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A MESSAGE FROM THE FLORIDA DEPT OF HEALTH IN NASSAU

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PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK 2018 - Ensuring the Right to Health

Access to care: Ensuring the right to health means ensuring access to affordable, quality insurance coverage. Research shows that going without health insurance increases a person's risk of death, while expanding access to coverage can reduce mortality and increase the chance that a person reports being in good health. The Partnership for a Healthier Nassau through the 2015-18 Community Health Improvement Plan has prioritized increasing Access to Care as one of the top three Strategic Focus Areas.

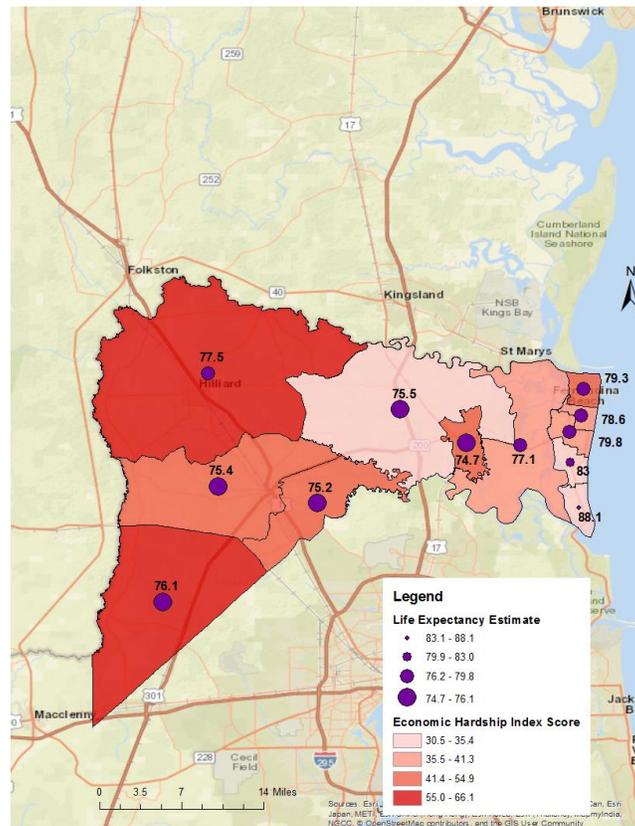
Prioritizing prevention: Ensuring the right to health requires a commitment to public health and prevention. Much of today's most burdensome and costly diseases — namely, chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, stroke and cancer — can be avoided or their health impacts lessened by widening access to preventive care, investing in evidence-based public health and supporting smart public policy. Nassau County and the City of Fernandina Beach have been recognized in recent years as Healthiest Weight Community Champions by demonstrating their alignment with practices and policies that promote healthy eating and physical activity.

On the public health side, research shows that each 10 percent boost in local public health spending can bring up to a 7 percent decrease in mortality from preventable causes of death. And studies find that health-promoting policies, such as smoking bans and sugary drink taxes, do result in people making choices that reduce the risk of chronic disease. But we have a long way to go: chronic diseases remain a leading cause of death in the U.S. and account for more than 75 percent of U.S. health care spending.

Elevating the social determinants of health: Ensuring the right to health means creating the conditions that enable good health, acknowledging the inequities that perpetuate poor health, and considering health in all policies. For example: research shows that asthmatic children who live in green homes experience a much lower risk of asthma symptoms; communities that improve neighborhood sidewalks help encourage physical activity; better product labeling can help people eat healthier; and boosts in the minimum wage can result in more babies being born at a healthy weight and fewer infant deaths. Becoming the healthiest nation also requires a commitment to achieving health place matters — for example, in Nassau County, there is a

difference of average life expectancy depending upon where you live with a range of 74.7 years at the lower end and 88.1 years at the higher end.

Here is the graphic of Life Expectancy estimate vs Economic Hardship Index which is based on the following:



The Nassau County EHI score is the average of the following six variables that have been standardized on a scale from 0 to 100:

- Unemployment (over the age of 16 years)
- Education (over 25 years of age without a high school diploma)
- Per capita income level
- Poverty (below the federal poverty level)
- Crowded housing (housing units with more than one person per room)
- Dependency (population under 18 or over 64 years of age)

(Based on 2009-2014 data)

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