

2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



**OUR VISION:** TO BE THE HEALTHIEST STATE IN THE NATION



## OUR VALUES

I nnovation  
C ollaboration  
A ccountability  
R esponsiveness  
E xcellence

## OUR MISSION

To protect, promote,  
and improve the health  
of all people in Florida  
through integrated  
state, county, and  
community efforts.

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PASCO COUNTY

7509 State Road 52  
Hudson, FL 34667

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@HealthyPasco

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PASCO COUNTY

The mission of the Florida Department of Health is to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.



The Florida Department of Health in Pasco County (DOH-Pasco) works strategically to offer public health services to those who need care.

DOH-Pasco fosters collective impact on health through the Community Health Collaborative.

In Pasco County, the programs and services fall under four divisions:

- 1 Business Operations
- 2 Family Health Services
- 3 Health Protection and Response
- 4 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICER



Health Officer  
Trang Chitakone

“By leveraging strong partnerships, we continue to focus on delivering quality services to the residents of Pasco County. Our commitment to you is to protect and promote health by making it a priority.”

# COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION (CHP)

Responding to community needs identified through the Florida Department of Health in Pasco County's Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence (PACE-EH) survey, DOH-Pasco partnered with local organizations to revitalize Aloha Gardens Park in Holiday, Florida.

In October 2023, a new playground was installed, with upcoming plans to include a dog park, native tree planting, and the installation of additional benches and tables in 2024.



## CORE NETWORK: HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND QUALITY – SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROJECT

DOH-Pasco was **one** of **12** counties in Florida included in the Coordinated Opioid Recovery Network (CORE), and received over a **\$1 million** dollar in grant funding to address substance use disorder in Pasco County.



DOH-Pasco's CORE Network partners (Pasco Fire Rescue, BayCare, and Premier Health Care) used the funding to implement programs and services that supported community members suffering from substance abuse disorder.

Information on CORE Network services was shared at community meetings and events and was provided to Pasco County inmates upon release, in addition to linkage to other supportive services by CORE partners. Pasco County was the only CORE Network county in Florida that allotted funds to support up to a 90-day stay at a sober living facility, a unique way to address the housing need for long-term recovery. Under the CORE initiative, Pasco Fire Rescue launched a mobile integrated health unit which still continues today.

Since January 2023, Pasco Fire Rescue has had **889** follow-ups and provided services to **118** individuals. The following are statistics for CORE Network in Pasco County from January 2023 - September 2023:

- **433** individuals referred from North Bay Hospital to outpatient clinics.
- **117** individuals received services from the CORE Network in Pasco County.
- **68** individuals were provided the support of sober living.
- **30** individuals completed 90 days or more of sober living, this is a **44%** success rate.

CORE continues to maintain its successful partnerships in Pasco County alongside BayCare, Pasco Fire Rescue, and Premier Health Care.

To learn more about the CORE program, visit [FLcoreNetwork.com](https://FLcoreNetwork.com).

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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Throughout Hurricane Idalia, DOH-Pasco effectively accommodated **68** clients, with support from **18** caregivers. Staff at Wiregrass Ranch High School provided care for **14** clients alongside **four** caregivers over a **3-day** period.

Similarly, staff at Fasano served **54** clients with **14** caregivers during the same **3-day** timeframe. Notably, we achieved full activation with all staff members deploying.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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- DOH-Pasco investigated **340** sewage complaints and issued **1,523** on-site sewage treatment disposal systems permits.
- **5,028** community inspections were completed, including food service, RV/mobile home parks, swimming pools, group care, biomedical waste/tattoo/body art, tanning, and migrant labor camps.
- The Freshwater and Coastal Beach Monitoring Program and the Well and Limited Use Well Surveillance Programs collected **723** water-quality samples around Pasco County.



## BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM

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The Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (FBCCEDP) conducted **570** initial mammograms. FBCC increased the frequency of mobile mammograph screenings from once a year to five times annually. Additionally, the program exceeded achieved a completion rate of **10.6%**, **.6% higher than the goal of 10%**.



15 clients received breast cancer diagnoses, all of whom were approved for Medicaid. Collaboration with Farm Workers Self-Help Inc. and St. Lazarus Free Clinic helped facilitate mammogram referrals.



## DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

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The Dietetic Internship celebrated the achievement of **14** graduates. These individuals are currently making meaningful contributions to WIC in **nine** different counties across Florida. Notably, **11** of them have successfully passed the dietitians' registration exam.

## FAMILY PLANNING

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- Throughout the year, **3,135** family planning visits occurred, during which **2,112** clients received birth control counseling and education, and contraception.
- Family planning successfully provided 21,502 services.
- In addition, family planning successfully offered complimentary sterilization services (vasectomy or tubal ligation) to **17** clients.



## HEALTHY START

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- Healthy Start provided **16,694** services to **815** children aged **3** and younger, as well as pregnant women. Services included risk and developmental assessments, case management, childbirth, parenting, breastfeeding education, and smoking cessation support.
- Additionally, referrals were offered for nutrition support, mental health, substance abuse, and access to community resources.



## CHILD IMMUNIZATIONS

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Immunizations were provided to **3,136** children across **3,829** visits, totaling **9,513** services. This is a notable **9%** increase from the previous year.



## ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS

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Immunizations were provided to **992** adults, over **1,242** visits, totaling **1,933** services.

## REFUGEE HEALTH

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**923** clients received refugee services, a **96%** increase from **2022**. Additionally, there were a total of **3,135** visits, a **150%** increase from **2022**. Furthermore, the delivery of **13,026** services demonstrated a **130%** rise from the previous year.



## TEEN HEALTH

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Teen health successfully raised the percentage of teenage clients who adopted contraceptive methods to **91.6%**.

## WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

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- WIC's percentage of eligible clients served increased to **70.3%**. This is a **13.6%** increase from **2022**.
- An average of **9,574** WIC clients were served monthly, almost 900 more than 2022.
- WIC successfully boosted funds for the WIC Healthy Food Program to **\$8.86** million, marking a **13.59%** increase from the previous year. This ensures essential nutrition for families enrolled in the program.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICES

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The epidemiology section reported **1,634** cases of diseases, a **12%** increase from the previous reporting year. Hepatitis (**36%**), gastrointestinal illnesses (**23%**), and animal bites (**23%**) were the types of cases most frequently reported.

Infectious disease cases are thoroughly investigated, with control measures promptly provided to those who have been exposed. Additionally, whenever feasible, immunizations are offered free of charge.

## RABIES SURVEILLANCE

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DOH-Pasco investigated **372** reports of possible rabies exposure, a **55%** increase from the prior year. Also, **230** cases were interviewed for possible rabies exposure. This is a **15%** increase from **2022**.

Staff investigated **one** case of rabies in an animal. Multiple programs assisted in outreach efforts to notify community members about the increased rabies risk in the area the animal was found.

DOH-Pasco provided educational resources, post-exposure guidance, and treatment protocols to local hospitals.

Additionally, DOH-Pasco offered free rabies pre-exposure immunizations to all eligible staff members of Pasco County Animal Services.



## HIV/AIDS

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- **808** HIV tests were conducted at outreach events, an increase of **129%** from the previous year.
- Staff tested **233** inmates, an increase of **19%** from the previous year.
- **1,291** HIV tests were completed by community-based partners, a **32%** increase.
- **One** additional partner was added to the list of HIV test sites, for a total of **six** community-based organizations that are partnering with DOH-Pasco's HIV/AIDS Program.
- There were **51** new HIV positive cases in Pasco County, this was a result of the increase in testing. **100%** of these new positive cases were linked to care, an increase of **83%** in **2023**.
- **40** new HIV positive clients sought care at DOH-Pasco with **92%** getting linked to care.
- The Ryan White program provided **123** medical visits to **54** clients and provided **\$10,439** in laboratory services to uninsured HIV-positive clients.
- **29** HIV-positive clients were seen under other funding sources like Medicaid and Medicare.
- DOH-Pasco's AIDS Drug Assistance Program staff served **261** clients and of those **98.47%** are virally suppressed. That is an increase of **4.42%** of clients virally suppressed. The state goal is **92%**.



## SEXUAL TRANSMITTED DISEASES

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Care was provided to **1,780** clients, with a combined total of **2,601** provider visits, and **14,525** provided services for treatment, prevention, testing, and counseling.



# EMBRACING GROWTH AND EXPANSION



## TRANSITION IN LEADERSHIP

DOH-Pasco named Trang Chitakone as their new Health Officer. Trang began her public health journey in 2015 as DOH-Pasco's Business Manager. She quickly adapted to challenges like Hurricane Irma and led efforts during Hurricane Michael.

As assistant county health department Administrator, she oversaw operations and finances. Trang is also active on boards for various organizations, including those focused on community health and early learning.

## NEW BUILDING

DOH-Pasco purchased a new building for **\$2.9 million** in June 2020. In October 2023 DOH-Pasco was able to combine two locations into one building located at 7509 State Road 52.

*"We are thankful to the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners for assisting us with the purchase of our new building on the west side of the county," says Health Officer Trang Chitakone. "The new building has given us the ability to offer all services in one location. Our clients will also have access to other health care needs within walking distance. Accessibility to health care is vital to our clients and we are beyond grateful to be where we are today!"*

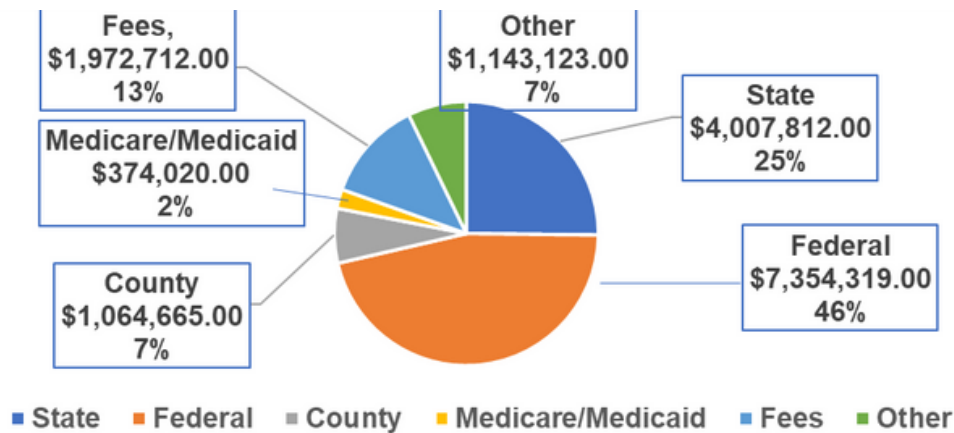


## FISCAL REVENUE

Overall revenue (all programs) in 2023 was **\$15,916,651**. This is an increase of **14.9%**.

## VITAL STATISTICS

DOH-Pasco issued **9,408** birth certificates, **35** fetal death certificates, and **55,284** death certificates.



## OFFICE LOCATIONS

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PASCO COUNTY

#### Summit Professional

7509 State Road 52  
Hudson, FL 34667  
727-619-0300

#### Wesley Chapel

33845 State Road 54  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543  
813-780-0740

#### Denton Avenue

11611 Denton Ave.  
Hudson, FL 34667  
727-861-5661

#### Dade City

13941 15th St.  
Dade City, FL 33525  
352-521-1450



[Pasco.FLHealth.gov](https://Pasco.FLHealth.gov)



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