Florida Department of Health

Division of Environmental Health



# Engaging Community Action The PACE EH Project, Smart Growth, and Public Health; One State's Perspective

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## Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence In Environmental Health (PACE EH)



PACE EH Project

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#### www.MyFloridaEH.com/programs/PACE-EH/PACE-EH.htm

# What is the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH)?

- A. The protocol is a series of tasks that the community undertakes with help of the EH representative.
- B. Asks what EH issues are important to the community.
- C. Helps to define, rank, and prioritize those issues.
- D. What can be done to address those priorities.



# Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH)

- 1. Supports EH professionals building new relationships with community stakeholders
- 2. Lets communities assess public health and environmental factors
- 3. Redefines leadership for EH
- 4. Strengthens programs & rebuilds trust
- 5. Gets issues addressed
- 6. EH is PH is CH



## What did the Communities Tell Us?

- No sidewalks
- No bike paths
- No street lights/Insufficient lighting
- Not safe
- Dilapidated housing/Uncared for property
- Forgotten by leaders
- Drinking water/ well contamination
- Cut off from other neighborhoods.
- No fire hydrants

- Heavy Traffic
- Hazardous waste
- Sanitary nuisances
- Solid waste issues
- Sewage/septic issues
- Frequent flooding
- Water Quality
- Drowning
- Crime
- Noise
- Air contamination/ pollution
- Leash ordinance



## Marion County West Ocala District





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## Marion County West Ocala District



#### Hillsborough



# "Land use and community design may be critical contributing factors for health disparities."

- Examines the interface of urban planning, architecture, transportation, community design and public health.
- Loss of social capital.
- Asthma rates among children doubled between 1976-1995 (CDC) (And 3X higher among blacks).
- Obesity doubled between 1976-1994 (CDC).
- Antidepressant prescriptions tripled during the 1990's.
- 14% of gross domestic product goes to medical expenditures (2001).

Urban Sprawl and Public Health, by Frumkin, Frank, and Jackson, 2004.





## **Focus on Smart Growth Principles**

- I. Mix land uses
- II. Take advantage of compact building design
- III. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
- IV. Create walkable neighborhoods
- V. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- VI. Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective



### Focus on Smart Growth Principles (Cont'd)

VII. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas

VIII. Provide a variety of transportation choices

IX. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities

X. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration









The way cities and suburbs are developed could be bad for your health Why don't Americans walk

Old answer: They're lary New answer: They cart. There is no idewalk outside the front door, school is 5 miles away and there's a six-lane lighway between home and the supermarker. Many experts on public

health say the way neighborhoods are built is to blame for Americans' physical mactivity and the resulting epidemic The health concern is a new

slant on the issue of subschup sprawl, which metro regions have been struggling with for a decade. These health experts bring the deep-pocketed force of private foundations and public agencies into docussims about what neighborhoods should look like.

The argument over whether subarbs are had for your health will hit many Americans precisely where they live: in a house Cover with a hig lawn on a cul-de-sac.

The potential for actually tackling STORY torne of these things, with the savey of the lidhs who have tackled tobacco, is enormous," says Ellen Vanderslice, head of America

Walks, a pedestrian advocacy group based in Porttand, Ore.

A study by the lederal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is tracking 8,000 residents of Atlanta to determine whether the neighborhood they live at influences their level of physical elevation. The Robert Word Johnson Foundation in New Jersey.

Please see COVER STORY next 1

- Fear City and county planning and zoning often ignore pedestrian traffic
  - Few incentives exist to design communities to be walkable, to enhance biking and moving
  - Crime and safety concerns are critical issues



## Public Health and Urban Planning Checklist

- Follow the Smart Growth Principles.
- Control the car.
- Understand the competition.
- □ Fight for public's attention.
- Provide community assessment to complement programmatic services.
- Train ourselves for broad, cross-cutting thinking.
- Must address the Fear Factor.
- Use public health data in urban planning process (HIA's).
- Overall well-being and its connection to the built environment.



# Florida PACE EH Pilot Project

- 2005 Vision Award Winner, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- 2005 Jim Parker Award Winner for Public Health Leadership, National Association of City County Health Officials







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