

*Florida Department of Health
in Seminole County*



COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES REPORT



20
24

THE HEALTH OFFICER'S PERSPECTIVE

This health report notes many accomplishments and community partnerships of the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County (DOH-Seminole) which are essential to implementing public health initiatives and are the foundation of ensuring the health of our communities. This publication showcases program highlights, initiatives, outreach events, and data for services provided in 2024.

Some of the year highlights include hosting the Revive Awareness Day event, where state and local leaders joined us to provide relevant information about combating the opioid epidemic, using opioid antagonists, and supporting long-term patient recovery. A medically enhanced special needs shelter full-scale exercise in collaboration with Seminole County's Office of Emergency Management provided a real-time, hands-on experience for us. New staff were able to get a feel of what it is like working at a special needs shelter during a hurricane response activation.

In October, Hurricane Milton made landfall in Florida. As we look back on the impacts of the storm, we are grateful for the resilience and preparedness of our community. Working alongside the Office of Emergency Management and local agencies at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), we facilitated a successful incident response. Our staff's dedication to the public's health and safety ensured we were ready for whatever challenges came our way. After the storm and the assessment of client's power statuses were made to ensure a safe return home, I had the opportunity to visit the shelters and hear stories of how staff supported each other and managed unexpected challenges. It is inspiring to see all partners coming together during this response.

This 2024 summary is only a glimpse of the commitment and dedication of the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County. We are here to serve and provide resources to help the community reach their health goals.

–Ethan Johnson, DrPH, MPH
Administrator

Executive Leadership Team

Clockwise

Ethan Johnson, DrPH, MPH

Administrator

Ana Scuteri, MPH

Assistant County Health Department
Director

Shellon Fortune, MBA, MS

Operations and Management Consultant
Manager

Thomas Kellis, FCCM

Administrative Services Director

Meena Joseph, MD

Medical Director

Sarah A. Wright, MPH, BSN, RN

Executive Community Health
Nursing Director



OUR VALUES (ICARE)

Innovation
Collaboration
Accountability
Responsiveness
Excellence

OUR FOUNDATION

Quality health care, education, safety, disease prevention, and community partnerships serve as the foundation for the services provided at DOH-Seminole. With a focus on quality and using customer feedback and evidence-based practices, we accomplish our mission to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

Health for All is Our Vision

We want to be part of the solution. Seminole County's Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan help us bring the community together to look at the many factors that influence health, select strategies that can improve health, and make changes that will have a lasting impact.

	2023	2024	TOTAL*
Clients Served	12,012	11,935	23,947
Visits	23,346	23,130	46,476
Services	91,579	100,808	192,387
Clinical Interns	56	82	138

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

The Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

The Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program in Seminole County provides clinical breast examinations, screening and diagnostic mammogram referrals, Pap tests, and HPV screenings to women 40-64 years of age who are uninsured Florida residents in Seminole, Orange, Lake, and Osceola counties. Eligible women must have a household income that is less than or equal to 200% of the poverty level.



SCREENINGS CONDUCTED

2023

233 mammograms
56 Pap smears

2024

289 mammograms
24 Pap smears

Community Integrated Mobile Health Services

The Community Integrated Mobile Health Services Program provided community-based health screening, testing, education, and referrals to individuals with limited access to care in Seminole County.

To ensure services are available to recipients most in need, DOH-Seminole partners with local organizations, such as Shepherd's Hope, Uptown Altamonte (Remington Inn), Rescue Outreach Mission, One Senior Place, Picnic Project, Community Church of God- Geneva, Midway Safe Harbor, Iglesia El Redentor, Iglesias Vida Nueva, Fancy Fruit, Pathways to Care, Bueno Pharmacy, and Hope Helps.

2023

3,534
services provided

2024

7,322
services provided



Dental Care

DOH-Seminole’s Dental Care Program provides exams, X-rays, nutritional and oral health education, topical fluoride treatments, sealants, fillings, cleanings, and simple extractions.



School-Based Sealant Program Hygienist Lilia M. Koenig, RDH, providing service to a student.

DENTAL CARE PROGRAM SERVICES PROVIDED

	2023	2024
Exams	2,360	1,905
Cleanings	1,688	2,157
Fluoride treatments	1,754	2,162
Sealants	2,224	1,965
Oral health education	1,768	2,156

In 2024, DOH-Seminole experienced an approximate 10% increase in non-Medicaid children.

SCHOOL BASED SEALANT PROGRAM (SBSP)

	2023	2024
Children Seen	331	700
Screenings	331	703
Fluoride Treatments	320	612
Oral Health Education	328	688
Sealants	874	1,879
Prophylaxis (cleaning)	293	615

The Sealing Sunny Smiles Across Florida initiative is part of a statewide oral health plan to promote evidence-based prevention strategies to achieve optimal oral health for all Floridians. This school-based sealant program serves Title 1 schools in Seminole County in second and fifth grades. A dental hygienist provides preventive services including screenings, oral hygiene education, fluoride varnishes, cleanings, and sealants utilizing portable equipment. Seminole County Government provides financial support to the program for the non-Medicaid clients.



Diabetes Programs

The **Diabetes Prevention Program** serves individuals who are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes with free screenings and education sessions that cover topics such as healthy eating, maintaining an active lifestyle, food tracking, risk reduction, and problem solving. In 2024, there were a total of nine participants in the program.

The **Diabetes Self-Management Education Program** is offered to individuals that have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. The program includes up to eight hours of individualized education by professional coordinator to assist individuals with the knowledge necessary to successfully manage their diabetes. In 2024, there were a total of 10 participants in the program.

All screened clients received diabetes information and were offered referrals to either the prevention program or diabetes self-management education.

Both programs ended in May 2024, and replaced by the new **Diabetes Empowerment Education Program**.



DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

	2023	Through April 2024
Participants	42	9

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

	2023	Through April 2024
Participants	43	10

DIABETES EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

	2024
Participants	36



Environmental Public Health

Environmental public health activities focus on prevention, preparedness, and education. The program supports public health in the community through routine inspections of regulated facilities, issuing permits and licenses, enforcing Florida laws, and responding to questions regarding environmental concerns. These programs monitor health impacts of the environment.

There were 12 sanitary nuisance complaints in 2023, and 47 in 2024. A sanitary nuisance is anything done, or allowed to exist, that can harm people’s health or spread disease. This can include human waste, garbage, dead animals, or foul odors that are not properly handled and are harmful to people; any conditions that create or allow insects like flies or mosquitoes to breed.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

	2023	2024
Biomedical Waste	589	710
Body Piercing	13	14
Food Hygiene	115	64
Group Care Facilities	139	86
Limited Use Water	18	2
Migrant Labor Camps	2	0
Mobile Home Parks	13	10
OSTDS Operating	414	113
Swimming Pools	156	290
Tanning	4	17
Tattoo	75	86
Septic (OSTDS) Inspections	924	856
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	2,456	2,248



Epidemiology

DOH-Seminole's Epidemiology Program conducts disease surveillance and investigates suspected and confirmed occurrences of infectious diseases and conditions reported from physician's offices, hospitals, and laboratories.

All practitioners, hospitals, and laboratories in Florida are required to notify the Florida Department of Health of diseases or conditions of public health significance according to section 381.0031, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code.

2024

2,060
disease cases investigated

907
reportable diseases

87
disease outbreaks

In 2024, most of the outbreaks were respiratory illnesses followed by respiratory gastrointestinal illnesses and rashes.

Florida Healthy Babies

The Florida Healthy Babies initiative is a statewide effort to reduce infant mortality. The collective strength of partners work together to improve the health and well-being of Floridians.

Community Outreach and Partner Collaboration for Safe Sleep Practices

During 2024, Florida Healthy Babies participated in the statewide Sleep Baby Safely campaign. This campaign provides evidence-based safe sleep education to reduce the risk of deaths and accidental suffocation. The team distributed 1,118 bags through community outreach and partner collaborations. The educational materials and safety bags included a onesie, sleep sack, nightlight, and outlet covers, with messages reminding parents that infants should be placed to sleep alone, on their back, and in a crib.

Drowning Prevention: Storytime Teaches Kids Lifesaving Lessons

During February and March of 2024, the Florida Healthy Babies team conducted a drowning prevention campaign across Seminole County, highlighting Stewie the Duck Leans to Swim book to children ages 2-5. Stewie's story teaches water safety rules like getting swim lesson, wearing life vests, and the importance of parental supervision. The team conducted story-times at DOH-Seminole to 27 children.

The team also visited five daycare centers in Seminole

County reading the story to an additional 220 children. All children received a copy of the book to take home, resource and education material on drowning prevention for parents, and information on swim lessons available in Seminole County.

Empowering Parents: Outreach Focuses on Stillbirth Prevention and Awareness

The Florida Healthy Babies team shared the Count the Kicks initiative during the annual Healthy Start Coalition of Seminole Baby Shower on April 26, 2024. Count the Kicks is a stillbirth prevention campaign that empowers moms to track their baby's movements starting at 28 weeks of pregnancy. By counting kicks daily at the same time each day, moms can learn their baby's patterns and recognize when something doesn't seem right.

The team spoke with 42 expectant mothers on the value of monitoring fetal movement beginning in the third trimester and was able to help them download and utilize the app on their phones.



Left to right: Amanda Rubio, Yashna Singh, and Vanessa Aihe

Hepatitis Program

DOH-Seminole’s Hepatitis Prevention Program, focuses on targeted community education and provides screening and testing for hepatitis A, B, and C. Treatment referrals are provided for those who test positive for hepatitis C.

HEPATITIS SERVICES PROVIDED

2024

- 615 clients served
- 666 services provided
- 1,593 hepatitis screenings conducted

HIV/AIDS Prevention

DOH-Seminole offers PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) to anyone age 18 years or older with a non-reactive HIV test. PrEP is a single pill taken once daily to prevent HIV infection if taken as directed.

PREP PROGRAM PROVIDED

2023

103 client referrals

35 clients enrolled in program

8 community outreach events attended

2024

61 client referrals

54 clients enrolled in program

28 community outreach events attended

24 rapid HIV/AIDS tests provided through mobile community events



Immunization

IMMUNIZATIONS PROVIDED

20232024

12,4259,272

	2023	2024
Hepatitis A	18	40
Hepatitis B	56	32
Hepatitis A and B	44	15
IPV	75	114
Japanese Encephalitis	37	8
Typhoid Injectable	222	141
Yellow Fever	421	232
Rabies	95	71

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS ISSUED

20232024

642584

Health Promotion and Education

The Office of Health Promotion and Education coordinates community engagement and partnerships to offer chronic disease prevention strategies, education and screenings, host health-related events, and assess community needs to positively impact the health and wellness.



OUTREACH NUMBERS

2023

55

outreach events

2024

73

outreach events

These outreach numbers are separate from the Community Integrated Mobile Health Services outreaches.



Performance and Quality Improvement

The Office of Performance and Quality Improvement monitors the organization's performance management system, including the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and strategic, workforce development, and quality improvement plans. The office is responsible for fostering a culture of quality improvement and innovation as well as to develop annual reports collecting and monitoring required documentation to adhere to Public Health Accreditation Board standards and measures.

Public Health Preparedness

DOH-Seminole's Public Health Preparedness Program is responsible for coordinating Seminole County's response to public health and medical emergencies. The program provides support to special needs shelters and distribution of medicines to impacted communities. The program participates in readiness activities and updates preparedness plans annually to ensure rapid response services during natural disasters or emergencies.

Hurricane Training Exercise

On May 30, 2024, DOH-Seminole participated in the Seminole County's annual hurricane exercise at the Seminole County Emergency Operations Center. During the training exercise, participants received and responded to simulated calls from county residents, long-term care facilities, and shelter managers to test response procedures and resource management.

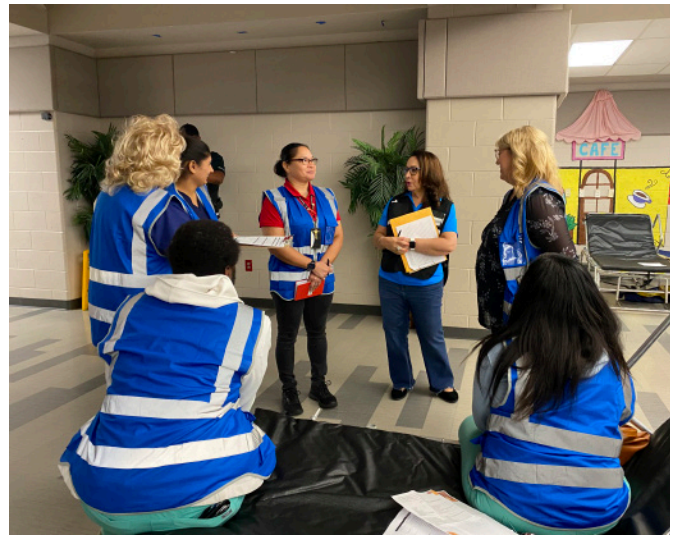
During the exercise, Seminole County Emergency Management hosted a press conference with multiple local news outlets in the EOC to highlight the work of the partnering agencies during a hurricane activation.

Special Needs Sheltering Training Exercise

On July 9, 2024, Seminole County Emergency Management, Seminole County Public Schools, and DOH-Seminole conducted a full-scale shelter activation training exercise at Bentley Elementary School. The exercise simulated the activation and operation of a special needs pet friendly shelter during a Category 3 hurricane. Two shelter teams participated in the exercise, simulating both a day and night shift through activation, set-up, operation, shift change, discharge, demobilization, and breakdown.

Hurricane Milton Response

On October 9 – 11, 2024, DOH-Seminole, in partnership with Seminole County Emergency Management and Seminole County Public Schools, operated three special needs shelters in response to Hurricane Milton. Staff assisted over 90 clients across all shelter sites while additional staff worked in the Seminole County EOC overseeing shelter operations, maintaining contact with long-term care facilities and hospitals, and ensuring team members had the resources and supplies necessary to support public health.



Refugee Health

The Refugee Health Program provides an initial health review, mental and physical health assessments, comprehensive laboratory screening for communicable and chronic diseases, and provides immigration form validations for those clients seeking to adjust their immigration status.

Clients' county of origin includes Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

REFUGEE SERVICES

2024

469 clients served

878 services provided

School Health Program

During the 2023–24 school year, the School Health Program and Seminole County Public Schools' screening teams offered more than 38,000 screening services to students. Health screenings include vision, hearing, scoliosis, oral health, and growth and development.

- Over 3,400 students were referred for follow-up services
- Participated in more than 20 community outreach and educational activities

As part of the comprehensive school health approach, Seminole County's School Health Advisory Committee met quarterly to share resources on topics of student wellness, epilepsy, substance use prevention, pediatric infectious disease, youth mental health, oral health, and human trafficking, among others.

The School Health Advisory Committee includes over 30 active collaborating members representing 10 different components that impact school health, including school safety, mental and social health, physical environment, nutrition, physical activity, health services, community and family engagement, and health education.



Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Confidential services are provided to anyone who seeks care for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and diseases (STDs). Disease intervention specialists participate in education and community health activities throughout the year, providing free testing and prevention education.

Collaborating across county borders, disease intervention specialists monitor the number of syphilis, HIV, gonorrhea, and chlamydia cases reported, and coordinate appropriate responses.

STD SERVICES		
	2023	2024
Clients served	1,665	1,406
Services provided	8,468	8,339
HIV service clients	462	506
HIV services provided	5,681	12,855

Positive Youth Development

The Positive Youth Development Program supports Seminole County youth and adolescents by delivering engaging workshops for practicing life skills, self awareness and social intelligence, and engagement in reflection activities. The workshops address topics such as social media safety, understanding and managing emotions, communication, assertiveness, healthy relationships, understanding your skills, knowing your values, among others.

The program partners with various community organizations including, Seminole Prevention Coalition, U.S. Army National Guard, Outreach Rescue Mission, Meals on Wheels, Central Florida GROW, Tobacco Free Partnership, and local veteran’s posts and senior centers, for community service-learning projects.



Youth from the 21st Century Midway Safe Harbor worked on a community service-learning project making pillows and blankets for donation to families at Outreach Rescue Mission.

Youth also have a chance to practice leadership and life skills through youth-led community service activities.

Youth facilitators hosted more than 360 workshops through the year with various community partners, including 21st Century After School Program, Boys and Girls Clubs in Oviedo, Impower the Grove Village, Juvenile Justice Center, UYA, City of Sanford Triplet Center, YMCA Leadership Oviedo, Eugene Gregory Memorial Youth Academy, and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

During school year 2023-2024

- More than 1,050 community service hours provided by youth
- More than 550 youth served (fifth grade and older) at more than nine different sites

Tobacco Prevention

The tobacco prevention and cessation team referred 29 clients to Tobacco Free Florida’s Quit Your Way program for nicotine replacement therapy. The team identified clients that were ready to commit to quitting tobacco use through community outreach and partner support services. Quit Your Way provides free tools and services to Floridians and nicotine replacement therapy provides controlled doses of nicotine without the additional harmful chemicals in tobacco. This approach assists alleviating withdrawal symptoms and cravings while going through the journey of quitting tobacco.



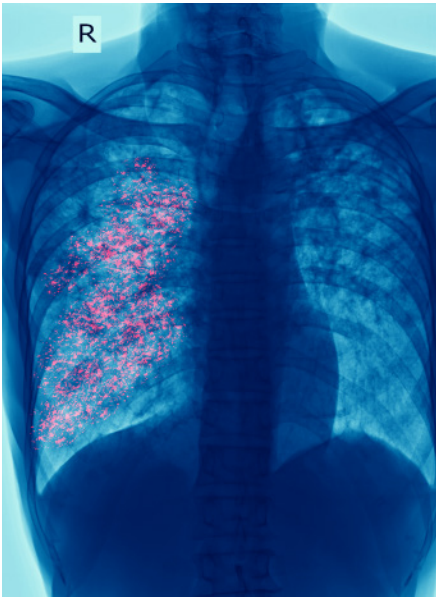
The team joined the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office’s Youth Services to participate in the Safe Spring Break Resource Fair at Seminole State College in Oviedo. More than 50 students participated and learned the importance of quitting smoking/vaping, effects of tobacco on the brain and body, available support through Quit Your Way.

Tuberculosis

The Tuberculosis (TB) Program investigates suspected and confirmed cases of TB, and provides skin testing, imaging referrals, and medications.

Other services include directly observed therapy, nurse case management, and medical management services.

In 2024, there were 3 reported TB cases in Seminole County.



Vital Statistics

DOH-Seminole’s Office of Vital Statistics provides official records of births and deaths by request.

In addition to records provided through the county health department, DOH-Seminole has continued the partnership with the Seminole County Tax Collector to issue certified copies of Florida birth certificates in participating offices.



	2023	2024
Births	2,726	3,051
Deaths	3,675	3,795
Birth/Death Certificates	56,364	58,076
Clients Served	13,152	14,260

Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC is a federally-funded nutrition program for woman, infants, and children. It provides no cost healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals for health care and community services at the Sanford and Casselberry DOH-Seminole locations to eligible clients.

WIC SERVICES		
	2023	2024
Eligible population served	63.9%	67.8%
Clients served	5,715	6,063
Services provided	96,039	105,871

Participation increased by 3.9% from last year, providing 3,660 more services. 16 community outreach events were attended for client referrals.



WIC advertisement on a Lynx bus.

Program Goals (September 2023 to September 2024)

- Pregnant women enrolled during their first trimester increased by 16.9% to 51.65%
- Infants fully breastfed at least 26 weeks increased by .62% to 25.88%
- Infants breastfed for at least 26 weeks decreased by 1.7% to 45.58%

The breastfeeding coordinator and WIC supervisor completed a capstone project focused on identifying the reasons for WIC staff turnover. Through the process, the WIC team made changes to improve morale and job satisfaction based on the feedback from the surveys.

SUPPORT THROUGH GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Nutritional Education Program

\$70,000

2023-2024

Funded by Seminole County Government

Diabetes Education

\$40,000

2023-2024

Funded by Seminole County Government

Dental Care Program

\$20,000

2022-2023

\$30,000

2023-2024

Funded by Seminole County Government

Community Outreach and Services

\$100,000

2022-2023

\$100,000

2023-2024

Funded by Seminole County Government

Pediatric Asthma

\$60,000

2022-2023

\$56,659

2023-2024

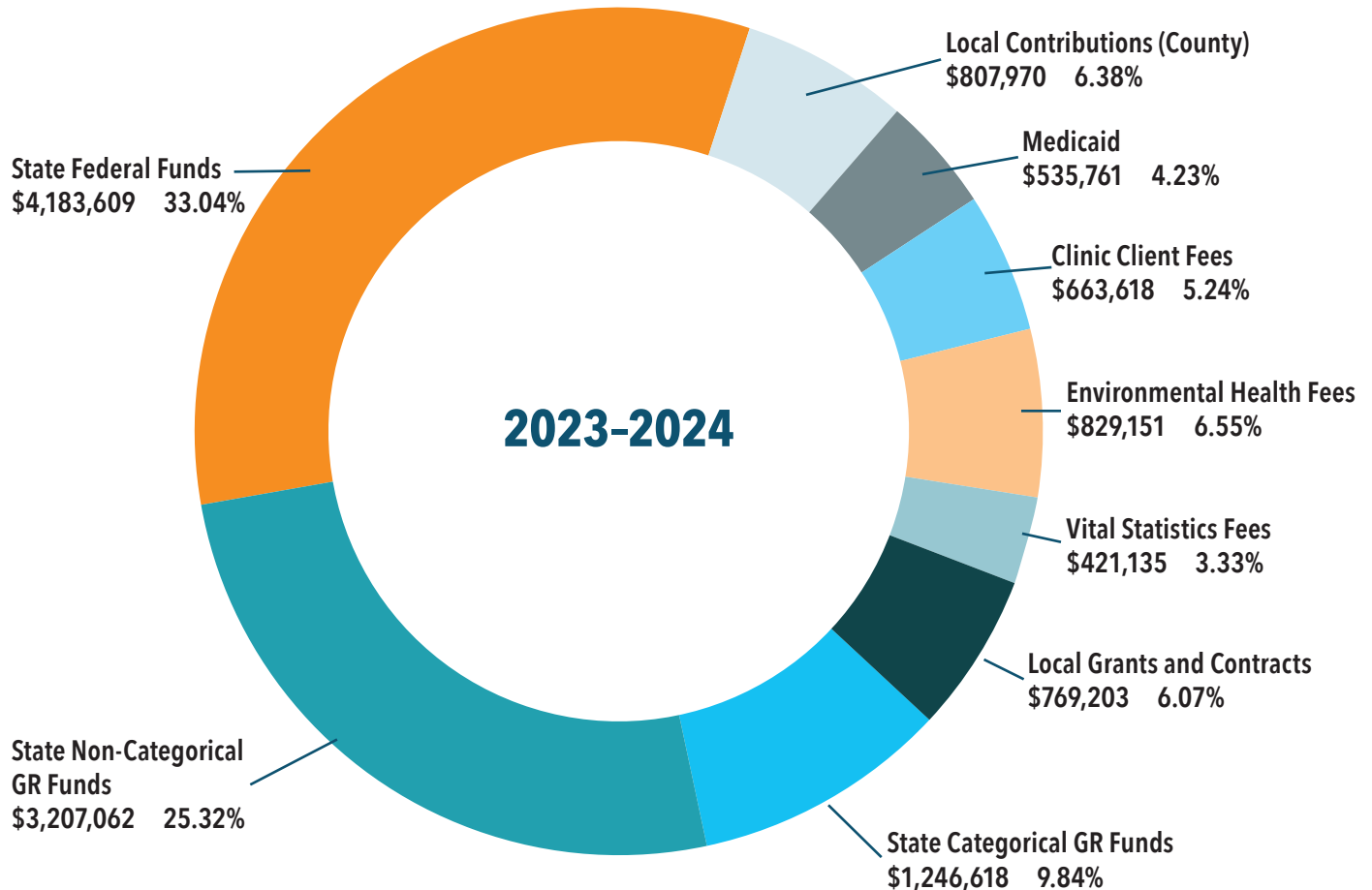
Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Highlights

	2022–2023		2023–2024	
State Categorical GR Funds	\$1,306,340	10.73%	\$1,246,618	9.84%
State Non-Categorical GR Funds	\$2,570,447	21.12%	\$3,207,062	25.32%
State Federal Funds	\$4,248,473	34.90%	\$4,183,609	33.04%
Local Contributions (County)	\$807,970	6.64%	\$807,970	6.38%
Medicaid	\$492,491	4.05%	\$535,761	4.23%
Clinic Client Fees	\$671,814	5.52%	\$663,618	5.24%
Environmental Health Fees	\$724,027	5.95%	\$829,151	6.55%
Vital Statistics Fees	\$433,731	3.56%	\$421,135	3.33%
Local Grants and Contracts	\$916,493	7.53%	\$769,203	6.07%
TOTAL	\$12,171,786	100%	\$12,664,127	100%



SUCCESSES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Carmen Pearman and Gary Jenkins were recognized on February 6, 2024, by Seminole County Public Schools' Great Start Program for their volunteer work.



Delegates from Senator Marco Rubio's office and Florida Department of Health's State Health Office leadership visited DOH-Seminole in April.

Dr. Ethan Johnson provided a presentation about DOH-Seminole's services and Ana Scuteri and Sarah Wright provided a brief tour of the facilities.



Seminole State College, Seminole State Commits, and DOH-Seminole collaborated to host English classes at DOH-Seminole. This collaboration is a product of a quality improvement project to assist clients that have difficulties completing forms in English. Of the 101 people surveyed, 88% indicated they were interested in attending classes at DOH-Seminole.

An information session was hosted on Wednesday May 1, 2024, for the first group of participants. The first cohort of classes was completed in six weeks and assessments were conducted to gauge progress. By December 2024, a total of four cohorts have been conducted, offering two levels (basic and intermediate) since third cohort, extended to eight-week classes, with an average of 31 students recruited per cohort and 51.9% retention rate.





Sakia'Lynn Johnson, breastfeeding coordinator and supervisor in DOH-Seminole's WIC Program, completed the Florida Health/University of South Florida Public Health Executive Leadership Institute Program, a leadership development initiative intended to equip future leaders in with knowledge and skills necessary to lead in today's health care and public health environment.

She completed the seven-month program and presented a capstone project on May 10, 2024.



Debbie Cueto and Erica Vazquez attended the Sterling Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, May 29-31, 2025. They participated in the storyboard competition and presented to judges and conference attendees on a DOH-Seminole quality improvement project. The project aimed to increase customer satisfaction by removing barriers identified in the phone line systems.

The project team was able to reduce the number of phone related complaints from an average of three per month in 2022, to zero in 2023.

The Sterling Leadership Conference provides networking, engagement, and workshops focused on the best practices for customer satisfaction of high-performing organizations.

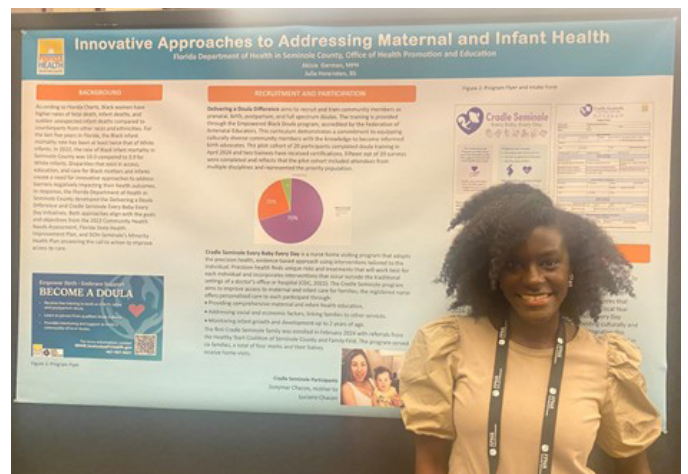
On Thursday, June 6, 2024, DOH-Seminole hosted the first Revive Awareness Day event with a press conference and community health fair.

State and local leaders participated in the press conference to highlight how Florida is combating the opioid epidemic using opioid antagonists and supporting long-term patient recovery.

Locally, DOH-Seminole continues to provide opioid prevention information and resources during outreach events. Naloxone, the lifesaving medication that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose, is also distributed to anyone who requests it.



Akisia Hicks German and Julia Horensten from DOH-Seminole's Office of Health Promotion and Education attended the Florida Public Health Association Annual Conference July 30-31, 2024. Akisia and Julia had the opportunity to present the "Innovative Approaches to Addressing Maternal and Infant Health" poster which highlights the Delivering a Doula Difference and Cradle Seminole Every Baby Every Day initiatives. The conference provided an opportunity to learn from a range of speakers, workshops, and presentations that provided enhanced perspective of public health service delivery from leaders and peers around the state.



On December 14, 2025, DOH-Seminole participated in the city of Sanford's Parade of Lights. The parade float was decorated with "A Minion Ways to Health" theme. Staff walked the parade route providing banana and light bulb squishy items and healthy snacks.

The hard work paid off; the float won first place as most original.





Florida Department of Health in Seminole County

400 W. Airport Blvd, Sanford, FL 32773

407-665-3000

Seminole.FloridaHealth.gov