

Assuring Quality Care to Vulnerable Populations

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.

Florida State Surgeon General Florida Department of Health June 29, 2007





OUR MISSION

To promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida.





Florida Department of Health's Vision

A healthier future for the people of Florida



State Surgeon General's Vision

Advocate for Floridians on health care issues that affect their safety, health and wellness





Department's Focus Areas

- Disease Prevention
- Elimination of Health Disparities
- Strengthening Public Health Preparedness
- Improving Health Literacy
- Promoting a Healthy Environment





My Focus as State Surgeon General

3Ps Initiative

- Prevention
 - Fitness and nutrition
 - Disease control
 - Health disparities
 - Injury and accident prevention

Preparedness

- Family level

 Create a family preparedness plan
- Community level

 develop local support systems
- Local, State and Federal Partners

Personal Responsibility

- Health literacy
- Promoting healthy behaviors





PREVENTION

- Increased Florida's immunization rate for 2-year olds to second highest in the nation
- Reduced annual perinatally acquired HIV cases from 172 to 5
- Decreased prevalence rate of current cigarette use by 60% among middle school students and 42.7% among high school students





PREVENTION

- Achieved a 93% cure rate on most difficult TB cases (A.G. Holley Hospital) vs. traditional cure rate of 50%
- Successful public wellness campaign (Step-up Florida) in all 67 Florida counties
- Leading advocate for merging traditional urban planning with environmental health concepts to serve as a catalyst for livable communities that enable healthy lifestyles





- Developed a comprehensive (5 year) all-hazards strategic plan for public health preparedness
- Trained 1,000 laboratory workers on chemical terrorism and all 5 public health laboratories are at the highest level of Bio-Safety Capacity (Level 3)
- Established Special Needs Shelter Program that integrates a standardized and comprehensive approach to protecting vulnerable citizens during disasters





 In 2005, the Department of Health played a leading role in re-establishing public health infrastructure (ESF 8 Health and Medical) operations in coastal Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.





 Florida is one of only 10 States in the Nation given Homeland Security's highest rating for its comprehensive emergency management plan to respond to any major natural or manmade disasters





- Facilitate community integration of all objectives outlined in the Pandemic Influenza Plan in preparation for possible epidemic
- Build the capacity of every community in Florida to reach its highest potential to respond to public health emergencies using the Plan, Train, Equip, Exercise and Evaluate methodology





PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Foster improved dialogue between patients and providers and improve health literacy in plain language
- Improving our department's messages to ensure they are understandable at all levels
- "Ask me three"





Some Important Facts

- Florida's non-elderly uninsured population is about 3.5 million, which is 23% of our population – and is growing at an alarming rate
- Healthcare expenditures in Florida are estimated at \$100 Billion
- Healthcare cost inflation is over 10% annually
- Healthcare is almost 16% of the Gross State Product





Rates of Uninsured Populations

USA Today recently listed a ranking of the rates of uninsured populations of the states. The top three:

Texas - 23.9%

New Mexico - 20.1%

Florida - 19.8%

National Average – 15.1%





PUBLIC HEALTH

In every community in Florida, public health creates the conditions necessary for all Floridians to optimize their health





The Role of Public Health in Florida

- The role of public health is to promote and protect the health and safety of all Floridians.
- This mission is accomplished by:
 - Identifying health risks in the community
 - Maintaining a safe and healthful environment;
 - · Detecting, investigation, and preventing the spread of disease;
 - Promoting healthy lifestyles;
 - Providing primary care for individuals with limited access to such care from the private sector; and ensuring that health care practitioners meet the requirements for providing adequate care; and
 - Informing the public on health issues.





County Health Departments

 County health department clinic services are rendered by licensed professional staff, including physicians, dentists, RNs, ARNPs and PAs.

 County health departments participate in the Vaccines for Children Program





Public Health Services Delivered by County Health Departments

- DISEASE CONTROL
- PRIMARY CARE AND PERSONAL SERVICES
- ADULT HEALTH CARE
- HEALTHY START AND MATERNITY SERVICES,
- CHILD HEALTH (CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES)
- FAMILY PLANNING
- DENTAL HEALTH
- FOOD INSPECTION
- WATER SUPPLIES
- VITAL RECORDS
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- PHARMACY
- LABORATORIES





Children's Medical Services Network

- 23 CMS Network Offices
- 22 Child Protective Team Offices
- 16 Early Steps Offices
- 5500 physician providers in the CMS Network
- Approximately 100,000 children served





Dental Public Health Program

- 44 of Florida's 67 CHDs provide dental services.
- Total number of CHD clinics is 81, including 6 mobile dental clinics.
- Treatment of Medicaid eligibles is the priority, with emphasis on children.
- Medicaid eligibles from all counties receive some dental services from CHD programs.





Dental Public Health Program

- Statewide, CHDs provide care to 20% of Medicaid dental recipients.
 - May range up to 80% or more for some CHD's
 - The private sector provides 58% overall
- 61% of total CHD dental patients are Medicaid.
 - 72% of CHD children dental patients are Medicaid (may range by county 48-100%).
 - 28% of CHD adult dental patients are Medicaid (may range by county 1-97%).





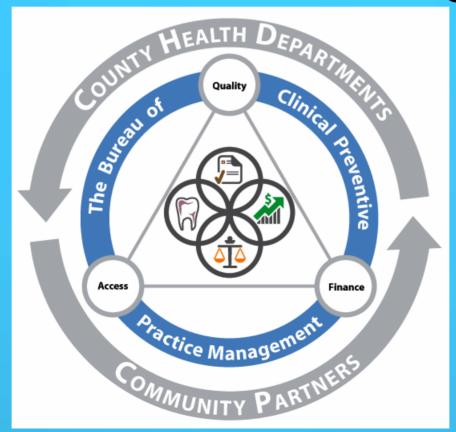
Dental Public Health Program

- Medicaid reimburses CHDs for dental services covered by the Medicaid State Plan:
 - Children: comprehensive with limited orthodontics
 - Adults: complete and partial dentures, necessary oral surgery for dentures, and emergency dental procedures.





The Bureau of Clinical and Preventive Practice Management







The Bureau of Clinical and Preventive Practice Management's Mission Statement

 Preserve and enhance the financial sustainability and operational viability of Florida's health care safety net.





The Bureau of Clinical and Preventive Practice Management

- The Bureau of Clinical and Preventive Practice Management has four units:
 - 1. The Health Policy Research and Provider Practice Management Unit;
 - 2. The Financial Sustainability Unit;
 - 3. The Clinical Efficiency Unit; and
 - 4. The Dental Public Health Program.





Healthcare Workforce Issues

- As Florida's population has increased, our healthcare workforce has failed to keep pace.
- This is true for all sectors of delivery, especially physicians, dentists and nurses.





Summing it all up...

 75 percent of the uninsured population use the public health safety net or make it their medical home.

 It is imperative that we preserve this public health safety net for these vulnerable populations.

