

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Florida Department of Health Releases 2013-2014 Year in Review

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) is pleased to announce the publication of the 2013-2014 *Year in Review*. This *Year in Review* covers the time period from, July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 and is being released as the Department celebrates 125 years of public health in Florida.

"This past year has seen remarkable successes for health in Florida," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "These results are due to the extraordinary collaboration of our dedicated employees and partners statewide."

Among the Department's successes this year is Healthiest Weight Florida, a public-private collaboration that emphasizes active and healthy lifestyles for all Floridians. Within 18 months of its launch, Florida has moved from one of the top 20 healthiest weight states in the nation to one of the top 15.

Other successes from this past year highlighted in the Year in Review include:

- Tobacco Free Florida boasted a downward trend in the number of children and adults who smoke tobacco;
- Florida's System of Cancer Research and Collaboration, received funds to expand National Cancer Institute designated Cancer Centers;
- Department's Emergency Preparedness, Response & Training efforts successfully lead the way in coordinating a response to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus;
- Prescription drug overdose death rate decreased;
- Children's Medical Services became a specialty plan for Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance;
- Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program launched statewide Electronic Benefits Transfer;
- Department's Facebook interaction increased by 76 percent.

These and other Department accomplishments may be viewed at <u>http://issuu.com/floridahealth/docs/year in review 13-14</u>. A hard copy version of the report is slated for release in late October.

The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. During 2014, the Department is recognizing 125 years of public health in Florida with educational opportunities and events. Please visit <u>www.FLHealth125.gov</u> for more information.

Follow us on Twitter at <u>@HealthyFla</u> and on <u>Facebook</u>. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit <u>www.floridahealth.gov</u>.