

Division of Public Health Annual Report

2018

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 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 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.

The Community Health and Clinical Services Unit prevents and controls diseases such as TB and STDs 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 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 Health Planning and Information Unit plans, implements and evaluates a variety of community health education programs. The programs are based on findings from youth and adult behavioral health risk assessments conducted periodically in cooperation 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 updates 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 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.

ANIMAL SHELTER

- Educating the public on animal related issues remained a constant priority. Pet owners from underserved communities that struggled to care for their pets often led to countless animals being relinquished to the shelter. The shelter staff worked to ensure that pet owners had the information, resources and services that were needed to continually decrease the number of intakes and lessen the burden on shelter resources.
- Twelve rabies clinics were conducted during the year with 1240 animals being vaccinated.
- The first phase of the cat adoption room renovation project was completed and four phases are pending. The renovation project consists of removing the old out of date stainless steel cages and replacing them with fiberglass enclosures which are easier to sanitize and contribute to an enhanced disease control program.
- During the summer the Shelter joined with several other groups in launching a project to sterilize cats living outdoors and to develop practical and humane solutions to population management.
- The Shelter participated in the fourth annual Clear the Shelter Day and implemented other low or no fee adoption events to promote the efforts of the shelter. The events have also proven to be an effective way to help special needs pets find homes who might have otherwise been overlooked.
- Shelter veterinarians and management team fought for months to contain a severe disease outbreak of feline panleukopenia and calicivirus. As a response, all animal control officers were requested to properly clean and sanitize their vehicles and equipment. Many cats were being transported to the shelter and presenting with illnesses upon intake.
- Changes were implemented to K9 behavior assessments so that proper handling procedures could be determined for each dog prior to being offered for adoption. Dogs were assessed again after being acclimated to the volunteer training program and discussions on suitable home environments had occurred.

CUMULATIVE ANIMAL CENSUS FOR 2018

ANIMALS BROUGHT TO SHELTER BY ACO

	DOGS	CATS
01 ATLANTIC CITY	153	164
02 ABSECON	31	55
03 MARGATE	2	3
04 VENTNOR	14	18
05 EGG HARBOR CITY	16	30
06 BRIGANTINE	3	12

07 LINWOOD	12	18
08 EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP	128	214
09 BUENA BOROUGH	4	53
10 BUENA VISTA	12	48
11 CORBIN CITY	0	1
12 ESTELL MANOR	30	13
13 FOLSOM/COLLINGS LAKES	7	10
14 GALLOWAY	27	68
15 HAMILTON TOWNSHIP	7	50
16 HAMMONTON	21	96
17 LONGPORT	0	4
18 MULLICA TOWNSHIP	8	11
19 NORTHFIELD	13	17
20 PLEASANTVILLE	139	185
21 PORT REPUBLIC	12	18
22 SOMERS POINT	8	59
23 WEYMOUTH	0	52
TOTAL	647	1199

	DOGS	CATS	OTHER
ACO	647	1199	5
BORN at the Shelter	0	69	
DUMPED	13	17	0
OWNER SURRENDERED	209	242	
STRAY SURRENDER	128	758	0
SPCA	10	57	
TOTAL	1007	2342	5
GRAND TOTAL ALL		3354	

DOGS	1007
CATS	2342
TOTAL # ANIMALS ENTERING SHELTER	3349

COMMUNITY HEALTH, EDUCATION & CLINICAL SERVICES

MATERNAL/CHILD HEALTH

School Immunization Audits

- All childcare centers, preschools, elementary, middle and high schools in Atlantic County, including Atlantic City, were audited this year. All childcare centers and any schools with preschool age children are audited in the beginning of the year to capture flu compliancy. All elementary, middle and high schools without preschools were audited October through December.
- The goal for Atlantic County is for all schools to achieve 100%. If centers or schools are not 100% compliant on the initial audit, facilities are provided 30 additional days to remediate any deficiencies. Initial and 30 day compliancy scores are reported to the NJDOH.
- There were a total of 177 facilities audited this year; 79 childcare centers, 50 schools with preschool age children and 48 schools with children ranging from Kindergarten through high school. .
- There were 8 childcare/preschools that did not achieve the NJ minimum acceptable compliancy rate; last year there were 12. Meetings were held in the spring with the 8 owner/directors of the non-compliant centers and Community Health NPs, charge audit RN and public health officer to discuss each center's individual deficiencies. Educational resources were provided and violations for future non-compliance issues were discussed.

Immunization Workshops

This was the fifth year Community Health and Jennifer Sudhakaran and Jen Smith from NJDOH provided annual immunization training workshops on the Bridge. Thirty-five representatives from childcare/preschools attended the workshop on August 17th. The NJDOH encouraged all childcare centers to participate in the NJ Hot Shots for Tots immunization campaign. The Public Health Officer presented certificates of achievements awards to the 7 representatives of daycares that achieved 100% compliancy on their initial audit. There were 15 additional achievement certificates mailed to the owner/director who did not attend. All participants were e-mailed a certificate of 2 clock hours of professional development from the NJDOH. Thirty-three nurses attended the annual immunization workshop held September 14th. All nurses who registered on the NJLMN received 2 hours of continuing education from the NJDOH.

Child Health Conference

- There were a total of 63 CHC clinics held this year. CHCs clinics are scheduled weekly in Northfield and quarterly in Hammonton. Additional clinics were scheduled again this year, due to the increase in number of referrals. The Vaccine for Childers (VFC) program provides free vaccines for persons enrolled in Medicaid-Family Care Plan A or to children without insurance. The Child Federation office in Pleasantville also closed in the summer of 2018 causing an increase in referrals.
- There were a total of 456 children seen by Community Health RNs/NP this year. This was almost a 50% increase from the previous year. There were 20 PPD screenings completed, 20 vision and 21 hearing screenings. One child without insurance was referred to the Lions Club in Absecon and received an exam and free glasses through a contracted provider in Mays Landing. All children ≥ 3 years old have a blood pressure screening; 208 were completed. There were 50 lead screenings and 54 hemoglobin screenings completed in CHC clinics. There was 1 elevated lead screening; the family was provided with lead prevention education. The child followed up with venous testing and the results were within normal range. Three children had low hemoglobin levels. The NP provided educational information on

an iron rich diet and clients were referred to their health care provider. One child was retested on a subsequent visit and the hemoglobin returned to normal range. There were a total of 1660 immunizations administered; almost twice as many as in 2017.

Improved Pregnancy Outcomes

Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC) received new grant funding for the Healthy Women/Healthy Families initiative in July. SNJPC continues to manage the Central Intake referral hub and will also be targeting services to promote healthy outcomes for African American women in Atlantic City. All home visiting programs have reported a decrease in the number of referrals in 2018.

Fetal Infant Mortality Review

The Community Health RN attended the bimonthly FIMR advisory boards. There were a total of 29 fetal/infant demise cases reviewed. Condolence cards were created and sent to women with a loss as an incentive to increase maternal interviews. There continues to be difficulty contacting mothers for interviews. FIMR has expanded to include Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem and Camden counties. FIMR plans to work on addressing risk factors of hypertension, diabetes, weight and nutrition. Atlantic City and Whitesboro are the targeted areas to improve black infant mortality rates. Doula care, yoga and breastfeeding support are some of the services that will be available for prenatal African Americans.

Childhood lead poisoning prevention program

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 2017. As a result, many more cases need management and environmental health intervention.
- At the end of the year there are 44 active lead cases with Community Health Nurse Management; 28 children with an initial lead level of 4.5 -9.4, 12 children from 9.5 to 14.4 ug/dl, 2 children from 14.5 to 19.4, 2 children from 19.5 to 44.44 ug/dl.
- 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 bi-monthly advisory board meetings. SNJPC updates and agency updates were given at each meeting. There is no Family Planning office located in Atlantic County, except for Stockton students on campus. Cape May Health Department was a guest speaker and provided Family Planning resources and services available for all county residents as there is still no confirmation on the date and location of the anticipated Atlantic City office. The final draft of the Medicaid workgroup project was reviewed and approved. A Quick Insurance Reference Guide for healthcare workers to assist families with enrolling in insurance has been developed. The publishable format and printed guide is still pending. The final product is expected to be available and presented at the HMHB meeting, March 26th, 2019.

Success by 6

The Community NP attended the scheduled Success by 6 advisory board meetings. There were 2 meetings held this year. United Way became regionalized last year. Funding for Kindergarten Calendars and the First Book Program continued this year. Money allocated for the first reader program was not approved since there were issues with families losing books. United Way reported they would be participating in a pilot program through the end of the year to help increase the number of young children able to read on grade level. The program is similar to grow NJ Kids program and provided incentives up to \$5,000. The United Way office relocated from Galloway to Mays Landing.

Atlantic County Council for Young Children (CCYC)

The Community Health NP attended the bimonthly CCYC provider meetings. The five topics chosen for project goals included; immunization education for families, community support for breastfeeding mothers, disseminating information on prenatal care, Tdap vaccine education and promoting lead screening for 1 and 2 year olds. Grant funding was anticipated to end in June, and then again this December. Facebook and CCYC websites were updated. CCYC is continuing to conduct community surveys. At the end of the year it was announced additional grant funding will be provided through December 2019.

Healthy Families Program

The Community Health NP attended the annual Atlantic County Healthy Families home visiting program advisory board meet held in May. The SNJPC relocated from Atlantic City to Pleasantville, Highlights of the 2017 year were reviewed.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

CD

There were a total of **1074** individual communicable diseases investigated this year. Of the 1074, **52** of the cases were immediately reportable diseases and **141** were GI illnesses. There were **25** outbreak investigations done at long term care and daycare facilities. CD nurses and Np participated in the Zika approval process through the NJ Public Health Laboratory. CD nurses and NP's attended the CDRSS training and all Communicable Disease forums and webinars provided by the State. CD nurses began doing Immediately Reportable Disease on call on weekends on September 8th. There are currently 4 nurses rotating "on call".

TB

There were 48 TB clinics held on Tuesdays at the Stillwater Building this year. A total of 161 patients were seen at the clinics. Additionally patients are seen throughout the week when needed. A total of 4 patients were followed for active pulmonary TB this year (2 carried over from last year and an additional 2 newly diagnosed in 2018. These patients receive Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) every day at home by the County RN's and Health Aides. There were 78 Quantiferon (QFT) tests done this year, 24 positive results and 54 negative results. PPD's were done on all Sheriff's officers (no positive) and employees of the Cronin Dental Center (no positive).

STD

There were 45 STD clinics held this year. A total of 614 patients were seen at the clinics and an additional 77 were seen throughout the week. There were 67 positive Chlamydia cases, 9 positive Gonorrhea cases, 2 positive Trichomoniasis cases, 28 positive Syphilis cases, and 4 positive HIV cases diagnosed through clinic testing. This year 3 Public Health Nurses attended a week-long Disease Investigation Specialist (DIS) training. At this time, Atlantic County has 5 trained DIS doing Syphilis investigations. In the past, the State has done the Syphilis follow-up. All patients are treated at our clinic and throughout the week with the exception of the HIV + patients are referred to AtlantiCare through the Navigation system. Preventative HIV treatment is discussed with all patients that are at risk and with any patient that requests information. Atlantic County hosts the HIV Collaboration quarterly meeting.

Rabies

There were 122 possible Rabies exposures sent from the Environmental Health Unit to Community Health this year. All of the patients are educated verbally and given written material to review on Rabies. If the animal can be observed after 10 days there is no need for Rabies post exposure vaccine. If the animal is unable to be witnessed in the time frame Rabies post exposure vaccination is recommended. The patient may choose to sign a declination of treatment. Seventy-one signed letters of declination of treatment, 17 animals were released from confinement after referral to Community Health, and 34 received post exposure vaccination.

CLINICS

Women's

There were 315 women seen in our clinic this year. Before women being seen, confirmed eligibility for insurance purposes is done by the CEED program coordinator at Shore Memorial. Women at the clinic receive a PAP smear and pelvic examination. Women with breast issues and those 40 and over receive a prescription for a PAP smear. Age appropriate women have a Hemacult/Seracult done at the clinic and a take home kit to be done at home and sent to Shore Memorial for lab work and Colonoscopy approval. Women at this clinic also have BP screening and are offered HDL and TCL screenings. Abnormal Mammogram and PAP smear results are referred to a CEED participating Surgeon or Gynecologist. One patient was diagnosed with Breast Cancer through this clinic in 2018. Breast Cancer Awareness Month was celebrated in October at our Northfield and Hamonton locations.

Men's

There were 44 men seen for PSA tests and prostate examinations at our Men's clinic this year. All of the men are preapproved by the CEED program for insurance purposes prior to the visit. Men with abnormal PSA or prostate examination are referred to a CEED participating Urologist. All of the men have BP screening and are offered Blood Sugar, TCL, and HDL testing. Age appropriate men receive a Hemacult/Seracult test at the time of the prostate examination and are given a take home kit to be done at home and sent to Shore Memorial Lab/CEED for colonoscopy approval.

AVC (317 Funds)

There were a total of 448 vaccines given to people through the 317 funds. Vaccines through this clinic are given at scheduled clinics and at Men's, Women's and TB clinics to people without insurance or for people

with insurance that will not pay for a particular vaccine. Vaccines include Flu, HPV, Hep A, Hep B, Hep A/B, Meningococcal, Men B, MMR, PCV13, Pneumonia, TD, Tdap, Varicella, and Zoster/Shingles.

Live Longer Stronger (LLS)

There were 4 LLS clinics held in Hammonton and 1 at the Stillwater Building this year. A total of 26 patients were seen at the clinics.

Adult Flu

Atlantic County provided Adult Flu Vaccinations at open sites throughout the County as well as walk-in, no appointment necessary clinics at the Stillwater Building and at Belleview Avenue Hammonton. Flu shots were also given at the County Nutrition sites, County Libraries and for County employees at the Stillwater Building, COB, and Justice Facility. A total of 1064 doses were given from September through December.

Hepatitis B (County Municipality)

A total of 52 Hepatitis B vaccines were given to at risk County and Municipal employees this year.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Assistant Health Educator provided education, promoted health clinics, and distributed health-related materials at a total of 32 **health fairs and events** throughout the community as well as 14 Presentations at schools and County offices and partner offices. Assistant Health Educators also attended the open flu clinics throughout the County.

OTHER PROJECTS

- The Atlantic County Division of Public Health's quarterly newsletters, *Your Health, Your Life*, were developed and distributed throughout the community.
- Radio segments were recorded on Heart Health and Adult Vaccinations
- Atlantic County RN's participated in 14 Health Fairs throughout the County providing BP, Cholesterol, TCL, and Glucose screenings

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNIT

PROGRAMMATIC

- **Air Pollution:** Under County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) grant work plan, Unit staff performed **77** NJDEP minor source facility air inspections. These included facilities such as dry cleaners, boilers and emergency generators. Staff also investigated **22** air pollution (indoor / outdoor) complaints. These include vehicle idling issues.
- **Body Art:** In 2018 Unit staff performed **26** body art establishment inspections and **3** re-inspections. We received **7** citizen complaints. Complaint types ranged from illegal procedures being performed at unlicensed facilities (“micro-blading”) to providing services to under age clients.
- **Campground / Youth Camps:** Unit staff performed **26** campground inspections. There were also **19** youth camp preliminary inspections and **2** 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 2018. Unit Staff collected **438** enterococcus samples during the season. Samples were collected by County staff from May 14th to September 11th. Atlantic City Health Department ended sampling on September 24th. Only beach closure was the Brigantine Bay Beach on August 15th after two consecutive high samples. Beach reopened next day after samples came back down below standard. Atlantic City Press ran a nice story about CCMP program on June 20th.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** The primary focus of GIS projects for 2018 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 **67** new sites were added to the Potential Sites of Groundwater Impact. Majority of sites were unregulated UST cases.
- **Hazardous Materials Response:** In 2018, Unit staff investigated **60** releases of hazardous materials. Staff also inspected **28** 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 2018. Staff collected a total of **204** fecal coliform water samples. No lake bathing areas had to be closed due to high bacteria counts this year. As part of the lake sampling program, the Unit samples the beach in Port Republic on Nacote Creek. Nacote Creek empties into the Mullica River near Great Bay. Tidal water at location is considered “brackish” due to salinity content. Samples taken on July 2nd and 3rd were over the new recreational bathing standard of 320 cfu / e. coli. Beach was closed on 4th of July. Elevated sample results kept beach closed rest of season. Staff met with Port Republic officials and NJDEP in December to discuss issues and possible causes / solutions.

- **Lead Program:** Unit investigated **15** new elevated childhood lead cases in 2018. 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. Consumer lead analyzer purchased using Lead Grant funds. Staff trained by equipment distributor.
- **Noise Program:** In 2018, Unit investigated **2** noise complaints. Unit has two staff members who are certified to perform noise readings as part of the CEHA grant work plan. Calibrated noise meters also maintained by Unit staff.
- **Potable Water:** In 2018, the Unit collected **207** potable water samples. Also, **34** new well certifications were issued this year. Staff inspected **16** transient and **32** non-transient public non-community water systems. The Federal Revised Coliform Rule went into effect on April 1, 2016. Seasonal systems now have 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 2018, Unit received a total of **1360** complaints. Of this, there were **806** animal bites reported and **554** regular complaints spanning all programs.
- **Rabies:** In 2018, we received **806** animal exposure reports, conducted **335** in-person confinement releases and sent **92** suspect specimens to NJDOH for examination. There were **4** confirmed rabid animals (3 raccoons, 1 bat). There were **12** Atlantic County Animal Shelter Rabies clinics and **15** municipal clinics. Unit also inspected **18** kennels / pet shops / shelters.
- **Recreational Bathing:** In 2018, staff performed over **364** recreational bathing facility initial inspections and **36** re-inspections. A number of pools were closed for water quality issues along with other facility operational issues. NJDOH published revisions to the State Recreational Bathing Code in January. Letters were sent out to all facilities notifying them of the major rule changes. Pool operators and owners are now required to submit annual checklists to our office for review prior to operating. New rules also required additional lifeguards to pools over 2,000 sq. ft. Seasonal pools are now only inspected once a year while year-round pools are still inspected twice per year.
- **Retail Food:** During the year, staff inspected over **1,714** retail food establishments and performed **123** RFE re-inspections. The Unit also investigated **117** retail food complaints. Staff also reviewed **56** plans for new or renovated retail food establishments.
- **Retail Food (Seasonal):** Staff reviewed **328** mobile vendor applications in 2018. Staff worked **69** special events in 2018 inspecting retail food vendors. A total of **605** vendors were inspected at these events. Most of this work is done on the weekends.
- **Right-To-Know:** In 2018, Unit performed **8** outreach visits and phone consultations for the NJDOH Right-To-Know program. Public Health staff attended **33** health fairs / events and distributed RTK information. Staff also participated in **11** emergency response training / LEPC activities.
- **Septic Systems:** In 2018, Unit reviewed **246** septic system permit applications, reviewed **131** septic plan revisions and performed **237** septic system field inspections. Unit issued **31** septic system permits for new construction projects and **216** permits for existing homes and businesses. We also investigated **66** sewage related citizen complaints. Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests (**676**) for historic septic system information continues to increase as a result of recent State code changes. Majority of OPRA requests are

part of the real estate transaction process. Staff also reviewed **216** Real Estate Transaction Inspection reports. These reports are received from septic system inspection companies as part of real estate transaction process involving properties with septic systems. A number of these inspections reveal non-compliant systems and result in repairs or replacement of older systems.

- **Solid Waste:** Under CEHA Grant contract, Unit staff performed **58** solid waste facility inspections and investigated **37** solid waste complaints in 2018. 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 **15** tanning facility inspections and **6** re-inspections in 2018. 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.
- **Tobacco Enforcement:** Governor Murphy signed a bill in July to prohibit smoking on public beaches and State parks. Law goes into effect in January 2019. Questions about who actually can enforce law still exist. Local health department still primary agency to enforce “Smoke Free Air Act”. In 2018, staff investigated **3** tobacco related complaints.
- **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 2018. There were **11** 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, Linwood, Mullica Township, Northfield and Pleasantville). Unit mailed and / or distributed **530** information packets in affected neighborhoods. A human case of West Nile Virus was reported for a resident that lived in Hammonton.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Off Hours Response:** Unit Supervisors and Senior REHS staff managed **51** calls in 2018. There were **10** after-hours responses made in 2018.
- **Open Public Records Act (OPRA):** For 2018, a total of **191** formal OPRA requests and **676** septic system related OPRA requests were received. This is a **56% increase** in OPRA requests over 2017 levels. Fulfilling OPRA requests have been taking quite a bit of staff time due to the number and diverse nature of requests.
- **CEHA Grant:** In FY2018, 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 1st – June 30th).
- **Registered Environmental Health Specialist Licenses:** All licensed REHS staff earned at least 15 Continuing Education Units in 2018. Staff is able to get majority of credits by attending either the New Jersey Environmental Health Association Conference or the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference.

HEALTH PLANNING, INFORMATION AND PREPAREDNESS

Notifications

- Public Health Emergency Notification System (PHENS) Coordinator sent out 201 alerts to stakeholders. The Top 5 topics were:
 - Food, Pet Food, and Cosmetics Recalls (62)
 - Influenza/Respiratory Virus (42)
 - Measles (14)
 - Rabies (6)
 - Adenovirus (5)
- Participated in all required monthly communications tests, including NJLINCS/NJDOH 800 MHz Radio tests, and NJDOH/NJLINCS Hippocrates tests
- Compiled and provided data and reports, such as the quarterly Justice Facility Infection Control and the quarterly Communicable Disease reports, and coordinated distribution of Your Health Your Life quarterly newsletter

Preparedness Activities

- NJDOH meetings, conference calls, and other activities necessary for the Medical Countermeasure Operational Readiness Review (MCM ORR) were attended, as required by CDC as part of Public Health Infrastructure Laboratory Emergency Preparedness (PHILEP) grant
- Emergency plans, such as the Pandemic Influenza Plan, Point of Distribution (POD) Operations Plan, Receive-Stage-Store (RSS) Plan and First Responder Plan were updated. Businesses and partner organizations were identified as Closed Points of Distribution (POD) sites
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Nurse participated in NJDOH PHEP Nurses Work Group to write Standard Operating Guidance (SOG) documents for POD Operations and Pandemic Influenza Plans
- 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 LINCS-function meetings
- Unit staff attended and supported 39 Emergency Preparedness programs, community education and outreach programs, and other community events throughout the year, including National Night Out and the 4H Fair
- Unit staff enrolled 247 county residents in the Register Ready program
- With Health Officer, convened the Atlantic County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Task Force
- PHENS Coordinator and HERC participated in Civic Ready community notification system training
- Two staff completed HSEEP training

Preparedness Exercises

- Tested Point-of-Distribution (POD) Set-Up at one of five identified POD locations throughout the County
- Conducted call-down exercises using the community notification system, and also used this system to notify MRC members of quarterly meetings
- Conducted CDC-required staff call-down, site call-down, and POD site set-up drills
- Participated in two no-notice Communicator Exercises, conducted by NJDOH
- Participated in the annual Public Information mini exercise, conducted by NJDOH.
- Participated in the annual joint communication , and earned a passing score of 91, which exceeded the mandatory score required as part of the PHILEP grant
- Participated in Public Health Emergency Notification System (PHENS) communications exercise

Medical Reserve Corps

- Atlantic County Public Health Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) had a net gain of 25 new volunteers in 2018
- Convened four quarterly meetings in 2018, with topics including: Hurricane Preparedness and Evacuation, General Population Shelter Operations, Cybersecurity, Winter Weather Preparedness, Boater Safety, Until Help Arrives, and influenza 2018.
- Several Atlantic County MRC volunteers reported they were willing to participate in an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to assist North Carolina following Hurricane Florence
- MRC Coordinator participated in Regional conference calls and National Program Office Wellness Checks and Technical Assistance Reviews
- MRC volunteers assisted at many events, including flu clinics, National Night Out, and 4H Fair
- Trainings and orientations in the following areas were conducted:
 - 4 CPR/AED classes, with 20 volunteers trained
 - 1 First Aid class, with 8 volunteers trained
 - 2 NARCAN trainings, with 12 volunteers trained
 - 15 MRC Orientations (this is a three-session training for new volunteers), with 13 volunteers completing core training
 - 1 Shelter Fundamentals training, with 10 volunteers trained
 - 2 Psychological First Aid trainings, with 2 volunteers trained
 - 4 Until Help Arrives trainings, with 50 volunteers trained
 - 1 Mental Health First Aid, with 9 volunteers trained

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

- Conducted twenty-two (22) 12 hour IDRC classes, which generated \$134,170 in revenue, and addressed five hundred and seven (507) clients.
- Conducted three (3) 48 hour IDRC classes, which generated \$33,063 in revenue, and addressed one hundred and seven (107) clients.
- During the year processed six hundred and forty-three (643) client contacts dealing with substance abuse treatment services and substance use disorders.
- During the year processed two hundred and twenty-seven (227) 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 one (1) local radio show, presenting on “Your Health Today and the State of the Opioid Epidemic”.
- Worked jointly with the Urban Treatment to provide four (4) direct NARCAN trainings for county residents. Forty-five (45) 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 sixteen (16) additional NARCAN trainings, wherein one hundred and ninety-nine (199) individuals were trained. Through these trainings over two hundred NARCAN Overdose Reversal kits were distributed to individuals, school district personnel, other county offices, local police departments, the County Sheriff’s Department, and the New Jersey State Police.
- Conducted thirty-nine (39) separate “Alcohol Awareness/Fatal Vision” presentations for a local High School, and the county Intoxicated Driver classes. Eight hundred and fifty-seven (857) students and DUI offenders received this training.
- Conducted annual Volunteer Recognition program for the Atlantic County Municipal Alliances. Sixteen (16) of the Municipal Alliances were represented at this event. Awards presented included Best Alliance, Coordinator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, the Dave Woolbert Memorial Award, and two Special Appreciation Awards.
- Unit staff members completed five (5) continuing education courses or seminars.
- One (1) unit staff members, on their own time, began work on achieving their Doctorate Degree.