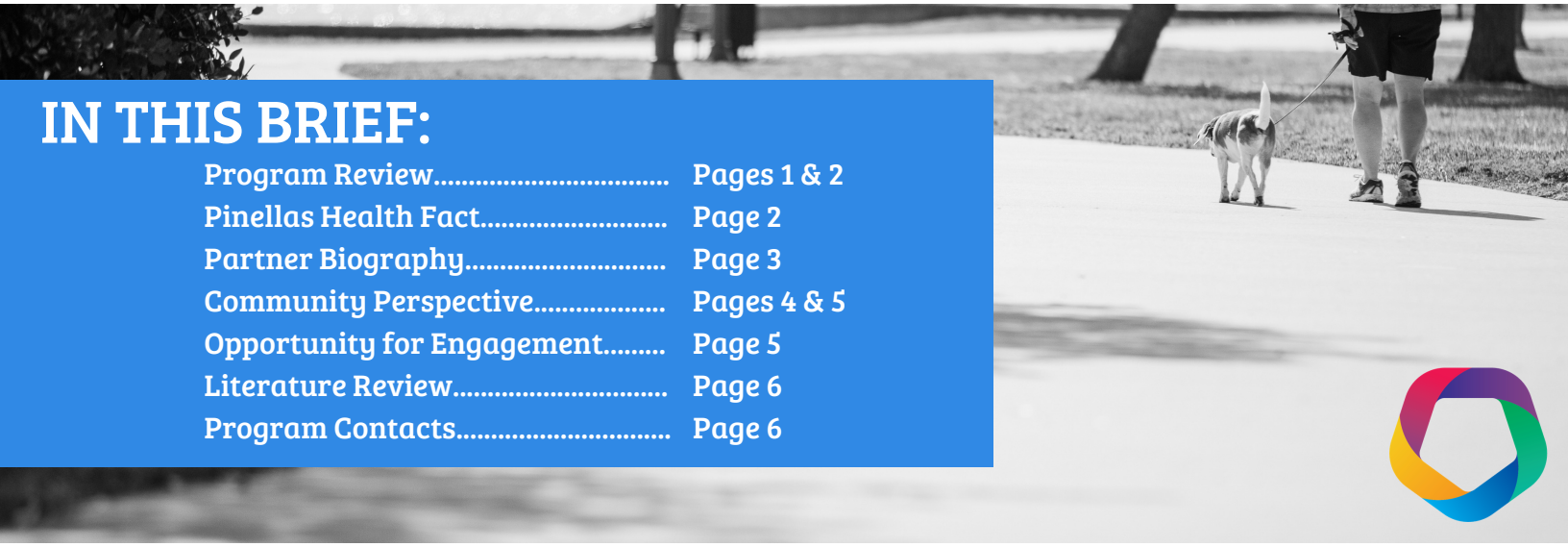
THE POLICY BRIEF

A newsletter issued by the Health in All Policies (HiAP) team in Pinellas County



IN THIS BRIEF:

Program Review..... Pages 1 & 2
Pinellas Health Fact..... Page 2
Partner Biography..... Page 3
Community Perspective..... Pages 4 & 5
Opportunity for Engagement..... Page 5
Literature Review..... Page 6
Program Contacts..... Page 6

PROGRAM REVIEW

Health Impact Assessment Workshop

From July 22nd through the 26th, the Health in All Policies (HiAP) team in Pinellas County facilitated a health impact assessment (HIA) workshop at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County. The workshop was attended by staff from numerous intra-governmental departments within the HiAP initiative's partnering jurisdictions (i.e. City of St. Petersburg, City of Pinellas Park, and Pinellas County).

A HIA is a systematic evaluation of the health and equity impacts of a proposed policy, plan, project, or program using data-driven and evidence-based quantitative, qualitative, and participatory assessment techniques with recommendations for

improvement. HIAs are one of a few different types of decision-support tools the HiAP initiative uses to help decision-makers maximize the health benefits and minimize the health risks of their proposed policy, plan, project, or program.

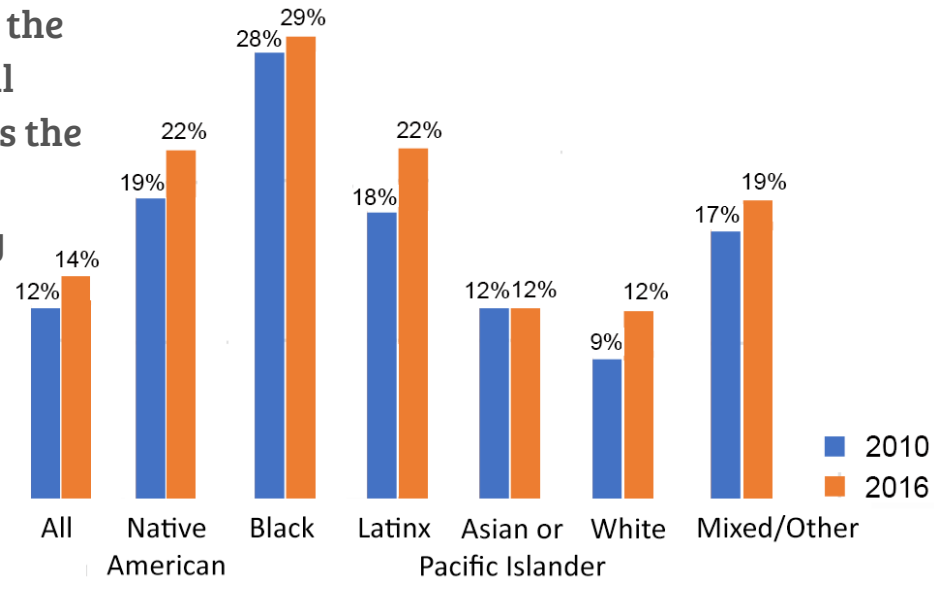
Each partnering HiAP jurisdiction is currently using a HIA to evaluate a program or project within their domain. The City of St. Petersburg is using a HIA to evaluate their 18th Ave. S. corridor redevelopment. The City of Pinellas Park is using a HIA to evaluate their brownfield remediation and redevelopment program. Pinellas County is using a HIA to evaluate their 62nd Ave. N. corridor redevelopment.

PINELLAS HEALTH FACT

Food Insecurity

Although the unemployment rate in Pinellas County has decreased over the past decade, the majority of new jobs were created in low-wage industries. From 2010 to 2016, the poverty rate increased across racial groups. Food insecurity is defined as the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of a lack of money and other resources. In Pinellas County, 13.5% of residents report eating less than they should due to a lack of food or money and 24.9% report not having a place to go when money is tight.

Poverty Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 2010 and 2016



PARTNER BIOGRAPHY

Cassidy Mutnansky

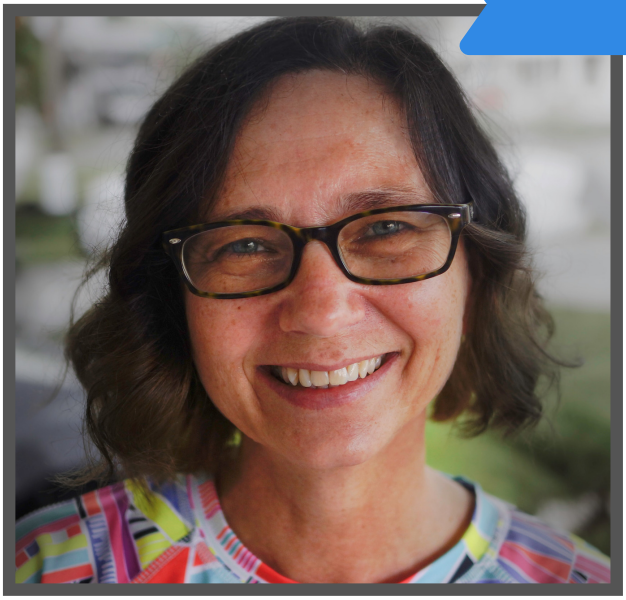
Cassidy Mutnansky is the health planner for the City of St. Petersburg.

Cassidy grew up in Seminole, FL. She earned a Master of Science in Planning and a Master of Public Health from Florida State University. Prior to working for the City of St. Petersburg, she served in the Peace Corps as a water and sanitation planner in San Ramón, Peru, which is located in the Peruvian jungle. In the Peace Corps, Cassidy trained staff at the municipality and local water committees on how to manage, operate, and maintain water and sanitation systems. She also spearheaded an infectious disease prevention community outreach campaign for moms and children in collaboration with the local health department. Her favorite parts of her Peace Corps service were taking long hikes to water systems in the mountainous jungle, coaching youth boys' soccer, and spending time with the local moms exchanging stories.

Prior to moving to Peru, Cassidy spent a few years working on the Community Resiliency Initiative and the Competitive Florida Economic Development Program at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. She has also worked as a health planning researcher at the Florida Planning & Development Lab and at the Florida Department of Health on various projects related to climate change adaptation and resiliency.

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes



Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes is an Environmental Program Manager II for Pinellas County Public Works Urban Forestry and Landscape Services.

As Pinellas County's Urban Forester, Carolyn implements programs to assess, manage, and expand the urban forest for its benefits and values to the health and well-being of Pinellas County residents.

On the interrelation of urban forestry and public health, per Carolyn, "The work we do in urban forestry is interrelated to human health in so many ways, but that might not be obvious at first. Residents often call on us to maintain or remove trees in the public rights of way that may pose a safety hazard. Urban forestry is also a part of the post-storm response team, which would be responsible for clearing the streets of any tree-related storm debris should our region suffer a major storm.

But, urban forestry does so much more than prune and remove trees. We monitor the forest, plant trees to replace those we remove, and plant more trees to increase ecosystem benefits like storm water retention, air pollution removal, and atmospheric carbon reduction. We all know Pinellas County is a highly urbanized region with lots of roads and impervious surfaces. Those settings can lead to conditions like the health-hazardous urban heat island effect, which occurs when cities replace natural land cover with dense concentrations of pavement, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat. Highly urbanized regions also create and concentrate more traffic-related smog and stormwater runoff which can have both direct and indirect effects on human health. The urban forest does a lot to reduce the intensity of these conditions."

Carolyn continues, "Our urban forestry staff are mapping and measuring the urban tree canopy across Pinellas County in an effort to understand how and where our existing trees benefit the health and well-being of our residents, identify those neighborhoods and communities that could benefit from new tree plantings, and ensure an equitable distribution of our natural resources. Protecting and expanding our urban forest in Pinellas County produces results we can readily see and experience like reducing the amount of stormwater on our streets, providing shade on the walk home from school, providing a buffer from traffic and exhaust, and providing a sense of place."

OPPORTUNITY FOR ENGAGEMENT

Community Health Action Team

The next Community Health Action Team (CHAT) meeting will be held on September 16th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Mid-County Health Department in Largo. The meeting will include a report on the results of the recently conducted Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), a discussion concerning the revised Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and a status update on the implementation of all objectives associated with the CHAT's three health priority areas (i.e. access to care, behavioral health, and the social determinants of health). For further information or to RSVP, please contact Dr. Nosakhare Idehen (pictured) at nosakhare.idehen@flhealth.gov.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Health Equity Through Housing

Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg and Collaborative Solution. 2018. Home: A Pathway to Health Equity Through Housing.
Retrieved from: https://healthystpete.foundation/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/FHSP-pathway-to-health-equity-through-housing-pinellas-county.pdf

Workplace Absenteeism & Chronic Disease

Vuong, T., Wei, F., and Beverly, C. 2015. Absenteeism Due to Functional Limitations Caused by Seven Common Chronic Diseases in US Workers. Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Volume 57(7), Pages 779–784.
Retrieved from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4493930/

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