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2012: State of Hispanic Health in Duval County Inaugural Report

June 2012



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DUVAL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Hispanic Health in Duval County

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This report is the culmination of the hard work and dedication of the Duval County Health Department (DCHD) and the Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council to DCHD. The group is comprised of individuals and organizations who have dedicated their time and energy to raise awareness of the emerging issues that Hispanic/Latinos face. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Jocelyn Turner of the DCHD for her foresight in forming an advisory group well before others began having conversations about Hispanic/Latino Health in Duval County. I would also like to thank Dr. Laura Beverly and Dr. Patricia Solo-Josephson for their dedication and ongoing support of the group. Their commitment and expertise are invaluable and very much appreciated.

From 2000 to 2010, the population of Florida grew by 18%. During that same period, Florida's Hispanic population grew by 57%. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Hispanics made up 7.6% of the population of Duval County, one of Florida's most populous counties. The census data also revealed that Hispanics saw significant increases in poverty, have been hit hardest by the bleak economy, have one of the highest unemployment rates, and saw their household wealth decline more steeply than any other racial or ethnic group. They also have the lowest rate of health insurance coverage of any racial or ethnic group in the United States.

Recognizing the significance of Hispanics/Latinos to the future of Duval County, the Council is working on preventing, improving, eliminating, or reducing disparities in both health status and health service delivery in the Latino community. Our vision is "A healthy, equitable future for the Hispanic community to achieve a better quality of life." It is centered on growing partnerships to effectively identify the disparities and the barriers to improved outcomes and developing and implementing effective and sustainable action plans. We invite you to be part of the solution. The Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

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Introduction

This report assesses the current health status of Hispanics in Duval County. According to the 2010 Census, the term Hispanic refers to persons who trace their origin to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Spanish-speaking Central and South American countries, and other Spanish cultures. Hispanics are an ethnic group and can be black, white, or any other race. The Census Bureau refers to this ethnicity as “Hispanic or Latino,” but because Hispanic is more widely used in the eastern United States and for the sake of readability, the term “Hispanic” will be used throughout this report.

Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the U.S. and are the second largest minority group in Duval County. According to the U.S. Census, there were 50.4 million Hispanics in the U.S. in 2010, accounting for 16.3% of the total population. The Hispanic population increased 43% from 35.3 million in 2000. In Duval County, there were 65,398 Hispanics in 2010, representing a 104% increase from 2000.

The growing Hispanic community in Duval County creates a growing need for services. Understanding who the Hispanic community is, where they live, and what their health status is will be key to meeting the health service needs of the Hispanic community.

The data in this report largely addresses health outcomes of Hispanics, but understanding social and behavioral risk factors is important because they are major contributors to poor health. Obesity, smoking, poor nutrition, lack of exercise, poverty, gender, geography, and culture affect many different health outcomes. Many health surveys do not include enough Duval County Hispanics to produce reliable information by ethnicity. More detailed data is needed to understand the specific health challenges faced by Hispanics and the best methods to overcome those challenges.

Demographics

The Hispanic community in Duval County is growing rapidly. Health service providers need to grasp the demographic makeup of the population and collaborate with stakeholders within the community to better serve this population.

The demographic profile of the Hispanic community in Duval County is displayed in Table I. Hispanics account for 7.6% of all residents and are the second largest minority group behind non-Hispanic blacks (28.9%). According to the 2010 American Community Survey, 67.1% of Hispanics in Duval County speak a language other than English at home and 29.4% were born outside the U.S.

Table I: Demographic Profile of the Duval County Hispanic Community, 2010

Language spoken at home and ability to speak English (pop ≥ 5 yrs)	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
English	32.9%	91.0%
Language other than English	67.1%	9.0%
Speak English less than "very well"	25.6%	2.9%

Employment Status (pop ≥ 16 yrs)	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
In labor force	72.6%	66.1%
Civilian labor force	70.7%	64.4%
Employed	61.5%	56.5%
Unemployed	9.2%	7.9%
Not in labor force	27.4%	33.9%

Income in the past 12 months (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars)	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
Median household income	\$43,078	\$46,386
Mean earnings	\$50,458	\$61,312

Sex	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
Male	50.8%	48.3%
Female	49.2%	51.7%

Marital Status (pop ≥ 15 yrs)	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
Now married, except separated	48.3%	44.7%
Widowed	3.7%	6.3%
Divorced	10.8%	14.1%
Separated	2.2%	2.9%
Never married	34.9%	32.0%

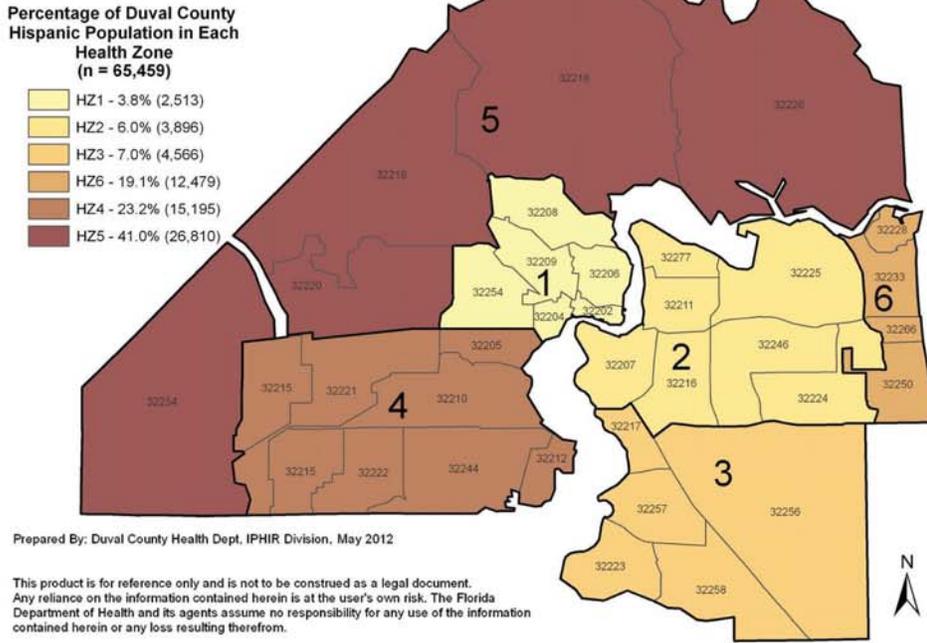
Education Attainment (pop ≥ 25 yrs)	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
Less than High school diploma	22.6%	11.4%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	23.9%	29.7%
Some college or associate's degree	32.5%	33.7%
Bachelor's degree	15.4%	17.8%
Graduate or professional degree	5.7%	7.4%

Place of Birth	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
Native	70.6%	92.5%
Foreign	29.4%	7.5%

Source: 2010 American Community Survey 1-year estimates

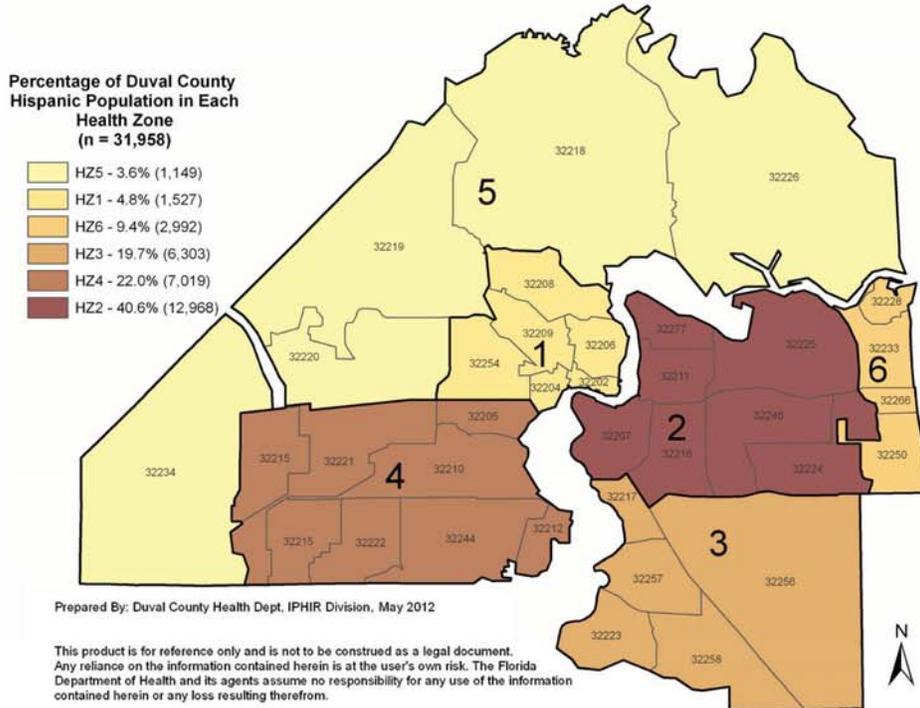
The Hispanic community is spread across all of Duval County. Figure 1 shows that in 2010, 41.0% of Hispanics lived in Health Zone 5 (HZ5) and 19.1% lived in HZ6, while HZ3 (7.0%) and HZ2 (6.0%) had relatively small Hispanic populations. This represents a dramatic shift from the geographic distribution of Hispanics in 2000. Figure 2 shows that in 2000, the percentage of Hispanics living in either HZ5 (3.6%) or HZ6 (9.4%) was small, while a far greater percentage of Hispanics lived in HZ3 (19.7%) and HZ2 (40.6%).

Figure 1: Hispanic Population in Duval County by Health Zone, 2010



Source: American Community Survey 2010, 1-year estimates

Figure 2: Hispanic Population in Duval County by Health Zone, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Leading Health Indicators

Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) provides evidence-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. HP2020 benchmarks were established and will be monitored over time to encourage collaborations across communities and sectors, empower individuals to make informed health decisions, and measure the impact of public health efforts. Table 2 shows a comparison of U.S., Florida, and Duval County rates to HP2020 targets. Homicides, firearm-related deaths, and suicides occur at a much higher rate among Duval County Hispanics than among Hispanics statewide and the overall U.S. population.

Table 2: Healthy People 2020 Objectives and Targets

Objective	US (2007) ¹	FL Hispanics (2008-2010) ²	Duval Hispanics (2008-2010) ²	HP 2020 Target ¹
Reduce cancer deaths (Deaths per 100,000 people)	178.4	119.3	83.3	160.6
Reduce diabetes deaths (Deaths per 100,000 people)	73.1	21.3	9.4	65.8
Reduce coronary heart disease deaths (Deaths per 100,000 people)	126.0	102.2	67.0	100.8
Reduce stroke deaths (Deaths per 100,000 people)	42.2	26.8	26.1	33.8
Reduce motor vehicle crash related deaths (Deaths per 100,000 people)	13.8	13.8	22.7	12.4
Reduce homicides (Deaths per 100,000 people)	6.1	5.4	10.3	5.5
Reduce firearm-related deaths (Deaths per 100,000 people)	10.2	6.9	15.1	9.2
Reduce suicides (Deaths per 100,000 people)	11.3	8.1	13.6	10.2

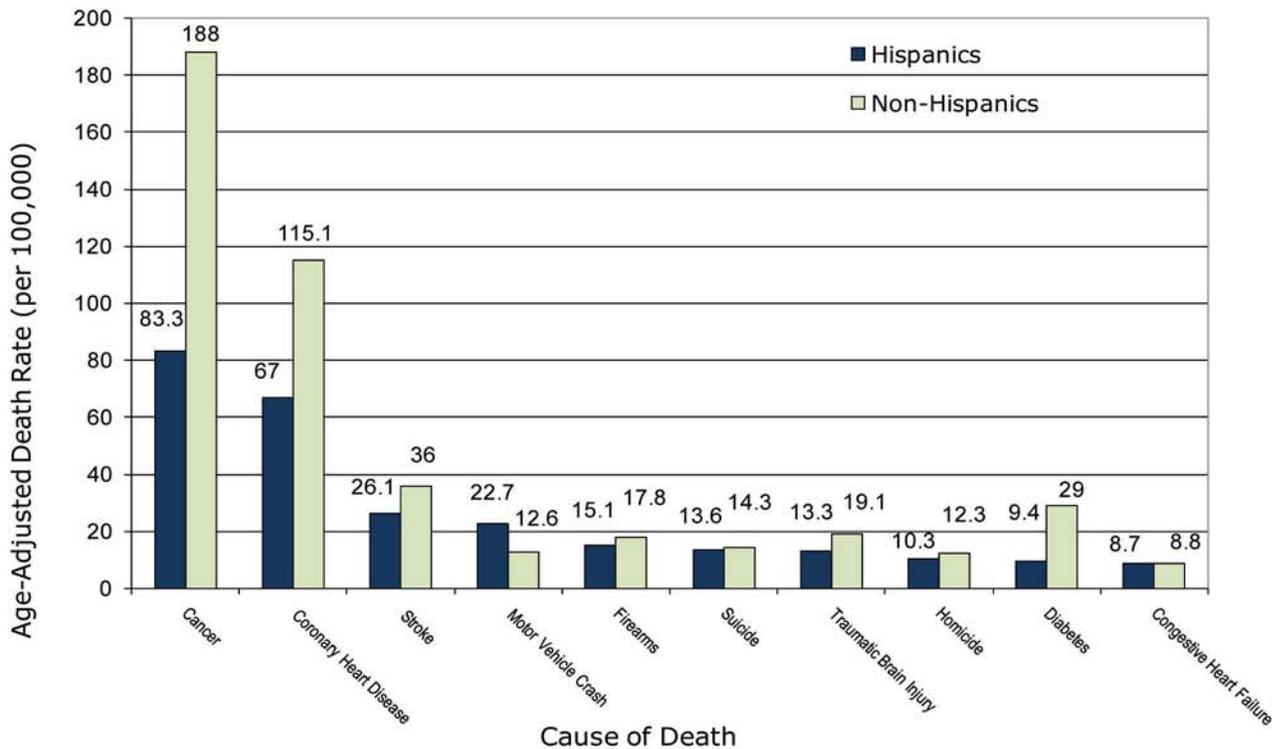
Sources: ¹Healthy People 2020

²Florida Office of Vital Statistics via Florida CHARTS, 2010

The leading causes of death among Duval Hispanics during 2008-2010 were cancer, coronary heart disease, and stroke. Figure 3 shows the age-adjusted death rates for the top 10 causes of death for Hispanics and non-Hispanics in Duval County.

Age-adjusted death rate (AADR) is used to compare death rates between groups with different age distributions. The AADR for Hispanics was lower than the AADR for non-Hispanics for all the leading causes of death other than motor vehicle crashes, for which Hispanics had a much higher AADR (22.7 annual deaths per 100,000 people) than non-Hispanics (12.6 deaths/100,000). Cancer, coronary heart disease, and diabetes deaths occur at much lower rates in Hispanics than in non-Hispanics.

Figure 3: Leading Causes of Death by Ethnicity in Duval County, 2008-2010



Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics via Florida CHARTS, 2008-2010

Youth Risk Factors

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a school-based, confidential, anonymous survey that monitors behaviors that contribute to poor health among youth and adults. These behaviors are grouped into four categories: alcohol/tobacco/other drug behaviors, physical activity/dietary behaviors, sexual behaviors, and violence/suicide/safety behaviors. The YRBS was most recently conducted in the Duval County Public Schools during the spring of 2011. There were 3,336 students from 21 Duval County public high schools that participated in the high school YRBS.

Hispanic high school students scored worse than the rest of the student population for some risk behaviors in all four categories. However, the biggest discrepancies came in the violence, suicide, and safety behaviors category when comparing Hispanic high school students in Duval County to the rest of Duval County and the statewide Hispanic population. These comparisons are shown in Table 3. In addition, 10 of the 29 indicators reviewed by YRBS were statistically significantly worse for Duval County Hispanic high school students than for Hispanic high school students statewide. One of these risk factors was a sexual behavior, three were physical activity and dietary behaviors, and six were violence, suicide, and safety behaviors.

Table 3: YRBS Violence, Suicide, and Safety Risk Factors, 2011

Category	Question	Duval Hispanic High School Students	All Duval High School Students	Florida Hispanic High School Students
Violence	Did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school (on at least one day during the 30 days before the survey)	19.4%	11.0%	8.4%
	Threatened or injured with a weapon on school property (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	19.6%	10.7%	7.8%
	Ever been bullied on school property (during the past 12 months)	26.9%	17.6%	13.6%
Suicide	Seriously considered attempting suicide (during the 12 months before the survey)	21.9%	14.9%	12.6%
	Attempted suicide (one or more times during the 12 months before the survey)	23.9%	12.7%	9.0%
Safety	Rarely or never wore a seat belt (when riding in a car driven by someone else)	20.1%	12.9%	9.8%
	Rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (in a car or other vehicle one or more times during the 30 days before the survey)	36.1%	28.2%	28.3%
	Drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol (one or more times during the 30 days before the survey)	16.1%	8.9%	10.2%

Source: YRBS, 2011

Access to Care

Barriers to accessing health care are a major cause of health disparities. Inadequate health insurance coverage, lack of transportation to service centers, and language difficulties are all barriers that result in poor health because they make accessing the health care system difficult. Access to health care is needed not only to prevent untimely death and relieve acute symptoms, but to provide education about long-term management of health problems. When a patient only accesses the health care system through an emergency room rather than a primary care physician or doesn't receive information in a language the patient can understand, it is detrimental to both the patient and the health care system.

The Hispanic population is faced with many barriers to accessing health care in Duval County. According to the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 88.1% of all Duval County residents have health insurance coverage. However, only 69.9% of Hispanics in Duval County have coverage according to the ACS 2010 1-year estimates. The BRFSS found that 20.5% of Hispanics could not see a doctor at least once in the past year due to cost in 2007 (the most recent year for which Hispanic data was available) compared to 15.4% for all of Duval County. It is important to understand and eliminate barriers to ensure access to the health care system.

Table 4: Health Insurance Coverage for Florida, Duval, and Duval Hispanics, 2010

Do you have any kind of health care coverage?	FL ¹	Duval ¹	Hispanic (Duval) ²
Yes	83.0%	88.1%	69.9%
No	17.0%	11.9%	30.1%

Source: ¹Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2010

²American Community Survey 2010 1-year estimates

Emergency Room Utilization

Many emergency room visits are avoidable with proper preventive measures or chronic care management. Table 5 shows ER utilization for the top 10 diagnoses by Hispanics in Duval County. The most common diagnosis is “Symptoms, Signs, and Ill-defined conditions,” which includes general symptoms such as headache, dizziness, or pain with an undetermined root cause. The diagnoses in Table 5 account for 70% of all Hispanic ER visits from 2005-2010.

There are three levels of care that medical professionals offer: primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary care is when the patient seeks medical care for minor acute medical illness. Secondary care is when the patient is seeking more specialized treatment, along the lines of screening for a specific medical reason. Tertiary level of care is when the patient has a medical issue that is chronic and/or requires extensive medical treatment or attention over time.

High ER utilization rates can mean that Hispanics are not receiving proper health care at the primary or secondary levels. ER visits also result in high costs for both the patient and the service provider. It is essential to ensure that Hispanics in Duval County have access to care and receive preventive services to reduce emergency room visits.

Table 5: Emergency Room Utilization by Diagnosis for Duval County Hispanics, 2005-2010

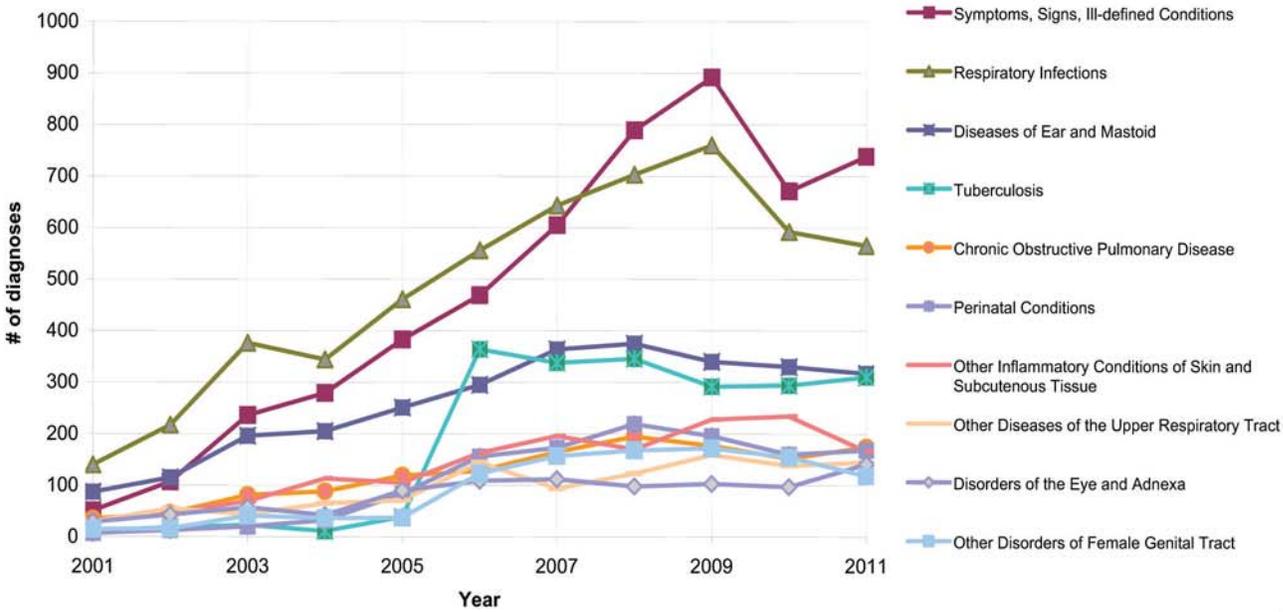
Diagnosis	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Symptoms, Signs, Ill-defined Conditions	1,966	2,548	2,314	2,100	2,692	3,408	15,028
Injuries	2,586	2,892	2,622	1,828	1,954	2,936	14,818
Respiratory Infections	783	859	848	662	945	1,120	5,217
Maternal Causes	808	1,031	989	765	766	1,026	5,385
Diseases of Ear and Mastoid	495	511	423	318	370	568	2,685
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	369	384	293	245	277	485	2,053
Infections of Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue	288	376	365	206	224	440	1,899
Diseases of the Spine	247	261	271	192	240	330	1,541
Diseases of Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands and Jaws	182	169	217	115	154	272	1,109
Disorders of Urethra and Urinary tract	196	195	187	161	165	246	1,150
All Diagnoses	10,918	12,806	11,841	9,102	10,582	15,198	70,447

Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2005-2010

DCHD Clinic Utilization

The top 10 services utilized by Hispanics in DCHD Clinics are listed in Figure 4. Respiratory infections and symptoms, signs, ill-defined conditions were diagnosed at a higher rate than other conditions. Other than injuries reported in the ER, the most frequent diagnoses for both ERs and DCHD clinics were similar. Ensuring that care for chronic diseases and minor conditions is given in the clinic setting when appropriate will benefit both Hispanics and the rest Duval County.

Figure 4: Top 10 Diagnoses for DCHD Clinic Services, 2001-2011



Source: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2005-2010

Conclusion

The Hispanic population of Duval County has increased substantially in recent years to become the second largest minority group behind African Americans. Growing numbers and shifting geographic distributions mean that interventions must focus on Hispanics' specific, changing needs. Hispanics differ from the overall population in both health behaviors and disease patterns. Barriers to accessing care such as poor insurance coverage, inability to pay for services, and language difficulties must be reduced to improve the health of Hispanics. Better data and additional analysis are needed to determine the social and behavioral risk factors that impact the health of Hispanics the most. The unique challenges and needs of Hispanics must be addressed in order to achieve good health for all of Duval County.

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