



Compass Points

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Welcome to Compass Points, the Florida Department of Health (DOH)'s forum for news and discussion on community health assessment and health improvement planning. We strongly encourage you to submit questions, anecdotes, lessons learned and success stories to be shared with others across the state. These quarterly e-news bulletins include information on activities, resources, and tips for conducting community health assessments in your county. Links below will open in a new window while links "In This Issue" are shortcuts to sections of this newsletter.

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Best regards,

Chris Abarca and the COMPASS (Comprehensive Assessment, Strategic Success) Team

News From the Field

View the latest version of the Hernando County Community Health Needs Assessment report at www.hernandohealth.org. The report was prepared by the WellFlorida Health Council with support from the Hernando County Health Department (CHD) and Hernando County Board of County Commissioners. Findings from their most recent community health survey, demographic and socioeconomic profiles, health status indicators and information on health resources and access tell the story of the health of Hernando County. This comprehensive report shares not only the findings and tools used but the community's goals for impacting health outcomes.

Escambia CHD welcomes Ed Parent as their community and organizational development coordinator. Ed will also serve as MAPP coordinator. As part of the Health Promotion division, Escambia CHD's [MAPP work](#) continues to foster strong public health system partnerships for identifying and solving community health challenges.

To meet their goal of identifying strategic health priorities and developing an action plan by February, the [Hardee County Health Care Task Force](#) has reviewed data from their Comprehensive Assessment for Tracking Community Health (CATCH) report and solicited input from community partners. For analysis, health issues were grouped into themes that include public safety, chronic disease/cancer,

maternal health, and access to services. At their December meeting, Task Force members recognized and discussed the importance of community involvement in tackling the issue of overweight and obesity in the county. Erin Hess, healthy lifestyles coordinator at the Hardee CHD, continues to provide leadership for assessment and planning as well as chronic disease prevention.

On January 22, findings from the first comprehensive assessment of St. Lucie County's social, health and public safety services will be presented to the community. The [United Way of St. Lucie County](#) spearheaded the project and the 2007 Assessment of St. Lucie County's Social, Health and Public Safety Services Report is available for review on their website at www.unitedwayslc.org. This year-long study is an extension and outgrowth from the St. Lucie CHD-led MAPP process that is directed by St. Lucie CHD administrator, Larry Lee, and Edgar Morales, director for planning and improvement.

The [WellFlorida Health Council](#) announces the publication of community health status assessment and health needs assessment reports for Union, Bradford, Lafayette and Suwannee counties. Leaders in conducting these assessments include Jeff Feller, WellFlorida's executive director; Winnie Holland, administrator, Union and Bradford CHDs and Nancy McCullers, administrator, Lafayette and Suwannee CHDs. As a next step, the results and findings will be shared with these communities so that shared priorities can be determined and action plans made. The reports are available on the WellFlorida Health Council web site at http://www.wellflorida.org/wf_8.php

Your CHD's and/or community's news belongs here! Share your news with colleagues; e-mail items to Christine_Abarca@doh.state.fl.us

Next Statewide Meet-Me Call, January 22

Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues from around the state for a conversation on community health assessment, health improvement planning, and MAPP on Tuesday, January 22 from 3-4 pm ET. This is an opportunity to express your opinions, ask questions, raise concerns, and share your achievements. The toll-free call-in number is 888-808-6959, conference code 2691017. The agenda will be e-mailed to members of the COMPASS distribution list. .

COMPASS Web Site and Web-Based Tool Kit

The [COMPASS website](#) and some of the Florida MAPP tools are being updated! Look for expanded guidance on the action cycle and information on evidence-based programs to impact identified health priorities. The information and resource warehouse for community health assessment and health improvement planning can be accessed at www.doh.state.fl.us/COMPASS/. Your comments and suggestions are welcome as well as any reports and/or products you would like to have posted.

CHARTS Update

New reports and enhanced features are added regularly to the public health statistics website Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (CHARTS; www.floridacharts.com). The newest feature is the [Florida population query](#) system that produces county level estimates and projections of populations by race, age, gender and ethnicity from 1970 through 2013. Custom queries can be created to display data for multiple counties and years. As with many CHARTS features, data can be exported to Microsoft Excel for further analysis. Check it out at www.floridacharts.com

Events, Training, Resources and Opportunities

Looking to update or gain skills in community health assessment, health improvement planning and MAPP? DOH's COMPASS initiative will host a series of six, one-hour Live Meeting web conferences on "Improving Community Health through Planning and Partnerships: Using Florida's MAPP Tools" beginning February 4. All that is needed to participate is a computer with internet access and a telephone. Modules will cover the following topics: Feb. 4 - introduction to community health improvement planning and MAPP; Feb. 18 - getting started by organizing for success and partnership building; March 10 - MAPP assessments; March 31 - using data effectively and community health status assessment; April 14 - identifying strategic issues and formulating goals and strategies; and April 28 - success in action and evaluation. All the web conferences take place from 3-4 pm ET. In advance of each module, connection information will be provided; however, "seating" for each session is limited to 25 participants. Preview the modules at the [COMPASS website](#).

The [Southeast Evaluation Association](#) (SEA) will hold their 20th Annual Conference and Pre-Conference Workshop on February 27-29, 2008 in Tallahassee. This year's theme is "Evaluation and Accountability: A Formula for Success." Registration information and details on how to join SEA are available at www.southeastevaluation.com

View archived web casts from the [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO) technical assistance series on accreditation and quality improvement. This informative series covers quality improvement methods, applicability to public health practice, information on public health accreditation, and use of the National Public Health Performance Standards for performance improvement. In addition to viewing the recorded sessions, handouts are available for downloading. Access these resources through the [NACCHO website](#)

The University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions now offers a Certificate in Public Health. The certificate is a five-course program that can be completed in as little as one year via the Internet. Students must have a bachelor's degree and the certificate courses may be applied towards an MPH degree at UF upon satisfactory completion. Certificate courses include biostatistics, environmental health, epidemiology, public health management and policy, and social and behavioral sciences. All courses are delivered online via the UF e-learning system and do not require any visits to campus. Get more information by visiting the UF Public Health Programs website at www.mph.ufl.edu/students/online.htm

The [United States Golf Association's](#) ?Good for the Game? grants support organizations that introduce golf to young people and others with limited access to the game. Grant awards are directed to instructional programs, caddie and other work-based curricula and the construction of facilities that make the game affordable and accessible. Deadline for applications is January 23, 2008. For complete details visit the USGA's website at www.usga.org

Is injury prevention a priority for your community? Florida Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Matching and Rural Matching grant applications are being accepted until February 15, 2008. The EMS matching grant program allows for improvement or expansion of EMS. The [grant manual](#) containing forms and instructions is available online and further information is available from DOH's Bureau of EMS at 850-245-4444 ext. 2782.

The [American Academy of Dermatology's](#) Shade Structure Program is accepting grant applications to fund the purchase of permanent shade structures designed to provide ultraviolet (UV) ray protection and shade for outdoor areas. The program promotes the importance of sun safety. Grant awards of up to \$8000 are available. The deadline to apply is March 5, 2008. Application instructions are available online at www.aad.org/public/sun/grants.html

The [Health Council of West Central Florida and Suncoast Health Council](#) have published updated [health profiles](#) for Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Highlands, Hardee, Polk and Manatee counties. The reports are available at www.healthcouncils.org.

The [Association for Community Health Improvement](#) convenes and supports leaders from health care, public health, community and philanthropic sectors to help achieve shared community health goals. The association works to strengthen community health through education, peer networking and dissemination of practical tools. Among the tools available are [data resources](#) that are disease-specific and address many areas of interest to community health planners and program implementers. Visit their website at www.communityhlth.org

Recent issues of the online journal, [Preventing Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice and Policy](#), contain many articles of interest. These include [From Program to Policy: Expanding the Role of Community Coalitions](#) (Vol. 4, No. 4, Oct. 2007), [A Methodology for Evaluating Organizational Change in Community-Based Chronic Disease Interventions](#) (Vol. 4, No. 4, Oct. 2007), [Community Health: A Critical Approach to Addressing Chronic Diseases](#) (Vol. 4, No. 4, Oct. 2007), and [Engaging Partners to Initiate Evaluation Efforts: Tactics Used and Lessons Learned from the Prevention Research Centers Program](#) (Vol. 5, No. 1, Jan. 2008). All articles are downloadable in pdf format. Visit their website at www.cdc.gov/pcd to access the current and archived issues of the journal.

Please share this e-news with community partners, colleagues, and anyone interested in impacting your community's health.

Community health assessment practice is the process of systematically collecting, analyzing and using information to educate and mobilize communities, develop priorities, gather resources, and plan actions to impact the public's health. Assessment is a core function of public health practice. Assessment is the foundation for the other two core functions of public health; Policy Development and Assurance. The information, tools and resources of COMPASS are designed to improve the capacities of Florida's public health workforce to develop strategies and interventions which lead to improved population health through community partnership building, collaboration and resource sharing. <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/compass/>

This message is a service of the Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis