

Mission:

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



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN FRANKLIN/GULF ADDRESSES COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

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Apalachicola and Port St. Joe, Fla. — The Florida Department of Health in Franklin and Gulf Counties recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and today acknowledged the 2018 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.FLHealthCHARTS.com.

“We all have a role to play in improving the health of our communities”, said Marsha Lindeman, Administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Franklin and Gulf Counties. “In public health, our role is to orchestrate the collaboration among community partners to improve health outcomes. I encourage you all to join the community health improvement partner workshops as we strive to make Franklin and Gulf healthier places for our citizens and for generations to come.”

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 and Gulf.

The foundation for the entire ranking process is built from the [County Health Rankings model](#). The overall Health Factors summary score is a weighted composite of four components: Health behaviors (30%), Clinical care (20%), Social and economic factors (40%), and Physical environment (10%).

In Franklin and Gulf Counties, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is designed to address specific opportunities for improved health that have been identified by the community. Health factors, such as the areas measured in the County Health Rankings, are reviewed as part of this process. The

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department has partnered with many stakeholders to implement the CHIP and collaborates regularly to track progress.

“As we closely monitor the positive health trends, we are also looking into those opportunities identified in the data with our Community Health Improvement Partnership, said David Walker, Community Health Improvement Partner. “These include access to health care services, healthy

lifestyle community-based projects, and awareness of mental health and substance abuse support services. CHIP partners are currently working on evidence-based strategies to address these top health concerns.”

Health care partners have been working closely with local coalitions to offer more health screenings in neighborhood settings. These include local faith-based organizations and community resource centers. These events have helped to link residents to local health care providers.

CHIP Partners have also created strategies to increase awareness and access to Women, Infants and Children (WIC) services, specifically reaching pregnant women in their first trimester. WIC provides the following services at no cost: healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support and referrals for health care.

In addition to creating a mental health and substance abuse support resource guide, CHIP partners recently attended training to learn about Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC). This process builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to achieve abstinence and improved health, wellness, and quality of life for those with or at risk of alcohol and drug problems.

“As a CHIP partner, it is my role to ensure the plan stays off the shelf and into community hands. Each CHIP meeting brings new faces to the table and new ideas to enhance priority areas. You know there is true potential in what you are doing when citizens are interested in CHIP projects in their neighborhood”, said Minnie Likely, community advocate.

To explore more health indicators in your county, visit www.FLHealthCHARTS.com.

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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