

JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CELEBRATING PAST PROGRESS & MOVING INTO A NEW CENTURY OF HEALTHY LIVING



Today's Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) is established, and Judson D. Dowling, MD becomes the first full-time county health officer.



1917



Public health nurses, Elizabeth and Zoe LaForge, provide prenatal and well-baby care for underserved pregnant women and children.

1920s

Jefferson County's first dental program opens in Hillman Hospital; the primary treatment is the pulling of teeth.



1922

Jefferson County's Health Officer is kidnapped and beaten by local dairy operators in response to the campaign to prevent milk-borne disease through pasteurization.



1939

Jefferson County's Board of Health trains black physicians to provide care at the newly opened Slossfield Health Center.

Canvassing of over 5,000 dwellings in Bessemer finds many unhealthy living conditions.



1946

The sale of raw milk in Jefferson County is outlawed.



1948

Jefferson County records its last human death from rabies. Through public health efforts to reduce exposure to rabid animals, and treatment for persons exposed to rabid animals, Jefferson County's reputation as the "Rabies Capital of the United States" ended.



1959



Air sampling finds concentrations of pollutants in Jefferson County to be at levels known to adversely impact health. A public information campaign engages the public in support for air pollution control legislation.



1976

The Jefferson County Board of Health adopts regulations related to transitional housing. These regulations were revised over the next two decades to include additional types of communal living facilities.

Serving Jefferson County Since 1917

The City of Birmingham authorizes the Birmingham Water Works to add sodium fluoride to the water to reduce tooth decay.



1980s

Birmingham Healthy Start, a program to reduce infant mortality, is implemented by JCDH.



1991

Preventive care is a focus of JCDH's health centers.



The Jefferson County Board of Health enacts a regulation requiring food safety training.

1992

JCDH performs 2,515 public pool inspections and provides the county's first Certified Pool Operator course.



2001

Jefferson County's first community health improvement plan, "Our Roadmap to Health," leads to the creation of the Health Action Partnership, a coalition of agencies committed to improving the county's health.



2007

The Jefferson County Board of Health adopts childcare regulations to improve the health and safety of children.



2011

JCDH and community partners launch the county's 2014 - 2019 strategic plan for health, called "Community Matters 20/20."



2014

JCDH becomes the first health department in Alabama, and one of the first 98 health departments in the country to achieve accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.



2015

