



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Alabama Community Health Assessment 2015 draft available for public feedback

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health announces that a draft of the State of Alabama Community Health Assessment 2015 is now available online for the public's review and comments. The final document will provide helpful information that can be used for local community health improvement initiatives. This colorful 113-page document includes a wealth of statistics and other information about the health concerns Alabama residents face.

The purpose in developing the Community Health Assessment is to learn more about the community: the health of the population, contributing factors to higher health risks or poorer health outcomes of identified populations, and community resources available to improve health status. This will serve as a foundation for a statewide health improvement plan that will identify community assets and resources that can be mobilized to improve overall population health.

In 2013 and 2014, input was obtained from diverse agencies, organizations, community groups, health care providers, and citizens across Alabama to determine appropriate and relevant health issues to be included in this assessment. A survey was conducted and 13 health issues were determined as high priority.

The top 13 health issues were ranked in this order: 1. Access to Care, 2. Mental Health and Substance Abuse, 3. Poor Pregnancy Outcomes, 4. Nutrition and Physical Activity, 5. Cardiovascular Diseases, 6. Sexually Transmitted Infections, 7. Cancer, 8. Child Abuse and Neglect, 9. Diabetes, 10. Geriatrics, 11. Injury and Violence Prevention, 12. Oral Health, and 13. Cigarette Smoking.

Within each of the top 13 health issues, several health status indicators were identified in order to demonstrate the health status of Alabamians. Those indicators include birth and death data as well as in depth information on Alabamians' behavioral risk factors. Tables and statewide maps detail indicator data such as the number of households without vehicles, the numbers of substance abuse insurance claims, the projected increase in the elderly population, and the ratio of dentists to the population.

"We appreciate the assistance and support of our stakeholders in providing useful information," State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson said. "We are hopeful that the information collected in this document will be a helpful resource that will be used in shaping healthier communities."

The public is invited to view the document online and submit comments before the Community Health Assessment is finalized. The draft CHA is available online at adph.org/accreditation. Please email comments to Carrie.Allison@adph.state.al.us.

For additional information, visit adph.org/accreditation or contact Carrie Allison, Bureau of Professional and Support Services, (334) 206-5229.

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