

## 2008 CDC Annual Conference on Assessment Initiative

### Advancing Health Equity through Local Assessment

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The Duval County Health Department conducts regular assessments related to issues of local concern and reports the results of these studies to the local community. These assessment studies cover a range of issues such as violence, infant mortality, adolescent health, diabetes, and asthma, and regularly include comparative analyses on geographic areas, gender, age and race. These studies show consistent disparities related to gender, age, and particularly race and ethnicity. The assessment studies demonstrate clear patterns of inequity that complement the national efforts to highlight the underlying causes of many health problems in this country. A compilation of these studies with assessments of other social and demographic traits such as economic and educational status show the relationship of health disparities to other social inequities and injustice. A Report on this analysis, *Place Matters*, was released in conjunction with the PBS series *Unnatural Causes*, with the same title on the day of the national viewing. The Report with graphics, illustrated in this presentation, demonstrate how assessments, coordinated with media and community mobilization efforts, help educate communities about the underlying causes of health problems and support community efforts to prioritize and address the major health problems facing our communities.