Dear St. Lucie,

St. Lucie public health is focused on improving health with our entire community. This report highlights a sample of our proud accomplishments to illustrate how we are working with partners throughout the county to address issues that impact health, particularly the most vulnerable.

Our 160 employees work extremely hard every day to prevent disease, promote health and protect you. Last year, this included: increasing physical activity through the Billion Step Challenge; reducing unintentional injuries in children; providing dental sealants in public schools; investigating over 2,500 reports of communicable disease, and starting an age-friendly community workgroup to improve the health and well-being of the older adults in St. Lucie.

Compared to medical providers who treat people that become sick, the role of public health is to try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place.

The wide range of services we offer promote health. We know that encouraging positive health behaviors while also addressing social and economic barriers to health today will lead to improved health, fewer sick days taken and reduced health care costs in the future.

This year we will also focus on achieving reaccreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB); developing a community health assessment to address public health problems for the next three years, and working with community partners to build a Treasure Coast Safety Village.

Clint Sperber, MPA
Administrator and Health Officer
LOCAL RESPONSE TO HURRICANE MICHAEL

2018 was an eventful year with our local response to Hurricane Michael, the most powerful hurricane ever to impact the Florida Panhandle. DOH-St. Lucie, deployed staff, resources, and other community partners joined forces, providing a strong response throughout various parts of the post storm operation and recovery.

St. Lucie County operates a Special Needs Shelter for individuals who seek shelter from a disaster and need medical assistance. Those who have a medical condition that does not meet requirement for hospital admittance but needs medical assistance can be eligible for the Special Needs Shelter.

For more information or to register for the SpNS contact Public safety 772.462.8100 or Visit the St. Lucie County Special Medical Needs website: https://www.stlucieco.gov

WIC SUCCESSES
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC improves the health of moms, babies and children!
Why participate in WIC?

Research Studies show participating in WIC early during pregnancy improves birth outcomes:

- Large reductions in premature birth, low birth weight and perinatal death.
- Lower infant mortality rates.
- Lower levels of anemia, failure to thrive and nutritional deficiency.
- Healthier eating habits and more nutrients for children on WIC.

In St Lucie, 80.9% of WIC enrolled moms initiated breastfeeding, December 2018

WIC provides nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, nutritious foods and referrals to healthcare. You may qualify if you are a pregnant, breastfeeding or post-partum woman, infant or child under age 5 who meets eligibility criteria.

HOW TO CONTACT US:
Ft Pierce office at (772) 462-3900 or St Lucie West office at (772) 785-6124 to apply.

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On January 1, 2018, the Healthy St. Lucie Coalition challenged residents to collectively reach one billion steps by December 31. Over 1,377 residents stepped up for the challenge, and 122 teams formed from 35 unique organizations. St. Lucie County residents met their goal of one billion steps on January 21, 2019.

Feedback from residents was so positive, that Healthy St. Lucie issued another challenge for 2019. Registration is open to residents all year long. When you register, you will set up your individual account. From there, you can fly solo, or form a team with your friends, neighbors, family, or work buddies. Together we can reach another billion steps in 2019!

MOBILE PHONE REGISTRATION
Download the WALKER TRACKER app and create an account.
Enter our program URL, healthystlucie.walkertracker.com

DESKTOP COMPUTER REGISTRATION
Go to https://healthystlucie.walkertracker.com/
Click on “Register Now” to create your account.
Download WALKER TRACKER app on your mobile phone.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY’S TASK FORCE AND HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

First Year Accomplishments Include:
- Increased inpatient treatment (detoxification) beds, especially for the indigent
- Medication Assisted Treatment services, especially for the indigent
- Transportation for individuals to treatment and from emergency rooms directly to treatment
- PEER specialists in Martin Hospital ER’s
- Sufficient credentialing of “Sober Homes”
- Law Enforcement efforts to treatment rather than incarceration
- Overdose and general opioid use disorder education

The mission of the Treasure Coast Opioid Task Force is to reduce opioid use and overdose deaths through the combined efforts of multiple community stakeholders on the Treasure Coast.

Meetings held 4th Thursday every month: 1:30 pm
New Horizons of The Treasure Coast, 4500 W. Midway Road, Fort Pierce

Safe Kids St. Lucie Coalition provided education to over 38,445 students, parents and professionals participating in trainings, school events, community events and summer programs.

January 2018 Safe Kids St. Lucie partnered with Tradition Medical Center, to use Safe Kids safety tip sheets to address ways to reduce unintentional injuries to children in the home. To date, the tip sheets are distributed in all newborn nurse home visitation packets in St. Lucie County.

For more information about Safe Kids and TC Safety Village
Contact: Ronda Cerulli (772) 462-3512