

Thomas M. Miller, M.D., to Lead Department

The State Committee of Public Health appointed Thomas Miller, M.D., as acting state health officer upon the retirement of Dr. Donald E. Williamson.

When the committee announced his appointment, Dr. Williamson said, "Dr. Miller has been an invaluable member of our team, and I have every confidence in him. He has done yeoman's work, especially in the past three years when I have been very involved with the Alabama Medicaid Agency."

Dr. Miller received his M.D. and completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In his more than 25 years with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Dr. Miller has gained experience in leading many areas. His most recent position has been as chief medical officer, in which he has overseen the bureaus of Family Health Services, Clinical Laboratories, Communicable Disease, and Home and Community Services. More recently, he has been responsible for maternal and child health, family planning, WIC, dental, lab testing, immunizations, TB, STD, HIV/AIDS, epidemiology and home care services.

In addition, he has worked with the Bureau of Health Provider Standards and the Office of Radiation Control.

Dr. Miller is an active member of several professional organizations at the state and national level. In 2012, he finished his third term on the Prattville City Council, where he served as president pro tempore and president, and is involved in a number of community enrichment initiatives. He serves on the boards of the Autauga County United Way and the Prattville YMCA. He is a member of his local Rotary Club and of Toastmasters International. For the past four years, he has traveled to the Dominican Republic on medical mission trips.

He is active with the Alabama Medical Association's Foundation for Continuing Medical Education. In 2013, he became a member of the Committee for Review and Recognition that is part of the national Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, and was elected recently to a three-year term on its Board of Directors.



Dr. Miller

Leaving a Lasting Legacy: Dr. Donald Williamson Bids Farewell to Public Health Employees

In his final statewide satellite staff meeting with departmental employees on Oct. 20, Dr. Donald Williamson noted that he kept the following quotation by the late Vice President Humphrey at the forefront of his vision.

"It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped."

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey

Dr. Williamson thanked public health employees for doing their best to improve the health of their fellow citizens. "I think we together have done a remarkable job of trying to lift the burden at dawn, dusk and shadow." Viewing public health as a journey or process, not a destination, he expressed his gratitude for "a ride of a lifetime" and his hope that Alabama will be healthier in its next 20 years than it has been in the past 20 years.

Dr. Williamson was Alabama's state health officer for nearly 24 years and retired with 29 years of service in the department.

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OCE and OPI Temporarily Join Forces

The Office of Compliance and Ethics (OCE) and the Office of Program Integrity (OPI) have temporarily merged under the same leadership as Samarria Dunson assumed the role as Acting Director of OPI, in addition to her role as director of OCE. This temporary change in leadership has proven successful for both programs. It has allowed each group to more fully understand the commonalities and distinctions between auditing and monitoring, as well as how they complement one another.

The focus of OPI is to stay current with audit reports so that ADPH leadership is informed about issues of non-compliance in a more timely manner. In addition, OPI has developed its own website: www.adph.org/programintegrity. Currently, the website houses policies and web links related to internal audit functions. It also has a "Contact Us" page which lists OPI staff and hyperlinks to resumes of staff members.

"The Office of Program Integrity is in the process of reintroducing itself to the department. The office must be a team of individuals working alongside leadership to provide them with a picture of what is occurring and what issues need to be more thoroughly addressed. It is not our role to be enforcers, instead we must partner with department leaders to shape change," stated Ms. Dunson. She further said, "This is an exciting time for both programs. I think that our leadership will enjoy the fruits of our effort. OPI's official director, Debra Thrash, and I work well together. We have identified an individual to act as a permanent liaison between our two programs. This person will identify trending audit exceptions and work with OCE to develop training to ensure that those issues are appropriately addressed through education and training."

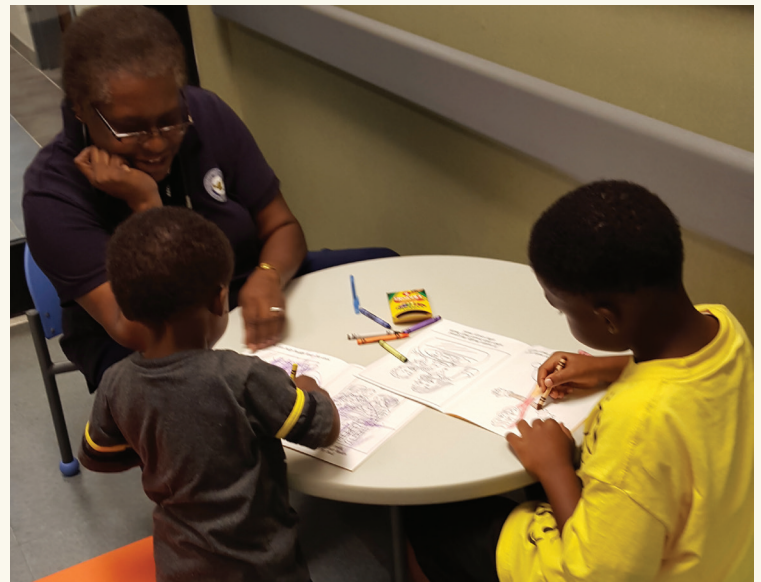
Samarria Dunson, J.D., CHC, CHPC

A Glimpse into a Typical Day of a Clinic Nurse

Among her myriad of duties to fulfill, Clinic Nurse Supervisor Cathy Wright, RN, finds time during her morning break to be a babysitter for one of her patients who is receiving services from the nurse practitioner in Greensboro.

Public Health 7 Nursing Director Brenda Anthony explained, "As I walked past the sub-waiting room, I caught a glimpse of this scene and was touched by the tenderness being displayed by Cathy to these two children. Cathy carries the caseload for Hale County, which is a one nurse county, in addition to her supervisory duties for the Perry County Health Department. I know this is not an isolated incident for many county clinic staff across the state, but oftentimes we tend to overlook the unspoken niceties provided by staff so patients can receive the services they desperately need."

Kudos to all ADPH employees for the excellent services provided to the patient and their families!



Clinic Nurse Supervisor and Anne M. Smith Award Winner Cathy Wright helps keep Hale County children occupied with coloring while their mother receives services.

Alabama Department of Public Health

Mission

To serve the people of Alabama by assuring conditions in which they can be healthy.

Value Statement

The purpose of the Alabama Department of Public Health is to provide caring, high quality and professional services for the improvement and protection of the public's health through disease prevention and the assurance of public health services to resident and transient populations of the state regardless of social circumstances or the ability to pay.

The Department of Public Health works closely with the community to preserve and protect the public's health and to provide caring quality services.

Alabama's Health

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Thomas M. Miller, M.D. Acting State Health Officer

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Public Health Area 10 Leaders Promote a CQI Environment

On Sept. 17 then Deputy Director for Medical Affairs Dr. Tom Miller, Director of the Division of Women's and Children's Health Annie Vosel, and others from the Central Office met with Public Health Area 10 nursing and clerical directors and supervisors at the Pike County Health Department in Troy. The topic: CQI—Continuous Quality Improvement.

Staff members from each county health department shared their ideas and described changes they have put in place to improve overall staff efficiency and decrease client wait times. Also discussed were ideas to decrease the percentage of “no shows” for appointments.

Simple ideas for projects were exchanged including the following:

- Drawings for gift baskets or gas cards for clients who keep their appointments
- Moving administrative support assistants closer to copy machines
- Equipping all exam rooms with needed instruments so clients do not have to rotate rooms between the nurse and the nurse practitioner

“These ideas are paying off in big ways,” Houston County Environmental Supervisor Doug Turnbull said. “Preliminary results show client wait times and the number of missed appointments are decreasing.”

Ms. Vosel and Acting State Health Officer Dr. Miller are meeting with the staff of all areas to promote and encourage a change in attitude from “It’s always been done this way” to promoting CQI as the new way to handle daily operations.

Make It a Priority to Take QI Training

A performance measure for the Quality Improvement (QI) Council is to provide QI training to 20 percent of statewide ADPH staff by the end of March 2016. Although it’s not a mandatory training, the QI Council encourages all ADPH employees to take the basic performance management and QI training, titled “Embracing Quality in Public Health: A Practitioner’s Performance Management Primer” which was developed for public health professionals.

The training is Web-based and available through the Learning Content Management System (LCMS). A link to the training is available on the QI page of the ADPH Accreditation website (www.adph.org/accreditation). The online course is self-paced and

should take about one hour to complete. The training slides and a detailed workbook are also available in LCMS. Training participants are asked to complete the training acknowledgement form in LCMS to add the training to their transcript and notify the QI Council.

TOP FIVE REASONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ONLINE TRAINING MODULE:

1. It’s good for public health programs and services.
2. It increases performance management and quality improvement competency.
3. You will receive an acknowledgement of course completion on your transcript in LCMS for your Training Report.
4. It will augment your existing performance management and quality improvement efforts and spread knowledge of performance management and quality improvement.
5. It’s free.

Forms are available to document the beginning of a QI project.

The QI Council is available to assist QI Teams who want to complete a QI project to improve processes, services, or customer satisfaction. To enlist their assistance, the QI Team Lead should follow the simple procedures developed by the QI Council to notify them about the project. The procedure and forms are available on the QI page of the ADPH Accreditation website at www.adph.org/accreditation. For more information, contact Carol Heier, Performance Improvement Manager/ Accreditation Coordinator in the Office of Performance Management at (334) 206-5703 or Carol.Heier@adph.state.al.us or send your questions to the Quality Improvement Council email address on LotusNotes.



Dr. Tom Miller speaks with area staff about continuous quality improvement.

CHIPPING For a Cure

Employees of the Children's Health Insurance Program honored their colleague Deborah Ellis (in blue) with a party complete with plentiful refreshments, gift baskets and special hand-made cards for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In addition to a surprise for Ms. Ellis, the event on Oct. 21 was an opportunity to spread the word about the importance of detecting breast cancer in its early stages. Ms. Ellis said, "It was a day I will cherish for the rest of my life. My CHIP family was all dressed in pink and in their surprise



party they showed they were walking with me with kindness, words, God, hope, future, love, family. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart for thinking about me and for their support in the days ahead."

Breast Cancer Awareness

This pink pumpkin, decorated by Cameron Adams of Montgomery who was recently diagnosed, was lit for all to see the importance of expressing love for those with a breast cancer diagnosis.



Doug Turnbull Walks 60 Miles, Distributes Teddy Bears to Help End Breast Cancer

Environmental supervisor Doug Turnbull of Dothan again took part in the 2015 Susan G. Komen Walk in Atlanta Oct. 16-18, a walk which raised \$2.2 million to benefit breast cancer. This is his fifth year of participation.

Each day began with the walkers passing under a banner sign that reads "We Walk Because We Must."



Turnbull completed the three-day trek for the fifth time.

As part of this year's 60-mile walk, Doug Turnbull handed out more than 40 pink Teddy bears to the survivors for whom he walks, family, co-workers and children along the route.

To date, the Komen Foundation has invested more than \$2.6 billion in research, community health outreach, advocacy and programs in more than 30 countries.



Raised shoes honor the walkers who are breast cancer survivors as they enter the closing ceremonies and in memory of those who have fallen.

“For my 33½ years in public health, I have always known I was working in a field with folks on a common mission to make the lot of their fellow man better,” he said. “I shall always value the associations I have made in this agency, and you’ll always have my heart. I have been a blessed individual.”

Prior to being named Alabama’s tenth State Health Officer in 1992, Dr. Williamson served as State Tuberculosis Control Officer at the Mississippi State Department of Health and at ADPH as director of the Division of Disease Control and the Bureau of Preventive Health Services. In addition to his duties as State Health Officer, in April 2012 Gov. Robert Bentley appointed him to serve as the Chairman of the Alabama Medicaid Transition Task Force.

Dr. Williamson received numerous awards during his tenure, including the 2013 Paul W. Burleson Award from the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the 2011 Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Career Public Servant at the State Level from the American Medical Association, the 2006 and the 2010 Presidential Meritorious Service Award from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) in recognition of exemplary and meritorious service to ASTHO and the public health community, the 2009 Wallace Alexander Clyde Award from The Children’s Hospital of Alabama, the 2000 Arthur T. McCormack Award from ASTHO for dedication and excellence in public health, the 1999 Theodore R. Ervin Award from the Public Health Foundation, the 1999 Child Health Advocate Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the 1998 Internist of the Year Award from the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine.

His consistent support of and affiliation with the Alabama Public Health Association began in 1986. He served on its Board of Directors as ex officio member through 2015, and supported the association throughout his tenure in the state’s top public health post from November 1992 through 2015. The association awarded Dr. Williamson the Dr. D.G. Gill Award in 1997 and the Dr. Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence in 2009, and inducted him into the Alabama Public Health Association Hall of Fame in 2013.

Acting State Health Officer Dr. Tom Miller called his appointment as successor to Dr. Williamson a “humbling and awesome privilege.” He said, “This is an opportunity to say goodbye to a man who has served as a mentor and is one of the most ethical folks I know. From a personal standpoint, I can’t put a price on how valuable it was to observe him, and I will do my best to build on the foundation Dr. Williamson is leaving.”

On a day-to-day basis, Dr. Miller said he observed Dr. Williamson be very deliberative when there was not a clear path in decision making and looked at situations from everyone’s point of view.

Dr. Miller further stated how much he appreciates public health employees at the county and area levels. He said, “We exist to support the counties and areas where the vast majority of the work takes place, and I want to commit to you that we will continue to provide support to you.”

In the final call-in, speaking on behalf of the employees in the counties and areas, Public Health Area 9 Administrator Ricky Elliott expressed his gratitude



Alabama Public Health Association President Suzanne Terrell presents a proclamation to Dr. Williamson honoring him for his many accomplishments and commitment to the association.



Dr. John Meigs shakes Dr. Williamson’s hand.

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to Dr. Williamson for his many achievements. “We appreciate what you’ve accomplished, and it has been nothing short of amazing. You have taken us to a level we’ve never seen before. You’ve shaped our past, our present, and we’re ready to go forward to the future.”

Noting Dr. Williamson’s fondness for quotations, Elliott repeated these words about leadership that summarize what Dr. Williamson has done for ADPH as an agency:

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

President John Quincy Adams

“Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it’s amazing what they can accomplish.”

Entrepreneur Sam Walton

Dr. Williamson sent his final e-mail to employees statewide on Oct. 30. He wrote, “For almost a quarter century you gave me the unmatched honor of being the face of much of your great work. I shall always treasure my time here and view it as the highlight of my professional career. As I transition to a new phase in my life, I leave knowing that the department, its employees and our fellow citizens are in good hands with Dr. Miller as my successor. While, I won’t be at ADPH, please know that I shall always watch with great interest and enormous pride as you accomplish incredible things.”

Accolades Flow to Donald E. Williamson, M.D.

Gov. Robert Bentley issued this written statement about the retiring state health officer and also issued a special Governor’s Commendation noting his many significant contributions to the state.

“Dr. Don Williamson has been an outstanding public servant, and a dedicated member of my team. At a time when our Medicaid Agency needed major reform, Dr. Williamson more than three years ago stepped up and led the charge to make our Medicaid Agency stronger and more effective for the patients enrolled. We still have challenges to address at Medicaid, including agency funding and full implementation of the regional care organizations. I know as Dr. Williamson transitions out of his role as Chair of the Medicaid Transition Task Force, he will work closely with Acting Medicaid Commissioner Stephanie Azar on a smooth transition.”

“I congratulate Dr. Williamson on his retirement, and I look forward to working with him in a new role with the Alabama Hospital Association.”



Dr. Tom Miller gives service pins to the retiring state health officer.



Employees honor Dr. Williamson at the reception.

The Alabama Public Health Association honored Dr. Williamson by issuing a proclamation describing him as a visionary and stalwart advocate for public health. It noted that Dr. Williamson spearheaded numerous successful public health initiatives including the construction or renovation of more than 60 health department buildings in Alabama, the development of the first state Children’s Health Insurance Program approved in the nation to increase access to care for previously uninsured children, and his impact on every aspect of public health.

Central Office staff hosted a retirement reception on Oct. 20 in his honor. At the reception for employees and some retirees, Dr. Williamson received numerous cards from employees, a set of service pins for his 29 years of departmental service, and a plaque from public health area administrators.

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Welcome to Dr. Scott Harris, Public Health Area 2 Health Officer

As newly appointed health officer for Public Health Area 2, Dr. Scott Harris is pleased about the many possibilities he will have in public health.

“I am excited to be in the job where I can make a difference in a larger way,” he said. “So many health problems are societal or social problems, and I am excited about having the chance to address them.”

Dr. Harris brings a wide range of knowledge and experience to his position directing seven counties in the Tennessee Valley. A native of Talladega, his now retired mother Mary Catherine Harris was a public health nurse with the Talladega County Health Department and his father was a pharmacist.

A graduate of Harding University in Arkansas, he attended medical school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and served his residency and internship at Carraway Methodist Medical Center before returning to UAB for an infectious disease fellowship. HIV was a part of his practice when he worked at the 1917 Clinic and the VA Hospital HIV Clinic. At that time, unfortunately there were only one or two antiretroviral drugs available to treat his patients.

In 1996 he moved to Decatur where he practiced infectious disease medicine. From 2005 until three months ago he was medical director at the Decatur-Morgan Community Free Clinic that recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. The clinic offers free health care and dental care to low income, medically uninsured local residents. The clinic relies heavily on volunteers including physicians, nurse practitioners, and community members, and he is very proud of the clinic’s community involvement and volunteerism.

A volunteer physician himself, Dr. Harris has served on many international medical missions to Central and South America and Africa.

These experiences helped prepare him for his new role. In addition to his responsibilities within the area, Harris has been designated as the medical consultant/subject matter expert for HIV/AIDS

and will provide clinical management direction in public health areas without an assistant state health officer.

“The demographics of HIV are so different now,” Harris said, “Therapy is so good that people with HIV will have a normal lifespan. Also, the demographics have changed from largely gay men who have moved from other parts of the country back home to Alabama, and now it’s mainly native-born Alabamians-- men and women.”

While Harris was familiar with many clinical activities of the department such as tuberculosis control where he served as a TB contractor, he is learning the finer points about environmental health concerns such as rabies control, restaurant inspections, emergency preparedness and radiation protection for residents living near the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

His wife Sandy is an intensive care unit nurse at Decatur-Morgan Hospital where she has worked for 30 years. Together they are the parents of four adults.



Scott Harris, M.D.

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On Oct. 21, Joe Acker, executive director of Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services, presented a plaque to Dr. Williamson on behalf of Alabama’s regional emergency medical services directors for his leadership and perseverance in advancing EMS Systems/Trauma/Stroke/STEMI, thereby saving many lives.

The State Committee of Public Health also presented Dr. Williamson, and announced that in recognition of his excellent service, the state public health laboratory to be constructed in Montgomery will be named in his honor.

In response, Dr. Williamson noted that the board’s appointment of him as State Health Officer was the singular honor of his life and it was his privilege to serve. He expressed appreciation to his wife Anita, his predecessors in public health, all boards, past committee chairs, employees, and colleagues for their unwavering support. In praising ADPH employees, Dr. Williamson compared himself metaphorically to the leader of a parade. “They have done the work,” Williamson said. “I’ve simply had the opportunity of being at the front of the parade.”

Do You Include People With Disabilities in Your Program Planning? Alabama Has Highest Percentage of Adults with Disabilities in the U.S.

According to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Alabama has the highest prevalence of disability in the nation based on 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data. Health officials and other stakeholders invested in the health and well-being of people with disabilities can use this information to better understand and address the needs of this population.

“This data shows that people with disabilities face significant social and health disparities, and my goal is to encourage all bureaus, offices and public health areas to be inclusive of the needs of everyone, including people with disabilities, Project Director Laurie Eldridge-Auffant with the Disability and Health Program of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Division said.

Adults with disabilities are more likely to be inactive, have high blood pressure, smoke and be obese.

“While people don’t intentionally exclude, they often don’t think to include people with disabilities. Disabilities will affect most everyone at some point in their life, especially with an aging population.”

The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) article describes the percentage of adults living with disabilities in each state and select functional disability types. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Division of Human Development and Disability published “Prevalence of Disability and Disability Type Among Adults — United States, 2013,” a report that also presents estimates of disability by select demographic groups.

Environmental Q and A

QUESTION: I would like to have more information regarding the requirements/regulations for our upcoming fall festival. I understand that hand sanitizer must be available. Is this for us or the customers? Please advise to let me know what other requirements there are. Thank you.

RESPONSE: Hand sanitizer is not required, however, it may be used by the food service workers following proper handwashing and/or offered for use by your customers.

Temporary events such as fall festivals may be exempt from health department inspection if they are open to the public, sponsored by an organization, and are three days or less in length. The event sponsor

According to the report:

- 1 in 5 adults, or over 53 million people in the United States, has a disability, with state-level estimates ranging from 16.4 percent in Minnesota to 31.5 percent in Alabama.
- The most common functional disability type was mobility disability - defined as serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs – reported by 1 in 8 adults.
- Although any person can have a disability at any point in life, disability was more commonly reported by:
 - Black Non-Hispanic and Hispanic adults: 29.0 percent of black non-Hispanic adults and 25.9 percent of Hispanic adults compared to 20.6 percent of white non-Hispanic adults.
 - Women aged 18 years or older: 24.4 percent of women, compared to 19.8 percent of men
 - Older adults: Over a third of people 65 years or older reported a disability.

This report is based on questions used for the first time in CDC’s 2013 BRFSS that allowed respondents to identify select functional types of disability. Although disability information has been collected in national surveys for many years, this is the first time functional disability type has been included in a state-based health survey.

If you would like more information, please contact Laurie Eldridge-Auffant at (334) 206-5651 or Laurie.Eldridge-Auffant@adph.state.al.us. Disability related data for Alabama can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/dhds-basic-info.html>

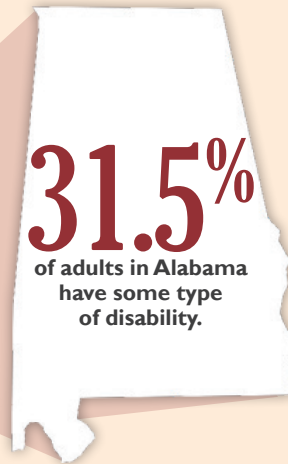
is responsible for applying for the exemption. If the event is not exempted, a temporary food permit is required for individual food vendors. Vendors should contact the local county health department before the event for specific requirements. Depending on the food items sold at the event, certain equipment may be necessary. This equipment can include a three-compartment sink and separate hand sink equipped with hot and cold running water under pressure, as well as holding tanks for fresh water and waste water depending on utilities available at the event site, a stem-type thermometer for taking food temperatures, and some means of keeping hot and cold foods within their required temperatures.

Disability Impacts ALL of US

Each of us may experience a disability in our lifetime.

A Snapshot of Disability in Alabama

This fact sheet provides an overview of disability in **Alabama (AL)** compared to national estimates. You can use this information to become aware of the number and characteristics of people with disabilities in your state.



Disability Costs in HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES



\$6.2 billion per year
in Alabama

Despite progress, people with disabilities in **Alabama** and across the country continue to face significant social and health disparities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports research and programs to include people with disabilities in disease prevention, health promotion and emergency response activities, while working to eliminate barriers to health care and improve access to routine preventive services.

Adults with Disabilities are more likely to:

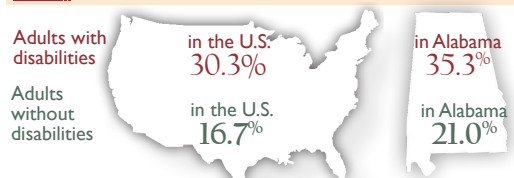
be inactive



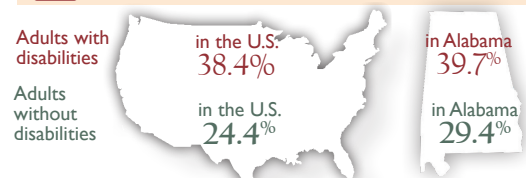
have high blood pressure



smoke



be obese



Percentage of adults with select functional disability types: *

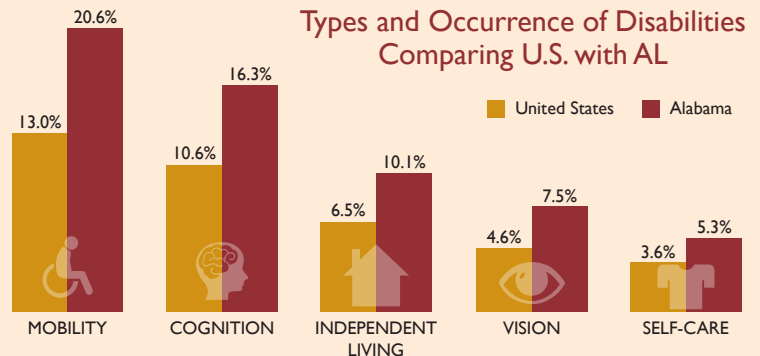
MOBILITY: Serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

COGNITION: Serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions.

INDEPENDENT LIVING: Difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping.

VISION: Blind or serious difficulty seeing, even when wearing glasses.

SELF-CARE: Difficulty dressing or bathing.



* Currently, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) may not be accessible to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and use electronic telephone devices (TDD/TTY). Therefore data on the number of people who have hearing difficulties was not collected.

For more information go to: www.cdc.gov/disabilities
Contact Us: disabilityandhealthbranch@cdc.gov
Twitter: @CDC_NCBDDD

07/2015

MULTICULTURAL Event Increases Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity

Diversity allows everyone the opportunity to enjoy, learn and benefit from other cultures. The iChoices Wellness Program and team hosted a MULTICULTURAL event, "A Taste of Many Cultures!" on Sept. 18 in Montgomery.

The program provided an opportunity to showcase different countries, regions and parts of the world in an effort for coworkers to learn about and from each other. ADPH employees and others from countries outside the U.S. displayed banners, cultural clothing and vendors graciously provided food samples. Other employees showcased cultural dance, music, and even celebrated their favorite football teams – a true reflection of Alabama's culture.



Julia Sosa of the Office of Minority Health leads employees in salsa dancing.



Diabetes Nurse Coordinator Debra Griffin of the Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease participates in a multicultural exercise led by Julia Sosa.



Shown singing and playing the santoor is Vikash Achutaramaiah, IT Manager, Interoperability, Bureau of Information Technology. He presented a lecture and demonstration titled "Understanding Indian Classical Music."



Qun Zheng and Xuejun (XJ) Shen of the Center for Health Statistics and Anna Sun of the Bureau of Environmental Services are shown at the table featuring dumplings, egg rolls and sweet rice cakes from China.

Retirees

The following departmental employees have retired recently.

August

Danita Richardson

Coffee County Health Department

September

William Banks

Shelby County Health Department

Lessie Gordon

Madison County Health Department

Shelia Osborne

Public Health Area 2

Rhonda Patterson

Public Health Area 2

Shirley Smith

Montgomery County Health Department

Sandra Weber

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories

October

Henry Brown

Montgomery County Health Department

Delores Hardin

Elmore County Health Department

Joan Riley

Center for Health Statistics

Charlotte Taylor

Public Health Area 1

Avis Whitworth

Escambia County Health Department

Commendations

If you would like to praise employees for their accomplishments, send letters of commendation to the State Health Officer or the employee's supervisor and a copy by e-mail to Arrol.Sheehan@adph.state.al.us for inclusion in this list. Four items are needed: the employee's name, work unit, name of the person making the commendation, and his or her city and state.

Sherry Bradley

Environmental Services

from *Howell Lee*

Huntsville, Ala.

Evelyn Jackson

Center for Health Statistics

from *Jana Shelton*

Hanceville, Ala.

Chuck Lail, M.B.A.

Primary Care and Rural Health

from *Muhammad E. Ata, M.D.*

Scottsboro, Ala.

Mary Sewell

Home and Community Services

from *Thresa Dix*

Montgomery, Ala.

Marilyn Knight

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Mother-to-Mother Support Is Important for Breastfeeding Moms



Did you know....

A mom is more likely to breastfeed when she has the support that she needs. Mother-to-Mother support can be a valuable resource for sharing tips and encouragement. Ask your WIC or health care provider to recommend a group.

- WIC provides breastfeeding education and support.
- WIC peer counselors provide education about the benefits of breastfeeding and help women with basic concerns.
- Local WIC clinic staff can provide ideas for talking to your family and others about the importance of breastfeeding.

If you would like more information about breastfeeding, please contact [Michell Grainger](mailto:Michell.Grainger@adph.state.al.us), State Lactation Coordinator, WIC Program, Bureau of Family Health Services, at (334)206-2921 or Michell.Grainger@adph.state.al.us.



Dawn Ellis, the Assistant Director of Women's and Children's Health Division of the Bureau of Family Health Services, retired after Oct. 1 after 24 years of state employment. She is shown with former State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson at a reception in her honor.

Calendar of Events

November 19
National Rural
Health Day



November 19
Assessment and
Management of Women
with Benign Breast
Conditions, Abnormal
Uterine Bleeding and
STI's, 9-11 a.m.

For more information,
contact Beth Nichols,
(334) 206-7959.



November 20
14th Annual
Diabetes and
Obesity Conference,
Alabama Cattlemen
Association Building,
201 S. Bainbridge St.,
Montgomery.

For more information,
contact Debra Griffin,
334-206-2066.



January 7
ADPH Statewide Staff
Meeting, 3-4 p.m.

For more information,
contact Video
Communications,
(334) 206-5618.



January 8
Scale Back
Alabama Kickoff



January 28
Cervical Cancer, time to
be announced.

For more information,
contact Kitty Norris,
(334) 206-6227.

April 6-8

Alabama Public
Health Association
50th Annual Health
Education Conference,
Auburn Marriott
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