority of patients seen at the Eastern Health Center's clinics. In 2008, this analysis was repeated, using GIS software to map residential addresses for patients seen at Eastern Health Center's clinics. The newer maps of patient residences indicated a shift east, as more patients reside further east. With the previous location, the average commute to receive care at the clinic had increased. In light of this fact, JCDH built a new facility located at 601 West Boulevard, thus reducing commute times for the patients.

Once the location of the new building was decided, JCDH began working on the design of the building. In order to minimize the environmental impact of the building, a state of the art, green facility design was selected. Some of the building's environmentally friendly design elements include low-E insulated glass, lighting controls with daylight sensors, high efficiency mechanical systems, low volatile organic compound paints, clerestory windows for daylight utilization and a water retention system below the parking area to minimize site impact. Alabama's chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors awarded JCDH an "Excellence in Construction Award" and a "Green Project Award." The building design was also awarded first place in the "Urban Garden Community" category by the Keep Birmingham Beautiful Commission.

Designing Eastern Health Center as a new, green health center meant not only minimizing the environmental impact of the building itself, but also ensuring that the new health center was designed to be a part of the community.

Through a generous donation by Drs. Paul and Carole Samuelson, an ecoscape was developed on the land behind the Eastern Health Center parking lot. Designed by Roald Hazelhoff and Andy Rutkus of the Southern Environmental Center at Birmingham Southern College and Stoneshovel of Irondale, AL, respectively, the ecoscape is filled with native plants that are traditionally associated with healing. With benches and trails throughout, the ecoscape provides a place for clients and staff to exercise, walk and enjoy natural surroundings. With planned connections to current walking and biking trails in the community, the new Eastern Health Center serves as a model for design that accounts for the interconnectedness of health, the environment and the community.



Sign at the front entrance of Eastern Health Center.



The green and environmentally friendly architectural building design for Eastern Health Center.

Designform

DESIGNING COMMUNITIES

Improving Community Health

With the construction of the new Eastern Health Center, JCDH, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and the Health Action Partnership, awarded more than \$80,000 for programs and activities devoted to improving community health in the eastern area of Birmingham. Funds were awarded to PEER (Promoting Empowerment and Enrichment Resources) Inc, Main Street Birmingham, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center and YMCA Northeast Family Branch for collaborative efforts to establish a shared vision for improving health in eastern Birmingham.

All of these agencies partnered to determine a shared vision and desired health results for eastern Birmingham and developed individual projects to support the shared vision. PEER Inc used funding to provide health care screenings at the East Lake Farmers Market, provide healthy food to local daycares and work to develop community gardens. Main Street Birmingham used grant funding to conduct a feasibility study to develop a locally integrated food system to help bolster the local economy and build on the current initiatives of PEER and other organizations. The Ruffner Mountain Nature Center provided free field trips for seven local elementary and middle schools to help promote outdoor exercise and environmental awareness at Ruffner Mountain. Funding to the Northeast YMCA was used to implement a neighborhood walking program and a diabetic support model for African Americans in the eastern Birmingham community. Through support and funding for these projects, JCDH hopes to build a prototype in eastern Birmingham to support community initiatives to build a greener healthier tomorrow for all residents of Jefferson County.



2009 Health Action Summit

In an effort to support and encourage further community partnerships and initiatives working for greener tomorrows, JCDH sponsored the Health Action Summit on April 8, 2009. The theme for the 2009 Summit was “Improving Quality of Life Together,” which emphasized the importance of partnerships in transforming communities. As a daylong conference at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center, the Health Action Summit provided an opportunity for celebration of communitywide success stories, including health policy changes, successful awareness campaigns, local projects and efforts dedicated to assessing and improving community health outcomes and discussing current projects and initiatives to improve local communities in Jefferson County. The morning speaker, Dr. Frances Butterfoss, discussed steps to ensure the success of partnerships and methods to sustain coalitions as they strive to improve public health outcomes and improve quality of life for community residents. Her afternoon workshop demonstrated how to improve participation in a coalition, how to develop transformational leaders in a partnership, and how to determine the effectiveness of a partnership. Strong partnerships are necessary to provide the support and initiative needed to transform communities. But before the partnerships can be successful, they must develop a vision and specific ideas for change. Dan Burden, the afternoon’s keynote speaker, presented specific ideas and ways that Birmingham and the Jefferson County community can increase the walkability of our communities. To prepare for his presentation, on April 7, 2009, he led community leaders on a walking tour of a few areas in Jefferson County. His presentation included street designs and ideas for increasing walkability on specific streets in the city of Birmingham. In the afternoon roundtable discussion, he encouraged community leaders to take steps to create more pedestrian friendly communities. The Health Action Summit served as a forum to increase collaborative structure and provide specific solutions to building a greener Jefferson County.

Health Action Summit attendees participate in round table discussions.



Summit participants visit the vendor booths at the conference.

2009 Health Officer's Awards

One specific solution to help create a greener Jefferson County is healthier schools, which have a direct impact upon the health of Jefferson County communities. The School Health Program in the Community Health Division of JCDH works to ensure that public schools remain healthy places for children to learn. To acknowledge excellence in health for public school students and staff, JCDH awards local schools the Health Officer's Seal of Approval Award.

In 2009, 17 local schools met the criteria for this award. Schools that were awarded the Seal of Approval were then eligible for the Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards, based on the School Health Index and the USEPA Healthy Seat Program criteria. In 2009, the Gold winner was Cahaba Heights Elementary, the Silver winner was Pizitz Middle School and the Bronze winner was Mount Olive Elementary.

The School Health Program also provides an abstinence-based program called "Choosing the Best Life" for middle and high school students. JCDH's Community Health Division works with local community organizations to promote health. An example of this collaborative effort is the Worksite Wellness Program. The Worksite Wellness Program was a collaboration between JCDH and the Employee Insurance Board that provided health screenings for 7,346 employees, provided health services to 9,064 patients, administered 1,718 flu shots, and provided 1,054 referrals to reduce health risks for employees in 2009.

Cleaner environments that promote health for the residents of Jefferson County include tobacco-free environments. In order to provide county leadership for reducing tobacco use in the county, the Tobacco Prevention & Control Program conducted 8 Clean Indoor Air presentations, trained 64 health care workers in the Ask, Advice, Refer, and Prescribe program, trained 271 people on Smoke Free Homes and collected 194 Smoke Free Home pledges. Other program activities in 2009 included 9 worksite presentations, investigation of 4 smoking complaints, and conducting a Diabetes and Tobacco Use Forum at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church. Through a Youth Empowerment Program, Tarrant's High School students conducted presentations for the Board of Education and the City Council to advocate for a Smoke Free City Ordinance. JCDH was awarded a "Not on Tobacco" grant for a youth smoking cessation class that was implemented at Parker High School. In order to emphasize tobacco free and other messages, the Public Relations and Graphic Design Divisions used risk communications to disseminate various urgent messages to residents which encourage individuals and communities to make healthy decisions. While working to communicate effectively with the public, Public Relations and Graphic Design strive to use sustainable, green practices in communication, such as converting printed programs and announcements into electronic PDF files or CD's.



Health Officer's Award of Excellence display.

In order to recognize food service facilities that provide a smoke free environment and go beyond their regulatory health standards for operation, JCDH awards the Health Officer's Award of Excellence. The 2009 winners were Tortugas, The Pita Café, Corretti Catering, Healthy Connections, Sherry's Eat Gate Café, and the Fairhaven Retirement Center. Healthy residents are the focus of healthy communities. To promote healthy residents, JCDH served as a public weigh-in point for Scale Back Alabama, a state initiative to encourage healthier eating/lifestyle habits for Alabama residents. At the JCDH site, 40 teams of 4 members each participated with a total of 76 participants losing weight throughout the 10- week program. To encourage physical activity among JCDH employees, 142 employees in Fall 2008 and 121 employees in Spring 2009 participated in the Vulcan's Big Challenge program which encouraged participants to reach an activity level of at least 30 minutes daily, 4 to 5 days a week.

Representatives from Cahaba Heights Elementary the 2009 Gold Healthy School Award of Excellence winner.



Logo for the statewide Scale Back Alabama weight loss initiative.

Dental Health

Healthy communities have healthy residents in greener tomorrows, and JCDH continues to provide health care services to those in need. Our 4 community based dental clinics and 3 mobile clinics provided comprehensive dental services to 6,271 underserved residents of Jefferson County in 2009. Dental Services was engaged in community outreach by providing 96 dental extractions to 46 homeless adults at the Homeless Connect effort. In the summer of 2009, a mobile unit provided comprehensive dental care to 94 women and children at the Lovelady Center. An onsite and mobile clinic at UCP LINCPoint provided comprehensive dental care and education to 77 patients, and 57 residents at the Jefferson Rehabilitation Center received free care. Our three mobile units provided free dental care to 462 low income children at local elementary schools. At 23 elementary schools throughout Jefferson Country, JCDH provided an oral health assessment to 3,494 kindergarten and 3rd grade children to assess unmet dental needs among elementary school children. To ensure adequate dental and health care services to our clients, the International Programs initiative strives to provide access to our services and programs for international communities through collaborations with community-based programs and interpretative and translation services.



JCDH dentists perform oral health screenings at local elementary schools.

Health department employees wait to register school children for oral health screenings.



Clinical Services

We remain committed to providing access to healthcare services to Jefferson county residents. In 2009, primary care clinical services were provided to 22,816 children and 4,534 adults at our health centers. Family planning services were provided to 14,252 women. Medicaid and ADPH referred 552 patients to our case management staff for processing. To ensure that our children live in safe home environments, case management conducted 21 home visits of suspected lead poisoning, managing each case and referring 15 houses for additional inspection for lead content by environmental staff for lead content.

Clinical laboratory services are routinely provided at all health centers, and the Disease Control Clinic. To comply with Federal regulations, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) conducted a recertification survey of all clinical laboratories in 2009. For the 6th consecutive inspection cycle, JCDH obtained a perfect laboratory compliance score.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (W.I.C.) provides nutrition education and assistance to an average of 15,000 participants each month. To promote the consumption of healthy fresh fruits and vegetables among program participants, the WIC program provided participants over the age of 12 months with a cash value voucher for fresh produce at participating grocery stores. This new initiative provides participants with the ability to choose healthier menu options for their families. In another WIC initiative, Jefferson County was chosen to participate in the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, which provided 3,000 booklets of \$20 coupons to WIC participants and low income elderly citizens. These coupons encourage consumption of healthy food options and support the local economy because they can be redeemed at local farmers markets, roadside stands and community agricultural programs.

Providing healthcare services to those in need is an important component of our work at JCDH, but greener tomorrows require that we reduce the consumption of non-renewable natural resources. In an effort to reduce paper use and thereby costs, JCDH initiated a case management automated referral system from Alabama Medicaid and Alabama Department of Public Health to our case management staff. An upgrade with the Laboratory system/Electronic Medical Record was interfaced to Telcor (laboratory instrument interface) and LabCorp to provide cost reduction for the department and time savings for the staff. The enhancement of attaching consults, radiology results, and various other reports to the Electronic Medical Record allows a paperless system for providers to review the hard copies electronically.

In 2009, West End Health Center was awarded continuation funds from the "Reading is Fundamental" national organization that contracts with the U.S. Department of Education. This program, as well as the "Reach Out and Read" program at both Eastern and Western Health Centers, allowed staff to distribute over 1,500 books to children between the ages of 6 months to 5 years. Providing high quality clinical services and supporting literacy, nutrition and health care cost savings demonstrate that we are striving for a healthier future for Jefferson County.

PREVENTING ILLNESS

Environmental Health

Assuring a greener tomorrow comes through our work to protect Jefferson County against environmental factors that adversely affect human health. The Environmental Health Division, which includes Community Environmental Protection, Air & Radiation Protection, Community Assessment, and Food & Lodging Protection, works to prevent illness due to environmental factors.

In 2009, the Community Environmental Protection Division worked to ensure health by reviewing and approving 691 onsite sewage disposal applications, and conducting 1,009 onsite sewage disposal inspections and investigating 465 onsite sewage disposal complaints. To protect the public, the division conducted 2,700 pool inspections, investigated 1,005 animal exposures, performed 32 inspections on 23 body art facilities, investigated 1,785 sanitation complaints, permitted 58 mobile homes, and performed 120 mobile home inspections. Also the Division permitted 17 solid waste haulers and inspected 240 solid waste hauler trucks and 2 solid waste transfer stations. Two rabid bats were found in Jefferson County in 2009. In both cases, CEP personnel contacted the people exposed to the bats and told them to seek the advice of their physicians. Both neighborhoods were canvassed to determine if anyone else had been exposed and to encourage the public to vaccinate their pets. The division has been working to ensure cleaner communities in Jefferson County by assisting with "Project Clean Sweep," a project that assigns probationers to pick up and bag trash on roadsides, and through three community cleanups done in the Muscoda, Docena and Robinwood communities. In an effort to reduce environmental impact, the Community Environmental Protection Division has converted thousands of inspection records into electronic files and equipped all department members with laptop computers. This initiative significantly reduces the amount of paper and provides a more efficient data management operation. Three new county high schools were built in 2009 using decentralized sewage disposal systems, which requires less land disturbance, recharges the watershed and blends in with the natural environment. The Birmingham Zoo and Trussville Park remodeled water parks to conserve water and operate more efficiently to provide a healthy, more environmentally friendly place for the community.

Environmental Health Services also works toward cleaner communities through the Air & Radiation Protection Division by regulating air emissions and analyzing air quality in Jefferson County and enforcing regulations for ionizing radiation devices. Near real-time air quality data from monitoring sites are available for the public via JCDH's web page, along with the daily air quality index. In addition to ambient air monitoring of regulated pollutants, the division conducted 98 asbestos inspections, responded to 340 air pollution complaints, and permitted 246 stationary air pollution sources in Jefferson County. To enhance the safety of radiological health in Jefferson County, 991 x-ray tubes at 411 x-ray facilities were inspected, and 84 tanning salons and 518 tanning beds were inspected. In an effort to protect the public and promote air quality action, the division has worked to educate the public through speaking at local school science classes, partnering with Alabama Partners for Clean Air, setting up a booth at the Auntie Litter's 2009 Earth Day parade, and providing assessments of indoor air quality. As of April 1, 2009, JCDH's lead outreach program was moved to the Air & Radiation Protection Division. Following this move, the program had 21 new patients, completed 1,681 lead screenings and performed 15 lead home assessments and executed 2 lead outreach workshops. Due to these and other efforts, the Air & Radiation Protection Division has received a number of awards and accomplishments. JCDH won the national EnviroFlash Challenge for increasing the number of subscribers to local air quality forecast emails. CommuteSmart and JCDH joined to form a partnership which resulted in a Smart Innovator Award due to the use of unique initiatives to encourage employees to change the way they commute to work. In 2009 the division completed the "Birmingham Air Toxics Study," a risk assessment of health effects based on air monitoring results. In another study and in conjunction with the US EPA, JCDH began monitoring selected air

toxics at four local elementary schools; the monitoring will be combined with a health assessment in 2010 to determine any health effects due to air toxics. JCDH worked to require air pollution controls for facilities in order to implement the state implementation plan for fine particulate matter concentrations. Jefferson County reduced the number of 8-hour ozone concentration exceedances from 25 in 2007 to 12 exceedances in 2008. For 24-hour 2.5 particulate matter, the number of violations in 2008 was reduced to 4 compared to 24 violations in 2007. These improvements in air quality help to ensure a healthier tomorrow for Jefferson County.

Project Moondust, a mosquito control project through the Community Assessment Division, continued efforts in the Collegeville, Harriman Park and Fairmont neighborhoods. Working with other partners JCDH distributed over 560 promotional items regarding mosquito prevention, canvassed 886 residential properties for mosquito harborage and conducted a local clean up of 305 discarded tires to improve mosquito control. Mosquito trapping and identification through satellite imagery of mosquito harborage areas in North Birmingham were done in conjunction with UAB. Project Moondust was presented at the 2009 Alabama Environmental Association Annual Meeting and at the National Environmental Health Association Conference. To promote a healthy environment in Jefferson County, the Community Assessment Division conducted a Healthy School Workshop for local school personnel, presented the 2006 Litter

Survey Information to area high school driver's education classes, and participated at the Earth Day event at Kelly Ingram Park and the Earth Day event at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The Community Assessment Division reduced paper consumption by using "double sided" as the default printer setting and using only recycled paper goods at all meetings .

Food & Lodging Protection ensures the health of local residents and visitors by enforcing food safety laws and regulations. In 2009, Food & Lodging worked to protect the public by conducting 8,464 food inspections and 389 facilities inspections; investigating 1,396 complaints; permitting 3,769 food establishments, 465 facilities, 126 lodging establishments, 30 jails, 68 communal living facilities and 238 schools; and reviewed 260 plans for new establishments. To ensure trained food handlers throughout the county, JCDH conducted 679 food handler training classes for 16,587 food handlers. As a new requirement for food manager certification in food establishments neared implementation, JCDH conducted 12 ServSafe manager classes and trained 245 food managers. Striving toward excellence, JCDH formed an action plan to meet FDA standardization criteria and completed a self assessment of food establishments for a Self Assessment of National Risk Factors Study. This year Food & Lodging has implemented electronic complaint investigations and notices of violation, reducing the amount of paper used for these investigations by over 8,400 paper records. Environmental stewardship efforts such as this help to ensure illness prevention and a greener tomorrow for Jefferson County.



Project Moondust neighborhood cleanup day to improve mosquito control.

Local residents participate in Project Moondust neighborhood canvassing activities for mosquito prevention.



PREVENTING ILLNESS

Disease Control

The Division of Disease Control (which includes the Tuberculosis Program and clinic, the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program and clinic, the Immunization Program and the Prevention & Epidemiology Program) has been active in preventing disease among the population of Jefferson County. In 2009 staff in the Tuberculosis Program evaluated approximately 1,600 individuals for latent tuberculosis infection and treated 37 active tuberculosis cases, seven of which were foreign-born. In addition to treating and preventing tuberculosis, the program staff also assisted multiple clients with social service needs through partnerships with local agencies to provide housing and food assistance, as well as referrals for mental health services. To prevent illness among the homeless population, program staff performed tuberculosis skin tests and provided vouchers for chest x-rays and educational materials for previously positive participants at the Homeless Connect outreach event. Bus tokens were given to those referred to JCDH for chest x-rays if transportation was needed for the doctor's visit, in order to promote use of public transportation. In partnership with area homelessness agencies, JCDH conducted numerous screenings to identify active and latent

cases of tuberculosis and coordinate any necessary patient care.

In a continued effort to prevent sexually transmitted diseases in Jefferson County, the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program examined nearly 11,000 patients in the JCDH STD clinic. In conjunction with the Alabama Department of Public Health, the division completed a two-day mass syphilis screening of over 1,500 inmates at the Alabama Department of Corrections St. Clair County facility to prevent the spread of syphilis among inmates. As an educational outreach for high risk individuals, the division conducted 12 STD/HIV education programs in local jails, substance abuse facilities and in the community at large. Through these outreach efforts, 525 persons were screened for syphilis, allowing for proper treatment and follow-up of new infections. The Sexually Transmitted Disease Program has enhanced its surveillance efforts, in partnership with UAB, through the STD Surveillance Network, funded by a \$1.125 million CDC grant.



Publicity materials for the Project Homeless Connect event held in April 2009.

Immunization is one of the most effective ways to prevent disease, and the Immunization Program works to reduce the transmission of vaccine preventable diseases among Jefferson County residents. To ensure high immunization rates throughout the county, the program continued to partner with local churches and hospitals to provide 73 Tot Shots clinics, which immunized 1,289 children. In Jefferson County, 28 churches participated in the Shepherd's Watch Program which provides immunization information to their congregations. To ensure that local schools are complying with school health requirements regarding immunization of students, the program conducted 128 school and 198 daycare immunization audits. The Immunization Division investigated 51 varicella cases and 30 pertussis cases to track and prevent further illness within Jefferson County. In order to identify, test, track and ensure vaccination for high risk infants, maternity patients and household/sexual contacts, the Perinatal Hepatitis B Program identified 30 cases of perinatal Hepatitis B, followed 22 newborns and tested and/or vaccinated 12 household/sexual contacts. The Immunization Program was also heavily involved in H1N1 2009 response planning and conducted over 30 educational presentations for health care providers and community members.

The Prevention and Epidemiology Program works with local physicians, hospitals and laboratories as part of the continued effort to prevent the spread of infectious disease among Jefferson County residents. Program staff investigated over 390 cases of reportable diseases and investigated 12 food related outbreaks. In partnership with local schools, long-term care facilities and community based organizations, Prevention & Epidemiology worked to enhance the reporting and investigation of reportable diseases. In response to the influenza A (H1N1) 2009 virus, the program enhanced influenza surveillance and education across the county, conducted mass vaccination clinics, and answered calls to JCDH regarding the virus. In 2009 all programs within Disease Control began the process of creating a paperless record system, which will allow for better environmental stewardship .

Volunteers work with participants at the Homeless Connect event as they register and apply for local assistance.



PROTECTING LIVES

Emergency Preparedness

Ensuring greener tomorrows involves protecting the wellbeing of Jefferson County citizens through Emergency Preparedness and Response. The year 2009 proved to be an active year for Emergency Preparedness & Response, beginning with an out-of-state deployment in February to Ohio and McLean Counties, Kentucky. The JCDH employees who were deployed assisted Kentucky officials in establishing medical needs shelters following a severe ice storm. For 2009, the division focused on emergency response training for employees. In April 2009, 445 JCDH employees participated in Points of Dispensing (POD) training, using a bioterrorism scenario, which included training on a “calling and response” management system (Wide Area Rapid Notification) which may be used to notify employees of a emergency public health event. Twenty-one JCDH employees were trained as set up team members for the Alabama Department of Public Health’s Mobile Medical Units. An emergency preparedness team also participated in radiological response training in Anniston, AL, and Expanded Radiological Emergency Response Team training in Oak Ridge, TN.

The arrival of H1N1 2009 influenza in April presented new opportunities for the Emergency Preparedness & Response Division to provide needed resources for healthy communities. Part of JCDH’s response to the H1N1 2009 pandemic included education and encouragement of healthier communities through accurate and consistent public health messages. The messages were distributed to the community through radio announcements, presentations, television ads, interviews, and newsprint. Over 7,000 pieces of educational material were distributed at all six JCDH health centers, in local public schools, colleges, universities, and faith-based organizations. As the first cases of H1N1 were being seen in the US, local surveillance efforts were increased in hospitals and emergency rooms and by expanding the number of sentinel providers monitoring influenza-like illness among patients they saw.

The JCDH Incident Command System was activated in order to properly plan and prepare for the Jefferson County response to the H1N1 2009 pandemic. With the activation of the Incident Command System, JCDH responded in a coordinated fashion by monitoring school absentee rates, assessing hospital needs, answering calls from the public, interviewing patients and conducting presentations for community groups/organizations. Throughout the summer and early fall, education, investigation, surveillance and planning efforts were continued in preparation for mass vaccination clinics. In collaboration with the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Emergency Preparedness & Response division assisted in these response activities. The mass vaccination efforts were targeted to the public via the six JCDH Health Centers and public schools. In 2009, over 16,508 immunizations were administered. H1N1 2009 influenza provided an opportunity to use resources and services to respond to an emergency health threat in our community. Our response and preparedness efforts helped ensure a protected health environment for the communities of Jefferson County.



JCDH employees participate in the department wide points of dispensing training exercise.



Points of dispensing employee training day is set up at the Gardendale Civic Center.

Policy, Grants & Assessment

The Policy, Grants & Assessment Division addresses greener tomorrows through areas of responsibility, including: Resource Development; Data Analysis, Trend Monitoring and Reporting; Program Evaluation and Performance Monitoring; Best Practices and Research Studies; Information Dissemination; Annual Report and Disease Surveillance Report Production; and GIS Mapping. The GIS Mapping of JCDH patients by residence allows us to ensure that our health centers are geographically well-placed to provide access to the largest number of patients within the community.

An online project management system was created to assist JCDH in project management activities. Online project management allows projects to be entered by the requestor and assigned to a member of the division. All project management is done online. Because this system is paperless it has served to reduce paper waste generated by the division.

Policy, Grants & Assessment Division has provided data analysis to the majority of other divisions within the department. Members of the PGA division met with the service center directors to discuss data analysis needs and to assist each division in developing data analysis projects. PGA monitored the activities of seven local agencies that received community health grants from JCDH; these grants included funding for pulse oximeter placement in schools, exercise programs for women and children, psychiatric services for children, BodyLove radio drama, and programs to delay sexual activity among teen females. Other activities included:

- * Collaboration with Community Health to evaluate the 2009 Health Action Summit.
- * Administration of funds for a NACCHO awarded grant to JCDH and UAB which surveyed physicians in Jefferson County regarding influenza antiviral prescription practices.
- * Continuing to provide data from Jefferson County to the STD Surveillance Network grant funded by the CDC; this is a multi-center, multi-year grant.
- * Application to be a beta test site for the national public health accreditation. In preparation for the application, the PGA division conducted a vetting session for the proposed standards.
- * Working with the planning section of the incident command system to help plan and analyze JCDH activities related to H1N1 2009 influenza season.

The PGA Division has been involved with numerous other projects within both the health department and the community including productivity reports, clinic reports, monthly disease burden reports, and data for the Jefferson County Childhood Obesity Task force.

SAVING HEALTH CARE COSTS

Office of Management & Information Systems

At JCDH, the Office of Management and Information Systems (MIS) plays a large role in our environmental stewardship efforts. Each year MIS replaces approximately 200 personal computers at JCDH. These PC replacements are Energy Star qualified and use more efficient power supplies, LCD monitors and processors with power-saving management capabilities. As JCDH continues to move toward paperless record keeping, MIS has provided the support necessary to reduce work flow paper volume to less than 1/5 the previous volume. Environmental public health stewardship involves saving health care costs; the MIS division has reduced annual communications expenses by approximately \$168,000 through a telecommunications and data network upgrade. This upgrade has increased our internet access speed by 2.5 times, increased data communications speed to our clinics more than 6 times and provided backup data for disaster recovery. As part of the day-to-day operations, MIS responded to approximately 7,800 service requests for hardware and software solutions, upgrading clinic lab equipment, installing dental X-ray screening equipment, training employees on using tablet PC devices and videotaping special events and presentations. Staff have worked to replace all PALM based applications to tablet programs and have invested in a variety of new web based technologies for support of JCDH programs. Information is provided to the public through the JCDH website which is maintained by MIS staff.

Vital Records

As a service to the Jefferson County community, JCDH provides copies of vital records to the public by phone or, mail order and direct customers. Copies of birth, marriage, divorce or death certificates are available to the public by application for \$15 per certificate. Certificates are available for customers in person in about 15 to 20 minutes, and all phone and mail ordered certificates are sent out the same day. In 2009, the Vital Records Division issued 39,546 copies of birth certificates, 63,266 copies of death certificates, 1,581 copies of marriage certificates and 354 copies of divorce certificates. The division also handles death certificates from Jefferson County funeral homes, which are entered into the system on a daily basis, checked for errors, corrected, copied and sent to Montgomery the next day.



Vital records staff providing services and assistance to Jefferson County residents.

Finance & Administration

Finance & Administration supports public health operations by providing Human Resources, Financial Resources, and Capital Resources, as well as printing services and management of the JCDH motor pool. In 2009, Human Resources implemented a new Learning Management System, which provides enhanced training capabilities for JCDH employees. Financial Resources ensures the integrity of JCDH's accounting processes, payroll records, purchasing, payables, inventories, trade receivables, budgeting, auditing and account management. In an effort to save both costs and paper, an updated version of payroll software was installed in 2009, which will allow all employees to access paycheck information online and eliminate the need to mail check stubs to 500 employees every two weeks.

Rather than printing and distributing reports to JCDH managers, access instructions are available and reports may be viewed online, thus reducing the amount of paper used by the division. Capital Resources provides building and equipment inspections, maintenance, repairs, replacements, plant operating systems, security and risk management. In 2009, Capital Resources began an efficiency evaluation of all JCDH buildings and plant operations systems. Once this evaluation is complete, the report will provide replacement and/or upgrade plans needed to attain "Energy Saver" and/or "Green Globe" efficiency ratings for JCDH structures. The JCDH recycling program was also expanded this year to include cans and bottles, which allows us to practice environmental stewardship



GENERAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Revenues (General Fund - \$45,607,500)

1. Ad valorem Tax Revenue (\$7,454,400 - 16% of General Fund Revenues)

Act 77-231 provides that the County (and municipalities within the County) shall pay to the Board of Health annually a sum not less than 2% or more than 6% of all ad valorem taxes collected within the County excluding ad valorem taxes collected for the State of Alabama and all Boards of Education located in the County.

For the last ten years JCDH has received a flat amount of \$7,454,400 which is approximately 3% of the total advalorem tax. This is transferred to JCDH as the taxes are collected.

2. Sales Tax Revenue (\$16,763,600 - 37% of General Fund Revenues)

The amount JCDH receives is approximately 20% of the total County sales tax.

3. State & Federal Contracts (\$3,191,500 - 7% of General Fund Revenues)

State and Federal contracts are primarily dollars received from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) resulting from contracts (or subcontracts) to administer specific public health responsibilities for Jefferson County (State Public Health Area 4). Examples include developing community and educational programs and monitoring activity in nationally identified public health focus areas such as Maternal/Child Health, Family Planning, Immunization, Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Hepatitis.

4. Clinical Health Care Revenue (\$10,431,500 - 23% of General Fund Revenues)

This category represents the amount of reimbursement received for all clinical related services provided by the Department. These clinic services include pediatric and adult primary care, family planning, and dental care.

A sliding fee schedule based on income criteria is used within the Health Centers to determine the amount (if any) of fees due from the patients. Approximately 2% of reimbursement from patients, 91% from Medicaid, 4% from Blue Cross, and the remaining 3% from all other payers combined (e.g., Medicare, etc.)

5. Environmental Health Services (\$2,996,100 - 7% of General Fund Revenues)

This category represents reimbursement received primarily locally collected for Environmental Health services. State Law allows fees to be charged for many of the services provided by the EH staff such as restaurant inspections, septic system plans and inspections, air pollution permit fees, open burning permits, radiological equipment inspection and food handler training. Also included in this category are fees received for copies of vital records.

6. Other Revenue (\$4,770,400 - 8% of General Fund Revenues)

This category is primarily reimbursement received for indirect costs (administration and building overhead) associated with Federal grants and contracts such as WIC, Air Pollution, etc. Also included here are allowable fines levied for violation of public health laws (e.g., air pollution violations), rental fees and parking lot and meter receipts. This category also includes earnings from cash and investments. All investments are based on a BOH approved Investment Policy that strictly follows Federal, State, and County guidelines.

SAVING HEALTH CARE COSTS

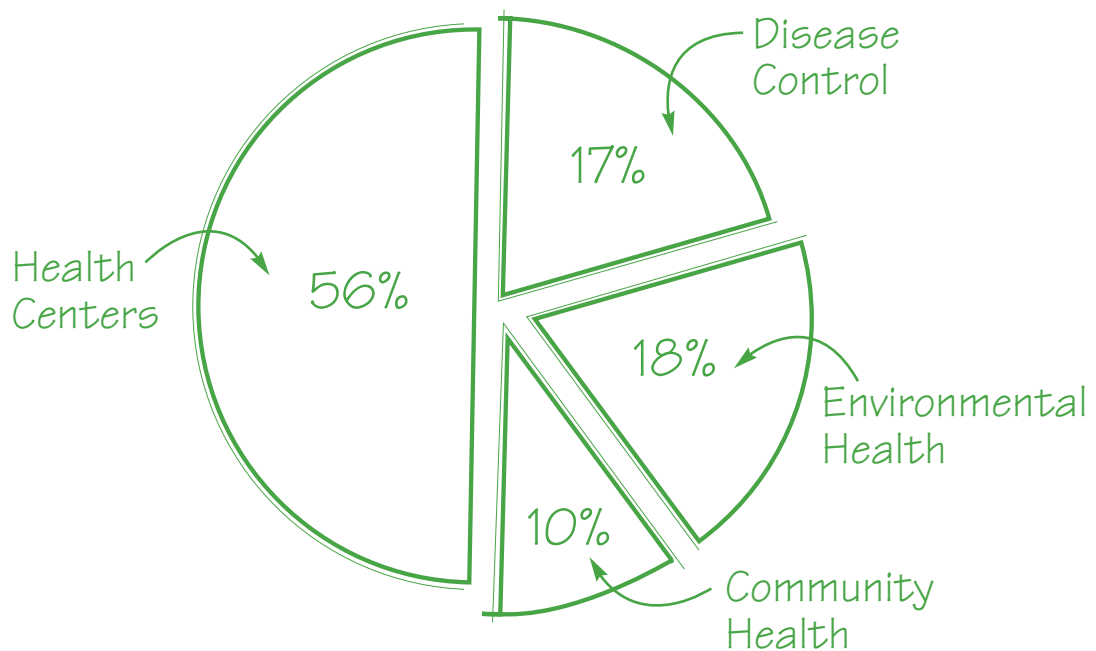
Expenses

Expenses are generally classified by major public health program with administrative costs and the capital fund transfer separately identified. General fund expenditures for fiscal year 2009 include:

* Salaries and Benefits	\$35,093,000	72%
* Materials and Supplies	6,670,200	14%
* Contract Services	1,947,000	4%
* Capital Fund Transfers	4,819,900	10%
Total	\$48,530,100	100%

The Department also had 8 Special Revenue Funds totaling \$10,573,800. These funds are operated in accordance with the funding requirements of special grants and appropriations.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 USE OF TAX PROCEEDS (\$30,354,400)



SELECTED HEALTH STATISTICS, 2008*

Population by Age

(2008 Census Bureau estimates)

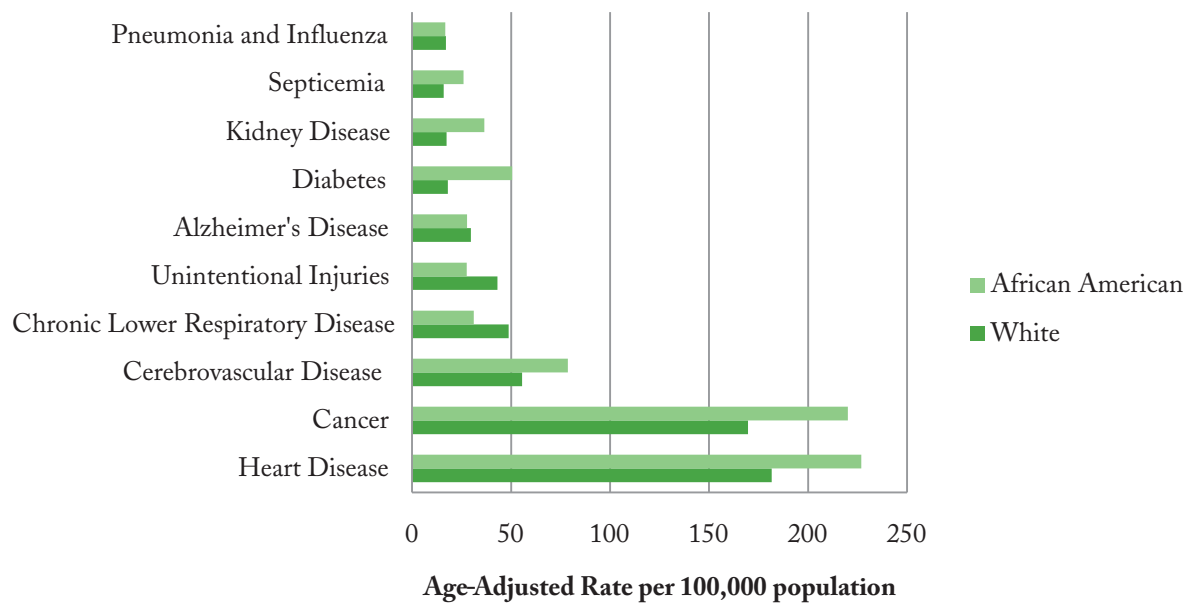
<1 year ¹	9,517
1-14 years	121,529
15-24 years	89,536
25-64 years	349,544
65 years and older	89,377
Total population	659,503

Chronic Diseases

Age-adjusted mortality rate

	Rate per 100,000	10-year trend
Heart disease	197.0	↓
Cancer	183.0	↓
Stroke	62.7	↓
Alzheimer's disease	28.8	↑
Diabetes	27.8	↑

Ten Leading Causes of Death by Race, Jefferson County, 2008



¹ 2008 Number of live births in Jefferson County

SELECTED HEALTH STATISTICS, 2008*

Maternal and Child Health

(NUMBER AND RATE OR PERCENT)

	Number	Jefferson County	Alabama ²
Live Births	9,517	62.1 per 1,000 women 10-44	58.9 per 1,000 women 10-44
Low Birthweight Births (<2500 g)	1,174	12.3% of live births	10.6% of live births
Very Low Birthweight Births (<1500 g)	248	2.6% of live births	2.0% of live births
Live Births to Teens	1,157	26.8 per 1,000 women age 10-19	24.4 per 1,000 women age 10-19
Infant Mortality	126	13.2 per 1,000 live births	9.5 per 1,000 live births

Communicable Diseases

(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION)

	Jefferson County	Alabama ³	United States ³
Chlamydia	877.1	535.0	401.3
Gonorrhea	390.1	210.5	111.6
Syphilis (primary & secondary)	27.0	9.7	4.5
Tuberculosis	3.6	3.8	4.2

Injuries and Crime

(RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION)

	Number	Jefferson County ⁴	Alabama ⁴	United States ⁵
Homicide	106	17.4	7.3	5.4
Rape	351	57.6	62.9	29.3
Robbery	2,438	399.7	151.6	145.3
Assault	2,439	399.9	247.0	274.6
Drug overdose deaths ⁶	85	12.9	NA	NA
Motor vehicle crash deaths ^{6,7}	115	17.4	NA	NA

1. 2008 number of live births in Jefferson County.
2. Rates are based on 2008 population projections. Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH); www.adph.org/healthstats
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); www.cdc.gov
4. Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, Statistical Analysis Center, 2008 Crime in Alabama; <http://acjic.state.al.us>.
5. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 Crime in the United States; <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>
6. Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner's Office
7. Including pedestrians hit by a car, 55 (69.6%) of motor vehicle crash deaths were due to intoxication.

*2009 Selected Health Statistics are available in the 2010 Annual Report

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