

**TITLE:**Population Health: MAPPING Underserved Populations in Alachua County

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**RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**BACKGROUND:** In Spring 2016, a community health needs assessment was conducted to provide information for the county's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Project sponsors were UF Health Shands and the Alachua County Health Department. The WellFlorida Council developed a 24-item survey and data were collected from Feb 22 through April 1. A total of 1,255 surveys were completed by health professionals (n=91), business leaders (n=49) and the general public (n=1,115) and the majority of participants were white, female and educated.

**METHODS:** Given issues with faulty collection and lack of appropriate sample size for subpopulations, we will conduct an additional community health survey during Spring 2017 targeting those groups most affected by health disparities in Alachua County.

This includes veterans, rural and urban underserved residents, the disability community, persons with mental illness, the homeless, persons with low SES, and racial/ethnic minorities. Few members of these sub-populations contributed to the survey and their needs, therefore, may not be addressed by the forthcoming CHIP.

The new survey effort will utilize the strategic planning process called MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) and we will utilize partnerships with community agencies as a means to reach the target populations. The outreach effort and survey will be conducted by a group of advanced Health Disparities students from the University of Florida under the supervision of faculty team members.

The goal of this additional survey will be to compare the health needs/concerns identified from the first survey to those from the second survey and revise the CHIP so it better represents all Alachua County residents. These results will be shared with community leaders.

**ROLE OF MEDICAL STUDENT:** The interested student will join an existing research team that includes faculty from College of Medicine and the Health Disparities in Society program at UF in order to bring to completion a broad community health assessment.

Working under the supervision of our research team the student will be engaged in the following activities:

- Data analysis of survey data collected during Spring 2017
- Conducting any additional surveys needed to reach target sample sizes of our target subpopulations
- Assist in development of alternative CHIP goals for Alachua County based on our survey results
- Writing up results for submission to academic journal (authorship opportunity)
- Writing up results for presentation to community leadership
- Attending community meetings, including Safety Net Collaborative meetings with faculty mentor
- Learning Opportunities include:
  - Experience with data analysis
  - Proficiency with MAPP and CHIP
  - Exposure to community health leadership and decision making
  - Experience writing academic publications, including opportunity for authorship
  - Understanding the role of policy and funding in shaping community health
  - Understanding the relationship between multiple public and private groups in setting community health goals