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## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY ADDRESSES COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS



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**Pensacola, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Health in Escambia County recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and today acknowledged the 2019 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps tool released by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This study highlights the many community factors that influence health and uses established data, much of which is available from the department at [FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://FLHealthCHARTS.com).

These rankings are a snapshot of the health of counties across the country, and they emphasize that health is not a singular effort but a combined work in progress across all community partners. The department works in collaboration with local governments, non-profit organizations, health care facilities, business groups, schools, faith-based organizations and many other stakeholders to improve the health of all people in Escambia County. These rankings use data related to physical environments, social and economic factors, health behaviors and clinical care.

“The upward trend in the overall rankings for Escambia County reflects the efforts of many community partners and stakeholders,” said Dr. John Lanza, Director and Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County. “Recognizing that we always have opportunities to continue to make Escambia County a healthier place to live, work, learn, and play, we will apply the information provided by the rankings as we work with these partners to begin a new Community Health Improvement Plan cycle in Escambia County, Florida.”

The [Community Health Improvement Plan \(CHIP\)](#) addresses specific opportunities for improved health that have been identified by the community. The current CHIP, which ends later this year, has focused on reducing infant mortality and tobacco use, as well as increasing the number of residents at a healthy weight. In January 2019 community stakeholders, led by the LiveWell Partnership for a Healthy Community, published a new Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The 2019 CHNA identified the health improvement priorities for Escambia County’s new CHIP cycle as reducing and preventing the incidence of diabetes, improving infant and child health, and improving mental health. A community meeting will occur on April 23, 2019, to initiate the development of a new CHIP to address these priorities. Persons or organizations interested in participating in the CHIP development process can learn more at [EscambiaHealth.com](http://EscambiaHealth.com).

To explore more health indicators in your county, visit [FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://FLHealthCHARTS.com).

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### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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