

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health
of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county & community efforts.



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Governor

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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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2013 COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS RELEASED

PENSACOLA, FL. – The Florida Department of Health in Escambia County recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and expresses appreciation to the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the fourth annual County Health Rankings & Roadmaps tool released today. The data used in these rankings are available on each state and include information related to physical environment, social and economic factors, health behaviors, education, crime rate/law enforcement, and clinical care. Much of the information used in Florida's county rankings was obtained from the Florida Department of Health and is available to the public at www.floridacharts.com.

These rankings serve as a snapshot of the health of the population for each county in Florida. The report highlights that health is a "work-in-progress" achieved by the combined actions of a variety of community partners. The Florida Department of Health (FDOH), through the efforts of its county health departments, works to improve the health of all Floridians.

"The Florida Department of Health works every day to bring together community partners around shared goals to improve health," said Dr. John Armstrong, Florida's Surgeon General and Secretary of Health. "As we track our progress, we are reminded there is no finish line in our efforts for better health."

In Escambia County, Florida, there are areas of progress and continuing opportunity. For example, the rate of adult smokers has decreased over the past four years, due in part to expanding partnerships between Tobacco Free Escambia, Escambia County schools, Pensacola State College, and the University of West Florida, as well as local businesses, and multi-family housing complexes. Challenges include the county's adult obesity rate, which has remained unchanged since 2009. The Florida Department of Health in Escambia County has partnered with Baptist Health System, Escambia Community Clinics, Sacred Heart Health System, the Florida Department of Health in Santa Rosa County, and many other area stakeholders to develop an updated Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

According to Mr. David Sjoberg, President of the Partnership for a Healthy Community (PFAHC), the CHIP will address the need for action in these, and other, target areas. Sjoberg says that, "the data from the 2013 County Health Rankings corroborate the results of a comprehensive health status assessment for Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, released by the Partnership for a Healthy Community in December 2012. The results warrant broad public concern, and the Partnership is planning to hold a Community Health Summit in May 2013, involving business, government, civic and healthcare leaders, focused on health status improvement initiatives for the two-county area."

The last CHIP was developed in 2007 by Unite Escambia (originally known as the Escambia Community Collaborative). The Partnership for a Healthy Community plans to finalize the 2013 CHIP later this summer.

“Health impacts each resident of Escambia County, Florida, both on a personal level and as members of our community,” said Dr. John Lanza, Director of the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County. “While today’s report presents county-level rankings, we realize that promoting optimal health requires the efforts of all branches of our community including government, education, business, and civic organizations.”

The *Rankings* include a snapshot of each county in Florida with a color-coded map comparing each county’s overall health ranking. There are also new county-level trend graphs detailing change over time for several of the measurements including children living in poverty, unemployment, and quality of care.

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