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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT IDENTIFIES TOP HEALTH PRIORITIES FOR ESCAMBIA AND SANTA ROSA COUNTIES**

Live Well Partnership for a Healthy Community (Live Well Partnership), in conjunction with local partners, has released the preliminary findings from its Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Every three years, Live Well Partnership undertakes a year-long study of the health of Escambia and Santa Rosa residents. The study included a survey of over 2,100 community residents, a survey of community leaders and analysis of the leading causes of death and poor health in our two-county area.

Based on community survey responses, the top health conditions that are of greatest concern are: diabetes, heart disease/stroke, mental health disorders, drug abuse and dental health. Poor eating habits, lack of exercise and drug abuse were perceived as the top unhealthy behaviors in the community.

The CHNA study explored data from national, Florida and local sources. The data review identified 13 leading causes of death or poor health in our community, including diabetes, heart attack, stroke, infant mortality, and mental disorders.

John Lanza, MD, PhD, FAAP, FHPS, Director of the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County, has been involved with this and several prior Community Health Needs Assessments. According to Dr. Lanza: “Looking at the data and listening to community feedback are important strategies for assessing our community’s health. The community input gives perspective to the data so that we can prioritize our efforts to protect, promote and improve our community’s health, starting with those issues of greatest purpose.”

Many other service providers throughout the community rely on the CHNA to inform their work. Laura Gilliam, President/CEO of United Way of Escambia, states that “the importance of data cannot be overlooked when organizations are determining where to direct resources. The Community Health Needs Assessment, facilitated by the Live Well Partnership, helps United Way of Escambia County focus on the most critical issues in the area of health. Having all of this information in one report makes it a very valuable tool.”

Approximately 45 community partners reviewed and discussed the preliminary Community Health Needs Assessment findings, selecting the following priority health issues to focus on over the next three years:

- Diabetes
- Infant Health
- Mental Health
- Child Health (Escambia County only)
- Drug-Use (Santa Rosa County only)

Live Well Partnership will issue a final report by the end of the year. In early 2019, work groups will convene on each of the priority topics. Each work group will be charged with developing an action plan to improve the health status of the community.

To review the full preliminary findings, go to <http://www.livewellnwfl.org/2019-chna-report/>. For more information, or to comment on the Community Health Needs Assessment, learn more about the CHNA process or get involved with a work group, contact Nora Bailey, Executive Director, Live Well Partnership at [NoraB@LiveWellNWFL.org](mailto:NoraB@LiveWellNWFL.org).

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#### **ABOUT LIVE WELL PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

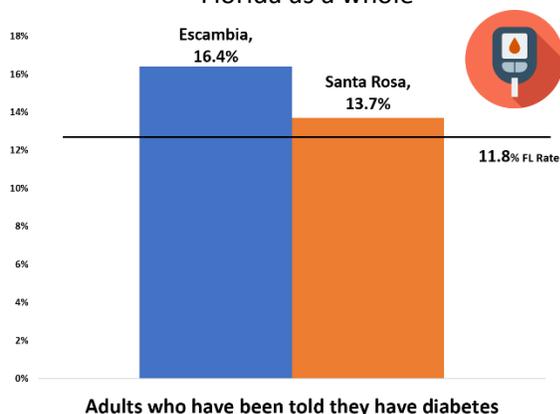
Live Well Partnership was originally formed in 1994, under the name Partnership for a Healthy Community, Inc., as one of the first collaborative organizations in Florida to address community health. Live Well Partnership seeks to bring community organizations together to achieve sustainable improvement to the health and quality of life of all people living in Escambia County and Santa Rosa County. Like Live Well Partnership on [Facebook](#) or learn more at [LiveWellNWFL.org](http://LiveWellNWFL.org).



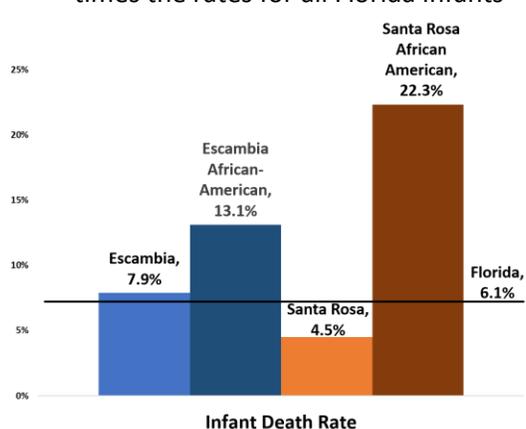
## FACT SHEET

### COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CHNA)

**Chart 1:** A higher percent of Escambia and Santa Rosa adults have diabetes than in Florida as a whole



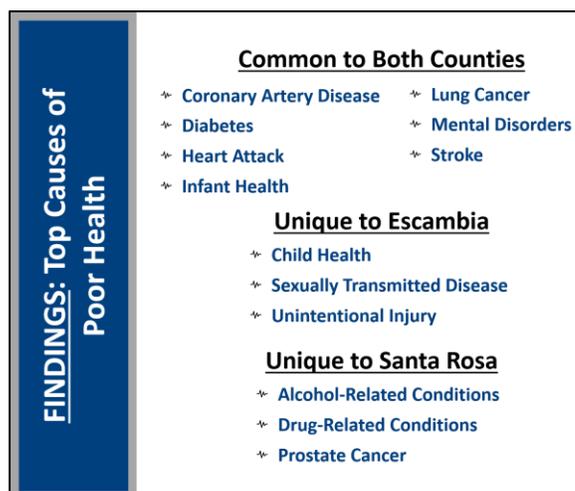
**Chart 2:** Infant death rates for African Americans in our area are two to three times the rates for all Florida infants



**Chart 3:** Mental Health Disorders are one of the leading causes of hospitalization and emergency room visits



**Chart 4:** 13 Health Conditions are the Top Causes of Death and Illness in Escambia and Santa Rosa



Want more information? The full report can be found at [www.LiveWellNWFL.org](http://www.LiveWellNWFL.org) under the **Resources / 2019 CHNA Report** tabs. And, don't forget to discover all of health and demographic data under the Explore tab.