

March. 16, 2016

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



**Contact:**

Candy Sims  
Public Information Officer  
(954) 467-4784 - [candy.sims@flhealth.gov](mailto:candy.sims@flhealth.gov)

**Fort Lauderdale, FL** – The Florida Department of Health in Broward 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](http://www.floridacharts.com).

"The rankings help us to identify areas where we must continue to partner and collaborate effectively to maintain our strengths and address opportunities for improvement," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director, Florida Department of Health in Broward County.

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

In Broward 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. Community initiatives include the Broward Is Greater Than AIDS campaign, Vaccinate On Time, Every Time campaign and partnerships with local municipalities and community organizations to promote healthy eating and physical activity. Broward County nine municipalities, eight cities and towns, along with county government, recognized as 2016 Healthy Weight Community Champions by the Florida Department of Health

"The Children's Services Council of Broward County remains committed to working with the Florida Department of Health in Broward County and our many other partners to continue to improve the quality of life for all children in Broward County," said Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer, President and CEO, Children's Services Council of Broward County.

"The Rankings bring a great opportunity for county-wide discussions about overall health improvements and the Broward County Jurisdictional HIV Prevention Plan," said Jorge Gardela, Chairperson, Broward County HIV Prevention Planning Council.

“There are many community partners in Broward County working toward the same committed goals and we will continue to support all those efforts to make Broward County an even healthier place to live, work and play,” said Broward County Commissioner, Dale V.C. Holness, District 9.

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](#).

###