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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SEEKING FEEDBACK ON STATE HEALTH ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**

*~Draft report shows health and quality of life information across the state~*

**TALLAHASSEE-** As part of the state health improvement process, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and its partners have conducted a comprehensive community health assessment of health and quality of life in Florida. The first-ever report will be used to inform communities, develop priorities, mobilize resources and take action. The Department has already responded to the report's findings by launching the Healthiest Weight initiative, which seeks to help individuals and communities achieve healthy weight and lifestyle through public-private partnerships.

"The *State Health Assessment* is a useful tool to help us improve the focus and effectiveness of public health services in Florida," said Deputy Secretary for Statewide Services Meade Grigg. "Using the data gathered from the assessment, the Department will be better able to address the ever-changing health needs of Floridians."

A diverse group of subject matter experts conducted four types of assessments, including priority health and quality of life; organizations that contribute to the public's health; important health issues as perceived by state residents; and additional health influences (legislation, funding, technology, etc.) The report includes data on social and economic conditions, health risk factors, availability of resources, the impact of communities and environments on health and an assessment of the state's public health system.

DOH staff and partners used the *State Health Assessment* to identify the following state health priorities:

- Protecting Floridians from infectious and environmental threats, injuries, and man-made disasters;
- Preventing chronic disease including type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and stroke, and obesity related cancers;
- Working in communities to maximize partnerships, increase safety and increase access to physical activity;
- Improving access to care; and
- Ensuring continuous improvement, accountability and sustainability.

The Department encourages Floridians to provide feedback on the report for improving and promoting the health of the state. DOH will revise the report based on feedback provided and will publish final results online by Feb. 28, 2013, at [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/FloridaMAPP/SHA/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/FloridaMAPP/SHA/index.html). The report will be updated every four years as part of a continuous cycle of health improvement planning.

The draft State Health Assessment is available for comment at [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning\\_eval/FloridaMAPP/SHA/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/FloridaMAPP/SHA/index.html).

To learn more about the Department of Health, please visit <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/>.

DOH protects, promotes and improves the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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