

# Hepatitis Health

## The Hepatitis Prevention Program Year in Pictures – 2010



Hepatitis Day at the Capitol, March 18



World TB Day at Klemm Plaza, Mar 24



Minority Health Day, Capitol, April 7



World Hepatitis Day in collaboration with the Tallahassee Fire Department & EMS Awareness Week, May 19



Nosipho left DOH for a job at CDC-September



TA visits to CHDs, including Polk CHD



HQ at Southwood



Your Tallahassee Hepatitis Prevention Program staff in 2007...and in 2010



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ≈ Adult Hep Vaccines
- ≈ HIV Deaths Declining
- ≈ Hepatitis Summit
- ≈ Broward CHD 2010
- ≈ Shine a Light on Isidra Gomes
- ≈ Ode to a TB Nurse



## Adult Hepatitis A and B Vaccines in County Health Departments

By Phil Reichert

Several months ago, county health departments (CHD) were given the opportunity to order enough adult hepatitis vaccines to carry them a few months into 2011. As the three-year-old Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 317 Vaccine Initiative came to an end, the Hepatitis 09 Program had to downshift a couple of gears to where we were in 2006 and 2007 with adult vaccine delivery. The Hepatitis Prevention Program (HPP) has maintained a line item in its budget to provide adult hepatitis vaccines for the CHDs.



Phil Reichert

Additionally, I worked with the Bureau of Immunization and the Bureau of Epidemiology to ensure there is adequate adult hepatitis A and B vaccine for the CHDs in 2011. Because CHDs were able to draw down the remaining 2010 allotment of adult 317 vaccine in September, most will be able to offer and administer vaccine to adults at risk through June 2011. Based on past usage, some CHDs have enough vaccine to last them through the end of 2011.

According to Florida SHOTS data, the CHD Hepatitis 09 Programs were able to provide 29,189 hepatitis A, B and combination A/B vaccines in 2006. That number increased to 42,702 in 2007, and to 46,067 in 2008. The number dropped to 40,092 in 2009 due to manufacturer vaccine shortages and diversion of CHD staff to H1N1 vaccination programs.

We recently asked the CHDs to be conservative with their vaccine use, but do not foresee any problems continuing to provide hepatitis A and B vaccine to adults at risk. Here are a few suggestions for conserving and properly caring for hepatitis A and B vaccines:

- Whenever possible, check Florida SHOTS to ascertain client vaccination status.
- Provide hepatitis panel antibody testing to see if a client has already had or been vaccinated for hepatitis A and B (If the client is at risk and they indicate they have not had nor been vaccinated for hepatitis A or B, they may be started on the vaccine series).
- For at-risk clients infected with HIV, routine hepatitis B vaccine should be given at zero, one month and six months, tested for a response, then revaccinated at zero, one month and six months, if a non-responder.
- If the client is under 25 years old, the CHD might test for antibody response, then vaccinate if the tests show none.
- If the client has a risk (including, but not limited to, an STD, symptoms of an STD, has been an injecting drug-user, is a man-who-has sex-with men, etc.) and has no known history of having hepatitis B or being vaccinated, the CHD may start the vaccine series.
- If the client is under 18 years old, and needs to be vaccinated, 05 Immunization Program vaccine should be used.

*More on page 3*

### Adult Vaccines Continued....

- Be sure to refrigerate hepatitis A and B vaccine at 2 - 8 degrees centigrade (35 – 46 degrees Fahrenheit).
- If there is a chance that short-dated vaccine will not be used before it expires, please notify Dena Hall, in the HPP, at (850) 245-4444 ext. 2589. Her e-mail address is: [cyndena\\_hall@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:cyndena_hall@doh.state.fl.us).
- Short-dated vaccine should be transferred four to six weeks before it expires.

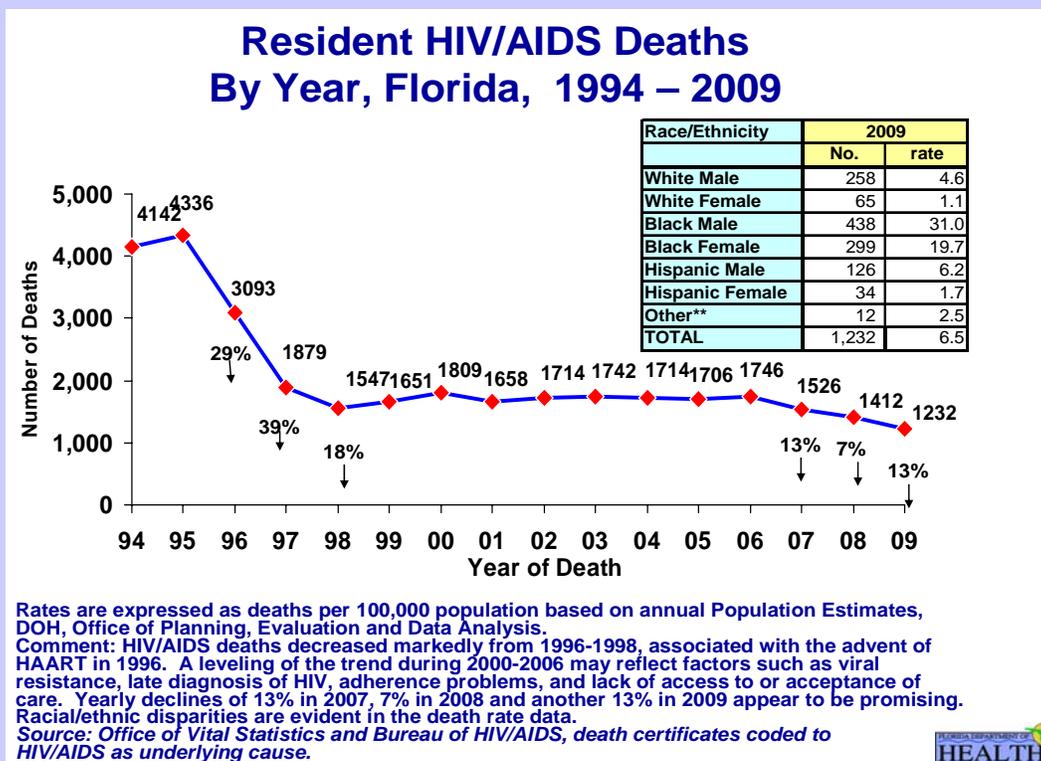


## HIV Deaths are Decreasing in Florida

HIV-related deaths in Florida were down 12.7 percent in 2009. In 2008, 1,412 residents died from HIV compared to 1,232 in 2009. Deaths among blacks in 2009 were 735, down 13.6 percent from 851 in 2008.

In the age group 25-44, HIV is still the number one cause of death among blacks, and the sixth leading cause among both whites and Hispanics in Florida.

Lorene Maddox, Surveillance Data Analysis Manager in the Bureau of HIV/AIDS, provided us with these figures and the chart below.



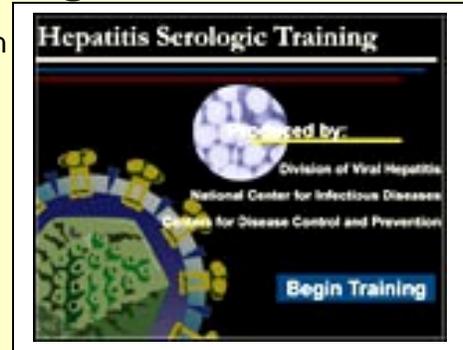
## Viral Hepatitis Serology Training

Did you know that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a class on viral hepatitis serology? This program is designed to help you understand the different serologic tests for hepatitis A, B, C, D and E.

It is an on-line course, and consists of six animated tutorials with voiceovers and eight case studies. The target audience includes public health professionals, physicians, and registered nurses.

For more details, contact the CDC at [hepatitis@cdc.gov](mailto:hepatitis@cdc.gov), or visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/Professionals/Training/SerologyStart.htm>



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## Florida Viral Hepatitis Summit

Friday, March 11, 2011

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport  
Tampa, FL

Registration available January 2011

Call 1-800-891-0707 or check website <http://www.hepfi.org/>

**Hepatitis Foundation International** will host a one-day professional education and training summit for health professionals and others working with people who are affected by or infected with viral hepatitis including: nurse practitioners, nurses, HIV case managers, physician assistants, substance abuse counselors and others.

Topics will cover current treatment for hepatitis B and C, understanding HIV/HBV/HCV co-infection issues, raising awareness of hepatitis and liver cancer and more.

Continuing education credits for nurses and addiction professionals will be offered at this summit.

The goal of the Hepatitis Foundation International (HFI) is to cultivate a community that helps people with hepatitis concerns manage and fulfill their lives.



Thelma Thiel, founder and CEO of HFI

# Hepatitis Awareness Day



Thursday, March 17, 2011  
9:00 AM – Noon  
3rd Floor Rotunda  
Florida Capitol  
Tallahassee



**Exhibits and  
FREE  
Educational Materials**

**Free hepatitis A and B vaccines by the  
Leon County Health Department**

In recognition of National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, delegations from some of Florida's 307 tribes, bands, and clans will be represented.



## Broward CHD Reflects on the Year 2010

By Edith A. Garcia

What a great year 2010 was! In partnership with other communicable disease clinics, the Broward County Health Department (BCHD) tested about 5,000 individuals for viral hepatitis and vaccinated 2,900 against hepatitis A (HAV) and hepatitis B (HBV).

The third annual World Hepatitis Day took place on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 100 health care providers, BCHD staff, patients and community members attended an educational presentation by Dr. Richard Phillips. He is the director of Hepatology at Mount Sinai Medical Center's Gastroenterology Division and a professor at the University of Miami. This was the first time this type of hepatitis event has ever been held in Broward County.

That same day, County Commissioner Diana Wasserman-Rubin presented a proclamation declaring May 19, 2010, as World Hepatitis Day in Broward County.

Through the "Am I Number 12?" campaign, we created more awareness about viral hepatitis among the employees of BCHD. They, in turn, were able to take the message of prevention into the community and educate their clients.

Additionally, in a collaborative effort with the BCHD Health Promotion and Social Marketing Program, the Hepatitis Program set up educational displays in four WIC locations and the BCHD Men's Clinic. These events put emphasis on the importance of reducing and preventing viral hepatitis infection in our communities. It promoted awareness and encouraged individuals to get tested and vaccinated.

During the closeout meeting of the Broward Collaborative to Reduce the Use of Substances, HIV and Hepatitis (CRUSHH), the Hepatitis Program received a certificate of appreciation for the unique partnership and implementation of the hepatitis education component, which included testing and vaccination within the target population for the last five years. The CRUSHH program increased the chances for participants to get tested for HIV and hepatitis. As a result, testing percentages went up steadily throughout the CRUSHH program period.



Broward CHD hepatitis banner



Hepatitis Program staff, left to right: Audrey Meares, Health Service Representative, and Cynthia Rouse, Senior Clerk.

## Shine a Light on...**Isidra Gomes**, Collier CHD

I was born and raised in the Azores. These Portuguese Islands are located in the Atlantic Ocean, two hours from Lisbon (the Portuguese Capital). My father was born in Spain, went to the Azores as a contracted mechanical engineer, met my mother and stayed in the Azores for over 30 years.

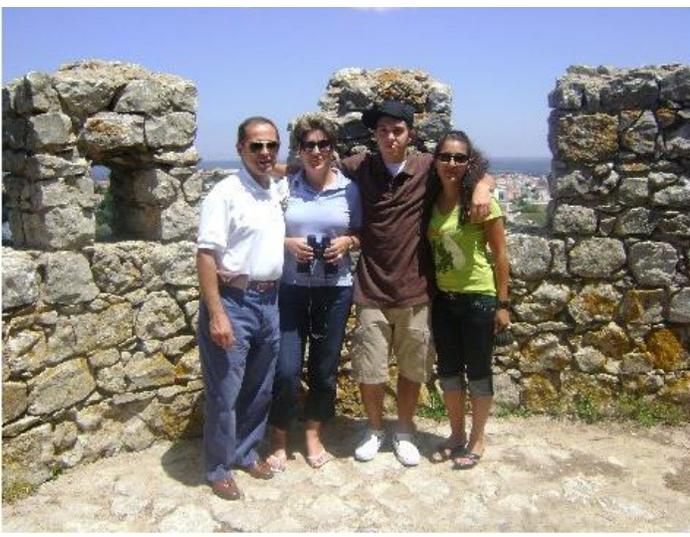
I went to school in San Miguel, finished my associate degree and immigrated to the United States. While living in the Boston, Massachusetts area, I worked in financial assistance for the Department of Public Welfare for seven years and Medicaid for four years. While working for the welfare department, I took undergraduate courses at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

I also lived in New York State for 11 years where I owned a coffee business. In 1997 we went on vacation to Naples, fell in love with city, and decided to move here. Finally, in February of 2002, we moved to Naples permanently.

In April 2002, the Hepatitis Program was looking for an outreach worker and I was hired as a Health Services Representative. The best part of my job is the interaction with people. I love the fact that by sharing my knowledge about hepatitis and HIV with people, I can make an impact in their lives and, hopefully, their behaviors.

Hurricane season starts in June, and that is when I pray the most. The hurricanes in 2004 made me recognize the importance of being prepared for hurricane season. After being without power for almost four days during the summer, I told my husband that I would divorce him if we didn't buy a generator. During hurricane season, the staff at the Collier County Health Department is amazing. I am proud to work with such committed public servants.

On the personal side, I have been married to Francisco for 30 years and we have two children, Tania and Alexandre. I love the ocean and the beach. My travels have taken me to Las Vegas, Washington DC, most of New England, Spain, Portugal, and seven of the nine Azorean Islands.



Left to right: Francisco, Isidra, Alexandre and Tania standing on top of a 12th century castle tower in Portugal



Isidra and Francisco in Miami with some mighty big and beautiful birds. And, yes, that's a cockatoo on his head.

## Ode to a TB Nurse (A Belated Holiday Message)

By Debra Spike, RN, Bureau of TB & Refugee Health

Twas the day before winter holidays, when all through the clinic,  
Not a thing was happening, not even an epidemic.  
The timesheets and EARs were completed with care,  
In hopes of leaving on time, which would be quite rare.

The staff holiday luncheon was enjoyed by all,  
Everything consumed, down to the last meatball.  
Upon returning to my office, full of holiday cheer,  
I sat in anticipation of enjoying time-off so near.

When all of a sudden the fax machine began humming,  
I sprang from my chair to see what was coming.  
Across the room I flew like a flash,  
Praying out loud, "Please - let it be trash."

I held my breath as the printing began,  
I had an ominous feeling about my holiday plans.  
When what to my wandering eyes should appear,  
But a new sputum result, MTD positive, I fear!

A few words were muttered, not repeatable here,  
But I knew in that moment, my priorities were clear.  
More rapid than eagles my thoughts became,  
To be ill with TB at Christmas -Oh, what a shame!

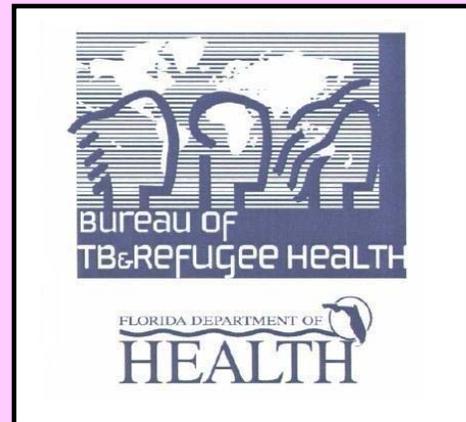
Quickly making my phone calls, and gathering supplies,  
I hurried to the car shouting my "goodbyes."  
Racing toward my destination, though careful not to speed,  
I reflected upon this TB client and his immediate needs.

There are labs to be drawn, contacts to evaluate,  
DOT to be arranged, and mounds of paperwork to create.  
Careful calculation and orders for RIPE must occur,  
And TB education must be provided, for sure!

Certainly, to work on holidays is not something we aspire to,  
But to TB Nurses this scenario is neither unusual nor new.  
My wish for you - since TB **always** happens on a holiday night,  
Belated Happy Holidays to all, and may your caseloads be light!



Debra Spike



### From the Editor

**Hepatitis Health** is brought to you by the Hepatitis Prevention Program, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Division of Disease Control, at the Florida Department of Health. We want to know what you're doing in your community to help prevent viral hepatitis. Submit your articles and photos to: [April.Crowley@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:April.Crowley@doh.state.fl.us)



April Crowley