

HEPATITIS HEALTH

HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

Hepatitis Awareness Month is recognized every May throughout the nation. In Tallahassee, Governor Jeb Bush issued a proclamation for Hepatitis Awareness Month in Florida. To view the proclamation, go to the following website: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctr/aids/hep/index.html Also, the Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Office of Communications distributed a statewide press release in recognition of Hepatitis Awareness Month.

Throughout the state, county health departments (CHD) held various awareness events during the month of May. The Hillsborough CHD got an early start on April 15th, by joining forces with the University of South Florida (USF) Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) and other local partners to put on a health fair for the Asian community in Tampa. Approximately 40 people were screened for hepatitis B (HBV) by the Hillsborough CHD Specialty Care Clinic staff.



April Crowley with the proclamation

The goal of this event was to carry out APAMSA's national endeavor to break the hepatitis B cycle. Less than 0.5% of Americans are infected with chronic HBV yet there is an estimated 7% of Asian Pacific Americans infected with this disease. Putting on the health fair was a collaborated effort to educate local community members about hepatitis B and how it may be transmitted. For more information on USF APAMSA, please visit www.hsc.usf.edu/medstud/apamsa.



Huge thanks go to Juan Luque with the Hillsborough CHD for providing information and photos for this article. For more pictures from the health fair, see page 2.

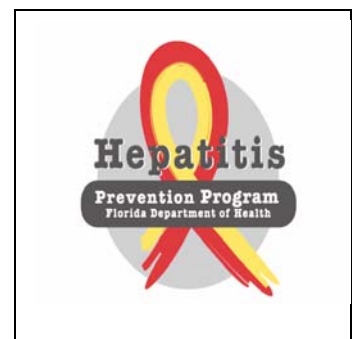
Juan Luque with HCHD Epidemiology, and Minh Ngo from APAMSA

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A view from the 22nd floor of the Florida Capitol



APAMSA HEALTH FAIR IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

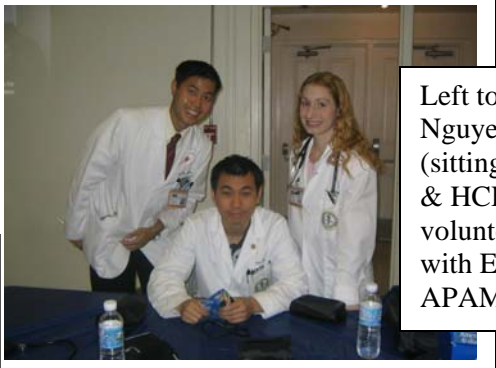


Sitting, left to right: John Nguyen, Phuong Nguyen and Minh Ngo with APAMSA. Standing, left to right: Juan Luque with a Fellowship Church volunteer, and Sabriana Tu, Pastor of the Vietnamese Fellowship Church.

Lazaro Valdes and Lisa Santiago with the HCHD Specialty Clinic prepare to draw blood.



Dr. Charurut Somboonwit with Polk CHD and Lazaro Valdes tell a young client that "this will only hurt for a few seconds."



Left to right, Phu Nguyen & Son Ho (sitting), APAMSA & HCHD volunteers, along with Erin Etoll from APAMSA.



Dr. Somboonwit discusses the importance of hepatitis B testing.



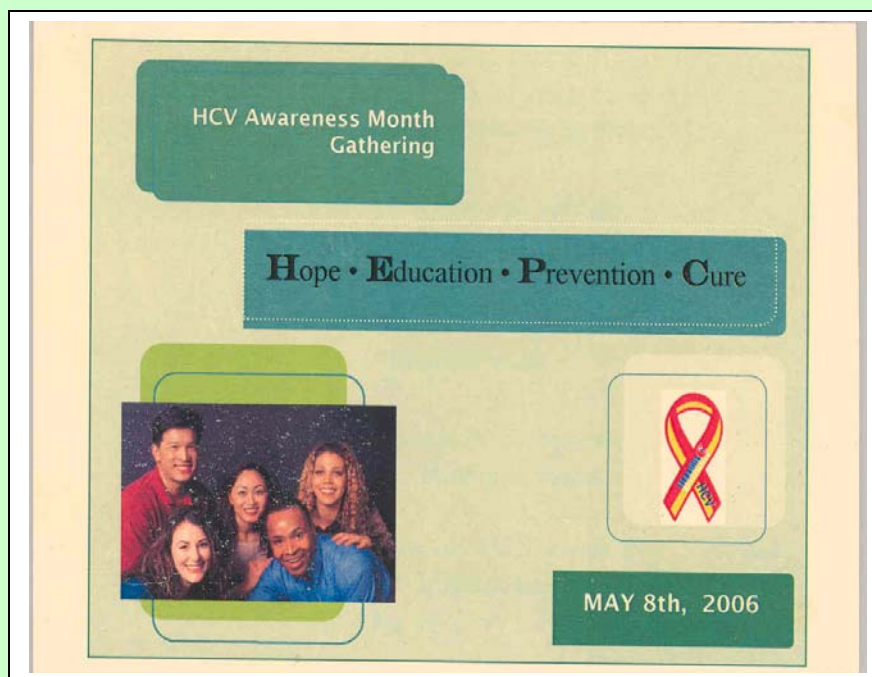
Lisa Santiago draws blood.

COUNTIES OBSERVE HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

The **Seminole County Health Department** (CHD) sponsored a community awareness event that provided education and prevention information for viral hepatitis at their Casselberry location, on Thursday, May 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Along with the educational materials, they offered free screenings for hepatitis A, B and C.

They also hold a monthly support group meeting on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the CHD in Sanford for people who are infected with hepatitis C. They provide counseling, education and free vaccine (to those that qualify) in the Sanford location every Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Below is a sample of an invitation Seminole CHD sends out promoting the support group. The inside contains all the pertinent information such as guest speakers, time, location...and the most important part...that refreshments will be served!

Over 300,000 Floridians are infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV). In Seminole County alone, there were 371 chronic cases of hepatitis C reported in 2005.



Throughout the month of May, the **Hillsborough County Health Department** sponsored activities related to education, prevention and treatment for viral hepatitis. On Tuesday, May 16, they offered a free day of testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV and syphilis at the health department in downtown Tampa. Public service announcements aired on NBC-Affiliate WFLA, Channel 8 and CBS-Affiliate WTSP, Channel 10 all month long. Their Department of Epidemiology also maintains a hepatitis information phone line at (813) 307-8038. In 2005, there were 827 chronic cases of hepatitis C reported in Hillsborough County.

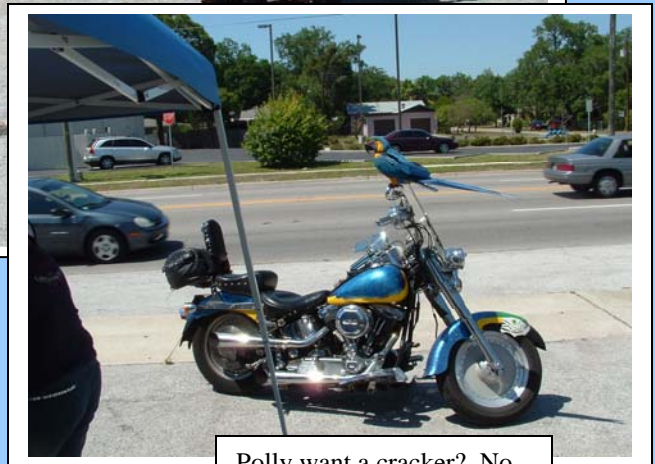
Collier County was also very busy during the month of May. Several hepatitis awareness events were held including vaccine and testing at local substance abuse centers, homeless shelters, jails and health fairs. Collier CHD sent mass mailings of information packets and participated in various educational presentations and displays.

HOGS AGAINST HEP

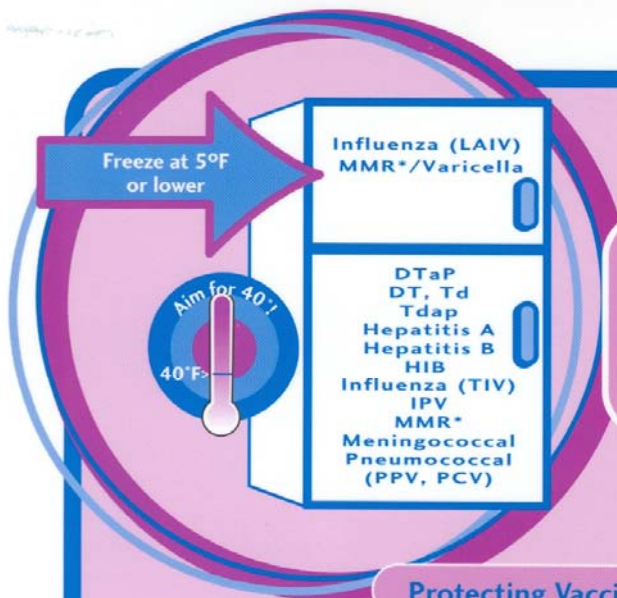
By Debbie Barnes

Tampa Bay Hepatitis & Liver Disease Support Group, Inc.

Our 5th annual *Hogs against Hep Poker Run* was held May 20th from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Chance Center (our community outreach program) in Gulfport. Special thanks to Bob Keane and the Pinellas County Health Department for providing free hepatitis testing at this event. As you can see by the photos, we also had a panel from the Hepatitis quilt on display. Not only did we have a great time, but the Poker Run provided a good opportunity for us to raise money for the Tampa Bay Hepatitis & Liver Disease Support Group, Inc.



Polly want a cracker? No, Polly wants to be tested!



handle vaccines with care

Protecting Vaccine Saves Dollars

REFRIGERATE vaccine immediately when it is received.* Store varicella-containing vaccine in the freezer. Do not store vaccine in the refrigerator door.

PROTECT MMR from light at all times and keep vaccine cold. Do not remove vial from the refrigerator until time to reconstitute and administer. Diluent does not need refrigeration if MMR is administered immediately after diluent is added.

ROTATE vaccine stock and use short-dated vaccines first. Keep vials and syringes in their cartons. Do not use outdated vaccine.

SAFEGUARD the refrigerator. Make sure it stays plugged in (It should have a safety lock type plug). Purchase a temperature alarm where appropriate.

MAINTAIN proper temperatures in the refrigerator (35° F to 46° F, or 2° C to 8° C) and in the freezer (+5° F or lower, or -15° C or lower). If space allows, keep temperatures stable by placing large plastic containers of water in the refrigerator or cold packs (blue ice) in the freezer.

CHECK refrigerator and freezer twice a day—first thing in the morning and last thing at night—to verify that temperatures are correct. Keep certified thermometers in both refrigerator and freezer. Make sure the doors are shut tightly and the unit is plugged in.

POST a warning sign next to wall socket so electricians or staff do not accidentally unplug the refrigerator/freezer or turn off the circuit or electricity.



Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization

*Refer to package insert for specific instructions on each vaccine. If you have questions about the condition of any vaccine at the time of delivery, first place vaccine in recommended storage, then notify the supplier and get instructions, or call the Bureau of Immunization's Vaccines for Children Program at 1-800-483-2543.

HEPATITIS COORDINATORS' MEETING

The Hepatitis Prevention Program hosted a meeting for the Hepatitis 09 Program Coordinators in Tallahassee on May 4 and 5. The coordinators who participated were from the 13-funded county health departments (CHD) which include Alachua, Bay, Broward, Collier, Escambia, Lee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk and Seminole.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to hepatitis coordinators, share best practices and discuss county-specific, hepatitis-related issues. Participants gave various presentations about the Hepatitis 09 Program in their respective county.



Kneeling left to right: Alisha Dalton with Escambia CHD, Julia Gill with Pinellas CHD, Thomas Drone with Monroe CHD, Lydia Sandoval with Miami-Dade CHD and Maureen Merckle from Bay CHD. Standing left to right: Greg Danyluk and Enid Santiago-Cruz with Seminole CHD, Komona McGriff-Hodge with Lee CHD, Mary Jean Linn with Alachua CHD, Diana King with Collier CHD, Bob Keane from Pinellas CHD, Julie VanderMeer with Bay CHD, Bob Griffin with Broward CHD, Wendy Hovey with Monroe CHD, Savita Kumar with Palm Beach CHD, Nancy Borgsmiller with Polk CHD and Lydia McCorvey from Escambia CHD.

Please see next page for more fun and exciting photos from this meeting!

SOME PICTURES FROM THE MAY HEPATITIS COORDINATORS' MEETING

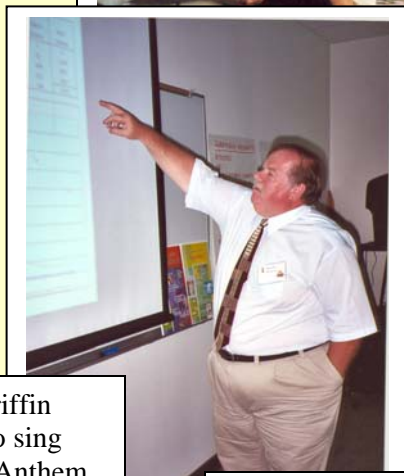


Thomas Drone sings "Margaritaville."

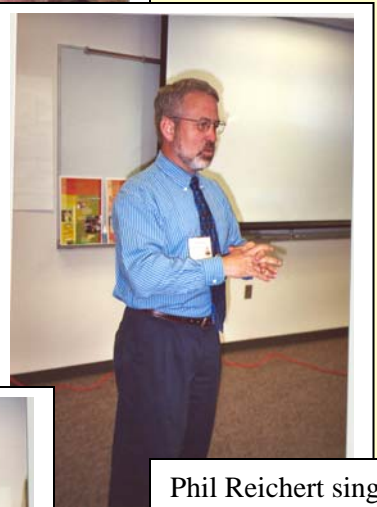


Nancy Borgsmiller croons "Polk Salad Annie."

Below left to right: Greg Danyluk, Lydia McCorvey, Phil Reichert, Ivette Rodriguez with the Bureau of Immunization, Wendy Hovey and Enid Santiago-Cruz. (AKA: The Tallahassee Glee Club)



Since Bob Griffin didn't want to sing the National Anthem, he just pointed to the words instead.



Phil Reichert sings the National Anthem



Komona McGriff-Hodge belts out "There's no business like HEP business!"

A Few Reasons to Integrate Hepatitis Services into other Public Health Programs

- People at risk for gonorrhea, syphilis and other STDs may also be at risk for hepatitis A, B and C.**
- 10-15% of HIV-infected individuals also have HBV.**
- 25-30% of HIV-infected individuals also have HCV.**
- Some studies show that up to 90% of IDUs with HIV also have HCV.**
- Pregnant females should know their hepatitis status before they deliver.**
- More than two-thirds of state and federal prisoners report past IDU.**
- 60-90% of IDUs are infected with HCV.**
- Between 14 and 42% of incarcerated individuals are infected with HCV.**
- Testing and vaccinating at-risk individuals (eg: through STD clinics) will reduce the need and cost of future treatment.**
- Testing and vaccinating at-risk individuals prevents hepatitis transmission to family members, sex partners, etc.**
- Collaboration with other internal and external partners combines scarce resources.**
- Collaboration with community partners increases awareness not only to individuals at risk, but to health care professionals as well.**
- Clients enjoy the convenience of one-stop shopping.**
- Integration provides services that may cause more at-risk individuals to access services.**
- Combined services meet more needs of clients in a single setting with possibly one health care professional.**
- Integration uses an existing infrastructure.**
- Integration reduces barriers to services.**

25 YEARS OF REMEMBERING HIV/AIDS

By Debbie Norberto

Bureau of HIV/AIDS

It was 25 years ago, on June 5, 1981, that scientists and public health officials announced that “something was terribly wrong.” Monday, June 5, 2006, marked the 25th anniversary of the day the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC formerly, The “Centers for Disease Control”) issued its first report on HIV/AIDS. It was not known as AIDS in 1981, but as an immune disorder in homosexual men in New York and California. The DOH Bureau of HIV/AIDS staff in Tallahassee got together on June 5th to commemorate the day that HIV was first recognized in a public health journal and to raise awareness of the critical issues that continue.



Paul Arons, MD, Medical Director for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS, stands in front of one the displays.



Left to right: Kim Ivery-Andrews and Debbie Norberto

We displayed two exhibits all month in front of one of our conference rooms. Both exhibits were entitled "**25 Years of Remembering HIV/AIDS,**" and featured the history of HIV/AIDS, including photos from the past 25 years. Since we wanted to share this information with as many people as possible, we moved one of the displays (the one that Kim and Debbie are standing in front of) to the lobby of the Prather Building.

Editor's note:

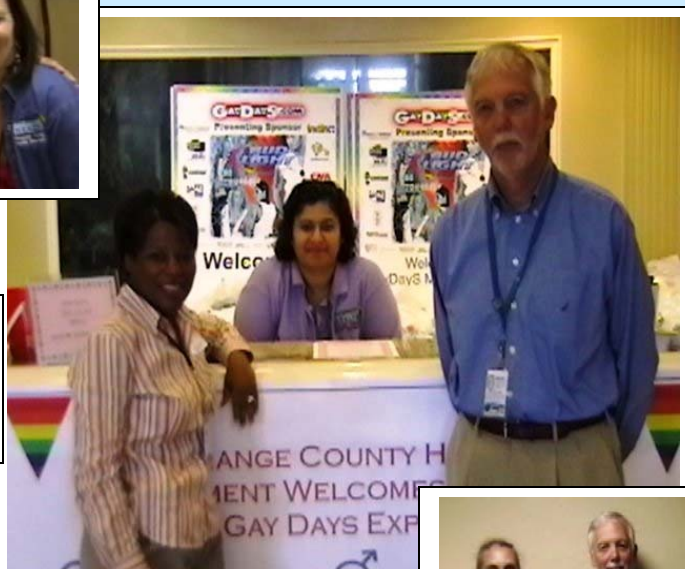
Kudos to **Debbie Norberto and Kim Ivery-Andrews** for all of their hard work and the many hours they spent putting these displays together. It's true---a picture is worth a thousand words. In this case, the pictures on these displays speak volumes about the history of HIV/AIDS. It is difficult to stand there and absorb this bit of the past without getting choked up. It truly touches all our hearts. Thank you, Debbie and Kim.

HIV/AIDS AND HEPATITIS SERVICES PROVIDED AT GAY DAYS

Staff from the HIV/AIDS and Epidemiology Departments at the Orange County Health Department were on hand to offer free testing for HIV/AIDS, along with free vaccines for hepatitis A and hepatitis B, at this year's Gay Days, an annual event that was held May 30-June 4, 2006, in Orlando.



Left to right: Karen Coombs, Jesus (sorry, we didn't get his last name) and Debbie Tucci.



Left to right: Adrain Humphrey-Brown, Esperanza Caraballo and Michael Dey.

Standing left to right: Beverly Keith, Michael Dey and Jesus. Sitting left to right: Donna Walsh and Maritza Godwin.



Prevention is the key to success in public health. Orlando's Gay Days offered a great opportunity to reach out to many citizens and visitors and provide important prevention education, HIV testing services and hepatitis vaccines.

From its beginnings with 3,000 attendees, Gay Days has evolved into a week long, citywide event. It draws over 135,000 participants from across the nation and around the globe.

**VACCINE INFORMATION STATEMENT FOR HEPATITIS A
TRANSLATED INTO 11 LANGUAGES**

Dated 3/21/06, the current version of the hepatitis A vaccine information statement (VIS) is now available on the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) website in Spanish and 10 additional languages: Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, Farsi, Hmong, Korean, Russian, Tagalog and Vietnamese. IAC gratefully acknowledges the California Department of Health Services for the translations.

For information about the use of VISs, and for VISs in more than 30 languages, visit IAC's VIS web section at <http://www.immunize.org/vis>

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hepatitis Health is brought to you by the Hepatitis Prevention Program in the Division of Disease Control, Bureau of HIV/AIDS at the Florida Department of Health. We want to know what you are doing in your community to prevent viral hepatitis. Please submit your articles and photos to:
April_Crowley@doh.state.fl.us

Fear less, hope more
Eat less, chew more
Whine less, breathe more
Talk less, say more
Hate less, love more
And all good things will happen.....

---Swedish Proverb



THE FAB FOUR

Before you:

- Prepare or eat food

After you:

- Use the bathroom or change a diaper
- Handle uncooked food
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze
- Play with a pet
- Handle garbage
- Tend to someone who is sick or injured

Florida Department of Health

Wash Your Hands

Since we can't think of anything else to put here....picture this...someone waving goodbye and saying, "That's all folks!"