PUBLIC HEALTH: START HERE

DOH-ST. LUCIE PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW 2013

PARTNERSHIP | HEALTHIEST WEIGHT | RESTORING THE VILLAGE | PREVENTION

www.stluciecountyhealth.com

Florida HEALTH St. Lucie County

ST. LUCIE COUNTY FLORIDA

National Public Health Week www.nphw.org
AN INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC HEALTH: START HERE

LARRY J. **LEE**
County Health Officer

PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH

The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie provides thousands of services to our residents annually. However, public health emphasis is on the overall health of entire populations. The theme for National Public Health Week, ***"PUBLIC HEALTH: START HERE"*** is especially appropriate.

Every year I ask myself, "What can we do to improve the health of our community?" I am very proud of the dramatic reduction in HIV infection rates, teen pregnancies and infant mortality, as well as programs which promote maternal health, school health and children's oral health.

But let me stress that we don't do this alone! Many organizations and individuals in the "public health system", working to improve the quality of life in our community, make this progress possible. Indeed, a record $ 8,619,219 in donated services and supplies by healthcare professionals, citizens and businesses were reported for St. Lucie County in 2013.

Our prrimary focus is shifting toward identifying and eliminating root causes of preventable illness and injury. Much of what influences our health happens outside the doctor's office – in our homes, schools and workplaces. What we eat, how active we are and other personal behaviors like tobacco, alcohol and drugs use can put our health at serious risk. Tobacco use alone kills hundreds of thousands annually and costs the economy in the hundreds of billions. We work closely with our partners to fight "Big Tobacco's" efforts to addict new victims.

Outside factors, such as education levels and socioeconomic status, have a profound influence on people's ability to access healthcare and healthy food. Stress levels and indicators like violent crime rates are key predictors of community health. In St. Lucie, we are working together to assure greater health equity for all, which helps improve the county's overall health.

The built environment also influences our health outcomes. Pollution-free air and water, access to recreation opportunities and the ability to purchase safe, healthy food are part of this effort. Investing in bike trails, sidewalks and public transportation encourages active lifestyles and helps prevent injuries. Safe, clean and affordable housing impacts the health of our children and their ability to learn. Poor housing is also linked to elevated blood lead levels, asthma and bronchitis.

Public health starts here. Most of our years of increased life expectancy can be attributed to public health achievements. We work to find solutions to our problems. ***Our work continues.***

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY LOCATIONS

FORT PIERCE
714 Avenue C
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
(772) 462-3800

PORT ST. LUCIE
5150 NW Milner Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
(772) 462-3800

ST. LUCIE WEST
531 NW Lake Whitney Place
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
(772) 785-6124

LOGISTICS CENTER
3855 S. U.S. 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
(772) 462-3800

www.stluciecountyhealth.com

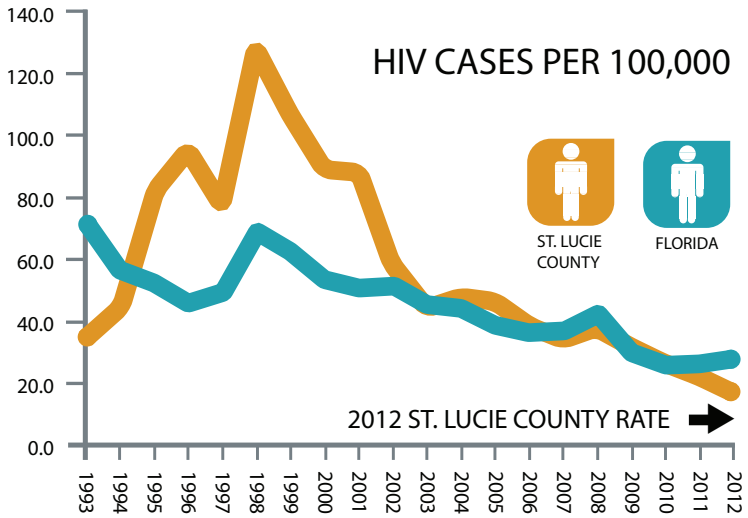
St. Lucie County Celebrates 67 Years of Public Health

St. Lucie County Commission Chair, Frannie Hutchinson (left), awards Proclamation to Asst. SLCHD Director Clint Sperber and Community Relations Director Arlease Hall.

COVER PHOTOS: Courtesy of St. Lucie County Media Relations and Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County.

CREATIVE SERVICES:
Comet Media Group www.cometmg.com 772-480-3414

WE ARE WINNING
THE BATTLE AGAINST HIV!



HIV/AIDS
IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

St. Lucie is now the lead agency for Area 15 HIV/AIDS Ryan White Part B patient care, managing an annual budget of $ 2,271,241. The department provides service delivery, financial and administrative oversight; monitors subcontracts and drafts funding requests; and implements community assessments to support Area 15 Consortia.

Local resident and patient rights advocate, **Steve Hoke**, (photo on far right) is featured in the statewide ***"Faces of HIV"*** Mobile Art Exhibit at the St. Lucie County Fair.

HEALTHIEST
WEIGHT

JOHN H. **ARMSTRONG**
Florida State Surgeon General
Secretary of Health

HealthiestWeight

Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, not for profit organizations, businesses, and entire communities to help Florida's children and adults make choices about healthy eating and active living. St. Lucie County supports the Healthiest Weight Initiative. Costs of care for chronic disease from obesity in Florida are estimated to reach $34 billion over the next 17 years.

Community leaders attend presentation on Healthiest Weight initiative.

Employees walk during their lunch break to stay fit.

CHRONIC DISEASE
PREVENTION

FLDOH in St. Lucie partners with community organizations to provide the Stanford Chronic Disease Self Management Classes at numerous sites in the county.

Prevention Is Better Than Cure:
Call **(772) 873-4960**

1. **CANCER**
2. **HEART DISEASE & STROKE**
3. **COPD**
4. **DIABETES**

Tobacco Free Florida .com

Tobacco Free Florida
St. Lucie County

Quitline
1-877-U-CAN-NOW

- Formed Students Working Against Tobacco clubs in school and county
- Celebrated Tobacco-free holidays countywide
- Created Tobacco free worksites and multi-unit housing
- Provided free cessation services via TobaccoFree Florida.com

WIC TRANSITIONS TO ELECTRONIC BENEFIT SYSTEM

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC SUCCESSES

- Provided WIC nutrition services to 13,667 regnant, breastfeeding and post-partium women, infants and children under age 5.
- Initiated breastfeeding in 78.8% of infants. 33.6% continued past 6 mo.
- Added late hours on Wednesdays and Transit Bus Route Stop at St. Lucie West WIC Office.
- Began offering Parent-Child Playgroup for infants to encourage interactive play via Helping People Succeed, Inc.
- Transitioned to FL-Wise EBT Cards to replace WIC checks.

TEENZONE

Reproductive Health Clinic for Teens Age 13-19

REACHES UNSERVED TEENS. 72% reported receiving no previous reproductive health services.

IDENTIFIES STDS. 61% of positive tests were unsuspected.

CHANGES RISKY BEHAVIORS. Achieved 38% reduction in unprotected sex after first clinic visit.

SAVES TAX DOLLARS. Program saves $17 in Medicaid and health-care costs for every $1 spent on Teen Zone.

INJURY PREVENTION

"Restoring the Village"

Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, MD, PhD, Director Louisville, Kentucky Metro Dept. of Public Health & Wellness (photo far left) was invited by the health department to speak to community leaders about Louisville's public health approach to address community violence. A local movement coined "Restoring the Village" by Representative Larry Lee Jr., was created to reduce the violence by addressing the root causes that undermine the health and safety of our youth.

County Commissioner Kim Johnson and Health Department Assistant Director Clint Sperber (photo far right) listen intently as Nesbitt explains Louisville's plan. Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for children in St. Lucie. A community taskforce is beginning to address the social determinants that impact child safety issues.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, training, exercising and evaluating progress through successful partnerships between government and non-government agencies and the citizens of St. Lucie County.

Savanna Club Disaster Exercise

REMEMBERING OUR HERO

SYLVIE KRAMER MARCEAU

Leaves Lasting Legacy—During her tenure in St. Lucie County (SLC), Sylvie successfully advocated and championed better prenatal care; decreased teen births; improved pregnancy outcomes; reduced prenatal HIV transmission to **ZERO**; and saved St. Lucie County millions of dollars. Sylvie was selected as the county's first **Public Health Hero**.