

Targeted Insights: Using Data to Drive Solutions

Summary Report

2026



Executive Summary

The Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) is one of 11 health planning agencies mandated by Florida Statue (S.408.033), to coordinate health planning services across the state. Serving as an unbiased source of data in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties (District 11), the HCSF sets the foundation by offering objective health and social needs information, serving as a community convener, and fostering partnerships aimed at improving access to health and quality of life for all residents. The HCSF primarily focuses on offering programs within one of the following five (5) areas:

- Data and Health Planning Analysis
- Evaluation Services
- HIV & AIDS Program Services
- Program Administration and Fiscal Management
- Data Reporting and Subscription Services

To share this information with the community, the HCSF hosted a virtual public meeting on June 2, 2026, highlighting its services and their impact on the community. During the informational webinar, *“Targeted Insights: Using Data to Drive Solutions,”* the HCSF team presented a real-world community case study to show how data collection and analysis can identify local needs, address health disparities, and support collaborative, evidence-based solutions across Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Participants were invited to ask questions during the session and provide post-event survey feedback to help inform future programming.

This summary report builds on the public meeting by providing detailed descriptions of each project, along with examples of current and past HCSF initiatives. The sections below outline the report’s key topics:

- Introduction to the HCSF
 - Mission and Values
- Data & Health Planning Analysis
 - Allapattah Needs Assessment
 - Miami-Dade Matters Data Platform

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Introduction: The Health Council of South Florida (HCSF)

The Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) is one of eleven local health councils created by FS 408.033 to coordinate health services planning across the state. Insofar as the HCSF has determined that health services are and must be based on a foundation of ethics, our strategic goals emphasize reducing disparities in access to care and improving health promotion, with an emphasis on Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to be the source of unbiased health and quality of life data and analysis; the preferred partner for quality program planning, management, and evaluation; and the facilitator of collaboration in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

Since our inception, the HCSF has focused on transforming and improving the health and quality of life of the community we serve, focusing on vulnerable and underserved populations. By remaining true to our core values and principles, the HCSF aligns our programs, projects, and partnerships to leverage maximum impact. The HCSF believes that health equity and access are fundamental to eliminating health disparities, and throughout our storied history, we have taken a collaborative approach to addressing many population health and societal challenges that affect our community. Equally important, the HCSF's Board of Directors and Administration empowers staff to achieve our mission through shared visioning and create a culture of learning and togetherness.

Our Vision

To be the organization of choice that drives public and private sector collaboration, integration and community engagement for programs and policies that support and improve population health and health equity in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

Our Community Values

Holism – A holistic approach to health recognizes the importance of the contextual whole person, with its interrelated physical, psychological, spiritual, and social interactions in its current environment.

Informed Choice – Individuals have the right to make informed decisions about their health, including personal behaviors, health services and treatment options, and end-of-life care decisions.

Cultural Diversity – Racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity are essential components of a healthy and high-functioning community. We recognize the responsibility to proactively reduce disparities in health access, clinical outcomes and care provided.

Responsibility – We fully understand that healthy lifestyle practices and behaviors contribute to a person's

overall health and well-being, as well as the health and wellness of our communities as a whole, is the shared responsibility to develop, promote, and safeguard all programs and activities that support the health of our communities.

Accountability – Our health care system should be accountable to the public for the quality of healthcare services provided, the effectiveness of health promotion and disease prevention programs, along with the responsible stewardship of our limited resources.

Our Internal Values

The HCSF strives to foster a positive workplace environment that creates a high-performance culture and that encourages innovation and creativity. We uphold the following key elements to accomplish this goal:

Respect – We embrace diversity and treat everyone with courtesy, equity, and fairness.

Integrity – We operate openly and hold the highest ethical standards.

Responsibility – We are accountable to our community and to each other.

Agility – We are devoted to constant innovation and improvement in our services.

Boldness – We are willing to make tough decisions, and we focus on results to ensure a healthy future for our community.

Collaboration – We communicate and work as a team, and we partner with the community to solve problems.

Dedication – We are proudly committed to providing outstanding customer service.

Commitment – Our employees are our most valuable asset and we are dedicated to attracting, retaining, and supporting the highest quality workforce.

Leadership – We are constantly guided by the best representative leaders in our respective healthcare communities.

Established Community Partnerships

For over 50 years, the HCSF has served the community of Miami-Dade and Monroe counties with a preference towards a collaborative approach. The HCSF recognizes that by collaborating with others the community will benefit through pooling resources, talent, and time. In many instances, this can create synergy to tackle difficult issues, stretch limited or non-existent resources, improve awareness, and provide a forum for learning. The HCSF has built many trusted relationships and partnerships along our journey, many of whom have assisted us to achieve our mission. Based on our work, HCSF is fortunate to have collaborated with local, regional, and national partners. As such, we have leveraged our partnerships to maximize community impact. Some of our collaborative partners are: Allegany Franciscan Ministries, West Kendall Baptist Hospital, United Way of Miami-Dade, Mischan Miami (Greater Miami Jewish Federation), Alliance for Aging, Thriving Mind South Florida, Florida Department of Health Miami-Dade, National Council on Aging, Conduent Healthy Communities Institute, Miami-Dade County, Health Foundation of

South Florida, Kidcare, Florida CHW Coalition, FIU, City of Hialeah, Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, Consortium for a Healthier Miami Dade.

Services and Programs

The Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) provides a range of services and programs for partners, stakeholders, and residents. Our experienced staff understand the complex challenges facing our community and work to improve health outcomes by assessing needs, developing targeted strategies, identifying effective interventions, establishing progress monitoring systems, and evaluating performance. We offer programming and services in the following categories:

Data & Health Planning Analysis

HCSF is committed to providing objective, reliable community health data and brings extensive expertise in collecting, analyzing, and managing healthcare information. Our data and health planning services help health systems and providers improve workflows, strengthen client communication, enhance health outcomes, and support strategic planning with clear timelines and measurement tools. Using current, high-quality quantitative and qualitative data, we offer a comprehensive, unbiased view of the community's health and well-being and these include:

- Community Health Needs Assessments
- Health District Profiles & Demographic Profiles
- County Health Rankings Report
- Community Focus Groups
- GIS Mapping

Evaluation

HCSF offers evaluation services to individuals, nonprofits, public entities, and private organizations. These services help demonstrate program outcomes and effectiveness, guide program decisions, and sustain support from current and prospective funders. Types of evaluations we conduct are:

- Process Evaluation
- Outcome/Program Evaluation
- Impact Study

HIV & AIDS Program Services

HCSF recognizes the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the Miami-Dade County community and is committed to providing services that meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. We support a range of HIV/AIDS-focused programs and services throughout District 11 (Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties) and our work has included Clinical Quality Management (CQM) oversight, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and situational analysis and program management for Ending the HIV Epidemic in Miami-Dade County. Additionally, HCSF also has a long history of connecting people living with HIV/AIDS to health insurance assistance through the AIDS Insurance Continuation Program (AICP). Our current programs serving this population include:

- Clinical Quality Management (CQM) for Ryan White Part B – District 11B
- Ending the HIV Epidemic – District 11A
 - Housing Stability Services

Program Administration & Fiscal Management

HCSF has the capacity to implement and manage a wide range of community health programs, from one-time projects to multi-year initiatives. We bring years of experience in program oversight, developing project timelines, budgets, scopes of work, and recommendations that strengthen execution and improve program outcomes. The following are programs currently being managed by the HCSF:

- South Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (SFCCC)
- Community Implementation Grant Award for the Florida Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (FCCCCP)
 - Liver Cancer
 - Lung Cancer
 - Liver Cancer Support
- Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Transportation Disadvantaged Services in Monroe County
- Florida Department of Health – Local Health Planning Councils
- Miami-Dade County Continuum of Care, The Homeless Trust - Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
- Florida Kidcare
- Cinotti Health Screening/ Healthbeat Program
- Consortium for a Healthier Miami Dade Fiscal Administration

HCSF Online Reporting Subscription

HCSF's online reporting system gives you access to utilization data up to six months before the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) releases it publicly. With access to the HCSF Online Report platform, you can:

- View current utilization data for all hospitals and nursing home facilities in District 11 (Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties).
- Generate trend reports and analyze historical data dating back to 2009.
- Break down reports by month or quarter.
- Export and print reports in PDF or Excel format.
- Customize reports by service category within the hospital and nursing home database.

This valuable tool is accessible with an annual paid subscription to the platform.

Evaluation

Allapattah Needs Assessment

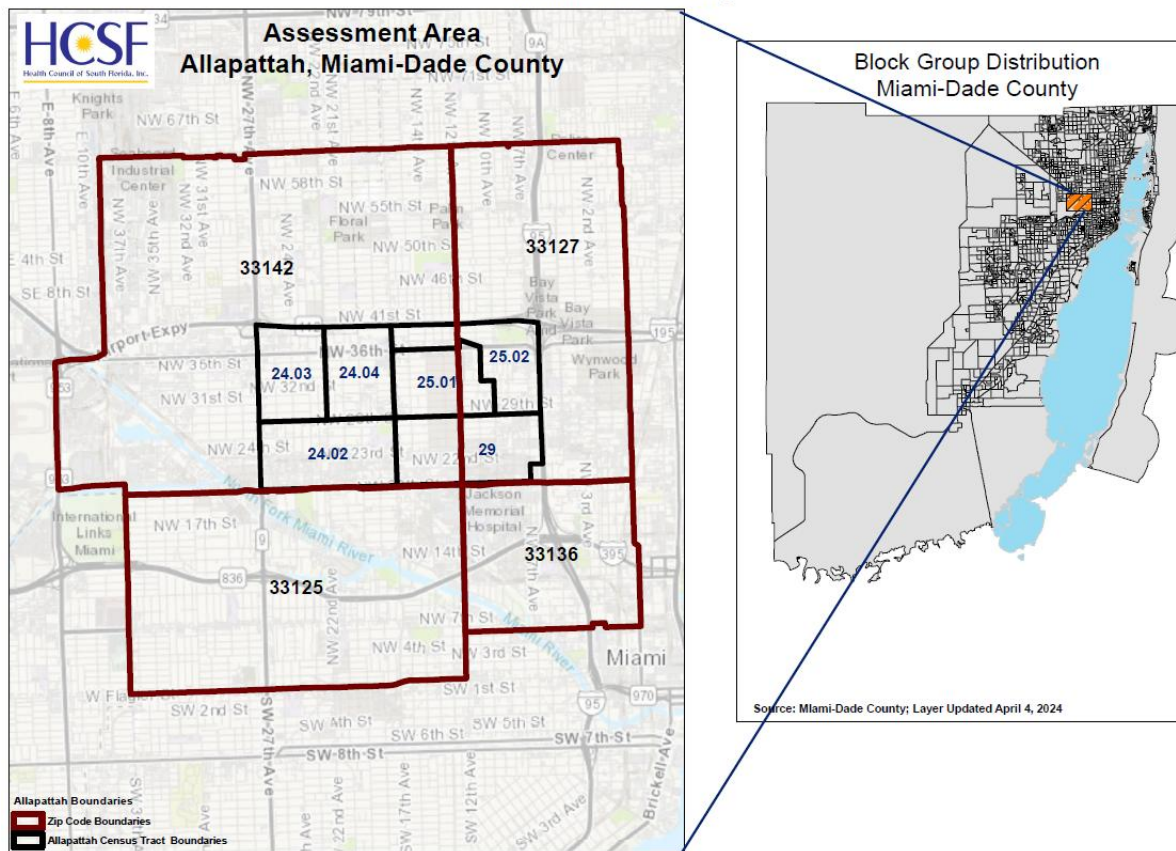
Grounded in commitment to evidence-based decision-making and community-centered insight, this initiative prioritized the use of reliable, comprehensive data sources to ensure accuracy and relevance. By leveraging robust analytical tools and fostering collaboration across data systems, we established a strong foundation for developing a meaningful and actionable understanding of the community's health landscape.

This emphasis on data-driven decision-making naturally leads to one of our organization's most significant efforts during this fiscal year: the Allapattah Needs Assessment. Recognizing the importance of grounding public health interventions in the lived experiences of community members, HCSF partnered with the Florida Blue Foundation and Florida International University's NeighborhoodHELP program to conduct a comprehensive assessment of health needs within the Allapattah community. This initiative represents a critical step in ensuring that future programs and policies are not only evidence-based but also aligned with the priorities and realities of the population they are intended to serve.

In partnership with the Florida Blue Foundation and the Neighborhood Health Education Learning Program (NHELP) at Florida International University (FIU), the Health Council of South Florida (HCSF) aimed to establish a more effective health model within the Allapattah community. This vibrant yet underserved area was selected due to its alarming health disparities and the scarcity of essential health resources available to its residents. Recognizing the critical need for improvement, we committed to applying our evaluation expertise to rigorously assess the proposed health model. Our goal was to measure its effectiveness, efficiency, and overall impact on the community's well-being, ultimately striving to enhance health outcomes for Allapattah's residents.

By implementing our GIS mapping strategies, we successfully outlined the specific boundaries of the Allapattah neighborhood, allowing us to concentrate our efforts exclusively within this defined area.

Allapattah Miami-Dade County



To advance this initiative, the HCSF turned to Miami-Dade Matters, our extensive and accessible data platform that houses a wealth of information, featuring over a thousand health and social indicators pertinent to the local population. This platform is extremely valuable to many of HCSF's endeavors. It is equipped with tools like disparities dashboards and comprehensive demographic profiles that facilitate detailed and localized analysis. By integrating data from Miami-Dade Matters and supplementary sources, including detailed census data and hospitalization records, we were able to craft a thorough and nuanced health profile of the Allapattah community. This collaborative approach to data collection not only enhanced the credibility and reliability of our findings, but also guaranteed that our analysis encapsulated a broad, precise representation of the community's conditions, allowing for informed decision-making and targeted interventions.

The Allapattah Needs Assessment utilized a comprehensive mixed-methods approach, effectively combining both quantitative and qualitative research to provide a holistic view of community needs. This methodology allowed for the analysis of numerical data alongside in-depth personal narratives, enabling a thorough understanding of both statistical trends and individual experiences. The quantitative component of the assessment focused on critical indicators that reveal the socioeconomic status and health conditions of the Allapattah community. This involved examining data related to income levels, demographic data, prevalence of diseases, and hospitalization rates within the population. By analyzing this data, the

assessment highlighted significant patterns and disparities that affect the residents' quality of life. In parallel, the qualitative research aimed to capture the unique, lived experiences of community members. This aspect of the assessment included conducting five focus groups, facilitated in both English and Spanish, to ensure inclusivity and participation by the diverse population of Allapattah. Additionally, three key informant interviews were carried out with individuals who held valuable insights about the community's specific needs and challenges. Throughout this process, a total of 54 participants were involved, providing a rich and diverse range of perspectives. The combination of these research methods allowed for a nuanced understanding of how residents navigate and interpret the challenges they face in their daily lives, ultimately revealing the complex relationship between statistical data and personal stories. This in-depth approach ensured that the assessment accurately reflected the needs of the community, paving the way for more effective interventions and support programs.

Findings from the assessment highlight significant socioeconomic and health disparities within the Allapattah community. The area is predominantly Hispanic/Latino and is characterized by lower median household incomes and higher poverty rates compared to the broader county. This neighborhood is marked by significantly lower median household incomes, which create financial stress for many families. In fact, the poverty rates in Allapattah surpass those of the broader county, indicating a higher prevalence of economic hardship. Educational attainment within this community also presents a concerning picture; a smaller percentage of residents possess bachelor's degrees compared to the county average. This educational gap can have far-reaching implications, affecting job opportunities and overall socioeconomic mobility. These socioeconomic challenges are intimately connected to health outcomes in the area as well. The collected data illustrated a troubling correlation, showing elevated rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension among residents. Additionally, there are higher mortality rates and increased incidences of preventable hospitalizations, which further display the urgent need for targeted health interventions. Overall, the assessment highlights the relationship between socioeconomic status and health in Allapattah, pointing to the critical need for policies aimed at addressing these disparities.

The data revealed a significant concern regarding the elevated rates of conditions categorized as ambulatory care-sensitive conditions. These are health issues, including but not limited to uncontrolled diabetes, heart failure, and asthma, that are generally avoidable with timely and effective primary care. The persistently high prevalence of these conditions points to critical gaps in access to preventive healthcare services and continuous management, which are vital for controlling such illnesses and improving overall health outcomes. Additionally, the situation is exacerbated by additional indicators, such as increased infant mortality rates and a higher overall mortality rate within the population. These factors highlight not only a breakdown in the provision of adequate healthcare but also emphasize the urgent need for targeted interventions to bridge the existing gaps in healthcare access and quality. Addressing these issues is essential for improving public health and ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity for better health outcomes through effective management of chronic conditions and access to preventive services.

Simultaneously, the qualitative findings offer critical context that enhances our understanding of the quantitative data presented. Community members articulated a profound sense of identity and pride in their neighborhood, suggesting a strong bond among residents and a collective commitment to supporting one another through various challenges. This sense of community not only shows resilience but also encourages collaborative efforts to enhance local well-being. However, residents also raised several significant concerns that detract from their overall sense of security and stability. They reported limited access to essential resources, such as healthcare, educational opportunities, and job prospects, which exacerbate socioeconomic gaps within the community. Additionally, environmental issues were prevalent in their discussions, particularly the frequent occurrences of flooding, which threaten both property and safety. Another critical concern highlighted by community members is the impact of gentrification and displacement, which has led to the gradual loss of long-standing residents and changes in the neighborhood's character. As more affluent individuals and businesses move in, long-term residents often

find themselves priced out of their homes, diminishing the community's collective identity and history. These qualitative insights not only reinforce the quantitative data but also display the crucial importance of integrating community voices in the development of interventions. Listening to residents can guide more effective solutions tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of the neighborhood, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

In light of these findings, several important recommendations were identified to enhance community health and well-being:

- **Expanded Access to Preventive Healthcare and Health Education:** Increasing the availability of screenings, vaccinations, and wellness programs, especially in underserved populations. Promoting regular check-ups and educating individuals about chronic disease prevention can significantly reduce the incidence of these diseases and the need for avoidable hospitalizations.
- **Strengthened Housing Stability:** Addressing housing insecurity and displacement by providing affordable housing options and support services for families at risk of losing their homes. This initiative can alleviate broader social and economic stresses that adversely affect health outcomes.
- **Improved Communication Strategies:** Developing messaging that is culturally relevant and accessible to enhance community awareness and engagement. This includes using multiple languages, engaging community leaders in outreach efforts, and leveraging digital platforms to effectively disseminate health information.
- **Addressing Environmental Concerns:** Advocating cleaner air and water, promoting green spaces, and ensuring access to safe recreational areas. Creating a healthier environment contributes to a higher quality of life for all community members.
- **Investing in Youth Development Programs:** Focusing on fostering skills, education, and resilience in young people. Programs that address mental health support, physical activity, and nutrition education play a crucial role in promoting healthier lifestyle choices and reducing the likelihood of chronic conditions later in life.

Addressing environmental concerns and investing in youth development programs are also critical components of a comprehensive approach to improving community health.

The activities completed by the HCSF throughout this fiscal year highlight the critical role of merging data analysis, active community involvement, and thoughtful strategic planning within the realm of public health. Health outcomes result from a multifaceted interaction of different factors, making it essential to tackle these issues through a unified and ongoing initiative that spans various sectors. By consistently emphasizing the importance of collaboration, making decisions grounded in solid evidence, and adopting approaches that prioritize the needs of the community, HCSF is strategically positioned to foster significant improvements in the overall health of the population.

As the HCSF looks to the future, it will build upon these efforts, using the insights gained from initiatives like the Allapattah Needs Assessment to inform ongoing and future work. Through a continued commitment to equity, innovation, and partnership, HCSF aims to contribute to a healthier and more resilient community for all residents of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Data Sources

Miami-Dade Matters

During the needs assessment process of the neighborhood of Allapattah in Miami-Dade County, The HCSF team utilized The HCSF's online data platform tool, Miami-Dade Matters, to develop Allapattah's health profile which included secondary health and social data. As a data source to the public, Miami-Dade Matters houses over 1,000 social and health indicators, some available at finer geographic granularity, such as zip code and census tract-level data. The inclusion of a health profile is an essential component of a needs assessment process as it helps public health professionals to assess the health status of a particular community and highlight the needs of its residents. As a general definition, the NHS National Disease Registration Service, defines a health profile as a structured compilation of population health data used to characterize the health status of a defined community and to identify priorities for action, and it provides a "rich source of health data" accessible to the public¹. In addition to Miami-Dade Matters, other data sources, such as the US Census, County Health Rankings, and The Agency for Health Care Administration's (AHCA) hospitalization data files were also utilized to compile Allapattah's health profile as part of their needs assessment.

There were two categorical indicators retrieved from Miami-Dade Matters for the development of Allapattah's health profile, which included the Health Equity Index (currently named Community Health Index) and Ambulatory Care-Sensitive Conditions (ACSCs) consisting of eight (8) separate indicators. The Health Equity Index is defined by Conduent Healthy Communities as a measure of socio-economic need and health inequities in the community which considers several social indicators during the calculation process, such as income, employment, education, and household environment². Ambulatory care-sensitive conditions are acute or chronic health conditions that lead to potentially preventable hospitalizations which could have been treated in an outpatient primary care setting. For the purpose of Allapattah's needs assessment, The HCSF utilized the following ACSCs:

- Long-term complications of diabetes
- Uncontrolled diabetes
- Heart failure
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Low-birth weight
- Hypertension
- Pediatric Asthma
- Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs)

The analysis of ACSCs by The HCSF, as part of Allapattah's health profile, compared the rate of preventable hospitalizations in Allapattah in comparison to the rest of the County and assessed primary care access among Allapattah residents. The data analysis demonstrated that Allapattah residents have limited access to primary care due to the high rates of preventable hospitalizations found in most ACSCs; a finding that

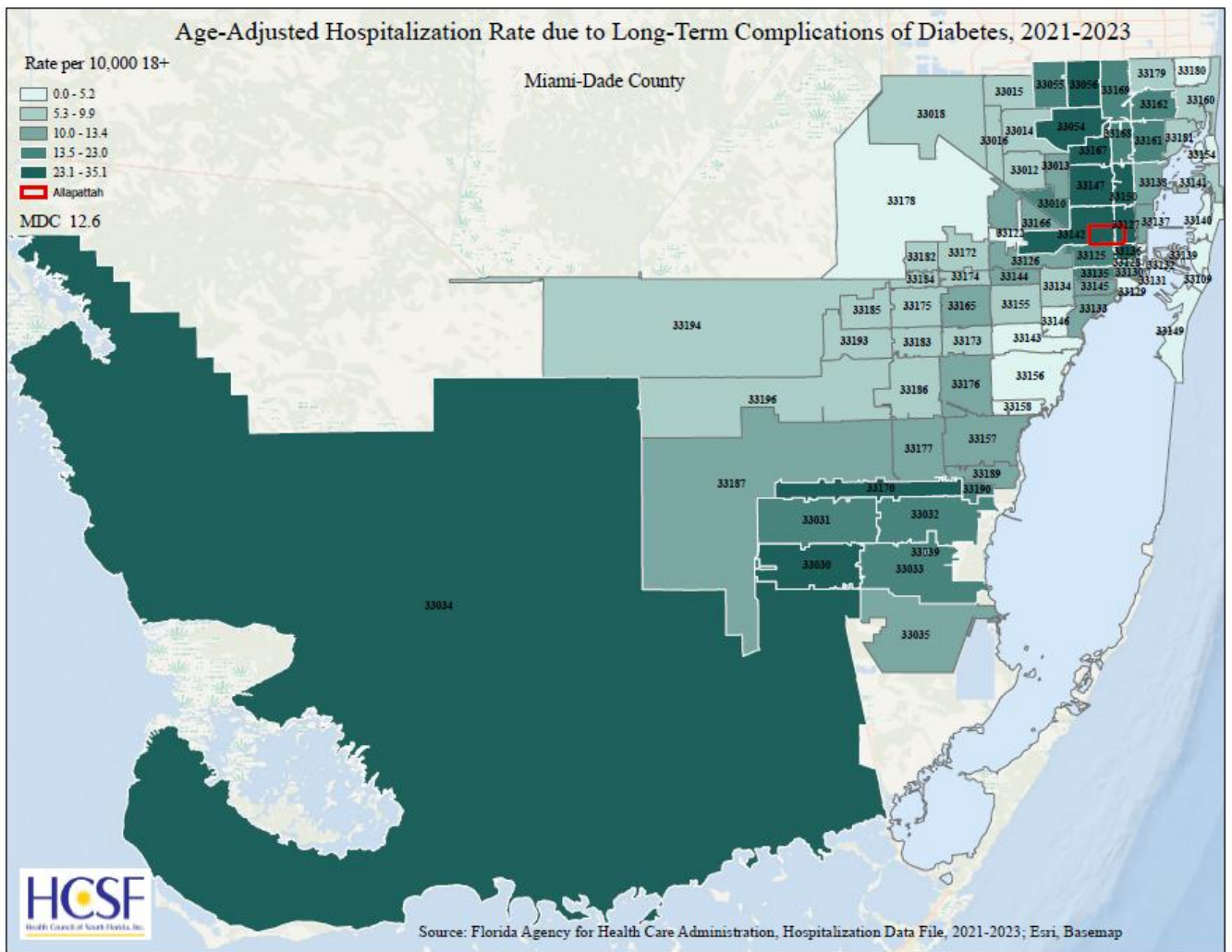
¹ NHS National Disease Registration Service. Health Profiles. [Cited 2026 Apr 30]. Available from <https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/our-work/ncras-work-programme/health-profiles>

² Health Equity Index. Miami Matters. [Data Platform]. [Cited 2024 Sept 21]. Available from <https://www.miamidadematters.org/indexsuite/index/healthequity?localeType=3&parentLocale=414>

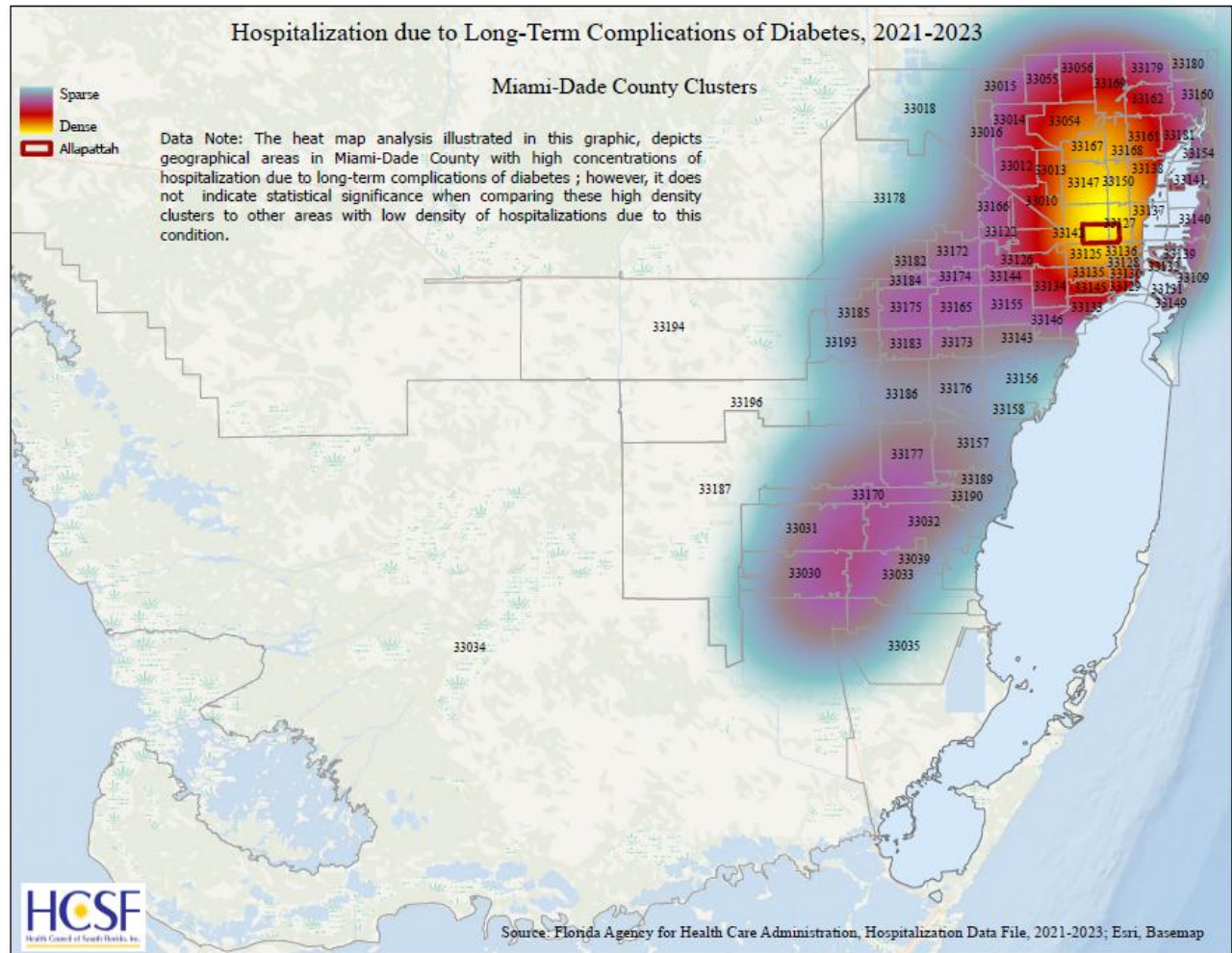
was corroborated by residents during focus groups and key informant interviews—two primary data collection sources of the assessment process.

In the context of the data analytical process, The HCSF first reviewed Allapattah’s geographic boundaries to determine which clusters in the County encompassed these boundaries. This process helped to determine all respective zip codes within these clusters and retrieved individual hospitalization rates at the zip code level for the aforementioned ACSCs. To have a greater understanding of the distribution of preventable hospitalization rates in Miami-Dade County, The HCSF implemented GIS analysis and develop two (2) types of geographic maps: color-coded quintile maps showcasing areas with the high rates and heat maps depicting areas of Miami-Dade County with highest concentrations or densities of high rates of preventable hospitalizations or ACSCs. As mentioned, for most ACSCs, residents of Allapattah experienced high rates of preventable hospitalizations; specifically for long-term complications of diabetes, uncontrolled diabetes, heart failure, and hypertension. Maps 1 and 2 below highlight one of the eight (8) ACSCs included in the final assessment report (long-term complications of diabetes) for the neighborhood of Allapattah as a quintile (color-coded) and heat maps. The maps highlighted below for this condition has been updated with the most recent hospitalization data since the report was published in 2025. Of note, this data update also derives from Miami-Dade Matters.

Map 1—Long-Term Complications of Diabetes



Map 2—Long-Term Complications of Diabetes: Heat Map



Conclusion

This report presented an overview of the work conducted by the HCSF in District 11, which comprises Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. By highlighting a needs assessment conducted in the Allapattah community in collaboration with the Florida Blue Foundation and Florida International University's NeighborhoodHELP program, the HCSF demonstrated how this work impacts the health and viability of resources to serve residents. It spotlights the critical role of the Miami-Dade Matters platform as a primary source of data, serving as a cornerstone in developing the community's health profile. This multi-year project reflects a strong commitment to aligning partnerships with our mission and values, with the overarching goal of reducing health disparities among the most vulnerable populations.

At the end of the public meeting webinar, attendees were encouraged to provide their feedback by completing an evaluation survey, which was conveniently accessible through a QR code displayed on the screen. The responses collected were predominantly positive, with a significant number of participants rating the overall quality of the webinar as "good." Many attendees expressed that their primary motivation for joining the session was to gain a deeper understanding of the data insights being discussed. They found the information presented regarding Miami-Dade Matters to be not only valuable but also highly relevant to their interests and needs. The insights shared during the webinar resonated with them, as several participants articulated that the knowledge gained would enhance their capacity to inform and serve their respective communities more effectively. Overall, the engagement and positive feedback from the participants highlighted the success of the webinar in delivering meaningful content and fostering an environment for learning and collaboration.

HCSF brings together a multidisciplinary team of professionals with expertise in public health, economics, finance, business administration, anthropology, sociology, and psychology. Together, we are dedicated to addressing the community's most pressing needs by providing partners and residents with objective, data-driven insights on health and social issues.