



Welcome to the Child Health and Healthcare Quality in Florida Chartbook: A Focus on Childhood Obesity, a comprehensive report on the quality of healthcare received by children and youth in Florida with an emphasis on childhood obesity. The Chartbook website ([www.flChartbook.childhealthdata.org](http://www.flChartbook.childhealthdata.org)), provides descriptive information on child health status, health behaviors, utilization of health services, the quality of those services, health status and behaviors based on weight status and a qualitative analysis of childhood obesity prevention efforts in Florida.

The Florida Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality's (FLIC HQ) release of Child Health and Healthcare Quality in Florida is the result of a collaborative effort by many organizations and individuals who made significant contributions towards its completion. Specifically, the Chartbook website reflects the efforts of Lisa Simpson, MD, MPH, FAAP, Julie Baldwin, PhD, Richard Smith, PhD, Marie-Rachelle Narcisse, PhD, Tara Trudnak, MPH, and Stephanie Melton, MA, MPH. In addition, Lee Sanders, MD, MPH, led the focus group in Miami. Darryl Glenn provided the graphic design and layout and Chris d'Agostino the web architecture and loading interface.

### **Award Winner: The Education Fund**

The 2010 Exemplary Practices in Childhood Obesity Prevention in Florida Award winner is the Plant A Thousand Gardens- Collaborative Nutrition Initiative (CNI) program coordinated through the Education Fund, an organization that works with the Miami-Dade public schools. The Plant A Thousand Gardens CNI program was conceived to address the alarming rate of childhood obesity, diabetes, and other harmful medical conditions resulting from poor nutritional choices. Under the supervision of school administrators and teachers, students plant, maintain and harvest vegetables/herbs gardens over the course of an entire school year. Students relate the lessons learned in the garden to classroom exercises such as food-related science experiments. The gardens are planted in areas open to the entire student body and involve all students' through extracurricular activities. In the 2008-2009 school year, the program reached over 9,000 children. The student-centered, seed-to-table curriculum program now operates in more than 25 schools. The program encourages school leaders and teachers to become advocates of the programs "edible garden" on school grounds and its corresponding interdisciplinary curriculum.

### **Who We Are**

#### **University of South Florida (USF)**

The College of Public Health at the University of South Florida (USF) partnered with the Child Policy Research Center in Cincinnati to complete this Chartbook. Dr. Julie Baldwin, Professor and Chair of the Department of Community and Family Health at the USF College of Public Health led the USF Chartbook team in completing the childhood obesity-related section of the Chartbook (Chapter 9). A quantitative analysis of the current statistics on childhood obesity in Florida was conducted by Dr. Richard Smith, Associate Professor of Economics in the College of Business at the USF St. Petersburg campus, using several existing datasets on child health. In addition, a qualitative study was conducted to understand the scope and challenge of addressing the childhood obesity epidemic in Florida from the perspective of health care and service providers. Ms. Tara Trudnak and Stephanie Melton conducted several focus groups and interviews with stakeholders who have expertise in childhood obesity. The focus groups were held in Tallahassee, Tampa and Miami, and interviews were conducted with individuals from other regions of Florida such as Orlando and Jacksonville. The participants represented various organizations and programs that are working toward preventing childhood obesity in Florida. A full qualitative report was completed and several aspects of the report are highlighted throughout Chapter 9 of the Chartbook.

## **The Child Policy Research Center (CPRC)**

The Child Policy Research Center (CPRC), part of the Division of Health Policy and Clinical Effectiveness, was created in 1999 to develop, translate and communicate evidence to measurably improve child health and well-being and the quality of health care for children. Our partners include community, local, state and national policy makers, program managers and advocates. The Center addresses the most urgent challenges facing children and families. Lisa Simpson, MD, MPH, Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Center worked closely with the USF team in the design and execution of all aspects of the work and Marie Rachelle Narcisse, PhD, conducted the analyses to update chapters 2 – 6 and 8.

## **Child Health and Healthcare Quality: Focus on Obesity Advisory Board**

To assure that the scope and content of the data collected and analyzed were useful, timely and relevant, the research team convened an advisory board for counsel and guidance throughout the entire project. Stakeholders with expertise in childhood obesity across the state of Florida were invited to participate on the advisory committee. Members of the committee included representatives from universities, health departments, schools, and other private and public organizations. Several advisory board meetings were held and the research team communicated with members individually. The advisory board members worked with the research team to develop the quantitative analysis plan, such as choosing indicators to report, and the qualitative research plan, such as discussing where to hold focus groups and which stakeholders to contact to participate. The advisory board members reviewed all final data that were reported in this Chartbook. In addition, the advisory board reviewed nominations and selected the recipient of the “Exemplary Practices in Childhood Obesity Prevention in Florida Award” showcased in the Chartbook.

In developing this report, the COPH received invaluable support from key individuals including those who served on the Chartbook advisory board:

- **Carol Bryant**, PhD, Distinguished USF Health Professor and Co-director of the Florida Prevention Research Center, Department of Community and Family Health; University of South Florida
- **Robert Colnes**, PhD, Senior Program and Policy Analyst Nemours Division of Health and Prevention Services
- **Rita DeBate**, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Community and Family Health, College of Public Health; University of South Florida
- **Mary Decker Mahoney**, Director, Marketing, All Children's Hospital
- **Penny Detscher**, Director, Office of Healthy Schools; Florida Department of Education
- **Claude Dharamraj**, MD, MPH, FAAP, Director, Pinellas County Health Department
- **Kellie Gilmore**, Fit4Allkids Coordinator; All Children's Hospital
- **Michael S. Hutton**, PhD, Director, Grants Administration & Policy Implementation; The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida
- **Antoinette Meeks**, EdD, CHES, Assistant Director/Health Coordinator, Office of Healthy Schools; Florida Department of Education
- **Roy Miller**, President, The Children's Campaign
- **Karen L. Pesce**, RN, Executive Director, MORE HEALTH, Inc.
- **Cindy Rose**, Associate Vice President, Marketing and Community Relations; All Children's Hospital
- **Lee Sanders**, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics; University of Miami
- **Bill Sappenfield**, MD, MPH, State MCH Epidemiologist, Division of Family Health Services; Florida Department of Health
- **Betty Serow**, PhD, MPH, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis; Florida Department of Health
- **Phyllis Sloyer**, PhD, Division Director, Children's Medical Services Network & Related Programs, Florida Department of Health
- **Angel Watson**, MPH, RHIA, WIC Epidemiologist Division of Family Health Services; Florida Department of Health
- **Lloyd Werk**, MD, MPH, Co-Director of the Healthy Choices Clinic and Chief of the Division of Consultative Pediatrics; Nemours Children's Clinic