

March. 16, 2016

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN FRANKLIN COUNTY ADDRESSES COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS



Contact:

David Walker
David.Walker@flhealth.gov
850-653-2111

Apalachicola – The Florida Department of Health in Franklin County recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and today acknowledged the 2016 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 www.floridacharts.com. County data reflects an improvement in the area of Health Outcomes and our community partners are motivated by this progress to continue collaboration efforts to improve the health of residents.

“Health knows no boundaries”, said Marsha Lindeman, Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Franklin County. “While today’s report presents county level rankings, we realize that promoting optimal health involves a broad spectrum of partners in government, education, business and civic organizations that are not necessarily limited geographically.”

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 Franklin County. These rankings use data related to physical environments, social and economic factors, health behaviors and clinical care.

In Franklin County, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is designed to address specific opportunities for improved health that have been identified by the community. The department has partnered with many stakeholders to implement the CHIP and collaborates regularly to track progress. Recently, community partners have been working together to build a Community Health Assessment, and a county-wide health profile by analyzing recent data trends, developing a shared vision, determining local themes, strengths and resources. The CHIP Partners have identified Healthy Weight, Access to Care, and Mental Health/Substance Abuse as priority areas for Franklin County. Through strategic planning, partners will build goals, objectives and strategies to address each priority area.

“Community health is a county-wide responsibility”, said Franklin County Commissioner Noah Lockley. “Working together, we will make Franklin County a healthier place to live, learn, work and play.”

“CHIP Partners have identified the following priorities which impact our community: Healthy Weight, Access to Care, Substance Abuse and Mental Health. As a faith-based community partner, I am proud of the collaboration of grass-roots organizations, businesses, healthcare agencies, and governmental entities to improve the health of Franklin County,” said Pastor Harolyn Walker, Covenant Word Christian Center International.

“I cannot be more proud of our community, this is real progress for Franklin County”, said Joe Taylor, President of Franklin Promise Coalition. “It is proof that when we combine our efforts across sectors we get results. From businesses to faith-based organizations, non-profits and governments, we should all celebrate our improvement as a healthy place to live.”

Last week, the Florida Department of Health became the first integrated department of health in the nation to achieve national accreditation through the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#). Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. The seal of accreditation signifies that the Florida Department of Health has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health.

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.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.