

**Valencia Community Partnership
County Health Profile
June 2007**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Valencia Community Partnership County Health Profile was developed by the Valencia Community Partnership (VCP), the comprehensive health planning council for Valencia County. The intent of the County Health Profile is to examine the socio-demographic make-up of Valencia County, review county level data relevant to the overall health of its residents, and assess resources, gaps in service, and barriers which impact community health. The Valencia Community Partnership used a structured process to analyze local health-related information, specifically targeting the areas of Maternal and Infant Health, Child Health, Adolescent Health, Injury, Crime, Chronic Disease, Mortality, and Access to Health Care. This process included a planning meeting at which the Valencia Community Partnership members supplemented the data in these areas with documentation of local resources, and a discussion of community needs in each of the topic areas.

From this health analysis several themes emerged. The most overarching theme that clearly impacts all aspects of health in Valencia County is poverty. A significant portion of Valencia County residents fall below the poverty level. Poverty is a factor in poor birth outcomes, plays a role in family functioning, increases the likelihood of issues related to substance abuse, violence and mental health, and substantially impacts access to health care services for the entire family.

Another obvious theme is substance abuse. There are well documented correlations between substance abuse and other health and safety risk factors, including teen pregnancy, domestic and other types of violence, crime, mental and physical health concerns, and mortality rates. The associated costs of treating not only substance abuse itself, but also the prosecution of crimes related to substance abuse and health problems connected with drugs and alcohol are overwhelming in an already impoverished county.

This and other information contained in this document will serve as a baseline for the Valencia Community Partnership to measure improvement in Valencia County health, as well as provide a reference point in the development of resources necessary to support health improvement and increased coordination of existing resources. The Valencia Community Partnership will update the County Profile on an annual basis, and will continue to incorporate and encourage community input into the development of the Profile through open planning meetings and community discussions.