

March 19, 2019

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



**Contact:**

Krista Cogburn-Peebles

**[Krista.Cogburn-Peebles@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Krista.Cogburn-Peebles@FLHealth.gov)**

850-252-9600

**Panama City, Fla.** —The Florida Department of Health in Bay 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 [www.FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://www.FLHealthCHARTS.com).

“The Florida Department of Health in Bay County works closely with our community partners to produce a Community Health Improvement Plan to address health equity and improve the health of Bay County residents and visitors”, said Holly Holt, Interim Health Officer for DOH-Bay, “We will be utilizing the County Health Rankings for our current Community Health Needs Assessment to help us prioritize community health needs.”

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

In Bay 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.

The current CHIP addresses three priorities; healthy weight/healthy lifestyles, mental health/substance use, and chronic diseases including diabetes. To address these community needs a farmer’s market was established at DOH-Bay to increase access to healthy foods. In collaboration with the hospitals and cardiologist, heart health education was added as a service at DOH-Bay. DOH-Bay is also proud to be a member of Bay County’s Recovery Oriented System of Care with the goal of providing mental health and substance use recovery options, education, and awareness.

“The community health improvement partnership understands that mental health and substance use plays a vital role in whole health,” said Ann Wing, Network Coordinator for Big Bend

Community Based Care. “The system of care continues to partner together to ensure that Bay County is receiving the necessary services post-Hurricane Michael.”

DOH-Bay will hold its first community meeting for the 2019 Community Health Assessment on Monday, April 8 from 10 am to 1 pm. The meeting will be held at DOH-Bay in the auditorium at 597 W 11<sup>th</sup> ST, Panama City. The meeting is opened to the public. We invite you to come and be a partner in improving the health of Bay County.

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

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