



ATLANTIC COUNTY  
DIVISION OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

**2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

## ATLANTIC COUNTY DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### MISSION AND SUMMARY OF SERVICES 2011

The Division of Public Health is a Division under the Department of Human Services. It is divided into four Units: Community Health and Clinical Services, Environmental Health, Health Education, Information and Planning, and Substance Abuse. The Division's core mission is to promote health and prevent disease. Consistent with this charge 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 regional public health services to all of the municipalities in Atlantic County with the exception of Atlantic City which operates its own department. The Division is funded through a separate Public Health Tax and provides services in accordance with state statutes. All four units are also partially funded through State grants and user fee.

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 control 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 assessment for the prevention of cancer and heart disease are managed within the Unit. The Unit also coordinates the Drug Testing Program for designated county employees as well as the Bloodborne Pathogens (Hepatitis B) Immunization Program for county and municipal employees.

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 education initiatives. The Unit also monitors environmental health indicators using geographic information systems computers and maintains public records.

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 **Health Planning, Information and Education Unit** plans, implements and evaluates a variety of community health education programs. The Unit further promotes health and wellness in the community through programs such as the “Live Stronger, Longer” health screening program. The Unit promotes “Get Fit for Life” to community groups and employers throughout Atlantic County. The Unit updates and implements the Community Health Improvement Plan through the “Partnership for a Healthy Community”. The Unit creates and revises public health emergencies response plans under the guidance of the State Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Public Health Emergency Response Task Force.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH and CLINICAL SERVICES 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Flu/Pneu, ARRA, VFC for Adults**

Community Health continued to provide vaccines through *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) during 2011. Vaccination through this federal program began in June 2010 and continued throughout 2011. The vaccines were provided for residents of any state regardless of insurance status. During this 2011 year 97 Tdap, 82 Menactra, 23 Pneumonia, and 75 Gardasil vaccines were administered. At this time, no further vaccines are able to be ordered through the ARRA program.

In 2011 Atlantic County was approved to be a vaccination site through a State funded program called the VFC (Vaccine for Children) for adults. Vaccinations through this program began in Atlantic County on September 2011. These vaccines are provided for eligible adults (18 and over) who are residents of the State of New Jersey and are uninsured or underinsured. The vaccines given in the 2011 year included 77 Twinrix, 19 Hepatitis B, 3 Meningococcal, 7 Pneumonia, and 12 Tdap.

Atlantic County Annual Flu/Pneu program began on October 1 at Hammonton High School. The program included 11 open sites covering all areas of the County, 6 nutrition sites, and 5 employee dates. In addition this year, Flu/Pneu shots were available every day from 9AM-12PM on a walk-in basis at the Stillwater Building, and every Tuesday from 10AM-12PM at the Bellevue Avenue site in Hammonton. This year Flu/Pneu shots were also given at the Pleasantville and Hammonton One Stop. As of December 31, 2048 Flu shots and 47 Pneumonia vaccines were administered.

### **Live Longer Stronger, Health Fairs and Community Events**

On November 17th, 2 Community Health Nurses and a Health Aide participated in the Annual Diabetes Day at the All Wars Memorial Building in Atlantic City. It is the tradition for Atlantic City Health Department to provide free Flu shots and for Atlantic County to provide free Pneumonia shots to eligible participants. This year 9 Pneumonia Vaccines were provided. This is down from the 28 done last year. The organizers are considering a name change as to not alienate individuals that do not have diabetes.

Community Health participated in the HIV Day in Atlantic City on December 1. This was the first year for Atlantic County Health Department's participation. Atlantic City Health Department provided HIV testing. Community Health was asked to provide Cholesterol (TC and HDL) and Blood Pressure screenings. Two RN's and a Health Aide provided 23 screenings. Education and follow-up was provided by the RN's.

Rural Health Day was held at The Martin Luther King Center in Newtonville. Screenings and education were provided by 2 Community Health RNs, FNP, and a Health Aide. Blood sugar, cholesterol (TC/HDL), and blood pressure screenings were provided. Education and follow-up was provided for those with elevated levels.

Health fairs were held at the Mays Landing Court House, Grace Tabernacle Pentecostal Church in Pleasantville, Health Fair K-Lock in Pleasantville, Blue Heron Pines Country Club in Egg Harbor City, Faith Baptist Church in Pleasantville, and the Oasis Church in Pleasantville.

The Live Longer Stronger program was held each month at the Stillwater Building. 28 patients were seen and screened. Results from these clinics included 5 abnormal cholesterol, 4 abnormal blood sugar, and 5 elevated blood pressure. Education and follow up was done by an RN. One home visit was made to a newly diagnosed patient in Galloway Township. The patient was educated on use of a glucometer as well as dietary recommendations. Two new cholesterol machines were purchased. These machines replaced 2 which were failing quarterly quality control

### **Men's Health Program**

In collaboration with the Cancer Education and Early Detection Program (CEED), Atlantic County Nurse Practitioner and Nurses provided PSA testing, prostate examination, and colorectal for 69 Atlantic County Men. The Clinic is held once a month at the Stillwater Building in Northfield. At these clinics blood sugar, cholesterol, and blood pressure screenings are also done. Of the 69 patients seen this year, 6 were found to have elevated PSA and/or prostate examinations. These patients were referred to Dr. Kimmel for further evaluation. Of those 6 patients, one was found to have prostate cancer. The patient is being treated through the CEED program.

### **Women's Health Program**

Also, in collaboration with the CEED program Atlantic County Nurse Practitioner and RN's saw 578 women during the 2011 calendar year. The Clinic which is held at the Stillwater Building on a weekly basis and the Hammonton location on a quarterly schedule provides Pap smears, breast examination, mammogram referrals, colorectal screening as well as education for females. Also, provided are cholesterol and blood pressure screenings with follow-up from an RN. During the 2011 year 4 patients were diagnosed with breast cancer, 15 referred for biopsy (benign), and many for diagnostic mammograms. Also in 2011, 1 woman was diagnosed with cervical cancer and 3 other women are being monitored closely for the disease. Women with treatable abnormalities on Pap smear were offered treatment at our STD clinic. 32 pregnancy tests were performed in our clinic this year. This testing began at the end of 2010, to assist women with early access to prenatal care. The prenatal clinics do not do free pregnancy testing (charge if test is negative). The prenatal clinics will not accept a home pregnancy test, but will accept a test done at our clinic and signed by the Nurse Practitioner.

Information for all of Atlantic County Prenatal clinics is provided to the patient upon a positive pregnancy test. Of the 32 tests done at Women's Health, 3 women tested positive.

### **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Program**

The STD program held 45 walk-in clinics this year. 1005 patients were seen during this time. A total of 741 HIV tests, 788 Syphilis tests, 972 cultures for Chlamydia/Gonorrhea, and 12 pregnancy tests were evaluated. Positive results included 2 HIV, 3 Syphilis, 70 Gonorrhea, 258 Chlamydia, and 2 pregnancy tests.

The STD component of the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) went live midyear 2011. This reporting changes the way in which positive results are received. Results are now designated to a County by DHSS.

Community Health STD Charge Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, and several RN's attended the 2011 HIV Clinical Update Conference in New Brunswick. Highlights of the conference included co-infection of HIV with TB, HBV, and HCV. The STD program which is a walk-in clinic with registration held between 2PM and 4PM added a second HIV counselor. This has greatly reduced the waiting time for patients as well as overtime for staff.

### **Immunization Audits**

In February 2011 an Immunization Quality Assurance Review was completed by the VFC Program Auditor. A review of 10 random medical records, storage and handling policies and procedures, refrigerator temperature logs, and interviews with RN's were a part of the audit. Community Health was evaluated to have 100% compliance in all areas.

To assist County residents with applications for Family Care, Ana Spencer from SJPNC has been added to Child Health clinics. During this year, she assisted 22 families with receiving health care.

Immunization compliance of daycares, pre-schools, and schools continues to improve with the persistence of the audit nurse. Daycare audits average a 90% compliance rate with 420 records audited. Although 90% is the minimal requirement, past years were significantly below this number. Preschool audits done were 3250, elementary schools 2871, middle schools 1538, high schools 5270, and private schools 1176. The Annual Immunization Status report which is filed yearly and received in January listed 68 sites in Atlantic County. Of the 68, 65 were contacted and compliance achieved. The 3 non-compliant sites were reported to the State.

### **Improved Pregnancy Outcome (IPO)**

IPO referrals decreased during the 2011 year. Shore Memorial Pre-Natal Clinic services became Reliance Pre-Natal at the beginning of the 2011 year. In the past, Shore Memorial Pre-Natal was the largest referral clinic for IPO's. Since Reliance takeover only 1 referral has been made.

### **Lead Program**

Atlantic County collaborated with the Lead Coalition by participating in Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) week. The purpose of the event was to educate the community regarding the dangers of lead, sources of lead, the importance of testing, and the devastating and lifelong effects lead can have on a child. The event was held at the Pleasantville Library during story time.

This year, the Lead Coalition expanded the lead prevention initiative to a Lead and Healthy Homes model. The revised program began at the end of the 2011 year and will continue. The plan is to gather information from families living in both urban and rural communities by requesting their experience with "healthy homes". The input will be utilized to develop tools for education and improvement of the home environment. Atlantic County RN's attended the 6 scheduled Lead Coalition meetings in Sewell.

Throughout the year education materials, learning tools, cleaning, supplies, and dust wipe kits were provided to families.

Five Atlantic County homes are in abatement.

### **Epidemiologist**

The County's website was updated to include a link to a *Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care* (CDC July 2011) - Summary guide of infection prevention recommendations for outpatient (ambulatory care) settings.

The Epidemiologist and Public Health Nurses participated in two radio interviews (*Communicable Disease Reporting and Epidemiology in Atlantic County* and *Rabies Prevention and Reporting in Atlantic County*).

The Epidemiologist met with Atlantic County School Nurses Association to discuss CD Reporting and school-based GI and Respiratory Illness cluster reporting procedures. The Epidemiologist continues to work closely with the County's correctional facility and participates in quarterly Jail Infection Control Committee meetings.

*Communicable Disease Quarterly Reports* (2010-Q3, 2010-Q4, 2011-Q1, 2011-Q2, 2011-Q3) with accompanying materials related to communicable diseases were distributed to primary care physicians, ID specialists, hospital ICP staff and other public health partners. The Epidemiologist also developed, distributed, and maintained county-level school flu surveillance, reporting and investigation protocols in accordance with CDS directives.

The Division of Public Health continues to maintain very robust disease and outbreak surveillance programs, including:

- monitoring of daily emergency department visits and admissions;
- daily/weekly flu and EpiCenter data in three (3) hospitals; and
- (1) Satellite ED.

The Epidemiologist continues to collaborate with NJDHSS and Health Monitoring Systems to develop enhancements to the EpiCenter system and standardized alert response procedures. As of February 1, 2011 State Health Department has assumed financial responsibility for Atlantic County's EpiCenter surveillance program. Weekly flu surveillance was maintained (schools, LTCF) year-round throughout 2011. Active enhanced daily ILI reporting and surveillance was conducted by all local hospitals utilizing the Hippocrates system. Weekly county-specific flu reports were developed and distributed along with state reports to our public health partners.

- The Epidemiologist continues to provide ongoing technical support and consultation to CD staff on a variety of communicable disease related issues..

### **Communicable Disease**

<b>CASE STATUS</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>CONFIRMED</b>	37	40	69	43	35	59	63	63	53	44	51	19	<b>576</b>

<b>NOT A CASE</b>	39	36	61	46	53	92	56	47	50	30	32	28	<b>570</b>
<b>POSSIBLE</b>	2	4	5	4	12	14	10	9	4	10	3	3	<b>80</b>
<b>PROBABLE</b>	3	7	16	10	9	9	15	11	14	11	6	3	<b>114</b>
<b>REPORT UNDER INVESTIGATION</b>									1		4	33	<b>38</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1378</b>

- The above table summarizes the total number of cases reported from January to December of 2011. It also breaks down the number of cases that were closed and classified as confirmed, probable, possible and not a case. At this time, investigations are still ongoing for open cases. All cases with valid laboratory test results were investigated. Primary Healthcare Providers were contacted to obtain pertinent information for the investigation. All confirmed and probable case patients were directly contacted by the Local Health Department (LHD) for follow up as well as to provide information and education.
- All Food-borne Illnesses including Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, STEC, Shigellosis, Typhoid Fever and Vibriosis were investigated this year to include a detailed food history within each case's identified incubation period. Exclusions from work of all food handlers and healthcare providers as well as daycare workers/attendees were implemented and appropriate environmental health departments were notified when necessary. CD nurses also did home visits and work site visits when needed, to make sure case-patients were informed and appropriate public health measures were implemented.
- CD nurses assisted the County Epidemiologist in Respiratory/GI cluster investigations throughout the year.
- CD nurses participated in the Atlantic County flu clinics throughout the months of October and November of 2011 with the primary role of providing vaccinations to individuals. CD nurses also participated in the setup and breakdown of each flu site.
- Ongoing investigations and health education of Perinatal Hepatitis B mothers and children were done throughout the year as needed. Investigations include contacting healthcare providers and parents to follow up with vaccinations as well as post vaccination serologies.
- CD nurses attended conferences throughout the year. The conferences/seminars/webinars attended are as follows:

## **TB**

Atlantic County Division of Public Health was designated as the Quanti-feron gold (QFT) testing site for this region in 2011. This site will do the testing for Atlantic City, Atlantic County, and Cape May County. The incubator and supplies are paid for by the State. The test is more specific for the TB “germ”. For Atlantic County alone, 135 QFT tests were performed. A little more than 20% of those tested with PPD (+) were returned QFT(-). This saves the cost of unnecessary chest x-rays and prophylactic medication for the County and State as well as unnecessary testing and medication for the patient.

TB RN’s and NP attended State webinars and seminars.

50 TB clinics were held this year.

## **Rabies**

28 cases of persons with possible exposure to rabies were referred to Community Health for follow-up. Cases are referred from the Environmental Unit only after it is found that an animal causing the possible exposure cannot be monitored for 10 days. Once referred, patients must be located, educated, recommended for prophylaxis treatment, complete treatment, or sign a declination form. Phone calls, letters, and home visits are made to assure proper follow-up.

## **Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)**

Community Health RN attended all FIMR meetings which were held at Shore Memorial, Cape Regional Medical Center, or Atlantic Regional Medical Center (Mainland Campus). Cases were reviewed for prenatal care, events surrounding pregnancy, risk factors, and the event of the demise. Medical information regarding the cases was discussed in detail.

Atlantic County received a total of 46 referrals. Letters and phone calls were made to all patients. Many patients request not to be interviewed. Of the 46 women contacted, only 2 participated in interview.

## **Radio Shows**

Community Health NP’s, Epidemiologist, and RN’s presented topics on Health Today radio show. Topics included: Disease Surveillance, Food-borne illnesses, HIV, Child safety, Immunization Update, and Flu.

## **Hepatitis B**

This program provides Hepatitis B vaccine for police in all municipalities of Atlantic County. Hepatitis B vaccination is a 3 shot series.

## **Hammonton (Bellevue Avenue)**

Work began on renovating the dental suite at Bellevue Avenue to serve the western part of the County. Family Planning will be available every Monday. Child Health, Women’s Health, Men’s Health, Flu/Pneu and other county services will also have hours at this site.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Decade / Envision Connect**

The Unit started in 2011 utilizing this new database system that allows inspection results to be captured in field using tablet PC's. The system is used by entire Unit to collect inspection, complaint, and daily activity records. Support staff enters citizens' complaints directly into system. Work is assigned to staff by supervisors using EnvisionConnect. Statistical reports are also generated using new system and Crystal Reports. Currently using tablets for retail food, recreational bathing, and body art and tanning programs. Environmental Health hopes to add other program inspection forms (checklists) into system in 2012.

### **Emergency Preparedness: Hurricane Irene**

Hurricane Irene stormed through the area in late August. Based on available information, coastal areas east of Route 9 were evacuated (along with all of Cape May County). EHU vehicles were moved to Mays Landing in preparation of storm. EHU staff assisted with setting up, operating, and closing down shelters. Luckily, most of the coastal areas did not experience severe storm damage. Inland portions of the County though were severely hit by flooding caused by the hurricane. The effects in these areas lingered for months after the storm had passed. The Office of Emergency Preparedness emailed the Unit storm damage reports from residents and businesses. Unit staff reached out to the residents offering flood information and, if on well water, free bacteria tests. The unit provided 41 tests to homeowners. 2 wells were confirmed E.Coli positive.

### **August Storm Flooding**

Severe thunderstorms that occurred mostly in Camden & Cumberland County affected properties in Atlantic County along Egg Harbor River. Neighborhoods in Collings Lakes, Penny Pot, Indian Branch, Weymouth Furnace and Lake Lenape experience flooding. Flooding blamed for fish kill in Lake Lenape. Potable water samples were taken and educational packets were distributed to affected homes.

### **Water: City of Ventnor**

Ventnor had a recurring sewage leak into the canal section of the Inter Coastal Waterway. The area was posted and residents warned not to use the waters for any recreational activities. At the same time an initial test result of their potable water distribution system was positive for coliform and although the subsequent tests did not confirm contamination, the city advised residents and businesses not to use the water. Several Unit staff came in on a Saturday and contacted all Retail Food Establishments in Ventnor on how to operate safely with a compromised water system.

### **Rabies Program**

12 animals tested positive for rabies in 2011: 9 raccoons, 2 bats, and 1 groundhog.

### **West Nile Virus Program**

21 bird specimens were collected and sent for West Nile Virus (WNV) testing. 1 bird was positive. 2 areas were flyered after mosquito samples were positive for WNV. 128 residents in those areas were hand delivered WNV educational materials.

### **Sheriff Dispatch**

Unit supervisors and Senior R.E.H.S. staff managed 46 off-hours calls through Sheriffs dispatch in 2011.

### **Mercury found in gym floor**

This was a unique indoor air case at a grammar school. Investigation revealed a mercury compound was used as a catalyst / curing agent when polyurethane gymnasium floor was installed in 2000. Information on mercury compound usage was found by “accident” by facility manager. Testing by private lab and NJDHSS confirmed mercury in low levels in gymnasium. No government indoor air quality levels for mercury set for schools. Board of Education decided to remove floor and install new one. New Jersey State Department of Health officials have indicated that they will develop recommendations for testing for other schools with this type of flooring.

Please refer to the attached data sheet on the following page for number of investigations and inspections conducted in 2011.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 2011 DATA SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	Annual Objectives	2011 Actual
<b>Air Pollution Control</b>		
Inspections of permitted facilities (gas stations, dry cleaners, paint shops and other source facilities)	80	82
Investigations of air pollution complaints	N/A	93
<b>Underground Storage Tanks</b>		
Tank removals witnessed/closure	N/A	166
UST complaint investigations	N/A	6
<b>Hazardous Materials Emergency Response</b>		
Number of responses/investigations	N/A	97
<b>Noise Pollution</b>		
Complaint investigations	N/A	14
<b>Water Programs</b>		
Potable water samples collected	N/A	290
CO water tests reviewed	N/A	41
Non-Community system inspections	72	79
Surface water samples collected	529	635
Complaint investigations	N/A	9
<b>Septic Programs</b>		
Septic designs reviewed	N/A	298
Soil testing witnessed	N/A	16
Field inspections performed (final, clay, fill)	N/A	154
Sewage complaints investigated	N/A	187
<b>Solid Waste</b>		
Complaint investigations	N/A	137
Solid waste facility inspections	45	46
<b>Practice Standards</b>		
Public recreational bathing facility inspections	546	621
Public recreational bathing complaint investigations	N/A	6
Body Art Inspections	17	17
Campground Inspections	23	24
Youth Camp Inspections	12	11
Campground complaint investigations	N/A	2
Temporary retail food establishment inspections	N/A	420
Retail food complaint investigations	N/A	174
Environmental elevated blood lead level investigations	N/A	23
Ragweed/poison ivy complaint investigations	N/A	0
Vermin (insects/rodents) complaint investigations	N/A	257
Animal bites-quarantines and confinement observations	N/A	276
Kennel/pet shop inspections	27	35
Kennel/pet shop complaint investigations	N/A	23
Housing complaint investigations	N/A	6
Public education	N/A	7
Tanning inspections		50

Continued on next page

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	Annual Objectives	YTD
<b>Right-To-Know</b>		
Outreach visits	10	8
Telephone consultations	40	8
<b>G.I.S.</b>		
Mapping activities (all programs)	N/A	1
Satisfactory Retail Food Inspections		1519
Conditional Retail Food Inspections		103
Satisfactory Retail Food Reinspections		95
Conditional Retail Food Reinspections		12
Additional Conditional Retail Food Inspections		3
Unsatisfactory Retail Food Inspections		4
Remaining conditionals as of last day of current month		N/A

## **HEALTH PLANNING AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **All-Hazard Preparedness Planning**

The Health Planning, Information and Education Unit mobilized members of the Atlantic County Public Health Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to support shelter operations during Hurricane Irene, and supported County efforts around Hurricane Irene operations. MRC volunteers also provided assistance at many of the Community Health Flu Clinics during 2011.

The Unit continued efforts to recruit, train and engage MRC volunteers, and quarterly meetings were held that featured information on blood-borne pathogens, medical needs sheltering, and the Red Cross-MRC partnership. All trained professional MRC members received a survey concerning the New Jersey Mobile Acute Care Hospital (MACH) system.

The Unit also participated in many exercises and communication tests, as required by federal and state grants, and continued to review, update and test All-Hazard preparedness plans.

### **Community Health Assessment and Reporting**

The Unit regularly updated maps that were posted on the County's web page, including West Nile Virus positive specimen and tick-borne incidence maps.

In addition, the Unit fulfilled grant-required activities as part of the Shaping New Jersey and Healthy Communities Grants, including the Atlantic County Community Garden Project at Estell Manor Park, where 16 raised-bed gardens generated more than 10,000 vegetables. And the Harvest Festival event at Lake Lenape East Park, where about 100 county residents came together to learn about physical fitness and nutrition, and try new outdoor exercise equipment purchased through the grant.. Both of these events involved partnerships with County organizations, including the Atlantic County Parks Department, Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA), Atlantic County Healthy Living Coalition, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, AtlantiCare, and Shore Memorial Hospital.

Throughout the year, the Unit also promoted distance learning opportunities through the New Jersey Learning Management Network (NJLMN), the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) and Rutgers University, recruited and maintained a list of all surge health educators, ensured that Health Alert Network messages were disseminated within required time lines, and provided Health Education support to 11 seasonal flu clinics.

Health Education materials and support was provided to numerous community health events, including *National Rural Health Day*, *Earth Day*, and the *Atlantic County 4-H Fair*. Emergency preparedness information --including special needs registry applications-- was delivered to veterans and to the Children's Specialty Care Center. A nutrition program titled "Portion Distortion" was created and presented, and information on diabetes and heart disease was presented to students at the Healthy Teen Expo.

Other Health Education presentations included Substance Abuse Prevention programs presented to students and parents, a hand washing program for children was presented at *Bring Your Child to Work*

Day, and a Diabetes awareness program was presented to clients at a local recovery center. Members of the Health Planning Unit prepared for and presented segments on various health topics on the “Health Today” radio show.

### **Bio-Terrorism (BT) / Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)**

Within the Unit, members of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness team met frequently in preparation for New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) Local Technical Assistance Review (LTAR) meeting, as required by grant. The LTAR measures the Agency’s capability to receive and dispense medical countermeasures in times of public health emergency.

The PHENS (Public Health Emergency Notification System) Coordinator, along with the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Nurse, recruited additional regional Points Of Distribution (POD) sites, in the event of public health emergency.

The PHEP Nurse implemented Bloodborne Pathogens training for Community Health Unit staff, and facilitated a Red Cross Health Services Response class for MRC health professionals. The Health Educator-Risk Communicator (HERC), along with the Epidemiologist presented overview of public health careers to Medical Explorers. And the team updated the Public Health page of the Atlantic County Portal with current data.

### **Information Technology**

Throughout the year, the Information Technology staff assisted the PHENS Coordinator in ensuring the timely distribution of health alerts, checked existing equipment for failure or defects, participated in Electronic Medical Records Exchange of South Jersey (EMRX-SJ) meetings at off-site locations, reviewed the CDC website for additional educational materials to support the STD clinic, assisted in setting up satellite broadcasts and webinars, participated in required 800-MHz radio testing, provided troubleshooting expertise on account migration of Blackberry devices;

In addition, the IT staff assisted IDRC team members in importing driver data from the State database into the IDRC database, provided and set up laptops for IDRC consultants’ use, continued to serve as technical point of contact for Consultant for IDRC conversion, and provided application and technical assistance to the Epidemiologist, Community Health and Environmental Health staff, Alliance Coordinator, IDRC staff, PHEP Nurse, Department Head, HERC, and other staff members.

The IT staff also updated the Public Health page of the Atlantic County Portal with current data, and updated the County Shared Folders as needed.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

- Conducted twenty-four (24) 12 hour IDRC classes, which generated \$157,739 in revenue.
- Conducted three (3) 48 hour IDRC classes, which generated \$52,640 in revenue
- Lost local substance abuse treatment provider agency during fourth quarter of year, due to loss off agency rental lease. Worked with provider agency to ensure that treatment client cases were closed out, or were transitioned to new treatment agencies.
- During the year processed eight hundred and two (802) client contacts dealing with substance abuse treatment services.
- During the year processed one hundred and forty-six (146) direct referrals for Chapter 51 treatment funding to detoxification and/or in-patient residential services.
- Provided free drug & alcohol screenings for any county resident during Alcohol Awareness month.
- Co-sponsored one (1) substance abuse prevention conference. The conference dealt with “Prescription Drug Abuse” and was done in conjunction with Atlantic Prevention Resources, Stockton College, and the Northfield Police Department.
- Conducted nineteen (19) separate “Fatal Vision” presentations for one local High School, the county Defensive Driver Class, the Family Court, the local Youth Corp and a local treatment provider agency. Three hundred and fifty-two (352) participants received this training.
- Alliance Coordinator completed CADACA’s (*Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America*) National Coalition Academy.
- In conjunction with local Municipal Alliances, completed over one hundred and fifty (150) prevention programs countywide, that included involvement by three thousand three hundred and fifty-seven volunteers (3357) and sixty four thousand five hundred and eleven (64,511).
- Participated in *Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Annual Volunteer Summit*, wherein the Atlantic County Volunteer of the Year received the first “Cary Edwards” Volunteer Recognition Award.
- Completed “*PRIDE Survey*”, and presented same to local Municipal Alliances and local Superintendants of Schools.