



2009 State Report

State: Alabama

Date: 4/15/09

Contact: John Hankins

Email: John.Hankins@adph.state.al.us

Phone: (334) 206-5648

Fax: (334) 206-3869

Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

The Nursing Division continues to work towards its mission of assuring conditions in which individuals, families, and communities can be healthy as it utilizes the unique expertise of public health nurses to assess, plan, and implement programs which promote health and prevent disease. During 2008, staff collaborated with community partners throughout the state to promote safe nursing practice, enhance the knowledge of public health nurses, and to foster relationships between partners to promote nursing as a career. This year, our collaborating partners included the Alabama Board of Nursing, the Alabama State Nurses Association, the Alabama Nursing Coalition, the Alabama Nurses Foundation, the Health Disparities Advisor Council, and the Emergency Medical Systems for Children Advisory Board. Our university collaborations included The University of Alabama, Auburn University and Auburn Montgomery, and the University of South Alabama and we have clinical affiliations with 31 schools of nursing throughout Alabama and the United States. The Alabama Department of Public Health is also represented by staff as members of the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing.

New nurse orientation has been a major focus of the Division during 2008. It is our belief that an exceptional orientation process will lead to the retention of nurses in our employ. The clinic orientation process has been streamlined and a preceptorship and mentorship model has been adopted to assist new nurses in the transition from private practice into the public healthcare model. As of November 1, 2008, 250 nurses were employed to perform services directly related to clinic services.

The Nursing Division serves as the American Heart Association Community Training Center for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first aid training. Our 140 instructors are based throughout Alabama and provide CPR and first aid training to daycare providers, community volunteers, and healthcare professionals. The Division is also approved to provide continuing education for nurses by the Alabama Board of Nursing and the Alabama State Nurses Association in collaboration with the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

During 2008, Division staff participated in training exercises for emergency response which included influenza mass vaccination clinics to prepare for a future influenza pandemic. Staff also participated in the preparation and ongoing support for Hurricane Gustav and its aftermath.