Cobb & Douglas Public Health Mission
Cobb & Douglas Public Health, with our partners, promotes and protects the health and safety of the residents of Cobb and Douglas counties.

We work to achieve healthy people in healthy communities by:
- Preventing epidemics and spread of disease
- Protecting against environmental hazards
- Preventing injuries
- Promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors
- Responding to disasters and assisting in community recovery
- Assuring the quality and accessibility of health care

By excelling at our core responsibilities, we will achieve healthier lives and a healthier community.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health Vision
By 2020, Cobb & Douglas Public Health will be an acknowledged leader among health departments in the U.S.

In order to continuously improve our effectiveness and the health of our communities, we will work internally and with community partners to:
- Demonstrate significant improvement on key health and safety indicators
- Achieve operational excellence by exceeding local public health system performance expectations
- Champion workforce enhancement

To achieve these ambitious goals, we will engage, respect and value our staff and partners, thereby creating healthier lives and a healthier community.

Cobb Board of Health
Dan Stephens, M.D. | Chairman (1987-2015)
Dr. Stephens first began serving as a member of the Cobb Board of Health in 1987. In 1993, he became Chairman of the Board, a role he held for 22 years. For decades, Dr. Stephens has supported the integral role Cobb Public Health plays in our community. He has also remained one of Cobb Public Health’s greatest advocates during his tenure. In Dr. Stephen’s honor, the Cobb Public Health Board Room was recently named the Dan B. Stephens Board Room.

Dr. Carol Holtz | Chair
Distinguished Lecturer and Current Professor of Nursing at Kennesaw State University

Mr. W. Wyman Pilcher, III | Vice-Chair
Retired President, First National Bank of Cobb County

Dr. Emily Lembeck
Superintendent, Marietta City Schools

Mr. Tim Lee
Chairman, Cobb County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Chris Ragsdale
Superintendent, Cobb County School District

Ms. Judi Snelson
Retired Educator

Cobb & Douglas Public Health Leadership Team

John D. Kennedy, M.D. – District Health Director
Lisa Crossman – Deputy Director
Cynthia Appleby – Director, Human Resources
Pam Blackwell – Director, Center for Emergency Preparedness & Response
Valerie Crow – Director, Office of Communications

Chris Hutcheson – Director, Center for Environmental Health
Jonathan Kemp – Director, Information Technology
Virgil Moon – Director, Center for Administration
Gurleen Roberts – Director, Office of Quality Management
Laurie Ross – Director, Family Health
Catharine Smythe – Director, Center for Clinical Services

Douglas Board of Health
Mr. Tom Worthan | Chair
Chairman, Douglas County Board of Commissioners

Charles Craton, M.D.
Physician, Wellstar Douglas Hospital

Ms. Rochelle Robinson
Mayor, City of Douglasville

Dr. Gordon Pritz
Superintendent, Douglas County School System

Mr. Robert Whatley
Retired Attorney and Judge

Ms. Faymarie Landers
Former Federal Mediator, National Mediation Board

Mr. Steve “Thunder” Tumlin
Mayor, City of Marietta

James M. Tallman, M.D.
Radiologist, Quantum Radiology

Mr. Esau Birdsong
Retired, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation

Douglas Board of Health

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By exciting at our core responsibilities, we will achieve healthier lives and a healthier community.
I am pleased to present the FY2015 Cobb & Douglas Public Health Annual Report. This document reflects the work our health district has done throughout the year to improve the health of our diverse communities, to mobilize and strengthen community partnerships, to achieve collective impact and to ensure that we, as a public health agency, are continuously working to improve the quality of the services we deliver.

FY2015 marked a very busy and successful year for Cobb & Douglas Public Health. In May, we became the first health department in the state of Georgia to achieve national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board and only 79 agencies out of more than 3,000 nationwide have received this recognition. This designation confirms that we met or exceeded a set of rigorous public health quality standards and affirms both the commitment and excellence of our staff and partners.

Last spring, we completed an extensive renovation at our Douglas Public Health Center. Residents continue to enjoy the much improved waiting area and service spaces for programs such as WIC (Women, Infant & Child Supplemental Nutrition), Safe Kids and Family Health. In June, we celebrated the grand opening of Building B, a 40,000 square foot addition to our Marietta Public Health Center campus. The new space allows us to provide both improved access to and quality of services for residents visiting several programs including WIC, Tuberculosis & Refugee Services, Environmental Health and Babies Can’t Wait. We are so appreciative of our elected officials and residents who included this and other facility improvements in the 2011 and 2016 Cobb SPLOST projects.

The skills and commitment of our public health staff, board members and partners are fundamental in providing quality services for our community. My sincere thanks go to all who have worked tirelessly this past year to serve our residents. This commitment was especially demonstrated during the challenge we met to prepare for and educate our community in the midst of the global Ebola Virus Outbreak. It is reassuring that all the planning work we do with our partners for such events proved successful during this period.

As the director of Cobb & Douglas Public Health, I am confident that we are on the right track toward improving the health, wellness and safety of all who live, work and play in Cobb and Douglas counties. I would like to thank the Georgia Department of Public Health, our Boards of Health and our community partners for their dedication and strong commitment to this goal. We hope you will find this document informative and will join us in working to pursue our Vision of Healthier Lives and a Healthier Community.

John D. Kennedy, M.D.
District Health Director
Cobb & Douglas Public Health

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CDPH Receives Accreditation Status

In May 2015, the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) announced it had awarded five-year accreditation status to Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH), the first health department in Georgia to earn this status. This decision brought the number of governmental public health departments recognized by PHAB as high-performing health departments to 79 in the U.S.

PHAB is the independent accreditation organization which aims to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of the nation’s tribal, state, local, and territorial health departments. The national accreditation program sets standards against which more than 3,000 public health departments can continuously work to improve the quality of their services and performance.

To receive national accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of public health quality standards and measures. The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments regarding both their strengths and opportunities for improvement so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people in the communities they serve.

This extraordinary achievement demonstrates Cobb & Douglas Public Health’s commitment to the mission of providing the highest quality public health services to the residents of Cobb and Douglas counties.

Ebola Virus Disease - CDPH Was Prepared and Responded

In the summer of 2014, when the nation came face-to-face with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) played an integral role preparing for and responding to the threat. In August 2014, CDPH Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR) worked closely with Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Emory Healthcare and Phoenix Air when the first three Ebola patients from West Africa flew into Metropolitan Atlanta for treatment. By September, awareness, information management, and quelling public fears emerged as top objectives, and CDPH Epidemiology (EPI) and EPR staff responded by hosting multiple trainings with Public Health staff, schools, and other partners. The presentations emphasized the importance of calling the statewide phone number (1-866-PUB-HLTH) for all suspected Ebola cases. This hotline will also be used for future infectious disease emergencies. CDPH also created an internal Ebola Response Team to disseminate information, develop and implement the EVD policies and protocols and provide protective equipment usage training for clinical staff.

In October 2014, when a suspected Ebola case was reported at a Cobb County Jail, the district put training into action! The Cobb Sheriff’s Department handled the inmate exactly according to plan to protect the individual, staff and other inmates. The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), Cobb County Government, MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service, WellStar and CDPH all pulled together with the Sheriff’s Department to assure proper practices were followed and that the public was kept informed and protected.
Meanwhile, travelers who had been in Ebola-affected countries were continually traveling to the United States. Since October 2014, traveler evaluation and risk-level assessment have been used to more easily track individuals screened at one of five entry airports, including Atlanta. To aid active surveillance, DPH developed a new module within the existing State Surveillance System (SENDSS), and CDPH epidemiologists monitor effected travelers whose destination is Cobb or Douglas County. Between October 2014 and October 2015, 195 travelers were monitored within the district. Of these, 36 were CDC employees. Approximately five travelers reported various symptoms. Multiple home visits have been conducted because of traveler non-compliance or an inability to make contact. One traveler met the criteria for medical evaluation, and CDPH coordinated with state EPR/EPI and Emory to assure proper transport and evaluation. Fortunately, the patient did not have Ebola.

The new, added components to the notifiable disease database and the tracking flowchart that CDPH and DPH developed for the Ebola outbreak and being replicated in other states. The same process and IT system will be used for surveillance when there are other future outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Opening of Two New WIC Clinics in North Cobb and South Cobb

In 2014, CDPH was able to reopen two key public health Women, Infants and Children Nutrition (WIC) clinics in North Cobb (Acworth/Kennesaw) and South Cobb (Six Flags Drive). These clinics had been closed in 2012 due to the economic downturn and severe federal funding reductions. The closure impacted services to the WIC clients who had to travel farther for services or not access them at all. It also reduced the income from food voucher redemption at local grocery stores. Historically, these two sites had served more than 5,000 pregnant women and young children and resulted in $2.1 million annually being spent in local grocery stores.

In October 2014, the South Cobb clinic was reopened and in April 2015, the clinic in North Cobb area reopened. This re-established key public health services closer to clients’ homes and helped to increase the voucher redemption in local grocery stores. These two WIC clinics are already serving 2,100 clients!

CDPH is pleased to be able to provide convenient WIC services such as breastfeeding support, nutrition education, vouchers for healthy foods and obesity reduction services. All services work to improve the overall health of our pregnant women to support healthy births and to influence the positive growth and development of children so they will be strong and ready for kindergarten!
Douglas Public Health Building Gets a Much Needed Facelift

In March 2015, Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) completed three months of extensive renovations to the Douglas Public Health Center. Residents continue to enjoy the improved waiting area and service spaces for programs such as Women, Infant & Child Nutrition Services (WIC), Safe Kids and Family Health. Special thanks to our Douglas Public Health Board and Douglas County Government staff for their support in completing this work.

Opening of Marietta Building B Expansion

In May 2015, Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) completed a year-long renovation of the 40,000 square foot Marietta Public Health Center - Building B. The journey began in 2008 when the CDPH leadership team, led by Dr. Dan Stephens, recognized the need for expanding and improving the CDPH facilities to meet the needs of the growing county. This building renovation was funded primarily by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales (SPLOST) Tax program which Cobb residents passed in 2010. It is fully paid for—there is no debt—and an estimated 30% of the funds came from non-county residents. Special thanks are given to Cobb Commission Chairman Tim Lee, retired Commissioner Helen Goreham and former Cobb Chairman and now Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens.

The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Nutrition program, Tuberculosis, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Chronic Disease Prevention, Epidemiology, Environmental Health and Family Health Programs have all moved into the new building and are positioned to better serve the community for years to come. In addition to newly renovated space, CDPH was also able to save over $100,000 in annual lease fees by relocating these programs from prior locations. These funds can now be used to provide direct client services.

On any project like this, it takes a large team of professionals to make the dream a reality! CDPH would like to especially thank the Design and Construction team:

- Piper, O’Brien, and Herr Architects
- Spratlin Construction
- Cobb County Government Administration and Property Management
- Georgia Department of Public Health and the State WIC Office for additional funding for our WIC portion of the building
- Cobb & Douglas Public Health Administration and Facilities staff

The members of this team have worked tirelessly over 18 months to design, construct, furnish and trouble-shoot the building. It was a huge undertaking, and CDPH thanks them publicly and enthusiastically for all the effort and expertise.
The primary mission of the Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) Epidemiology & Health Assessment Department is preventing epidemics and the spread of disease within our community. Per state law, diseases deemed notifiable by the state (see chart below) must be reported to Public Health by physicians, laboratorians, and other health care providers. In FY2015, approximately 1,800 general acute disease cases, 900 animal bites, and 2,900 Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) cases in Cobb and Douglas counties were reported to CDPH. Timely disease reporting is essential for public health follow-up for patient care, to help identify outbreaks and to provide the community with an understanding of disease trends and patterns.

CDPH epidemiologists are also responsible for conducting the Cobb and Douglas County Community Health Assessments and tracking key indicators to determine progress toward community health improvement goals. Creating improved community health requires the collaboration and cooperation of all stakeholders and residents in Cobb and Douglas counties. Therefore, the overall goals and success metrics presented below are closely integrated with the Cobb2020 Health Partnership and Live Healthy Douglas Coalition objectives, Georgia Public Health priorities, and national Healthy People 2020 targets. For more information on any of these groups, visit cobbannedouglasspublichealth.org.

1. Decrease in age-adjusted death rate of coronary heart disease
2. Decrease in age-adjusted death rate of stroke
3. Increase in percentage of students who are in the Aerobic Capacity Healthy Fitness Zone as measured by FitGrams
4. Increase in percentage of students who say they eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day
5. Decrease in percentage of obese adults with Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or higher
6. Decrease in percentage of adult cigarette smokers
7. Decrease in rate of visits to a local Emergency Department that do not result in a hospital admission
8. Increase in percentage of children who are fully immunized
9. Decrease in rate of primary and secondary syphilis infections
10. Decrease in the infant mortality rate
11. Decrease in percent of low birth weight babies

The following pages highlight the most recent demographics and key health status metrics by presenting trend and comparison data for Cobb and Douglas residents.
Demographics

Population by Race & Ethnicity, Cobb County, 2010 & 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>462,675</td>
<td>472,537</td>
<td>2.1% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN AMERICAN</td>
<td>177,055</td>
<td>199,733</td>
<td>12.8% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN</td>
<td>31,795</td>
<td>37,513</td>
<td>18% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE</td>
<td>3,542</td>
<td>3,490</td>
<td>1.5% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>8.7% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULTIRACIAL</td>
<td>14,423</td>
<td>17,185</td>
<td>19.1% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>690,063</td>
<td>730,981</td>
<td>5.9% ▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETHNICITY</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISPANIC</td>
<td>84,961</td>
<td>93,012</td>
<td>9.5% ▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population by Race & Ethnicity, Douglas County, 2010 & 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RACE</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>74,057</td>
<td>71,936</td>
<td>2.9% ▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN AMERICAN</td>
<td>53,339</td>
<td>60,390</td>
<td>13.2% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>2,364</td>
<td>16.3% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>15.8% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>3.2% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULTIRACIAL</td>
<td>2,571</td>
<td>3,276</td>
<td>27.4% ▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>132,722</td>
<td>138,776</td>
<td>4.6% ▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETHNICITY</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISPANIC</td>
<td>11,210</td>
<td>12,359</td>
<td>10.2% ▲</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cobb County’s population increased by 5.9% and Douglas County’s population increased by 4.6% between 2010 and 2014. Cobb and Douglas counties saw the largest increase in the multiracial population, at 19.1% and 27.4% respectively, compared to other racial groups (e.g., White, Black, Asian).

Source: Georgia Department of Public Health Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)
Population by Age, Cobb County, 2014

Although the largest age group is between 35-64 years of age (41%), Cobb County saw a 28% increase in the 65+ age group between 2010 and 2014. This reflects the national trend of our aging “baby boomers” which can significantly impact the overall health status of a community.

Source: Georgia Department of Public Health Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

Population by Age, Douglas County, 2014

Although the largest age group is between 35-64 years of age (41%), Douglas County saw a 25% increase in the 65+ age group between 2010 and 2014. This reflects the national trend of our aging “baby boomers” which can significantly impact the overall health status of a community.
Cobb County

- Heart and vascular diseases continue to be the leading causes of death in adults in both Cobb and Douglas counties, the state of Georgia and the United States.
- The dashboard arrow indicates where the county ranks compared to the state of Georgia. All rankings are age-adjusted. The color-coded gauge represents percentiles from the lowest county death rate (green) to the highest county death rate (red).

*All Other Mental and Behavioral Disorders includes Dementia, Schizophrenia, and Bipolar Disorder

Top 3 Causes of Death in Cobb County Youth, 2009 - 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>1-4 years</th>
<th>5-9 years</th>
<th>10-14 years</th>
<th>15-19 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Congenital, Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities</td>
<td>All other diseases of the nervous system</td>
<td>Leukemia</td>
<td>Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
<td>All other diseases of the nervous system</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Leukemia</td>
<td>Septicemia</td>
<td>Congenital, Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities</td>
<td>Assault (Homicide)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between 2009-2013 suicide accounted for 23% of deaths among youth (15-19 years) in Cobb County, followed by motor vehicle crashes with 19% of deaths.

Source: Georgia Department of Public Health Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)
Leading Causes of Death in Douglas County

Heart and vascular diseases continue to be the leading causes of death in adults in both Cobb and Douglas counties, the state of Georgia and the United States.

The dashboard arrow indicates where the county ranks compared to the state of Georgia. All rankings are age-adjusted. The color-coded gauge represents percentiles from the lowest county death rate (green) to the highest county death rate (red).

Ischemic Heart & Vascular Disease (i.e., Heart Attack)

Lung Cancer

All COPD Except Asthma

Stroke

All Other Mental & Behavioral Disorders*

*All Other Mental and Behavioral Disorders includes Dementia, Schizophrenia, and Bipolar Disorder

Top 3 Causes of Death in Douglas County Youth, 2009 - 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>1-4 years</th>
<th>5-9 years</th>
<th>10-14 years</th>
<th>15-19 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Accidental Drowning and Submersion</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Assault (Homicide)</td>
<td>Accidental Drowning and Submersion</td>
<td>All other diseases of the nervous system</td>
<td>Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crashes</td>
<td>Suffocation</td>
<td>Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances</td>
<td>Assault (Homicide)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Motor vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of death among youth in Douglas County and the state of Georgia, accounting for 30% in Douglas County and 21% in Georgia of deaths among youth aged 1-19 years.

Source: Georgia Department of Public Health Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)
The Georgia Student Health and Physical Education (S.H.A.P.E) Act was passed in 2009. Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, the law required each local school district to conduct an annual fitness assessment (FitnessGram) for all students in grades 1-12 enrolled in classes taught by certified physical education teachers. Fitness scores in the Healthy Fitness Zone (HFZ) indicate a fitness level associated with positive health benefits. Additionally, students who fell within the healthy fitness zone scored higher in math and reading, had fewer discipline referrals and had better attendance. Scores not in the HFZ over a sustained period of time may indicate some health risk.

The Georgia Student Health and Physical Education (S.H.A.P.E) Act was passed in 2009. Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, the law required each local school district to conduct an annual fitness assessment (FitnessGram) for all students in grades 1-12 enrolled in classes taught by certified physical education teachers.

Fitness scores in the Healthy Fitness Zone (HFZ) indicate a fitness level associated with positive health benefits. Additionally, students who fell within the healthy fitness zone scored higher in math and reading, had fewer discipline referrals and had better attendance. Scores not in the HFZ over a sustained period of time may indicate some health risk.

Cobb County Schools, Marietta City Schools and Douglas County Schools have all been among the first in the state to commit to the Georgia SHAPE Power Up for 30 Program, which helps students get 30 more minutes of physical activity during the school day, outside of regular P.E. and recess.

Source: How Healthy Are We? Report; Georgia FitnessGram: GADOE
Child Health: Nutrition & Activity

Percent of Students Who Somewhat or Strongly Agree That They Eat Five (5) Servings of Fruits and Vegetables Each Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cobb</th>
<th>Douglas</th>
<th>Georgia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>65.6%</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Childhood obesity in the U.S. has more than quadrupled among adolescents in the last 30 years. Obese children are more likely to become obese adults and are at increased risk for chronic illnesses, like heart disease and type 2 diabetes. Cobb & Douglas Public Health, with our partners, focuses on increasing physical activity and improving healthy eating behaviors among youth in order to reduce their risk of obesity and its related health outcomes. School policies and practices also play an important role in shaping the behavior of children and adolescents. However, parents and caregivers have the most significant influence on children’s eating behaviors and amount of physical activity. CDPH encourages all residents to find ways to encourage proper nutrition and increased physical activity in the children for whom we care.

Sources: Georgia Student Health Survey; CDC Healthy Schools
More than one-third of U.S. adults are obese (2012). Even though Cobb and Douglas counties fall below the national average, decreasing obesity among adults is a priority for Cobb & Douglas Public Health. **Reducing obesity in our communities would decrease the prevalence of chronic illnesses (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, stroke and cancer) as well as reduce medical costs.** The estimated annual medical cost of obesity in the U.S. was $147 billion in 2008 U.S. dollars; the annual medical costs for people who are obese was $1,429 higher than those of normal weight.

Source: CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity; CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
Adult Health

Age-Adjusted Death Rates* of Coronary Heart Disease, 2009-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cobb</td>
<td>66.4</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>72.8</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>48.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>78.4</td>
<td>81.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rate: The number of cases per 100,000 population. Age adjusting rates is a way to make fairer comparisons between populations with different age distributions.

Although Cobb and Douglas counties have death rates lower than the state average for heart disease, it is the leading cause of death in both counties. Stroke is also in the top 5 leading causes of death for both counties. Although access to excellent emergency services and hospital care greatly reduces these death rates, the most important influence is personal lifestyle choices and prevention. CDPH Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention is working to address these chronic illnesses and the risk factors that contribute to them.

Source: Georgia Department of Public Health Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)
In 2014, District 3-1 immunization coverage estimates for the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4* vaccination series was 92.2%, a 17% increase from the previous year. The importance of immunizations does not stop at 2 years of age. Cobb & Douglas Public Health strives to improve our immunization health metric yearly. Please visit [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/) for further information.

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**Immunizations & Vaccine-Preventable Diseases**

**Cases of the vaccine-preventable disease, pertussis (also known as whooping cough), continue to increase nationally as well as in Georgia.** Per CDC, infants aged <1 year, who are at greatest risk for serious disease and death, continue to have the highest reported rate of pertussis. School-aged children 7 to 10 years continue to contribute a significant proportion of reported pertussis cases. CDPH encourages residents to assure that their children are properly immunized against all vaccine-preventable diseases, particularly pertussis. Additionally, CDPH recommends that adult caregivers receive a booster pertussis vaccination.

**Percent of Children 2 Years of Age Fully Immunized, 2010-2014**

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*4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Immunizations coverage considered fully immunized (a child has received 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hepatitis B, 1 Varicella, and 4 PCV vaccine doses), were based on the childhood immunization and catch-up schedules recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Source: Georgia Dept. of Public Health, Immunization Section

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**Infectious Diseases**

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In 2014, Georgia was:

3rd highest in the nation for primary and secondary syphilis case rate

5th highest in the nation for new HIV diagnoses and those living with HIV/AIDS (2013)

9th highest in the nation for chlamydia case rate

11th highest in the nation for gonorrhea case rate

12th highest in the nation for congenital syphilis case rate

Primary & Secondary Syphilis Rates* Among Males, 2009-2013

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<tr>
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<th>2009</th>
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<tr>
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<td>18.2</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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*Rate = the number of cases per 100,000 population
Source: Georgia Department of Public Health Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS)

Syphilis remains a major health problem, causing significant complications if left untreated and aiding in the transmission of HIV infection. Per CDC, nationally the rate of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis increased 12% among men during 2012-2013. Locally, Cobb County has averaged 54 cases of P&S syphilis among males of all ages per year since 2009 while Douglas averaged six cases among males per year. Therefore, CDPH’s STI Epidemiology and the Adult Health clinics work to identify and treat syphilis cases while providing the community with education to combat this epidemic.
Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) provides services to the community through over 29 programs offered at six locations and numerous outreach efforts all over the district. In order to serve the diverse populations and needs of Cobb and Douglas county residents, the agency offers:

- A large scope of mandated public health services such as Environmental Health, WIC (Women, Infants & Children Nutrition), Children 1st, Immunizations, Family Planning and Epidemiology/Disease Surveillance.

- Many non-mandated but critically important public health programs & services including Safe Kids – Injury Prevention, Adolescent Health & Youth Development, Health Promotion, Pharmacy, Early Intervention, Babies Born Healthy and the International Travel Health Clinic.

Cobb & Douglas Public Health’s clinical and prevention programs serve more than 180,000 clients annually—110,000 through the clinical settings and another 70,000 through the prevention & health promotion programs.

The number of patient visits has increased over the past several years, and many clients are accessing multiple programs for their family’s health needs. CDPH has purposefully linked many of the clinical & prevention programs over the past few years, and the result has been better staff awareness about all programs, improved referral mechanisms between programs and streamlined assessment and service delivery for patients.
Cobb & Douglas Public Health’s Center for Administration houses Accounting (to include Budgeting, Payroll, Purchasing and Accounts Payable), Billing and Collections, Human Resources, Facility Management, Information Technology and Vital Records. The units work together to support the various programs offered by the agency. While only Vital Records directly serves the public, each of the other groups support those serving the public.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY2015

- Financials reflect a strong balance sheet and reserves
- FY2016 budget prepared without use of Fund Balance Appropriation
- Reduced Indirect Cost from 15% to 14.5%
- Oversaw 29 program budgets totaling $28m
- Developed and updated a Three-Year Operating Plan and a Five-Year Capital Plan
- Renovated 40,000 square feet and moved 110 people expanding center capacity at the Marietta Public Health Center - Building B
- Renovated 20,000 square feet at the Douglas Public Health Center

Cobb & Douglas Public Health FY15 Revenues (in millions)

- State $14.537
- Fees & Other $10.884
- County $1.318
- Operating $9.7
- Salaries & Benefits $17

Cobb & Douglas Public Health FY15 Expenditures by Category (in millions)
Cobb & Douglas Public Health’s (CDPH) Center for Community Health supports the preventive, population-based and non-clinical health services to improve the health status of Cobb and Douglas residents. The primary focus is to provide residents with the skills and tools to prevent injury and promote optimal health. This is done through local policy improvement, environmental changes, fundraising, partnership development, education and support for families in our community so that they can access needed services to improve their health.

The Center for Community Health staff actively supports the Cobb2020 and Live Healthy Douglas community health partnerships to complete annual Community Health Assessments (CHA) and make the information available to all agencies and residents. As a result of the CHA, the Cobb2020 and Live Healthy Douglas Steering Teams establish collaborative Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP). These plans guide efforts to create partnerships and harness needed resources to address the most important community health issues such as Access to Health Services and Healthy Lifestyles.

Programs housed in the Center for Community Health include Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, School Health, Worksite Wellness, Epidemiology, Health Assessment, STD Prevention and Outreach, WIC (Women, Infant and Children’s Nutrition), Children 1st, Babies Can’t Wait, Children’s Medical Services Babies Born Healthy, Perinatal Case Management, School Health Nursing, and Newborn Hearing Screening.

Because CDPH only receives about 60% of its budget from federal and state sources, the CDPH Development Office is critically important to securing additional funds for important public health efforts. The Cobb Health Futures Foundation and the Douglas Health Futures Foundation Boards are made up of key community leaders who advocate for resources and educate donors and the community about the impact of public health.

**HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY2015**

- Completion of the $1.5 million CDC Community Transformation Grant that provided resources to CDPH and partners to establish the Cobb2020 Partnership and launch key pilots, like Farm Fresh Markets and Breathe Easy Cobb.
- The injury prevention efforts through Safe Kids Cobb and Safe Kids Douglas resulted in almost 200 special events including car seat inspection days at the Cobb Safety Village.
- The Cobb2020 Farm Fresh Market hosted three new sites in zip code 30168 (South Cobb) from May - September with key partners: the YMCA, Cobb Extension Services and the Atlanta Community Food Bank.
- The Cobb2020 Breathe Easy team facilitated a Smoke Free ordinance for all city-owned facilities (including parks) passed in the City of Smyrna in May 2014 and another for parks and cemeteries in the City of Kennesaw in June 2014.
- With support from Live Healthy Douglas partners, The Care-Place opened its doors in Douglas County a few years ago to provide free primary health care to Douglas County adults. In FY2015, CDPH helped recruit more medical volunteers, helped bring in funding for diagnostic services and provided patient eligibility screening and referrals.
Success Story

Every parent’s dream is to deliver a healthy baby boy or girl that thrives or exceeds the expected developmental rate. Few entertain the idea that their bundle of joy will require attention beyond that which they are able to provide and certainly not sustained medical services.

Thankfully Cobb & Douglas Public Health, through their Children 1st, Babies Can’t Wait and Children’s Medical Services programs, provides resources for those unsuspecting parents whose little one will need additional support.

Such was the case with “Claire,” a newborn who had failed her initial hearing screening, and was referred to the Children 1st program. Upon arrival, the visiting nurse noted that Claire’s little mouth turned down and her right eye squinted; a possible indication of Bell’s palsy or facial paralysis. Mom shared that she was awaiting the results of tests performed at the hospital but did not have a pediatrician for Claire. The nurse also learned that there was no family support or a safe place for little Claire to sleep. As a result of the visit, Claire was provided a “pack-n-play” for safe sleeping and the nurse helped Mom enroll Claire in Medicaid so that she could receive basic well care from a pediatrician and specialized care from a neurologist and audiologist for the Bell’s palsy and hearing issues. Claire was also referred to Children’s Medical Services where Mom received financial assistance to purchase her needed hearing aids. Claire continued in the Children 1st program where she was monitored and provided developmental screenings to ensure she was progressing successfully.

The natural instinct to protect children from harm is increased two-fold for parents of children with special needs. “Beth” was born with an orthopedic disorder which drastically reduced her ability to walk. Though enrolled in the Babies Can’t Wait (BCW) program, Beth’s mom confessed that she was extremely nervous that Beth would injure herself if she tried to walk and that she was uncertain of how to help her little girl. First, the caring and supportive staff at Babies Can’t Wait worked with the family to ensure that Beth had properly fitted orthotics and then coached Mom in how to help her daughter become more mobile. Shortly afterwards, Beth’s mom shared a video of the progressing stages of her learning to walk and expressed her gratitude for teaching her to let go and allow Beth the opportunity to learn and explore.
According to the National Environmental Health Association, the combined environmental health advancements of drinking water chlorination, milk pasteurization, proper sewage disposal, food establishment inspections, and mosquito control have contributed significantly to the 32 year increase in average life expectancy that has occurred in the United States since 1900. To help assure that these public health gains are maintained and improved upon, the Cobb & Douglas Public Health Center for Environmental Health provides the services that are necessary to recognize and resolve the various environmental issues that could potentially threaten the health and safety of the community.

Twenty-seven (27) environmental health professionals monitor approximately 3,700 permitted facilities in Cobb and Douglas counties through the food service, public swimming pool, tourist accommodation, trailer park and body art programs. Services include conducting complaint investigations, technical reviews and regulatory inspections. The staff is also involved with numerous fairs, festivals and special events that occur in our district by reviewing plans and performing site inspections for the temporary vendors that sell food at these events each year. In addition to the regulated facilities, the staff provides technical reviews, site inspections, failing septic system investigations and well water site approval through the On-site Sewage Management program, and public health complaint investigations and resolution through the Nuisance Complaints program.

Though Environmental Health is often viewed as the regulatory branch of public health, it offers many services that go beyond permits and inspections. Educational opportunities, including ServSafe Manager Training and Certified Pool Operator Certification, are routinely offered to facility operators, as well as update sessions to inform community members of changes associated with the rules and regulations. If a child is found to have an elevated blood lead level (10 mcg/dL or higher, though Georgia will soon be transitioning to the CDC recommended level of 5 mcg/dL or higher), a Certified Lead Investigator will partner with the Regional Lead Coordinator to conduct a home investigation to determine the source of lead exposure and recommend steps for abatement. Environmental Health also acknowledges the increased risk of radon exposure in the region by offering free radon test kits to Cobb and Douglas residents.

In many ways, Environmental Health has a positive impact on day to day lives, whether it’s from a meal at a restaurant, a dip in a pool, or a stay in a local hotel. The staff of the Center for Environmental Health is committed to providing the high quality services that are necessary to enhance the lives of Cobb and Douglas residents.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY2015

- Discussions began with the Braves stadium design team for the number, variety, and layout of food service facilities proposed for the new ballpark.
- Four ServSafe Manager Training courses and three Certified Pool Operator courses were offered to facility operators within the community.
- Karen Gulley, Cobb’s Food Service Program Manager, became one of the first recipients of the Georgia Public Health Association’s Environmental Health Innovator Award for her work in developing and hosting Food Safety Partnership Panel episodes, which air locally on Cobb and Douglas TV23.
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe. At high levels of exposure, lead can cause coma, convulsions and even death. Lead exposure is particularly toxic to young children as it attacks the brain and central nervous system and can lead to mental and developmental disabilities.

Finding the source of contamination, however, can be difficult and labor-intensive. So when the State Epidemiology Office notified the Center of Environmental Health of reported lead contamination in the district, they acted promptly.

When it was learned that two-year-old “Chad” had an elevated blood lead level, clinical staff initiated treatment to lower his blood lead level, and the Environmental Health staff visited his home to investigate. Despite a thorough evaluation, no obvious source of lead contamination could be determined. Public Health continued to monitor Chad, and when the boy’s blood lead level spiked again, they returned to his home.

The staff worked hard to put his frustrated family at ease, gently repeating or rephrasing questions. “What jewelry has the child come in contact with?” produced a shrug, so staff rephrased it. “What is your favorite piece of jewelry?” they asked Chad’s mom. She produced a bracelet. Chad only came into casual contact with it when his mother wore it, but it tested high for lead.

Further investigation by the team led to a local discount store, where the contaminated bracelets were still available for purchase. Environmental Health teamed with Consumer Product Safety Commission to prompt a formal investigation. As a result, the contaminated bracelets are no longer for sale, and a life-threatening source of lead contamination has been forever removed from the area.
The Center for Clinical Services provides services through 12 programs. All services are offered at the Marietta location, and three satellite locations (Acworth, East Cobb, Douglasville) offer a subset of services.

**Dental Services**, focused primarily on children, are offered at the Marietta location. Dentists and hygienists perform exams, xrays, hygiene, emergency, and basic restorative services. The clinic is looking forward to expanding from three exam rooms to four with upcoming renovations, made possible with a donation from the City of Marietta.

**Family Planning and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI)** services are offered all four clinical locations. Functioning under state nursing protocols, the nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are able to identify and treat a wide variety of complaints, as well as provide family planning counseling and intervention. The APRNs can also insert Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs). Additionally, there are breast cancer and cervical cancer prevention programs serving clients in these locations.

**The Cobb & Douglas Child Health Clinic** offers well-child and problem-focused primary care at the Marietta location. It is one of only a few public health department locations in the state offering pediatric primary care services. The clinic is staffed by physicians and APRNs who also staff Children's Healthcare of Atlanta’s emergency department.

**Immunization Services** are offered at all four clinical locations, ensuring access to necessary immunizations for all residents of Cobb and Douglas counties. In addition to administering over 40,000 required immunizations in FY2015, the Marietta and East Cobb locations offer international travel immunizations and counseling. Partnerships with community businesses offer opportunities for outreach with flu vaccination clinics each fall.

**HIV Prevention and Treatment Services** are offered at the Marietta location under the direction of an Infectious Diseases physician. Two APRNs also provide care alongside case managers, behavioral health specialists, and linkage coordinators. The **Onsite Pharmacy** ensures access to program-specific medications central to treatment plans for these clients.

**Tuberculosis (TB) and Refugee Services** are housed at the Marietta location and managed 24 active TB cases in FY2015.

The focus of clinical services is to reach and provide care to those who are uninsured or underinsured. Many services are offered on a sliding fee scale, which frequently results in no-cost services. While the centers do accept some commercial insurances, the majority of clients do not fall under this type of coverage.
HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY2015

- A new infectious disease physician joined CDPH in January as the Medical Director of HIV programs.
- New vaccine requirements for students entering 7th grade were implemented.
- The Douglas Public Health Center renovation was completed making more efficient use of space for better patient flow.

Success Story

“Martin” visited Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) during the “Back to School Rush” for his required immunizations. While in the waiting room, he stumbled, fell and gashed his chin. He didn’t react or cry out, but a nurse assessed that his wound required stitches, and clinic staff directed his mom to a nearby local pediatric urgent care center. While Mom took Martin to urgent care, his aunt remained at the clinic with her own children for their scheduled immunizations.

During this time, she explained to staff that Martin had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy (CP), which caused poor coordination and led to frequent falls. His family had just relocated and did not yet have insurance or a resource plan in place to support Martin’s chronic medical needs.

Upon learning this, clinical staff contacted Children’s Medical Services (CMS), a CDPH program that serves children from birth to 21 years with chronic medical conditions. CMS staff confirmed that Martin’s cerebral palsy diagnosis qualified him to enroll in the program so staff could coordinate care, apply for government assistance, seek early intervention, and obtain other local support on Martin’s behalf.

When Martin returned to the Marietta Clinic, his chin had been properly stitched, and he was able to receive his immunizations. That same day, his mother received information and guidance to enroll Martin with CMS and qualify him for Medicaid.

Today, CDPH continues to provide Martin and his family with information, resources, support—and occasional immunizations! By supporting families such as Martin’s, CDPH continues to build healthier lives and a healthier community.
Cobb & Douglas Public Health wants to be sure that the community is ready for the unexpected. The Center for Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) provides training and resources to its partners, as well as education and instruction for community members. In emergency situations, the EP&R team collaborates with local, state and federal partners to handle any crisis and relay current and accurate information to the residents of Cobb and Douglas Counties.

Success Story

What if an unexpected tornado touched down in the district, leaving a path of destruction in its wake? Or a sudden epidemic threatened lives unless an antidote could be dispensed within 24 hours? Would Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH) be in an optimal position to respond? “Yes!” it would be, thanks in large part to the Cobb & Douglas Medical Reserve Corps (CDMRC).

The CDMRC resides under the Center for Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R), and it functions by organizing medical and non-medical volunteers who stand ready to donate time and expertise in the event of a disaster or other public health emergency. CDMRC volunteers have responded to local disasters such as flooding and blizzards, and they have teamed with EP&R to temporarily house evacuees from more global disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti. In less chaotic times, CDMRC volunteers, along with EP&R and other community partners, partake in training events and exercises in order to be prepared during a public health emergency. A recent training simulated what might happen in the case of a major disease outbreak. Over 240 volunteers drove through a point of dispensing, or POD, in Douglasville to receive life-saving antibiotics (in this case, Skittles or M&Ms) from public health staff and partners. This test, which took over a year to plan, measured how quickly emergency staff could handle such a formidable situation.

How fortunate the district is to have such a large group of CDMRC volunteers working to provide their expertise as physicians, pharmacists, nurses, military, and public safety assistants. Without them, CDPH would be far less able to respond effectively to disaster. Thank you, Cobb & Douglas Medical Reserve Corps!
The Office of Quality Management (OQM) oversees the health department’s accreditation, performance management, strategic planning and quality improvement (QI) efforts, which have helped to proactively address and adapt to the challenges facing public health departments. CDPH’s innovative approach to strategic performance management has drawn state and national attention, with recognition provided in the form of inquiries from other health departments, invitations to multiple speaking engagements, and three National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) Model Practice Awards.

Quality Improvement
CDPH is focused on fostering a “culture of quality,” in which quality improvement practices are infused into daily operations. The CDPH Quality Council is using NACCHO’s Quality Improvement Roadmap to provide training and support to staff who are implementing QI projects. Several Quality Council accomplishments this past year include:

1. Providing a Continuing Education Day presentation to 245+ employees on QI principles.
2. Developing an innovative “one page” QI Worksheet with helpful links to QI tools and resources for staff implementing progress.
3. Developing sample SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, reliable, and time-bound) individual performance goals, a “pick list” tool for use among supervisors and employees.

The Quality Council continues to lead and monitor the status of QI projects across the health department, and members serve as “champions” during staff meetings. Finally, in an effort to foster a culture of quality, beginning in FY2016, each program will report progress on their prior year’s QI project and all employees will have an individual QI performance plan goal. OQM looks forward to providing future updates on CDPH’s accreditation, performance management and QI efforts!

Balanced Scorecard
Since 2009, OQM has facilitated the health department’s performance management and strategic planning process through the Balanced Scorecard. In January 2015, OQM facilitated the 5th annual strategic planning session, during which, the CDPH leadership team examined progress towards achieving strategic goals and accomplishments tied to the health department’s vision of, by 2020, becoming an “acknowledged leader among health departments in the United States.”

Based on scorecard progress, the CDPH Leadership Team established four FY2016 Strategic Initiatives focused on (1) Continuous Quality Improvement, (2) Implementing the Community Health Improvement Plan, (3) Technology Priorities, and (4) Championing Workforce Enhancement.
FY2015 - By the Numbers

**Center for Administration**

- **1,498** Birth Certificates Issued
- **1,136** Death Certificates Issued
- **263** Full-Time Employees
- **98** Part-Time Employees
- **90%** Billing & Collections Success

**Center for Clinical Services**

- **1,638** Clients Served in the Travel Health Program
- **7,903** Visits Made to Our Family Planning Program
- **24** Active TB Cases Managed
- **14,355** Children Cared For in Child Health
- **50,754** Vaccines Administered
- **32,331** Prescriptions Filled at The Marietta Pharmacy
- **2,310** Visits to Our HIV Clinic
- **1,700** Women Screened in the Breast & Cervical Cancer Prevention (BCCP) Program
- **2,511** Visits Made for STI Services
2,880
Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) cases reported to CDPH (a 10% increase from last year)

900
Families enrolled in the Babies Can’t Wait program (designed to help developmentally-delayed children maximize skills to ensure success for a lifetime)

16,816
Pregnant women, breastfeeding moms and children under the age of 5 who are enrolled in the WIC Nutrition program

#1
The ranking that CDPH WIC received in Georgia for helping new moms to start to breastfeed their newborns

41,586
Clinic visits provided by public health school nurses in Marietta City Schools last year (an 8% increase)

13,500
Scoliosis screenings performed in Cobb, Marietta and Douglas schools by public health staff and volunteers

531
Douglas County teens who participated in the Power In Truth Conference to learn health life skills, particularly related to drug and alcohol prevention

1,900
Food Service Inspections

3,076
Swimming Pool Inspections

316
Tourist Accommodations Inspections

558
Septic System Inspections

1,358
Nuisance Complaint Investigations

98
Total number of Cobb & Douglas Medical Reserve Corps (CDMRC) volunteers
Looking Forward

And now, we are looking forward...

As we begin 2016, we are optimistic about the opportunity to make a difference in the health of our residents and our community. We are so fortunate to have skilled staff, dedicated board members and engaged community partners to fulfill our Mission to “promote and protect the health and safety of the residents of Cobb and Douglas counties.” As a result, our 2016 goals are very ambitious.

Even though our 2015 national Public Health Accreditation helped us demonstrate very high standards of performance, we have made a significant commitment to expand our agency’s Culture of Quality. Our staff will be identifying, prioritizing and completing significant quality improvement projects throughout the coming year to better serve our residents.

We share the excitement in Cobb County to welcome the Atlanta Braves to our community. We have been closely involved with the stadium complex planning through our Center for Environmental Health and Center for Emergency Preparedness & Response. Our staff will continue to make this work a priority, and we look forward to the first pitch in the 2017 baseball season.

We will also continue to improve our public health facilities for our staff and clients this year. We are so thankful for the 2016-2020 Cobb SPLOST funding as well as the support from our Cobb and Douglas County Government agencies. In 2016, we will be completing major renovations of our Marietta Public Health Center Building A, completing the parking lot repaving of our Douglas Public Health Center and beginning renovations for the Smyrna Public Health Center.

Thank you for helping us to celebrate another unbelievable year. We appreciate your support, the faith you put in our staff and partners, and the passion we all share for making Cobb and Douglas counties the healthiest places in which to live, work and play.
The Cobb Health Futures Foundation and the Douglas Health Futures Foundation are 501(c)3 fundraising affiliates that support the work and mission of Cobb & Douglas Public Health. As nonprofit organizations, they provide a path to fundraising opportunities that may not be available to government agencies but that are open to organizations registered with the IRS as nonprofit organizations. This is important as only 60% of public health’s funding needs for mandated programs comes from federal and state sources.

**Fundraising efforts of the Cobb Health Futures Foundation currently focus on the following programs:**
- Babies Can’t Wait
- Children’s Medical Services
- Perinatal Case Management

**Fundraising efforts of the Douglas Health Futures Foundation currently focus on:**
- Children 1st
- Babies Can’t Wait
- Children’s Medical Services
- Safe Kids – Douglas

For information on the foundations, call the Development Office at (770) 514-2325.