



State and Partner Report 2006*

State: Arkansas

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

1. Re-classification of Advanced Practice Nurses/Registered Nurse Practitioners within Arkansas Department of health for recruitment and retention purposes.
2. Arkansas Nurses provided essential public health services to many of the estimated 75,00 evacuees that sought safety and shelter immediately after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Nine thousand evacuees from Katrina and 1,5000 arrived via FEMA busses and Airplanes to the initial staging site at Fort Chaffee. Public Health Nurses along wit other providers and volunteers provided basic health service, needs assessments, immunizations, acute and maintenance prescriptions. Over 100 shelters were up and running with the help of faith-based camp. Public Health Nurses across the state staffed church camp shelters providing screenings, basic first aid, physical and mental health referrals. Public Health Nurses worked directly with state epidemiologists. We were fortunate to have a team of U.S. Public Service Nurses from CDC who worked with us in shelters and church camps to develop systems and individual care plans.
3. Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Human Services merges to form the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Department became the Division of Health under the new agency. Dr. Paul Halverson became the new Division Director. Organizational changes resulted in the appointment of a State Director of Nursing in the Center for Local Public Health Services. This change has lead to many new opportunities for nursing to be involved at the state level in program planning.
4. The Arkansas Diabetes Prevention and Control Program at the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health, was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the Program Director's meeting in Atlanta for achieving a Healthy People 2010 objective for diabetes. – The Healthy People 2010 objective was to increase the percentage of persons with diabetes who receive two or more glycosylated hemoglobin (A1c) measures in a year to 65 percent. On a mid-period evaluation of the states conducted by the CDC, Arkansas' rate was found to be 67.4 percent, surpassing the Healthy People 2010 objective. The CDC presented a 'Certificate of Recognition' to the Arkansas Diabetes Prevention and Control Program at the



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Program Directors meeting in Atlanta on March 1, 2006 for this accomplishment.

5. Boxing champion Jermain “Bad Intentions” Taylor – Arkansas resident partnered with Division of Health and Stamp Out Smoking Campaign to reach the youth. Made a music video and several commercials of this topic.

Projects/Issues Pending:

1. We are currently working with the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBON) to develop a link from their website to the Division of Health webpage, where we currently have a database of over 2000 nurse volunteers registered.
2. We currently have a task force of Emergency Preparedness Communicable Disease Nurse Specialists working on emergency preparedness nursing protocols and policies.
3. The development and implementing ongoing Emergency Preparedness Inservice and training to volunteer nurses throughout the state is an ongoing concern.

Issues and Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

1. Ability to offer Public Health Nursing salary adjustments in the 2005 Fiscal Year
2. Ability to recruit Public health Nurses in an environment of intense competition for nurses and lucrative salaries for nurses outside of the confines of state government
3. Establishment of an Office of Patient Care Services within the Administrative structure of the Arkansas State Department of Health

*Reports must be sent electronically to Justina Novak (justina.novak@doh.wa.gov) by April 15, 2006 in order to be included in packets. If your form is not received by then, you need to bring 50 copies of your report to the meeting.