

Atlantic County Division of Public Health YEAR-END REPORT - 2017

Division of Public Health

The Division of Public Health is under the Department of Human Services. Its core mission is to promote healthy behaviors, prevent disease and protect the public's health. Consistent with its core mission, the Division has focused increasingly on its ability to plan for and respond to incidents of bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. This function is in response to federal and state initiatives to have local agencies be more involved in potential threats to its communities. The Division provides public health services to all of the municipalities in Atlantic County and most public health services to Atlantic City beginning in October of 2017. The Division is funded through a separate Public Health Tax and provides services in accordance with state statutes. All five units are also partially funded through State grants and user fees.

The Environmental Health Unit tests private drinking wells, ocean water and other public recreational swimming areas. Inspection services are undertaken in retail food establishments, campgrounds, youth camps, pools, body art establishments and kennels. It investigates potential sources of air, water and noise pollution in addition to community health hazards such as vermin, rabid animals, and lead paint. It reviews plans, issues permits and inspects new septic systems. The Unit tracks illegal dumpers, promotes workplace health and safety and responds to hazardous material incidents and other public health emergencies. It promotes healthy lifestyles through tobacco law enforcement and public health education initiatives. The Unit also monitors environmental health indicators using geographic information systems computers and maintains public records.

The Community Health and Clinical Services Unit prevents and controls diseases such as tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases through screening, contact tracing and treatment programs. This Unit investigates and tracks outbreaks of communicable diseases, along with the State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control to help reduce spread. Each Fall, flu clinics are conducted. The Unit also provides healthy child services such as immunizations, lead screening and special outreach including home visits and family health counseling. Screenings and risk assessments for the prevention of cancer, heart disease and diabetes are also managed within the Unit.

The Substance Abuse Service Unit plans and coordinates a broad spectrum of community services for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse. The Unit works closely with volunteer municipal alliance program coordinators in program planning and reporting. It conducts programs that evaluate and educate persons convicted of "driving under the influence" of drugs or alcohol. The Unit also provides the "Fatal Vision Program" extensively in schools and in the community. The Unit also provides a variety of community health education programs.

The Health Planning and Information Unit plans, implements and evaluates community health education programs including risk communication at times of public health emergencies... The programs are based on findings from youth and adult behavioral health risk assessments conducted periodically and jointly with the "Partnership for a Healthy Community". In addition, these assessments allow the Unit to update the Community Health Improvement Plan. The Unit creates and revises public health emergency response plans under the guidance of the State Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Public Health Emergency Response Task Force.

The Animal Shelter provides humane housing and disposition for stray and wild animal in order to control the spread of rabies in the community. Other services include animal adoptions, spay and neutering programs, rabies vaccinations and public education. The facility is open to the public seven days a week.

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ANIMAL SHELTER

- The goal of promoting adoptions and increasing the reclamations of stray pets while finding permanent homes and mandatorily spaying or neutering all animals was achieved through the use of radio, social media, internet, various newspaper publications, and offsite adoption centers. The shelter participated in the second national Clear the Shelter Day and the Brandywine Valley Mega Adoption Event. Additionally, two new special adoption events were successfully implemented this year.
- The opportunity to educate the public on animal related issues occurred while vaccine clinics were taking place. Pet owners from underserved communities struggle to care for their pets resulting in animals being relinquished to the shelter. The shelter staff works to ensure that pet owners have the information, recourses and services they need to continually decrease the number of intakes and lessen the burden on tax payers. Twelve rabies clinics were conducted during the year with 1540 animals being vaccinated.
- Successful completion of two facility projects have occurred during the year. The three phase kennel flooring renovation and kennel drainage project is complete.
- The implementation of a security guard has served as an effective deterrent to disorderly persons and other disturbances. Potential problems have been greatly minimized compared to previous years.
- The new position of a volunteer coordinator and a promotional position of a senior animal attendant have contributed to a more effective organization. The collaboration of team members' efforts have produced procedures that have improved the wellbeing of the animals in our care. Long time confinement of cats and dogs to achieve a higher live release rate requires an analysis of how well animals are thriving and coping in the current environment. The conditions in which they live and the ability for animals to express normal behaviors mentally and physically are impacted by enrichment and proper training. A new volunteer handbook was created and had a very positive influence on operations.

UNIT CHALLENGES

- The disastrous hurricanes that impacted the southern states and Puerto Rico late last summer have affected Atlantic County as well. Animal welfare groups locally rescued thousands of animals by transporting them into the immediate area. As a result, an increase of parvovirus, heartworm disease and other tick-borne diseases have been recently noticed. Consequently, the shelter has seen a decrease in help from rescue agencies because they have committed to assist animals from out of state.

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CUMULATIVE ANIMAL CENSUS FOR 2017

ANIMALS BROUGHT TO SHELTER BY ACO

	DOGS	CATS
01 ATLANTIC CITY	174	196
02 ABSECON	32	48
03 MARGATE	2	2
04 VENTNOR	14	15
05 EGG HARBOR CITY	12	6
06 BRIGANTINE	13	30
07 LINWOOD	18	25
08 EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP	140	189
09 BUENA BOROUGH	8	42
10 BUENA VISTA	13	88
11 CORBIN CITY	1	0
12 ESTELL MANOR	2	23
13 FOLSOM/COLLINGS LAKES	2	37
14 GALLOWAY	57	65
15 HAMILTON TOWNSHIP	31	40
16 HAMMONTON	9	108
17 LONGPORT	1	1
18 MULLICA TOWNSHIP	12	26
19 NORTHFIELD	32	7
20 PLEASANTVILLE	113	127
21 PORT REPUBLIC	2	9
22 SOMERS POINT	15	13
23 WEYMOUTH	0	45
TOTAL	703	1142

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COMMUNITY HEALTH, EDUCATION & CLINICAL SERVICES

MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH

School Immunization Audits

All childcare centers, preschools, elementary, middle and high schools in Atlantic County (except Atlantic City) are annually audited by Community Health RNs. Immunization audits are scheduled on all schools; elementary, middle and high schools, without preschools, September through December. Community Health expanded services to Atlantic City beginning in October and included scheduling immunization audits in the new jurisdiction.

Immunization Training Workshops

This was an educational immunization training workshops were held on the Bridge in August for childcare centers/preschools. Representatives from the NJ State Department of Health (NJDOH) together with Community Health provided the educational sessions and resources. Immunization training workshops were held for school nurses and school representatives on the Bridge in September. Representatives from the NJDOH together with Community Health NPs, RNs and the Public Health Officer participated in the education training sessions. A total of 45 nurses attended and received 2 hours of continuing education.

Child Health Conference (CHC)

There were a total of 69 CHC clinics held at the Stillwater building this year. Additional clinics were scheduled in Northfield the latter part of the year to accommodate the increased referrals from local pediatricians who temporarily lost privileges to provide VFC vaccines.

Improved Pregnancy Outcomes (IPOs)

The Atlantic County IPO program receives all referrals from the Atlantic County Central Intake. The hub is managed by Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative through grant funding. Home visits are made and assistance and support are provided by linking the women with insurance, WIC, food stamps and education.

Fetal Infant Mortality review (FIMR)

- The Community Health RN attended the bi-monthly advisory board meetings.
- Five to 6 cases of fetal/infant death were reviewed at each meeting. Maternal and fetal infant risk factors were identified
- A Provider Toolkit for Stillbirth and Perinatal loss became available on the website this year: www.snjpc.org.

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Childhood Lead

The Community Health Lead RNs monitor the online State Lead Surveillance Program (Leadtrax) daily. The RNs are responsible to follow up on all elevated capillary and venous lead levels in Atlantic County.

- The elevated blood level changed from 10 mg per deciliter to 5mg per /deciliter in September of this year. As a result, many more cases need management and environmental health intervention.
- At the end of the year there are 29 active lead cases with Community Health Nurse Management; 19 children with an initial lead level of 5-9 ug/dl and 8 children who had a previous initial lead level of \geq 10 ug/dl. There are 6 children who have an initial lead level of 5-9 ug/dl being followed by Community Health who need confirmatory venous testing.
- Atlantic County Division of Public Health applied for and will be a recipient of lead grant funding from the NJDOH.

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB)

The Community Health NP co-chaired the HMHB advisory board meetings held bi-monthly on the Bridge. SNJPC updates were provided at each meeting.

- The FIMR (Fetal Infant Mortality Review) team expanded; there are now 2 teams East, and West. Initially it was only Atlantic and Cape May Counties, now Cumberland County is also included. Only 25 cases were reviewed last year, the goal is 36.
- Mom's Quit Connection has expanded. Dads and families are now encouraged to participate. The website and logo has been updated.
- The Maternal Wrap Around grant is underway. The goal is to provide 30 prenatal women with opioid addiction comprehensive care and collaboration between treatment and OB/GYN. Enrollment is anticipated to begin early next year.
- The SNJPC office is relocating to Pleasantville. It is expected to open in January.
- The Planned Parenthood office in Atlantic City closed. The building lease was not renewed due to safety concerns.
- Nursing staff from Cape May Court House Department of Health shared information about Family Planning services available. It is open to anyone 13 and older and open to residents of any county.

Success by 6

The Community Health NP attended the Success by 6 advisory board meetings held at the United Way building in Galloway.

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- Goals are long range and end in 2030. One of the priorities is that 90% of children will read on grade level by 3rd grade. 5,000 Kindergarten Readiness Calendars were printed and distributed this year to Atlantic, Camden, Burlington and Cape May Counties.

Atlantic County Council for Young Children (CCYC)

The Community Health NP attended the CCYC provider advisory council meetings held bi-month on the Bridge.

- The EHT and Pleasantville community councils merged. There are 2 community councils instead of 3; EHT-Pleasantville and Hammonton. Each council meets monthly.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

TOTAL CASES REPORTED/INVESTIGATED 2017 335

- All notifications that meet NJ State criteria for investigation were evaluated and classified. Medical providers were contacted to obtain pertinent data for the investigation.
- Cases were directly contacted by local health department (LHD) via phone, letter and/ or a home visit for timely investigations as well as to provide relevant information and education

IMMEDIATELY REPORTABLE DISEASE	Total (Total for each case status)
Botulism Infant	1 (confirmed)
Brucellosis	2 (2 not a case)
Foodborne Intoxication	1 (1 possible)
Haemophilus Influenza	2 (2 confirmed)
Hepatitis A	7 (3 confirmed 4 not a case)
Meningococcal Disease	1 (1 not a case)
Pertussis	41 (5 confirmed 23 probable 13 not a case)
Tularemia	3 (1 confirmed 2 not a case)
Total	58 reports

- **Fifty- eight (58)** Immediately reportable illnesses were received throughout the year (included in total number).
- **Outbreak Investigations:**
Seventeen Outbreak Investigations were conducted in 2017

ZIKA

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As of December 31st, Seventy-eight (78) residents from Atlantic County have been approved by both NJDOH and Atlantic County Public Health for Zika laboratory testing. Case classifications are as follows:

- Two (2) – confirmed
 - One (1) – probable
 - Seventy – five (75)
- CD nurses started investigating and following up all reportable diseases in Atlantic City as of October 1, 2017. From Oct. 1st to Dec. 31st (72) cases have been followed up in Atlantic City.

PERINATAL HEPATITIS B – ongoing investigations and health education of perinatal hepatitis B mothers and children are being done on an as needed basis. Investigations include contacting healthcare providers and parents to follow up with vaccinations as well as post vaccination serology.

As of 12/31/2017, Atlantic County CD office is currently following 17 women/children through the perinatal Hepatitis B program.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)

There were **45** STD clinics held at the Stillwater Building on Monday afternoon in 2017. A total of **703** patients were seen at the clinics. There were **574** HIV tests done with only **2** resulting in positive results. The 2 were sent through the HIV Navigation system. There were **12** pregnancy tests done and **2** were positive. Those that were positive were given information on all of the Atlantic County pre-natal clinics.

Any patient that is pregnant or high risk or unable to be located by the state for treatment is assigned to the STD charge nurse by the State. These patients are located for treatment and seen in our clinic during the week. All those that were assigned were located, treated. Their partners were also brought in for testing and treatment. This is generally done during the week. Other than the clinics an additional **185** or more patients were seen throughout the week

This year all patients were screened for possible Zika exposure. Educational information was given to all. All patients were screened for high-risk behavior and offered referral or information for the Prep Counselor from Atlanticare.

TB

There were **47** clinics held on Tuesday at the Stillwater Building in Northfield. At these clinics **308** patients were seen. An additional **119** patients were seen throughout the week for evaluation, symptoms, sputum induction, etc. There were **60** Quantiferon Gold Tests (QFT) done. There were **7** patients treated for active TB infection this year (4 Pulmonary/3 Non-Pulmonary). All of these patients received DOT M-F. There were **25** patients started on Prophylactic medication for latent TB.

Annual PPD's were administered and read for Sheriff's Officers in Mays Landing and Atlantic City.

Annual PPD's were administered and read for the Cronin Dental Center.

RABIES

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There were **116** possible Rabies exposures received from the Environmental Unit this year. Of those possible exposed **46** signed letters of declination of treatment **53** received prophylactic treatment **12** animals were found after referral (no follow-up necessary), and **5** people were lost to follow-up after phone calls, letters, registered letters, and home visits were completed.

CLINICS

Women's Health

There was a total of **355** women seen at the Women's Health clinic. In 2017, the CEED program began the requirement of evaluating the patients for insurance eligibility prior to the visit. There were **210** prescriptions given for Mammograms. Chronic disease screenings (BP, TCL HDL) were provided at all of the visits. Breast Cancer Awareness Months was celebrated at each clinic in October.

Men's Health

There was a total **32** men seen at the Men's Health clinic. Chronic disease screenings (BP, BS, TCL, HDL) were provided at all of the visits. Men's Health Month was celebrated in June.

Adult Vaccine Program AVC (317 FUNDS)

- A total of 597 AVC vaccines were administered to adults through the program
- Vaccines were received from the state health department program six times this year in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December.
- Ninety-seven (97) of these vaccines were influenza vaccines administered during the 2017-2018 flu season starting September to December 2017. The program continues to offer flu vaccines during regularly scheduled AVC clinics as well as during women's and men's health clinics for the rest of the season.

HEPATITIS B/COUNTY MUNICIPAL

Hepatitis B at this clinic is for at-risk County and Municipal employees. The clinic is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Stillwater Building. There were **4** County and **19** Municipal workers immunized this year.

LIVE LONGER STRONGER (LLS)/HEALTH SCREENINGS

Total Cholesterol, HDL, and Blood Sugar screenings are offered at our Men's, Women's, LLS clinics as well as Health Fairs. Blood Sugar screenings are only done if the patient has fasted. Blood Pressure screenings are done on all patients of every clinic as well as Health Fairs.

There were **over 400** TCL/HDL screenings one this year. There were **86** FBS done. Persons with abnormal results are educated on follow-up and printed information is given.

FLU

There were **1170** adult flu shots given in 2017. This number does not include the AVC flu shots

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HEALTH EDUCATION

- Assistant Health Educator provided education, promoted health clinics, and distributed health-related materials at a total of 16 health fairs throughout the community. Health fairs were held throughout the County at the following locations:
 - Atlantic City
 - Egg Harbor City
 - Hamilton Twp
 - Egg Harbor Twp.
 - Northfield
 - Weymouth
 - Hammonton
 - Pleasantville
 - Longport
 - Ventnor

 - Galloway
- Assistant Health Educator delivered five presentations.
 - Egg Harbor City
 - Buena Vista
 - Buena Vista
 - Galloway
 - Men's Health, JBRC, Atlantic City

- The Atlantic County Division of Public Health's quarterly newsletters, *Your Health, Your Life*, were developed and distributed throughout the community. The newsletters included information about the opioid epidemic and American heart month.

- WIC partnered with Atlantic County Division of Public Health in the summer to provide a satellite site for qualified age-appropriate children to receive WIC services. WIC staff successfully accessed their on line program and printer. There were no scheduled appointments at the Stillwater building. Community Health completes age appropriate WIC referral paperwork during child health clinics. Community Health will reach out to WIC again in the beginning of the year to request initiating collaborative services.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNIT

PROGRAMMATIC

- **Air Pollution:** Unit staff performed **79** NJDEP minor source facility air inspections along with **42** air pollution (indoor / outdoor) investigations. Unit issued three (3) Notices of Violation with Penalties to various facilities for dust control and off-site odors.

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- **Body Art:** In 2017 Unit staff performed **24** body art establishment inspections and **3** re-inspections.
- **Campground / Youth Camps:** Unit staff performed **22** campground inspections. There were also **26** youth camp preliminary inspections and **4** re-inspections conducted this summer. Regular in-season youth camp inspections are performed by New Jersey Department of Health.
- **Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program (CCMP):** Bathing beach water quality overall was excellent again in 2017. Unit Staff collected **454** enterococcus samples during the season. Samples were collected by County staff from May 16th to September 11th. Atlantic City Health Department ended sampling on September 25th. Two significant events had impacts on beach sampling this summer. In early July, a beach replenishment / dune construction project started in Margate. The project affected the Margate CCMP sampling locations during most of July and August. Beaches were closed as a precaution within 100 yards north and south of project boundaries. Project boundaries varied day-to-day, week-to-week as project moved north to south. Information dissemination between the Army Corps of Engineers, NJDEP and Margate was difficult at times. Dune construction also caused stagnant water to accumulate between new dune areas and existing bulkhead areas. The second significant event occurred on July 22nd. A major summer storm hit area with over 3” of rain recorded in some locations of the County. A number of samples taken on 7/24/17 in Ventnor (4), Somers Point (1) and Atlantic City (20) came up over the standard of 104 enterococcus colonies. Beaches in Ventnor, Somers Point and Atlantic City were closed on July 26th after resamples taken on July 25th again came back over the standard. Beaches in Ventnor, Somers Point and Atlantic City reopened on July 27th after bacteria levels dropped below the standard.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** The primary focus of GIS projects for 2017 were: Potential Sites of Groundwater Impact, Domestic Potable Well Water GIS Point Coverage, Rabies Cases, Retail Food Establishments/Inspected Facilities, New Complaints and UST Removals. GIS was also utilized within the Environmental Health Unit to locate at-risk communities in proximity to rabies and West Nile virus cases, to assist in fulfilling OPRA requests, and to produce maps for the Potable Water and CCMP programs. Approximately 7 new sites were added to the Potential Sites of Groundwater Impact. Majority were unregulated UST cases.
- **Hazardous Materials Response:** Unit staff investigated **42** releases of hazardous materials. Staff also inspected **52** underground storage tank removals. Unit staff also attended scheduled County HazMat team training sessions at the TCTC. HazMat staff also received annual medical physicals through AtlanticCare.
- **Lakes:** Water quality in Atlantic County lakes was very good in 2017. Staff collected a total of **146** fecal coliform water samples. No lake bathing areas had to be closed due to high bacteria counts this year.
- **Lead Program:** Unit investigated **6** new elevated childhood lead cases in 2017. Initial environmental interventions are coordinated with Community Health Staff. NJDOH announced regulation changes for 2017 that went into effect in September. New regulations reduced blood lead levels to 5-10 ug / dL (two consecutive venous samples) for environmental and nurse case management. Case numbers and staff hours are expected to rise in 2018.
- **Potable Water:** In 2017, the Unit collected **239** potable water samples. Also, **14** new well certifications were issued this year. Staff inspected **31** transient and **21** non-transient public non-community water systems. The Federal Revised Coliform Rule went into effect on April 1, 2016. Seasonal systems now have

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to sample monthly when they are in operation. Previously, they only had to sample in the quarters they were open.

- **Public Health Nuisances / Complaints:** In 2017, Unit received a total of **1204** complaints. Of this, there were **651** animal bites reported and **553** regular complaints spanning all programs.
- **Rabies:** In 2017, we received **651** animal exposure reports, conducted **318** in-person confinement releases and sent **80** suspect specimens to NJDOH for examination. There were **4** confirmed rabid animals (2 bats, 4 raccoons, 1 skunk and 3 cats). There were **12** Atlantic County Animal Shelter Rabies clinics and **20** municipal clinics. Unit also inspected **18** kennels / pet shops / shelters.
- **Recreational Bathing:** Staff performed over **532** recreational bathing facility initial inspections and **30** re-inspections. A number of pools were closed for water quality issues along with other facility operational issues. NJDOH published rule revisions to the State Recreational Bathing Code. Comments were submitted. New rules expected to be adopted in early 2018.
- **Retail Food:** During the year, staff inspected over **1,676** retail food establishments and performed **128** RFE re-inspections. The Unit also investigated **141** retail food complaints. Staff also reviewed **72** plans for new or renovated retail food establishments.
- **Retail Food (continued):** Staff reviewed **340** mobile vendor applications in 2017. Staff worked **67** special events in 2017 inspecting retail food vendors. A total of **622** vendors were inspected at these events. Most of this work is done on the weekends.
- **Right-To-Know:** In 2017, Unit performed **8** outreach visits and **7** phone consultations for the NJDOH Right-To-Know program.
- **Septic Systems:** In 2017, Unit reviewed **346** septic system permit applications, reviewed **129** septic plan revisions and **300** septic system field inspections. We also investigated **51** sewage related citizen complaints. Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests for historic septic system information increasing as a result of recent State code changes. Majority of requests are part of real estate transaction process. Reports received by septic inspection companies as part of real estate transactions have been taking quite a bit of staff time to deal with all parties involved (buyer, seller, real estate agents, lawyers, engineers, septic installation companies, etc.).
- **Solid Waste:** Under CEHA Grant contract, Unit staff performed **46** solid waste facility inspections and investigated **53** solid waste complaints in 2017. Unit still working with NJDEP on case in Mullica Township involving an illegal recycling operation that received hazardous materials and electronic or “e-waste”. Staff attends scheduled County Recycling Coordinators meetings and County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meetings
- **Tanning Facilities:** Unit performed **20** tanning facility inspections and **11** re-inspections in 2017. Invoices were sent to NJDOH for reimbursement of inspections. FDA looking into making 18 the minimum age to use tanning facility nationwide. New Jersey current age is 17. Main issue with a number of facilities is failure to register or re-register with NJDOH.

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- **Tobacco Enforcement:** Governor Christie signed a bill in July to increase minimum age to purchase tobacco products or electronic smoking devices in New Jersey from 19 to 21. Law went into effect on November 1st.
- **West Nile Virus (WNV):** In 2016, NJDOH advised local health departments that avian specimens were not be submitted for testing as in past years. County Mosquito Unit continued to submit mosquito pool samples in 2017. There were five (5) positive WNV mosquito pools sampled by the County Mosquito Unit and confirmed by NJDOH laboratory. Positive pools were found in the following municipalities: (Hamilton Township, Hammonton and Mullica Township). Unit mailed and / or distributed **130** information packets in affected neighborhoods. A human case of West Nile Virus was reported for a resident that lived in Hammonton and worked in Hamilton Township.
- **Off Hours Response:** Unit Supervisors and Senior REHS staff managed **2** Sheriff's calls in December for a total of **45** in 2017. There were **15** after-hours responses made in 2017.
- **Open Public Records Act (OPRA):** In December, we received **9** formal OPRA requests for files either through Law Department or directly sent into office. Also received approximately **28** requests for septic system file information. For 2017, we had a total of **142** formal OPRA requests and **413** septic system related OPRA requests. Fulfilling OPRA requests have been taking quite a bit of staff time due to the number and diverse nature of requests.
- **CEHA Grant:** In FY2017, all County Environmental Health Act grant requirements were met. CEHA grant now back to a single grant (federal and state funds) that follows State fiscal year (July 1 – June 30th). Awaiting final FY2018 contract back from NJDEP.

HEALTH PLANNING, INFORMATION AND PREPAREDNESS

Notifications

- Public Health Emergency Notification System (PHENS) Coordinator sent out 348 alerts, ranging from food recalls to disease (Zika, Rabies, Influenza, and others) information to preparedness topics and trainings
- Participated in monthly communications tests
- Promoted distance learning opportunities provided through NJ Learning Management Network, NJDOH, and Rutgers University

Preparedness Activities

- Participated in NJDOH meetings, conference calls, and other activities necessary for the Medical Countermeasure Operational Readiness Review (MCM ORR), as required by CDC as part of Public Health Infrastructure Laboratory Emergency Preparedness (PHILEP) grant
- Reviewed and updated emergency plans, such as the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan, Receive-Stage-Store (RSS) Plan and First Responder Plan

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- Unit staff actively participated in meetings of Tri-County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), County Disaster Response Team, County Shelter Team, Southern Regional Governmental Public Health Partnership (GPHP), South Regional Emergency Preparedness Healthcare Coalition, and other LINCIS-function meetings
- Provided Zika Basics at Community Health clinics
- Unit staff attended and supported Emergency Preparedness programs, community education and outreach programs, and other community events throughout the year, including National Night Out and the 4H Fair
- Reviewed agreements with Closed POD partners, and continued efforts to expand the number of Closed POD partner organizations
- With Health Officer, convened the Atlantic County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Task Force

Exercises

- Tested Point-of-Distribution (POD) Set-Up at one of five identified POD locations throughout the County
- Conducted call-down exercises using Code Red system, and used Code Red system to notify MRC members of quarterly meetings
- Conducted CDC-required staff call-down, site call-down, and POD site set-up drills
- Conducted Joint Information System (JIS), in conjunction with NJDOH and as required by PHILEP grant, and Health Educator/Risk Communicator (HERC) communications exercise
- Participated in Public Health Emergency Notification System (PHENS) communications exercise

Medical Reserve Corps

- Convened four quarterly meetings in 2017, with topics including: Emergency Preparedness, General Population Shelter Operations, Hurricane Preparedness, Hurricane Irma MRC Deployment, and seasonal flu awareness
- For the first time, NJDOH participated in an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) for MRC volunteers to assist following Hurricane Irma in Florida; three Atlantic County MRC volunteers reported ready and able to deploy
- MRC Coordinator participated in Regional conference calls and National Program Office Wellness Checks and Technical Assistance Review
- MRC volunteers assisted at many events, including flu clinics and the 4H Fair

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

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- Conducted twenty-two (22) 12 hour IDRC classes, and addressed five hundred and eighteen (518) clients.
- Conducted three (3) 48 hour IDRC classes, and addressed one hundred and eight (108) clients.
- During the year processed eight hundred and ninety (890) client contacts dealing with substance abuse treatment services and substance use disorders.
- During the year processed two hundred and sixty-seven (267) direct referrals for Chapter 51 treatment funding to detoxification and/or in-patient residential services.
- Participated in and/or presented at eight (8) Public Health Community Health Programs throughout the year.
- Unit staff participated in two (2) local radio shows, presenting on NARCAN Overdose Reversal Trainings and the statewide Opioid Epidemic. At the request of the county, staff members also participated in two (2) newspaper interviews dealing with the Opioid Epidemic and/or countywide Substance Use Disorder statistics.
- Worked jointly with the Urban Treatment to provide seventeen (17) direct NARCAN trainings for county residents. Two hundred and thirty (230) individuals throughout the county received this training. In expanding the NARCAN training program through the County/Municipal Alliance Grant, a unit staff member also provided twenty-two (22) additional NARCAN trainings, wherein two hundred and eighty-five individuals were trained. Through these trainings two hundred and fifty-five (255) NARCAN Overdose Reversal kits were distributed to individuals, school district personnel, other county offices, local police departments, and the New Jersey State Police.
- Conducted twenty (29) separate “Alcohol Awareness/Fatal Vision” presentations for a local High School, and the county Intoxicated Driver classes. Six hundred and forty-nine (649) students and DUI offenders received this training.
- Conducted annual Volunteer Recognition program for the Atlantic County Municipal Alliances. Nineteen (19) of the Municipal Alliances were represented at this event. Awards presented included Best Alliance, Coordinator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and the Dave Woolbert Memorial Award.