

**S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A.**  
**Interim District Health Director**

**Presented To:**

*Atlanta Community Development Human Services Committee*

**8.27.2019**

# Our Organization

## GOVERNANCE:



*In April 2016, the Georgia General Assembly enacted House Bill 885 (“H.B.” 885) to repeal O.C.G.A. § 31-3-2.1 to make Fulton like the other 158 counties.*

*With the formation of the new independent Board of Health, Fulton County’s public health functions and responsibilities now fall under the purview of a newly constituted independent Board of Health effective July 1, 2017.*

## NAME:

**Fulton County  
Department  
of Health and Wellness**



**Fulton County  
Board of Health**

# Public Health in Georgia



**Fulton County population\*** increased from 920,581 in 2010 to 1,050,114 in 2018 (14.1%).

**Georgia ranks \*\*39<sup>th</sup>** in health outcomes in the nation and Fulton 11th out of 159 counties



\*Population estimate as of April 1, 2018. Source: U.S. Census Bureau

\*\*County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2019

# Composition Fulton Board of Health



## Fulton County Commission

### Four appointees:

- 1) Chairman or another elected member of the Commission  
**APPOINTEE: Commissioner Rob Pitts**
- 2) Physician practicing in the county  
**APPOINTEE: Kathi A. Earles, MD, MPH**
- 3) Consumer or consumer advocate  
**APPOINTEE: Renay Blumenthal**
- 4) Consumer who will represent the county's needy, underprivileged or elderly community  
**APPOINTEE: Jack Hardin Esq.**

## City of Atlanta

### Two appointees:

- 1) Mayor or City Councilman appointed by Mayor  
**APPOINTEE: Council Member Carla Smith**
- 2) Consumer or nurse interested in promoting public health appointed by Atlanta City Council  
**APPOINTEE: Clint W. Owens, MSN, RN**

## Fulton School Superintendent

### One appointee:

- 1) Superintendent of Schools or a designated school employee:  
**APPOINTEE: Lynne P. Meadows, RN, MS**

# Environmental Health Services

City of Atlanta

## Permits:

- Food Service Facilities
- Tourist Accommodations
- Public Swimming Pools
- Septic Systems
- Temporary Special Events
- Body Art

## Inspections and Complaint Investigations:

- Food Service Facilities
- Tourist Accommodations
- Public Swimming Pools
- Septic Systems
- Temporary Special Events
- Body Art

## Nuisance Complaints:

- Private Wells
- Rat Control
- Mosquito Control (Zika and West Nile)
- Solid Waste
- Body Art





# Environmental Health Services

## Enforcement:

- Environmental Health Court
- City of Atlanta Code Enforcement



## Partnerships:

- Georgia Restaurant Association (GRA)
- Food Truck Association of Georgia (FTAG)
- City of Atlanta, Department of City Planning
- Fulton County Public Works
- Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)
- City of Atlanta Office of Revenue
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)



# Office of Emergency Preparedness



Collaborates with City of  
Atlanta  
Departments/Offices

- Coordinates public health activities during Special Events (*Lead Emergency Support Function 8, Health and Medical Services Coordination*)
  - Shares information related to public health disciplines to partner agencies
  - Assists agencies in public health and medical resource coordination
  - Provides risk communication materials for emerging health threat for public distribution

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

- Goal: To strengthen the system of care for Children Birth to Age 5 (BTA5)



## Key Programs

### Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- Provides nutrition education, counseling and supplemental foods to pregnant and postpartum women, breastfeeding moms and children birth to age 5.

### Babies Can't Wait (BCW)

- Provides early intervention services to children birth to age 3 with developmental delays and/or with medical conditions affecting development.

### Children's Medical Services (CMS)

- Provides care coordination to children with chronic medical conditions birth to age 21.

### Children 1<sup>st</sup>/First Care

- Serves as the single point of entry to public health services for children birth to age 21. Assures children are linked to a medical home and receive developmental screens. First Care provides care coordination, home visitation and support to infants born VLBW. (Very low birth weight)

### Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)

- Assures hearing screening and follow up for all newborns and infants and linkage to intervention as appropriate.

### Key System Pillars

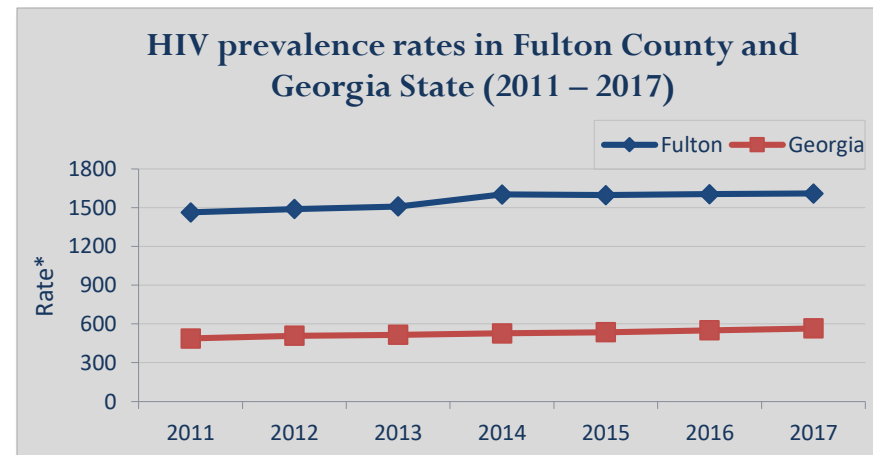
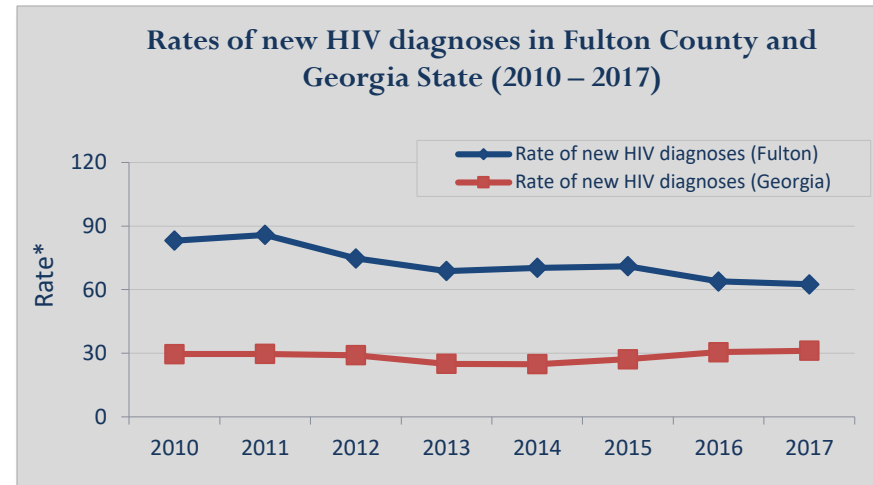
- Utilize risk-reduction strategies
- Implement evidence-based strategies
- Increase system capacity
- Improve community engagement



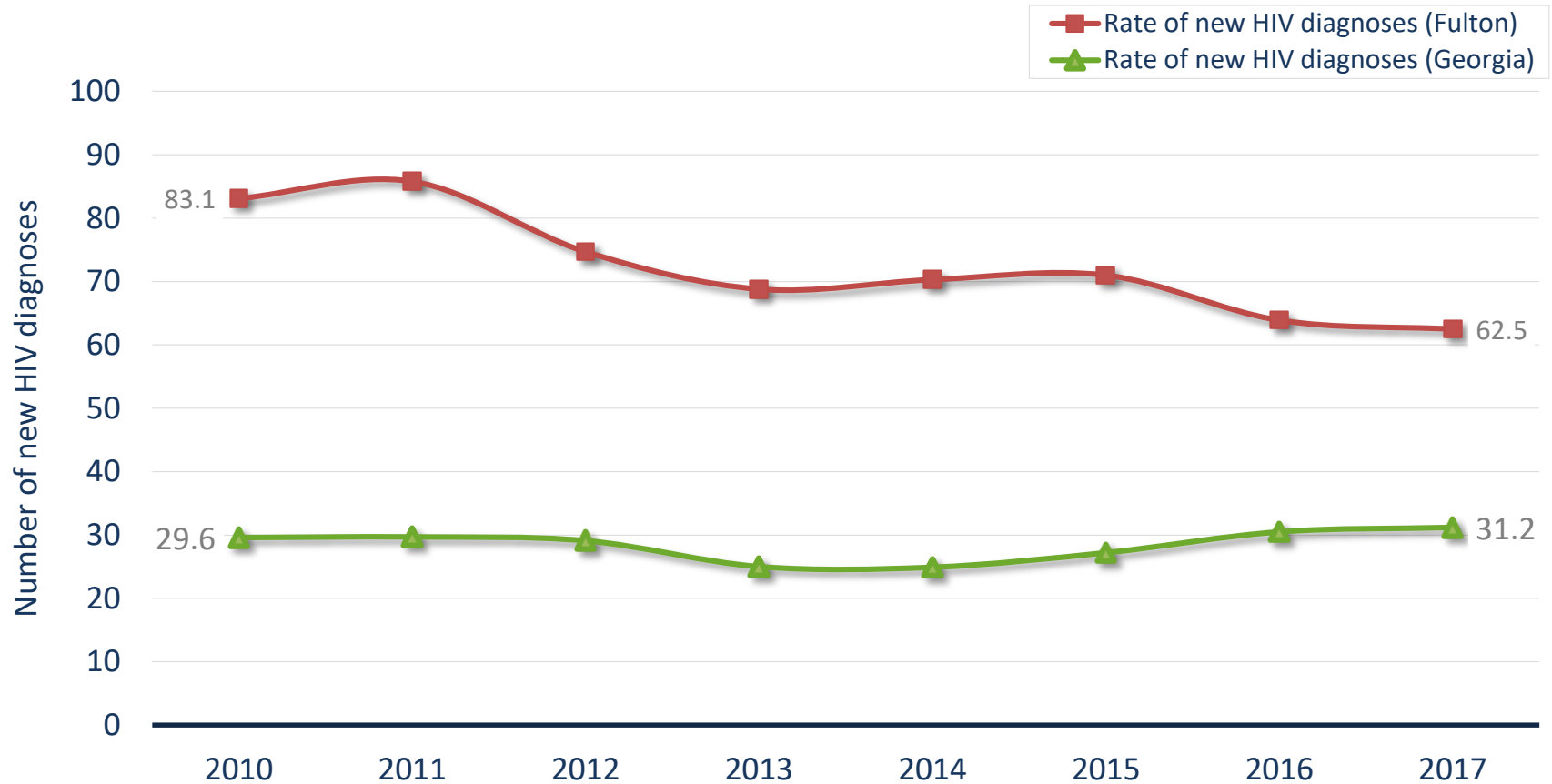
# HIV/AIDS in Fulton County



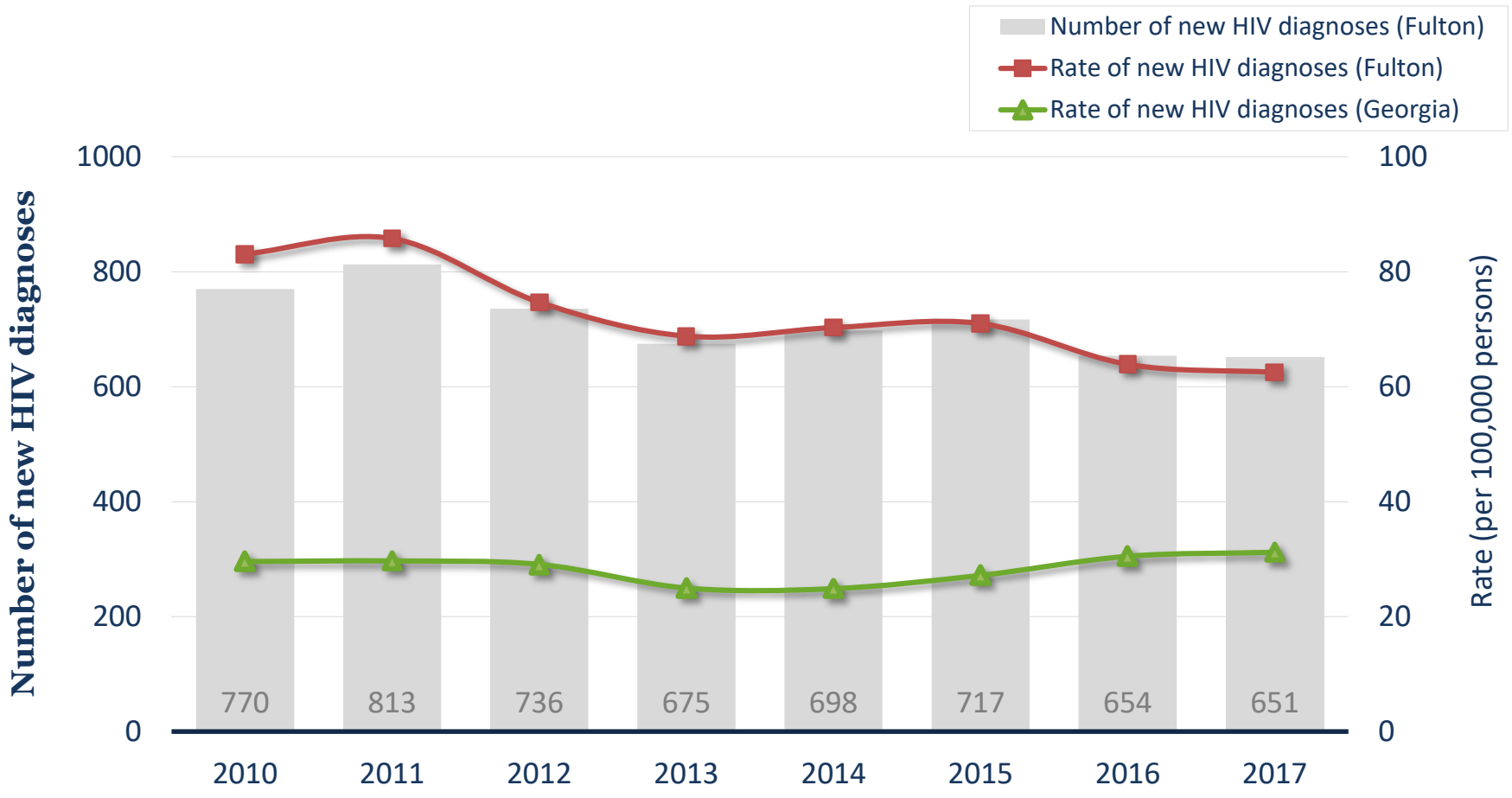
- Fulton County is one of Georgia's top four counties with a high HIV burden.
- Approximately **1 in 4 persons diagnosed with a new HIV infection** and **3 out of 10 persons living with diagnosed HIV infection (PLWH)** in Georgia is a resident of Fulton County.
- Among the new HIV infections (regardless of stage) diagnosed in Fulton County in 2017, nearly **4 out of 5 (75%) occurred among Blacks/African-Americans (non-Hispanic)**.
- Nearly half (42%) of all new HIV diagnoses in Fulton County in 2017 occurred in **young persons who were between the ages of 20 and 29 years old**.
- About two-thirds (66%) of HIV transmission among persons with newly diagnosed HIV in Fulton in 2017 was attributed to male-to-male sexual contact.



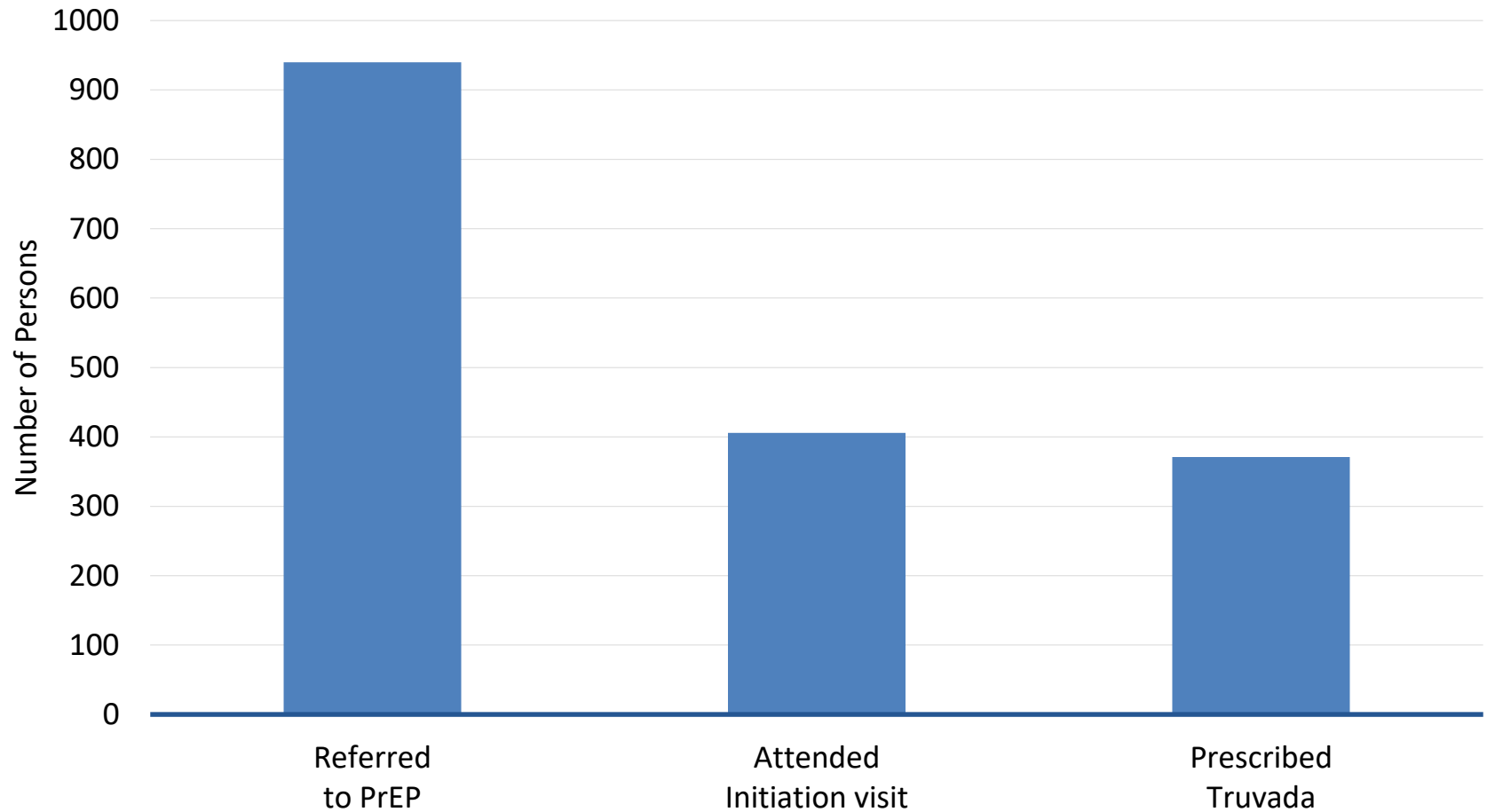
# HIV infection rates in Fulton County (2010 – 2017)



# Count and Rate of HIV infection in Fulton County (2010-2017)



# *PrEP referrals and Truvada initiation among persons seeking care at FCBOH (2016-2018)*



# Social Media Campaign: #StopHIVATL



## Campaign Purpose & Goals

- Encourage community members to create social media posts when they do HIV prevention activities
- Empower individuals in the community about their role in ending the HIV epidemic
- Reduce stigma related to HIV prevention activities
- Campaign launched in June 2018 and is still underway

## Campaign Message

Together we can Stop the Clock on the HIV epidemic in 3 steps:

1. Everyone get an HIV test at least once a year.
2. If you test positive, get on treatment to become virally suppressed so that you can be healthy and not infect others.
3. If you test negative but are engaged in activities that put you at risk for HIV, get on PrEP which is one pill once a day to prevent HIV infection.

# Tuberculosis (TB)

Most TB in  
Fulton/Atlanta  
is locally spread

(versus TB  
in foreign-  
born in the  
suburbs)

Tuberculosis  
outbreak 2008-  
present

110 cases  
2008-2017

Peak TB in  
outbreak in 2014

- Cold winter
- No consistent guidelines for control in shelters

Record low  
number of  
cases in 2018

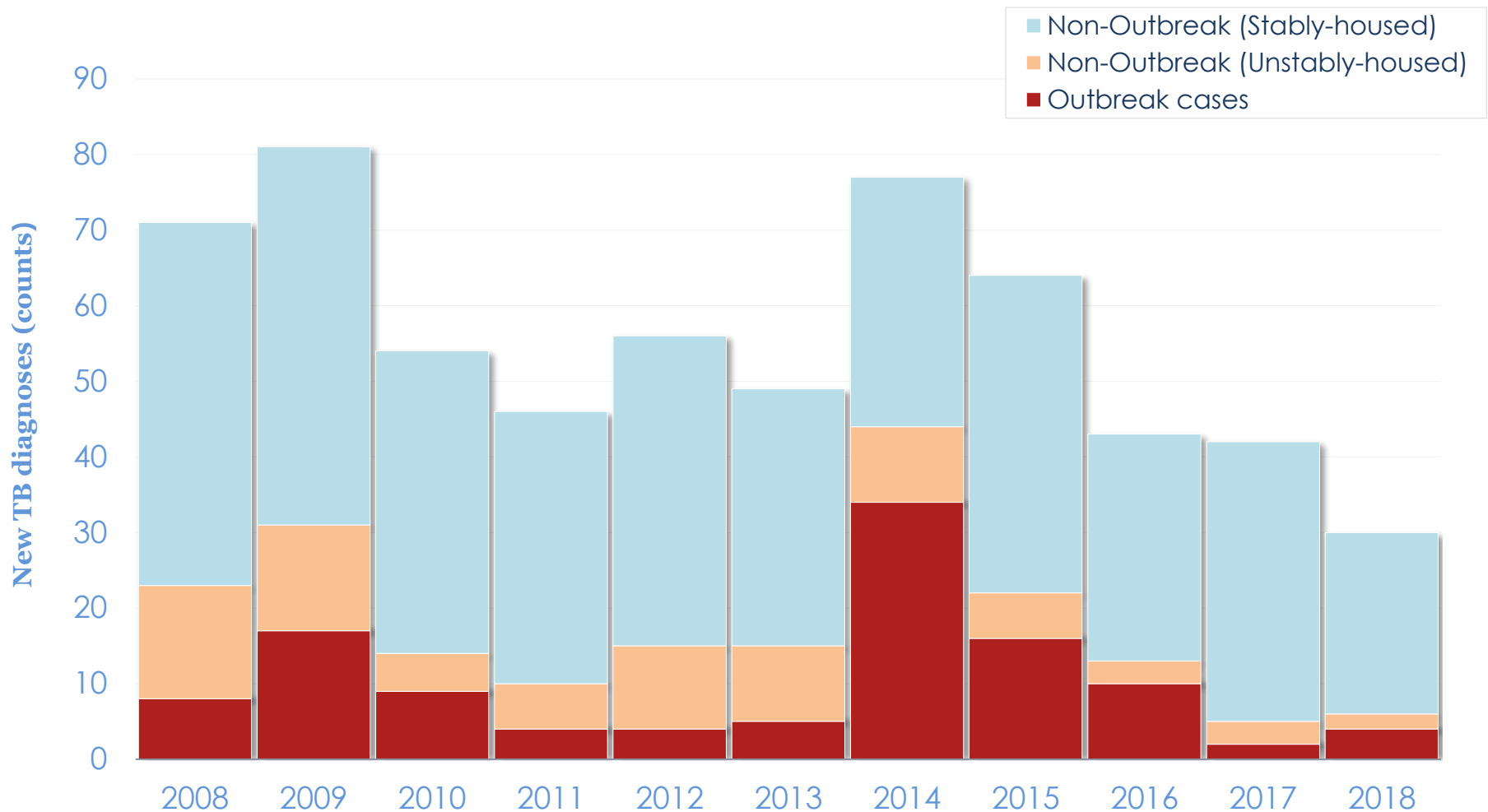
Effective  
voluntary  
control  
measures

Aggressive testing  
(with Mercy Care)

- >20,000 individuals tested 2015-2018
- ~60% of those infected complete preventative treatment



# TB Counts: Fulton County (2008-2018)



# Homelessness: a major public health problem

## Tuberculosis

- Still testing many shelter residents (4,177 tested in 2018)

## HIV

- Estimated 4% of shelter residents with untreated HIV

## Hepatitis

### A

- Southern California, Utah, and Kentucky with fatalities

## Response

- TB Task Force – now sunset
- Coordination
  - HIV
  - TB
  - Hepatitis
  - Influenza

# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

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- **Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition**
  - HIV/AIDS testing (populations, who inject drugs and use methamphetamine)
- **CHOICE Neighborhoods**
  - Strategic public health partner within the Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Community Health's cluster in the HUD funded place-based initiative to address access to health and wellness opportunities
- **Fulton County Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**
  - Awarded \$2.5m SAMHSA grant to improve HIV care for black MSM with substance abuse and mental health issues
- **Westside Health Collaborative**
  - Expanding MCH referral base and home visiting services in Neighborhood Union and with YMCA (Promise Center) across the Westside Atlanta area

# Atlanta's New Chief Health Officer-Opportunities

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- **Partnerships and Collaborations**
  - **Connection to Metro's Public Health Community**
  - **Emergency Preparedness**
  - **Address Service Delivery Gaps**
  - **HIV**
    - **HOPWA**
    - **ETE**

# Welcome to the DeKalb County Board of Health

*Presented to:  
Atlanta Community Development  
Human Services Committee*

DEKALB COUNTY



Board of Health

26 August, 2019

**S. Elizabeth Ford, MD, MBA**



**District Health Director/  
Chief Executive Officer**

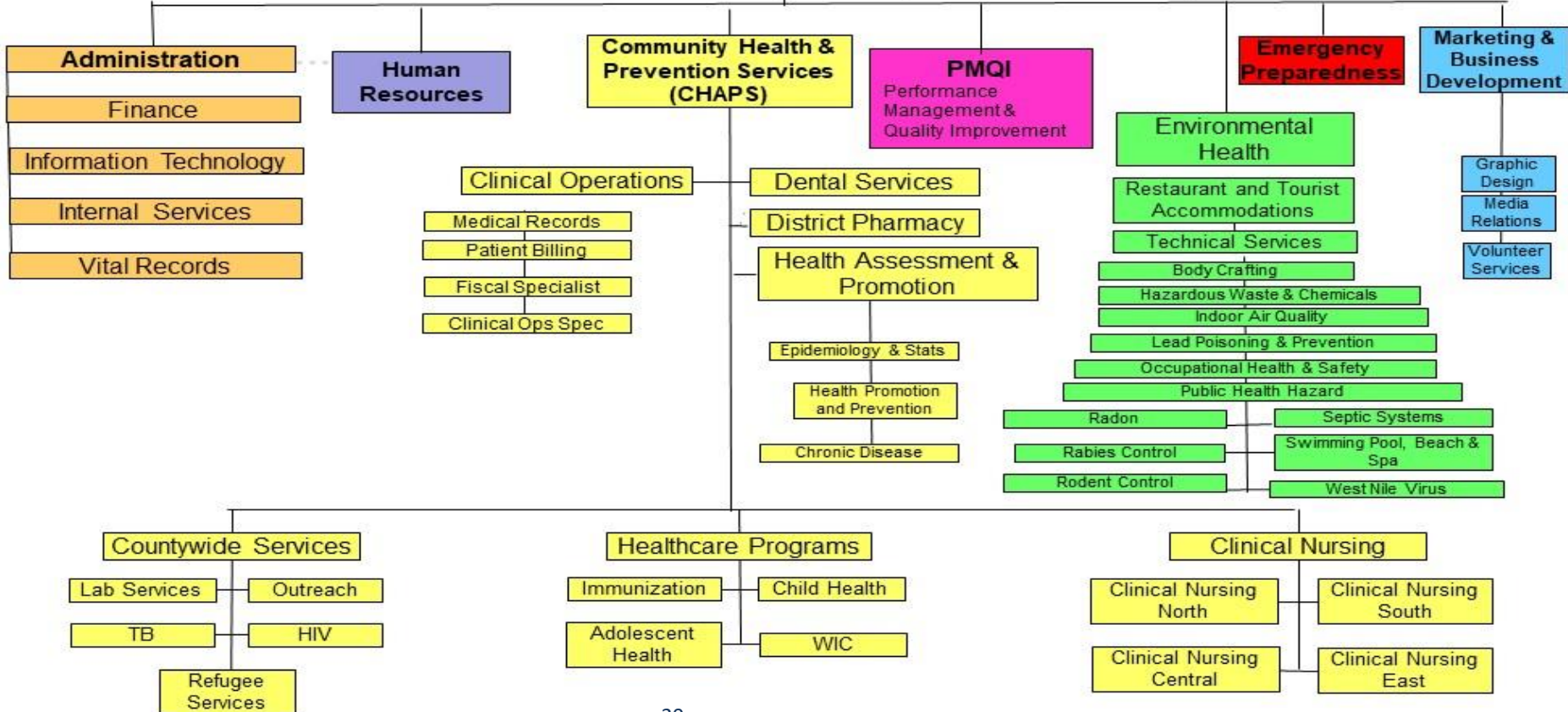


## DeKalb County Board of Health Organizational Chart

**Governing Authority: 7 Member Board of Health**  
 Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County: Michael Thurmond  
 Chair: The Honorable Jeff Rader, Vice Chair: Clyde Watkins, Jr., MD

### District Health Director - CEO

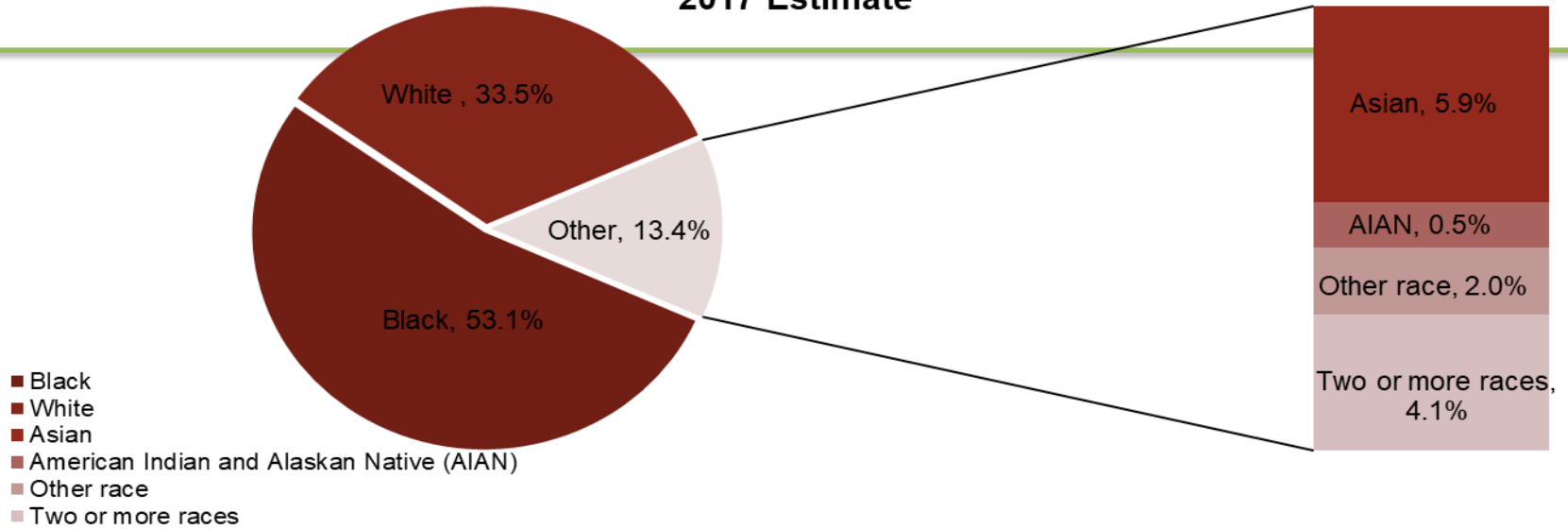
Executive Assistant







**Population by Race, DeKalb County, 2017 Estimate**



DeKalb County Population Profile, 2017 Estimate from the 2018 American Community Survey

<b>Total population</b>	<b>753,253</b>
<b>% Hispanic or Latino of any race</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
<b>% Foreign born</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
<b>% Speak language other than English at home, &gt;5 years old</b>	<b>19.0%</b>
<b>% Female</b>	<b>52.8%</b>
<b>% Age 17 and under</b>	<b>23.3%</b>
<b>% Age 65 and over</b>	<b>12.0%</b>
<b>Median age, total population</b>	<b>35.9</b>

# Who lives in DeKalb County?

<b>DeKalb County Economic Profile, 2017 estimates</b>	
Median household income	\$61,827.00
Per capita income	\$34,283
% families living below federal poverty level	10.8%
% persons living below federal poverty level	14.8%
Bankruptcy filings per 1,000 population (2016)*	6.11
% unemployed	4.5%
Residents' average travel time to work in minutes	32.2 minutes
% residents who work outside of county (2016)*	55.3%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

\*The 2018 Georgia County Guide

<b>DeKalb County Public Education Profile, 2016- 2017</b>	
Total enrolled in pre- kindergarten through 12th grade	98,511
% economically disadvantaged	75.70%
Graduation rate	74%

# Challenges

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- Large, extremely diverse population
- Major disparities between North & South DeKalb
- Changing demographics of the County
- Resources/Manpower
- Facilities



# District Priorities

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- Health Inequities
- Chronic Diseases
  - Refugee Health
- Human Trafficking
  - Youth Violence
- Maternal & Child Health
  - Maternal Mortality
  - Mental Health
    - TB
    - HIV

# Environmental Health Programs

Restaurants	2,452
Tourist Accommodations	98
Swimming Pools	838
On-Site Sewage Systems	28,000
Vector Control Activities	10,000/year
Body Crafting Permits	100

- Administrative/Clerical Staff: **8**
- Environmental Health Field staff: **29**

# Maternal and Child Health Services

- Goal: To coordinate and improve the system of care for children from birth

## Focused Areas

### Babies Can't Wait (BCW)

- Provides early intervention services to children from birth to age 3 with developmental delays and/or with medical conditions affecting development.
- BCW coordinates developmental, educational, and community support within natural environments for children and their families.

### Children's Medical Services (CMS)

- Provides care coordination to children with chronic medical conditions from birth to age 21.

### Children 1<sup>st</sup>/First Care

- Serves as the single point of entry to public health services for children from birth to age 21.
- Assures that children are linked to a medical provider and receive developmental screenings.
- First Care provides care coordination, home visitation and support to infants born with VLBW. (Very Low Birth Weight).
- Provides screenings to ensure all the child's (Birth to Five) needs are identified and the child is linked to services that will best meet both his or her needs, as well as the family.

### Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)

- Assures that hearing screens and follow up for all newborns/ infants and provide linkage to intervention as appropriate.
- Provides screening, diagnostic and early intervention support at the district level to young children with hearing loss as well as their families.

### Key System Objectives

- Educate and empower families
- Implement evidence-based interventions and strategies
- Increase system capacity
- Improve community engagement
- Increase family / caregiver interactions



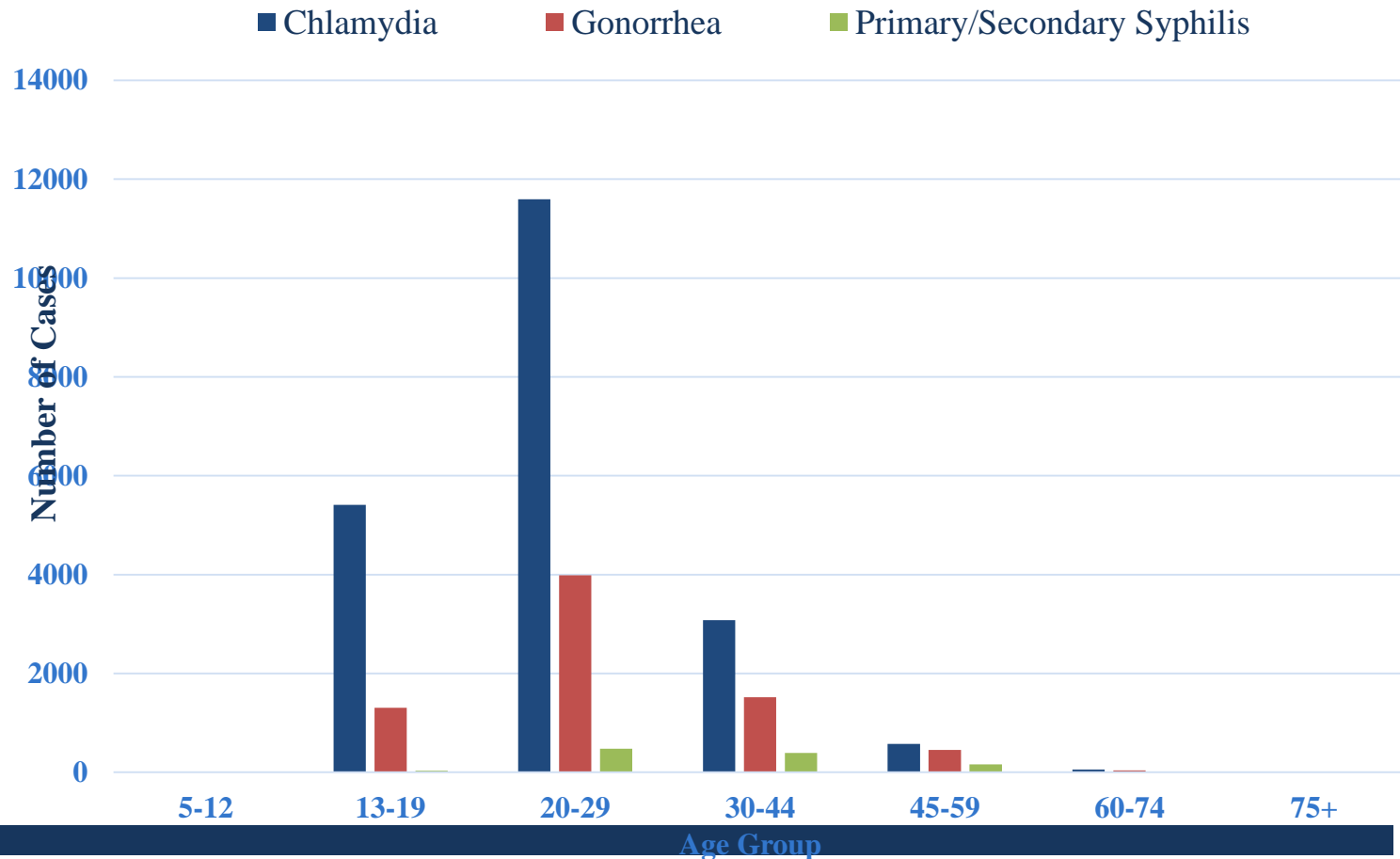
# Sexual Behaviors Among DeKalb County High School Students, YRBS 2010-2017

Risk Behavior	2010	2013*	2015*	2017
Had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 13	11.9%	9.0%	7.4%	5.2%
Had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their life	17.5%	16.0%	11.7%	9.1%
Used a condom during last sexual intercourse	65.6%	62.9%	65.0%	60.7%
Used birth control other than condoms before last sexual intercourse	7.4%	9.6%	18.3%	16.4%
Drank alcohol or used drugs before last sexual intercourse	15.1%	21.2%	21.3%	16.3%
Currently sexually active (have had sex 1 or more times in past 3 months)	31.6%	28.0%	25.0%	23.0%

*Source: DeKalb Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2010-2017*

# Sexually Transmitted Diseases

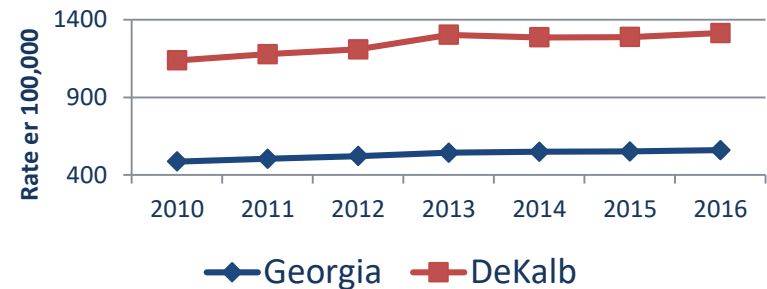
## Number of Sexually Transmitted Disease cases by Type and Age Group, DeKalb County, 2013 - 2016



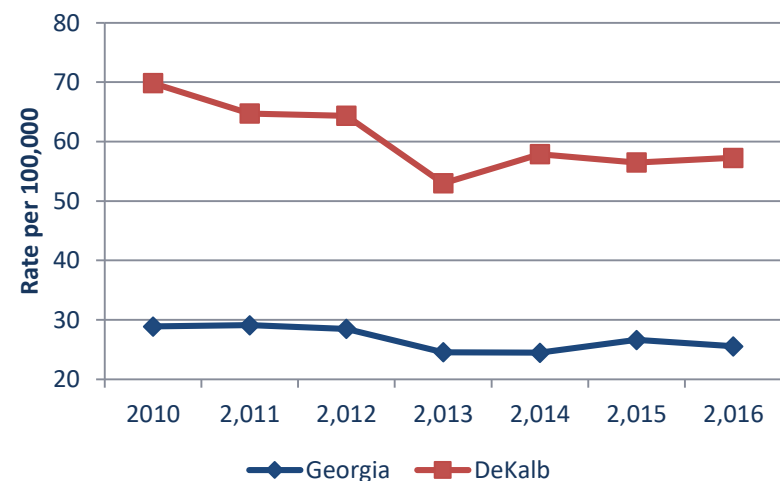
# HIV/AIDS in DeKalb County

- DeKalb County is one of Georgia's top 3 counties with a high HIV burden.
- Approximately **1 in 6 persons diagnosed with a new HIV infection** and **1 out of 7 persons living with diagnosed HIV infection (PLWH)** in Georgia is a resident of DeKalb County.
- Among the new HIV infections (regardless of stage) diagnosed in DeKalb County between 2010 - 2016, nearly **4 out of 6 occurred among African-Americans.**
- Nearly half (37%) of all new HIV diagnoses in DeKalb County (2010 - 2016) occurred in **young persons who were between 20 and 29 years old.**
- About 71% of HIV transmission among PLWH in DeKalb (2010 - 2016) was attributed to male to male sexual contact.

Rates of Prevalent HIV Cases in DeKalb County and Georgia (2010-2016)

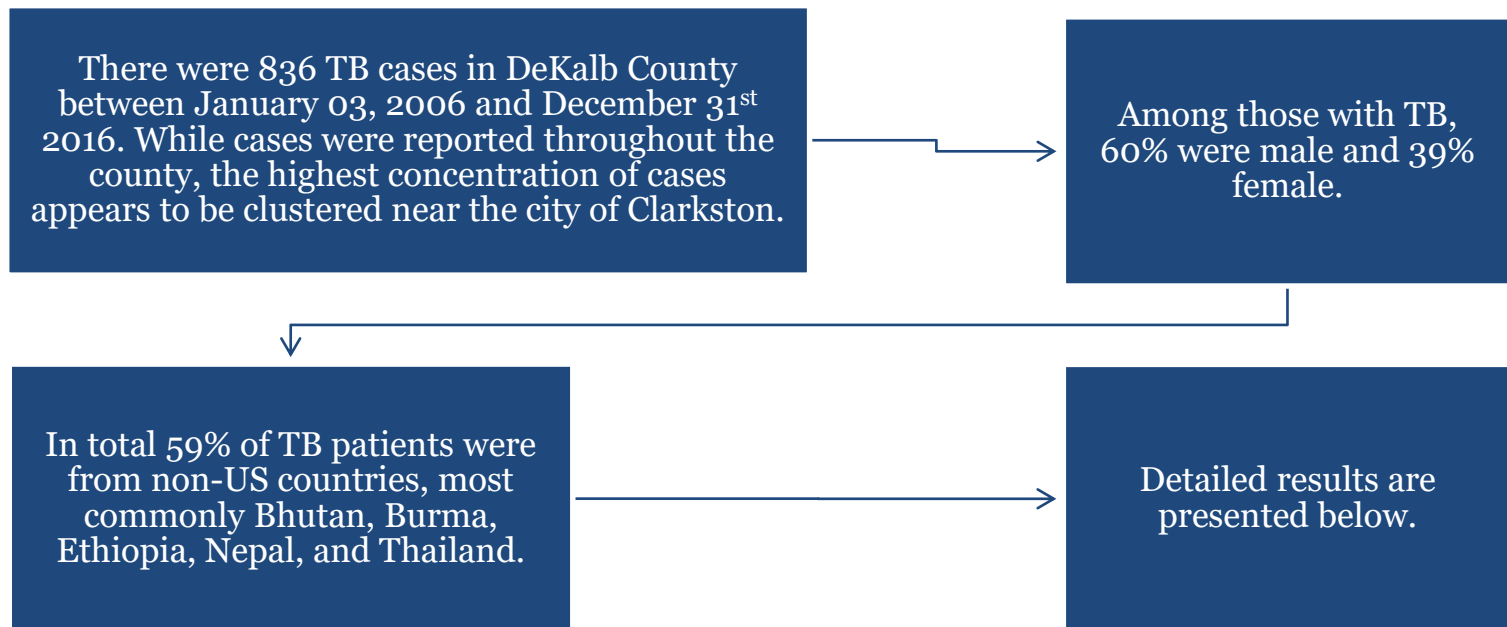


Rates of HIV Diagnoses in DeKalb County and Georgia (2010-2016)



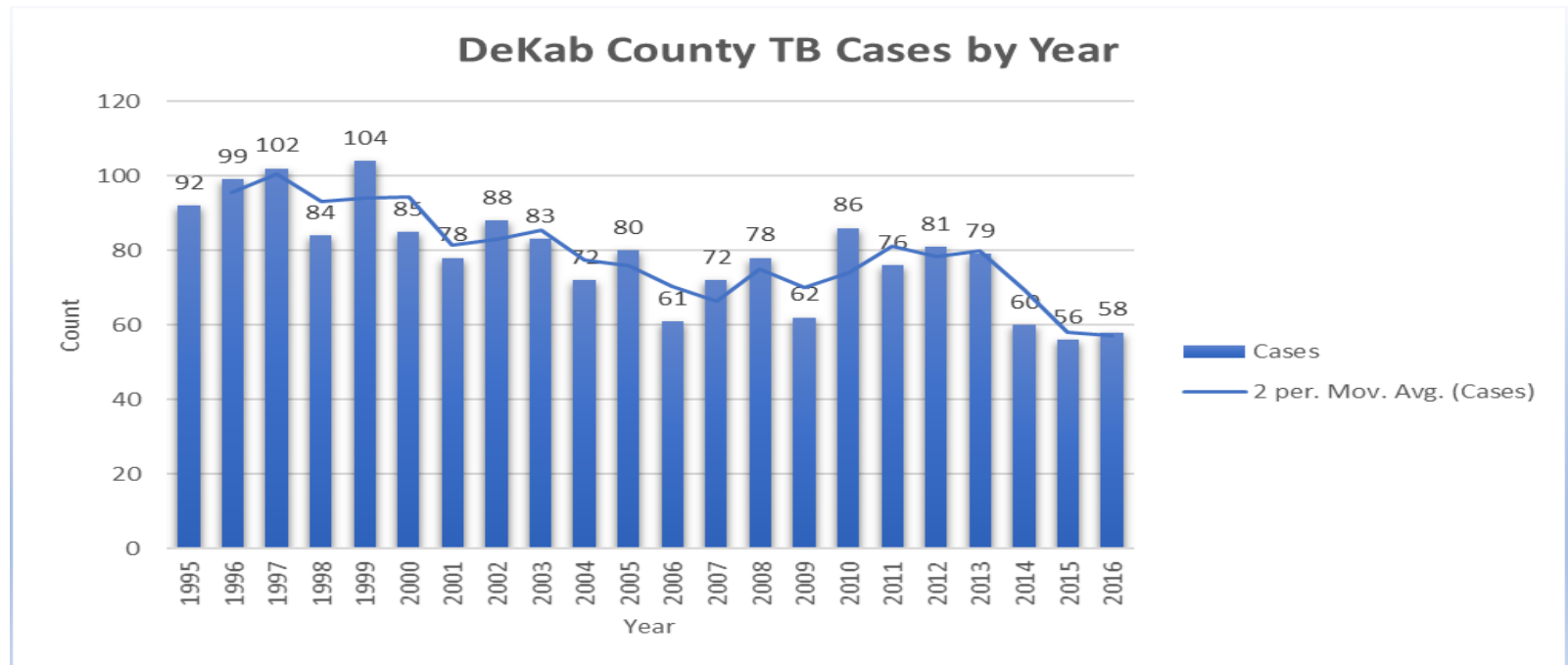
# Tuberculosis in DeKalb County

## *Exploratory Analysis of TB Cases in DeKalb County: 2006 - 2016*



Source: GA State Electronic Notifiable Disease EDN Surveillance System & DeKalb County Board of Health 2017.

## DeKalb County TB Case Numbers (1995 – 2016)



Source: GA State Electronic Notifiable Disease EDN Surveillance System & DeKalb County Board of Health 2017.

# Tuberculosis in DeKalb County

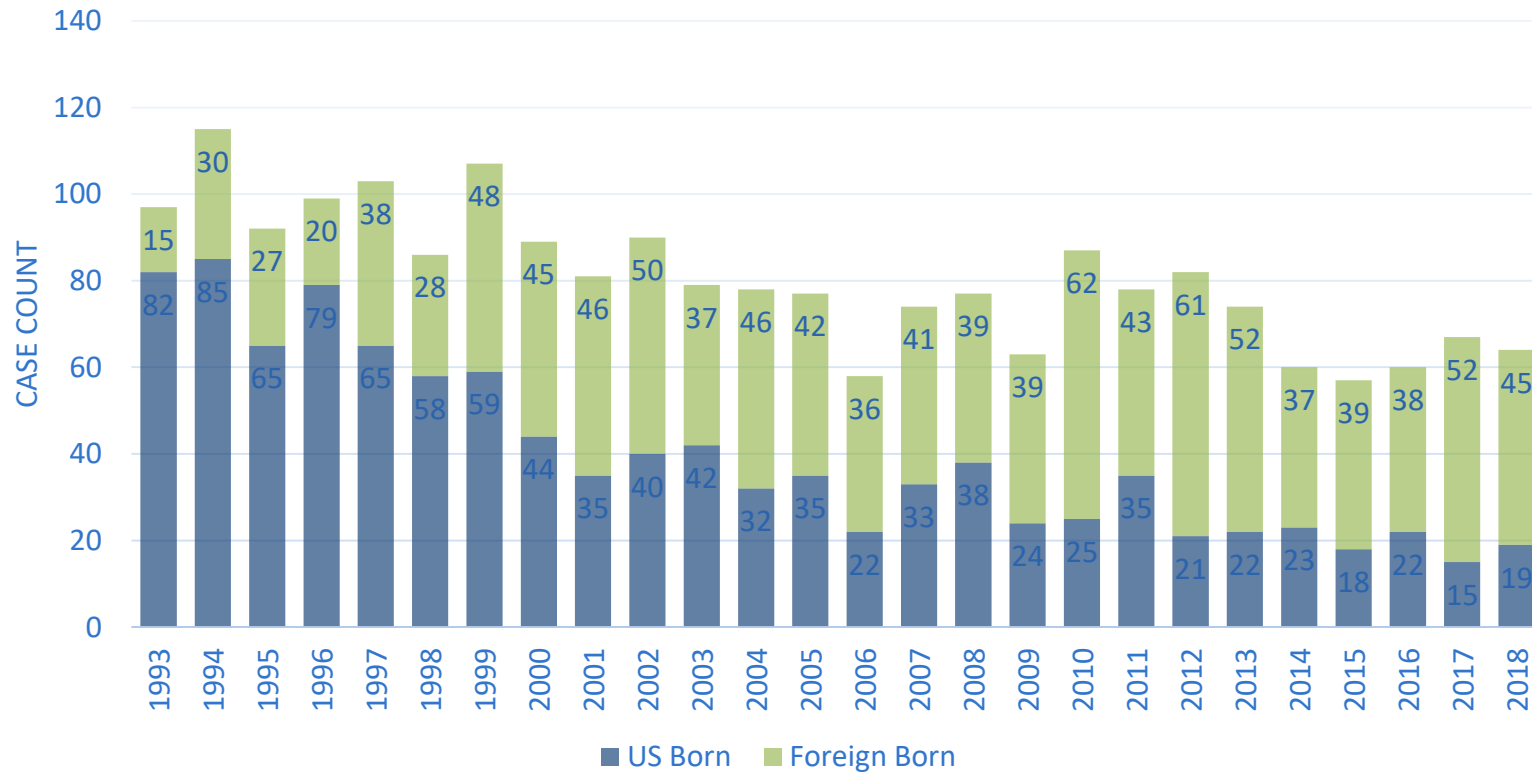
## Dekalb County TB Cases: 2007 – 2018 TOP 4 Countries

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Ethiopia	Mexico	Bhutan	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Burma	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Burma
19%	22%	19%	17%	21%	25%	28%	21%	11%	12%	20%	10%
Mexico	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Burma	Guatemala	Mexico	Mexico	Ethiopia	Bhutan	India	Somalia	India
13%	13%	11%	10%	14%	14%	16%	13%	11%	11%	10%	8%
India	Burma	Burma	Bhutan	Mexico	India	Burma	Vietnam	Burma	Burma	Burma	Ethiopia
13%	13%	11%	10%	10%	11%	16%	10%	7%	5%	7%	6%
Guatemala	Somalia	Peru	Somalia	Somalia	Bhutan	Somalia	Mexico	India	Mexico	Mexico	Mexico
13%	9%	11%	8%	10%	9%	9%	8%	5%	5%	7%	6%

*Ethiopia #1 since 2010, only dropping to #3 in 2018. Burma held the top position in 2014 and 2018. Mexico ranked #1 in 2008, moved to the #2 in 2012 and 2013, with a drop to #4 from 2016 to 2018. India #2 in 2016 and 2018. The recent federal Refugee and immigration policy change is a significant factor in the reduction of prevalence rate percentile among all the countries listed above.*

# Tuberculosis in DeKalb County

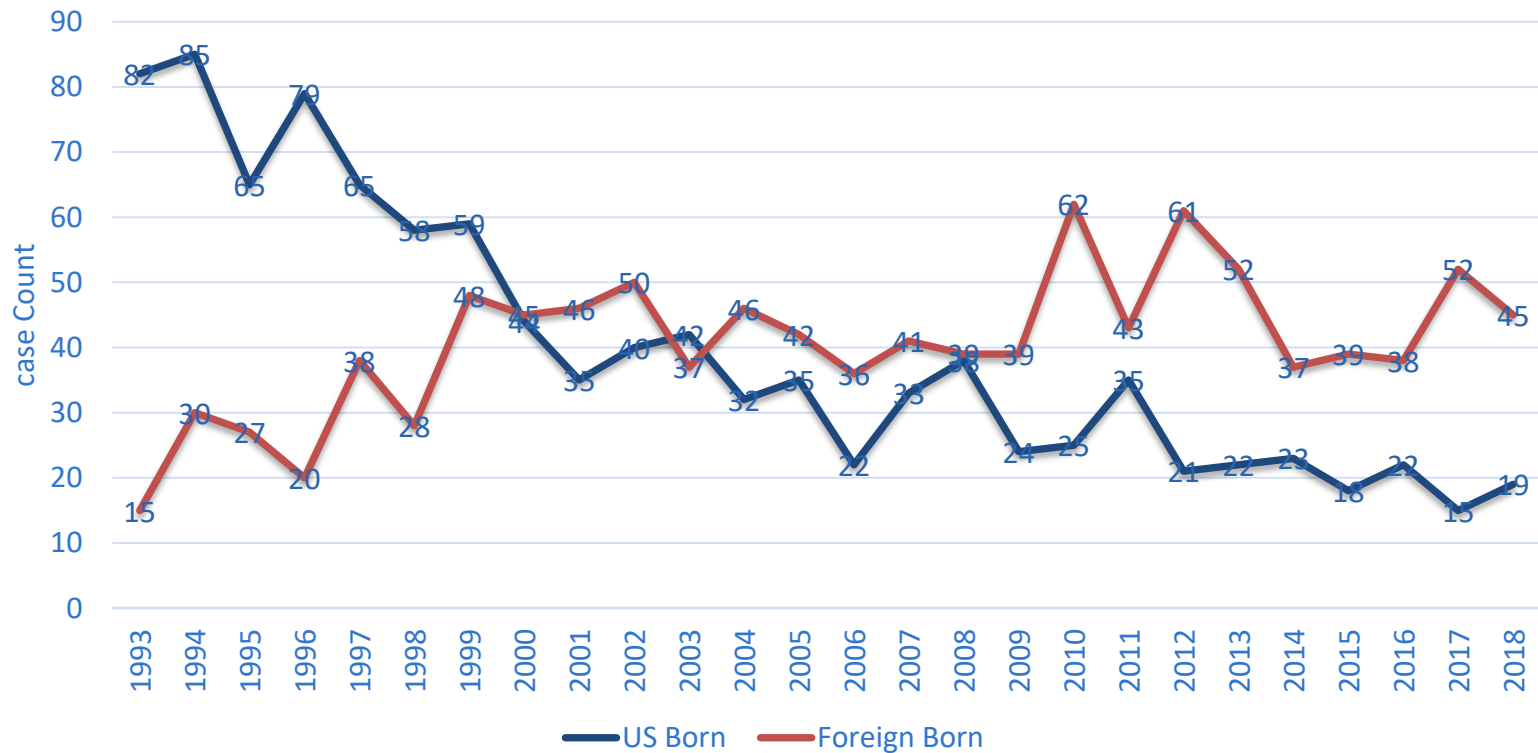
## DEKALB COUNTY TB CASES US VS FOREIGN BORN: 1993-2018



Source: GA State Electronic Notifiable Disease EDN Surveillance System & DeKalb County Board of Health 2017.

# Tuberculosis in DeKalb County

## DeKalb County TB Cases US v Foreign Born: 1993-2018



Source: GA State Electronic Notifiable Disease EDN Surveillance System & DeKalb County Board of Health 2017.

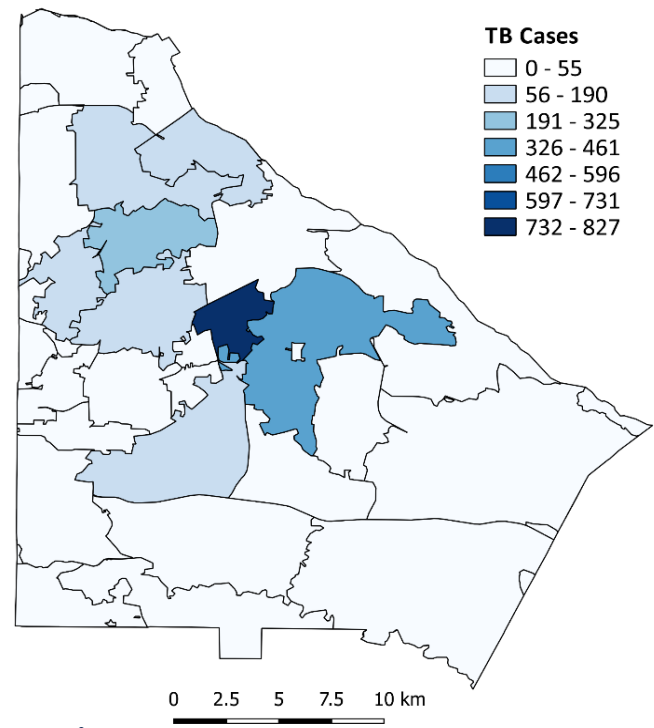


# Tuberculosis in DeKalb County

## TB Cases by zip-code 2006 - 2016

Dekalb county TB cases by zipcode, 2006-2017

- DeKalb County has had the highest number of cases in all counties in Georgia since 2010
- 2015: 56 (Rate: 7.6)
- 2016: 58 (Rate: 7.8)



Source: GA State Electronic Notifiable Disease  
Georgia Department of Public Health 2017



# Office of Emergency Preparedness

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- Coordinate, plan, train and exercise Board of Health staff and district partners to protect against known and unknown infectious outbreaks, chemical, biological and radiological threats.
- Assist the Board of Health in its mission to reduce health disparities through public health preparedness outreach and messaging within the health district.
- Increase public health preparedness response capacity through creating and maintaining partnerships and volunteerism.

# Telling Our Story

Our Marketing and Business Development department plays a vital role in educating and informing DeKalb County (and the metro) about important health information, which exhibits transparency and builds trust with the media and residents alike.

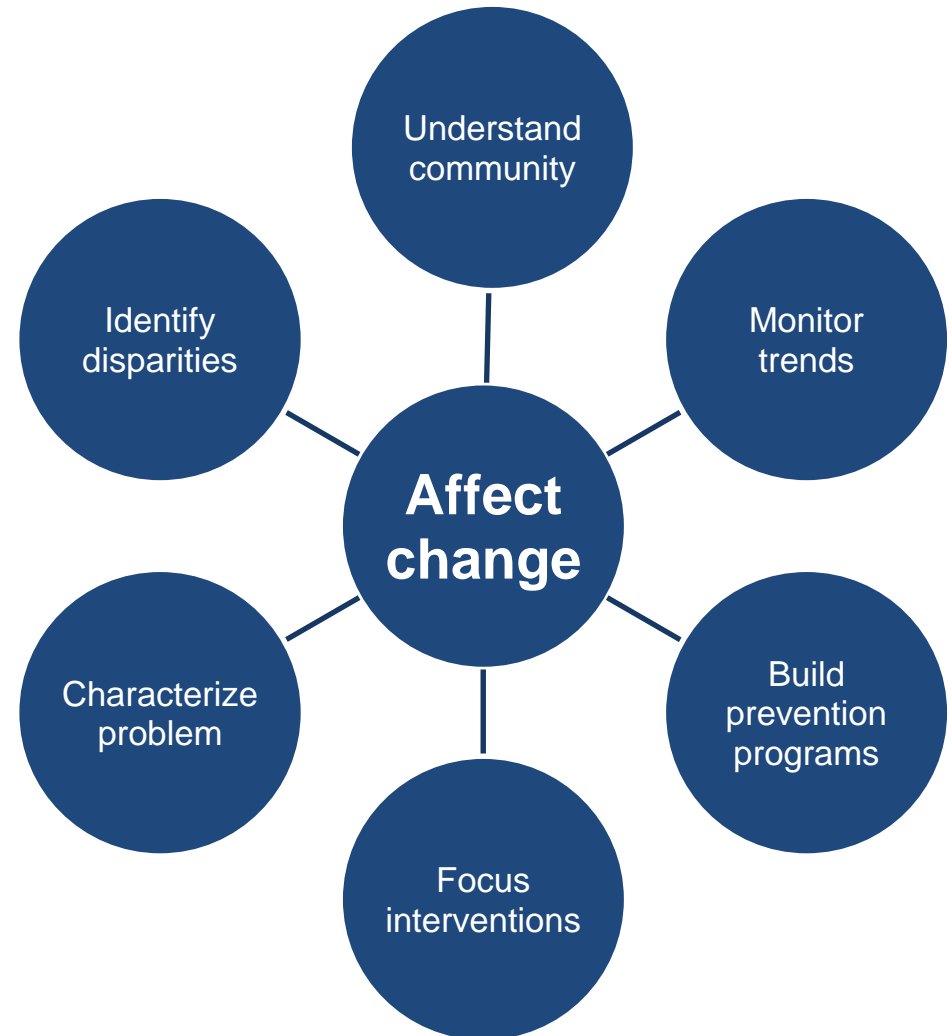
In FY 19:

- Issued 28 news releases, received 43 media inquiries, resulting in over 110 news stories.
- Via 3 Social Media Platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), nearly 3,500 followers with over 2,600 engaged users.



# Emphasis on Prevention

- What may put you at risk
- What you can do
- What your community can do
  
- Behavior change
  - Knowledge
  - Attitudes
  - Beliefs

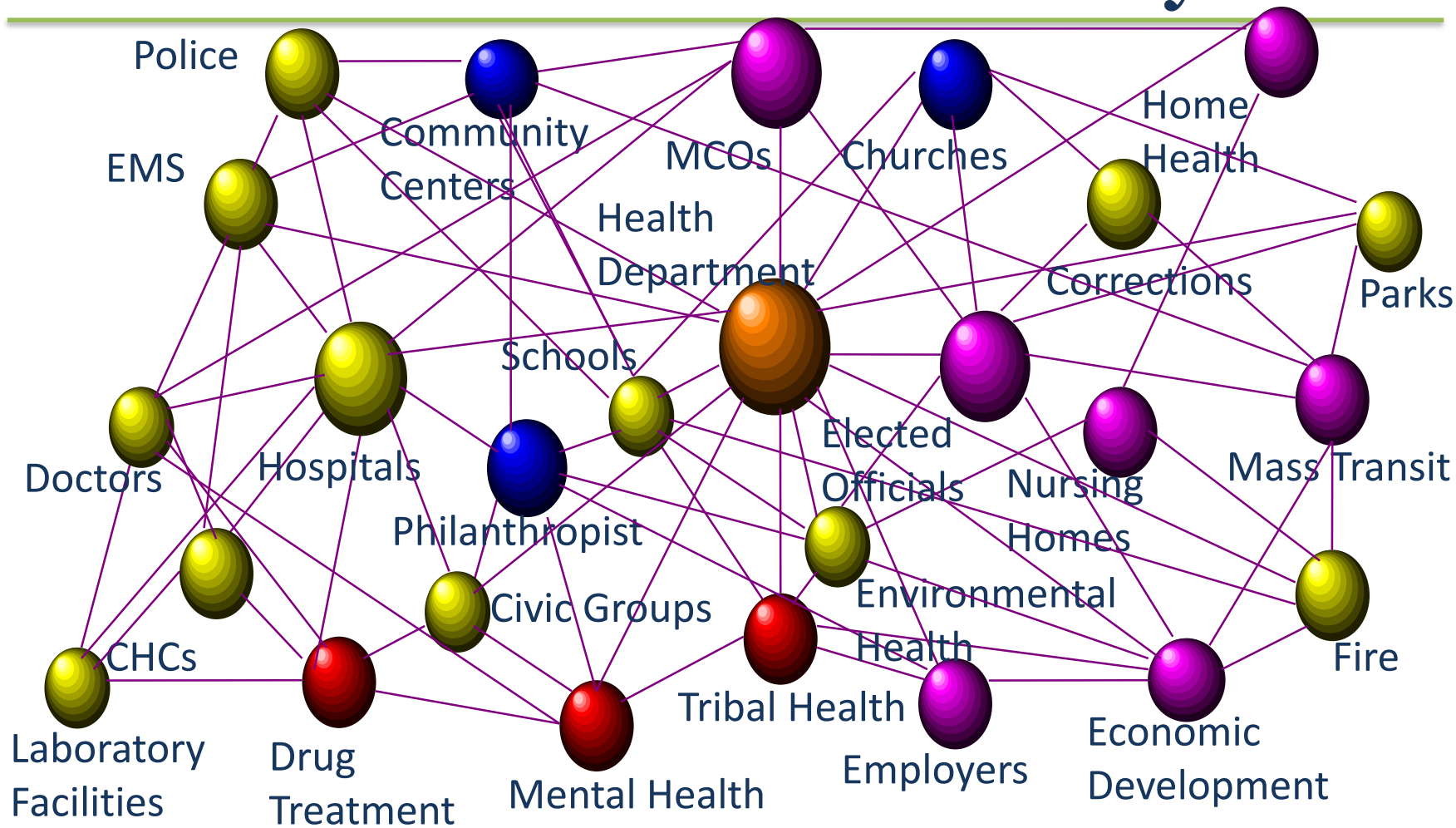


# Public Health...

Public health is not what the health department does.

Public health is what the community does to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.

# The Local Public Health System



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# Thank You!!!

***S. Elizabeth Ford, M.D., M.B.A.***

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