Public Health Nurses
“In Action”

Historical Snapshot
1960-2010

To celebrate the past 50 years of Public Health Nursing
We are recalling historical events and snapshots of decades past and present

Featuring Public Health Nurses “In Action”
Providing care with an understood goal, of a healthy Tennessee.

1960 -1970
In 1963-1964, local health departments working with TMA, sponsored mass Sabin oral polio vaccine clinics across the state.
January 1964, the first public health Family Planning Clinic opened in Williamson County Health Department.
In 1966 Infant mortality of 26/1,000 live births – a record low.
In 1966, TB case rate was 35.5 per 100,000.

August 1967, Lewis County opened its first health department. Making this the first time very county in Tennessee had a fulltime local health department.
Home Health services were piloted and began in Marshall County in the 1960’s.

1970-1980
Little Tammy Tinch was brave as she received part of her immunizations for school next year. Tammy is being held by her mother, Mrs. Donald Tinch of Monterey as Mrs. Carol Ballard administers the injection during a public health center clinic.
By 1977, Home Heath services were given by the majority of Health Departments across the state with the emphasis being placed on skilled Public Health Nursing services, Home Health Aide and Homemaker services.
1973 WIC program established in 15 counties.

In 1976, Region specific orientation and training was available for all nursing.
1987, first Model PHN protocol was developed and distributed under the auspices of the Nurse Practice Committee.
In 1989 HUG, a home visiting program for prenatal moms and infants and children to age 5, was introduced in many health departments across the state.
TennCare began in January, 1994.
Public Health Nurses move into the emergency response mode whenever the call is received regarding a potential health threat to the community or the state.

Following the events of 9/11/2001, BioTerrorism/ Emergency Preparedness was implemented across the state.
2002 Smallpox Initiative

2403 Tennesseans were immunized in 117 established clinics within 10 days
Shelter Management

Hurricane Response - Florida – 2004 with 50 RNs sent
Katrina – 2005
Gustav – 2008
Tornado Response - Macon County - 2008

Ky Ice Storm – 2009
Tennessee Floods – 2010

In 2004, there were 1,050 cases of HIV/AIDS diagnosed in Tennessee.
Public Health Nurses contributed nursing stories to create “Opening Doors with Caring Hands and Caring Heart” printed in September, 2004.
In 2005, there were 299 active TB cases in Tennessee.

Directly Observed Therapy is Standard of Care.
HUGS program provided 38,895 home visits in 2004-2005.

In 2005-2006, TDOH hired 21 APNS and 38 MDs to provide Primary Care in 47 counties in the state.
In 2009 - 2010 there were 88,957 Family Planning visits provided in all health departments.
In 2008, Tennessee ranked 4th in the nation in the National Immunization Survey monitoring all 50 states.
January 2008,

• PHN Standardized Orientation Manual utilized in all regions for orientation of all nursing staff, Nursing Assistants, LPNs, RNs and APNs.

• PHN Staff Development Coordinators identified in all regions.
In 2009 - 2010, Public Health Nurses gave-

- Immunizations-331,141
- Influenza-161,650

In 2009 - 2010, Public Health Nurses completed 40,931 EPSDT exams.
In 2009, there were over 1200 public health nursing staff which includes NAs, LPNs, RNs and APNs!!

In July 2009, Standardized Public Health Nursing protocol was placed on the intranet.
January 2010

Public Health Nursing Strike Teams implemented in all regions with the mission of providing **nursing support in General Population Shelters (GPS) or Medical Assistance Shelters (MAS)**

Public Health Nurses are known leaders in the county, region and the state as they ...
Are Critical Thinkers,
Provide trusted,

Quality Care,
Are Committed to Excellence,
are honored for their service to the community,
And Lead with Experience and Dedication.
A special thank you to all Public Health Nurses for your dedication to public health, to the members of the TPHA Nursing Section Historical Committee and to the Public Health Nursing staff who provided nursing pictures and information for the presentation today!
Music is “Julia’s Waltz” performed by Natalie MacMaster

A special thank you to Matt and Rachel Heitmann who provided technical support!!
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